

OUR LADY OF GRACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

**The Epiphany of The Lord
January 4th, 2026**



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

St. Vincent de Paul Helpline: 510-581-2164

EUCARISTIC ADORATION: CHURCH

Saturday: Following the 8:15 Mass

Thursday: 6:00-7:00pm

CONFESIONS:

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,

Today, we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord, a powerful reminder that Jesus manifests himself not just to a chosen few, but to all humanity. Like the Magi, we are called to seek Christ, guided by the light of faith. When we encounter him, in our worship and in our daily lives, we are challenged to offer our best. Let us, therefore, respond with grateful hearts, giving our time, talent, and treasure as a testament to our faith, and let us be a light to those around us who wander in darkness.

As you know on Jan. 6, 2026, the solemnity of the Epiphany, Pope Leo XIV is scheduled to close the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica before celebrating the Mass that will mark the concluding act of the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope. We stand at a pivotal moment, not of farewell, but of transformation. For these months, we have journeyed together, seeking divine mercy, renewing our faith, and igniting the flame of hope within our hearts, inspired by Pope Francis' call to be "Pilgrims of Hope". May we continue to be pilgrims, carrying the light of Christ into the world, unafraid and full of hope.

Also, it is with great joy and gratitude to God that I announce and welcome our new Franciscan priest, Father Angel Garcia, OFM Conv., to Our Lady of Grace Church! Fr. Angel was ordained on March 25, 2023, by Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv., Bishop of the Diocese of Lexington, KY. The ordination was held at St. Paul Parish in San Pablo, CA. Fr. Angel will reside at St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe Friary (Casa) and serve as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Grace Church in Castro Valley. We are truly blessed to receive him as "the Magi's generous gift-giving" and look forward to the journey of faith we will share with him.

Peace and all good!

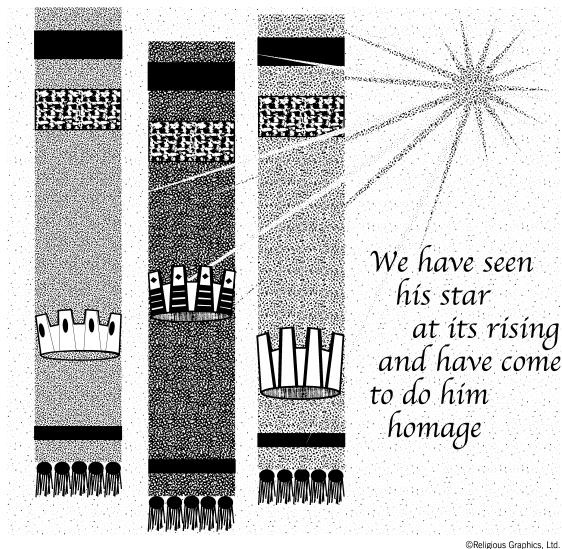
Fr. Luke
Parochial Vicar



The Baptism of the Lord (January 11th)

Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

As we come to the close of this year, we offer our heartfelt thanks to each of you for the gifts of time, talent, and financial support that keep our parish running and serving. Our parish continues to grow and welcome new families because of the generosity and grace you share.

As we reflect on 2025, we see that parish expenses have increased by over 9%, while our income has grown only 2%. To close this gap, we ask that you prayerfully consider a special year-end contribution.

Please know that it is through your continued generosity that our parish can sustain our ministries, support our parish family, and meet the challenges of each year. We remain deeply grateful for all you do in service to our parish community.

Blessings to you and your families this Season of Light!



COFFEE AND DONUTS January 11th

Come join us after the 9:00am Sunday Mass on **January 11th** in the Gathering Area for coffee, donuts and community. We thank our Confirmation students and parents for this ministry of hospitality. See you there!

ANNUAL SEMINARY COLLECTION Next Weekend-January 10th & 11th

Our Diocese asks us to help with the work of education for tomorrow's priests through our contributions for the Seminary collection. This year is another challenging year for all of us financially but the Diocese humbly appeals to all of you to give your best effort to support our seminarians in their training and formation in your own unique and creative way. Please include the seminarians in your prayers. Prayer especially during Holy Mass is one of the most effective ways in campaigning and promoting vocations in our Church. You may make your check out to "Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland". Envelopes will be in the pews for your use. Your kindness, generosity and prayers are deeply appreciated.



CYO GIRLS BASKETBALL REGISTRATION Until January 14th



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.olgcycyo.com. Questions? Email olgcycyo@gmail.com. Want to coach? Please Email olggirlsad@gmail.com.

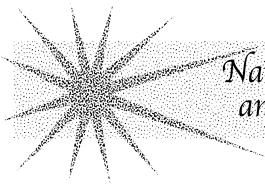


TRANSFIGURATION CHURCH'S PASTA DINNER January 17th

Save the date! Join us after the 4:00pm Vigil Mass at Transfiguration for a delicious Pasta Dinner and enjoy an evening of food, fun and community in Transfiguration Hall. Cost is \$20 each. Tickets will be sold at Transfiguration's Parish Office and at the door. See you there!



*Accept our gifts also
O Lord*



*Nations walk by your light
and kings by your shining radiance*

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PLEASE NOTE

Due to the holiday schedule of our bulletin publisher, we are not able to report the monthly offering of December. It will be announced later this month. We thank you for your patience.



ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIAL DONORS

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

Given By:

Anonymous
Kaye McCann
Maria Zambrano

In Memory of / In Honor of:

All Souls in Purgatory
John McCann
Jose & Gloria Areas

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!

CELEBRATE CHILDREN!

Dear Parents,

Our parish enthusiastically welcomes your growing family to fully celebrate with us. May we suggest:

- ***Relax.** God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house.
- ***Sit** towards the front or aisle where it is easier for little ones to see & hear.
- ***Quietly** explain the parts of the Mass.
- ***Sing** the hymns and **pray** the prayers together.
Children learn from your actions.
- *If necessary, the Family Room located at the right side of the Church is available for your use.

To all Parishioners:

The presence of children is a gift to your Church. Like all of us, they are members of the Body of Christ and a reminder of the growth and future of our Church. Please welcome our children and their parents, and give them a big smile of encouragement!

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.

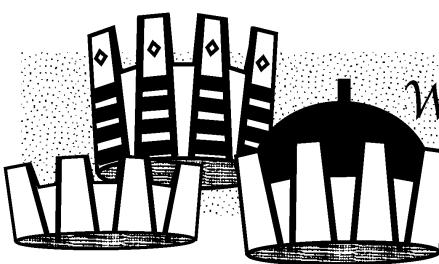


Your Prayers Are Requested

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
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



*We have seen
his star*

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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

JOYCE CZECK
(Fr. Tom's Mom)

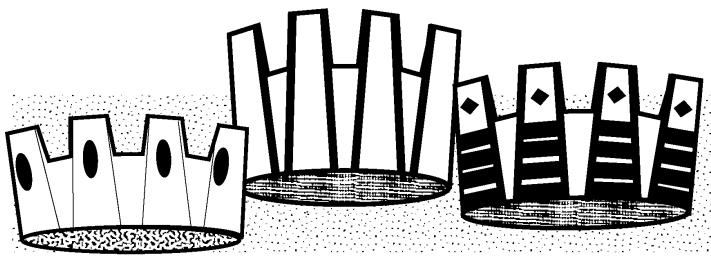
JOSE RAMON CORRAL

JOAQUINA FLYNN

TERRI STEVICK

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

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!

ADORATION & RECONCILIATION

Join us on Thursdays, 6:00-7:00pm for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation and on Saturdays, immediately following the 8:15am Mass, concluding at 10:00am.



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.



PRE-BAPTISM CLASS FOR PARENTS & GODPARENTS

If you are wishing to have your child baptized, ages infant to six years, parents **BAPTISM** 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.

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Our only incentive is love toward the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in order to unite to Him through the Immaculata, the greatest possible number of souls."

THIS WEEK

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

Tuesday, January 6th:

Men's Cursillo Meeting
6:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

Men's Faith Share
7:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

Wednesday, January 7th:

OCIA
6:30pm—Stack Center, Room 8

Thursday, January 8th:

Adoration & Reconciliation
6:00pm—Church

AA Serenity Group
7:30pm—Stack Center, Room 9

Saturday, January 10th:

Adoration & Reconciliation
8:45am—Church

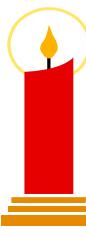
Sunday, January 11th:

The Baptism of the Lord
Coffee & Donuts
After the 9:00am Mass—Gathering Area

1st Communion Class—Year 1
10:15am—Stack Center



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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.

Mass for the Week

SUNDAY, January 4th

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7:30am OLG Community
9:00am Trish Ferrari – D
11:00am Eduardo Mariano – D
1:00pm Rosa Martinez Reyes – D

MONDAY, January 5th

St. John Neumann, Bishop

8:15am Agosto & Edwina Silva – D

TUESDAY, January 6th

St. André Bessette, Religious

8:15am Patrick McGowan – D

WEDNESDAY, January 7th

St. Raymond of Peñafort, Priest

8:15am Carmen Ramirez – D

THURSDAY, January 8th

9:00am Ester Perdido Baclig – D

FRIDAY, January 9th

8:15am Steve Cassidy – D

SATURDAY, January 10th

8:15am All Souls in Purgatory

5:00pm Exequiel Albano – D

SUNDAY, January 11th

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

7:30am Marcelino Perdido – D

9:00am OLG Community

11:00am Diep Tran – D

1:00pm Manuel & Francisco Jardim – D

RELEVANT RADIO - 1260 AM



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And you Bethlehem of Judah,
are by no means least
among the princes
since from you shall come forth
a ruler to shepherd Israel

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK: January 5th through January 11th

Monday:	1 John 3:22-4:6; Matthew 4:12-17,23-25
Tuesday:	1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44
Wednesday:	1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52
Thursday:	1 John 4:19-5:4; Luke 4:14-22
Friday:	1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16
Saturday:	1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30
Sunday:	Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17



To the Word of the Lord we say Amen

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FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

If you have an IRA and are over the age of 70 1/2, you are faced with a required minimum distribution from your IRA. The IRS has a qualified charitable donation rule that allows you to exempt your distribution from taxes. The significant advantage of this is that it lowers your adjusted gross income. The main rules are: donation must be paid directly from the IRA to the charity; the donor must be over 70 1/2; the amount is limited to \$100k. If you are in this situation, check and see if it makes sense for you to apply this IRS rule and direct your distribution to Our Lady of Grace Parish. *May God Bless your generous giving.*

PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“When we all see God in each other, we will love one another as He loves us all. That is the fulfillment of the law, to love one another.”

-St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 1997

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

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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