

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Sunday afternoon we celebrate the Christmas Vigil and as the day changes from December 24th to December 25th, we have the Mass at Night and in the morning the Mass During the Day. Each focus on a different aspect of the Son of GOD, Jesus, taking on human flesh in His human birth.

As we come together to celebrate Christmas, let us think about the profound meaning for us of Jesus being born in Bethlehem. It is not just a story of the birth of a baby to a woman who lived 2000 years ago. It is the fact that GOD has become human and the purpose of His sharing our life was and is so that we could share in the divine life of GOD.

May you continue to give thought to the mystery of Christmas – the mystery of the Incarnation – and may that lead you to joyfully accept the Good News and live it out in your life.



My brothers and sisters in Christ, the mystery of the Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ is an absolutely essential part of our redemption and salvation. Never tire reflecting on the mystery of the Incarnation, the Birth of Jesus, the Word become flesh. The more we reflect upon the Incarnation, the more we come to know the greatness of our God. GOD has become human in the person of Jesus. All for the purpose of lifting us up to the level of sharing in divine life.



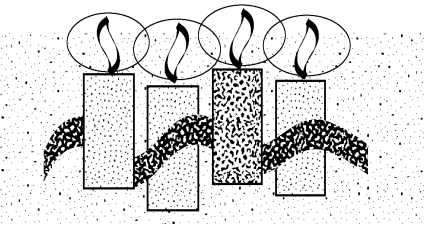
***A Blessed Christmas to you and your family
and
the entire Faith Community
of
Our Lady of Grace Church***

❖ ***Fr. Raphael, Friars and Staff*** ❖

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (December 31st)

Luke 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of *a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons*, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.” The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted —and you yourself a sword will pierce— so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Vigil Masses—Sunday, December 24th

Carols will be sung 30 minutes before the evening Masses

Family Mass at 5:00pm

Mass at Night at 10:00pm

Monday, December 25th

Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am, 11:00am &
1:00pm (Spanish)

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 31st

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am, 11:00am &
1:00pm (Spanish)

Monday, January 1st

The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Mass at 8:15am

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Sunday, January 7th

Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am, 11:00am &
1:00pm (Spanish)

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.



2024 CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Catholic Extension 2024 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 2024 calendars. You may pickup your copy in the Church. ***Please only one per household.***

UPDATED HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, **December 25th** and Tuesday, **December 26th**. We will re-open on Wednesday, **December 27th** at 8:30am.

Additionally, the office will be closed on Friday, **December 29th** and **Monday, January 1st**. We will re-open on Tuesday, **January 2nd** at 8:30am.

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

CHRISTMAS OFFERING


As we approach the Christmas Season and the end of the calendar year, we need to thank the Lord for all the good He has brought to our parish community and we need to thank the Lord for the many blessings our Church Community has received through your continued generosity, sharing your time, your talents and your treasure here at Our Lady of Grace Church for the support and growth of our Parish Family. Your donations to The St. Vincent de Paul Society and your Christmas gifts offered to families less fortunate than yourselves as part of the Giving Tree Program, make a difference in the lives of those who are most in need during this Christmas Season. Your generous support of Our Lady of Grace Church makes a tremendous difference in our Church as well.



Here at Our Lady of Grace Church, we have experienced a 19% increase in expenses over the last year. We were fortunate to have received two bequests that allowed us to take care of some deferred property maintenances allowing us to operate in the black, despite these increased expenses. With this being said, we are hoping to end this calendar year with a 2% increase in plate income over last year.

We ask that you be generous in your Christmas and End of Year Offerings to Our Lady of Grace Church. It would be wonderful if we would surpass our budgeted amount of \$26,000.00 for Christmas Contributions. Please know that we count on your Christmas and End of The Year contributions to help our Church meet our end of the year expenses and start 2024 in a positive position.

We are most grateful to you for your support throughout the year and especially for your generous contributions supporting Our Lady of Grace as we celebrate Christmas and come to the end of this calendar year accomplishing our Parish goals.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL WARM COAT DRIVE

We are thankful for the many donations from our generous parishioners. St. Vincent de Paul continues to collect coats, blankets and socks through December. Our main need is men's coats in larger sizes; but we will accept women's and children's sizes too. We have collection barrels at the 2 main entrances to the church and in the Parish Office. PLEASE DO NOT leave other items of clothing. Thank you!

If you know someone in our community what could use our help, or if you have interested in knowing more about this ministry—please call our SVdP line at 510-581-2164 and someone will get back to you.

OLG'S 75th ANNIVERSARY BOOK

More 75th Anniversary books are available for purchase in the Parish Office. Cost is \$14 per copy. Beautifully written by long time parishioner Mark Vaz, these keepsakes may be autographed upon request.



CYO ATHLETICS CRAB FEED February 3rd, 2024

Join us as we raise funds for OLG's CYO Athletics. Festivities include: Music, Silent Auction and No-Host Bar. Menu includes: Crab or Chicken, Pasta, Salad and Bread. Get your tickets online by visiting: <https://tinyurl.com/OLG-CYO>. Cost is \$85 per online purchase. Tickets also available at the Parish Office. There are also limited tables for 10 for \$800 and for 12 for \$950. KidKare will be available for \$30 per child (space is limited). See you there!

If you are interested in joining the Crab Feed Committee and volunteering your time and talents, please email Joe Perry at CrabFeed@olgschool.org

BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL

We are grateful to all those who have made a pledge or outright donation to the 2023 Bishop's Ministries Appeal. Your generosity has enabled Our Lady of Grace to exceed our appeal goal. As a reminder, all funds exceeding our goal will be returned to Our Lady of Grace for our needs. *If you have made your pledge to the 2023 Appeal, please complete your donation by December 31st.* May God Bless your continuing generosity.



I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS
BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL 2023

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:	\$ 35,342.00
Month Budgeted Goal:	\$ 38,000.00
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [2,658.00]
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [969.00]

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:

Jaime Arce
Phyllis Barthman
Lois Belmessieri
Jot Brown
Raul Cepeda
Nancy French
Joan Gabrielli
Skeet Jennings
Grace Letteer
Brian Linney

Sheila McAlinden
Cec Penland
Julie Richardson
Diana Riley
Jenny Roberts
Al Rojas
Alyssia Tortora
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

**VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST**

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE



CYO GIRLS BASKETBALL REGISTRATION



Girl's Basketball registration (open to grades 2nd-8th) is available online for OLG School Students and current Faith Formation Students ONLY. All other students residing in our Parish boundaries may register beginning December 30th. Fee for the 2024 program year is \$195. Space is limited! **Registration closes on January 10th.** To register, please visit: www.olgcvcyo.com. For more information, questions or if you would like to coach, please email: olgcycv@gmail.com. Go Lions!

AVE, MARIA | Hail, Mary
gratia plena | full of grace
Dominus tecum | the Lord is with thee

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.



PRE-BAPTISM CLASS FOR PARENTS & GODPARENTS

If you are wishing to have your child, ages infant to six years baptized, parents and Godparents need to attend a Pre-Baptism Class. You also need to be registered members of the parish for at least three months. Our next class will be held on **January 3rd** in Stack Center, OLG Room at 7:00pm. Please call Jay at 510-537-0806 to register.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

As members of the Body of Christ, we are called to actively participate in the Liturgy through presence, ritual action, prayer, silence and song. Participating in a liturgical ministry is an excellent opportunity to fulfill your baptismal call of service to one another. Our liturgies should utilize the talents and gifts that God has given this community to the fullest extent. Please consider offering your time as a Lector, Usher, Music Ministry, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Please contact Bonnie Ricketts for more information: missbonnie@comcast.net



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 **January 6th**.

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 70½; 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.*

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I beg you to trust without limits in the Immaculata and to strive toward the goal with courage and calm even through thorns."

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 24th:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve Vigil Masses

5:00pm & 10:00pm—Church

Monday, December 25th:

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26th:

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Parish Office Closed

Thursday, December 28th:

Adoration & Reconciliation

6:00pm—Church

Knights of Columbus Meeting

6:30pm—Stack Center

AA Serenity Group

7:30pm—Augustine Center

Friday, December 29th:

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, December 30th:

Adoration & Reconciliation

8:45am—Church

Sunday, December 31st:

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

First Communion-Year 2

Next Class: January 7th

10:15am—Stack Center

Whole Family Program

Next Class: January 7th

10:15am—Augustine Center

Whole Family-Year 1

Next Class: January 14th

10:15am—Stack Center

Confirmation

Next Class: January 21st

12:15pm—Stack Center

Mass for the Intentions Week

SUNDAY, December 24th

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30am OLG Community
 9:00am Marv & Ruth Picha – D
 11:00am Leona Albano – D
 1:00pm Selia Avina Valencia – D

Christmas Eve Masses

5:00pm Norma Wardle – D
 10:00pm No Intention

MONDAY, 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 (Spanish)*

TUESDAY, December 26th

St. Stephen, The First Martyr

8:15am Evan Hinkson – L

WEDNESDAY, December 27th

St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

8:15am Rosa Martinez Reyes – D

THURSDAY, December 28th

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:15am Marcie & James Dugan – D

FRIDAY, December 29th*Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord*

St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

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

SATURDAY, December 30th*Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord*

8:15am Martha White – D

5:00pm Rosalyn Miranda – L

SUNDAY, December 31st

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

St. Sylvester I, Pope

7:30am Maria Ha Vo – D
 9:00am Ronald & Elizabeth Flormata – L
 11:00am OLG Community
 1:00pm Araceli Reveles – L



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

December 25th through December 31st

Monday:

Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;
 Matthew 1:1-25

Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14;
 Luke 2:1-14

Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7;
 Luke 2:15-20

Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6;
 John 1:1-18

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59;
 Matthew 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1-8

Thursday: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

Friday: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40

Sunday: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14;
 Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40

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. Our theme this winter session is *"Be Patient in Tribulation"*

Our meeting will be at the Transfiguration Church Hall. Please follow Covid-19 safety protocols.

Next Meeting: **January 4th**, 9:00am to 11:15am

Speaker: Jean Easterly

Topic: *"Endure in Affliction, Portraits of Patience"*

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

PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The Gospel takes away our right forever, to discriminate between the deserving and the underserving poor."

-Dorothy Day

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:

SUCCESSFUL FINANCIAL EDUCATION WORKSHOPS