



Perris Press Release

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Church Fund Drive Festival Set for May 3 - 5

For 20 years, parishioners at St. James the Lesser Catholic Church in Perris have contributed to a building fund for a new and larger religious and education center.

Most of the contributions came in the form of small donations from the congregation, known for its blue-collar work ethic and willingness to dig into their pocketbooks to support the church's mission. The congregation saved enough to buy a 12-acre site on Nuevo Road and Dunlap Drive for its new church and is looking forward to its annual festival this weekend to raise additional funds for future construction. The festival takes place Friday, May 3, through Sunday, May 5, at the new church site.

Festivities include carnival rides, raffles, food and live music, a blessing of the new property at 11 a.m. Saturday and a bi-lingual mass at 9 a.m. on Sunday that features several dignitaries, including members of the Perris City Council.

The festival runs from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday; from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday.

St. James church member Leticia Gallegos, the chairman of the event's committee, said the congregation badly needs a bigger location. The church, which is more than 100-years-old, holds nine Masses each weekend and all are filled to overflowing. The new church building will accommodate up to 2,000. No timetable has been set for the beginning of construction.

Gallegos said that when construction of the new campus is completed, St. James Catholic School also will locate from its present Third Street location to then new site.

"Our festival will be fun for the entire community and we encourage everyone to attend and have a great time," Gallegos said. "We think it is a great way to bring our community together."

Fellow parishioner Dulce Ocegueda said the festival promises fun and fellowship for all.

"We need to come together as a family to participate in a community event and have fun," she said.

Perris City Councilman Julio Rodriguez has attended St. James his entire life and continues to teach catechism there.

"I am incredibly supportive of these kinds of festivals," Rodriguez said. "To be able to help my home church is pretty amazing."



Leticia Gallegos, events chairman at St. James the Lesser Catholic Church in Perris, says this weekend's annual church festival will help raise funds for a new campus.



Leticia Gallegos, Dulce Ocegueda and Perris City Councilman Julio Rodriguez are St. James members and will be attending this weekend's annual church festival.