

# HOLIDAYS IN PASO ROBLES

From Advent meditations to Zoo celebrations to 50 tons of snow, there are a veritable Santa's sleigh-full of ways for the young and the young at heart to enjoy this holiday season! Listings are in chronological order. Readers are encouraged to call phone numbers listed to confirm scheduled events.

**Downtown Christmas Light Parade** marks its 51st year in Paso Robles on Saturday evening, Dec. 1, beginning at 7 pm. Celebrate "Christmas Past... Christmas Present" with Santa and a glittering array of floats, equestrian, vehicle and marching entries. Want to join in the fun? Bundle up and choose your spot along the Downtown parade route, beginning at 10th Street and Spring Street (heading north past City Park), turning east one block to 14th Street, turning south on Park Street (between 14th and 12th), turning east from 12th/Park to Pine Street, turning south on Pine Street around City Park, and concluding on 11th Street. Visit [www.pasorobles-downtown.org](http://www.pasorobles-downtown.org). Call 238-4103.

**'The Nutcracker'** by North County Dance and Performing Arts Foundation with Class Act Dance on Dec. 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9 at Templeton Performing Arts Center. Curtain times: 2 pm on Saturdays/Sundays, and 7:30 pm on Friday. Tickets: \$24/adults and \$19/kids and seniors 65+. Lap-sitting babies under 1 are free. Group discounts available. For more details, email: [info@northcountyperformingarts.org](mailto:info@northcountyperformingarts.org). Tickets are available online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) or at the door. Call Class Act Dance and Performing Arts Studio at 239-3668, extension 403.

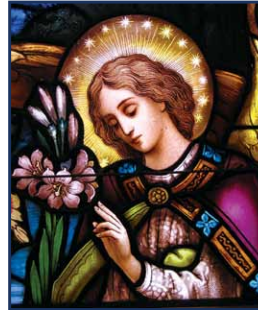
**Cuesta College North County Chorus** presents Bach's "Magnificat" at Santa Margarita Barn, on Dec. 2 at 2 pm, directed by Cassandra Tarantino. Cost: \$15/general and \$10/students/seniors 65+. Reservations strongly recommended. Call 546-3195.

**Mission San Miguel presents 'The Messiah' Christmas Concert** in the Mission Church, 775 Mission Street, San Miguel, at 2:30 pm on Dec. 2. Enjoy the World Baroque Orchestra, combined community choirs, Paso Robles High School Choir members and guest soloists. Orchestra is directed by John Warren and Choral Director Mary Schmutz-Hiestand, Seating: \$20/General, \$3/Premium and \$50/VIP. Tickets are available at the Paso Robles

Behold!  
Glad tidings  
galore are afoot in  
the North County.

## Holiday Celebrations

By Melissa Chavez



and Atascadero Chambers of Commerce, Mission San Miguel Gift Shop and Parish Office (467-2131), or online at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/281354](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/281354).

**Hospice 'Light Up a Life'** illuminates ten Hospice Memorial Trees throughout SLO County. See accompanying story this page. Dec. 4: Heritage Ranch Senior Center, 6pm. 12/6: Atascadero Lake Pavilion, 6pm. 12/7: Paso Robles City Park, 6 pm..

**11th Annual Atascadero Winter Wonderland** in the downtown's historic Colony District takes place on Dec. 7 from 5-9 pm. Five city blocks offers snow slides, 50 tons of snow piles, food and music, the Elks Little Train, holiday costumed characters, Santa Claus and more. No admission necessary, but the bounce houses will require a small fee. Event is sponsored by Atascadero Main Street, participating merchants and local media. Visit [www.AtascaderoMainStreet.org](http://www.AtascaderoMainStreet.org).

**Templeton's Old-Fashioned Christmas on Main Street** from 5-7:30 pm on Dec. 7 begins with the Christmas tree lighting in Templeton Park, followed by the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Women's Center, where Santa will receive children's gift requests and be available for picture-taking. Enjoy bell choir performances at First Presbyterian Church at 6 and 7 pm, caroling, en-

tertainment, food, wine and hot drinks provided by local businesses. Templeton Main Street businesses will be open for holiday shopping and a "Christmas Shopping Receipt Scavenger Hunt." for free prizes. For more details, call Marie Roth at 712-5963.

**'Holiday Open House' at EOS Winery** on Dec. 7-9, from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm features live music, spiced wine and holiday treats. Sip a flight of six EOS wines for \$5, or try the Reserve Tasting for \$10. Wine members taste free. Call 591-8050.

**'Holiday Open House' at Eberle Winery**, 3810 Hwy. 46 East, Paso Robles, on Dec. 8 from 12-4 pm. Annual event of live music, complimentary appetizers, hot apple cider and mulled wine. Visit [www.eberlewinery.com](http://www.eberlewinery.com). Call 237-0344.

**Holiday Open House at Vina Robles Winery**, 3700 Mill Rd., PR, from 10 am to 5 pm on Dec. 8. Wine tasting and an abundance of holiday cheer is available in the tasting room. No RSVP required. Visit [www.VinaRobles.com](http://www.VinaRobles.com).

**'Polar Express Reading' at Le Vigne Winery**, 5115 Buena Vista Road, PR, on Dec. 9 and 16. Enjoy a magical Christmas story on a 1947 Pullman train, an appearance by Santa Claus and the KMPPR Carolers. Kids who wear their pajamas receive a present from Santa. Readings at 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, and 7:30 pm. Proceeds benefit local foster and high-needs children and families served by Family Care Network. Space is very limited. Cost: Adults/\$20, La Famiglia/\$15 (includes wine & cheese), Kids 12 & younger/\$10 (includes cookies & hot cocoa). RSVP: 227.4000 or (800) 891-6055. Visit [levignewinery.com](http://levignewinery.com).

**Vine Street Victorian Showcase** from 6-9 pm, on Dec. 8, takes place between 8th and 21st Streets in Paso Robles. There's something for everyone, including bands, dancers, refreshments, The Grinch, the Snow King and Queen, choirs, caroling and one cantankerous Ebenezer Scrooge! Paso Robles High School Marching Band opens the festivities. Bundle up and enjoy this free, well-attended, annual event. No dogs/cars allowed. Note: No traffic permitted on this route between 6-9 pm. Call 238-4103.

**'Toys for Tots at Calcareous Vineyard'** at 3430 Peachy Canyon Road, PR, from 11 am-5 pm on Dec. 9, is an opportunity to support the local Toys for Tots organization by dropping off a new, unwrapped toy or through a money donation for needful children of the community. Donors may also enjoy a free wine tasting. Visit [calcareous.com](http://calcareous.com) or call John at 239-0289.

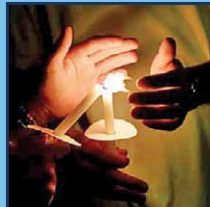
**Templeton Presbyterian Church**, 610 Main Street, Templeton, offers community activities. 12/12: "Advent at Night" Service on at 7 pm offers encouragement for people who are weathering a difficult holiday season. 12/21-23: Living Nativity of live actors and animals portray events of the Savior's birth on the lawn at Sixth & Main St. from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Refreshments included. 12/24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5 pm/family service and 7 pm/traditional service. Everyone is welcome. Call 434-1921.

**22nd Annual Victorian Teddy Bear Tea** at Paso Robles Golf Club, 1600 Country Club

## 'Light up a Life' Memorial

Since 1984, Hospice SLO has carried on the tradition of gathering family, friends and community at the Light up a Life ceremonies throughout the county to remember loved ones. This year, local ceremonies will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at the Heritage Ranch Senior Center and Friday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. in the City Park.

You're invited to bring photos to display on the remembrance table while music, poetry, candles and the reading of the names complete the poignant ceremony. To honor our animal companions, Paws to Remember will be held at the SLO Senior Center on Monday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m.



Those wishing to dedicate a lantern to light the memorial tree in honor or in memory of a loved one can contact Hospice SLO at 544-2266 or donate at the event.

Hospice SLO believes that people need not face death, serious illness or grief alone. Trained staff also offers ways to experience quality of life when the end is near with non-medical respite and support programs; all free of charge. The services of Hospice SLO are available at 811 12th Street in Paso Robles by appointment. The San Luis Obispo office is located at 1304 Pacific Street. Call 226-5641 and visit [hospiceslo.org](http://hospiceslo.org) for more information.

—Millie Drum

Drive, PR, from 2-4 pm on **Dec. 15**. Visit with special guests: Snow King and Queen, Santa and Mrs. Claus, the elves, and Victorian friends. Enjoy gingerbread cookie decorating, pictures to color and candy canes. Bring your teddy bear for cookies and juice. Music, storytelling and a door prize. Seating limited. Pre-purchase tickets (adults/\$13, kids/\$7) at the Main Street Office, 835 12th Street, Suite D. Call 238-4103.

**Electric Lights Christmas Parade in San Miguel** starts at 6 pm on **Dec. 15** with floats and participants marching on Mission Street from 14th to Fr. Reginald Park and back. See a Vendors and Crafts Faire, too. For more details, volunteering or parade participation, contact Miki Landseidel-Sanders San Miguel Mercantile, 1141 Mission Street, or call 975.6996.

**Visit Santa at the Holiday House** in Downtown Paso Robles at City Park. Sunday/**Dec. 16** from 11 am-3 pm; Saturday/**Dec. 22** from 11 am-4 pm; Sunday/**Dec. 23** from 11 am-4 pm; Monday/**Christmas Eve** from 11 am-3 pm. Call 238-4103.

**Dramarama Winter Camp** at Centennial Park Banquet Room, PR, from 10:30 am-2:30 pm, on Dec. 17-21. Students ages 8-12 learn various theater techniques, including clowning, movement, voice, speech, stage combat, and games with Kerry, who has over 12 years' experience with PCPA and SLO County theater productions. Wear comfy clothing (no flip-flops, please). Bring a sack lunch,

a three-ring binder with dividers, note paper, pen and a pencil. Call Kerry at 237-9708.

**First Baptist Church**, 1645 Park Street, PR. Morning services at 9 am and 10:30 am. Celebrate Advent each Sunday *throughout December*. "Follow the Star," on **Dec. 20 & 21**, is an interactive walk through Nativity, complete with a Jerusalem marketplace, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Free event and no reservations needed. On Dec. 23, attend a special Christmas service at 9 and 10:30am. On Dec. 30, take part in a New Year Service with baptisms at 9 and 10:30 am. Visit [fbcpasorobles.org](http://fbcpasorobles.org) for schedule or call 238.4419.

**Holiday Magic at Charles Paddock Zoo**, 9305 Pismo Ave., Atascadero, is a yearly tradition of watching the animals open their gifts. Kids, ages 7 to 12 are needed to help in the gift making fun on Friday, Dec. 21. Then visit the Zoo for free the next day on Dec. 22, from 11 am-2 pm. Cost is free with normal Zoo admission: \$5/ages 12 and up, \$4/ages 3-11, \$4.25/Seniors 65+. Zoo Members and kids ages two and under/free. (Sorry, no pets allowed.) Call 461-5080.

**'Giving Tree' at Paso Robles Library** is an opportunity to provide support for everyone during the holidays. *Throughout December*, the Giving Tree is covered with book cover ornaments with book titles. Select one and take it to the Circulation Desk along with your \$25 donation. The library book will be labeled inside with the name of a person of your choice. Call 237-3870

for more details. Visit [www.prcity.com/library](http://www.prcity.com/library).

**Harris Stage Lines Winter Horse Day Camp**, 5995 North River Road, Paso Robles. Are your kids begging you for a horse? Well, the next best thing is a "horse experience" with Tom and Debbie Harris. At this hands-on day camp, youngsters between the ages of 7 - 16 will learn the basics of horse handling, driving, and riding in a safe and educational way. They will also learn what is needed to care for and feed a horse and the safe way to work around large animals. The camp culminates in a mini-Wild West show where the young campers get all duded up to show their families all they have learned including some pretty fancy rope tricks. The camp is held rain or shine and is a great holiday treat. For more information or reservations, contact Harris Stage Lines at 237-1860 or check out their webpage at [www.harrisstage-lines.com](http://www.harrisstage-lines.com)

**Christmas at the Castle**, Hearst Castle, San Simeon. Consider a drive to the coast with family or friends for the special Christmas at the Castle tours. Adorned with 18ft Christmas trees, historic holiday decorations and docents in period costumes. The weekend tours sell out quickly but there are usually tickets available during weeknights. For more information go to [www.hearstcastle.org](http://www.hearstcastle.org) or call 1-800-444-4445 for reservations.