



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

Church of the Nativity

MASSES

Sundays	08:00, 09:30, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM 05:00 PM (traditional Latin Mass)
Saturdays	08:00 AM and 05:00 PM (Vigil)
Weekdays	07:30 AM and 05:30 PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays	09:00 AM - 10:00 AM 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM 03:30 PM - 04:30 PM (also by appointment)
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BAPTISMS 1st, 3rd, and 5th 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)

24-HOUR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Mrs. Mary Ellen Peloso (650) 269-7794

PASTOR

Very Rev. Mark Doherty

PAROCHIAL VICAR

IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Michael Thomas, CSC

PERMANENT DEACONS

Rev. Mr. Dominick Peloso
Rev. Mr. Bob Andrews

SCHOOL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Noreen Browning
nbrowning@nativityschool.com



HEARING LOOP ENABLED

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.

Psalm 72

SECOND READING

It has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6

GOSPEL

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

Matthew 2: 1-12



THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

04 JANUARY 2026

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Isaiah 60: 3

SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS WEEK OF 04-10 JAN

SAT: 05:00 PM	Priest's intentions
SUN: Masses	Priest's intentions
MON: 07:30 AM	† Angela Grennan
05:30 PM	† Jane Steward
TUE: 07:30 AM	The Deck and Virnoche families, living and deceased
05:30 PM	† Cecilia Louise Tuite
WED: 07:30 AM	† Rev. Robert Hughes
05:30 PM	In memory of St. Joseph
THU: 07:30 AM	† Noah Jameson Steele
05:30 PM	ICF #351 living and deceased members
FRI: 07:30 AM	† Walter Cinibulk
05:30 PM	† Elena and Isidro Lim; † Carolyn Colonelli; † Patrick Dancer; † Juan F. Wong
SAT: 08:00 AM	† Augustino Cuong Doan; † Giuse Khoa Doan; † Mariam Miller; † Penney Kinney Winstel; Craig Gould

Please pray for those in need of physical or spiritual healing



PARISH OFFERINGS

	WEEK OF 13-14 DEC
FIGURES	UNAVAILABLE
AT TIME	OF PUBLICATION
ADA Progress: 2023 ADA Goal:	\$101,663 \$156,819

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

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

CALENDAR

SUN	07:00 PM	Holy Hour for Priests
MON-FRI	07:10 AM	Morning Prayer
MON-FRI	08:00 AM	Morning Rosary
MON-FRI	05:10 PM	Evening Prayer
MON	07:00 PM	Nativity Family Rosary
TUE	06:00 PM	Cenacles of Life Rosary
WED	06:00 PM	Novena to Saint Joseph
THU	06:00 PM	Perpetual Help Novena
SAT	06:15 AM	Men's Prayer Group
SAT	07:40 AM	Morning Prayer
SAT	09:00 - 10:00 AM	Confessions (parish priest)
SAT	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Confessions(Opus Dei priest)
SAT	03:30 - 04:30 PM	Confessions (parish priest)
04 JAN	(Sunday)	
	09:15 AM	OCIA
05 JAN	(Monday)	
	08:00 AM	Legion of Mary
06 JAN	(Tuesday)	
	05:30 PM	Adoration 30-Year Anniversary Mass
07 JAN	(Wednesday)	
	07:30 PM	Total Consecration to Mary
08 JAN	(Thursday)	
	12:00 PM	Senior Thursday Group
09 JAN	(Friday)	
10 JAN	(Saturday)	
	09:30 AM	Baptism Class

MESSAGE FOR THE NEW YEAR

As the start of the new year **2026** is now upon us, our parish community extends heartfelt wishes for a safe, healthy, and deeply meaningful New Year to each and every one of you. Gratitude for the steadfast faith, generosity, spirit and love you constantly bring to our Nativity community. May God's grace guide your days, strengthen your spirit, and fill your homes with peace and hope. May the new year draw us ever closer to God and one another and may this new year open before us as a season of hope, healing, and holy meaning.

SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

SOLEMNITY, FEAST, MEMORIAL • OPTIONAL MEMORIAL • OTHER



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

MINISTRY AND GROUP NEWS

MASS OF THANKSGIVING:

30 YEARS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION AT NATIVITY

Join us on **06 JAN 2026** at **05:30 PM** as we celebrate this living tradition with a Mass of Thanksgiving. This anniversary Mass is a testament to that unbroken devotion, and a call to continue it into the future.

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone will be the main celebrant.

There will be light continental reception at Vallombrosa Retreat Center after the Mass.



OCIA AND FAITH FORMATION

Thinking about becoming Catholic? Have questions about our Catholic faith?

All are welcome (OCIA students, parishioners and friends)!

WHAT: The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

WHERE: O'Hare Center

WHEN: Sundays (09:15-10:30 AM)

MORE DETAILS: <https://www.nativitymenlo.org/OCIA>
There are also OCIA brochures in the back of the Church

JAN'26

THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR
(topics subject to change)

JAN'26

- The Vocations of Holy Orders and Religious Life
- The Vocation of Matrimony
- Sacramentals, Spiritual Warfare
- Tradition of Prayer

There will be **no class** on **28 DEC** (Christmas holiday)
Please contact **Mary Rudolph** (mem.rudolph@gmail.com),
Joan Desmond (jfdesmond@aol.com),
Hal Fletcher (hal.fletcher@gmail.com)
or the Rectory (**650/323-7914**).



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.

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.



Bringing animals inside the Church
**IS NOT ALLOWED
AT ANY TIME!**



EUCARISTIC 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? Jesus told an Irish priest (in our current century) that midnight adoration is as powerful as fasting.

Please consider the following hours as there is no one currently assigned to them (or pick an hour that works for you):

Sunday: 01:00 AM, 02:00 AM

Friday: 02:00 PM

**Saturday: 01:00-03:00 AM (once per month),
09:00 AM, 11:00 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

- **Leo Abelleja Tria**, son of Alvin Jeffrey Tria and Kathrine Joy Abelleja
- **Nora Sampatoor**, daughter of Sampatoor Abhilash and Dhanya Davies

MARRIAGES

PARISHIONERS

DEATHS

TIP TAP PAY INSTRUCTIONS

As the offertory baskets are passed, we want to remind you that if you didn't bring cash today, you can still make a donation using your mobile wallet or card. Simply tap your mobile phone or card to the device. Your support is greatly appreciated!



Livestreaming of the
Nativity Sunday Mass
is now at **11:00 AM**



Parish Office Hours
09:00 AM-04:00 PM (M-F)
closed **12:00-01:00 PM (lunch)**

IN THE COMMUNITY

NEED YOUR PRAYERS FOR PREGNANT MOTHERS

When pregnant mothers, scared and worried, come to Planned Parenthood, thinking they have no other option, pro-life volunteers are there with our resources, prayers and care.

Many women with abortion appointments will cancel when they encounter loving, compassionate people on the sidewalk who are praying for them and their unborn. Please consider joining us; God will bless you!



WHAT: Pro-life people praying there, led by members of *San Mateo Pro Life*

WHERE: Planned Parenthood sidewalk, 2907 El Camino Real, Redwood City

WHEN: Mornings, **Monday-Friday 08:30-11:30 AM**

WHY: The more people present and praying, the more graces God grants to save precious babies! Many lives have in this way been spared!

CONTACT: For more information, visit www.sanmateoprolife.com or call **Erika** at **650/283-5353**

Do you speak Spanish? Your help could be crucial in saving a life!

NOW AVAILABLE: A NEW WAY TO DONATE

The future of giving is here. **Tip Tap Pay** is changing the way people give.



Tap your credit card on the device (which is pre-configured for a specific amount). Each tap will process a charge against your card.



If you want a year-end tax receipt for your donations, you can (after your first tap) scan the provided QR code to register your card (you only need to do this once).

Questions? Please contact the parish office (**650/323-7914**).



OUR NEW OFFERTORY TECH TOOL

Dear Parishioners,

We are grateful for your support, patience, and understanding as we launched our new payment system. This option was introduced to make giving and transactions more accessible, and we hope it serves our community well.

For those who have not yet tried it, we encourage you to give it a chance. For those who have already used it, we hope you've found it to be both easy and convenient.

Your willingness to adapt and embrace new tools helps us continue to grow together as a parish. Thank you for walking with us in faith and fellowship.

with gratitude, Nativity

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Spend some time with your fellow parishioners after the **09:30 AM Mass** on the **1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays** of each month!



The **Food and Fellowship Ministry** will be serving coffee and donuts.



If you're interested in helping the **Food and Fellowship Ministry**, please sign up using the QR code or email liz.palla@gmail.com.

ARE YOU IN NEED OF A HOT MEAL OR CLOTHING?

We'd like to familiarize you with the services of **St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room**, 3500 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park. We provide a hot, nutritious meal **Monday** through **Saturday** from **11:00 AM** to **01:00 PM** and bread, fruit and vegetables to bring home to help with the evening meal. We also have a free Clothing Distribution Center which is open on **Wednesdays** from **10:00-11:00 AM** for women and children and on **Thursdays** from **10:00-11:00 AM**. In case of emergency, help is always available. All are welcome; no questions asked. Please pass the word to anyone you know who may need their services.

Pregnant? Need Help? Please contact

• Birth and Beyond • (331/444-5433),

• The Gabriel Project • (800/910-0191),

or • San Juan Diego Centro por la Vida • at St. Francis (650/322-2152).

FROM THE HOLY SEE

Each month His Holiness asks for prayer intentions.

For **January 2026**, the Holy Father's intention is:

Intention: *For Prayer With the Word of God*

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

A NEW TYPE OF DONATION: GOLD AND SILVER

Often we find things in church that people don't know what to do with, so they leave them here -- old medals (Sacred Heart, Miraculous Medal, etc.), broken bits of chain, broken rosaries. Often these objects are silver and do have some monetary value. If you have scrap silver or gold that you don't know what to do with, consider donating it to Nativity. Any money we receive will be given to the Altar Society to further their work in beautifying the Church. If you have any questions please call **650/323-7914**.

DID YOU KNOW? ON-GOING DEVOTIONS

WEEKDAY MORNING ROSARY

A group meets every morning (**Mon-Fri**) in the church to pray the rosary at **08:00 AM**? They have been practicing this devotion since the 1970s. Perhaps you'd like to join them!

EVERY MONDAY AT 07:00 PM ...

Our Lady Queen of Peace Prayer Group meets for Rosary and the latest message from Medjugorje, now approved by the Vatican. All are welcome. (in the **Guadalupe Room**).

CENACLES OF LIFE PRAYER GROUP

After the **05:30 PM** mass on **Tuesdays**, the *Nativity Cenacles Life Prayer Group* pray two rosaries for the protection of all life and for the protection of religious liberty in the Church. They pray a decade or two in different languages. They welcome and enjoy this addition to their prayer. Please come and join the group.

FRIDAY EVENING ROSARY

A group meets at **07:30 PM** every **Friday** at Vallombrosa, year-round at the Lourdes shrine, to pray the rosary. They have been practicing this devotion for 5 years. All are invited to join.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Men have been meeting every week for the last 16 years to pray together and share experiences in spiritual growth. We meet at **06:15 AM** on **Saturdays** in the O'Hare (Parish) Center in back of the church. It has been a time of grace and strength for everyone who attends. You are welcome to join us. For questions, call **Deacon Dominick Peloso: 650/269-6279**

EVERY FIRST FRIDAY AT 05:30 PM ...

An evening of adoration, prayer and reflection with *Our Lady Queen of Peace* starting at **05:30 PM** Mass followed at **06:00-08:00 PM** rosary, music, meditation and closing with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome. (in the church).

CALENDAR OF NOVENAS

04 JAN (SUN) EIGHTH DAY: Epiphany Novena

05 JAN (MON) NINTH DAY: Epiphany Novena

06 JAN (TUE) Feast of the Epiphany

07 JAN (WED)

08 JAN (THU)

09 JAN (FRI)

10 JAN (SAT)

11 JAN (SUN)

12 JAN (MON) FIRST Day: St. Agnes

13 JAN (TUE) SECOND Day: St. Agnes

14 JAN (WED) THIRD Day: St. Agnes

15 JAN (THU) FOURTH Day: St. Agnes

16 JAN (FRI) FIFTH Day: St. Agnes

17 JAN (SAT) SIXTH Day: St. Agnes

FIND THE NOVENA PRAYERS

Epiphany Novena:

www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/novenas/p00073.htm

Saint Agnes:

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

OTHER NOVENA PRAYERS

Infant Jesus of Prague (nine-hour):

www.ewtn.com/library/PRAYER/PRAGNOV.TXT

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

www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/24_glory.htm

Novena for Priests:

www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/priests.htm

Effecacious Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus:

www.ewtn.com/devotionals/heart/sh_novena.htm

NATIVITY HOLY HOUR FOR PRIESTS

Everyone is invited to attend our weekly holy hour for priests each **Sunday** evening at **07:00 PM**. It includes a rosary, chaplet of Divine Mercy, a meditation, brief talk on the spiritual life, and Benediction. We all need to lift up our priests both here in the parish and throughout the world with our prayer. Please join us.

THE FLYING NOVENA

What is the "Flying Novena?" Much endorsed by **St. Teresa of Calcutta** (Mother Teresa), who frequently said it herself, it is the recitation of **9 Memorares** for an urgent intention, plus **one additional Memorare** in thanksgiving of the anticipated graces received.

SEMINARY PODCAST: IN VIA CHRISTI

Scan the QR code to listen to *In Via Christi*, the new podcast for ongoing priestly formation produced by **St. Patrick's Seminary**. Season 1 considers the theme of *spiritual fatherhood* and features our pastor, **Fr. Mark Doherty**, on multiple episodes.

<https://stpsu.edu/in-via-christi-podcast/>



2026 Catholic Calendar

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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 + 26

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
www.fisheaters.com/customschristmas9.html
www.catholicculture.org/lit/Prayers/view.cfm?id=49



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".



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**. 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**.

