

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are presently in the Octave of Christmas, an eight-day celebration of the Birth of Christ. Every day of the octave is a way of reliving the Nativity of Our Lord all over again. The Octave of Christmas began on Christmas itself, the feast of the Nativity of the Lord, and it will end on Monday, January 1st with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

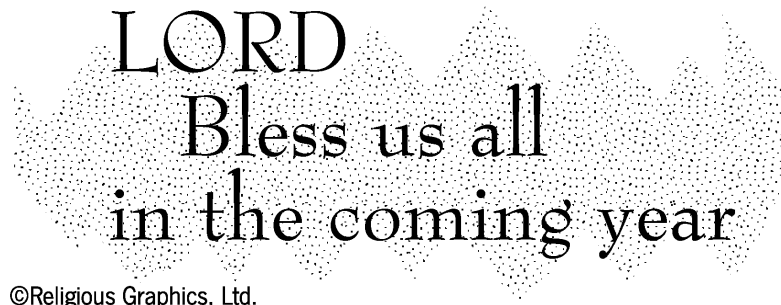
Celebrating the Octave of Christmas, the family of God, the Church, have the opportunity to enter more deeply into the meaning of the Solemnity of The Birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Hopefully Advent was a fruitful season of preparation for the Birth of Our Lord. During the Octave, we are invited to celebrate Jesus' Birth with the same enthusiasm we celebrated the Day of Christ's Birth itself. Now, with the completion of the Octave this Monday, we look to a New Year beginning with the Solemnity of Mary. We look forward to an opportunity to make resolutions and hope that these resolutions can be firmly rooted in the Lord because He is Emmanuel, God Is With Us. The New Year is a great time to draw closer to Jesus.

So, still celebrating the Octave of Christmas, reliving the Christmas Event, celebrating little Christmases, try to reflect on the real reason for our joy at Christmas, God With Us. Ask the Blessed Mother with the Celebration of the Solemnity Mary, the Mother of God on January 1st to show you the precious gift of her Son born for us all yet more deeply. Then, in turn, ask Our Lord to lead you to His mother. Celebrating the Octave of Christmas, let us ask Mary to watch over us and Jesus, born for us and our salvation, to bless us. It's a beautiful way to begin a New Year and draw closer to both Our Lord, and to Our Lady.

Happy New Year!

-Fr. Raphael



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The Epiphany of the Lord (January 7th)

Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Monday, January 1st

Mass at 8:15am

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Sunday, January 7th

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



END OF YEAR GIVING

As we approach the Year of 2024, 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.

JESUS MARY JOSEPH

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HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, January 1st**. We will reopen on **Tuesday, January 2nd** at 8:30am.

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



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 and 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.**



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



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 + uniform fee. 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.

75th ANNIVERSARY BOOKS FOR SALE

OLG's 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.



ANNUAL SEMINARY COLLECTION Next Weekend—January 6th & 7th

Next weekend, our diocese asks us to help with the work of education for tomorrow's priests through our contributions for the Seminary Collection. This year is another challenging year for all of us financially but the Diocese humbly appeals to all of you to give your best effort to support our seminarians in their training and formation in your own unique and creative way. Please include the seminarians in your prayers. Prayer especially during Mass is one of the most effective ways in campaigning and promoting vocations in our Church. You may make your check out to "Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland". Envelopes will be in the pews for your use. Your kindness, generosity and prayers are deeply appreciated.



**WALK FOR LIFE
WEST COAST 2024
Saturday, January 20th**

January 20th marks the 20th Anniversary of the Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco—America's 2nd largest Pro-Life event! As we have every year since 2004, we will stand faithfully, prayerfully, and hopefully for the littlest and most vulnerable among us. The rally begins at 12:30pm in San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza, followed by the Walk, down Market Street to Justin Herman Plaza. This event is truly changing the hearts and minds and has helped to revivify the Pro-Life movement on the West Coast! *The peaceful participation of our parish is essential to continuing this pro-life transformation of our culture.* To register and for more information please visit: <https://www.walkforlifewc.com/>.



ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIALS

We are looking to have 6 monthly sponsors for our Altar Candles and ask for a donation of \$20 to cover the cost of the candles for the month. Our donors will be recognized in the 1st bulletin of the month and there will be a monthly Mass offered for the intention of our Candle Memorial. Many blessed thanks for those who have donated. For more information, please call the Parish Office at 510-537-0806.

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.

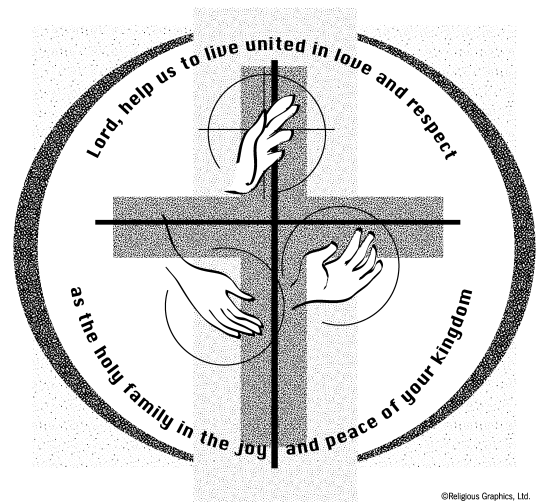


Your Prayers Are Requested

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



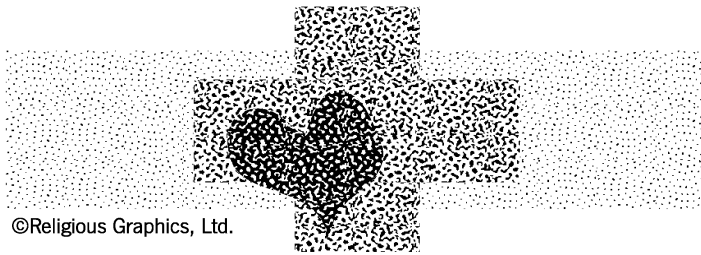
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Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.

In Memorial

**VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST**

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE



1ST FRIDAY TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

Join us for Traditional Latin Mass on
January 5th at 7:00pm, dedicated to the
Sacred Heart of Jesus.

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

FR. TOM CZECK'S PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND Spring 2024

Fr. Tom will be leading a pilgrimage to Ireland
from **April 22nd to May 2nd**. Flights depart from Los
Angeles and Chicago. Price per person is \$3599 plus
tax. If you would like more information please call Fr.
Tom at 847-367-6316 or email him at
MINationalAssistant@proton.me

ADORATION & RECONCILIATION

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



MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Let us love the Immaculata every day always
more. On this point, there is not and there cannot be
any limits as she increasingly purifies our hearts of
naturalism and transforms us into herself."*

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 31st:

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Monday, January 1st:

*The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Happy New Year!*

Mass
8:15am—Church

Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2nd:

Men's Faith Share
7:00pm—Stack Center, Room 7

Wednesday, January 3rd:

RCIA
7:00pm—Parish Office

Thursday, January 4th:

Adoration & Reconciliation
6:00pm—Church

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting
7:00pm—Parish Office

AA Serenity Group
7:30pm—Augustine Center

Friday, January 5th:

1st Friday Latin Mass
7:00pm—Church

Saturday, January 6th:

Adoration & Reconciliation
8:45am—Church

Militia Immaculata Meeting
10:00am—Stack Center, OLG Room

Sunday, January 7th:

The Epiphany of the Lord

Whole Family Program
10:15am—Augustine Center

1st Communion Class -Year 2
10:15am—Stack Center

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.



Mass Intentions for the Week

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 Eric Ross – D

1:00pm Araceli Reveles – L

MONDAY, January 1st

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

8:15am Albert Walker – D

TUESDAY, January 2nd

Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church

8:15am Julie Richardson – L

WEDNESDAY, January 3rd

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:15am Margaret Harrington – D

Sophia Halloran – D

THURSDAY, January 4th

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

8:15am Marcelino Perdido – D

FRIDAY, January 5th

St. John Neumann, Bishop

8:15am Rose Sullivan – D

SATURDAY, January 6th

St. Andre Bessette, Religious

8:15am Kirsten C. de Deo – L

5:00pm Joanne Miller – D

SUNDAY, January 7th

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7:30am OLG Community

9:00am Joanne Sargent – D

11:00am Veronica Johnson Farias – D

1:00pm Adrian Alejandro Reyes – D

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

January 1st through January 7th

Monday: Numbers 6:22-27;
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21
Tuesday: 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
Wednesday: 1 John 2:29-3:6; John 1:29-34
Thursday: 1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42
Friday: 1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51
Saturday: 1 John 5:5-13; Mark 1:7-11
Sunday: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6;
Matthew 2:1-12



*if today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts*

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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

"Peace involves work, it is not about staying calm and doing nothing. No! True peace means working so that everyone has a solution to the problems, to the needs, that they have in their land, in their homeland, in their family, in their society."

-Pope Francis, May 2015

To join our work with Pax Christi, please contact the Parish Office at 510-537-0806.

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.



BAPTISM

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:

TAKE MY HAND HOME AGENCY