



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This past Wednesday was Ash Wednesday. It marked the beginning of the Season of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, the Church distributed ashes calling to mind that we are to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel, and, we are dust and onto dust we shall return. Lent, therefore is an opportunity to be transformed in the Lord.

Lent, the solemn 40-day period before Easter, holds profound significance in the Catholic Church and other Christian traditions. Starting on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Holy Thursday, it is a season of penitence and preparation, and throughout Lent, we are asked to engage ourselves in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These practices serve to deepen our connection with God, our awareness of Jesus' sacrificial love, and to prepare our hearts and minds for the Paschal Mystery—the journey of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. Lent is an invitation to reflect, repent, and renew one's commitment to living a life of faith, ultimately leading to the joyful celebration of Easter. In this Season, we move from the green of Ordinary Time to the purple of the Season of Lent. This color for Lent holds significant symbolism. While purple serves as a reminder of Christ's suffering and sacrifice, it is also associated with royalty, signifying Jesus as our eternal King.

There are many ways to live our Catholic faith during the Lenten season! Many people make personal sacrifices and give something up for the entire forty-day period, symbolizing self-discipline and reliance on God's grace. Some engage in acts of service to emulate Jesus' love and compassion towards others. And there are many practices and traditions that take place in faith communities like our own such as The Stations of the Cross. The Stations, also known as The Way of the Cross, is a revered tradition where Catholics pray and reflect on fourteen different moments leading up to Jesus' death. These fourteen moments begin with Jesus being condemned to death and end with the body of Jesus being placed in the tomb. Many presentations of the Stations of the Cross add yet a fifteenth moment, the Resurrection. So, throughout these forty days, I invite us to pray the Stations of the Cross whether as a community every Friday of Lent or privately at your convenience. These practices encourage our spiritual growth, the deepening of our faith, and the preparation of our hearts for the celebration of Easter.

Throughout the Forty Days of Lent, we look forward to the Celebration of Easter, The Celebration of The Resurrection of the Lord. We look forward to the Celebration Jesus' triumph over death.

Use these days to prepare yourselves. Enter into the spirit of the Lenten Season so that the richness of The Celebration of Easter can have deepened meaning for each of us.

-Fr. Raphael

praise to  
OUR GOD

who creates us  
who redeems us and  
who sanctifies us in LOVE

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### The Second Sunday of Lent (March 16th)

**Luke 9:28-36**

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But he did not know what he was saying. While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

**WE ARE  
ON THE ROAD  
TO EASTER**

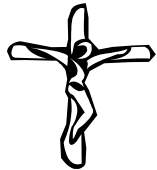


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**WEDNESDAY LENTEN MASS &  
SOUP MEAL**



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 12th**. We thank our Spanish Community for their hospitality for this meal. Financial donations will be accepted for CRS Rice Bowl.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
English & Spanish  
March 14th**

Stations of the Cross will be offered at 11:30am, 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.



**MAKE THIS LENT  
MORE MEANINGFUL**

**Lenten Companion Journal  
with Fr. Toups**

We invite you to join us on a Lenten journey as we will be sharing weekly videos from Fr. Mark Toups each Monday during Lent. The Women's Faith Share meets on Tuesdays at 7:00pm in Stack Center.

**Lenten Gospel Reflections by Bishop Robert Barron**

Take your prayer life to the next level, immerse yourself in the daily Gospel readings, and meditate on reflections by Bishop Barron this Lenten season. Lenten Gospel Reflections features the full Gospel reading for each day of Lent, a daily reflection from Bishop Barron, space for journaling and answering reflection questions, and more! This booklet is ideal for both individual meditation and group study. We have a limited number of these devotional books available for purchase in the Parish Office for \$10.00.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TOWN HALL MEETING  
ON FEBRUARY 18th**

We are deeply thankful for the 137 people who were present at our town meeting. Following are the highlights:

1. Proposal to the Diocese: one parish with two worship sites.
2. Do a better job marketing.
3. Become more involved in the community itself.
4. Need greeters at each Church.
5. Ethnic groups to be respected and encouraged.
6. Social functions (ex: Coffee & Donuts) need to be encouraged.
7. Reinvigoration is the key.
8. Changes to the infrastructure.
9. Be a faith-filled community.
10. Need a lot more vibrancy.
11. More get-together activities, social activities.
12. We are truly one community.

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

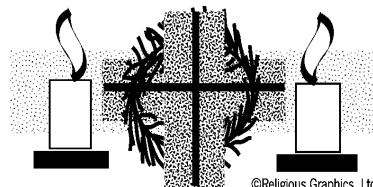
We are most pleased to announce the Parish received a check from the Diocese 2024 Bishop's Ministries Appeal in the amount of \$10,249.24. These funds returned to the Parish represent the commitment and support of our donors to the Bishop's Ministries Appeal. All funds over our goal of \$29,000 were 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!*



**ICF'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER!**

Branch #343 of the Italian Catholic Federation invite all parishioners for a delicious *Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner* in Stack Center on **March 13th at 5:30pm**. Join us for a fun and spectacular evening with family and friends and don't forget to wear some green! Entry fee is \$20 per person. Please make your reservations by calling Lisa Crudo at 510-861-9835.



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# REPENT AND PREPARE YOURSELVES

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

**Restore: Lent with Sr. Miriam Heidland, SOLT**  
<https://watch.formed.org/restore-lent-with-sr-miriam-james-heidland-solt>

Each week, Sr. Miriam will lead you to meet the tenderness of God’s mercy, the power of his love, and the restoration of your heart and life as you practice prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and sacrifice.

**Lent with Brother Francis**  
<https://watch.formed.org/lent-with-brother-francis>  
Join Brother Francis in this compact presentation of what Lent is all about and how we observe it as Catholics. Great for the whole family!

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.

## COME VISIT OUR PRAYER GARDEN

We welcome all parishioners who seek a bit of time away from the hustle and bustle for prayer and spiritual reflection in our lovely Prayer Garden, located between the Parish Office and the rear entrance to the church. Come to the Parish Office during our business hours so Jay may let you in.



## 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.

## 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
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	<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            |                   |

## THANK YOU FROM MARGARET SPERANZA

Thank you for keeping me in your prayers. God’s blessing has been on you and His healing touch. Your comfort and friendship are so very appreciated.

Grace and Peace,  
Margaret Speranza



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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**

**RUTH GONZALES**

**VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

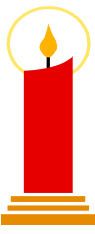
**VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE**



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**MEN’S FAITH SHARE**

The OLG’s Men Faith Share Group meets on Tuesdays at 7:00pm in Stack Center, OLG Room. 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!



**DEVOTIONAL CANDLES**

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.

**DRESS-A-GIRL MINISTRY**

Help make sundresses for young school girls in foreign countries. The group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 10:00am-12:00pm at the Transfiguration Church Hall. In 2024, the Dress-A-Girl Ministry completed 1,200 dresses! Come share fellowship and creativity together. No experience is necessary. Sewing, cutting and accessories are available at the Hall when you come. If you are unable to attend, materials are available for you to complete dresses at home. If you’re interested, please contact Yolanda Arredondo at 510-303-4023 or email: [Yarredondo747@gmail.com](mailto:Yarredondo747@gmail.com).



**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>

**MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

*“Let yourself be led by the Immaculata: whatever does not depend on your will, surely she allows for your own good, even if it comes from the ill will of others and she wants it to happen to you.”*

**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, March 9th:**

**The First Sunday of Lent**

- Coffee & Donuts  
After the 9:00am Mass—Gathering Area
- Whole Family Class – Year 1  
10:15am—Stack Center
- Whole Family Faith Class  
10:15am—Stack Center, Resource Room

**Tuesday, March 11th:**

- 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 12th:**

- 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, March 13th:**

- ICF Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner  
5:30pm—Stack Center
- Adoration & Reconciliation  
6:00pm—Church
- AA Serenity Group  
7:30pm—Stack Center, Room 9

**Friday, March 14th:**

- Stations of the Cross  
11:30am (School), 6:00pm (English)  
& 6:45pm (Spanish)

**Saturday, March 15th:**

- Adoration & Reconciliation  
8:45am—Church

**Sunday, March 16th:**

**The Second Sunday of Lent**

- 1st Communion Class – Year 2  
10:15am—Stack Center
- Confirmation  
11:15am—Stack Center



# Mass Intentions for the Week

**SUNDAY, March 9th**

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 7:30am Fr. Paul Fazio – L
- 9:00am OLG Community
- 11:00am Frances Bruno – D
- 1:00pm Mariano Navarro – D

**MONDAY, March 10th**

- 8:15am Laura Perino – L

**TUESDAY, March 11th**

- 8:15am Lilia Sousa – D

**WEDNESDAY, March 12th**

- 8:15am Andrew & Lasalette Capote – L
- 6:00pm Kathryn Heinrich – D

**THURSDAY, March 13th**

- 8:15am Mike Miraglia – D

**FRIDAY, March 14th**

- 8:15am Enacia Duarte Freitas – D

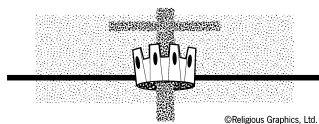
**SATURDAY, March 15th**

- 8:15am Andrew Perino – L
- 5:00pm Leona Nichandros – D

**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



**EXECUTION ALERTS**

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

- March 13th** David Leonard Wood Texas
- March 18th** Jessie Hoffman Louisiana
- March 19th** Aaron Gunches Arizona
- March 20th** Wendell Grissom Oklahoma
- March 20th** 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 10th through March 16th**

- Monday: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46
- Tuesday: Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15
- Wednesday: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32
- Thursday: Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12
- Friday: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26
- Saturday: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48
- Sunday: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 9:28-36

**HOLY WATER AVAILABLE**

We've restocked our supply of Holy Water bottles and they are available for \$2 each. Please come to the Parish Office during office hours if you would like one.



**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**

*"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:

**4K COMMUNICATIONS**