

We are drawing near to the Solemnity of the Lord's Ascension, forty days after Easter, just two weeks from now. Where does the time go? Like it or not, time tends to fly by quickly, even when we try to live it mindfully, taking one day at a time. We can ask if over these days and weeks since Easter Sunday 2020 during the Pandemic, we have grown and are changed. We hope so, but in fact we probably admit that we still have a long way to go in living completely for God and neighbor.

The lessons chosen for this Sunday are already getting us to think about the time of Jesus' Ascension, when the Lord will visibly leave his disciples but not abandon them. Jesus says to his followers, "*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in me*" (John 14:1).

The answer for the troubled heart is faith in Jesus. Just as the disciples believed in God, they are to have the same faith in Jesus. This is a staggering statement because Jesus is affirming his deity, placing himself on an equal level with the Father as an appropriate object of faith. Jesus is the object of our faith. To have one's hope in God is to have one's hope squarely upon Jesus. The challenge is to place our faith in Jesus himself. Furthermore, the Lord assures the disciples that "*I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I shall come back to take you with me, that where I am you also may be*" (John 14:3).

Jesus says he has to go to prepare a place. What does Jesus mean that he has to prepare a place? Does he have to do the laundry and prepare the pillows for our coming? No, of course not. We cannot impose our physical desires on the grandeur of the spiritual home of God. Jesus has to die so that we could come to him. The cross and the resurrection is the act of preparation. Jesus has to go so that we can have a place in the Father's house. This is what Jesus is referring to. Jesus must go to the cross and by doing so he is preparing a place in the Father's house for all who believe in God and believe in him.

Not only is their comfort for troubled hearts to know that Jesus has prepared a place for his disciples in the Father's house, but then there is a promise made in verse 3. Here is the conditional promise that we can put our faith in. If Jesus went to prepare a place (which he did by going to the cross, defeating death, raising from the dead, and ascending to the Father), then he will come again and bring his disciples to himself to be with him. Jesus is coming back to take his followers with him to be with him forever.

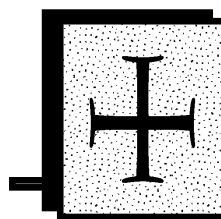
Another lesson for us, the first letter of St. Peter, concerns itself with the fact that the life of a Christian is a life-long process by which we draw near to Christ, and in so doing, draw closer to one another as well. The image sometimes used to describe this mystery is that of the spokes of a wheel, such as those on a bicycle. As one draws closer to the center along the spokes, one also draws closer to others around. Drawing near to Christ also draws us nearer to each other.

Adhering to Christ we share in his mission that all the world might know the message of salvation and God's infinite love for the human race. God so loved the world, we are told in scripture, that Christ was sent by God to redeem all who were lost. In other words, everyone!

The followers of Christ must keep their faith both in the Father who sent Jesus Christ into the world and in Jesus himself, sent by the Father for the salvation of the human race. Jesus' return to the Father's side should not cause frustration, but engender hope in our eventual reunion with the Lord. There are many dwelling places where God lives, Jesus tells his disciples, and everyone can find a place there.

May that be our conviction and confident cry as well!

-Fr. James



The stone rejected
by the builders has
become the cornerstone.

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The Sixth Sunday of Easter (May 14th)

John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

I will send the SPIRIT to you



CONFIRMATION 2023 SATURDAY, MAY 13th at 2:00pm

Please pray for these young members of our Parish Community who will be Confirmed in Faith by Bishop Barber at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland.

Confirmation Candidates

Jesus Aguilar	Sophia M. Hernandez
Valery Aguilar	Adam Koceniak
Savannah Callier	Ethan Krom
Theresa Cruz	Federico Lupian
Tyler Daniels	Felix Mandujano
Colin Dennis	Catalina Preciado
Diego Escobedo	Anthony Solis Jr.
Jacob Foreman	Angelina Zamora
Christian Hernandez-Morales	



FESTIVAL 2023 September 23rd-24th

Help our Parish and School bring our long-standing and successful Fall Festival back in FULL SWING AGAIN! The areas we are looking for leads are the following:

Volunteer Coordinator: Sign-Up Genius admin & POC for volunteers

Carnival Manager: POC for vendor, liaison for individual family volunteers for carnival area

Internal Food Manager: Operational oversight of internal food booths, manage supply inventory & POC for any external vendors participating

Entertainment Coordinator: Stage entertainment POC, manages internal & external partners, day of event area manager

Marketing Coordinator: Internal and external event promotion lead

Ticket Sales - Parish: Lead for all pre-event ticket sales - pancake breakfast, pasta dinner, etc.

Ticket Sales - School: Lead for all pre-event ticket sales

It takes a village or in this case, a Parish Community to make the Festival happen, so please consider how you can be of service for our fun Parish tradition. Contact Colleen in the Parish Office at clindberg@olgcv.org or Vince_Belizario@jackmorton.com and dawn.leo@ropesgray.com

JESUS

the risen Lord

the Son of God

CHRIST

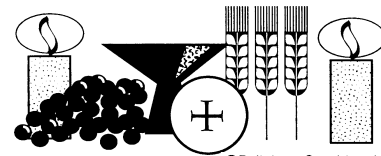
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Mother's Day



MOTHER'S DAY

As a means of honoring our mothers, deceased and living, a Triduum of Masses which will be celebrated on **May 15th, 16th and 17th**. Cards and Spiritual Bouquet Forms are available in the Parish Office. Forms are also available in the Church. Please pick one up if you would like to honor your loved one and return it to the Parish Office with your donation. If you choose to use Online Giving, please list the names of your loved ones there. The names of those remembered will be placed at the altar for 3 days.



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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATION SATURDAY, MAY 20th at 11:00am & SUNDAY, MAY 21st at 9:00am, 11:00am & 1:00pm

Please join us in welcoming these young members of our community to the table for the first time.

First Holy Communion Recipients

Cadalina Alvarez-Barragan	Alyana Navarro Datu
Zeno Balbo	Giovanni Perry
Reyes Bonilla	Savannah Marin Perez
Zacheus Brontonel	Laila Ocampo Resurreccion
Micaela Castellanos	Justin Ornelas Diaz
Caelene Catap	Connor Quintero
Dylan Cimmityotti	Xiamary Rangel Mejia
Pablo Cimmityotti	Matias Rivera
Lucas Decker	Carlos Rivera
Alina Delatorre	Isela Rodriguez
Isabella Fajardo	Adrian Saavedra
Hamilton Fortich	James Solis
Gavin Galea	Lennox Sundita
Julia Garcia	Camille Thomas
Liliana Garcia	Marcus Tibbets
Savanna Gual	Ayla Truong
Julien Haro	Lucas Venegas Sanchez
Zoey Joanino	Marco VirgenTorres
Grace Madruga	Mia VirgenTorres
Abigail Mangundayao	Paul Wesela Jr.
Arina Manrique	Lauren Wilhite
Daniel Mansourou	Diana Zambrano
Christian Mora	Mattias Zanini



I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS
BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL 2023

2023 BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL

Many thanks to those parishioners who have already generously contributed towards our Bishop's Ministries Appeal. Following is the status of this appeal through **April 15th:**

Actual Donations Received:	\$7,475.00
Overall Goal for 2023:	\$29,000.00
# of Acknowledged Donors to date:	37
Funds Raised (includes pledges):	\$13,155.00

We are currently at **45%** of our goal! To make your donation, please use the envelopes provided in the pews or make your donation online by visiting: <https://oakdiocese.org/bishops-appeal-donation-page>.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy beginning of the last month of school! Here at Our Lady of Grace Catholic School we are doing many things to brighten the Easter season.

First, we celebrated a new playground structure that was blessed and dedicated after Mass on May 3rd. We are proud that it was paid in its entirety through the fundraising efforts of the school scholars. The cost of just under \$40,000 was the result of a combination of Fun Run and some donations.

Second, we are celebrating this year's successful Fun Run. The net profit was also close to \$40,000 and will result in new technology for all Junior High as well as some "smart boards" and other technological advances in our classrooms. I shall keep you posted.

Third, we are really focusing on increasing our school enrollment. Thanks to the pastor of Transfiguration, we shall begin to aggressively advertise there as well as place a sign on Castro Valley Boulevard in order to raise awareness in the larger community. Anything that you can do as individual parishioners is also much appreciated.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Havana Night school and parish dinner-auction on May 6th. It should be a night to remember!

In Our Lady's Name and Love,
Gena McGowan

FR. TOM CZECK'S ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

You are invited to attend Fr. Tom's Mass of Thanksgiving on **June 25th** to celebrate 25 years of the Priesthood at 2:00pm at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Pismo Beach. There will be a reception at 3:00pm in the Hall and a dinner at 4:00pm.

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 MARCH:

Sunday Plate for the month:	\$ 36,016.00
Month Budgeted Goal:	\$ 37,000.00
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [984.00]
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [2,952.00]

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:

Virginia Cabardo
Raul Cepeda
Peggy Deadder
Anna Rose Esteban
Nancy French
Don Giles
Cindy Jardin
Grace Letteer
Brian Linney

Sheila McAlinden
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

LARRY FISHER

BRUCE PARKER

MARIA ARGIRO

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

VICTIMS OF THE UKRANIAN INVASION

VICTIMS OF COVID-19

CATHOLIC CHARITIES SPECIAL COLLECTION

Next Weekend-May 13th & 14th

The Catholic Charities of the East Bay helps vulnerable communities in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties such as people facing difficult circumstances including children facing homelessness and people fleeing violence from their homelands. Please make your checks out to "Catholic Charities". Envelopes will be in the pews for your use. We thank you for your generosity.

ICF DINNER & MEETING May 11th

Join the ICF for a Taco Bar Dinner and Raffle on **May 11th** in Stack Center. Doors open at 5:30pm and dinner will be served at 6:00pm. Cost is \$20 per person. If you would like to attend, please call Juanita Madrid at 510-582-7242. Grazie!



ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIAL DONORS

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

Given By:	In Memory of / In Honor of:
Anonymous	All Souls in Purgatory
Gina Reyes	Virginia Cabardo Melencia Ludovice Gilda Manuel Craig Snodgrass
Maria Zambrano	Jose & Gloria Areas

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED AT OUR LADY OF GRACE SCHOOL

Our Lady of Grace Catholic School is currently accepting applications for new students for the 2023-2024 school year. OLG is accredited by the Western Catholic Educational Association and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. We offer rigorous academics as well as art, Spanish, physical education, motor development, small advanced classes in math for grades 6-8 and small group reading for grades 1-4. Please visit our website www.olgschool.org or call the School Office at 510-581-3155 for more information. Come see what OLG is all about!



MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Impenetrable are the admirable ways of Divine Providence and action in the souls through the Immaculata. She enters into a soul, through an interior inspiration or through the use of a particular environment when she manages to get in, or even when the doors of the soul slightly open, she penetrates the interior of the soul, purifying her from sins and defects, adoring her with virtues and leading her to ardent love."

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 7th:

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Tuesday, May 9th:

Men's Faith Share

7:00pm—Stack Center

Wednesday, May 10th:

RCIA

7:00pm—Stack Center, Room 7

Thursday, May 11th:

ICF Dinner & Meeting

5:30pm—Stack Center

Adoration & Reconciliation

6:00pm—Church

AA Serenity Group

7:30pm—Augustine Center

Saturday, May 13th:

Adoration & Reconciliation

8:45am—Church

Rite of Confirmation

2:00pm—Cathedral of Christ the Light

Vigil Mass

5:00pm—Church

Sunday, May 14th:

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Happy Mother's Day!

Masses

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

Spanish Mass

1:00pm—Church

THE CATHOLIC VOICE ONLINE



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

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

SUNDAY, May 7th

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

7:30am All Souls in Purgatory
 9:00am Helen Maes – D
 11:00am Antonio O. Chocha – D
 1:00pm OLG Community

MONDAY, May 8th

8:15am Raul & Esperanza Ortega – D

TUESDAY, May 9th

8:15am Adelaide Martin – D

WEDNESDAY, May 10th

St. John of Avila, Priest & Doctor of the Church
 St. Damien de Veuster, Priest

8:15am Antonio S. Barroso, Sr. – D

THURSDAY, May 11th

8:15am Lilia Sousa – D

FRIDAY, May 12th

Sts. Nereus & Achilleus, Martyrs
 St. Pancras, Martyr

8:15am Linda Guzman – D

SATURDAY, May 13th

Our Lady of Fatima

8:15am Debi Telles – D

5:00pm Rodrigo Reveles Ramos – L

SUNDAY, May 14th

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

7:30am Maria Ha Vo – D
 9:00am MaryLou Vincent – L
 11:00am OLG Community
 1:00pm Imelda Sanchez Mendoza – D

EXECUTION ALERTS

The following executions are scheduled to take place in **May**:

May 3rd	Darryl Barwick	Florida
May 18th	Rich Glossip	Oklahoma

We ask for your prayers for these persons, for the victims of their crimes, and for their families.

**ROSARY BEFORE MASS**

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

May 8th through May 14th

Monday: Acts 14:5-18; John 14:21-26
 Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; John 14:27-31
 Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; John 15:1-8
 Thursday: Acts 15:7-21; John 15:9-11
 Friday: Acts 15:22-31; John 15:12-17
 Saturday: Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21
 Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21

**OLG EVANGELIZATION COORDINATOR JOB POSTING**

Our Lady of Grace Parish is seeking a Coordinator to manage the K-5 Whole Family Programs. The Coordinator is responsible for developing curriculum consistent with the Diocesan guidelines. The Coordinator maintains the calendar of the program, recruits and supervises catechists and other volunteers, and communicates regularly with students, families, catechists and other volunteers. This is currently a part time position (18 hours per week) for 10 months of the year, starting August thru May. Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent, current Basic Catechist and at least two years of experience as a catechist in the area of responsibility. Please contact Colleen Lindberg in the Parish Office at clindberg@olgcv.org.

**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.

PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"A Peace that is not the result of true respect for man is not true Peace. And what do we call this sincere feeling for man? We call it Justice."

—Pope Paul VI, 1972

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:

ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL