

The Gospel recalls the themes of **temptation**, **conversion** and the **Good News**. Matthew the Evangelist writes: "At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil " (Matthew 4:1). Jesus goes into the desert to prepare himself for his mission in the world. He does not need conversion, but as a man, he must go through this trial, both for himself, to obey the Father's will, and for us, to give us the grace to overcome temptation.

Every year on this first Sunday of Lent we hear a Gospel account of Jesus' forty-day desert experience, when Christ was tempted by the devil, but ultimately is victorious over the forces of evil that assailed him. This year we hear the account by the evangelist St. Matthew describing Christ's forty days in the desert of Judea. I have been told that the desert of Judea is very hot. If you've been there, you know it's very barren, more so than the alpine desert in New Mexico. It's very hot there, even outside of summer, and can be very cold at night year round.

Christ must have felt those hardships in his intentional desert retreat, but was not to be swayed by them or by the devil's desire to see Christ follow a path other than God's. As the redeemer of the human race, Christ in the desert was not defeated, but strengthened to go forth with his mission to open the path of redemption for all peoples of every time and place.

Forty is a significant number throughout the Sacred Scriptures of our tradition. For example, the flood in Noah's time lasted forty days. For forty years the Hebrews wandered in the desert before entering the Promised Land. Jonah the prophet preached for forty days to the Ninevites. At different times both Moses and Elijah spent forty days fasting and praying on the mountain.

In the desert experience, Jesus endures and teaches us that trials are not to defeat us, but to strengthen us. We all face trials, but what we do with them makes all the difference; we can become bitter or transfigured by our trials. As the desert and the number forty are important themes in our Catholic experience, those who intentionally live in deserted places, dedicating themselves to the Lord are privileged to be able to walk the Lenten path with the support of brothers and sisters. No matter where we live, the Church strengthens us in our efforts to grow in inner freedom, love, peace and holiness, dying to sin in order to belong more completely to God and partake of risen life in Jesus Christ. To enter the desert is to recognize our fragility and fears. Only with the Holy Spirit can we be comforted and sustained in our efforts. As the Holy Spirit protected Christ in the desert, so we too count on the same kind of help. At the moment of his baptism, just prior to his sojourn in the desert, the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove to accompany Christ in his work as Messiah.

For us too, Lent is a time of spiritual "contest", of spiritual struggle: we are called to confront the Evil One through prayer in order to be able, with God's help, to overcome him in our daily life. We know that evil unfortunately is at work in our existence and around us, where there is violence, rejection of the other, closure, war, injustice. All of these are the work of the Evil One.

Believe in this Good News and worship God that the kingdom of God is at hand. In our lives, we always need to convert — every day! The Church invites us to pray for this. In fact, we are never sufficiently orientated towards God and we must continually direct our minds and our hearts towards him. In order to do this, we need to have the courage to reject all that takes us off course, the false values which deceive us, by subtly flattering our ego. Rather, we must entrust ourselves to the Lord, to his goodness and to his project of love for each of us.

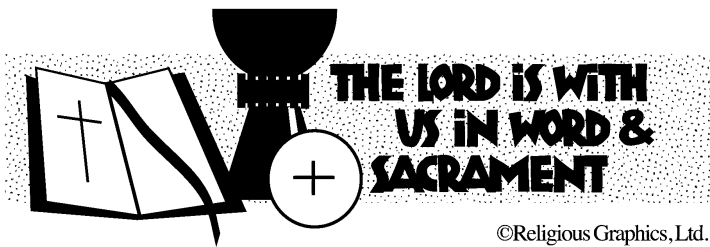
Lent is a time of repentance, yes, but it is not a time of sorrow! It is a time of penance, but it is not a time of sorrow or of mourning. It is a joyous and serious commitment to strip ourselves of our selfishness, of our "old man", and to renew ourselves according to the grace of our Baptism.

-Fr. James

The Gospel for The Second Sunday of Lent (March 5th)

Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."



THANK YOU FROM THE VAZ FAMILY

On behalf of the Vaz Family, I want to thank OLG Parish for everything you did for the recent memorial service for our mother Elizabeth "Bettylu" Vaz. From Fr. Ray and Fr. James to the entire Parish Office staff, we are so grateful for putting on a wonderful and moving service. My appreciation also goes to our former pastor, Fr. Kevin Mullins who officiated. And thanks and blessings as well to the Choir for the beautiful music and Helping Hands which put on a glorious reception. It was a grand send-off for a great lady, who faithfully served this parish for so many decades. May God bless you all!

-Mark Cotta Vaz

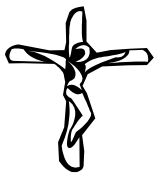
LENTEN SOUP & BREAD MEAL

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. Our next Lenten Soup Meal on **March 1st** is sponsored by our Women's Bible Study with soup by Heidi and Colleen. We thank them for their ministry of hospitality for this meal. Financial donations will be accepted for Operation Rice Bowl.



LENTEN RECONCILIATION

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 2:15pm. 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).*

1ST FRIDAY TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

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



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.



OLG SCHOOL'S FUN RUN SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Please consider sponsoring the Our Lady of Grace Catholic School Annual Healthy Kids Fun Run on **March 23rd**! This is a fantastic opportunity for you to market your business to the community, as well as assist our children by improving their education. For the event, we will be printing approximately 250 t-shirts, one for every student and staff member of OLG. Sponsorship is \$250 for your business to be listed on the back of every t-shirt! A \$500 sponsorship gets your logo in one color as well!

Additionally, your company name will appear on the OLG Fun Run website! Sponsorships, as well as any pledges, are tax deductible. The students will be thrilled to get a t-shirt for participating in this event and will wear them proudly to show their school spirit. Our OLG community will come together to raise money, learn about health and wellness and have FUN! Sponsorship donations are due by **March 1st**, as well as artwork if you are adding your logo. Checks may be payable to "OLG School" and sent to the school office at 19920 Anita Ave Castro Valley, CA 94546. Please email ecastaing@csdo.org with any questions or call the school office at 510-581-3155. Thank you in advance for your support!

OUR NEWEST ALTAR SERVER RECRUITS We Welcome Them!





ICF CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER

Top O' the Morning to you! On **March 9th** the ICF will be the "Irish" Catholic Federation for the day as we celebrate with Corned Beef and Cabbage and a Raffle. Doors open at 5:30pm and dinner will be served at 6:00pm. Price is \$20 per person. The deadline for reservations is Sunday, **March 5th**. Please call Juanita at 510-582-7242, if you plan to attend. Bring a small dessert to share for the St. Joseph's Table and a good will donation for St. Vincent de Paul at Transfiguration. Mangia! Mangia!

PAX CHRISTI LENTEN SPEAKER SERIES

Pax Christi groups in California are co-sponsoring a Zoom series for Lent that includes outstanding speakers from different parts of the country speaking to various topics on Catholic social teaching. It is organized by the St. Camillus Center for Spiritual Care, an organization in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles that provides ministry to the community and Catholic chaplains to hospitals in the area. The programs are on Sunday afternoons during Lent (4:00pm Mass followed by Speaker Series 5:30-7:00pm). To register and for more details, please visit: <https://stcamilluscenter.org/lenet>.



FORMED

40 DAYS OF LENT WITH FORMED

FORMED In the Word

<https://watch.formed.org/formed-in-the-word>

Each week, dive deeply into the upcoming Sunday Mass readings with biblical scholars as they will review the upcoming Sunday Mass readings.

Lent with Brother Francis

<https://watch.formed.org/lenet-with-brother-francis>

For the youngest members of your family! Kids will learn to pray for 40 days with Brother Francis.

If you are not a member, **register for free**, visit: www.olgcv.formed.org and type in "Our Lady of Grace, Castro Valley CA" to become a member.

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
Jenny Roberts
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

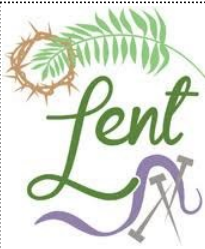
VICTIMS OF THE UKRANIAN INVASION

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.



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.

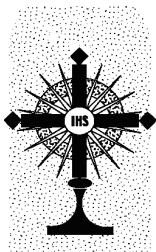
Fasting means that one full meatless meal per day may be eaten. Two other meatless meals may be taken sufficient to maintain strength, but together they should not equal a full meal. Liquids, including milk and fruit juice, may be taken between meals. If health or ability to work is affected, fasting 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.



ADORATION & RECONCILIATION

Join us on Thursdays, 6:00-7:00pm for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation and on Saturdays, immediately following the 8:15am Mass, concluding at 10:00am.

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"[O Immaculata,].....I wish to reveal you to other souls, who you are, than an ever increasing number of souls may know you more perfectly and love you ever more ardently, so that you become the Queen of all the hearts that beat and will beat on earth at any time, and that as soon as possible, as soon as possible."

THIS WEEK

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

Tuesday, February 28th:

Men's Faith Share

7:00pm—Stack Center

Women's Lenten Bible Study

7:00pm—Stack Center, Room 7

Wednesday, March 1st:

Lenten Mass

6:00pm—Church

Lenten Soup Meal

7:00pm—Stack Center

RCIA

7:00pm—Stack Center, Room 7

Pre-Baptism Class

7:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

Thursday, March 2nd:

Adoration & Reconciliation

6:00pm—Church

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting

7:00pm—Parish Office

AA Serenity Group

7:30pm—Augustine Center

Friday, March 3rd:

Stations of the Cross

2:00pm (School)—Church

1st Friday Latin Mass

7:00pm—Church

Saturday, March 4th:

Adoration & Reconciliation

9:00am—Church

Militia Immaculata Meeting

10:00am—Stack Center, OLG Room

Vigil Mass

5:00pm—Church

Mass Intentions for the Week

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

MONDAY, February 27th

St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

8:15am Exequiel Albano – D

TUESDAY, February 28th

8:15am Lana Carols – D

WEDNESDAY, March 1st

8:15am Debi Telles – D

6:00pm Robin Evett – L

THURSDAY, March 2nd

8:15am Augusto & Edwina Silva & Family – D

FRIDAY, March 3rd

St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin

8:15am All Souls in Purgatory

SATURDAY, March 4th

8:15am James Van Wert – L

5:00pm Augusto & Edwina Silva & Family – D

SUNDAY, March 5th**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

7:30am OLG Community

9:00am Claudia Dobbs – L

11:00am Exequiel Albano – D

1:00pm Maria Ibarra Victor – D

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**February 27th through March 5th**

Monday: Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18; Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday: Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32

Thursday: Esther C 12,14-16,23-25; Matthew 7:7-12

Friday: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48

Sunday: Genesis 12:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:8-10;
Matthew 17:1-9

his word *and* gospel
are our light

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**ROSARY BEFORE MASS**

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

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: **March 2nd**

9:00am to 11:30am

Speaker: Bob Lasalle-Klein

Topic: "Resurrection & the Soul for 21st Century Christians"

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

PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"There is urgent need to work for a world free of nuclear weapons, in full application of the non-proliferation treaty, in letter and spirit, with the goal of a complete prohibition of these weapons."

—Pope Francis, 2015

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:

B.A. MORRISON

THIS WEEK--Continued

Sunday, March 5th:

Second Sunday of Lent

Masses

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

1st Communion Class (Year 2)

10:15am—Stack Center

RCIA-Rite of Sending

11:00am—Church

Spanish Mass

1:00pm—Church