

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 21, 2008 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Voice in the Desert . . .

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

From higher up on the bank of the Jordan River, the crowd of curious people looked down at him. He was like a wild man, wrapped in camel skin. He sat alone on a rock at the river's edge. They stood a long time, watching and waiting.

John felt both warmth and cold. The morning sun was good on his back, chasing away the last chills of the night. His feet felt the cold water flowing over them. He stared down into the river flow, lost in thought about the one who was to come.

John's eyes were moist with emotion as he recalled the powerful revelation that God had bestowed on him that distant night ago. John remembered waking in the darkness to find the presence of God warm upon him.

The caress of the morning sun reminded him of the warmth that had filled him that night as the holy darkness resolved to dazzling clarity. Squinting into the astonishing brightness, John was filled with peace and understanding. He would announce the coming of the Light of Christ into this world. He would be the voice in the desert, crying out the good news of the one who was to come.

John stood up and turned to look up at the people on the river bank. The sunlight made a silhouette of the silent crowd looking back down on him. He knew they had their questions.

Some were no doubt sent by the Pharisees to prod him with two-edged questions. He knew others thought he was a madman. John had seen their smirks before. He had heard their whispers and deriding laughter. Yet, John was



filled with the power of God. The fiery spirit of God was upon him and in him and would soon stand before him in the waters of this very river.

From the water's edge he bellowed up at them: "Make straight the way of the Lord!" His words shattered the morning silence. John felt his heartbeat quicken as he stalked up the riverbank toward the crowd. He would make them believe!

>

John proclaims to the crowds. "There is one among you whom you do not recognize." We, like John, are called to proclaim the coming also. We are invited to tell every one we know: "Rejoice! Rejoice greatly! Our Lord comes!"

-- 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: cmagdalen@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 22, 2008 to December 28, 2008

Mon.	8:15 a.m. --	Communion Service
Tue.	8:15 a.m. --	Ruby Vega (Dec.) & Daniel Camarillo (Dec.)
Wed.	All Masses	For us, the Parishioners
Thur.	All Masses	For us, the Parishioners
Fri.	8:15 a.m. --	For those facing financial difficulties
Sat.	9:00 a.m. --	Santiago (Dec.) & Conchita (Dec.) Diaz; Cres Rodríguez (Birthday)
	5:00 p.m. --	Rosita (Dec.) & David (Dec.) Duarte
Sun.	6:45 a.m. --	Jose Aguilar (Dec.); Guadalupe Mendoza (Dec.)
	8:15 a.m. --	Valentina Ureste (Dec.)

9:45 a.m. – For us, the Parishioners
 11:30 a.m.-- Gianni Miraglia (Dec.); Ana (Dec.) & Armengol (Dec.) Aguilar

WEEKDAY READINGS

December 22, 2008 to December 27, 2008

Mon 1 Samuel 1: 24-28 / Luke 1: 46-56
 Tues. Malachi 3:1-4; 23-24 / Luke 1: 57-66
 Fri. Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59 / Matthew 10: 17-22
 Sat. 1 John 1:1-4; John 20: 1a; 2-8

SUNDAY READINGS

December 28, 2008 - Feast of the Holy Family

1st Reading: Sirach 3: 2-6; 12-14 or Genesis 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3 / 2nd Reading: Colossians 3: 12-21 or Hebrews 11:8; 11-12, 17-19 / Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

THE BARE FACTS. Perhaps you were wondering what happened last week. The area where the collection totals would have gone was bare. This was due to the fact that the information was not available at the time of printing. The money counters counted a little later than usual, and then the following day the bookkeeper had to go to a meeting and had to do her collection-related work later than usual. We waited to the last possible minute to print the page, and when the totals were still not ready, we rushed it into production. As a result, here are both the collections for last weekend and the prior week.

<i>COLLECTIONS</i>	
<i>December 7, 2008</i>	
First Collection	\$8,017.50
Our budgeted goal for the First Collection	9,566.00
Second Collection: Church Interior Renovation.....	2,389.00
Children’s Envelopes	125.00
<i>December 8, 2008</i>	
Immaculate Conception	\$936.00
<i>December 12, 2008</i>	
Our Lady of Guadalupe	\$1,267.00
<i>December 14, 2008</i>	
First Collection	\$6,718.00
Our budgeted goal for the First Collection	9,566.00
Second Collection: Parish Maintenance	2,089.00
Exit Collection: Religious Retirement	635.00

Merry Christmas

TODAY:

**GIFT WRAPPING
 AFTER THE 11:30 A.M. MASS
 In the Parish Hall**

**GIFT AND FOOD DELIVERY
 TO THOSE IN NEED**

NEW ARTICLES

CHRISTMAS IS THIS THURSDAY

SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS MASSES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 – Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Mass in English

9:30 p.m. Music Program and the Last Posada in Spanish

10:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish

11:30 p.m. Music Program in English

MIDNIGHT

12:00 a.m. Mass in English

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25– Christmas Day

8:15 a.m. Mass in English

9:45 a.m. Mass in Spanish

11:30 a.m. Mass in English

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE FOR THE PARISH OFFICE. The Parish Office will be closed on both Christmas Eve (Wednesday) and Christmas Day (Thursday). It will reopen on Friday, December 26.

ELECTRONIC GIVING NOW OFFERED AT OLR

Starting this week we are now enrolling parishioners in our EFT giving program, and are accepting donations through our website. If you are comfortable with using cash or checks when donating to OLR you may continue to donate in the same way that you have. We are offering options for making donations electronically to better meet the needs of those parishioners who would prefer making donations electronically. The electronic methods have benefits for both the donor and the parish. It is less work for both of us, and it will provide accounting of our parishioners' donations that is free of errors. Parishioners will not have to worry about using envelopes, forgetting donations at home, and what to do when vacation time comes by.

You will find a flyer and brochures in English and Spanish enclosed in this bulletin, which you can use to learn more about these programs and to sign up for EFT.

NEED A LAST-MINUTE GIFT? KEEP ONE DAY IN MIND:

TUESDAY!

WHEN YOU NEED A LAST-MINUTE GIFT, GIFT CARDS ARE THE SOLUTION. At OLR, we sell a large variety of stores. You can purchase with confidence: as we mentioned in last week's bulletin, we shield you from the risk of store bankruptcies. When you buy gift cards, you will not have to worry about getting mauled by the crowds at the mall.

Remember that our office is always closed on Mondays, and that we are closed this Wednesday, which is Christmas Eve. This means that ***IF YOU WANT TO PURCHASE GIFT CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS, COME TO THE OFFICE ON TUESDAY.***

Office hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. during the day, and then from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at night.

COR IS ALWAYS ON THE MOVE – ESPECIALLY THESE DAYS. The monthly meeting of the Our Lady of the Rosary COR Local Organizing Committee is on the fourth Wednesday. Just like last month, in December it is on the cusp of a major holiday. The December meeting would have taken place on Christmas Eve. Doubtful that anyone would be able to attend, we need to reschedule the meeting. The next COR meeting will take place on the fourth Wednesday of January, January 28, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. In a future edition of The Bulletin we will include an announcement to remind you about the meeting and to inform you of the topics that will be discussed. The COR Staff and the leaders of OLR COR wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

“LAS POSADAS” CONTINUE. Las Posadas continue each night at OLR through December 23. Tonight, Sunday, December 21, they will begin on the Parish Grounds at 5:00 p.m. Monday and Tuesday they will begin at the parish at 7:00 p.m., and will end in the Parish Hall. The last Posada will take place this Wednesday, December 24, which is Christmas Eve. It will take place immediately before the 10:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish during the 9:30 p.m. Music Program. We hope that you will join us as we anticipate the birthday of our Lord Jesus.

NEWS FROM OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY SCHOOL

The faculty, staff and students of Our Lady of the Rosary School wish the parishioners of Our Lady of the Rosary Church a joyful and faith-filled Christmas. They also thank our parishioners for their support and their prayers that have lent themselves to the success of our school.

The latest school newsletter is enclosed. It recaps the accomplishments of the previous school year, and highlights the outcome of the 2007-2008 Annual Fund. We are grateful for your part in the success of the Annual Fund. We once again enjoyed the support of our faculty, staff, school board, parents, parishioners and others in the community in supporting our Annual Fund. In our next newsletter you will see how your support has improved the educational resources of our school.

A THANK YOU from Our Lady of the Rosary Church and the Guadalupe Society for your support of our celebrations of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe this past week. We would like to thank all of those people who donated the menudo which was served after the Masses on Sunday. We also thank you for donations towards the Second Collection for the feast. Over \$1,700.00 was raised, and this money helped pay for the mariachis and purchase supplies for the food served after Mass. We also would like to thank a parishioner who donated the roses that adorned our mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

ANOTHER THANK YOU. At the annual Christmas Dinner of Our Lady’s Guild, Fr. José was presented with a monetary gift of \$1,000.00, which is being used to cover some of the expenses for church flowers for 2008. **We thank the members of Our Lady’s Guild** for their generosity and their hard work in raising the funds that made this donation possible.

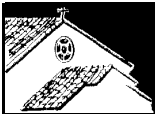
CRAB FEED TICKETS TO GO ON SALE SOON. Our Lady of the Rosary School will hold its Crab Feed, its biggest fundraiser of the year, on Saturday, February 7, 2009 in the Parish Hall. Tickets will go on sale soon in front of the Church after the Masses. The menu will be succulent Dungeness crab, flavorful and al dente spaghetti, fresh green salad, warm tangy garlic bread, and a sweet dessert. Of course there will be a no-host bar, a drawing, and the legendary silent auction. **Be sure to save the date!** More details to come.

ARTICLES FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS

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.olrchurch.org.

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 23

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.

Wednesday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

Parish Office Closed

5:00 p.m. -- Mass in English

9:30 p.m. -- Music Program in Spanish with the Last Posada

10:00 p.m. -- Mass in Spanish

11:30 p.m. -- Music Program in English

Thursday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

MIDNIGHT -- Mass in English

8:15 a.m. -- Mass in English

9:45 a.m. -- Mass in Spanish

11:30 a.m. -- Mass in English

Friday, December 26

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

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

Saturday, December 27

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

Sunday, December 28

Second Collection for Diocesan Obligations