



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Book of Tobit is the only place in the Scriptures where the Bible brings all three (prayer, fasting and almsgiving) together. In that passage found in Chapter 12, verses 8 and 9, the emphasis is firmly placed on almsgiving. "Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness ... It is better to give alms than to store up gold; for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin. Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life" (Tob 12:8-9).

My brothers and sisters in Christ, we must call to mind that almsgiving is a form of prayer. It is prayer because our offering is to be truly an offering of what we have to God. It is also a form of fasting because it calls us to make sacrificial giving – not just giving something, but giving up something, giving till it hurts. Jesus presents almsgiving as a necessary part of Christian life. We can simply remember the words of the Scripture from Ash Wednesday: "when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" (Mt 6:2-3). He does not say IF you give alms, but WHEN. Like fasting and prayer, almsgiving is something that all of us are called to do.

One of our Lenten Practices is our invitation to participate in "Rice Bowl." Each year, rice bowls are available in our church and we are invited to make sacrificial offerings. Then, when the rice bowls are filled, we are asked to bring them back to Church.

Remember that your almsgiving to the Rice Bowl Program makes a global difference for millions of our sisters and brothers experiencing the greatest need. Our rice bowl contributions help families in countries like Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia to access nutritious food, build sustainable livelihoods and adapt and thrive in the face of climate change.

And as we assist others less fortunate than ourselves, during Lent our almsgiving enables us personally to grow in generosity, actively participate in the body of Christ and respond to God's call to love and care for others.

Consider contributing to the Rice Bowl Project this Lent. May this act of almsgiving be a prayer and a sacrifice by serving others during Lent. It helps us draw ever closer to God.

Fr. Raphael

The Third Sunday of Lent (March 3rd)

John 2:13-25

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, *Zeal for your house will consume me*. At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken. While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.

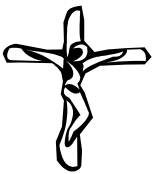


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WEDNESDAY LENTEN MASS & SOUP MEAL



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 28th**. We thank the Knights of Columbus 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.



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.

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**.



FORMED 40 DAYS OF LENT WITH FORMED.ORG

Into the Desert

<https://watch.formed.org/into-the-desert>

Our Lord teaches that prayer is a relationship and a vital necessity. And yet, many of us have difficulty committing to daily prayer. Follow Jesus into the desert this Lent and discover intimacy with God in this 6-week video-based study with daily meditation.

Living Lent as a Family

<https://watch.formed.org/living-lent-as-a-family>

Have you ever wanted to live more liturgically but not known how? This 4-part series assists families by providing these discussions on liturgical living during Lent to be a resource for the Domestic Church—the home

Be sure to check out other Lenten selections on our Parish website at www.olgcv.org. Click on “Formed” on the navigation bar.

Not a member yet? Register for free by visiting www.olgcv.formed.org and type in “Our Lady of Grace, Castro Valley, CA” to become a member.



**OLG SCHOOL’S FABULOUS 50’S DANCE PARTY & AUCTION
Saturday, March 23rd
5:30-8:00pm
Stack Center**

All are invited for an amazing night of Auction, Hula Hoop and Limbo Contests, Tasty Diner Bites, Photo Booth and Dancing!

Purchase your tickets ahead of time for \$35 per adult and \$25 per student. Tickets will also be sold at the door for \$40 each.

Get your tickets today. Scan the QR code to purchase your tickets online.



FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

First Communion-Year 2

Next Class: March 3rd
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

JESUS is THE LORD

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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



1ST FRIDAY TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

Join us for Traditional Latin Mass on **March 1st** at 7:00pm, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

SEEKING EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

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 an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Assignments are made on a rotating basis based on individual availability and Mass preference. Training is minimal. Please call the Parish Office at 510-537-0806 and leave your contact information. Someone will get back to you. God Bless!

MEN'S FAITH SHARE

The OLG's Men Faith Share Group meets on Tuesdays at 7:00pm in Stack Center, Room 7. All men of the Parish are invited to come. This group meets each week to read and discuss the upcoming Sunday's readings for the Mass. If you are looking for a small group setting to pray with and explore the Word each week, plan on joining us!

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
Month Budgeted Goal:	\$ 42,100.00
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [5,077.00]
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [5,077.00]

May God bless your continuing generosity.



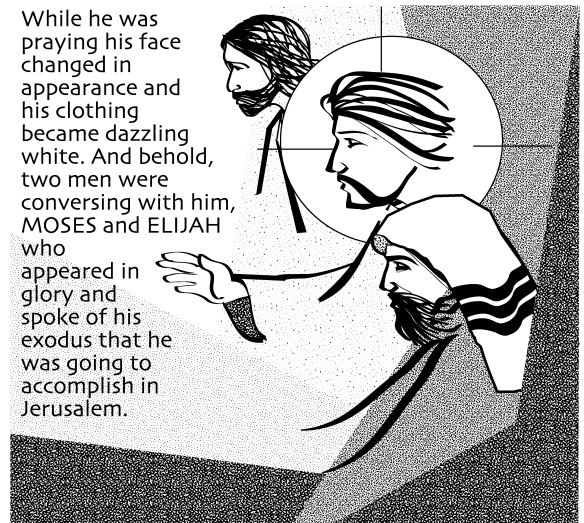
Your Prayers Are Requested

Please lift up in your prayer those among us who are ill and those who have asked for our prayerful remembrance:

Jaime Arce
Phyllis Barthman
Lois Belmessieri
Jot Brown
Raul Cepeda
Nancy French
Joan Gabrielli
Brian Linney
Sheila McAlinden
Mike Miraglia

Julie Richardson
Diana Riley
Jenny Roberts
Al Rojas
Helen Star
Alyssia Tortora
James Van Wert
Arthur Williams
Peggy Winkenbach

While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, MOSES and ELIJAH who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.



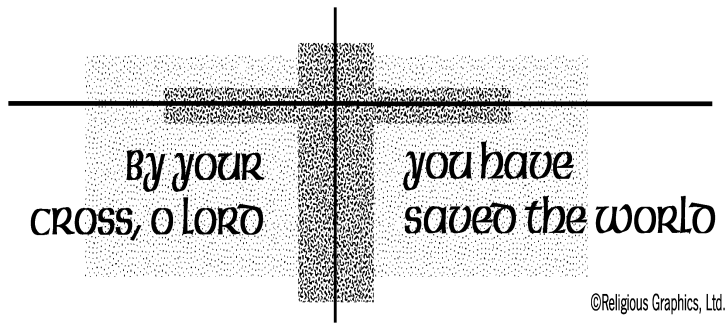
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Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.

In Memorial

**VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST**

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE



CELEBRATE CHILDREN!

Dear Parents,

Our parish enthusiastically welcomes your growing family to fully celebrate with us. May we suggest:

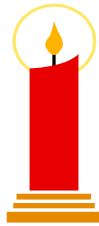
- ***Relax.** God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house.
- ***Sit** towards the front or aisle where it is easier for little ones to see & hear.
- ***Quietly** explain the parts of the Mass.
- ***Sing** the hymns and **pray** the prayers together.
Children learn from your actions.
- *If necessary, the Family Room located at the right side of the Church is available for your use.

To all Parishioners:

The presence of children is a gift to your Church. Like all of us, they are members of the Body of Christ and a reminder of the growth and future of our Church. Please welcome our children and their parents, and give them a big smile of encouragement!

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.



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.

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Pray for me, that I should not only preach, but first of all practice myself what I write to others."

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 25th:

The Second Sunday of Lent

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

Confirmation Class
12:15pm—Stack Center

Tuesday, February 27th:

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 28th:

Lenten Mass
6:00pm Mass—Church

Lenten Soup Meal
After the 6:00pm Mass—Stack Center

RCIA
7:00pm—Parish Office

Thursday, February 29th:

Adoration & Reconciliation
6:00pm—Church

Knights of Columbus Meeting
6:30pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

AA Serenity Group
7:30pm—Augustine Center

Friday, March 1st:

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

1st Friday Latin Mass
7:00pm—Church

Saturday, March 2nd:

Adoration & Reconciliation
8:45am—Church

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



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Mass Intentions for the Week

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

MONDAY, February 26th

8:15am Wanda Perino – L

TUESDAY, February 27th

St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

8:15am Manuel, Antonio & Belmida Freitas – D

WEDNESDAY, February 28th

8:15am Manuel Silva & Family – L

THURSDAY, February 29th

8:15am Alfredo de la Torre – D

FRIDAY, March 1st

8:15am Sean & Steph Kerchimer – L

SATURDAY, March 2nd

8:15am Augusto & Edwina Silva – D

5:00pm Barbara Swig – D

SUNDAY, March 3rd

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

7:30am OLG Community

9:00am Cindy Jardim – D

11:00am Manuel & Dorothy Callier – D

1:00pm Ramiro Navarro Ramirez – 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.

THIS WEEK--Continued

Sunday, March 3rd:

The Third Sunday of Lent

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

Confirmation Class
12:15pm—Stack Center

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

February 26th through March 3rd

- Monday: Daniel 9:4-10; Luke 6:36-38
- Tuesday: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12
- Wednesday: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28
- Thursday: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31
- Friday: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13,17-28; Matthew 21:33-43,45-46
- Saturday: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3,11-32
- Sunday: Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25



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

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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!

**2ND ANNUAL ST. JOSEPH CONFERENCE
St. Joseph & The Holy Eucharist**

St. Joseph Parish in Fremont invites all to attend their 2nd Annual St. Joseph Conference on **March 16th from 8:00am-3:00pm**. Mass at 8:00am will be celebrated by Bishop Barber, followed by breakfast, wonderful speakers, Adoration, Confession and lunch. There will also be a conversation with Blessed Carlo Acutis' mother, Mrs. Antonia Acutis. This conference is offered in English, Spanish, Mandarin and Vietnamese. To register, please visit: <https://www.saintjosephmsj.org/>

PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Everything a baptized person does every day should be directly or indirectly related to the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy."

-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:

LANDMARK VILLA