



**Thanksgiving Blessing**

I would like to express my personal gratitude and thanksgiving to God and to you, my beloved Parishioners, Friends, and Friars. The Pilgrims barely survived the first year in America and it was only by the help of native peoples were they able to learn how to live and survive in this new land. With fires that have destroyed lives, communities and homes we mourn the loss as we give thanks for life, family, and home and faith. May we respond with compassion with those who have lost so much through prayer and charity.

I thank you God, for the opportunity and privilege of being pastor of Our Lady of Grace and for the ability of sharing my life and the Franciscans with all of you. Good God, Creator of the natural riches and the beauty of our land, thank you for your beloved Son Jesus Christ present in our Eucharistic Celebrations; thank you Father and Your Son Jesus for the gift of the Holy Spirit who enlightened and helped all of us live in love. Blessed Virgin Mother, present in our sanctuary as Our Lady of Grace, thank you for your permanent presence and fruitful care of all men, women, children, couples and sick people.

Thank you, dear Parishioners, for your most beautiful gift of God – your dedication and presence in our church. Without your presence and generosity our church does not exist. I wish to give special thanks to the families who have responded and continue to respond to our plea for support to end the year in the black. I invite all Parishioners to come together in continued generosity of spirit & in your financial contributions as we work together to build a church which helps all families and members to explore and deepen their faith.

Thank you! Thanksgiving is a time to sit back and take stock of the beauty and quality of our lives: How am I personally using my God-given gifts and talents for the glory of God, for the benefit of my family which is responsible for Christian education of children, for community and parish? Thank you for all our families who have responded to our whole family faith formation.

God, our good Father, on this **Thanksgiving Day join us for Mass at 9AM** as we give thanks to God and we pledge ourselves to share with others the spiritual and material riches you have given us. Make our gratitude more heartfelt and our generosity more ready and more resourceful. God, we infinitely trust in you and in your divine guidance. Amen.

The office will be closed Thursday and Friday. The office will reopen on Monday.

**Immaculate Conception Novena**

Each country adopts a set of patron saints, members of the heavenly court who are special intercessors for all those within a particular country’s borders. It took the bishops of the newly created United States of America 70 years to appoint the Blessed Virgin Mary as patroness of their country. In doing so, they invoked Mary under her title of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. It was a choice met with unanimous support, one that was based on many different factors. The decision was reached on May 13, 1846, during the Sixth Provincial Council of Baltimore.

*With enthusiastic acclaim and with unanimous approval and consent, the Fathers [of the Council] have chosen the Blessed Virgin Mary, conceived without sin, as the Patroness of the United States of America.*

According to various documents, the choice was made “to gratify a pious desire pervading the whole United States.” A few years later in 1849 the bishops affirmed the devotion of the faithful and explained to “the Holy Father that the faithful in the United States were animated with a great devotion to the Immaculate Conception, and that they the bishops, would be pleased if the Holy Father declared the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception an article of faith.” This particular title of Our Lady was very familiar to the people of the United States. Some historians believe that the flagship of Christopher Columbus was named *Santa Maria de Concepcion* and he afterwards named an island *La Concepcion*. Subsequent geographic features in America would be named in honor of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. Not long after the United States made this decision, Pope Pius IX promulgated on December 8, 1854 that “the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin.” This was a confirmation of a long-held belief in the Catholic Church that is based on various passages in the Bible.

Four years later in 1858 a young peasant girl in France had several apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who reveled herself as the “Immaculate Conception.” A large church was eventually built on that site and ever since, Lourdes has been a popular destination for pilgrims everywhere. Four years later in 1858 a young peasant girl in France had several apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who reveled herself as the “Immaculate Conception.” A large church was eventually built on that site and ever since, Lourdes has been a popular destination for pilgrims everywhere. Since then hundreds of churches in the United States have been named after the Immaculate Conception and in 1959 the largest church in the United States was opened in Washington D.C., also dedicated to Mary’s Immaculate Conception.

**We will begin an Immaculate Conception Novena on November 29th.**

**Advent Begins December 2nd.**

We begin the new liturgical year and begin the readings for year C.

Peace,  
Fr. Tom

**THANKSGIVING DAY LITURGY**

Our Lady of Grace Parish will celebrate a *Mass of Thanksgiving* on Thursday, **November 22nd** at 9:00am. There is much to be thankful for in our lives and this is also a time to consider ways of helping those around us who are in need. The monetary collection from this Mass will benefit the work of our St. Vincent de Paul Society. As in years past, the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be taking donations of food and money at the Mass. As you give your donations, please pray for those families who will be helped. Over the years, the population that we serve has changed. Most of our clients are single and have very minimal access to cooking facilities. Items most needed for our pantry are: low-sugar cereal, shelf-stable milk, canned fruit, pork n’ beans, peanut butter, small/medium jams, canned meats, canned corn, canned green beans, canned tuna, canned chili, soups/stews & gift cards from grocery stores, gas stations, & fast food restaurants. When possible, pop top cans are great. Please check “best by” dates. You are also invited to bring the bread and wine you will be serving at your own Thanksgiving meal to be blessed for your feast.

**HELPING THOSE IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

Do you or someone you know need assistance this holiday season? The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at Our Lady of Grace can help you with food for the holidays or other resources as needed. Please call our message line at 510-581-2164 or email svdp@olgcv.org and leave a message. We will get back to you the next day. All names are kept confidential.

**ONE WARM COAT DRIVE**



This year the OLG St. Vincent de Paul Conference will be participating in the One Warm Coat Drive. We invite parishioners to donate **new or gently used men’s, women’s or children’s coats** to this drive.

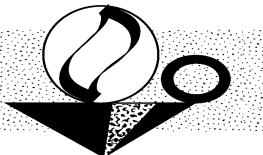
These coats will be distributed through our local Conference, the drop-in centers and clothing closet at St. Vincent de Paul’s main campus in Oakland. Please bring your donation and place them in the barrel at the Somerset entrance of the Church or in the Parish Office. We will be accepting coats from **November 1st-December 31st**. We thank you for your generosity.

**ICF BAKE SALE - TODAY!**



Let ICF do your Thanksgiving baking! We will have a Bake Sale after the Sunday morning Masses on **November 18th**. The proceeds will support our scholarship fund. Thank you for your support.

Be watchful  
for you do not  
know the day  
or the hour



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

**FESCO AND CASTRO VALLEY OUTREACH Christmas Giving Trees**

Beginning the weekend of **November 17th**, Our Lady of Grace is helping Castro Valley families with our Giving Trees. As members of CV Outreach, we are sponsoring several families. Each family member has ornaments on our Giving Trees which you will find in Church, in Stack Center after Church, & in the school and Parish offices. Please take an ornament to help a child have a blessed holiday.

All gifts need to be returned with the ornament, box and receipt, unwrapped to the Parish office by **Sunday, December 9th** in order for our REC students & Parent Group members to catalog and wrap.

In addition to helping CV Outreach, we are helping FESCO keep their programs running. They are asking for monetary donations. Donation envelopes are on the Giving Trees. Please return donations to the Parish office. Thank You!



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

**REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

The envelopes for All Saints and All Souls will be placed on the altar for the month of November for those wishing to remember their loved ones.

You may bring a picture of your loved one to be placed on a table before the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Church and it will remain there through the month of November. Please put your name and contact on the back of the photo.

Our *Book of Remembrance* also provides an opportunity to record the names of deceased loved ones to be lifted up in prayer during the month of November.



THANKSGIVING

**THANKSGIVING DAY  
PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

The Parish offices will be closed on Thursday, **November 22nd** & Friday, **November 23rd**. The office will re-open on Monday, **November 26th** at 8:30am. The entire Parish staff wishes you and your family a Blessed Thanksgiving.

**CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN  
FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT  
PARISH APPEAL**

Please be generous in this week's second collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the United States, one in seven people lives in poverty. With this collection you support programs that address the causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those who are struggling across the country. In addition, 25% of funds collected remains in our diocese to fund local anti-poverty projects. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and work on the margins. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development can be found at [www.usccb.org/cchd/collection](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/collection) and locally at [www.cchdeastbay.org](http://www.cchdeastbay.org) (Be sure to view the videos of the recent grant awards luncheon.). Envelopes are in the pews for your use.



**CHRISTMAS STORY  
PERFORMANCE &  
TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY**

On Saturday, **December 1st**, all parishioners are welcome to stay after the 5:00pm Mass to see the school children perform the Christmas Story. All are welcome afterwards to come to Stack Center for the lighting of our huge Christmas tree, followed by refreshments.



**ADVENT FESTIVAL OF  
NINE LESSONS & CAROLS**

The Advent Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus. The history of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible reading from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with singing of carols, hymns and choral music. Join us the **2nd Sunday of Advent on December 9th** at 4:00-5:15pm in the Church, followed by a reception in Stack Center, hosted by our Choir. Admission is free.

**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 November 11th:**

Sunday Plate:	\$ 9,099.00
<b>Weekly Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 9,038.00</b>
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ 61.00
Year-to-date Over/[Shortfall]	-\$11,272.00

*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:

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Cindy Abraham     | Laura Martell      |
| Glen Alcorn       | Rose Montalban     |
| Kathleen Andrews  | Mona Mulvaney      |
| Antonio O. Chocha | Florence Sharp     |
| Ana Cochran       | Rosemary Slater    |
| Claudia Dobbs     | Howard Songey      |
| Lynn Franks       | Lurdes Sousa       |
| Anna Friedeberg   | Mercedes Tellez    |
| Byron Griffith    | Baby Jackson Tyler |
| Don Jordan        | Bishop             |
| Maxine Kruzell    | Norma Wardle       |

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

**PARADISE & SOUTHERN CA FIRES  
VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE**



**NEW ALTAR SERVER TRAINING**

New Altar Server Training begins **January 2019** for students in Grades 5th-12th. Registration forms are by the bulletin boards and in the Parish Office. Questions? See Bonnie Ricketts or Florence Thau.



**ROSARY BEFORE MASS**

Come join in prayer of the Rosary 30 minutes before each of the weekend liturgies. Pray for our Parish. All are welcome!

**THE WORD OF GOD IN HUMAN WORDS:  
Introduction to the Bible**

Presenter: Fr. Kevin Schindler-McGraw OFM Conv.

Come! Study, pray & discuss the Word of God in a caring Community of Faith. Please bring your Bible with you, if you have one. Check the calendar at [www.olgcv.org](http://www.olgcv.org) for a complete schedule.

**Session 4**    **November 20th**, 7-8:30pm or  
**November 24th**, 10-11:30am



**EVANGELIZATION CORNER**

**Youth Ministry & Confirmation**

Next Meetings: November 18th &  
December 2nd

**1st Holy Communion**

Next Meetings: November 25th *Being Sorry For My Sins*

December 9th *Celebrating Reconciliation with The Church*

**Whole Family & Middle School Catechesis**

Next Meetings: December 2nd *A Voice Crying in the Wilderness*

December 16th *Stations of the Creche*

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

**BIRTHRIGHT BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER**

On **November 24th-25th**, the volunteers from Birthright of San Lorenzo will pass out baby bottles to parishioners who wish to help mothers, fathers, and babies. We will be there after each Mass and hope you will take one home, fill it with change – of course, dollars and checks are fine too – and return it to the Church Office or ours. Instructions are on the bottles in both Spanish and English. Birthright is a crisis pregnancy center helping mothers. Everything is free and confidential. Our volunteers are not paid and we get no government help. We exist so mothers in crisis will not feel like they have to abort their babies. If you would like to volunteer or receive our quarterly newsletter, please sign up at the fundraiser or call 510-481-9677.



**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.

**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, November 18th:**

**Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

ICF Bake Sale  
After all Morning Masses--Stack Center

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

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

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

**Monday, November 19th:**

Women's Evening Bible Study  
7:00pm--Stack Center

**Tuesday, November 20th:**

Tuesday Morning Bible Study  
9:30am--Parish Office, McGarvey Room

Introduction to the Bible-Fr. Kevin  
7:00pm--Stack Center

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

**Wednesday, November 21st:**

Strobridge Dinner  
5:30am--Strobridge Apartments

**Thursday, November 22nd:**

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

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

**Saturday, November 24th:**

Introduction to the Bible-Fr. Kevin  
10:00am--Stack Center

**Sunday, November 25th:**

**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

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

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

New Parishioner Registration  
10:00am--Stack Center

1st Communion Class  
10:50am--Stack Center



*Mass Intentions for the Week*

All Masses are celebrated in the Church

**SUNDAY, November 18th**

THE THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30am Marlene Dexter--D

11:30am John Nichandros--D

1:30pm Olivia Herrera--D

**MONDAY, November 19th**

8:15am John Patrick Michaud--D

**TUESDAY, November 20th**

8:15am Mercy Peterson--D

**WEDNESDAY, November 21st**

*The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

8:15am Richard Benson--D

**THURSDAY, November 22nd**

*St. Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr*

9:00am Mass of Thanksgiving

**FRIDAY, November 23rd**

*St. Clement I, Pope, Martyr*

*St. Columban, Abbot*

*Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro, Priest, Martyr*

8:15am Mario & Rita Venturini--D

**SATURDAY, November 24th**

*St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, & Companions, Martyrs*

8:15am Tristan Antonio--L

5:00pm Luis Rodrigues--D

**SUNDAY, November 25th**

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

7:30am Larry La Brie--D

9:30am Jerome Gann--D

1:30pm Hector Martinez--D



**THE ALTAR SOCIETY CAN USE YOUR HELP!**

We are in need of 2 or 3 women to take turns doing the Holy Laundry. Rotation is about once every 5 or 6 weeks. If you can help in this ministry, please contact Luz Estella or leave a message at the Parish Office. Thank you!

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

November 19th thru November 25th

Monday: Revelation 1:1-4;2:1-5; Luke 18:35-43  
 Tuesday: Revelation 3:1-6,14-22; Luke 19:1-10  
 Wednesday: Revelation 4:1-11; Luke 19:11-28  
 Thursday: Revelation 5:1-10; Luke 19:41-44  
 Friday: Revelation 10:8-11; Luke 19:45-48  
 Saturday: Revelation 11:4-12; Luke 20:27-40  
 Sunday: Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 1:5-8; John 18:33b-37

**FREE NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING (NFP) INTRODUCTION CLASS**

Join other couples and individuals to hear about the science and effectiveness of family planning that is natural and healthy for women and marriages, while being supported by Church teaching on **December 15th** from 1:00-4:00 pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Brentwood. A medical doctor, Dr. Tom Lenz, and his wife Debbie challenge cultural perceptions and present scientific and practical information on the variety of safe natural methods being taught all over the world. You too can benefit from this timely introduction to NFP, whether you just want to understand your body better or avoid a pregnancy or find an alternative to infertility treatments. RSVP or find out more info by calling 510-271-1936.

**RELEVANT HEART RADIO**

Relevant Heart Radio brings you the best in Catholic Radio 24/7! Playing on 1260AM and dedicated to sharing the heart of the Catholic Faith and changing lives.

**EXECUTION ALERTS**

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

November 28th Sedrick Clayton Tennessee

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

**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:

**DR. JOAN M. JUPINA, D.D.S.**