



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Sunday is Laetare Sunday. It calls to mind that we are at the halfway point through Lent. Drawing closer to the Celebration of Easter, Laetare Sunday offers us the opportunity to check how we are doing with our fasting, our doing penance and our giving alms.

Having considered prayer and almsgiving, it would be beneficial for us to reflect on how our fasting prepares us for Easter. Thinking about the many opportunities for us to fast, we should be making the effort to make our fasting meaningful. Whatever our fasting entails, let's pray that what we have done so far in this Lenten Season and what we will do will unite us with and bring us closer to Our Lord.

My friends, fasting needs to be a form of sacrifice. We intentionally ought to deprive ourselves of something and offer up that inconvenience in union with Christ's suffering on the cross. In a very real sense, we should be removing something from our lives in order to make more space for Christ. The real purpose of fasting then is so that we can spend more time with Jesus. We have to make a conscious effort to replace the things we are fasting from with something that will help us grow in our relationship with Jesus. Along with Lenten fasting that we are all called to do, even though many promise to give up chocolates or junk food and the like throughout these 40 days, we need to have the right frame of mind. How is our fasting bringing us closer to Christ? Along with the familiar forms of fasting, we also can try and do something a little different. Maybe some are doing this style of fasting but, with a few weeks left before the Celebration of the Resurrection, maybe others would like to develop a new style of fasting. Whatever you have done up to now and what you will do for the rest of Lent, needs to have a purpose and that purpose is to grow closer in relationship with Christ.

Here are just a few ideas:

-getting up 15 minutes earlier to pray
-read the daily Mass Readings
-sit in silence for 10 minutes a day
-make an examination of conscience each evening
-affirm others
-reading a spiritual book for 15 minutes

These are just a few ideas. There are so many more that we can do on our faith journey. In all these, let's focus on the Lord who has suffered and died for us and is risen for us and for our salvation. Celebrating Laetare Sunday, through the remainder of this Lenten Season, may the Lenten Practices we incorporate into our daily activities, draw us closer to Jesus.

- Fr. Raphael



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The Fifth Sunday of Lent (March 17th)

John 12:20-33

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

Be reconciled
to GOD



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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 13th**. *We thank our Confirmation Students for their hospitality for this meal.* Financial donations will also be accepted for CRS Rice Bowl.

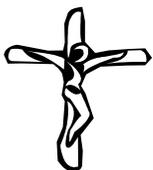
LENTEN FISH FRY



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.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation and Adoration is available every Thursday at 6:00pm and Saturday at 9:00am, after the 8:15am Mass.



**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. *On Good Friday, March 29th, join us for Stations in English at Noon and in Spanish at 6:00pm.*

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
BISHOP'S OVERSEAS APPEAL
March 9th & 10th**

This week we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to **reveal Christ's love** to our brothers and sisters in need. This collection makes grants to six Catholic agencies that provide relief and support for struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters, both here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Please make your check out to "Catholic Charities". Envelopes are in the pews for your use. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief

**PASSING OF OUR FORMER PASTOR
Fr. Robert (Bob) Gavotto, O.S.A.**



We are saddened by the news of Fr. Bob's passing on March 4th. Fr. Bob served Our Lady of Grace Church from 1992-1997. He is well-remembered for spearheading the capital campaign of the construction of Augustine Center.



**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!

For a sneak preview of the auction items and to place your bids, scan this QR code. **Bidding opens at 8:00am on March 15th and closes at 6:30pm on March 23rd.**



Purchase your tickets today for \$35 per adult and \$25 per student by scanning this QR code.



Tickets will also be sold at the door for \$40 each.

FORMED 40 DAYS OF LENT WITH FORMED.ORG

The Passion According to St. Luke
<https://watch.formed.org/lent/videos/the-passion-according-to-saint-luke-film>

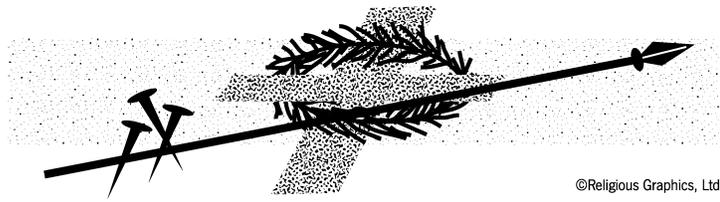
In a captivating one-man dramatization, Shakespearean actor Leonardo Defilippis vividly brings to life St. Luke's account of Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Brother Francis: The Stations of the Cross
<https://watch.formed.org/lent/videos/brother-francis-the-stations-of-the-cross>

Invite your kids to join Brother Francis as he follows our Lord on his way to the Cross.

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.



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**GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE
March 17th**

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

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!



**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.

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 FEBRUARY:

Sunday Plate for the month:	\$ 38,099.00
Month Budgeted Goal:	\$ 49,608.00
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [11,509.00]
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [16,975.00]

May God bless your continuing generosity.

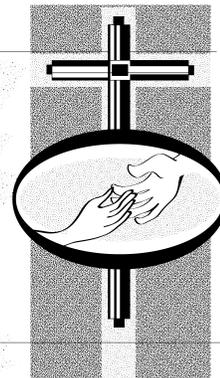


Your Prayers Are Requested

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

BEHOLD
new things have come.
And all this is from
GOD
who has reconciled us
to himself through
JESUS CHRIST
and given us the
ministry of reconciliation,
entrusting to us
the message of
reconciliation
So we are
ambassadors for
**JESUS
CHRIST**



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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

- FR. BOB GAVOTTO, O.S.A.**
JIM MULVANEY
RAFAEL ALVARADO

**VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST**
VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE



THIS WEEK



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 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!

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

If you have an IRA and are over the age of 70 1/2, you are faced with a required minimum distribution from your IRA. The IRS has a qualified charitable donation rule that allows you to exempt your distribution from taxes. The significant advantage of this is that it lowers your adjusted gross income. The main rules are: donation must be paid directly from the IRA to the charity; the donor must be over 70½; the amount is limited to \$100k. If you are in this situation, check and see if it makes sense for you to apply this IRS rule and direct your distribution to Our Lady of Grace Parish. *May God Bless your generous giving.*

COMMUNITY DAY AT THE JESUIT RETREAT CENTER OF LOS ALTOS April 13th

All are invited to spend the day and explore the hidden Jewel of the Peninsula! Discover the history and beauty of this 38-acre Jesuit retreat center in Silicon Valley.



Scan the QR code to select your tour of trails and grounds, time and location.

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The Immaculata leads forward her work with energy, despite the difficulties and obstacles of various kinds. Glory to her for all things.”

Sunday, March 10th:

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

Whole Family Program
10:15am—Augustine Center

Tuesday, March 12th:

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 13th:

Lenten Mass
6:00pm Mass—Church

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

RCIA
7:00pm—Parish Office

Thursday, March 14th:

ICF St. Patrick’s Day Dinner & Meeting
5:30pm—Stack Center

Adoration & Reconciliation
6:00pm—Church

AA Serenity Group
7:30pm—Augustine Center

Friday, March 15th:

Fish Fry
5:00pm—Stack Center

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

Saturday, March 16th:

Adoration & Reconciliation
8:45am—Church

Sunday, March 17th:

The Fifth 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, 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

MONDAY, March 11th

- 8:15am Lilia Sousa – D

TUESDAY, March 12th

- 8:15am Andrew & Lasalette Capote – L

WEDNESDAY, March 13th

- 8:15am Alejandro Porcuna Jr. – D

THURSDAY, March 14th

- 8:15am The Linney Family

FRIDAY, March 15th

- 8:15am Jayruby & Virgilio Jugar – D

SATURDAY, March 16th

- 8:15am Steve Kluess – L
- 5:00pm Ramon Perez Jr. – D

SUNDAY, March 17th

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

- 7:30am Jeanette Willison – L
- 9:00am Antonio O. Chocha – D
- 11:00am OLG Community
- 1:00pm Jose Duarte – D



ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIALS

We are looking to have 6 monthly sponsors for our Altar Candles and ask for a donation of \$20 to cover the cost of the candles for the month. Our donors will be recognized in the 1st bulletin of the month and there will be a monthly Mass offered for the intention of our Candle Memorial. Many blessed thanks for those who have donated. For more information, please call the Parish Office at 510-537-0806.

EXECUTION ALERTS

The following execution is scheduled to take place in **March**:

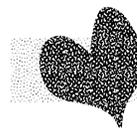
March 13th James Harris, Jr. Texas

We ask for your prayers for this person for the victims of his crimes, and for their families.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

March 11th through March 17th

- Monday: Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54
- Tuesday: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16
- Wednesday: Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30
- Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; John 5:31-47
- Friday: Wis 2:1,12-22; John 7:1-2,10,25-30
- Saturday: Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53
- Sunday: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33



*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!

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 21st**, 9:00am to 11:15am

Speaker: Sharon Cornu

Topic: *"The Path to Working Together to End Homelessness"*

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

PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I really only love God as much as I love the person I love the least."

-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:

PETE'S ACE HARDWARE