



As you gather for holiday celebrations remember to prepare yourself through prayer. Take a moment with your family and light your Advent Wreath and recite a prayer. Quiet yourself to ponder the mystery of the plan of God to be one with us.

From the Pastor

The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century.

They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

Pray the "O" antiphons as you light your Advent Wreath this week. Hear the plan and the promise of God in the coming of Jesus.

December 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18

O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19

O Root of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!

December 20

O Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21

O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the
shadow of death.

December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!

Remember Our Lady of Grace

For over 80 years our Lady of Grace has been a beacon of hope and peace in Castro Valley. As we gather for Christmas and New Years we ask that you remember us in your charity this year. We have sought to reach out to the greater community to give hope. We introduced the area to St. Faustina and Divine Mercy last January. This year we are seeking to reach out with Our Alpha Program. As you meet family and Friends over the holiday I ask that you offer an invitation to dinner on **January 12** as we gather for Alpha where we will discuss: Jesus and salvation.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Again, this year, we are inviting you to remember family members and friends through a Flower Offering which will help us to purchase plants and other decorations we need to beautify our sanctuary. You may list the names of loved ones you wish to remember or memorialize by using the special flower envelopes --or by submitting the name to the Parish Office. A list of names of all who are remembered will be available after Christmas. Thank you for considering this thoughtful and helpful way to remember those you love.



**SPEAKING OF DECORATIONS
Environment Thanks and Needs**

The committee is in need of help to get the church ready for Christmas, so please make plans to help ready the church on Thursday, **December 22nd** beginning at 9:00am. The more hands, the quicker the work will be completed. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, **December 26th** and re-open on Tuesday, **December 27th**. Additionally the offices will be closed on Monday, **January 2nd** and will re-open on Tuesday, **January 3rd**. The entire parish staff wishes all a Blessed Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

ALPHA FOR ADULTS

Join us for Alpha ! We will ponder the Questions of Life and Faith. We will Adore, Worship and come into communion with the Lord! We will begin with a meal at 6:00pm--in Stack Center all are welcome.

UPCOMING TALKS FOR ALPHA

- **Jan. 12:** *Why did Jesus die?*
- **Jan. 19:** *How can I have faith?*
- **Jan. 26:** *How do I pray?*
- **Feb. 2:** *Why do I read the Bible?*
- **Feb. 9:** *How does God guide us?*
- **Feb. 16:** *Who is the Holy Spirit?*



**ADVENT CONFESSIONS
READY THE WAY OF THE LORD**

Confessions will be available on Thursday **December 22nd** at 6:00pm and Saturday from 3:30 - 4:30pm.

**CHRISTMAS POSADA
DECEMBER 18th**

The Hispanic Group is hosting a Christmas Posada and Pot Luck **TODAY** after the 1:30pm Spanish Mass in Stack Center.

El grupo hispano les invita a la posada navidena hoy el 18 de diciembre despues de la misa de las 1:30pm.

CHRISTMAS 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 2017.

**OUR LADY OF GRACE FOLK GROUP
OUR LORD'S GRACE CD**

The perfect Christmas gift, the Folk Group's latest CD is available for purchase. Our Lord's Grace, the 16 song CD includes, "Day of Peace", "Here In This Place", "O Sacred Head", and more. The CD will be available for sale in the parish office next week. Don't delay! These make wonderful gifts for your family and friends and don't forget one for yourself. The CDs are \$15.00. Proceeds from the sales go towards upgrading the church sound system. *Thanks for all your support. Happy Holidays, Our Lady of Grace Folk Group*

UPDATE: ST. VINCENT de PAUL

*Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall receive mercy*

We in the SVdP Our Lady of Grace Conference feel blessed to be a part of this community. Your generous support, not just during the holidays but through the entire year has allowed us to bring food to 350 people, help 90 people with their rent or utilities and put 87 people up in motels. We have assisted many others with transportation, clothes, telephone service or vehicle repair. We believe that no work of charity is foreign to our Society.

Our ministry has allowed us to make over 200 in-person visits and to share the message of Christ's mercy and hope. With your generous support, none of this would be possible. Wishing you God's many blessings as we celebrate Christ's birth and entire into the New Year.

If you have a question about the work we do, please leave a message for Heidi on our message machine at 510-581-2164

HOLIDAY FOOD BOXES

St. Vincent de Paul is once again asking for your help to fill our Holiday Food Boxes. Items needed 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.

**OLG CYO
HELP WANTED**

The OLG CYO Board is looking for potential board members for the upcoming year. The last year we had a full and active board was 2006. Since that time several dedicated individuals, some without children in the program have continued to run this program that benefits children in our communities'. If you are interested and feel you could contribute to this very important parish ministry please contact Colleen Lindberg in the parish office.

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 11th:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday Plate: | \$ 8,407.00 |
| Last Year this week | \$ 8,910.00 |
| Weekly Budgeted Goal: | \$ 8,920.00 |
| Year-to-date this year: | \$418,183.00 |
| Year-to-date last year: | \$408,337.00 |

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 Foscilina |
| Rolando Barrios | Robert Gallicano |
| James Barthman | Nicholas Guinea |
| Peggy Burton | Pat Geiger |
| Leonardo Cabardo | Byron Griffith |
| Paris Dahle | Sheila Janes |
| Kathleen Denning | Elaine Jordan |
| Julie Dillon | Richard Martin |
| Carol Dimaio | Alice McLaughlin |
| Claudia Dobbs | Pat Silva |
| Estela Enriquez | Florence Sharp |
| Mary Franks | Iwan Tunggal |
| | 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.

**HERMINIA DUARTE
BARBARA & LEO GIACOMINI**

GOSPEL FOR THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

(December 25TH)

JOHN 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

**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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 18th:

Coffee & Donuts After 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy

9:30am--Mass

Religious Education Classes

11:15am--Stack Center - English

11:15am--Stack Center - Bilingual

Posadas

2:30pm--Church

Posadas Reception

3:00pm--Stack Center

Youth Alpha Meal, Video and Discussion

6:00pm--Stack Center

Tuesday, December 20th:

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

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting

7:00pm--Parish Office

Wednesday, December 21st:

Strobridge Dinner

5:30pm--Strobridge Apartments

Thursday, December 22nd:

Christmas Decorating

9:00am--Church

Confession

6:00pm--Church

Adoration

7:00pm--Church

Serenity Group

8:00pm--Stack Center

Saturday, December 24th:

Christmas Eve Vigil

5:00pm--Church

10:00pm--Church

Mass for the Intentions *Week*

Please note:

All masses will be celebrated in the Church.

MONDAY, December 19th

7:00am Augie & Rudy Enriquez (D)

TUESDAY, December 20th

7:00am Bonnie Sill (D)

WEDNESDAY, December 21st

St. Peter Canisius, Priest, Dr. of the Church

8:15am Neal & Carla Lucett (L)

THURSDAY, December 22nd

7:00am Richard Benson (D)

FRIDAY, December 23rd

St. John of Kanty, Priest

8:30am Maura Vanderpoorten (D)

SATURDAY, December 24th

5:00pm *The Vigil of Christmas*

10:00pm *The Vigil of Christmas*

SUNDAY, December 25th

7:30am *The Solemnity of Christmas*

9:30am *The Solemnity of Christmas*

11:30am *The Solemnity of Christmas*



**CRAB FEED ??
JANUARY 28th ???**

The OLG Crab Feed is scheduled and the fisherman are catching crab but we do not have a committee assembled to make it happen as of now! Are you interested in helping put together our Crab Feed this year? This event has traditionally benefited our CYO program with uniforms, equipment and repairs to the gym as well as our parish center. Interested?? Call the Parish office and let us know.



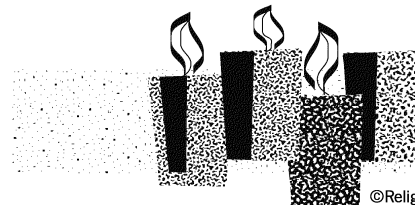
RCIA INQUIRY

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 **December 20th**.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

December 19th through December 25th

- Monday: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25
- Tuesday: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38
- Wednesday: Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45
- Thursday: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56
- Friday: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66
- Saturday: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79
- Sunday:
 - Vigil:** Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25
 - Night:** Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14
 - Dawn:** Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20
 - Day:** Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrew 1:1-6; John 1:1-18



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FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND

In Memory of 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 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.

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:

PETE'S HARDWARE