



My Sisters and Brother in Christ,

Lent is a transformative time of repentance, renewal, and growth.

Holy Week is rapidly approaching. One week from today we will be celebrating Palm Sunday and as we know Palm Sunday begins Holy Week which brings us to the Celebration of the Holy Triduum and the Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord, Easter.

In these final weeks, our focus is on what the Lord has done for us in taking on the sins of the world, so that we might be set free and enjoy the eternal life promised us by the risen Savior.

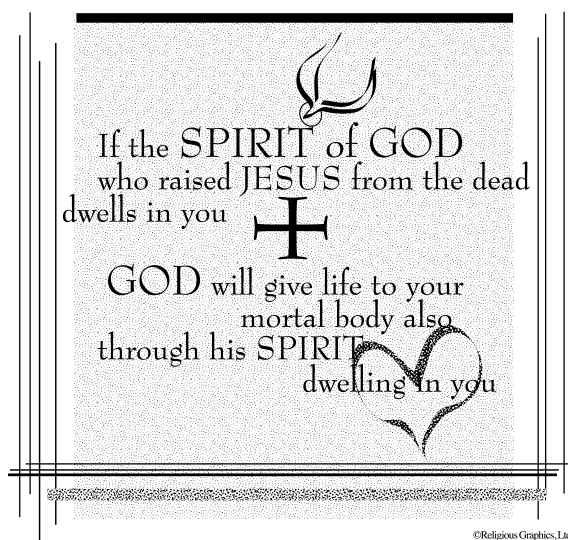
So, let us embrace the Season of Lent for our own personal spiritual growth. It is a special time. Reflect on the life of Jesus. Journey with the Lord in His suffering and death. He has done this for us. Allowing ourselves to experience all that the Lord has done for us deepens our faith.

My friends, these 40 days of Lent offer us time to connect with God, to think about sacrifice and redemption so that our faith lives take on yet deeper meaning. With this in mind, it is good for us to ask ourselves “How have we grown in our faith? How have we deepened our relationship with God?” Let us take time over these next two weeks to make an effort to grow in our spiritual lives through prayer and action. Today, Lent is lived out differently by different people. Some give up things they love, some volunteer, some help others. Actions such as these show the true spirit of Lent, helping us grow individually and together. Maybe stepping away from the hecticness of life for a while no matter how short a time and spending some time in quiet letting God speak to us will intensify our love of God and one another. Lent is a call to renew and repent. Maybe Lent can offer us the time to reaffirm our commitment to follow Christ’s teachings. “What impact has Lent had on us?” Take time during these next two weeks to focus on our spiritual lives.

My friends, there is a renewed sense of spirituality during Lent. Lent is about self-examination. It’s about true repentance. It’s about giving each of us a chance to live the Christian life with more vigor and purpose. The Season of Lent invites us to act more and more like Christ every day.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless You because by your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

-Fr. Raphael



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (April 13th)

Luke 22:14-23:56

Due to the length of the Gospel, it could not be printed. We thank you for your understanding.



MINISTRIES of HOPE
2025 BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL

2025 BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL
Appeal Goal for Our Lady of Grace is \$29,000

The Diocese of Oakland embraces “*Ministries of Hope*” as our theme for the 2025 Bishop’s Ministries Appeal, reflecting our commitment to serve as living witnesses of Christ’s love in our community. This vision embodies the virtue of hope and demonstrates how our collective faith transforms lives through tangible actions and meaningful service.

Through the Bishop’s Ministries Appeal, we extend Christ’s love to those seeking comfort, guidance, and support. Through more than 70 vital programs that serve as beacons of hope throughout our diocese, our ministries provide essential assistance and spiritual nourishment to all who seek it. These initiatives include:

- Faith Formation programs inspiring youth to deepen their relationship with God
- Support serves for families struggling with daily challenges
- Resources for clergy development and retirement care
- Assistance for parishes and schools serving communities in need

As the heart of our mission is the divine promise of redemption through Christ, which inspires our ministry of hope and healing. As we look toward the future, our work aligns with the approaching Year of Jubilee, emphasizing the renewal, reconciliation, and restoration within our communities.

Your participation in the Bishop’s Ministries Appeal strengthens our ability to serve as instruments of God’s mercy and grace and helps build a foundation of hope for thousands within our diocese.

Envelopes are in the pews for your use. You may also scan the QR Code or visit: www.oakdiocese.org/bishops-ministries-appeal to make a gift online:



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



COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE
April 8th

Join us in the church for our Communal Penance Service on **April 8th** at 7:00pm.



EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS
OUR LADY OF GRACE TRADITION

Once again, this year we are inviting you to remember family members and friends through a Flower Offering which will help us to purchase the plants and other decorations we need to beautify our sanctuary. A list of names of all who are remembered will be available after Easter.

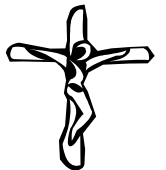
You may list the names of loved ones and make your offering by using the special Easter Flower Offering envelopes available in the pews or by scanning the QR code.



LENTEN FISH FRY
April 11th

Join us on **Friday, April 11th**, before or after Stations of the Cross for a delicious Fish Fry in Stack Center from 5:30 -7:30pm. Price is \$10 per person. Pay at the door, at the Parish Office or online at: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/lenten-fish-fry-2>. Eat in or take-out available. We thank the Knights of Columbus for hosting this event!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
English & Spanish
April 11th



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

COFFEE AND DONUTS
April 13th

Come join us! All are invited after the 9:00am Sunday Mass on **April 13th** in the Gathering Area for coffee, donuts and community. *We thank Our Lady of Grace School for this ministry of hospitality.* See you there!



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 final Lenten Soup Meal is on **April 9th**. *We thank the Italian Catholic Federation for their hospitality for this meal.* Financial donations will be accepted for CRS Rice Bowl.

HELP US DECORATE THIS EASTER

We will be readying the church for our Easter Services beginning at **9:30am on Saturday, April 19th**. If you are available to help place flowers, dust and spruce up the church, we would be most appreciative. We look forward to seeing you!



**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! *We are also seeking donations of plastic eggs filled with candy. If you are able to help, please bring your donations to the Parish Office by April 16th. Thank you!*

FORMED 40 DAYS OF LENT WITH FORMED.ORG

The Shroud of Turin

<https://watch.formed.org/lent/videos/formednow-2021-0226-akers-frpeffley-shroudofturin-vimeo-1080p-full-hd>

Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Fr. Francis Peffley to discuss the Holy Shroud of Turin, believed to be the burial shroud of Jesus Christ. Throughout this conversation they talk about the scientific evidence for the authenticity of the shroud, its history, and how the shroud can help us meditate on the person of Christ and his Passion.

Brother Francis: The Stations of the Cross

<https://watch.formed.org/lent/videos/brother-francis-the-stations-of-the-cross>

Gather your kids and join Brother Francis as he follows our Lord on his way to the Cross with beautiful illustrations and thought-provoking meditations.

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.

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 MARCH:

Sunday Plate for the month:	\$ 49,445.00
Month Budgeted Goal:	\$ 59,199.00
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [9,753.00]
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ 535.00

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 | Sheryl Michaud |
| Sean Deorsey | Hector Paez |
| Norma Dockter | Lisa Tortora |
| Trish Ferrari | Peggy Winkenbach |

✝ I am the
RESURRECTION
and the **LIFE**

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**PASSING OF
MARIA NHIEEN THI PHAM
Fr. Luke's Mother**

We are saddened to hear the news of Fr. Luke's mother's passing.

May perpetual light shine upon her.

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

In Memorial

MARIA NHIEEN THI PHAM

**VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST**

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

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.



ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIAL DONORS

We deeply thank the following donors who have given generously towards sponsoring our Altar Candle Memorial.

Given By:	In Memory of / In Honor of:
Amy Leeman-Hernandez	Elijah Mateo Pham
Kaye McCann	John McCann



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.

DRESS-A-GIRL MINISTRY

Please join us for a *Dress-a-Girl* gathering and help make sundresses for young school girls in foreign countries. Join us on **Wednesday, April 9th at the Transfiguration Church Hall, 10:00am-12:00pm.** If you're interested, please contact Yolanda Arredondo at 510-303-4023 or email: Yarredondo747@gmail.com.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL WALK FOR THE POOR EVENT

You are invited to join members of Transfiguration Church to take part in their annual *Walk for the Poor* on Saturday, **May 3rd** from 9:00-10:00am on the grounds of Transfiguration Church. For more information, please email Carl Bellone at carl.bellone@gmail.com. See you there!

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Allow me to praise you, O Virgin Most Holy. Allow me to praise you with my commitment and personal sacrifice. Allow me to live, work, suffer, be consumed and die for you, only for you. Allow me to bring the world to you.”

THIS WEEK

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

Tuesday, April 8th:

- 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 9th:

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

Thursday, April 10th:

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

Friday, April 11th:

- Stations of the Cross
2:30pm (School), 6:00pm (English)
& 6:45pm (Spanish)
- Lenten Fish Fry
5:30pm—Stack Center

Saturday, April 12th:

- Adoration & Reconciliation
8:45am—Church

Sunday, April 13th:

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

- Coffee & Donuts
After the 9:00am Mass—Gathering Area
- 1st Communion Retreat
10:15am—Stack Center

Mass for the Intentions Week

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

MONDAY, April 7th

St. John Baptist de la Salle, Priest

- 8:15am Jesus Reyes – D

TUESDAY, April 8th

- 8:15am Anty Zaldivar – D

WEDNESDAY, April 9th

- 8:15am Solveig Lucia Poirel – L
- 6:00pm Harry & Theresa Seeberger – D

THURSDAY, April 10th

- 8:15am Cristovao O. Chocha – L

FRIDAY, April 11th

St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr

- 8:15am Lilia Sousa – D

SATURDAY, April 12th

- 8:15am Rafael Ibarra – L
- 5:00pm Antonio Oliveira Chocha – D

SUNDAY, April 13th

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

- 7:30am Joseph & Mary Seeberger – D
- 9:00am Geoffrey Wren – D
- 11:00am OLG Community
- 1:00pm Ricardo Preciado – D



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EXECUTION ALERTS

The following executions are scheduled to take place in April:

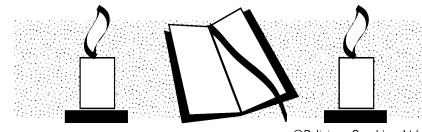
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| April 8th | Michael Tanzi | Florida |
| April 11th | Mikal Mahdi | S. Carolina |
| April 23rd | Moises Sandoval Mendoza | Texas |
| April 24th | James Osgood | Alabama |

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

April 7th through April 13th

- Monday: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; John 8:12-20
- Tuesday: Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30
- Wednesday: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8:31-42
- Thursday: Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59
- Friday: Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42
- Saturday: Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56
- Sunday: Luke 19:28-40; Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22:14-23:56



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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 17th**, 9:00am to 11:15am

Speaker: Sr. Anne Carrabino, SSS, MPA

Topic: *"How Our Faith Calls Us to Respond"*

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

"Everything that is in the heavens, on earth, and under the earth is penetrated with connectedness, penetrated with relatedness."

-St. Hildegard of Bingen, 1152

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**