

■■■■■■■■■■ The following article is from the November 11th issue of the Catholic Legislative Network



Coming Together as Faithful Citizens for the Common Good

From the Pastor Washington – Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has issued the following statement regarding the electing of Donald Trump as President-Elect:

The American people have made their decision on the next President of the United States, members of Congress as well as state and local officials. I congratulate Mr. Trump and everyone elected yesterday. Now is the moment to move toward the responsibility of governing for the common good of all citizens. Let us not see each other in the divisive light of Democrat or Republican or any other political party, but rather, let us see the face of Christ in our neighbors, especially the suffering or those with whom we may disagree.

We, as citizens and our elected representatives, would do well to remember the words of Pope Francis when he addressed the United States Congress last year, “all political activity must serve and promote the good of the human person and be based on respect for his or her dignity.” Yesterday, millions of Americans who are struggling to find economic opportunity for their families voted to be heard. Our response should be simple: we hear you. The responsibility to help strengthen families belongs to each of us.

The Bishops Conference looks forward to working with President-elect Trump to protect human life from its most vulnerable beginning to its natural end. We will advocate for policies that offer opportunity to all people, of all faiths, in all walks of life. We are firm in our resolve that our brothers and sisters who are migrants and refugees can be humanely welcomed without sacrificing our security. We will call attention to the violent persecution threatening our fellow Christians and people of other faiths around the world, especially in the Middle East. And we will look for the new administration's commitment to domestic religious liberty, ensuring people of faith remain free to proclaim and shape our lives around the truth about man and woman, and the unique bond of marriage that they can form.

Every election brings a new beginning. Some may wonder whether the country can reconcile, work together and fulfill the promise of a more perfect union. Through the hope Christ offers, I believe God will give us the strength to heal and unite.

Let us pray for leaders in public life that they may rise to the responsibilities entrusted to them with grace and courage. And may all of us as Catholics help each other be faithful and joyful witnesses to the healing love of Jesus.

THANKSGIVING

On behalf of Fr. Paul and all our parish staff, I want to take this opportunity to wish you a most blessed and joy-filled Thanksgiving celebration. As you join with family and friends to celebrate, may the abundant bounty of God gives to us be great cause for giving thanks.

Please take the opportunity while celebrating with family to let them know of our upcoming adult Alpha beginning December 1st. Alpha is a wonderful tool to introduce people to the good news of Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (NOVEMBER 27TH)

MATTHEW 24: 37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”



THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING DAY LITURGY

Our Lady of Grace Parish will celebrate a *Mass of Thanksgiving* on Thursday, **November 24th** at 9:00am. There is much to be thankful for in our lives and this is also a time to consider ways of helping those around us who are in need. The monetary collection from this Mass will benefit the work of our St. Vincent de Paul Society. As in years past, the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be taking donations of food and money at the Mass. As you give your donations, please pray for those families who will be helped. Items most needed for our pantry are Items most needed are as follows: Peanut butter, jam and jelly, tuna, soup/chili, cereal, and granola bars. Many of those that we serve are homeless or staying in motels. Food items that are single-serving and do not require a can opener or meals that can be prepared in a microwave are needed. Please no expired items.

You are also invited to bring the bread and wine you will be serving at your own Thanksgiving meal to be blessed for your feast.

MEET OUR REFUGEE FAMILY!

As you know, Our Lady of Grace has adopted a refugee family from Uganda - a mom and her 4 children under the age of 7. Our refugee team has been helping the family get settled in their new home and providing transportation to their many appointments. The family really appreciates the generous response from the parishioners here at OLG and would like to meet you. In order to make that happen, we are planning to bring them to our church on Sunday morning, **November 27th**. They will attend Mass with us at 11:30 a.m. and then we will have a potluck lunch in Stack Center at 12:30 p.m. Bring your whole family!

You can bring a main dish, a salad, side dish, finger food, or dessert to the potluck lunch. It would be helpful if you notified the church office or one of the refugee committee coordinators if you are planning to attend so we will know how many tables to set up.

Dennise - dcburgess1@juno.com; Chris - christineippolito@comcast.net. If you have a hot dish, you can bring it into the kitchen at Stack Center before the 11:30 Mass and it will be kept warm for you.

CATHOLIC VOICE ANNUAL APPEAL

Please consider a donation to the annual appeal for The Catholic Voice. Your donation helps our Parish offset its payment for this important communication ministry. The Voice is the only regular source of Catholic news and information delivered to all parishioners in the Diocese. *Please be generous in your support our Parish pays \$707.00 each month for this subscription.*

Checks should be made payable to Our Lady of Grace. Envelopes are in the pews.

THANKSGIVING DAY PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish offices will be closed on Thursday, **November 24th**. The office will re-open on Friday, **November 25th** at 9:00am. The entire Parish staff wishes you and your family a Blessed Thanksgiving.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT NOVEMBER 20th

Our Parish will hold the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) the weekend of **November 19th-20th**. The programs funded by CCHD change lives for the 46.2 million people living in poverty here in the United States. Your donation will empower local communities and strengthen families who are on the margins. People with disabilities will find affordable and supportive housing, men and women reentering society after incarceration will have the opportunity to learn new skills, and community agriculture projects will receive grants to become sustainable. Please help us continue this good work by supporting the collection for CCHD.



ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, afternoon **December 4th** you are invited to Advent Lessons & Carols at 4:00pm in the Church followed by wine & cheese at 5:00pm in Stack Center. There is no cost to you, but reservations are required. Please

RSVP to Bonnie after Mass, or leave a message in the Parish Office.

ALPHA FOR ADULTS

Join us for Alpha and our retreat. Alpha begins on **December 1st** at 6pm in Stack Center. We will ponder the Questions of Life and Faith. We will Adore, Worship and come into communion with the Lord!

Jesus is waiting to spend time with you! Come away and spend time with the Lord to be renewed. Our first *Parish Retreat* will be on **February 24th-26th** at The Presentation Retreat Center the cost is \$225 per person for the weekend, financial assistance is available. All are welcome. Contact the Parish office for more information or to reserve your spot (510) 537-0806

**AN OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 3rd IN STACK CENTER**

Following the 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, **December 3rd** our school students will present the Christmas story. After the performance all are invited to Stack Center for our Tree Lighting, a visit from Santa and snacks and time for holiday fellowship. All are invited!

HOLIDAY FOOD BOXES

St. Vincent de Paul is once again asking for your help to fill our Holiday Food Boxes. Items needed for the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets: green beans, gravy, fried onion rings, cream of mushroom soup, canned yams, cranberry sauce, \$15-20 gift cards to Safeway, Lucky or Grocery Outlet

We thank you for your generosity in the past and for allowing us to help those in need in our community.

**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 and click on "Shop Online" to get started. Order soon as popular styles may sell out! Use promo code: PR16OLG and get a discount as well as earning money for our school!

Hurry offer expires December 31st.

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 November 13th:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 8,447.00
Last Year this week	\$ 8,197.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 8,920.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$383,448.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$389,650.00

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:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Kathleen Andrews | Bridgett Foscaltina |
| Rolando Barrios | Nicholas Guinea |
| James Barthman | Pat Geiger |
| Peggy Burton | Byron Griffith |
| Leonardo Cabardo | Sheila Janes |
| Paris Dahle | Elaine Jordan |
| Kathleen Denning | Richard Martin |
| Julie Dillon | Mike Roth |
| Carol Dimaio | Pat Silva |
| Claudia Dobbs | Florence Sharp |
| Estela Enriquez | 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.

MAUREEN MAITLAND



**FESCO &
CASTRO VALLEY OUTREACH**
*Christmas Giving Trees
Tis The Season*

Beginning this weekend, Our Lady of Grace is helping the families of Castro Valley this Christmas with our Giving Trees. As members of CV Outreach, an organization dedicated to helping children from our CV Schools have a happy holiday season, we are sponsoring 5 families. Each family member has ornaments on our Giving Trees, which you will find in the church, in Stack after church, & in the school and parish offices. Please take an ornament to help a child have a blessed holiday.

All gifts need to be returned with the ornament, box and receipt, unwrapped to the parish office by **Sunday, December 11th** in order for our REC students & Parent Group members to catalog and wrap.

In addition to helping CV Outreach, we are helping FESCO keep their programs running. They are asking for monetary donations. Donation envelopes are on the Giving Trees. Please return donations to the parish office. *Thank You & Merry Christmas*



FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND

Sue Klas made a financial donation to our Flower Remembrance Fund for this weekend in memory of Walter L. Klas on the 9th anniversary of his passing. Thank you Sue for this beautiful reminder of your father.

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 donation envelopes can be found at the entrances of the church to make a donation in memory of a loved one. If you have any questions feel free to contact Jay at 537-0806. Your donation in honor of your loved one will be mentioned in the bulletin.

COME JOIN US

All are invited after the **9:30am** Sunday Mass to Gather in Stack Center

For coffee and donuts. This is a great opportunity to visit and meet new friends.



THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 20th:

Coffee & Donuts After 9:30am Mass only

Children's Liturgy
9:30am--Mass

Parish Registration
10:00am--Stack Center

Religious Education Classes
11:00am--Stack Center - English
11:30am--Stack Center - Bilingual

Youth Alpha Meal, Video and Discussion
6:00pm--Stack Center

Tuesday, November 22nd:

Bible Study:
9:30am--Parish Office

Religious Education Classes:
3:45pm--Stack Center

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

RCIA Inquiry:
7:00pm--Stack Center Conference Room

Thursday, November 24th:

HAPPY THIANKGIVING

Serenity Group
8:00pm--Stack Center

Sunday, November 27th:

Coffee & Donuts After 9:30am Mass only

Children's Liturgy
9:30am--Mass

Welcome the Refugee Family
11:30am--Mass

Potluck Reception for Refugee Family
12:30--Stack Center



RCIA INQUIRY

RCIA Inquiry Group meets **Tuesdays** at 7:00pm in Our Lady of Grace Room in Stack Center. You may join at any time. This group is offered for those exploring membership in the Catholic Church. The next meeting will be **November 22nd**.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Please note:

All masses will be celebrated in the Church.

MONDAY, November 21st

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00am Luis Martinez (D)

TUESDAY, November 22nd

St. Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr

7:00am Richard Benson (D)

WEDNESDAY, November 23rd

St. Clement I, Pope, Martyr,

St. Columban, Abbot;

Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro, Priest, Martyr

8:15am Doug and Debbie Rettz & Family

THURSDAY, November 24th

St. Andrew Dung-Las, Priest,

and Companions, Martyrs

9:00am *Mass of Thanksgiving*

FRIDAY, November 25th

St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin, Martyr

7:00am Patricia Curry (D)

SATURDAY, November 26th

8:30am Brendon Dolan (D)

SUNDAY, November 27th

11:30am Dan Estorga (D)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

November 21st through November 27th

Monday: Revelations 1:1-4;2:1-5; Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday: Revelations 3:1-6,14-22; Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday: Revelations 4:1-11; Luke 19:11-28

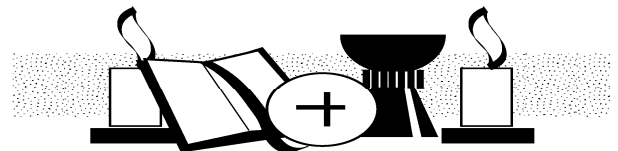
Thursday: Revelations 5:1-10; Luke 19:41-44

Friday: Revelations 10:8-11; Luke 19:45-48

Saturday: Revelations 11:4-12; Luke 20:27-40

Sunday: 2 Samuel 5:1-3; Col 1:12-20;

Luke 23:35-43



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**FRANCISCAN FRIAR
COME AND SEE INVITATION**

For Men 18-50

What is the life of a Friar like?

Come and See!

November 25-27, 2016

- Meet Friars, hear their story !
- Learn More About St. Francis and the Spirituality of Friars !
- Experience How They Live !

For more information or to register, call Fr. Pau at 510-671-0537. Or Email: CaliforniaVocation@gmail.com

**FATIMA & LOURDES PILGRIMAGE
WITH SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA
CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE APPARITIONS AT FATIMA!!**

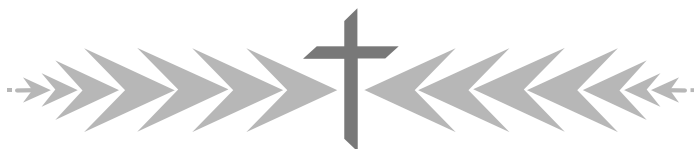
Information and brochures for Fr. Tom's pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes are available in the parish office. The eleven day trip begins **October 3rd, 2017** and is only \$3,499 per person. The trip includes round-trip air from San Francisco, first class/select hotels, most meals and services of a professional tour director. Space is limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

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:

MAFFEI PAINTING



ROSARY FOR WORLD PEACE



The rosary will be recited for World Peace after the 7:00 am Mass each Monday in the Church. Please join us.

**ADORATION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT
NEW SCHEDULE**



Join us every Thursday for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:00pm and the First Saturday of the month following the 8:30am Mass in the church.