



*O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.*



This song was written in 1868 by Phillips Brooks, a rector of Philadelphia, after a trip to the Holy Land and seeing the nighttime Bethlehem from the hills of Palestine. When he returned, he had his church organist, Lewis Redner, write the melody for the Sunday school choir. It's been a beloved Christmas classic ever since.

Hopes and fears are surely two things common to us. The years go by with alternating degrees of one or the other. When our faith is strongest, we're likely to hold more hope. When our faith is weakened, fear can take over.

Naturally, we want the hope that isn't just, "I hope so," but "I know so." Yet a crisis, a life altering blow can rock our reliance on God. The fear can be exhausting, paralyzing. There are so many things that will cause deep fear and then question where is God? The birth of Jesus Christ brought all the hopes and fears of all of humanity together in His plan for our salvation. This Christmas we can ask and allow Him to overcome our fears with His hope. Not the hope of, "I hope so," but the certain hope of "I know so."

Merry Christmas!!

-Fr. Ray



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### Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God (January 1st)

Luke 2:16-21

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, **December 26th**. We will re-open on Tuesday, **December 27th** at 8:30am.

Additionally, the office will be closed on Friday, **December 30th** and Monday, **January 2nd** will re-open on Tuesday, **January 3rd** at 8:30am.

*The entire Parish Staff wishes you all a Blessed Christmas and a safe Happy New Year!*

**"THANK YOU" FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

*Thank you to all who have donated coats, blankets and sleeping bags. As the weather gets colder, these items are flying out the door. Please remember that we are NOT accepting other clothes at this time. Our storage is limited and we have no way to distribute them. We will continue to take donations of coats, blankets and sleeping bags through **December 31st**. Collection barrels are located at the Somerset entrance of the church and in the Parish Office. Thank you!*

**NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, December 31st**

8:15am Daily Mass

5:00pm Vigil Mass

**Sunday, January 1st**

**Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**

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

1:00pm (Spanish)

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD MASS SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, January 8th**

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

1:00pm (Spanish)

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

As we move into the Christmas season and the end of the year, we are thankful for all the good God has brought to our parish and for your continuing generosity in donating your time, talents and treasures. Your donations to St. Vincent de Paul and gifts to the families helped, through our Giving Tree program, make a difference in the lives of those who are most in need.

From a financial standpoint, income from our Sunday plate has been on a decline against the previous year since March. We have kept expenses under tight control given this trend. Our Christmas Offering budget is \$28,000 which is the same we received last year from your Christmas donations. Please know we count on your Christmas and end of year offerings to

**2023 CALENDARS AVAILABLE**

Catholic Extension 2023 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 2023 calendars. You may pick up your copy in the Church. ***Please only one per household.***

**CYO GIRLS BASKETBALL REGISTRATION**

Registration will be available online beginning January 2nd to January 7th for OLG School Students and current OLG Religious Education Students ONLY. All other students residing in our Parish boundaries may register beginning January 8th.

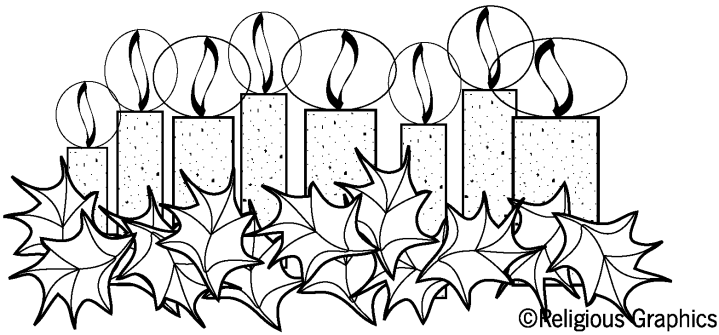
Registration closes on January 14th. To register, please visit: [www.olgcvcyo.com](http://www.olgcvcyo.com). Girl's Basketball is open to grades 2nd-8th. Fee for the 2023 program year is \$195. Space is limited. For more information, questions or if you would like to coach, please email: [olgcycv@gmail.com](mailto:olgcycv@gmail.com). Go Lions!

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DINNER WITH THE FRANCISCANS January 14th, 2023**

Join us on Saturday, **January 14th** as we celebrate the **41st Year of the Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino!** Doors open at 6:00pm in Stack Center. Dinner will be catered by Star Catering. Beer and wine available for purchase. Cost is \$40 per person. Tickets will be sold after all the Masses and in the Parish Office. If you are not able to attend, we kindly ask for a donation supporting our Franciscan Seminarians.

**CYO ATHLETICS & KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CRAB FEED February 4th, 2023**

Join us on Saturday, **February 4th** as we raise funds for OLG's CYO Athletics. Doors open at 5:30pm in Stack Center. Festivities include Music, Silent Auction and No-Host Bar. Menu includes: Crab or Poultry, Pasta, Salad and Bread. Cost is \$75 per online purchase, \$90 at the door and limited tables of 8 people for \$575. KidKare will be available for \$30 per child (space is limited). For the best price, purchase your tickets online at: <https://bit.ly/3hsUPua>. See you there!



### 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.



### CELEBRATE CHILDREN!

Dear Parents,

Our parish enthusiastically welcomes your growing family to fully celebrate with us. May we suggest:

- \***Relax.** God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house.
- \***Sit** towards the front or aisle where it is easier for little ones to see & hear.
- \***Quietly** explain the parts of the Mass.
- \***Sing** the hymns and **pray** the prayers together.  
*Children learn from your actions.*
- \*If necessary, the Family Room located at the right side of the Church is available for your use.

To all Parishioners:

The presence of children is a gift to your Church. Like all of us, they are members of the Body of Christ & a reminder of the growth & future of our Church. Please welcome our children & their parents, & give them a big smile of encouragement!

**GOD**  
is **LOVE**

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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 10% of your income to the Church and charity, for example, God will help you live on the rest.

#### Offerings of for the Month of NOVEMBER:

Sunday Plate for the month:	\$ 36,318.00
<b>Month Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 37,689.00</b>
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [1,371.00]
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [30,515.00]

*May God bless your continuing generosity.*

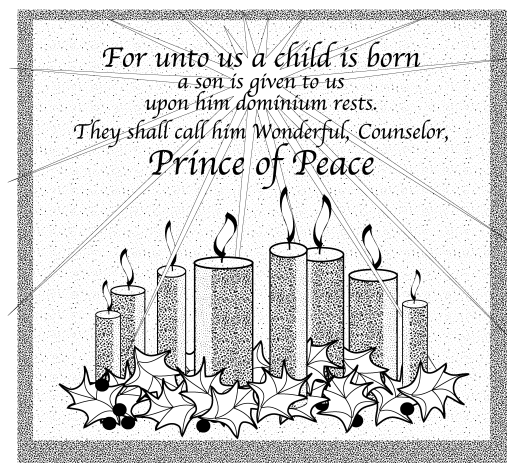


### Your Prayers Are Requested

Please lift up in your prayer those among us who are ill and those who have asked for our prayerful remembrance:

Raul Cepeda  
Peggy Deadder  
Jim Gonzales  
Emile Lassalle  
Grace Letteer  
Brian Linney  
Sheryl Michaud  
Anne O'Leary  
Cec Penland

Diana Riley  
Angela Schaaphok  
Alyssia Tortora  
James Van Wert  
Concepcion Velasco  
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 Memorial**

**CONCEPCION VELASCO**

**VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE**

**VICTIMS OF THE UKRANIAN INVASION**

**VICTIMS OF COVID-19**



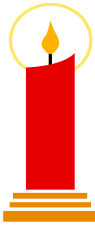


### FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

If you have an IRA and are over the age of 70 1/2, you are faced with a required minimum distribution from your IRA. The IRS has a qualified charitable donation rule that allows you to exempt your distribution from taxes. The significant advantage of this is that it lowers your adjusted gross income. The main rules are: donation must be paid directly from the IRA to the charity; the donor must be over 70 1/2; the amount is limited to \$100k. If you are in this situation, check and see if it makes sense for you to apply this IRS rule and direct your distribution to Our Lady of Grace Parish. *May God Bless your generous giving.*

### DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

Candles for our candle stand are available for purchase. The candles will burn for 5 days and *are only intended for use in the church.* Please do not remove the glass globes from the stand. **The cost per candle is \$5.00.** You may put your payment in the pouch, located at the candle stand.



### FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND

Flower donation envelopes may be found at the entrances of the church to make a donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one or other occasion. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jay at 510-537-0806. Your donation in honor of your loved one will be mentioned in the bulletin.



### 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

*"Grant me that I may praise you, O Most Holy Virgin....You are the Refuge of sinners, the Help of Christians, the Queen of Apostles, of martyrs, of confessors, of all the saints and of the Savior, themselves. You are the Mother of Christ, the Mother of the Savior, the Mother of the Redeemer, the true Mother of God."*

## THIS WEEK

**Sunday, December 25th:**

***The Nativity of the Lord  
Merry Christmas!***

Masses

7:30am, 9:00am (Livestream), 11:00am —Church

Spanish Mass

1:00pm—Church

**Monday, December 26th:**

***Parish Office Closed***

**Thursday, December 29th:**

AA Serenity Group

7:30pm—Augustine Center

**Friday, December 30th:**

***Parish Office Closed***

**Saturday, December 31st:**

Morning Mass

8:15am—Church

Adoration & Reconciliation

9:00am—Church

***New Year's Eve Vigil Mass***

5:00pm—Church

**Sunday, January 1st:**

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

Masses

7:30am, 9:00am (Livestream), 11:00am —Church

Spanish Mass

1:00pm—Church

### FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

Please pray for the young members of our Church.

**First Communion-Year 2**

Next Class: January 8th

10:15am—Stack Center

**Whole Family**

Next Class: January 8th

10:15am—Augustine Center

**First Communion-Year 1**

Next Class: January 15th

10:15am—Stack Center

**Confirmation**

Next Class: January 22nd

12:15pm—Stack Center

# Mass for the Intentions for the Week

**SUNDAY, December 25th****THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**7:30am *The Solemnity of Christmas*9:00am *The Solemnity of Christmas*11:00am *The Solemnity of Christmas*1:00pm *The Solemnity of Christmas***MONDAY, December 26th****St. Stephen, The First Martyr**

8:15am Evan Hinkson – L

**TUESDAY, December 27th****St. John, Apostle & Evangelist**

8:15am Gonzalez-Ochoa Families

**WEDNESDAY, December 28th****The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

8:15am Marcie &amp; James Dugan – D

**THURSDAY, December 29th***Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord***St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr**

8:15am Ted, Joni &amp; Kathleen Linney – D

**FRIDAY, December 30th****The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

8:15am Michael Gerekas – D

**SATURDAY, December 31st***Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord***St. Sylvester I, Pope**

8:15am Araceli Reveles – L

5:00pm Lucilia Chocha Chaviel – D

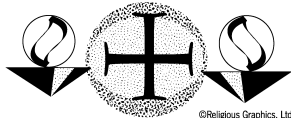
**SUNDAY, January 1st****SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD***Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord*

7:30am OLG Community

9:00am Judy Coy – D

11:00am All Souls in Purgatory

1:00pm Wanda Perino – L



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**PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

*“Love in action is harsh and dreadful when compared to love in dreams.”*

–Dorothy Day

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

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:****December 26th through January 1st**

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22  
 Tuesday: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a & 2-8  
 Wednesday: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18  
 Thursday: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35  
 Friday: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23  
 Saturday: 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18  
 Sunday: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

**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.

**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. Meetings are held at the Transfiguration Church Hall and will be following Covid-19 safety protocols: social distancing and wearing masks.

Next Meeting: **January 5th**

9:00am to 11:30am

Speaker: Fr. Tom Bonacci

Topic: *“God Comforts Us In Spirit: A Reflection on Matthew 11:25-30”*

For further information or if you would like to attend, please contact: Carolyn Willkie at [willkiecarolyn@gmail.com](mailto:willkiecarolyn@gmail.com) or 510-410-7223.

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