



**Gaudete Sunday**

The third Sunday of Advent is called "*Gaudete*" Sunday (coming from the first word of the Latin Entrance Antiphon for this day, meaning "Rejoice") and the liturgical color may be rose instead of purple. This is the Church's way of further heightening our expectation as we draw ever nearer the Solemnity of Christmas.

We will be rejoicing by blessing our Lectors who proclaim the scripture revealing to us God's plan and to come save us. We rejoice through blessing that our Eucharistic Ministers hand us the incarnate Jesus as they offer our Body and Blood of our Savior.

**O Antiphons**

The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the *Magnificat* canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17th-23rd. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment, not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

**December 17th**

O Wisdom of our God Most High,  
guiding creation with power and love:  
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

**December 18th**

O Leader of the House of Israel,  
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:  
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

**December 19th**

O Root of Jesse's stem,  
sign of God's love for all his people:  
come to save us without delay!

**December 20th**

O Key of David,  
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:  
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

**December 21st**

O Radiant Dawn,  
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:  
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**December 22nd**

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:  
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

**December 23rd**

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:  
come to save us, Lord our God!

**Remember Us At Christmas**

Join us at Christmas to celebrate the nativity of our Lord. If you are going to be with family and friends, please do not forget us as we depend on your charity to proclaim the Good News of our Saviors birth. May God Bless you and your families wherever you may be this Christmas. If God has blessed you, please remember us.

**Memorial Mass Cards**

The Friars at St. Maximillian Kolbe Friary will be offering a one-year enrollment in our Purgatory Mass Association. Every 1st Saturday Mass, those enrolled will be remembered for a year. The Friars will also remember your loved one in our prayers daily. The Mass will be offered along with our 1st Saturday Mass at Our Lady of Grace in the Church. A memorial card of the Sacred Heart of Jesus or Our Lady of Grace is given to you to offer the family.

Contact Jay in the office for more information and to register your loved ones. We begin our Masses on **Saturday, January 3rd**.

**Christmas Gifts**

Order SCRIP as you do your holiday shopping. Order forms are in the back of the Church or in the Parish Office. Turn in your order this week so we can get your SCRIP in time for Christmas gifts & stocking stuffers. Your use of SCRIP costs you nothing but benefits the evangelization of our children.

Make your hearts firm because the coming of the LORD is at hand.



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**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@olgc.org and leave a message. We will get back to you the next day. All names are kept confidential.

**LANDSCAPING IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH**

We have begun the landscaping project at the front of the church. We will be widening the concrete walkway leading to the front parking lot in addition to adding new top soil and grass as well as drought tolerant native plants. The sprinkler system will also be completely replaced. The cost of this much needed beautification to the church property is \$11,600. Please consider making a direct donation to this project.

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

Confessions will be available this Advent during **Adoration** on Thursdays at 7:30am & 7:00pm; Saturday at 9:00am and 3:30 – 4:30pm.



**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

We invite 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 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 close early at Noon on Tuesday, **December 24th**. On Wednesday, **December 25th** and Thursday, **December 26th**, the Offices will be closed. We will re-open on Friday, **December 27th** at 8:30am. Additionally, the offices will close early at Noon on Tuesday, **December 31st** and will be closed on Wednesday, **January 1st** and will re-open on Thursday, **January 2nd** at 8:30am. The entire Parish Staff wishes you all a Blessed Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!



**CHRISTMAS POSADA  
DECEMBER 22nd**

The Hispanic Group is hosting a Christmas Posada Celebration on **December 22nd** after the 1:30pm Spanish Mass in Stack Center at 3:00pm.

El Grupo Hispano les invita a la Posada Navideña, el día **22 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 3:00pm.

**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. As most of you have probably experienced in your own homes and businesses, our expenses have also risen and our income has not kept pace with the increase in expense. This has been the pattern over a number of years and so we too must be very careful in our stewardship of the parish. Your continuing support is most important and most appreciated. Please know that your special Christmas and regular Sunday donation will help us to meet our end-of-year expenses and hopefully, allow us to begin our new fiscal year on a positive note. Our Christmas Offering Budget is \$30,000. We are grateful for your help in accomplishing 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 3:00pm and again on **December 23rd** after the 8:15am Mass. The more hands, the quicker the work will be completed. Thanks in advance for your assistance!

**SUNDAY COLLECTION UPDATE**

Please note due to the holiday schedule of our bulletin publisher, we are not able to report the weekly offerings for **December 8th**. The Sunday offering will be updated with the **December 22nd** bulletin.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
CRAB FEED  
Saturday, February 1, 2020  
6:00pm-10:00pm  
Stack Center**

**Get your Crab Feed Tickets today!**

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

No-Host Bar  
\$15 Corkage Fee

Kids care opens at 6:00pm (\$15)

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

Tickets are available in the Parish and School Offices and online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/our-lady-of-grace-crab-feed-tickets-84526453899>

Prices are \$45 each **if purchased by Dec. 25th** or \$50 each after the deadline

Group Purchases Welcome (Tables of 10)

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

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

This Advent season, walk with Dr. Tim Gray on a journey of renewal to ready your heart for the coming of Christ. Each day of Advent, Dr. Gray will unpack the meaning of this season and its rich traditions, as well as offer practical advice for making this Advent your best yet. To start your Advent journey, become a member for free, go to [formed.org](http://formed.org), **find/type our parish name/city on the pull down tab, and create a free account!**

**DO YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH  
AMAZON SMILE!**

If you shop at Amazon.com, please consider going to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and choosing Our Lady of Grace to receive 0.5% of all qualifying purchases you make when shopping through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). Buy your gifts and holiday essentials here. Products and prices are the same, and Our Lady of Grace will receive a donation each time you make a purchase.

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Stewardship of treasure involves trust in God. You have to really believe in God's Providence and trust that if you give 10% of your income to the Church and charity, for example, God will help you live on the rest.

**Offerings of December 1st:**

Sunday Plate:	\$ 8,536.00
<b>Weekly Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 9,038.00</b>
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [502.00]
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [3,271.00]

*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:

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Glen Alcorn       | Rose Montalban   |
| Maria Bettencourt | Mona Mulvaney    |
| Maureen Boeh      | Leticia Nelson   |
| Peggy Burton      | Florence Sharp   |
| Heidi Carne       | Howard Songey    |
| Ana Cochran       | Lurdes Sousa     |
| Byron Griffith    | Mercedes Tellez  |
| Linda Guzman      | Denyse Verhaegen |
| Wally Lim         | Mary Lou Vincent |
| Laura Martell     | Arthur Williams  |
| Sheila McAlinden  | Peggy Winkenbach |

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

- MAXINE KRUZEL  
JESUS MANUEL ALVARADO  
ROSANNE DAVIE**

**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION**

"Thank you" hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us," says a Catholic Sister of the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation to this important appeal.



**SEE'S CANDY SALE**

The Knights of Columbus is excited to offer See's Candies Christmas gift wrapped treats! Council members will be taking orders before and after all weekend Masses. Orders will be ready for pickup the following week before or after the Masses.

**HELP WANTED IN THE PARISH OFFICE**

We are looking for volunteers to help in our Parish Office Monday-Friday from 1:00-2:00pm. If you are able to help, please call Jay at 510-537-0806



**ONE WARM COAT DRIVE**

This year the St. Vincent de Paul Conference at Our Lady of Grace 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 and the drop-in centers and clothing closet at St. Vincent de Paul's main campus in Oakland. We will also be collecting **sleeping bags, blankets, handwarmers & tarps**. Please bring your donations and place in the barrel at the Somerset entrance of the church or in the parish office. We will be accepting coats through **December 31st**.

**BISHOP BARBER WILL PRAY FOR OUR INTENTIONS**

During this Advent, Bishop Barber asks us to share our prayer intentions with him. At the entrances of the church, you will find mailers that you may fill out & send to the Bishop.



**USE SCRIP WHILE YOU SHOP FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

You can do your holiday shopping using SCRIP gift cards and spend it at local stores where you already shop. SCRIP cards (at face value) help Our Lady of Grace's Evangelization Program earn 2%-17% per certificate. Stop by the Parish office and look over the list. This is a great fundraiser for the church. Orders placed on the 1st & 3rd week of the month will be ready for pick-up on the 2nd & 4th week of the month. Payment is due at the time of your order. Forms are available at the back of the church or in the Parish Office. Questions? Please contact the Parish Office at 510-537-0806.

**INTERFAITH COUNCIL DISPLAY**

The Eden Area Interfaith Council recently installed an interfaith exhibit on the theme of "Adornment" in one of the entrance display cases at Castro Valley Library. The compelling objects include Our Lady of Grace's contribution of a powerful image of St. Maximilian Kolbe. The next time you're in the library, stop and take a look! The display will be up through December.

**THIS WEEK**

*Sunday, December 15th:*

*The Third Sunday of Advent*

Children's Liturgy of the Word  
9:30am Mass--Augustine Center

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

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

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

*Tuesday, December 17th:*

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

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

Men's Faith Share  
6:00pm--Stack Center, Room 7

*Wednesday, December 18th:*

Strobridge Dinner  
5:30pm--Strobridge Apartments

*Thursday, December 19th:*

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

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

Adoration  
7:00pm--Church

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

*Sunday, December 22nd:*

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Children's Liturgy of the Word  
9:30am Mass--Augustine Center

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

New Parishioner Registration  
10:30am--Stack Center

Christmas Posada Celebration  
After 1:30 Spanish Mass--Stack Center

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

All Masses are celebrated in the Church

**SUNDAY, December 15th**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30am Rudy & Augie Enriquez--D

9:30am Helen Maes--D

**MONDAY, December 16th**

8:15am Fred Hammer--D

**TUESDAY, December 17th**

8:15am Antonio Chocha--D

**WEDNESDAY, December 18th**

8:15am Gina Castillo--L

**THURSDAY, December 19th**

8:15am Shirley Moresi--D

**FRIDAY, December 20th**

8:15am Bonnie Sill--D

**SATURDAY, December 21st**

St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:15am Louis Rodrigues--D

5:00pm Gilberto C. Marquez--D

**SUNDAY, December 22nd**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30am Debi Telles--D

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

**December 16th through December 22nd**

Monday: Numbers 24:2-7,15-17;

Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17

Wednesday: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25

Thursday: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Luke 1:5-25

Friday: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38

Saturday: Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45

Sunday: Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7;

Matthew 1:18-24



**FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND**

We are grateful for the generous donation from Vince & Herma Ruiz who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last week! Flower donation envelopes can be found at the entrances of the church to make a donation in memory of or in 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.

**FESTIVAL RESULTS ARE IN**

We are pleased to announce the results of our Fall Festival. We received \$43,090 in net profit. Our Lady of Grace School received \$22,000 of the net income and \$19,000 will be used for expenses in the Parish Evangelization programs. Thank you once again to all those who contributed to the success of our annual Parish Fall Festival.

**HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES**

Please have items for the bulletin to the Parish Office no later than the deadlines below:

**December 29th** Bulletin: due **December 16th**

**January 5th** Bulletin: due **December 18th**



**BARBERSHOP CHORUS**

Join us for Retro Night with a men's quartet including our very own Dave Swanson, from Devil Mountain Chorus of Walnut Creek on Friday, **January 24th, 2020** at 7:30pm in Stack Center. Tickets are \$12 which include fried chicken and root beer floats. Tickets may be purchased at the Parish Office or please see Bonnie Ricketts after the 7:30am & 11:30am Masses.

**EXECUTION ALERTS**

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

December 5th Lee Hall, Jr. Tennessee  
 December 11th Travis Runnels 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:

**JESS C. SPENCER MORTUARY**