

Epiphany Blessing

Many thanks to all of you who were so generous over Christmas with service, gifts, and cards. We continue our Celebration today with Epiphany when the Magi came to Jesus and he is made manifest for the world. We Franciscans have a tradition on Epiphany of picking saints, Scripture and a deceased brother to pray for during the New Year. We will gather on January 18th to give thanks to all our volunteers to celebrate the greatest gift of all, Jesus. I will never forget Epiphany in 2016 when I and our pilgrims had Mass with Pope Francis at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Choirs from around the world sang as we sat so close to the Altar for the liturgy. There was a wonderful procession celebrating the spread of Christianity with groups from all over Italy dressed in period clothing. I really understood the significance of Epiphany as that celebration where Jesus is revealed to the World as the star beacons the new king to the world. A King who would change the world and the gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh signify his royal throne, divinity, and saving death.

Home Blessing

The Gospel tells us that the Magi found Christ "on entering the house". The door to your home is a holy threshold. It is appropriate to bless your door in January - "janua" means "door", and the first month is the door to the new year. You can bless those who come in and go out by inscribing above the door in chalk: "20+C+M+B+20". Tradition tells us that the letters stand for the names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Scholar Adolph Adam points out that it may also mean "Christus mansionem benedicat" or "May Christ bless this dwelling."

Blessing Ceremony

Light a candle and inscribe the door as shown above in chalk. A member of the family prays: *May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve Christ in everyone we meet.*

All: Amen

Together: Lord God of Heaven and Earth, You revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of Your law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect Your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Volunteer Appreciation Celebration

In gratitude for the many hands that accomplish so much work in our Parish, the Franciscans and Our Lady of Grace Staff will express their gratitude to all our volunteers at a Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on January 18, 2020 at 2:30pm in Stack Center.

Plans For The New Year

We continue to evaluate and improve our facility and are in the process of interviewing Architects. Our new landscaping is near completion with native grass and flowering shrubs to enhance our entrance. We have upgraded our irrigation system so our water use will be more efficient.

Peace,
Fr. Tom



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Gospel for The Baptism of the Lord (January 12th)

Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
CRAB FEED**
Saturday, February 1, 2020
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!

No-Host Bar
\$15 Corkage Fee

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

Crab Feed tickets make a great stocking stuffer, get
them while they last!

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>

Prices is \$50 per person

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

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

2020 CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Catholic Extension 2020 Family Appointment Calendars are available. We are grateful and we extend our sincere appreciation to the Catholic Funeral Cremation & Cemetery Services of the Diocese of Oakland for again sponsoring the 2020 calendars. If you have not picked up a copy in the church you may find one in the parish office. *Please only one per household.*



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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!



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We echo the refrain, "O come, O come Emmanuel." Our Lord has come! Our celebration all through Advent led us to His birth. The school children presented the Christmas story on December 7th which seems so far away now. Joyful music sung by all students and our children's choir set the tone for the tree lighting in Stack Center which followed Mass. Parishioners joined school families there to enjoy fellowship and the Christmas spirit. As our New Year begins, let us all rejoice in the Lord and please join us on **Sunday, January 26th** for the opening of Catholic Schools Week at the 9:30am Mass followed by a brunch in Stack and a tour of the school.

-Susan Anderson



ANNUAL SEMINARY COLLECTION

Next 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. Your prayers and support for our seminarians are a tremendous encouragement to the candidates. Your generous contributions assist these seminarians on their way to the priesthood. Our seminarians are dedicated, enthusiastic and most willing to be of service. Your kindness, generosity, and prayers are deeply appreciated. Envelopes are in the pews for your use.



ICF BELATED CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join the ICF for a Belated Christmas Party on **January 9th**. Doors open at 6:00pm and dinner is served at 6:30pm. We will once again be collecting new baby clothes, diapers, etc. for Birthright. For reservations, please contact Juanita at 510-582-7242. Deadline is **January 6th**.

Real Men



BARBERSHOP CHORUS

Join us for Retro Night with a men's quartet including our very own Dave Swanson, from 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 please see Bonnie Ricketts after the 7:30am & 11:30am Masses.

PLEASE NOTE

Due to the holiday schedule of our bulletin publisher we are not able to report the weekly offerings for most of December. The Sunday offering will be updated in the upcoming bulletins along with the Christmas Offering. Thank you for your understanding.



ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIAL DONORS

We deeply thank the following donors who have given generously towards sponsoring our Altar Candle Memorial.

Given By:	In Memory of / In Honor of:
Ana Maria Aquino	Clementina Vera
Greg Manubay	Crispulo & Veronica Manubay
Jeff Schier	Joseph, Gustuv & Shirley Schier
Ron Stainbrook	Sue Confield
Maria Zambrano	Aunt Sug
	Jose & Gloria Areas



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.

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.

CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO MASS

At the entrances of the church, you will find 2 different Children's Guide to the Catholic Mass cards. The first is for young children and uses pictures and a simple description suggesting participation and sequential parts of the Mass. The second card with 25 windows is for children who can read and gives a simple description of the sequential activities during Mass. Please feel free to use these during the Mass and return these cards to the baskets at the end of Mass.

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 December 15th:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 11,116.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 9,038.00
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [2,078.00]
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [1,408.00]

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	Mona Mulvaney
Maureen Boeh	Leticia Nelson
Peggy Burton	Diana Riley
Heidi Carne	Florence Sharp
Theresa Ferrari	Howard Songey
Linda Guzman	Lurdes Sousa
Wally Lim	Mercedes Tellez
Laura Martell	Mary Lou Vincent
Sheila McAlinden	Arthur Williams
Rose Montalban	Peggy Winkenbach

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

CELESTE MARQUES

ISABEL STEVENS

JOE KOZEL

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



YOUNG CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Bring your toddler to kindergarten age kids on **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!





**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.

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY

As many of you know, OLG has a wonderful ministry called "Helping Hands", started by Dianne Fisher many years ago. We help families who have lost a loved one and whom we assist with making and serving food to their family and friends after the Funeral Mass. If you would like to periodically assist us by making food for these gatherings (each entrée, salad or dessert is enough for 10 people), please contact Carmel Ledyard (510-274-5627) or Margaret McKean (510-340-1871) or you may leave your name and number in the Parish Office. Thank you and God Bless!

**ARE YOU A AMAZON SHOPPER?
SHOP WITH AMAZON SMILE!**

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 and holiday essentials here. Products and prices are the same, and Our Lady of Grace will receive a donation each time you make a purchase.



ROSARY BEFORE MASS

Come join in prayer of the Rosary 30 minutes before each of the weekend liturgies. Pray for our Parish. All are welcome!

ROSARY FOR WORLD PEACE

The Rosary will be recited for World Peace after the 8:15am Mass each Wednesday in the Church. Please join us.

**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 5th:

The Epiphany of the Lord

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

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

1st Communion Class
10:50am--Stack Center

Tuesday, January 7th:

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

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

Wednesday, January 8th:

Pre-Baptismal Class
7:00pm--Stack Center, OLG Room

Thursday, January 9th:

RCIA
7:00pm--Stack Center, OLG Room

Adoration
7:00pm--Church

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

Saturday, January 11th:

1st Reconciliation Retreat
9:00am--Stack Center & Church

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

Mass for the Intentions  *for the Week*

All Masses are celebrated in the Church

SUNDAY, January 5th

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7:30am Franciscan Friars' Intentions

MONDAY, January 6th

St. Andre Bessette, Religious

8:15am Norma McKean--D

TUESDAY, January 7th

St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest

8:15am Ester Flores--D

WEDNESDAY, January 8th

8:15am Roger Lowe--D

THURSDAY, January 9th

8:15am Debi Telles--D

FRIDAY, January 10th

8:15am Roger Lowe--D

SATURDAY, January 11th

8:15am Olinda Machado--D

5:00pm Roger Lowe--D

SUNDAY, January 12th

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

7:30am Franciscan Friars' Intentions

9:30am Antonio Chocha--D



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

Speaker: Stephanie Luna

Topic: "On The Journey"

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

January 6th through January 12th

- Monday: 1 John 3:22-4:6;
Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tuesday: 1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44
- Wednesday: 1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52
- Thursday: 1 John 4:19-5:4; Luke 4:14-22
- Friday: 1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16
- Saturday: 1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30
- Sunday: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7; Acts 10:34-38;
Matthew 3:13-17



FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND

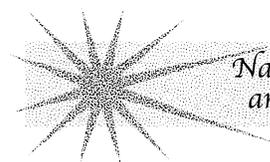
Flower donation envelopes can be found at the entrances of the church to make a donation in memory of or honor of a loved one or other occasion. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jay at 537-0806. Your donation in honor of your loved one will be mentioned in the bulletin.



ICF CRAB FEED

Saturday, February 1, 2020

The East Bay District of the ICF invite you to the Dave Rose Memorial Crab Feed on Saturday **February 1, 2020** 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 25, 2020**.



*Nations walk by your light
and kings by your shining radiance*

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This week we extend our gratitude to:

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