



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

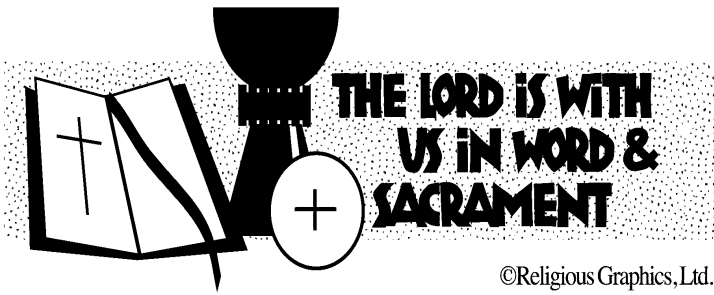


©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

### The Third Sunday of Lent (March 23rd)

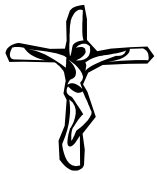
Luke 13:1-9

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus said to them in reply, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did! Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?' He said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.'"



**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 19th**. 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  
March 21st**

Stations of the Cross will be offered at 2:30pm, led by our school students. Evening Stations in English begins at 6:00pm and in Spanish at 6:45pm.

**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.

**THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR THE 2024 BISHOP'S APPEAL RESULTS**

We are most pleased to announce the Parish received a check from the Diocese 2024 Bishop's Ministries Appeal in the amount of \$10,249.24. These funds returned to the Parish represent the commitment and support of our donors to the Bishop's Ministries Appeal. All funds over our goal of \$29,000 were returned to us for Parish needs. We appreciate our donors role in sustaining the many vital ministries and programs funded by the Bishop's Ministries Appeal. This result is an example of coming together as members of one family united in Christ's love to realize and accomplish great things.

*Thank you to all our 2024 Appeal Donors!*

**FORMED 40 DAYS OF LENT WITH FORMED.ORG**

***Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession***

<https://watch.formed.org/forgiven>

This video explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love. By looking at God's revelation of his mercy in Scripture and making a step-by-step examination of the Rite itself, *Forgiven* communicates God's invitation to each one of us to come experience his indescribable love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

***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](http://www.olgcv.org). Click on “*Formed*” on the navigation bar.

Not a member yet? Register for free by visiting [www.olgcv.formed.org](http://www.olgcv.formed.org) and type in “*Our Lady of Grace, Castro Valley, CA*” to become a member.

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES  
BISHOP'S OVERSEAS APPEAL  
MARCH 22ND & 23RD**



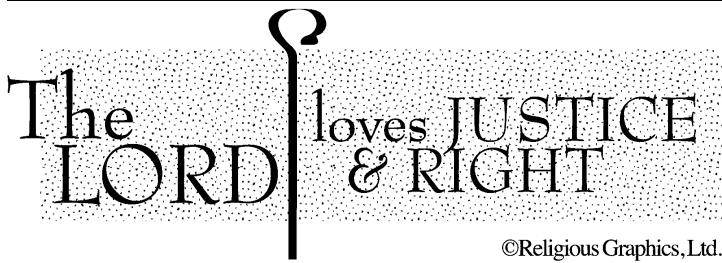
Next week our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at [www.ucscrb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.ucscrb.org/catholic-relief).



**MAKE THIS LENT MORE MEANINGFUL**

***Walking with Mary to Jerusalem with Fr. Toups***

We invite you to join us on a Lenten journey as we share weekly videos from Fr. Mark Toups each Monday via Flocknote during Lent. The Women's Faith Share meets on Tuesdays at 7:00pm in Stack Center, walking along side Mary to journey together cultivating a deeper attentiveness to Christ.



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.



**DAY WITH THE FRIARS  
April 5th**

Have you ever considered religious life? Do you have questions on who or what a Franciscan is? If you are a single, Catholic man between the ages of 18-40, consider spending a day with the Conventual Franciscans of St. Joseph of Cupertino Province on April 5th, 10am-4pm. Join us at St. Joseph Cupertino Friary at 19697 Redwood Road in Castro Valley.

Scan the QR code to register.  
RSVP by April 3rd.



**PRE-BAPTISM CLASS  
FOR PARENTS & GODPARENTS**

If you are wishing to have your child baptized, ages infant to six years, parents and Godparents need to attend a Pre-Baptism Class. You also need to be registered members of the parish for at least three months. Our next class will be held on **April 2nd** in Stack Center, OLG Room at 7:00pm. Please call Jay at 510-537-0806 to register.



**YEARLY CONTRIBUTION  
STATEMENTS**

For your convenience in preparing your tax return, a contribution statement for 2024 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.

**PRAYER GARDEN CLEAN-UP  
March 22nd**



**Help Wanted!** The Knights are looking for volunteers to assist with sprucing up our Prayer Garden after all the rain and wind we've had. Join us on **March 22nd** at 10:00am and bring your gloves, hat and water. The Prayer Garden is located next to the rear entrance of the church. Tools will be provided but you may also bring your own from home. See you there!

**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 FEBRUARY:**

Sunday Plate for the month:	\$ 47,568.00
<b>Month Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 39,474.00</b>
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ 8,094.00
<b>Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]</b>	<b>\$ 10,186.00</b>

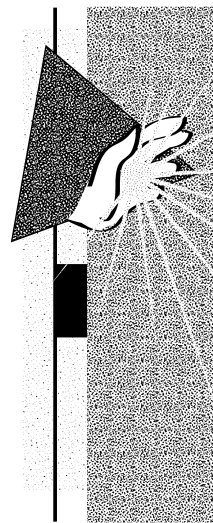
*May God bless your continuing generosity.*



**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 | Maria C. Gallegos |
| Wayne Blackard           | Joan Gabrielli    |
| Jeff Brown               | Brian Linney      |
| Jot Brown                | Maria Mella       |
| Maria Corazon Ocampo     | Hector Paez       |
| Sean Deorsey             | Lisa Tortora      |
| Norma Dockter            | Peggy Winkenbach  |
| Trish Ferrari            |                   |



This is my  
**BELOVED SON**  
Listen to him!

GOD has called you  
to a holy life because of

**CHRIST  
+JESUS**

who destroyed death and  
brought life and  
immortality to light  
through the gospel

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

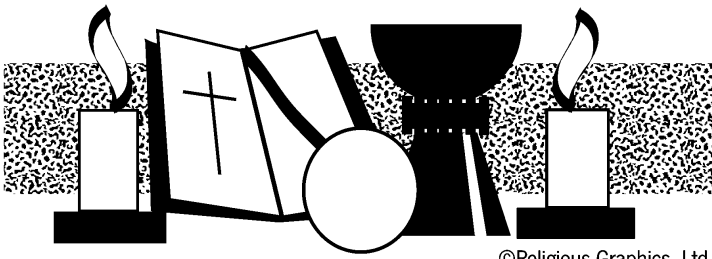
*Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.*

**In Memorial**

**RUTH GONZALES**

**VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN  
THE MIDDLE EAST**

**VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE**



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

The Knights of Columbus monthly meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:30pm in Stack Center, OLG Room. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, visit <https://www.kofc.org> or join them at their next meeting on **March 27th**.



**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.



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 slot, located at the candle stand.



**DEVOTIONAL CANDLES**

**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!



**FR. TOM CZECK'S PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND  
Fall 2025**

Fr. Tom will be leading a pilgrimage to Poland from **September 13th-23rd**. For more details and to enroll, please scan the QR code. Brochures are also available at the Parish Office.



**MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

*"Keep guard of the purity of conscience, purify it in [the Immaculata's] love. Do not be discouraged, even after a serious sin, even if repeatedly committed. An act of perfect love shall purify you."*

**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, March 16th:**

**The Second Sunday of Lent**

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

Confirmation  
11:15am—Stack Center

**Tuesday, March 18th:**

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

Women's Lenten Faith Share  
7:00pm—Stack Center

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

**Wednesday, March 19th:**

Lenten Mass  
6:00pm—Church

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

Columbiette's Meeting  
6:30pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting  
7:15pm—Parish Office

**Thursday, March 20th:**

Adoration & Reconciliation  
6:00pm—Church

AA Serenity Group  
7:30pm—Stack Center, Room 9

**Friday, March 21st:**

Stations of the Cross  
2:30pm (School), 6:00pm (English)  
& 6:45pm (Spanish)

**Saturday, March 22nd:**

Adoration & Reconciliation  
8:45am—Church

Prayer Garden Cleanup  
10:00am—Prayer Garden

**Sunday, March 23rd:**

**The Third Sunday of Lent**

Whole Family Class – Year 1  
10:15am—Stack Center

Confirmation-Discipleship Conferences  
11:15am—Stack Center

# Mass Intentions for the Week

**SUNDAY, March 16th**  
 THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT  
 7:30am Reggie Pasion – D  
 9:00am Maria Que Nguyen – D  
 11:00am OLG Community  
 1:00pm Jose Duarte – D

**MONDAY, March 17th**  
 St. Patrick, Bishop  
 8:15am Antonio Oliveira Chocha – D

**TUESDAY, March 18th**  
 St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church  
 8:15am Mario Tejeda – D

**WEDNESDAY, March 19th**  
 ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
 8:15am Jose & Julia Sousa – D  
 6:00pm William & Rae Stavosky – D

**THURSDAY, March 20th**  
 8:15am Louis Rodrigues – D

**FRIDAY, March 21st**  
 8:15am Maria Rosario Aguirre – L

**SATURDAY, March 22nd**  
 8:15am Mary Kinsella – D  
 5:00pm Gena Gatlin – D

**SUNDAY, March 23rd**  
 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT  
 7:30am OLG Community  
 9:00am Rafael Alvarado – D  
 11:00am Maria F. Jardim – D  
 1:00pm Brenda Velez – L



## EXECUTION ALERTS

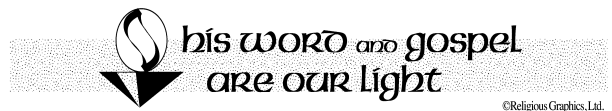
The following executions are scheduled to take place in **March**:

<b>March 18th</b>	Jessie Hoffman	Louisiana
<b>March 19th</b>	Aaron Gunches	Arizona
<b>March 20th</b>	Wendell Grissom	Oklahoma
<b>March 20th</b>	Edward Thomas James	Florida

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

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK: March 17th through March 23rd

Monday: Daniel 9:4-10; Luke 6:36-38  
 Tuesday: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12  
 Wednesday: 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16;  
 Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22;  
 Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24  
 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 3:1-8, 13-15;  
 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12;  
 Luke 13:1-9



## 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 *"Cultivating Peace in a Chaotic World...And Let It Begin With Me"*

Our meetings are held at the Transfiguration Church Hall.

Next Meeting: **March 20th**, 9:00am to 11:15am  
 Speaker: Meg Bowerman & Rev. Dr. Allison Tanner  
 Topic: *"Shared Perspectives & Testimonies From Palestine & Our Gospel Calling"*

For further information or if you would like to attend, please contact: Rose Anne Ryken at [raryken39@gmail.com](mailto:raryken39@gmail.com).

## PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."*

-St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 1979

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:

**7 HILLS BARBER SHOP**