

### Prepare for the Coming of the Lord

*From the Pastor* I want to thank all who took the time to join me for the Advent Renewal Series. I love to share my years of research about the Franciscan tradition and reveal to you how God has shown himself over the centuries to our Franciscan Saints, God's identity and how Mary helped bring about a new destiny for Humanity. Providing the series at various hours during the many days was to give all our parishioners a chance to partake. I am waiting to hear of the miracles God has brought about through the praying of the Immaculate Conception Novena.

### Confession this week to prepare for Christmas

We will have 2 priests hearing confession on:

Thursday **December 21** at 7PM

Saturday **December 23** at 9AM and 3:30PM

### Come Home for Christmas

St. Francis wanted all to remember the profound gift of Christmas. In December of 1223, Francis went to Greccio where he was inspired to recreate that special night in Bethlehem when Jesus was born. People had forgotten the humility, poverty, and love of that night in Bethlehem and wanted all to enter into the special gift of God with us. He prepared a cave with animals and invited the towns people to come to mass in that cave made into a stable. It was in that cave they celebrated the Mass. As we come to the Nativity Scene in the church or in our homes may we remember that night when the world received God incarnate, Jesus. When we look at the baby Jesus we see the image of God in which we were created.

Bring your Family, Friends, and Neighbors to celebrate the Feast of Feasts as St. Francis referred to Christmas. At Christmas God came to be with us because he loved us and Jesus will bring us back to our Father, our creator.

**Christmas Mass** will begin on Sunday, **December 24th** at 5PM with our Family Mass, Mass at Night begins at 10PM, On Monday **December 25th**, Christmas Day, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus at 7:30AM, 9:30AM, 11:30AM, and Misa en Español at 1:30PM.

### The Church Office will be closed for Christmas and the Feast of St. Stephen

Office will be Closed on Monday, **December 25th** and on Tuesday, **December 26th** so the friars and staff may have time with family and friends. We reopen on Wednesday, **December 27th** at 9AM. Mass will be at 8:15AM in the Church on Tuesday - Saturday.

### Rev. Paul E. Quante, O.S.A.

It is with no small blend of sadness mixed with gratitude and joy that the Augustinian Province of St. Augustine in California announces the death of our brother, **Rev. Paul Eugene Quante, O.S.A.** After several years of ill health and a debilitated use of his legs, Fr. Paul was found dead in his room at St. Augustine's monastery on December 9, 2017. At a time when the Christian church is preparing to welcome the Savior, Fr. Paul is being welcomed into Heaven. This is the reward for which he lived his entire life. A Mass for Fr. Paul was celebrated at St. Augustine Chapel in San Diego on December 14th. He will be buried in his family plot in Pennsylvania. Please remember in your prayers Fr. Paul, the Augustinian family, the Cummings family, as well as all his friends and former students and parishioners.



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### Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 24th)

**Luke 1:26-38**

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

## CONSECRATION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Last Saturday many Bishops and faithful in California consecrated the State of California to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. May we join this movement of prayer and Consecration. Pray the Consecration prayer and the Christmas Novena prayer everyday this week to prepare your family for Christmas.

### Prayer of Consecration

“Most Holy Trinity: Our Father in heaven, who chose Mary as the fairest of your daughters; Holy Spirit, who chose Mary as your spouse; God the Son, who chose Mary as your mother; in union with Mary, we adore your majesty and acknowledge your supreme, eternal dominion and authority.

Most Holy Trinity, we put the United States of American, and particularly, the State of California, into the hands of Mary Immaculate in order that she may present the country and our State to You. Through her we wish to thank you for the great resources of this land and for the freedom, which has been its heritage. Through the intercession of Mary, have mercy on the Catholic Church in America. Grant us peace. Have mercy on our president and on all the officers of our government. Grant us a fruitful economy born of justice and charity. Have mercy on the capital and on industry and labor. Protect the family life of the nation. Guard the innocence of our children. Grant the precious gift of many religious vocations. Through the intercession of our Mother, have mercy on the sick, the poor, the tempted, sinners – on all who are in need.

Mary, Immaculate Virgin, our Mother, Patroness of our land, we praise you and honor you and give our country and ourselves to your Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart. O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, pierced by the sword of sorrow prophesized by Simeon, save us from degeneration, disaster and war. Protect us from all harm. O Advocate, pray for us, that acting always according to your will and the Will of your Divine Son, we may live and die pleasing to God. Amen.”

## DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

The committee is in need of help to get the church ready for Christmas, so please make plans to help ready the church on **December 22nd** at 10:00am. The more hands, the quicker the work will be completed. **Many thanks to those who came to help on the 15th!**

## HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, **December 25th** & Tuesday, **December 26th**. We will re-open on Wednesday, **December 27th**. Additionally, the offices will be closed on Monday, **January 1st** and will re-open on Tuesday, **January 2nd**. The entire Parish Staff wishes you all a Blessed Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!



## 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 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. We have been blessed by much this year allowing for the refurbishment of Stack Center as well as some additional extraordinary property improvements and we are grateful to all those who made that possible. Our Christmas Offering Budget is \$28,000. We are grateful for your offering to accomplish this goal.

## CHRISTMAS POSADA DECEMBER 17th

The Hispanic Group is hosting a Christmas Posada and Pot Luck **today, December 17th** after the 1:30pm Spanish Mass in Stack Center.

El grupo hispano les invita a la posada navidena hoy, el 17 de diciembre despues de la misa de las 1:30pm.



## 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.

**HELPING THOSE IN NEED  
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL**  
**"For I was naked and you clothed me"**  
**(Matthew 26:36)**

St. Vincent de Paul will be accepting coats until **December 31st**. Please bring your donation into the Parish Office or placed in the barrel at the Somerset entrance of the Church.

**CASTRO VALLEY HOMELESS OUTREACH**

We would like to thank all who have supported the Homeless Outreach effort. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated. Winter is coming and it is already getting cold over night. Food (prepared or canned) is always a high priority, as is propane and butane for camp stoves, batteries (AAA, AA, and D), plastic flatware, lanterns, gloves, socks, jackets, sleeping bags and tarps. You may drop off your donation at the Parish Office or we can arrange to pick up your donation and deliver to those in need. Your help is truly a blessing. For information, please contact Ken White at [k2rm@comcast.net](mailto:k2rm@comcast.net) or (510) 909-5774 or Sean Nalty at [sean.nalty@ogletree.com](mailto:sean.nalty@ogletree.com) or 415-369-3552.

**CATHOLIC VOICE ANNUAL APPEAL**

There's 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.**

**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 19th**.

**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 10th:**

Sunday Plate:	\$ 9,658.00
Last Year this week	\$ 8,407.00
<b>Weekly Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 8,920.00</b>
Year-to-date this year:	\$429,602.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$418,085.00

*May God bless your continuing generosity.*



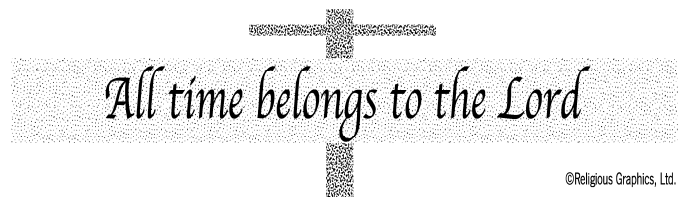
**Your Prayers Are Requested**

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 Tunggal       |
| Byron Griffith       |                    |

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

- FR. PAUL QUANTE, OSA**  
**BRIAN CRUDO**  
**CARL ESPOSITO**  
**VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE**  
**VICTIMS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRES**





**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 Assumption:

**“The Glorious Mysteries**

***The Coronation--Revelations 12:1-6***

What could we possibly wish her who, exalted above all creatures in heaven and earth, became the Mother of God and now reigns eternally in heaven? She is Queen of heaven and earth, Mediatrix of us all; through her hands all graces flow unto the earth. What should we wish you, therefore, most noble and sweet Lady? Many still do not know you...Well then, Holy Queen, on this beloved day of your feast, with all our hearts and with all our souls we wish you to take full and swift possession of our hearts and the hearts of one and all, without exception, be they Catholic, Protestant, Schismatic, Jew, pagan, good or bad. Reign over us all and in us all, poor inhabitants of this earthly globe which glides across the heavens; reign not only during this our earthly pilgrimage, but also forever and ever, for all eternity! (KW1037)”



**CHRISTMAS NOVENA PRAYER**

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment In which the Son of God was born Of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant your desires, [here mention your request] through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.



**DEVOTIONAL CANDLES**

Candles for our candle stand are available for purchase in the Parish Office or in the Sacristy after mass on Sundays. The candles will burn for 5 days. The cost per candle is \$4.00. The glass globes in the candle stand must be left in the church.

**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, December 17th:**

***The Third Sunday of Advent***

- Coffee & Donuts
- After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center
- Liturgy of the Word
- 9:30am--Augustine Center
- Whole Family Catechesis
- 10:50am--Stack Center
- Posadas Reception
- After 1:30pm Spanish Mass--Stack Center
- ALPHA/Youth Ministry
- 6:00pm--Stack Center

**Monday, December 18th:**

- Immaculate Conception & Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena
- 7:00pm--Church
- Women’s Evening Bible Study
- 7:00pm--Stack Center, Room 7

**Tuesday, December 19th:**

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

**Wednesday, December 20th:**

- Strobridge Dinner
- 5:30pm--Strobridge Apartments

**Thursday, December 21st:**

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

**Saturday, December 23rd:**

- Adoration
- 8:45am--Church

**Sunday, December 24th:**

***The Fourth Sunday of Advent***

***Christmas Eve Vigil Masses***

- 5:00pm--Church
- 10:00pm--Church



*Mass Intentions for the Week*

All Masses are celebrated in the Church.

**MONDAY, December 18th**

8:15am Thomas & Mary Hayes (D)

**TUESDAY, December 19th**

8:15am Bonnie Sill (D)

**WEDNESDAY, December 20th**

8:15am Helen Maes (D)

**THURSDAY, December 21st**

*St. Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor of the Church*

8:15am Gilberto Marquez (D)

**FRIDAY, December 22nd**

8:15am Antonio S. Barroso (D)

**SATURDAY, December 23rd**

*St. John of Kanty, Priest*

8:15am Louis Rodrigues (D)

5:00pm Debbie & Doug Reetz & Family (L)

**SUNDAY, December 24th**

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

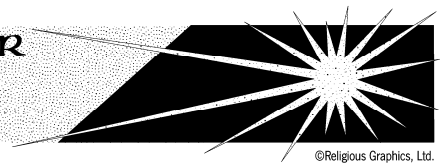
9:30am Marvin Picha (D)

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

**December 18th through December 24th**

Monday: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25  
 Tuesday: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25  
 Wednesday: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38  
 Thursday: Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45  
 Friday: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56  
 Saturday: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66  
 Sunday: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

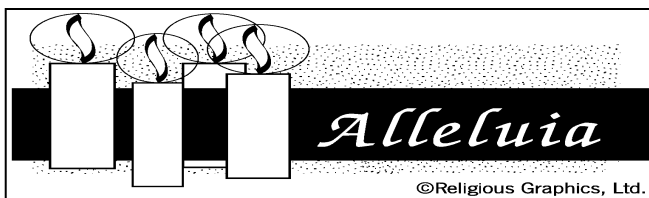
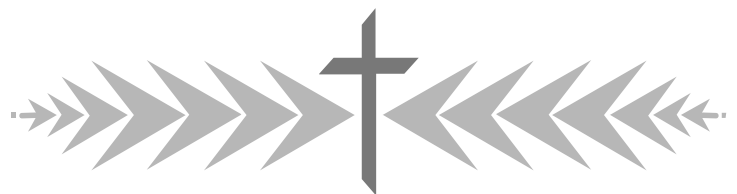
REJOICE FOR  
 the LORD  
 is near.



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**ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY REGISTRATON**

Altar serving is a privilege and a necessary ministry, assisting priests and deacons. It is open to students in 5th thru 12th grades who have received the 1st 3 Sacraments of the Church (Baptism, 1st Reconciliation & 1st Holy Eucharist). Registration forms are available in the Parish Office & on the organ console.



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**WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY NEWS**

Join the Women's Evening Bible Study for this *Great Adventure* study on the prophets, presented by Thomas Smith! Each week, you will come to know a prophet from Scripture and learn how his message sheds light on our faith and our lives. In getting to know these messengers of God, you will read Scripture and the *Catechism*, while answering thought-provoking questions and powerful reflections. Plus, you will learn practical ways to apply the messages of the prophets in your own life. We will begin *The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy* on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 7pm in Stack Center. Cost for these 10 session series is \$27.00. For more information or to register for the study please contact Heidi Denzler-Halsey at 510-881-7850 or Jay in the Parish Office at 510-537-0806. **Last day to register is December 31st.**

**CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUB NEWS**

On **December 23rd**, members & guests of the Catholic Alumni Club will dine at Primavera Ristorante (3124 Crow Canyon Place, San Ramon). If you are a Catholic professional, please join us for a fun evening. Call Earle (925-300-8811) or Dorothy (925-735-0208) to make a reservation by **December 21st**, 7:30pm.

**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:

**MONTGOMERY BUILDERS**