

*... a savior has been born to you;
he is christ the Lord*



*... un Salvador nos ha nacido,
el es Cristo el Señor*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we are invited to reflect on the profound example they set for every Christian family and for our entire parish community, which is a family of faith. The home in Nazareth was an ordinary home, filled with daily toil, work, and the realities of human life, yet it was made holy by the presence of God at its center and the virtues practiced within its walls.

The Feast of the Holy Family reminds us that no family is perfect. God enters into the reality of our imperfect and sometimes broken lives, offering grace and mercy for our struggles. For those struggling with illness, family conflict, or economic hardship, know that the Holy Family intercedes for us. Let us embrace our own family lives with enthusiasm and hope, striving to grow in holiness by practicing the virtues exemplified by Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. May our homes be sanctuaries of light, peace, and forgiveness, reflecting the enduring love of God to a world in need.

Last Sunday we celebrated a Christmas Posada in Stack Center after the 1:00pm Mass in Spanish. It was truly a wonderful event that brought many of us together and created a witness of faith through shared song, food (tamales), game (piñata!), and prayer, creating a "family" atmosphere.

As Franciscan Friars, you are our immediate family. The Friars and I thank you for making us feel at home. We are deeply grateful for your support and understanding and are committed to serving you to the best of our abilities. Please continue to pray for us, especially for a complete recovery of Fr. Raphael. Also, be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones during this holy season and into the New Year.

As we look towards the New Year, let us entrust our families to the care of Mary and Joseph. May we, as *"Pilgrims of Hope"*, reflect God's love in our daily lives.

May I remind you that our Parish Office will be closed on December 31st-January 1st, 2026.

Still Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Fr. Luke
Parochial Vicar



The Epiphany of the Lord (January 4th)

Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

JESUS MARY JOSEPH

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NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation

Vigil Mass—Wednesday, December 31st

Mass at 5:00pm

Thursday, January 1st

Mass at 9:00am

There will be no evening Adoration & Reconciliation

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 4th

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



END-OF-YEAR OFFERING

As we come to the close of the year, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support—through your financial gifts, time, talent and prayers. We are continually inspired by the kindness and commitment of our parishioners and school families.

We invite you to consider an additional gift to the End-of-Year collection. These offerings help us respond to unexpected and ongoing needs, fund maintenance projects, and ensure our parish remains a vibrant and welcoming community for all. Your regular Sunday contributions sustain our daily operations, and together with this collection, they help place us on strong financial footing as we enter a new year.

Our year-end goal is \$33,000. With your support, we hope to meet this target and continue providing the ministries, services and care that enrich parish life throughout the year.

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



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HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Parish 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 safe and Happy New Year!

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.**



ST. VINCENT de PAUL COAT & BLANKET DRIVE Until December 31st



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.



CYO GIRLS BASKETBALL REGISTRATION



Girl's Basketball registration is open to grades 2nd-8th and who live in our parish boundary. Fee for the 2026 program year is \$220 + uniform fee. Space is limited! **Registration closes on January 14th. For more information and to register online, visit: www.olgcvcyo.com.** Questions? Email olgcy-ocv@gmail.com. Want to coach? Please Email olggirlsad@gmail.com.



COFFEE AND DONUTS January 4th

Come join us after the 9:00am Sunday Mass on **January 4th** in the Gathering Area for coffee, donuts and community. *We thank the Knights, Columbiettes and Confirmation students for this ministry of hospitality. See you there!*

LORD Bless us all in the coming year

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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.

ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIALS

We are looking to have 6 monthly sponsors for our Altar Candles and ask for a donation of \$20 to cover the cost of the candles for the month. Our donors will be recognized in the 1st bulletin of the month and there will be a monthly Mass offered for the intention of our Candle Memorial. Many blessed thanks for those who have donated. For more information, please call the Parish Office at 510-537-0806.



COLUMBIETTES NEW MEMBER INITIATION January 21st

Attention Ladies! Are you interested in becoming active in our parish? Come see what the Columbiettes are all about! We invite all women over 18 to join us at our New Member Initiation Meeting on **January 21st** at 6:30pm in Stack Center, OLG Room. Meet other women of the parish for camaraderie, fun and purpose! Questions? Please call the Parish Office at 510-537-0806.

PRAYER GARDEN CLEAN-UP January 24th

Help Wanted! The Knights are looking for volunteers to assist with sprucing up our Prayer Garden. Join us on Saturday, **January 24th at 10:00am** and bring your gloves, hat and water. The Prayer Garden is located next to the rear entrance of the church. Tools will be provided but you may also bring your own from home. See you there!



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

Jeff Brown

Jot Brown

Beatriz Campos

Cristina Castellanos

Himgauri Chaudhary

Joyce Czeck

Norma Dockter

Diego Gonzalez

Theresa Hull-Nye

Cecilia Laverne

Brian Linney

Maria Flores Martinez

Sheryl Michaud

Olga Muñoz

Cec Penland

Diana Riley

Tommy Rosenbusch

Lisa Tortora

Mark Vaz

Peggy Winkenbach



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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

JAMES CZECK
(Fr. Tom's Dad)

JUAN CAMPOS

JOSE RAMON CORRAL

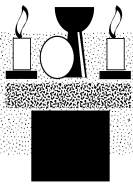
JOAQUINA FLYNN

JUAN LOZA

TERRI STEVICK

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE



Gather our families
around your table
O, LORD

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THE Catholic VOICE

The **Winter 2025** issue of The Catholic Voice is available online. Visit: www.oakdiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/OAKwinter25.pdf

MEN'S FAITH SHARE

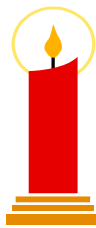
The OLG's Men Faith Share Group meets on Tuesdays at 7:00pm in Stack Center, OLG Room. All men of the Parish are invited to come. This group meets each week to read and discuss the upcoming Sunday's readings for the Mass. If you are looking for a small group setting to pray with and explore the Word each week, plan on joining us!

FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND

Flower donation envelopes may be found at the entrances of the church to make a donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one or other occasion. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jay at 510-537-0806. Your donation in honor of your loved one will be mentioned in the bulletin.



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.

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The renewal of a religious order is equivalent to the conversion and sanctification of its members. Therefore, the closer a religious order comes to the Immaculata, the more it renews itself, it develops it flourishes, becoming endowed with fruits, saints, and even canonized saints."

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 28th:

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Tuesday, December 30th:

Men's Cursillo Meeting

6:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

Men's Faith Share

7:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

Wednesday, December 31st:

Parish Office Closed

New Year's Vigil Mass

5:00pm—Church

Thursday, January 1st:

The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Happy New Year!

Mass

9:00am—Church

Parish Office Closed

No 8:15am Mass

No Adoration & Reconciliation

Friday, January 2nd:

Exposition & Benediction

After the 8:15am Mass—Church

Saturday, January 3rd:

Adoration & Reconciliation

8:45am—Church

Militia Immaculata Meeting

10:00am—Stack Center, OLG Room

Sunday, January 4th:

The Epiphany of the Lord

Coffee & Donuts

After the 9:00am Mass—Gathering Area

1st Communion Class—Year 2

10:15am—Stack Center

Confirmation Class

11:15am—Stack Center

DID YOU KNOW???

Our church has wonderful, hardworking volunteers who clean and set up our pews each week with missalettes, song books and envelopes each week for our Masses.

We are grateful for their years of service in doing this!



Mass Intentions for the Week

SUNDAY, December 28th

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

7:30am OLG Community

9:00am Frank Lang – D

11:00am Manuel Jardim – D

1:00pm Rosa Martinez Reyes – D

MONDAY, December 29th

Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

8:15am Veronica Ismael & Family – L

TUESDAY, December 30th

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:15am Raquel & Alberto Sandoval – L

WEDNESDAY, December 31st

Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
St. Sylvester I, Pope

8:15am Araceli Reveles – L

5:00pm No Intention

THURSDAY, January 1st

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord

9:00am Reid Hirata – L

FRIDAY, January 2nd

Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops & Doctors of the Church

8:15am Evan Hinkson – L

SATURDAY, January 3rd

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:15am Esperanza Ortega – D

5:00pm John Harrington – D

SUNDAY, January 4th

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7:30am OLG Community

9:00am Trish Ferrari – D

11:00am Eduardo Mariano

1:00pm Rosa Martinez Reyes – D



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RELEVANT RADIO - 1260 AM

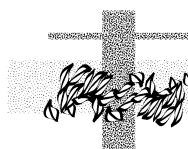


Relevant Radio brings you the best in Catholic Radio 24/7! Playing on 1260AM and dedicated to sharing the heart of the Catholic Faith and changing lives.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

December 29th through January 4th

Monday: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35
Tuesday: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40
Wednesday: 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18
Thursday: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7;
Luke 2:16-21
Friday: 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
Saturday: 1 John 2:29-3:6; John 1:29-34
Sunday: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6;
Matthew 2:1-12



Grow in faith!

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FR. RAY MALLET'S PILGRIMAGE TO SPAIN Spring 2026

Fr. Ray will be leading a pilgrimage to Spain from **March 10th-19th**, in celebration of his 50th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. For more details and to enroll, please email Fr. Ray at rmallett1@hotmail.com.

PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Memory is the horizon of hope. Many times, in the darkness of wars and conflicts, the remembrance of even a small gesture of solidarity received can lead to courageous and even heroic decisions."

-Pope Francis

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

SEEKING ADVERTISERS FOR OUR WEEKLY BULLETINS

In every bulletin, we proudly publish advertisers from Castro Valley and neighboring cities. If you are a business owner or know of someone who is and is interested in having your business information published for hundreds of parishioners to see each week, please contact *Mission Publications* at 888-253-4358. OLG thanks you in advance for your support!

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:

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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 Mass. *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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