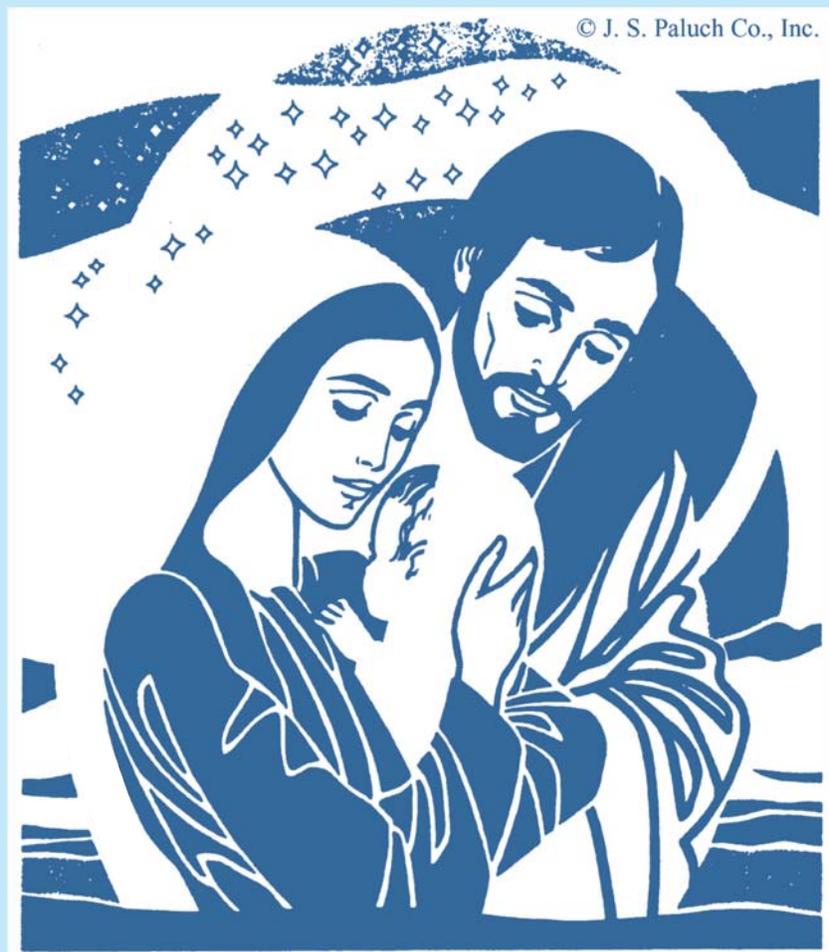


Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Community

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

WEEK OF DECEMBER 23, 2018 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



Mission Statement

Our Lady of the Assumption welcomes all people to grow in the Catholic faith as we celebrate our diverse community, nurture the Gospel message, and exemplify our love of Christ by serving others.

2

Finding a home in community

The story of Christ's coming is called the Greatest Story Ever Told. It is an ancient story that is ever new.

We believe that the experience of the Holy Family reflects our own very human experience – this is our faith! It seems more true than ever this year at OLA.

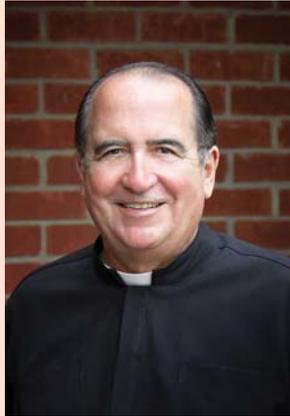
Joseph and Mary were searching for shelter, just as the OLA community was searching for temporary shelter while our church is being renovated.

We might have chosen a fancier place off-campus, but we wanted to stay close to home. That is why we find ourselves at Christmas time in a simple worship place – the modern day equivalent of the cave that sheltered the Holy Family.

In God's infinite wisdom, the manger proved to be the perfect place for the Savior of the World. Why? Because there was nothing there but Love made flesh and the first Christian community of Jesus, Mary and Joseph... and shepherds, too.

So our Christmas home is perfect in the same way. Here we find love and a welcoming Catholic community – the basics. Having less today means we can learn humility and the virtue of patient waiting. Isn't that the real Christmas story?

Fr. Charles Ramirez, Pastor



Welcome

We are happy that you are here to worship with us today and celebrate God's infinite love for us in Jesus, our Savior.

If you would like to know more about the OLA Catholic Faith Community, or you would like someone to contact you, we invite you to call the parish office at (909) 626-3596. You will find our parish directory on Page 9. Or visit our parish website at www.olaclaremont.org.

For those who are interested in learning more about Jesus, returning home to their Catholic faith, or beginning the journey toward full membership in the Church, we offer a variety of pathways that are tailored to your individual needs. All are welcome!

What is Alpha?

Alpha is TWELVE interactive sessions that explore the Christian faith. Sessions will be held on Wednesday nights beginning January 9, 2019. This practical introduction to Christian faith offers adults an opportunity to consider the meaning of life in a relaxed, stress-free setting. Each session includes a meal, a short talk and discussion in a small group from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at OLA. Child care will be available.

Who is Alpha for?

- Those who have given up on church
- Those wanting to investigate Christianity
- Those who are new to the Christian faith
- Those wanting to grow in understanding and faith

Register today!

Info table on the patio the weekend of Dec 29-30

Website: olaclaremont.org/alpha

Email: alpha@olaclaremont.org

Register now for the series beginning Jan. 9 to help us prepare the best possible experience.



This beginning experience helps seekers of truth find their way through Christ.

Come to the patio table Dec. 29-30 to learn more about Alpha coming to OLA.

Around OLA³

Our Lady of the Assumption Church – Directory on Page 9

Christmas Masses Parish office hours

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

4 p.m. Children
(Church and Auditorium)
6:30 p.m. Teen/Family
9 p.m. Vietnamese
12 p.m. Midnight

Christmas Day, Dec. 25

7 a.m.
9 a.m.
11 a.m.
1 p.m. (Spanish)

Note about weekday Masses between Dec. 26 and Jan. 2:

The only Mass is at 5:30 p.m. (No 6:30 a.m. Mass.) Also, only Mass on Jan. 1 is at 8:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, and New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, hours are 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – both Mondays.

The parish office will be closed for Christmas Day (Dec. 25) and New Year's Day (Jan. 1) – both Tuesdays.

Weekdays until Jan. 4, the parish office will open at 8:30 a.m. and close at 5 p.m.

Note for parking lot: Our gates are locked each night at 9:45 p.m. Please drive carefully through the parking lot before and after Masses. Cars should enter at Harrison Ave. and exit at Berkeley Ave.

Highlights

Alpha begins Jan. 9, 2019.

Do you know someone who would like to join this conversation about life and faith?

See Page 2

OLA School is preparing for its annual open house during Catholic Schools Week in January.

See Page 5

Bring new underwear, socks for the homeless Dec. 29-30.

See Page 6

Annual generosity report demonstrates the value of a compassionate community at Christmastime.

See Page 7

Comunidad Habla Español
Página 8

Our church renovation project has accomplished much since September.

See Back Page

community life



The clergy and staff of Our Lady of the Assumption wish you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and a New Year full of grace, peace, and spiritual growth.

Next gathering for WOW!

OLA's Widows Or Widowers and other singles will meet for dinner on Thursday, Jan. 24, at 5 p.m. at Mr. D's Diner, 401 E. Foothill Blvd., Pomona (between Towne and Garey).

Treat yourself to an evening out. Enjoy friendly company and a delicious meal on your own. Bring a friend... all are welcome!

The restaurant has requested a reservation to better serve the group. For questions or to reserve a seat, please call Jo Pearring at (909) 626-0489 or Jean O'Donnell (909) 624-3392 by Wednesday, Jan. 23.

MONDAY, December 24

Vigil of the Nativity (Christmas Eve)
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Masses at 4:00pm, 6:30pm and 9:00pm for the People of the Parish

TUESDAY, December 25

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)
Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25

Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

Masses at Midnight, 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am, and 1:00pm for the People of the Parish

WEDNESDAY, December 26

St. Stephen

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

5:30pm †Peter Keenan

†Steve Erickson

†Melesio Sandoval

THURSDAY, December 27

St. John the Apostle

1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1-8

5:30pm Walter Rohrer, Bob Fermin
Christine Moore

FRIDAY, December 28

Holy Innocents

1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

5:30pm †Sheila Feigen, †Margaret So

SATURDAY, December 29

St. Thomas Becket

1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

8:00am †Jesus Reyes, Jr.

4:00pm

5:30pm †Anton An Tran

SUNDAY, December 30

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28;

Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

7:00am †Morishita & Lum Families

9:00am †

11:00am Pardo-Sandoval Family

†Aaron Ikeji

†Nicholas Ikeji

1:00pm †

3:00pm †All Souls, †Joseph Dang

†Joseph Huy

5:00pm People of the Parish

7:00pm †Anatole Ghekiere

†Deceased

The Faith Formation Center will be closed for Christmas break from Dec. 24 to Jan. 1. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our OLA families. God bless you!

Preschool resumes Sunday, Jan. 6 during the 9 a.m. Mass.
Spanish Year One resumes Sunday, Jan. 6 (parents and children)
Monday Track One resumes Jan. 7 (parents and children)
Wednesday program resumes Jan. 9, 4:15-5:30 p.m. (children)

The Heights is open to all high school teens and takes place in the Youth Room after the 5 pm Teen Mass.

Jesus Rodriguez,
Coordinator of Youth Ministry
909-626-3596 ext. 4215

Follow us on Instagram @theheightsola



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We invite each young adult age 18 to 35 to grow spiritually, form authentic friendships and have fun through our social, educational and prayer nights together. We'll be more than happy to see you at any of our gatherings. You may email youngadultsunited01@gmail.com or call Patrick at (626) 622-5381 for location. Join our Facebook group: *Young Adults of OLA*. Also, view updates on Instagram @youngadultsunited.

**YOUNG
ADULTS
UNITED**

Ongoing – Communion service and prayer with patients at a convalescent home every Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

January 9 College evangelization. Join us as we venture out into the community to pray and meet with people. Our goal will be to encourage people to be apart of the Church. It will start at 7 p.m. Email for more information.

January 23 Journey with us in small groups as we share a potluck dinner. from 7 to 9 p.m. at 4261 Guava Street in La Verne (91750).

January 31 Young Adult Info and Faith Night. Not Catholic? Not Christian? Not sure? Great! All are invited to join us for our meeting at Holy Name of Mary in San Dimas from 7 to 8 p.m. followed by a community dinner at Red Robin.

worship

Sacramental preparation

For those who are interested in learning more about Jesus, returning home to their Catholic faith, completing their sacraments, or beginning the journey toward full membership in the Church, we offer a variety of pathways tailored to your individual needs. Please call the Faith Formation Center at (909) 626-3596, ext. 4212. All are welcome!

Contemplative Prayer Group

The contemplative prayer group led by Fr. Chris Troxell will not meet Dec. 24, Its next meeting will be Jan. 7 at 7 p.m.; please check location. Regular meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays.

No experience is required for this introduction to a variety of meditative prayer styles.

Our Lady of the Assumption School

Serving Junior Kindergarten - 8th Grade

OPEN HOUSE



Sunday, January 27th 10:00am - 1:00pm www.ola-ca.org



Join Us

10:00 AM Classrooms Open
 11:00 AM School-Led Mass
 12:00 PM Classrooms Open
 Music
 Hot Dogs
 Games on the Green
 See our Campus
 Get OLA Spirit Gear



Special Thanks to the, Knights of Columbus for providing the Hot Dogs!



Prayer Requests



For our sick and suffering...

Recent: Estella Arellano, Stanley Ackerson, Hal Finnegan, Alethea Guthormsen, Alfred Hernandez, Gertrude Kleekamp Jesse Lopez, Daniel Ramos, and Amelia Villanueva

Previously: Steven Michal Acosta, Francis Akpanokon, Ordolina Aparacio, Betty Arcide, Alexandra Badea, Elza V. Barba, Kattie Briones, Mike Bustamante, Lisa Carranza, Amelia Chacon, Thierry & Elmiro Domond, Tess Henry, Billy Hicks, Raul Garcia, Sr. Feliz Gil-Jimenez, Enrique Juarez, Sue McCoppin, Sandy Morales, Mary Perini, Carmen Ramon, Juan A. Ruiz, Fanny Sanchez, Deacon Bob Steighner, and Sylvia Stephens, and Wendy Villegas

For our beloved deceased...

Gildardo Gonzalez, brother-in-law of Teresa Quezada: and for the family and friends who mourn his loss
Note: See next bulletin for names submitted after Dec. 17 (early deadline).

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outreach

One Life LA

Save the date of Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019, for the Annual OneLifeLA event, celebrating the beauty and dignity of every human life. Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Participants, the walk begins at noon from La Placita Olvera to the Los Angeles State Historic Park. The park will feature entertainment, speakers, food and information booths until 4 p.m. The Requiem Mass for the Unborn will be offered at 5 p.m. at the Cathedral. Register for free at www.OneLifeLA.org.

'Undees Sunday' for the homeless

Our annual collection of new socks and underwear for homeless men and women will be Jan. 5-6, 2019. Take advantage of holiday sales and stock up. Your donation will help restore the dignity of those who rarely own anything new.

Donations will be given to Volunteers of America (VOA) which has just opened a year-round shelter in Pomona. The VOA team provides comprehensive services for those who are experiencing homelessness, including street outreach, case management services, and referrals to needed services. Clients are helped to identify and overcome barriers to stable housing. For more information about VOA, call (909) 593-4796.

Christmas spirit!



Altar servers and their parents "adopted" two needy families and a preschool for children with special needs. They were served a delicious spaghetti dinner by Knights of Columbus and joined by our clergy.

A letter to the world from Pope Francis

Laudato Si

"We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth... our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters."

Protecting creation

God's wondrous creation includes the oceans, rivers, lakes and streams. While there may be a lot of water, only 1% is available for human consumption. Water is essential for life and, as such, is a basic human right. We must learn to protect water and use it carefully. At home we have many opportunities to reduce our water "footprint." Less obvious steps are stopping our bottled water habit, using less packaging, and eating less meat.

Grace Gratitude Generosity

Christmas Generosity 2018 Report

Grace

Good stewardship begins with our loving God. Everything that we have is a gift from God – our life and natural talents, our health and energy, our emotions and ability to reason, our family and relationships, and our material goods.

Gratitude

We are good stewards when we praise and thank the Lord for the many gifts we have been given. What a blessing it is when a gift is received in gratitude and used to the fullest!

Generosity

Scripture encourages us to trust in God's providence and be assured that our own needs will be met if we are generous. In fact, we have been promised blessings of every kind – the "hundredfold" of the Gospel.

The 2018 Christmas season saw an outpouring of generosity from the OLA faith community as always. Our biggest programs were Angel Tree which provided a gift to over 200 children whose parent is in prison, and Adopt-A-Family which brought Christmas dinner and presents for 150 needy families through Uncommon Good, St. Vincent de Paul and the San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center. Knights of Columbus outdid themselves: \$500 in gift cards to Uncommon Good, a donation to seminarians through Christmas card sales, coats for families affected by recent fires in California, and a wonderful party for the altar servers. At OLA School, the staff participated in Angel Tree, families raised \$400 for Make-A-Wish Foundation and supplied 200 toiletry bags for the Tijuana Mission Project, in addition to ongoing class service projects. Outreach ministers provided a meal for Volunteers of America homeless shelter in Pomona. Yet to be tabulated are the totals for donations to our 33rd Annual Alternative Gift Christmas Market and St. Vincent de Paul Society serving the poor in the local community.

Deacon Jim Allgaier, Outreach Coordinator, offered thanks to the many assistants who sustained these projects with their stewardship of time, talent and treasure: "This shows the true OLA spirit of community."

Help your parish and help TIM at year's end

Together in Mission (TIM) is the successful program of 20 years that supports poor parishes and schools in the Archdiocese which would otherwise be closing. That, in itself, is one of the best causes you can join – helping to maintain a Catholic presence among people who need it most. In addition, your gift to TIM will help us reach our mandatory **Goal of \$139,201**. The amount paid-to-date stands at **\$122,231**. So you can help both your parish and TIM with your contribution paid by **Dec. 31**. Thank you!



Charitable tax savings for seniors over 70½

Beginning in 2018 the IRS standard deduction has been doubled which is the good news. But the bad news is that for many, the benefit of the Charitable Tax Deduction will be lost. But there is a solution. Instead of writing a check to a charity, such as OLA, instruct your IRA custodian to transfer part of your annual required minimum distribution (RMD) directly to the charity. Using this method will preserve your tax savings. Ask your tax professional how using this method could be to your benefit. The tax savings can be significant.

Celebración de la Virgen de Guadalupe



Este año, la celebración a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe ha sido muy especial; en primer lugar por que la celebramos en un lugar nuevo de adoración.

Hace mas de 500 años la Virgen se le apareció a Juan Diego y le pidió que se le construyera un templo en el Cerro del Tepeyac.

El Padre Carlos Ramírez y Padre Chris Troxell celebraron una misa muy emotiva, haciéndonos reflexionar en lo



que significa Nuestra Madre Maria de Guadalupe para todos nosotros para que sigamos su ejemplo como siervos y seguidores de Cristo.

Les damos las gracias al Sr. Pedro Lopez de *Los Jarritos* quien donaron tamales y platillos que se sirvieron de la mañana y la tarde. Gracias a los servidores, danzantes, y voluntarios que hicieron que la celebración de nuestra señora de Guadalupe fuera todo un éxito.

Tradiciones de nuestra Fe

Esta semana recordamos a los niños judíos que fueron asesinados por orden del Rey Herodes en Belén. Esa tragedia que ocurrió cuando el viejo y celoso rey se enteró del nacimiento de un nuevo rey de los judíos. Él mandó a matar a todo niño que tuviera menos de dos años. El llanto de las familias que perdieron sus pobres inocentes se ha convertido en risas en varios países latinoamericanos. El 28 de diciembre en muchas partes es conmemorado como el día de los inocentes que viene siendo el April Fools de Latinoamérica. En ese día se hacen bromas para burlarse de los amigos. Si la broma funciona al pobre que fue engañado se le llama “inocente”.

La inocencia normalmente se atribuye a los niños o a los ingenuos, pero en si la inocencia es una virtud cristiana, de los que hemos sido perdonados por Cristo. Esta inocencia no es ingenuidad mas bien es la candidez, simplicidad y generosidad de una persona que conoce bien lo duro que es la vida y aún así mantiene la esperanza. — J. S. Paluch Company

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church

435 Berkeley Avenue – Claremont, CA 91711

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Bulletin deadline is Sunday for the following weekend. Email bulletin@olaclaremont.org.

Interested in the Catholic Church? We invite you to one of our Inquiry sessions. Call Michael Ramirez at (909) 626-3596, ext. 4221 for more information.

Baptisms Brochures about the Sacrament of Baptism are available at the display case on the patio, or the parish and Faith Formation offices. Please call 4-6 weeks before the date of Baptism. For English AND Spanish Baptisms, please contact the parish office at (909) 626-3596, ext. 0.

Weddings Congratulations! Please call the parish office at least six months ahead for preparation, scheduling, and an appointment with a priest. Weddings are scheduled Saturdays at 10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m. Visit the display case on the patio for more information.

Anointing of the Sick Please call the parish office day or night.

Hospital/Home Visits For distribution of Holy Communion, please contact the parish office.

Funeral Arrangements Please contact the parish office for help with services and special needs.

Stephen Ministry This one-on-one care-giving ministry at OLA is available upon request to those seeking emotional and spiritual support through a life challenge such as loss of a job, personal illness, separation or divorce, illness or the death of a loved one. Please call 626-3596, ext. 4332 to leave a confidential message.

St. Vincent de Paul Society Hotline One-time emergency assistance for individuals and families. Call (909) 626-3596, ext. 4333, to leave a message. Your call will be returned by a volunteer case manager.

Sunday Mass Schedule

- 7:00 a.m. Traditional cantor-led song
- 9:00 a.m. Contemporary ensemble
- 11:00 a.m. Contemporary ensemble
- 1:00 p.m. Spanish Mass
- 3:00 p.m. Vietnamese Mass
- 5:00 p.m. Teen/Contemporary
- 7:00 p.m. Cantor-led song

Saturday Vigil Masses

- 4:00 p.m. Cantor-led song
- 5:30 p.m. Contemporary ensemble or cantor-led song

Weekday Mass Schedule

- 6:30 a.m. Monday through Friday
- 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
- 8:00 a.m. Saturday

Saturday Confessions

- 3:00 – 3:45 p.m. English/Spanish
- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. English

How to Reach Us

Parish Office (909) 626-3596

Fax (909) 624-3680

Website: www.olaclaremont.org

email Address: reception@olaclaremont.org

Parish Office Hours

Open 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday – Thursday

Friday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Open Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
(Lunch break from 12:30 to 1 p.m.)

Faith Formation and Religious Education

Faith Formation Center (909) 624-1360

Victor Hernandez, Director of Faith Formation (x4213)

Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Christmas vacation from Dec. 24 to Jan. 1.

OLA Catholic School

611 W. Bonita Ave., Claremont, CA 91711

Tel. (909) 626-7135 Fax (909) 398-1395

Office hours: Mon-Thurs 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Fridays 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Principal Bernadette Boyle

Website: www.ola-ca.org

Parish Staff

Rev. Charles J. Ramirez, Pastor

Rev. Ron Clark, Associate Pastor

Rev. Paul Phan, Associate Pastor

Rev. Chris Troxell, Associate Pastor

Deacon Jim and Karen Allgaier

Deacon Joe Domond

Deacon Bob and Kathy Steighner

Deacon Art and Nadine Escovedo, retired

Neomi Torres, Director of Parish Administration (x4203)

Victor Hernandez, Director of Faith Formation (x4213)

Dcn. Jim Allgaier, Outreach/Stewardship Coord. (x4216)

Michael Ramirez, Adult Formation Coordinator (x4221)

Jesus Rodriguez, Youth Ministry Coordinator (x4215)

Mary Muñoz, Coordinator of Music Ministry (x4263)

Jean McKenna, Communications Coordinator (x4217)

Bing Macavinta, Bookkeeper (x4232)

Katy Salisbury, Administrative Assistant (x4268)

Karina Pardo, Laura Aguilera, Melly Grigolla and

Elizabeth Preciado, Receptionists (x0)

Roberto Roman, Spanish Choir

Tinh Nguyen, Vietnamese Choir

Church renovation: Our journey so far

As we approach year's end, we can look back on accomplishments, large and small, in the second half of 2018.

Meeting all the requirements for permission to begin construction from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the City of Claremont was the first major achievement. This was followed by negotiation and signing of a contract with the best of three bidders.

A new worship place was set up at the north end of the parking lot, and everything was moved there from the church; some things were stored.

The perimeter of the construction zone around the church was fenced off as we gathered for a "groundbreaking" ceremony to bless the work ahead.

Both exterior and interior renovation will continue until the projected completion of the work in Fall 2019.

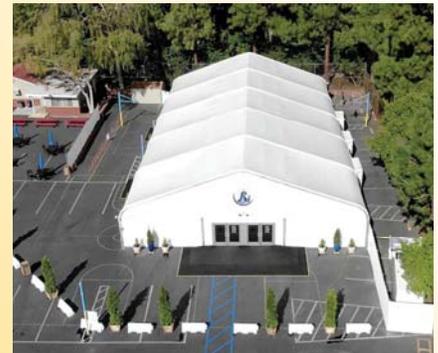
In the two photos on the left, natural light is allowed into the main area of the church from two sources: 1) windows that were part of the original church design, but later covered up by Stations of the Cross; and 2) new openings in the roof that are part of the current plan.



Multiple crews, both volunteer and staff, readied the new place for worship.



The new worship place was designed to be a comfortable home for the community, including a place to gather outdoors.



Father Charles was joined by parish leaders and construction supervisors to toss a symbolic shovelful of dirt, as parishioners applauded.



Work on the roof of the church has occupied crews for weeks. A drone photo offers a "bird's eye" look at activity that is mostly out of sight.



Front walkway demo.

