



Christmas message from Pastor

On my pilgrimage to the Holy Land this fall I was able to go to the place where Jesus was born and have Mass in the cave where the Manger was. Being born in a manger in a cave our Lord came to us so humbly in poverty.

It is believed that St. Francis was first inspired by this idea after visiting the historical place of Christ's birth on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land—the humble stable in a Bethlehem cave. It is likely this event which deepened his devotion to the Child Jesus, who was born into the world in such poverty, humility, and simplicity. In fact, Francis founded his new religious Order to imitate these very virtues.

At Greccio, St. Francis sought to recreate Bethlehem by celebrating the Christmas Mass in a cave. He sought to bring us back to the poverty and simplicity of the birth of Jesus because people had forgotten the difficult human circumstances that brought us our Saviour. It was no accident that God chose to come in such a simple, poor and humble way. Everyone is welcome to come and greet our king and savior who loves us. Shepherds, Magi, and King come to pay homage for he is accessible to all and the dignity of all humanity finds its nobility here as God becomes flesh and dwells among us; Emmanuel, God with us.

The man of God [St. Francis] stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by Francis, the Levite of Christ. Then he preached to the people around the nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His name for the tenderness of His love, He called Him the Babe of Bethlehem.

May every infant child remind us of the gift of Our Lord Jesus born in Bethlehem. May we seek to make room for every child God has given to us and see the image of God imprinted in their humanity from the beginning. May we see the dignity of every person as a beloved child of God and never settle for less. May we bring all to the manger with love to meet our brother Jesus who has come to love us and save us. He has come to bring us back to the Father for all generations so we may live in the love of the Trinity forever. Come let us adore him!

The Franciscans and Staff offer you blessings at Christmas!

Christmas Present for You from OLG

Access your free subscription to **Formed.org** for your family this Christmas. Watch the movie of the Nativity as a family together as you gather. Before or after football would be a great Christmas present. Grab a business card or postcard for Formed as you leave today. The business card will allow you to access **Formed** on your computer or use the postcard to download the app on your phone or tablet. Our faith is a gift so access the fullness of our tradition when you have a minute on your devices or computer to experience the beauty of our teachings and faith.

I invite you to give the gift of our Community at our upcoming Crab Feed on January 19th. This is a perfect gift to give for your loved ones. Delicious food, entertainment, and community for only 40 dollars. Ours is the most economical Crab Feed in the Bay Area. All profits benefit the community of Our Lady of Grace.

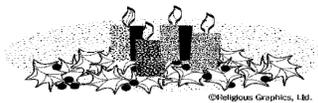
Red is a Christmas color but we want to end the year in the Black

If you could remember us by the end of the year with a donation it would help us greatly. Salvation is a free gift from God but we need to pay for upkeep of buildings, heat, electricity, salaries for priests and staff to give the Sacraments and educate our community in the Faith.

Reception for Fr. Kevin as he leaves Our Lady of Grace

Join us after the 9:30am Mass on December 30th as we say good bye to Fr. Kevin as he begins a new position in Our Diocese in the New Year. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us at Our Lady of Grace for almost 2 years.

Peace,
Fr. Tom



Gospel for the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (December 30th)

Luke 2:41-52

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

*Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Sunday, December 30th*

Mass at 7:30, 9:30, 11:30am, 1:30pm (Spanish)

New Year's Eve: Monday, December 31st
Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

New Year's Day: Tuesday, January 1st
Mary, the Mother of God
Mass at 9:00am

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!

**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.

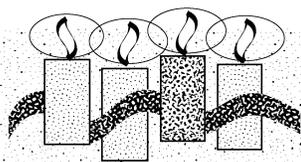
ONE WARM COAT DRIVE



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.

2019 CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Catholic Extension 2019 Family Appointment Calendars are available. We are grateful and we extend our sincere appreciation to the Catholic Funeral Cremation & Cemetery Services of the Diocese of Oakland for again sponsoring the 2019 calendars. If you have not picked up a copy in the church you may find one in the parish office. *Please only one per household.*



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, **today, December 23rd** at 3:00pm. The more hands, the quicker the work will be completed. Thanks in advance for your assistance!

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.

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.

PLEASE NOTE

Due to the holiday schedule of our bulletin publisher we are not able to report the weekly offerings for most of December. The Sunday offering will be updated after the first of the year along with the Christmas Offering. Thank you for your generosity.

MASS AT HOLY FAMILY FRIARY

Please note the Friars will be on retreat **January 1st through January 4th**, therefore there will be no morning mass at the Holy Family Friary while they are away.



**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 9th:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 8,593.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 9,038.00
Over/[Shortfall]	[\$ 445.00]
Year-to-date Over/[Shortfall]	[\$ 11,510.00]

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 | Angela Schaaphok |
| Ana Cochran | Florence Sharp |
| Claudia Dobbs | Rosemary Slater |
| Lynn Franks | Howard Songey |
| Anna Friedeberg | Lurdes Sousa |
| Byron Griffith | Mercedes Tellez |
| Don Jordan | Baby Jackson Tyler |
| Maxine Kruzel | Bishop |
| Bill Lawrence | Norma Wardle |

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

**MARY MALLON-FARLEY
NORMAN GOYETTE
VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE**

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.



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.

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 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 23rd:****The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Adoration

8:45am--Church

Coffee & Donuts

After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center

New Parishioner Registration

10:00am--Stack Center

Monday, December 24th:**Parish Offices Closed****Christmas Eve Vigil Masses**

5:00pm--Church

10:00pm--Church

Tuesday, December 25th:**MERRY CHRISTMAS!****Parish Offices Closed****Thursday, December 27th:****No Eucharistic Adoration tonight**

RCIA

7:00pm--Stack Center, OLG Room

AA Serenity Group

7:30pm--Augustine Center, Room A2

Saturday, December 29th:

Adoration

8:45am--Church

Sunday, December 30th:**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

Liturgy of the Word

9:30am--Augustine Center

Farewell Reception for Fr. Kevin

After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center

PEACE ON
EARTH

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Mass Intentions for the Week

All Masses are celebrated in the Church

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

MONDAY, December 24th

8:15am Marvin Picha--D

TUESDAY, December 25th

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

7:30am *The Solemnity of Christmas*

9:30am *The Solemnity of Christmas*

11:30am *The Solemnity of Christmas*

1:30pm *The Solemnity of Christmas (Spanish)*

WEDNESDAY, December 26th

St. Stephen, Martyr

8:15am Elmer & Marilyn Leal--D

THURSDAY, December 27th

St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

8:15am Bill Williams--D

FRIDAY, December 28th

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:15am Enos & Rosi Leal--D

SATURDAY, December 29th

Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

8:15am Colleen Durkin--D

SUNDAY, December 30th

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

7:30am Diane Padilla--D

1:30pm Santana Garcia--D

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 meet at Transfiguration Church
Marian Room (Hall)

Next Meeting: **January 3, 2019**
9:00am to 11:15am

Speaker: Caroline Trumble

Topic: Encounter at the Well

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

December 24th thru December 30th

Monday: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16;
Luke 1:67-79

Tuesday:
Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;
Matthew 1:1-25

Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Timothy 2:11-14;
Luke 2:1-14

Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12; Timothy 3:4-7;
Luke 2:15-20

Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrew 1:1-6;
John 1:1-18

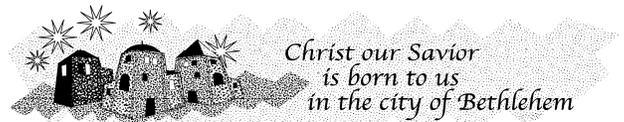
Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59;
Matthew 10:17-22

Thursday: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1-8

Friday: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

Saturday: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

Sunday: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14;
Colossians 3:12-2; Luke 2:41-52



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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.

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

We extend a warm welcome to new parishioners & guests. Please stop by Stack Center **today, December 23rd**, after the 9:30am Mass to register or update your information. A Hospitality volunteer will greet you at the New Parishioner Registration table. We are grateful to our volunteers for providing this ministry on our behalf.

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:

MERLE'S HALLMARK SHOP