

This weekend we begin our parish celebration for First Eucharist for many of the children in our Religious Education program and in our school's Second Grade class. This has always proven to be a joyous time for us as a parish community--even in the midst of the high energy that oftentimes accompanies such celebrations--because these children are now able to participate more fully and in a hopefully more meaningful way at our Eucharistic liturgies. These are celebrations for the entire parish community because they include members of our parish family who now join us at the table of the Lord's banquet feast! It is good for us to be reminded how special is the gift that we have so easily grown used to in our lives, one that some might even take for granted. The anticipation and the excitement of the children and their friends stand to remind us what it is that we receive: the very gift of God's life, presence, and power given freely to us.

### Before You Said Amen

During the eucharistic prayer at Mass today, what were you thinking about? What was on your mind from the moment the presider invited everyone to: "Lift up your hearts!" until you sang the "Amen" before the Our Father?

We Catholics say: This is the most holy time. But what does "holy" mean here, and how do you spend that holy time? Most of us would admit that we tend to wander off a bit at this time on Sunday. Yes, we sing the "Holy Holy" pretty well, perhaps, with a strong "Hosanna in the highest!" But sometimes we don't focus back in until it's time for the Our Father. Where did we go?

We're pretty good at getting on board for the song that begins the liturgy, and sometimes very good at giving full attention to at least one of the readings and maybe the homily. But if someone were to tap you on the shoulder during the Our Father and say: All right, where were you the last five minutes? How would you answer this question?

This is not to ask: What did the priest just do? (We know that!) The crucial question is: After I said "yes" to the invitation to lift up my heart, after we all said "yes" to that, what happened to those hearts? Did they stay "lifted up"?

Come at it this way. What happens in your life, happens with some regularity, that grabs and holds your whole attention—and grabs and hold you? That's what is asked when we are told to lift up our hearts. We are asked not simply to be quite and attention (that can happen at a good movie or concert). For us as baptized people, we are asked to lift up and give to God our whole selves, engaged with all these other selves, around this altar. What's it like to be totally involved in some deed even for a few minutes? Next time, can you enter into the eucharistic prayer in this way?

### The Church Prays with Attention

It begins when we say that we are lifting our hearts to the Lord. It ends when we say Amen, then prepare to pray the Lord's Prayer together. In between these are maybe four or five minutes. What happens during this time is the eucharistic prayer.

What is it that is to take place after we say we'll lift up our hearts to the Lord? Most of us would answer: "The consecration—when the presider says 'This is my body' and 'This is my blood.'" And that is right, but only part of what happens. Why are *we* to lift up *our* hearts and to give God thanks and praise? Why involve all of us?

The name of this time in the Mass says it all. This is the eucharistic prayer. "Eucharist" becomes a name for the consecrated bread and wine only because it first means something else. It is a Greek word that needs several English words to translate it. It is blessing. It is giving thanks. It is praise.

So in the eucharistic prayer, these are the things that the church is to do—and more besides. The priest is within the church to pronounce this prayer, to lead this prayer. The whole church is there to enter into the prayer, to acclaim all the blessing, thanks and praise that the priest speaks.

What we know from the New Testament about our eucharistic prayer is that Jesus would take bread or take wine and give thanks to God. Now we do it in memory of Jesus. What persons have you loved? When you remember them, don't you give thanks?

So the eucharistic prayer is filled with thanks for all God's saving deeds, but especially the passion and death and resurrection of Jesus. In it we name our saints, our pope and our bishop, our dead. All the memories come together when we surround the table and pray that these gifts of bread and wine will become for us the body and the blood of Jesus. If we then call the bread and wine "the eucharist" it is because we have prayed this eucharist to God over them.

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**SAVE THE DATE  
MAY 16th, 2015  
Live & Silent Auction  
Dinner & Dancing**

Our Lady of Grace Spring Auction is coming soon. Help raise funds for our parish and school – and enjoy an adults only sophisticated evening of sumptuous food, and entertaining music. Share the excitement and fun of a fast paced auction with friends and family. Ticket reservations can be made by contacting the Parish Office, 537-0806.

To inquire about making an auction donation or to volunteer for one of the committees please contact Colleen Lindberg in the Parish Office.

**AN INVITATION FROM  
OLG MEN OF FAITH**

OLG Men of Faith invite OLG men to attend "MOF First Monday of the Month" Mass, Meal and Meeting on **May 4th**: Mass 6:30 pm, Meal & Meeting 7:00 pm and return home by 8:00 pm at Casa Villanova Chapel in the Rectory at 19950 Anita Avenue, Castro Valley (next to OLG School). The meal is hosted by MOF. Please RSVP jab@bhp-law.com or 510 816-9110.

Subject: "Proving My Love to My Wife" - Our wives (or potential mates) can become needy, tempted, jealous and even angry of our Time, Activities and our Failure to show them attention. God's Word provides hundreds of verses for guidance relating to our "wife". His Word is easy to read...But how can we apply it, so that our wife sees and appreciates our love?

Come, listen and learn what You can do to develop and to show her your love. You will not want to miss this special event with fellow OLG community men and friends.

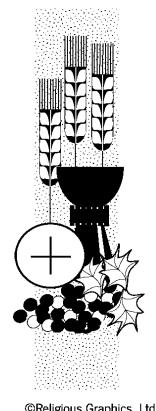


**A NOTE FROM  
OLG PASTORAL PLANNING  
COUNCIL**

We would like to hear your comments, suggestions and questions. The OLG PPC will host a table in Stack Center following the 9:00am Mass the first Sunday of each month (next week, **May 3rd**) Please come visit with us with questions, concerns or any observations that you might have. We look forward to hearing from you on **May 3rd**.

**GOT AN AUCTION ITEM?**

100% of our auction items are donated. Do you have a vacation cabin? Connections with a local sports team? Frequent Flyer miles? In the past we have received donations for vacation rentals, automobiles, hosted dinner, fine wines, and spirits, spa days and sports and concert tickets. Please be creative and consider what you can donate. Please contact Colleen Lindberg in the parish office with your donation items.



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**FIRST COMMUNION AT  
OUR LADY OF GRACE**

At masses on **April 25th, 26th** and **May 2nd and 3rd**, 50 children from our parish will be receiving their First Communion.

Please keep these children and their families in your prayers and join with us as we welcome them to The Table of the Lord's Banquet.



**MOTHER'S DAY**

As a means of honoring our mothers, living and deceased, a Triduum of Masses will be celebrated on **May 11th, 12th, and 13th**. Cards are available in the Parish office for those wishing to give or send a remembrance card. The names of those to be remembered will be placed at the altar for the three days of remembrance. Please complete the requested information on the half sheet of paper and return it to the Parish Office. A donation will be given to the "Get On the Bus" program that will bring children and their guardians from throughout the state of California to visit their mothers in prison.

**FROM SOUTH HAYWARD PARISH**

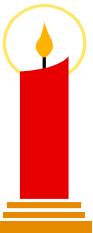
South Hayward Parish has a critical need for men's tube socks. If you would like to donate to individuals experiencing hardships during these times please drop your donation of socks to the parish office. Together we can work wonders.

Thank you  
Rochelle Elias  
OLG representative at South Hayward Parish

**REGISTER TODAY FOR FESCO'S  
18th ANNUAL SHUFFLE WALKATHON  
San Leandro Marina--May 2nd**

As coalition members of FESCO Our Lady of Grace is grateful to support FESCO in their 18th Annual Shuffle Walkathon. FESCO continues to provide homeless families with shelter, nutritious meals and a hand up in becoming self-sufficient. With your help and support, FESCO can continue to help homeless families. Register today for the annual walk-a-thon Saturday, **May 2nd**, this is a family , pet friendly event . OLG Team Captain's, Chris Ippolito and Colleen Lindberg are asking for your help in support of FESCO, you can walk, be a benchwarmer cheerleader or make a donation to Team OLG. Please send a message to our community that you are committed to ending family homelessness in Alameda County by pledging your support as a donor to FESCO's 18th Annual Shuffle Walkathon. Registration materials are available in the parish office or contact Colleen at [olgcv@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olgcv@sbcglobal.net). Chris Ippolito and Colleen will be outside mass on **Sunday, April 12th, 19th and 26th** if you would like to stop by and offer your support.

**DEVOTIONAL CANDLES  
OUR LADY OF GRACE**



Candles for our candle stand are available for purchase in the Parish Office or in the Sacristy after mass on Sundays. The candles will burn for 5 days. The cost per candle is \$3.00. *The glass globes in the candle stand must be left in the church. Simply insert the plastic candle purchased from the Parish in to the globe in the candle stand.*

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Stewardship of treasure involves trust in God. You have to really believe in God's Providence and trust that if you give ten percent of your income to the Church and charity for example, God will help you live on the rest.

**Offerings of April 19th:**

Sunday Plate:	\$ 7,446.00
Last Year this week	\$ Easter
<b>Weekly Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 8,815.00</b>
Year-to-date this year:	\$122,658.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$103,958.00
April Budgeted Expenses	\$49,000.00

*May God bless your continuing generosity.*

**Your Prayers Are Requested**

Please lift up in your prayer those many among us who are ill and those who have asked for our prayerful remembrance:

Jose Cisneros	Nicholas Guinea
Kathleen Denning	Richard Martin
Estela Enriquez	Florence Sharp
Mary Franks	James Van Wert
Byron Griffith	Yvonne Wheeler
Liz Griffith	

*As we pray for an end to war and violence in our world, let us remember in prayer those family members of our parish community serving on active duty, including:*

**DAVID SANCHEZ      MICHAEL SANCHEZ**

*Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.*

**GLICERIA GONZALES  
CRESENCIO GONZALES  
RAYMOND LOWE  
JO-ANNE MOBLEY  
EVA VISCOVICH**

**Gospel for 5th Sunday of Easter, May 3rd**  
**John 15:1-8**

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

### **HELP WANTED**

 Individual needed for gardening, clean up and light repair work 6 to 8 hours a week. Must be available during office hours. Please contact Colleen Lindberg in the Parish office, 537-0806 for additional information.

### **WINGS (Women in God's Spirit)**

We invite all women to join us for **WINGS**. **WINGS** is a faith enhancement group that encourages Spiritual growth through prayer, scripture study, catechesis, life sharing and community. We meet at Transfiguration Church Marion Room

**May 7th, 2015**

9:15 to 11:15am

Speaker: Sr. Joann Heinritz

Topic: Midwifing the Future  
With Mary & Elizabeth

### **IMMACULATE HEART RADIO**

Dedicated to sharing the heart of the Catholic Faith and changing lives, Immaculate Heart Radio brings you the best in Catholic Radio 24/7! Now playing 1260AM.

# **THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, April 26th:**

**FIRST COMMUNION WEEKEND**

**Coffee & Donuts**

**After all Masses**

Children's Liturgy of the Word

9:00am Mass

Youth Group

After 9:00am Mass--Stack Center

Religious Education Classes

10:15am--Stack Center

**Tuesday, April 28th:**

Bible Study

9:30am--Parish Office

**Thursday, April 30th:**

Serenity Group

8:15pm— Stack Center

**Saturday, May 2nd:**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

3:30pm--Church

**Sunday, May 3rd:**

**FIRST COMMUNION WEEKEND**

**Coffee & Donuts**

**After all Masses**

Children's Liturgy of the Word

9:00am Mass

Youth Group

After 9:00am Mass--Stack Center

Religious Education Classes

10:15am--Stack Center

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

**Saturday, May 16th:**

Spring Auction

6:00pm--Stack Center

**Sunday, May 17th:**

Spanish Mass

followed by Fiesta in Stack Center

2:00pm--Church

# Mass for the Week

Please note: During the school year, our 8:30am Monday Mass will be celebrated in the Church. Unless otherwise noted all other weekday masses will be held in the Chapel.

**MONDAY, APRIL 27th (CHURCH)**  
**THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,  
MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL**  
8:30am Maria Pangelinan (D)

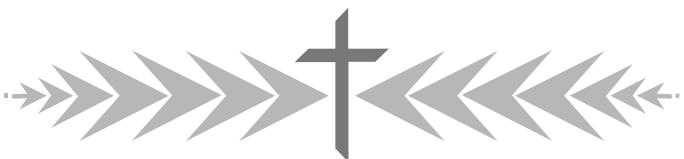
**TUESDAY, APRIL 28th**  
*St. Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr;*  
*St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest*  
7:00am Gloria Maravella (D)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29th**  
*St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin,  
Doctor of the Church*  
7:00am Richard Benson (D)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 30th**  
*St. Pius, V, Pope*  
7:00am Louis Rodriguez (D)

**FRIDAY, MAY 1st**  
*St. Joseph the Worker*  
7:00am Ann & Al Ortiz (D)

**SATURDAY, MAY 2nd**  
*St. Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church*  
8:30am Augusto Lopez (D)



## EXECUTION ALERTS

The following executions are scheduled to take place in April:

April 23rd	Richard Vasquez	TX
April 28th	Robert Pruett	TX

We ask your prayers for these persons, for the victims of their crimes, and for their families.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

### April 27th through May 3rd

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Monday:    | Acts 11:1-18; John 10:1-10                   |
| Tuesday:   | Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30                 |
| Wednesday: | Acts 12:24-13:5a; Matthew 11:25-30           |
| Thursday:  | Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20                 |
| Friday:    | Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6                   |
| Saturday:  | Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14                  |
| Sunday:    | Acts 9:26-31; 1 John 3:18-24;<br>John 15:1-8 |



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## CURSILLO

This is your invitation to make a Cursillo weekend, which is a three day learning, sharing experience of living in a Christian Community. It is a chance to share how God shows up in your life and how you respond to that presence. The next Men's weekend is Thursday, **April 30th thru Sunday, May 3rd**. The weekend is being hosted at Holy Redeemer Center in Oakland. For information you may go to [www.oak-cursillo.org](http://www.oak-cursillo.org). If you need additional information contact Patrick Devine at 650-787-8378



## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT SATURDAY, MAY 2nd

Our next Holy Hour with the  
Blessed Sacrament:  
**Saturday, May 2nd**  
From 3:30--4:30pm  
Followed by Benediction  
in the Church  
**All are welcome.**

## THANK THEM WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Please support our advertisers who make our weekly bulletin possible and so generously support our parish. We are grateful to them !

This week we extend our gratitude to:

**JENNIFER YOUNG, D.D.S.**