



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During this time of Lent, we are invited to grow in our relationship with God. This holy season presents an opportunity for us to set aside some quality time to be with the Lord, to talk with the Lord and listen to Him speak to us. Very simply, Lent invites us to spend time in prayer. And, please remember that when we pray, we enter into a conversation with God. Spending time in prayer, we strive to live out our deep desire to grow closer to God and to receive what God longs to give all of us: God's unconditional love.

Prayer, then, is the courage to listen to the gentle voice of love. Listening means allowing God space to speak to us: through the quiet of prayer, in our own deep desires, through the Scripture, or through the words of someone meaningful in our lives. As in any relationship, we are invited not only to speak, but also to listen with an open mind and heart. To do this we need to spend a few moments quieting down and settling into a prayerful and comfortable position. Then, we need to find a space where we are free of distractions. Silence and solitude can help us focus on things like the reading of Scripture or looking back on moments from one's day/life. A quiet place helps us to listen more deeply to God's presence, as well as taking note of our response.

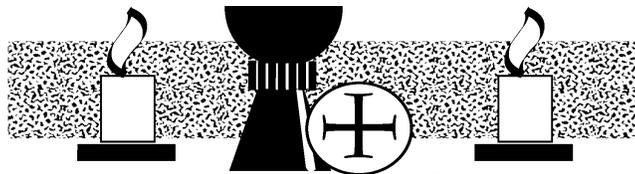
Even when we might not have time to quiet down, we can be assured that God meets us where we are. That means that God does speak to us in the noise and confusion of our day. Even if we only have time to stop for a moment, calling to mind God's presence, or speak a petition...that's prayer.

There are several different methods of prayer. Here are a few classic methods of prayer that you might want to make a part of own prayer life:

- **The Rosary:** This popular devotional prayer invites us to meditate on the saving mysteries of Jesus' life and the faithful witness of Mary, our Mother in faith.
- **Lectio Divina:** In this prayer of "divine reading," we listen to how God speaks to us through slowly reading and contemplating Scripture or other texts.
- **Centering Prayer:** We focus silently on a sacred word that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us.
- **Contemplation:** We use our imagination to place ourselves in a scene from Scripture using all our senses and take notice of how God may be speaking to us.
- **The Examen:** An opportunity for us to prayerfully review our day in the presence of God.

Let each of us find a prayer method with which we are comfortable so that our relationship with God can grow. Throughout these 40 days of Lent, we are given an excellent opportunity for God to know our hearts and our needs and be drawn into a deeper communion with Him. At all times, pray!

-Fr. Raphael



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The Fourth Sunday of Lent (March 10th)

John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

Jesus Christ Son of God & Savior

IXΘΥΣ

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WEDNESDAY LENTEN MASS & SOUP MEAL

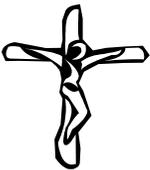


Join us for our Lenten Masses held on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm, followed by a simple meal of soup and bread in Stack Center. It will be a time for fellowship and families coming together. Our next Lenten Soup Meal is on **March 6th**. We thank our Hispanic Community for their hospitality for this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



LENTEN FISH FRY

Join us on **March 15th** before or after Stations of the Cross for a delicious Fish Fry in Stack Center from 5:00-7:00pm. Cost is \$10 per person. Enjoy a delicious fish dinner prepared by the Knights of Columbus and enjoy the company of fellow parishioners.



**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

Reconciliation and Adoration is 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.



**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.

FORMED 40 DAYS OF LENT WITH FORMED.ORG

The Three Temptations with Dr. Brant Pitre
<https://watch.formed.org/lent/videos/the-three-temptations>

Reflect with Dr. Brant Pitre on the temptations of Jesus in the desert as he gets to the heart of the meaning of Lent.

Walking with Jesus: The Rosary Prayers in Song
<https://formed.org/lent-2/videos/walking-with-jesus-the-rosary-prayers-in-song>

Let you and your child's hearts be filled with the joy of God's wonderful love as you listen to these powerfully moving songs depicting the life, death, Resurrection, and glory of His Son through the prayers of the Rosary.

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.

**ICF'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER
March 14th**



Branch #343 of the ICF will host a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner in Stack Center. Doors open at 5:30pm and dinner will be served at 6:00pm. Cost is \$20 per person. Be sure to bring a small dessert to share! Donations will also be accepted for St. Vincent de Paul of Transfiguration Church. Parishioners who wish to attend should call Pat at 510-538-2844. Please make your reservations by **March 10th**. Hope to see you there!

FORGIVE

as the Lord forgives

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ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIAL DONORS

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

Given By:	In Memory of / In Honor of:
Anonymous	
Sanaz Jamloo	Abraham & Keshvar Moussavi
Louise Marchino	Frank Lang
Kaye McCann	John McCann
Maria Zambrano	Jose & Gloria Areas



The **March 2024** issue of The Catholic Voice is available. See page 10 of this issue—*Our Lady of Grace Parish is mentioned as one of the 35 parishes in the Diocese that have met or exceeded their 2023 Bishop's Appeals Goal.* Visit: <https://www.oakdiocese.org/catholicvoiceoakland>

OLG LIONS AT THE LINKS Charity Golf Tournament Save the Date-May 13th

Support OLG School at Redwood Canyon Golf Course and help them close the gap with their needs-based scholarship fund for their outstanding and deserving students!

For more details, to sponsor or to register, please scan the QR code. Register today before prices increase after April 15th.



Questions? Please email: ptg@olgschool.org

GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE March 17th

OLG Girl Scout Troop will be selling Girl Scout Cookies after the 9:00am, 11:00am and 1:00pm Masses. You will be helping support the troop and their community outreach efforts.

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 | 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 | |

AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO MOSES IN FIRE FLAMING OUT OF A BUSH

MOSES! COME NO NEARER! REMOVE THE SANDALS FROM YOUR FEET, FOR THE PLACE WHERE YOU STAND IS HOLY GROUND.



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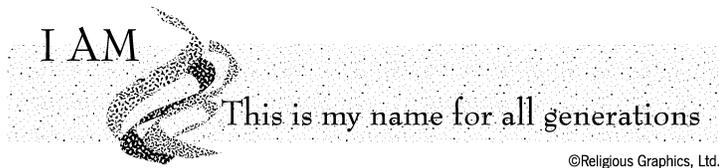
Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.

In Memorial

RAFAEL ALVARADO

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE



RCIA
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
 This week's class on **March 6th** will be held in the Parish Office instead of Stack Center, OLG Room.



COFFEE AND DONUTS
March 17th
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!

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

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

"We emulate good, righteous holy people yet none of them is flawless; only she, without stain of sin from the first instant of her existence, knows no fall, even the slightest. To imitate [The Immaculata], therefore, to draw near to her, to offer oneself up as property of her, to become her: that is the pinnacle of human perfection."

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 3rd:

The Third Sunday of Lent

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

Confirmation Class
 12:15pm—Stack Center

Monday, March 4th:

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

Tuesday, March 5th:

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, March 6th:

Lenten Mass
 6:00pm Mass—Church

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

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

RCIA
 7:00pm—Parish Office

Thursday, March 7th:

Adoration & Reconciliation
 6:00pm—Church

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

AA Serenity Group
 7:30pm—Augustine Center

Friday, March 8th:

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

Saturday, March 9th:

Adoration & Reconciliation
 8:45am—Church



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Mass Intentions for the Week

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

MONDAY, March 4th

St. Casimir

- 8:15am Louis Rodrigues – D

TUESDAY, March 5th

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

WEDNESDAY, March 6th

- 8:15am Jose Morcate – D

THURSDAY, March 7th

Sts. Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs

- 8:15am Maria del Carmen Ortega – D

FRIDAY, March 8th

St. John of God, Religious

- 8:15am Mary Jardin – D

SATURDAY, March 9th

St. Frances of Rome, Religious

- 8:15am Florencia & Francisco Gonzales – D
- 5:00pm Gary Rodrigues – D

SUNDAY, March 10th

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

- 7:30am OLG Community
- 9:00am Howard Songey – D
- 11:00am Antonio Mendes Goncalves – D
- 1:00pm Rosa Martinez Reyes – D

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

March 4th through March 10th

- Monday: 2 Kings 5:1-15; Luke 4:24-30
- Tuesday: Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35
- Wednesday: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19
- Thursday: Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23
- Friday: Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34
- Saturday: Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14
- Sunday: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21



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.

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.

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

Speaker: Mary Jo McConahay

Topic: *“Prayer and Faithful Citizenship in a Politically Charged Environment”*

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

PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice.”

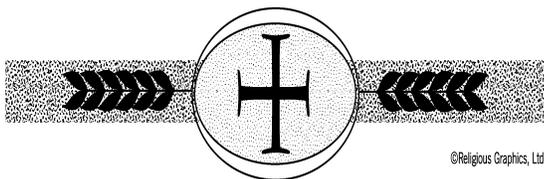
-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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:

OUR LADY OF GRACE SCHOOL



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THIS WEEK--Continued

Sunday, March 10th:

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

Whole Family Program
10:15am—Augustine Center