

Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God, is on his way to Jerusalem, and the journey will end in his arrest, in his condemnation, in his mockery. He will be mocked. He will be whipped. He will be reduced to the level that the Bible itself says, *"Cursed be the man who hangs upon a tree."* And he will hang upon a tree and he will die. Jesus takes three of his most trusted disciples, Peter, James and his brother, John, up a high mountain. And we know that everything important in the gospels and in the Bible happens on a high mountain. He goes up the mountain and, suddenly, something changes. The disciples see that two people have suddenly appeared. One, of course, is Moses and the other is Elijah the prophet.

Suddenly, the whole scene changes and Jesus' face shines like the sun and his garments are as white as light. And then, suddenly, thunder rolls and a cloud comes over, a cloud that is the sign and symbol of the cloud that led them all through the desert for forty years until they found the Promised Land. The voice of God comes from the cloud and the voice says to the disciples, who now are almost beside themselves, says those immortal words, *"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."*

Why is this such a special gospel to read on this very special day when we pay tribute to a people who seem to be tested beyond human ability to deal with it? And, of course, this is the way the apostles were when Jesus was arrested and taken from them.

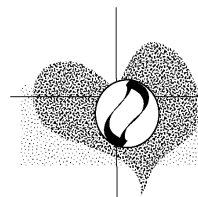
The things that they most trusted, the things that they felt pride and glory in, were destroyed before them, and great fear swept the land, because it is not over and they are asked to sit, perhaps, in solemn silence for help to come. And later when they saw him hanging on the cross, it seemed to be the end of everything, and yet it was the beginning of something new. It was the beginning of Jesus announcing from the cross that all is forgiven: *"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."* The expression *"They have seen his glory"* does not mean that they have seen the shining face, the transfigured body. When they say about Jesus, *"They have seen his glory"*, they mean they have seen what he really is. It has been the revelation of the greatness of human beings.

Whenever we're in trouble, whenever it seems that our little world is being threatened, when it seems like the blustering anxiety of our world is going to lead us to another destructive war or, even worse, that the very earth from under us creaks and quakes in seeming protest to the world that we have created, it feels like, especially these days, that we can only live day by day. In a way, the future is dark and the future is treacherous and the future is not even to be guessed at but only hoped that it will be better than the present, these are the times when we seek Jesus and we think of Jesus, who gave his own disciples his vision before he suffered these things, that they might restore their faith in who he was and what he came to be.

When we say glory to God, we say that with a full heart, saying praise and glory be yours. But when we say, *"We have seen his glory,"* it means we have seen what he really is behind the little places he hides, the depth and the loveliness and the importance of what it means to be a human being.

Take care and God bless to all my lovely sisters and brothers.

-Fr. James



LORD, enkindle the fire
of your love in our hearts

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

The Gospel for The Third Sunday of Lent (March 12th)

John 4:5-42

Due to the length of the Gospel, it could not be provided this week. We thank you for your understanding.



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

DECREE OF DISPENSATION FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

The disciplinary practice of abstaining from meat on the Fridays in Lent is an important dimension of the penitential nature of the season. This year, the Feast of St. Patrick, March 17, 2023, falls on a Friday in Lent. Given the many celebrations that occur on this day, in accord with the norm of law, I hear with grant to all Catholics of the Diocese as well as all present here that day, a dispensation from abstinence from meat and meat products. I encourage all who make use of the dispensation to engage in another sacrificial or charitable act that day.

Given in Oakland, this seventh day of February, 2023.

*The Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, S.J.
Bishop of Oakland*

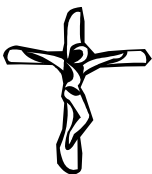
LENTEN SOUP & BREAD MEAL

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 8th** is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. We thank them for their ministry of hospitality for this meal. Financial donations will be accepted for CRS 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.



UPDATES STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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 begins at 6:00pm and in Spanish at 6:30pm. *There will be no evening Stations on April 7th (Good Friday).*

FISH FRY IS BACK! Knights of Columbus

Join us on **March 31st** for a delicious Fish Fry in Stack Center from 5:00-7:00pm. Cost is \$10 per person. Enjoy a delicious fish dinner prepared by the Knights of Columbus and enjoy the company of fellow parishioners.



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.

SPRING AUCTION HAVANA NIGHTS Save the Date!

Our annual Spring Auction is back! *Save the date for Havana Nights, May 6th.* This event raises funds that benefit our school students and parish. More details to come.



FORMED

40 DAYS OF LENT WITH FORMED.ORG

The Spirituality of Lent

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/the-spirituality-of-lent>

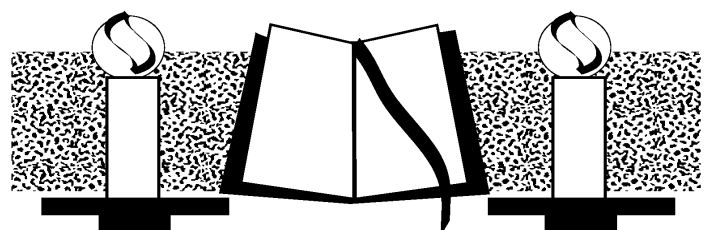
Looking to take Lent more seriously this year? Join Dr. Tim Gray for ideas for a Lenten spirituality.

Stations of the Cross with Brother Francis

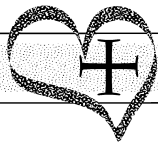
<https://watch.formed.org/videos/brother-francis-the-stations-of-the-cross>

For the youngest members of your family! Kids will learn to follow our Lord on his way to the Cross.

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.



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear OLG families and friends,

Happy Lent.

It does seem like this season is upon us faster and faster every year! As always, this is a very busy and yet prayerful time of year at Our Lady of Grace as we pause, take the pulse of our spirituality and hopefully give generously in order to reach Easter renewed and strengthened in faith. It is our hope that the season will be observed at home as we focus on the fabulous opportunities provided by Catholic Relief Services in the form of the Rice Bowl program.

It is my hope that you will encourage friends and family to come check out our rigorous academic curriculum and our faith-filled instruction. Details on applying and registering can be found on our website, www.olgschool.org. I am counting on all of you to spread the word about this treasure right here in Castro Valley.

In Our Lady's Name and Love,
Gena McGowan

THANK YOU FROM CEC PENLAND

To my OLG Family,

I wanted to thank each of you for all the prayers and cards you sent to me. I am truly blessed to have your love and support.

Love you all,
Cec Penland



ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIAL DONORS

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

Given By:

In Memory of / In Honor of:

Anonymous

All Souls in Purgatory

Mary Chocha

Antonio O. Chocha

**THE CATHOLIC VOICE
ONLINE**

**THE Catholic
VOICE**

The March 2023 issue of The Catholic Voice is available online at:

<https://www.oakdiocese.org/catholicvoiceoakland>

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.

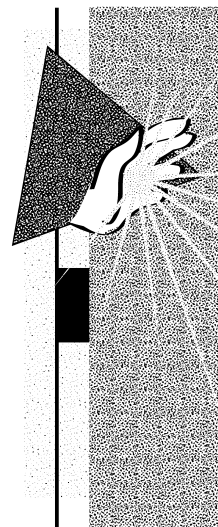


Your Prayers Are Requested

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
Grace Letteer
Brian Linney
Sheila McAlinden
Diana Riley

Jenny Roberts
Roberta Rodgers
Angela Schaaphok
Alyssia Tortora
Mary Lou Vincent
Arthur Williams
Peggy Winkenbach



This is my
BELOVED SON
Listen to him!

GOD has called you
to a holy life because of

**CHRIST
+ JESUS**

who destroyed death and
brought life and
immortality to light
through the gospel

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

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

In Memorial

JACKIE LUIS

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

VICTIMS OF THE UKRANIAN INVASION

VICTIMS OF COVID-19

The LORD loves JUSTICE & RIGHT

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

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!

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.



1ST ANNUAL ST. JOSEPH CONFERENCE St. Joseph Parish/Old Mission San Jose

This premier event on **March 18th** in Fremont will include continental breakfast, presentations in English and Vietnamese, Eucharistic Adoration and private reconciliation, and faith-based activities for children. Bishop Barber will preside at the Eucharistic Celebration and blessing of the statue of Sleeping St. Joseph. Lunch will be provided, followed by discounted access to the Mission San Jose's Museum and Gift Shop for conference participants. To register and for more information, visit: <https://www.saintjosephmsj.org/conference/>.

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The Immaculata...The apex of the perfection of creation, the Mother of God, among creatures the one who is most divinized."

THIS WEEK

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

Tuesday, March 7th:

Men's Faith Share

7:00pm—Stack Center

Women's Lenten Bible Study

7:00pm—Stack Center

Wednesday, March 8th:

Lenten Mass

6:00pm—Church

Lenten Soup Meal

7:00pm—Stack Center

RCIA

7:00pm—Stack Center, Room 7

Thursday, March 9th:

Adoration & Reconciliation

6:00pm—Church

AA Serenity Group

7:30pm—Augustine Center

Friday, March 10th:

Stations of the Cross

2:15pm (School)—Church

Stations of the Cross

6:00pm in English—Church

Estaciones de la Cruz

6:30pm en español—Church

Saturday, March 11th:

Adoration & Reconciliation

9:00am—Church

Vigil Mass

5:00pm—Church

WE WALK THE ROAD TO EASTER

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

Mass Intentions for the Week

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

MONDAY, March 6th

8:15am Manuel & Dorothy Callier – D

TUESDAY, March 7th**Sts. Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs**

8:15am All Souls in Purgatory

WEDNESDAY, March 8th**St. John of God, Religious**

8:15am Aurelia Salas – D

THURSDAY, March 9th**St. Frances of Rome, Religious**

8:15am Bambino Madamba – D

FRIDAY, March 10th

8:15am Jack Simons – D

SATURDAY, March 11th

8:15am Andrew Capote – L

5:00pm Lilia Sousa – D

SUNDAY, March 12th**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

7:30am Anne Walsh – D
 9:00am OLG Community
 11:00am Antonio O. Chocha – D
 1:00pm Raul Cepeda – D

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

Monday: Daniel 9:4-10; Luke 6:36-38
 Tuesday: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12
 Wednesday: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28
 Thursday: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31
 Friday: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28;
 Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46
 Saturday: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
 Sunday: Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8;
 John 4:5-42

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: **March 16th**

9:00am to 11:30am

Speaker: Nancy Hollister

Topic: *"Spirituality of SVdP & the Holy Spirit in My Life"*

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

"It is contrary to reason to hold that war is now a suitable way to restore rights which have been violated."

—Pope John XXIII, 1963

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:

BECK ROOFING COMPANY

THIS WEEK--Continued**Sunday, March 12th:****Third Sunday of Lent****Masses**

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

1st Communion Class (Year 1)

10:15am—Stack Center

Whole Family Class

10:15am—Augustine Center

Confirmation Class

12:15pm—Stack Center

Spanish Mass

1:00pm—Church