
 This is the fourth and final installment of our Lenten Lecture Series, Reclaiming Our First Love: God's Call to Holiness of Life, Conference #4 – Social-Political Dimensions of the Radical Following of Jesus. I have provided a brief overview of my final lecture. I pray you have found my lectures efficacious during your Lenten Season and spiritual growth.

During the Lenten lecture series we quoted St. Augustine and his thoughts and actions on conversion and how to come closer to Jesus throughout our lives. It seems clear enough that his attitude towards bearing the cross, that is, toward doing necessary penance and practicing mortification in the Christian life, did not vary to any significant degree, either when he was talking to the laity or to religious. He always insisted on these same points: 1) the necessity of taking up the cross and following Christ; 2) the need for safeguarding one's health while doing this; 3) the presence of a personal sense of responsibility, guided by generosity and prudent moderation; 4) the absolute importance in this, as in all other things, is love as the ultimate norm. If this final norm cannot be achieved, if the unity of a community is disrupted or placed in real danger by what an individual or group may be doing, then this cannot be a wholesome way of imitating Christ.

If such is the Augustinian way of carrying the cross, is there anyone who cannot bear this cross with love? At times it seems that, in the wake of the Second Vatican Council, for far too many religious, penance and mortification have suffered a similar fate as meditative and contemplative prayer. Because this kind of prayer was frequently no longer practiced in common, many simply ignored or neglected it. Yet just as religious cannot grow without the prayer of quiet, so they cannot hope to fulfill their goal of following Christ more closely unless they are also willing to take up their cross.

This cross, as we have seen, is multifaceted. It is at one time prayer, fasting and abstinence. It is also, however, dedication to study, and to other forms of the apostolate, undertaken only to seek the interests of Christ. It means bearing up under the trials of daily life, keeping the commandments, being motivated as Jesus was. It means helping to carry one another's burdens, out of love. It means accepting not only the joys of community life, but also its sufferings – the pains and struggles of our brothers and sisters, as well as our own. In all these ways we become more conformed to the image of Jesus Christ, whose cross we were and still are, by our sinfulness and frequent unwillingness to renew ourselves in the Spirit. When we carry our crosses, not only individually, but also as community, they become much lighter, especially when, as Augustine emphasizes time and time again, they lead us to greater unity and love. The following quotation sums up Augustine's attitude and can serve as a fitting conclusion to these reflections.

If you hold on to the words of Christ... you will not become enslaved either by the desires of the flesh, or by those of the eyes, or by worldly ambition. And you will make room for the coming of charity, so that you may love God... Each one is what he loves. Do you love the earth? You will be earthy. Do you love God? What shall I say: that you will be God? I would not dare say it on my own authority, but listen to the Scriptures: 'I said, you are gods and sons of the Most High. [Commentary on the Epistle of St. John 2, 14].

Let us continue to pray for one another during this Holy Season, especially for the poor.

In Christ Jesus and St. Augustine,
 Fr. Gregory Heidenblut, O.S.A.

Liturgical Schedule :

Holy Week and Easter 2015

Mass Schedule:

Holy Week

Mon., March 30th 8:30 am (Church)
 Tues., March 31st 7:00 am
 Wed., April 1st 7:00 am, 6:00 pm
 (soup meal follows evening mass)

Note: No morning mass on Thursday, Friday, Saturday

The Sacred Triduum

The Sacred Triduum, spanning three days, is **one commemoration** celebrating the great event of the glorious triumph of Jesus over sin and death. We invite you to share in all the liturgies as we ascend to the joy of Easter resurrection and new life won for us.

Schedule for the Sacred Triduum:

Holy Thursday, April 2nd , 7:30pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Transfer of the Eucharist to the repository in Stack Center follows the liturgy.

Good Friday, April 3rd

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Stations of the Cross: 12:00 noon and 5:00pm (Spanish). Veneration of the cross, and communion 1:30pm and 7:30pm.

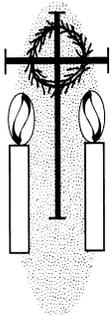
Holy Saturday, April 4th, 8:00 pm

The Great Easter Vigil

Service of Light, Liturgy of the Word, Rites of Initiation for the Elect, Liturgy of the Eucharist

Easter Sunday Masses: April 5th,

7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am



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GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

On Good Friday, our parish will take up the annual Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land. Your financial contribution helps to support the struggling Christian community and to protect Christianity's holiest places. Please be generous.

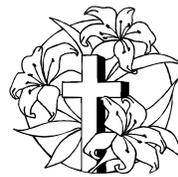


LENTEN WEDNESDAY SOUP MEAL

Please plan on joining us for a simple meal of soup and bread each Wednesday during Lent. It will be a time for fellowship and families coming together. Our Soup Meal follows the 6:00pm Mass. This Wednesday, **April 1st** Soup Meal is sponsored by our Lay Augustinian Seculars. We thank them for their ministry of hospitality for this meal. *Donations will be accepted to benefit Operation Rice Bowl.*

A NOTE FROM ST. VINCENT de PAUL

St. Vincent de Paul would like to encourage you to give generously to Catholic Relief Service's Operation Rice Bowl. Last year the Our Lady of Grace Conference received a grant for \$500 to be used to help the needy in our community. We are grateful to them and to you for your support of this outreach effort.



EASTER MEMORIALS

Again this year we are inviting you to remember family members and friends through a Flower Offering which will help us to purchase the 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 Easter Flower Offering envelopes – or submitting the names to the parish office. A list of names of all who are remembered will be available after Easter. Thank you for considering this thoughtful and helpful way to remember those you love.

HELP US DECORATE FOR EASTER

We will be readying the church for our Easter Services beginning at 9:00am on Saturday, April 4th. If you are available to help place flowers, dust, and spruce up the church we would be most appreciative of your help. If you have calla lilies or orchids from your garden to share please let us know. No need to RSVP just looking forward to seeing you!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Offices will close at 12 Noon on Good Friday, **April 3rd**. Additionally the Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, **April 6th**, and re-open on Tuesday, **April 7th** at 9:00am. The entire staff wishes all of you a very Happy and Holy Easter.

UPDATE: OLG TRANSITION TO DIOCESE

The following is the first of occasional updates on the transition of OLG to the Diocese provided by the leader of the Transition Team, Patrick Devine.

The Transition team (named below) whom Fr. Greg appointed to help in the transition of OLG to the Dioceses met with Rev. Paul Schmidt, the Vicar of Priests for the Diocese on Thursday evening (**March 12th**). We shared with him many of the ministries and activities the parishioners are involved in so that he could make the Diocese aware of our history, culture, diversity and charism.

Fr. Schmidt, Vicar of Priests explained that the process of appointing a new pastor is as follows: The Personnel board will meet in about one month and make recommendations on pastor staffing. These recommendations are forwarded to the Bishop for his review and to ultimately assign a Pastor. It is anticipated that the appointment to OLG will be made effective **July 1st**. When we get more information we will update the bulletin.

As we help OLG through the transition process, now would be a good time to reach out to a team member (listed below) and share with them your suggestions and questions about the transition. We would ask that you also keep them in prayer as they help guide the Parish and the Diocese.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Susan Anderson | Linda Koceniak |
| Patrick Devine 650-787-8378 | Robyn Lang |
| Claudia Dobbs | Colleen Lindberg |
| Martha Duarte | Anne Martinez |
| Marie Exberger | Sean Nalty 415-500-5432 |
| Lee Fiorina | Lou Richards |
| Jennifer Fischer | Mike Samboy |
| Mike Gonzalez | Rick Snow |
| Deacon Nels Gonsalves | Neil Toda |

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SUNDAY COLLECTION

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

Offerings of March 22nd:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 7,234.00
Last Year this week	\$ 7,822.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 8,815.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$ 92,000.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$ 87,063.00

March Budgeted Expenses \$68,000.00

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:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Jose Cisneros | Nicholas Guinea |
| Kathleen Denning | Raymond Lowe |
| Estela Enriquez | Richard Martin |
| Mary Franks | Florence Sharp |
| Byron Griffith | James Van Wert |
| Liz Griffith | Yvonne Wheeler |

As we pray for an end to war and violence in our world, let us remember in prayer those family members of our parish community serving on active duty, including:

DAVID SANCHEZ MICHAEL SANCHEZ

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

DANA PUCCINELLI

Gospel for EASTER SUNDAY (April 5th)
John 20:1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.



SAVE THE DATE
MAY 16th, 2015
Live & Silent Auction
Dinner & Dancing

Our Lady of Grace Spring Auction is coming soon. Help raise funds for our parish and school –and enjoy an adults only sophisticated evening of sumptuous food, and entertaining music. Share the excitement and fun of a fast paced auction with friends and family. Ticket reservations can be made by contacting the Parish Office, 537-0806.

To inquire about making an auction donation or to volunteer for one of the committees please contact Colleen Lindberg in the Parish Office.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 29th:

PALM SUNDAY

Coffee & Donuts After All Masses

Children's Liturgy of the Word
 9:00am--Mass

Religious Education Classes
 10:30am--Stack Center

Youth Ministry
 After 9:00am Mass in the Gym

Tuesday, March 31st:

Bible Scripture Study
 9:30am--Parish Office

Religious Education Classes
 3:45pm--Stack Center

Wednesday, April 1st:

Lenten soup Meal
 Following 6:00pm Mass

Thursday, April 2nd:

HOLY THURSDAY

Serenity Group
 8:15pm— Augustine Center

Friday, April 3rd:

GOOD FRIDAY

Stations of the Cross
 12:Noon--Church

Saturday, April 4th:

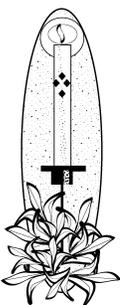
HOLY SATURDAY

Sunday, April 5th:

EASTER SUNDAY

FROM ICF

Come join ICF for a new dining experience on **April 9th**. We will be serving pizza and salad along with dessert. Doors open at 6:00pm. For reservations, please call Stella Taddei at 510-581-5863 or Juanita Madrid at 510-582-7242, deadline is **April 5th**. Buon Appetito!



CELEBRATE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST
YOU ARE INVITED TO:
THE SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL
SATURDAY, APRIL 4th AT 8:00PM
OUR LADY OF GRACE CHURCH
A Reception to follow in Stack Center

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Mass Intentions for the Week

Please note: During the school year, our 8:30am Monday Mass will be celebrated in the Church. Unless otherwise noted all other weekday masses will be held in the Chapel.

MONDAY, MARCH 30th (CHURCH)

8:30am Mary Hayes (D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 31st

7:00am Mary Hayes (D)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1st

7:00am Ann & Al Ortiz (D)

6:00pm Dulcidea O. Chocha (D)

THURSDAY, APRIL 2nd (CHURCH)

HOLY THURSDAY

No Morning Mass

7:30pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

FRIDAY, APRIL 3rd (CHURCH)

GOOD FRIDAY

12:00pm Stations of the Cross

1:30pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Veneration of the Cross & Communion

5:00pm Veneration of the Cross
& Communion (Spanish)

7:30pm Veneration of the Cross
& Communion

SATURDAY, APRIL 4th

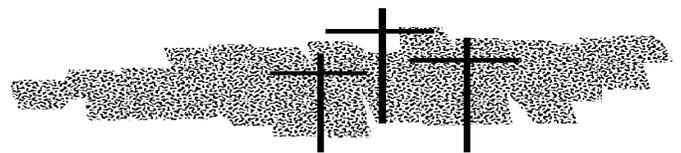
HOLY SATURDAY

8:00pm *THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

March 30th through April 5th

- Monday: Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11
- Tuesday: Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38
- Wednesday: Isaiah 60:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25
- Thursday: Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Luke 4:16-21
- Friday: Isaiah 52:13--53:12;
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9;
John 18:1--19:42
- Saturday: Genesis 1:1-2, 26-31
- Sunday: Acts 10:34, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4;
John 20:1-9



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FESCO'S ANNUAL SHELTER SHUFFLE IS COMING SOON!

It's time for the 18th Annual FESCO Shuffle Walkathon. The event will take place on **May 2nd**, at the San Leandro Marina.

The FESCO Shuffle Walkathon is FESCO's primary fundraising event of the year and our success depends on the participation of event Sponsors, community groups and churches, and individuals, including those who walk, run, and shuffle – many with their dogs – around the paths at San Leandro's Marina Park. The beautiful view of the Bay, the camaraderie of the participants, and the after-party BBQ in the park's newly renovated picnic areas are just a few of the reasons why FESCO's Shuffle Walkathon has the reputation for being a terrifically fun event.

Please send a message to our community that you are committed to ending family homelessness in Alameda County by pledging your support as a donor to FESCO's 18th Annual Shuffle Walkathon.

For information or to be a walker, sponsor or donor contact Colleen Lindberg in the Parish office.



ROSARY FOR WORLD PEACE

The rosary will be recited for World Peace after the 8:30 am Mass each Monday in the Church. Please join us.

HELP WANTED



Individual needed for gardening, clean up and light repair work 6 to 8 hours a week. Must be available during office hours. Please contact Colleen Lindberg in the Parish office, 537-0806 for additional information.

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:

EDEN VILLA ASSISTED LIVING