

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

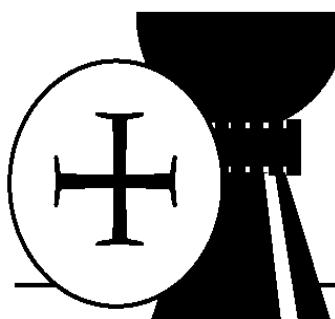
With the close of the Christmas season and the feast of the Baptism of the Lord last Sunday, we now transition into the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time. Despite the name “ordinary,” this is not a “less important” time, but rather a period for counting the weeks (the *ordinal* numbers) of Christ’s life and ministry, a season of growth and maturation. The liturgical green symbolizes this life and growth, as we seek to deepen our understanding of Jesus’ teachings (his *parables*) and apply them to our everyday lives.

Most of you are aware, Fr. Raphael wrote his farewell letter to us last Sunday. And at the 11:00 AM livestream Mass at our Church of the Transfiguration, we said goodbye to him. On January 13, 2026, Fr. Raphael flew back to Connecticut and entered the nursing facility of the Felician Sisters. I am truly grateful for his willingness to come out from his eastern province to help our cluster community even in a short period of time. I always enjoyed living and working with Fr. Raphael. His joyful heart and faithful service to the cluster will be remembered. In many ways he has given us an example of servant leadership so beautifully, and I look forward to continuing to build upon the vibrant community that he fostered. While we say goodbye with heavy hearts, we also look forward with hope, confident that God has great things in store for Our Lady of Grace – Transfiguration Parish Cluster here in Castro Valley. Let us continue to pray for Fr. Raphael as he makes a transition to his next chapter. We pray God’s richest blessings upon him and his caregivers so that he may have full recovery and strength.

Now I direct your attention to the announcement this weekend “Vietnam/Philippines Typhoon Disaster Relief.” Our Vietnamese and Filipino brother priests of our diocese have written to our Bishop Barber out of deep concern for the suffering in their home dioceses in Vietnam and the Philippines. Both have suffered much damage to life and property. Given the pain and suffering to our brothers and sisters, and with the unanimous consent of the Presbyteral Council, Bishop Barber has authorized pastors to take up a voluntary second collection between now and February 1st to aid typhoon disaster relief in Vietnam and the Philippines. Please consider helping our brothers and sisters. This is not just about disaster relief; it’s about living out our faith in a real, tangible way, reflecting God’s commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves. Thank you for your generosity.

May God richly bless you for your compassionate hearts and generous spirits.

Fr. Luke  
Parochial Administrator



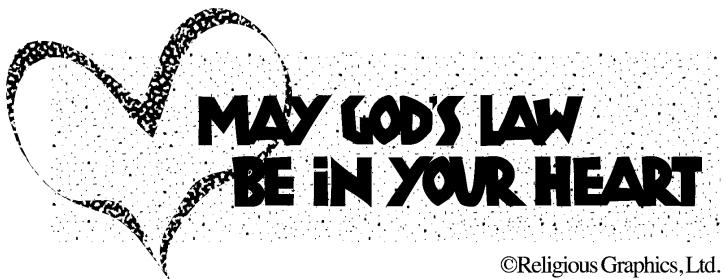
**THE LORD IS PRESENT  
TO US IN THE GIFT  
OF THE EUCHARIST**

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### The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (January 25th)

**Matthew 4:12-23**

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: *Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen.* From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him. He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people.



## OLG SCHOOL CELEBRATES CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK!

January marks a time of celebrations for Catholic Schools all over the country, culminating in "Catholic Schools Week" the last week of January. We would like to invite you all to a special "Catholic School Mass" on **Sunday, January 25th at 9:00am**, when students from the school will minister to us through their gift of song, proclaim God's Word, and assist the ushers with the collection and presentation of the gifts. The celebration will continue with coffee and donuts as a way to celebrate our existing families.

**On Saturday, January 31st, the week concludes with our annual Open House from 10:30am to 12:30pm in the Stack Center.** There will be dedicated sessions introducing our Dual Language Immersion program for grades Jr. K-2nd, as well as our STEM and Language-enriched grades 5-8 at both 10:45am and 11:45am. Come and meet next year's co-principals, teachers, and staff as we continue to grow this unique opportunity for a Catholic Education in the midst of Castro Valley. Pre-register at <https://www.olgschool.org/>



## ANNUAL SEMINARY COLLECTION There's Still Time to Give!

Thank you to those who have given last weekend. Our Diocese asks us to help with the work of education for tomorrow's priests through our contributions for the Seminary collection. You may make your check out to "Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland". Envelopes are in the pews for your use. Your kindness, generosity and prayers are deeply appreciated.



## YEARLY CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

For your convenience in preparing your tax return, a contribution statement for 2025 will be prepared at your request. Please phone Jay at 510-537-0806, with your name and envelope number. Your statement will be available for you to pick up once it has been signed.



## DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FEDERAL HOLIDAY

On Monday, January 19th the Parish Office will be closed and will re-open on **Tuesday, January 20th** at 8:30am. The entire Parish Staff wishes you a safe and relaxing holiday.

## PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed on **January 30th** and **February 6th**. We thank you for your understanding.

## VIETNAM & PHILIPPINES TYPHOON DISASTER RELIEF Next Weekend-January 24th & 25th

With deep concern for the suffering in the home dioceses in Vietnam and the Philippines of many of our clergy, Bishop Barber asks all parishes to consider a donation to aid typhoon disaster relief in Vietnam and the Philippines. Envelopes will be in the pews for your use. Checks should be addressed to "Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland" with notation: "Vietnam/Philippines Typhoon Disaster relief". May God bless you for your generosity.

## CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

We recently welcomed  
**Thomas Duc Nguyen**

into Our Lady of Grace Church by the Sacrament of  
Holy Baptism. May God Bless you!



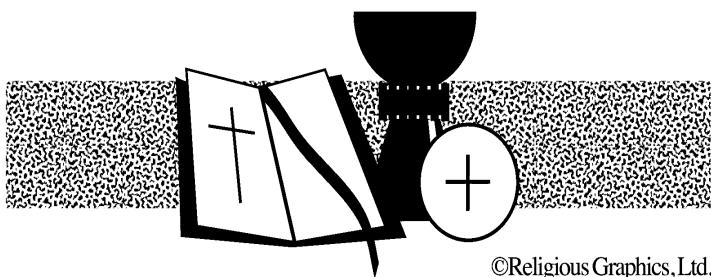
## COFFEE AND DONUTS January 25th

Come join us after the 9:00am Sunday Mass on **January 25th** in the Gathering Area for coffee, donuts and community. We thank Our Lady of Grace School's students and parents for this ministry of hospitality. See you there!

## 1ST FRIDAYS OF EACH MONTH EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION February 6th

All are invited to join us after the 8:15am Mass for Exposition and Benediction of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.





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### 'THANK YOU' FROM MARK VAZ

To The Congregations of Our Lady Of Grace and Transfiguration:

My deepest thanks and gratitude to all who prayed for me, visited me in the hospital, sent Get Well cards, and named me in Mass offerings during my nearly four months of hospital care in late 2025.

The unexpected and shocking suddenness of it all---like finding one's self buried alive in a diabolical nightmare---was exceeded only by its severity---massive cardiac arrest, collapsed lungs, and other breakdowns of bodily functions (the exact cause of which, to this day, remains unknown).

I would have died on the spot, had I not already been at the Tri-Valley Stanford hospital, having undergone a procedure to prevent the occurrence of the heart condition known as "A-fib." Ironically, the procedure was a complete success---it was, in its aftermath, that some strange factor caused my body to go haywire. But medical personnel sprang into action, and I got further life saving treatment on the helicopter that airlifted me to Stanford's world-class facility in Palo Alto.

A friend of mine called my survival a "Miracle," and I credit the grace of healing prayers and the support of family and friends in making my miracle possible. Happily, I kept my good humor throughout. And as the days, weeks, and months dragged on, the love and prayers of my faith community sustained me, kept me going.

Although I've fully recovered and was discharged from the hospital system in mid-November, my rehabilitation continues (months lying on a hospital bed has an energizing effect on one's muscular system). Rehab is a process, not a quick fix, and I've taken to heart the inspirational messages many of you shared with me, such as this scriptural quotation from 1 Peter 5:10:

"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."

That's a Promise--and our Destiny.

With Thanks and Love,  
Mark Cotta Vaz

### 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 DECEMBER:

Sunday Plate for the month:	\$ 57,304.00
<b>Month Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 52,328.00</b>
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ 4,976.00
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ 28,242.70

*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

Felicitas Cervantes Galves

Norma Dockter

Diego Gonzalez

Theresa Hull-Nye

Cecilia Laverne

Brian Linney

Catherine Lucas

Maria Flores Martinez

Legia Mejia

Sheryl Michaud

Olga Muñoz

Cec Penland

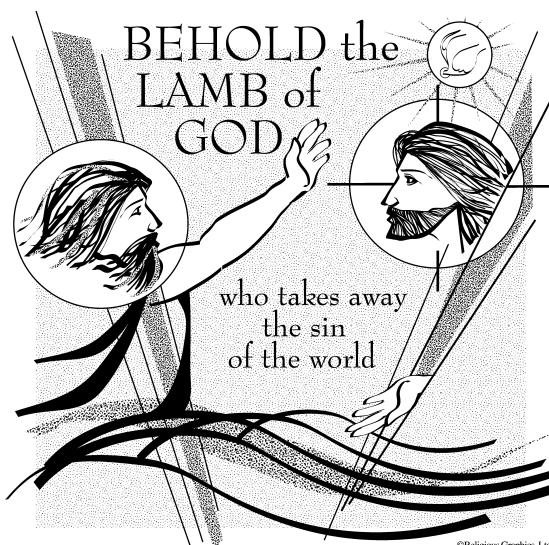
Diana Riley

Tommy Rosenbusch

Lisa Tortora

Mark Vaz

Peggy Winkenbach



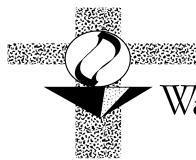
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*Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.*

**In Memorial**

**VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE**

**VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE**



Walk by the LIGHT of the LORD

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### WINGS - WOMEN IN GOD'S SPIRIT

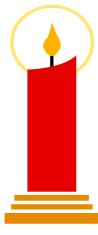
WINGS is a faith enhancement group that encourages spiritual growth through prayer, scripture study, Catechesis, life sharing and community. Our meetings are held at Transfiguration's Church Hall.

Next Meeting: **January 22nd**, 9:00am to 11:15am

Speaker: Deacon Tim Roberto

Topic: "Hope in a Chaotic World"

For further information or if you would like to attend, please contact: Rose Anne Ryken at [raryken39@gmail.com](mailto:raryken39@gmail.com).



### 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.

### 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.



### MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Our main aim is always the conversion and sanctification of souls, that is, winning them over to the Immaculata and the love of every soul....It follows [to work] in the spirit of the MI only insofar as they themselves understand that spirit, let themselves be penetrated by it, and not only belong to the MI, but live by the Immaculata to the point that they look at events, people, and their actions through her eyes, and have others share their lives in the Immaculata, or rather 'ex superabundantia' share this life."*

## THIS WEEK

**Sunday, January 18th:**

***The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time***

1st Communion Class—Year 2

10:15am—Stack Center

Confirmation Class

11:15am—Stack Center

**Monday, January 19th:**

***Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday  
Parish Office Closed***

**Tuesday, January 20th:**

Men's Cursillo Meeting

6:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

Men's Faith Share

7:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

Women's Faith Share

7:00pm—Stack Center, Room 7

**Wednesday, January 21st:**

OCIA

6:30pm—Stack Center, Room 8

Columbiette's Meeting

6:30pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting

7:00pm—Parish Office

**Thursday, January 22nd:**

Adoration & Reconciliation

6:00pm—Church

AA Serenity Group

7:30pm—Stack Center, Room 9

**Saturday, January 24th:**

Adoration & Reconciliation

8:45am—Church

Prayer Garden Cleanup

10:00am—Prayer Garden

**Sunday, January 25th:**

***The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time***

Coffee & Donuts

After the 9:00am Mass—Gathering Area

1st Communion Class—Year 1

10:15am—Stack Center

Confirmation Discipleship Conference #3

Beginning at 11:45am—Stack Center

# Mass for the Week

## SUNDAY, January 18th

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30am Antonio Grijalva – D  
9:00am Gina Castillo – D  
11:00am OLG Community  
1:00pm Jose & Maria Avila – D

## MONDAY, January 19th

8:15am Jose Duarte – D

## TUESDAY, January 20th

St. Fabian, Pope & Martyr  
St. Sebastian, Martyr  
8:15am Louis Rodrigues – D

## WEDNESDAY, January 21st

St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr  
8:15am Caden Sigmon – L

## THURSDAY, January 22nd

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children  
8:15am Cirilo Bustos – D

## FRIDAY, January 23rd

St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr  
St. Marianne Cope, Virgin  
8:15am Mario Arevalo – D

## SATURDAY, January 24th

St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church  
8:15am Mary Guzman – L  
5:00pm Gina Castillo – D

## SUNDAY, January 25th

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
7:30am Visitacion Perdido – D  
9:00am Taylor & Felicity Hill – L  
11:00am Manuel & Maria Jardim – D  
1:00pm OLG Community



## EXECUTION ALERTS

The following execution is scheduled to take place in January:

**January 18th** Charles Thompson Texas

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

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

January 19th through January 25th

Monday:	1 Samuel 15:16-23; Mark 2:18-22
Tuesday:	1 Samuel 16:1-13; Mark 2:23-28
Wednesday:	1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Mark 3:1-6
Thursday:	1 Samuel 18:6-9;19:1-7; Mark 3:7-12
Friday:	1 Samuel 24:3-21; Mark 3:13-19
Saturday:	2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Mark 3:20-21
Sunday:	Isaiah 8:23-9:3; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17; Matthew 4:12-23

*His presence among us continues forever*

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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.



## PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“Love of one’s enemy constitutes the nucleus of the ‘Christian revolution’, a revolution not based on strategies of economic, political or media power: the revolution of love, a love that does not rely ultimately on human resources but is a gift of God which is obtained by trusting solely and unreservedly in his merciful goodness. Here is the newness of the Gospel which silently changes the world!”*

*-Pope Benedict XVI, 2007*

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:

**JESS C. SPENCER MORTUARY, INC.**