



What is the Benedictine Arrangement?

Pope Benedict XVI was well known for introducing, in the context of the celebration of the modern Roman Rite, a more traditional arrangement of the candles and crucifix upon the altar—namely, the “big six” with the cross in the middle (or, at times, seven candles—a privilege of bishops). The reason he decisively returned to this arrangement is quite simple: it greatly helps the celebrant and the faithful alike to perceive and thus to reverence the greatness of the altar of sacrifice, and, in that connection, to turn their interior gaze to Jesus Christ, who stands at the very center of the liturgical action. It is, in short, a re-centering of the community upon the Alpha and Omega, the One who offers Himself up for our salvation and makes us participants in His offering. The priest is no longer the center of attention: he is merely the “animated instrument” (as St. Thomas would say) of the Eternal High Priest. He steps back, as did St. John the Baptist, saying: “He must increase, I must decrease.”

Shifting the center of gravity from a minister to the solid and silent sacred altar and the Lord it represents and bears upon itself is a long-overdue antidote for the dreadful spirit of horizontal community-fixation and the cult of personality that entered into the Catholic Church with the abandonment of worship eastward (*ad orientem*). Wherever the priest and people worship facing eastwards, the Benedictine arrangement is not really necessary, although it remains beautiful and fitting. But wherever the priest is still following the novel custom of facing the people (novel because it breaks with almost 2,000 years of Christian practice), something like the Benedictine arrangement is absolutely necessary in order to preserve the meaning of the eastward orientation.

The turning of the priest toward the people has turned the community into a self-enclosed circle. In its outward form, it no longer opens out on what lies ahead and above, but is locked into itself. The common turning toward the East was not a “celebration toward the wall”; it did not mean that the priest “had his back to the people”: the priest himself was not regarded as so important. For just as the congregation in the synagogue looked together toward Jerusalem, so in the Christian Liturgy the congregation looked together “toward the Lord.”

“A common turning to the East during the Eucharistic Prayer remains essential. This is not a case of accidentals, but of essentials. Looking at the priest has no importance. What matters is looking together at the Lord.

Moving the altar cross to the side to give an uninterrupted view of the priest is something I regard as one of the truly absurd phenomena of recent decades. Is the cross disruptive during Mass? Is the priest more important than Our Lord?” Pope Benedict XVI

Restoring the correct orientation of worship may not be possible in every place, nevertheless it is high time to reestablish, in an obvious visible way, the primacy and centrality of Jesus Christ in the celebration of His Holy Sacrifice, and that the easiest and simplest way to do this is to put the altar cross right back where it belongs, in the very front and center of everything. Those who are familiar with Ratzinger will recognize the themes: the Church is called upon not to preach herself, to exhibit herself and offer prayers from and to herself, but rather to preach Christ Crucified, to point always to Him, to make clear the path to Him from whom all prayer begins and in whom all prayer culminates. (From the NewLiturgicalMovement.org)

In August, we will seek to renew and revive our celebration by reorienting our focus to encounter Christ Crucified. May God Bless us!

Peace,
Fr. Tom

The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (July 29th)

John 6:1-15

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people recline." Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat. When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world." Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.



VBS BEGINS THIS WEEK!

We ask for your prayers to the Holy Spirit for the success of our summer VBS.

Thank you to our Parish Community for the generous donations!



**FAMILY FAITH FORMATION
2018-2019
Registration begins July 16th
in the Parish Office**

It's time to register for next year for Whole Family Catechesis (K-5), 1st Holy Communion, Middle School & Confirmation. Information flyers are available at the Church entrances. Registration Packets are available in the Parish Office.

Whole Family Catechesis (K-5th grade)

1st day of class: September 16th
10:50am - 12:30pm

Middle School Catechesis (6th-8th grade)

1st day of class: September 16th
10:50am - 12:30pm

First Holy Communion

Orientation: August 26th
10:50am - 12:30pm

Confirmation

1st day of class: August 26th
6:00pm-8:00pm

**Cost is \$100 for the 1st child
\$45 for each additional child**

All children are welcome!



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**A NEW COORDINATOR
FOR EVANGELIZATION AT OLG**

John Lee will be arriving in August to help us develop and expand our Evangelization efforts. John has been a DRE for the last 3 years in Green River Wyoming. He will be pursuing his Masters degree in Philosophy from the Dominican School of Theology in Berkeley. He is beginning to understand the housing expense and crisis in our area and needs help.

ROOM WANTED

Our new Coordinator of Evangelization, John Lee, is looking for an affordable room to rent in a house, somewhere between Berkeley and Castro Valley. If you know of any options, please send him an e-mail to lee.john.marc@gmail.com



SOLEMN VOW CEREMONY AT OLG

Friar Israel Arauz Rosales will be taking Solemn Vows at Our Lady of Grace on Tuesday **August 7** at 7:30PM. We are organizing a reception following the Ceremony. If you can help with a desert or helping serve at the reception please contact Jay at the Office.



**SAVE THE DATE
PARISH PICNIC
AUGUST 19TH
LAKE CHABOT PARK**

Our Annual Parish Picnic will be taking place **August 19th** in the Cove Picnic Area at Lake Chabot Park.

Mass in the Park will begin at 10:00am, followed by lunch and games from 12:00pm-3:00pm.

Please RSVP to the Parish Office with the number of adults and children attending, as well as what dish you're bringing to share.

**NEWS FROM OUR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
THUNDER VALLEY CASINO TRIP
SATURDAY, JULY 28th**

Join the St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 16770 Knights of Columbus for a fun day at Thunder Valley Casino Resort. We will travel by chartered bus from Castro Valley to Thunder Valley Casino Resort in Lincoln, CA. (near Sacramento) Tickets are \$35.00 per person, you will receive a \$12.00 food coupon and a \$15.00 gaming coupon upon arrival. Enjoy Finger Tip BINGO, 50/50 Raffle and other games during the trip (\$5.00 per game). Departure will be from OLG at 7:30 am, with return approximately 5:30 pm. Tickets are available from any member of the Council or see Jay in the Parish Office. Contact Dwight Speir at dwrightmv700@aol.com for more information.



FESCO BACKPACK DRIVE

As you know, every summer FESCO, (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition), sponsors a backpack drive that our church generously supports. This drive supplies the children of the FESCO families with school supplies they will need for the upcoming academic year. We are hoping that you will consider participating in this event.

If you would like to participate, we are asking you to “adopt” a student. An organization has generously agreed to donate backpacks, so you would just need to provide the supplies for a backpack. For the student you “adopt,” we will give you a specific list of grade-appropriate supplies attached to a paper bag in which you can put the supplies. After all the supply bags are turned in, we will transfer the supplies to the donated backpacks. We estimate that all of the needed supplies for a backpack will cost \$30 – \$50 depending on the grade level and where you shop.

You may sign up at the entrances to the church after the Masses on the weekends of **July 21st - 22nd or July 28th - 29th. You need to return your bag of supplies to the church or church office on or before Sunday, August 12th.** (Church office is closed on weekends.) Thank you for your generosity!

**OLG FESTIVAL 2018
SEPTEMBER 29TH-30TH
#BeAHero**

Make plans to join us for our annual Parish Festival, **September 29th-30th.** More details to come!

Consider being a Festival Sponsor--many generous individuals and businesses have sponsored the Festival in the past. Your Sponsorship will be acknowledged with a sign at the Festival as well as in our social media. Call the Parish Office for details.

**HISPANIC COMMUNITY OF
OUR LADY OF GRACE FUNDRAISER
“FIESTA MEXICANA”**

You are invited to a “Fiesta Mexicana” to benefit the celebration of the Patronal Feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe on **August 25th**, 6:00pm to 11:00pm in Stack Center. There will be live music, dancing, raffles, & snacks. Alcoholic beverages are available for purchase. Tickets are \$25 per person & includes: dinner, music & dancing. Purchase tickets in the Parish Office. Thank you for your generous support!



**LA COMUNIDAD HISPANA DE NUESTRA
SEÑORA DE LA GRACIA
“FIESTA MEXICANA”**

Te invita a una “Fiesta Mexicana” el **25 de Agosto** de 6 a 11 de la noche en Stack Center. En beneficio de la Fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe. Hay musica en vivo, baile, rifas, botanas & venta de bebidas alcholicas. Precio del boleta es \$25 por persona. Incluye cena, musica y baile. Boletos a la venta en la oficina parroquial. Diviertete y ayuda!

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 July 15th:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 7,906.00
Last Year this week	\$ 9,150.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 8,920.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$ 246,451.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$ 245,191.00

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 | Elaine Jordan |
| Kathleen Andrews | Maxine Kruzel |
| Melissa & David Chavez | Laura Martell |
| & Family | Alice McLaughlin |
| Antonio O. Chocha | Rose Montalban |
| Claudia Dobbs | Florence Sharp |
| Lynn Franks | Rosemary Slater |
| Anna Friedeberg | Lurdes Sousa |
| 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.

BRIAN O’LEARY

**DIOCESE OF OAKLAND
CATECHETICAL CONGRESS**

Bishop O' Dowd High School
9500 Stearns Avenue, Oakland

Saturday, August 11th
8:00am-4:00pm

Come be enriched & inspired by many nationally known speakers as well as some of our own ministry leaders. Some topics that will be covered:

- * The Truth about Modern Evangelization
- * How to Keep our Children in the Faith
- * Reaching our Modern Teens through the Gospel

Bishop Michael C. Barber will celebrate Mass at 9:00am. Early bird registration fee is \$35 before July 15th, after that date - \$40. Last day to register is August 6th. Register online at www.oakdiocese.org/congress. No onsite registration! For more info, contact: PCollier@oakdiocese.org or visit www.oakdiocese.org & click on the Catechetical Congress box below. Informational cards are available in English & Spanish on the tables at the Church entrances.



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WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY NEWS
"Wisdom is seeing with God's eyes."
– Pope Francis

Scripture and the Tradition of the Catholic Church provide an abundance of wisdom, though it can often be challenging to apply it to our lives. In this study, we will examine biblical wisdom as it relates to daily life. Drawing on the wisdom literature of the Bible--Proverbs, Wisdom, Sirach, and Ecclesiastes--*Wisdom* will teach you how to actively seek out sound guidance and increase your sense of peace in navigating life.

The Women's Evening Bible Study will begin *Wisdom: God's Vision for Life* on **Monday, September 10, 2018** at 7:00pm. We will meet every other Monday for 8 sessions. Cost is \$23. For more information or to register, contact Jay in the Parish Office or Heidi Denzler-Halsey at 510-881-7850 or heidimdh106@gmail.com. **Last day to register is Wednesday, August 22, 2018.** You will not only benefit personally from being part of this study; you will also help us to grow in fellowship as a parish as we grow closer to Christ together.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 22nd:

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgy of the Word
9:30am--Augustine Center
Coffee & Donuts
After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center
New Parishioner Registration
10:00am--Stack Center

Tuesday, July 24th:

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

Wednesday, July 25th:

Knights of Columbus
7:00pm--Stack Center

Thursday, July 26th:

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

Saturday, July 28th:

Adoration
8:15am--Church

Sunday, July 29th:

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgy of the Word
9:30am--Augustine Center
Coffee & Donuts
After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
HELP US HELP OTHERS**

Do you know of anyone within our parish boundaries that could use help? Many around us are on fixed incomes and find it difficult to make it through the end of the month. For a number of our clients, we bring them food once a month to help supplement their food budget. At times when unexpected expenses have arisen (car, medical, etc.) we are also able to help with a portion of the rent or utilities. Names are always kept confidential. The St. Vincent de Paul message machine number is 510-581-2164 and messages are checked daily.

Mass for the Intentions Week

All Masses are celebrated in the Church

SUNDAY, July 22nd

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:30am Vicki Carrier--L
 11:30am Joe Escobar--D
 1:30pm Maria Elena Hess--L

MONDAY, July 23rd

St. Bridget, Religious
St. Cunegunda, Religious
 8:15am Modesta Lachica--D

TUESDAY, July 24th

St. Sharbel Makhluf, Priest
Blessed Antonio Lucci, OFM, Conv., Bishop
 8:15am George D' Angelo--L

WEDNESDAY, July 25th

ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE
 8:15am Cyril Clark--D

THURSDAY, July 26th

Sts. Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 8:15am Fr. Anthony Bellasorte, O.C.S.D.--D

FRIDAY, July 27th

8:15am Ciaran Byrne--D

SATURDAY, July 28th

8:15am John McCann--D
 5:00pm Louis Rodrigues--D

SUNDAY, July 29th

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:30am Dennis Cande--D
 11:30am John Nichandros--D
 1:30pm Esperanza Ortega--D

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

July 23rd through July 29th

Monday: Micah 6:1-4,6-8; Matthew 12:38-42
 Tuesday: Micah 7:14-15,18-20; Matthew 12:46-50
 Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Matthew 20:20-28
 Thursday: Jeremiah 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Matthew 13:10-17
 Friday: Jeremiah 3:14-17; Matthew 13:18-23
 Saturday: Jeremiah 7:1-11; Matthew 13:24-30
 Sunday: 2 Kings 4:42-44, Ephesians 4:1-6; John 6:1-15

Grow in Faith



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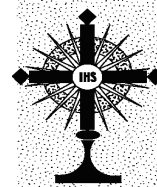
FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND

In Memory of

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.



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.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus monthly meetings are held the last Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm in Stack Center. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, visit <https://oaklandkofc.org/> or join us at our next meeting **July 25th**.

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:
**PONIATOWSKI LEDING PARIKH
 LAW CORP.**