



Second Sunday of Advent

“As the journey of Advent continues, as we prepare to celebrate the nativity of Christ, John the Baptist's call to conversion sounds out in our communities. It is a pressing invitation to open our hearts and to welcome the Son of God Who comes among us to make divine judgment manifest. The Father, writes St. John the Evangelist, does not judge anyone, but has entrusted the power of judgment to the Son, because He is the Son of man.

And it is today, in the present, that we decide our future destiny. It is with our concrete everyday behavior in this life that we determine our eternal fate. At the end of our days on earth, at the moment of death, we will be evaluated on the basis of our likeness or otherwise to the Baby Who is about to be born in the poor grotto of Bethlehem, because He is the measure God has given humanity.

Through the Gospel, John the Baptist continues to speak down the centuries to each generation. His hard clear words bring health to us, the men and women of this day in which even the experience and perception of Christmas often, unfortunately, reflects materialist attitudes. The 'voice' of the great prophet asks us to prepare the way for the coming Lord in the deserts of today, internal and external deserts, thirsting for the water of life which is Christ.” – Benedict XVI

Join Fr. Tom on **Thursday December 13** at 7:00pm in Stack Center for **Forgiven**. We will explore an encounter with mercy. Forgiven explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how the sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love. By looking at God's revelation of his mercy in scripture and making a step by step examination of the Rite itself, Forgiven communicates invitation to each one of us to come experience is indescribable love in the sacrament of Reconciliation. If you plan on attending please let Jay in the office know.

Confessions are available on Thursday at 7pm and Saturday at 8:45am and 3:30pm.

Peace,

Fr. Thomas Czeck

Come Celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe on **December 12**

Las Mañanitas at 5:45am

English Mass at 8:15am

Spanish Mass at 7pm followed by a reception

Gospel for the Third Sunday of Advent (December 16th)

Luke 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, “What should we do?” He said to them in reply, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He answered them, “Stop collecting more than what is prescribed.” Soldiers also asked him, “And what is it that we should do?” He told them, “Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages.” Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, “I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

**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@olgv.org. We will get back to you the next day. All names are kept confidential.



ONE WARM COAT DRIVE

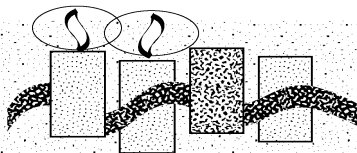
This year the OLG St. Vincent de Paul Conference will be participating in the One Warm Coat Drive. We invite parishioners to donate **new or gently used men's, women's or children's coats** to this drive. These coats will be distributed through our local Conference, the drop-in centers and clothing closet 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!



**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.



**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.



DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

The committee is in need of help to get the church ready for Christmas, so please make plans to help ready the church on **December 22nd** at 10:00am and again on **December 23rd** at 3:00pm. The more hands, the quicker the work will be completed. Thanks in advance for your assistance!

ADVENT PARISH SERIES - "FORGIVEN"

On Thursday, **December 13th** at 7:00pm in Stack Center, Fr. Tom will continue 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.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

We invite you to remember family members and friends through a Flower Offering which will help purchase plants and other decorations we need to beautify our sanctuary. Please list the names of loved ones you wish to remember or memorialize by using the special flower envelopes or by submitting their 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.

**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION
DECEMBER 9TH - TODAY**

Please give to those who have given a lifetime. This annual appeal helps retired sister, brother and religious older priests, who spent their lives in church ministries such as education, healthcare and social service. Envelopes are in the pews and at the entrances of the church for your use. Please give generously. Religious women and men thank you for each merciful action you take on behalf of others and pray for your spiritual peace.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

As we come to the end of this calendar year, we want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your financial support of our parish this past year. We have been blessed with the addition to our Evangelization team of John Lee and Jackie Cruz allowing us to further grow our new model of Catechesis. As Fr. Tom mentioned previously, we are not just maintaining buildings but building families of faith. We need your continued support to make this renewal possible. We have made property improvements this past year totaling \$63,161 against the Facilities offerings of \$18,000. We are grateful to all those who continue to support this monthly offering. Our Christmas Offering Budget is \$30,000. Please know that your special Christmas and regular Sunday donations help us to meet our end-of-year expenses and hopefully allow us to begin our new fiscal year on a positive note. We are grateful for your offering to accomplish this goal.

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 25th:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 8,618.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 9,038.00
Over/[Shortfall]	[\$ 420.00]
Year-to-date Over/[Shortfall]	[\$ 15,145.00]

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 |
| Maureen Boeh | Olga Munoz |
| 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 Kruzel | 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 CAPP

PARADISE & SOUTHERN CA FIRES

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

**CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN
FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
PARISH APPEAL**

Thank you for your generous support towards the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! As a parish, the funds we raised will support those on the margins who are living in poverty in the United States. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections, and click on "How to Give" on the left. Thank you!



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 readings 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.

FORMED ADVENT REFLECTIONS WITH FORMED
Preparing for the Birth of Our Savior

How will you & your family prepare for Christmas? This Advent, enrich your daily prayer with videos from Dr. Tim Gray on a journey of renewal. **Watch** an inspiring video, **Read** a passage from the Word of God & **Reflect** on how you can prepare for Christ's coming. You may also add children's reflections to your daily reflections. Brother Francis will help your young ones prepare for Christmas with joyful songs & valuable lessons. Login into your Formed account & scroll across the top to find "Advent Reflections" & sign up today!



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 \$38 per person until **December 30th** and then the price goes up to \$40 per person. Price includes: crab or chicken, salad, pasta, garlic bread, and another year of great entertainment & dancing by OLG's local bands, Rust & Triple Play! 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. Tickets may be purchased in the Parish Office or online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/our-lady-of-grace-crab-feed-dance-5050-raffle-tickets-52767377647?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

THIS WEEK

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

Tuesday, December 11th:

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

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

Wednesday, December 12th:

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mañanitas
 5:00am--Church

Our Lady of Guadalupe Reception
 6:00am--Stack Center

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass
 8:15am (English) & 7:00pm (Spanish)--Church

Our Lady of Guadalupe Reception
 8:00pm--Church

Thursday, December 13th:

ICF Meeting & Dinner
 6:30pm--Stack Center

Advent Parish Series-Fr. Tom
 7:00pm--Stack Center

Adoration
 7:00pm--Church

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

Sunday, December 16th:

The Third Sunday of Advent

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

All Masses are celebrated in the Church

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

MONDAY, December 10th

- 8:15am Dorothy & Manuel Callier--D

TUESDAY, December 11th

St. Damascus I, Pope

- 8:15am Lilia Sousa--D

WEDNESDAY, December 12th

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

- 8:15am Alexandria Gutierrez--L

THURSDAY, December 13th

St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

- 8:15am Larry La Brie--D

FRIDAY, December 14th

St. John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church

- 8:15am John Patrick Michaud--D

SATURDAY, December 15th

- 8:15am Patricia Leal--D
- 5:00pm Jerome Gann--D

SUNDAY, December 16th

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 7:30am Helen Maes--D
- 11:30am John Nichandros--D
- 1:30pm Araceli Lara--D



THIS WEEK--Continued

Sunday, December 16th:

- Coffee & Donuts
After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center
- Whole Family/Middle School Catechesis
10:50am--Stack Center
- Christmas Posada Reception
After 1:30pm Spanish Mass--Stack Center
- Youth Ministry/Confirmation
6:00pm--Stack Center

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

December 10th thru December 16th

- Monday: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14
- Wednesday: Zecariah 2:14-17; Luke 1:26-38
- Thursday: Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15
- Friday: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
- Saturday: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9-13
- Sunday: Zephaniah 3:14-18; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

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.



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 Chau.

EXECUTION ALERTS

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

December 11th Alvin Braziel, Jr. Texas

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:

LANDMARK VILLA