



PARISH BULLETIN

Our Lady of the Rosary Church

703 "C" Street, Union City, CA 94587-2195

(510) 471-2609 • admin@olrchurch.org • www.olrchurch.org

DECEMBER 14, 2008 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Once Upon a Time in Nazareth . . .

Luke 1: 26-38

The first stars of the night twinkled down on the young girl. She clutched the hem of her apron and held it to her cheeks where the tears were still running. Her hands trembled. Her heart was pounding so hard in her throat she gasped to get enough air to breathe.

The man, a foreigner, had just vanished! He burst into nothing, disappearing in the blink of her eyes. Where he had once stood before her, there was now only the night sky.

But he had been there! Mary had seen him and he had spoken to her. His words echoed in her mind—strange words, telling her that God had chosen her...that she would give birth to a king...and that the kings' name was to be Jesus.

The striking image of the man was still fresh. His face had seemed to glow with its own light. Mary had been alone, taking her evening walk. When she looked up she noticed him standing there on her footpath. He smiled at her and softly said, "Rejoice!"

Mary was still stopped where she was on the pathway, frozen in fear. She told herself to run, but she was unable to move.

The peaceful silence that settled over Nazareth began to calm Mary. She realized she was not going to continue her walk. Nothing was ever going to be the same again. Still trembling she broke free and began to run back along the footpath that led to her house.

Mary burst through the open doorway almost running into Anna and Joachim who were lighting the lamp together. Anna looked up in surprise. "Back so soon?" she asked.

Mary could not speak. Her words caught in her throat and suddenly she was sobbing as her mother embraced her. Waves of unexplainable joy crashed like mighty echoes over Mary's heart.

"What is it, dear?" Anna asked as she stroked her daughter's long hair.

As if the sky would explain for her, Mary pointed out into the starry night. A bright star winked back and Mary knew it was the stranger. Yes, it was all true!

"Oh mother..." she began



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Today, all these years later, we share the Annunciation again. We, like Mary, are called to believe. We are called to know it is all true. We are summoned by Gabriel, now, in our life and time, to rejoice! For unto us a Son will be given and the government shall be upon His shoulders and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

-- Deacon Dick Folger

Our Lady of the Rosary Church
Fr. José M. León, Pastor
703 "C" Street, Union City, CA 94587-2195
www.olrchurch.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Weekend Masses:

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. English; 6:15 p.m. Cantonese

Sunday: 6:45 a.m. Spanish; 8:15 a.m. English; 9:45 a.m. Spanish; 11:30 a.m. English

Daily Mass (Bilingual):

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:15 a.m.;

Saturday 9:00 a.m. (Communion Service on Mondays)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Every Saturday, 3:30 p.m.

Sacraments of Baptism and Marriage

Call the Parish Office six months in advance, (510) 471-2609.

PARISH OFFICE

Phone: (510) 471-2609 Fax: 471-4601 E-mail: admin@olrchurch.org

Open Tue.- Sat., 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. & Tue.- Fri., 6:00-9:00 p.m.

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CCD, RCIA)

703 "C" Street, Union City, CA 94587-2195

Phone: (510) 471-7419 Fax: (510) 471-4601 E-mail: cmagdaleno@olrchurch.org

Open Tues. - Fri., 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. and Sat., 8:00 a.m. - Noon

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY SCHOOL

678 "B" Street, Union City, CA 94587-2141

Phone: (510) 471-3765 Fax: (510)471-4601 Open Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

INFORMATION FOR THE COMING WEEK

MASS INTENTIONS

For December 15, 2008 to December 21, 2008

Mon.	8:15 a.m. --	Communion Service
Tue.	8:15 a.m. --	Margarita Castro (Dec.)
Wed.	8:15 a.m. --	For all Who are Facing Financial Difficulties (Intentions)
Thur.	8:15 a.m. --	James Finnigan (Health)
Fri.	8:15 a.m. --	For the Faithful Departed in need of prayer
Sat.	9:00 a.m. --	Juan Manuel Marquez (Birthday)
	5:00 p.m. --	Maria Pita (Dec.)
Sun.	6:45 a.m. --	Maria Guadalupe Alvarado (Dec.)
	8:15 a.m. --	For us, the Parishioners
	9:45 a.m. --	Maria de Jesus Ulloa (Dec.)
	11:30 a.m.--	Nick & Ellie Canlas (24 th Wedding Anniversary)

WEEKDAY READINGS

December 15, 2008 to December 20, 2008

Mon	Numbers 24:2-7,15-17a / Matthew 21:23-27
Tues.	Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13 / Matthew 21:28-32
Wed.	Genesis 49:2,8-10 / Matthew 1:1-17
Thu.	Jeremiah 23:5-8 / Matthew 1:18-25
Fri.	Judges 13:2-7,24-25a / Luke 1:5-25
Sat.	Isaiah 7:10-14 / Luke 1:26-38

SUNDAY READINGS

December 21, 2008 - 4th Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 / 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 / Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

COLLECTIONS

December 7, 2008

First Collection	\$6,724.00
Our budgeted goal for the First Collection	9,566.00
Second Collection: Church Interior Renovation.....	1,595.00
Children's Envelopes	29.00

Thank you very much! We appreciate your support.

A "THANK YOU" TO TOM MEDEROS for donating the very beautiful tree that adorns our Sanctuary this weekend. 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.

TODAY . . .

**CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

In the Hall

 **MENUDO** 

compliments of the Guadalupe Society

NEW ARTICLES

**NEXT SUNDAY
WILL BE ONE BUSY DAY!**

HERE IS WHAT IS HAPPENING:

DONUT FELLOWSHIP: Our monthly coffee and donut fellowship will take next Sunday to give everyone energy for the day's activities. It is being sponsored by our Spanish Youth. We thank Robert's Donuts, located at 404 W. Harder Road in Hayward, for its generosity in donating dozens, and dozens, and dozens of donuts to us each month for this event.

GIFT CARDS, RELIGIOUS ARTICLES AND CENTENNIAL ITEMS will be sold in front of the Church after Mass. Religious Articles will be newly stocked with popular items such as Rosaries and prayer books.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART: Next weekend will be the end of the Gifts from the Heart. Be sure to bring any gifts and food to Mass with you – particularly any perishable food you are donating such as rolls and fresh fruits and vegetables.

GIFT WRAPPING will begin after the 11:30 a.m. Mass. To make it more convenient, you may want to bring your own card table and folding chairs. Scissors and tape are also helpful. Light refreshments will be served.

GIFT DELIVERIES will be made after the gift wrapping. Anyone with a little time to spare is welcome to help us make deliveries. If you have an extra van or pickup lying around the house that you can bring with you it would be great!

ATTENTION ALTAR SERVERS, LECTORS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: The ministry schedule for December 20, 2008 through March 15, 2009 is now available in both sacristies in the church and in the parish office. The schedule can also be viewed on Our Lady of the Rosary Church's website at www.olorchurch.org.

"LAS POSADAS" START TOMORROW. Las Posadas will start tomorrow (Monday) at 7:00 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday they will be at 5:00 p.m. Meet at the Parish Hall. The Last Posada will take place during the Music Program in the Church at 9:30 p.m. preceding the 10:00 p.m. Mass. Las Posadas is a Mexican custom of festivities during the time we wait in hope for the coming of the birth of Jesus. It is actually a Novena, where each of the nine days represents each month that Mary was with child. We hope that you will be able to take part in this tradition. All of our parishioners are invited, regardless of language or culture. Should you have any question, please call Isidro at the Parish Office, (510) 471-2609.

ARTICLES FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS

A "REFINEMENT" OF A PREVIOUS ARTICLE

DONATE A CHRISTMAS GIFT AND ENJOY A DOZEN DONUTS. From now until December 21, the Trujillo Family, owners of Roberto's Donuts, is repeating their offer of generosity this year. Anyone who brings a toy or gift to their donut shop, located at 404 W. Harder Road at Santa Clara Street in Hayward, will in turn receive a **free dozen of donuts!** The gifts will be given by Roberto's Donuts to our parish so that they may be added to the gifts we collect under the tree. The guidelines for which gifts to give are the same as for our Gifts from the Heart program, and the gifts should be unwrapped. **WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO "REFINE" THIS ARTICLE by stressing the fact that the gifts must be new.** We appreciate the Trujillo's thoughtfulness in offering to do this for the parish.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY TO COLLECT FOOD FOR CHRISTMAS. Continuing until December 21, our parish's St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry will be collecting food for the 100 or so "food baskets" that we give to the needy at Christmastime. The items that we need are the following:

- Canned vegetables
- Canned yams
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup
- Canned, baked beans
- Canned juices
- Canned tuna
- Canned meat
- Vienna Sausage
- Corned Beef
- Macaroni & cheese
- Scalloped potatoes
- Mashed potatoes
- Cake mixes and frosting
- Cereal
- Rice
- Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Peanut butter
- Jam
- Fresh fruit (please donate only on Dec. 21)
- Rolls (please donate only on Dec. 21)

Our St. Vincent de Paul conference will complete the basket by furnishing canned hams.

So, won't you consider helping to provide a family with a healthy, full basket of food this Christmas? **Simply deposit your donation in the baskets or barrels that are located at the entrances of the church when you come to Mass in the coming weeks.**

On delivery day, the food baskets are joined by the donations which you make to the Gifts from the Heart program, and they are then delivered by our delivery volunteers in a caring manner. This act of generosity does much to alleviate depression and loneliness, and it brightens the holiday for shut-ins, persons who are disabled, seriously ill, or needy.

The Tradition Continues . . .

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

Our Advent tradition of collecting Christmas Gifts for those less fortunate continues.

Parish families are encouraged to bring a new gift to church each of the four weeks of Advent – from now through December 21. During the Offertory families will place these gifts under our Advent Tree, which will be located in the Sanctuary of the Church.

Gifts should be **unwrapped**. Gifts may be for adults as well as for children. Some items which can be donated are clothing, toiletry sets, books, stuffed animals like Teddy Bears, and toys. We ask that in the interest of promoting peace and justice that no donations of toy guns be made, or any other toy that relates to violence or war.

We often find that we have many donations of gifts for children, but need more donations for teenagers and adults. As a result, we make this suggestion: If you plan to donate gifts for the next three weeks, consider varying the gifts you give. For example, on one week donate a gift for a child 12 and under, on another week donate a gift for a teenager, and on another week donate a gift for an adult.

We also will need the following:

- Donations of gift wrap
- Donations of cellophane tape

If you can help in any way, please call the Parish Office at 471-2609, and leave a message for the Liturgy Committee.

DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE IN NEED? Oftentimes, those who are most in need feel too embarrassed or ashamed to ask for help. If you know of a family that is in need of assistance this Christmas, please call our office in their behalf.

PRAYERS

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS those in our parish and families who are ill or homebound: Susana Alcaraz, Tony Baligaya, Gladis Borges, Lindy C., Paul Cabrera, Alan Cady, Lindy Cady, Rebecca Cady, Maria Camarillo, Grace Caminada, Dionesio Campos, Daniel Canales, Rose Canales, Grace Carr, Grace Continelli, Cindy Davis, Chealsy Davis, Courtney Davis, Jennie DeCosta, Marc DelBianco, Irene Drouin, Joseph Dunbar, Martha Estrella, Juanita Estrellas, Ed Fiala, James Finnigan, Rita Fregoso, Frank Gallegos, Sobeida Gallegos, Gene Garcia, Deanna Graves, Emilio Gudino, Keith Gunter, Ethel Guerrero, Jesús Gutierrez, Anne Guzman, Herm Henderson, Carme Hernandez, Eduardo Hernandez, Henry Hernandez, Margaret K., Erika Lepe, Ermelinda Lopez, Francisco Lozano, Miguel Luviano, Sara Maas, Antonio Maciel, Catalina Manasala, Ismael Martinez, Lupita Martinez, Richard M. Martinez, Philip Molina, Joe Morales, Josephine Nava, Richard Nelson, Mirta Orellana, Mario Perales, Luz Perez, Ehren Perkins, Benjamin Renteria, Al Roderigues, Marcella Roderigues, Lydia Rodríguez, Joe Romero, Conor Rosado, Macca Savage, Letty Serrano, Clarence Souza, Nelly Stewart, Myron Tejada, Vivianlee Tonry, Casandra Valadez, Isabel Villarina, Miss Margaret Williams.



***This Week
At O.L.R.***

Tuesday, December 16

Bible Study, English, Eddie Dobrec Room, 10:00 a.m.

Rosary Night, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.

Bible Study, English, Orozco Group, Office Room 206, 7:00 p.m.

Las Posadas, Parish Grounds, 7:00 p.m.

7th & 8th Grade Youth Group, Upper Room, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 17

Rosary Night, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.

Las Posadas, Parish Grounds, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 18

Rosary Night, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.

Little Rock Scripture Study, English, Office Room 107, 7:00 pm

OLR School Christmas Show, Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Las Posadas, Parish Grounds, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 19

Rosary Night, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.

Dinner for those in need, Eddie Dobrec Room, 6:00 p.m.

Las Posadas, Parish Grounds, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 20

Rosary Night, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.

Las Posadas, Parish Grounds, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 21

Second Collection for Christmas Flowers and Decorations

Coffee and Donut Fellowship, sponsored by our Spanish Youth Group

Fundraising gift cards, religious articles and centennial items sold after

Mass

Gift Wrapping, Church, after the 11:30 Mass

Las Posadas, Parish Grounds, 5:00 p.m.

High School Youth Group, Hall, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Confirmation Group, Hall, 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Do gift cards still make good Christmas gifts ?

“YOU BETCHA!”

Why?

RISK DOES NOT EXIST AT OLR

With the current state of the economy, it has been publicized in the media that many people are shying away from gift cards this year as they do not want to be left “high and dry” should a store close or file for bankruptcy. We would like to calm your fears in saying that we take measures to protect you from this risk. We keep abreast of trends in the retail industry, and have placed stores that might encounter future difficulties on a “watch list.” We will no longer stock the stores that we consider risky. In fact, our scrip supplier also helps us by failing to carry such stores if risk becomes apparent. If we happen to have any of cards in stock of stores that might be risky or are facing bankruptcy, we do the following before selling them:

- We contact the store to ensure that they will still be honored
- We inform parishioners buying these cards of the risk
- We will offer to buy cards back from a parishioner if a store closes or stops honoring them and the cards are returned to us in a reasonable period of time

In short, there is no need for you to worry about risk with our gift cards.

GIFT CARDS STILL HAVE MANY ADVANTAGES

- They make the perfect last-minute gift
- You need not go from store to store, as we have a large selection of gift cards in stock at all times; we can order many others and have them here in a week or less
- You do not need to know someone's size or color preference
- There are still a number of stores with smaller denominations that would make great stocking stuffers (fast food restaurants come in \$5's, Baskin Robbins comes in \$2's, Starbucks, Coldstone and Jamba Juice come in \$10's)
- Your purchase will benefit OLR with no additional cost to you
- If you change your mind and want cards for another store, we'll trade with you
- Despite the hard times, many stores have increased their contributions to OLR – some significantly

WHEN CAN I BUY GIFT CARDS BEFORE CHRISTMAS?

- Next weekend after Mass
- During the week at the Parish Office on Tuesdays through Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. – from now until 3:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve