

Consecration to Mary Immaculate on the Feast of the Holy Family (December 27)



From the Pastor

I invite Families to Consecrate themselves to Mary through the Militia of Immaculata begun by St. Maxamilian Kolbe. This Consecration is an act of the will to be part of the plan of God to bring Christ to the world. MI members, mindful of their call to evangelize, strive to give witness to the Faith everywhere. They seek to reach out to their own families, friends, co-workers, fellow parishioners, the sick and elderly, youth, adults, and whomever they meet, in order to lead every individual with Mary to Christ, Our Savior and Our Hope.

I believe in the world today that is filled with so much violence, sin and sinful behavior portrayed as good and holy, and so many seeking to influence us through ideologies using many medias that we need help to navigate life and our families in the world. The daily consecration prayer of the family helps set your will and heart to what is good, holy, and pure. The Miraculous Medal is a sign of Mary's Mantle of protection and mission to bare Christ to the World. St. Bernadine of Siena composed the second part of the Hail Mary Prayer. Holy Mary Mother of God Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. She is the Gift of Jesus to us his followers on the Cross as he said to the Beloved Disciple "behold your Mother".

"May the Virgin Mary, who is the Mother of the Church, also be the Mother of your home." St. John Paul II

Feast of the Holy Family

In 2002, Pope John Paul II stated in his Angelus talk of December 29, "Every Christian family is called to show "convincingly that it is possible to live marriage fully in keeping with God's plan and with the true good of the human person - of the spouses, and of the children who are more fragile" (Novo Millennio ineunte, n. 47).

"A united family that follows these principles will more easily overcome the trials and difficulties it encounters on its way. In the faithful love of the parents, a gift ceaselessly to foster and safeguard, children can find the best conditions for their growth, helped by Jesus who "increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man" (Lk 2:52)."

Catholics are encouraged to learn what the Church teaches about marriage and family life and to avoid those things which run counter to God's plan. It is within the family that human life in all its stages is nurtured and protected, where concern for others is learned and where the virtues are developed for the good of the individual, the family, and the society.

"The Holy Family is an icon of the domestic Church, which is called to pray together. The family is the first school of prayer where, from their infancy, children learn to perceive God thanks to the teaching and example of their parents. An authentically Christian education cannot neglect the experience of prayer. If we do not learn to pray in the family, it will be difficult to fill this gap later. I would, then, like to invite people to rediscover the beauty of praying together as a family, following the school of the Holy Family of Nazareth". Pope Benedict XVI

St. Faustina Play

Join us on **January 31** at 7PM for a professional play by Saint Luke's Production on the life of St. Faustina at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts at 7PM. Tickets are available for reservation on line at www.olgcv.org or for purchase in the office. \$15 Adult, \$12 for Child/Senior and \$40 for a family of 4.

The mission of Sister Mary Faustina consists in 3 tasks:

- reminding the world of the truth of our faith revealed in the Holy Scripture about the merciful love of God toward every human being.
- Entreating God's mercy for the whole world and particularly for sinners, among others through the practice of new forms of devotion to the Divine Mercy presented by the Lord Jesus, such as: the veneration of the image of the Divine Mercy with the inscription: Jesus, I Trust in You, the feast of the Divine Mercy celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter, chaplet to the Divine Mercy and prayer at the Hour of Mercy (3 p.m.). The Lord Jesus attached great promises to the above forms of devotion, provided one entrusted one's life to God and practiced active love of one's neighbor.
- The third task in Sr. Mary Faustina's mission consists in initiating the apostolic movement of the Divine Mercy which undertakes the task of proclaiming and entreating God's mercy for the world and strives for Christian perfection, following the precepts laid down by the Blessed Sr. Mary Faustina. The precepts in question require the faithful to display an attitude of child-like trust in God which expresses itself in fulfilling His will, as well as in the attitude of mercy toward one's neighbors. Today, this movement within the Church involves millions of people throughout the world; it comprises religious congregations, lay institutes, religious, brotherhoods, associations, various communities of apostles of the Divine Mercy, as well as individual people who take up the tasks which the Lord Jesus communicated to them through Sr. Mary Faustina.

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve: Thursday, December 31st
Mass at 5:00pm

New Year's Day: Friday, January 1st
Mary, the Mother of God
Mass at 9:00am

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The Parish Offices will close at 12:00Noon on **Thursday, December 31st** and will re-open on **Monday, January 4th**. The entire parish staff wishes all a safe and Happy New Year !

CONSECRATION OF THE 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 moto for his pontificate, Totus Tuus, Totally Yours.

END OF THE YEAR 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.

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. Or you can purchase your ticket after mass from one of our Pastoral Planning Council members, or go online to our website www.olgcv.org and order your ticket on line.*

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

SPONSORS NEEDED***Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy***

In the course of year end tax planning, you may find yourself considering special one time donation. There is a growing trend among donors to make contributions to their favorite organizations during the final weeks of the year. Please consider joining a list of sponsors for our Year of Mercy *Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy* play that we are bringing to Castro Valley Center for the Arts on **January 31st**. We welcome your sponsorship. Please call the Parish office for additional information on Sponsoring this play.

PLEASE NOTE

Due to the holiday schedule of our bulletin publisher we are not able to report the weekly offerings for most of December. The Sunday offerings will be updated after the first of the year along with the Christmas Offering



**GIRLS CYO BASKETBALL
SIGN UPS**

Girls Basketball (grades 2nd–8th) sign-ups this January. The dates will be Tuesdays, **January 5th, and 12th**, in Stack Center from 6:00–8:30pm, and Sunday, **January 10th** from 9:30am–12:30pm in Stack Center. All non–OLG school students must bring a copy of their birth certificate and a currently dated copy of a utility bill (water, PG&E, garbage or cable) that list the property address. These will be the only sign up dates, practices begin the week of January 25th.

If you are interested in coaching or helping with CYO in another position please contact Elizabeth Antonio at olgcyo.registrar@gmail.com

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
KNITTERS/CROCHETERS NEEDED**

Prayer shawls have been made for years, they are universal and embracing, they comfort and enfold, wrap and warm, shelter and embrace. Those who knit or crochet and receive a shawl are blessed.

Prayer shawls bring a community together in prayer. Prayers are said for the person as shawls are worked on. These shawls will be made in the privacy of your home and will be given to the ill in our parish or as needed. Each recipient will receive a prayer with the shawl labeled “Made Just for You, Our Lady of Grace Prayer Shawl Ministry.” Our pastor will bless the shawls at a community Mass before they are given to their new owner.

If you like to knit or crochet, please contact Ruth Picha at (510) 538-9063 or email picha4@sbcglobal.net for more information. Donations of yarn are welcome! Your help is needed!

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 13th:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 8,910.00
Last Year this week	\$ 8,475.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 8,815.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$408,337.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$401,981.00
December Budgeted Expenses	\$56,532.00

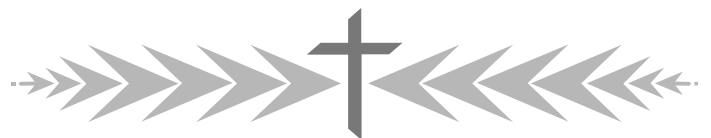
May God bless your continuing generosity.



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

**Gospel for THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
(January 3rd) Matthew 2:1-12**

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.



**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!

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

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 27th:

Coffee & Donuts After All Masses

Consecration of Families

9:00am and 11:00am Masses

New Parishioner Registration

10:00am--Stack Center

Tuesday, December 29th:

Men's Bible Study

7:00pm--Parish Office

Thursday, December 31st:

Parish Office

Closed at Noon

Serenity Group

7:30pm--Stack Center

Friday, January 1st:

Parish Offices Closed

Sunday, January 3rd:

Coffee & Donuts After All Masses

Children's Liturgy of the Word

9:00am--Mass

PPC Information Table

10:00--Stack Center

**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 (**January 3rd**) Please come visit with us with questions, concerns or any observations that you might have. We look forward to hearing from you on **January 3rd.**



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.

Mass Intentions for the Week



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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28th (CHURCH)
THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS
 8:30am Donald Harrington (D)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29th (CHURCH)
St. Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr
 7:00am Georges Morisset Families (D)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30th (CHURCH)
 7:00am Lynn & Mark Slater (D)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31st (CHURCH)
St. Sylvester I, Pope
 7:00am George Kauer (L)
 5:00pm Solemnity, Mary, Mother of God

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1st (CHURCH)
 9:00am Julie Esguerra (L)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2nd (CHURCH)
St.'s Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church
 8:30am Dave Rose (D)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3rd (CHURCH)
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
 2:00pm Leticia Nunez (D)

EXECUTION ALERTS

The following executions are scheduled to take place in **January** :

January 7th Oscar Ray Bolin, Jr. FL

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

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.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

December 28th through January 3rd

Monday: John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18
 Tuesday: John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35
 Wednesday: John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40
 Thursday: John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18
 Friday: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21
 Saturday: John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
 Sunday: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

**CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION (CYO)
 MASS--JANUARY 16th**

At the 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, **January 16th**, our CYO athletes will be recognized in thanksgiving for talents and gifts given by God. The players will be blessed as they come closer to the end of their 2015-2016 season. The coaches and volunteers will receive a blessing as well for all they do to lead the young people in this ministry. Please join with us as we wish them well in their final games of the season.

COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Do you have a family member or friend -- maybe someone elderly or ailing -- who cannot attend Mass but might like to receive communion? Our Lady of Grace has a ministry of volunteers who bring the Eucharist on either a regular or occasional basis to homebound parishioners. This is a time for prayer, maybe some conversation and a continuing connection to our parish. Please contact the Parish Office, 537-0806. for information. If you are interested in volunteering to this ministry contact the office.

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:

DON'S BODY SHOP