



## THANK YOU FROM THE CONVENTUAL FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY

The Friars of the Saint Joseph of Cupertino Province of the Conventual Franciscans want to THANK YOU for your support, and for joining us to celebrate our 35 years of ministry as a Province in California. Sunday night was a joyful time with many smiling faces that warmed our hearts and encouraged us, as the sun shine warms the heart and face on a sunny day! We the Franciscans are grateful for your financial support, but more so your presence and joy that is a testimony to that support, and our fellowship in our mission of the Proclamation of the Kingdom of God. We feel blessed to be here ministering at Our Lady of Grace, Castro Valley. We not only want to express gratitude to all who came, but also all who helped and donated items, time, and talent! So many helped in so many ways! It is such a source of support to hold an event like this, and in response, to then have so many come forward to help make it happen! We are especially grateful to the Knights of Columbus, and to Mike Miraglia, and Miraglia Catering, for your generosity, making this event possible. May God Bless you, as we give thanks to God during this Thanksgiving Holiday, and now beginning this Advent Season. May it be blessed for all of us, a time of preparing to receive Christ, the light of the world and the greatest gift, this Christmas.

### Immaculate Conception

Celebrate Mass on Friday, **December 8** at 8:15AM and 7PM. This is a Holy Day of Obligation where we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Mary in anticipation of her being the Mother of God. On May 13, 1846 the bishops of the United States who were gathered in the residence of the Archbishop and under his chairmanship for the third private meeting of the Council, which began at nine in the morning, adopted a decree by which they chose the Blessed Virgin Mary, conceived without sin, as Patroness of the United States. The Bishops Declared: With enthusiastic acclaim and with unanimous approval and consent, the Fathers [of the Council] have chosen the Blessed Virgin Mary, conceived without sin, as the Patroness of the United States of America.

### Advent Renewal Series Begins this Week: December 3-11 beginning in Church

Sunday December 3 at 3PM St. Francis and Our Lady

Monday December 4 at 9AM St. John Duns Scotus and the Immaculate Conception

Tuesday December 5 at 7 PM The Immaculate Our Hope

Wednesday December 6 at 7PM St. Maximilian Kolbe and Consecration

Thursday December 7 at 7PM during Adoration with prayers to Our Lady

Friday December 8 at 7PM Mass of the Immaculate Conception

Saturday December 9 at 9AM Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Immaculate Conception

7PM Spanish Prayers to Our Lady

Sunday December 10 at 3PM Spanish Prayers to Our Lady

Monday December 11 at 7PM Spanish Prayers to Our Lady

### Gospel for the Second Sunday of Advent (December 10th)

**Mark 1:1-8**

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."* John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



## THE SOLEMNITY OF THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Our Holy Day Masses honoring Mary on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Friday, **December 8th** at 8:15am (School children liturgy) and 7:00pm (Bilingual).

### HELPING THOSE IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The following are the many ways to help those most in need this holiday season.

#### FESCO AND CASTRO VALLEY OUTREACH Christmas Giving Trees

Beginning the weekend of **November 19th**, Our Lady of Grace is helping Castro Valley families with our Giving Trees. As members of CV Outreach, we are sponsoring several families. Each family member has ornaments on our Giving Trees which you will find in Church, in Stack Center 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 10th** 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!

#### ST. VINCENT de PAUL

**"For I was naked and you clothed me"  
(Matthew 26:36)**

This year the Our Lady of Grace St. Vincent de Paul Conference will be participating in the One Warm Coat Drive. We invite parishioners to donate new or gently used men's, women's or children's coat to this drive. These coats will be distributed through the drop-in centers and clothing closet at St. Vincent de Paul's main campus in Oakland. **Please bring your donation and place in the barrel at the Somerset entrance of the Church or in the Parish Office. We will be accepting coats from November 1st – December 31st.** Also, if you can donate toys, we will be taking toy donations from November 6<sup>th</sup> through Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## FESTIVAL RESULTS ARE IN !

We are pleased to announce the results of our Fall Festival. We received \$44,658 in net profit. As is our tradition we commit 10% of our net profit to local charities benefiting families and children. Our Lady of Grace School received \$20,129 of the net income and \$20,129 will be used for expenses in the Parish programs. Thank you once again to all those who contributed to the success of our annual Parish Fall Festival.



### ADVENT CONFESSIONS READY THE WAY OF THE LORD

Confessions will be available during Advent during Adoration on Thursdays at 7:00pm & Saturday mornings at 8:50am. Saturday afternoon Confessions will be from 3:30 – 4:30pm.



### 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.

### 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](http://www.FoxSox.com) and click on "Shop Online" to get started. Order soon as popular styles may sell out! Use promo code: PR17OLG and get a discount as well as earning money for our school! ***Hurry offer expires December 31st.***

### FAIR TRADE SALE

Buy some small Christmas gifts for family and friends while supporting Fair Trade, which ensures that workers in developing countries are paid a fair price for their labor. The sale will be held in Stack Center on Sunday, **December 3rd**, after the 9:30am Mass & after the later Masses. Proceeds go to Maryknoll Missions.



**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE  
CELEBRATION  
DECEMBER 12TH**

The Hispanic Group invites the entire Parish community to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe on Her Feast Day, Tuesday, **December 12th**, beginning with Mañanitas, at 5:00am in the Church, followed by a reception in Stack Center. A Our Lady of Guadalupe mass will be held at 7:00pm in the church followed by a reception in Stack Center.

El Grupo Hispano invita a toda la comunidad parroquial a honrar a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe el martes, **12 de diciembre**, comenzando con Mañanitas, a las 5:00am en la Iglesia, un recepción sigue en el Stack Center. Una misa de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe se llevará a cabo a las 7:00 pm en la iglesia seguido por una recepción en el Stack Center.

**CHRISTMAS POSADA  
DECEMBER 19th**

The Hispanic Group is hosting a Christmas Posada and Pot Luck on **December 19th** after the 1:30pm Spanish Mass in Stack Center.

El grupo hispano les invita a la posada navidena el 19 de diciembre despues de la misa de las 1:30pm.

**CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN  
FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

There is still time to respond to the needs of the poor and low income in our Diocese through the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. A quarter of the proceeds from this collection stay in the Diocese to support efforts in our community. Envelopes are in the pews for your use in this appeal.

**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.

**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 26th:**

Sunday Plate:	\$ 8,107.00
Last Year this week	\$ 8,157.00
<b>Weekly Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 8,920.00</b>
Year-to-date this year:	\$409,103.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$400,450.00

*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          | Dieter Hahn        |
| Kathleen Andrews     | Don Jordan         |
| Susanna Ax           | Elaine Jordan      |
| James Barthman       | Laura Martell      |
| Jackson Tyler Bishop | Alice McLaughlin   |
| Leonardo Cabardo     | Rosy Pereira       |
| Antonio O. Chocha    | Stephanie Rosevear |
| Jose Cisneros        | David Rountree     |
| Claudia Dobbs        | Florence Sharp     |
| Lynn Franks          | Mercedes Tellez    |
| Bill Fuller          | Iwan Tungal        |
| Byron Griffith       |                    |

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

**MARIE EVANS  
VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE**

**The Lord IS CALLING You!??  
MEN'S FAITH SHARE**

All men of the parish are invited to join Our Men's Faith Share and Bible Study every Tuesday evening from 7 – 8:15pm in Stack Center-Room 7. Each week Fr. Paul leads a discussion on the meaning and application to our lives for the upcoming Sunday Mass readings. **COME & YOU WILL SEE!** (Jn 1:39). Next meeting is **December 5th**.



## ROSARY MEDITATIONS FROM ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

Militia Immaculata Celebrating 100 years!

100 years ago St. Maximilian Kolbe along with 6 other Franciscans began a prayer movement of Consecration to the Blessed Mother to evangelize the world and lead people through Mary and her mission of bearing Christ to the world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In honor of this anniversary and the witness of the life and heroic death of St. Maximilian Kolbe we will use his reflections to help us enter into the mysteries of the Rosary. Our Reflection this week is The Glorious Mystery of The Ascension:

### “The Glorious Mysteries

#### *The Descent of the Holy Spirit--Acts 2:1-41*

Even after Christ’s death, the Holy Spirit works all things in us through Mary. In fact, what the Creator said to the serpent in reference to the Immaculata, “She will crush your head” [cf.GN 3:15], is, according to the teaching of theologians, to be understood to have no limitations of time. It is the task of the Holy Spirit to form the new members of those predestined to the Mystical Body of Christ until the end of the world. But, as [St.] Louis Grignion de Montfort demonstrates, this work is brought to fruition with Mary, in Mary, and through Mary. (KW 1229)”

## HIGH SCHOOL TEENS: GOT QUESTIONS? ALPHA - December 3rd

Join us from 6-8pm in Stack Center to share a **Meal**, watch an exciting **Video** & discuss in small groups the video and **our Faith in God** as we have **Fun** & make new **Friends!** Our hope for those teens who attend ALPHA is to have a deep experience with God as we explore our faith and answer questions in a comfortable setting.

## BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

On **December 2nd & 3rd**, volunteers will be giving out baby bottles after all the Masses. The money you donate inside the bottles will go to keep Birthright open to Moms troubled about their pregnancies who seek our help. We exist as an alternative to abortion and believe that “every woman has the right to give birth and every baby has the right be born”. The bottles can be returned to the church office or to the Birthright office in San Lorenzo. Our address and phone number will be on the bottle’s label. For further information (especially if you wish to become a volunteer), please call Theresa Fuller at 582-6358 or the Birthright office at 481-9677. Thank you.

# THIS WEEK

## *Sunday, December 3rd:*

### *The First Sunday of Advent*

Liturgy of the Word  
9:30am--Augustine Center  
Coffee & Donuts  
After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center  
Whole Family Catechesis  
10:50am--Stack Center  
Advent Renewal Series  
3:00pm--Church  
ALPHA/Youth Ministry  
6:00pm--Stack Center

## *Monday, December 4th:*

Advent Renewal Series  
9:00am--Church  
Women’s Evening Bible Study  
7:00pm--Stack Center, Room 7

## *Tuesday, December 5th:*

Tuesday Morning Bible Study  
9:30am--Parish Office  
Advent Renewal Series  
7:00pm--Church  
Men’s Faith Share  
7:00pm--Stack Center, Room 7

## *Wednesday, December 6th:*

Advent Renewal Series  
7:00pm--Church  
Baptism Class  
7:00pm--Stack Center, OLG Room

## *Thursday, December 7th:*

Adoration  
7:00pm--Church  
Advent Renewal Series  
7:00pm--Church  
AA Serenity Group  
7:30pm--Augustine Center, Room A2

## *Friday, December 8th:*

Mass of the Immaculate Conception-Bilingual  
7:00pm--Church

## *Saturday, December 9th:*

Our Lady of Guadalupe & the Immaculate Conception  
9:00am--Church

Mass  for the Intentions *Week*

All Masses are celebrated in the Church.

**MONDAY, December 4th**

*St. John Damascene, Priest, Doctor of the Church*  
8:15am Gerald Cloutier (D)

**TUESDAY, December 5th**

8:15am Dorothy & Manuel Callier (D)

**WEDNESDAY, December 6th**

*St. Nicholas, Bishop*  
8:15am Debi Telles (D)

**THURSDAY, December 7th**

*St. Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church*  
8:15am Velasquez & Moran Families (D)

**FRIDAY, December 8th**

**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**  
8:15am Mike Guzman (D)

**SATURDAY, December 9th**

*St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin*  
8:15am Dorothy & Manuel Callier (D)  
5:00pm Antonio O. Chocha (L)

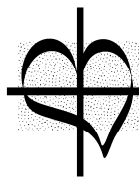
**SUNDAY, December 10th**

*The Second Sunday of Advent*  
11:30am Mary Bronzini (D)  
1:30pm Rafael Valenzuela Medina (D)

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

**December 4th through December 10th**

- Monday: Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11
- Tuesday: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24
- Wednesday: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37
- Thursday: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27
- Friday: Genesis 3:9-15, 20;  
Ephesians 1:3-6;11-12; Luke 1:26-38
- Saturday: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26;  
Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Sunday: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14;  
Mark 1:1-8



*The Lord is kind and merciful*

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**WINGS  
WOMEN IN GOD'S SPIRIT**

We invite all women to join us for WINGS (Women in God's Spirit).

WINGS is a faith enhancement group that encourages spiritual growth through prayer, scripture study, Catechesis, life sharing and community.

We will meet at Transfiguration Church  
Marian Room (Hall)

Next Meeting: **December 7, 2017**  
9:15am to 11:15am

Speaker: Jean Molesky-Poz  
Topic: Spirituality through Bible Stories

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

The Knights of Columbus monthly meetings are held the last Thursday of every month, 7:00pm in Stack Center. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, visit <https://oaklandkofc.org/> or join us at our next meeting **December 28th**.

**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**

***THIS WEEK--Continued***

Adoration  
8:45am--Church

Spanish Prayers to Our Lady  
7:00pm--Church

***Sunday, December 10th:***

***The Second Sunday of Advent***  
Coffee & Donuts  
After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center

Liturgy of the Word  
9:30am--Augustine Center

New Parishioner Registration  
10:00am--Stack Center

Spanish Prayers to Our Lady  
3:00pm--Church

ALPHA/Youth Ministry  
6:00pm--Stack Center