



### Join us as we Celebrate the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the United States

We seek the Help of Our Lady the Immaculate Conception to say yes to God. Her mission is to bear Christ to the world. She is the yes of humanity to the God that brought Grace and Salvation to the world. Mary was given this singular privilege of the Immaculate Conception to be free to respond to the invitation to be the Theotokos, the God bearer.

**The Mass of the Immaculate Conception** will be celebrated Monday, **December 9** at 6pm. Join us at this Mass which will have a Consecration prayer composed by St. Maximilian Kolbe.

#### **Presentation “Who is the Immaculata and why is she essential for Catholics”**

John Galten, President of the Militia Immaculata and former director of the Ignatian Institute will present to us the essential mission of the Immaculata. The power of the Immaculata, who is full of Grace, to lead humanity to Jesus is the key to the Militia Immaculata founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe. Join us for this inspirational message on Monday **December 9** at 7pm in Stack Center.

#### **Prepare the Way of the Lord**

When we read the Gospel today and hear John the Baptist calling people to prepare way of the Lord through repentance and producing good fruit. The Pharisees and Sadducees are called a brood of vipers by John the Baptist because they were the spiritual leaders who poisoned the faith of people seeking to judge and exclude people giving them no hope or way to salvation. The call to repentance is the message of John the Baptist open to all who would listen. He provides a way through Baptism to prepare the way so you may find Salvation and the Holy Spirit. It all begins with a conversion of heart by turning away from sin and turning back to God with your whole heart to encounter Jesus and Salvation. We who have accepted Baptism must produce of fruits of righteousness as we wait for the return of Jesus. Are we ready?

The sense of the eschaton was greater in the early Church. What is the eschaton? It is the end time. Eschatology is the study of the reality of the four last things: death, judgment, Heaven, and hell. Sadly, the four last things are not preached about very often today. and, when they are, there seems to be some confusion concerning them. But the early followers of the Way, who daily were risking their lives because they believed in Christ, who were considered enemies of the state due to their faith, truly believed that, at any moment, Jesus, King of Glory and Lord of the World could descend, just as he had ascended, to judge each man according to his deeds.

Christians, over time, began to forget that, at any moment, the Bridegroom could come again, like a thief in the night, and they could be caught wallowing in the mire of their own fear. Saint Paul wanted to remind them what a great reward lay in store for their perseverance amidst persecution. We are complacent instead of living in our awareness of Christ's return. I think that we need to reclaim the eschatological edge as soon as possible, if we are to regain the proper focus in the Christian life. In reality, where the cult of political correctness reigns, we may not be physically killed for our faith, but we are considered completely irrelevant and an enemy by a not insignificant portion of society. This type of persecution oppresses Christians and threatens our hope even today. Today, in parts of the Middle East, in parts of Africa, and in other places, being Christian can and still might get you killed, as in the early Church.

We need to look no further than to the Catechism to learn exactly what we as the People of God, the Church, need to know and believe concerning the four last things. It can be found in the Catechism, nos. 1020-1065. We should make no mistake: Heaven is real; hell is real; and Purgatory is real. And, in our lives on this earth, we should aim for Heaven by living lives of virtue. If we only try for Purgatory, and we miss, we end up in a place no one wants to be! Our Hope is to always be looking for Jesus to guide us and save us. Come let us adore today and this Christmas.

#### **Confessions for Advent**

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

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.



**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.



**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.



**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**.

**PRAY THE ROSARY**

**In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

The Hispanic Group invites you on **December 9th, 10th & 11th** to pray the Rosary at 7:00pm in the Church.



**THANK YOU FROM THE CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

Thank you for your generous support for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Your generosity will support those who live on the margins and in poverty in the United States. If you missed the collection, it’s not too late to give! Visit [www.cchdeastbay.org/nationalcollections](http://www.cchdeastbay.org/nationalcollections), and click on “How to Give” on the left. May God bless you!

**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION**

This weekend, there are envelopes in the pews for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests serve for little or no pay. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious and helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Thank you for your generosity!

**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 1st**. The Sunday offering will be updated with the **December 15th** bulletin.

**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 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 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.



**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.

**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 24th:**

Sunday Plate:	\$ 10,385.00
<b>Weekly Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 9,038.00</b>
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ 1,347.00
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [2,755.00]

*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.*

- ROGER LOWE**  
**PAUL ALESSI**

**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!



**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.

# FORMED™

## 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!

## 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

## 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.

## THANK YOU FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 16770 Knights of Columbus would like to thank everyone who attended and participated in making the Dinner with the Franciscans on **November 9th** a wonderful success. If you did not get to attend the dinner, you can still help support the Conventual Franciscan Seminarians by donating to the Viva Francis Foundation or the Province by donating using the St. Joseph of Cupertino province web page at <https://franciscanfriars.org/online-giving/> or using a donation envelope available in the Parish Office. Donations are welcome year round. Donations can be made through St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 16770 Knights of Columbus, please note the purpose of the donation and the Council will write a check for the funds to the Viva Francis Foundation or the Province as noted.



# THIS WEEK

## 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

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

## Monday, December 9th:

Mass of the Immaculate Conception  
8:15am (School Liturgy) & 6:00pm--Church

Immaculata Presentation  
7:00pm--Stack Center

## Tuesday, December 9th:

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

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

## Wednesday, December 11th:

Bingo!  
7:00pm--Stack Center

## Thursday, December 12th:

Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Rosary, Mananitas & Breakfast  
5:00am--Church & Stack Center  
8:15am--Mass (English) in Church

Our Lady of Guadalupe Traditional Dancing &  
Spanish Mass  
6:30pm--Church

Reception  
8:00pm--Stack Center

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

## Sunday, December 15th:

### The Third Sunday of Advent

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

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

All Masses are celebrated in the Church

**SUNDAY, December 8th**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30am Marylou Maravella--D

11:30am Mike De Guzman--D

**MONDAY, December 9th**

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

8:15am Natalie Shomon--L

**TUESDAY, December 10th**

8:15am Dulcidia Chocha Chaviel--D

**WEDNESDAY, December 11th**

St. Damascus I, Pope

8:15am Neil & Marguerite Nolan--D

**THURSDAY, December 12th**

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

8:15am Melissa Capote--L

**FRIDAY, December 13th**

St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

8:15am Ferdinand Perdido--D

**SATURDAY, December 14th**

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

8:15am Jerome Gann--D

5:00pm Lilia Sousa--D

**SUNDAY, December 15th**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30am Rudy & Augie Enriquez--D

9:30am Helen Maes--D



**THIS WEEK--Continued**

*Sunday, December 15th:*

*The Third Sunday of Advent*

Coffee & Donuts

After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center

New Parishioner Registration

10:30am--Stack Center

1st Communion Class

10:50am--Stack Center

Youth Ministry / Confirmation

6:00pm--Stack Center

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

**December 9th through December 15th**

- Monday: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12; Luke 1:26-38
- Tuesday: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14
- Wednesday: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30
- Thursday: Zechariah 2:14-17; Luke 1:26-38
- Friday: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
- Saturday: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9-13
- Sunday: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

**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**

**USE SCRIP WHILE YOU SHOP**

You can purchase 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.

**OLG CRAB FEED 2020  
SAVE THE DATE!**



You don't want to miss the OLG Crab Feed scheduled for **February 1st, 2020** in Stack Center, hosted by the Knights of Columbus.



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This week we extend our gratitude to:

**HIGH TECH LENDING**