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- FESCO “Homes for the Homeless” Project Starts This Weekend
- Our Christmas Gift and Food Program Now Under Way

WELCOME: If you are new to our parish, please introduce yourself after Mass or contact the Parish Office. We want to know you and serve you. We hope you will join us and make our parish your spiritual home.
Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Union City, California

November 29, 2015

Meet
Carmen Chavez: A New Member of Our Office Staff

As you will see on the page to the right, we have two bits of great news! The first one is that starting this coming Tuesday, December 1, the Parish Office will be open on Mondays, and it will be open longer hours. The second bit is that Carmen Chavez will join the office staff to help make all of this possible.

Carmen was born in Guadalajara, and received a degree in Business Administration from the University of Guadalajara. She moved to the United States in 1995 to join her parents who were living here in Union City. Here, she met her husband Saul Ramirez and they married in the year 2000.

Carmen is an active member of both our parish and school community. She has a daughter, Valerie Ramirez, who is seven years old. Valerie is in the Second Grade and has attended Our Lady of the Rosary School since Kindergarten. Carmen has been a member of our parish since she came to the U.S. in 1995 and attends the 9:45 a.m. Mass. She has recently started serving as a Eucharistic Minister.

Carmen became a Realtor® 10 years ago and has also been a tax preparer — she still maintains her licenses to do both. She is also a Notary Public.

Carmen says that she is looking forward to working in the Parish Office so that she can share her skills to help keep the office working efficiently and to serve the community. In addition, she loves this community very much. She says that work at OLR should be less stressful than when she worked as a Realtor®. When she worked in real estate, many people were moving their homes and this made for a very stressful, hectic working environment. She was constantly busy, and often on the phone from the time she woke up to late into the evening.

When asked to say a little more about herself, she said that she loves tacos. For sure she has to love OLR, as with the festival and the other fundraisers we’ve had lately, tacos have been plentiful.

Carmen will be in the office from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Donna Ramos will be working some of those same hours, so that when she is in the office from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., there will be two people to serve you.

The Our Lady of the Rosary Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society — Helping Those in Need

The St. Vincent de Paul Society at OLR is available to help those who are in need. It runs a food pantry out of the trailer that is located near the B Street gate where food is provided to those who are going hungry or are having a difficult time making ends meet. SVDP can also either help, or offer referrals to, those with other needs related to finances, counseling, health, furniture, clothing, and other necessary living expenses.

If you need help, or know of someone who does and might be too proud to ask for it, give us a call. A parish SVDP representative is available to lend a hand and offer support any day. Call 510.706.5852. In addition, you can stop by the trailer on the following days and times:

Wednesdays, 6:00—7:00 p.m.
Thursdays, 6:00—7:00 p.m.
Fridays, 7:00—8:00 p.m.

So if there is a need, you now know who to call. We’re here to help.

Every Friday — A Hot Meal With Warm Friends

Remember that we have dinners for the needy, elderly and lonely every Friday night at 6:00 p.m. in the Dobrec Room. All are welcome.
The Giaganticist News You Have Heard to Have Come out of OLR In a Long Time Parish Office to Open On Mondays And Longer Hours Starting This Tuesday

Yes, this is huge-er-er news than you can ever imagine! Starting on Tuesday, the Parish Office will be open on Mondays, and the hours will be extended. Our new office hours will be as follows:

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The reason why we are extending our office hours is to serve you better, and to better match the schedules of the School Office and the other parishes and companies that our Parish Office conducts business with.

The reason why we are able to make this change is due to our continued financial support. After we eliminated most second collections, parish income actually increased and has maintained itself. In addition, your unprecedented support of the Parish Festival helped to make this possible as well.

In order to make this happen, a new person is being added to our staff — her name is Carmen Chavez. For some background information on Carmen, read the feature article that appears on the page to the left.

You will find Carmen’s e-mail address on the cover of this bulletin.

Schedules for Lay Ministers Available Next Weekend

Attention Altar Servers, Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers: The ministry schedule for December 8, 2015 through March 13, 2016 will be available in the sacristy of the church and in the Parish Office starting next weekend. The schedule will also be up on the parish website at www.olrchurch.org

The FESCO “Homes for the Homeless Project” Starts This Week

Decorated Little Houses and undecorated plain boxes are being passed out outside of the Church this weekend.

FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition) is a program that has been helping homeless families in Southern Alameda County for many years. Since our parish is a “board member organization” of FESCO it is responsible for participating in two FESCO fundraisers each year. One of these, the “Homes for the Homeless Project” takes place annually during Advent and starts this weekend.

To start off this project each year, students in our parish school and participants in our CCD, Confirmation and youth programs decorate small boxes so that they resemble little homes.

Now that this work has been done, it is your turn. We are asking families to take one of these “Little Houses” home this weekend. During Advent, your family can make small sacrifices and put the money saved through these sacrifices in the Little House. The Little House should be returned on the weekend after Christmas, December 26 and 27. All money collected will go to FESCO to help them provide services to needy families.

This year we are trying something new. In addition to distributing decorated boxes, we will also have undecorated boxes available. You can take one of the plain boxes if you would like to have some fun and use your own creativity to decorate your own Little House. You can also take an undecorated box if you need an additional box, should you fill your decorated box up or need boxes for additional places in your home.

When the project ends after Christmas be sure to return any boxes you have, whether decorated or not.

Last year 221 Little Houses and envelopes were returned and $4,927.27 was raised for FESCO. This year we would like to reach our goal of having 250 Little Houses returned raise $5,000.00 to help homeless families. WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN REACH THESE GOALS!

If you did not get a Little House after Mass this weekend, or if you need another one, you can pick one up at Church next weekend or at the Parish Office as long boxes are available.

If you have questions call our OLR FESCO Parish Representative, Ron Wenzler, at 510.400.9045.

Next Saturday . . . Diocese of Oakland’s Annual Our Lady Of Guadalupe Pilgrimage

You are invited to participate in the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe which will take place this coming Saturday, December 5. This event is being presided by Bishop Michael C. Barber, S.J. The pilgrimage will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the parish of St. Louis Beltran, 1410 100th Avenue in Oakland, and will end at The Cathedral of Christ the Light. For more information contact the Office of Latino Ministry at 510.496.7224 or e-mail lmedina@oakdiocese.org.

A Word of Thanks To our Volunteer Gardeners

This week we would like to thank our volunteer gardening Team #1 who will be working on Saturday, December 5 at 8:00 a.m.: Emerita Alvarado, Enrique Alvarado, Gabriela Carrillo, Gerardo Ramirez, Jose Rodriguez, and Reynaldia Agredano. We thank them very much for their hard work and dedication.

Should you want to lend a hand, stop by on Saturday. We’ll be working from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. Don’t forget to bring your tools!
Meetings of the Service (SVCC) And Finance (FINC) Clusters This Week —

School Cluster Meeting Postponed

This Tuesday, December 1, the Service Cluster will hold its monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office First Floor Conference Room (Room 107). Each of the following organizations should send one or two representatives to this meeting:

- COR — OLR-COR Local Organizing Committee
- FCO — FESCO
- FND — Friday Night Dinners for those in need, the elderly or alone
- HON — Honorifica
- OLP — Our Lady’s Pantry
- STV — St. Vincent de Paul
- Catholic Charities
- Centro de Servicios
- Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center

If you are the President or Chairperson of one of the above ministries or organizations, please make sure that your organization is represented at these meetings.

This Wednesday, December 2, the Finance Cluster will hold its monthly meeting. It will also take place at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office First Floor Conference Room.

The School Cluster was originally scheduled to meet this coming Wednesday, but due to the fact that it is the end of the year and it is time to work on the parish budget for 2016, we have elected to have the Finance Cluster meet on Wednesday instead.

The “End Result” of the Diocesan Capital Campaign

Three weekends ago we made one final appeal to invite more parishioners to participate in the Diocesan Capital Campaign. We did this at the request of the Diocese, which wanted us to do a follow-up appeal in the Summer. However, we asked that this follow-up take place at OLNot in the summer like at other parishes, but in the fall, once our festival had taken place.

As a result of the follow-up appeal we made on November 7 and 8, we received an additional $3,800.00 in pledges. As a result, this is where we stand:

- Total Goal .................. $553,508.18
- Total Pledged or Received thus far .... 255,848.00
- Amount Remaining ........ 297,660.18
- Percent of Goal Raised ........ 46.22%

As the Diocese will return 25% of the total amount raised back to our parish, we will eventually receive $63,962.00 — it will be given to us in installments over the next four years as the pledges are fulfilled. These funds will be used to make improvements to our parking lot, which currently is in need of repair in some areas and maintenance throughout. This work will not be able to be completed right away — it must be planned over time to coincide with the timing of how our parish receives it share of the funds.

Thank you very much for your support of the Campaign. We will report back in the spring of next year to let you know how things are going and to give those of you who decided to pledge a year at a time an opportunity to renew your pledge for another year.

Join Us for the Celebration Of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe takes place on Saturday, December 12.

These are the events that will take place that day:
- 5:00 a.m.— Mañanitas and Rosary
- 8:00 a.m.— Mass in English
- 2:00 p.m.— Mass in Spanish, followed by entertainment in the Hall.

Everyone is invited to join us!

A “Thank You” for Our Beautiful “Advent Tree”

We would like to thank Tom Mederos for donating the very beautiful tree that adorns our Sanctuary. He has been donating a large tree to us for a countless number of years. He does this in loving memory of his father, Earl Mederos, and his brothers Larry Mederos and Earl Mederos Jr.

Tom owns Tom's Flower Stop and runs Tom's Christmas Trees, which is located at the corner of Mission Blvd. and Tamarack Drive between the Abe gasoline retailer and the cemetery. He has a large selection of trees to choose from. When you visit his lot to purchase your tree, be sure to thank him for his gift to our parish.

Fundraising Gift Cards And Religious Articles Sold Every Weekend From Now Until Christmas

To make it convenient for you to make your Christmas purchases, we will be selling fundraising gift cards and religious articles every weekend from December 6 through December 20. We will be in front of the Church unless it is jolly cold or wet — if these are indeed the conditions of the day you will find us in the little room on the side of the main vestibule.

Remember that gift cards make great gifts, but they are much more than that. Consider buying gift cards for those stores that you will shop at this Christmas season, and use them as cash to make your purchases.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>STEWARDSHIP CORNER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT</td>
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<td>--------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>For Sunday, November 22, 2015 — Thirty Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plate Collection (including EFT) .............................................. $8,534.00</td>
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<td>Our budgeted goal for the Plate Collection .................................. 10,700.00</td>
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<td>Second Collection — Campaign for Human Development .................. 1,176.50</td>
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<td>Children’s Envelopes ............................................................... 24.00</td>
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Thank you for your support!!!
Christmas Gift Program For Those In Need Now Underway

Our Christmas gift program, where we collect food and Christmas gifts for those in need, is now underway. This week we provide more details on how this program will work, as it will be a little different than in years past.

This year we ask that you do not bring food or gifts with you to Mass. On the Advent Tree this weekend there are 120 basket-shaped ornaments — each ornament represents a family in need. You are encouraged to take an ornament off of the tree. On the back of each ornament you will find a list of various food items. When these items are purchased, they will form a food basket that will provide a memorable breakfast and Christmas dinner for a family in need (the parish will purchase the centerpiece of the Christmas dinner, a ham).

Rather than have our parishioners provide Christmas gifts for our families in need as in years past (such as clothing and toys) these items will be secured by other donors and sources.

The members of our St. Vincent de Paul Society and other parishioners will distribute the food and gifts to families in the afternoon on December 20.

We thank you very much for helping the members in our community who are in need so that they may have a brighter Christmas.

Next Sunday School Mass and Food Sale

Next Sunday our parish school will celebrate Mass with us at 11:30 a.m. After all Masses on Sunday the school will have a food sale as a fundraiser. We hope you can join us for Mass, and that you will enjoy some great food after whatever Mass you attend next Sunday.

Also Next Sunday ... School Having a Sale Of See’s Candies

The students in our Parish School will have a See’s Candy sale in the coming weeks in order to raise funds for supplemental reading resources, document readers for our classrooms, and other materials to enhance classroom technology. At the food sale after Mass next weekend, our students will be taking orders for See’s Candy as part of this fundraiser.

SPONSORSHIPS FOR THE WEEK

HOSTS: Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus for all of their members, living and deceased
WINE: Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus for all of their members, living and deceased
CANDLES: Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus for all of their members, living and deceased

To set up a sponsorship, use the form below. Thank you for your support.

Our Lady of the Rosary: SPONSORSHIP OF HOSTS, WINE, CANDLES AND FLOWERS

I want to sponsor the following □ on the first available weekend — or □ on this weekend * □ Hosts ($25.00/week); □ Wine ($35.00/week); □ Candles ($35.00/week); □ Flowers ($125.00/week)

Today’s Date __________________________ Name __________________________ Envelope/Acct. # ______ Phone ______

Address __________________________

I would like my gift recognized as follows:

(Examples: “The Hosts are sponsored by the Guerrero Family.” “The wine is sponsored by Mary Smith in memory of her mother, Gladys Jones.”)

* No date guarantees can be made. If a desired week is already taken, the closest weekend will be given.

Please place this in the collection (include this form and donation in an envelope) or bring it to the Parish Office
It Will Make You Sing out in Joy . . .

At least we hope so.

We are now developing our Music Ministry for our English Masses and are RECRUITING CHOIR MEMBERS.

- Are you currently singing with the musicians and cantors in front of the Church?
- Were you a member of our choir in the past?
- Have you never belonged to a choir before and would like to join us in joyful praise?

If so, come and join us.
We’d love to have you as we enrich our liturgies with song.

MEETINGS AND PRACTICES WILL BEGIN SOON.
We want to be “up in running” in time for Christmas

For more information and to let us know you are interested
Please call Dave Capelli at
510-471-6693 (Home)
510-566-4700 (Cellular)
Tuesday, December 1
  Bible Study, English, home of Olive Riley-Stewart, 10:00 a.m.
  Rosary, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.
  Rosary, English 6:00 p.m.
  Meeting of the Service Cluster (SVCC), Office First Floor Conference Room #107, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 2
  Rosary, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.
  Rosary, English 6:00 p.m.
  7th and 8th Grade Youth Group, Upper Room, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
  Meeting of the Finance Cluster (FINC), Office First Floor Conference Room #107, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 3
  Rosary, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.
  Rosary, English 6:00 p.m.
  Liturgy Committee Meeting, Office First Floor Conference Room #107, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 4
  Rosary, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.
  Dinner for those in need, Eddie Dobrec Room, 6:00 p.m.
  Spanish Choir Practice, Church, 7:00 p.m.
  High School Youth Group Meeting, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 5
  Rosary, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 6
  Food Sale, sponsored by our Parish School
  School Mass, 11:30 p.m.
  Confirmation Group Meeting, Church, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.