



*From the Pastor*

## **Pietas (*Responding from your heart to the Love of God*).**

Pietas is the latin word meaning (compassion, dutifulness, kindness.) This is the root word for piety. In art the most famous sculpture is the "Pieta" statue of Mary cradling the dead body of Jesus after the Crucifixion at St. Peter's Basilica. St. Francis encouraged the Franciscan friars to develop hearts of devotion in prayer. St. Francis gave St. Anthony permission to teach the friars theology as long as his teaching did not extinguish prayer and devotion of the friars. In this Year of Mercy I have been focusing on building and expressing pietas in our hearts and actions. I introduced our community to St. Maximilian Kolbe and the M. I. movement that he started. The mission of the Militia Immaculata is to bring every person through Mary to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. St. Maximilian Kolbe gave us a method of keeping our heart in the right place in the face of evil and opposition. Building a civilization of Love takes vision and heart. Through daily consecration to the Immaculata we enter Mary's Mission to bring Christ to all humanity. Her "yes" is the human response to the invitation of God to a relationship of love. St. Maximilian Kolbe gave an example of the fruit of this consecration by being a messenger of love in the dehumanizing hell that was Auschwitz. He loved the oppressed and the oppressor since Christ came for all. Divine love is totally self giving in Jesus. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta was a member of the M.I. and as she served the poorest of the poor she showed us the beauty of ever human being. No one is untouchable, all are loved by God. Mother Teresa showed us the way of compassion. She freely gave of herself and gave Miraculous Medals, as the consecration was the conduit of grace which empowered her to live Divine Love.

The Message of St. Faustina is an invitation to Divine Mercy. God is love and when we encounter that love when we are in sin or alienated by God we receive Mercy. In the Play of Faustina we are drawn over and over to Jesus in his Passion where we see the profound love of God for us and the depth of his mission to save us. The image of the Divine Mercy is a Resurrected Jesus who reveals it is from his Heart that the Sacraments Flow to us. The red rays bring us to his Passion and Love and the white rays to the waters of Baptism. The purpose of the Divine Mercy Chaplet is to enter into the Divine Mercy of the Passion and pray for those who are most in need especially the souls in purgatory.

### **PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND:**

**SEPTEMBER 30 TO OCTOBER 8, 2016**

\$3499.00 Per Person (includes Mandatory Airfare Taxes and Fees)

Depart San Francisco (SFO) Airport

Spiritual Director:

Fr. Thomas Czeck, OFM Conv.

### **Gospel for the Thirst Sunday in Lent (February 28th)**

**Luke 13:1-9**

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus said to them in reply, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did! Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them— do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?' He said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.'"

**AN INVITATION TO SERVE**

This 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.

**TRIPLE WAY TO GOD  
LENTEN SERIES**

Join us for the *Triple Way to God, Part 2, The Illuminative Way* on Wednesday, **February 24th** following the 6:00pm Mass and Soup Meal. The presentation will begin at 7:15pm. In the Illuminative Way we look to our exemplar, Christ. We meditate on the world, His life and teaching, and contemplate his life that we may be enlightened and attain wisdom. We come to know Jesus through our rational understanding.



**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 24th**) Soup Meal is sponsored by ICF. We thank them for their ministry of hospitality for this meal. Donations will be accepted to benefit Operation Rice Bowl.



**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

**Servicio's En Espanol**

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

**DO NOT BE AFRAID OF CONFESSION**

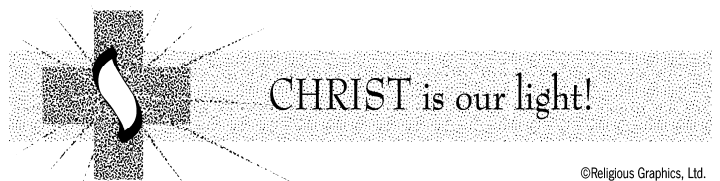
During the Lenten season confession will be available every Monday from 7:30am until 8:00am, Friday's from 3:00pm-4:00pm and Saturday's from 3:30pm until 4:30pm. Our Communal Penance service is scheduled for Tuesday, **March 15th** at 7:00pm.

**RECYCLING COMES TO STACK CENTER**

You may have noticed the green, blue, and gray bins that have replaced the old garbage cans in Stack Center. OLG parish is initiating recycling in Stack Center in the spirit of being good stewards of our Earth. As Pope Francis tells us, "You are called to care for creation not only as responsible citizens, but also as followers of Christ!" (1/18/15) Having a successful recycling program in a place like Stack Center, which is used by many groups, can be a challenge, but it should help that most people are probably now used to separating their trash at home. To make it even easier, there are clear labels to let you know what goes in each bin. Most of our bowls, plates, and cups are now compostable and can go in the green bins. If we all work together and help each other, we can make this work!

**LEARN ABOUT THE HOUSING CRISIS  
FROM A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE**

Tim Iglesias, a professor of law from the University of San Francisco, will speak on the housing crisis from a Catholic perspective in Stack Center on Wednesday, **March 2nd**. He will explore both the causes of the housing crisis and possible solutions. He will also address the various roles that people of faith in this Year of Mercy can play in advocating for housing in our area. This event will be from 7:15 - 8:30pm following Mass at 6:00 and the soup dinner. Sponsored by the Pax Christi/Social Justice Group at Our Lady of Grace Church. For more information, call Denise at (510) 303-9767



**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 14th:**

Sunday Plate:	\$ 8,971.00
Last Year this week	\$ 9,360.00
<b>Weekly Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 8,920.00</b>
Year-to-date this year:	\$ 58,519.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$ 57,376.00
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 |
| Virginia Cabardo  | Elaine Jordan  |
| Dennis Cande      | Richard Martin |
| Kathleen Denning  | Doree Rivera   |
| Julie Dillon      | Mike Roth      |
| Estela Enriquez   | Florence Sharp |
| Juanita Estrellas | Iwan Tunggal   |
| Mary Franks       | 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 **Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:00pm** in Stack Center the topic is, *What Is the Meaning of the Mass?* 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.

**ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION**

A great big Italian Grazie Tante to those parishioners who supported our Super Bowl Sunday bake sale and those who joined the ICF members for our Polenta dinner on Thursday. It is your continued support and generosity that enables us to contribute to both needs of the ICF and the parish. Thanks again.

**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, February 21st:**

*Coffee & Donuts After All Masses*

Children's Liturgy  
9:00am--Mass

**Monday February 22nd:**

WEBS - Women's Bible Study  
7:00pm--Stack Center

**Tuesday, February 23rd:**

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

RCIA - Inquiry  
7:00pm--Stack Center

Men's Bible Study  
7:00pm--Parish Office

**Wednesday, February 24th:**

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

**Thursday, February 25th:**

Stations of the Cross in Español  
7:00pm--Church  
Serenity Group  
7:30pm--Stack Center

**Friday, February 26th:**

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

**Sunday, February 28th:**

*Coffee & Donuts After All Masses*

Children's Liturgy  
9:00am--Mass  
Religious Education Classes  
10:30am--Stack Center  
Youth Ministry  
After 9:00am Mass in the Gym  
Parish Registration  
10:00am--Stack Center

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

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

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd (CHURCH)**

*The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle*  
8:30am Anna Friedeberg (L)

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd (CHURCH)**

*St. Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr*  
7:00am Norma Russell (L)

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24th (CHURCH)**

7:00am Bill Taylor (D)  
6:00pm Taylor Hill (L)

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25th (CHURCH)**

7:00am Vincenzo & Guiseppa Latora (D)  
7:00pm Stations of the Cross (Spanish)

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26th (CHURCH)**

7:00am Norma Russell (L)  
2:30pm Stations of the Cross  
3:00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27th (CHURCH)**

8:30am Rudy & Augie Enriquez (D)  
5:00pm Ed Brown (D)

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28th (CHURCH)**

7:30am Bonnie Gill (D)

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

**February 22nd through February 28th**

- Monday: 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19
- Tuesday: Isaiah 1:10, 16:20; Matthew 23:1-12
- Wednesday: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28
- Thursday: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19
- Friday: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46
- Saturday: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
- Sunday: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9

**OLG FOLK GROUP CD**

*Our Lord's Grace*

Lent will shortly be upon us (*Ash Wednesday is February 10th*). Allow the Folk Group's music to accompany you through this time of prayer and Reconciliation with God and lead you into the joy of Easter and Pentecost. You will find on this 16-track CD songs like "Day of Peace," "I Hunger and Thirst," "My God, My God" and "O Sacred Head," and many more. The CD is available for purchase in the parish office. Share this prayerful gift with your family and friends and don't forget yourself! The CDs are \$15.00. Proceeds from the sales benefit upgrading the OLG sound system.



**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.

**IMMACULATE HEART RADIO  
1260AM**

Immaculate Heart Radio has a new show! Tune-in 9-10am PST to hear **The Bright Side** with Cy Kellett. Host Cy Kellett will help you to thrive in your faith each day and encourage you to live it fully! For more info or to listen on your computer or mobile device go to IHRadio.com

**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**

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This week we extend our gratitude to:

**MAFFEI PAINTING**