



What a difference a year makes ! Last year at this time I had traveled to Detroit for the installation of Archbishop Vigneron, and we were anxiously awaiting the appointment of a new bishop for the Diocese of Oakland. It won't be all that long before we come to the 1st anniversary of the installation of Bishop Cordileone as our current bishop (May 5th). I am no longer serving on the Presbyterate Council or on the College of Consultors - and wondering what to with all my free time.....

And can it be that we are only 2 ½ weeks away from the beginning of Lent ? On Wednesday, February 17th, we will enter into that 40 day (+) period of retreat and reflection that will lead us, once again, to celebrate the joy of Easter resurrection and the new life that has been won for us.

As has been our practice for many years, we will again add an evening mass on the Wednesdays of lent (at 6:00 pm) and that will be followed by a simple soup meal – to be sponsored by various parish groups and organizations. The purpose of the meals rests in their simplicity and serves to remind us of the need to enter more fully into the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We are all too well aware of the many in our local community and in the wider world community who are in need of our support with both prayer and financial assistance. During the season of lent we (in the parish, Religious Education ministries, and school) support the annual Operation Rice Bowl drive and those funds are particularly used to provide food to the most needy of the impoverished in our world.

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On an adjacent page you will see an article about the upcoming, annual Diocesan Appeal. Though it took almost a yearlong effort to do so, we finally did meet our goal for last year's Appeal and by reinvesting the money returned to us from the 2008 Appeal, we were able to exceed our level by a few hundred dollars. I am again happy to report that in the past ten appeals, Our Lady of Grace parish has not only met – but has actually exceeded the level set for us by the diocese. As I think you know after these many years of this Appeal, our donations help to support many important ministries and needs throughout our diocese. All of these are 'targeted' needs - above and beyond the ability of the diocese itself to provide. Please prayerfully consider your ability and responsibility to participate in this annual appeal as, together, the church of Oakland seeks to meet the needs of its members and of the greater communities in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

I am well aware that you are being hit from every side during this economic downturn. One parishioner said to me last week, "Every Catholic group is asking for money." At the very least I think we need to **prayerfully** consider who we are able to support and to do our best to direct those efforts toward those with the greatest needs. An example of that took place last week with the concert at the Cathedral of Christ the Light. With short notice and with tremendous generosity on the part of the many groups who provided the concert and the generosity of those attending, over \$30,000.00 was raised for direct relief to the people of Haiti through the efforts of Catholic Relief Services. As Bishop Cordileone mentioned in his remarks, CRS has served in Haiti for over 50 years and it is true that Haiti is a predominantly Catholic country. But as Bishop reminded us, "We don't serve the people of Haiti because they are Catholic, we serve all the people of Haiti because WE are Catholic."

I applaud the generosity of those who attended mass two weeks ago and contributed to our (most rare) 2<sup>nd</sup> collection - and to all those who have given to the relief efforts beyond that collection. I pray that all of us will truly recognize the abundance of our own blessings and, with a loving response, also share from them.

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

### Gospel for The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (February 7th):

### Gospel of Luke 5:1-11

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."

**ANNUAL BISHOPS APPEAL**

“To Make Christ Better Known: The Campaign for Catholic Parishes and Education.” This time each year we are asked to contribute to the Bishop’s Appeal, to strengthen the Catholic Church throughout the East Bay. The Appeal helps inner-city Catholic schools and other Catholic educational programs, economically struggling parishes, vocations, seminary education, priest retirement, and family ministries, including CYO, Youth and Family Ministry, and Respect Life. Your gift to the Appeal is a way to share with our Catholic neighbors, for us to know Christ better and to help others know him. *Appeal weekend is February 6th and 7th. Please be generous.*

**ANNUAL SUPER BOWL SUNDAY  
ICF BAKE SALE**

Need treats for your Super Bowl Party? Why bake yourself? Help support the Italian Catholic Federation (ICF) in our charitable works by buying delicious baked goods. We will be selling delicious treats after all Sunday Masses, **February 7th**, in Stack Center.



**YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**

Upcoming Youth Group dates: **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](mailto:olgrec@sbcglobal.net). The complete schedule can be found on line under Youth Ministry at [www.olgcv.org](http://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](http://www.olgcv.org)

**AUGUSTINIAN ANNUAL APPEAL**

Thank you to all who so generously responded to our Annual Augustinian Appeal last weekend. We are grateful to David Olds who spoke at all masses so eloquently on behalf of this appeal. There are still envelopes in the pews for your use in regards to this appeal.

**ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT**

Special Lent Preparation! Join us as we explore the Gospel Passion accounts and consider what they mean for us. Choice of Sunday afternoon, **February 7th** from 12:30-2:00pm or Wednesday, **February 10th** from 7:00-8:30pm (repeat of Sunday). Please note: All Catechists must attend one of the two sessions! Please call Robyn Lang for more information, (510) 582-9266 or email [olgrec@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olgrec@sbcglobal.net)

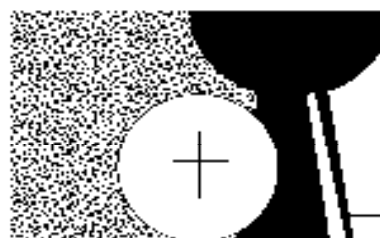


**NEWS FROM  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

There will be **NO** Religious Education classes on Sunday, **February 14th**, because of the Presidents Day holiday.

**SACRAMENT PREPARATION**

The next Sacrament Preparation meeting will be Tuesday, **February 9th**, from 7:00-8:30pm in Stack Center. This meeting will be for parent of students receiving First Eucharist this year. At least one adult for each family must attend. Childcare will be available in Augustine Center, \$5.00 per family. Please call 582-9266 for more information or email [olgrec@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olgrec@sbcglobal.net)



**RECEIVE  
THE LORD  
JESUS**

**SPARE CHANGE TO SPARE A LIFE**

Birthright of San Lorenzo, a crisis pregnancy center, needs your help to support mothers in crisis by participating in a "Change for Babies" fundraiser. Your spare change will go towards the funding of the daily operating expenses to keep the doors open to pregnant women seeking an alternative to abortion. Volunteers will be passing out baby bottles after the masses on the weekend of **February 6th and 7th** to collect your spare change in, and return to the Parish office or the Birthright of San Lorenzo office. Your spare change can help spare babies and change lives!

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
EXCITING CHANGES**

We are pleased to announce the addition of a once a month Saturday meeting for our St. Vincent de Paul Society in order to accommodate those members of the parish community who cannot join with us at our Tuesday afternoon meeting. During the month of February our meetings will be Tuesday, **February 9th** at 3:30pm and Saturday, **February 27th** at 10:00am in the Parish office. The meetings last usually one and a half hours. For further information please contact Walt Moresi, President, at 247-8886. Please join us in our efforts to help the poor and homeless in our community.

**FRESH START WEEKEND**

Next weekend (February 6th-7th) is ***Fresh Start Weekend***. ***The Youth Group*** will have collection boxes at all the church entrances and in Stack Center for the ***Fresh Start Program***. Thank you for your generosity in donating needed supplies for the Fresh Start kits. Because of your kindness, the Youth Group has assembled 100 kits for St. Vincent de Paul!

***The Fresh Start Program*** is a year-round service project. If you are able to help, please drop your donations in the boxes provided. For more information, please call the Faith Formation Center (582-9266. Thank you for your generosity!

**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 24th :**

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Envelopes/Loose Checks (266) | \$ 7,875.00  |
| Loose cash:                  | 714.00       |
| Total Offering:              | \$ 8,589.00  |
| Year-to-date (4weeks)        | \$ 34,156.00 |

(Weekly average: \$8,539.00)

*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:

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Don Anderson    | Cindy Kathain |
| Lloyd Bauerly   | Janis Lococo  |
| Shirley Blake   | Pat Lopez     |
| Lucy Bruni      | Maria Ortega  |
| Carol De Cruz   | Sylvia Pettit |
| Doug Foxworthy  | Mary Schenone |
| Paul Freres     | Tula Rough    |
| Rita Freres     | Debbie Telles |
| D'Riece Gundred | 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.*

**All victims of violence**

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES  
HAITIAN RELIEF EFFORT**

*Donations to Catholic Relief Services to aid in the Haitian Relief effort can be made by mail, phone or direct on line:*

Catholic Relief Services  
P.O. Box 17090  
Baltimore, MD 21203-7090  
1(800) 736-3467  
www.CRS.org

**CALLING ALL CURSILLISTAS  
ANNUAL MEETING AND ULTREYA**

Mark your calendar for our annual meeting and Ultreya at Mary Help of Christian Church in Oakland. We will begin in the parish hall at 2611 East 9th street in Oakland on Saturday, **February 6th**, at 1:00 p.m. Mass will follow at 2:00pm, fellowship following Mass. All Cursillistas are encouraged to come together for a time of singing, prayer, and reconnecting with your Cursillo brothers and sisters throughout the Diocese.

**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](mailto:Oakland@RetroCA.com) or visit the website at [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com)

**VOICES OF MUSICA SACRA  
AUDITIONS**

Voices of Musica Sacra is holding auditions for all voice parts on Mondays through **March 1st**, in conjunction with Monday rehearsals at 7:00pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Walnut Creek (especially basses and tenors). Call (925) 680-7089 to schedule your audition. June performances will be "The Complete Choral Works of Samuel Barber". See website for details [www.vmschorus.org](http://www.vmschorus.org), [info@vmschorus.org](mailto:info@vmschorus.org). The Music Director, John Kendall Bailey.

**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) |

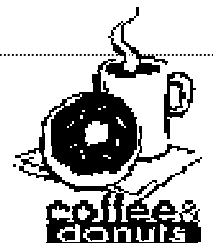
**Thank you for your continuing support of our Facilities and Grounds Drive !**

**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](http://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, FEBRUARY 1st (Church)**

8:30am Marie Lyen (D)

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd**  
*THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD*

7:00am Fr. Manuel Gonsalves (D)

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd**  
*Blessed Stephen Bellesini, O.S.A., priest*

7:00am Stella Velasquez (D)

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4th**

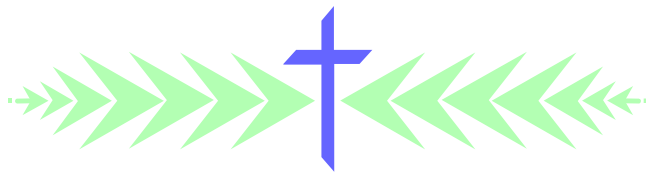
7:00am Joe & Marie Silveria (D)

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5th**  
*Agatha, virgin, martyr*

7:00am Roch Numa (D)

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6th**  
*Paul Miki, martyr, and his companions, martyrs*

8:30am Gene & Jim Clark (D)



**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:  
**WAYNE BLACKARD REAL ESTATE**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

**January 31st through February 7th**

- Monday: 2 Samuel 15:13-14,30;16:5-13; Mark 5:1-20
- Tuesday: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 2:22-40
- Wednesday: 2 Samuel 24:2,9-17; Mark 6:1-6
- Thursday: 1 Kings 2:1-4,10-12; Mark 6:7-13
- Friday: Sirach 47:2-11; Mark 6:14-29
- Saturday: 1 Kings 3:4-13; Mark 6:30-34
- Sunday: Isaiah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11



**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, January 31st:**

- Catholic School Week Begins
- Our Lady of Grace School Open House
- 10:00am—School

**Tuesday, February 2nd:**

- Bible Study
- 9:00am—Parish Office
- St. Vincent de Paul Meeting
- 3:30pm—Parish Office
- REC Classes
- 3:45pm—Stack Center

**Wednesday, February 3rd:**

- Nursing Home Mass
- 11:00am—Eden Villa

**Thursday, February 4th:**

- Serenity Group
- 8:15pm—Stack Center

**Sunday, February 7th:**

- ICF Bake Sale
- 9:00am—Stack Center