

## The Year of Mercy Begins

*From the Pastor*

With the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on **December 8**, Pope Francis ushered in the Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy, with millions of faithful eagerly awaiting this moment.

Pope Francis celebrated Mass at St. Peter's Square on the 50th Anniversary of the Conclusion of the Second Vatican Council. Following Mass, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door and passed through it. Pope Francis wants the Holy Year to be "for all believers a true moment of encounter with the mercy of God." The Holy Door symbolizes your access to God to receive forgiveness and mercy. It's an opportunity to receive a Plenary Indulgence and experience the graces that come with pilgrimage to Rome during a Holy Year. During this journey of spiritual conversion, pilgrims will seek to be filled with God's love so they can experience His love and mercy in their daily lives. The Holy Door will be opened at the Cathedral of Christ the Light on December 13 in Oakland. You may go through the Holy Door in our Diocese.

### Mass with Anointing

Join us on Saturday, **December 19** as we offer Anointing of the sick during our morning Mass. If you are elderly, have a serious sickness you will be invited to be anointed for healing of body and soul. Please state your illness before you are anointed. You will be asked to fill out a card so we can record this sacrament.

### Consecration of Families to the Immaculate Mary

I invite families to consecrate themselves to the immaculate Virgin Mary on the Feast of the Holy Family at the 9AM and 11AM Masses on **December 27**. Why Consecrate? In a world full of violence, terrorism and evil to destroy our minds and life, consecration is a way of focusing us on an act of love. By joining Mary in our human response to say yes to bear Jesus Christ and His Merciful love to the world. We also ask her intercession for protection from all evil and know that Our Mother watches us her children, the children of God. St. John Paul II had his motto for his pontificate, Totus Tuus, Totally Yours.

### The Militia Immaculata

In St. Maximilian's "system," one consecrates oneself to Mary by joining the Militia Immaculata to help in the conversion of souls through the intercession of Our Lady. In joining a Confraternity, your prayers and intentions are explicitly shared by others (hence the more "corporate nature" of St. Maximilian's way of Total Consecration as contrasted with that of St. Louis de Montfort). You will also be the recipient of mailings, magazines, etc., intended to deepen your resolve and assist you in trusting Mary. To do this, three steps are necessary:

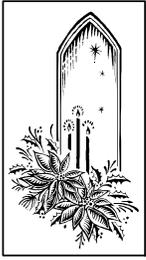
- resolve to offer yourself as an oblation to the Blessed Virgin and to act as an instrument of her holy hands in bringing souls to her Son;
- enroll in the Militia Immaculata;
- piously wear the Miraculous Medal.

After you've decided to consecrate yourself and become a member of the Militia Immaculata, choose a Feast Day on which to have your name enrolled to the M.I. at Marytown.

### Gospel for FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (December 20th)

### Micah 5:1-4A

Thus says the LORD: You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.



**“ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS”**

You are invited to an evening of music and dinner on the third Sunday in Advent, **December 13th**. Lessons & Carols is simply the hearing of Sacred Scripture and the singing of hymns and songs of praise about God's loving purpose made known to us in the incarnation of his holy Child Jesus. The program begins at 4:00pm in the church. Dinner follows the program and is provided by the Choir. There is no charge but reservations must be made. Please contact the parish office or see Bonnie Ricketts or Claudia Dobbs after mass.



**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.



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

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

**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 7:00pm. Tickets: \$15.00 Adult, \$12.00 Senior; \$40.00 Family of Four. \$12.00 Youth 17 and under. Suitable for ages 12 and up.

In this Mult-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 7:00pm 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.

**HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

Christmas Eve: Thursday, **December 24th**  
Masses at 5:00pm, 10:00pm  
Christmas Day: Friday, **December 25th**  
Masses at 7:30, 9:00, 11:00am



**REJOICE**

Daughter Jerusalem  
Be glad with all your heart

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

As we come to the end of this calendar year, we want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your financial support of our parish this past year. As many of you have probably experienced in your own homes and businesses, our expenses have risen greatly this past year - while our ordinary income has remained flat. And so your support is most important and most appreciated. Please know that your Christmas and Sunday donations will help us to meet our end-of-year expenses and hopefully, allow us to begin the new year on a positive note. Our Christmas Budget goal is \$28,000. We look forward to letting you know our financial outcome at the beginning of 2016.

**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION  
DECEMBER 13th**

Please give to those who have given a lifetime. This annual appeal helps retired sister, brother and religious older priest, who spent their lives in church ministries such as education, health care and social service. Envelopes are in the pews and at the entrances of the church for your use. Please give generously. Religious women and men thank you for each merciful action you take on behalf of others and pray for your spiritual peace.

**CHRISTMAS POSADA  
DECEMBER 20th**

The Hispanic Group is hosting a Christmas Posada and Pot Luck on December 20th after the 2:00pm Spanish Mass in Stack Center.

El grupo hispano les invita a la posada navidena Diciembre 20th despues de la misa de las 2:00pm.

**HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES**

Please have items for the bulletin to the Parish office not later than the deadlines below.

**December 27th** bulletin: due **December 14th**  
**January 3rd** bulletin: due **December 16th**

**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 December 6th:**

Sunday Plate:	\$10,254.00
Last Year this week	\$ 9,491.00
<b>Weekly Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 8,815.00</b>
Year-to-date this year:	\$399,012.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$393,492.00
December Budgeted Expenses	\$56,532.00

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

*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.*

**ED BROWN  
ROBERT GANN  
NICHOLAS MUSIC**

**FR. TOM'S PILGRIMAGE OFFER TO YOU**

If you wish Fr. Tom and the pilgrims to pray for and leave your personal intentions at the tomb of St. Anthony of Padua or St. Francis of Assisi on his upcoming pilgrimage please write out your intention and put it in one of the envelopes provided by the office marked for tomb of St. Anthony or tomb of St. Francis and leave it in the Parish office.

**NEWS FROM  
OUR ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY**

Thank you to all who donated coats to our *One Warm Coat Drive*. We recently received this note after making a delivery of coats to the St. Vincent de Paul District Office: "Thank you to everyone at Our Lady of Grace for all the coats! (Even some new ones with tags!) This was really a wonderful collection and they will be distributed to our clients within the week. We have the warming center at night so those clients are so appreciative."

When someone comes to Our Lady of Grace and requests help from St. Vincent de Paul it can be for a one-time emergency situation or slightly longer term. We often don't know what happens to those we have helped. However, last week the following note came to the office along with \$100 worth of Safeway gift cards:

To St. Vincent de Paul -

Thank you for helping me last year when I lost my job and apartment and ended up homeless. I am doing great now thanks to your prayers and by the Grace of God. Thank you again. D-

Your monthly donations to SVdP allow us to help people like D. Thank you!

**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.*

**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, December 13th:**

*Coffee & Donuts After All Masses*

Children's Liturgy of the Word

9:00am--Mass

Parish Registration

10:00am--Stack Center

Religious Education Classes

10:30am--Stack Center

Youth Ministry

After 9:00am Mass--Gym

Spanish Mass

2:00pm--Church

Lessons and Carols

4:00pm--Church

**Monday, December 14th:**

WEBBS - Women's Bible Study

7:00pm--OLG Room, Stack Center

**Tuesday, December 15th:**

Bible Study

9:30am--Parish Office

Religious Education Classes

3:45pm--Stack Center

Men's Bible Study

7:00pm--Parish Office

**Wednesday, December 16th:**

Strobridge Dinner

6:00pm--Strobridge Apts.

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting

7:00pm--Parish Office

Lector Training

7:00pm--Stack Center

**Thursday, December 17th:**

Adoration & Confession

7:00pm--Church

Serenity Group

7:30pm--Stack Center

**Saturday, December 19th:**

*Mass of Anointing*

8:30am--Church

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

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

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 14th (CHURCH)**

*St. John of the Cross, Priest,  
Doctor of the Church*  
8:30am Lilia Sousa (D)

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15th (CHURCH)**

7:00am Dick Biddinger (D)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16th (CHURCH)**

7:00am Lee, Yaka Frank Music (D)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17th (CHURCH)**

7:00am Thomas & Mary Hayes (D)

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18th (CHURCH)**

7:00am Rudy Enriquez (D)

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19th (CHURCH)**

8:30am Antonio S. Barroso (D)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20th (CHURCH)**

11:00am Juanita Estrellas (L)

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

**December 14th through December 20th**

- Monday: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a;  
Matthew 21:23-27
- Tuesday: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13;  
Matthew 21:28-32
- Wednesday: Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25;  
Luke 7:18b-23
- Thursday: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17
- Friday: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25
- Saturday: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25
- Sunday: Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10;  
Luke 1:39-45



**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.

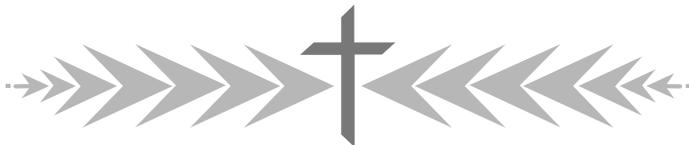
Price of the ticket includes: crab or chicken, salad, pasta, garlic bread, and another year of great entertainment by OLG's local bands Triple Play and Rust! *In-  
stead of charging more for the event, we are asking  
groups of friends joining in this great evening of food  
and fun to bring appetizers 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)).



**ADORATION OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19th**



Our next Holy Hour with the Blessed Sacrament:  
Saturday, **December 19th**  
Following the 8:30am Mass  
Private Devotions  
In the Church  
All are welcome

**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.

**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:

**COMFORCARE HOME CARE**