



From the Pastor

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

The feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. The title "Mother of God" is a western derivation from the Greek Theotokos, which means "God-bearer". On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Through the Holy Spirit, God the Father prepared Mary to be the dwelling place where His Son and His Spirit could dwell among men. Christ's birth was made possible by Mary's fiat, or sanctioning of God's plan with her words, "Be it done to me according to thy word". Calling Mary "Mother of God" is the highest honor we can give to her. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace", the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace". New Year's Day is also designated as the "World Day of Peace", further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world.

In the encyclical *Marialis Cultus* (1974) Pope Paul VI states: "This celebration, assigned to January 1 in conformity with the ancient liturgy of the city of Rome, is meant to commemorate the part played by Mary in this mystery of salvation. It is meant also to exalt the singular dignity which this mystery brings to the 'holy Mother . . . through whom we were found worthy . . . to receive the Author of life.' It is likewise a fitting occasion for renewed adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace, for listening once more to the glad tidings of the angels, and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace. For this reason . . . we have instituted the World Day of Peace, an observance that is gaining increasing support and is already bringing forth fruits of peace in the hearts of many" (no. 5).

Pray for the Franciscans on Retreat

The Friars will be on a community retreat January 2-5. Please pray for us!

Mother of CHRIST



Mother of the CHURCH

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Gospel for The Epiphany of the Lord (January 7th)

Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

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

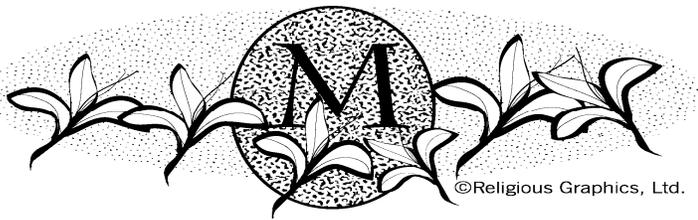
**HELPING THOSE IN NEED
 THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

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

St. Vincent de Paul will be accepting coats until **today, 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 or (510) 909-5774 or Sean Nalty at sean.nalty@ogletree.com or 415-369-3552.



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, **January 1st** and will re-open on Tuesday, **January 2nd**. The entire Parish Staff wishes you all a safe and Happy New Year!

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.

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.



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

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.



**CYO GIRLS BASKETBALL
 REGISTRATION**

Registration is available on line for **CYO Girls Basketball** at www.olgcv.org follow the link for CYO. All players who did not play in our fall program will need to create a new account prior to completing their first registration within the system. Girl's Basketball is open for grades 2-8. Fees for the 2018 program year will be \$190.00 with a \$50.00 uniform fee. For more information email olgyoregistrar@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE

Due to the holiday schedule of our bulletin publisher we are not able to report the weekly offerings for the balance of December. The Sunday offering will be updated after the first of the year along with the Christmas Offering.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

Still pondering your resolutions for 2018 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



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 today, December 31st.**

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
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 8,920.00
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 | Kathi Leal |
| Jackson Tyler Bishop | Laura Martell |
| Leonardo Cabardo | Alice McLaughlin |
| Antonio O. Chocha | Rosy Pereira |
| Jose Cisneros | Stephanie Rosevear |
| Claudia Dobbs | David Rountree |
| Lynn Franks | Florence Sharp |
| Bill Fuller | Mercedes Tellez |
| Byron Griffith | Iwan Tunggal |

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

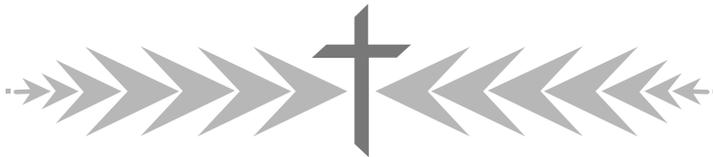
- FR. PAUL QUANTE, OSA**
RALPH VELASCO
BRIAN CRUDO
CARL ESPOSITO
VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE
VICTIMS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRES





YEARLY CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

For your convenience in preparing your tax return, a contribution statement for 2017 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.



GRIEF WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Grieving people need time and space to honor their grief. Each person’s grief journey has its own path and its own timeline.

Although there is no right or wrong path, there are Stepping Stones that are part of each grief journey and we will explore them in this eight-week series of workshops.

Join us on every other Thursday night at 7:30 pm. The next session will be on January 9th, 2018 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton.

Please call Eleanor Flatley at 925-846-8708 for more information.



FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND

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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 31st:

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Monday, January 1st:

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Parish Offices Closed

Wednesday, January 3rd:

Baptismal Class
7:00pm--Stack Center, OLG Room

Thursday, January 4th:

Adoration
8:45am--Church

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

Friday, January 5th:

First Friday Breakfast & Presentation
9:00am--Parish Office

First Friday Adoration
7:00pm--Church

Saturday, January 6th:

First Saturday Mass & Adoration
8:15am--Church

Sunday, January 7th:

The Epiphany of the Lord

Coffee & Donuts
After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center

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

Whole Family Catechesis
10:50am--Stack Center

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

**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**.

Mass Intentions for the Week

All Masses are celebrated in the Church.

MONDAY, January 1st
THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord
 8:15am Emil Colombo (D)

TUESDAY, January 2nd
St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church

8:15am Donna Biddinger (D)

WEDNESDAY, January 3rd
The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:15am Peter Solina (D)

THURSDAY, January 4th
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

8:15am Lilia Bonardi (D)

FRIDAY, January 5th
St. John Neumann, Bishop

8:15am Brian Crudo (D)

SATURDAY, January 6th
St. Andre Bessette, Religious

8:15am Norma McKean (D)

SUNDAY, January 7th
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

9:30am Martha Kozel (D)

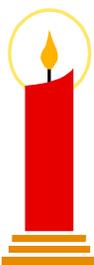
1:30pm Santiago Vazquez (D)



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.

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.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

January 1st through January 7th

- Monday: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21
- Tuesday: 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
- Wednesday: 1 John 2:29-3:6; John 1:29-34
- Thursday: 1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42
- Friday: 1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51
- Saturday: 1 John 5:5-13; Mark 1:7-11
- Sunday: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

JESUS, MARY, JOSEPH

pray for us!

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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.

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!

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:

PALACE GARAGE