



210 Oak Grove Avenue  
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[www.nativitymenlo.org](http://www.nativitymenlo.org)

# Church of the Nativity

## MASSES

**Sundays** 09:00 and 11:00 AM  
**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 07:00 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** 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month  
*(contact rectory 2 months in advance)*

**WEDDINGS** Saturdays 11:00 AM and 02:00 PM  
*(contact rectory at least 6 months in advance)*

## PASTOR

Rev. Msgr. Steven D. Otellini

## PERMANENT DEACONS

Rev. Mr. Dominick Peloso  
Rev. Mr. Bob Andrews  
Rev. Mr. Thomas Kelly

## VISITING PRIESTS

Msgr. James Kelly  
Rev. Reginald Martin, O.P.

## SCHOOL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Monica Hickam • [mon.hickam@gmail.com](mailto:mon.hickam@gmail.com)

## 24-HOUR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Mrs. Mary Ellen Peloso • (650) 269-7794



HEARING LOOP ENABLED



HEARING LOOP ENABLED

# THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

## 03 JANUARY 2021

We saw His star at its rising and have come to do Him homage.

**MATTHEW 2: 2**



### FIRST READING

Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance.

**ISAIAH 60: 1-6**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

All kings shall pay Him homage, all nations shall serve Him.

**PSALMS 72**

### SECOND READING

The mystery was made known to me by revelation.

**EPHESIANS 3: 2-3, 5-6**

### GOSPEL

They prostrated themselves and did Him homage.

**MATTHEW 2: 1-12**

## CALENDAR

### SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS WEEK OF 03 - 09 JAN

<b>SAT</b>	<b>05:00 PM</b>	Priest's intentions
<b>SUN</b>	<b>Masses</b>	Priest's intentions
<b>MON</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	† Leslie Bludau
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Jim Woodson
<b>TUE</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	† Nedjeljka Matijaca
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	Benefactors of our parish; † Joseph Merkert; † Michael Brennan; † Burke Madden
<b>WED</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	The Walsh family, living and deceased
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	In honor of St. Joseph
<b>THU</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	† John and Virginia Conway
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	ICF #351, living and deceased members
<b>FRI</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	† Laurice Palmer
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	The King family, living and deceased
<b>SAT</b>	<b>08:00 AM</b>	Mara Amato; Sally Bixler; † Robert Fiorito; † Ben Vaissade

*Please pray for those in need of physical or spiritual healing*



### BIBLICAL ART



### PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

If you believe you are a victim of sexual abuse, please call our hotline at 415/614-5506.

Activities marked (\*) may be suspended based on COVID-19 restrictions, or held outdoors only.


<b>SUN</b>	<b>07:00 PM</b>	(*) Holy Hour for Priests
<b>MON-FRI</b>	<b>07:10 AM</b>	(*) Morning Prayer
<b>MON-FRI</b>	<b>05:10 PM</b>	(*) Evening Prayer
<b>TUE</b>	<b>06:00 PM</b>	(*) Cenacles of Life Rosary
<b>WED</b>	<b>06:00 PM</b>	(*) Novena to Saint Joseph
<b>THU</b>	<b>06:00 PM</b>	(*) Perpetual Help Novena
<b>SAT</b>	<b>06:15 AM</b>	(*) Men's Prayer Group
<b>SAT</b>	<b>07:40 AM</b>	(*) Morning Prayer
<b>SAT</b>	<b>10:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b>	(*) Confessions (Opus Dei priest)
<b>SAT</b>	<b>03:30 PM - 04:30 PM</b>	(*) Confessions (parish priest)

<b>03 JAN</b>	<b>(Sunday)</b>	
<b>04 JAN</b>	<b>(Monday)</b>	
	<b>04:00 PM</b>	Legion of Mary
<b>05 JAN</b>	<b>(Tuesday)</b>	
	<b>07:00 PM</b>	RCIA (Zoom)
	<b>07:00 PM</b>	(*) H4
<b>06 JAN</b>	<b>(Wednesday)</b>	
	<b>06:00 PM</b>	Novena to Saint Joseph
<b>07 JAN</b>	<b>(Thursday)</b>	
<b>08 JAN</b>	<b>(Friday)</b>	
<b>09 JAN</b>	<b>(Saturday)</b>	



Electronic giving is offered through our website [www.nativitymenlo.org](http://www.nativitymenlo.org) or call the parish office for a paper form

### Parish Offerings

	<b>WEEK OF 19-20 DEC</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$11,934</b>
<b>Annual Diocesan Appeal Progress:</b>	<b>\$127,270</b>
<b>2020 ADA Goal:</b>	<b>\$145,044</b>

# SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

SOLEMNITY, FEAST, MEMORIAL • OPTIONAL MEMORIAL • OTHER

**05 JAN (Tuesday):**

**SAINT JOHN NEUMANN, Bishop (1811-1860)**

Renowned as a founder of the American Catholic school system. Born in Bohemia, he became a *Redemptorist* priest (the first in the United States) in a struggling parish in New York, and later became **Bishop of Philadelphia**. He organized the first diocesan Catholic school system, and increased the number of schools from two to 100. He also built 50 churches and began construction of a cathedral. He was the first American man and bishop to be canonized.

**06 JAN (Wednesday):**

**BLESSED ANDRE BESSETTE (1845-1936)**

Holy Cross Brother who almost didn't make his vows because of poor health. He built a shrine to St. Joseph, almost brick by brick, that became a spiritual center.



## MINISTRY & GROUP NEWS

### NOVENA TO SAINT JOSEPH

Every **Wednesday** evening after the **05:30 PM** Mass there will be a novena to St. Joseph. This novena takes about 20 minutes. In addition to the novena, once a month the **05:30 PM** Mass will be in honor of St. Joseph. All are welcome to join in this celebration in honor of St. Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



### CENACLES OF LIFE PRAYER GROUP

Our Nativity rosary prayer group continues to pray to end the culture of death. All are invited to come! We pray two rosaries together and offer up a fast each week. We meet at **06:00 PM** in the church each **Tuesday** evening.

### COURAGE

The **Archdiocese of San Francisco** offers support to persons with same-sex attraction and their loved ones through the ministry of *Courage*, which is faithful to the teachings of the Church. For more information go to their website [couragec.org](http://couragec.org) or our local website, [www.sfarchdiocese.org/courage](http://www.sfarchdiocese.org/courage). We encourage you to watch an excellent documentary, *Desire of the Everlasting Hills*, which Courage recently produced. It is available online at [www.everlastinghills.org/movie/](http://www.everlastinghills.org/movie/). For those wishing to support people who are struggling with same-sex attraction you can go to [www.monicacross.com](http://www.monicacross.com).

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

The **Columbian Senior Residence** is located in historic **Marysville, California**. It is an independent living residence for seniors in a small community setting. There are opportunities for spiritual growth and apostolic outreach. It has low rates, meals and housekeeping included; concessions are considered in the case of hardship. This community is a charitable enterprise of the *California Knights of Columbus*. For more information call **530/743 7542** or visit [www.columbiansenior.com](http://www.columbiansenior.com).

Anxiety is the greatest evil that can befall a soul, except sin. God commands you to pray, but He forbids you to worry.

*St. Francis de Sales*

The affairs of God are accomplished little by little and almost imperceptibly. The Spirit of God is neither violent nor hasty. He does all things in His time.

*St. Vincent de Paul*

God in His infinite goodness sometimes sees fit to test our courage and love by depriving us of the things which it seems to us would be advantageous to our souls; and if He finds us earnest in their pursuit, yet humble, tranquil and resigned to do without them if He wishes us to, He will give us more blessings than we should have had in the possession of what we craved.

*St. Philip Neri*

### ROSARY OUTSIDE ABORTION CLINIC

Every **First Saturday** of the month a group of parishioners meets to pray in front of the Planned Parenthood in Redwood City on El Camino Real. We drive down after the **08:00 AM** Mass and pray until about **10:00 AM**. People are also scheduled to pray during the week.

Please contact **Rich** at [nativitymenlorespectlife@yahoo.com](mailto:nativitymenlorespectlife@yahoo.com) or **510/468-1446** for more information.

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Nativity Church is open **24x7**. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration and there is always someone present in prayer. Won't you join us by signing up for a weekly Holy Hour? When you sign up, you and your intentions share in the grace of everyone who comes to visit. Experience the dramatic presence of God in our lives. Please consider the following hours as there is no one currently assigned to them (or pick an hour that works for you):

**Sunday: 05:00 PM, 10:00 PM**

**Monday: 09:00 PM**

Call **Mary Ellen Peloso (650/269-7794)** to sign up.

*You have never strayed too far 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 *San Juan Diego Centro por la Vida* at St. Francis (650/322-2152).



# 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.



**BAPTISMS** • Kendra, daughter of Jessenia Solorio

### MARRIAGES

### PARISHIONERS

**DEATHS** • Joe Giramonte  
• Dorothy Gravelle



Parish Office Hours  
09:00 AM-04:00 PM  
Monday-Friday

## HYGIENIC UPGRADES FOR OUR CHURCH

We have recently installed three ultraviolet air purifiers in our HVAC system. These will significantly reduce pathogens such as bacteria, mold and viruses. In addition to this, we have acquired a portable atomizer sprayer for disinfecting surfaces in the church. These will enhance protection not only against Coronavirus, but other contagious disease that may be spread in enclosed spaces. When we are allowed back into the church, these measures will, I hope, inspire confidence in our parishioners that we can resume liturgical celebrations in a safe environment.

*Msr. Steven Otellini*

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## PRIVATE RETREATS AND PRIVATE TIME AT VALLOMBROSA

Vallombrosa Center currently offers *Private Retreats* for those who want private rooms for alone time, with Spiritual Direction available. Guests can enjoy the walking trails, shrines and gardens.

There are both Day retreats and Overnight (no food or coffee service available in either case). Please visit <https://conta.cc/3gldQtI> or call 650/325-5614 to learn more.



## VALLOMBROSA NEWS

Please check the **Vallombrosa Center** website for an updated schedule of their offerings. They have some online classes and retreats via Zoom. [www.vallombrosa.org/calendar/](http://www.vallombrosa.org/calendar/) For example...

Date	Event
<b>Every Tuesday</b> 10:00 - 10:30 AM	<b>Homilies by Zoom</b> A 30-minute homily or reflection, by various presenters
<b>One Saturday per month (online)</b>	<b>Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation</b> "Engaging the Heart"

## VALLOMBROSA CENTER OUTDOOR ROSARY

Nativity's next door neighbor, Vallombrosa Center, invites us all to a weekly Rosary at **07:30 PM** every **Friday**, in the *Mother Teresa Garden* (aka *Garden of Corporal Works*). On the second Friday, we pray especially for the youth, their needs and intentions, and their vocations. Please join us and invite a friend, as we ask Our Heavenly Mother's intercession in all our lives. (We socially distance and wear masks.)

## PLEASE HELP HELP STOP INFANTICIDE!

Babies who survive attempted abortions are being left to die or sometimes killed in our country. The **Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act** presently proposed in the U.S. House of Representatives would prevent this from happening and provide crucial medical treatment for these babies. House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** (SF) has been refusing to allow a vote on this legislation. Please phone or write your representative in Congress and Speaker Pelosi, urging them to fully support this bill **HR962**. Also urge them to support legislation to stop fetal body part harvesting. Phone: 202/225-4965 or 415/556-4862; write: 1236 Longworth H.O.B, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Or visit her website: <https://www.speaker.gov/contact>.

For Redwood City, Menlo Park and Atherton: Congresswoman **Anna Eshoo** 650/323-2984, email <https://eshoo.house.gov>.

## EXTRANEIOUS NOISE DURING LIVESTREAMING MASSES



Our Masses on **Saturday** evening at **05:00 PM** and **Sunday** at **09:00** and **11:00 AM** are being livestreamed for those who are not able to attend Mass in person at this time. Any extra noises in the church are being easily picked up by the audio equipment for the livestreaming. This extra noise makes it difficult for the people who are watching online to hear the Mass and homily. We kindly request that noisy children be taken out of the church until they are able to settle down and return. Thank you.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR MEN DISCERNING A PRIESTLY VOCATION

Monthly meetings for men interested in exploring a vocation to the priesthood are resuming for San Mateo County on the **first Monday** of each month, and for San Francisco County on the **third Monday**. The question of meetings online via Zoom or meetings in person is still to be settled. Any man interested in participating should contact one of the priests below:

**First Monday Meetings:** St. Pius X Church, Redwood City, Fr. Tom Martin ([martin.thomas@sfarch.org](mailto:martin.thomas@sfarch.org))

**Third Monday Meetings:** Church of the Visitación, San Francisco Fr. Cameron Faller ([faller.cameron@sfarch.org](mailto:faller.cameron@sfarch.org)).

## FROM THE HOLY SEE

Each month His Holiness asks for prayer intentions. For **January 2021**, the Holy Father's intention is:

**Intention:** *Human fraternity*

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

*THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS*

Please continue to check our website  
([www.nativitymenlo.org](http://www.nativitymenlo.org))  
for the latest updates to the parish schedule.

YOU MATTER!

I am love and Mercy Itself. There is no misery that could be a match for My mercy, neither will misery exhaust it, because as it is being granted – it increases. The soul that trusts in My mercy is most fortunate, because I Myself take care of it.

*Jesus to St. Faustina  
(Diary - 1273)*



### ARE YOUR INTENTIONS "IN THE BOOK"?

Our legion of dedicated Eucharistic Adorers begin each hour by praying for (among others) all the intentions entered into our book of prayer requests. Tap into the unimaginable power of focused communal (and global) prayer and let your loving community lift your needs up before our Father.



"Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall." -- **Psalm 55: 22**

"Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." -- **John 16: 24**

### BOOKLET: PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR THE WORLD

The *Praying the Rosary for the World: God's Power is in our Hands When We Pray the Rosary* booklet was compiled by the **Cloistered Dominican Nuns of Corpus Christi Monastery** in Menlo Park. It includes a prayer for each mystery of the Rosary, and a special intention for each "Hail, Mary" related to the mystery being said.

Using this booklet while saying the Rosary will not only be helpful to you, but also for the world. You may purchase these booklets in the parish office during regular office hours, **Monday-Friday, 09:00 AM-04:00 PM**. The booklets are **\$2.00** apiece. All money will go directly to Corpus Christi Monastery.



## CALENDAR OF NOVENAE

**03 JAN (SUN)** Feast of the Epiphany

**04 JAN (MON)**

**05 JAN (TUE)**

**06 JAN (WED)**

**07 JAN (THU)**

**08 JAN (FRI)**

**09 JAN (SAT)**

**10 JAN (SUN)**

**11 JAN (MON)**

**12 JAN (TUE)** FIRST Day: St. Agnes

**13 JAN (WED)** SECOND Day: St. Agnes

**14 JAN (THU)** THIRD Day: St. Agnes

**15 JAN (FRI)** FOURTH Day: St. Agnes

**16 JAN (SAT)** FIFTH Day: St. Agnes

**Saint Agnes:**

<http://svfonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Novena-St-Agnes.pdf>

### FIND THE NOVENA PRAYERS

**Infant Jesus of Prague (nine-hour):**

[www.ewtn.com/library/PRAYER/PRAGNOV.TXT](http://www.ewtn.com/library/PRAYER/PRAGNOV.TXT)

**St. Therese "24 Glory Be's" Novena:**

[www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/24\\_glory.htm](http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/24_glory.htm)

**Novena for Priests:**

[www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/priests.htm](http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/priests.htm)

**Effecacious Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus:**

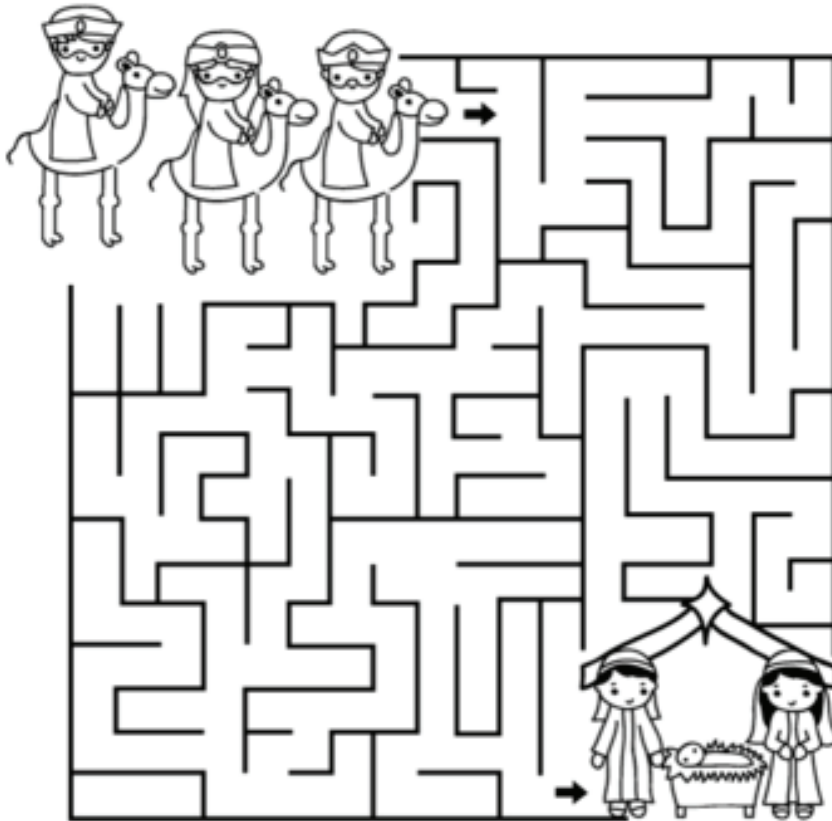
[www.ewtn.com/devotionals/heart/sh\\_novena.htm](http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/heart/sh_novena.htm)

### OTHER NOVENA PRAYERS

### CALIFORNIA BISHOPS ISSUE POSITIVE STATEMENT ON VACCINES

On **03 DEC 2020**, the Catholic bishops of California issued a statement and launched a webpage

<https://cacatholic.org/covid-vaccines> saying that the imminent Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are morally acceptable. The bishops committed the California Catholic Conference to working with Catholic health care ministries and Catholic Charities to promote and encourage COVID-19 vaccinations in collaboration with state and local governments and other entities. Archbishop Cordileone said, "I join my brother bishops in welcoming the news that safe, effective vaccines against the COVID-19 virus will soon be available. Together, we bishops affirm that the imminent Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are morally acceptable, and we encourage everyone to receive the vaccine when it becomes available." The full statement (in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese), along with other news, information, and resources, can be found at the California Catholic Conference at the above website.



## SOME NOTES ABOUT EPIPHANY

In the earliest days of the Church, both the **Nativity** and the **Theophany** (baptism of Jesus) were celebrated on **06 JAN**. Somewhere before 354 AD the Western Church moved the date for the celebration of the **Nativity** back to **25 DEC**, partly to overshadow a pagan festival (to the Invincible Sun) on that same date. At that time they assigned **06 JAN** to the celebration of the **Epiphany** (visit of the Magi). The Eastern Church today celebrates the **Theophany** on **06 JAN**. The Russian Church still celebrates the **Nativity** on **06 JAN**, and in some traditions, a "Twelfth Night" celebration on **05 JAN** is followed by the traditional exchange of gifts on **06 JAN**.



## WAS THE "STAR OF BETHLEHEM" . . .

1. The triple-conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in 6 B.C.?
2. The near-conjunction of Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars in 7 B.C.?
3. The retrograde motion of Jupiter four months after the triple-conjunction above?
4. The nova of a white dwarf star in Capricorn, as recorded by Chinese astronomers in 5 B.C.?

**Answer:** no one, not even in the highest circles of astronomy, knows for certain, primarily because there is no consensus over the actual birthdate of Jesus. There is, however, a wealth of information and discussion on this topic on the Internet. Search for "astronomical star Bethlehem".

## BLESSING OF THE HOME: "CHALKING THE LINTEL"

Since the Middle Ages there has been a tradition in many Christian households that on (or near) the Feast of the Epiphany we pray for God's blessing on our homes, marking the doorpost (lintel) with chalk (an incarnational image reminding us of the dust of the earth from which we were made). We mark the main door of our home with the initials of the Magi and the numerals of the new year, connected with crosses:

**20 + C + M + B + 21**

The initials remind us of the legendary names of the Magi - **Caspar**, **Melchior**, and **Balthasar** - and also stand for the Latin motto: **Christus mansionem benedicat** (*May Christ bless this house*) In the Book of Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the Lord would pass over their homes; but in this ritual, we mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God's presence and blessing into our homes.

There are many resources with suggestions for a blessing of the home. Here are just a few:

- [www.stmichaelonline.org/LiturgicalYear/Epiphany.htm](http://www.stmichaelonline.org/LiturgicalYear/Epiphany.htm)
- [www.fisheaters.com/customschristmas9.html](http://www.fisheaters.com/customschristmas9.html)
- [www.catholicculture.org/lit/Prayers/view.cfm?id=49](http://www.catholicculture.org/lit/Prayers/view.cfm?id=49)