

■■■■■■■■ **Happy Easter!**

□□□□□□ **The Lord is Risen Alleluia!**

*From the Pastor*

Thank you for joining us for the Feast of Feasts, the great Easter celebration when love conquers sin and death. Through Him, with Him, and in Him we have become part of God's family. Our Brother, Jesus Christ, has paid the price by offering his life in love to be the Lamb of God, sacrificed to God, ending the alienation caused by sin that brought death to humanity. Now, for those who believe in Jesus there is mercy and Redemption and an eternal destiny to be with God in love forever. We gather every Sunday to celebrate this day, the day of the Resurrection where we are forgiven, fed, and joined to the Love of the Trinity. Renewed and filled with Love, may we go forth on our Mission to testify to the world that He is Alive, He has Risen, He is present for us today, and He will return in glory for all at the end of time.

Peace be with You!

Fr. Thomas Czeck OFM Conv.

### **Welcome to our Neophytes**

Neophytes (neophytoi, the newly planted, those incorporated with the mystic Body of Christ), are full members of the community of faith. They have converted, renouncing sin and professing their faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and by the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist have been transplanted into the higher life of the Church. We welcome you with open arms.

Please welcome and continue to pray for all our Neophytes. In my previous assignment as a pastor, I relished the Easter Vigil where we welcomed new members to the faith through the Sacraments of Initiation. The fire in the hearts of the Neophytes was profound and the openness to service in the Church filled me with joy. One day a family of neophytes, who were very involved, just disappeared. For 2 years I called and emailed to find out what happened. One of the saddest conversations I had was when I finally was told by the family that one of the older parishioners saw how involved they were and asked the family who they thought they were being so involved and active; they should just be quiet in the pew and wait their turn. They said this made them feel unwelcome and they left. I had journeyed with that family for two years and one inhospitable rebuke to them drove them out. I apologized on behalf of the Church, but by then they were looking for a more hospitable environment. I continue pray for them until this day.

### **Holy Land Gifts from Bethlehem and Pilgrimage information**

Next weekend, **April 7&8**, Christians from Bethlehem will be here selling items from the Holy Land. I invite you to help support the Christians in the Holy Land by purchasing religious items they have crafted. By purchasing these items, you are helping Christian families remain in the Holy Land, allowing them a way to support their families as they are caught between Muslims who control the Palestinian areas and the Jewish state. Christians were once 20% of the population; now they are less than 2%, as many have fled the persecution and difficulty of life.

Anastasis Tours will be available after Masses to talk about our Pilgrimage to the Holy Land on **October 17-29**. Our Pilgrimage is filling up, so find out about this experience of a lifetime. This will be my second pilgrimage to the Holy Land and I look forward to it.

During Holy Week, as we celebrate the Paschal Mystery, I remember praying in the upper room where Jesus ate the Last Supper and walking the Via Dolorosa to the church of the Holy Sepulchre where Jesus was Crucified and Buried and Rose from the dead. I look forward to seeing the places Jesus saw and lived again.

### **Divine Mercy Novena and Divine Mercy Sunday**

Join us today and through the week at 3 PM in the Church as we pray the Divine Mercy novena. Next Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday. Please join us at 3 PM for Adoration, praying of the Chaplet, and confessions.

**First Friday** at 7pm we will have Adoration prayers to the Sacred Heart and sing the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

**First Saturday** Join us for Mass at 8:15AM followed by Adoration and our final Marian presentation about our Lady of Fatima.

# Easter BLESSINGS

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS APRIL 2ND

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, **April 2nd** and will re-open on Tuesday, **April 3rd** at 9:00am. The entire Parish staff wishes you & your family a very Blessed Easter!



### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Join Fr. Francisco & Fr. Tom at 3:00pm for Divine Mercy Novena to be prayed daily in the Church beginning on Good Friday & finishing with the Celebration of Divine Mercy on Sunday, **April 8th**.

### FIRST HOLY EUCHARIST & CONFIRMATION

Please pray for our Sacrament students as they prepare to receive First Holy Eucharist during Masses on **April 14<sup>th</sup> & April 22nd**.

Please continue to pray for our Confirmation candidates as they prepare for their Confirmation on **June 9th** at Cathedral of Christ the Light.



### CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA DINNER AUCTION Donations Needed!

Our spring auction is **weeks away** & we need your help to make it a success! **DONATIONS.** We need donations. Do you have a nice bottle of wine? Extra tickets to a Sporting Event? Play? Musical? Symphony? Is there a favorite kids' class/camp, fitness club/class, restaurant, spa, hair salon that you might solicit a gift certificate or gift basket from? Do you have a cabin or vacation home? Contact: Our.Lady.of.Grace.Auction@gmail.com &/or Liz Huizar, Auction Chair @ 510-501-2045

### COME & SEE The Life & Ministry of the Friars

We invite unmarried men, ages 18-50 to meet the Friars, pray with us, learn our Spirituality and learn more about our life! **April 20th-22nd**, beginning on **April 20th** at 4:00pm at the Holy Family Friary (19697 Redwood Road, Castro Valley). For more information, call Fr. Paul at 510-671-0537.



### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Our school prepared for our WCEA/WASC (Western Catholic Educational Association/ Western Association of Schools and Colleges) visit for over a year. From March 19-21 a team of educators came to affirm what our Self Study book said about our curriculum. The Self Study is written by all faculty and staff with student and parent input. Data collected is used to drive curriculum so as to provide best practices in teaching for all of our students. Overriding the entire Self Study is our Mission Statement and Philosophy where all families know our students come from a diverse community and work to model Jesus by living out our Core Values of Unity, Truth, and Love. We have created "gracious space" for all who enter our doors.

-Susan Anderson

### ICF NEWS Potluck Dinner

Time to share your cooking skills with us, the **April 12th** dinner meeting of the ICF is a potluck. There is no theme, just bring one of your favorite dishes to share and enjoy an evening of new food, new recipes and maybe new people. Please call Juanita Madrid @ 510-582-7242 and let her know if you are coming and what you are bringing.

### 39th Anniversary Dinner Dance

Come help the ICF Branch #343 celebrate their 39th Anniversary on Saturday, **April 21st!** Begin the evening with a hosted wine & beer Happy Hour at 6:00pm, followed by dinner at 7:00pm & raffles then dance to the Big Band Sounds of "In Full Swing" from 8-10:30pm. Tickets are \$40 per person & deadline is **April 17th**. For reservations, pls call Lisa Crudo at 510-861-9835 or Pat Grasso at 510-538-2844. Checks made payable to ICF Branch #343 & mailed to Lisa at 3718 September Court, Castro Valley, CA 94546

### EVANGELIZATION CORNER

#### Youth Ministry

Next Meetings: April 8th & 15th

#### 1st Holy Communion

Next Meetings: April 14th *Retreat Day & Practice*

#### Whole Family Catechesis

Next Meetings: April 8th *Divine Mercy*  
April 29th *How to Pray Well*

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



**LIGHTING THE WAY  
BISHOP'S APPEAL 2018**

Following is the status of our Annual Bishop's Appeal through **March 22nd:**

\$ 17,320.00—Actual Donations Received

<b>Our Goal for 2018:</b>	<b>\$29,000.00</b>
# of Registered Families	1,100
# of Acknowledged Donors to date:	112
Funds Raised (includes pledges)	\$25,629.00

We are currently at 88% of our goal for this year's Bishop's Appeal. We are most grateful to all those who have contributed and look forward to completing this appeal. If you have not yet made your contribution, consider doing so today.

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND  
A SCHEDULE CHANGE**

The Pilgrimage culminates by walking the way of the cross to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We will be walking through the Via Dolorosa (the Way of the Cross) to the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher for a detailed visit to Mount Calvary, the Holy Tomb and St. Helen Chapel. Join Fr. Tom for a Pilgrimage of a life time **October 17-29**. Cost is \$3499. For more information contact Anastasis Tours at 661-478-2331 or contact Jay in the office.

**FESCO  
REGISTER FOR FESCO'S  
21st ANNUAL SHUFFLE WALKATHON**

Support FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition) in its efforts to end family homelessness in Alameda County by joining us at our 21st Annual FESCO Shuffle Walkathon on **Saturday, April 28th**. You can walk as a team or as an individual in this family-friendly, dog-friendly event along the beautiful path at the San Leandro Marina. Check-in starts at 8:30 am at the Seagull Picnic Site and the walk begins at 10:00. You can walk from one to three miles, or even be a benchwarmer! If you are attending, you can sponsor yourself or get your friends and families to sponsor you. If you are unable to attend, please consider sponsoring a walker or making a direct financial contribution to FESCO. Your donations make it possible for FESCO to help homeless families gain stability and find permanent housing!

Chris Ippolito and Colleen Lindberg will be outside Mass on Sunday, **April 15th & 22nd**, if you would like to stop by and offer your support for team OLG for this years FESCO Shuffle!

**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 March 25th:**

Sunday Plate:	\$ 10,250.00
Last Year this week	\$ 8,561.00
<b>Weekly Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 8,920.00</b>
Year-to-date this year:	\$111,402.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$ 99,868.00

*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  | Elaine Jordan             |
| Jot Brown         | Maxine Kruzell            |
| Leonardo Cabardo  | Laura Martell             |
| Antonio O. Chocha | Alice McLaughlin          |
| Claudia Dobbs     | Julie Peterson            |
| Lynn Franks       | Florence Sharp            |
| Anna Friedeberg   | Rosemary Slater           |
| Byron Griffith    | Mercedes Tellez           |
| Don Jordan        | 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.*

**JAMES BARTHMAN  
STEPHANIE ROSEVEAR**

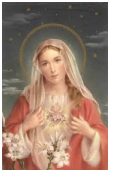


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**1ST FRIDAY &  
1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION**

Come join us every 1st Friday for Mass at 8:15am with the recitation of the Litany of the Sacred Heart followed by a gathering in the Office. Join us at 7:00pm for Adoration with prayers of Divine Mercy in April. Join us on every 1st Saturday at 8:15am for Mass, Adoration, Rosary & Benediction. In April after Adoration we will explore Our Lady of Fatima in our Marian series.





**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 **April 4th** at 7:00pm in the OLG Room in Stack Center.

**PAX CHRISTI MOVIE NIGHT!**

On Friday, **April 6th**, come and watch the movie, **Seed: The Untold Story**, a heartwarming account of how indigenous seed keepers along with farmers, scientists & lawyers stand up to giant chemical companies to defend the future of our food. If you are interested in learning more about this issue that affects our ability to feed the world, join us in viewing and discussing this stimulating 94-minute 2016 documentary film. Free admission! We invite you to bring a favorite snack or savory treat to share (optional). This event will be held in Stack Center from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Sponsored by OLG's Pax Christi/Social Justice group. For more info., pick up a flyer at the entrances to the church or call Dennise at (510) 538-6071.



**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. We are redoubling our efforts to reach out to those in need. Our next drop off date is **April 14th** & 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. 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.



**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.

**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, April 1st:**

*Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord*

**Monday, April 2nd:**

*Parish Offices Closed*

Divine Mercy Novena  
3:00pm--Church

**Tuesday, April 3rd:**

Tuesday Morning Bible Study  
9:30am--Parish Office

Divine Mercy Novena  
3:00pm--Church

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting  
7:00pm--Parish Office, Upstairs

Men's Faith Share  
7:00pm--Stack Center, Room 7

**Wednesday, April 4th:**

Divine Mercy Novena  
3:00pm--Church  
Pre-Baptism Class  
7:00pm--Stack Center, OLG Room

**Thursday, April 5th:**

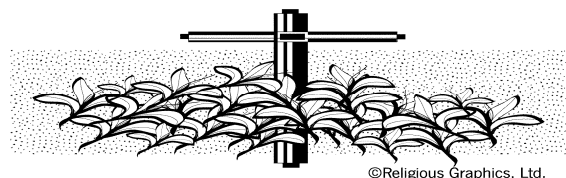
Divine Mercy Novena  
3:00pm--Church  
Adoration  
7:00pm--Church  
AA Serenity Group  
7:30pm--Augustine Center, Room A2

**Friday, April 6th:**

First Friday Devotion, Breakfast & Presentation  
8:15am--Church & Parish Office  
Divine Mercy Novena  
3:00pm--Church  
First Friday Adoration  
7:00pm--Church

**Saturday, April 7th:**

First Saturday Mass & Adoration  
8:15am--Church  
Divine Mercy Novena  
3:00pm--Church



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*Mass for the Intentions Week*

All Masses are celebrated in the Church

**SUNDAY, April 1st**

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

7:30am--9:30am--11:30am--1:30 (Spanish)

**MONDAY, April 2nd**

8:15am Raul Ortega--D

**TUESDAY, April 3rd**

8:15am Mary Borges--D

**WEDNESDAY, April 4th**

8:15am Rudy & Augie Enriquez--D

**THURSDAY, April 5th**

8:15am Richard Benson--D

**FRIDAY, April 6th**

8:15am Marcelino Perdido--D

**SATURDAY, April 7th**

8:15am Anty Zaldivar--D

5:00pm Leo Lombardo--D

**SUNDAY, April 8th**

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

7:30am Helen Maes--D

1:30pm Larry Perino--L

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

**April 2nd through April 8th**

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15  
 Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18  
 Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35  
 Thursday: Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48  
 Friday: Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14  
 Saturday: Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15  
 Sunday: Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6;  
 John 20:19-31



**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: **April 5th, 2018**  
 9:00am to 11:15am

Speaker: Carmen Hartonol  
 Topic: Personal Faith Journey

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE FOR LIFE  
 (OLG4Life)**

Our Lady of Guadalupe for Life is hosting an upcoming conference at Sacred Heart of Saratoga on **April 14th** from 9:00am-3:00pm (Registration at 8:30am). Sacred Heart Parish is located at 13716 Saratoga Ave. in Saratoga. Fr. Michael Barry will be the guest speaker who is active in retreat work, teaching on healing & charismatic spirituality. Early registration costs \$30/adult & \$20/youth. Deadline is 4/7. Walk-in registration is \$35/adult & \$25/youth. Download the registration form at [www.OLG4life.com](http://www.OLG4life.com)



**THIS WEEK--Continued**

**Sunday, April 8th:**

**Divine Mercy Sunday**

Liturgy of the Word

9:30am--Augustine Center

Coffee & Donuts

After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center

New Parishioner Registration

10:00--Stack Center

Whole Family Catechesis

10:50am--Stack Center

Celebration of Divine Mercy

3:00pm--Church

Youth Ministry

6:00pm--Stack Center

**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:

**BLAHA, HARTFORD & PERRY**