

OUR LADY OF GRACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

3433 Somerset Avenue, Castro Valley, CA 94546

510-537-0806 www.olgcv.org



**Third Sunday of Advent
December 14th, 2025**

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

EUCCHARISTIC 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 Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we gather for worship on this Third Sunday of Advent, the Church calls us to rejoice, reminding us that we are in a season of hope, joy, and anticipation. The word "Gaudete"— meaning "rejoice"—is not just an instruction, but a profound truth for us as believers. Our joy is not a fleeting emotion tied to circumstances, but a deep and abiding confidence found in the Lord.

Truly with joy in the Lord, five candidates were accepted into the Order of Catechumens at Our Lady of Grace Church. Their names are Treevera Lampley, Alexa Tang, Fred Husino, Darren Stuewe, and Andrew Kiesch. They publicly declared their desire to learn the teachings of Christ and live the life of a Christian. And this Saturday, 45 children will receive their first Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is the first step towards First Holy Communion, a wonderful moment when they will receive Jesus' Body and Blood in the Eucharist. As community we will continue to accompany these candidates and children in the months ahead through instruction, prayer, and the witness of our lives, as they prepare for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

I want to remind you in advance that on Tuesday, December 16th at 7:00pm we will have our Advent Penance Service in preparation for Christmas. I invite you to come early and participate in a short meditation and examination of conscience, and then the priests will go to hear confessions. We will have some Franciscan priests so there is more opportunity for everyone to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Like John the Baptist, we are called to testify to the Light. This means we should live our lives that reflect Christ, by being instruments of justice, practicing compassion, and building solidarity within our community. We are not expected to be perfect, but we are invited to live a way of compassion that can change the world in small, powerful ways.

So, as we light the rose candle on our Advent wreath this week, let us find true rejoicing in the certainty that God's mercy is stronger than cruelty, and His presence is deeper than fear. Let us resolve to be watchful, humble, charitable, and hopeful. Let us prepare our hearts and our community to truly receive Christ this Christmas and every day, ready to serve Him by serving others.

Last but not least, I thank all of you for your prayers and ask that you continue to pray for our Pastor, Fr. Raphael as he is recovering. We, the Conventual Franciscan Friars, love you and bless you with the joy of Jesus in our hearts.

In His abundant joy,

Fr. Luke Vu
Parochial Vicar



Rejoice
Your God is near!

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Fourth Sunday in Advent (December 21st)

Matthew 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet. *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."* When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

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)

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 1st

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation

Mass at 9:00am



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed on **December 24th-26th** and will reopen on **December 29th** at 8:30am. Additionally, the office will be closed on **December 31st-January 1st** and will reopen on **January 2nd** at 8:30am. The entire Parish Staff wishes you all a Blessed Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION
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. Please give generously. Envelopes will be in the pews for your use. Please make your check out to “*Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland*”. Religious women and men thank you for each merciful action you take on behalf of others and pray for your spiritual peace.



**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 in Stack Center after the 1:00pm Spanish Mass. *All are welcome! ¡Todos son bienvenidos!*



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CHRISTMAS OFFERING

As we come to the close of this calendar year, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude—not only for your financial support of our parish this past year, but also for the generous sharing of your time, talent, and prayers. We are always amazed at the kindness and commitment shown by our parishioners and school families.

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we invite you to consider a special gift to our Christmas collection. These donations play a vital role and is essential in helping us respond to unexpected and ongoing needs and undertake maintenance projects that allow our parish to remain a vibrant and welcoming home for all. Your regular Sunday offerings continue to sustain our daily operations, and together with the Christmas collection, they help ensure we begin our new fiscal year on strong financial footing.

This year, our Christmas budget is \$33,000.00. With your help, we hope to meet this goal and continue providing the ministries, services, and care that enrich our parish community throughout the year.

We are deeply grateful for your generosity and support, and we look forward to sharing our 2025 Year-End-Results with you soon. *May God bless you and your families during this holy season and throughout the coming year.*



**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**. *We appreciate the amazing response from our parishioners! However, we are only accepting coats and blankets, no other items please.* You will find collection barrels at the Somerset and parking lot sides of the church, along with one in the Parish Office.

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!



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.

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE
December 16th**

Join us at 7:00pm in the church as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Lord Jesus as a community of Christ.



**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!



Due to our pageant, there will be no evening Adoration & Reconciliation. We thank you for your understanding.



**DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS
December 23rd**

The committee is in need of help to get the church ready for Christmas. If you are available to help on Tuesday, December 23rd at 9:30am, it would be most appreciated. The more hands, the quicker the work will be completed. Thanks in advance for your assistance!

NO 8:15 AM MASS

There will be no morning Mass on December 24th & 25th. We thank you for your understanding.

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 NOVEMBER:

Sunday Plate for the month:	\$ 42,585.50
Month Budgeted Goal:	\$ 41,254.00
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ 1331.50
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ 19,253.70

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 | Cecilia Laverne |
| Jeff Brown | Brian Linney |
| Jot Brown | Maria Flores Martinez |
| Beatriz & Juan Campos | Sheryl Michaud |
| Cristina Castellanos | Olga Muñoz |
| Himgauri Chaudhary | Cec Penland |
| Joyce Czeck | Diana Riley |
| Heidi Denzler-Halsey | Tommy Rosenbusch |
| Norma Dockter | Lisa Tortora |
| Diego Gonzalez | Mark Vaz |
| Theresa Hull-Nye | 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

**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**

There will be no Adoration & Reconciliation on December 18th, 25th and January 1st. We thank you for your understanding.

REJOICE

Daughter Jerusalem
Be glad with all your heart

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'THANK YOU' FROM MARY GROVES

Thank you to my wonderful church community for your prayers, cards and phone calls. Your outpouring of love has supported me throughout this difficult time. God bless.



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 **January 14th** in Stack Center, OLG Room at 7:00pm. Please call Jay at 510-537-0806 to register.

2026 CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Catholic Extension 2026 Family Appointment Calendars are available. We are grateful and we extend our sincere appreciation to the Catholic Funeral Cremation and Cemetery Services of the Diocese of Oakland for again sponsoring the 2026 calendars. You may pickup your copy in the church. **Please only one per household.**

WINTER COLD & FLU SEASON

As always, you are reminded to use common good sense in the reception of Holy Communion during the annual cold and flu season. If you are feeling ill or think you may have been exposed to a virus, you should refrain from partaking of the Blood of Christ from the communal chalice. In the same way, you should refrain from offering your hand to others at the sign of peace. Likewise, if you are not comfortable sharing the sign of peace or receiving the Blood of Christ from the communal chalice in fear of infection, you should feel no pressure to do so. All of us must be aware of such sensitive matters in the intimate life of the Christian community and we should expect that some will refrain from the sign of peace and communal chalice out of care for our well-being and not out of unkindness or lack of piety.

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I beg you not to be frightened at all, not to grieve, not to be saddened. We just do what we can and trust wholly in the Immaculata."

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 14th:

Third Sunday of Advent

Coffee & Donuts
After the 9:00am Mass—Gathering Area
Confirmation Class
11:15am—Stack Center

Tuesday, December 16th:

Men's Cursillo Meeting
6:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room
Advent Penance Service
7:00pm—Church
Men's Faith Share
7:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room
Women's Advent Faith Share
7:00pm—Stack Center, Room 7

Wednesday, December 17th:

OCIA
6:30pm—Stack Center, Room 8
Columbiette's Meeting
6:30pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

Thursday, December 18th:

OLG School Christmas Pageant
5:30pm—Church
AA Serenity Group
7:30pm—Stack Center, Room 9

Saturday, December 20th:

Adoration & Reconciliation
8:45am—Church

Sunday, December 21st:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Las Posadas
2:00pm—Stack Center



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Mass Intentions for the Week

SUNDAY, December 14th

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 7:30am OLG Community
- 9:00am Ferdinand Perdido – D
- 11:00am Marcie & James Dugan – D
- 1:00pm Ortega & Duarte Families

MONDAY, December 15th

- 8:15am Gilberto C. Marquez – D

TUESDAY, December 16th

- 8:15am Jennifer Guerrero – L

WEDNESDAY, December 17th

- 8:15am Anthony Shomon – L

THURSDAY, December 18th

- 8:15am Gina Castillo – D

FRIDAY, December 19th

- 8:15am Jesusa Perdido – D

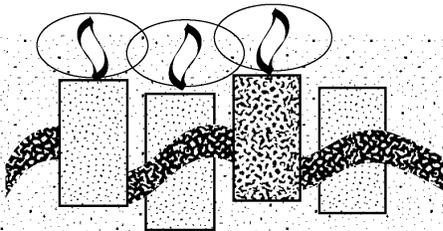
SATURDAY, December 20th

- 8:15am Louis Rodrigues – D
- 5:00pm Stefan Denzler – D

SUNDAY, December 21st

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 7:30am Celia & Fred Dorado
- 9:00am Antonio S. Barroso, Sr. – D
- 11:00am James Martins – D
- 1:00pm OLG Community



EXECUTION ALERTS

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

December 18th Frank Athens Walls Florida

We ask for your prayers for this person, for the victims of his crimes, and for his family.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

December 15th through December 21st

- Monday: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17; Matthew 21:23-27
- Tuesday: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32
- Wednesday: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17
- Thursday: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25
- Friday: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Luke 1:5-25
- Saturday: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38
- Sunday: Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24



2025 BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL

MINISTRIES of HOPE
2025 BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL

We have achieved 147% of our yearly goal! Thank you all who have given so generously!

If you have not had a chance to give towards the Bishop's Ministries Appeal, it is not too late. Scan the QR Code or visit: www.oakdiocese.org/bishops-ministries-appeal to make your donation today.



Overall Goal for 2025:	\$29,000.00
# of Gifts Received:	98
Funds Raised (includes pledges):	\$42,707.00

HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES

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

- December 28th Bulletin: **Due December 16th**
- January 4th Bulletin: **Due December 19th**

PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"As we seek the truth together, with respect for the conscience of others, we will be able to go forward along the paths of freedom which lead to peace, in accordance with the will of God."

-Pope John Paul II, 1971

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:

BAY IC REPAIR

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

Columbette'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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