

Dear Parishioners: On Wednesday of this past week the following letter was sent to our school families. I want to share this information with you as well, and to invite your prayer as we enter into this process:

From the Pastor

Dear Parents and Parishioners:

March 3, 2010

It is with a great sense of regret that I inform you that our parish school principal, Mrs. Colleen Wahl, has notified me that she will not be renewing her contract as principal for school year 2010 – 2011. Colleen has come to this decision for both personal and professional reasons, and I fully support her in doing so. At the same time, of course, all of us know that we are losing an outstanding leader who has given five years of extremely dedicated service to our parish school community.

In her letter to the school parents, Mrs. Wahl indicated that she has had many rewarding experiences at Our Lady of Grace working with students, faculty, and parents. One of the most rewarding has been the opportunity to work collaboratively with the dedicated members of the Parent Teacher Group and the School Board.

Mrs. Wahl referred back to a letter she had written at the beginning of this school year as a welcome on our school’s website (www.olgschool.org). In it she wrote, “I came upon a prayer that I think puts us right where we want to be. It speaks to change - and says *‘we want to hold on to our old ways, our comfortable ways. It’s not that the old has been bad, but that we are living in a new day... Be with us, Lord, as we continue on.’*”

It is her hope that the vision articulated by these groups will continue to lead OLG to its place as a 21st Century learning-center for Catholic elementary education.

To that end, as we continue on, and in accordance with the regulations and practices of the Department of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Oakland, I have begun the process of selecting a new principal. The open-position will be posted through the Diocese as per usual practices. I have also asked various persons to serve on our Search Committee (this will include consultation with the Department of Catholic Schools).

As I have already expressed to Mrs. Wahl (and on behalf of all you), I am sincerely grateful for her most dedicated and loving service as principal of our school. We also recognize and are grateful for the many successes of our parish school in these past five years, and for its well-deserved reputation as an institution that educates and forms children in a Catholic tradition that prepares them well for their future years. And so we will do all possible to secure the very best administrator for Our Lady of Grace School and to insure that the same loving concern and care for our students and families will continue as it has been so generously shown by Mrs. Wahl.

As I am also all too well aware, these times of transition bring with them a flood of emotions and feelings. In the context of a caring and loving Christian community I ask you, the parent community, to do all you can to support Mrs. Wahl through the remainder of our school year.

(s) Fr. Kevin, OSA

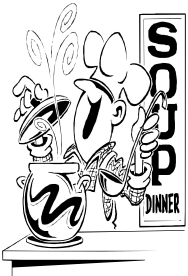
Gospel for The Fourth Sunday of Lent (March 14th):

Gospel of John 9:1-41

Be reconciled to God!



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LENTEN 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. This Wednesday's Soup Meal (**March 10th**) is sponsored by one of our Small Christian Communities. We thank the volunteers for their ministry of hospitality for this meal. Donations will be accepted to benefit those most in need in our local and global community.

**VOICES OF PEACE
PAX CHRISTI/SOCIAL JUSTICE
LENTEN REFLECTION SERIES**

This weeks presenters are John Bass, the Meditation Practice Coordinator for San Francisco Bay Area Nalandabodhi and senior student in the Karma Kagyu Tibetan Buddhist Tradition, along with Rev. John Wichman, currently the pastor at Westminster Hills Presbyterian Church in Hayward. Rev. Wichman is an advocate of immigrant rights as well as providing support for the Community Action Network.

COMMUNAL PENCEANCE SERVICES

The Communal Penance Service schedule in our Deanery is as follows:

Thursday, **March 11th** at Transfiguration 7:00pm. Wednesday, **March 17th** St. John's, 7:00pm. Saturday, **March 20th**, Our Lady of Grace 10:00am.

TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE

Our Lady of Grace will once again be offering a Prayer Service with reflections on the Stations of the Cross in the spirit of Taize Prayer led by Ruth Picha on Tuesday's **March 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th** beginning at 7:00pm in the Chapel at Casa Villanova. Making the Stations of the Cross using Taize is a powerful way to contemplate and enter into the mystery of Jesus' gift of himself to us.



**ALAMEDA COUNTY FOOD BANK
LENTEN FOOD DRIVE**

Lent is traditionally marked by prayer, almsgiving and fasting. For some of our neighbors, however, fasting is not a choice. Since 2001, the Alameda County Food Bank Lenten Food Drive has helped our neighbors who are impacted by hunger.

We once again have red barrels at the entrances to the church to support this Lenten Food Drive. The following is a list of the most needed food drive items: *Canned Fruit and Vegetables, Canned Meats and Fish, Peanut Butter, Pasta, Beans, Rice, Canned Soup, Low-sugar Cereal and Oatmeal, Tomato Sauce, Powdered Milk.* Thank you for you support.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross are offered at Our Lady of Grace, Fridays at 2:15pm and Transfiguration Church, Friday's at 7:30pm during Lent.

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
OPERATION RICE BOWL**

This Lenten season, Catholic Relief Services invites Catholics to pray with their families and faith communities; fast in solidarity with those who hunger; learn about our global community and the challenges of poverty overseas; and give sacrificial contributions to those in need.

Twenty-five percent of contributions received by CRS Operation Rice Bowl remain in the Diocese of Oakland.

IT'S GIRL SCOUT COOKIE TIME

Our Lady of Grace Girl Scout Troop #30958 will be in the gathering area after the 9:00am and 11:00am masses Sunday, **March 7th and 14th** to entice you with their cookies. Thank you for your support !

ICF CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland but did you know that he was really Italian? Yes, born of Roman heritage in 387 AD. So for a wonderful traditional meal to honor a great saint (or maybe just because you love Corned Beef & Cabbage but don't like to cook it), come to the Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner prepared by the Italian Catholic Federation Branch #343. You do not need to be a member to attend.

Thursday, March 11th
Doors open at 6:00pm,
Dinner is Served at 6:30pm
Stack Center, Adults: \$14.00;
Children, 12 & Under: \$6.00

Reservations required (so we can plan.) Please call Lisa Crudo at 537-3256. We hope you will join us for great food and community !

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
 EXCITING CHANGES**

We are pleased to announce the addition of a once a month Saturday meeting for our Society of St. Vincent de Paul in order to accommodate those members of the parish community who cannot join with us at our Tuesday afternoon meeting. The March schedule is Tuesday, **March 9th** at 3:30pm and Saturday, **March 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 (510)247-8886. Please join us in our efforts to help the poor and homeless in our community.

HELLO OLG ALUMNI

The Reunion Committee has opened a Shutterfly account for you to submit your old OLG Student photos. We'll be making scrapbooks for the Reunion Event in May 2010. If you have OLG school photos you would like to submit you will need to go to the Shutterfly account <http://olgalumni.shutterfly.com/> the password is Father Stack

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 28th :**

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Envelopes/Loose Checks (246) | \$ 7,133.00 |
| Loose cash: | 619.00 |
| Total Offering: | \$ 7,752.00 |
| Year-to-date (9weeks) | \$ 76,090.00 |

(Weekly average: \$8,454.00)

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 | Rita Freres |
| Lloyd Bauerly | D'Riece Gundred |
| Shirley Blake | Cindy Kathain |
| Lucy Bruni | Pat Lopez |
| Carol De Cruz | Maria Ortega |
| Dianne Fisher | Sylvia Pettit |
| Doug Foxworthy | Mary Schenone |
| Paul Freres | Tula Rough |

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.

The Victims of the earthquake in Chili

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION PARISH MISSION

Transfiguring Our Community Through Faith: Monday, **March 8th** to Thursday, **March 11th**, evening sessions Monday through Wednesday at 7:00pm, Thursday, Reconciliation Service at 7:00pm; morning sessions Tuesday through Thursday – Mass at 8:00am followed by coffee and pastries, sessions beginning at 9:00am. Come, meet Father Tom Bonacci, CP-- Let's grow together as a community of faith.

CORNERED BEEF AND CABBAGE AMERICAN COUNCIL #8 YMI

Sunday, March 14th

St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish Gym
3725 High Street, Oakland
Cocktails at 3:00pm ~ No Host
Dinner 5:00pm

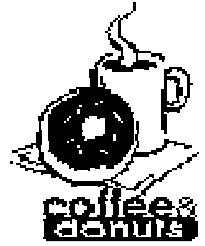
Irish Step dancing, entertainment and singing to be followed by dancing to the Manny Gutierrez Band. Donation per person \$30.00; Children under 12: \$12.00. For details and to make reservations please call Emile Lassalle (510) 538-7463 or Jerry Moore (510) 538-0265.

COME AWAY AND REST AWHILE Retreat for Catechists and Parish Ministers

This retreat will provide an opportunity to explore lament in the context of Holy Week. Come out of the desert into the mystery! Morning hospitality and lunch included. Suggested donation: \$30.00. Facilitator, Robyn Lang. Location: Shrine of St. Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer, 544 West Cliff Dr. Santa Cruz, **March 27th**. RSVP or for more information, please contact Robyn Lang (510) 582-9266 or email Robyn at olgrec@sbcglobal.net

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!

CALLING ALL SCRAPPERS & CRAFTERS

Saturday, **March 13th** from 1:00pm-10:00pm bring your supplies to scrap, crop, stamp, bead, knit, make cards or whatever! Drop in anytime or stay all day! We will provide coffee, hot water for tea and lettuce for a community salad bar along with all the plates, napkins, cups and utensils. Bring 2 of the following for the community salad bar: a salad dressing, salad topping, (cheese, carrots, onion, mushrooms, peppers, croutons, garbanzo beans, bread or rolls.

We will have a Take or Trade table in case you want to go through your stuff and share what you are not using. Your leftover baby sticker may be the perfect embellishment for someone else's page! If you have more expensive items (stamp sets, tools, paper sets, etc) that you would like to try and sell we will have a table set up for that as well.

We will be set-up in Stack Center with plenty of space for you to relax and work on your pictures or whatever craft you bring along. *Please RSVP to Colleen Lindberg at olgcv@sbcglobal.net (adults only please).*

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:

**ANN BARBA-CONNOR
TAX & ACCOUNTING**

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, MARCH 8th (Church)

John of God, religious

8:30am Alice Gonsalves (D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 9th

Frances of Rome, religious

7:00am Roch Numa (D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10th

7:00am Lee, Yaka & Frank Music (D)

6:00pm Virginia "Ginny" Mulhern (D)

THURSDAY, MARCH 11th

7:00am Deceased Members & Benefactors
of the Augustinian Order

FRIDAY, MARCH 12th

7:00am Joe & Isabel Furtado (D)

2:15pm *Stations of the Cross*

SATURDAY, MARCH 13th

8:30am Fr. Tom McLaughlin (D)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

March 8th through March 14th

Monday: 2 Kings 5:1-15; Luke 4:24-30
 Tuesday: Daniel 3:25,34-43; Matthew 18:21-35
 Wednesday: Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9;
 Matthew 5:17-19
 Thursday: Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23
 Friday: Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34
 Saturday: Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18: 9-14
 Sunday: Joshua 5:9,10-12;
 2 Corinthians 5:17-21;
 Luke 15:1-3,11-32

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 7th:

REC Classes

10:30am—Stack Center

Confirmation & Youth Group

9:00am—Mass

Tuesday, March 9th:

Bible Study

9:30am—Parish Office

Nursing Home Mass

Valley Pointe—10:00am

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

3:30pm—Parish Office

REC Classes

3:45pm—Stack Center

Wednesday, March 10th:

Lenten Soup Meal

After 6:00pm Mass

Lenten Social Justice Series

After Soup Meal

Thursday, March 11th:

ICF Dinner

6:00pm—Stack Center

Serenity Group

8:15pm—Stack Center

Saturday, March 13th:

First Reconciliation

10:00am

Scrap & Craft Time

1:00pm—Stack Center

EXECUTION ALERTS

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

| | | |
|------------|-------------------|----|
| March 9th | Lawrence Reynolds | OH |
| March 9th | David Johnston | FL |
| March 11th | Joshua Maxwell | TX |

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