

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we light the final candle of Advent—the candle of Love—we stand on the threshold of Christmas, reminded that God's greatest act of love was sending His Son, Jesus, to be with us (Emmanuel). This week's Gospel focuses on Mary and Elizabeth, showing how faith moves us to action and compassion, urging us to prepare our hearts, not just for a baby, but for God's presence in our lives through acts of kindness, service, and sharing His light in a world needing hope, peace, and love.

I am very grateful to all those who donated coats and blankets, participated in our FESCO Adopt-a-Family event, and helped Post Acute Patients through St. Vincent de Paul. This is truly faith in action, like Mary's journey to Elizabeth shows faith isn't just belief, but stepping out to serve others, bringing God's presence to them. As you know, in our parish there are some families with limited resources and they are very grateful for the gifts that you have lovingly brought them. May God bless you for your generosity.

Also, I would like to thank all of you for your many prayers, cards, visits, and expressions of love that you have shown to our dear Fr. Raphael during his time of illness. Your care has been a tangible reminder of God's love and the strength of our community in Christ. It is a humbling experience to know that I am so cherished and upheld by each of you. Your kindness has not only been a source of comfort but a true testament to the living, breathing Body of Christ we are called to be. You have shown me, firsthand, what it means to bear one another's burdens and to walk together in faith and love.

Please do not forget to put on your calendar the Christmas Mass schedule. This year we will have two Masses on Christmas Eve (December 24th). Family Mass will be at 5:00pm and Mass at Night at 10:00pm. Carols will be sung 30 minutes before the Masses.

On Christmas Day (December 25th) we will celebrate four Masses: 7:30am; 9:00am; 11:00am; and 1:00pm in Spanish. You are all invited to participate.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” — Psalm 118:1

May your homes be filled with the peace, hope, and overwhelming love of Christ this Christmas season.

Fr. Luke
Parochial Vicar



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (December 28th)

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.” Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, *Out of Egypt I called my son*. When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, *He shall be called a Nazorean*.

PEACE ON
EARTH

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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 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

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!

CHRISTMAS POSADA

December 21st

Join us in Stack Center after the
1:00pm Spanish Mass for Las Posadas!

We thank The Hispanic Group for hosting
this celebration! This Mexican tradition 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.

All are welcome! ¡Todos son bienvenidos!

NO 8:15 AM MASS

There will be no morning Mass on
December 24th & 25th and January 1st

NO ADORATION

There will be no Adoration & Reconciliation on
December 25th and January 1st.

We thank you for your understanding.



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 help-
ing us respond to unexpected and ongoing needs and un-
dertake maintenance projects that allow our parish to re-
main 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 en-
sure 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 provid-
ing the ministries, services, and care that enrich our par-
ish community throughout the year.

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

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.



DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

December 23rd

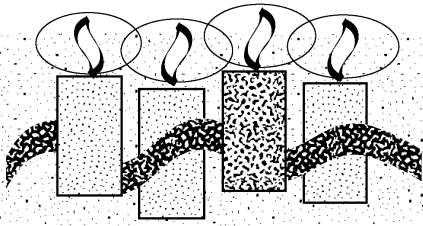
The committee is in need of help to get
the church ready for Christmas. If you are
available to help on Tuesday, **December
23rd at 9:30am**, it would be most appre-
ciated. The more hands, the quicker the
work will be completed. Thanks in advance for your
assistance!



AVE, MARIA
gratia plena
Dominus tecum

Hail, Mary
full of grace
the Lord is with thee

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**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.

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.***

**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION
There's Still Time to Give**

Heartfelt gratitude for your generosity! "Thank you very much for your donations, always," says Sr. Olivia Bellegante, 93, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in St. Louis, Missouri. Your gift directly impacts thousands of senior religious, providing the support they need in their later years. Envelopes are in the pews for your use. You may make your check out to "Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland". To learn more and to give online, please visit: www.retiredreligious.org.



**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 olgcvc@gmail.com. Want to coach? Please Email olggirlsad@gmail.com.

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

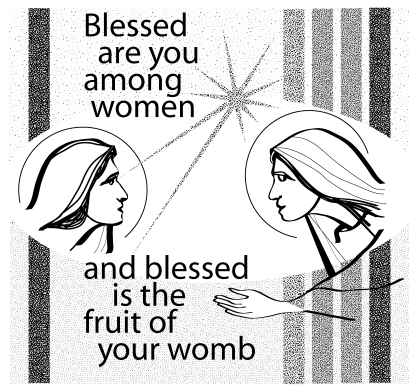
Diana Riley

Tommy Rosenbusch

Lisa Tortora

Mark Vaz

Peggy Winkenbach



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

JUAN LOZA

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE



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MINISTRIES of
HOPE
2025 BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL

2025 BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL

We have achieved 149% 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:	101
Funds Raised (includes pledges):	\$43,182.00

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

"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 21st:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Las Posadas
2:00pm—Stack Center

Tuesday, December 23rd:

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

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

Wednesday, December 24th:

Christmas Eve Vigil Masses
5:00pm & 10:00pm—Church

Parish Office Closed

No 8:15am Mass

Thursday, December 25th:

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Christmas Day Masses
7:30am, 9:00am, 11:00am & 1:00pm (Spanish)—Church

Parish Office Closed

No 8:15am Mass

No Adoration & Reconciliation

Friday, December 26th:

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, December 27th:

Adoration & Reconciliation
8:45am—Church

Sunday, December 28th:

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



BAPTISM

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.

Mass for the Intentions for the Week

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

MONDAY, December 22nd

8:15am Norma Wardle – D

TUESDAY, December 23rd

St. John of Kanty, Priest

8:15am Sean Hinkson – L

WEDNESDAY, December 24th5:00pm *Christmas Eve Mass*10:00pm *Christmas Eve Mass***THURSDAY, December 25th**7:30am *The Solemnity of Christmas*9:00am *The Solemnity of Christmas*11:00am *The Solemnity of Christmas*1:00pm *The Solemnity of Christmas***FRIDAY, December 26th**

St. Stephen, the First Martyr

8:15am Evan Hinkson – L

SATURDAY, December 27th

St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

8:15am Manuel & Gose Silva – D

5:00pm Gloria Bazan – D

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

*The light
of the Lord
draws near*

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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 22nd through December 28th**

Monday: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56

Tuesday: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66

Wednesday: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16;
Luke 1:67-79

Thursday:

Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;
Matthew 1:1-25**Night:** Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14;
Luke 2:1-14**Dawn:** Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7;
Luke 2:15-20**Day:** Isaiah 52:7-10;

Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59;

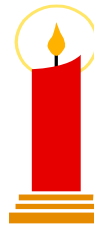
Matthew 10:17-22

Saturday: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1-8

Sunday: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14;

Colossians 3:12-21;

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

**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.

PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Peace, which the angels proclaimed to the shepherds on Christmas night, is a profound aspiration for everyone, for each individual and all peoples, and especially for those who most keenly suffer its absence."

-Pope Francis, 2017

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:

**OLIVIA SALGADO
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY**