

**Advent**

The vision of life that Advent gives us is twofold; it looks back to the first coming of Christ at Bethlehem, and it looks to the future when Christ will come again. In the interval between these two events we find meaning for our life as a Christian.

First we celebrate Christ-become-human. We view his life and experience his presence as a human being in our history. For Franciscans this is the Feast of Feasts for God came to us and shared life with us. This is why we were created to be in relationship with Him who loves us. We as the church prepare in Advent to encounter the baby Jesus and Christ the king of the universe who created us and is with us. He formed the Church as a people held together by love connected to the very presence of God who is love in the Eucharist. In the Mass we can find Him, hear Him, touch Him to be saved and loved by Him.

When Christ left this earth, he did not abandon us. He remains with us in his Spirit, the Church, the sacraments, the Scriptures and in those who believe living in a state of grace who are temples of the Holy Spirit. He lives in community with us and communes with us as we turn to him in humility and follow his teaching and live in his love.

When Christ comes again he will be in Glory and as Judge. His presence among us will be revealed in all its fullness, a presence that will never end, a presence that will perfect and complete us to join in praise at the Divine Liturgy.

This is the "greater significance" of Advent. In these few short weeks we take in the sweeping panorama of time - from Christ's birth to his Second Coming. The season of Advent brings us the magnificent vision of life and hope for the future given to us by Christ. May we prepare by reflecting on our lives, removing all darkness and sin, to have lives that are ready to receive Jesus, be enlightened by Jesus, and be embraced by Jesus forever.

Advent is penitential season of preparation in hopeful expectation of encountering and seeing Emmanuel, God with us. We will be connecting this season with teachings from the Catechism on what is Sin? Different kinds of Sin, The Proliferation of Sin in Humanity, and Finally we will look at Mercy and Sin. Thus we are preparing not only for Christmas but also for Christ's Second Coming. This means that when he comes again, we will be awake and watchful. He will not find us asleep.

Confession will be available during Holy Hour Adoration on Thursday evenings at 7PM and on Saturday mornings at 8:45AM. There will be multiple Confessors beginning December 13 during Adoration. Prepare the way of the Lord by preparing your heart by receiving reconciliation through Confession.

Advent Parish Series, Forgiven

On Thursday **December 6 and 13** at 7PM in Stack Center Fr. Tom will introduce our Formed.org series Forgiven. Join us as we as a community contemplate the awesomeness of our merciful God and Sacrament of Reconciliation as a gift and aid in helping us live a Christian life. Let us make this the best Christmas of our lives by preparing our hearts to be touched by Jesus.

RCIA

Meet in the OLG room in the Stack Center at 6:30pm on **December 6**

Immaculate Conception Mass

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a holy day of obligation. We will have Mass on Friday, **December 7** at 7 PM (Bi-Lingual) and on Saturday, **December 8** at 8:15 AM. Please pray the Immaculate Conception Novena Prayer in Preparation for the Feast (see page 4 for the prayer).

HOW TO CONNECT TO FORMED - A CATHOLIC STREAMING SERVICE

We have registered the Parish with FORMED. Our site is www.olgcv.formed.org. Following are the instructions for you to register with our site and get started. Here's how easy it is to get FORMED: Either on your computer, tablet or Smartphone go to our site www.olgcv.formed.org You should see the register now box. Set up a username- whatever username you'll remember - and a password and you are all set to explore all FORMED has to offer. To get the Formed app for your phone or tablet, visit app.formed.org

Gospel for the Second Sunday of Advent (December 9th)**Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."



THE SOLEMNITY OF THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Our Holy Day Masses honoring Mary on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Friday, **December 7th** at **8:15am** (School children liturgy) and **7:00pm**.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This is the season for all to give thanks. No better way to do this than as the community of OLG. Many opportunities are available for all families to join in. Our students will be the leaders at the 5:00 Mass on **December 1st** and they will be there as greeters, readers, and singers. At the end of Mass our second grade students will be enacting the beautiful Christmas story and following their short play, we will all go to Stack Center for our annual tree lighting with Fr. Tom. Delicious small plates are being prepared by our school families and we invite all in our parish to come and enjoy good friends, good food, and "gracious space." If you come you might be surprised by a visitor coming from the North Pole!
-Susan Anderson



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ADVENT CONFESSIONS READY THE WAY OF THE LORD

Confessions will be available during Advent during **Adoration** on Thursdays at 7:00pm & Saturday mornings at 8:50am. Saturday afternoon Confessions will be from 3:30 – 4:30pm.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Again, this year, we are inviting you to remember family members and friends through a Flower Offering which will help us to purchase plants and other decorations we need to beautify our sanctuary. You may list the names of loved ones you wish to remember or memorialize by using the special flower envelopes --or by submitting the name to the Parish Office. A list of names of all who are remembered will be available after Christmas. Thank you for considering this thoughtful and helpful way to remember those you love.

HELPING THOSE IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON
The following are the many ways to help those most 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. 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 until **December 31st**. We thank you for your generosity.

FESCO AND CASTRO VALLEY OUTREACH Christmas Giving Trees

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!



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!



ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIALS

We are looking to have 6 monthly sponsors for our Altar Candles. We ask for a donation of \$20 to cover the cost of the candles for the month. Our donors for the month will be recognized in the first bulletin of the month and there will be a monthly Mass offered for the intention of our Candle Memorial. For more information, please call the Parish Office.

ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIAL DONORS

We deeply thank the following donors who have given generously towards sponsoring our Altar Candle Memorial:

**RON STAINBROOK
PATRICIA ESTORGA**



**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
CELEBRATION
DECEMBER 12TH**

The Hispanic Group invites the entire Parish community to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe on Her Feast Day, Wednesday, **December 12th**, beginning with Mañanitas, at 5:00am in the Church, followed by breakfast in Stack Center at 6:00am. A Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass will be held at 8:15am in English & 7:00pm in Spanish, followed by a dessert reception in Stack Center at 8:00pm.

El Grupo Hispano invita a toda la comunidad parroquial a honrar a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe el martes, **12 de diciembre**, comenzando con Mañanitas, a las 5:00am en la Iglesia, seguida por un pequeño desayuno compuesto de chocolate con leche y pan mexicano, a las 6:00am, en Stack Center. La Misa en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe se llevará a cabo a las 7:00pm en la Iglesia seguida por una pequeña recepción en el Stack Center a las 8:00pm.

**CHRISTMAS POSADA
DECEMBER 16th**

The Hispanic Group is hosting a Christmas Posada and Pot Luck "Pilgrimage & Party" on **December 16th** after the 1:30pm Spanish Mass in Stack Center at 2:30pm.

El Grupo Hispano les invita a la Posada Navideña, el día **16 de diciembre** después de la Misa de 1:30pm. Comenzaremos la peregrinación al terminar la Misa, dentro de la Iglesia con destino al Stack Center a las 2:30pm.

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 18th:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 8,901.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 9,038.00
Over/[Shortfall]	[\$ 137.00]
Year-to-date Over/[Shortfall]	[\$ 10,402.00]

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 |
| Bill Lawrence | |

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

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

**CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN
FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

There is still time to respond to the needs of the poor and low income in our Diocese through the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. A quarter of the proceeds from this collection stay in the Diocese to support efforts in our community. Envelopes are in the pews for your use in this appeal.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
NOVENA PRAYER**

O most pure Virgin Mary conceived without sin, from the very first instant, you were entirely immaculate. O glorious Mary full of grace, you are the mother of my God – the Queen of Angels and of men. I humbly venerate you as the chosen mother of my Savior, Jesus Christ. The Prince of Peace and the Lord of Lords chose you for the singular grace and honor of being His beloved mother. By the power of His Cross, He preserved you from all sin. Therefore, by His power and love, I have hope and bold confidence in your prayers for my holiness and salvation. Now, Our Lady of Grace, I beg you to beg my Savior to grant me these requests (Mention your intentions). My holy Mother, I know that you were obedient to the will of God. In making this petition, I know that God’s will is more perfect than mine. So, grant that I may receive God’s grace with humility like you. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you, and for those who do not have recourse to you, especially the enemies of the Holy Catholic Church and those who are recommended to you. Amen. *The Rosary is now prayed.*



**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.



**COME JOIN IN THE FEAST!
Saturday, January 19, 2019**

OLG’s Knights of Columbus will be hosting a delicious Crab Feed on Saturday, **January 19th** at 6:00pm in Stack Center. Tickets are \$40 per person & includes: crab or chicken, salad, pasta, garlic bread, and another year of great entertainment & dancing by OLG’s local bands, including Rust! Enjoy beer, wine and no-host bar. The Knights are seeking volunteers to assist with this fun event! This is a GREAT community event that benefits the entire Parish and School. Don’t delay, get your tickets today! Tickets may be purchased in the Parish Office.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 2nd:

The First Sunday of Advent

- Liturgy of the Word
9:30am--Augustine Center
- Coffee & Donuts
After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center
- 1st Communion Class
10:50am--Stack Center
- Youth Ministry/Confirmation
6:00pm--Stack Center

Monday, December 3rd:

- Women’s Evening Bible Study
6:30pm--Stack Center

Tuesday, December 4th:

- Tuesday Morning Bible Study
9:30am--Parish Office, McGarvey Room
- Men’s Faith Share
7:00pm--Stack Center, Room 7

Wednesday, December 5th:

- Baptismal Class
7:00pm--Stack Center, OLG Room

Thursday, December 6th:

- St. Vincent de Paul Meeting
7:30pm--Augustine Center, Room A2
- AA Serenity Group
7:30pm--Augustine Center, Room A2
- Adoration
7:00pm--Church

Saturday, December 8th:

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

Sunday, December 9th:

The Second Sunday of Advent

- 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
- Advent Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
4:00pm--Church & Stack Center
- Youth Ministry/Confirmation
6:00pm--Stack Center

Mass Intentions for the Week

All Masses are celebrated in the Church

SUNDAY, December 2nd

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 9:30am Marylou Maravella--D
- 11:30am Joseph Nguyen Van Tien--D
- 1:30pm Ciro Contreras-Castillo--D

MONDAY, December 3rd

St. Francis Xavier, Priest

- 8:15am Cory Nicasio--D

TUESDAY, December 4th

St. John Damascene, Priest, Doctor of the Church

- 8:15am Rudy & Augie Enriquez--D

WEDNESDAY, December 5th

- 8:15am Richard Benson--D

THURSDAY, December 6th

St. Nicholas, Bishop

- 8:15am Velasquez & Moran Families

FRIDAY, December 7th

St. Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

- 8:15am Debi Telles--D

SATURDAY, December 8th

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

- 8:15am Mike De Guzman--D
- 5:00pm Anna Venturini--D

SUNDAY, December 9th

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 7:30am Joseph Nguyen Tan Thanh--L
- 9:30am Natalie Shomon--L
- 1:30pm Rafael Valenzuela Medina--D



EXECUTION ALERTS

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

- December 4th Joseph Garcia Texas
- December 6th David Miller Tennessee
- December 11th Alvin Braziel, Jr. Texas

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

December 3rd thru December 9th

- Monday: Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11
- Tuesday: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24
- Wednesday: Isaiah 25:6-10; Matthew 15:29-37
- Thursday: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27
- Friday: Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31
- Saturday: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38
- Sunday: Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6

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.

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: **December 6, 2018**
9:00am to 11:15am

Speaker: Fr. Benedict Wagonont
Topic: Servant of All, Call to Serve

THANK THEM WITH YOUR SUPPORT

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This week we extend our gratitude to:

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