



210 Oak Grove Avenue  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
tel: (650) 323-7914  
fax: (650) 323-3231  
[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

**FIRST READING**

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons.  
**SIRACH 3: 2-6, 12-14**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord.  
**PSALMS 128**

**SECOND READING**

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.  
**COLOSSIANS 3: 12-21**

**GOSPEL**

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples.  
**LUKE 2: 22-40**



The Doni Tondo (Michelangelo)

# THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

## 27 DECEMBER 2020

Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel.

**LUKE 2: 34**

### CALENDAR

**SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS**  
**WEEK OF 27 DEC - 02 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>	† Ricky Torres; † Matthew Cruz; † Andrew Gonzalez
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	Audrey Custodio
<b>TUE</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	The Neylan and Cardine families
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Melita Reiner; † Rosaleen Kelly; † Anthony Mary Kelly; † Erin Murphy Onisky
<b>WED</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	† John Perrett
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† C. Eugene Markley
<b>THU</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	Kyle Lewis and family
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Ivica Milicevic
<b>FRI</b>	<b>09:00 AM</b>	† Cristina Sarlo
	<b>12:00 PM</b>	† Michael Brennan
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Marie and Adolph Firenzi
<b>SAT</b>	<b>08:00 AM</b>	Tom and Anne Mock; Fr. Karl Tolentino; † Karen Miller; † Sergio Ramirez

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

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>27 DEC</b>	<b>(Sunday)</b>	
<b>28 DEC</b>	<b>(Monday)</b>	
	<b>04:00 PM</b>	Legion of Mary
<b>29 DEC</b>	<b>(Tuesday)</b>	
	<b>07:00 PM</b>	RCIA (Zoom)
	<b>07:00 PM</b>	(*) H4
<b>30 DEC</b>	<b>(Wednesday)</b>	
	<b>06:00 PM</b>	Novena to Saint Joseph
<b>31 DEC</b>	<b>(Thursday)</b>	
<b>01 JAN</b>	<b>(Friday)</b>	<i>First Friday</i> <sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup>
<b>02 JAN</b>	<b>(Saturday)</b>	<i>First Saturday</i> <sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup>

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

**01 JAN (Friday)**


**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

01 JAN 2021, is the *Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*, and a holy day of obligation.

Masses will be on **Tuesday** evening, **31 DEC 2020** at **05:30 PM** (vigil), and **Wednesday, 01 JAN 2021** at **09:00 AM, 12:00** and **05:30 PM**

**PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN**

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

Parish Offerings	
	WEEK OF <b>12-13 DEC</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$9,072</b>
<b>Retirement Fund for Religious:</b>	<b>\$1,145</b>
<b>Annual Diocesan Appeal Progress:</b>	<b>\$109,570</b>
<b>2020 ADA Goal:</b>	<b>\$145,044</b>

# SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

SOLEMNITY, FEAST, MEMORIAL • OPTIONAL MEMORIAL • OTHER

## 28 DEC (Monday)

### THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs

Herod, threatened by the birth of a new king, ordered the slaughter of all newborn boys in Bethlehem. Joseph, warned in a dream, had already taken his family to safety in Egypt.

## 29 DEC (Tuesday)

### SAINT THOMAS A BECKET, Martyr (1118-1170)

Becket held a number of prominent positions, including civil and canon lawyer, soldier and officer, and the *Archdeacon of Canterbury*. A friend of King Henry II, he became *Chancellor of England* and was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162. He was opposed to the King's interference in ecclesiastical matters, and was exiled several times. He was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral on 29 DEC 1170.



## 02 JAN (Saturday):

### SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

Students together, they fought against the Arian heresy. Basil founded monasteries and drew up a rule for monks; he is considered as key in the founding of eastern monasticism as Saint Benedict is to western monasticism. Gregory became *Bishop of Constantinople*, and Basil was *Archbishop of Caesarea*. Both were proclaimed *Doctors of the Church*.



## MINISTRY & GROUP NEWS

### NATIVITY ADOPT-A-FAMILY 2020

We have very successfully completed our 30th annual **Adopt-a-Family** program. We cannot thank you all enough for your amazing support of our program in this very different and difficult year. We raised over **\$100,000.00!** With your generosity we have been able to help 208 families, 50 medically fragile homeless, and are giving generous donations to the other organizations that we have helped over the years with sweaters and wish list items. Without you none of this would ever be possible. *Thank You!*

### SVdP Volunteering

Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference is in need of volunteers. If you are able to help them help the poor in our area, please call Mike Wilmer at 650/346-1089.

### PRAY THE ROSARY

Observe this special devotion to our Blessed Mother as often as you can. *"I am the Lady of the Rosary, I have come to warn the faithful to amend their lives and ask for pardon for their sins. They must not offend Our Lord any more, for He is already too grievously offended by the sins of men. People must say the rosary. Let them continue saying it every day."*

--Our Blessed Mother to Lucia at Fatima  
13 October 1917

- [www.theholynosary.org](http://www.theholynosary.org)
- [www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/prayers/rosary/how\\_to.htm](http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/prayers/rosary/how_to.htm)
- [www.savior.org/wwrc/](http://www.savior.org/wwrc/)



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).



### OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS

The following young people received their **First Holy Communion** on 05 DEC 2020:



- |                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Zarcharie Aaron-Pracht</b>  | <b>Joseph Lantier</b>    |
| <b>Isibella Abeyta</b>         | <b>Nicholas Melgar</b>   |
| <b>Henry Bauermeister</b>      | <b>Riggins Mitchell</b>  |
| <b>Jackson Cleland</b>         | <b>Megan Morales</b>     |
| <b>Anna Sofia Gonzalez</b>     | <b>Annabelle Navarro</b> |
| <b>Eloisa Gonzalez Quevedo</b> | <b>Ruperto Sandoval</b>  |
| <b>Jake Ho</b>                 | <b>Jack Schneider</b>    |
| <b>Dolan Janik</b>             | <b>Paul Semler</b>       |
| <b>Matteo Johansson Ortiz</b>  | <b>Amelia Tong</b>       |
| <b>Joseph Lampe</b>            | <b>Jordan Trevino</b>    |
| <b>Finley Lanthier</b>         | <b>Tyler Vierra</b>      |

### 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.*

# 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** • Hunter Joseph Richard, son of Cameron and Nicole Winn

**MARRIAGES** • Nick Rogers and Claire Dixon

## PARISHIONERS

**DEATHS** • Ivica Milicevic



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.

*Msgr. 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 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>.

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES: PEOPLE NEED YOUR CHRISTMAS HELP

2020 has been an incredibly hard year for every family and individual that Catholic Charities of San Francisco (CCSF) serves. The pandemic has upended CCSF's holiday gift-giving and there is an urgent need for **500 gift cards** to provide some Christmas joy to children and families who rely on us. To give a **\$25** gift card, contact [CLAughlin@catholiccharitiessf.org](mailto:CLAughlin@catholiccharitiessf.org) or call 415/972-1236. Thank you!

## 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 **December 2020**, the Holy Father's intention is:

**Intention:** *For a life of prayer*

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

### THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

## 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.

LOOK!



## THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

(Catholic News Agency | Vatican | 08 DEC 2020)

Pope Francis announced a **Year of St. Joseph** Tuesday in honor of the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the universal Church.

The year begins **Dec. 8, 2020**, and concludes on **Dec. 8, 2021**, according to a decree authorized by the pope.

The decree said that Pope Francis had established a Year of St. Joseph so that "every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of God's will."

It added that the pope had granted special indulgences to mark the year. The Apostolic Penitentiary said that it would grant a plenary indulgence to Catholics who **recite any approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph**, especially on **March 19**, the saint's solemnity, and **May 1**, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

Other notable days for the plenary indulgence are the Feast of the Holy Family on **Dec. 29** (and St. Joseph's Sunday in the Byzantine tradition), as well as the **19th of each month** and **every Wednesday**, a day dedicated to the saint in the Latin tradition.



## CALENDAR OF NOVENAE

<b>27 DEC (SUN)</b>	THIRD DAY: Epiphany Novena
<b>28 DEC (MON)</b>	FOURTH DAY: Epiphany Novena
<b>29 DEC (TUE)</b>	FIFTH DAY: Epiphany Novena
<b>30 DEC (WED)</b>	SIXTH DAY: Epiphany Novena
<b>31 DEC (THU)</b>	SEVENTH DAY: Epiphany Novena
<b>01 JAN (FRI)</b>	EIGHTH DAY: Epiphany Novena
<b>02 JAN (SAT)</b>	NINTH DAY: Epiphany Novena
<b>03 JAN (SUN)</b>	Feast of the Epiphany
<b>04 JAN (MON)</b>	
<b>05 JAN (TUE)</b>	
<b>06 JAN (WED)</b>	
<b>07 JAN (THU)</b>	
<b>08 JAN (FRI)</b>	
<b>09 JAN (SAT)</b>	

Epiphany Novena:

[www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/novenas/p00073.htm](http://www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/novenas/p00073.htm)

### 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

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

## SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SERVICES

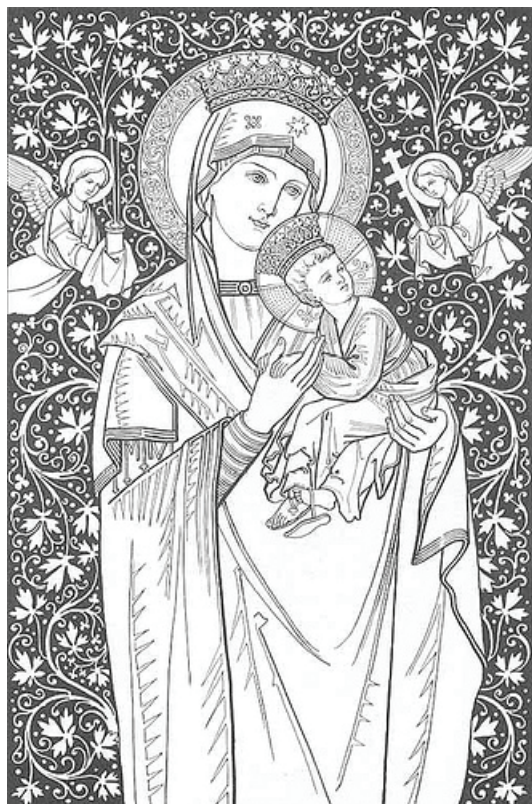
<b>31 DEC</b>	<b>(Thursday)</b>	07:30 AM 05:30 PM	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Vigil Mass for the <b>Solemnity of Mary</b>
<b>01 JAN</b>	<b>(Friday)</b>	09:00 AM 12:00 PM 05:30 PM	<b>Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</b> Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
<b>02 JAN</b>	<b>(Saturday)</b>		Regular daily Mass schedule

## YOUR FAMILY IS A GREAT TREASURE

A family is one of God's greatest gifts. Sometimes we are all so busy that we forget to be thankful for our families, and to take the time to tell each other how much they are loved and appreciated.

1. Try to find out one new special thing about your mother and father, that you didn't know before. Did your mom once win the state Science Fair? Is your dad an expert with a yo-yo? Parents are amazing people that have amazing things to share with you: give them a chance to do that.

2. Find out more about your ancestors. Start with both sets of your grandparents. Ask your parents to tell you one special thing about each grandparent that you didn't know before. Maybe your grandfather was the mayor of the town in which he was born. Maybe your grandmother was the first woman in your family to graduate from college. Your family is a unique treasure, and a big part of that treasure is YOU.



## The 12 Days of Christmas

Although there is no historical evidence to support the claim, there are widely-circulated stories and speculation that during the 16th century, when English Catholics were being persecuted by the Church of England, the song **The Twelve Days of Christmas** was created with religious symbolism to allow the study of many tenets of the faith without fear.

According to the stories, the hidden references are:

1. *My True Love (God, Our Father) gave to me ... a partridge in a pear tree (Our Lord Jesus upon the Cross).*
2. *Two turtle doves: the Old and New Testaments.*
3. *Three French hens: Faith, Hope, and Charity.*
4. *Four colly birds: the Four Gospels (or the Four Evangelists).*
5. *Five golden rings: the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch).*
6. *Six geese a'laying: the six days of the Creation.*
7. *Seven swans a'swimming: the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit (or the seven Sacraments).*
8. *Eight maids a'milking: the eight Beatitudes.*
9. *Nine ladies dancing: the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit.*
10. *Ten lords a'leaping: the Ten Commandments.*
11. *Eleven pipers piping: the eleven faithful Apostles.*
12. *Twelve drummers drumming: the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed.*

The "Twelve Days" of Christmas are December 26th to January 6th (the Feast of the Epiphany).



## DID YOU KNOW?

For the last **37 years**, PNC Wealth Management has calculated the cost of purchasing all the gifts named in "The 12 Days of Christmas". In 2020, to purchase 12 drummers drumming, 22 pipers piping, 30 lords-a-leaping, 36 ladies dancing, 40 maids-a-milking, 42 swans-a-swimming, 42 geese-a-laying, 40 gold rings, 36 calling birds, 30 French hens, 22 turtle doves, and 12 partridges in pear trees (**364** gifts) would cost

**\$105,562**

For those comparing year-for-year, you will notice that this is a noticeably lower total than last year. This is due to the fact that COVID-19 and shelter-in-place orders have made all of the following **unavailable**: **ladies dancing, lords a'leaping, pipers piping and drummers drumming.**

As in years past, the single most expensive item continues to be ...the **swans** (\$1875 apiece, just like last year). But **turtle doves** had the largest jump in price (over 50% from last year).

[www.pncchristmaspriceindex.com](http://www.pncchristmaspriceindex.com)