



Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Looking to the beginning of The Season of Lent, I would like to share with you excerpts from this year's Lenten Message of Pope Francis:

Lent is the season of grace...the Lord draws us once more to himself, whispering words of love to our hearts...If our celebration of Lent is to be concrete, the first step is to desire to open our eyes to reality ...the cry of so many of our oppressed brothers and sisters...Do we hear that cry? Does it trouble us? Does it move us? All too many things keep us apart from each other...Do we want a new world? Are we ready to leave behind our compromises with the old?...we need to combat a deficit of hope that stifles dreams and the silent cry that reaches to heaven and moves the heart of God....

Lent is a season of conversion, a time of freedom. For forty days, he (Jesus) will stand before us and with us: the incarnate Son....The desert is the place where our freedom can mature....It is time to act, and in Lent, to act also means to pause in order to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan in the presence of a wounded brother or sister. Love of God and love of neighbor are one love...For this reason, prayer, almsgiving and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptyingThen the heart will revive. Slow down, then, and pause! The contemplative dimension of life that Lent helps us to rediscover will release new energies. In the presence of God, we become brothers and sisters, more sensitive to one another...This is God's dream...

Lent is also a time of communitarian decisions, of decisions, small and large, that are countercurrent. Decisions capable of altering the daily lives of individuals and entire neighborhoods, such as the ways we acquire goods, care for creation, and strive to include those who go unseen or are looked down upon. I invite every Christian community to do just this: to offer its members moments set aside to rethink their lifestyles, times to examine their presence in society and the contribution they make to its betterment...let others see joyful faces, catch the scent of freedom and experience the love that makes all things new, beginning with the smallest and those nearest to us.

To the extent that this Lent becomes a time of conversion, an anxious humanity will notice a burst of creativity, a flash of new hope...let us find the courage to see our world...in a process of giving birth, not at the end but at the beginning of a great new chapter of history...I bless all of you and your Lenten journey.

-Francis

And so, as Lent begins, let us pray that we, indeed, turn away from sin and are faithful to the Gospel. Make prayer, almsgiving and fasting a genuine experience throughout these forty days of Lent. Let's join together with Pope Francis in visualizing God's dream... to see our world in a process of new birth. During this Season of Lent, pray that we all experience anew the love of God and neighbor which makes all things new.

Finally, I'd like to share Bishop Barber's Holy Communion policies to be observed by Ash Wednesday, February 14th:

On the Manner of Reception of Holy Communion

In the United States, the body of Bishops has determined that "the norm...is that Holy Communion is to be received standing, unless an individual member of the faithful wishes to receive Communion while kneeling" and that a bow is the act of reverence made by those receiving. The communicant may choose to receive standing or kneeling, on the hand or on the tongue. It is the communicant's choice and not the minister's choice.

Kneeling During Mass

The General Instruction for the Roman Missal for the U.S. states that "In the diocese of the United States of America, they should kneel beginning after the singing or recitation of the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) until after the Amen of the Eucharistic Prayer, except when prevented by ill health, lack of space, large number of people or any other reasonable cause. The faithful join the rest of the faithful of the country in kneeling after the Lamb of God in order to prepare ourselves reverently for reception of Holy Communion.

Following Reception of Holy Communion

Each person may stand, sit or kneel as they choose until the priest asks everyone to stand for the Prayer After Communion.

Confirmation and Baptism Sponsors

Should be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church. Baptized Catholics should join a Confirmation Ceremony administered by the Bishop at the parish or at the Cathedral.



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-Fr. Raphael

The First Sunday of Lent (February 18th)

Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."



Remember you are dust
and unto dust
you shall return

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**ASH WEDNESDAY
February 14th**

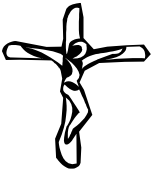


Join us for Ash Wednesday as we begin the season of Lent. Our schedule is as follows:

- 7:00am** Friary at 19697 Redwood Road
- 8:00am** Transfiguration Church
- 8:15am** Mass with School
- 12 Noon** Prayer Service with Ashes
- 6:00pm** Mass

Ash Wednesday Soup Meal

Join us in Stack Center following the 6:00pm Mass as we share a simple meal of soup and bread with fellow parishioners. *We thank our Whole Family and 1st Communion families for their hospitality.*



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS
English & Spanish
Begins February 16th**

Stations of the Cross, led by our school students is offered at Our Lady of Grace on February 16th at 11:00am. 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).*

DO NOT BE AFRAID OF 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.

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!



REGULATIONS FOR LENT

Abstinence and Fasting:

Abstinence from eating meat is to be observed on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays during Lent. This applies to all persons 14 and older. The law of fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday applies to all persons 18 or older and younger than 59.

Fasting means that one full meatless meal per day may be eaten. Two other meatless meals may be taken sufficient to maintain strength, but together they should not equal a full meal. Liquids, including milk and fruit juice, may be taken between meals. If health or ability to work is affected, fasting does not oblige. Private, self-imposed observance of fasting on Lenten weekdays is strongly recommended. Parents should ensure that children who are not bound by the laws of fast and abstinence are taught an authentic sense of penance, conversion and reconciliation.

Lenten Observance:

Catholics are encouraged to participate in Holy Mass and in the Sacrament of Penance during Lent, and parishes are encouraged to provide regular and frequent opportunities for such participation. Likewise encouraged are devotions such as Stations of the Cross, vigils and prayer services (with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, if opportune). Traditional practices - including increased prayer, Scripture and spiritual reading, alms, personal self-denial in food and drink, increased care and service to the sick and needy - are also suggested.

Easter Duty:

All initiated Catholics are bound by the obligations of receiving Communion at least once a year and to confess sacramentally all serious sins not previously acknowledged in individual Confession. This precept must be fulfilled during the Easter duty season, which is from the first Sunday of Lent until Trinity Sunday.

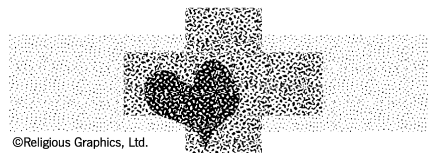


**CYO TRACK & FIELD
REGISTRATION**



Registration is closing soon!

CYO Track & Field is open to grades K-8. Fee for the 2024 program year is \$100 per athlete (\$90 per athlete for families registering 2 or more). **Registration closes on February 16th. To register and for more details, please visit: www.olgcvcyo.com.** If you have questions or if you would like to coach or assist with administration, please email: olgcyocv@gmail.com. Go Lions!



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FORMED

40 DAYS OF LENT WITH FORMED

Exploring what Formed.org has to offer is a wonderful way to help us prepare our hearts and minds during this Lenten season. Take advantage of the many free movies, ebooks and podcasts which can be shared with family and friends. You will also find choices which are educational and entertaining for the youngest members of your family.

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.

Be sure to check out our Lenten selections on our parish website at www.olgcv.org and click on "Formed" on the navigation bar.



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.



COFFEE AND DONUTS February 18th

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!

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]

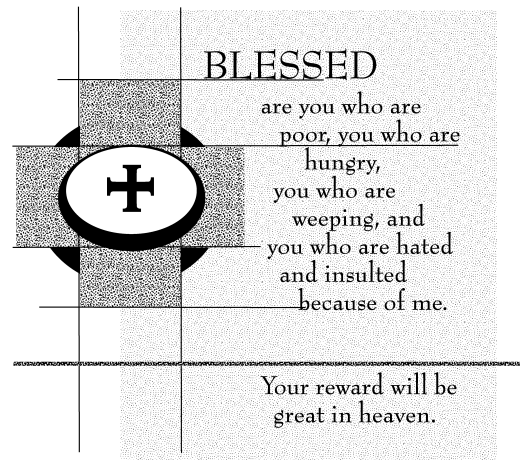
May God bless your continuing generosity.



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 | 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 | |



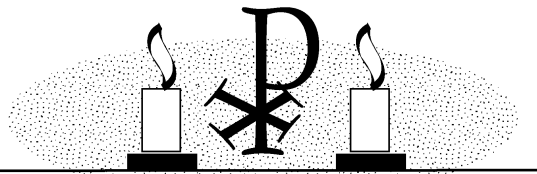
Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.

In Memorial

PETER CAIN

**VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST**

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE



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**OUR LADY OF GRACE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS**



- Thank you to all who came to the Open House on January 28th.
- Our newly updated website is now “live”. It’s up and running! Visit: www.olgschool.org
- New families may register students for the 2024-2025 school year on the website.
- The re-enrollment page on the website is scheduled to go “live” on February 7th.
- Our Kindergarteners recently took the STAR test and all scored above *1st graders* in reading readiness. Our dual-language program is really paying off!



COLUMBIETTES

Attention Ladies! Are you interested in becoming active in our parish? Come see what the Columbiettes are all about. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 6:30-7:30pm in Stack Center, OLG Room. Come to our next meeting on **February 21st**. For additional information, please visit: <https://www.californiacolumbiettes.com>

**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/>

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Love the Immaculata ever more everyday, and so for all eternity, because only at the time of death will that love freely blaze forth.”

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 11th:

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Tuesday, February 13th:

- 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 14th:

- Ash Wednesday*
8:15am (School Liturgy), Noon (Prayer Service w/ Ashes) & 6:00pm—Church
- Lenten Soup Meal
After the 6:00pm Mass—Stack Center

Thursday, February 15th:

- Adoration & Reconciliation
6:00pm—Church
- AA Serenity Group
7:30pm—Augustine Center

Friday, February 16th:

- Stations of the Cross*
11:00am (School), 6:00pm (English) & 6:30pm (Spanish)—Church

Saturday, February 17th:

- Adoration & Reconciliation
8:45am—Church

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

SUNDAY, February 11th
 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
 7:30am Grace Gonsalves – D
 9:00am OLG Community
 11:00am Cristovao Chocha – L
 1:00pm Navarro & Sanchez Families – D

MONDAY, February 12th
 8:15am Jose & Manuel Farea – D

TUESDAY, February 13th
 8:15am Louis Rodrigues – D

WEDNESDAY, February 14th
 ASH WEDNESDAY
 8:15am Mass (School Liturgy)
 Noon Prayer Service with Ashes
 6:00pm Mass

THURSDAY, February 15th
 8:15am Avelina Garcia – D

FRIDAY, February 16th
 8:15am Barbara Swig – D

SATURDAY, February 17th
 The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
 8:15am Sean Maher – D
 5:00pm Antonio O. Chocha – D

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

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 12th through February 18th

Monday: James 1:1-11; Mark 8:11-13
 Tuesday: James 1:12-18; Mark 8:14-21
 Wednesday: Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6,16-18
 Thursday: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25
 Friday: Isaiah 58:1-9; Matthew 9:14-15
 Saturday: Isaiah 58:9-14; Luke 5:27-32
 Sunday: Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

RELEVANT RADIO - 1260 AM

Relevant Radio brings you the best in  Catholic Radio 24/7! Playing on 1260AM and dedicated to sharing the heart of the Catholic Faith and changing lives.

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: **February 15th**, 9:00am to 11:15am

Speaker: Sharon Chipman

Topic: “The Grace of Vulnerability”

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

PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“May God of peace arouse in all an authentic desire for dialogue and reconciliation. Violence cannot be overcome with violence. Violence is overcome with peace.”

-Pope Francis, 2014

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:

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