



### Mission Alignment Process (MAP)

The Assessment Team, Barbara Mehan and Mike Dresen from Transfiguration, and Roberta Santiago and Heidi Denzler-Halsey from Our Lady of Grace, continues to look at the life of each of our Parishes, Our Lady of Grace and Transfiguration. The team has been asked to review each Church, spiritual, physical and financial, using the three focal points that Bishop Barber has established as hallmarks for the Diocese, Sunday Worship, Missionary Discipleship and Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

And so, as the team continues to meet, we will be discussing the various aspects/areas of our parishes' life and will gauge the life of each church community in light of these hallmarks. A tool that will be of assistance in our discussions is a survey that was conducted throughout the Diocese in 2021 entitled: The Disciple Make Index, also referred to as the DMI. This survey considered Factors of a Thriving Parish. The areas included in the survey began with the demographics of our churches, the strengths and opportunities present in our churches along with insights from parishioners who reported being heavily involved in the life of the parish.

There were questions asking parishioners if you would likely recommend your parish to others in search of a faith community or if you would say that your parish is helping you grow spiritually. Parishioners were asked how often they shared their faith with others. It also posed questions related to parishioners' degree of belief in core teachings of the faith. It also asked questions related to how well the parish supports you personally and spiritually. There were questions directly related to the Sunday experience and questions related to parish leadership. The survey also presented questions related to your faith practices and questions related to the missionary discipleship practices of people.

Along with the guidance of a consulting firm, the team will be presenting to the Bishop and the Diocese its findings to the Diocese as we continue to move forward in the Mission Alignment Process (MAP). As the process continues, we understand that this process may be disconcerting to many parishioners. Please know that you are more than welcome to speak to anyone of the assessment team regarding your questions or concerns.

Finally, we ask that you remember our cluster in your prayers as the assessment team discerns what is best for our parishes and trust that God will guide us to changes that are best for both parishes. Your support and trust are critical as we engage in these conversations to provide a sustainable and bright future for our parish communities.

-Fr. Raphael



*Take up your cross  
and follow the Lord*

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### **The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (September 15th)**

**Mark 8:27-35**

Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said to him in reply, "You are the Christ." Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him. He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. He spoke this openly. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it."

OUR LADY OF GRACE 2024 HARVEST FESTIVAL  
 Saturday, September 28th and Sunday, September 29th



**2024 FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL  
 September 28th & 29th**

**Family Fun For All!**

Free admission, Outdoor Sunday Morning Mass, Live Entertainment, Exciting Raffle, Carnival Games, International Gourmet Food, Pancake Breakfast, Pasta Dinner and more!

**Get Your Tickets Ahead of Time!**

**Games and Food Booths  
 Pasta Dinner-Saturday, September 28th  
 Pancake Breakfast-Sunday, September 29th**

Beat the lines and get your Festival tickets today. Game and Food tickets are \$1 each. Pasta Dinner tickets are \$20 per adult and \$10 per child. Pancake Breakfast tickets are \$10 per adult and \$7 per child. Scan the QR code or visit our website at [www.olgcv.org](http://www.olgcv.org) and click on *2024 Fall Harvest Festival* on the homepage. You may also purchase tickets at the Parish Office.



**Volunteers Still Needed**

Slots are being filled but we still need more volunteers! Please visit our website at [www.olgcv.org](http://www.olgcv.org) and sign up by clicking on *2024 Fall Harvest Festival* on the homepage. Questions? Please email Kathleen Cande at [kathycande@aol.com](mailto:kathycande@aol.com).

**Become A Festival Sponsor**

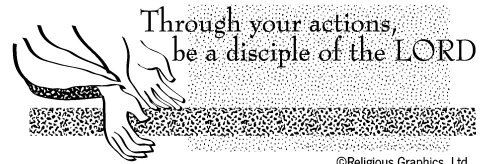
Consider being a Festival Sponsor-many generous individuals and businesses have sponsored the Festival in the past. Your Sponsorship will be acknowledged with a sign at the Festival as well as in our social media and Parish Bulletin. Please call the Parish Office for details at 510-537-0806.

**Get Your Festival T-Shirts**

Hurry before they run out! Cost is \$12 each child size and \$15 each adult size. Stop by the Parish Office to purchase or order online by visiting: <https://tinurl.com/2024festivaltshirt>.

**Raffle Tickets**

Be sure to return them to the Parish Office by **September 27th**. Donation is \$1 per ticket or \$20 for 21 tickets. You could win the Grand Prize of \$1000 or 2nd Prize of \$500! *If you need tickets, stop by the Parish Office to purchase them.*



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**DIOCESAN PRIEST RETIREMENT  
 BENEFIT TRUST  
 September 7th & 8th**

This special collection allow us to express gratitude and support for our retired and soon-to-be retired priests. They now face retirement with minimal government assistance. Please prayerfully consider how you can match their generosity to the Church by contributing to the Retirement Fund. Envelopes will be in the pews for your use. Please make your checks out to "Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland". Thank you and God bless.



**FAITH FORMATION  
 REGISTRATION  
 2024-2025**

***Classes Have Begun,  
 Register Today!***

Registration for *1st Communion, Confirmation and Whole Family Classes* is open for children entering grades 1st-12th.

Online Registration and payment is available on our website at [www.olgcv.org](http://www.olgcv.org). On the homepage, scroll down and click on the 'Faith Formation' or 'Confirmation' box.

Registration forms are also available in the Parish Office. Please bring your payment of check or cash when registering in person.

Cost is \$120 per child and \$60 for each additional child in the same household. **Avoid the \$20 late fee by registering by September 15th.** *Last day to register is October 6th.* If you are in need of financial assistance, please call the Parish Office at 510-537-0806.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY &  
 FAITH SHARE**



Ladies, please join us for this 8-part video Bible study on *Jesus and the End Times* presented by Dr. Brant Pitre.

**This study begins on Tuesday, September 17th and runs until to November 5th (7:00-8:30pm) in Stack Center, Room 7.**

If you would like to sign up, please contact Heidi Denzler at 510-881-7850 or [heidimdh106@gmail.com](mailto:heidimdh106@gmail.com). You may also sign up by contacting Jay in the Parish Office at 510-537-0806.

**OCIA (Formerly Known as RCIA)  
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults**

Our OCIA program invites all who are interested in knowing more about the Catholic faith or is seeking membership into the Church. Our 2024-2025 program will begin on **October 9th** (6:30-8:00pm) in the Parish Office. Classes will be held every Wednesday evening. To register, please call the Parish Office at 510-537-0806.

**JOIN THE OAKLAND CURSILLO!**

Do you or someone you know need to reexamine your faith life? The answer—come join us for a Cursillo weekend and experience firsthand an authentic Christian Community. The weekend helps give you a better understanding of church teachings, and time to sort out your own feelings about your faith. New friendships are formed, and a great deal of learning takes place. During the 3 days, candidates listen to talks given by both lay people and clergy. Some of the topics discussed are: *Finding Your Life Mission; Recognizing God's Grace; Growing in Discipleship; and Shaping our World.* Location: St. Elizabeth Seton in Pleasanton. **Upcoming dates—Men's Cursillo: September 12th-15th and Women's Cursillo: September 19th-22nd.** Please contact Roberta Santiago at 510-733-5193 for Women's Cursillo or Ron Emory at 510 825-6677 for Men's Cursillo.



**ICF'S BITES AND BINGO!**

Branch #343 of the Italian Catholic Federation invite all parishioners for a fun afternoon of *Bites and Bingo* in Stack Center, **September 21st from 11:30am to 2:30pm.** There will be delicious Hors d' Oeuvres, Desserts and Drinks, followed by Bingo and a Raffle. Entry fee is \$30 per adult and \$15 per child. Bingo winners will win big money prizes and there will also be prizes for the kids! Please make your reservations by calling Lisa Crudo at 510-861-9835.



**DINNER WITH THE FRANCISCANS  
Save the Date—November 9th  
Stack Center at 6:00pm**

Planning for the celebration of the **43rd Year of the Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino** is underway! Make plans to dine and enjoy an evening with our Franciscans as we raise funds supporting the Franciscan Seminarians. Cost is \$40 per person. Enjoy a delicious dinner by Star Catering, Wine and Beverages, Silent Auction and 50/50 Raffle! *We thank the Knights of Columbus for organizing this yearly event.*

**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 for the Month of AUGUST:**

Sunday Plate for the month:	\$ 36,950.00
<b>Month Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 37,348.00</b>
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [397.00]
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [2,852.00]

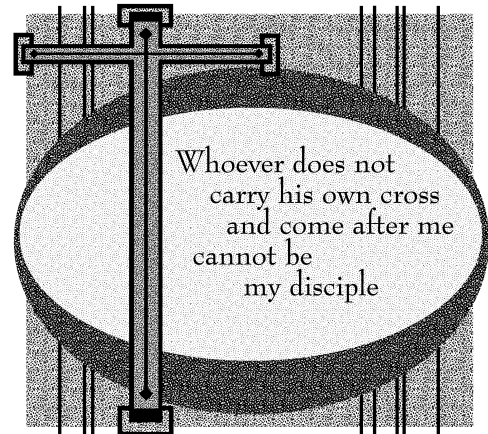
*May God bless your continuing generosity.*



**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:

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Esperanza Ortega Alarcón | Brian Linney     |
| Susan Anderson           | Cheryl Miraglia  |
| Lois Belmessieri         | Hector Paez      |
| Jot Brown                | Diana Riley      |
| Brian Bucholtz           | Al Rojas         |
| Virginia Cabardo         | Larry Salas      |
| Norma Dockter            | Jill Stavosky    |
| Nancy French             | Lisa Tortora     |
| Joan Gabrielli           | Arthur Williams  |
| Maria C. Gallegos        | Peggy Winkenbach |



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

**In Memorial**

**CHAD WALSH**

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



**MANY MINISTRIES  
ONE CHURCH**  
BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL 2024

**2024 BISHOP'S  
MINISTRIES APPEAL**

*Many thanks to those parishioners who have already generously contributed towards our Bishop's Ministries Appeal.* Following is the status of this appeal through **July 31st**:

Actual Donations Received: **\$23,809.00**  
 Overall Goal for 2024: **\$29,000.00**  
 # of Acknowledged Donors to date: **78**  
 Funds Raised (includes pledges): **\$27,026.00**

*It's the FINAL PUSH!* We are currently at **82%** of our goal. Please use the envelopes provided in the pews or make your donation online by visiting: <https://www.oakdiocese.org/bishops-ministries-appeal>.

We thank you for your generosity.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
IS LOOKING FOR HELP**



**Cooking For Sunday Meals**

Every Sunday our St. Vincent de Paul team visits 9 to 10 homeless camps. Among other things, we provide hot meals which are prepared by a wonderful team of individual volunteers. **We are always looking for volunteers to cook a one-container meal.** The largest meal we want would serve 10 to 12 and the smallest to serve one. You may cook whatever you wish. We send out a sign-up sheet each month and you can sign up for a weekend when you want to cook. This meal is then dropped off in front of the Friary (school entrance) at 1:00pm. If you are interested in being on the mailing list, please contact Chris Ippolito at [christineippolito@comcast.net](mailto:christineippolito@comcast.net).

**Donations of Hygienic Items**

St. Vincent de Paul will be taking donations of **hygiene items** for the months of September and October. Any small to medium sizes that can be used for our single folks and couples would be greatly appreciated. There will be bins at the Somerset and parking lot sides of the church and also a bin in the Parish Office. May God bless you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please contact Heidi at [svdp@olgcv.org](mailto:svdp@olgcv.org) or 510-881-7850.

**MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

*"The souls who know [the Immaculata] more closely and love her most fervently strive harder to make their consciences always more pure and sensitive, with the aim of resembling her more and more, to please her more and more, to make her ever happier."*

**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, September 8th:**

*The Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Coffee & Donuts  
 After the 9:00am Mass—Gathering Area  
 1st Communion Class—Year 2  
 10:15am—Stack Center  
 Confirmation Class  
 11:15am—Stack Center

**Tuesday, September 10th:**

Men's Cursillo Meeting  
 6:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room  
 Men's Faith Share  
 7:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

**Thursday, September 12th:**

Adoration & Reconciliation  
 6:00pm—Church  
 AA Serenity Group  
 7:30pm—Stack Center, Room 9

**Saturday, September 14th:**

Adoration & Reconciliation  
 8:45am—Church

**Sunday, September 15th:**

*The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Whole Family Class  
 10:15am—Stack Center



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**EXECUTION ALERTS**

The following executions are scheduled to take place in **September**:

<b>September 20th</b>	Freddie Eugene Owens	SC
<b>September 24th</b>	Travis James Mullis	TX
<b>September 24th</b>	Marcellus "Khaliifah" Williams	MO
<b>September 26th</b>	Alan Eugene Miller	AL
<b>September 26th</b>	Emmanuel Antonio Littlejohn	OK

We ask for your prayers for these persons for the victims of their crimes, and for their families.

# Mass Intentions for the Week

**SUNDAY, September 8th**  
 THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
 7:30am Geraldine Bargiacchi – D  
 9:00am Mike Mriaglia – D  
 11:00am OLG Community  
 1:00pm Elvira Vazquez & Gilberto Ramos – D

**MONDAY, September 9th**  
 St. Peter Claver, Priest  
 8:15am Ruth & Marvin Picha – D

**TUESDAY, September 10th**  
 8:15am Lilia Sousa – D

**WEDNESDAY, September 11th**  
 8:15am Alejandro Porcuna Jr. – D

**THURSDAY, September 12th**  
 The Most Holy Name of Mary  
 8:15am Mariano Realina – D

**FRIDAY, September 13th**  
 St. John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor of the Church  
 8:15am Xavier Ramos – D

**SATURDAY, September 14th**  
 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
 8:15am Joe Silva – D  
 5:00pm Antonio Goncalves – D

**SUNDAY, September 15th**  
 THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
 7:30am Jasmin Magtanong – D  
 9:00am OLG Community  
 11:00am Andrew & Lasalette Capote – L  
 1:00pm Angelina Ramires – D

## OLG SCHOOL IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Our Lady of Grace Catholic School is accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year. For more information and to apply, please visit: [www.olgschool.org](http://www.olgschool.org). To schedule a tour, please email Dr. Gena McGowan, Principal at [gmcgowan@cso.org](mailto:gmcgowan@cso.org) or call 510-581-3155.



## 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:

September 9th through September 15th

Monday: 1 Corinthians 5:1-8; Luke 6:6-11  
 Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 6:1-11; Luke 6:12-19  
 Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 7:25-31; Luke 6:20-26  
 Thursday: 1 Corinthians 8:1-7, 11-13; Luke 6:27-38  
 Friday: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-27; Luke 6:39-42  
 Saturday: Numbers 21:4-9; Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17  
 Sunday: Isaiah 50:4-9; James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35



## FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND

In Memory of

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.



## 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.

## PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered;...Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of 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:

**BERNIE KEMPEN CERTIFIED FAMILY LAW SPECIALIST**