

CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hispanic Congregations

October - December 2008

October 5

Tomorrow is the start of "Drive Safely to Work Week," reminding drivers to share the road safely. No matter what you drive, whether a car, truck, motorcycle, or bicycle, look out for those around you and be aware of how your actions affect others. Patience and respect are great companions for any trip. [Protect yourself and your loved ones with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death. Earn trust, gain respect, and obey the law; your community and family will be grateful.](#)

October 12

In 2007, 5,154 people were killed and 103,000 were injured in motorcycle crashes. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation reminds you to look out for motorcycles on the road, especially in intersections. Give motorcyclists extra space and remember to look beyond the bike and see the person riding it—someone's friend or loved one. [The simple choices made every day often determine whether or not there will be a tomorrow for you. Choose the future—play it safe every time you get behind the wheel.](#)

October 19

This week is National School Bus Safety Week, encouraging drivers to "Avoid Harm, Obey the Stop Arm." According to the National Association for Pupil Transportation, over 800 students are killed each year on their way to or from school. Be a safe driver by obeying the speed limit and staying alert, especially near buses and in school zones. [Protect their future. Steer them straight when you're in the driver's seat.](#)

October 26

As Halloween nears, the streets and neighborhoods will be filled with children and teenagers, wearing costumes and on a mission for candy! Since they will be distracted, make sure you are not. Slow down in residential areas. These days Halloween is also a time for adult parties. Help keep your friends and loved ones from drinking and driving, reminding them that *buzzed driving is drunk driving*. [Protect yourself and your loved ones with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death. Earn trust, gain respect, and obey the law; your community and family will be grateful.](#)

November 2

It's time for Daylight Savings Time to end, so as nightfall comes earlier, use extra caution when driving in the dark and always take the time to buckle up. In 2006, 68 percent of those killed at night weren't wearing their seat belts. The few seconds it takes to buckle your seat belt can mean the difference between life and death. [Kids know you care about protecting their future. Steer them straight when you're in the driver's seat.](#)

November 9

This Tuesday is Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor those who have sacrificed for our country. As you honor these great veterans, also reflect on those who are needlessly killed or injured on our Nation's streets and highways every day. The numbers are heartbreaking—last year, 41,000 people died and 2.5 million were injured in traffic crashes! [Protect yourself and your loved ones with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death. Earn trust, gain respect, and obey the law; your community and family will be grateful.](#)

November 16

This time of year is a wonderful time for families. But more important than trips, toys, or oversized meals is your family's safety. You can help protect your children by using seat belts along with the proper child/booster seat. Child seats reduce the chance of an infant being killed in a vehicle crash by 71 percent and the risk of a toddler being killed by 54 percent. Don't forget to buckle your own belt, too! [The simple choices made every day often determine whether or not there will be a tomorrow for you. Choose the future—play it safe every time you get behind the wheel.](#)

November 23

In 2006, more than 15,000 lives were saved by safety belts. This Thanksgiving, no matter how far you and your family are traveling, wear your safety belt every time you are in a vehicle. The life it saves could be yours or a loved one's, and that's definitely something to be thankful for. [Protect yourself and your loved ones with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death. Earn trust, gain respect, and obey the law; your community and family will be grateful.](#)

November 30

As the Thanksgiving holiday weekend comes to an end, many will hit the road for a long drive home. Take your time—drowsy drivers in a hurry to get home mean you'll have to pay extra attention to avoid traffic crashes. Plus, be on the lookout for impaired drivers and remind those you love that drinking and driving don't mix. *Buzzed driving is drunk driving.* [Kids know you care about protecting their future. Steer them straight when you're in the driver's seat.](#)

December 7

Throughout December, it is easy to become consumed with the hustle and bustle of the holidays. While your kids count down the days until Christmas and you rush to get all of your shopping and planning complete, remember to slow your pace when you get behind the wheel. Nothing is worth compromising the safety of you and your family. Obey the speed limit and keep your family buckled up; not only is it the law, but it is your responsibility to help protect those you love. [Your family knows you care about protecting their future. Steer them straight when you're in the driver's seat.](#)

December 14

With less than two weeks until Christmas, most students are home from school and the roads are busy with rushed travelers and shoppers. With many attending holiday parties and celebrations, this is a good time to remind your loved ones about the dangers of drinking and driving. Drunk drivers don't just affect themselves, but the safety and wellbeing of the innocent drivers and passengers on the road with them. Be responsible and help those around you to act responsibly, too. [Drunk driving. Over the limit. Under Arrest. The simple choices made every day often determine whether or not there will be a tomorrow for you. Choose the future—play it safe every time you get behind the wheel.](#)

December 21

Holiday memories stay with you from childhood throughout your adult life, whatever your family traditions may be. From the lights of the tree, songs of the season, and spirit of giving, the best memories are those of the ones you love. Sadly, this can also be a dangerous time of year on the streets and highways. Do your best to keep your children and loved ones safe—the simplest and most effective way to protect your family on the roads is to make sure all are buckled up, every trip, every time. [Protect yourself and your loved ones with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death. Earn trust, gain respect, and obey the law; your community and family will be grateful.](#)

December 28

It's almost time to ring in 2009. Are you prepared with noise makers and resolutions? The best way to prepare is to help keep drunk drivers off the streets. Every New Year holiday period, far too many people die in crashes involving an alcohol impaired driver, and celebrations turn to tragedy and sorrow for many families. This year, encourage friends and loved ones to be safe, refuse to ride with someone who has been drinking, and volunteer to be a designated driver. [Your family knows you care about protecting their future. Steer them straight when you're in the driver's seat.](#)

PASTOR'S NOTES

Traffic Safety Message for Sermon

Traffic safety is something we should all concern ourselves with, regardless of our involvement as drivers, passengers, or pedestrians. In 2007 alone, the death toll from traffic crashes was more than 41,000 and continues to be the highest cause of death for Hispanics ages 5-34. We can all make a difference in creating safer communities by being careful drivers and teaching our youth to practice safe driving.

Last year, the Vatican even announced concern for the actions of dangerous drivers by issuing driver commandments. The Vatican **“Ten Commandments for Drivers”** are:

1. You shall not kill.
2. The road shall be for you a means of communion between people and not of mortal harm.
3. Courtesy, uprightness and prudence will help you deal with unforeseen events.
4. Be charitable and help your neighbor in need, especially victims of accidents.
5. Cars shall not be for you an expression of power and domination, and an occasion of sin.
6. Charitably convince the young and not so young not to drive when they are not in a fitting condition to do so.
7. Support the families of accident victims.
8. Bring guilty motorists and their victims together, at the appropriate time, so that they can undergo the liberating experience of forgiveness.
9. On the road, protect the more vulnerable party.
10. Feel responsible toward others.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration conducted national focus groups in Hispanic communities and found that community members favor additional law enforcement officers and support stricter enforcement of traffic laws. The cost to your family and community is not worth the risk—slow down, use safety belts, and don't drive drunk. **Protect yourself and your loved ones with simple actions that can prevent injuries and death. Earn trust, gain respect, and obey the law; your community and family will be grateful.**