



*From the Pastor*

May the Christ Child touch your heart this Christmas and renew you with hope. May we give thanks for life and family as we celebrate the Holy Family. Friar Tom and Friar Paul along with the Franciscans and the staff at Our Lady of Grace pray you have a Blessed Christmas! Come Let us adore Him!

Please pray for the Franciscans who will be on retreat **January 2-6**. May the Franciscans be renewed so we can serve you and the church with Joy.

“Christmas isn’t just a temporal celebration of the memory of a beautiful event; Christmas is more ... Christmas is an encounter!” Pope Francis

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time.

When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

***Blessing for Your manger Scene at Christmas***

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

***Our help is in the name of the Lord.***

**R/.**Who made heaven and earth.

**A reading of the Holy Gospel according to Luke**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus\* that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

**Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.**

**The leader prays with hands joined:**

*God of every nation and people,  
from the very beginning of creation  
you have made manifest your love:  
when our need for a Savior was great  
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.  
To our lives he brings joy and peace,  
justice, mercy, and love.*

*Lord,  
bless all who look upon this manger;  
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,  
and raise our thoughts to him,  
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,  
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.*

**R/.** Amen.

**NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE**

*New Year's Eve: Saturday, December 31st*  
 Mass at 5:00pm

*New Year's Day: Sunday, January 1st*  
**Mary, the Mother of God**  
 Mass at 7:30, 9:30, 11:30am, 1:30pm (Spanish)

**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.

**FOR YOUR NEW YEARS RESOLUTION  
 CONSIDER ALPHA FOR ADULTS**

Join us for Alpha in 2017. 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 TALK 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?*
- **March 2:** *Why should I tell others?*
- **March 9:** *Does God Heal Today?*
- **March 16:** *What about the Church?*
- **March 23:** *Dinner and Prayer*
- **March 30:** *Reconciliation Service*

**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**. Mass for both Monday's will be at 8:30am. The entire parish staff wishes all a Blessed Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!



**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.

**CATHOLIC VOICE ANNUAL APPEAL  
 STILL TIME TO DONATE FOR THIS YEAR !**

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. Your donation of \$25.00 would help offset the parish expense.*

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

**2017 CALENDARS AVAILABLE**

Catholic Extension 2017 Family Appointment Calendars are available. We are grateful and we extend our sincere appreciation to the Holy Angels Catholic Funeral, Cremation & Cemetery Services of the Diocese of Oakland for again sponsoring the 2017 calendars. If you have not picked up a copy in the church you may find one in the parish office. *Please only one per household.*

**PLEASE NOTE**

Due to the holiday schedule of our bulletin publisher we are not able to report the weekly offerings for most of December. The Sunday offering will be updated after the first of the year along with the Christmas Offering.

**YOUR INVITED TO A TEACHING MASS**

Start the New Year by learning more about the Mass. Why does the priest wear vestments? Why are all the reading done from the Ambo? Why does the priest wash his hands? Where does the Mass come from, and what is it really all about? Come join Fr. Paul and the Women’s Evening Bible Study Group as he presides over a *Teaching Mass* on **Monday, January 30th, 2017** at 7PM in the church. We will learn the significance of the gestures the priest makes during consecration along with the actual words he uses. Understand and appreciate more of what we do every week during the Mass.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED**

Still pondering your resolutions for 2017 why not consider our Parish Mission Statement: *A community that endeavors to live our faith grounded in Jesus Christ. We celebrate Christ’s presence in Word, Sacrament, and the shared experiences of our faith – community.*

1. St. Mary’s Center (outreach to poor elderly)
2. Servicing meals to the elderly at Strobridge
3. Helping Hands (helping prepare receptions after funerals at OLG.)
4. Parish Maintenance & Gardening
5. St. Vincent DePaul Outreach (outreach to the poor)
6. CYO Athletic Programs
7. The Parish Festival
8. Working in the Religious Education Program
9. Working on the Confirmation team
10. Working with the RCIA team
11. Visit the Sick/Eucharistic Minister to the Sick and Homebound
12. Eucharistic Minister at Mass
13. Lector at Mass
14. Altar Society

**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
<b>Weekly Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 8,920.00</b>
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 Foscalina |
| 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     | 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.*

**VICTIMS OF THE GHOST SHIP FIRE**

**Gospel for The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of God (January 1st)  
Matthew 2:16-21**

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

**WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY**

The Women's Evening Bible Study will begin "Mary - A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother" on Monday, **February 27th**, 2017 at 7PM. This study will reveal Mary's unique role in God's kingdom and in our lives. You will experience the gospel through the eyes of Mary and get a vivid glimpse into her daily life. Seeing her in this way will lead you to a deeper relationship with the Blessed Mother and her son, Jesus. Cost of this 5-Session study is \$27. Please sign up with Jay in the Parish Office by Monday **February 6th** so that materials can be ordered.

**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.

**THIS WEEK**

*Sunday, December 25th:*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

*Monday, December 26th:*

*Parish Offices Closed*

*Thursday, December 29th:*

Serenity Group  
8:00pm--Stack Center

*Sunday, January 1st:*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

*Monday, January 2nd:*

*Parish Offices Closed*



**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 **January 3rd**.



**GIRLS CYO BASKETBALL  
SIGN UPS**

Girls Basketball (grades 2nd–8th) registration begins in January. Registration will open on line **January 16th**. Go to our website [www.olgcv.org](http://www.olgcv.org) and follow the link for CYO. All players who did not play Fall 2016 will need to create an account prior to completing their first registration with in the system. Fees for the 2017 program year will be \$175.00 with a \$50.00 uniform fee. Registration will end January 31st, practices begin the week of January 30th.

If you are interested in coaching or helping with CYO in another position please contact Colleen Lindberg at [olgcv@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olgcv@sbcglobal.net)

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

**Please note:**

All masses will be celebrated in the Church.

**MONDAY, December 26th**

*St. Stephen, The First Martyr*

8:30am Mario & Rita Venturini (D)

**TUESDAY, December 27th**

*St. John, Apostle, Evangelist*

7:00am Maura Vanderpoorten (D)

**WEDNESDAY, December 28th**

*The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

8:15am Libby Romani (D)

**THURSDAY, December 29th**

*St. Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr*

7:00am Libby Romani (D)

**FRIDAY, December 30th**

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

7:00am Dr. Ben & Kelly Lindler & Family

**SATURDAY, December 31st**

*St. Sylvester I, Pope*

8:30am Hans Friedeberg (D)

**SUNDAY, January 1st**

**Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

**December 26th through January 1st**

- Monday: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59;  
Matthew 10:17-22
- Tuesday: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a & 2-8
- Wednesday: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18
- Thursday: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35
- Friday: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14;  
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
- Saturday: 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18
- Sunday: Numbers 6:22-27  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:16-21

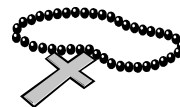
*Glory to God in the Highest*

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**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 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.



**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 Saturday for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8:30am Mass in the church.

**FATIMA & LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 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**

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This week we extend our gratitude to:

**PONIATOWSKI LENDING PARIKH LAW**