

**Mary, The Mother of God****Happy New Year!**

On Friday, we celebrate Mary, the Mother of God (Theotokos). This was the first defined Dogma about Mary at the Council of Ephesus in 431. Being a Dogma, it is essential we believe that Mary was the Theotokos (God birther or bearer). Jesus was truly human who was born in Bethlehem and his Mother was Mary. This seems obvious to us today yet the questions of the identity of Jesus and His origin is questioned by many even to this day. There are those who deny he even existed or if he did exist he was just human and a failed revolutionary. This teaching about Mary as the Theotokos is essential for us to understand who Jesus is and what he offers humanity. If we do not understand who Jesus is and that he is human and divine, then we can never find the way to salvation. Mary is the key that opens humanity to salvation and grace. Her "yes" in the Annunciation opened the way for our God and Savior, changing the destiny of humanity from fallen to redeemed. The battle continues to this day. Will we live our lives in our fallen nature that leads to death or will we accept redemption in Jesus Christ and inherit Eternal Life?

**Epiphany (January 3rd)****God Made Manifest**

The Epiphany of Our Lord is the Christian feast observed traditionally on January 6th, transferred to January 3rd in our diocese this year. The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek *epiphainen*, a verb that means "to shine upon," "to manifest," or "to make known." Thus, the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made Himself known to the world, mainly the three events that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11). The visit of the Magi is emphasized on Epiphany Day, and Christ's baptism is celebrated the first Sunday that follows.

Let us join the Magi to come and adore our Lord and King. Come to Bethlehem with the Magi as they follow the star leading them to discover God made manifest in the Word, made flesh in the child Jesus. We honor Mary His Mother and Joseph His protector. Come to the manger and adore.

I remember the celebration of the Epiphany in 2016 in Rome as we celebrated a High Mass at St. Peter's with Pope Francis with choirs from around the world. We then left the liturgy to encounter a procession recognizing the acceptance of Christianity through history and in Italy. When did your family and heritage discover Jesus made manifest? Who shared Jesus with you?

**Schedule For The New Year****School Returns On January 4th**

**Daily Masses will be at 8:15AM Monday through Saturday in the tent and open to the public.**

**Saturday Vigil at 4PM on the Lawn or in the tent**

**Sunday Liturgies, Rain or Shine**

Drive-In Mass at 9AM

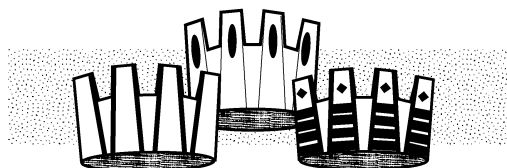
Lawn or tent Mass at 11AM and 1PM (Spanish)

**Adoration & Confession By The Tent**

Thursdays (3:00-4:30PM) and Saturdays (8:45-9:45AM)

Peace & Love,

Fr. Tom



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**THIS WEEKEND'S MASS SCHEDULE****Reservations are not required****Saturday 4:00PM:** Vigil Mass at the St. Francis Garden Chapel (bring your own chairs)**Sunday 9:00AM:** Drive-In Mass with Livestream. (Rear Parking Lot)**Sunday 11:00AM:** Mass at the St. Francis Garden Chapel (bring your own chairs)**Sunday 1:00PM:** Spanish Mass at the St. Francis Garden Chapel (bring your own chairs)

We will continue to livestream daily and weekend Masses.

**\*\*UPDATED\*\*****CONFESSION & ADORATION SCHEDULE****Thursdays 3:00-4:30PM:** By the tent.**Saturdays 8:45-9:45AM:** By the tent.**BEGINNING JANUARY 4TH  
DAILY IN-PERSON 8:15AM MASS**

Join us, beginning January 4th, for daily Mass at the Tent. These Masses will also be livestreamed. Reservations are not required. Please come with facemasks in place.

**ANNUAL SEMINARY COLLECTION**

Next weekend (January 9th & 10th) 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. Please make your check out to "Our Lady of Grace" & put "Seminary" on the memo line. You may drop it off at the collection at the Masses or at the Parish Office mail slot. Your kindness, generosity, and prayers are deeply appreciated.

**END OF YEAR GIVING  
Christmas Offering**

As we come to the end of this calendar year, we want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your financial support of our parish this past year. Your continuing support is most important and most appreciated. Please know your special Christmas and regular Sunday donations will help us to meet our end-of-year expenses as well as address our operating expense in the new year.

During this pandemic year, life has been hard for many. We have been faced with many challenges. Things we all took for granted before are now hard to come by. We as a parish have committed to not just maintaining our building, but building families of faith and hope as we look forward to 2021. If each of us lends a hand and the financial responsibility is spread out equally, we can meet our financial target this Christmas. So, instead of leaving it to the regular givers to contribute, let all of us as families of Our Lady of Grace join in giving. Together we can make it happen. If you have had a difficult year financially and are unable to give, those of us who've had a better year will cover for you. God is counting on us to continue His work in the greater community of Castro Valley.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONORS**

We deeply thank the following donors who have given generously towards beautifying our sanctuary with flowers and decorations this Christmas.

**Given By:**

Barbara Lang  
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Christina Woyczik  
  
Ivan Zambrano

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Mark Kochel  
Ana Cochran  
Maria & Anthony Godinez  
The Zambrano Family

**OUTDOOR IN-PERSON MASS PROTOCOLS**

For everyone's safety, we ask that parishioners bring their own lawn/camping chairs, have masks in place and worn throughout the duration of Mass, and sit 6 feet from other households. If you are not feeling well, we invite you to celebrate Mass via Livestream. We thank you for your understanding!



### ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIAL DONORS

We deeply thank the following donors who have given generously towards

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Amy Hernandez  
Karen Whittaker

#### In Memory of / In Honor of:

Samantha Hernandez  
Brian O'Leary



### YEARLY CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

For your convenience in preparing your tax return, a contribution statement for 2020 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.



### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all from the staff at OLG School!

While the year 2020 presented us with many challenges, let us look back at the many lessons we learned. When children make mistakes at school, we help them see what they did wrong and show them what other choice they could have made, always ending our conversation with "now you have a clean slate. Now that the year 2020 has ended, let us all begin with a clean slate knowing we have been given the greatest gift of all - Faith. Jesus showed us the way when he came to earth as our precious Savior leaving us His perfect model to emulate. Years later, Mahatma Gandhi said, "Be the change you want in the world." I have introduced my staff to a wonderful little book called Gracious Space by author, Patricia Hughes. I highly recommend it to all of you to read. In this book on how to live life to the fullest, there are many famous people whom she quotes. I would like to share a couple that I believe could guide us all as we set our resolutions in place for 2021. The first quote is from the lips of Jesse Jackson who said, "Leadership has a harder job to do than just take sides. It must bring sides together" and the final quote was by Mark Twain who said, "It is not best that we should all think alike; it is difference of opinion which makes horse races." May the blessings of our dear Lord be upon you.

-Susan Anderson

### 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 for the Month of DECEMBER:

Sunday Plate for the month: \$ 36,735.00

**Month Budgeted Goal: \$ 48,500.00**

Over/[Shortfall] \$ [11,765.00]

Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall] \$ [37,226.00]

*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:

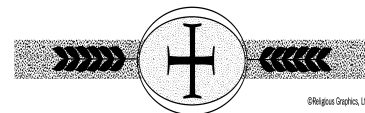
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Mary Lou Vincent  
Arthur Williams  
Peggy Winkenbach

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

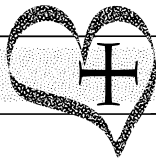
#### In Memoriam

#### VICTIMS OF COVID-19



### 2021 CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Catholic Extension 2021 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 2021 calendars. *Calendars will be available at the end of the 9:00am Drive-In Masses, until there are none left. There will be Knights distributing them at the Casa, San Miguel and Somerset gates as you exit. One per household please.*



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**FAITH FORMATION 2020-2021**

Please pray for the young members of our Church.

**First Communion**

Next class: January 9th

11:00am—St. Francis Garden Chapel

Weather Permitting

**Whole Family**

Next class: January 23rd

11:00am—St. Francis Garden Chapel,

Weather Permitting

**Youth Ministry**

Next class: January 10th

3:30pm—St. Francis Garden Chapel,

Weather Permitting

**PRE-BAPTISM CLASS  
FOR PARENTS & GODPARENTS**

If you are wishing to have your child, ages infant to six years baptized, parents and Godparents need to attend a Pre-Baptism Class. You also need to be registered members of the parish for at least three months. Pre-Baptism classes are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm via Zoom. **Our next class will be on January 6th.** Call Jay at 510-537-0806 for more information.

**RELEVANT RADIO - 1260 AM**

Relevant Radio brings you the best in Catholic Radio 24/7! Playing on 1260AM and dedicated to sharing the heart of the Catholic Faith and changing lives.

**EXECUTION ALERTS**

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

January 12th	Lisa Montgomery	Federal
January 14th	Cory Johnson	Federal
January 15th	Dustin Higgs	Federal
January 21st	Blaine Milam	Texas

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

**THIS WEEK****Sunday, January 3rd:*****The Epiphany of the Lord***

Drive-In Mass With Livestream on Facebook

9:00am--Rear Parking Lot

Mass—Reservations are not required

11:00am--St. Francis Garden Chapel

Spanish Mass - Reservations are not required

1:00pm--St. Francis Garden Chapel

**Monday, January 4th:**

Mass With Livestream

8:15am—Tent

Bible Study—English

7:00pm—Zoom

**Tuesday, January 5h:**

Mass With Livestream

8:15am—Tent

“The Search” with Fr. Tom

7:00pm—Zoom

**Wednesday, January 6th:**

Mass With Livestream

8:15am—Tent

**Thursday, January 7th:**

Mass With Livestream

8:15am—Tent

Confession &amp; Adoration

3:00-4:30pm—By the Tent

**Friday, January 8th:**

Mass With Livestream

8:15am—Tent

**Saturday, January 9th:**

Mass With Livestream

8:15am—Tent

Confession &amp; Adoration

8:45-9:45am—By the Tent

1st Communion—1st Reconciliation

11:00am—Tent by the St. Francis Garden Chapel

Vigil Mass—Reservations are not required

4:00pm--St. Francis Garden Chapel

# Mass Intentions for the Week

## SUNDAY, January 3rd

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

9:00am Steve Penland – D

11:00am Larry, Garry & Randy Lawrence – D

1:00pm OLG Community

## MONDAY, January 4th

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

8:15am Dan Riordan – D

## TUESDAY, January 5th

St. John Neumann, Bishop

8:15am Steve Penland – D

## WEDNESDAY, January 6th

St. André Bessette, Religious

8:15am Violet Bartolf – D

## THURSDAY, January 7th

St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

8:15am Wency Dela Cruz – L

## FRIDAY, January 8th

8:15am Mary Gladden – L

## SATURDAY, January 9th

8:15am Melencia Reyes Ludovice – D

4:00pm Franciscan Friars' Intentions

## SUNDAY, January 10th

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9:00am Steve Penland – D

11:00am OLG Community

1:00pm Mary Chocha – L

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

January 4th through January 10th

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;  
Mark 1:7-11

accept our gifts also, o LORD



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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 via Zoom

Next Meeting: **January 7, 2021**

9:00am to 11:00am

Speaker: Dr. Doreen Jones

Topic: TBD

Please contact Nancy Marcotte at [nanmar2@aol.com](mailto:nanmar2@aol.com)  
or 510-303-3324 for the Zoom link

## PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"When we all see God in each other, we will love  
one another as He loves us all. That is the fulfillment  
of the law, to love one another."*

-Mother Theresa, 1997

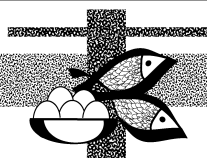
To join our work with Pax Christi, please contact  
the Parish Office at 510-537-0806.

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## THIS WEEK--Continued

**Sunday, January 10th:**

### The Baptism of the Lord

Drive-In Mass With Livestream on Facebook

9:00am--Rear Parking Lot

Mass--Reservations are not required

11:00am--St. Francis Garden Chapel

Spanish Mass - Reservations are not required

1:00pm--St. Francis Garden Chapel

Youth Ministry Mass & Mini-Session

3:30pm--St. Francis Garden Chapel



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