



210 Oak Grove Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
tel: (650) 323-7914
fax: (650) 323-3231
www.nativitymenlo.org
www.nativityschool.com

The Church of the Nativity

MASSES

Sundays 08:00, 09:30, 11:30 AM and 05:00 PM

Saturdays 08:00 AM and 05:00 PM (Vigil)

Weekdays 07:30 AM and 05:30 PM

Holy Days 07:30 AM, 05:30 and 07:30 PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Opus Dei priest)

03:30 PM - 04:30 PM (parish priest)

(also by appointment)

BAPTISMS 1st. and 3rd. Sundays of the month

(contact rectory 2 months in advance)

WEDDINGS Saturdays 12:00 PM and 02:00 PM

(contact rectory at least 6 months in advance)

PASTOR

Rev. Msgr. Steven D. Otellini

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. T. Noel Laput, C.M.

PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Clement Davenport

PERMANENT DEACON

Rev. Mr. Dominick Peloso

WEEKEND ASSISTANTS

Rev. Kevin Gaffey

Rev. Jeffrey Hubbard

SCHOOL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Monica Hickam

(650) 327-2319

YOUTH MINISTER

Mrs. Ingrid Pera

(650) 854-5976

24-hour Eucharistic Adoration

FIRST READING

Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth.
Zephaniah 2: 3; 3: 12-13

PSALM

The fatherless and the widow the Lord sustains, but the way of the wicked He thwarts.
Psalms 146

SECOND READING

God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong.
1 Corinthians 1: 26-31

GOSPEL

“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”
Matthew 5: 1-12



The Sermon on the Mount, Carl Heinrich Bloch

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

30 JANUARY 2011

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5: 3

CALENDAR

SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS

WEEK OF 30 JAN - 05 FEB

SAT	05:00 PM	Priest's intentions
SUN	Masses	Priest's intentions
MON	07:30 AM	† John and Virginia Conway
	05:30 PM	† Grandparents of Leo Joseph
TUE	07:30 AM	Laura Vasaturo
	05:30 PM	Special intentions
WED	07:30 AM	† Bud Kieler
	05:30 PM	† Marie Firenze
THU	07:30 AM	† Rosemary Hewlett
	05:30 PM	† Adolph and Marie Firenze
FRI	07:30 AM	The Neylan and Cardine families
	05:30 PM	Eleanor Bader
SAT	08:00 AM	† Erminia D'Amante

RELIC OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE IN MENLO PARK

At the request of Archbishop Niederauer, and seven other California bishops, the holy relic of **St. Mary Magdalene** will be visiting California between 14 February and 15 March 2011. The holy relic, which is a major portion of St. Mary Magdalene's tibia, will tour Northern California for two weeks before moving to Southern California. The bone is enclosed in a glass tube and placed in a reliquary. We are privileged and honored that the holy relic will be at **Corpus Christi Monastery**, 215 Oak Grove, Menlo Park, on **Sunday, 20 February 2011** beginning with a Mass at **11:00 AM**. Veneration will be after Mass until **05:00 PM** vespers, with Benediction immediately following. The purpose of the tour is to share the holiness of the relic and to tell the story of the saint who is recorded as the first witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The holy relic will also be at **St. Thomas Aquinas Church** in Palo Alto, on **22 February 2011**, from **12:00 - 08:00 PM**.



“BROWN BAG” SUNDAY

This week the **St. Vincent de Paul Society** will be collecting donations after the Masses.

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

MON-FRI	07:10 AM	Morning Prayer
MON-FRI	05:10 PM	Evening Prayer
SAT	07:40 AM	Morning Prayer
30 JAN	(Sunday)	
	11:00 AM	Nativity School Open House
	07:30 PM	Holy Hour for Priests
31 JAN	(Monday)	
	09:00 AM	Bible Group
	07:30 PM	Legion of Mary
	07:30 PM	RCIA
01 FEB	(Tuesday)	
	09:30 AM	Bible Study: Church History
	06:00 PM	Cenacles of Life Rosary
	07:30 PM	Bible Study: Church History
02 FEB	(Wednesday)	
	07:00 PM	CCD Confirmation Class
03 FEB	(Thursday)	
	11:00 AM	The Thursday Group
	06:00 PM	Perpetual Help Novena
	06:30 PM	ICF Dinner and Meeting
04 FEB	(Friday)	
05 FEB	(Saturday)	
	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Confessions <i>(Opus Dei priest)</i>
	03:30 PM - 04:30 PM	Confessions <i>(parish priest)</i>



PARISH OFFERINGS

WEEK OF
15-16 JAN

TOTAL:	\$	11,152
Annual Appeal Progress:	\$	118,300
2010 Annual Appeal Goal:	\$	118,300

**GOAL
REACHED**

SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

SOLEMNITY, FEAST, MEMORIAL • OPTIONAL MEMORIAL • OTHER

31 JAN (Monday):

SAINT JOHN BOSCO, Priest (1815-1888)



Born in Becchi, Italy, John devoted his priestly life to children. He was ordained in 1841, and by 1846 he had befriended 800 difficult boys. He founded a religious society, now known as the **Society of St. Francis de Sales (Salesians)**, which spread worldwide. He also helped found the **Daughters of Our Lady Help of Christians** who work with poor girls.

02 FEB (Wednesday):

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

According to the Law of Moses, Jesus would have been brought to the temple in Jerusalem 40 days after His birth to be presented to God. It was then that **Simeon** and **Anna** made their prophecies concerning the lives of the child and His mother. At the beginning of the 8th century, **Pope Sergius** inaugurated a candlelight procession to commemorate this event, including the blessing and distribution of candles. This gave the feast its popular name: **Candlemas**.



03 FEB (Thursday):

SAINT BLAISE, Bishop and Martyr (d. ~316)

Blaise was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia. He was arrested and persecuted under the governor Agricola. While in prison, he saved a child who was choking on a fish bone (leading to the blessing of throats on his feast day). Thrown into a lake to drown, Blaise stood on the surface and invited his persecutors to walk out and join him to prove the power of their gods: they all drowned. He was then martyred by being beaten, his flesh torn with wool combs, and beheaded.

SAINT ANSGAR, Archbishop (801-865)

Benedictine monk and Archbishop of Hamburg. He established the first Christian school in Denmark and was responsible for many conversions in Scandinavia, including Erik, the King of Jutland.

05 FEB (Saturday):

SAINT AGATHA, Virgin and Martyr (d. ~250)

We have little reliable information about this martyr, who has been honored since ancient times, and whose name is included in the canon of the Mass. Legend says that carrying her veil, taken from her tomb in Catania, in procession has averted eruptions of Mount Etna. Her intercession is reported to have saved Malta from Turkish invasion in 1551.



MINISTRY AND GROUP NEWS

NATIVITY MOMS GROUP

Attention all Nativity Moms! The Moms' group will meet on **Friday, 11 February 2011** from **10:30 AM** until **12:00 PM** in the O'Hare Center. Come meet other moms, share the joys and challenges of motherhood, and pray a rosary for our families! Refreshments will be provided. Please bring your little ones with you. Contact **Christine Semler** at **650/594-4367**.

GOOD FOOD AND GOOD MUSIC!

Join us for the **Nativity Men's Club 2011 Crab Cioppino Feast**. Tickets are on sale for the Men's Club Crab Cioppino Dinner on **12 February 2011** at Nativity School in the Sobrato Pavilion. The dinner will include Dungeness Crab Cioppino, pasta, salad, sourdough bread, and dessert. Wine and beer will be available. The tickets are **\$45.00** per person and include 2 glasses of wine per adult. All tickets must be purchased in advance along with your reservations. Seating is limited. Reservations are being taken until **30 January 2011**, or until the seating capacity is reached, whichever comes first. Tickets may be purchased at the rectory or in front of the church after each morning Mass. If you have any questions, please contact **Don Coy** at **650/465-4466** or **nativitymc@gmail.com**.

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE AT NATIVITY

On **Saturday, 05 February 2011**, Nativity is pleased to host its first Catholic Conference in the Sobrato Pavilion. The theme of the conference is "*Spiritual Warfare*." There will be four speakers which include **Father Gary Thomas**, the exorcist of the Diocese of San Jose. The day begins with **08:00 AM Mass** at Nativity; the speakers begin at **09:00 AM**. The conference ends at **04:00 PM**. For questions, call **Deacon Dominick Peloso, 650/269-6279**. For registration, see the flyers at the Church doors or get online at: **www.heartsoflove.cc**. It costs **\$25** before **28 January 2011**, **\$35** after that date, and the deadline for all registrations is **03 February 2011**.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please come to visit our Lord during the week, as the church is open 24x7 and He awaits you. Also, everyone is encouraged to sign up for one hour. This will ensure your weekly meeting with Jesus. You may sign up for any hour. Please consider the following hours which currently have no one assigned:



SUN: 02:00 AM

TUE: 02:00 AM

FRI: 03:00 AM

Please call **650/269-7794** for more information or to sign up.

You are never too far gone for the Father's forgiveness and grace.

Pregnant? Need Help? Please contact the Juan Diego Society (408/258-2008), the Gabriel Project (800/910-0191) or Community Pregnancy Center (650/ 964-8093).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please keep all of our newest members in your prayers, as well as those who have preceded us to the Father.

BAPTIZED

James Gregory Harrison,
son of **Charles** and **Kelly Keniston**



MARRIED

NEW PARISHIONERS

Maureen Kuriger (Colin)
Barry Toroni

NATIVITY SCHOOL AUCTION 2011: MARDI GRAS!

You're Invited!

Saturday, 26 February 2011, 05:30 PM - 12:00 AM

- Silent Auction
- Complimentary Wine & Hors d'oeuvres
- Cajun Style Feast
- No-Host Cocktails



Sobrato Pavilion, Nativity School. Tickets are **\$75** per person (payable to Nativity School) Proceeds benefit Nativity School! Look for RSVP cards / seating request forms and envelopes in the back of the Church or contact **Erin Glanville** to RSVP or for questions -- **650/328-4949** or erin.glanville@gmail.com.

"BROWN BAG SUNDAY" COLLECTION

This weekend members of the **St. Vincent de Paul Society** will be outside all the church doors with their brown bags to accept your donations. The Nativity Conference of St. Vincent de Paul is a very active one. Several times a week members go out to the needy of our parish bringing food, or assistance with PG&E bills or rent. These collections on the 5th Sundays make their good work possible. Please be generous.

REGISTER WITH THE PARISH

We welcome all visitors and invite those who are considering coming home to the Catholic Church to register. Church attendance alone does not make you or your family registered members. To register online, please go to www.nativitymenlo.org and fill out the Parish Registration Form. To obtain one in the mail, please call the rectory office **650/323-7914** during regular business hours.

CATHOLIC WEBSITES

Virtue Media (www.virtuemedia.org) and **Catholics Come Home** (www.catholicscomehome.org). These websites contain information on the Catholic Church, scripture references, and videos. They have information for lapsed Catholics considering returning to the church or for non-Catholics looking into the faith.

IN THE COMMUNITY

NATIVITY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Nativity School invites you to a special Open House for prospective parents and their children (grades K-7) on **Sunday, 30 January 2011**, from **11:00 AM - 01:00 PM** at the school, 1250 Laurel Street, Menlo Park. Come to see the magnificent displays and exhibits and meet our faculty and staff. Tours by appointment are also available. Visit our website: www.nativityschool.com.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS

The Archdiocese of San Francisco invites you to the celebration of the **20th World Day of the Sick** on **Saturday, 12 February 2011** at **12:00 PM** at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St. at Geary, San Francisco. Archbishop George Niederauer will be the principal celebrant. Please come and bring a friend who is sick for a "*special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering for the good of the Church and of reminding everyone to see in his sick brother or sister the face of Christ who, by suffering, dying and rising, achieved the salvation of mankind.*" -- John Paul II. This Mass is hosted by the Order of Malta, Western Association, USA, San Francisco, in honor of *Our Lady of Lourdes*.

RETREAT: CHILDREN OF MARY

On **Friday, 04 February 2011**, the *Children of Mary Sodality* will be having a retreat with **Archbishop Quinn** at **Oakwood**, 140 Valparaiso Avenue. There is a **\$20.00** donation requested. Registration is due **01 February 2011**. Please contact **Mary Atwater** to register. For more information call **650/322-3514**.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The **Spiritual Care Service** at **Stanford Hospital** is seeking Catholic volunteers to visit, pray and offer the Eucharist to patients and families for the Advance Directive Preparation Program. Volunteers must be willing to commit two hours a week for a year and attend 5 evenings of training. A training program will be held at Our Lady of the Rosary Hall, 3233 Cowper St., Palo Alto, on **five Monday evenings: 07, 14, 28 March and 04 April 2011**, from **07:00-09:00 PM**. If you are interested in volunteering, please request an application by calling the Spiritual Care Service office at **650/723-5101** or email ghollingsworth@stanfordmed.org. Remember to leave your name, phone, number, church affiliation and email address. Interviews begin now through **18 February 2011**.



THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

Each month **His Holiness Benedict XVI** asks for general and missionary prayer intentions.

For **February 2011**, the Holy Father's prayer intentions are:

General: That the family may be respected by all in its identity and that its irreplaceable contribution to all of society be recognized.



Missionary: That in the mission territories where the struggle against disease is most urgent, Christian communities may witness to the presence of Christ to those who suffer.

MESSAGE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD DAY OF PEACE 01 JANUARY 2011

(cont'd.) Contemplating the sublime reality of human nature, we can experience the same amazement felt by the Psalmist. Our nature appears as openness to the Mystery, a capacity to ask deep questions about ourselves and the origin of the universe, and a profound echo of the supreme Love of God, the beginning and end of all things, of every person and people.[4] The transcendent dignity of the person is an essential value of Judeo-Christian wisdom, yet thanks to the use of reason, it can be recognized by all. This dignity, understood as a capacity to transcend one's own materiality and to seek truth, must be acknowledged as a universal good, indispensable for the building of a society directed to human fulfilment. Respect for essential elements of human dignity, such as the right to life and the right to religious freedom, is a condition for the moral legitimacy of every social and legal norm.

Religious freedom and mutual respect

3. Religious freedom is at the origin of moral freedom. Openness to truth and perfect goodness, openness to God, is rooted in human nature; it confers full dignity on each individual and is the guarantee of full mutual respect between persons. Religious freedom should be understood, then, not merely as immunity from coercion, but even more fundamentally as an ability to order one's own choices in accordance with truth.

Freedom and respect are inseparable; indeed, "in exercising their rights, individuals and social groups are bound by the moral law to have regard for the rights of others, their own duties to others and the common good of all".[5]

A freedom which is hostile or indifferent to God becomes self-negating and does not guarantee full respect for others. A will which believes itself radically incapable of seeking truth and goodness has no objective reasons or motives for acting save those imposed by its fleeting and contingent interests; it does not have an "identity" to safeguard and build up through truly free and conscious decisions. As a result, it cannot demand respect from other "wills", which are themselves detached from their own deepest being and thus capable of imposing other "reasons" or, for that matter, no "reason" at all. The illusion that moral relativism provides the key for peaceful coexistence is actually the origin of divisions and the denial of the dignity of human beings. Hence we can see the need for recognition of a twofold dimension within the unity of the human person: a religious dimension and a social dimension. In this regard, "it is inconceivable that believers should have to suppress a part of themselves – their faith – in order to be active citizens. It should never be necessary to deny God in order to enjoy one's rights".[6]

The family, the school of freedom and peace

4. If religious freedom is the path to peace, religious education is the highway which leads new generations to see others as their brothers and sisters, with whom they are called to journey and work together so that all will feel that they are living members of the one human family, from which no one is to be excluded.

The family founded on marriage, as the expression of the close union and complementarity between a man and a woman, finds its place here as the first school for the social, cultural, moral and spiritual formation and growth of children, who should always be able to see in their father and mother the first witnesses of a life directed to the pursuit of truth and the love of God. Parents must be always free to transmit to their children, responsibly and without constraints, their heritage of faith, values and culture. The family, the first cell of human society, remains the primary training ground for harmonious relations at every level of coexistence, human, national and international. Wisdom suggests that this is the road to building a strong and fraternal social fabric, in which young people can be prepared to assume their proper responsibilities in life, in a free society, and in a spirit of understanding and peace.

A common patrimony

5. It could be said that among the fundamental rights and freedoms rooted in the dignity of the person, religious freedom enjoys a special status. When religious freedom is acknowledged, the dignity of the human person is respected at its root, and the ethos and institutions of peoples are strengthened. On the other hand, whenever religious freedom is denied, and attempts are made to hinder people from professing their religion or faith and living accordingly, human dignity is offended, with a resulting threat to justice and peace, which are grounded in that right social order established in the light of Supreme Truth and Supreme Goodness.

(continued next week)

Miracles of God's Creation

Think about all the amazing things God has created. Take a few minutes to learn about some of the incredible things that have come from the imagination of our Creator!



Star-Gazing

Have you ever watched the stars on a clear, dark night? The longer you watch, the more stars you will see. Do you realize you are looking directly into the past -- in some cases into ancient history? Stars emit light, and light

travels at a speed of 186,282 miles per second through the vacuum of space. Astronomers measure the distance between stars in units called "light-years" (the distance that light will travel in one year, which is about 5,880,500,000,000 miles). The nearest star to Earth (besides the Sun) is Proxima Centauri (part of a 3-star cluster that includes the double-star Alpha Centauri). Proxima Centauri is 4.3 light-years from Earth, so the light from that star that reaches your eye tonight left Proxima Centauri just before the very first version of the Apple iPhone was announced. The light from other, farther stars might have left before the Revolutionary War, or during the Renaissance. Isn't our God amazing?



Blessed are the Pure of Heart, William Hallmark



William Hallmark © 2005

REFLECTIONS

ON THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING: ZEPHANIAH 2-3

The prophet in the first reading sounds like he is out of touch with the values promoted by many people today: success, power, and riches. Because he is guided by what God values, the prophet advises us to seek justice and humility. Those who heed this advice and live by God's law will find shelter in the Lord.

We are bombarded every day by temptations to make ourselves "Number One." But God invites us to recognize our dependence on God and on one another. If we do, we will find a happiness that cannot be taken away.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1

Paul reminds us that God has not chosen us because we are brilliant, powerful, or perfect. God chooses the weak and the foolish, the lowly and imperfect to show the world that it is God who accomplishes all things through us.

This letter to the Corinthians helps us understand that we do not have to boast about our talents or apologize for our weakness. We can be glad that God has chosen us and loves us for who we are.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5

Can you imagine a series of commercials telling people that the way to be truly happy is to be hungry for justice, poor in spirit, and single-hearted? Viewers might well wonder where these strange messages are coming from. These and the other happiness guidelines, or Beatitudes, come from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. He wants his disciples to walk the path of littleness, of mercy, and of forgiveness.

The Beatitudes are a great challenge and an even greater promise of reward. If we live by them, we will be happier right now?as well as in eternity.

