OUR LADY OF GRACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

3433 Somerset Avenue, Castro Valley, CA 94546 510-537-0806 www.olgcv.org



MASSES:

Saturday: Vigil Mass 5:00pm Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00am Spanish Mass: 1:00pm **Weekdays:** Monday-Friday 7:00am Holy Family Friary, 19697 Redwood Rd., C.V. Monday-Saturday 8:15am in the Church

PARISH:

Email: parish@olgcv.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm

Staffed by the Conventual Franciscans:

Fr. Raphael Zwolenkiewicz, OFM Conv., Pastor

Fr. Luke Vu, OFM Conv., Parochial Vicar

Fr. Kevin Schindler-McGraw, OFM Conv., Parochial Vicar

Fr. Paul Fazio, OFM Conv., In Residence

Parish Registration, Baptism, Marriage, and Sacramental Preparation for Adults:

Please contact Parish Office for information.

Secretary: Jay Aquitania

Business Manager: Sharon Sangco

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: CHURCH

Saturday: Following the 8:15 Mass

Thursday: 6:00-7:00pm **CONFESSIONS:**

During Eucharistic Adoration or by appointment

WHOLE FAMILY FAITH PROGRAM: 510-582-9266

Religious Ed. Coordinator: Roberta Santiago

Email: roberta.santiago@olgcv.org

Confirmation Coordinator: Leeanne Thomas

Email: leeanne.thomas@olgcv.org

PASTORAL CARE FOR THE SICK: 537-0806 SCHOOL:

Phone: 510-581-3155

Website: www.olgschool.org

Principal: Dr. Eugenia "Gena" McGowan

Mission Statement

We, the Catholic community of Our Lady of Grace, endeavor to live our faith grounded in Jesus Christ, celebrating His presence in Word, Sacrament and shared experiences.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In this Season of Advent, we celebrate two beautiful feasts in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The first feast is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception which is a Holy Day of Obligation on December 8th. The Immaculate Conception celebrates the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the womb of her mother, St. Anne, free from sin, making her the perfect dwelling place

for Jesus to be conceived by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit. Here in the United States, there is a special reason to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception because Mary is The Patroness of the United States. The second feast in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary is The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Fiesta en honor de Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe, on December 12th. Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated as The Patroness of the Americas. Churches begin this celebration with an early morning celebration entitled "Mañanitas." The day is filled with songs and dance and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The celebrations of The Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception and The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe prepare the way for our celebration of the second half of the Season of Advent. Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, Rejoice Sunday. Traditionally, the Third Sunday of the Season of Advent marks the mid-point of Season. The nearness of The Great Celebration of the Birth of Christ is reason for great joy. The readings at Mass for Gaudete Sunday are full of encouragement. They resound with joyful hope as we draw closer to The Birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Fourth Sunday offers us the events of the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. May Jesus Christ, alive within us, bring great joy to each of us as we prepare to celebrate the Birth of Christ and, like Mary, may we bring Christ, present and active within us, to our family members and friends in the midst of the Church. My friends, continue preparing for Christmas. Rejoice that Jesus is within us and among us already in our hearts and lives.

The Season of Advent provides us some important time during which we can ask for the grace necessary to give joyful witness to the coming of Jesus into the world. So, ask for the graces necessary to bear joyful witness in word and action to the coming of the Lord at Christmas. And, when we celebrate the Solemnity of The Nativity of the Lord we are filled with joy and proclaim joy to the world Prepare for the Birth of The Lord! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

-Fr. Raphael



Third Sunday in Advent (December 14th)

Matthew 3:1-12

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.* Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Vigil Masses—Wednesday, December 24th
Carols will be sung 30 minutes before the evening Masses

Family Mass at 5:00pm Mass at Night at 10:00pm

Thursday, December 25th
Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am, 11:00am &
1:00pm (Spanish)

HOW YOU CAN HELP THOSE IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

St. Vincent de Paul Coat & Blanket Drive

St. Vincent de Paul continues to collect coats (men's, women's and children's new and gently used) and blankets until December 31st As winter approaches, many in our community do not have the

resources necessary to purchase these items. This is true not only for those who are unhoused, but also for families who cannot afford to keep their homes heated. We all know what PG&E bills look like during the winter. You will find collection barrels at both entrances to the church, along with one in the Parish Office. May God bless you for your generosity!

FESCO Adopt-a-Family

Our Lady of Grace is participating in the FESCO Adopt-a-Family event again this year. Ornaments are on the trees located at the back of the church. When you take an ornament, be sure to write your name and phone number on one half—tear it off and place it in the basket. The portion you keep will list a first name, age and gift idea for a FESCO client. Please return your wrapped gifts or gift cards to the Parish Office by Monday, December 8th. If you have any questions, please contact the OLG FESCO representative, Chris Ippolito at christineippolito@comcast.net or call 510-343-4876.

Post Acute Patients in Need of Donations

St. Vincent de Paul and OLG Faith Formation are requesting donations of *new toiletries*, *hats*, *scarves*, *socks*, *slippers*, *and pajamas* to be given as gifts this Christmas

to residents of a post-acute healthcare facility in Castro Valley. Donation bins are at the Somerset side of the church, the Parish Office, and Stack Center. Thank you for your kindness and support!



THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY December 8th

Our Holy Day of Obligation Masses honoring Mary will be celebrated on Mon-

day, December 8th at 8:15am (School Liturgy) and 7:00pm. Join us!



ADVENT LESSON AND CAROLS December 7th

Join us at 4:00pm in the Church for a special service celebrating the upcoming birth of Jesus. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and

the birth of Jesus is told in nine short scripture readings from Genesis, the prophetic books, and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music. Immediately following will be a Cookie Exchange in Stack Center. Bring a Christmas tin and 2 dozen of your favorite cookies to participate in the share and "exchange". Cookies are not required to attend the program. Everyone's welcome!

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATION

Triduum of RosariesDecember 9th & 10th at 6:30pm
December 11th at 7:15pm



December 12th

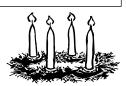
Beginning at 5:00am, join us in the church as we pray the Rosary, followed by Mañanitas (joyous Mexican Folk Music) from 5:30am. Immediately following, Mexican hot chocolate and bread will be served in Stack Center. At 8:15am we will celebrate Mass in English with the School. At 7:00pm we will celebrate Mass in Spanish.

Diciembre 12

Celebraciones En Honor a al Virgen de Guadalupe Rosario a la 5:00 am. Mañanitas a la 5:30 am en la Iglesia. Se servirá inmediatamente después chocolate y pan mexicano en el Stack Center. Misas a la 8:15 am en inglés con la escuela y a la 7:00 pm en español.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION Ready the Way of the Lord

Reconciliation during Advent will follow our regular Reconciliation schedule with Adoration.



Thursdays: 6:00-7:00pm Saturdays: 8:45-10:00am



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

We invite you to remember family members and friends through a Flower Offering which will help us to purchase plants and other decorations we need to

beautify our sanctuary. You may list the names of loved ones you wish to remember or memorialize by using the special flower envelopes or by submitting the name to the Parish Office. A list of names will be available after Christmas. Thank you for considering this thoughtful and helpful way to remember those you love.

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION Next Weekend-December 13th &14th

Please give to those who have given a lifetime. This annual appeal helps retired sisters, brothers and religious older priests, who spent their lives in church ministries such as education, healthcare and social service, usually with little to no compensation. Consequently, a significant number currently have insufficient retirement funds, combined with escalating health -care costs. Numerous religious communities in the U.S. are experiencing challenges with providing for their elderly members and are confronting a sizable disparity between available funds and the costs of care. Please give generously. Envelopes will be in the pews for your use. Religious women and men thank you for each merciful action you take on behalf of others and pray for your spiritual peace.

COFFEE AND DONUTS December 14th

Come join us after the 9:00am Sunday Mass on **December 14th** in the Gathering Area for coffee, donuts and community. We thank Our Lady of Grace School's 5th grade class for this ministry of hospitality. See you

there!

OLG SCHOOL'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT December 18th

All are invited to OLG School's Christmas Pageant on Thursday,

December 18th at 5:30pm in the church. Afterwards, join us in front of Stack Center for refreshments. All are welcome!

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

Offerings for the Month of OCTOBER:

Sunday Plate for the month: \$ 38,481.00 **Month Budgeted Goal:** \$ 37,991.00 \$ Over/[Shortfall] 490.00 Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall] \$ 19,761.00 May God bless your continuing generosity.

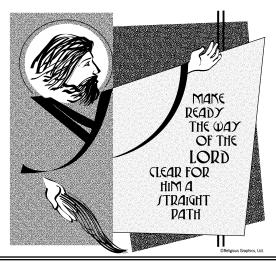


Your Prayers Are Requested

Please lift up in your prayer those among us who are ill and those who have asked for our prayerful remembrance:

Wayne Blackard Jeff Brown Jot Brown Beatriz & Juan Campos Sheryl Michaud Cristina Castellanos Himgauri Chaudhary Joyce Czeck Heidi Denzler-Halsey Norma Dockter Diego Gonzalez Theresa Hull-Nye

Cecilia Laverne **Brian Linney** Maria Flores Martinez Cec Penland Diana Riley Tommy Rosenbusch Lisa Tortora Mark Vaz 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

JEANIE RYAN

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE



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:

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Veronica Ismael The Ismael Family

Kaye McCann John McCann

Maria Zambrano Jose & Gloria Areas

GET WELL WISHES FOR FR. RAPHAEL

If you would like to give a get well card for Fr. Raphael, please bring it to the Parish Office or put it in the mail slot. We will make sure Fr. Raphael gets them. Unfortunately, visitors to the hospital are not allowed at this time. Thank you all for your continued prayers and understanding.

CHRISTMAS POSADA December 21st

The Mexican tradition of *Las Posadas* is celebrated with a combination of religious and festive elements, including processions with singing, re-enactments

of Mary and Joseph's search for lodging in Bethlehem, and community fiestas with traditional food, music, and a star-shaped piñata.

We thank The Hispanic Group for hosting this celebration. Join us on **December 21st** in Stack Center after the 1:00pm Spanish Mass. *All are welcome! ¡Todos son bienvenidos!*

DRESS-A-GIRL MINISTRY

Please join us for the monthly *Dress* -a-Girl gathering and help make sundresses for young school girls in foreign countries. Join us on **Wednesday**, **December 10th at the Transfigura**



tion Church Hall, 10:00am-12:00pm. If you're interested, please contact Yolanda Arredondo at 510-303-4023 or email: Yarredondo747@gmail.com.

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The Immaculata Omnipotence. Each conversion and each sanctification is the work of grace and she is the mediatrix of all graces. So she alone is enough to beseech and to distribute the graces, whatever graces."

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 7th:

Second Sunday of Advent

Coffee & Donuts

After the 9:00am Mass—Gathering Area

1st Communion Class – Year 1

10:15am—Stack Center

Confirmation Discipleship Conferences #2 Beginning at 11:45am—Stack Center

Advent Lesson & Carols

4:00pm—Church

Monday, December 8th:

Masses of the Immaculate Conception

8:15am (School Liturgy) & 7:00pm—Church

Tuesday, December 9th:

Men's Cursillo Meeting

6:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

Rosary

6:30pm—Church

Men's Faith Share

7:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

Women's Advent Faith Share

7:00pm—Stack Center, Room 7

Wednesday, December 10th:

OCIA

6:30pm—Stack Center, Room 8

Rosary

6:30pm—Church

Thursday, December 11th:

Adoration & Reconciliation

6:00pm—Church

Rosary

7:15pm—Church

AA Serenity Group

7:30pm—Stack Center, Room 9

Friday, December 12th:

Our Lady of Guadalupe Festivities

Rosary

5:00am—Church

Mañanitas

5:30am—Church

Hot Chocolate & Bread

7:00am—Stack Center

Mass w/ School

8:15am—Church

Mass in Spanish

7:00pm—Church

Reception

8:00pm—Stack Center

Mass for the Intentions Week

SUNDAY, December 7th

7:30am Paul Vu Nguyen – D 9:00am Mike De Guzman – D 11:00am Maria F. Jardim – D 1:00pm OLG Community

MONDAY, December 8th

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 8:15am No Intention 7:00pm No Intention

TUESDAY, December 9th

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

8:15am Natalie Shomon – L

WEDNESDAY, December 10th

Our Lady of Loreto

8:15am Emma & Mike McCormick – L

THURSDAY, December 11th

St. Damasus I, Pope

8:15am Laurie Earp – L

FRIDAY, December 12th

Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:15am Mario & Rita Venturini – D

SATURDAY, December 13th

St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

8:15am Manuel & Gose Silva – D

5:00pm Lilia Sousa – D

SUNDAY, December 14th

7:30am OLG Community

9:00am Ferdinand Perdido – D 11:00am Marcie & James Dugan – D

1:00pm Ortega & Duarte Families



EXECUTION ALERTS

The following execution is scheduled to take place in **December**:

December 11thHarold NicholsTennesseeDecember 12thMark GeraldsFloridaDecember 18thFrank Athens WallsFlorida

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

December 8th through December 14th

Monday: Genesis 3:9-15,20;

Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12

Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14 Wednesday: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 Thursday: Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 Friday: Zechariah 2:14-17; Luke 1:26-38 Saturday: Sirach 48:1-4,9-11; Matthew 17:9-13

Sunday: Isaiah 35:1-6,10;

James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

THIS WEEK--Continued

Saturday, December 13th:

Adoration & Reconciliation

8:45am—Church

1st Reconciliation 10:15am—Church

Sunday, December 14th:

Third Sunday of Advent

Coffee & Donuts

After the 9:00am Mass—Gathering Area

Confirmation Class 11:15am—Stack Center

HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES

Please have items for the Bulletin to the Parish Office no later than the deadlines shown below:

December 21st Bulletin:
December 28th Bulletin:
January 4th Bulletin:

Due December 12th
Due December 16th
Due December 19th

PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Peace is a precious gift, which must be promoted and protected...never has the use of violence brought peace in its wake. War begets war, violence begets violence."

-Pope Francis, 2013

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:

B.A. MORRISON

OUR LADY OF GRACE - LIST OF MINISTRIES

Community Outreach Ministries

Helping Hands: Assist with hospitality after OLG's funerals for family members and friends of the deceased.

Pastoral Care to the Sick: Visit the sick while praying & distributing the Eucharist.

Pax Christi: Upholding the Gospel values of peace & social justice in our community & the world at large.

St. Vincent de Paul: Assist the poor & those in temporary need with food & financial assistance.

Faith Formation Ministries

Baptism Preparation: Assist with instruction to parents & godparents preparing to have their infants baptized. 1st Wednesday of the month

Family Faith Formation: Assist with religious education of students of grades 1st-8th on Sundays.

Men's Faith Share: Gather with other men of our Parish to discuss the upcoming Sunday readings.

Women's Bible Study: Gather with other women of our Parish during Advent & Lent in preparation for Christmas & Easter.

OCIA (**Order of Christian Initiation for Adults**): Assist with guidance of adults seeking membership into the Church on Wednesday evenings.

Sacrament Preparation: Assist with Baptism, 1st Reconciliation, 1st Holy Communion (ages 7 & up) and Confirmation (High School) on Sundays.

Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers: Assist priests at liturgical services, especially the Masses, for grades 5th-12th.

Extraordinary Ministers: Distribute the Holy Eucharist at Mass & to the homebound.

Lectors: Proclaim the 1st & 2nd Readings at Mass.

Music: *Choir* sings at the 11:00am Mass, *Folk Group* sings contemporary Catholic music at the 9:00am Mass & 5:00pm *Ensemble* sings at the 5:00pm Mass. Coro en la misa de español a la 1:00 p.m.

Ushers: Assist with greeting parishioners, taking up the collections, seating people as needed.

Parish Life Ministries

Columbiette's: Women's auxiliary assisting the Knights of Columbus with Parish activities & fundraising.

CYO (Catholic Youth Organization): Sports program for grades 2nd-8th.

Fall Festival: OLG's biggest fundraiser event held on the last weekend of September.

Italian Catholic Federation (ICF): Non-profit fraternal organization promoting activities that build faith & family.

Knights of Columbus: Catholic Men's fraternal organization organizing year-round fundraising events to benefit OLG.

If you are interested in knowing more about our Ministries, please call the Parish Office at 510-537-0806.

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