



Baptism of the Lord

The mystery of Christ's baptism in the Jordan by St John, the Precursor, proposes the contemplation of an already adult Jesus. This mystery is infinitely linked to the Solemnities of the Lord's birth and the Epiphany that we have just celebrated, as in some ways it takes up and represents their significance to us.

At Christmas we have contemplated the human birth of the Word incarnate by the Virgin Mary. In the 4th century, the Fathers of the Church deepened the understanding of the faith with regard to the Christmas mystery in the light of Jesus' Humanity. They spoke of the Incarnation of the Word already working like the 'Christification' of that humanity that he had assumed from His mother. Or put in simpler terms: Jesus is the Christ from the first instant of conception in Mary's spotless womb because He Himself, with His Divine Power, consecrated, anointed and 'Christified' that human nature with which He became incarnate.

In the mystery of the Epiphany, we then meditated on Christ's manifestation to all nations that was represented by the Magi, the wise men from the East, who came to adore the Child.

Now, in the mystery of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River, we again encounter and represent the truth of the Lord's incarnation and His manifestation as the Christ. Jesus' Baptism is in fact His definitive manifestation as the Messiah or Christ to Israel, and as the Son of the Father to the entire world. Here we find the dimension of the Epiphany which was His manifestation to all nations. The Father's voice from heaven shows that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Son and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove shows the Trinitarian nature of the Christian God. The true and unique God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, shows Himself in Christ, through Him, with Him and in Him.

The Baptism in the Jordan returns to the great Christmas theme of 'Christification,' Jesus of Nazareth's spiritual anointing, His presentation as the Anointed One par excellence, the Messiah or the One sent by the Father for the salvation of mankind. The Spirit that descended on Jesus shows and seals in an incontrovertible way the 'Christification' of Jesus' humanity that the Word had already fulfilled from the first moment of His miraculous conception by Mary. Jesus, from the very beginning, was always the Lord's Christ, He was always God. Yet, His one, true humanity, that which is perfect in every way, as the Gospel records, constantly grew in natural and supernatural perfection. ***'And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and with men' (Lk2:52).*** In Israel at 30 years of age, one reached full maturity and therefore could become a master. Jesus came of age and the Spirit, descending and remaining on Him, definitively consecrated His whole being as the Christ.

The same Spirit, that descended on the water of the River Jordan wafted over the waters during the first creation (Gen 1:2). Therefore, the Baptism in the Jordan presents yet another truth: that Jesus has started a new creation. He is the second man (1 Cor 15:47) or the last Adam (1 Cor 15:45), that comes to repair the first Adam's guilt. He does this as the Lamb of God that takes away our sins. ***'Looking at the events in light of the Cross and Resurrection, the Christian people realised what happened: Jesus loaded the burden of all mankind's guilt upon His shoulders; he bore it down into the depths of the Jordan. He inaugurated his public activity by stepping into the place of sinners' (Joseph Ratzinger, Jesus of Nazareth, Bloomsbury 2007, p 18).***

Walk for Life

Plan to join me on Saturday, January 25 as we walk for life. Bring the message of hope that every life is a gift of precious value and should be cherished and protected. I have joined the walk for several years and I am always impressed with the sense of love, respect, and prayer. I am inspired by the speakers and that I can lend my voice and my feet to walk for those who have no rights, voice, and are defenseless.

Volunteer Appreciation

As we begin the New Year we thank our volunteers. On January 18 we will gather to recognize, thank, and bless our volunteers. As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord where we see the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, we continue to share the Good News of Jesus through the ministries of our Church.

Gospel for The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (January 19th)

John 1:29-34

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
CRAB FEED
Saturday, February 1st
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!

Price is \$50 per person

Group Purchases Welcome (Tables of 10) - \$450

No-Host Bar
\$15 Corkage Fee

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

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>

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

CHRISTMAS DECORATORS 2019

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You for 3 days of arranging, displaying, fluffing, and cleaning in the church—it was beautiful! Phil Berry, Claudia Dobbs, Alfonso & Carolina de la Torre, Martha Duarte, Mary Groves, Imelda Guerrero, Martha Melendez, Sheryl Michaud, Camille Ramos, Chris Richard, Bonnie Ricketts, James Ricketts, Margaret Speranza, Ron Stainbrook, Samantha Stainbrook, Mark Vaz, and Ivan Zambrano—we also enjoyed good fellowship and a few laughs. Plan on doing the same next year!

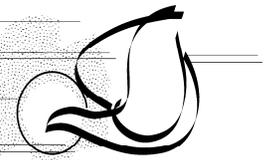


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EMAIL & TEXT SCAMS ARE BACK!

Recently, there have been fraudulent emails & texts circulating through our diocese once again, seeking gift cards. **Our priests at OLG would never solicit funds through any electronic means!** These emails & texts are fake and have nothing to do with Our Lady of Grace Church. Please report these to the police and to Jay in the Parish Office at 537-0806. God Bless and be safe!

We are baptized
in the SPIRIT
of the LORD



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ANNUAL SEMINARY COLLECTION

This weekend (**January 11th-12th**) our diocese asks us to help with the work of education for tomorrow's priests through our contributions to the Seminary Collection. Quality leadership requires solid spiritual, academic and pastoral formation of our future priests. Our seminarians are dedicated, enthusiastic and most willing to be of service. Please give generously to a special appeal to support our seminarians. Your prayers and support are a tremendous encouragement to the candidates. Envelopes are in the pews for

**WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST 2020
Saturday, January 25, 2020**

We invite you to join our Parish as we walk with fellow Catholics and Pro-Lifers from all over California and the Western United States as we stand up for the littlest among us at the 16th Annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco on **January 25th**. There will be Mass at 9:30am at St. Mary's Cathedral celebrated by Archbishop Alexander Sample from Portland, OR. The rally begins at 12:30pm in San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza, and the Walk, down Market Street, begins at 1:30pm. Last year's Walk drew 50,000+ people (second largest walk for life in North America and growing!). Following the OLG 8:15am Mass, parishioners will gather with Fr. Tom at the Castro Valley Bart Station for the trip to San Francisco. For complete information about the Walk, visit www.walkforlifewc.com



ICF POLENTA FEED

Come join the ICF Branch #343 for our Polenta Feed on Saturday, **February 15th**, in Stack Center. Doors open at 6:00pm. Menu includes: Salad, Polenta, Sausage, Bread, Dessert, Wine, Soda and Coffee. There will be entertainment and raffles. Price is \$35 per person or \$250 for a table of 8! Reservations and payment required in advance. **Deadline is February 8th**. Please send one check with the names of those at your table for 8 to: Lisa Crudo, 3718 September Ct. Castro Valley, CA 94546, the same for individual reservations. Any questions, please call Lisa at 510-861-9835.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Collection. Our Christmas Offering for 2019 totaled \$25,518 with a budget of \$30,000 and a shortfall of \$4,482. As always we thank you for the generosity of your gift and ask God to bless your continuing generosity.

2019 PLATE COLLECTION RESULTS

Total Sunday Plate Offering 2019: \$468,790
 Total Sunday Plate Budget 2019: \$470,000
 Total Shortfall 2019: \$1,210

We are most grateful to those who have consistently supported our Parish and have maintained their level of giving. We recognized those who responded so generously to our shortfall to budget earlier in the year and personally committed to make a difference in our outcome for the year. For those in the Parish not using the offering envelopes or the online giving, we ask you to prayerfully consider committing your support to our ministries, liturgies, outreach and all that a Parish is expected to provide its members and the members of the larger community in which we reside. May we continue to be good stewards of so great a gift and remember that God will not be outdone in generosity.

2019 MAINTENANCE FUND RESULTS

Total Collection 2019: \$24,988
 Total Budget 2019: \$25,000
 Total Property Repairs/Improvements 2019: \$26,488

We are grateful to all those who faithfully contribute to the monthly Grounds and Maintenance Offering. Your contributions allow us to make needed repairs and improvements to the property. The \$26,488 includes the new landscaping in the front of the church (\$11,600) as well as updated LED lighting in the back parking lot and tree trimming. We also wish to acknowledge those who responded so generously to the landscaping fund for the front of the church. Please consider a monthly contribution to the Grounds and Maintenance envelope as part of your monthly offering.

YOUNG CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Bring your toddler to kindergarten age kids **today, January 12th**, after the 9:30am Mass. The theme will be *Baptism of Our Lord*. We will now meet in the TK Room in Augustine Center. See you there!



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 January 5th:

Sunday Plate: \$ 11,172.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal: \$ 9,360.00
 Over/[Shortfall] \$ 1,812.00
 Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall] \$ 1,812.00
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 | Rose Montalban |
| Glen Alcorn | Leticia Nelson |
| Maureen Boeh | Diana Riley |
| Peggy Burton | Florence Sharp |
| Heidi Carne | Howard Songey |
| Theresa Ferrari | Lurdes Sousa |
| Linda Guzman | Mercedes Tellez |
| Wally Lim | Mary Lou Vincent |
| Laura Martell | Arthur Williams |
| Sheila McAlinden | Peggy Winkenbach |

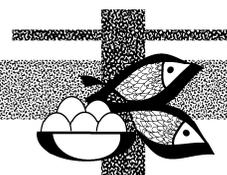
Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.

- LEONARDO CABARDO**
MONA MULVANEY
PEGGY WARD



YEARLY CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

For your convenience in preparing your tax return, a contribution statement for 2019 will be prepared at your request. Please phone the Parish Office at 537-0806, with your name and envelope number. Your statement will be available for you to pick up once it has been signed.





**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S
SOUP & SANDWICH MEALS**

Each Thursday from 10:00-11:00am, free lunches will be offered for our neighbors in need at the First Presbyterian Church on Grove & Redwood Road. ABODE Services will also be there weekly to offer free medical services 1x/week. Please pass this info on to anyone you may know within our parish boundaries who may benefit from these services.

Real Men



BARBERSHOP CHORUS

Join us for Retro Night with a men's quartet from the Devil Mountain Chorus of Walnut Creek on Friday, **January 24th**, 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 see Bonnie or Dave after a Mass. Best vintage clothing earns a \$50 prize!

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 16th**
9:00am to 11:15am

Speaker: Deacon Tim Roberto

Topic: "Peace Is A Heart Focused On Christ",
Matthew 14:22-33



GRIEF WORKSHOP

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Please join us on your healing journey at St. Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton, at 7:30pm Thursday, **January 23rd**. Please call Eleanor at 925-846-8708 for more information.

**ADORATION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Join us every Saturday for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8:15am Mass, and every Thursday at 7:00pm in the Church.



THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 12th:

The Baptism of the Lord

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

Whole Family & Middle School Catechesis
10:50am--Stack Center

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

Tuesday, January 14th:

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

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

Wednesday, January 15th:

Strobridge Dinner
5:30pm--Strobridge Apartments

Thursday, January 16th:

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

Sunday, January 19th:

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

*The Spirit
of God
came upon him*



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Mass Intentions for the Week

All Masses are celebrated in the Church

SUNDAY, January 12th

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

7:30am Franciscan Friars' Intentions

9:30am Antonio Chocha--D

11:30am Jordan Cook--L

MONDAY, January 13th

St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:15am Alice Goncalves--D

TUESDAY, January 14th

8:15am Jonathan Ilmberger--D

WEDNESDAY, January 15th

8:15am Roger Lowe--D

THURSDAY, January 16th

8:15am Margaret Lenfestey--D

FRIDAY, January 17th

St. Anthony, Abbot

8:15am Eustaquio R. Lazano, Jr.--D

SATURDAY, January 18th

8:15am Cohen Sigmon--L

5:00pm Antonio Chocha--D

SUNDAY, January 19th

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30am Franciscan Friars' Intentions

9:30am Marty Martin--D

11:30am Jay Jontz--D

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

January 13th through January 19th

Monday: 1 Samuel 1:1-8; Mark 1:14-20
 Tuesday: 1 Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28
 Wednesday: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39
 Thursday: 1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45
 Friday: 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22; Mark 2:1-12
 Saturday: 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Mark 2:13-17
 Sunday: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34



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.



**ICF CRAB FEED
Saturday, February 1st**

The East Bay District of the ICF invite you to the Dave Rose Memorial Crab Feed on Saturday **February 1st** 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 per person, children 10 and under-\$10. Chicken may be requested instead of crab when reservations are made. For reservations send check with name & dinner request to ICF East Bay District, c/o Peggy Lubeck, 1823 Harvard Dr., Alameda, CA 94501. Questions? Please call Leonard at 510-581-3246. Deadline for reservations is **January 25th**.

**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



MEN'S FAITH SHARE

The Men's Faith Share group meets on Tuesdays each week at 7:00pm in Stack Center, Room 7. The group reads and discusses the upcoming Sunday's readings for the Mass. If you are looking for a small group setting to pray and explore the Word each week, please join us on Tuesday evenings.

EXECUTION ALERTS

The following execution is scheduled to take place in **January**:

January 15th John Gardner 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:

MCKINNEY & COMPANY