
 We have entered into the Christmas season, those twelve days from December 25<sup>th</sup> through January 6<sup>th</sup>, that calls us to rejoice and give thanks for the gift of God's only Son, Jesus, who came to us as one like us, one with us, one for us. We also enter into the new year of 2010 that we pray will be a year of great blessings and happiness for all.

*From the Pastor*

In the midst of our joy, we are all too readily reminded again this year that there are still many places in our world where peace is not enjoyed. In the Middle East, the place of Jesus' birth, violence continues in the form of unending war and bloodshed – as it does in many other parts of the world. And so the birth of Jesus, the **Prince of Peace**, continues to be reason to open ourselves ever more fully to the gift that has been given, the gift we remember and celebrate, the gift in which we are called to believe – so that we may transcend the darkness of violence, war, sickness and death, that we may live in the light of **His** life, that we may give praise to the God who enters into our human condition and is for us in ways beyond our human imagining.

At Christmas we heard of the angels who came singing to announce glad tidings of peace on earth. Let us ask ourselves how in this coming year we might once again open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts - to hear this song of praise and to see the wonder of **God-with-us** in new and wondrous and powerful ways. As we receive from the bounty of God's goodness, might our celebrations be less about what we did or didn't get and more about what we have been given? Can our celebration be about recognizing how much we are able to give - because we have been so generously blessed? Might the Christmas song of the angels become our song as well?

May these words from *A Poem for Christmas* --from The Mood of Christmas, by Howard Thurman - help us to sing and praise our God for the goodness shown to us:

*“There must be always remaining in every life,  
some place for the singing of angels.*

*Some place for that which in itself  
is breathless and beautiful.*

*Old burdens become lighter,  
deep and ancient wounds lose much of their old hurting.*

*Despite all the crassness of life,  
all the hardness and harsh discords,  
life is saved by the singing of angels.”*

~~~~~

On behalf of Fr. Paul and myself, I want to express our gratitude for all the warm wishes, kind cards, and wonderful remembrances given to us. Of course 2010 will also need to be a time of temperance because only so many cookies are allowed on any given day !! We very much appreciate your kindness toward us.

*May God's abundant Christmas and New Year blessings be upon you,  
Frs. Kevin, Paul, and all the OLG Staff*

### Gospel for The Epiphany of the Lord (January 3rd):

### Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

**HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

*New Year's Eve: Thursday, December 31st*  
Mass at 5:00pm

*New Year's Day: Friday, January 1st*  
*Mary, the Mother of God*  
Mass at 9:00am only



**PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS**

The Parish Office will close at 12:00Noon on Thursday, **December 31st** and will re-open on Saturday, **January 2nd** at 9:00am. The entire Parish staff wishes you a safe and Happy New Year!



**YEARLY CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

For your convenience in preparing tax returns, a contribution statement for 2009 will be prepared at your request. Please phone the Parish Office at 537-0806, with your name and envelope number. Your statement will be available for you once it has been signed.

**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.



**JANUARY CYO SIGN-UPS**

It's time for Girls Basketball (grades 2nd – 8th) and Boys Volleyball (grades 5th-8th) sign-ups. The dates will be Tuesday's, **January 5th, 12th, 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](mailto:olgathletics@yahoo.com)*



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE**

Religious Education classes will be on Christmas break through Sunday, **January 3rd**. Tuesday classes resume **January 6th** and Sunday classes resume **January 10th**.

The Faith Formation Center will be closed through **January 2nd**. We wish you a Happy New Year !



**UPCOMING SCHEDULE YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION**

Our next gathering for Youth Group and Confirmation will be Sunday, **January 10th** from 9:00am-12:00Noon. Our Youth Groups 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 [ol-grec@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ol-grec@sbcglobal.net)

Many thanks to everyone who made our Confirmation retreat (December 11th-13th) a success. The parents and sponsors—who helped with the dinner Friday evening, drove candidates (and their stuff !) to the retreat center Friday and returned them Sunday, chaperoned Friday and Saturday evening—made the retreat possible. Thanks and many blessing to our AWESOME retreat team who worked with the candidates throughout the weekend.

**ADULT CONFIRMATION**

Please join the parish staff in welcoming and supporting the Adult Confirmation Candidates. 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.

**PARISH ESCRIP UPDATE**

***We have 72 Parishioners who have not updated their escrip***

Safeway cards must be renewed with eScrip every year. Your valuable contributions will stop unless you renew. This is not necessary for your other cards, (PW Market, Visa, etc.). Families must renew by November 1st, 2009. You can renew your Safeway card in one of the following ways. Please, have your card number ready:

1. Call 1-800-400-7878, or
2. Visit [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and click on "Yes Renew".

Note: If you have not yet signed up with Religious Education – eScrip, stop by the Parish Office and we will assist you in doing so!

**FESCO AND CASTRO VALLEY OUTREACH  
THANK YOU!**

Thanks to all of you for your generous donations of not only gifts but your valuable time. We provided 7 families in need with the gifts they requested and gift cards to Target/Ross. Each family also received \$30. per person in Safeway/Lucky gift cards. Special thanks to REC middle school, Lisa Clark, Joanne Cordova, Alana Prusinovski and Julie Ortega for all their hard work as well as Natalie Ingram, Marie Hall and Karen Luchsinger for helping deliver gifts. We couldn't have done this without you!

You the parishioners, were so generous in your donations that we were able to give the St. Vincent de Paul Society \$200.00 in Target/Ross gift cards and \$300.00 in Safeway/Lucky gift cards.

**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 December 13th :**

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Envelopes/Loose Checks (241) | \$ 7,107.00  |
| Loose cash:                  | 666.00       |
| Total Offering:              | \$ 7,773.00  |
| Year-to-date (50weeks)       | \$413,526.00 |

(Weekly average: \$8,270.00)

*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    |
| Liz Griffith            | 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.*

**CHARISMATIC MASS  
WITH BISHOP SALVATORE CORDILEONE**

To usher in the New Year with praise and thanksgiving, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office, Diocese of Oakland, is sponsoring a charismatic Mass of the Holy Spirit at the Cathedral of Christ the Light with Bishop Salvatore presiding. It will be Saturday, **January 9th**, from 2:00-4:00pm.

This is a joyful new year's Celebration you won't want to miss. For a tour of the new Cathedral prior to Mass, meet at the front door of the Cathedral at 12:15pm. After Mass, there will be a **POTLUCK** in the Parish Hall (no desserts please).

**AN INVITATION FROM  
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE EAST BY**

Bishop Salvatore Cordileone and Solomon Belette, CEO of Catholic Charities of the East Bay extend an invitation to a Mass at Christ the Light Cathedral in Oakland to celebrate the Anniversary of Catholic Charities of the East Bay's 75 years of service to the community. Sunday, **January 10th** with a reception to follow. Please join us as we reach out to all of you with heart, help and hope.

**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)

**SCRIP NEWS**

Did you know scrip is available year round in the Parish Office? Buy gift card (at face value) for various retailer through the Parish office, helping the school earn 2%-17% per certificate. Stop by the Parish office and look over the list. Special orders of additional retailers can also be made. Thank you for your support!

**FACILITIES & GROUNDS DRIVE  
As of September 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 !**

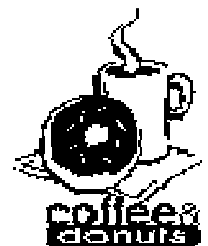
**ST. MARY'S CENTER  
WINTER SHELTER**

St. Mary's Winter Shelter has opened. The Winter Shelter is the only shelter in Alameda County solely serving adults 55 or older. The program relies heavily on volunteer support. Volunteers are needed to provide the evening meal for 28 adults Tuesday –**now through April 30th**.

Gather your friends, family, SCC or other group together check your calendars and let us know when you would like to help with this very worthwhile ministry. Our Lady of Grace has been a huge supporter of St. Mary's for several years and we are most grateful to everyone who has helped in the past. Please call Colleen Lindberg at the parish office (537-0806) or email at [olgcvc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olgcvc@sbcglobal.net) with the dates you would be interested in providing and serving dinner to the Winter Shelter clients.

**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: All weekday masses through January 3rd will be in the Church.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 28th (Church)**  
*The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

8:30am Gaitano Fillari (D)

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29th (Church)**  
*Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr*

7:00am Dorothy & Manuel Callier (D)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30th (Church)**

7:00am Martha Kozel (D)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31st (Church)**  
*Sylvester I, pope*

7:00am Edna Sousa (D)

5:00pm Rev. Jack Pejza, O.S.A.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 1st (Church)**  
**MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD**

9:00am Rev. Jack Pejza, O.S.A.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 2nd (Church)**  
*Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors of the church*

8:30am Bob Dowling (D)

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

December 28th through January 3rd

- Monday: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18
- Tuesday: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35
- Wednesday: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40
- Thursday: 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18
- Friday: Numbers 6:22-27; Luke 2:16-21
- Saturday: 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
- Sunday: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12



www.ourgrace.org

**THIS WEEK**

*Thursday, December 31st:*

Serenity Group  
 8:15pm—Stack Center

**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION**

It is not too late to give to this annual appeal that helps retired sister, brothers and religious order priests who spent their lives in service. Envelopes are still available in the pews and at the entrances of the church for your use. Please give generously.

**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:

**REDWOOD CONVALESCENCE**

