



**Advent Message**

Advent is a penitential season filled with hopeful expectation that God is coming for us. We long to encounter our Savior at the end of time and to celebrate his birth in Bethlehem. We do penance to clear all the sin and distractions that keep us from encountering Emmanuel, God with us, the Babe in Bethlehem.

Peace,  
Fr. Tom

**Who is the Immaculata and why is she essential for Catholics**

John Galten, President of the Militia Immaculata in the USA, will be presenting on Monday, **December 9th**, “**Who is the Immaculata and Why Is She Essential For Catholics**” at 7:00pm in Stack Center. John Galten has been a Catholic Educator, work at and was director of the Ignatius institute at USF and is now the President of the Militia Immaculata today. He will reveal to us through the teaching of St. Maximilian Kolbe why this dogma of the Immaculate Conception is essential for every Christian to understand, believe, and live. This is not an add-on for Catholics but this dogma is fundamental for every Christian to understand God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in the life of humanity.

Monday, **December 9th**, **Mass for the Immaculate Conception** at 6:00pm with Consecration Rite for the Militia Immaculata. Celebrate the Patroness of the United States. This is a Holy Day of opportunity and not an obligation this year.

**Prepare the Way of the Lord**

**Confessions for Advent**

Saturday’s at 9:00am & 3:30pm plus Thursdays at 7:30am & 7:00pm

Friday, **December 6th: Mass of Reparation** with Holy Hour at 8:15am. Latin **Low Mass** for St. Nicholas at 7:00pm, in the Casa Chapel.

First Saturday series on the **Bible and the Blessed Virgin Mary: Mary, Full of Grace** on December 7th at 10:00am in Stack Center, OLG Room.

Thursday, **December 12th: Celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe**, 5:30am Mañanitas, 8:15am Mass, 7:00pm Spanish Mass followed by dinner.

Sunday, **December 22nd: La Posada** Celebration beginning at 3:00pm with fiesta following in Stack Center.

**Day Two, December 1st: Who Are You, O Immaculata?**

**Daily Opening Prayer**

<p><i>You are all beautiful, Mary, and the original stain is not in you. You are the glory of Jerusalem, you are the joy of Israel, you give honor to our people. You are the advocate of sinners.</i></p>	<p><i>O Mary, Virgin most prudent, Mother most merciful, pray for us, intercede for us, with the Lord Jesus Christ.</i></p>
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A Reading from the Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe

Who is she? She is nothing in herself, like all other creatures, but thanks to God’s work she is the most perfect among creatures. The most perfect semblance of the Divine Being in a purely human creature.

She derives, therefore, from the Father through the Son and the Spirit, as the Creator who from nothing, in the image of Himself, in the image of the Most Holy Trinity, calls finite beings into existence, out of love for His own finite likenesses, which they reproduce.

Beings endowed with free will and reason know and acknowledge their provenance and are aware of having received from God all they are, all they can do, and all they possess at every instant.

They reciprocate with love, both for what they have received, and for the fact that He, as infinite perfection, is worthy of infinite love.

Consequently, as limited beings, unable to render unto Him infinite love, at least they overcome the constraints and efforts of such love.

The Immaculata never had any stain of sin, which means that her love was always full, without flaws. She loved God with all her being, and love united Her with God in this perfect fashion from the first instant of her life, such that on the day of the Annunciation, the Angel could address her saying: “Full of grace, the Lord is with thee” [Lk 1:28]. (KW 1320)

**Prayer Intention**

**Daily Closing Prayer**

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

*O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you, and for all those who do not have recourse to you, especially the enemies of Holy Church and all those recommended to you.*

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION NOVENA**

Pray the Immaculate Conception Novena that runs until **December 8th**. Copies of the Novena will be available at the Church entrances.

**JOIN FR. TOM'S GROUP TO SEE LOVE & MERCY MOVIE**

The movie *Faustina: Love and Mercy* will only be shown in theaters on **Monday, December 2nd** at 7:00pm. I am organizing a group of 10 people to see the movie at the theater. Call Jay in Parish office at 510-537-0806 to RSVP.



**1ST FRIDAY & 1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION**



Come join us **1st Friday, December 6th**, for Mass of Reparation with Holy Hour at 8:15am in the Church. On **1st Saturday, December 7th**, join us for Mass, Adoration, Rosary & Benediction at 8:15am, followed by our Advent Series "Mary, Full of Grace" at 10:00am in Stack Center, OLG Room.

**1ST FRIDAY- ST. NICHOLAS MASS**

There will be a Latin Low Mass on **December 6th** at 7:00pm, for St. Nicholas, in the Friary Chapel in the CASA at 19950 Anita Ave.

**CHRISTMAS STORY PERFORMANCE & TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY**



On Saturday, **December 7th**, all parishioners are welcome to stay after the 5:00pm Mass to see the school children perform the Christmas Story. All are welcome afterwards to come to Stack Center for the lighting of our huge Christmas tree, followed by refreshments.



**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 Monday, **December 9th** at **8:15am** (School children liturgy) and **6:00pm**. After the 6:00pm Mass, we will have a presentation by Dr. John Galten (President of the Militia Immaculata) on "*Who Is The Immaculata And Why Is She Essential For Catholics*" at 7:00pm in Stack Center.

**BOY SCOUT WREATH PICK-UP**

Boy Scout Wreaths are available for pick-up after all the Masses today, **December 8th** in the Gathering Area. Thank you for supporting Troop 876 in their yearly fundraiser.

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



Confessions will be available during 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.



**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](mailto:svdp@olgcv.org) and leave a message. We will get back to you the next day. All names are kept confidential.



**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**.

**YOUNG CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Bring your toddler to kindergarten age kids on **December 8th** after the 9:30am Mass. The theme will be *Advent/Mary's Yes*. Join us in Augustine Center, we will be making Advent Prayer Wreaths. See you there!



**SUNDAY COLLECTION UPDATE**

Please note due to the holiday schedule of our bulletin publisher, we are not able to report the weekly offerings for **November 24th**. The Sunday offering will be updated with the **December 8th** bulletin.



**ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIAL DONORS**

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

<b>Given By:</b>	<b>In Memory of / In Honor of:</b>
Ana Maria Aquino	Clementina Vera
Lucia Burns	Francis Leonard Burns
Greg Manubay	Crispulo & Veronica Manubay
Al Dela Torre	Fernando & Felicitas Morfin
Lysbeth Pence	Bud Pence
Ron Stainbrook	Gil Wells
Maria Zambrano	Jose & Gloria Areas



**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, Thursday, **December 12th**, beginning with a Rosary at 5:00am, Mañanitas at 5:30am in the Church, followed by breakfast in Stack Center at 6:00am. Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass will be held at 8:15am in English. At 6:30pm, there will be traditional dancing in front of the Church then Mass in Spanish at 7:00pm, followed by a small reception in Stack Center at 8:00pm.

El Grupo Hispano invita a toda la comunidad parroquial a honrar a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe el jueves, **12 de diciembre**, comenzando con Rosario a las 5:00am, Mañanitas a las 5:30am en la Iglesia, seguida por un pequeño desayuno compuesto de chocolate con leche y pan mexicano, a las 6:00am, en Stack Center. A las 6:30pm habrá danzantes delante de la iglesia. 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.

**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 November 17th:**

Sunday Plate:	\$ 14,737.00
<b>Weekly Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 9,038.00</b>
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ 5,699.00
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [4,178.00]

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

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

- MARGARET LENFESTEY**  
**ROGER LOWE**  
**PAUL ALESSI**

**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.





**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

November has been a busy month of focusing on particular areas reflective of Jesus' teachings. We began the month with the celebration by the whole school at All Saints' Day liturgy. Further into the month we celebrated World Kindness Day which was on November 13th. Our students wrote cards filled with ideas of little acts of kindness that they could do. We changed our focus to helping the needy by collecting canned goods and will distribute them to people in Castro Valley who can use our help. All we do is in keeping with our mission statement that says---"we serve a diverse community, modeling Christ through unity, truth, and love. Advent is upon us and we now prepare "the way of the Lord" making sure we focus on the real reason for the season. God bless you all.  
-Susan Anderson

**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, December 1st:**

**The First Sunday of Advent**

Children's Liturgy of the Word  
9:30am Mass--Augustine Center  
Coffee & Donuts  
After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center  
Youth Ministry / Confirmation  
6:00pm--Stack Center

**Tuesday, December 3rd:**

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  
7:00pm--Stack Center, Room 7

**Wednesday, December 4th:**

Pre-Baptism Class  
7:00pm--Stack Center, OLG Room

**Thursday, December 5th:**

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

**Friday, December 6th:**

First Friday Mass of Reparation w/ Holy Hour  
8:15am--Church  
First Friday St. Nicholas Low Mass  
7:00pm--CASA Chapel

**Saturday, December 7th:**

1st Saturday Mass & Adoration  
8:15am--Church  
Advent Series "Mary, Full of Grace  
10:00am--Stack Center, OLG Room

**Sunday, December 8th:**

**The Second Sunday of Advent**

Boy Scout Wreath Pick-Up  
After all Masses--Gathering Area  
Children's Liturgy of the Word  
9:30am Mass--Augustine Center  
Coffee & Donuts  
After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center

**FESCO AND CASTRO VALLEY OUTREACH  
Christmas Giving Trees**

Our Lady of Grace is helping Castro Valley families with our Giving Trees. Each family member has an ornament 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 and return the gifts with the ornament, box and receipt, unwrapped to the Parish office by **Thursday, December 12th** in order for our REC students & Parent Group members to catalog and wrap. *New this year:* CV Outreach will also be accepting donations of tree ornaments & lights for families. You may bring these donations to the Parish Office **December 4th-6th**. We are also helping FESCO keep their programs running. They are asking for monetary donations. Donation envelopes are on the Giving Trees. Please return the envelopes to the Parish office. Thank you for your generosity!



**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**, **find/type our parish name/city on the pull down tab, and create a free account!**

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

All Masses are celebrated in the Church

**SUNDAY, December 1st**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30am Anna Friedeberg--L

9:30am Al & Carolina Dela Torre--L

**MONDAY, December 2nd**

8:15am Mary Bronzini--D

**TUESDAY, December 3rd**

St. Francis Xavier, Priest

8:15am Aaron Alcorn--D

**WEDNESDAY, December 4th**

St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:15am Cory Nicasio--D

**THURSDAY, December 5th**

8:15am Velasquez & Moran Families--D

**FRIDAY, December 6th**

St. Nicholas, Bishop

8:15am Vince & Herma Ruiz--L

**SATURDAY, December 7th**

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:15am Richard Benson--D

5:00pm Vince & Herma Ruiz--L

**SUNDAY, December 8th**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30am Marylou Maravella--D

11:30am Mike De Guzman--D

**THIS WEEK--Continued**

*Sunday, December 8th:*

*The Second Sunday of Advent*

New Parishioner Registration

10:30am--Stack Center

Young Children's Ministry

After 9:30am Mass--Augustine Center

Whole Family & Middle School Catechesis

10:50am---Stack Center

**HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES**

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

**December 15th** Bulletin: due **December 9th**

**December 22nd** Bulletin: due **December 11th**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

**December 2nd through December 8th**

Monday: Isaiah 4:2-6; 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: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26;

Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5-8

Sunday: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9;

Matthew 3:1-12



**FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND**

*In Memory of*

We are grateful for the generous donation from Hector & Irma Jauregui to the Flower Fund in memory of Eligio & Vicenta Jauregui & Jesus De

Santiago. 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.



**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.



**ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY**

Registration forms are still available at the Church entrances. This ministry is open to students in 5th-12th grades. Students must have received Baptism, 1st Reconciliation & 1st Holy Eucharist. Please fill out the bottom portion & return it to the Parish Office by **December 5th**. Thank you for your interest!

**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:

**EDWARD JONES**