



Why a change in the Altar arrangement?

I was visiting my parents and my father asked me what is this Benedictine altar arrangement and why are you changing it now? I have only known the liturgy since it's reform after Vatican II. So first of all this is not some nostalgia of the Mass of my childhood. I have been inspired by the New Evangelization to consider seriously what we are doing to pass on the faith and why our youth are leaving the Christian faith and embracing secular society. How do we turn to Jesus and show them the way?

This year I hope we can focus on the Liturgy as our source and summit. When the Liturgy was reformed it was promulgated in Latin and with the Priest was in unison with the people mediating the sacrifice of the Mass to God. It was special permission given to the conference of Bishops from Rome to allow: 1. Vernacular Masses and 2. To face the people. While both of these changes were embraced and became the norm of practice there were unexpected consequences from both of these changes. The Benedictine Arrangement is a compromise to continue the norm of facing the people while refocusing the Priest on the Sacrifice offered to God. The *Ad orientem* (facing East symbolically) through the placement of candles and cross is to refocus our hearts on our hope, the Sacrifice of Jesus. As a Christian community, we are all facing *ad orientem* (i.e. toward the east) waiting in joyful expectation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ who will return to judge the living and the dead.

What in the early Church determined the position of the altar was that it faced Eastward? To quote St. Augustine: *"When we rise to pray, we turn East, where heaven begins. And we do this not because God is there, as if He had moved away from the other directions on earth..., but rather to help us remember to turn our mind towards a higher order, that is, to God."*

"Does not God say, 'Be converted to Me'? The scriptures are full of it: 'Be converted to Me, be converted to Me.' For what does this mean: 'Be converted to Me'? It does not just mean that you, who were looking toward the west, should now look toward the east—that is easily done. If only you did it inwardly, because that is not easily done. You turn your body around from one cardinal point to another; turn your heart around from one love to another." (Sermo Dolbeau 19.)

This quotation shows that the Christians of those early days, after listening to the homily, would rise for the prayer which followed, and turn towards the East. St. Augustine always refers to this turning to the East in prayer at the end of his homilies, using a set formula, *Conversi ad Dominum* ("turn to face the Lord").

The fathers of Vatican II did not consider Mass offered *ad orientem* (i.e. toward the East) as an obstacle to the full and active participation which they advocated. Even the General Instruction in the 2003 Roman Missal (G.I.R.M.) indicates that the priest is only required to face the people at specific moments in the Mass and not throughout. As the body turns from one direction to another, so should the heart turn from sin and error to the true and living God. "Turn to Me and be safe," says the Lord. Agreed. Conversion and *ad orientem* are the kinds of "safe spaces" our world and the Church really need.

Peace,
Fr. Tom

The Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (August 5th)

John 6:24-35

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. And when they found him across the sea they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus answered them and said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal." So they said to him, "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent." So they said to him, "What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: *He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*" So Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." So they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."



**FAMILY FAITH FORMATION
2018-2019**

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

Come & register in person on **August 5th** after the 9:30 Mass in Stack Center. Bilingual services in Spanish will be available.

Whole Family Catechesis (K-5th grade)
1st day of class & Orientation: September 16th
10:50am - 12:30pm

Middle School Catechesis (6th-8th grade)
Orientation w/ Parents: September 16th
10:50am - 12:30pm

First Holy Communion
Orientation w/ Parents: August 26th
10:50am - 12:30pm

Confirmation
Orientation w/ Parents: October 7th
6:00pm-8:00pm

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

NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Beginning Monday, July 30th, our Parish Office will be open from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.



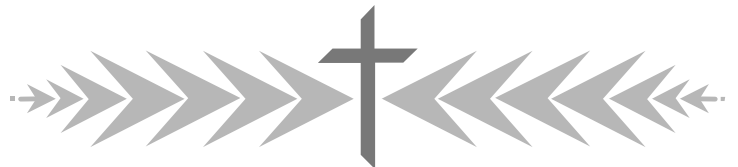
**OLG FESTIVAL 2018
SEPTEMBER 29TH-30TH
#BeAHero**

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.

SOLEMN VOW CEREMONY AT OLG

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



**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. **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.



**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.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S 1st WEDNESDAY'S
SOUP & SANDWICH MEALS
August 1st**

If you or someone you know could benefit from a free meal, come by on the 1st Wednesday of the month, **August 1st** from 3:30-4:30pm located outside the Parish Office.

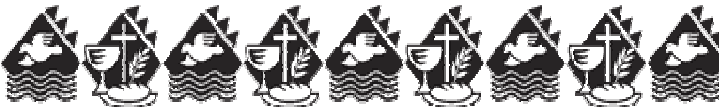


FESCO BACKPACK DRIVE

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 **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!



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. Also, join us at 7:00pm for Adoration. Join us on every 1st Saturday at 8:15am for Mass, Adoration, Rosary & Benediction.

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 22nd:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 8,142.00
Last Year this week	\$ 7,940.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 8,920.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$ 254,593.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$ 253,131.00

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 Kruzal |
| 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

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 SENORA 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!

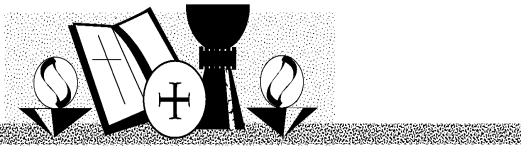
WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY NEWS

"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.



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CELEBRATE CHILDREN!

Dear Parents,

Our parish enthusiastically welcomes your growing family to fully celebrate with us. May we suggest:

- ***Relax.** God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house.
- ***Sit** towards the front or aisle where it is easier for little ones to see & hear.
- ***Quietly** explain the parts of the Mass.
- ***Sing** the hymns and **pray** the prayers together.
Children learn from your actions.
- *If necessary, the Family Room located at the right side of the Church is available for your use.

To all Parishioners:

The presence of children is a gift to your Church. Like all of us, they are members of the Body of Christ & a reminder of the growth & future of our Church. Please welcome our children & their parents, & give them a big smile of encouragement!

THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 29th:

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgy of the Word

9:30am--Augustine Center

Tuesday, July 31st:

Men's Faith Share

7:00pm--Stack Center, Room 7

Wednesday, August 1st:

Pre-Baptism Class

7:00pm--Stack Center, OLG Room

Thursday, August 2nd:

Adoration

7:00pm--Church

AA Serenity Group

7:30pm--Augustine Center, Room A2

Friday, August 3rd:

First Friday Devotion, Breakfast & Presentation

8:15am--Church & Parish Office

Saturday, August 4th:

First Saturday Mass & Adoration

8:15am--Church

Sunday, August 5th:

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgy of the Word

9:30am--Augustine Center

Coffee & Donuts

After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center



BAPTISM

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 **August 1st** at 7:00pm in the OLG Room in Stack Center.

Mass for the Intentions Week

All Masses are celebrated in the Church

SUNDAY, July 29th

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

MONDAY, July 30th

St. Peter Chrysologus, Religious
 8:15am Josephine Herrera--D

TUESDAY, July 31st

St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
 8:15am Shirley Reynolds--D

WEDNESDAY, August 1st

St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
 8:15am Rudy & Augie Enriquez--D

THURSDAY, August 2nd

St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop
St. Peter Julian Eymard, Priest
 8:15am Richard Benson--D

FRIDAY, August 3rd

8:15am Joel Tejada--D

SATURDAY, August 4th

St. John Vianney, Priest
 8:15am Jesusa Perdido--D
 5:00pm Benjamin Esteva, Sr.--D

SUNDAY, August 5th

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

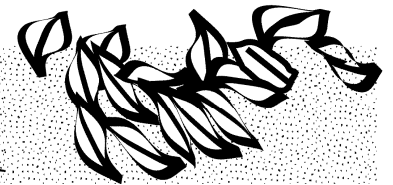
7:30am Helen Maes--D
 11:30am John Nichandros--D
 1:30pm Benito Villaverde--D

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

July 30th through August 5th

Monday: Jeremiah 13:1-11; Matthew 13:31-35
 Tuesday: Jeremiah 14:17-22; Matthew 13:36-43
 Wednesday: Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21;
 Matthew 13:44-46
 Thursday: Jeremiah 18:1-6; Matthew 13:47-53
 Friday: Jeremiah 26:1-9; Matthew 13:54-58
 Saturday: Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24;
 Matthew 14:1-12
 Sunday: Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15;
 Ephesians 4:17, 20-24; John 6:24-35

Grow
in Faith



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In Memory of

FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND

We are grateful to Kaye McCann who donated the lovely flowers in remembrance of her husband John McCann.

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.

COME JOIN US



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

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:

POSH BAGEL