



**ON THE ROAD AGAIN ...  
FR KEVIN - NEW RESPONSIBILITIES**

You know that we Franciscans have been wandering vagabonds for the last 800 years – and MY time to ‘wander’ has come once again! Bishop Barber recently asked me to join him in working with the continuing education of the priests of our diocese while, at the same time, staying involved in ministry with the people of the diocese. As a result, I’ll be bringing my ministry at Our Lady of Grace to a close at the end of this month and begin my new responsibilities as of the first of the New Year.

It’s difficult to believe that I’ve had the privilege of ministering with you here for just under two years already! This truly is a community of faith and love. I’ve grown to care for you very much and will miss seeing your shining faces on a daily basis. I give thanks to God for each of you and will continue to ask for an outpouring of God’s grace and blessings in your lives - and in the life of the entire parish. I ask you to please keep me as well in your thoughts and prayers as we continue our journeys in God’s love side by side.

May God bless you – and all of us – always!  
Fr. Kevin



The seven "O Antiphons" (also called the "Greater Antiphons" or "Major Antiphons") are prayers that come from the Breviary's Vespers during the Octave before Christmas Eve, a time which is called the "Golden Nights."

Each Antiphon begins with "O" and addresses Jesus with a unique title which comes from the prophecies of Isaiah and Micah, and whose initials, when read backwards, form an acrostic for the Latin "Ero Cras" which means "Tomorrow I come."

**December 17**

O Wisdom that comest out of the mouth of the Most High, that reachest from one end to another, and orderest all things mightily and sweetly, come to teach us the way of prudence!

**December 18**

O Adonai, and Ruler of the house of Israel, Who didst appear unto Moses in the burning bush, and gavest him the law in Sinai, come to redeem us with an outstretched arm!

**December 19**

O Root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at Whom the kings shall shut their mouths, Whom the Gentiles shall seek, come to deliver us, do not tarry.

**December 20**

O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel, that openeth and no man shutteth, and shutteth and no man openeth, come to liberate the prisoner from the prison, and them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death.

**December 21**

O Dayspring, Brightness of the everlasting light, Sun of justice, come to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death!

**December 22**

O King of the Gentiles, yea, and desire thereof! O Corner-stone, that makest of two one, come to save man, whom Thou hast made out of the dust of the earth!

**December 23**

O Emmanuel, our King and our Law-giver, Longing of the Gentiles, yea, and salvation thereof, come to save us, O Lord our God!

Join as a family to recite the antiphon and read the Scriptures as a way of preparing for Christmas. Each title reveals to us something promised that Jesus fulfilled.

Peace! Have a Blessed Christmas!  
From the Franciscans and Staff

**Please Remember Our Lady of Grace at Christmas**

Many of you will be traveling to be with family and friends. May you have a safe Journey. Please remember us with a gift so we may cover our bills and end the year financially in the black and to begin the New Year with a cleared balance.

Peace,  
Fr. Tom

**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. 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.



**ADVENT CONFESSIONS  
READY THE WAY OF THE LORD**

Confessions will be available during Advent during **Adoration** on Thursdays at 7:00pm & Saturday mornings at 8:45am. Saturday afternoon Confessions will be from 3:30 – 4:30pm.



**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.



*Rejoice*  
Your God is near!

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**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**

The Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, **December 24th** and Tuesday, **December 25th**. We will re-open on Wednesday, **December 26th** at 8:30am. Additionally, the offices will close early at Noon on Monday, **December 31st** and will be closed on Tuesday, **January 1st** and will re-open on Wednesday, **January 2nd** at 8:30am. The entire Parish Staff wishes you all a Blessed Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

**CHRISTMAS POSADA  
TODAY-DECEMBER 16th**

The Hispanic Group is hosting a Christmas Posada and Pot Luck "Pilgrimage & Party" **today, 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.

**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.



**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!

**CATHOLIC VOICE ANNUAL APPEAL**

There's still time to donate for this year! Please consider a donation to the Annual Appeal for The Catholic Voice. Your donation helps our Parish offset its payment for this important communication ministry. The Voice is the only regular source of Catholic news and information delivered to all parishioners in the Diocese. *Please be generous in your support our Parish pays \$707.00 each month for this subscription. Your donation of \$25.00 would help offset the parish expense.*

Checks should be made payable to Our Lady of Grace. Envelopes are in the pews.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
CRAB FEED  
Saturday, January 19, 2019**

**Get your Crab Feed Tickets today!**

Save the Date: Saturday, **January 19, 2019**  
6:00pm to 10:00pm in Stack Center

Live Music Featuring Triple Play and Rust. Dancing,  
50/50 Raffle and Great Food!

Kids care opens at 6:00 pm

Crab Feed tickets make a great stocking stuffer, get them while they last!

Tickets are on available in the Parish and School Office's for \$40.00 each or \$38.00 each,

**if purchased by December 30th**

and online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/our-lady-of-grace-crab-feed-dance-5050-raffle-tickets-52767377647>

Chicken option if ordered at the time of ticket purchase, Bring your own Crab Butter!



**ICF CRAB FEED  
Saturday, January 19, 2019**



Join the ICF, East Bay District for the Dave Rose Memorial Crab Feed on Saturday **January 19, 2019** at St. Philip Neri Parish, Msgr. O'Brien Hall in Alameda. Hosted bar and Hors d'Oeuvres at 6:00pm, Dinner at 7:00pm. Cost is \$55.00 per person, children 10 and under, \$10.00. Chicken may be requested instead of crab when reservations are made. For reservations please call Fran @ 510-887-1509. Deadline for reservations is **January 10, 2019**.

**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 December 2nd:**

Sunday Plate:	\$ 10,680.00
<b>Weekly Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 9,038.00</b>
Over/[Shortfall]	[\$ 420.00]
Year-to-date Over/[Shortfall]	[\$ 9,081.00]

*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.*

**JACK KENNETH HOLMES  
PARADISE & SOUTHERN CA FIRES  
VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE**

**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION**

There is still time to 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.

## 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!

### WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST 2019 Saturday, January 26, 2019

Join fellow Catholics and Pro-Lifers from all over California and beyond as we stand up for the littlest among us at the 15th Annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco on **January 26, 2019**. There will be Mass at 9:30am celebrated by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone at St. Mary's Cathedral. The rally begins at 12:30pm in San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza, and the Walk, down the city's Market Street, begins at 1:30pm. Last year's Walk drew 50,000+ people. For complete information about the Walk, visit [www.walkforlifewc.com](http://www.walkforlifewc.com) or call 415-658-1793.

### WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Join the Women's Evening Bible Study as we study First Corinthians: The Church and the Christian Community. The conflicts of the early Christians in Corinth are in many ways similar to our struggles today as Christians. With divisions, immorality, persecution, and other trials of the faithful, the message of St. Paul to the Corinthians is a much-needed message for our own times. This study explores the key elements that the apostle Paul introduced to a new and growing Church. St. Paul taught the Corinthians about the nature of grace and the Church as the Body of Christ. In addition, he introduced the Corinthian Christians to the most powerful gift of all, the Eucharist.

We will begin First Corinthians: The Church and the Christian Community on Tuesday **January 22, 2019** at 7PM in Stack Center. Cost for this 11 session series is \$29.00 For more information or to register for the study please contact Heidi Denzler-Halsey at 510-881-7850 or Jay in the parish office at 510-537-0806. Last day to register will be Thursday **January 3, 2019**.

## THIS WEEK

### *Sunday, December 16th:*

#### *The Third Sunday of Advent*

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

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

### *Monday, December 17th:*

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

### *Tuesday, December 18th:*

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

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

### *Wednesday, December 19th:*

Strobridge Dinner  
5:30pm--Strobridge Apartments

Knights of Columbus  
6:00pm--Stack Center

### *Thursday, December 20th:*

RCIA  
7:00pm--Stack Center, OLG Room

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting  
7:00pm--Parish Office, Upper Room

Adoration  
7:00pm--Church

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

### *Saturday, December 22nd:*

Adoration  
8:45am--Church



*Mass Intentions for the Week*

All Masses are celebrated in the Church

**SUNDAY, December 16th**

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30am Helen Maes--D

11:30am John Nichandros--D

1:30pm Araceli Lara--D

**MONDAY, December 17th**

8:15am Thomas & Mary Hayes--D

**TUESDAY, December 18th**

8:15am Gina Castillo--L

**WEDNESDAY, December 19th**

8:15am Bill Correia--D

**THURSDAY, December 20th**

8:15am Bonnie Sill--D

**FRIDAY, December 21st**

*St. Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor of the Church*

8:15am Gilberto Marquez--D

**SATURDAY, December 22nd**

8:15am Mario & Rita Venturini--D

5:00pm Louis Rodrigues--D

**SUNDAY, December 23rd**

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30am Vincenzo & Giuseppa Latora--D

9:30am Antonio S. Barroso, Sr.--D

1:30pm Salvador Moran--D

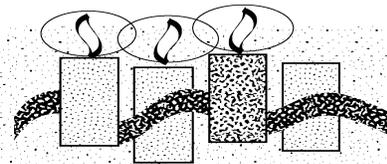
**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

**December 17th thru December 23rd**

- Monday: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17
- Tuesday: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25
- Wednesday: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Luke 1:5-25
- Thursday: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38
- Friday: Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45
- Saturday: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56
- Sunday: Micah 5:1-4; Hebrew 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

**CHRISTMAS NOVENA PRAYER**

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant your desires, [*here mention your request*] through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.



**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.

**FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND**



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.

**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:

**MAFFEI PAINTING**



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**THIS WEEK--Continued**

**Sunday, December 23rd:**

**The Fourth 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