

A JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY EVENT

Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy, the moving, live production performed by actress Maria Vargo and directed by Leonardo Defilippis of Saint Luke Productions, will be presented at **Castro Valley Center for the Arts** on **Sunday, January 31 at 7:00 p.m.** The event is sponsored by Our Lady of Grace Church and School. Experience firsthand the life and message of Saint Faustina whose personal encounters with Jesus have inspired a world-wide devotion to Christ's Divine Mercy. This drama also brings audiences a riveting modern story that makes Divine Mercy remarkably relevant and urgent for our world today. The program is filled with all the elements of professional theater, runs 90 minutes, and is suitable for ages 13 and up. Admission is \$15 each; \$12 for seniors and youth 17 & under; or \$40 for families of 4. **For tickets and additional information**, contact Our Lady of Grace Church Office at [510-537-0806](tel:510-537-0806), email newsletter@olgcv.org, or visit www.olgcv.org. Watch the trailer & learn more at www.DivineMercyDrama.com

2016 MASS BOOK

The parish Office will be accepting Mass Intentions for the 2016 Mass Book. If you would like to offer a Mass for the (Living) Intentions of your family/friends, or for your deceased family members/friends, stop by the Parish Office during office hours. We will be happy to assist you.

YOUTH MINISTER

Keeping up with the wonderful spirit and energy of our recent retreat we are looking for individuals who are interested in being mentors or volunteers with our youth and young adult activities. If interested, sign ups are available in the back of the church. For any questions see Ariana Catherine.

Any young adults 21-40 interested in participating in various young adult activities and be mentors to the youth of the parish and parish community, please sign up in the back of the church. For any questions contact Ariana Catherine or Jennifer Fernandes.

ARE YOU A FAN OF ST. BENEDICT?

Well if you're a Facebook member, Like our Page! You can find us under the following title:

Fans of St. Benedict Church Oakland, CA

Make sure that you like our page as well as spread the word to many of your family and friends. This is a great way to keep up with the latest News and Updates with St. Benedict Church.



THE CHOIR'S CORNER

What's going on??

Interested in joining any of the Choirs?

Please feel free to contact Music Director, Leonard Pete.

Phone: 510-917-2390

Email: thevoicesofstbenedicts@yahoo.com

Or just join us at Choir Rehearsal on Thursdays at 6pm.

Are you on Facebook?

Like our page! We're titled **The VOICES of St. Benedict - Oakland, CA**

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH? To request a *registration form*, please complete and drop in the offertory basket.

Have you moved? Had an information change?

Let us know by completing and returning.

We respect your privacy! This information is for St. Benedict Parish use only.

Name: _____

Phone # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Send Me A Registration Form

Change of Address Moving out of Parish



PARISH STAFF

Fr. Jayson Landeza
Pastor

Fr. Bert Aronyu
Fr. Benedict B. Ehinack
In Residence

Mr. Ron Tutson
Deacon

Mrs. Divina Cabrera
Secretary/Bookkeeper

Mr. Leonard Pete
Music Director

Mrs. Ofelia Wanzo
CCD Director

Mr. Rufus Fisher
Plant Manager

Mr. Clifford Ologbosele
Parish Council President

Miss Ariana Catherine
Youth Minister

SUNDAY LITURGY

8:30, 11:00 A.M.
Saturday: 4:30 P.M.

WEERDAY LITURGY

7:30 A.M.
Monday • Wednesday • Friday

HOLY DAYS

8:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sundays: 9:45 - 10:45 A.M.

RECONCILIATION

(Confession)

3:45 - 4:15 P.M. Saturday
other times by appointment

BAPTISM

Instruction of parents required

MARRIAGE

6 month advance notice required

THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

Of The Diocese Of Oakland

HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY
510-581-2488

ST. MARY'S CEMETERY
510-654-0936

ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY
510-223-1265

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

As the people of God who are loved by the Father, being saved by the Son, and strengthened and endowed with the gifts of the Spirit for the service of the Lord, and of all here at St. Benedict, we resolve in the spirit of christian unity and cooperation to use our gifts and talents in building-up the Kingdom of God in East Oakland.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:



Some of the Jewish people in first-century Palestine were expecting God to send them a Messiah who would raise an army and lead them in battle against their enemies. The hope was that God's spirit would work through the Messiah to establish God's reign on earth, a reign filled with peace and justice.

In today's Gospel, Matthew says that God's Spirit to send it like a dove and hovered over Jesus as he came out of the Jordan River after John baptized him. In this way, Matthew identifies Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah through whom the Spirit of God would work in a special way. With Jesus's baptism, God begins the process of establishing his reign on earth, a process that continues even today.

Matthew's description of the heavens opening and the spirit descending on Jesus suggests that he is thinking of the prayer we find in Isaiah 63: 7-19, a prayer composed during a low point in Jewish history – the Temple in Jerusalem was in ruins and the Jewish people were living in exile. Utterly defeated, the people turned to God, begging God to intervene in their world. The prayer ends with the plea for God to open the heavens and once again visit his people. Matthew purposely uses similar terminology, saying the heavens opened and God's Spirit descended upon Jesus, because he thinks God answered this prayer at Jesus' baptism. God was once again visiting the people.

Scriptures scholars suggest that the image of the Holy Spirit as a dove may come from the second verse and the first chapter of Genesis, where we read that a mighty wind swept over the waters of the earth at the beginning of creation. The Hebrew word for "wind" can also mean "Spirit of God." So we understand that this verse to mean the Spirit of God hovered over the earth before God began forming the world into an inhabitable planet. By using this imagery in today's Gospel, the evangelist implies that the same creative Spirit will be active in Jesus, re-creating the world into the reign of God through him.

The Spirit of God continues establishing God's reign of peace and justice in our world today. What are



we doing to help? How can the Spirit of God work through us to promote peace in our world, in our communities and in our homes? How can we be the Spirits' instrument of justice for those who are poor and oppressed?

Like many of you, I have been following the debate surrounding gun control. My belief is an anything that we can do to help suppress the proliferation of guns in our community and to decrease the level of gun violence is a good thing. Many of us have seen personally the effects of gun violence here in our Oakland neighborhoods. As many of you know, I work with the Oakland police and fire departments, and in particular with the Ceasefire Operation and Crimestoppers of Oakland. All of these have heightened my awareness of the violence that exists in our neighborhoods. What I detest in this dialogue is the fear-mongering that is being displayed by elements of the political right. My hope is that we can all come to a common agreement that gun violence is out-of-hand in this country, and we all have to work together to seek a decrease in the shootings.

I have enclosed a letter from Carol Johnson, the Director of St. Mary's Center in Oakland. St. Mary's works with homeless senior citizens in North, West and Downtown Oakland. With monies that were initially set aside for the Mother of Peace Orphanage, it was decided that we should redirect those funds to local causes, since we could not be assured that monies sent to the orphanage would be securely received by responsible parties in Africa.

Next week we begin our Black History Month celebrations with our commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I understand that Harry Santi and Leonard Pete will be part of this event next week.

Also, at 7:00 PM next Sunday the 17, St. Benedict has been invited by Bishop Bob Jackson to attend a Dr. King celebration at Acts Full Gospel Church here in East Oakland. Please feel free to join us and to connect with joyful hearts to other Oakland congregations!

God bless,
Father Jayson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENTION LECTORS

Please pick up your **2016 Workbook** that has your name on it in the Sacristy after Mass.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, January 12th at 7:00pm in Parish Center.

PARISH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

For those who have not had their pictures taken already, photo sessions will take place on Saturday after 12:00 noon on January 16th. Sunday photo sessions will take place after the 11:00 AM Mass on January 17th and 24th.

ST. BENEDICT'S MARDI GRAS DANCE

Our annual fundraising event takes place on Saturday, February 6, 2016, 6-10pm at the Parish Hall. Music by Jorge Watson. Food will be sold (Red Beans, Rice, Links and Potato Salad). Full Bar. For ticket information, please call Dolores Millet at 510-638-7263. **No tickets sold at the door.**

THE CATHOLIC VOICE 2016 JUBILEE OF MERCY ITALY PILGRIMAGE OCTOBER 20-29

Camille Tompkins, 510-419-1081, ctompkins@oakdiocese.org. Pentacost Tours, Inc., 800-713-9800 travel@pentecosttours.com. CatholicVoiceOakland.org. The Catholic Voice invites you to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy in Venice, Padua, Bologna, Florence, Siena, Assisi, and Rome. Celebrate Mass at some of the most beautiful basilicas in Italy, visit the treasures of Vatican City, and see Pope Francis during the Papal Audience. Join the 10-day pilgrimage to Italy to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy for \$3,999. Costs includes airfare, ground transportation, housing, and most breakfasts and dinners. **\$100 Early Bird Discount is available to those who register before December 23.** For brochures, contact Camille Tompkins, see above. For additional information and reservations, contact Pentecost Tours, Inc., see above.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND, (WWME)

Does the way you live your life and especially your marriage give praise and glory to God? Let God transform your marriage relationship. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are **February 26-28** or August 5-7. Early registration, 4 to 6 weeks out is highly recommended. For more information contact Ray & Roberta @ 916.806.4601 or Joe & Sue @ 925.680.7767 now or go to oaklandwwme.org Weekends are presented in the Pleasanton/Dublin area.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 10	8:30 a.m.	Ray Cronin†
	11:00 a.m.	Alma Aikens James† Yveste James, Sr.†
Monday, January 11	7:30 a.m.	Ray Cronin†
Wednesday, January 13	7:30 a.m.	Ray Cronin†
Friday, January 15	7:30 a.m.	For The People
Saturday, January 16	4:30 p.m.	Susan Santi Gonzales†

CHURCH SUPPORT

Collection:	January 3, 2016	\$4,580.80
Other Collection:	Christmas	\$4,027.10
	New Year's Day	\$401.00
	"100" Club	\$483.20

"100" CLUB

Beginning Balance	\$8,542.09
Total Income for December 2015	\$377.00
Total Expense for December 2015	\$600.00
Ending balance as of December 31, 2015	\$8,319.09

PENNY HARVEST

Ending Balance as of December 31, 2015	\$912.03
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Please remember to bring your pennies and drop them off by the altar before or after Mass. There's no need to wrap your pennies in a roll.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

LECTORS/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

JANUARY 16/17, 2016

4:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
G. McCullough	C. Ologbosele	L. Hall-Ervin
K. Webster	L. Noriega	D. Cola
		C. Hadnot *

SECOND COLLECTION-NEXT WEEKEND SEMINARY