



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This past Wednesday was Ash Wednesday. It marked the beginning of the Season of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, the Church distributed ashes calling to mind that we are to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. And, we are dust and onto dust we shall return. Lent, therefore is an opportunity to be transformed in the Lord.

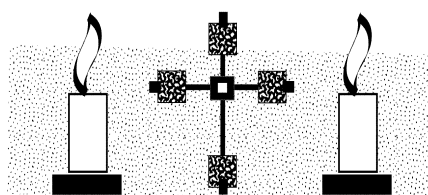
Lent, the solemn 40-day period before Easter, holds profound significance in the Catholic Church and other Christian traditions. Starting on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Holy Thursday, it is a season of penitence and preparation, and throughout Lent, we are asked to engage ourselves in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These practices serve to deepen our connection with God, our awareness of Jesus' sacrificial love, and to prepare our hearts and minds for the Paschal Mystery—the journey of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. Lent is an invitation to reflect, repent, and renew one's commitment to living a life of faith, ultimately leading to the joyful celebration of Easter. In this Season, we move from the green of Ordinary Time to the purple of the Season of Lent. This color for Lent holds significant symbolism. While purple serves as a reminder of Christ's suffering and sacrifice, it is also associated with royalty, signifying Jesus as our eternal King.

There are many ways to live our Catholic faith during the Lenten season! Many people make personal sacrifices and give something up for the entire forty-day period, symbolizing self-discipline and reliance on God's grace. Some engage in acts of service to emulate Jesus' love and compassion towards others. And there are many practices and traditions that take place in faith communities like our own such as The Stations of the Cross. The Stations, also known as The Way of the Cross, is a revered tradition where Catholics pray and reflect on fourteen different moments leading up to Jesus' death. These fourteen moments begin with Jesus being condemned to death and end with the body of Jesus being placed in the tomb. Many presentations of the Stations of the Cross add yet a fifteen moment, the Resurrection. So, throughout these forty days, I invite us to pray the Stations of the Cross whether as a community every Friday of Lent or privately at our convenience. These practices encourage our spiritual growth, the deepening of our faith, and the preparation of our hearts for the celebration of Easter.

Throughout the Forty Days of Lent, we look forward to the Celebration of Easter, The Celebration of The Resurrection of the Lord. We look forward to the Celebration Jesus' triumph over death.

Use these days to prepare yourselves. Enter into the spirit of the Lenten Season so that the richness of The Celebration of Easter can have deepened meaning for each of us.

-Fr. Raphael



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## The Second Sunday of Lent (February 25th)

**Mark 9:2-10**

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

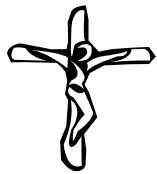
# ENTER INTO THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

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## WEDNESDAY LENTEN MASS & SOUP MEAL



Join us for our Lenten Masses held on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm, followed by a simple meal of soup and bread in Stack Center. It will be a time for fellowship and families coming together. Our next Lenten Soup Meal is on **February 21st**. We thank our Parish Ministries for their hospitality for this meal. Financial donations will be accepted for CRS Rice Bowl.



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS English & Spanish

Stations of the Cross, led by our school students is offered at Our Lady of Grace at 2:30pm. Evening Stations in English begins at 6:00pm and in Spanish at 6:30pm. *There will be no evening Stations on March 29th (Good Friday).*

## LENTEN RECONCILIATION

During the Lenten season, Reconciliation and Adoration will be available every Thursday at 6:00pm and Saturday at 9:00am, after the 8:15am Mass.



## COFFEE AND DONUTS February 18th Weather Permitting

Come join us! All are invited after the **9:00am** Sunday Mass to meet in the Gathering Area outside the rear entrance of the church for coffee, donuts and community. We thank Our Lady of Grace School for this ministry of hospitality. Coffee and Donuts is held on the 3rd Sunday of every month. See you there!



## YEARLY CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

For your convenience in preparing your tax return, a contribution statement for 2023 will be prepared at your request. Please phone Jay 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.

## PRESIDENTS' DAY PARISH OFFICE CLOSED



Monday, **February 19th**, is a federal holiday in honor of Presidents' Day. The office will re-open on Tuesday, **February 20th** at 8:30am. Monday's Mass is at 8:15am. The entire Parish staff wishes you a safe and relaxing holiday!

## FORMED 40 DAYS OF LENT WITH FORMED.ORG

### *Fearless: A 7-Week Lenten Video Series*

<https://watch.formed.org/fearless-a-7-week-lenten-video-series>

Join author and speaker Chris Stefanick as he welcomes a special guest each week as we seek to follow Jesus into the wilderness this Lent.

### *Lent with Brother Francis*

<https://watch.formed.org/lent-with-brother-francis>

Join Brother Francis in this compact presentation of what Lent is all about and how we observe it as Catholics. Great for the whole family!

Be sure to check out other Lenten selections on our Parish website at [www.olgcv.org](http://www.olgcv.org). Click on "Formed" on the navigation bar.

Not a member yet? Register for free by visiting [www.olgcv.formed.org](http://www.olgcv.formed.org) and type in "Our Lady of Grace, Castro Valley, CA" to become a member.

## FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

### First Communion-Year 2

Next Class: February 18th  
10:15am—Stack Center

### Whole Family-Year 1

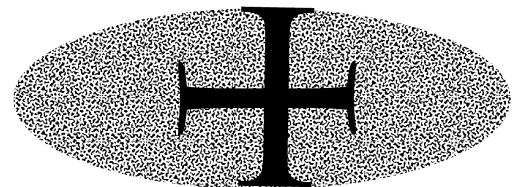
Next Class: February 25th  
10:15am—Stack Center

### Confirmation

Next Class: February 25th  
12:15pm—Stack Center

### Whole Family Program

Next Class: March 10th  
10:15am—Augustine Center



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**WE HAVE BEEN  
MARKED WITH THE  
SIGN OF  
REPENTANCE**



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**OUR LADY OF GRACE  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS  
Did You Know??**



Did you know that OLG Catholic School has a “language enriched” curriculum? Our TK and K programs are conducted in both English and Spanish with the goal being that students will be reading in Spanish by the end of TK and in English by the end of K. This gives them a real start once they begin grade one. Spanish is offered from grades 1-8 twice per week and Latin to grades 6-8 two to three times per week. All brains benefit from this type of exposure to language, enabling the formation of the type of connections best able to handle difficult mathematical and scientific problems. We also have a summer program and you do not have to be an OLG student to attend.

Check out our website at [www.olgschool.org](http://www.olgschool.org)

**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 Baptism Class. You also need to be registered members of the parish for at least three months. Our next class will be held on **March 6th** in Stack Center, OLG Room at 7:00pm. Please call Jay at 510-537-0806 to register.

**HELPING HANDS MINISTRY**

*What is “Helping Hands”?* This very special ministry started by Dianne Fisher many years ago, helps families who have lost a loved one and whom we assist with making and serving food to their family and friends after the Funeral Mass. OLG’s funerals are held on weekdays only. *If you would like to periodically assist us by making food for these gatherings (each entrée, salad or dessert enough for 10 people) or help with set-up and clean-up in Stack Center, your time and talent would be most appreciated!* Please contact Carmel Ledyard (510-274-5627) or Margaret McKean (510-340-1871) or you may leave your name and number at the Parish Office. Thank you and God Bless!

**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:	\$ 37,023.00
<b>Month Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 42,100.00</b>
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [5,077.00]
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [5,077.00]

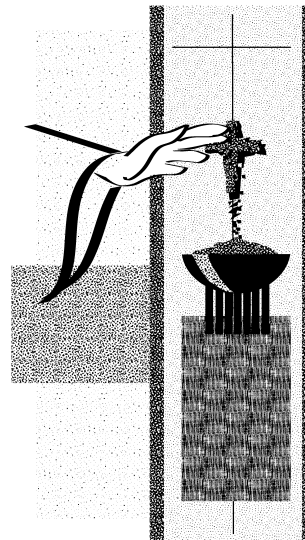
*May God bless your continuing generosity.*



**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       | Julie Richardson |
| Phyllis Barthman | Diana Riley      |
| Lois Belmessieri | Jenny Roberts    |
| Jot Brown        | Al Rojas         |
| Raul Cepeda      | Helen Star       |
| Nancy French     | Alyssia Tortora  |
| Joan Gabrielli   | James Van Wert   |
| Brian Linney     | Arthur Williams  |
| Sheila McAlinden | Peggy Winkenbach |
| Mike Miraglia    |                  |



The same LORD is LORD of all. Everyone who calls upon the name of the LORD will be saved.

**THIS SEASON  
OF LENT**

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, no evil shall befall you, for to his angels he has given command about you that they guard you in all your ways.

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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**

We do not live  by bread alone

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**SUPPORT OUR  
EVANGELIZATION  
PROGRAM WITH SCRIP**

*Do you shop at Amazon and Safeway or get coffee at Starbucks?* Simplify your 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.

**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 **March 2nd**.

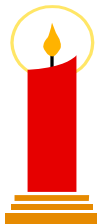


**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

The Knights of Columbus monthly meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:30pm in Stack Center, OLG Room. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, visit <https://www.kofc.org> or join them at their next meeting on **February 22nd**.

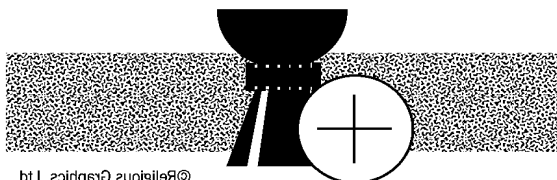
**DEVOTIONAL CANDLES**

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.



**MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

*“May the Immaculata direct as she wishes, including nervous exhaustion and treatment.....Much can be achieved even through illness itself.”*



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**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, February 18th:**

**The First Sunday of Lent**

Coffee & Donuts  
After the 9:00am Mass—Gathering Area  
1st Communion Class -Year 2  
10:15am—Stack Center

**Monday, February 19th:**

**Presidents’ Day  
Parish Office Closed**

**Tuesday, February 20th:**

Men’s Cursillo Meeting  
6:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room  
Women’s Lenten Bible Study  
7:00pm—Stack Center  
Men’s Faith Share  
7:00pm—Stack Center, Room 7

**Wednesday, February 21st:**

Lenten Mass  
6:00pm Mass—Church  
Lenten Soup Meal  
After the 6:00pm Mass—Stack Center  
RCIA  
7:00pm—Parish Office

**Thursday, February 22nd:**

Adoration & Reconciliation  
6:00pm—Church  
Knights of Columbus Meeting  
6:30pm—Stack Center, OLG Room  
AA Serenity Group  
7:30pm—Augustine Center

**Friday, February 23rd:**

Stations of the Cross  
2:30pm (School), 6:00pm (English)  
& 6:30pm (Spanish)—Church

**Saturday, February 24th:**

Adoration & Reconciliation  
8:45am—Church

**Sunday, February 25th:**

**The Second Sunday of Lent**

1st Communion Class -Year 1  
10:15am—Stack Center  
Confirmation Class  
12:15pm—Stack Center

# Mass Intentions for the Week

## SUNDAY, February 18th

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 7:30am Bart Jovellana – D
- 9:00am Evelyn & Raymond Trezza – D
- 11:00am OLG Community
- 1:00pm Rosa Martinez Reyes – D

## MONDAY, February 19th

- 8:15am Sally Powers – D

## TUESDAY, February 20th

- 8:15am Lilia Sousa – D

## WEDNESDAY, February 21st

St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

- 8:15am Andrew Perino – L

## THURSDAY, February 22nd

The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

- 8:15am Laura Perino – L

## FRIDAY, February 23rd

St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

- 8:15am Harry Oosterbaan – D

## SATURDAY, February 24th

- 8:15am Rose Nicasio – D
- 5:00pm Mariano Realina – D

## SUNDAY, February 25th

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

- 7:30am Frank Bargiacchi – D
- 9:00am Kathy Cande – L
- 11:00am OLG Community
- 1:00pm Ana Maria Morfin – D

### EXECUTION ALERTS

The following execution is scheduled to take place in February:

February 28th Ivan Cantu Texas

We ask for your prayers for this person for the victims of his 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. All are welcome!

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

February 19th through February 25th

- Monday: Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18; Matthew 25:31-46
- Tuesday: Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15
- Wednesday: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32
- Thursday: 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19
- Friday: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26
- Saturday: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48
- Sunday: Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18; Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10



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

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*In Memory of*

### 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.

### 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!



### PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"I personally believe that what we need most of all today is patient, constructive and pastoral work rather than acts of defiance which antagonize the average person without enlightening him."*

-Thomas Merton, 1965

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:

**JESS C. SPENCER MORTUARY, INC.**