



Vol. 22 No. 3

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S GUILD

Contact the Guild at | womensguild@olphdowney.com

Unwrap the Miracle of Christmas

Jo Ann Ramirez

OLPH Women's Guild Mission Statement

A group of united, inspired ladies dedicated to enriching the lives of others through spiritual, social and charitable activities in our parish and community guided by the Blessed Mother.

At-A-Glance Activities

11/12 Blood Drive K of C

11/29 Board Meeting
(replaces 12/6 meeting)

No December General Meeting

12/3 Annual Christmas Luncheon Azar Event Center

1/3 Board Meeting

1/17 General Meeting

1/23 Viejas Casino Trip

2/7 Board Meeting

2/21 General Meeting

The Christmas season is a time for giving, sharing, and spreading joy. In the spirit of these traditions, the Catholic Women's Guild is organizing a special raffle event as part of its 36th Annual Christmas Luncheon. And, it promises to bring sparkle and warmth to your home this Christmas. The prizes? A hand carved olive wood Nativity Creche and a stunning jewel embellished mirror.

Nativity Creche 19"x7"x9.5"



The Nativity Creche being offered as a part of this raffle is a true testament to craftsmanship. Painstakingly hand carved by Palestinians, it brings to life the timeless story of the birth of Jesus. The Nativity Creche being offered was purchased in Bethlehem and travelled over 7,500 miles courtesy of Guild member Leila Giries.

Olive wood carving is an age-old tradition deeply rooted in the rich cultural heritage of Palestine. This ancient craft, introduced by the Franciscans in the 16th and 17th centuries, not only showcases the artistic skills of the Palestinian artists but reflects the enduring spirit of the people who have maintained their connection to the land and their culture despite decades of challenges and conflict.



PRESIDENT

Lucy Solares



During the first week of November, I had the pleasure of attending the Carmelite Fall Festival with a group of Guild members. The festival featured Carmel Kitchen baked goods, homemade food, lovely creative boutique items, and children's activities. The proceeds from this event benefited the mission at the Sacred Heart Retreat House. We had a wonderful time and were very happy to contribute to this worthy cause.

By mid-November, I suddenly realized how close we were to two of the most joyous holidays of the year - Thanksgiving and Christmas.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
Lucy Solares

Vice President
Nancy Lopez

Recording Secretary
Julie Bosdachin

Treasurer
Dianna Hampton

Corresponding Secretary
Ruby Gaytan

Altar Chair
Margie Delgado

Ways and Means
Leila Giries



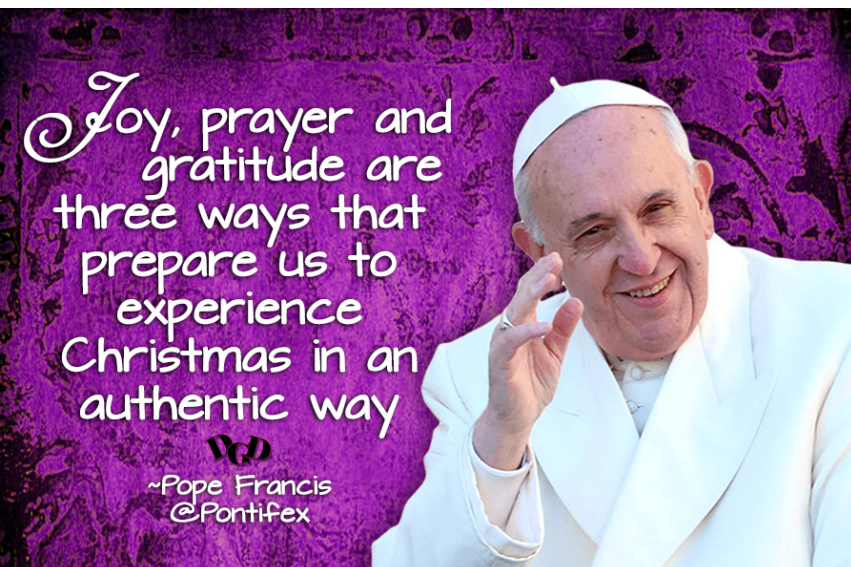
Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on our daily lives and enjoy time with family and friends. It is also the best time of the year to give thanks to everyone who helps make our lives a little easier. I give thanks to all of you for your support and I am grateful for everything we have been able

to accomplish together for our Women's Guild, our parish, and our community. It takes a team, not one person, to produce results for the benefit of others. I cannot say it enough, you are all amazing and I thank you for all that you do!

Our Christmas luncheon theme this year is "A Bethlehem Christmas," in honor of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. In the words of Pope Francis, "On this day of joy, we are all called to contemplate the Child Jesus, who gives hope once again to

every person on the face of the earth. By his grace, let us with our voices and our actions give witness to solidarity and peace. Merry Christmas to all!" Pope Francis, Christmas 2016.

May each of you have a Happy Thanksgiving filled with gratitude, and a joyful and blessed Christmas, as we embrace the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.





VICE PRESIDENT

NANCY LOPEZ



We had a very fun and enjoyable Dia de los Muertos general meeting with a festively decorated hall, savory Mexican food with sweet pan de muerto, an uplifting and live musical performance, and a lovely decorated ofrenda or altar to honor our loved ones that have passed.

They say that laughter is good for the soul, and so it was at our fundraiser at The Stand Up Comedy Club. Thanks to all those who contributed to making it a successful fundraiser. It was an open-mic venue and an evening filled with laughter and unforgettable jokes. Our former local NBC Weatherman and stand-up comedian, Fritz Coleman, stole the show with his comedic performance. We also had Bernadette Pauley, a very unpredictable and animated female comedian. Both were very skilled comics that made us laugh until our bellies hurt!

We will soon be gathering with family and friends to feast and thank God for all our blessings. As we set aside time to give thanks, let us also remember all those in need by giving to a charitable organization, providing non-perishables to a local food pantry, or helping out at a shelter for those experiencing homelessness.

Thanksgiving is also regarded as the beginning of the Christmas season. The celebration of Christmas is to remember the birth of Jesus Christ, our King and Savior. In this year's Christmas luncheon, we will recall the Nativity of Jesus Christ and His manifestation to the people of the world. Come join in celebrating "A Bethlehem Christmas" at the Azar Event Center on Sunday, December 3rd! Purchase your tickets early!

Wishing everyone a joyous and blessed holiday season!



Tax Exempt Procedure for Donations

Last year the Catholic Women's Guild adopted a policy to align with the IRS tax-exempt procedure and Los Angeles Archdiocesan guidelines that stipulates a tax-exempt letter will be automatically generated for donations of \$250 or more. In the event you need a tax-exempt letter for less than this donated amount, please notify Yolanda Ramirez at 562-355-0910 and leave a message.

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CHURCH
&
MINISTRY

EXEMPTION



MEMBERSHIP

Rose Douglas

Wishing everyone a blessed and joyous holiday season. I know we all have so much going on in our lives, however, if you did not get your membership renewal in last month please take a moment and send it in to me or drop it off at the rectory. Our ability to continue awarding grants to our church, schools and community as well as scholarships to 8th graders going onto Catholic High Schools depends on your support and involvement in our fundraising.

Memberships also make great Christmas gifts. The number of our male Friends of the Guild has been increasing so don't forget the special men in your lives.

Membership forms can be found on line, womensguild.olphdowney.com and also in the front of the church.

Directory Updates

NEW MEMBERS

Ayala, Linda

cell 323-365-7659

2/16

3445 East 7th Street

Los Angeles, CA 90023

USAKitty2@aol.com

Cano, Priscilla

7/30

819 Caraway Drive

Whittier, CA 90601-1117

Rivera, Rosa

cell 562-443-2733

9/4; Francisco

10729 Lakewood Blvd. 90241

Rosiejayd14@icloud.com

Prokop, Michael

11/7; Joyce

cell 562-760-5250

10444 Julius Ave.

Downey 90241

mikeprokop643@gmail.com

DO YOU APPRECIATE RECEIVING GUILD PHONE CALLS?

Mary Ellen Dunne

From time to time, the Telephone Committee hears from members that they did not receive a phone call or text from us regarding a death and upcoming funeral services. The Telephone Committee is concerned about these lapses because it is important for all of us stay in touch with each other.

The Telephone Committee is composed of Guild members who have volunteered to make a few phone calls at these times.

They are not Executive Board members; they are just like you! At most, all you would need to call would be 10 members.

Oftentimes, members would simply be happy to receive a text instead of a phone call with the pertinent information about funeral services. Unfortunately, we are always just a few callers short of the ideal number. When a caller moves or cannot make calls any longer, the Telephone Committee needs to fill in those openings. Please consider helping with this Ministry.

Sometimes, you may be the only human voice a Guild member will hear that day. We all need to feel connected. ***Please call Mary Ellen Dunne and let her know that you can help with this need. 562-806-1215***



Jewel Embellished Mirror 25" x 17"

Imagine a mirror that not only reflects your image but also reflects the spirit of the season. This jewel embellished mirror, handcrafted by Guild member Leila Giries, is a work of art. Its frame is adorned with over 40 vintage brooches donated by Guild member Maria Tallini. The intricate design evokes the festive charm of the holiday season. This exquisite piece is more than just a mirror; it is a stunning centerpiece for any room of your home.

Raffle Details

This year we are offering pre-sale raffle tickets for those who cannot attend the luncheon. Raffle tickets for the Nativity Creche and jewel embellished mirror will be available the day of the luncheon.

Ticket Donation: 1 ticket: \$2.00 donation. A book of 10 ten tickets: \$20.00 donation

Draw Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 3:00 pm Azar Event Center.

Proceeds: All proceeds benefit the Catholic Women’s Guild Scholarship Program

For those interested in participating in the raffle please contact Dianna Hampton at 323-228-2329 or diannamhampton@gmail.com or call Jo Ann Ramirez at 714-932-3449. We will be happy to help you with securing tickets for The Miracle of Christmas special raffle.

Whether you win the Nativity Creche or jewel embellished mirror, the true prize is the spirit of giving that binds us all together during this magical time of the year. Tax ID# 95-1644605

Leila Giries and Maria Stephenson
Ways & Means Chairwomen

Bellflower Civic Chorus

May, Sept & Dec performances at the Bristol Civic Auditorium
16600 Civic Center Drive
Bellflower, CA 90706

www.bellflowercivicchorus.org
Ticket Sales: (562) 900-7836

Josh Beall
Director

The Bellflower Civic Chorus will be having a concert conducted by *Friends of the Guild* member **Josh Beall**.

Tickets are available on-line at www.bellflowercivicchorus.org

December 9th and 10th
Bristol Civic Auditorium
16600 Civic Center Drive
Bellflower

Our very own guild members Bonnie Beall, Margery Lewis and Yolanda Ramirez will be performing. General Admission is \$10.



Happy November

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Mary Lou Hunter
- 5 Margaret Susank
- 7 Fr. Danny Garcia-Castro
- 7 Michael Prokop
- 11 Kathy Hughes
- 11 Armida Lugo
- 12 Linda Malme
- 13 Charlene Cole
- 13 Maria Gomez
- 16 Ann Balderrama
- 22 Teresa D'Eramo
- 22 Sheila Peck
- 24 Betty Origel
- 29 Beth Damianakes
- 30 Monsignor Lorenzo Miranda
- 30 Camille Perez

Happy December

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Barbara Keenoy
- 4 Dianne Lumsdaine
- 5 Myriam Galvez
- 7 Lou Corona
- 10 Violeta Galdamez
- 11 Joanne Earl
- 11 Connie Martinez
- 12 Ron Meyer
- 13 Margaret Ann Blackburn
- 15 Diana Holly
- 16 William McCluskey
- 17 Harriet Doran
- 17 Nancy Merrick
- 20 Erika Layton
- 21 Patricia Barrington
- 22 Larry Lewis
- 26 Adele Alexander
- 31 Dianna Hampton



OLPH Women's Guild
7th Annual Blood Drive
Sunday, November 12, 2023

Knights of Columbus

Call Paula Mayfield at 562 923-3518

- Everyday over 40,000 blood donations are needed.
- One in three of us will need a blood transfusion.
- Tears of a mother cannot save her child but YOUR BLOOD CAN.
- 1 pint can save 3 lives.

Give blood, Give life

Financial Report	
September 1, 2023	
Dianna Hampton	
Beginning Balance	
September 2023.....	\$ 11,045.49
Deposits	
September 2023.....	\$ 6,184.96
Expenses	
September 2023.....	\$ 566.45
Ending Balance	
September 31, 2023.....	\$ 16,664.00

Spiritual Development

PAULA MAYFIELD



"You are a light to the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand so that it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly father." Holy Spirit, ignite Your fire in our hearts. Inspire us to speak with piety, holiness, tenderness and mercy. Teach, guide and direct our thoughts and senses from beginning to end, so that anyone who sees us, sees Jesus.

"We are each of us like a small mirror in which God searches for His reflection." St. John Vianney

SUCCESSFUL CASINO TRIP

The Guild's Casino Trip originally scheduled for Aug. 22nd, suddenly had to be cancelled and rescheduled to Sept. 5th thanks to Hurricane Hilary! Our guests were very understanding and gracious about the changes. Many of them were waiting at the church even before we arrived that morning! We gave out several \$5 Bingo prizes (all the better to slip that bill into a slot machine!), and on the way home we had 9 raffle prizes to distribute! So many thanks to all those who donated raffle prizes, water, and their helping hands to load everyone on the bus with their name tags, goodie bags, go-home snacks and water! As they were leaving us and heading back home, our guests were asking us when our next trip would be, to be sure to call them when it happens and that they had so much fun on the bus with us unlike other casino bus trips they've taken. Our Casino Trips are fantastic fundraisers! We had 56 seats filled, at \$20 each. **Join us January 23, 2024, as we go to Viejas Casino. See you on the bus!**



OLPH Holiday Food Drive

Together we can work to ensure that children, families, and older adults have access to the food they need during the holidays.

Church volunteers will be collecting nonperishable items before and after each mass, on the weekends of October 28th-29th and November 18th-19th.

Please show your thankfulness by bringing recommended food items to mass on one of these days. The list of recommended items is on our website (womensguild.olphdowney.com)

If you are aware of an OLPH family or older adult in need, please ask them to send an email to mroger@olphdowney.com. Please ask them to include the names and ages of all children, adults and seniors living in the household.

Catholic Women's Guild
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
10727 Downey Avenue
Downey, CA 90241-3439

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bell Gardens, Ca
Permit #5491

Change of Service Requested

Happy
Holidays

A Bethlehem Christmas

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Azar Event Center
12215 Slauson Avenue
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

\$60.00 per person
\$45.00 children (5-12 years)



Reservation contact: Linda Malme (562) 869-6491 by November 22, 2023 . No refunds after due date