

Lent is for Prayer



We began Lent on Ash Wednesday and on that day we heard about the shooting in Parkland, Florida. Lent is a time where we reflect on life and evil that separates us from God. We hear today in our first reading from Exodus about the Commandments given by God to his people to help them live as a free and loving people. The Commandments let us know the behaviors that separate us from God. If we choose to separate ourselves from God by not following the Commandments then we choose death and are in Mortal Sin. Only turning to Jesus and asking for mercy will save us.

Only self sacrificing love of God in Jesus will save us. In Parkland, Scott Beigel, Aaron Feis, Chris Hixon were adults who laid down their lives to protect innocent students lives. May we seek to sacrifice for these children with prayer. There are 14 stations of the Cross, will you enter the suffering of Jesus as he takes up his cross and pray for a child at each station. Here are the names of the 14 children who died:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Pilate condemns Jesus to die | Alyssa Alhadeff, 14 |
| 2. Jesus accepts his cross | Martin Duque Anguiano, 14 |
| 3. Jesus falls for the first time | Nicholas Dworet, 17 |
| 4. Jesus meets his mother, Mary | Jaime Guttenberg, 14 |
| 5. Simon helps carry the cross | Luke Hoyer, 15 |
| 6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus | Cara Loughran, 14 |
| 7. Jesus falls for the second time | Gina Montalto, 14 |
| 8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem | Joaquin Oliver, 17 |
| 9. Jesus falls for the third time | Alaina Petty, 14 |
| 10. Jesus is stripped of his clothes | Meadow Pollack, 18 |
| 11. Jesus is nailed to the cross | Helena Ramsay, 17 |
| 12. Jesus dies on the cross | Alex Schachter, 14 |
| 14. Jesus is taken down from the cross | Carmen Schentrup, 16 |
| 15. Jesus is placed in the tomb | Peter Wang, 15 |

Scott Beigel, 35
 Aaron Feis, 37
 Chris Hixon, 49

Memory Verse from Disciples on the Journey

“The Law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.” Psalm 19:8

Walking together in Freedom

The Gospel on Tuesday Peter asks: How often must I forgive?

“Forgiveness isn’t a one time deal. It’s more like a repetitive motion of the soul towards God.”

Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Lent (March 11th)

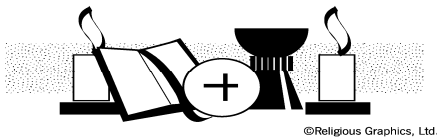
John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Each first Sunday of the month I will be writing a short column informing you of events, programs, and ideas going on at our school. This article is about creating "gracious space" on our campus. On the outside back wall of the school, above the water fountains, you may have noticed the lovely child-centered mural where upon you'll see a rainbow titled, Oasis of Peace. One tree limb has a plaque with "gracious space" penned on it. Our children sit on the peace bench below the mural to work through conflicts they may have encountered while playing. They endeavor to build understanding and forgiveness with each other which we equate with creating "gracious space." The author of the book, Gracious Space, is Patricia Hughes. She came from Seattle in August to present our staff with a one-day retreat on how to implement this philosophy in our daily experiences at school. We are pleased to see it working to help our students. -Susan Anderson



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LENTEN LECTURE SERIES

*Biblical Reflections on Christian Discipleship
Presented by Fr. Francisco Nahoe*

This series, offered by Fr. Francisco Nahoe OFM Conv., examines Christian Discipleship in light of Biblical narratives from the Book of Genesis, the Psalms, the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the Pauline letters & the letters of John. Following a method laid out by Pope Saint John Paul II, we will address human, spiritual, intellectual & social dimensions of Christian Discipleship in order to foster our own ongoing growth as ever more authentic disciples of the Lord Jesus. Bring your Bible & an open heart & ask the Spirit of God to move within you. **Join us for Mass in the Church at 6:00pm, followed by a Soup & Bread Lenten Meal at 6:30pm. Lectures begin at 7:15pm.**

- March 7th** *The Journey of Discipleship in the Gospel of Luke and Acts*
- March 14th** *Portraits of Beloved Discipleship in the Gospel of John*
- March 21st** *Pauline Paths of Christian Discipleship*



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THE 2018 BISHOP'S APPEAL

To successfully achieve both our parish goal & the overall diocesan goal of \$3 million, we need your help! A pledge to Appeal will help us reach out to thousands in the East Bay through diocesan ministries, programs & services.

Participation is the Key Ingredient

If you have not had an opportunity to make a pledge by returning your card through the mail, please complete a pledge envelope found in the pew & place it in the collection basket today. **YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.** Thank you to all who generously contributed last year. Our Lady of Grace raised 121% of our goal & we were one of the 1st parishes to reach our goal so quickly! Our goal this year is \$29,000. If each family in our parish contributes at least \$30, we will achieve it. God Bless!

How Was the Bishop's Appeal Goal of \$3 Million Determined? How are Parish Goals Determined?

There has been steady incremental growth in the success of the Bishop's Appeal over the last several years. In 2017, the amount raised was \$2.7 million. In light of the growing needs & costs of diocesan programs & ministries, the diocese decided it was time to raise the goal from \$2.5 million to \$3 million. Parish goals are determined by unrestricted parish revenue over a given period.

MANY WAYS TO PREPARE FOR EASTER

For more ways to grow in faith & deepen your personal relationship with Jesus this Lenten season, please visit our webpage at www.olgcv.org/lent-2018.



EVANGELIZATION CORNER

Youth Ministry

Next Meetings: March 11th & 18th

1st Holy Communion

Next Meetings: March 4th *We Receive*
 March 18th *We Are Sent*

Whole Family Catechesis

Next Meetings: March 11th *Keeping the Commandments*
 April 8th *Divine Mercy*

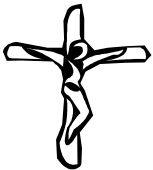
For more information, contact the Evangelization Office at 510-582-9266





LENTEN SOUP MEAL

Please plan on joining us for a simple meal of soup and bread on Wednesday's during Lent. It will be a time for fellowship and families coming together. Our Soup Meal follows the 6:00pm Mass. Thank you to our Italian Catholic Federation for sponsoring the Soup Meal. Financial donations at the Soup Meal will be accepted for CRS Rice Bowl.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS
English & Spanish**

Stations of the Cross in English, led by our school students are offered at Our Lady of Grace, Fridays at 2:00pm during Lent in the Church. Stations of the Cross in Spanish are offered also on Fridays at 7:00pm in the Church.

DO NOT BE AFRAID OF CONFESSION

During the Lenten season, Confession will be available every Thursday from 7:00pm during Adoration and on Saturdays from 3:30-4:30pm. Our Communal Penance service is scheduled for Tuesday, **March 20th** at 7:00pm.

**24 Hours for the Lord
March 9-10, 2018**

Pope Francis is calling on Catholics worldwide to participate in 24 hours of eucharistic adoration and reconciliation, **March 9-10, 2018**. The theme of this year's "24 Hours for the Lord" is Psalm 130:4, "With you is forgiveness."

The Diocese of Oakland will celebrate this sacred 24 hours in four parishes, joining our brothers and sisters around the world. In each parish, eucharistic adoration will be available beginning at 4 p.m. Friday, **March 9**, continuously until 4 p.m. Saturday, **March 10**. At the same time, priests will be available to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation.

Security will be provided from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. at each location.

- 24 Hours for the Lord Locations
 The Cathedral of Christ the Light
 2121 Harrison St. (at West Grand Ave.)
 Oakland
 St. John the Baptist
 264 E. Lewelling Blvd. (near Meekland Ave.)
 San Lorenzo

All are welcomed – whether eucharistic adoration is already familiar to you or not!

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 25th:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 8,378.00
Last Year this week	\$ 7,316.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 8,920.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$ 73,696.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$ 68,429.00

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:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Kathleen Andrews | Don Jordan |
| James Barthman | Elaine Jordan |
| Jot Brown | Maxine Kruzell |
| Leonardo Cabardo | Laura Martell |
| Antonio O. Chocha | Alice McLaughlin |
| Claudia Dobbs | Stephanie Rosevear |
| Lynn Franks | David Rountree |
| Anna Friedeberg | Florence Sharp |
| Byron Griffith | Rosemary Slater |
| Dieter Hahn | Mercedes Tellez |
| | Baby Jackson Tyler Bishop |

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

**VICTIMS OF SHOOTING IN
PARKLAND, FLORIDA**

**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 7:00 – 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 **March 6th**.



HELP OUR REFUGEE FAMILY BUILD THEIR LIVES AND REACH THEIR GOALS

On **February 18**, after the 9:30AM Mass, we introduced Esperance and her precious children to our congregation. Gideon, the brother of Esperance, thanked our parishioners for welcoming his sister and her children and for our generous assistance. Gideon has helped the family to get settled and established in this community, but now they intend to move to Ohio where the cost of living is lower and other African immigrants have settled. They have applied for permanent green cards to allow them to work freely until they become citizens. Once they receive their cards, they will make the move to Ohio where they intend to put down roots. They seem confident that they can survive and be self sufficient there. We now are asking you for donations to help them move to Ohio. We seek to raise at least \$2000 to help Esperance and the rest of her family with this transition. If you could help this last time, we will have done our part in offering hospitality and welcome to our refugee family. Thank you for your generosity. Contact the church office if you can help. For more information on their journey, visit our webpage: www.olgcv.org/olg-welcomes-adopted-refugee-family



PRE-BAPTISM CLASS FOR PARENTS & 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 on **March 7th** at 7:00pm in the OLG Room in Stack Center.



EXECUTION ALERTS

The following executions are scheduled to take place in **March**:

March 20th	Russell Bucklew	Missouri
March 27th	Rosendo Rodriguez	Texas

We ask your prayers for these persons, for the victims of their crimes, and for their families.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 4th:

The Third Sunday of Lent

Liturgy of the Word
 9:30am--Augustine Center
 Coffee & Donuts
 After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center
 First Communion Class
 10:50am--Stack Center

Monday, March 5th:

Lenten Journey Faith Sharing
 11:00am--Parish Office

Tuesday, March 6th:

Tuesday Morning Bible Study
 9:30am--Parish Office
 RCIA Inquiry
 6:00pm--Stack Center
 Men's Faith Share
 7:00pm--Stack Center, Room 7
 St. Vincent de Paul Meeting
 7:00pm--Parish Office, Upper Room

Wednesday, March 7th:

Lenten Soup Meal
 Following the 6:00pm Mass--Stack Center
 Baptism Class
 7:00pm--Stack Center, OLG Room
 Lenten Lecture Series
 7:15pm--Stack Center

Thursday, March 8th:

Lenten Journey Faith Sharing
 6:00pm--Stack Center, OLG Room
 ICF Meeting & St. Patrick's Day Dinner
 6:00pm--Stack Center
 Adoration & Confession
 7:00pm--Church
 AA Serenity Group
 7:30pm--Augustine Center, Room A2

Friday, March 9th:

Lenten Journey Faith Sharing
 8:45am--Stack Center, OLG Room
 Stations of the Cross - English
 2:00pm--Church
 Stations of the Cross - Spanish
 7:00pm--Church
 Lenten Journey Faith Sharing - Spanish
 7:00pm--Stack Center, OLG Room

Mass Intentions for the Week

All Masses are celebrated in the Church

SUNDAY, March 4th

The Third Sunday of Lent

9:30am Gene Slater (D)

1:30pm Rosa & Ruben Martinez (L)

MONDAY, March 5th

8:15am Ruth Hight (D)

TUESDAY, March 6th

8:15am Caridad Vega Estacio (D)

WEDNESDAY, March 7th

Sts. Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs

8:15am Lou Maravella (D)

THURSDAY, March 8th

St. John of God, Religious

8:15am Irene Crossetti (D)

FRIDAY, March 9th

St. Francis of Rome, Religious

8:15am Maria dos Resgate (D)

2:00pm Stations of the Cross - English

7:00pm Stations of the Cross - Spanish

SATURDAY, March 10th

8:15am Lilia Sousa (D)

5:00pm Virginia Hagen (D)

SUNDAY, March 11th

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

7:30am Helen Maes (D)

1:30pm Alberto Reveles (D)

THIS WEEK--Continued

Saturday, March 10th:

Adoration

8:45am--Church

Sunday, March 11th:

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Liturgy of the Word

9:30am--Augustine Center

Coffee & Donuts

After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center

New Parishioner Registration

10:00am--Stack Center

Whole Family Catechesis

10:50am--Stack Center

Youth Ministry

6:00pm--Stack Center

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

March 5th through March 11th

Monday: 2 Kings 5:1-15b; Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday: Daniel 3:25, 34-43;

Matthew 18:21-35

Wednesday: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9;

Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday: Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23

Friday: Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34

Saturday: Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14

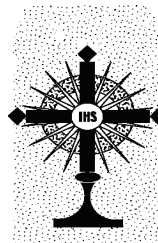
Sunday: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16; 19-23;

Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21

CASTRO VALLEY HOMELESS OUTREACH

A very special thank you to all who supported Homeless Outreach over the last year. Your kindness and generosity were truly a blessing and was greatly appreciated by those who received your help. As we go into the new year, we will be redoubling our efforts to reach out to those in need. Our next drop off date is **March 17th** & we plan to drop off every 2 weeks thereafter. We will gladly pick up your donation or you may drop your donation at the Parish Office. Your help is truly a blessing. For more info & a list of needed items, contact Ken White at k2rm@comcast.net or 510-909-5774 or Sean Nalty at sean.nalty@ogletree.com or 415-369-3552.

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.

COME JOIN US



All are invited after the 9:30am Sunday Mass to gather in Stack Center for coffee and donuts.

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:

WILLOW CREEK