

"STATE OF THE PARISH"



From the Pastor

In 2015, the parish said goodbye to the Augustinians after 35 years of service at Our Lady of Grace and welcomed the Conventual Franciscans to begin spiritual care of the parish. The Augustinians left the parish financially sound and spiritually engaged. The Conventual Franciscans have charted a new course by sharing their spirituality, saints, and devotions. The image and devotion to Our Lady of Grace has been influential in our Marian Spirituality as friars and it has been a blessing to serve at a church in her honor. I continue to be grateful for all the support and positive feedback from all our parishioners. We as the Franciscans have felt embraced by your welcome and are blessed to be here. I offer the following summary of the State of the Parish. We currently have 980 registered households. Mass attendance in 2015 averaged 785 which was an increase over 2014. In October, we added a weekly Spanish Mass expanding on the monthly mass introduced by Fr. Greg. We have seen the attendance double at that Mass and it continues to grow as it becomes known. In this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy we have explored the Mercy of Christ through Pilgrimage, Consecration to Mary, by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and reflecting on Divine Mercy by offering the play Faustina to the community, and by offering the sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick more regularly. We will continue to have events during this Year of Mercy to welcome people home to Our Lady of Grace to encounter our merciful God.

During 2015 we improved our physical plant by adding the security gate at Somerset offering greater security for our school students as well as the property. Our Church roof was replaced at the cost of \$50,000. The gutters on just about every building on the property were replaced or repaired and repairs were made in Casa Villanova as well as the carport and fence surrounding the Casa. We also added or replaced lighting in and around several buildings to more cost efficient fixtures. We repurposed the old school office in Stack Center to a small conference room by adding laminate flooring, paint and new furniture. Even with all these improvements and an increased cost of doing business, we ended the year in the black. The generosity and faithful stewardship of our parishioners made all this possible. We received \$132,000 in bequests last year. We also received \$22,000 in directed donations to the new security gate. The monthly donations to the maintenance fund last year totaled \$28,900 allowing for some of the above mentioned property improvements. Our plate collection grew by 4% over 2014. We had successful and well attended fundraisers with our annual Fall Festival and Spring Auction that benefited both the school and parish. As a tithing parish, in response to the Gospel call we gave 10% of the net proceeds from the Festival and Spring Auction to assist those organizations and groups who serve those most in need in our local and greater community.

We have been blessed with new life as we baptized 35, had 60 First Communions, and 31 were received in Confirmation. We continue to have new parishioners join our community and are blessed in 2016 as many of our School families have joined the parish.

We thank all of you who participated in the Diocesan Capital Campaign last year and through your generosity the diocese raised \$248, 368 from Our Lady of Grace members achieving 48% of our goal. As your pledges are completed we will receive over \$60,000 returned to the parish for directed funds to repair the parking lot as well as make improvements to Stack Center and the Church. If you are not participating in the financial life of the parish we ask you to consider your commitment to the parish.

Following this "State of The Parish" are the financial figures for 2015. I would like to close with these goals for our community in 2016.....*(Continued on page 3 of this bulletin)*

WELCOMING REFUGEES AT OLG

In January, Bishop Michael Barber asked, "Wouldn't it be great if we became the first diocese in the USA where every parish co-sponsored a refugee family with Catholic Charities?" In March, several of your fellow parishioners met and asked, "Wouldn't it be great if we could be one of the parishes to respond to Pope Francis' call for service?" Answer: We hope to be!

This weekend we heard more about this proposal at the Masses. There will also be an important planning meeting on Wednesday, **May 18th** at 7:00pm in Stack Center at which you can get answers to your questions and find out the ways you can participate.

There will be opportunities to provide a warm welcome at the airport, collect household goods and furnishings, stock the pantry, and/or connect refugees to available services. It is important to remember that we will be working in partnership with the Catholic Charities East Bay's Refugee Resettlement Program, rather than taking on this challenge on our own. It is also our hope that we will be working in partnership with a sizeable group of committed parishioners so that the work of providing support to the newly arrived refugee family will be a shared responsibility and a joy to perform. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting **May 18th**.



**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--Call the Parish Office or School Office to make your reservation. 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 !



**DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE
AUCTION ITEMS !**

Here is just a sampling of the wonderful live and silent auction items we have lined up and waiting for your bid:

- **Santa Cruz Family Weekend Package:** Includes a 2 Night Stay at Hilton Santa Cruz plus Boardwalk Vouchers, and \$65. certificate for dinner for 4 at Warf House Restaurant in Capitola!
- **Relaxing Weekend for 2 in Livermore;** includes a one night stay at the Resident Marriott in Livermore, a certificate for 2 guest on their All Inclusive Taste of Livermore Wine Tour. Plus Wine tastings at 4 wineries and a delicious made to order lunch. And a \$50.00 Gift Card for Sauced BBQ & Spirits in Livermore.
- **Disneyland Adventure Basket!** Includes FOUR 1 Day Hoppers! 2 Night Stay at Quality Inn Placentia-Anaheim, Plus fleece blanket, auto-graph book and much more!
- **And much more !!!!**

*Must be present at the Spring Auction to bid!
Don't delay get your tickets today!*

See the Auction Flyers at the entrances of the church for further details!



**SAVE THE DATE
PARISH PICNIC
AUGUST 14th
LAKE CHABOT PARK
Unity in Community**

Mark your summer calendar now for our Parish Picnic as announced last week by Fr. Tom! It will be a time for our Parish family coming together for Prayer, Fun, and Food. More details to come.

SACRAMENT INFORMATION SESSION

Tuesday, May 24, 7:00pm

If you have a child who has completed one or more years of Religious Education or Youth Group and they are interested in receiving any of these sacraments: **Baptism, First Eucharist, First Reconciliation, Confirmation**, then please plan to attend one of our information sessions.

The first session will be **Tuesday, May 24th** at 7:00pm in Stack Center. More dates will follow, please watch for the flyer and email. Any student who will participate in the preparation for Sacraments next year **MUST** have an adult attend one of the sessions **PRIOR** to beginning the special preparation gatherings. Information on preparation, schedules and family commitment will be discussed. Hope to see you there!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE EAST BAY ANNUAL APPEAL, MAY 14th -15th

Catholic Charities of the East Bay is our charity and so we are the greatest providers of social services in the East Bay! East year, we are given the opportunity to show our support for the good work they do in our name. By making a financial gift or pledge to the annual appeal next weekend you help all of us be the hands of hope for the poor and marginalized. Your gift helps us welcome the stranger, offer healing to those suffering trauma and enables our families to move to self sufficiency. In advance thank you for your generosity and for being the hands of hope. For more information contact Steve

“STATE OF THE PARISH”
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In 2016 let us challenge ourselves spiritually to spread the Gospel by:

1. Inviting people to join our community of faith so we may share our faith with joy. Our goal is 50 new families or a 5% increase in participating families
2. Providing a more robust engagement of our families in both our school and parish creating new opportunities to encounter grace and hope here at Our Lady of Grace especially for this and future generations.
3. Renewing ourselves and our ministries as we embrace the New Evangelization to draw people to Christ through a personal and profound encounter with Jesus in love and joy.

Financially I ask us to embrace and fund this mission :

- By giving 5% more and having all our families participate financially to take ownership of our church.
- Less than 20% of our families participate in our regular giving program. I would ask that we all give something and that we double the participation of the families participating in our regular giving program.
- Support our fundraising events especially our Fall Festival and our Spring Auction.

With a greater financial support we can expand ministry, especially youth ministry to engage another generation for Christ finding hope and purpose in a world that that is hurting and violent. We would like to expand our office hours to be present to our community. We would like to upgrade church lighting, and upgrade Stack Center and Office area which is looking worn.

Total Year 2015	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Budget
Sunday Plate	\$ 409,040	\$ 425,834.	\$ 436,000.
Holy Days	\$ 9,904.	\$ 10,507.	\$ 10,400.
Easter	\$ 19,446.	\$ 16,371.	\$ 21,000.
Christmas	\$ 21,805.	\$ 22,251	\$ 28,000.
Faith Formation & Ministries	\$ 38,616.	\$ 45,390.	\$ 44,050
Other Income	\$ 222,736.	\$ 348,330.	\$ 254,954.
Total Income	\$ 721,547.	\$ 868,684.	\$ 795,504.
Expenses (with Dep.)	\$ 732,557.	\$ 763,635.	\$ 791,524.
Net Income/(Loss)	(\$ 11,010.)	\$ 105,049.	\$ 3,980.

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 May 8th:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 9,126.00
Last Year this week	\$ 7,303.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 8,920.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$160,667.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$152,345.00

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 | Pat Geiger |
| Peggy Burton | Byron Griffith |
| Virginia Cabardo | Elaine Jordan |
| Kathleen Denning | Richard Martin |
| Julie Dillon | Mike Roth |
| Estela Enriquez | Florence Sharp |
| Juanita Estrellas | Iwan Tunggal |
| Mary Franks | James Van Wert |
| Bridgett Foscalina | |

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.

- DOMENICA LASPINA**
LUCILLE SWISHER

**CONFIRMATION
MAY 22nd**

Next Sunday we have 12 young people receiving the sacrament of confirmation at the 11:00am Mass. Please join with us as we keep them in prayer this week.

**“Sharing God’s Mercy” –
UPDATE: MAY 4th
BISHOPS APPEAL UPDATE
CONGRATULATIONS**

Our Goal for 2016:	\$25,139.54
# of Registered Families	980
# of Acknowledged Donors to date:	108
Funds Raised (includes pledges)	\$27,362.50

We are currently at 109% of our goal for this years Bishop’s Appeal. We are most grateful to all those who have contributed! From this point forward, our parish will receive 100% of all funds raised above goal back to address some of our own parish needs.



FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND

Do you have some spare blossoms that you can share? Our Environment Committee needs your help to decorate the altar area each week, either by bringing in flowers from your yard or through a monetary donation towards the purchase of flowers. Flower donations envelopes can be found at the entrances of the church to make a donation in memory of honor of a loved one. If you have any question feel free to contact Jay at 537-0806. Your donation in honor of your loved one will be mentioned in the bulletin.

NEWS FLASH !

With dedication and a great deal of hard work from some very talented Parishioners we have been able to update our webpage. We encourage you to visit us on the web at olgcv.org and see our new look. The page is a work in process and we are excited to see it progress. We are also building a nice presence on Facebook so be sure to join us there as well.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 15th:

Coffee & Donuts After All Masses

Children’s Liturgy

9:00am--Mass

Youth Ministry

In the Gym after 9:00am Mass

Poland Pilgrimage Sign Up

12:30pm -- Stack Center

Monday, May 16th:

WEBS - 33 Day Reflection

7:00pm--Stack Center

ICF Meeting

6:30pm--Stack Center

Tuesday, May 17th:

Bible Study

9:30am--Parish Office

Men’s Bible Study

7:00am--Parish Office

Wednesday, May 18th:

Strobridge Dinner

5:30pm--Strobridge Apartments

Refugee Adoption Program

6:00pm--Stack Center

Thursday, May 19th:

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting

7:15pm--Parish Office

Serenity Group

7:30pm--Stack Center

Saturday, May 21st:

MEET YOU IN PARIS AUCTION

6:00am --Stack Center

Sunday, May 21st:

Coffee & Donuts After All Masses

Children’s Liturgy

9:00am--Mass

Youth Ministry

In the Gym after 9:00am Mass

Mass Intentions for the Week

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

MONDAY, May 16th

8:30am Manuel & Dorothy Callier (D)

TUESDAY, May 17th

7:00am Thomas & Mary Hayes (D)

WEDNESDAY, May 18th

St. John 1, Pope, Martyr

7:00am Andy Zaldivar (D)

THURSDAY, May 19th

7:00am Joe & Marie Silveria (D)

FRIDAY, May 20th

St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest

7:00am Joe & Isabel Furtado (D)

SATURDAY, May 21st

St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest & Companions, Martyrs

8:30am Alejandro Lukban (D)

SUNDAY, May 22nd

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

9:00am Herb Kurtz (D)

AN INVITATION

Authors and Parishioners of Our Lady of Grace, Mark Vaz and Terry King invite you to join them at the Castro Valley Library "Authors Fair", Saturday, **May 21st** from 1:00-4:00pm. Come and learn about the writers in our midst and be inspired by our vibrant literary community.

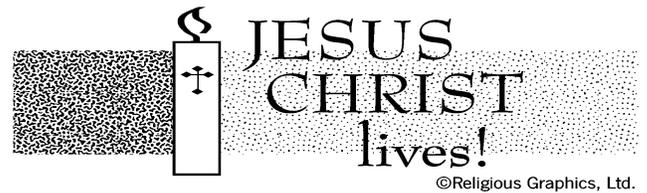
NEWS FROM IMMACULATE HEART RADIO

Don't miss the Immaculate Heart Radio Bay Area "ELEVATE CONFERENCE". This special day is packed with encouraging and inspirational talks by your favorite Immaculate Heart Radio personalities! **June 25th** at the Santa Clara Marriott. Go to ihradio.com/elevate/ for tickets and details.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

May 16th through May 22nd

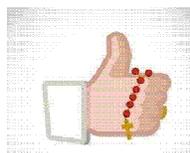
- Monday: James 3:13-18; Mark 9:14-29
- Tuesday: 1 Peter 1:10-16; Mark 10:28-31
- Wednesday: 1 Peter 1:18-25; Mark 10:32-45
- Thursday: 1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-12
- Friday: 1 Peter 4:7-13; Mark 11:11-26
- Saturday: Jude 17, 20B-25; Mark 11:27-33
- Sunday: Proverbs 8:22-31; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15



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Gospel for THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (May 22nd) John 16:12-15

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you."



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Faithbook: God has sent you a friend request

Are you on Facebook? Have you joined our Facebook page yet? If not please look us up by going to www.facebook.com/olgcv/ When you come to mass at OLG be sure to check in then turn your phone off.

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:

SCOTTY'S