



Lent is Here

From the Pastor

We are asked to take a 40 day journey with Jesus into the desert to purify ourselves and refocus our priorities. We are asked to enter into prayer, fasting and alms giving during this Lenten Season.

Prayer

I invite you to take time in prayer. I encourage the community to continue to come 30 minutes before Sunday Mass to pray the Rosary. Join us praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet on Friday at 3PM and Sunday at Noon. Come Join us for the Stations of the Cross with the Children at 2:30PM on Fridays. A Spiritual Works of Mercy is praying for the living and the dead. Who will you pray for during these 40 days? Go to the Cathedral and walk through the Holy Door and offer the plenary indulgence of the pilgrimage for the soul of a deceased person.

Fasting

Who has to fast? People who are 18-59 are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. A proper fast means only one full meal is eaten that day. Snacks can be consumed in the morning, afternoon or evening. The snacks are dependent on when the full meal is eaten. It can be had at any time.

Who cannot eat meat? Catholics age 14 and older should abstain from meat on Ash Wednesdays and all the Fridays during Lent, especially Good Friday, which is the last one before Easter.

What constitutes "meat"? Dairy products, including eggs, and condiments made from animal fat are not considered meat products for Lenten fasting purposes. This means, chicken broth, gravies and sauces flavored with meat can be eaten. Butter, lard and margarine are also allowed. Even if meat drippings are poured into a sauce, and there are bits of meat, this, too, can be consumed.

It's not just about food. While staying away from meat is a major part of Lent, it's not the only important thing. Catholics are advised to forgive each other and demonstrate their love. It's recommended followers go to mass daily, or several times a week.

What should I give up? Lent does not have to be about going without. Instead of giving something up, good deeds can be done. For instance, do a community or charitable activity like reading to the blind, volunteering at a local soup kitchen, or giving an overworked mother a break by babysitting.

Alms giving

Once again we will be supporting CRS Operation Rice Bowl during Lent. Our Ash Wednesday Collection and our Wednesday evening Masses during Lent will take Donations to feed the poor and needy.

During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on "almsgiving," which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. As one of the three pillars of Lenten practice, almsgiving is "a witness to fraternal charity" and "a work of justice pleasing to God." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2462).

Lent is a time to reflect more intentionally on Pope Francis' invitation. During these 40 days, we examine our own lives in an ongoing effort to "be merciful, just as [the] Father is merciful." And CRS Rice Bowl is our tool to do just this. Through CRS Rice Bowl, we encounter those living in conditions of poverty around the world, and we have the opportunity to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Quote

"The most deadly poison of our time is indifference. And this happens, although the praise of God should know no limits. Let us strive, therefore, to praise him to the greatest extent of our powers."

Gospel for the Second Sunday in Lent (February 21st)

Luke 9:28B-36

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But he did not know what he was saying. While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

**TRIPLE WAY TO GOD
LENTEN SERIES**

Join us for the *Triple Way to God, Part 1, The Purgative Way* on Wednesday, **February 17th** following the 6:00pm Mass and Soup Meal. The presentation will begin at 7:15pm. The way to God begins by acknowledging our need for salvation and God’s invitation to a relationship of Love. We must look deep into our motives, actions and lack of love that has brought alienation between God and yourself. How do we find our way Home?



LENTEN WEDNESDAY SOUP MEAL

Please plan on joining us for a simple meal of soup and bread Wednesday’s during Lent. It will be a time for fellowship and families coming together. Our Soup Meal follows the 6:00pm Mass. This Wednesday (**February 17th**) Soup Meal is sponsored by several of our Small Christian Communities. We thank them for their ministry of hospitality for this meal. Donations will be accepted to benefit Operation Rice Bowl.

AN INVITATION TO SERVE

Next weekend, members of our Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be speaking at all the Masses on what it means to be a part of this organization. You are invited to put your Catholic faith into action by serving those who are the most fragile and vulnerable in this community. Representatives will be in the gathering area after all the Masses to answer your questions.

You are also invited to attend their next regular meeting on **March 3rd** at 7:00PM in Stack Center.



THANK YOU TO OUR CRAB FEED COMMITTEE

In case you hadn’t heard we had a great Crab Feed (**January 30th**) thanks to the small but dedicated committee that came together to keep this tradition alive. Our committee of Jeanenne Deorsey, Anne Martinez , Claudia Dobbs, Zach and Debbie Marshall were joined by a group of very committed volunteers for a fun and profitable evening. We thank them for their dedication and commitment to this event! Now lets start planning for next year...

**PRESIDENT’S DAY
PARISH HOLIDAY**

Monday, **February 15th** is a federal holiday. The Parish Offices will be closed in honor of Presidents Day and will re-open on Tuesday at 9:00am. The entire Parish staff wishes you a safe and relaxing holiday.



**A HOUR OF MERCY
EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT**

There will be an hour of Mercy every Friday during Lent from 2:30pm until 3:30pm. We will begin with the Stations of the Cross with the school children. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be recited beginning at 3:00pm

DO NOT BE AFRAID OF CONFESSION

During the Lenten season confession will be available every Monday from 7:30am until 8:00am, Friday’s from 3:00pm-4:00pm and Saturday’s from 3:30pm until 4:30pm. Our Communal Penance service is scheduled for Tuesday, **March 15th** at 7:00pm.

The Parish Community of Our Lady of Grace Church and School gratefully acknowledges the generosity of each person who has made a gift in support of our Year of Mercy events.

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Linda Pasqual
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**SHARING GOD'S MERCY
2016 BISHOP'S APPEAL**

As you know there was no Bishop's Appeal last year but it is returning this year. The time has arrived for the 2016 Bishop's Appeal to take place in our parish and in the Diocese. This is a yearly appeal that assists our Diocese in funding a variety of ministries, services and programs that benefit many throughout the East Bay. It reaches out to help those in most need. I realize that many of you have been most generous to Reclaiming Christ's Mission Together, the diocesan capital campaign. Some of you are still paying your pledges to the capital campaign and we thank you for that. While the capital campaign focuses on six specific areas, the Annual Bishop's Appeal provides support for day to day operations of our ministries and services essential to our Church of the East Bay. The Bishop's Appeal is not a second collection. This is a vital, annual commitment you can spread out as a ten month pledge. In 2014, the last time the appeal was held, our parish raised 109% of our parish goal! Thank you! This year our parish goal is \$25,139.54, the same as 2014. Clearly we have the ability to reach this goal. If we exceed it, our parish will receive 100% of all excess funds back to us for our own use. In this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, the theme for the Bishop's Appeal is Sharing God's Mercy. In His mercy, all of us have been blessed by God in some way - in health, with family, with friends and with our resources. With a gift to the appeal, we can truly act in mercy to help locally those in need. You may have already received information about the Bishop's Appeal by mail. If not, you should receive it soon. Additionally, information brochures and Appeal pledge envelopes are available at the entrances of the church. Please discuss your pledge to the Bishop's Appeal with your family and prayerfully reflect upon the graces that God has bestowed upon you in your life. While this is our parish, our spiritual home, we are also part of a much larger, universal family and we have responsibilities to them as well. If we act together as members of one family united in Christ's love, we can realize and accomplish great things.

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 February 7th:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 8,285.00
Last Year this week	\$ 8,374.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 8,920.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$ 49,548.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$ 48,016.00
January Budgeted Expenses	\$ 69,310.00

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:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Larry Bronzini | Byron Griffith |
| Dennis Cande | Elaine Jordan |
| Kathleen Denning | Richard Martin |
| Julie Dillon | Doree Rivera |
| Estela Enriquez | Mike Roth |
| Juanita Estrellas | Florence Sharp |
| Mary Franks | Iwan Tunggal |
| Theresa Fuller | James Van Wert |

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

**SAVE THE DATE
WE HOPE TO
"MEET YOU IN PARIS"
Saturday, May 21st
At the
OLG Spring Auction !**

Enjoy a Silent and Live Auction, catered dinner, Dessert Dash & Dancing ! 6pm--10:30pm--More information and ticket sales to come. You don't want to miss this fun adult evening out. Childcare for a nominal donation is provided by "Team Dawson". Come hang out with old friends and make some new ones !

Have a Donation? Contact: Liz Huizar--lizhuizar79@gmail.com

**RCIA
YOU'RE INVITED TO INVITE**

We all know non-Catholics that would make great Catholics if they ever made that journey. Many of us have a family member or neighbors who are Catholic and have stopped practicing the faith, and we wish for their sake that they would return yet we don't know where to begin. RCIA or the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults offers a class of Inquiry each Tuesday. This coming **Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00pm** in Stack Center the topic is, *What Do Catholics Believe*. A personal invitation goes a long way toward making a newcomer feel welcome. We hope that you will invite a non-Catholic who doesn't practice the faith, and develop their knowledge as a starting point to reconnect. The RCIA process is staggered so that people can join at different times of the year. Know that you can invite anyone at any time throughout the year. We welcome you to come with the one you invite.



Servicio's En Espanol

Durante la Cuaresma
Via Crucis--Jueves --7pm

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.



THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 14th:

Coffee & Donuts After All Masses

Children's Liturgy
9:00am--Mass

Monday February 15th:

Presidents Day Holiday
Parish Offices Closed

Tuesday, February 16th:

Bible Study
9:30am--Parish Office
Religious Education Classes
3:45pm--Stack Center
RCIA - Inquiry
7:00pm-- Stack Center

Wednesday, February 17th:

Strobridge Dinner
6:00pm--Strobridge
Lenten Soup Meal
After 6:00pm Mass
Lenten Lecture Series
7:15pm--Stack Center

Thursday, February 18th:

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting
7:00pm--Parish Office
Serenity Group
7:30pm--Stack Center

Friday, February 19th:

Stations of the Cross
2:30pm--Church
Divine Mercy Chaplet
3:00pm--Church

Sunday, February 21st:

Coffee & Donuts After All Masses

Children's Liturgy
9:00am--Mass

St. Vincent de Paul Invitation to Serve
All Masses

Religious Education Classes
10:30am--Stack Center

Youth Ministry
After 9:00am Mass in the Gym

Mass Intentions for the Week



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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15th (CHURCH)
8:30am Debi Telles (D)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16th (CHURCH)
7:00am Charley Spink Sr. (D)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th (CHURCH)
The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
7:00am Norma Russell (L)
6:00pm Thomas & Mary Hayes (D)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18th (CHURCH)
7:00am Richard Benson (D)
7:00pm Stations of the Cross (Spanish)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19th (CHURCH)
7:00am Mary Guzman (L)
2:30pm Stations of the Cross
3:00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20th (CHURCH)
8:30am John McCann (D)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21st (CHURCH)
11:00am Rose Nicasio (D)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

February 15th through February 21st

- Monday: Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18;
Matthew 25:31-46
- Tuesday: Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15
- Wednesday: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32
- Thursday: Esther C:12,14-16,23-25;
Matthew 7:7-12
- Friday: Ezra 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26
- Saturday: Deuteronomy 26:16-19;
Matthew 5:43-48
- Sunday: Genesis 15:5-12,17-18;
Philippians 3:17—4:1; Luke 9:28-36

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20th



Our next Holy Hour with the Blessed Sacrament:
Saturday, **February 20th**
Following the 8:30am Mass
Private Devotions
In the Church

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
Next Meeting: **February 18th, 2016**
9:15 to 11:15 a.m.

Speaker: Fr. Tom Bonacci
Topic: *A mother's love - a father's care*
Mercy in the Gospel of Luke



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.



EXECUTION ALERTS

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

- February 11th Michael Ray Lambrix FL
- February 16th Gustavo Garcia TX

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

THANK THEM WITH YOUR SUPPORT

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This week we extend our gratitude to:

LANDMARK VILLA