



May 13, 2020. Bishop's Catholic Voice article

People are asking me "Bishop, when are you going to reopen our churches for public Mass?"

I have received many beautiful and respectful emails and letters from our parishioners expressing great longing to go to Mass and receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. One lady approached me in the Cathedral, when we reopened the doors for private prayer following a livestreamed Sunday Mass. Wearing a mask, she went down on her knees and begged me to receive Holy Communion.

My answer: I will reopen the churches for Mass in our diocese when it is safe to do so.

I understand the deep and holy desire to come together to worship the Lord in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and to receive His Body and Blood in the Blessed Sacrament. But I do not want to put people at risk of sickness and even death by unnecessarily exposing them to the coronavirus.

In order to make my decision, I am following the advice of a devout Catholic who is a physician and Rear Admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service. I am also following the advice of the USCCB and the Thomistic Institute which has assembled a team of experts in medicine, science, public health, and the sacraments and liturgy - to give guidelines on how to safely administer Holy Communion and the sacraments with minimum risk. This does not mean we can go back to "business as usual" immediately. We are envisioning a phased approach: limiting attendance, observing social distancing in seating, wearing masks, cleaning pews after each Mass, carefully distributing Holy Communion so as not to touch the communicant, etc. We are also looking at holding Mass outdoors, as they did during the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918.

When it comes to the political situation, the Catholic bishops of California are working with the Governor's Office in Sacramento. When we last wrote Governor Newsom we advised him it would be very painful for the religious communities of California to witness a recovery process in which large retail stores and office buildings are open in the coming months, yet public worship would still be prohibited, as some recommend. As bishops, we believe this would be unjust and counterproductive to rebuilding California.

On the city and county scene, I am working with an ecumenical coalition of 37 pastors of protestant churches in Oakland to dialogue with the Mayor and Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

In the meantime, we continue to live stream Sunday and daily Masses. Some pastors are administering Holy Communion outside of Mass, following strict safety guidelines. I participated in a parking lot Sunday service, with Exposition, Liturgy of the Word, homily, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, at Santa Maria parish in Orinda. We had about 90 cars in the lot, and the parishioners were very appreciative. Another pastor has commenced First Holy Communion inviting three children and their parents to attend Mass every weekday evening, social distanced, etc. It will take him about six weeks to get through the whole class. I performed an Ordination to the Diaconate for the Capuchin Franciscan Friars last weekend - with only 10 in attendance, and livestreamed. There are creative things we can do to safely worship God and practice our Faith, until we can fully reopen.

In the meantime, we have postponed our diocesan Ordinations to the Priesthood originally scheduled for May 29 to Saturday, September 5, 2020 at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral. We are postponing the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress from this summer until the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 6, 2021. As of now, we still planning on ordaining our transitional deacons on Saturday August 8 -- but still remains unclear as to how many we can invite to attend.

Just as going to Safeway is essential for the health of our bodies, so going to Mass and Communion is essential for the health of our souls. Health care workers in particular are writing me saying they need to receive Holy Communion to receive the spiritual strength to perform their essential work of saving lives. The charitable work of the Church continues in our St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchens, food pantries, Catholic Charities social work, and Catholic Worker outreach to the homeless. I am pressing for the day when we can safely reopen our churches to engage in divine worship -- so we can love God with the same fervor as we are currently loving our neighbor.

***CORRECTION* ASCENSION OF THE LORD
MASS IS ON SUNDAY, MAY 24TH at 9:00am**

We are sorry that the Ascension Mass date shown on the flyer sent to you recently is May 25th. The mass will be live streamed from the back parking lot.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
HAS BEEN POSTPONED**

With the current Shelter-at Home directive still in place, and more directives from State and County expected about social gatherings, Athens Vacation Bible School will be postponed until the summer of 2021. Thank you for your patience and understanding. We hope to see you for VBS next summer! **More information about upcoming children's ministry events to come.** Thank you all for your interest!



LIVESTREAM MASS SCHEDULE

Our Livestream Mass Schedule is as follows:

**Monday to Saturday at 8:15 AM
Sunday at 9:00 AM**

In the future, we may have a Spanish Mass scheduled. To join on Fr. Tom's Facebook page, visit our website at www.olgcv.org and click on "Livestream Mass" at the top of the homepage.

CHURCH SCHEDULE

In response to the Alameda County Health Department's legal order directing residents to shelter in place, Our Lady of Grace Office will be closed to the public until further notice.

Our Lady of Grace Church will be open Monday to Saturday from 9:00 AM to Noon for private prayer. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed Thursdays from 5:00-7:00pm & Saturdays from 9:00-10:00am. Confessions will be heard during those times. On Sundays the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from 10:00am-5:00pm with no Confession.

Eucharist will be offered on Sundays at the hours of 8AM, 11AM and 1PM in the Gathering Area. Please wear a mask and maintain social distancing at all times. Continue to check the website (www.olgcv.org) for the most current information.

FAITH FORMATION 2020-2021

Fr. Tom is encouraging all families with children in grades K-12 to register for the 2020-2021 classes starting in **September 2020. Classes are offered for Whole Family, 1st Communion, Middle School, Youth Ministry & Confirmation.** Online registration is available at www.olgcv.org. On the homepage, scroll down & click on the "Faith Formation" or the "Youth Ministry" box. **There is an early bird discount if you register by June 30th.** Installment payments are available for these classes. Please know dates may change due to the state directives for health issue.



FORMED

"LECTIO: THE EUCHARIST" VIDEO SERIES

Acclaimed author and teacher Dr. Brant Pitre digs down to the biblical roots of the Eucharist, through its foreshadowing in the miraculous events of the Old Testament, the Gospels, and Apostolic teaching. Fr. Tom will begin a Zoom Bible Study on Thursdays at 2:00pm. Contact the Parish Office for more information.



MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA

On Saturdays in May, join Fr. Tom in prayer on his YouTube page (Thomas Czek)

CHURCH SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Face masks are required, along with social distancing of 6 feet between others, when visiting the church. Please adhere to no more than 10 people in the church at a time and be brief when in the church –no more than 20 minutes. Please wait your turn if the church is already occupied with 10 people. As always, please use the disinfectant wipes provided to clean your area before and after your time in the church. Face masks and social distancing are also required when coming to receive the Eucharist on Sundays in the Gathering Area. Thank you!





ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIALS

We are looking to have 6 monthly sponsors for our Altar Candles and ask for a donation of \$20 to cover the cost of the candles for the month. Our donors will be recognized in the 1st bulletin of the month and there will be a monthly Mass offered for the intention of our Candle Memorial. Many blessed thanks for those who have donated. For more information, please call the Parish Office.

USE SCRIP WHILE YOU SHOP

Do you get coffee at Starbucks? Buy groceries at Safeway? Use SCRIP 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. 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. Contact the Parish Office at 510-537-0806 to place your order.



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THANK YOU FOR USING ONLINE GIVING

This is a wonderful way to continue your weekly offering while we shelter in place.

During this time without public Masses, we also have no Sunday collection. We are grateful to the Parishioners who have dropped off or mailed in their weekly offering to the Parish office as well as the Parishioners who continue to support us using our Online Giving.

Parishioners who use the service are pleased with how easy it is to set up and manage. To sign up, visit our website at www.olgcv.org and click on “Online Giving” at the top of the homepage. If you need help with signing up, please contact Colleen at clindberg@olgcv.org

THE CATHOLIC VOICE ONLINE

The May 18, 2020 issue of The Catholic Voice is available online at www.catholicvoiceoakland.org



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 for the Month of APRIL:

Sunday Plate for the month:	\$ 27,074.00
Month Budgeted Goal:	\$ 30,428.00
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [3,354.00]
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [5,479.00]
<i>May God bless your continuing generosity.</i>	



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 | Sheila McAlinden |
| Pam Ahland | Rose Montalban |
| Glen Alcorn | Diana Riley |
| Elvira Arechiga | Lisa Rosenbusch |
| Maureen Boeh | Florence Sharp |
| Peggy Burton | Howard Songey |
| Heidi Carne | Lurdes Sousa |
| Natalina De Freitas | Mary Lou Vincent |
| Theresa Ferrari | Arthur Williams |
| Aaron Gonzalez | Peggy Winkenbach |
| Wally Lim | |

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

In Memoriam

BEATRICE VAN WETTER

VICTIMS OF COVID-19



For our families whose businesses have been affected by the shutdown, please call the Parish Office at 510-537-0806 with the name of your business so we can support you with our prayers. And to list you on our Parish website in our Business Directory.

For those who have lost their jobs, please contact us and we will see if we can connect you with our families who own businesses as to when they will be able to hire again.



THE 2020 BISHOP'S APPEAL

Although we call it "The Bishop's Appeal", it is really Christ's appeal. Thank you in advance for your love and generosity. No gift is too small.

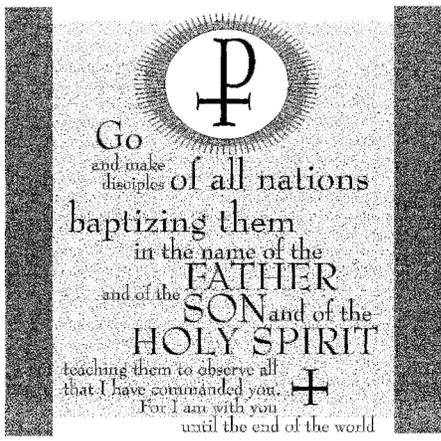
-Bishop Michael C. Barber

Our goal this year is to gain 100% participation from ALL members of Our Lady of Grace Parish!

Please use the envelope that was sent to you in February. If you do not have one, you may mail your donation to: Diocese of Oakland, 2121 Harrison St., Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612. You may make your check out to: "Bishop's Appeal" and please write "Our Lady of Grace" in the memo line.

Be assured that none of the funds are ever redirected to any other causes.

For more information on the Appeal, visit: www.oakdiocese.org/bishops-appeal



ST. VINCENT de PAUL NEWS
How Your Donations Are Helping Those In Need

We have been helping Donna since 2014. She lives in Section 8 Housing. Her kidneys are failing and she has many health issues related to poor circulation. She also has difficulty understanding and managing her finances. At one point we met with her landlord to straighten out what was owed in rent. Her main source of income is as a IHSS caregiver for her developmentally disabled adult son. We have helped the 2 of them with food and occasionally with utilities over the years. Last month her check for her IHSS work was lost in the mail. This caused quite a hardship for them. In the next month or so we will be helping her to open up a bank account so that her checks can be automatically deposited.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 24th:

The Ascension of the Lord

Drive-In Mass

9:00am--Rear Parking Lot

Private Prayer & Adoration

10:00am-5:00pm--Church

Distribution of the Eucharist (No Mass)

8:00am, 11:00am & 1:00pm--Gathering Area

Monday, May 25th:

Livestream Mass on Facebook (Thomas Czeck)

8:15am

Private Prayer

9:00am-Noon--Church

Tuesday, May 26th:

Livestream Mass on Facebook (Thomas Czeck)

8:15am

Private Prayer

9:00am-Noon--Church

Wednesday, May 27th:

Livestream Mass on Facebook (Thomas Czeck)

8:15am

Private Prayer

9:00am-Noon--Church

Thursday, May 28th:

Livestream Mass on Facebook (Thomas Czeck)

8:15am

Private Prayer

9:00am-Noon--Church

Zoom Bible Study with Fr. Tom

2:00pm--Online

Adoration & Confession

5:00-7:00pm--Church

Friday, May 29th:

Livestream Mass on Facebook (Thomas Czeck)

8:15am

Private Prayer

9:00am-Noon--Church

Saturday, May 30th:

Militia of the Immaculata on Fr. Tom's YouTube page (Thomas Czeck)

Livestream Mass on Facebook (Thomas Czeck)

8:15am

Private Prayer

9:00am-Noon--Church

Adoration & Confession

Mass Intentions for the Week

SUNDAY, May 24th

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

9:30am Victor Pasquini--D
 11:30am Franciscan Friars' Intentions
 1:30pm Octavio Caro--D

MONDAY, May 25th

St. Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor of the Church
 St. Gregory VII, Pope

St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, Virgin
 8:15am Antonio Chocho--D

TUESDAY, May 26th

St. Philip Neri, Priest
 8:15am Ted, Joni & Katie Linney--D

WEDNESDAY, May 27th

St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
 8:15am Mary Borges--D

THURSDAY, May 28th

8:15am Mary Chocho--L

FRIDAY, May 29th

St. Paul VI, Pope
 8:15am Enriquito Marquez--D

SATURDAY, May 30th

8:15am Bob & Clara Perino--D
 5:00pm Jerome Gann--D

SUNDAY, May 31st

PENTECOST SUNDAY

7:30am Mary Chocho--L
 9:30am Franciscan Friars' Intentions
 1:30pm Fernando & Felicitas Morfin--L

The Mass Intentions will continue to be offered by Fr. Tom during private chapel mass until the Shelter in Place legal order is lifted.

THIS WEEK--Continued

Sunday, May 31st:

Pentecost Sunday

Drive-In Mass
 9:00am--Rear Parking Lot

Private Prayer & Adoration
 10:00am-5:00pm--Church

Distribution of the Eucharist (No Mass)
 8:00am, 11:00am & 1:00pm--Gathering Area

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

May 25th through May 31st

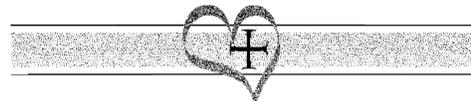
Monday: Acts 19:1-8; John 16:29-33
 Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27; John 17:1-11
 Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38; John 17:11-19
 Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; John 17:20-26
 Friday: Acts 25:13-21; John 21:15-19
 Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; John 21:20-25
 Sunday: Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23



Be doers of the Word and not hearers only

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If you shop at Amazon.com, please consider going to 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. Buy your gifts & household items here. Products and prices are the same, and Our Lady of Grace will receive a donation each time you make a purchase.



PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."—Jane Goodall

To join our work with Pax Christi, please contact the Parish Office at 510-537-0806

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THANK THEM WITH YOUR SUPPORT

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This week we extend our gratitude to:

DE DULCE HOME CARE