



Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord,

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Lent also known as Laetare Sunday or Rejoice Sunday. The Season of Lent continues and is moving so very quickly. It is hard to believe that we are at the mid-point of Lent, the Fourth Sunday since we celebrated Ash Wednesday. My friends, because we are at the mid-point of Lent, we have an opportunity to celebrate. Today, we are able to lighten the austere period of Lent with a sense of joy. The Fourth Sunday is considered a time of relaxation from the everyday rigors of Lent. With Easter just around the corner, it's a hopeful day. We are invited to be filled with joy. This Sunday marks a time of rejoicing and joy and this is announced with the first words for today's Mass: "Laetare Jerusalem" — "Rejoice, O Jerusalem." These words set the tone for today's Eucharistic Celebration.

Celebrating this midpoint in the Season of Lent, there is a contrast between the somber tone of Lent and a restrained rejoicing.

My friends, Rejoicing in the Middle of Lent...

We are encouraged to rejoice in the Lord's mercy and to look forward to the coming redemption.

We are reminded of the ultimate victory of Christ over sin and death, inspiring believers to find joy even in the midst of their Lenten sacrifices.

We are offered a sense of physical refreshment, a relaxation of Lenten disciplines. We are reminded that while Lent is a time of penance, it is also a season of hopeful expectation.

We are given encouragement in the carrying out of our Lenten practices. We are reminded that our journey of faith is not solely marked by sacrifice and self-denial, but also by the promise of joy and renewal.

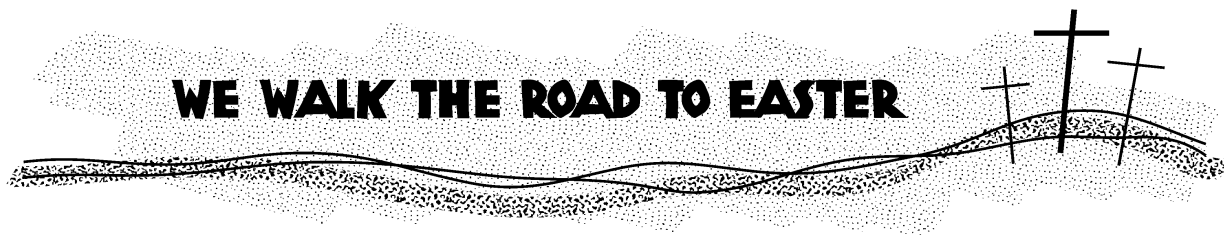
We have the opportunity to direct our focus on the approaching celebration of Easter. The Church begins to anticipate the joy of Christ's resurrection.

In truth, Laetare Sunday emphasizes two perspectives: rejoicing and anticipation. Laetare Sunday offers a glimpse of the joy that awaits us all at the culmination of the Lenten season.

So, keep in mind, that in celebrating Rejoice Sunday, we are encouraged to persevere in our Lenten practices with a sense of hope and joy because while looking forward Jesus' ultimate victory, rising from the dead on Easter Morning.

Rejoice, Celebrate Laetare Sunday!

-Fr. Raphael



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The Fifth Sunday of Lent (April 6th)

John 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more."



MINISTRIES of HOPE
2025 BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL

2025 BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL STARTS THIS WEEKEND

The Bishop's Ministries Appeal Goal for Our Lady of Grace is \$29,000

A gift to the 2025 Ministries of Hope Appeal enables 70+ ministries to foster evangelization, faith formation, and pastoral outreach across the Diocese. The outcome of your generosity is that the Gospel is spread, seminarians are supported, pastoral care is provided and our youth are inspired in their faith journey.

Every gift matters. Each act of charity strengthens the Church's mission and brings Christ's love to those in need. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this year's Appeal as an act of faith and a reflection of God's unending love. Ways to Give:

Mail: Send check or money order to Bishop's Ministries Appeal, Diocese of Oakland, 2121 Harrison St. Ste. 100, Oakland, CA 94612. Envelopes are in the pews for your use.

Online: Scan the QR Code or visit:

www.oakdiocese.org/bishops-ministries-appeal to make a gift by credit card.



Email: BishopsMinistriesAppeal@oakdiocese.org

Additional Gift Options: Gifts of Stock, IRA Distributions, bequests and charitable gift annuities can be coordinated by contacting The Office for Mission Advancement at 510-267-8358 or BishopsMinistriesAppeal@oakdiocese.org

Thank you for your time and response as faithful stewards of God's Church. God bless you!

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 **April 2nd**. *We thank the Women's Faith Sharing for their hospitality for this meal.* Financial donations will be accepted for CRS Rice Bowl.



CHRIST
our light

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CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES BISHOP'S OVERSEAS APPEAL



Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection and for **revealing Christ's love** to those who are poor and marginalized around the world. *If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give!* Envelopes are in the pews for your use. For more information, visit: www.usccb.org/nationalcollections.

DIOCESE OF OAKLAND Response to Harm Caused By Clergy Sexual Abuse

Bishop Barber shares his recent letter addressing the *Third Amended Reorganization Plan* which will provide fair and equitable compensation for abuse survivors and reorganizes the diocese to continue our mission. To read the Bishop's letter in its entirety, please visit: <https://www.oakdiocese.org/chapter-11>.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS English & Spanish April 4th



Stations of the Cross is offered at 2:30pm, led by our school students. Evening Stations in English begins at 6:00pm. Stations in Spanish will begin after the 7:00pm Latin Mass.

COFFEE AND DONUTS April 6th



Come join us! All are invited after the 9:00am Sunday Mass on **April 6th** in the Gathering Area for coffee, donuts and community. *We thank the Knights of Columbus for this ministry of hospitality.* See you there!



LENTEN FISH FRY April 11th

Join us on **Friday, April 11th**, before Stations of the Cross for a delicious Fish Fry in Stack Center at 5:30pm. Price is \$10 per person. Eat in or take-out available. We thank the Knights of Columbus for hosting this event!



The Word of the LORD gives light to the world

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**EASTER SUNDAY EGG HUNT
APRIL 20TH**

All children through 2nd grade are invited to the lawn after the 9:00am Mass for a fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt! Thank you to OLG's Confirmation Class and OLG School for organizing this event!

FORMED 40 DAYS OF LENT WITH FORMED.ORG

The Three Temptations with Dr. Brant Pitre
<https://watch.formed.org/lent/videos/lent-and-new-life-in-christ-the-gift-of-grace-almsgiving>

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

Signs of Grace: You Are Forgiven
<https://watch.formed.org/you-are-forgiven-1>

Each session presents the good news of salvation offered to us in Jesus Christ, with a focus on helping children understand intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a real encounter with him, and that he desires to forgive and heal us at the deepest levels of our humanity.

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.



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.

DO NOT BE AFRAID OF RECONCILIATION

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

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
Month Budgeted Goal:	\$ 39,474.00
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ 8,094.00
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ 10,186.00

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 | 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 | |

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

In Memorial

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



The **Spring 2025** issue of The Catholic Voice is available online. Visit: https://oakdiocese.org/documents/2025/3/OAK%2001-SPRING25_final-1.pdf

SIGN UP FOR OAKCATHOLIC DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Get the OAKCatholic in your email inbox every other week, to stay current on all that's happening in the Oakland Diocese!

Visit: <https://www.oakdiocese.org/email-signup>

The LORD
is my shepherd

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**DAY WITH THE FRIARS
April 5th**

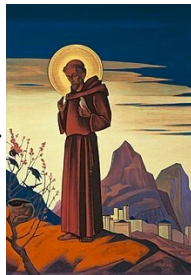
Have you ever considered religious life? Do you have questions on who or what a Franciscan is? If you are a single, Catholic man between the ages of 18-40, consider spending a day with the Conventual Franciscans of St. Joseph of Cupertino Province on April 5th, 10am-4pm. Join us at St. Joseph Cupertino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

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



**SUPPORT THE VIVA FRANCIS
FOUNDATION**

The Viva Francis Foundation is devoted to the growth and development of the Franciscan mission by assisting the Conventual Franciscan Friars in their ministries. Generous gifts from those who have witnessed and worked with the friars have made it possible to support the students in formation and the older friars that now need more living assistance. **To make your donation, please visit: <https://vivafrancis.org/>**



On behalf of the Friars and the Viva Francis Foundation, we are eternally grateful for any financial or prayerful support you can provide to help support the Community and their efforts.



MILITIA IMMACULATA MEETINGS

Come join us as members of the Militia Immaculata (MI) on the 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00am in Stack Center, Room 7. Our next meeting will be on April 5th.

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"[O Immaculata,].....many are those who love you, who are fond of you, but how few are those who for love of you are willing to do anything, to labor, to suffer, and even to sacrifice their lives."

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 30th:

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Coffee & Donuts
After the 7:30am & 9:00am Masses
Stack Center

Tuesday, April 1st:

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, April 2nd:

Lenten Mass
6:00pm—Church

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

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

Thursday, April 3rd:

Adoration & Reconciliation
6:00pm—Church

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

Friday, April 4th:

Exposition & Benediction
After the 8:15am Mass—Church

Stations of the Cross
6:00pm (English) & after Latin Mass (Spanish)

1st Friday Latin Mass
7:00pm—Church

Saturday, April 5th:

Adoration & Reconciliation
8:45am—Church

Militia Immaculata Meeting
10:00am—Stack Center, Room 7



**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.

Mass Intentions for the Week

SUNDAY, March 30th
 THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
 7:30am OLG Community
 9:00am Frank Lang – D
 11:00am Manuel Jardim – D
 1:00pm Raul Anselmo Ortega – D

MONDAY, March 31st
 8:15am George & Laverne Bales – D

TUESDAY, April 1st
 8:15am Dewey Bargiacchi – D

WEDNESDAY, April 2nd
 St. Francis of Paola, Hermit
 8:15am Miguel Gutierrez – L
 6:00pm Charles Seeberger – D

THURSDAY, April 3rd
 8:15am Manuel & Dorothy Callier – D

FRIDAY, April 4th
 St. Isidore, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
 8:15am Leona Nichandros – D

SATURDAY, April 5th
 St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest
 8:15am All Souls in Purgatory
 5:00pm Mary Gomes – D

SUNDAY, April 6th
 THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
 7:30am Marcelino Perdido – D
 9:00am Maria Que Nguyen – D
 11:00am James Martins – D
 1:00pm OLG Community

THIS WEEK--Continued

Sunday, April 6th:

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Coffee & Donuts
After the 9:00am Mass—Gathering Area

Whole Family Faith Class
10:15am—Stack Center, Resource Room

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

Confirmation Class
11:15am—Stack Center

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

March 31st through April 6th

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: Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47
 Friday: Wisdom 2:1, 12-22;
 John 7:1-2,10, 25-30
 Saturday: Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53
 Sunday: Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:8-14;
 John 8:1-11



his word and gospel
are our light

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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: **April 3rd**, 9:00am to 11:15am

Speaker: Fr. John Baumann SJ

Topic: *"Faith In Action"*

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

PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"For every fundamental human right draws its indestructible moral force from the natural law, which in granting it imposes a corresponding obligation. Those, therefore, who claim their own rights, yet altogether forget or neglect to carry out their respective duties, are people who build with one hand and destroy with the other."

-Pope John XXIII, 1963

To join our work with Pax Christi, please contact the Parish Office at 510-537-0806.

THANK THEM WITH YOUR SUPPORT

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