



### Advent Preparation For Christmas

Tune in to Dr. Michael Patrick Barber's Advent series called *The True Meaning of Christmas* and learn the meaning behind your favorite Christmas pastimes to dive deeper into this season. This year do your Advent Preparation for Christmas by focusing on the Scriptures. We have all the Advent readings in the *Word for Today* booklet in the back of Church while they last. We also have the book *The True Meaning of Christmas* available by the Church entrance doors. Please one copy per family while they last. As you read, you can join Dr. Michael Barber on his show on Formed.org. We also have the Catholic Devotional available to assist you with your personal prayer time this Advent.

### The Immaculate Conception

How does this dogma fit into Catholic theology? St. Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941), the Polish saint who gave his life for another man by volunteering to take his place in the starvation bunker at Auschwitz, was particularly devoted to the Immaculate Conception. His monthly publication and the movement he inspired was the "Knights of the Immaculata." God the Father loves from eternity. His Love can only find an eternal response appropriate to Him, i.e., the Son. From the Love of Father and Son for each other "proceeds" the Holy Spirit. God's Love and His Being are one and the same. So why is it that the Holy Spirit came upon Mary? Because He is nothing less than the Love of God, proceeding from the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is the fruitfulness of God's Love, of Father for Son and Son for Father. This is why we confess the Holy Spirit as "the Lord and Giver of Life." It was the "Spirit of God" that breathed upon the waters (Genesis 1:2). God's Love, the Holy Spirit, gives life at the beginning of creation, and gives life at the beginning of the new creation in the womb of Mary. And just as the love of the Father and Son for each other leads to the Holy Spirit, who "proceeds" for them (words which begin to crack when we recognize we are applying them to categories of eternity), so the Holy Spirit begins the work that leads man back to the Father. For it is the Spirit Love of God that conceives the Son, and the Son who, by His death and resurrection, reconciles man to the Father and sends the Holy Spirit upon humanity to continue that work of sanctification. But He did it through Mary for—as St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort notes—the Holy Spirit realizes His fertility not within the Trinity (since He neither begets any divine Person nor does one proceed from Him) but, with Mary, in fashioning the human nature of Jesus. It's not that the Spirit *needs* Mary to express His life-giving lordship but, with her, He reveals God's radical desire to make humanity in God's own image in a supernatural way that man could never have conceived (see 1 Corinthians 2:9). He gives life to the Divine-human Person of Jesus Christ, who leads His brothers and sisters into a filial relationship to the Father that Adam could never have imagined (Romans 8:15). That's what we mean by *felix culpa!* The Spirit is the Love of the Father and the Son, "the love with which God loves Himself, the love of the whole Most Holy Trinity, fruitful love, conception." If marital love leads to "two in one flesh," then how much more intimate is that perfect love, perfectly accepted by the human being Mary, which "makes her fruitful, and that from the first moment of her existence for her whole life, i.e., forever". And since the Holy Spirit is the agent of human sanctification (remember, we are made into Temples of the Holy Spirit [1 Corinthians 6:19] who prays in us [Romans 8:26]), is it not fitting that His Spouse should be an intercessor for our salvation? Jesus gives us Mary as His Mother (John 19:27), but the Holy Spirit gives us Mary as she who, with Him, is concerned for our sanctification. "Mary, as the Bride of the Holy Spirit, and therefore high above every created perfection, thoroughly accomplishes the will of the Holy Spirit who dwells in her, and that from the first moment of her conception". For if, through her, Mary's Spouse launches the work of sanctification by the conception of Jesus, then Mary—free of the stain of sin—is no indifferent bystander to that work. Making her will His, she cannot *not* be joined to the battle against sin and death that her Son's life, death and resurrection will win. "And so, in the return to God, the equal and opposite reaction proceeds in the opposite way to that of creation. In the case of creation, [all comes] from the Father through the Son and the Spirit, while here, through the Spirit, the Son becomes incarnate in the womb of her and, through Him, love returns to the Father. She then, woven into the love of the Most Blessed Trinity, becomes from the first moment of her existence, forever, eternally, the complement to the Most Holy Trinity". While the formal dogma of the Immaculate Conception may date only from 1854, the Church herself has believed in Mary's freedom from sin for millennia.

The significance of the Immaculate Conception is particularly important for our day. This is no dry, theological proposition. As Kolbe shows us, it represents nothing less than the possibilities of man when God's Love and man's response are perfectly aligned. On that, a little Jewish girl can teach us a lot.

Join us on Wednesday, December 8th, to celebrate the Immaculate Conception!

Mass is at 7:00am at the Redwood Road Chapel, in the Church at 8:15am, 9:30am with the School, and at 7:00pm (bilingual Mass).

May the Lord fill you with Hope this holy season of Joyful anticipation.

Peace & Love,  
Fr. Tom



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One mightier than I is coming after me.  
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.



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**FESCO AND CASTRO VALLEY OUTREACH  
Christmas Giving Trees**

Our Giving Trees are up and restocked with ornaments for children being served by Castro Valley Outreach. As members of CV Outreach, an organization dedicated to helping children from our CV Schools have a happy holiday season, we invite you to choose an ornament and purchase a gift for a child.

Please take a Nativity Ornament and leave your name and phone number on half of the ornament and place it into the box near the tree. **Please read the tag carefully.** Purchase the item(s) listed on the tag and follow the instructions regarding wrapping. Then return the gifts or gift card **with the ornament** to the Parish office by **December 9<sup>th</sup>**. Returning the ornament tag with the gift is the only way to guarantee that gifts are given to the right recipients. Please take an ornament to help a child have a blessed holiday.

**PARISH OPERATING STATEMENT THRU  
NOVEMBER COMPARED TO BUDGET**

As we enter into the Holy Season of Advent and the celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas, we take this opportunity to update the parish on our financial health and offer our gratitude for our faithful donors. The information in the table shows our operating performance compared to our budget through November. We began the year under ongoing restrictions due to COVID-19 concerns. Despite limited masses until late spring, our plate has outperformed the budget. **However, our last three months have shown a loss of \$13,080 against Income Budget, making the Christmas collection vital to our financial health.** We have benefited by the many who have chosen to use Online Giving as well as the faithful generous givers at Our Lady of Grace.

	Act. Thru Nov	Budget	Diff Over Budget
Operating Income	\$590,454	\$570,053	\$20,411
Operating Expenses	\$585,275	\$560,542	\$24,733
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$5,189</b>	<b>\$9,511</b>	<b>(\$4,322)</b>

A more complete look at our Financial Operating Activity will be sent out on Flocknote this week.



**THE SOLEMNITY OF THE FEAST  
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Our Holy Day Masses honoring Mary on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Wednesday, **December 8th** at **8:15am, 9:30am (School children liturgy) and 7:00pm (Bilingual)** in the Church.

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE  
CELEBRATION  
DECEMBER 9th-12th**



The Hispanic Group invites the entire Parish community to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe with a Triduum of Rosaries and Masses.

**December 9th, 10th and 11th**  
Triduum of Rosaries at 7:00pm in the Church  
Triduo de Rosarios a las 7:00pm en la Iglesia

**December 12th  
Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Join us as we begin with the Rosary and Mañanitas from 5:30-7:00am in the Church. Immediately following, Mexican hot chocolate and bread will be served in the Prayer Garden. Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass in Spanish will be held at 1:00pm in the Church. Immediately following Mass, join us outside at the Tent next to the St. Francis Garden Chapel. We will be serving a meal in honor of Our Lady.

**Diciembre 12  
Celebraciones En Honor a la Virgen de Guadalupe**

Rosario y mañanitas de 5:30 a 7:00 am. Se servirá inmediatamente después chocolate y pan mexicano en la Jardín de Oración. Misa en español a la 1:00 pm seguida de una pequeña taquiza en honor a Nuestra Señora.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

We invite you to remember family members and friends through a Flower Offering which will help us to purchase 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 flower envelopes or by submitting the name to the Parish Office. A list of names will be available after Christmas. Thank you for considering this thoughtful and helpful way to remember those you love.





**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

November is the month that we give thanks. At Our Lady of Grace Catholic School, we give thanks to Father Tom and the parish for supporting the work of Catholic Education. We give thanks for the dedicated faculty and staff and the many hours they spend on lesson planning, producing interesting curriculum and caring for each student that they give. We give thanks for the office staff who keep things buzzing and organized. We give thanks for the parents and grandparents who sacrifice and work tirelessly to send their children to a catholic school. WE give thanks for all those who went before us and worked very hard to make sure future generations had the opportunity to receive a catholic education. We give thanks to all. Amen

-Kathy Gannon-Briggs



**ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIAL DONOR**

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

<b>Given By:</b>	<b>In Memory of / In Honor of:</b>
Mary Chocha	Antonio C. Chocha
Maria Flores	Flores Martinez Family
Lim Family	Juan, Lim & Maghirang Families
Kaye McCann	John McCann
Ernestine Moir	All Souls in Purgatory
Karina Vazquez	All Aborted Babies
Maria Zambrano	Jose & Gloria Areas

**CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM**

Last month, we welcomed

**Catalina Juli Guzman**

**Elio Tian Truong**

**Noah Isaac Villafan**

into Our Lady of Grace Church by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. God Bless you!



**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 NOVEMBER:**

Sunday Plate for the month:	\$ 36,841.00
<b>Month Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 45,705.00</b>
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [8,864.00]
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	<b>\$ 14,642.00</b>

*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:

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Pam Ahland         | Brian Linney       |
| Glen Alcorn        | Arcadio Morfin     |
| Larry Bronzini     | Diana Riley        |
| Peggy Burton       | Angela Schaaphok   |
| Virginia Cabardo   | Howard Songey      |
| Gina Castillo      | Ronald Staszko     |
| Joyce & James Czek | Concepcion Velasco |
| Nancy French       | Mary Lou Vincent   |
| Mark Jerome        | Arthur Williams    |
| Bill Lawrence      | Peggy Winkenbach   |
| Grace Letteer      |                    |

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

**In Memoriam**

**MARY THANH TRAN**

**VICTIMS OF COVID-19**

**VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE**



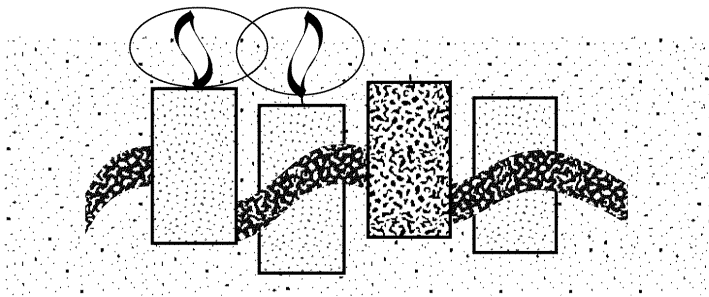
**ADVENT CONFESSIONS  
Ready The Way Of The Lord  
Until December 22nd**

Confessions during Advent will be available with the following schedule:

**Wednesdays: 9:00-10:00am**

**Thursdays: 6:00-7:00pm during Adoration**

**Saturdays: 9:00-10:00pm during Adoration**



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# THIS WEEK

**Sunday, December 5th:**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

Masses  
7:30am, 9:00am & 11:00am--Church

Children's Liturgy of the Word  
9:00am—Church/Augustine Center

1st Communion Class  
10:15am—Stack Center

Rite of Acceptance  
11am Mass-Church

Confirmation Class  
12:15pm—Stack Center

Spanish Mass  
1:00pm--Church

**Monday, December 6th:**

Bible Study w/ Fr. Francisco  
7:00pm—Zoom

**Tuesday, December 7th:**

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

**Wednesday, December 8th:**

Masses of the Immaculate Conception—Church  
8:15am, 9:30am (School Liturgy) &  
7:00pm (Bilingual)

Confession  
9:00am—Church

RCIA  
7:00pm—Stack Center

**Thursday, December 9th:**

Adoration & Confession  
6:00pm—Church

Rosary  
7:00pm—Church

**Friday, December 10th:**

Rosary  
7:00pm—Church

**Saturday, December 11th:**

Adoration & Confession  
9:00-10:00am—Church

Vigil Mass  
5:00pm—Church

Rosary  
7:00pm—Church



**HELPING THOSE IN NEED  
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

Do you or someone you know need assistance this holiday season? The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at Our Lady of Grace can help you with food for the holidays or other resources as needed. Please call our message line at 510-581-2164 or email svdp@olgcv.org and leave a message. We will get back to you the next day. All names are kept confidential.



**ONE WARM COAT DRIVE**

Blessings to all for your generous donations! All the coats, blankets, tarps and sleeping bags will be distributed throughout our local Conference and the drop-in centers and clothing closet at St. Vincent de Paul's main campus in Oakland. Thank you so much for your generosity.

**HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES**

Please have items for the bulletin to the Parish Office no later than the deadlines below:

December 19th Bulletin: **due December 10th**

December 26th Bulletin: **due December 13th**

January 2nd Bulletin: **due December 17th**




**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!

**MAXIMILIAN KOLBE  
QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

*"We are actually all brothers and sisters, since we have one common heavenly Mother, the Immaculata, one common Father, who is in Heaven, and one common elder Brother, Jesus, Man and God."*

*Mass for the Intentions*  *for the Week*

**SUNDAY, December 5th**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
 7:30am Victims of Covid-19  
 9:00am Mary Gladden – L  
 11:00am OLG Community  
 1:00pm Robert Hess – D

**MONDAY, December 6th**  
**St. Nicholas, Bishop**  
 8:15am Reydante D. Padua – D

**TUESDAY, December 7th**  
**St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**  
 8:15am Mike De Guzman – D

**WEDNESDAY, December 8th**  
**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**THURSDAY, December 9th**  
**St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin**  
 8:15am Natalie Shomon – L

**FRIDAY, December 10th**  
**Our Lady of Loreto**  
 8:15am Lilia Sousa – D

**SATURDAY, December 11th**  
**St. Damasus I, Pope**  
 8:15am Maria Ha Vo – D  
 5:00pm Mike & Emma McCormick – L

**SUNDAY, December 12th**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
 7:30am Reydante D. Padua – D  
 9:00am Victims of Covid-19  
 11:00am OLG Community  
 1:00pm Rosa Martinez Reyes – D




**SIMBANG GABI CELEBRATION  
 KICK-OFF MASS**

The Filipino clergy of the Diocese of Oakland invites you to the Cathedral of Christ the Light on **December 14th** at 7:00pm for the Simbang Gabi Celebration. Come in your Filipiniana attire, with your parish banner and lantern for the procession and enjoy the festive music from the choir assembled by Ariel Mayormita. Enjoy food distributed in to-go boxes while you are serenaded by Filipino priests and deacons!

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**  
**December 6th through December 12th**

Monday: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26  
 Tuesday: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14  
 Wednesday: Genesis 3:9-15, 20;  
 Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38  
 Thursday: Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15  
 Friday: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19  
 Saturday: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11;  
 Matthew 17:9a, 10-13  
 Sunday: Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7;  
 Luke 3:10-18

*To the word of the Lord we say Amen* 

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**THIS WEEK--Continued**

**Sunday, December 12th:**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

Our Lady of Guadalupe-Rosary & Mañanitas  
 5:30am—Church

Masses  
 7:30am, 9:00am & 11:00am--Church

Whole Family Class  
 10:15am—Stack Center

Confirmation Class  
 12:15pm—Stack Center

Our Lady of Guadalupe Spanish Mass  
 1:00pm--Church

**PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

*“War is not always inevitable, it is always a defeat for humanity.”*

-St. John Paul II, 1993

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

**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:

**MCKINNEY & COMPANY, CPA**