

██████████ **Jesus Finding a Home for Christmas**

□□□□□□□□ We celebrate the arrival of Jesus at his birth in Bethlehem. We are in awe of the love of Mary and Joseph as the welcome Jesus at his birth. We see the heavens rejoice as the angels sing "*Gloria in Excelsis Deo.*" The angels call the shepherds to come and adore and the star shines light in the darkness of the long cold winter night drawing the Magi to journey and pay homage.

The birth of Jesus also reveals the difficulty of life and the fragility of humanity. Mary and Joseph are forced to travel and flee due to the decree of the Roman empire and the persecution of Herod. Mary and Joseph are poor and have no place for Jesus to be born other than a stable in a cave. As refugees they depended on Egyptians for a place of refuge and a place where Joseph could apply his trade to support the Holy Family in a foreign country.

Our wonderful parishioners have assisted the refugee family of Esperance Zibera and her 4 children find a place to live and raise her children in our country which welcomed her as she escaped extermination in her country. She and her family received some protection and refuge in Uganda however they were not welcome to become part of that society due to the extreme poverty of the small nation. Thank you to those of you who helped furnish their apartment before they moved in gave them a comfortable place to live with attractive furniture and useful household items. Thank you to those who donated gift cards and necessities such as diapers and personal care items have helped supplement the limited funds Esperance receives from public assistance. Some of you have given generously of your time to give rides to family members to appointments and outings. Others have helped Esperanza with her English, either at their apartment or at the school. Without all of our support it is hard to imagine how they could have managed on their own.

We are not sure of the family's plans for the future. Esperance's brother Giddeon has come and is working to support his wife and help his sister. They know that soon the OLG funds for rent subsidies will run out, and that minimum wage jobs are not enough to make it financially in our expensive region. So they are considering moving to Akron, Ohio, where her sister in laws sister lives and the cost of living is much lower. Right now, with the assistance of a *pro bono* Catholic Charities attorney, we are in the process of helping them to get Green Cards, and they cannot move before this process is complete, which could take several more months.

I am always humbled by the response of our community to St. Vincent de Paul. Our presents for families in need and coat drive represents the best of this season of charity for others. We Franciscans are blessed to be part of this community.

May we welcome the Holy Family and Jesus into our homes this Christmas!

May God Bless all our Families at Christmas!

Fr. Tom, Fr. Kevin, Fr. Paul and the Staff

There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Thursday Evening on **December 28th.**



**Gospel for the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (December 31st)** **Luke 2:22-40**

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,* and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted-and you yourself a sword will pierce-so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

**NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE**

*New Year's Eve: Sunday, December 31st*  
**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
 Mass at 7:30, 9:30, 11:30am, 1:30pm (Spanish)

*New Year's Day: Monday, January 1st*  
**Mary, the Mother of God**  
 Mass at 8:15am

**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 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.

**2018 CALENDARS AVAILABLE**

Catholic Extension 2018 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 2018 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.*

**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!

**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.

**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 Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

**MASS AT HOLY FAMILY FRIARY**

Please note the Friars will be on retreat **January 2nd through January 5th** therefore there will be no morning mass at the Holy Family Friary while they are away.

**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. Thank you for your generosity.

**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 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 **January 9th.**

**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.*



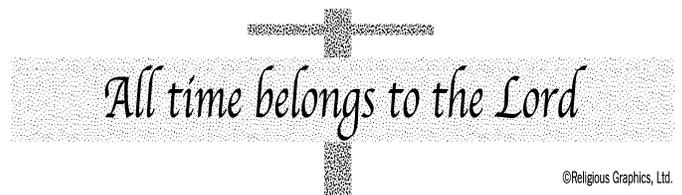
**Your Prayers Are Requested**

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**



**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



**PRE-BAPTISM CLASS FOR PARENTS AND GODPARENTS**

**BAPTISM** If you are wishing to have your child, ages infant to six years baptized, parents and godparents need to attend a pre-baptism class. You also need to be registered members of the parish for at least three months. Call Jay at 510-537-0806 for more information.

The next Pre-Baptism Class will be held **January 3rd** at 7:00pm in the OLG Room in Stack Center.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Prayer shawls are universal and embracing, they comfort and enfold, wrap and warm, shelter and embrace. Those who knit or crochet or receive a shawl are blessed.

If you know of someone in need and would like to give them this gift of prayer, you are welcome to pick one up at the parish office or contact Ruth Picha at 510-538-9063.

**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, December 24th:**

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*Christmas Eve Vigil Masses*

5:00pm--Church

10:00pm--Church

**Monday, December 25th:**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

*Parish Offices Closed*

**Tuesday, December 26th:**

*Parish Offices Closed*

**Thursday, December 28th:**

*No Eucharistic Adoration tonight*

AA Serenity Group

7:30pm--Augustine Center, Room A2

**Saturday, December 30th:**

Adoration

8:45am--Church

**Sunday, December 31st:**

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*



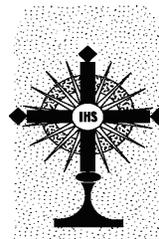
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**DEVOTIONAL CANDLES**



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.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**



Join us every Saturday for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8:15am Mass, and every Thursday at 7:00pm in the Church. Also, there will be Adoration every 1st Friday of the month at 7:00pm.

*Mass for the Intentions Week*

All Masses are celebrated in the Church.

**MONDAY, December 25th**

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

7:30am *The Solemnity of Christmas*

9:30am *The Solemnity of Christmas*

11:30am *The Solemnity of Christmas*

1:30pm *The Solemnity of Christmas (Spanish)*

**TUESDAY, December 26th**

ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

8:15am Gerald Cloutier (D)

**WEDNESDAY, December 27th**

ST. JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

8:15am Danae Zytkowski (D)

**THURSDAY, December 28th**

THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

8:15am Joaquin Vargas

**FRIDAY, December 29th**

FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

*St. Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr*

8:15am Gerald Cloutier (D)

**SATURDAY, December 30th**

SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

8:15am William Fuller

5:00pm Pete & Barbara Matulich (L)

**SUNDAY, December 31st**

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

11:30am Ruth Rousey (D)

1:30pm Esperanza Ortega (D)



**FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND**



Flower donation envelopes can be found at the entrances of the church to make a donation in memory of or honor of a loved one or other occasion. 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.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

December 25th through December 31st

Monday

**Vigil:** Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25

**Night:** Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

**Dawn:** Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20

**Day:** Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrew 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22

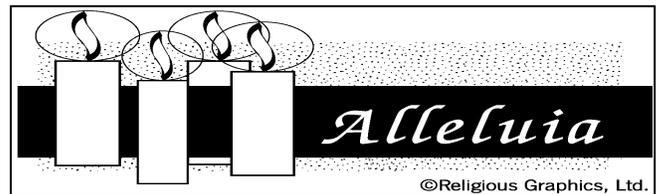
Wednesday: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a & 2-8

Thursday: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

Friday: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40

Sunday: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40



**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!

**IMMACULATE HEART RADIO**

Dedicated to sharing the heart of the Catholic Faith and changing lives, Immaculate Heart Radio brings you the best in Catholic Radio 24/7! Now playing 1260AM.

**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:

**NORTHSTAR SENIOR LIVING**