


BLESSINGS FROM THE FRIARS ON RETREAT
From the Pastor

The New Year is a time for review of the year past and the hope for the future.

The year past was a lovely experience of God's Mercy. It has been a year and a half since the Franciscans began ministry at Our Lady of Grace. The warm welcome marked the first year and I explored with you devotion to our patroness Our Lady of Grace. I introduced to you the Franciscan devotion to Mary and our connection to Our Lady of Grace through the Mission Immaculata began by St. Maximilian Kolbe. The image of Our Lady of Grace is a central part of the devotion by the wearing of the Miraculous Metal and consecrating oneself to the Mission of Mary to bear Christ to the world. This is a Mission of evangelization to pray for the conversion of every heart to bring them through Mary to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

We embraced the Year of Mercy with a pilgrimage to Italy and Rome to enter the doors of Mercy to pray for our loved ones and ourselves. We walked where Saints and Martyr's walked gave witness to there faith and transformed and empire and the world. That Mercy and Grace is available for us today to transform our lives and our world giving us hope through transforming love. When we returned we continued to ponder the Mercy of God through the play on the life of St. Faustina. We celebrated 24 hours of Mercy in prayer during Lent last year. We built community through school Breakfasts and a Community Picnic. We invited the youth to join me on pilgrimage to encounter St. Junipero Serra at the Carmel Mission. In November, we journeyed to Christ Our Light Cathedral in Oakland to walk through the Holy Door as we concluded the Year of Mercy.

In the Fall we embraced the New Evangelization through a program called Alpha as we opened our Youth to discuss the questions of life. In Advent I opened the program to the whole parish and I ask that you consider coming. Our Youth gather on Sunday evenings beginning January 8 and for everyone on **January 12**. There will be kid Kare for children on January 12. This New Year is an invitation to come encounter the Love of God at Our Lady of Grace.

Peace,
Fr. Tom



*nations walk by your light and
kings by your shining radiance*

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Gospel for The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (January 15th)

John 1:29-34

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

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

**SPEAKING OF NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS
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*

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.



**GIRLS CYO BASKETBALL
SIGN UPS**

Girls Basketball (grades 2nd–8th) registration is now open. Registration is on line. Go to our website 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 February 10th, 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

**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.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Collection. Our Christmas Offering for 2016 totaled \$29,297 compared to \$22,251 in 2015 and against a Budget of \$28,000. As always we thank you for the generosity of your gift and ask God to bless your continuing generosity.

2016 PLATE COLLECTION RESULTS

Total Sunday Plate Offering 2016: \$432,766.
 Total Sunday Plate Budget 2016: \$436,000.
 Total Sunday Plate Offering 2015: \$425,834.

We are most grateful to those who have consistently supported our Parish and have maintained their level of giving. For those in the Parish not using the offering envelope we ask you to prayerfully consider committing your support to our ministries, liturgies, outreach and all that a Parish is expected to provide its members and the members of the larger community in which we reside. May we continue to be good stewards of so great a gift and remember that God will not be outdone in generosity.

MAINTENANCE FUND 2016 RESULTS

Total 2016 Collection	\$19,976.
Total 2015 Collection	\$28,393.
Budget 2016	\$28,000.

We had a very disappointing result to our Maintenance Fund collection through the monthly envelope in 2016. As you are aware in your own homes utilities, property taxes, maintenance expenses have continued to rise. With a 29% decrease in giving to our maintenance fund we are in the position of deferring maintenance. Please consider a monthly contribution to the Maintenance Fund.

YEARLY CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

For your convenience in preparing your tax return, a contribution statement for 2016 will be prepared at your request. Please phone the Parish Office at 537-0806, with your name and envelope number. Your statement will be available for you to pick up once it has been signed.

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 January 1st:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 4,247.00
Last Year this week	\$ 8,197.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 8,920.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$ 4,247.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$ 8,197.00

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 | Byron Griffith |
| Leonardo Cabardo | Sheila Janes |
| Paris Dahle | Elaine Jordan |
| Kathleen Denning | Eira Lindberg |
| Julie Dillon | Alice McLaughlin |
| Carol Dimaio | Richard Martin |
| 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.

**PAT GEIGER
 MARGARET SPILLNER
 HAROLD MCCORMICK**

**A NOTE FROM
ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION**

Come join the ICF on the 6th day of Epiphany as we celebrate Christmas with dinner and gathering unwrapped gifts for newborns through Birth Right on **January 12th**, 2017. Since this is the same night as Alpha, please note that there is a time change for dinner, doors will open at 5:00pm and dinner will be served at 6:00pm. We are willing to share our dinner with Alpha attendees; reservations are required and the cost is \$17.00. Otherwise we will be providing Lisa's luscious soup for Alpha attendees. Reservations can be made by calling Stella Taddei at 510-581-5863; non Alpha attendees may call Juanita Madrid at 510-582-7242. Deadline for reservations is Sunday, **January 8th**, 2017. Grazie tante.

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.



RCIA INQUIRY

RCIA Inquiry Group meets **Tuesdays** at 7:00pm in Our Lady of Grace Room in Stack Center. You may join at anytime. This group is offered for those exploring membership in the Catholic Church. The next meeting will be **January 10th**.



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, January 8th:

Coffee & Donuts After 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy

9:30am--Mass

Parish Registration

10:30am--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

Monday, January 9th:

Women's Evening Bible Study:

7:00pm--Stack Center

Tuesday, January 10th:

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, January 12th:

ICF Dinner

5:00pm--Stack Center

Adult Alpha Series

6:00pm--Stack Center

Adoration

7:00pm--Church

Serenity Group

8:00pm--Stack Center

Saturday, January 14th:

Adoration

8:30am--Church

Sunday, January 15th:

Coffee & Donuts After 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy

9:30am--Mass

Religious Education Classes

11:00am--Stack Center - English

11:30am--Stack Center - Bilingual

Youth Alpha Meal, Video and Discussion

6:00pm--Stack Center

Mass Intentions for the Week

Please note:

All masses will be celebrated in the Church.

MONDAY, January 9th

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

7:00am Marilyn McCarthy (D)

TUESDAY, January 10th

7:00am Mary Birgham

WEDNESDAY, January 11th

8:15am Debi Telles (D)

THURSDAY, January 12th

7:00am Rudy & Augie Enriquez (D)

FRIDAY, January 13th

St. Hilary, Bishop, Dr. Of the Church

7:00am Mary Anne Engelhardt (D)

SATURDAY, January 14th

8:30am Lucia Romuar (D)

SUNDAY, January 15th

7:30am Gary Sousa (L)

9:30pm Lucia Romuar (D)

1:30pm Maria Elena Hess (L)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

January 9th through January 15th

Monday: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Matthew 3:13-17
 Tuesday: Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28
 Wednesday: Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39
 Thursday: Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45
 Friday: Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12
 Saturday: Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17
 Sunday: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6;
 1 Corinthians 1:1-3
 John 1:29-34



FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND

In Memory of The outdoor flower pots have been filled and maintained during the Christmas season in loving memory of Paul, Joan and Michael Frumkin. We are grateful to Cec Penland for the donation and continued commitment to this environment ministry.

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.

EXECUTION ALERTS

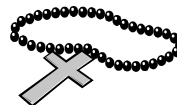
The following executions are scheduled to take place in **January** :

January 11th	Christopher Wilkins	TX
January 12th	Ronald Philips	OH
January 18th	Ricky Gray	VA
January 23rd	Gary Haugen	OR
January 25th	Kosoul Chanthakoumanne	
January 26th	Terry Edwards	TX

We ask your prayers for these persons, for the victims of their crimes, and for their families.

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.



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.

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:

R & J QUICK CLEAN CENTER