


Lent Begins Wednesday March 1

From the Pastor

We begin our Lenten Journey on Ash Wednesday. Join us for Mass at 7AM, 8:15AM, 12 Noon and 6PM. There will be an Ash Service at Noon. Receiving ashes and hearing the word of God is an important action to signify the change of attitude and focus of season in preparation for Easter. This is a time to reflect on our life and the world and how sinfulness has destroyed and deformed our lives and our world. We are called to acts of penance that open us to acts of prayer, fasting, and charity to repair the injury of a hurting world caused by sin, oppression, and injustice. Lent is a time to look inward to seek to grow in holiness so we may live and give witness to the Beatitudes, which is a response of Love to the sufferings in this life to reveal the Kingdom of God.

The Friars have sought to create opportunities for penance and spiritual renewal during this season. We have ordered books for each family by Matthew Kelly called *Resisting Happiness* which should be here by Ash Wednesday and will be distributed on the First Sunday of Lent. The book has a daily online reflection for each day of Lent. I would ask a 5 dollar donation to help with evangelization efforts at Our Lady of Grace and to help cover the cost of the books for those who cannot donate. There will be **Wednesday evening Mass at 6pm** followed by **Soup** and then some presentations prepared by our **Pax Christi** group. On **Thursdays at 6pm** through March there will be the **Alpha Course**, which begins with a meal and continues with a film and discussion. Even if you have not participated in the whole series come and experience a Alpha night. **Stations in the Park** with the youth on March 25 in the morning. **Family Movie night** on **March 25** with the Movie the 13th day at 6:30pm. This is a movie on the Apparition in Fatima in 1917. Come to **Adoration** every Saturday morning after Mass or on Thursday evening. Join us for the **Rosary** 1/2 hour before the Saturday Night and Sunday Liturgy. **Confessions** will be available during **Adoration**, on **Saturday Afternoon** at 3:30pm we will have a **Communal Penance Service** on Thursday, March 30 at 7pm.

May we make the most of this Lent and see what God will do in our life, community, and World.

Peace,
Fr. Tom

Gospel for The First Sunday in Lent (March 5th)
Matthew 4:1-11

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: *One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*" Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: *He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*" Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, *You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.*" Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: *The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.*" Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES
MARCH 1ST**

All Ash Wednesday services will be in the Church. The schedule is as follows: 7:00am Mass, 8:15am All School Mass, 12:00Noon Communion and Distribution of Ashes, 6:00pm Mass, followed by Soup Meal in Stack Center. The financial offering at all Ash Wednesday Masses will be for Operation Rice Bowl.



ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP MEAL

Please plan on joining us for a simple meal of soup and bread Wednesday's during Lent. It will be a time for fellowship and families coming together. Our Soup Meal follows the Mass. The Ash Wednesday (**March 1st**) Soup Meal is sponsored by The Faith Formation Center. Volunteers and donations are still needed, call 582-9266 to see how you can help. Financial donations at the Soup Meal will be accepted for Operation Rice Bowl.

CONSIDER ALPHA FOR ADULTS

Alpha is winding down but, you still have time to join the final talks. 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

- **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*



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 **March 1st**.

2017 BISHOPS APPEAL

Bishop Michael C. Barber has chosen "All God's People – United in Faith" as the theme for the 2017 Bishop's Appeal.

For most of us, our experience of Church is at our parish. The Church is, however, much more than that. We are all called in mission to serve the Church and its people through our parish, our diocese and universally.

The Annual Bishop's Appeal in the Diocese of Oakland is but one way to serve our fellow parishioners and the broader community as we demonstrate our unity as Catholics of the Diocese of Oakland. We are asked to pray for our fellow parishioners, our clergy and leadership, for those who are served by the many ministries and programs offered by the Church, and for the success of the 2017 Bishop's Appeal.

Every member of the faith community of our local Church is also asked to participate in whatever way possible by making a gift. All gifts to the 2017 Bishop's Appeal are equally important. As responsible stewards of our faith and the many gifts that God has generously bestowed on each of us, we are asked to make a sacrificial, proportionate and thoughtful gift. Those who are blessed with more are challenged to give more, but everyone is asked to respond. Imagine what can be done in the name of our local faith community if every parishioner were inspired by "All God's People – United in Faith" and participated in our annual Bishop's Appeal.

While parishes rely on the financial support of parishioners through weekly offertory collections, the diocese also relies on these same parishioners to make possible the many services it provides to literally thousands of individuals each year. The Bishop's Appeal supplies annual funding to many ministries which provide services throughout the Diocese of Oakland.

By sharing your time, talent and treasure with our sisters and brothers and our Church of the East Bay, you are making a sacrifice and returning to God a small portion of the many gifts he has given to you. By embracing "All God's People – United in Faith" through the 2017 Bishop's Appeal, you are contributing greatly to building up the Kingdom of God here in the Church of the East Bay.

Your Generosity in Action

The Bishop's Appeal provides funds to offset some of the following expenses:

- Parishes and Schools in Need \$913,000
- Pastoral Ministries and Services \$2,031,000
- Clergy Formation and Retirement \$3,511,000
- Religious Education and Formation \$1,014,000

ICF NEWS

Calling all Irish and those who wish to be Irish, it's time for the ICF Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. We will also have a St. Joseph's table with the proceeds going to St. Vincent de Paul at Transfiguration parish. Dinner will be on **March 9th**, at 6:30, doors open at 6:00, please enter by the side door. Deadline for reservations is Monday **March 6th**. For reservations please call Stella Taddei at 510-581-5863 or Juanita Madrid at 510-582-7242. Dinner is \$17.00 for nonmembers. Happy St. Paddy's Day!



**SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, MAY 6th
OLG SPRING AUCTION !**

Enjoy a Silent and Live Auction, catered dinner, Dessert Dash & Dancing ! 5:30pm--10:30pm-- More information and ticket sales to come. You don't want to miss this fun adult evening out. Childcare for a nominal fee will be provided. Come hang out with old friends and make some new ones !

Have a Donation? 100% of our auction items are donated. Do you have a vacation cabin? Connections with a local sports team? Frequent Flyer miles to donate? In the past we have received donations for vacation rentals, hosted dinner parties, fine wines, and spirits, spa days and sports and concert tickets, please, contact: Liz Huizar--lizhuizar79@gmail.com for Colleen Lindberg in the parish office with your donation items.

CALLING ALL BISCOTTI LOVERS

We know you are out there. You have a chance to satisfy your craving and help the ICF replenish their scholarship/charitable funds. On the weekends of **February 25-26** and **March 4-5** we will be taking orders after Masses for Biscotti to be picked up on Palm Sunday, **April 9th**, between 9 and 11 A.M. The price is \$6.00 a dozen. In case you cannot be here to sign up, you may call Toni Proetti 510-886-8664 to place an order, deadline for orders will be March 26th. Just be sure to tell Toni from which parish you will be picking up your order. Buon Appetito!

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 February 19th:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 8,246.00
Last Year this week	\$ 8,971.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 8,920.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$ 65,360.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$ 59,171.00

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:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Glen Alcorn | Bridgett Foscalina |
| Kathleen Andrews | Mary Franks |
| Susanna Axe | Byron Griffith |
| James Barthman | Sheila Janes |
| Bette Bennett | Elaine Jordan |
| Peggy Burton | Alice McLaughlin |
| Leonardo Cabardo | Florence Sharp |
| Frances De Villier | Pat Silva |
| Julie Dillon | Susan Star |
| Claudia Dobbs | Mercedes Tellez |
| | Iwan Tunggal |

Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.

ALL VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



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

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Our Sunday morning Liturgy of the Word program takes place during the 9:30 Mass. Each week, children age 3-11 are dismissed to the Augustine Center to hear the gospel and discuss the message in an age appropriate setting.

Please consider being part of this great ministry. If your child is currently enjoying this special celebration of Liturgy of the Word, celebrate with them! We are in need of some help on the 1st & 4th Sunday of the month. Material and mentoring available. Contact the Faith Formation Center at 510-582-9266 or ffc@olgcv.org

LENTEN LECTURE SERIES

Building Bridges for a Peaceful Future:

We all desire peace – in our hearts, our community, our country, and in the world. But how, as Catholic Christians, can we achieve peace? The Pax Christi/Social Justice group at OLG gives you an opportunity to explore the topic of peace in our Lenten series. We will offer 3 presentations on Wednesdays in Lent from 7:15 - 8:30 p.m. in Stack Hall immediately following the 6:00 p.m. Mass and soup dinner.

Wed., March 15 – Building Bridges to a Sustainable Future. Sandra Hodges from OLG will speak on time banking as a way to re-energize peaceful, caring communities by giving and accepting gifts of time.

Wed., March 22 - Developments in Catholic Peace Making: From Just War Theory to Non-Violence – Deacon Matt Dulka, Regional Director of Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers, will look at the difficulties of applying the principles of the Just War Theory in modern circumstances and how the Gospel challenges us to be "artisans of peace" by adopting the attitude and practice of non-violence.

Wed., March 29 – Gandhian Non-Violence – Lorin Peters, a teacher of social justice and non-violence and a St. Leanders parishioner, will present the principles of Gandhian non-violence and how, as Catholic Christians, we can apply them to our world today to our world today.

For more information call Dennise at 510-538-6071 or Sandra at 510-889-8132.

THIS WEEK

Monday, February 27th:

Women's Bible Study
7:00pm--Stack Center

Tuesday, February 28th:

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

Wednesday, March 1st:

Lenten Soup Meal
7:00pm--Stack Center

Men of Faith Meeting
7:00pm--Parish Office

Thursday, March 2nd:

Adult Alpha Series
6:00pm--Stack Center

Adoration
7:00pm--Church

Serenity Group
8:00pm--Stack Center

Friday, March 3rd:

Hispanic Bible Study
6:00pm--Stack

Saturday, March 4th:

Adoration
8:30am--Church

Sunday, March 5th:

Coffee & Donuts After 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy
9:30am--Mass

11:00am--Stack Center - English

11:30am--Stack Center - Bilingual

Youth Ministry
6:00pm--Stack Center

Mass Intentions for the Week

Please note:

All masses will be celebrated in the Church.

MONDAY, February 27th

7:00am Lilia Sousa (D)

TUESDAY, February 28th

7:00am Peggy Riordan (D)

WEDNESDAY, March 1st

ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00am Mass

8:15am Mass (school Liturgy)

12:00 Communion Service with Ashes

6:00pm Mass

THURSDAY, March 2nd

7:00am Dorothy & Manuel Callier (D)

FRIDAY, March 3rd

St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin

7:00am Tressa Sullivan (D)

SATURDAY, March 4th

St. Casimir

8:30am Louis Rodrigues (D)

5:00pm Alice Goncalves & Family (L)

SUNDAY, March 5th

9:30am Kathleen Cande (L)

1:30pm Maria Ortega (D)

ROSARY BEFORE MASS

Come join in prayer of the rosary 30 minutes before each of the weekend liturgies. Pray for our parish and our youth as they journey with the Alpha Youth program. All are welcome!



**CASTRO VALLEY
WRESTLING
CRAB FEED
MARCH 18th**

Come join the CV Wrestlers and their families for their Crab Feed fundraiser in Stack Center. Social hour begins at 6:00pm dinner at 7:00pm. Tickets can be purchased in the OLG Parish office, for information contact Denise Ramirez at 510-909-4994

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

February 27th through March 5th

Monday: Sirach 17:20-24; Mark 10:17-27

Tuesday: Sirach 35:1-12; Mark 10:28-31

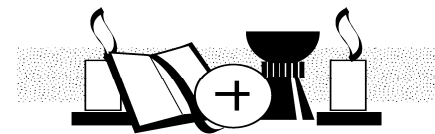
Wednesday: Joel 2:12-18;
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25

Friday: Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15

Saturday: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32

Sunday: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7;
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

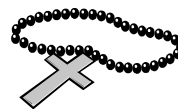


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FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND

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.



ROSARY FOR WORLD PEACE

The rosary will be recited for World Peace after the 8:15 am Mass each Wednesday 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:

7 HILLS BARBER SHOP