

# Our Lady Queen of the World Church

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## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

*Fr. Thomas Khue, Parochial Administrator*  
*Deacon Loc Nguyen*  
*Sister Elizabeth Diep Huynh, Bookkeeper*  
*Maria Faye Dolor, Secretary*

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 9:00am—1:00pm

### Masses

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm (English)  
7:00 pm (Spanish)

Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12 noon (English)  
4:00 pm (Vietnamese)

Weekdays: Mon-Fri. 7:30am, Sat. 8:00am  
First Friday: 7:30 am with Adoration after Mass

### Devotions

Adoration & Benediction: Fridays 6:00pm- 7:30pm  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena:  
Wednesdays after morning mass  
Chaplet of the Divine Mercy: Mondays to Saturdays  
after morning mass  
Exposition & Benediction : Fridays 6:00pm- 7:30pm

### Confessions

Saturday 4:00pm—5:00pm or by appointment

### Baptisms

Pre-Baptism classes for parents and godparents held every second Tuesday of the month. Contact the parish office.

\* *Spanish Classes*, contact Gladys Giron 925-334-9873.

\* *Vietnamese* baptisms, contact Fr. Thomas Khue at the parish office.

### Marriage

Contact the parish office at least six months in advance.

### *Rene Asuncion*, Director of Rel. Ed.

Tel:(925) 458-4574-Website: [olqwre.olqw.org](http://olqwre.olqw.org)

Email:[director@olqwre.olqw.org](mailto:director@olqwre.olqw.org)

### • Religious Education

RCIA Adults seeking Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, or membership in the Catholic Church.

### • St. Vincent de Paul

Food pantry opens Saturdays 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm in the Parish hall

# Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



## GOSPEL READING

MK 1: 12-15

### Monday, February 19

7:30 am Teodula & Monico Aquino +

### Tuesday, February 20

7:30 am Vicente & Ebias Families +

### Wednesday, February 21

7:30 am Rick & Ricky Belza

### Thursday, February 22

7:30 am Parishioners

### Friday, February 23

7:30 am Zenaida S. Santos +

### Saturday, February 24

8:00 am Carmelo Cecilio +

5:00 pm Paul Francis +

7:00 pm (SP) Hispanic Ministers, Ushers, Choir  
& Altar Servers Thanksgiving

### Sunday, February 25

8:00 am Monserrat, Ramon, Raymond  
Masaganda & Rose Floresca +

10:00 am Rena De Marco +

12:00 am Sotero & Teodora Cinco +

4:00 pm (VN)

## MINISTRIES

### PARISH ORGANIZATIONS & CONTACTS

**Filipino Association:** Nerissa Riray,  
President ([nriray@comcast.net](mailto:nriray@comcast.net))

**Hispanic Association** Martha Hernández:  
Coordinator ([vimaen42@gmail.com](mailto:vimaen42@gmail.com)) Contacto en  
Español: Gladys Giron 925-334-9873

**Columbiettes** Leticia Rodrigues, President  
925-339-8662

**Knights of Columbus** Kip Trombley  
([gk7164@yahoo.com](mailto:gk7164@yahoo.com))

**Regina Mundi Guild** Leah Abejuela,  
925-300-7081 ([labejuela@gmail.com](mailto:labejuela@gmail.com))

**St. Vincent de Paul Society:** Danny Vu,  
President ([SYDPOLOW@gmail.com](mailto:SYDPOLOW@gmail.com))

**Legion of Mary:** Danila Loquiao  
([dnialoquiao@gmail.com](mailto:dnialoquiao@gmail.com)); 925-864-1237)

**Vietnamese Association:** Hiep David Vu, President  
([Davidvu207@gmail.com](mailto:Davidvu207@gmail.com))

Portrait on the cover:  
<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/when-is-lent-start-date-and-timeline.html>

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,  
and he remained in the desert for forty days,  
tempted by Satan.

He was among wild beasts,  
and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested,  
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of  
God:

"This is the time of fulfillment.  
The kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the gospel."

### PRAY FOR THE SICK

Eva Panugaling, Lisa Jott, Betty Tecson, Eleccion Elevazo, Victor Mendoza, Rosalina Masangcay, Adolfo Miguel Jr., Proceso Beleza, Patricia Diokno, Mario & Emma Dolor, Jovita Domingo, Elizabeth Zamora, Julie Hansen, Xander Saavedra, Carmenchu Saavedra, Marlon Serna, Lois Belmessieri, Jonah Hansen, Faye Dolor, Chad Thompson, Viechel Hunter, Logan Kenney, Father Tom, Jasmin Toledo, Carlo Lagarejos, Joseph Guillermo, Victoria Lapid, Kip Trombley, Nico Guillermo, Grace Feliciano, Adele Frijas, all those in the Parish who are sick and all those listed in the Book of Intention.

If you would like a name added to the prayer list, please call the rectory 458-4718.

### STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE

Sunday Collection Feb 11: \$ 7,593.00

Assessment: \$51,581.00 Paid: \$4,298.42

Liability Insurance: \$20,261.00 Paid: \$4,052.20

*Thank you for your contribution support to sustain the ministries & ongoing needs of our parish.*

Please make all checks payable to either "OLQW" or Our Lady Queen of the World for both first and second collections. Also please put your envelope number on the Memo line.

*Instead of Father Tom's scattered thoughts ... Please reflect on the Message from the Holy Father this Lenten Season.*

### ***Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom***

Dear brothers and sisters!

When our God reveals himself, his message is always one of freedom: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (*Ex 20:2*). These are the first words of the Decalogue given to Moses on Mount Sinai. Those who heard them were quite familiar with the exodus of which God spoke: the experience of their bondage still weighed heavily upon them. In the desert, they received the "Ten Words" as a thoroughfare to freedom. We call them "commandments", in order to emphasize the strength of the love by which God shapes his people. The call to freedom is a demanding one. It is not answered straightaway; it has to mature as part of a journey. Just as Israel in the desert still clung to Egypt – often longing for the past and grumbling against the Lord and Moses – today too, God's people can cling to an oppressive bondage that it is called to leave behind. We realize how true this is at those moments when we feel hopeless, wandering through life like a desert and lacking a promised land as our destination. Lent is the season of grace in which the desert can become once more – in the words of the prophet Hosea – the place of our first love (cf. *Hos 2:16-17*). *God shapes his people, he enables us to leave our slavery behind* and experience a Passover from death to life. Like a bridegroom, the Lord draws us once more to himself, whispering words of love to our hearts.

The exodus from slavery to freedom is no abstract journey. If our celebration of Lent is to be concrete, the first step is to desire to *open our eyes to reality*. When the Lord calls out to Moses from the burning bush, he immediately shows that he is a God who sees and, above all, hears: "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey" (*Ex 3:7-8*). Today too, the cry of so many of our oppressed brothers and sisters rises to heaven. Let us ask ourselves: Do we hear that cry? Does it trouble us? Does it move us? All too many things keep us apart from each other, denying the fraternity that, from the beginning, binds us to one another.

During my visit to Lampedusa, as a way of countering the globalization of indifference, I asked two questions, which have become more and more pressing: "Where are you?" (*Gen 3:9*) and "Where is your brother?" (*Gen 4:9*). Our Lenten journey will be concrete if, by listening once more to those two questions, we realize that even today we remain under the rule of Pharaoh. A rule that makes us weary and indifferent. A model of growth that divides and robs us of a future. Earth, air and water are polluted, but so are our souls. True, Baptism has begun our process of liberation, yet there remains in us an inexplicable longing for slavery. A kind of attraction to the security of familiar things, to the detriment of our freedom.

In the Exodus account, there is a significant detail: it is God who sees, is moved and brings freedom; Israel does not ask for this. Pharaoh stifles dreams, blocks the view of heaven, makes it appear that this world, in which human dignity is trampled upon and authentic bonds are denied, can never change. He put everything in bondage to himself. Let us ask: Do I want a new world? Am I ready to leave behind my compromises with the old? The witness of many of my brother bishops and a great number of those who work for peace and justice has increasingly convinced me that we need to combat a deficit of hope that stifles dreams and the silent cry that reaches to heaven and moves the heart of God. This "deficit of hope" is not unlike the nostalgia for slavery that paralyzed Israel in the desert and prevented it from moving forward. An exodus can be interrupted: how else can we explain the fact that humanity has arrived at the threshold of universal fraternity and at levels of scientific, technical, cultural, and juridical development capable of guaranteeing dignity to all, yet gropes about in the darkness of inequality and conflict.

God has not grown weary of us. Let us welcome Lent as the great season in which he reminds us: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (*Ex 20:2*). Lent is *a season of conversion, a time of freedom*. Jesus himself, as we recall each year on the first Sunday of Lent, was driven into the desert by the Spirit in order to be tempted in freedom. For forty days, he will stand before us and with us: the incarnate Son. Unlike Pharaoh, God does not want subjects, but sons and daughters. The desert is the place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery. In Lent, we find new criteria of justice and a community with which we can press forward on a road not yet taken.



This, however, entails *a struggle*, as the book of Exodus and the temptations of Jesus in the desert make clear to us. The voice of God, who says, "You are my Son, the Beloved" (*Mk* 1:11), and "You shall have no other gods before me" (*Ex* 20:3) is opposed by the enemy and his lies. Even more to be feared than Pharaoh are the idols that we set up for ourselves; we can consider them as his voice speaking within us. To be all-powerful, to be looked up to by all, to domineer over others: every human being is aware of how deeply seductive that lie can be. It is a road well-travelled. We can become attached to money, to certain projects, ideas or goals, to our position, to a tradition, even to certain individuals. Instead of making us move forward, they paralyze us. Instead of encounter, they create conflict. Yet there is also a new humanity, a people of the little ones and of the humble who have not yielded to the allure of the lie. Whereas those who serve idols become like them, mute, blind, deaf and immobile (cf. *Ps* 114:4), the poor of spirit are open and ready: a silent force of good that heals and sustains the world.

It is time to act, and in Lent, *to act also means to pause*. To pause *in prayer*, in order to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan *in the presence of a wounded brother or sister*. Love of God and love of neighbour are one love. Not to have other gods is to pause in the presence of God beside the flesh of our neighbour. For this reason, prayer, almsgiving and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying, in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us. Then the atrophied and isolated heart will revive. Slow down, then, and pause! The contemplative dimension of life that Lent helps us to rediscover will release new energies. In the presence of God, we become brothers and sisters, more sensitive to one another: in place of threats and enemies, we discover companions and fellow travellers. This is God's dream, the promised land to which we journey once we have left our slavery behind.

The Church's synodal form, which in these years we are rediscovering and cultivating, suggests that Lent is also *a time of communitarian decisions*, of decisions, small and large, that are countercurrent. Decisions capable of altering the daily lives of individuals and entire neighbourhoods, such as the ways we acquire goods, care for creation, and strive to include those who go unseen or are looked down upon. I invite every Christian community to do just this: to offer its members moments set aside to rethink their lifestyles, times to examine their presence in society and the contribution they make to its betterment. Woe to us if our Christian penance were to resemble the kind of penance that so dismayed Jesus. To us too, he says: "Whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting" (*Mt* 6:16). Instead, let others see joyful faces, catch the scent of freedom and experience the love that makes all things new, beginning with the smallest and those nearest to us. This can happen in every one of our Christian communities.

To the extent that this Lent becomes a time of conversion, an anxious humanity will notice a burst of creativity, a flash of new hope. Allow me to repeat what I told the young people whom I met in Lisbon last summer: "Keep seeking and be ready to take risks. At this moment in time, we face enormous risks; we hear the painful plea of so many people. Indeed, we are experiencing a third world war fought piecemeal. Yet let us find the courage to see our world, not as being in its death throes but in a process of giving birth, not at the end but at the beginning of a great new chapter of history. We need courage to think like this" (*Address to University Students*, 3 August 2023). Such is the courage of conversion, born of coming up from slavery. For faith and charity take, hope, this small child, by the hand. They teach her to walk, and at the same time, she leads them forward.<sup>[1]</sup>

I bless all of you and your Lenten journey.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 3 December 2023, First Sunday of Advent.

FRANCIS

## PARISH EVENTS

### POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTIONS:

February 2024: For the terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

EVERY FRIDAY AT 7:00 PM  
BEFORE ADORATION IN THE  
CHURCH

The schedule of leaders will be:

Feb 23: Regina Mundi Guild

Mar 1: St. Vincent de Paul

Mar 8: Hispanic Community

Mar 15: Confirmation 3 Students

Mar 22: Vietnamese Community

Mar 29: Knights of Columbus & Columbiettes

### MEATLESS FRIDAY SUPPER

Come join the different communities in our Parish who will be preparing meatless Friday Suppers in lieu of our Monday Night Lenten Soups. The schedule is as follows:

Feb 16: Regina Mundi Guild

Feb 23: Hispanic Community

Mar 1: Knights of Columbus & Columbiettes

Mar 8: Vietnamese Community

Mar 15: Filipino Association

Mar 22: St. Vincent de Paul

Doors open 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

### HALL EXPANSION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Building Fund 2nd collection will be for the Hall Expansion Capital Campaign. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

### WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

**Monday, February 19**

**Tuesday, February 20**

**Wednesday, February 21**

11:30 am P#2: Legion of Mary

1:00 pm Hall: Regina Mundi Guild

**Thursday, February 22**

6:00 pm CH: Stations of the Cross(SP)

7:00 pm P#2: SP Divine Mercy Prayer

**Friday, February 23**

5:00 pm Hall: Meatless Supper

7:00 pm P#1: Hispanic Choir

**Saturday, February 24**

9:00 am Hall & Portables: CCD

12:00 pm Hall: St. Vincent de Paul

**Sunday, February 25**

1:00 pm Hall & P#3&4: Vietnamese School

1:00 pm P#1: St. Joseph Group

2:00 pm P#2: Vietnamese Choir

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

#### RCIA Schedule

**Sunday, February 18th @ 4pm**

Rite of Election at Cathedral of Light

**Sunday, February 25th @ 12pm**

1st Scrutiny

**Sunday, March 3rd @ 8 am**

2nd Scrutiny

**Saturday, March 9th @ 5 pm**

3rd Scrutiny

**Sunday, March 17th @ 10 am**

Presentation of Creed

#### Confirmation Program

The Confirmation Students will be attending Pan de Vida on February 23-25, 2024 at The Most Holy Rosary Church in Antioch. Please pray for them to have successful and meaningful retreat.

**PALMS FOR PALMS SUNDAY**  
**DO YOU OWN A SAGO PALM**  
**PLANT?**

We need donations of Sago Palm leaves for Palm Sunday. If you own some and able to donate, please bring them to the church hall on Friday, March 15th, 2024.



**EASTER FLOWER FOR ALTAR**



Would you like an East Lily on our altar in memory of a loved one or to represent your family? We are in need of donations

to make our altar more festive as we welcome the Risen Christ once again into our hearts.

Please place your donation in an envelope marked "Easter Lily" with the name of the person or family you want represented. Drop your envelope in the collection basket. All donations must be received by March 22nd.

*Diocese of Oakland – New Liturgical Policies*

*Below an excerpt from communication received from the Diocese of Oakland "The Structure of the Mass, Its Elements and its parts" regarding the New Liturgical Policy – common bodily posture, to be observed at Mass and to be implemented by Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024:*

**The General Instruction for the Roman Missal for the United States, No. 43 states that "The faithful should stand from the beginning of the Entrance Chant, or while the Priest approaches the altar, until the end of the Collect; for the Alleluia Chant before the Gospel; while the Gospel itself is proclaimed; during the Profession of Faith and the Universal Prayer; and from the invitation, Orate, fratres (Pray, brethren), before the Prayer over the Offerings until the end of Mass, except at the places indicated below.**

**The Faithful should sit, on the other hand, during the readings before the Gospel and the Responsorial Psalm and for the Homily and during the Preparation of the Gifts at the Offertory; and, if appropriate, they may sit or kneel during the period of sacred silence after Communion.**

**In the Diocese of the United States of America, all the faithful should kneel beginning after the singing or the recitation of the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) until after the Amen of the Eucharistic Prayer, except when prevented on occasion by ill health or for reasons of lack of space or for another reasonable cause. However, those who do not kneel ought to make a profound bow when the Priest genuflects after the consecration. The faithful kneel after the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) unless the Diocesan Bishop determines otherwise."**

**Therefore, Bishop Barber requests that in our diocese we join the rest of the faithful in our country in kneeling after the Lamb of God in order to prepare ourselves reverently for reception of Holy Communion (except for health or other reasons mentioned above).**

*Thank you.*



# LOVE & MARRIAGE CELEBRATION

February 11, 2024



Congratulations &  
Best Wishes!