

# Sister Mary McKinney preparing for the holiday feast

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For the 38th year, the diminutive Sister Mary McKinney is serving Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday to hundreds of people in need.

This year, she's expecting about 800 to sit at tables in the front yard of St. Stephen's Church, 2219 W. Third Ave., Muscoy.

With help from volunteers, Sister Mary has been cooking and roasting turkeys for a Southern-style Thanksgiving with all the trimmings, as well as entertainment, arts and crafts activities food bags for families to take home.

Fun and food runs from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday. This year's menu includes roasted turkey, cranberries, rice dressing, fresh veggies, collard greens, potato salad, dinner rolls and special punch. For dessert, there's sweet potato pie, carrot cake, apple pie, pumpkin pie and sheet cake. All of this is served with a prayer.

After dinner is the clothes giveaway, along with arts and crafts and other activities. Folklorico dancers will entertain, and families will receive a food bag to take home.

For Sister Mary, and her husband, the former Rev. Jesse McKinney, no Thanksgiving is complete without sharing with others.

The food and events could not happen without the help of the volunteers and support of the community, says Sister Mary, who picks up the food each week at the San Bernardino County Food Bank. This year, she also received 50 turkeys from Cerenzia Foods in Rancho Cucamonga.

They work in conjunction with St. Stephen's Church and the nonprofit Samaritan Social Services in Muscoy.

This year, they are providing free bus passes. Bus passes are available at Lutheran Social Services (Central City Lutheran Mission), 1354 N. G St., San Bernardino. Bus passes are also available at the church. Sister Mary McKinney is the daughter of Abraham and Lillian Keys of Beaumont, Texas.



In this 2015 file photo, volunteers help Sister Mary McKinney, right, prepare and serve Thanksgiving dinners at St. Stephen's Church of God in Christ in San Bernardino.