

# The Catholic Voice

VOLUME 62 • ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2024

**Page 6**

**GUADALUPANA:  
STORIES OF FAITH  
IN ESPAÑOL  
AND ENGLISH**

## The Doctor AND Our Blessed Mother

**Page 12**





# INSIDE FEBRUARY 2024

## 1 ON OUR COVER

Dr. Tom Wallace of the  
Order of Malta Clinic

## 3 FROM THE BISHOP

The proper and reverent  
celebration of Mass

## 5 UPCOMING EVENTS

Lunar New Year,  
St. Joseph Conference

## 6 PILGRIMS' JOURNEY

Guadalupeana celebration  
is a display of faith

## 10 VIEWPOINT

The Voice of God:  
Are you listening?

## 11 CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA

Showing support for Cristo Rey  
De La Salle High School

## 12 COVER STORY

The Doctor and Our Blessed Mother:  
Before you find Dr. Tom Wallace  
at the Order of Malta Clinic, you'll  
find him at Mass

## 16 AROUND THE DIOCESE

Adoration chapel blessed;  
Christmas at Santa Rita Jail;  
Simbang Gabi; Men's Spirituality

## 21 IN MEMORIAM

## 22 OFFICIAL

From the Office of the Bishop

## Editor's note

There's a saying in my house: It's not Christmas until Mom goes to jail with the Bishop. 2023 was not an exception. At Santa Rita Jail, Deacon Richard Denoix – known there as Chaplain Denoix – prepares for a Christmas Mass. A choir from the Catholic Community of Pleasanton comes together, led by Lenore Colarusso, with a worship aid with familiar songs that the inmates are welcome to sing along.

The mitre may stay home, but Bishop Barber is there with a homily directed to the congregation of 30 or 20 who won't be home for Christmas. But Christmas has come to them.

For the first time, I attended Blue Christmas, held on the longest night of the year. The service created by John Renke, director of the Office of Worship, includes readings and music particularly comforting to those who have suffered a loss or those who find the Christmas spirit elusive. There's an opportunity to light candles in memory of loved ones, and, my, how that cathedral glowed.

Talking about Christmas as we prepare for Lent seems a tad strange. Ash Wednesday arrives on Feb. 14.

Wishing you the blessings of all seasons,  
Michele Jurich, Editor, *The Catholic Voice* ▲



# Celebrating Mass and the Sacraments “for the glory of God and the sanctification of the Christian people”



**BY BISHOP MICHAEL C. BARBER, SJ**

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ has been bishop of the Diocese of Oakland since May 25, 2013.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently I met with all the priests of our diocese to discuss one of the most important things we can offer you: the proper and reverent celebration of the Mass and Sacraments. St. Paul refers to priests as “servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.” (1 Cor 4:1-2) After ten years as Bishop of Oakland,

there were some issues we needed to address in order to do our job better and be faithful to our ordination promise to celebrate Mass and the Sacraments “for the glory of God and the sanctification of the Christian people.”

Here are some of the practices where our diocese needs to be better aligned with what the Church asks of us.

1

**At Mass, most of our parishes follow the instruction to kneel following the “Holy, Holy, Holy” until the “Great Amen.”**

That’s normal. And that’s the Catholic practice. But we should also kneel following the “Lamb of God” until it is time to rise and walk forward to receive Holy Communion. When I had my first “question and answer” session with about 100 Cal Berkeley students at the Newman Center about seven years ago, the first question they asked me was “Shouldn’t we be kneeling after the ‘Lamb of God’?” Yes. The General Instruction on the Roman Missal



**Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ celebrates Mass on Christmas Eve at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland.**  
(Photo by Chuck Deckert)



“

AFTER TEN YEARS AS BISHOP OF OAKLAND, THERE WERE SOME ISSUES WE NEEDED TO ADDRESS IN ORDER TO DO OUR JOB BETTER, AND BE FAITHFUL TO OUR ORDINATION PROMISE TO CELEBRATE MASS AND THE SACRAMENTS “FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN PEOPLE.”

(no. 43) says this is the proper practice in the United States. Kneeling is a sign of reverence, prayer and belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. St. Paul says, “At the name of Jesus, every knee must bend.” (Phil 2:10-11) We are going to follow that.

2

### The importance of providing access to daily Mass

In some parishes, pastors have routinely replaced Daily Mass with a Communion Service, where a layperson vested in an alb stands at the altar and conducts a Liturgy of the Word, preaches and then offers a Communion Rite, omitting the Consecration. Sometimes these occurred even on Sundays. I had a call from a concerned lady saying, “Susie was saying Mass in our church last Sunday!”

The Church does have a rite for “Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest,” which was authorized for mission countries where they have one priest for a parish the size of Contra Costa County. Or in parts of the United States, like Wyoming or Alaska, where because of distance or geography it is physically impossible to get to a church offering a Mass. In my first assignment as a Jesuit priest in Samoa,

I alone served a parish with 12 chapels in as many villages. This is not the case in our diocese. All of our churches are a 10-15 minute drive from one another. I know that because I drove to each of our 84 churches in five days to wish the priests “Merry Christmas” during Covid. If a daily Mass is not available in your parish, I do not think it unreasonable to drive to the parish next door. I drive farther than ten minutes to buy cheap gas.

You deserve the opportunity to have full, active and conscious participation in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, and not a substitute service.

3

### Lay Preaching

You may not realize, but the Church’s canon law does make provision for lay people to preach, under certain conditions, inside a Catholic Church. This can occur at the beginning of Mass – as an introduction on a special occasion. Or it may happen after Communion, when a lay missionary gives an account of their work overseas or an ambassador from Catholic Charities talks about service to the poor. I invited a Rabbi to speak after Communion at the Cathedral. But I gave the formal homily that Sunday following the Gospel.

One of the best examples of lay preaching I’ve heard was from a 16-year-old student who had just been confirmed at an all-school Mass at a Jesuit High School. He spoke after Communion to give witness to what Jesus meant in his life. And explain to the whole school why he wanted to be confirmed. Following Mass, about 12-15 students came up to ask how they could get confirmed or received into the Church.

This is to be commended. But the Church firmly teaches *“In providing for preaching by the lay faithful, the diocesan bishop may never dispense from the norm which reserves the homily to the sacred ministers. Preaching by the lay faithful may not take place within the Celebration of the Eucharist at the moment reserved for the homily.”*

There were other liturgical concerns we discussed, which I hope to cover in future articles. I just want all of you, parishioners of the Diocese of Oakland, to know that we priests are here to serve you and not be served. That we are servants of the Church’s Sacred Liturgy and not above it. That we strive each day to be more and more faithful to our ordination vows. So we can be shepherds like the Good Shepherd.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ



## UPCOMING EVENTS

# ST. JOSEPH CONFERENCE MARCH 16, 2024

## ST. JOSEPH AND THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Join us for the second annual St. Joseph Conference here at Shrine of St. Joseph Catholic Church. In this year of Eucharistic Revival, we look to St. Joseph who shows us that the presence of Jesus inevitably transforms us into men and women of God. With St. Joseph, may we love and adore Jesus with a greater sense of mission and faith in the mystery of his true presence in the Holy Eucharist. We look forward to the journey with you!

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass with Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ
- 8:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast and Check-in
- 9:45 a.m. Conferences
  - Father Daniel Williamson (English)
  - Father Thi Hoang (Vietnamese)
  - Father Gregory Liu (Mandarin)
  - Father Luis Lopez (Spanish)
- 10:45 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. Adoration and Confession
- Noon Lunch and Tours
- 1:00 p.m. A Conversation with Antonia Salzano, mother of Blessed Carlos Acutis
- 2:45 p.m. Break
- 3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet and Closing Prayer



Shrine of St. Joseph Catholic Church  
43148 Mission Blvd., Fremont, CA 94539



FOR MORE INFORMATION  
AND TO REGISTER

Call the office at 510-656-2364,  
email [saintjosephmsj.org](mailto:saintjosephmsj.org) or scan





屋崙天主教區華人牧民中心主辦  
Chinese Pastoral and Cultural Center Presents

甲辰年農曆新春彌撒及敬祖儀式  
2024 Lunar New Year Mass and Veneration Ceremony to Ancestors

主祭 CELEBRANT  
屋崙教區主教  
The Most Reverend Michael C. Barber

日期 DATE  
二零二四年二月二十四日(星期六) 下午二時正  
February 24th, 2024 Saturday 2PM

地點 PLACE  
屋崙基督之光主教座堂  
The Cathedral of Christ the Light  
2121 HARRISON STREET, OAKLAND, CA 94612

You are cordially invited to

**CRISTO REY DE LA SALLE EAST BAY HIGH SCHOOL**  
ST. ELIZABETH CAMPUS

4th Annual Gala

**Be the Light Gala**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16th, 2024**  
ASCENSION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Event Committee Members  
Sara Cumberlich Principal Consultant, SKC Communications | Linda Garaventa Colvis Honorary Committee Member  
Trish Niedermeyer CRDLS Board of Trustees | Nancy O'Malley CRDLS Board of Trustees; Former Alameda County District Attorney | George Phillips Former Executive Director, Alameda Boys & Girls Club  
Sophia Seeno Director of Events, Community Youth Center | Margaret Simor Board Member (the Interventional Initiative, University of San Francisco, John Muir Health)  
Chris Whelan CRDLS Board of Trustees; COO, The Greaves Group

Visit [CRDLS.ORG](http://CRDLS.ORG) for details.



# Stories of faith emerge during the *Guadalupana* festival

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LORENA ROJAS

**T**he pilgrimage in honor of the Virgin of Guadalupe, which took place on Dec. 2, brought together more than 4,000 pilgrims overflowing with faith and hope who placed their pains and sorrows under the protection of the loving heart of the mother of Our Lord Jesus.

In this celebration in the Diocese of Oakland, the pilgrims, mostly Spanish-speaking immigrants and some fervent non-Hispanics, walked four hours to ask the Virgin for intercession for their needs. During the walk, they sang hymns and prayed the mysteries of the Rosary as signs of gratitude.

## Walking in gratitude

Rosario and Juan Coronado, who are from Hayward, offered the sacrifice of walking from St. Louis Bertrand Parish, where the pilgrimage began, to the Cathedral of Christ the Light, where the pilgrimage concluded with a Mass in honor of the Virgin of Guadalupe, presided over by Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ.

The couple offered this sacrifice to tell the Virgin that they will never forget the miracle that their son, Jesse Coronado, received thanks to God and the Virgin Mary.

Jesse Coronado, the second of Rosario and Juan's three children, was diagnosed with leukemia at age 15 at Oakland Children's Hospital. During seven years of being in and out of hospitals, Jesse received three bone marrow transplants and four T-cell transplants. Despite the efforts of doctors, he was on the verge of death many times.

"I cried, I thought that God was not listening to me, but I held on tight to prayer. Every day, I prayed up to three rosaries because that gave me strength," Jesse's mother said. "One of those days when he was very sick, the oncologist called him to tell him that he had a new treatment for him. That was what finally brought him back to health."

Jesse was recently discharged at age 22. His parents speak with joy of how that illness and recovery has strengthened their son's faith and his efforts to take care of his health.

Another pilgrim who radiates hope despite the fight she is waging against cancer is Blanca Alemán. She entered the





cathedral carrying in her arms a statue of the Virgin of Guadalupe, of which she spoke as if she were sharing the best moments lived with a friend.

"My Virgins have history," Blanca said, referring not only to the statue she carried in her arms, but also to another gold statue that hung from her neck.

About the story of the largest statue she wore on her chest, she said she had bought it in the town of Williams, when she was there working for a short time. On their way home, she and her companions were saved from perishing in an accident in which the passengers of another vehicle died. She is sure that the Virgin saved them from dying that day.

Other Guadalupan pilgrims, despite living without major difficulties, are also fervent devotees of the Virgin of Guadalupe and offer sacrifices, fasting, pilgrimage and prayer to give thanks for everyday things.

Magdalena Reyes is one of the pilgrims grateful to God for all that she receives. She is a parishioner at St. Louis Bertrand Church, which every year offers the pilgrimage to the Virgin of Guadalupe with fasting and prayer to strengthen faith in God and in his Blessed Mother, so that the young people of the new generations know about the Virgin and continue with the devotion.

In the same way, Gabriela Ramos, a parishioner at St. Anthony Church in Oakley, shared how her devotion to the Virgin of Guadalupe is a heritage that has been passed down through four generations.

Her mother was an Aztec dancer in her native Guadalajara, Mexico. Her 27-year-old daughter danced with Oakley's Aztec group on Dec. 2.

Gabriela is also a faithful devotee of the Virgin of Guadalupe. She already teaches the devotion to the two grandchildren that she carried with her on the day of the pilgrimage. The younger, age 2, was dressed in a costume imitating St. Juan Diego, while the 6-year-old granddaughter was dressed in a typical costume alluding to the time of the apparition of the Virgin.

## Guadalupan Culture and Art

Colorful costumes with raised plumage sway to the rhythm of the Aztec dancers who accompany the Diocese of Oakland's Guadalupan Pilgrimage each year. This year, 12 groups of dancers moved their bodies for more than four hours to the rhythm of drums and maracas as they made a pilgrimage through the streets of Oakland.

The coordinator of the Latino Ministries of the Diocese of Oakland and the Guadalupana Pilgrimage of Oakland, Hector Medina, highlighted, "this year we broke the record," because, in addition to the number of dancing groups 21 floats were presented. Six of these floats went to St. Elizabeth Church, where 40% of the pilgrims were also sent so that the rest could be accommodated in the cathedral for the closing Mass.

"The most beautiful thing is to see the entire Latin Catholic community, together and united for the same cause, the faith," he said.

One of the floats that stood out for the amount of fresh flowers was the float of the Queen of All Saints Church of Concord, with more than 2,000 roses that came from Mexico and Ecuador. It was decorated by the parishioners Agustín de la Cruz and Guillermo



Meneses; it was the first time in their professional work as event decorators that they decorated an allegorical float for the Virgin of Guadalupe.

## Bishop Barber rejoices with the Guadalupanos

During Bishop Barber's message to the faithful, he expressed his joy at seeing his Church gathered to honor Our Lady.

"These are particular, and certainly difficult, moments in the life of the Church. An occasion like this strengthens our hope, renews our faith, and encourages us to continue walking the path of life hand in hand with Mary, building the kingdom of her beloved Son Jesus Christ," Bishop Barber said from an altar in the parking lot of St. Louis Bertrand Church in Oakland as he addressed a group of pilgrims wearing ponchos and layers and using umbrellas in the persistent rain.

Bishop Barber called on pilgrims to walk the streets telling the world, "we are children of the Blessed Mother, we are missionary disciples of Christ."

## The Gift of the Guadalupe Mass

The greatest reward received at the end of the pilgrimage was undoubtedly the Mass in honor of the Virgin in the Cathedral of Christ the Light, with the cathedral filled to capacity.

The Guadalupan pilgrims attended the closing Mass of the event presided over by Bishop Barber and listened to the homily of Father Carlos Balderas, superior of the Servants of Jesus order in Mexico.

In his homily, Father Balderas highlighted obedience and service as the virtues that characterize the Virgin Mary, the first pilgrim who has taught Christians service on the path of faith.

Father Balderas preached about the voice of the Church on the role of the Virgin of Guadalupe. He spoke of the messages that have been delivered by the last three popes of the Catholic Church in their respective visits to the shrine of Tepeyac.

From the message of Pope St. John Paul II, the role of the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe as a source against evil, who gives joy and hope to believers, is extracted. From the message of Pope Benedict XVI, we can extract the simplicity with which Mary leads the faithful to her son. And from Pope Francis' message on the Virgin Mary, he highlights the role of the Virgin as an apostolic path and method for the Church. ▲



# Historias de fe emergen durante *la fiesta Guadalupeana*

POR LORENA ROJAS

La peregrinación en honor a la Virgen de Guadalupe que tuvo lugar el 2 de diciembre, reunió a más de cuatro mil peregrinos desbordantes de fe y esperanza quienes ponen sus dolores y tristezas al amparo del corazón amoroso de la madre de Nuestro Señor Jesús.

En esta celebración Guadalupeana de la Diócesis de Oakland, los peregrinos en su mayoría inmigrantes de habla hispana y algunos fervientes no-hispanos caminaron cuatro horas para pedir a la Virgen la intercesión por sus necesidades. Durante la caminata cantaron himnos y rezaron los misterios del Rosario como muestras de agradecimiento.

Unos de esos peregrinos son los esposos Rosario y Juan Coronado, de Hayward, ellos ofrecieron el sacrificio de caminar desde la iglesia San Luis Bertrán - donde comenzó la peregrinación- hasta la catedral Cristo la Luz donde concluyó con una misa, en honor a la Virgen de Guadalupe, presidida por el obispo Michael C. Barber.

Los esposos Coronado ofrecieron este sacrificio para decirle a la Virgen que no olvidarán jamás el milagro que su hijo Jesse Coronado recibió gracias a Dios y a la Virgen María.

Jesse Coronado, el segundo de los tres hijos de Rosario y Juan fue diagnosticado con leucemia a los 15 años, en el Hospital de Niños de Oakland. Durante siete años de entrar y salir de hospitales, Jesse recibió tres trasplantes de médula, y cuatro trasplantes de células T, a pesar de los esfuerzos de los médicos, su vida estuvo al borde de la muerte muchas veces.

“Yo lloraba, pensaba que Dios no me escuchaba, pero me agarré fuerte de la oración, cada día, rezaba hasta tres rosarios porque eso me daba fortaleza. Un día de esos que él estaba muy malito, lo llamó el oncólogo para decirle que tenía un nuevo tratamiento para él, eso fue lo que finalmente le devolvió la salud”, narró la mamá de Jesse.

Jesse fue dado de alta recientemente a los 22 años, y sus padres hablan con alegría de cómo esa enfermedad y la recuperación ha fortalecido la fe de su hijo y sus esfuerzos para cuidar su salud.

Otra peregrina que irradia fe y esperanza a pesar de la lucha que libra contra un cáncer, es Blanca Alemán, ella entró a la catedral cargando en sus brazos una estatua de la Virgen de Guadalupe recostada a su pecho, de la cual hablaba como quien comparte los mejores momentos vividos con una amiga.

“Mis vírgenes tienen historia”, dijo Alemán, se refería no solo a la estatua que llevaba entre sus brazos, también a otra de oro que colgaba de su cuello.

Acerca de la historia de la estatua más grande que llevaba abrazada a su pecho, dijo que la había comprado en la ciudad de Williams cuando estuvo por allá trabajando un corto tiempo. De regreso a casa, ella y





sus acompañantes fueron librados de perecer en un accidente en el cual los pasajeros de otro vehículo fallecieron. Alemán asegura que la Virgen los libró de morir ese día.

Otros peregrinos guadalupanos a pesar de vivir sin mayores dificultades también son fervientes devotos de la Virgen de Guadalupe y ofrecen sacrificios, de ayuno, peregrinación, y oración para dar gracias por las cosas cotidianas.

Magdalena Reyes, es una de estas peregrinas agradecidas con Dios por todo cuanto recibe, ella es una parroquiana de la iglesia San Luis Bertrán, en Oakland, que cada año ofrece la peregrinación a la Virgen de Guadalupe con ayuno y oración para fortalecer la fe en Dios y en su Madre Santísima, para que los jóvenes de las nuevas generaciones conozcan sobre la Virgen y continúen con la devoción.

De la misma manera Gabriela Ramos, una parroquiana de la iglesia San Antonio en Oakley, comparte cómo su devoción a la Virgen de Guadalupe es una herencia que ha pasado por cuatro generaciones.



Su mamá fue una danzante azteca en su natal Guadalajara, México. Su hija de 27 años danzó el 2 de diciembre en la Peregrinación Guadalupeana con el grupo azteca de Oakley.

Ramos, también es una fiel devota de la Virgen de Guadalupe y ya enseña la devoción a los dos nietos que llevaba con ella el día de la peregrinación.

El más pequeño, de dos años

edad lo vistió con un traje imitación de san Juan Diego, mientras que a la nieta de seis años la vistieron con un traje típico alusivo a época de la aparición de la Virgen.

## Cultura y arte Guadalupeana

Los trajes coloridos con plumajes elevados se balancean al ritmo de los danzantes aztecas que cada año acompañan la Peregrinación Guadalupeana de la Diócesis de Oakland. Este año doce grupos de danzantes movieron sus cuerpos por más de cuatro horas seguidas, al ritmo de los tambores y las maracas mientras peregrinaban por las calles de la ciudad de Oakland.

El coordinador de los Ministerios Latino de la Diócesis de Oakland y de la Peregrinación Guadalupeana de Oakland, Héctor Medina, resaltó “este año rompimos el récord” porque además de la cantidad de grupos danzantes, se presentaron veintiún carros alegóricos de los cuales seis se dirigieron hacia la iglesia Santa Isabel, donde también se encaminó el 40% de los peregrinos para que el resto pudiera acomodarse en la catedral para la misa de cierre.

“Lo más bonito es ver a toda la comunidad Católica latina, junta y unida por una misma causa, la fe”, dijo Medina.

Uno de los carros alegóricos que destacó por la cantidad de flores frescas, fue el carro de la iglesia Reina de Todos los Santos, de Concord con más de dos mil rosas de colores, provenientes de México y Ecuador. Fue decorado por los parroquianos Agustín de la Cruz y Guillermo Meneses, quienes por primera vez, en su trabajo profesional como decoradores de eventos han adornado un carro alegórico para la Virgen de Guadalupe.



## Obispo Barber se alegra con los guadalupanos

Durante el mensaje que ofreció el obispo Michael C. Barber a los fieles, el sábado 2 de diciembre durante la Peregrinación Guadalupeana de Oakland, expresó la alegría que lo invade ver a su Iglesia reunida para honrar a la Virgen.

“Estos son momentos particulares, y ciertamente difíciles en la vida de la Iglesia. Una ocasión como esta fortalece nuestra esperanza, renueva nuestra fe, y nos anima para seguir recorriendo el camino de la vida de la mano de María, construyendo el reino de su hijo amado Jesucristo”, dijo el obispo Barber desde un altar en el estacionamiento de la Iglesia San Luis Bertrán, en Oakland al dirigirse a un grupo de peregrinos guadalupanos cobijados con ponchos, capas y sombrillas bajo una persistente lluvia.

El obispo Barber llamó a los peregrinos a caminar por las calles diciendo al mundo “somos hijos de la Madre Bendita, somos discípulos misioneros de Cristo”.

## El regalo de la Misa Guadalupeana

La mayor recompensa recibida al final de la peregrinación fue sin duda la misa en honor a la Virgen en la Catedral Cristo la Luz, con la iglesia llena al máximo de capacidad.

Los peregrinos guadalupanos asistieron a la misa de cierre del evento presidida por el obispo Michael Barber y escucharon la homilía del padre Carlos Balderas, superior de la orden Siervos de Jesús en México.

El padre Balderas, en la homilía resaltó obediencia y servicio como las virtudes que caracterizan a la Virgen María, la primera peregrina quien ha enseñado a los cristianos el servicio en el camino de la fe.

En la homilía, el padre Balderas predicó acerca de la voz de la Iglesia sobre el rol de la Virgen de Guadalupe. Él habló de los mensajes que han pronunciado los últimos tres papas de la Iglesia Católica en sus respectivas visitas al santuario del Tepeyac.

Del mensaje del papa san Juan Pablo II, se extrae el papel de la Virgen María de Guadalupe como fuente contra el mal, que da gozo y esperanza a los creyentes. Del mensaje del papa Benedicto XVI se extrae la sencillez con que María lleva a los fieles hasta su hijo. Y del mensaje del papa Francisco sobre la Virgen María, destaca el rol de la Virgen como camino y método apostólico para la Iglesia. ▲



# The Voice of God

BY PATRICIA MANIATIS

THROUGHOUT THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT, GOD'S VOICE RESOUNDS. OFTEN ACCOMPANIED BY DRAMATIC EFFECTS: AN EARTHQUAKE, THUNDER, A RAINBOW, AND OTHER TIMES IT'S A HUSH, A SOFT WHISPER IN THE NIGHT. YET ALWAYS, UNMISTAKABLY, IT'S THE VOICE OF GOD. MOSES HEARD IT. ABRAHAM HEARD IT, JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME. JOB GREW QUITE WEARY OF GOD'S NAGGING, AND NOAH HAD TO BE VERY PROUD OF HIS ANSWER WITH THE ARK. IMAGINE IF HE HAD ONLY BUILT A RAFT.

In those days, the lack of electricity, especially technology, simplified reception. The night skies were clear of satellites, airplanes, cell towers. The stars had dominion and brilliance; giving birth to both miracles and messages. The young shepherds didn't have their heads down, texting their friends, distracted from their flock with their headphones on. Instead, on that dark, star-studded night, they were receptive.

In so many instances when Scripture relates His message, God's voice is heard in the hush of the night, often in dreams when there are no other distractions. I especially love the story of Samuel. He was awakened three times and each time, he trudged over to ask Eli if it was he who called him. God persisted until both Eli and Samuel understood whose voice Samuel had heard. Samuel's response continues to echo in our own lives, "Here I am Lord."

I heard my own St. Paul-like, jarring message many years ago; not on the road to Damascus but boarding a plane to Hawaii. I cannot recall what prompted my impulsive, almost disastrous, decision, but I have no doubt it was God's voice, loud and clear, that returned me to my senses.

Then, a young mother of five children in six years, I was living quite happily in the suburbs; although the only wheels available were on the kids: Big Wheels and bicycles. My husband needed the car for work. I recall herding the kids across the street to my neighbor's, with no notice or explanation, only the reassurance that their father would pick them up later. I also remember cutting the cord to our phone before I hitched a ride to the airport with a kind, unquestioning truck driver and bought a one-way ticket to Hawaii. No luggage, just my pink bikini and slinky black dress balled up in my purse.

While my recollection of my motivation that day is foggy, what has remained is a vivid memory, the announcement I heard over the airport PA system: "DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING?" It's likely that the other passengers heard, "Now boarding..." but I stopped, stunned. I knew whose voice I heard. His message was clear. I turned and pushed my way back up the gate's ramp. I tried, tearfully and unsuccessfully, to get my ticket refunded, then took the airport shuttle home to Marin – lamenting the fact that I couldn't call my husband to explain or ask for a ride. I was remorseful that "someone" had cut the phone cord.

Today, some 50 years later, I have both quiet mornings and time to reflect on God's message from scripture. Often, whether in the Old Testament or New, the psalms or Gospels, the voice of God guides my day. His message to St. Paul, my husband's patron saint, reassures and resonates – reminds me to keep on the right ramp. "My grace is sufficient for you." It is. ▲

**PATRICIA MANIATIS**

is a writer, poet and member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Point Richmond.



# Church of Santa Maria in Orinda supports Cristo Rey De La Salle High School

BY CEIL BARO, SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEMBER/LIAISON TO CRISTO REY

**OVER THE YEARS, CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA PARISHIONERS HAVE PROVIDED SUPPORT TO CRISTO REY DE LA SALLE EAST BAY HIGH SCHOOL IN OAKLAND AS VOLUNTEERS AND WITH DONATIONS.**

In 2023, we were able to double our contribution to \$10,000 through joint commitments by Santa Maria's Knights of Columbus (\$5,000) and parish tithe, at the recommendation of the Social Justice Committee (\$5,000).

As parishioners, we look forward to sharing ways to give back to the community by discussing outreach efforts in formal meetings and informal conversations. Knights, for example, have attended Social Justice Committee (SJC) meetings to talk about their activities and learn more about SJC initiatives. We are also very grateful to our pastor, Father George Mockel, for his thoughtful leadership and encouragement.

Father Andres Emmanuelli, director of development, community relations at Cristo Rey is an amazing and tireless resource, always available to answer questions about Cristo Rey and to help in any way possible. He most recently met with Santa Maria

Knights of Columbus and welcomes future opportunities to meet with other members of the parish. A number of parishioners have visited the school's beautifully maintained campus in Oakland. The kindness and graciousness of the students is a fond memory. Classes were in session with students clearly focused and hard at work. Kudos to the staff for all the organization on display.

The Cristo Rey model resonates as a commitment to education for young people of limited economic means to succeed in college and beyond. The cost for each student to attend Cristo Rey per year is \$20,000; \$10,000 per student is paid via donations/fundraising. The remaining \$10,000 per student is generated by the Corporate Work Study Program. Each student works one day a week at a company, and his/her salary is sent directly to Cristo Rey to help pay for their tuition.



Top Row Left to Right: Jessica Murray, Steve Dietrich, Father Andres Emmanuelli, Gail Gabriel Middle Row Left to Right: Helena Dietrich, Maureen Sheehy Bottom Row Left to Right: Karla Cruz, Jennifer Torres, DeAndres Gross

“

Thank you so much ... for the sincere joy and love that you have extended to our students. Please let Father George and the whole parish community of Santa Maria know how grateful we are for your support!”

– Father Andres Emmanuelli

## Among Cristo Rey accomplishments:

- 100% college acceptance for the second year in a row and the largest incoming Freshman Class of 105 students. The student body grew to 305 students.
- Students benefit from a transformative learning experience: a rigorous college prep curriculum as well as four years of employment as part of the school's Corporate Work Study Program.
- Participating in the Corporate Work Study Program, students build professional skills over their 4 years in high school as well as learning about potential career paths and earning the extraordinary affirmation that they are helping to pay for their Cristo Rey education.
- The Wholeness Team grew to a team of five counselors working with students on a range of needs including personal counseling, managing college applications and providing students with alumni support to successfully complete college.
- Graduates attend Stanford, UC Berkeley, Columbia, UCLA, Cal Poly, Saint Mary's and Santa Clara, to name a few. ▲



**CRISTO REY DE LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL**

Contact Father Andres Emmanuelli at [aemmanuelli@cristoreydelasalle.org](mailto:aemmanuelli@cristoreydelasalle.org) or Ms. Annie Nguyen at [anguyen@cristoreydelasalle.org](mailto:anguyen@cristoreydelasalle.org).





**J**esus, when He was in the most extreme difficulty, shared His mother with me, and with all of us. How generous can you be?

That makes Jesus and me brothers. My brother happens to be God and my Lord, but my brother. We both love this Mother of ours.

# *Dr. Wallace and Our Blessed Mother*



A LOVE STORY  
AS TOLD BY  
DR. TOM WALLACE  
TO MICHELE JURICH

PHOTOS BY  
DOMINIQUE GHEKIERE-MINTZ



### How it all started...

I'm a baptized Protestant. One nice thing about that: I remember my baptism. That's one thing up over most Catholics. I remember it very well. It made an impression on me. I was 12 years old; old enough to know.

The Protestant church didn't hold me, especially when I went to college and heard the pastor talking about the relationship of God to science. I thought, oh, my, that's just some intellectual thing and I'm not interested. I just drifted away.

### Meeting Coni

I was a young intern and she was a young head nurse at Philadelphia General Hospital. It was a 3,000-bed city/county charity hospital. It's no longer there. Once Medicare came, medical schools — there are five in the city — have taken those patients.

In the first week, I took a nice lady on a cart from the

emergency room to the medical floor. That happened to be Coni's medical floor. She was the head nurse there. This was at night. This lady and I got along very well. I told her, "I'll come back and see you in the morning." But in the morning, a group came around from one of the medical schools and they were going to examine her. She jumped out of bed shouting, "Nobody is going to touch me. I got my own Dr. Wallace here." She ran down the hall with the gown flapping in the back. Coni was there then. That was a one-upmanship for me.

I hadn't seen her before. She was beautiful. A few days later, she was on the elevator. I asked her out. We went out that night. We really liked each other. I asked her to marry me. She agreed.

We were going to get married. Family things, my pigheadedness, interfered, so we each wound up married to someone else for 19 years. We both wound up divorced the same week. She was upset and called me. I was at the Cleveland Clinic. She was able to contact me. She went home to her family in Pennsylvania.

But when met at the airport, we decided we'd better get married. We got married civilly.

We went to Florida and I agreed with another neurologist to practice there. Florida is flat, really flat, swampy, creeks along the houses have animals in them. I knew she unhappy. She had been living in Oakland.

She wasn't pushing to come to California. We were talking about California, when we were back in Cleveland. While we're taking about California, on the radio along comes a song, "Do You Know the Way to San Jose?"

While that's playing, a neurosurgeon, a former resident of mine, calls and asks, "Do you know a neurologist who might want to come out to practice in Pleasanton?"

Sure, we'll come out and take a look. And we did and we stayed. I practiced in Livermore for 24 years.

Retrospectively, that had to be our Blessed Mother. There are no real coincidences.

Concetta is Silician for "consecrated."

We lived in Livermore for a couple of years and moved to our former house in Oakland.

### "Help me, Jesus"

I went to Mass with her a few times, not much. A lot of anxiety, trying to do everything my way. I love that recording of Frank Sinatra, "My Way." That was my theme song. I got more and more anxious.

In 1986, I asked Jesus, out of desperation, "Help me, Jesus." He did. He brought me into His Church. I was confirmed at St. Theresa Church. That same Sunday the pastor, Monsignor Bernie Moran, married us in the Church, immediately. The next morning, he started me serving at the altar.

With a few exceptions, I've been to daily Mass ever since. So Jesus gave me Himself.

Within a few weeks, He gave me His mother.

How I got interested, I don't know. I went to the Pauline Book Store in San Francisco and I asked for something to read about Mary. They sold me "The Glories of Mary." I was hooked. I went back two or three weeks later and asked for something else. They sold me St. Louis De Montfort's "True Devotion to Mary." So I became consecrated to our Blessed Mother right then.

Consecrations aren't easy to live up to, but it grows. I see what she does for me.

I closed my office after 24 years in Livermore. Coni had neck injuries and developed progressive spinal cord disorder. Over 10 years, she became quadriplegic and died. She died because of the weak chest. When I needed to be home, I became a medical evaluator because I could see some patients and go home and write long reports and be home with her. That worked well. She died in 2012.

She was a terrific nurse; she was an artist and attended art school in San Francisco for three years.

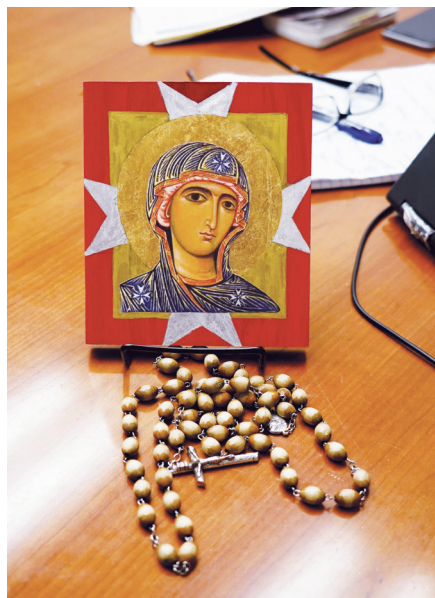
### Life with Our Blessed Mother

I miss Coni so much. I'm living with our Blessed Mother. It's really a wonderful experience. You get a chance to really know her better. She does everything that should be done for me. I understand from Fatima. Then I became involved with Mary Mother of Priests.

“

**Get up, go to Mass,  
receive the Body  
and Blood of Christ  
and come here.  
How could our  
Mother have ar-  
ranged anything  
better for me?**

**“  
How to  
explain life  
with Our  
Holy Mother?  
She gives me  
everything  
I need. I try  
to do what  
I am supposed  
to be doing.**



The rosary is so important. I started praying the rosary at church, Saturday mornings for a while, until they took Saturday morning Mass away. I started saying the rosary before Mass. I've been doing that ever since. In 2016, we started a conference call, praying the rosary every night.

I learned recently that I had used the conference call service 2,030 times. I bring this up because I know from my consecration she wants us to pray the rosary. She's using me in a way to bring others to her. It's so important.

How to explain life with our Holy Mother?

She gives me everything I need. I try to do what I am supposed to be doing.

### **The Clinic**

As I was coming out of Mass one day, Herman Carmassi – a Knight in the Order of Malta – asked me, “Why don't you volunteer at our clinic?”

The pastor, Father Bob (McCann) was right behind him. “Tom, why don't you do that?”

I joined and started. It's just addictive.

So much love exchanged. So compelling.

I started that in 2014. Somebody suggested maybe I wanted to go to Lourdes. I tried to sign up. It was full. Two weeks before the Lourdes trip was to start, one of the doctor's wives ended up in the hospital and he stayed. I got to go to Lourdes.

That hooked me: I had to join the Order of Malta and I had to continue this clinic. And it's just increased.

It's the love exchanged with these patients. They know we can do a lot for them and we know we can.

What's important is that we love these patients and they love us. Love is a two-way street.

Shortly after I was accepted into the Church and signed up with our Blessed Mother, one night I was praying. I told Mother I wanted to be pregnant with Jesus like her.

I had a crucifix hanging in my car. The next morning, the corpus was gone. I knew where it was.

Within a couple of days, the Holy Spirit just overwhelmed me.

What's left for Jesus to give me? If you're with Him, and with our Blessed Mother, everything is arranged. It doesn't mean you don't have to sweat or do some things. But so what? Do I live up to everything? Nobody can live up to everything.

Why does Jesus want us to have a mother? Everybody needs one. Why did God give us Mary? He saw her from the very beginning. He was not to be our mother, but Mary. If everybody could understand that, where would we be?

She told us at Fatima and here we are.

I want to bring her to everybody I can. What's the best way I can? The patients and rosary.

I've always enjoyed the patients. That's how I got into medicine. I have a love relationship with the patients.

They come back and we're happy to see each other. Some just like to come back. Some wind up with insurance and they don't want to leave.

We're eager to see them because we know how well they're going to treat us. If it's of any good, it's two ways.

I'm rereading “The Glories of Mary.” Everybody should know how much she does. How much she can do.

If it can bring other people to Our Blessed Mother ... Get them to Mass, the benefit of receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus every day. I do know what's it's doing. I know its working. I know who I am.



### **DR. TOM WALLACE**

serves daily at the Order of Malta Clinic at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland. With white coat and stethoscope, Dr. Wallace keeps at his desk, between the laptop computer and telephones, a rosary and image of Our Blessed Mother.



# WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2024



**FEBRUARY 10**  
SATURDAY, 11 A.M.

Register: [www.eventbrite.com/e/messe-des-malades-oakland-cathedral-tickets-728375951077](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/messe-des-malades-oakland-cathedral-tickets-728375951077)

**THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIGHT**  
2121 HARRISON ST., OAKLAND

DOUBLE FEATURE WITH JASON EVERT



Sponsored By Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Immaculate Heart of Mary Court #2714  
ST. RAYMOND OF PENAFORT CATHOLIC CHURCH  
11555 SHANNON AVENUE  
DUBLIN, CA 94568



**CHASTITY  
PROJECT**

**ONE DAY - TWO TALKS \$25**  
FREE RESOURCES FOR EVERY ATTENDEE!

## PURIFIED

A LIFE-CHANGING EVENT FOR FAMILIES (AGES 13+)

**SATURDAY**  
February 3, 2024

**12:00 - 1:30 PM**

The innocence of the family is under attack like never before. Come and discover how to protect and heal yours. This chastity presentation is for teens, parents and adults.

## GENDER & THE THEOLOGY OF YOUR BODY (AGES 13+)

**SATURDAY**  
February 3, 2024

**2:00 - 3:00 PM**

What's the meaning of sex, gender, and the human body? The truth of masculinity and femininity are being questioned like never before. Discover how your body as a man or woman reveals your identity and calling.

Lunch/Check In 11:00-12:00 PM | Break 1:30-2:00 PM  
Sacrament of Reconciliation & Eucharistic Adoration 3:00-3:30 PM

Tickets: [chastity.com/purified](http://chastity.com/purified)  
Info: [srcdublin.chastityproject@gmail.com](mailto:srcdublin.chastityproject@gmail.com)

Purchase Tickets with QR Code:



FOR  
**LENT**  
FOR **LIFE**

PARA LA  
**CUARESMA**  
POR LA **VIDA**



**CRS RICE  
BOWL**

[crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) | [crsplatodearroz.org](http://crsplatodearroz.org)

## The Wonder of Eve

understand the power and strength created within the female body

The Wonder of Eve is a fresh and engaging presentation, helping young women understand how naturally amazing their bodies are and the impact their choices can have on their future health and fertility.

*"Why didn't I know  
this years ago?"*

We often hear this from our Natural Family Planning clients. **Even as a young woman, they wish they had known this about their bodies!**

### The Wonder of Eve covers:

- the marvelous design and function of the female body and reproductive system/menstrual cycles
- a brief introduction to tracking cycles—a unique approach to women's healthcare, no matter the stage in life
- ways to take good care of yourself now, to benefit you in the future.

### Presentation specifics:

- geared towards high school girls
- aligned with Catholic teaching and values
- 60-minute presentation including Q&A

Mother and Daughter Luncheon  
February 17, 2024 at 11 am  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church  
\$20 per person



**Wonder of Eve Trailer Videos!** [bit.ly/WonderofEveTrailer](https://bit.ly/WonderofEveTrailer)

**Book Now  
for Your  
School!**





# Welcome to the Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel

AT OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE  
PARISH IN FREMONT

BY LISA EACRET, MEMBER OF PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

**F**ATHER JOY KUMARTHUSSEERIL, MF, PASTOR OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PARISH IN FREMONT, HAD A VISION TO CREATE AN ADORATION CHAPEL AS PART OF THE EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL.

Taking this vision to his congregation, he was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and contributions. Ministry groups held events and fundraisers, dedicating proceeds to the chapel, while other parishioners donated funds and talents, bringing the vision quickly to fruition.

The inauguration of the Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel took place on Oct. 29, 2023. Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ

presided at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. He led the congregation in a procession from the church to the new chapel.

Bishop Barber also blessed the new mosaic tiles at the front of the church representing the two parishes, St. Leonard and Santa Paula, merged as one parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe. These three pieces of mosaic serve as a beautiful piece of history every parishioner will always cherish. ▲



## TO VISIT THE CHAPEL

Contact the parish office at 510.657.4043 to be issued a passcode. Entry to the chapel is through keyless entry. All are welcome.





# O Holy Night! Christmas comes to Santa Rita Jail

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MICHELE JURICH

**W**HEN YOU CAN'T GET TO CHURCH, CHURCH COMES TO YOU. AND SO IT WAS ON DEC. 17 THAT BISHOP MICHAEL C. BARBER, SJ CELEBRATED TWO CHRISTMAS MASSES IN THE CHAPEL OF SANTA RITA JAIL SUNDAY EVENING.

Male inmates attended the first Mass; after they returned to their jail communities, a group of female inmates entered the modest chapel, which has pews, a desk-size altar and a pair of banners. On the left, one reads WHAT CAN WASH AWAY MY SINS ...; on the right, NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS.

A choir from the Catholic Community of Pleasanton provided seasonal music and worship aids so the inmates could participate. At each Mass, inmates did the readings, read prayers of the faithful and were invited to add their own intentions.

Father Peter Lawongkerd, a parochial vicar at CCOP who also serves in the ministry at the jail, concelebrated. He brought his ordination chalice to the altar. Deacon John Mignano proclaimed the Gospel and assisted at the altar.

Deacon Richard Denoix serves as chaplain at Santa Rita, where he is known as Chaplain Denoix. The conclusion of the Mass, he reminded the Mass-goers how to request services, including preparation to receive the sacrament of baptism and how to request confession.

The Christmas Mass at Santa Rita continues a tradition Bishop Barber began in his first year in Oakland, 10 years ago. ▲





# Simbang Gabi

PHOTOS BY DOMINIQUE GHEKIERE-MINTZ

**A**t the Simbang Gabi kick-off Mass, the arrival of parish representatives with their banners added bright color to the day. The Mass was celebrated Dec. 9 at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Pittsburg by Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, who was joined by clergy from throughout the diocese. Many Filipino Catholics participated in the novena leading up to Christmas at Masses throughout the diocese. ▲











## Men's spirituality at St. Mary Magdalen

**A**pproximately 50 years ago, the Women's Movement found its footing and began making much-needed corrections in our culture. On the shoulders of suffragettes and Rosie the Riveter, equal pay and workplace accessibility were addressed, women's roles in the family began to change and educational opportunities opened up. Fifty years of progress has also given women's spirituality an identity and vision, which promises more advances in the future. Women have achieved much, and much more needs to be accomplished.

The foregoing begs the question, Where is men's spirituality today? While the ecclesiastical wing of the Catholic Church is still an exclusively male preserve (and I'm not going to address that here), the role of lay men in the Church and society isn't so clear. Academically, men have fallen behind women at university in numbers, test scores and graduations. Many young men have opted out of the dating scene and are no longer looking for a life mate. And far fewer men search for a vocation that follows their passion or bliss.

These signs of depression and lethargy hold true for young men of all sexual orientations. There are few role models to inspire these men to plan for their future. Indeed, the figure of the "badass" has become the major paradigm for adolescent and young adult males. This is a serious problem. Badasses are valuable when you need someone to take charge, but unchecked by more humane qualities (e.g., humility), they are generally irritable, unreliable, combative and can make terrible husbands and fathers. We need alternative role models.

The time has come for men to reconsider their place in our society and Church. I propose we examine what gives men a unique place in the world. Just as women questioned 50 years ago, male assessment might start with a place where men search their souls for why God created them as such. Beyond this, men should ask the questions: What uniquely masculine qualities do I give to society at large? What are appropriate role models for adolescents and young men? What in my maleness makes me unique and honorable before God? ▲

— FATHER NICHOLAS GLISSON  
PASTOR, ST. MARY MAGDALEN PARISH, BERKELEY



More than 40 men – ranging from octogenarians to young adults; architects to seminarians – answered Father Glisson's invitation to Benediction, Bourbon and Barbeque, in spite of heavy rains on Nov. 17. The event began with brief talks by Deacon Jeff Burns in English and Father Rigo Caloca-Rivas in Spanish. Afterward, Benediction was celebrated in the church, followed by drinks and barbeque downstairs in the Rectory. Fathers and grandfathers were encouraged to bring their adolescent sons and grandsons. Parish Councilman Brian King, Deacon Burns, Father Caloca-Rivas and Father Glisson planned the event. COURTESY PHOTOS



## SISTER MARIA CARIDAD PINUELA, OP

**S**ISTER MARIA CARIDAD PINUELA, OP, WHO WAS BAPTIZED GUILLERMA PINUELA, DIED ON NOV. 6, 2023, AT THE DOMINICAN LIFE CENTER IN ADRIAN, MICHIGAN. SHE WAS 86 YEARS OF AGE AND IN THE 67TH YEAR OF HER RELIGIOUS PROFESSION: 17 YEARS AS A DOMINICAN SISTER OF MOLO, ILOILO CITY, PHILIPPINES, AND IN HER 50TH YEAR IN THE ADRIAN DOMINICAN CONGREGATION.

Sister Maria Caridad ministered as an elementary school teacher in the Diocese of Oakland for 31 years: at St. Louis Bertrand School in Oakland from 1971-1976; St. Paschal Baylon School in Oakland for 1976-1979; and All Saints School in Hayward from 1979-2002.

Sister Maria Caridad was born in Zarraga, Iloilo, Philippines, to Juan and Mercedes (Sendino) Pinuela. Sister graduated from Sacred Heart Academy in Zarraga and received a bachelor of education degree in history from San Agustin University in Iloilo City and a master of arts degree in educational administration from Siena Heights College (University) in Adrian.

Sister spent three years ministering in education in the Philippines and 10 years at schools in Detroit, Michigan; Douglas, Arizona; Aiea, Hawaii; and Oakland, all prior to entering the Adrian Dominican Congregation. Sister became a resident of the Dominican Life Center in 2002.

Sister Maria Caridad was preceded in death by her parents, a sister, Flocefida Pedroso and a brother, Wilfredo Pinuela. She is survived by her brother, Rogelio Pinuela of Zarraga, Iloilo, Philippines, other loving family members and her Adrian Dominican Sisters.

A Funeral Mass was offered in St. Catherine Chapel on Nov. 9; prayers of Committal were held in the Congregation Cemetery.

Memorial gifts may be made to Adrian Dominican Sisters, 1257 East Siena Heights Drive, Adrian, MI 49221. ▲



## SISTER MARY HELEN JATHAS, SHF

**S**ISTER MARY HELEN JATHAS, SHF, DIED PEACEFULLY ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, DEC. 3, 2023, AT THE AGE OF 94. SHE WAS BORN ON FEB. 12, 1929, IN OAKLAND, THE DAUGHTER OF THOMAS JATHAS AND ELEANOR KING.

She entered the Sisters of the Holy Family on July 7, 1953, at the age of 24, from St. Anthony Parish in Oakland, and was given the name Sister M. Augustine, changing back to her baptismal name in 1975.

Sister Mary Helen served as catechist and as director of Religious Education in various parishes in California and Hawaii before coming to the Motherhouse in Fremont in 2003. With the Sisters, she worked at first as a volunteer in the Development Office and later became coordinator of the Mission San Jose Guild.

Known for her caring, her kindness and her funny stories, Sister will be missed by many, Sisters, family and friends alike. She stayed in close contact with her family and continued the friendships she made in her work with the Development Department and the MSJ Guild long after her retirement.

When she was no longer assigned to active ministry, she had a thriving ministry of lunches and phone calls and asking for prayers for people she knew who were sick or troubled.

Sister Mary Helen's funeral Mass was held Dec. 13 in the Sisters' Oratory. Burial was at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma on Dec. 14. ▲

**How can we help?  
Let us know.**

**510.267.8344**





## OFFICIAL CALENDAR

### February 1

10 a.m.  
Pastoral Seminar for Priests  
Participating in Phase 1 of  
Mission Alignment Process,  
Chancery Offices, Oakland

6:30 p.m.  
Bringing the Synod Home:  
How to be a Synodal Church in  
Mission, Santa Maria Parish Hall,  
Orinda

### February 2

7 p.m.  
Celebration of the Sacrament  
of Confirmation, St. Joan of Arc  
Parish, San Ramon

### February 3

11 a.m. and 2 p.m.  
Celebration of the Sacrament  
of Confirmation for Adults,  
Cathedral of Christ the Light,  
Oakland

### February 5

Meeting of the  
San Francisco Province  
Bishops, Archdiocese  
of San Francisco

### February 5-13

Annual Retreat  
for the Bishops of the  
San Francisco Province,  
El Retiro Retreat House,  
Los Altos

### February 14

Noon  
Ash Wednesday Mass, UC  
Berkeley Campus, Berkeley

5:30 p.m.  
Ash Wednesday Mass,  
Cathedral of Christ the Light,  
Oakland

### February 15

Priest Personnel Board  
Meeting

### February 16-17

24 Hours for the Lord  
throughout the Diocese

*See website for full list of parishes  
offering adoration and confession.*

### February 17

11 a.m.  
Rite of Election (English),  
Cathedral of Christ the Light,  
Oakland

2 p.m.  
Rite of Election (Spanish),  
Cathedral of Christ the Light,  
Oakland

### February 18

4 p.m.  
Rite of Election (English),  
Cathedral of Christ the Light,  
Oakland

### February 22

College of Consultors Meeting  
Presbyteral Council Meeting

### February 23

Noon  
Mass and Prayer Vigil for Life,  
St. Mary's Parish, Walnut Creek

### February 24

Mass and Visit with Carmelite  
Sisters, Carmel of Jesus, Mary  
and Joseph, Kensington

2 p.m.  
Chinese Lunar New Year Mass,  
Cathedral of Christ the Light,  
Oakland

6 p.m.  
Vietnamese Lunar New Year  
Mass with Cursillo Group,  
Divine Mercy Parish  
(St. Paschal Site), Oakland

### February 25-28

Bishops Conference on  
Synodality, University of Notre  
Dame, Indiana

### February 29

Bishops and Vocation  
Directors Meeting,  
St. Patrick's Seminary &  
University, Menlo Park



Bishop's schedule online at  
[oakdiocese.org/bishop](https://oakdiocese.org/bishop).



Christmas Morning 2023



PHOTOS BY DOMINIQUE GHEKIERE-MINTZ

# REMEMBER THE FAITHFUL



## PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR VIRTUAL MASS

### WHEN:

February 3, 2024, 11 a.m.

### WHERE:

<https://1977-catholic-funeral-and-cemetery-services.livecontrol.tv/5c3ec933>

## CATHOLIC FUNERAL & CEMETERY SERVICES

*Your complete resource for Funeral, Cremation, and Cemetery services.*

Our staff of experienced Family Service Advisors are a rich resource guiding you towards minimizing stress, reducing family burden and securing today's favorable prices. They will thoughtfully assist you in planning in advance so that your wishes are met.

**Call (855) 863-1431 or visit us online at [cfcsoakland.org](http://cfcsoakland.org)**

*Serving all faiths throughout the Bay Area*



*Living Our Mission*

CATHOLIC FUNERAL & CEMETERY SERVICES  
A MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

## Remembering those who we have laid to rest in our Catholic Cemeteries during the month of November 2023.

### † HOLY SEPULCHRE

Ruben Aquayo  
Maria Alejandre  
Marlene Betschart  
Elaine Bettencourt  
Sean Boyles  
Cangju Cai  
Emilia Carrera  
Joseph Castro  
Cecilia Conti  
Alba Maria Cuadra  
Hermeneginda De Perez  
George Delima  
Anthony Dicker  
Patrick Donohue  
Kathleen Dowling  
Siemens Fernando  
Anne Flavel  
Hezekiah Florestal  
Helen Fulkerson  
Samuel Carranza Garcia  
Andre Gentry  
Raimundo Goulart  
Antonio Grego  
Maria Guevarra  
Thayer Dan Hall  
Jean Hewitt  
Ana Rosa Huerta  
Victor Ibanez Corrasco  
Matthew Kathain  
Charles Koffler  
Theresa Laforce  
Jeannie Larrabe  
Tom Leung  
Antonio Loura  
Meranda Lucio  
Jonnie Macias  
Ana Mascarenas-Salazar  
Sharon McCormick  
Thomas Mcelroy  
Emma Melton  
Margaret Mockel  
Jacqueline Napier  
James Nash  
Norma Nash  
Eulalia Nieves  
Thomas O'Brien  
Runder Odriscoll  
Zenaida Patacsil  
Frank Peixoto  
Gwennie Preston

Tran Quang  
Becca Ramirez - Heredia  
Santos Ruvalcaba  
Baby Sanchez Basmaca  
Baby Sanchez Basmaca  
Kathleen Ann Sanchez  
David Santos  
Rodante Sarto  
Sandra Soares  
Leontine Soublet  
Jennie Tjon  
Elizabeth Torres-Guzman  
Cristine Tosta  
Tuyet-Anh Truong  
Cynthia Vargas  
Willard Wyman  
Richard Zaslove

### † QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Florence Anderson  
Joe Andrade Jr.  
Igor Archangel  
Patricia Anne Barkas  
Victor Norman Barkas  
Alfredo Centeno Gonzalez  
Raymond Jerel Daglow  
Annie Murry Dixon  
James Donahue  
Salinas Ernesto  
Susan Beth Feinberg  
Steve Fisher  
Ramon Frijas  
Gary Garrison  
Manuel Gonzalez  
Gary Heitkamp  
Dennis Herman Heitz  
John Hibel  
Mary Kearns  
James Kearns  
Robert Kelleher  
Sylvia Klemens  
Mary Rose Mahoney  
Marigene Mainland  
Israel Michael Matthews  
Alfred Charles Oliver  
Patsy Louise Phillips  
Monique Cauley Pickenpack  
Rosalind Ann Preston  
Mykola Pyatnychanskiy  
Dennis Quinn  
Barbara Roberts

Edward Gregory Rodrigues  
Beverly Stevens  
Carol Jean Stuart  
Viola Alestine Whitfield  
Ralph Zapalla

### † HOLY CROSS

Agustin E. Andres  
Rosario C. Barajas  
Arturo Calvillo  
Baby Carranza  
Luis A. Carranza Espinosa  
John Craffey  
Madeleine D'eredita  
Larry V. Dionida  
Adelaide Elias  
Andrew M. Gaona  
Maryanne Ingram  
Sarah Siervo Kintanar  
Leticia Leoncito  
John Phillip Martinez  
Theodore Paul McClellan  
Clyde Ernest Miles  
Leon Eugene Nielson  
Luis E. Otero  
Luis Roberto Paredes  
Erlinda Resonda  
Harold M. Scott  
Francis Marie Scott  
Eugene Siedliski  
Cecilia L. Toblado

### † ST. JOSEPH

Rufo C. Alejandro  
Carlos E. Alba  
Diane D. Anderson  
Loretta A. Banducci  
Blanca Beltran  
Jaime D. Bondoc Sr.  
Ann M. Cristiani  
Anthony R. De Santo  
June L. Dias  
Arc J. Enriquez Rodillo  
William A. Grange  
Rodolfo A. Kuan  
Herman L. Johnson  
Shirley Lemos  
Margaret M. Loera  
Gilmar S. Lopez Xalin  
David Lozano  
Noemi D. Martinez

Celio Murillo  
Luis G. Ornelas Jauregui  
Rodante B. Saptorsantos  
Maria Sena  
Martha J. Seymour  
Manuel J. Valenzuela  
Boonla Vilayngeun

### † ST. MICHAEL

Ethan Brako D'Souza  
Rudolph Fruscella  
Baby Hall  
Denny Pak Ho Lee  
Julio Corpuz Macaventa  
Kaleb Albert Makepeace  
Kevin Andrei Meza  
Luis M. Perez  
Randall James Roemer

### † ST. AUGUSTINE

Brent Steven Poskus

### † ST. MARY

Henry Bender  
Dorothy Bui  
Sahori Hernandez  
Po Ting Nguyen  
George Rosas  
Romel Tapscott

### † CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIGHT

Oralia Cipres  
Michael D. Davis  
Davis Le  
Dominique O. Pham  
Vanna Sicchio  
Anna Tran  
Huong Tran  
Clifford Wiesner  
Myra Williams

**Start planning today:**

**Funeral | Cremation | Cemetery | Family Estates**





**Roman Catholic Diocese of Oakland**  
2121 Harrison St #100  
Oakland, CA 94612



*Save the Date*



**FACE**

FAMILY AID - CATHOLIC EDUCATION

**FACE GALA | APRIL 20, 2024**

**Blackhawk Museum - Danville, CA**