



The season of Lent begins this coming Wednesday, February 17th (a day of fast and abstinence). It is a season that provides many opportunities to engage in the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving – so I would draw your attention to the information contained in this week’s bulletin about upcoming activities.

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A Most Welcome Opportunity !

Last week we were advised that our parish school has been selected to be the recipient of a private grant from the ***Elias, Genevieve, and Georgianna Atol Charitable Trust***. The reason for entitling this news as a most welcome opportunity is that the amount of the grant to be received will be based on our matching fundraising. The opportunity exists for us to receive as much as \$25,000.00 from the grant itself - as long as we can raise a matching amount. In other words, it is possible that we might be able to realize as much as \$50,000.00 total from these combined efforts !

There is one stipulation with regard to the grant and it is that the money be utilized to provide benefits to the entire student community. In that regard it is our particular goal and our hope to be able to install ***Interactive Whiteboards*** in all our classrooms. At present, we have four (04) boards operating in three classrooms and in the Science Room. They are marvelous education tools – especially in the hands of the students (who seem to be a little more savvy about these technological things). That being said, they are also a bit expensive - and so it will take a substantial amount of money to meet our goal. Needless to say, we are quite excited about this ‘possibility’ becoming a reality and looking ahead to the ways in which this will further enhance our school’s ability to provide necessary technology as teaching and learning tools – to build upon our already proven resources -within the reality of a 21st Century world.

The awarding of this grant is a wonderful example of “giving back,” inasmuch as local members of the Atol family recommended Our Lady of Grace School as a grant recipient. They did so because four siblings in this family attended and graduated from Our Lady of Grace School a number of years ago. They have always been grateful for the opportunity they had to attend OLG School and for the education they received while doing so. As much as I would like to name them for you, they have requested anonymity (and we will honor their request). Through the great generosity of the Atol trust, many others have already benefited from similar grants. We join them in expressing our deep gratitude to the benefactors who have made this possible.

There are many in our parish community who have also realized the great benefits of their time at OLG School and the value of the education received. We are hopeful that you might also consider ‘giving back’ and helping us to maximize our grant-potential by assisting us in meeting our matching goal of \$25,000.00. With the support of the school community in particular, a good portion of the matching fundraising will come from those who support our annual Spring Walkathon. But we want to do all possible to insure our achievement of a 100% or better result, and that is where your help will be most needed.

If you are able to join in this effort and help us reach our goal, I’d ask that you make your contribution directly to OLG School and designate it as “Atol matching fund.” We will keep you apprised of our collective efforts and look forward to the day we will be able to say “WE did it !”

All of us at Our Lady of Grace wish you a very happy Valentine’s Day !

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

Gospel for The First Sunday of Lent (February 21st):

Gospel of Luke 4:1-13

Filled with the holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then he took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant. The devil said to him, "I shall give to you all this power and their glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish. All this will be yours, if you worship me." Jesus said to him in reply, "It is written: 'You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.'" Then he led him to Jerusalem, made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' and: 'With their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him in reply, "It also says, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'" When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time.

**PRESIDENTS' DAY
PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday, February 15th is a federal holiday. There will be one Mass only at 8:30am in the Church. The Parish Offices will be closed on Monday and will re-open on Tuesday at 9:00am. The entire parish staff wishes all a safe and relaxing holiday.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

All Ash Wednesday services will be in the Church. The schedule is as follows: 7:00am Mass, 8:30am All School Mass, 12:00Noon Communion and Distribution of Ashes, 6:00pm Mass, followed by Soup Meal

The Church of the Transfiguration will have an 8:00am Mass, and a Communion service with distribution of ashes at 12:00Noon and 7:30pm.



ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP MEAL

Please join us for a simple meal of soup and bread each Wednesday during Lent. It will be a time for fellowship and families coming together. Our Soup Meal follows the 6:00pm Mass. The Ash Wednesday (February 17th) Soup Meal is sponsored by the Religious Education Office. Volunteers and donations are still needed, call 582-9266 to see how you can help. We thank the Religious Education families for their ministry of hospitality for this meal. Donations will be accepted to benefit Operation Rice Bowl.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross are offered at Our Lady of Grace, Friday's at 2:30pm and Transfiguration Church, Friday's at 7:30pm during Lent.



**BECAUSE WE CARE
OUTREACH SUNDAY:**

Next Sunday, February 21st is the third Sunday of the month, and therefore *Outreach Sunday at Our Lady of Grace*. Please consider making donations of non-perishable food items to St. Vincent de Paul, signing up to serve at Portuguese Park, St. Mary's Winter Shelter, or exploring one of the many ways you can better serve those in need in our greater community. For additional information contact Colleen Lindberg at the Parish office, 537-0806.

**PORTUGUESE PARK OUTREACH
BECAUSE WE CARE**

Our next Sunday for serving our needy brothers and sisters at Portuguese Park in Hayward will be February 21st. If you, your group, Small Christian Community or family would be interested in making donations of prepared food or paper products, or to volunteer your time in service on Sunday, February 21st, please call Colleen Lindberg at the parish office 537-0806. We prepare the meal in Stack Center after the 9:00am mass and leave for the Park at 11:30am.

FESCO SUNDAY

In conjunction with our monthly *Outreach Sunday* effort next weekend we welcome Chris Ippolito from FESCO February 21st. Chris will be in the gathering area to say "thank you" to Our Lady of Grace Parishioners for all the support given to FESCO in 2009! Chris has a list of volunteer opportunities at FESCO as well as some advance information regarding this years upcoming Shelter Shuffle scheduled for May 15th !





YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Upcoming Youth Group dates: **February 21st, March 7th and March 21st** from 9:00am - 12:00. 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 (510-582-9266) or by email, olgrec@sbcglobal.net. The complete schedule can be found under Youth Ministry at www.olgcv.org.

Confirmation gathering: February 21st is the next Sponsor/Candidate day. All sponsors need to attend both the 9:00 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.

Celebrate Mardi Gras! All students in the OLG Youth Group and Confirmation as well as 7th and 8th graders are invited to go from feasting to fasting at our Mardi Gras celebration on Tuesday, **February 16th**, from 7:00pm - 9:00pm in the parish gym. Games, food and fun! Contact the Faith Formation Center for more information (582-9266). Adult volunteers needed for games.



MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS

Our next Middle School Ministry night will be Friday, **February 19th** from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Come and dance & play the night away! DJ, photos, 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)

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 February 7th :**

Envelopes/Loose Checks (290)	\$10,639.00
Loose cash:	697.00
Total Offering:	\$ 11,336.00
Year-to-date (6weeks)	\$ 52,883.00

(Weekly average: \$8,814.00)

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 | Clara Walters |
| D'Riece Gundred | |

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.

Debbie Telles

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:

February 18th, 9:15 – 11:15am

"Sharing and Study on Scripture"

Transfiguration Church

Presenter: Fr. Tom Bonacci



OUR LADY OF GRACE GUILD

Valentines Day is just around the corner. Come join us on Friday, **February 19th** at 11:30am.

Bring a friend and enjoy the afternoon. A delicious luncheon will be served at 12:00Noon. Happy Valentines Day!

VOCATION DISCERNMENT RETREAT

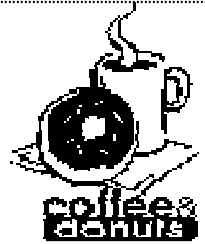
The Augustinian community invites men between the age of 18 and 40 to take part in a Vocation Discernment Retreat at St. Augustine Monastery, San Diego, **March 19th-21st**. Participants will pray, recreate, and eat with the Augustinian community during the weekend and observe their ministries in the San Diego area. See one of our Augustinians after Mass for more details about registration.

COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

This collection supports essential pastoral work as well as scholarships for Catholic students, innovative Catholic communications , and Catholic social and humanitarian programs. The Church of this region remains in great need, and your assistance will give faith to the future. Thank you for your generous support.

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!

New Parishioner Registration takes place the second and fourth Sunday of the month during Coffee & Donuts in Stack Center.

LENTEN FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Fasting: Everyone eighteen years of age and older, but under the age of sixty, is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these days, the law allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food during the day, so long as this intake does not constitute another full meal. Taking liquids during the day is permitted. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

Abstinence: Everyone fourteen years of age and older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays of Lent. In the spirit of penance, the faithful should not lightly excuse themselves from the obligation.

EXECUTION ALERTS

The following executions are scheduled to take place in **February**:

February 16th	Martin Grossman	FL
February 24th	Hank Skinner	TX

We ask your prayers for these persons, for the victims of their crimes, and for their families.

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 15th (Church)

8:30am Lida Moore (D)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16th

Blessed Simon of Cascia, priest

7:00am Tom Hayes (D)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th

All Services will be in the Church

7:00am Mass

8:30am Mass (School Liturgy)

12:00pm Communion Service & Ashes

6:00pm Mass

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18th

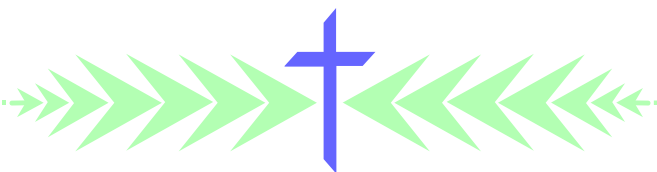
7:00am Joe & Isabel Furtado (D)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19th

7:00am Joaquin Silva Family (D)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20th

8:30am John McCann (D)



THANK THEM WITH YOUR SUPPORT

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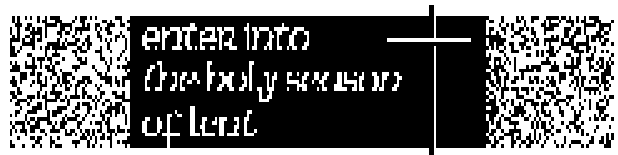
This week we extend our gratitude to:

**ALAMEDA ENGINEERING
THE CAPILLA FAMILY**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

February 15th through February 21st

- Monday: James 1:1-11; Mark 8:11-13
- Tuesday: James 1:12-18; Mk 8:14-21
- Wednesday: Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6,16-18
- Thursday: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25
- Friday: Isaiah 58:1-9; Matthew 9:14-15
- Saturday: Isaiah 58:9-14; Luke 5:27-32
- Sunday: Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13



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THIS WEEK

Monday, February 15th:

*Federal Holiday
Offices Closed*

Tuesday, February 16th:

Bible Study
9:15am—Parish Office
REC Classes
3:45pm—Stack Center

Wednesday, February 17th:

Ash Wednesday Soup Meal
After 6:00pm Mass

Thursday, February 18th:

Serenity Group
8:15pm—Stack Center

Friday, February 19th:

Our Lady of Grace Guild
11:30am—Stack Center
Middle School Ministry Night
6:30pm—Stack Center

Saturday, February 20th:

Father Daughter Dance
6:30pm—Stack Center