


 I am excited to begin my ministry at our Lady of Grace Church. I was born at Divine Redeemer Catholic Hospital, baptized and confirmed at St. John Vianney Catholic Church which my grandfather helped build, and I attended grade school at Providence Catholic School in South Saint Paul, Minnesota. I never realize how blessed I was to be formed in my Catholic identity by so many wonderful Catholic institutions. While I was taught the teachings of the church at Mass and at school by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, it was the lived experience of faith I experienced in my family that formed who I am as a Catholic believer. Nurtured in the love of Christ at church and in the family I was given a compass to navigate life.

The practice of the faith was a daily expression as a child. My mother took time to pray each morning before she could attend to the many needs of myself and my 5 siblings. Daily prayers at meals and before bed formed my days. Weekly mass and regular confession was just part of the expectation of being Catholic. My father would begin his day off by taking the opportunity to attend weekday Mass. Stories of how God had helped the family through the generations was part of the weekly gatherings at my grandparents house. They were not preachy but it was just sharing their experience of God through answered prayer, miracles, and conversion stories. There was also the acceptance of people no matter where they were in life and there was nothing so difficult that sharing a meal or a talk over a cup of coffee could not make better. My grand parents taught the family to cherish these relationships and take to heart each persons life and bring all there joys and struggles to prayer. The faith was just part of who you were and was expressed in so many little ways. I look forward to sharing with you the faith that was given to me and witnessed to me as gift.

I had a profound experience of Jesus Christ on a high school retreat. This began my journey of living my adult faith. Through my high school and college years I was involved in youth group bible study, and faith sharing. Ministry became an expression of my conviction. When I was finishing my college degree, at the University of Minnesota, I asked the Lord in prayer what is next and was drawn to a vocation to the priesthood. Through prayer and discernment I found the Conventual Franciscans and they accepted me into the fraternity of brothers.

I began my studies for the priesthood once I became a Franciscan by professing vows in 1992. I began studies in Washington DC and then moved to California to join the St. Joseph of Cupertino province in 1996. I was ordained at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park on June 20, 1998 and had my first Mass at All Saints Church in Hayward California where I had my first assignment. I was Rector of the Cathedral in Reno, Nevada from 2005-2010. I have been the Vocation Director for the Conventual Franciscans from 2010 until the day I became your Pastor.

I look forward to sharing my life and faith with all of you at Our Lady of Grace!

In Christ,

Fr. Thomas Czeck OFM Conv.

#### GOSPEL FOR THE 15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (July 12t)

MARK 6:7-13

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick—no food, no sack, no money in their belts. They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave. Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them.” So they went off and preached repentance. The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR:****RESPONDING TO THE SUPREME COURT DECISION ON MARRIAGE**

Catholics follow the Way of Jesus Christ. The first miracle occurred at the wedding at Cana. When Jesus was confronted with a legal question on how to divorce, Jesus takes us to a deeper meaning of marriage from contract to Sacrament. Jesus reveals to us God's plan for Marriage. Marriage is between a man and a woman to unite in love for life and become co creators bringing life and building a community of Love in God. This is what Marriage can be but as in the time of Jesus, we would prefer to look at marriage as a legal contract or a political issue.

How can we respond? We respond with the truth that has been revealed to us in Jesus Christ. He is the Way, the Truth, and Life. Jesus came in love to save us. We look to Him to empower us to live self sacrificing love.

We look to our scripture today for help on how to respond to those who have turned to define a new and different interpretation of marriage other than what human society has held through out history but more importantly of what Christ defined for us what marriage was to be.

The Prophet Ezekiel was given a mission to proclaim the way of God whether people respond or not. Our reading ends today in the reading from Ezekiel saying:

"But you shall say to them: Thus says the LORD God!

And whether they heed or resist—for they are a rebellious house—they shall know that a prophet has been among them."

We too must ask for the courage to proclaim the truth of God that has been revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Those who have been given the grace of a vocation in a sacramental Marriage to ask God to reveal his love for the world in your relationship and family. We as a community of faith and love gather to nurture each other in the Truth and Love of Christ to go out into the world to proclaim the the Way of Jesus Christ in Love.

Realize that you like Jesus may reject your message like the people in Nazareth took offense to Jesus.

"Jesus said to them:

“A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house.”

So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there,

apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them.

He was amazed at their lack of faith."

May we gather as a community of faith in Jesus Christ and enter His Sacrifice in the Eucharist to unleash the Divine Mercy of God to draw the hearts of humanity to salvation and Eternal Life.

*Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.*

**NEWS OF THANK YOU CELEBRATION MASS AND RECEPTION**

Last Sunday was our farewell liturgy with the Augustinians. We are most grateful to the Augustinians and their care of Our Lady of Grace for the past 35 years. Provincial Very Rev. Kevin Mullins, O.S.A. did a heartfelt 'handing on' of pastoral care to the Conventual Franciscans of the Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino. For the OLG community it was a bittersweet day there was sadness, of course, and there was acceptance and good anticipation of the changes to come !

**ICF NEWS**

ICF Branch #343 would like to thank the parishioners at the 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, **June 20th** for making our District members feel welcome. Many nice comments were passed on at dinner.

And we would like to invite all parishioners to our late 4th of July hotdog, salad and dessert dinner meeting on Thursday, **July 9th** at 6:30pm in Stack Center. Doors open at 6:00pm. Please call either Stella Taddei @ 510-581-5863 or Juanita Madrid @ 510-582-7242 for reservations. Deadline is Monday, **July 7th**. Buon Appetito!

**WELCOME !**

If you are visiting or are joining us for the first time, we are glad you came! All are welcome at OLG and received with love. If you are ready to join our parish, we encourage to meet with one of our New Parishioner Volunteers in Stack Center after the 9:00am Mass on Sunday, July 12th during Coffee and Donuts. If you have any questions please call the Parish Office at 537-0806.

**VBS 2015**

Join us for a week of life-changing adventure as we *Blast to the past and discover God's everlasting love!*

**DATE: July 27-31, 2015**

**TIME: 9:00 - 12 noon OR 6:30 - 8:30 pm**

Download registration forms and get more information at [www.vacationbibleschool.com/olgffc](http://www.vacationbibleschool.com/olgffc)  
Donations needed!

Help us by donating to VBS by choosing one or more of the items on our VBS poster at the entrances of the church and bringing them to the parish by **July 2st**. Items can be dropped at the parish office (M-F 9-5), the Faith Formation Center (Sundays 8:30 - 11:00) or in the bins at each church entrance.

Include your name so we can add you to our Thank You board!

**MOVIE NIGHT AT OLG**

Is the California drought here to stay, and is it a sign of things to come? What is the effect of the privatization of water on the lives of people around the world? How should we respond as Christians to the world water crisis?

If you are interested in learning more about this timely issue, join us in viewing the thought-provoking 90-minute documentary film, "BLUE GOLD" and discussing its significance.

**WHEN: Friday, JULY 17th at 7:00 p.m.**

**WHERE: Stack Center at OUR LADY OF GRACE CHURCH, Free Admission!** We invite you to bring a favorite snack to share (optional) Beverages will be provided. Sponsored by the Pax Christi/Social Justice Group at Our Lady of Grace Church. For more information, call Sandra at (510) 889-8132.

**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 June 28th:**

Sunday Plate:	\$ 9,670.00
Last Year this week	\$ 6,478.00
<b>Weekly Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 8,815.00</b>
Year-to-date this year:	\$199,031.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$183,375.00

June Budgeted Expenses \$59,800.00

*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:

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Dennis Cande     | Nicholas Guinea |
| Jose Cisneros    | Richard Martin  |
| Kathleen Denning | Doree Rivera    |
| Estela Enriquez  | Florence Sharp  |
| Juanita Estrella | Diana Staszko   |
| Mary Franks      | Iwan Tunggal    |
| 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.*

**Will Conchlin**

**YEAR OF MERCY JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY**

*Honoring Mary the Mother of God  
By the Mission of the Immaculata of St. Joseph  
Of Cupertino Province*

Hosted by  
Fr. Thomas Czek OFM Conv.  
Fr. Jacob Carazo OFM Conv.

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**FESTIVAL 2015  
SEPTEMBER 26th--27th  
OLG TRAVELS THE WORLD**

Mark your calendars now and plan to enjoy another great OLG Festival. This long standing tradition continues with the Grand Raffle, Pancake Breakfast, great game and food booths, enjoyable local entertainment as well as some new twists and surprises this year that you won't want to miss!!

Watch this space for information on donations to Book Nook, Jewelry Booth, and Kidz Zone.

**Misa en Español  
A las 2:00pm  
SPANISH MASS**

Fr. Paul will be offering a mass in Spanish the third Sunday of every month at 2:00pm in the Church. The next Spanish Mass will be Sunday, **July 19th** at 2:00pm.

**THIS WEEK**

*Sunday, July 5th:*

*Coffee & Donuts  
After all Masses*

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

*Tuesday, July 7th:*

Baptism Class  
7:00pm--Parish Office

*Thursday, July 9th:*

Italian Catholic Federation Dinner Mtg.  
6:30pm--Stack Center

Serenity Group  
8:15pm— Stack Center

*Sunday, July 12th:*

*Coffee & Donuts  
After all Masses*

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

**BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER**

The volunteers of Birthright of San Lorenzo will be giving out baby bottles to fill with a donation after all the Masses on the weekend of **July 11th -12th**. We hope you will fill the bottle with change and return it to the Parish office or the San Lorenzo Office in the near future. Your donations will help Birthright continue its work with mothers and babies.

Birthright is a crisis pregnancy center offering alternatives to abortion. Your prayers would be appreciated also.

For more information, please call Theresa Fuller @ 582-6358 or our Birthright office @ 510- 481-9677.

**AMAZON SMILE  
OUR LADY OF GRACE**

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. Products and prices are the same, and Our Lady of Grace will receive a donation each time you shop!

*Mass Intentions for the Week*



Please note: During the summer, our 8:30am Monday Mass will be celebrated with the other weekday masses in the Chapel.

**MONDAY, JULY 6th (CHAPEL)**  
*St. Maria Goretti, Virgin, Martyr*  
 8:30am Leslie Braga (D)

**TUESDAY, JULY 7th**  
 7:00am Joe & Marie Silveria (D)

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 8th**  
 7:00am Brendon Dolan (D)

**THURSDAY, JULY 9th**  
*St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs*  
 7:00am Kristi Murphy (L)

**FRIDAY, JULY 10th**  
*St. Veronica Giullani, virgin, II Order*  
 7:00am Joe & Isabel Furtado (D)

**SATURDAY, JULY 11th (CHAPEL)**  
*St. Benedict, Abbot*  
 8:30am Anthony Velasquez (D)



**ROSARY FOR WORLD PEACE**

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



**EXECUTION ALERTS**

The following executions are scheduled to take place in **July**:

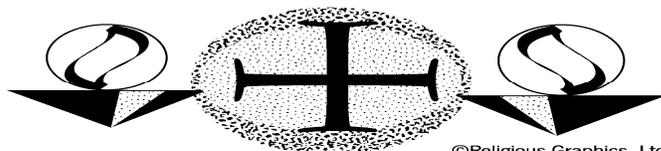
July 14th	David Zink	MO
July 16th	Clifton Williams	TX

We ask your prayers for these persons, for the victims of their crimes, and for their families.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

**July 6th through July 12th**

Monday: Genesis 28:10-22; Matthew 9:18-26  
 Tuesday: Genesis 32:23-33; Matthew 9:32-38  
 Wednesday: Genesis 41:55-57;42:5-7,17-24; Matthew 10:1-7  
 Thursday: Genesis 44:18-21,23-29;45:1-5; Matthew 10:7-15  
 Friday: Genesis 46:1-7,28-30; Matthew 10:16-23  
 Saturday: Genesis 49:29-32;50:15-26; Matthew 10:24-33  
 Sunday: Amos 7:12-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:7-13



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**PARISH DIRECTORY HAS ARRIVED**

Our photo directories have arrived and we hope that you are enjoying going through them and matching names with familiar faces. Each family that had their photo included in the directory will receive **ONE FREE** copy. Please stop in the Parish office to pick up your directory. If you didn't have your picture taken, you may purchase one directory for \$7.00. Because of the limited number of directories, please only *one per family*.

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