



My brothers and sisters in Christ,

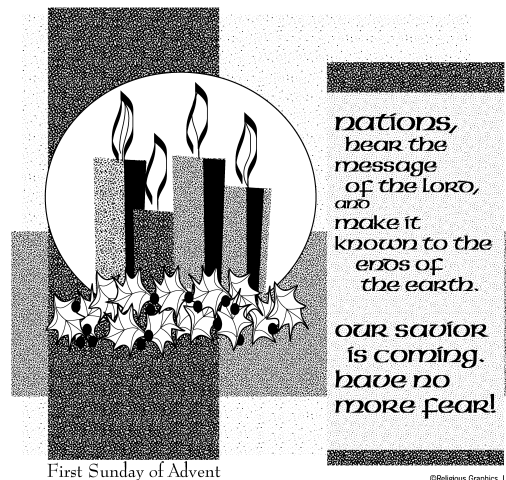
Today, Sunday, December 3rd, we begin the **Season of Advent**. It is also the beginning of a **New Liturgical Year**. It is also the Sunday that my official **installation as pastor** of the cluster consisting of Our Lady of Grace Church and Transfiguration Church is taking place. Father Jan Rudzewicz, the pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church and Dean of our area churches, has been designated by Bishop Barber to receive my Profession of Faith and Oath of Office. The Installation as Pastor of the cluster is taking place at the **11:00 AM Mass here at Our Lady of Grace Church**. Formal “taking possession of the parishes” will take place after A Profession of Faith and Oath of Office. Parishioners from Transfiguration Church and Our Lady of Grace Church are invited to attend. Following the Installation, parishioners of Transfiguration Church and Our Lady of Grace Church are invited to the Hall at **Transfiguration Church for a reception**.

The **liturgical year** is one of the ways the church remembers and celebrates the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. **The Season of Advent** sets us upon that path. The prayers and Scripture readings of Advent help us to prepare for Christmas, when Christ’s first coming is celebrated, and also for Christ’s final coming at the end of time. One outward sign of the Season of Advent is the **Advent Wreath**, a wreath with four candles symbolizing the four weeks of the Season of Advent. It represents our anticipation of the arrival of Jesus. Leading us up to the birth of Jesus, it commemorates newness, eternal life, and also the death and resurrection of the promised Messiah.

The experience of the Advent Wreath is a beautiful way to give us the opportunity to pause and think about the birth of Jesus. **Think about preparing an Advent Wreath** in your own personal homes. It is one way of making your anticipation of the Lord’s Coming at Christmas a deeper spiritual experience for you and for all in the family. With the rush of the season, it is important to find some time to slow down. Bringing your family together around an Advent wreath in your home can be a source of peace, grace, and blessings. It will give you the ability to **give added attention to the upcoming Celebration of the Birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ**.

During this Season of Advent, pray: *Maranatha Lord Jesus.... Come Lord Jesus Come!*

-Fr. Raphael



Second Sunday of Advent (December 10th)

Mark 1:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: “Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

December 8th



Our Holy Day of Obligation Masses honoring Mary will be celebrated on Friday, **December 8th at 8:15am (School Liturgy) and 7:00pm.** Join us!



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATION December 9th-12th

The Hispanic Group invites the entire Parish community to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe with a Triduum of Rosaries and Masses.

December 9th, 10th and 11th
Triduum of Rosaries at 7:00pm

Diciembre 9, 10 y 11
Triduo de Rosarios a las 7:00pm

December 12th

Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Join us as we begin with Mañanitas (joyous Mexican Folk Music) from 5:30-7:00am. Immediately following, Mexican hot chocolate and bread will be served in Stack Center. At 8:15am we will celebrate Mass with the School. At 7:00pm we will celebrate Mass in Spanish.

Diciembre 12

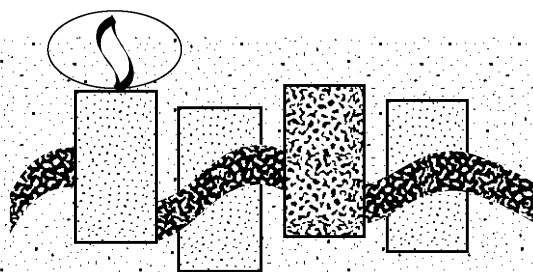
Celebraciones En Honor a al Virgen de Guadalupe

Mañanitas a la 5:30 am en la Iglesia. Se servirá inmediatamente después chocolate y pan mexicano en el Stack Center. Misas a la 8:15 am con la escuela en inglés y a la 7:00 pm en español.



ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS December 10th

Join us at 5:00pm in the Church for a special service celebrating the upcoming birth of Jesus. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short scripture readings from Genesis, the prophetic books, and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music. Immediately following will be a Cookie Exchange in Stack Center. If you like to bake, please bring a Christmas tin and 2 dozen of your favorite cookies to participate in the share and "exchange". You don't have to bake in order to participate.



HOW YOU CAN HELP THOSE IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



St. Vincent de Paul Warm Coat Drive

We are thankful for the generosity from those who have given so far. St. Vincent de Paul is collecting **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.

FESCO & Castro Valley Outreach "Adopt A Family" Christmas Giving Trees

Our Lady of Grace invites you to help Castro Valley families with our Giving Trees. Each family member has an ornament on our Giving Trees which you will find in the Church and Parish Office. Please take an ornament and return the gifts with the ornament and receipt, **wrapped** to the Parish Office by **Thursday, December 14th.** This will allow our Outreach members time to catalog your gift. Thank you for your generosity!



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.





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CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Recently, we welcomed

Charla Jayne Aloba**Abigail Guzman****James Dudley Hanley****Aria Elouise Mutia**

into Our Lady of Grace Church by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. May God Bless you!

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION**Next Weekend-December 9th & 10th****Please give to those who have given a lifetime.**

This annual appeal helps retired sisters, brothers and religious older priests, who spent their lives in church ministries such as education, healthcare and social service, usually with little to no compensation. Consequently, a significant number currently have insufficient retirement funds, combined with escalating health-care costs. Numerous religious communities in the U.S. are experiencing challenges with providing for their elderly members and are confronting a sizable disparity between available funds and the costs of care. Please give generously. Envelopes will be in the pews for your use. Religious women and men thank you for each merciful action you take on behalf of others and pray for your spiritual peace.

**ADVENT PRAYER INTENTIONS**

Bishop Barber invites all parishioners to share their prayer intentions with him this Advent. Envelopes are in the pews for your use. You may bring your intentions to the Parish Office or put them in the mail slot.

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 OCTOBER:

Sunday Plate for the month: \$ 43,000.00

Month Budgeted Goal: \$ 44,245.00

Over/[Shortfall] \$ 1,245.00

Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall] \$ 1,688.00

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

**ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIAL DONORS**

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

Given By:

Anonymous

Kaye McCann

In Memory of / In Honor of:

Jose Renaldo Palencia
Shawn Redmond
Maria Collins

John McCann

OUR LADY OF GRACE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Did You Know??

- Some of the best and brightest scholars are preparing to compete in the National Catholic Academic Junior High Decathlon this coming March. This is the first time in recent history that OLG students have prepared to compete at the national level in all academic areas, so keep them in your prayers.
- Don't forget to stop in for our St. Nicholas Day Prayer Service and lighting of the parish/school Christmas tree on **December 6th** (THIS coming Wednesday) at 8:15am in Stack Center. If you have any friends with children from TK to 8th grade who might be interested in our school, do feel free to invite them to join you.

Come Check Us Out! Visit www.olgschool.org for more information and to apply.



USE 'SCRIP' FOR YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Simplify your holiday shopping and support OLG's Evangelization Program at the same time by purchasing SCRIP gift cards! With each gift card purchase, our Evangelization Program earns 2%-17% of the gift card value. Stop by the Parish Office and take a look at our list of gift cards are offered. *Orders placed on the 1st and 3rd week of the month will be ready for pickup on the 2nd and 4th week of the month.* Payment is due at the time of purchase, cash or check please. Questions? Call the Parish Office at 510-537-0806.

CYO ATHLETICS CRAB FEED February 3rd, 2024 Save the Date!

Join us for an exciting evening of delicious crab and community.

More details to come!

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



MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"It is most true that fulfillment of the will of the Immaculata 'down to minor details and in the best way' marks the highest degree of holiness. Because ultimately, her will is the same as the will of Jesus, of God's will."

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 3rd:

First Sunday of Advent

RCIA Rite of Acceptance
9:00am Mass—Church

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

Fr. Raphael's Installation
11:00am Mass—Church

Confirmation Class
12:15pm—Stack Center

Tuesday, December 5th:

Men's Cursillo Meeting
6:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

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

Wednesday, December 6th:

RCIA
7:00pm—Parish Office

Pre-Baptism Class
7:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

Thursday, December 7th:

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

AA Serenity Group
7:30pm—Augustine Center

Friday, December 8th:

Masses of the Immaculate Conception
8:15am (School Liturgy) & 7:00pm—Church

Saturday, December 9th:

Adoration & Reconciliation
8:45am—Church

Rosary
7:00pm—Church

Sunday, December 10th:

Second Sunday of Advent

Whole Family Program
10:15am—Augustine Center

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

Confirmation-Discipleship Conferences
12:15pm—Stack Center

Advent Lessons & Carols
5:00pm—Church

Rosary
7:00pm—Church

Mass for the Intentions for the Week

SUNDAY, December 3rd

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30am Helen Maes – D

9:00am Cindy Jardim – D

11:00am OLG Community

1:00pm Robert Hess – D

MONDAY, December 4th

St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:15am Cory Nicasio – D

TUESDAY, December 5th

8:15am Ed Brown – D

WEDNESDAY, December 6th

St. Nicholas, Bishop

8:15am Mike De Guzman – D

THURSDAY, December 7th

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:15am Martha Kozel – D

FRIDAY, December 8th

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

8:15am No Intention

7:00pm No Intention

SATURDAY, December 9th

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

8:15am Natalie Shomon – L

5:00pm Joe Kozel – D

SUNDAY, December 10th

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30am OLG Community

9:00am Emma & Mike McCormick – L

11:00am Joe Kozel – D

1:00pm Rosa Martinez Reyes – D

HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES

Please have items for the Bulletin to the Parish Office no later than the deadlines shown below:

December 17th Bulletin: **Due December 8th**December 24th Bulletin: **Due December 13th**December 31st Bulletin: **Due December 18th**

Prepare for the
coming of the LORD

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**December 4th through December 10th**

Monday: Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday: Isaiah 25:6-10; Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21,24-27

Friday: Genesis 3:9-15, 20;

Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38

Saturday: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26;

Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5-8

Sunday: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14;

Mark 1:1-8

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 year is *"Joy for the Journey: Rejoice in the Lord Always, Again I Say Rejoice."*

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

Next Meeting: **December 7th**, 9:00am to 11:15am

Speaker: Isabel & Al Rajan

Topic: "Hope On the Camino"

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 firstly means there are no wars...but it also means that there is friendship between all, that every day a step ahead is made for justice, so that there are no more children who are hungry, that there are no more sick children who do not have the possibility of receiving healthcare. Doing all of this means making peace."

-Pope Francis, May 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:

PETE'S ACE HARDWARE