



Last weekend's celebration of the Baptism of Jesus formally ended the Christmas season. Beginning last Monday, we entered back into the green of Ordinary Time (for only 5 ½ weeks this time). It is called "ordinary" because we name the weeks of the Church Year with ordinal numbers. There are 34 weeks in the Church year, though these weeks are interrupted by "embolisms" such as the season of Lent (beginning February 17th), of Easter (April 4th), and the Solemnities that follow our Easter and Pentecost celebrations. Because Easter is a movable feast (determined by the lunar calendar), we actually count backwards from the 34th week (the last Sunday of the year – celebrated as the Feast of Christ the King) to arrive at the numbering for the rest of the weeks. At the same time, we are in the 2nd year of our 2-year weekday cycle, and we are in Year C of the 3-year Sunday cycle (emphasizing the Gospel of Luke). Are you confused? Don't be, we'll be sure to tell you what page we are on. We just want to make sure you know it is more complicated than it looks...

This new year of 2010 also brings us to a new **fiscal** year and so work begins on our operating budget – generally based on the closing figures from last year. The '**cost of doing business**' as a parish and school continues to increase every year. The single largest expense we have is that of paying our staff and providing them benefits – as determined by the Diocese of Oakland. In fact, there is a salary-freeze currently in effect across the diocese and for the foreseeable time salaries will remain as they have been, but benefits will likely increase. I don't have to tell you that church-salaries are well below the private sector and so it is incumbent upon us to do the best we can to pay a living wage and provide very necessary benefits to those entitled to them. I don't think it comes as a surprise to anyone who is an employer or an employee that the cost of these benefits, as well as the required insurance coverage we must maintain, has increased dramatically. When the Diocesan Insurance and Benefits staff calls me and asks "Are you sitting down?" I no longer act surprised!

As you might expect, all other expenses have increased as well. Missalettes, music books, candles, hosts and wine for the liturgy, flowers, publications, etc., etc. are a necessary part of what we do. Maintenance of our aging facilities, utilities, upgrades, repairs, office related expenses, collection envelope services, property taxes, janitorial services, and other ministry related expenses – all these combine to confront our limited financial resources, and challenge us to be better than good stewards both of what we receive and what we disburse.

You can do the math: Prior to 2009 our Sunday (plate) collection had remained static. If we were to adjust for inflation, it would actually show a greater decrease each of the past 5 years. Using the same budgeted plate income as we have for the last 6 years, our plate collection for 2008 was under budget by \$15,000.00 and in 2009 our plate collection was under budget by \$40,000.00. It is obvious that we need to either lessen our expectations or find ways to increase our income. Our collections for Christmas and Easter combined, thankfully, were very close to those in 2008. Holy Days, special collections, etc., have also leveled out and remain at or less than previous years. One significant change in 2009 was that we did not benefit from a reduction in the salary expense that we had previously gained when St. Alphonsus covered one salary from January - June, 2008.

This past year we were blessed to have some additional income that helped us to meet our expenses, and I have done everything I can to keep our expenses as low as possible. I am most grateful for the continuing generosity of many of our parish members, but I continue to be concerned, if not surprised, by the non-support of a great many of our registered parishioners. It is unfair - if not unjust - to expect that the few will bear the responsibility of the many. When nearly half of our membership does not contribute anything to support the parish and its ministries we must again raise the question of what it means to be a "member" and what it means to "participate" in the life of this community.

For those who strive to meet the goals of our parish mission statement I offer our sincerest gratitude. To those who are new to our community - I invite your active participation in the life of our faith community. And to those who may have grown complacent or indifferent about being a member of Our Lady of Grace, I invite your prayerful reflection on what that means to you – and what it means to us.

As this new year of 2010 continues to unfold, I pray that it will be one that is full with many blessings and gifts for the entire parish community of Our Lady of Grace.

*Wishing you God's richest and fullest blessings,
Fr. Kevin, O.S.A.*

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FEDERAL HOLIDAY

Monday, **January 18th** is a Federal holiday. There will be one mass only at 8:30am in the Church. The parish office will be closed on Monday and will re-open on Tuesday, **January 19th** at 9:00am. We wish you a safe and relaxing holiday.

ANNUAL SEMINARY COLLECTION

This weekend (**January 16th -17th**) our diocese asks us to help with the work of educating tomorrow's priests through our contributions to the Seminary Collection. Your prayers and support for our seminarians are a tremendous encouragement to the candidates preparing to serve the Diocese of Oakland.

Your generous contributions assist these seminarians on their way to the priesthood. The Annual Seminarian Collection supports the cost of formation and education of the individuals who are giving their lives to the service of God's people. Our seminarians are dedicated, enthusiastic and most willing to be of service. Your kindness, generosity, and prayers are deeply appreciated.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY NIGHT

Our next Middle School Ministry night will be Friday, **January 22nd**, from 7:00-9:00pm. Come and dance & play the night away! DJ, photo's, snack bar and open gym. Admission is \$5.00. School ID, parent permission slip required. Snack bar items .50. Call the Faith Formation Center for more information, 582-9266.

Volunteer chaperones needed! Adult chaperones needed for all Middle School Nights. If you are 21 years or older and would like to help out, please call Robyn Lang at 582-9266.



JANUARY CYO SIGN-UPS

It's time for Girls Basketball (grades 2nd – 8th) and Boys Volleyball (grades 4th-8th) sign-ups. The dates will be Tuesday's, **January 19th, and 26th** in Augustine Center (A-1) from 7:00pm-8:30pm. All non-OLG students must bring copies of their birth certificate and a utility bill (water, PG&E, garbage) that list the property address. *These are the only sign up dates, practices begin February 1st.*

If you are interested in coaching or helping with CYO in another position please contact Mike Martinez at olgathletics@yahoo.com

AUGUSTINIAN GUILD APPEAL

Dave Olds, a pre-novice candidate, will make the annual appeal, on behalf of the Augustinian Guild the weekend of **January 23rd – 24th**. The appeal seeks support for the religious and theological formation of brothers and priest, who have dedicated their lives to serving God's people, here at Our Lady of Grace, and throughout California and Oregon. The Guild also serves other apostolates such as funding for our retired Augustinians, the orphanage in Tijuana, and missionary activities in Peru. In advance, thank you for your continuing support of our annual Appeal.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Our Lady of Grace and St. John the Baptist have 6 candidates preparing to receive this sacrament on Saturday, **January 30th** at the Cathedral of Christ the Light. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their journey of faith. The candidates from Our Lady of Grace are: Juan Antonio Barillas, Hilda Bermudez, and Christina Woyczik.

**DO WHATEVER
HE TELLS YOU**



Religious Graphics, Inc.

**OUR LADY OF GRACE SCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE**

Our Lady of Grace School will host its annual Open House for grades K - 8 on Sunday, **January 31st, 2010**. Open House will begin following the 9:00 a.m. mass. Visitors are invited to join us for coffee and donuts in Stack Center, tour the school, meet teachers, the principal and other parents. Kindergarten presentation will be at 11:00 a.m. in the Kindergarten classroom.

Applications for grades 1-8 will be available for the 2010-2011 school year. Come and meet our principal, Mrs. Wahl and our faculty. Also view the various displays in the school classrooms, science lab, school garden, technology lab and more. For further information, please call Our Lady of Grace School office, 581-3155 between the hours of 8:30am-3:00pm.



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Upcoming Youth Group dates: **January 17th, February 7th and 21st** from 9:00am-12:00Noon. Our Youth Group is open to all high school students—so bring a friend and have some fun! Contact the Faith Formation Center for more information at (510) 582-9266 or email Robyn at olgrec@sbcglobal.net. The complete schedule can be found on line under Youth Ministry at www.olgcv.org

Confirmation gatherings for February: February 7th and 21st. February 21st is the next Sponsor/Candidate day. All sponsors need to attend both the 9:00am Mass and the 10:30 gathering on that day. Check the complete Confirmation schedule online under Liturgy & Sacraments at the parish webpage: www.olgcv.org



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Stewardship of treasure involves trust in God. You have to really believe in God's Providence and trust that if you give ten percent of your income to the Church and charity, for example, God will help you live on the rest.

In gratitude for God's gifts of "Treasure" to us, we gratefully returned to God's church in the **Offerings of January 10th :**

Envelopes/Loose Checks (245)	\$ 7,008.00
Loose cash:	685.00
Total Offering:	\$ 7,693.00
Year-to-date (2weeks)	\$ 16,724.00

(Weekly average: \$8,362.00)

May God bless your continuing generosity.



Your Prayers Are Requested

Please lift up in your prayer those many among us who are ill and those who have asked for our prayerful remembrance:

<i>Let us pray for:</i>	Laura Hill
Lloyd Bauerly	Janis Lococo
Lucy Bruni	Pat Lopez
Carol De Cruz	Maria Ortega
Doug Foxworthy	Sylvia Pettit
Paul Freres	Mary Schenone
Rita Freres	Tula Rough
D'Riece Gundred	Debbie Telles
	Clara Walters

As we pray for an end to war and violence in our world, let us remember in prayer those family members of our parish community serving on active duty, including:

DAVID BANTA	KEVIN DIAS
DAVID SANCHEZ	LINDA SAUNDERS

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

**Teresa August
Ernest Giacomini**

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 next meeting:

January 21st, 9:15 – 11:15am

"Sharing and Study on Scripture"

Transfiguration Church

Presenter: Fr. Kevin Mullins

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

CRAB FEED

Saturday, January 23rd

Moreau Catholic's Booster Club hosts its annual Crab Feed to benefit the Athletic Department. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased online at moreaucatholic.org/alumni. Cocktails and raffle preview begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. 27170 Mission Blvd., Hayward, CA. Call (510) 881-4300 for more information.

**RETROUVAILLE
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIAGES**

For confidential information about or to register for the February program beginning with a weekend on **February 26th-28th**, call (510) 648-6874 or email: Oakland@RetroCA.com or visit the website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com

2010 CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Catholic Extension 2010 Family Appointment Calendars: We are grateful and we extend our sincere appreciation to *Holy Angels Catholic Funeral, Cremation & Cemetery Services of the Diocese of Oakland* for again sponsoring the 2010 Family Appointment Calendars. If you have not picked up your copy in the church, you may do so in the parish office during normal office hours.

FACILITIES & GROUNDS DRIVE

As of December 2009

Income thru August 2009:	452,377.00
Contributions Oct.-Dec.	8,153.00
Gross Income:	460,530.00
Expenses Thru October, 2009	(474,578.00)
Revised Net Income	(\$14,048.00)

Thank you for your continuing support of our Facilities and Grounds Drive !

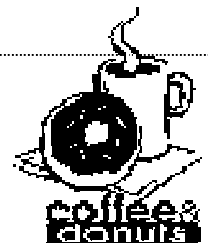
AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEERS

Augustinian Volunteers is a full-time volunteer program for recent college graduates between the ages of 21 and 29. Augustinian Volunteers are Catholic men and women who wish to serve God's people in partnership with the Augustinians and others. The work of the Volunteers is with established educational, social and health service programs and varies according to the needs of the sponsoring site and the individual Volunteer. Volunteers serve for 10 months domestically or 11 months internationally (Peru or South Africa). Volunteers live in community with other Volunteers and will be provided with room and board, transportation and health insurance. For more information about the Augustinian Volunteers, please check out our website at www.osavol.org

COME JOIN US

All are invited after the
7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 AM
Sunday Masses to
Gather in Stack Center for
coffee and donuts.

This is a great opportunity to
visit and to meet **new** friends!
Plan to stop in - we look forward
to seeing you there!



Mass Intentions for the Week



Please note: During the school year, our 8:30am Monday mass will be celebrated in the church. Unless otherwise noted all other weekday masses will be held in the Chapel.

MONDAY, JANUARY 18th (Church)

8:30am Dick Rodgers (D)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19th

7:00am Martyr Martin (D)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20th

Fabian, pope, martyr; Sebastian

7:00am William & Mericia Gonsalves (D)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21st

Agnes, virgin, martyr

7:00am Maria I. Velasquez (D)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22nd

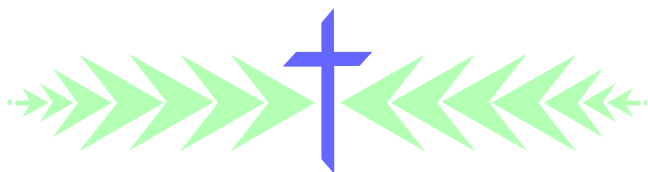
Vincent, deacon, martyr

7:00am Jose Daniel Tellez (D)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23rd

Blessed Josephine Mary of Beniganim, O.S.A., virgin

8:30am James Aquitania (L)



NOTE CARDS TO BENEFIT HOGAR INFANTIL - LA GLORIA

Fr. Bob Gavotto, O.S.A., has selected eight of his paintings and turned them into a set of note cards being offered through the Augustinian Guild for \$15.00 a set. All proceeds to benefit Hogar Infantil. The cards are available for viewing in the Parish Office. You may purchase sets by emailing or calling **Kathy Walker** at osawest@sbcglobal.net (619-235-0247).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

January 18th through January 24th

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: Nehemiah 8:2-6,8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4;4:14-21

THIS WEEK

Monday, January 18th:

Martin Luther King Holiday

Tuesday, January 19th:

Bible Study
 9:00am—Parish Office
 REC Classes
 3:45pm—Stack Center
 CYO Spring Sign-ups
 7:00pm—Augustine Center A-2

Wednesday, January 20th:

Nursing Home Mass
 10:30am—Life House

Thursday, January 21st:

Serenity Group
 8:15pm—Stack Center

Friday, January 22nd:

Middle School Ministry Night
 6:30pm—Stack Center

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:

VELLA'S LOCKER ROOM