

**Year of Mercy Advent Events**

**Immaculate Conception Novena**

*November 29-December 8*

**Adoration and Confession**

*Thursdays, December 3,10,17 from 7-8PM*

**Consecration of Families**

*December 27*

**Mass with Anointing**

*Saturday December 19 at 8:30AM*

**Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to Italy**

*December 28- January 7*

Our Lady of Grace Community,

Pope Francis has given us a gift in calling a Jubilee Year of Mercy. When I heard the announcement last Spring I was intrigued and inspired. The Jubilee year is time for renewal and revitalization. The Church offers the spiritual gift of a plenary indulgence. "An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints" (CCC1471).

I think the simplest way to understand an indulgence is that it resets you back to the original grace of being a newly baptized. Forgiveness puts us back in relationship with God however the damage caused by the sin, out of justice, needs to be repaired or paid back. In confession we receive a penance as a sign that we are sincere about changing our sinful behavior and begin to seek to repair the damage the sin caused.

In a Jubilee year the Church offers plenary indulgence that you can apply for yourself or for a deceased person to completely satisfy the debt. This is a full satisfaction for the debt caused by your sins or a full reparation for the damaged caused. The Church defines what actions will gain an indulgence. The opening of the Holy Doors and making a pilgrimage to walk through the Holy Door is one penitential act you can do to achieve the gift of the indulgence.

We can all get lost in this world and this Year of Mercy is a way to find our way home to God. There is so many things pulling on our hearts and minds to distract us from divine love. May we receive mercy so we may offer mercy and come to trust in Jesus. Come back to the Lord with all your heart!

Join me in praying the Immaculate Conception Novena beginning today (November 29th) to prepare our hearts and our community to receive and outpouring of God's Mercy beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving. ***O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.*** This year is an opportunity to embrace the New Evangelization and call home family, friend and neighbor to come and experience the Mercy of God in a community that has been touched by mercy. May our hearts be compassionate and our arms open to receive those who come especially those who are broken and vulnerable.

May the Lord have Mercy on us  
Friar Thomas Czeck OFM Conv.

**Gospel for SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (December 6th)**

**Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
NOVENA  
FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY**

Please join us 30 minutes before Masses Sunday, **November 29th** to begin our Immaculate Conception Novena. Monday through Saturday we will pray the Novena at 3:00PM in the church and 30 minutes before mass on the weekend. The prayers in our novena were written by Franciscan Saints and may we take a stand against death as we celebrate the conception of the Immaculate Virgin Mary so that God could lead us to eternal Life.

A plenary indulgence is granted to those who pray the novena publically, attend mass, Go to confession, and pray for the Pope.



**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

Again, this year, we are inviting you to remember family members and friends through a Flower Offering which will help us to purchase plants and other decorations we need to beautify our sanctuary. You may list the names of loved ones you wish to remember or memorialize by using the special flower envelopes --or by submitting the name to the Parish Office. A list of names of all who are remembered will be available after Christmas. Thank you for considering this thoughtful and helpful way to remember those you love.



**FESCO &  
CASTRO VALLEY OUTREACH**  
*Christmas Giving Trees  
Tis The Season*

Beginning Thursday **November 19th**, Our Lady of Grace is helping the families of Castro Valley this Christmas with our Giving Trees. As members of CV Outreach, an organization dedicated to helping children from our CV Schools have a happy holiday season, we are sponsoring 8 families. Each family member has ornaments on our Giving Trees, which you will find in the church, in Stack after church, & in the school and parish offices. Please take an ornament to help a child have a blessed holiday.

All gifts need to be returned with the ornament, box and receipt, unwrapped to the parish office by **Wednesday December 11th** in order for our REC students & Parent Group members to catalog and wrap.

In addition to helping CV Outreach, we are helping FESCO keep their programs running. They are asking for monetary donations. Donation envelopes are on the Giving Trees. Please return donations to the parish office. *Thank You & Merry Christmas!*



**ADVENT CONFESSIONS  
READY THE WAY OF THE LORD**

Confessions will be available during Advent Monday Mornings 7:30AM until 8:00AM on **November 30th, December 7th, 14th, 21st**: Thursday Adoration with Confession on **December 3rd, 10th, 17th** at 7:00PM to 8:00PM and Saturday Confession 3:30 - 4:30PM

**AN OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS  
DECEMBER 5th IN STACK CENTER**

Our Lady of Grace school community invites you to a social celebration with entertainment provided by our scholars and musicians including yummy snacks and tree lighting. Fr. Tom will be there as well with a special message--all this begins after the 5:00pm mass on **December 5th**.



**“ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS”**

Sunday, afternoon **December 13th** you are invited to Advent Lessons & Carols at 4:00pm in the Church followed by dinner at 5:00pm in Stack Center. There is no cost to you, but reservations are required. Please RSVP to Bonnie after Mass, or leave a message in the church office.

**OPENING OF THE HOLY DOOR  
FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY IN OAKLAND  
CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIGHT**

On Sunday, **December 13th** (Third Sunday of Advent), Bishop Barber will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral at 10 a.m., inaugurating the Jubilee of Mercy. That same day he will be opening the *Holy Door* at the Cathedral, that will remain opened for the pilgrims throughout the Holy Year. All are invited to attend.

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE  
CELEBRATION  
DECEMBER 12TH**

The Hispanic Group invites the entire Parish community to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe on Her Feast Day, Saturday, **December 12th**, beginning with Mananitas, at 6:00am in the Church, followed by mass in Spanish at 8:00am. Please note this will be the only morning mass on **December 12th**.

**JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY  
FAUSTINA: MESSENGER OF DIVINE MERCY  
JANUARY 31, 2016**

Our Lady of Grace Church and School invite you to the live theatrical one-woman drama performed by actress Maria Vargo and directed by Leonardo Delfilippis of Saint Luke Productions, to be presented at Castro Valley Center for the Arts on Sunday, **January 31st** at 6:00pm. Tickets: \$15.00 Adult, \$12.00 Senior; \$40.00 Family of Four. Suitable for ages 12 and up.

In this Multit-media Play audiences experience firsthand the spirit and life of Polish mystic Saint Faustina, whose personal encounters with Jesus have inspired a world-wide devotion to Christ's Divine Mercy. A parallel modern story with the drama offers audiences a compelling personal connection to the current moral issues of our times. Audiences are calling the production a "wake-up call."

This is a wonderful opportunity to continue the celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. *Call the Parish office to reserve your tickets now.*

Read more about the play, Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy, online at the National Catholic Register and on the Faustina website.

**LECTOR TRAINING**

On **December 16th** at 7pm in Stack Center we will have a night of prayer and renewal in the Word of God. This night will provide a process of prayer to bring the scriptures to life in your heart. **All are welcome to attend this night of renewal.** After the experience of praying the Scripture with Lectio Divina those called to the Ministry of Lector will begin their application and orientation.

**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 November 15th:**

Sunday Plate:	\$ 8,197.00
Last Year this week	\$ 7,712.00
<b>Weekly Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 8,815.00</b>
Year-to-date this year:	\$373,687.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$362,034.00
November Budgeted Expenses	\$68,042.00

*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:

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Dennis Cande      | Elaine Jordan        |
| Kathleen Denning  | Emy & Rico Maquiling |
| Julie Dillon      | Richard Martin       |
| Estela Enriquez   | Doree Rivera         |
| Juanita Estrellas | Florence Sharp       |
| Mary Franks       | Iwan Tunggal         |
| Byron Griffith    | James Van Wert       |
| Liz Griffith      | Yvonne Wheeler       |

*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.*

**ALL VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE**

**WINGS**

We invite all women to join us for—  
**WINGS** (Women in God’s Spirit)  
**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

Next Meeting: **December 3, 2015**  
 9:15 to 11:15 a.m.

Speaker: Dr. Doreen Jones  
 Topic: Martha & Mary -  
 A Closer Look at Lazarus’ Sisters

**CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN  
 FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

There is still time to respond to the needs of the poor and low-income in our Diocese through the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. A quarter of the proceeds from this collection stay in the diocese to support efforts in our community. Envelopes are in the pews for your use in this appeal.

**OUR LADY OF GRACE SCHOOL  
 FUNDRAISER**

Fox Sox is offering 30% off their great socks for the holidays. These socks make great gifts for adults and children. Just go to [www.FoxSox.com](http://www.FoxSox.com) and click on “Shop Online” to get started. Order soon as popular styles may sell out! Use promo code: PR15OLG and get a discount as well as earning money for our school!

*Hurry offer expires December 31st.*



**ONE WARM COAT  
 ST. VINCENT de PAUL**

Please consider making a donation of a new or gently used clean, useable coat to the St. Vincent de Paul One Warm Coat Drive. The coats collected go directly to at-risk men, women and children who wouldn’t have otherwise been able to buy a coat to stay warm this winter. There are bins at the entrances of the church for your donation.

**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, November 29th:**

Immaculate Conception Novena  
 30 Minutes before Mass--Church

**Monday, November 30th:**

Immaculate Conception Novena  
 3:00pm--Church  
 Women’s Bible Study  
 7:00pm--Stack Center

**Tuesday, December 1st:**

Immaculate Conception Novena  
 3:00pm--Church  
 Men’s Bible Study  
 7:00pm--Parish Office

**Wednesday, December 2nd:**

Immaculate Conception Novena  
 3:00pm--Church  
 St. Vincent de Paul Meeting  
 7:00pm--Parish Office

**Thursday, December 3rd:**

Immaculate Conception Novena  
 3:00pm--Church  
 Adoration & Confession  
 7:00pm--Church  
 Serenity Group  
 7:30pm--Stack Center

**Friday, December 4th:**

Immaculate Conception Novena  
 3:00pm--Church

**Saturday, December 5th:**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
 3:30--Church  
 Tree Lighting and Old Fashioned Christmas  
 6:00pm--Stack Center

**DEVOTIONAL CANDLES**



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.

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

Please note: All weekday masses will be celebrated in the Church until further notice.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30th (CHURCH)**

**SAINT ANDREW, APOSTLE**

8:30am Jan Reed (D)

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1st (CHURCH)**

7:00am Anna Friedeberg (L)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2nd (CHURCH)**

7:00am Ed & Dolly Curti (D)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3rd (CHURCH)**

*St. Francis Xavier, priest*

7:00am Joni & Kathleen Linney

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th (CHURCH)**

*St. John Damascene, Priest,  
Doctor of the Church*

7:00am Joe & Isabel Furtado (D)

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5th (CHURCH)**

8:30am Debie Telles (D)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6th (CHURCH)**

11:00am Tim O'Leary (D)

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

**November 30th through December 6th**

Monday: Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22

Tuesday: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday: Isaiah 25:6-10; Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21,24-27

Friday: Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday: Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26;  
Matthew 9:35-10:1,5-8

Sunday: Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6,8-11;  
Luke 3:1-6



**COME JOIN IN THE FEAST!  
Reserve your Crab Feed Tickets  
Today! Save the Date:  
Saturday, January 30, 2016**

Yes! OLG is still planning a Community Crab Feed in spite of the delay to the opening of California's crab season! We will be receiving our crab from Canada or Washington state this year at an increased cost! However, the ticket price will be the same as 2014: \$40.

Price of the ticket includes: crab and/or chicken, salad, pasta, garlic bread, and another year of great entertainment by OLG's local bands Triple Play and Rust! Instead of charging more for the event, we are asking groups of friends joining in this great evening of food and fun to bring appetizers and desserts to share at your table. Beer, wine and limited mixed drinks will be available at a cost.

This is a GREAT community event that benefits CYO, the Church, and School. Don't delay, please reserve your tickets today!

Volunteers are needed for:

**Running the kitchen**

**Set-up and clean-up**

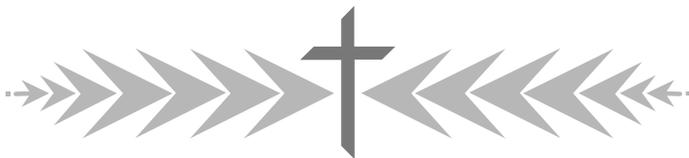
To reserve your ticket: Contact Jeanenne Deorsey ([deorseyj@gmail.com](mailto:deorseyj@gmail.com)).

**THANK THEM WITH YOUR SUPPORT**

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This week we extend our gratitude to:

**CHARLES BURDOIN, CPA**



**ROSARY FOR WORLD PEACE**

The rosary will be recited for World Peace after the 8:30 am Mass each Monday in the Church. Please join us.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH**



Our next Holy Hour with the Blessed Sacrament:  
Saturday, **December 5th**  
3:30pm--4:30pm  
Followed by Benediction  
In the Church