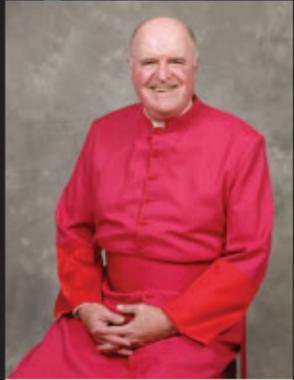




Happy 38th Anniversary, OLM!



THE FUTURE HOME OF ...
OUR LADY
OF THE MEADOWS,
CATHOLIC CHURCH



1979-2017

38 years + 4 pastors = OLM

August 1, 1979

*Bishop Charles A. Buswell establishes new parish, appoints Father Ervin J. Schmitt first pastor

August 1, 1979

*First Mass at Boy Scout Center

December 9, 1979

*First Mass at United Methodist Church

January 26, 1980

*Father Schmitt moves into new house at 15 Chickadee Way

March 1980

*Shrine of St. Therese, mother parish, donates \$25,000 to OLM

March 16, 1980

*Parishioners submit three names for parish; Bishop Buswell chooses "Our Lady of the Meadows"

May 1, 1980

* Parish has 180 families

May 13, 1980

*First Advisory Board consists of 12 members, one chair, parish staff
*John Venezia donates the land for the church

June 20, 1980

* Bishop Buswell establishes the parish boundaries

September 1980

* First religious education program starts

September 10, 1980

* Bishop Arthur N. Tafoya is installed at Sacred Heart Cathedral

January 1981

*New church building plans are started

February 8, 1981

*First Sacrament of Reconciliation

May 10, 1981

*First Sacrament of Communion

June 6, 1981

* New church pledge drive

November 1981

*Church construction plan completed

January 10, 1982

* Official groundbreaking

September 26, 1982

*Church dedicated

June 12, 1983

*OLM purchases land for playground and picnic area

1983

*OLM parish basement completed

1984

*Publishes *Makin's from the Meadows* parish cookbook

February 1984

* Stained glass windows are donated

1986-87

*Organ Fund Memorials begin

September 9, 1986

*Peace and Justice Committee established

February 26, 1988

*300 people involved in ministries and parish operation

April 27, 1988

*Parish pays off church building debt

May 1988

*Planning for new parish center building begins

October 18-19, 1988

*OLM defines "Our Journey Together" goals

August 20, 1989

*Parish Center ground breaking

September 15, 1989

*Construction starts on parish center

February 13, 1990

*Parish officially moves into new center

May 8, 1990

*Bishop Tafoya dedicates parish center

1979-2017

38 years + 4 pastors = OLM

May 14, 1991

*Land next to rectory officially named Schmitt Park

July 8, 1991

*Father Roger P. Dorcy arrives

1991

*Scholarship program begins

October 20, 1992

*Tri-parish Youth Ministry begins

1995

*5 year plan development starts

December 19, 1995

*Rick Oreskey enters the Diocesan Diaconate Program

November 18, 1997

*Plans to renovate the Church begin

August 18, 1998

*New Ministries: Ministry of Bethany (to sick) under Daughters of the King; Altar Society; Building Maintenance Committee, Parish Newsletter group, and Sacristan Ministry

October 27, 1998

*New Parish logo designed

November 1998

**The Meadows* Newsletter premieres

January 26, 1999

*Web page olm@olm-parish.com created

November 5, 1999

*Dedication of Gathering Space at Vesper Services

January 29, 2000

*Father Dorcy's 20th ordination anniversary

April 25, 2000

*Parish "Think Tank" develops Strategic Plan to address future growth and needs of the Parish.

June 7-8, 2003

*Dedication of Father Roger P. Dorcy Plaza and farewell weekend celebration

July 5-6-2003

* Father Kevin F. Novack reception

2004

* Youth represented on Parish Council

*Leadership Training Workshop

* Homecoming series begins

*Pax Christi begins

2004

*Growing In Faith Together begins

2010

*Father James King arrives

2012

*Father James King named Monsignor

2012

*Growing Up Catholic established as formation for children

2015

*Health Fair established as annual event

**Our Lady of the Meadows
is one parish with
553 Families**

In 38 years we have had
1,276 Baptisms
1,638 First Communions
267 Marriages

We have
48 Eucharistic Ministers
14 Servers
25 Lectors
36 Hospitality Ministers
8 Sacristans
22 Receptionists

To see where you could volunteer or minister
take a look at the checkerboard pages

History of Our Lady of the Meadows spans over three decades



Monsignor Ervin J. Schmitt, First Pastor

By Fran Consinero

In 1982, Our Lady of the Meadows opened its doors at the current site to 400 families as the newest parish on Pueblo's southwest side of town.

The need for a new parish on the growing southwest side would relieve the overcrowding at the Shrine of St. Therese and Holy Family Parishes. Bishop Charles Buswell appointed Father Ervin J. Schmitt to accomplish the task of building a new parish community.

The Schmitt Years

Father Schmitt, born in Rockford, Iowa, the youngest of 11 children, grew up on a farm. He was educated at the Pontifical College Josephinum, Worthington, Ohio and ordained a priest in June 1958.

His first assignment was assistant pastor at La Junta's Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in September 1958. He was appointed to St. Columba Parish in Durango in June 1960. While there, he served as Newman Club chaplain at Fort Lewis A & M College.

In September 1961 Father Schmitt was appointed assistant at St. Pius X Parish in Pueblo. He then was transferred to St. Francis Xavier Parish in August 1964. In July 1965, he was appointed Diocesan Director of Seminarians and Vocations as well as administrator of Sacred Heart Parish in Gardner. In September the following

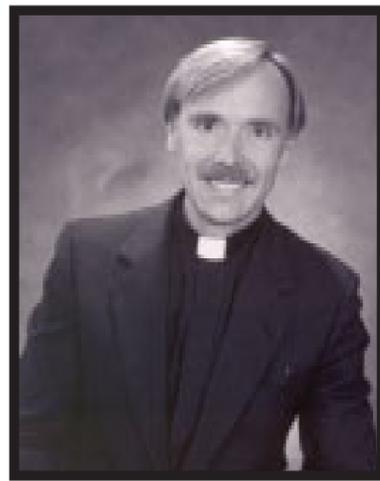


Father Roger P. Dorcy, Second Pastor

year, he was relieved of administration at Sacred Heart and established residence at St. Anne's Parish in Pueblo. In 1967, he served as temporary administrator of Sacred Heart Parish in Avondale. He was assigned as associate director of VIDA (Volunteers in Diocesan Action) in 1967 and served as Director from September 1968 to June 1979, when he was named pastor of St. Anthony Padua Parish in Pueblo where he remained until his appointment as pastor at Our Lady of the Meadows.

On August 1, 1979, Father Schmitt offered his first Mass within the Parish boundaries at the Boy Scout Center on Pueblo Boulevard for eight people. He was establishing a "community." The parish community began to grow in numbers as well. He founded a music program, using stringed instruments and forming a small choir to lead singing. People volunteered as lectors and servers; in a few short months it became evident a larger home was needed.

With a small group of parishioners, Father Schmitt set out to look for a building to house the growing number. When it seemed they had exhausted every possibility, Rev. Paul Tapey and the congregation of Wesley United Methodist Church came forward and offered the use of their facility at 85 Stanford Avenue. Using a hand-made folding altar, Father Schmitt offered his first Mass at Wesley December 9, 1979.



Father Kevin F. Novack, Third Pastor

In the meantime, a parcel of land had been tentatively offered to the Diocese, for building a church in an area within the parish boundaries called "The Meadows." A site for the parish rectory was chosen nearby and with 50 percent funding from the Diocese and a \$25,000 donation from our Mother Parish the Shrine of St. Therese. In January 1980 Father Schmitt moved into his new home at 15 Chickadee Way. Construction and dedication of the new church was in 1982.

Now a name was needed for the new parish. Parishioners submitted suggestions and it was narrowed down to three names by a vote of the parish community. These were submitted to Bishop Buswell. The name "Our Lady of the Meadows" was selected by the Bishop and announced March 16, 1980.

By May, the community had grown to 180 families and it was time to begin setting up programs for parishioners. A parish board with 12 members was established. The parish board worked establishing committees and coordinating programs. It became evident that Our Lady of the Meadows needed more space. John Venezia had donated land (3.4 acres between Red Creek Springs Road and Starling Drive--across the street from the parish house.) The board discussed a temporary structure with a permanent church facility to follow in

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History of Our Lady of the Meadows spans over three decades

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future years.

January 10, 1982, was groundbreaking day for the new site of Our Lady of the Meadows Parish. A celebration and dedication by Bishop Arthur N. Tafoya was held September 26, 1982.

The year 1983 brought several new traditions. A children's choir and liturgy was celebrated every other Sunday at the 9:30 a.m. Mass during the school year. Also born were the annual Christmas Bazaar, Parish Raffle, Appreciation Dinner and the New Year's Eve Dinner Dance. Coffee and donuts after the 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. Masses began. The parish basement was finished.

As a fund-raiser the Social Committee of Parish Council took upon itself the work and publishing of "*Makin's from the Meadows*," a parish cookbook in 1984. Improvements and additions made in the parish basement included new vents and registers in the ceiling to accommodate the flow of air for ventilation, heat coils under the cement on the ramp leading to the basement, and a new steel table in the kitchen. Landscaping and a sprinkler system were constructed on the outside grounds and at the park.

The highlight of 1985 was the first Parish Mission. The parish continued to grow with 675 families registered.

Through the next several years, additions and improvements continued as the parish grew. In 1988, the parish paid off the debt on the church. A parish center planning committee was set up to design the construction of a new office and classrooms.

In September 1989, a groundbreaking ceremony for a new parish center became a reality. The new parish center consisted of office space, a reception area, 10 classrooms for religious education, a library, and a parish hall for meetings and social events. The new parish center was dedicated the following May 8. The parish grew to 860 families with 400 students in religious education programs.

The Dorcy Years

In 1991, Father Roger Dorcy was appointed as the second pastor at Our Lady of the Meadows. Father Dorcy was ordained January 29, 1980. His first assignment was associate pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Alamosa, where he served until his appointment as associate pastor at St. Leander Parish, Pueblo in 1987. He served as dean of the Alamosa and Pueblo Deaneries and also served on the Liturgical Council for the Diocese of Pueblo, Due Process Board, diocesan representative to the South West Liturgical Conference (SWLC) and Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC).

Nearly a decade later, the new church was home to almost 1,100 families. Growth in the area was evident and expansion again a must. It was here that the strategic plan, OLM2000, was born.

The church had no transition area from the outside, and a burst of cold air would occur whenever someone opened the door. The sacristy was too small, and there was not enough seating. The carpet was worn and the building leaked. There were serious issues that needed to be addressed.

Phase I included building a 32-foot high atrium for the entry way into the church; the building of a memorial tower; the construction of a new and larger sacristy; installation of new restrooms on the main level; the building of a day room, which could be used for anything from children's liturgy of the word, to brides primping, to a quiet place for families before funerals. It would also have a large, two-way fireplace and separate area for fellowship. Outside, there would be a large plaza complete with extensive landscaping.

Parishioners Bob and Pat Miller were among the first parishioners at Our Lady of the Meadows. Bob donated seed money in memory of his wife, Pat who died in 1997. Shortly after the expansion Miller also died.

Cost of Phase I was approximately \$350,000, with more than \$200,000 donated by parishioner Bob Miller. Father Dorcy

was hopeful that the rest would be offset by donations. Father Dorcy called Phase I, "a near reality" and Phase II "less of a dream."

Phase II is actual expansion of the current church toward the north. The expansion will allow for greater room about the altar, more space for musicians and additional seating. The current sacristy and reconciliation room would be replaced with additional seating as well. The church holds from 400-450 people right now. With the expansion plans, an additional 200-250 seats would be added.

Before he died, Miller said, "The transition area was my whole thought. You get in church and you want to sit quietly in thought and the doors bang whenever somebody goes in and out of them. And this church is too small for the number of families who come here now."

Miller said the additions would help bring even more people into the church and serve as a temple to those who use it. "The church offers a lot of activities and there is something for everyone. That's what a church is all about."

The Novack Years

On July 5, 2003, Father Kevin Novack became the third pastor at Our Lady of the Meadows.

Father Novack has served as Parochial Vicar of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Grand Junction, Administrator of St. Patrick Parish, Telluride and Our Lady of Sorrows Mission, Nucla. He became incardinated in the Diocese of Pueblo in 1997. He then became Pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Cortez and its Mission of St. Jude, Dove Creek and of the St. Rita Parish in Mancos, and its Missions of Our Lady of Victory Dolores, and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rico. He also has served as a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Council of the Diocese of Pueblo.

In January 2007 Father Charles Ogoegbunah Anedo joined the parish staff. Father Charles was ordained March 19, 1999 as a priest of the Catholic Archdio-

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History of Our Lady of the Meadows spans over three decades

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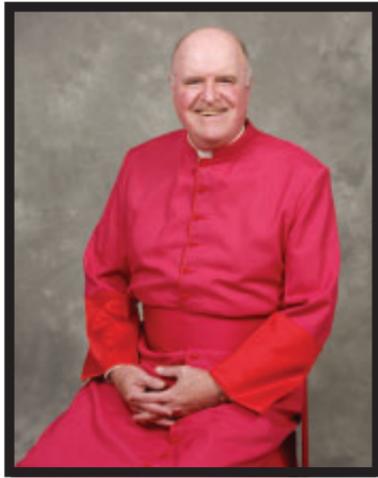
ocese of Onitsha, Nigeria. Father Charles stay at Our Lady of the Meadows was only for a few weeks. After getting settled in he accepted a position at St. Anthony Hospital in Denver and moved back there the end of February 2007.

Jean-Marie Mondji served as a deacon at Our Lady of the Meadows until his ordination May 30, 2008 by Bishop Arthur N. Tafoya at Sacred Heart Cathedral. After his ordination Father Jean-Marie was assigned to eastern Colorado serving in Lamar, Springfield and Holly. Father Jean-Marie returned back to Our Lady of the Meadows in April 2009 as Parochial Vicar.

In July 2008 Father Marco Salinas joined the staff at Our Lady of the Meadows as associate pastor. At that time Father Kevin was appointed pastor at Holy Rosary as a mission parish in addition to Our Lady of the Meadows. Father Marco and the parish staff assisted Father Kevin in the pastoral duties at both parishes. At that time Deacon Rick Oreskey asked to be relieved of his duties at Our Lady of the Meadows. With the addition of Father Marco the Mass schedule changed and to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of the Meadows and 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Sundays at Holy Rosary.

While at Our Lady of the Meadows Father Kevin began GIFT (Growing in Faith Together), the annual juried art show and having daily Mass at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

In April 2010 Father Kevin announced that he would be leaving Our Lady of the Meadows and Holy Rosary to accept an assignment at St. Michael's in Canon City. Father Jean-Marie was also received a new assignment. Due to the financial problems and significant debt faced at Our Lady of the Meadows at the close of the fiscal year, Father Kevin was forced to lay off the two youth ministers (Linda Davis and Lynn Cervi and reduce the hours of the



Father James King, Fourth Pastor

administrative staff, (business Manager, Deacon Mike Patterson and administrative assistant, Fran Consinero) from five to three days a week. This became effective May 1, 2010 and remained in effect until the arrival of the new pastor Father James King in July. Father Kevin was assigned to St. Michael in Canon City, where Father Jim was previously. It was also at that time Charlotte Plutt, liturgical and pastoral coordinator decided it was time to retire after 31 years.

The King Years

July 4, 2010 Our Lady of the Meadows welcomed Father James King as the fourth pastor.

Father Jim was born and raised in Oelwein, Iowa, at that time a thriving railroad center. His father and grandfather were life long railroad men. In the summers Father Jim and his older brothers had railroad jobs. He went to the Parish school from Kindergarten to 12th grade, then to Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa for a BA degree. He was always involved in student government. For a number of summers, he worked in a Pueblo Diocese summer program in the Camp Program at Sacred Heart in Alamosa and with Migrant programs in Manzanola, Delta and Palisade. In his senior college summer, he petitioned Bishop Charles Buswell to accept him as seminarian for the Pueblo Diocese. He spent three

years at St. Thomas in Denver and his Deacon year back in Iowa then being ordained May 22, 1971.

Father Jim served in the parishes in Montrose, Grand Junction, Gunnison, Alamosa and Canon City before accepting the position at Our Lady of the Meadows.

In July 2010 the Formation Department consisting of Linda Davis, Lynn Cervi and Chris Armstrong were furloughed to bring the budget in line. Deacon Mike Patterson also was cut back from three days a week to two. He worked Tuesdays and Thursdays until his retirement in April 2017.

In August 2010 one month after Father Jim was here he found the Mass schedule difficult and wanted to spend quality time with parishioners at both parishes so he changed the Mass times to the current schedule (Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday, 7:30 and 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of the Meadows and 9:15 a.m. Sunday at Holy Rosary.

Later that year we began using an Envelope Mailing System (Our Sunday Visitor) which sends parishioners at both parishes weekly envelopes in addition to special collections (Debt Reduction, Maintenance to name a few).

Two priests could handle both parishes but when Father Jim came it went down to one priest with two parishes and added responsibilities. In October 2010 Father Jim was appointed Vicar General then Business Director, then CFO at the Diocese of Pueblo Catholic Pastoral Center. Father Jim split his weeks spending morning hours at Our Lady of the Meadows and the afternoons at the Diocese. Though job descriptions have changed Father Jim still keeps those same hours today.

In November 2012 Father Jim was named Monsignor in a Vespers service.

Thus the history of Our Lady of the Meadows Catholic Community continues to evolve, as the parish continues to grow and plans to celebrate its 40 year anniversary in 2019.