

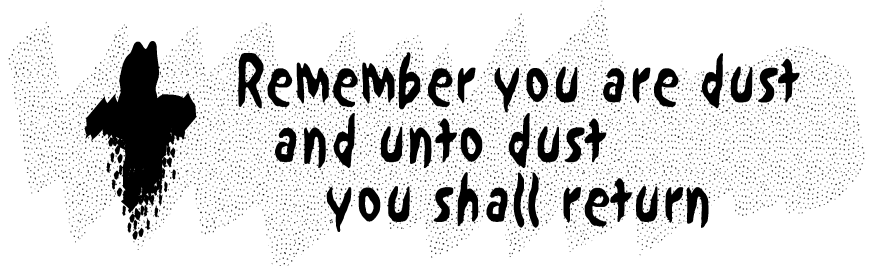
When preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation as a seventh-grader in a Catholic school many moons ago, my classmates and I were reminded by the nuns that we were temples of God and would become soldiers of Christ by receiving Confirmation. At that time we giggled about the idea, the Vietnam War at its height, and we were grateful we could be spiritual soldiers and not government ones.

The phrase “temple of God” comes from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Church at Corinth and underscores the sacredness of every human life. This, of course, implies that we do not exist simply by chance, but according to the will of God who loves us into existence. Yes, we are the outcome of a biological act, but also we are children of God and part of God’s handiwork.

Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

The ashes themselves are usually made by burning the palm fronds from the previous year's Palm Sunday. This symbolically connects the beginning of Lent with its end, connecting our change of heart with Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. Ashes are usually distributed as part of the Mass on Ash Wednesday, often after the homily. As people approach the priest or other minister, he presses the ashes to their foreheads, and speaks one of two phrases: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” or “Repent and believe in the Gospel.” The Gospel for Ash Wednesday is a reminder that the real purpose of the season of Lent isn't to make public demonstrations of piety—even the wearing of ashes—but to seek the conversion of heart.

-Fr. James



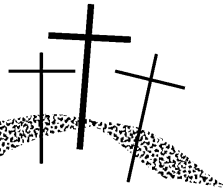
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The Gospel for The First Sunday of Lent (February 26th)

Matthew 4:1-11

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: *One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*" Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: *He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*" Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, *You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.*" Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: *The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.*" Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

WE ARE ON THE ROAD TO EASTER



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ASH WEDNESDAY February 22nd

The schedule for Ash Wednesday is as follows:

7:00am: Friary at 19697 Redwood Road

8:15am: Mass with ashes

9:30am: School Mass with ashes

12 Noon: Only ashes will be distributed, no Mass

6:00pm: Mass with ashes, followed by our Soup Meal in Stack Center.



REGULATIONS FOR LENT

Abstinence and Fasting:

Abstinence from eating meat is to be observed on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays during Lent. This applies to all persons 14 and older. The law of fasting on Ash Wednesday

and Good Friday applies to all persons 18 or older and younger than 59.

Fasting means that one full meatless meal per day may be eaten. Two other meatless meals may be taken sufficient to maintain strength, but together they should not equal a full meal. Liquids, including milk and fruit juice, may be taken between meals. If health or ability to work is affected, fasting does not oblige. Private, self-imposed observance of fasting on Lenten weekdays is strongly recommended. Parents should ensure that children who are not bound by the laws of fast and abstinence are taught an authentic sense of penance, conversion and reconciliation.

Lenten Observance:

Catholics are encouraged to participate in Holy Mass and in the Sacrament of Penance during Lent, and parishes are encouraged to provide regular and frequent opportunities for such participation. Likewise encouraged are devotions such as Stations of the Cross, vigils and prayer services (with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, if opportune). Traditional practices - including increased prayer, Scripture and spiritual reading, alms, personal self-denial in food and drink, increased care and service to the sick and needy - are also suggested.

Easter Duty:

All initiated Catholics are bound by the obligations of receiving Communion at least once a year and to confess sacramentally all serious sins not previously acknowledged in individual Confession. This precept must be fulfilled during the Easter duty season, which is from the first Sunday of Lent until Trinity Sunday.



PRESIDENTS' DAY PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, February 20th, is a federal holiday in honor of Presidents' Day. The office will re-open on Tuesday, February 21st at 8:30am. Monday's Mass is at 8:15am. The entire Parish staff wishes you a safe and relaxing holiday!

SPRING AUCTION HAVANA NIGHTS Save the Date!

One of our main fundraisers is back! *Save the date for Havana Nights, May 6th.* This event raises funds that benefit our school students and parish.



THANK YOU TO OUR CRAB FEED COMMITTEE!

In case you hadn't heard we had a great Crab Feed (**February 4th**) thanks to the CYO committee that came together to bring this tradition alive. The CYO Crab Feed committee led by Joe Perry and joined by a group of very committed CYO volunteers worked together to provide a fun and profitable evening. We thank them for their dedication and commitment to this event! All proceeds will benefit our Parish CYO sports programs. Now let's start planning for next year...

LENTEN SOUP & BREAD MEAL

Please plan on joining us for a simple meal of soup and bread on Wednesdays during Lent. It will be a time for fellowship and families coming together. Our Soup Meal follows the 6:00pm Mass. The Ash Wednesday Soup Meal on **February 22nd**

is sponsored by our Confirmation Students. We thank them and the other volunteers for their ministry of hospitality for this meal. Financial donations will be accepted for Operation Rice Bowl.



LENTEN RECONCILIATION

During the Lenten season, Reconciliation will be available every Thursday at 6:00pm during Adoration and on Saturdays at 9:00am after the 8:15am Mass.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS English & Spanish

Stations of the Cross in English, led by our school students are offered at Our Lady of Grace on Fridays at 2:30pm. Stations of the Cross in English and Spanish are offered at 6:30pm, except on March 3rd due to 1st Friday Latin Mass and April 7th (Good Friday).



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FORMED™

40 DAYS OF LENT WITH FORMED

Lent has begun! Exploring what Formed.org has to offer is a wonderful way to help us prepare our hearts and minds during this Lenten season. Take advantage of the many free movies, ebooks and podcasts which can be shared with family and friends. You will also find choices which are educational and entertaining for the youngest members of your family. To register for free, visit: www.olgcv.formed.org and type in "Our Lady of Grace, Castro Valley CA" to become a member.

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Recently, we welcomed

Matias Rayford Luwver

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

COLUMBIETTES

Attention Ladies! Are you interested in becoming active in our parish? Come see what the Columbiette's are all about. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6:30-7:30pm in Stack Center, OLG Room. Come to our next meeting on **February 21st**. For additional information, please visit:

<https://www.californiacolumbiettes.com>

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

The Knights of Columbus monthly meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:30pm in Stack Center, OLG Room. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, visit <https://www.kofc.org> or join them at their next meeting on **February 23rd**.

**1ST FRIDAY
TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS**

Join us for Traditional Latin Mass on **March 3rd** at 7:00pm, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

**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 JANUARY:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Sunday Plate for the month: | \$ 41,788.00 |
| Month Budgeted Goal: | \$ 45,818.00 |
| Over/[Shortfall] | \$ [4,030.00] |
| Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall] | \$ [4,030.00] |

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
Nancy French
Emile Lassalle
Grace Letteer
Brian Linney
Sheila McAlinden
Sheryl Michaud
Anne O'Leary

Cec Penland
Diana Riley
Angela Schaaphok
Alyssia Tortora
James Van Wert
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**LIWAY BALAGTAS****MARGARITA QUINONEZ MONTERO****VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE IN
TURKEY & SYRIA****VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE****VICTIMS OF THE UKRANIAN INVASION****VICTIMS OF COVID-19****YEARLY CONTRIBUTION
STATEMENTS**

For your convenience in preparing your tax return, a contribution statement for 2022 will be prepared at your request. Please phone the Parish Office at 510-537-0806, with your name and envelope number. Your statement will be available for you to pick up once it has been signed.



INSTRUCT ME IN YOUR WAYS, O LORD

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SEEKING USHERS

Ushers assure the comfort of the assembly in the worship space and perform various functions during the liturgy, such as:

- Greeting and welcoming
- Seating people as needed
- Arranging Gift Bearers
- Taking up collections
- Helping the communion flow
- Assisting those who become ill or need aid.

If you are interested in this ministry, please pick up a signup form on the organ in the church. Questions? Contact Terence Dugan, Usher Coordinator at tdugan@rocketmail.com.

DID YOU KNOW???

Our church has wonderful, hardworking volunteers who clean and set up our pews each week with missalettes, song books and envelopes each week for our Masses. We are grateful for their years of service in doing this!



ROSARY BEFORE MASS

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

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.



MILITIA IMMACULATA MEETINGS

Come join us as members of the Militia Immaculata (MI) on the 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00am in Stack Center, OLG Room. Our next meeting will be on **March 4th**.



MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Do not place limits on love toward the Immaculata, for you will never love her as our Divine Model, Jesus Christ, loved her."

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 19th:

The Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time

Masses

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

1st Communion Class (Year 2)

10:15am — Stack Center

Spanish Mass

1:00pm — Church

Monday, February 20th:

Presidents' Day Holiday

Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, February 21st:

Columbiette's Meeting

6:30pm — Stack Center, OLG Room

Women's Lenten Bible Study

7:00pm — Stack Center

Wednesday, February 22nd:

Ash Wednesday Masses

8:15am, 9:30am (School Liturgy),

Noon (Ashes only) & 6:00pm — Church

Lenten Soup Meal

7:00pm — Stack Center

Thursday, February 23rd:

Adoration & Reconciliation

6:00pm — Church

Knights of Columbus Meeting

7:00pm — Stack Center, OLG Room

AA Serenity Group

7:30pm — Augustine Center

Friday, February 24th:

Stations of the Cross

2:30pm (School) & 6:30pm (Bilingual) — Church

Saturday, February 25th:

Adoration & Reconciliation

9:00am — Church

Vigil Mass

5:00pm — Church



Mass for the Intentions for the Week

SUNDAY, February 19th SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30am Bambino Madamba – D
9:00am Bettylu Vaz – D
11:00am OLG Community
1:00pm Alfredo Dela Torre – D

MONDAY, February 20th

8:15am Louis Rodrigues – D

TUESDAY, February 21st

St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:15am Lilia Sousa – D

WEDNESDAY, February 22nd

ASH WEDNESDAY

8:15am Mass with Ashes
9:30am Mass with Ashes (School Liturgy)
Noon Ashes only, no Mass
6:00pm Mass with Ashes

THURSDAY, February 23rd

St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

8:15am Jennifer Lee – L

FRIDAY, February 24th

8:15am Rose Nicasio – D

SATURDAY, February 25th

8:15am Giuseppina Costanzi – D
5:00pm Jaime “Chicho” Laico – D

SUNDAY, February 26th

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

7:30am Frank Bargiacchi – D
9:00am Kathleen Cande – L
11:00am Helen Maes – D
1:00pm OLG Community

THIS WEEK--Continued

Sunday, February 26th:

First Sunday of Lent

Masses

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

1st Communion Class (Year 1)

10:15am—Stack Center

Confirmation

12:15pm—Stack Center

Spanish Mass

1:00pm—Church

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

February 20th through February 26th

Monday: Sirach 1:1-10; Mark 9:14-29
Tuesday: Sirach 2:1-11; Mark 9:30-37
Wednesday: Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2;
Matthew 6:1-6,16-18
Thursday: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25
Friday: Isaiah 58:1-9; Matthew 9:14-15
Saturday: Isaiah 58:9-14; Luke 5:27-32
Sunday: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19;
Matthew 4:1-11

DIOCESE OF OAKLAND JOB & VOLUNTEER FAIR March 4th

The Oakland Diocese will be interviewing for school and parish positions, including teachers, staff, ministry leaders and volunteers at St. Theresa in Oakland from 10:00am-Noon. The event will include time for fellowship, prayerful discernment, testimonials from school and parish staff, networking and screening interviews. *Make a difference in the heart and mind of a child!* For more details and to register, please visit: <https://oakdiocese.org/news/march-4-2023-diocese-of-oakland-job-volunteer-fair>

EXECUTION ALERTS

The following execution is scheduled to take place in February:

February 23rd Donald Dillbeck Florida

We ask your prayers for this person, for the victims of their crimes, and for their families.

PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“I personally believe that what we need most of all today is patient, constructive and pastoral work rather than acts of deviance which antagonize the average person without enlightening him.”

—Thomas Merton, 1965

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:

7 HILLS BARBER SHOP