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[www.nativitymenlo.org](http://www.nativitymenlo.org)

# Church of the Nativity

## MASSSES

**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)

**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)

## 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](mailto:nbrowning@nativityschool.com)



HEARING LOOP ENABLED

### FIRST READING

He shall judge the poor with justice.

*Isaiah 11: 1-10*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

In Him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed.

*Psalms 72*

### SECOND READING

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another.

*Romans 15: 4-9*

### GOSPEL

I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I.

*Matthew 3: 1-12*



# THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## 07 DECEMBER 2025

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
...and the calf and the lion together.

*Isaiah 11: 6*

## CALENDAR

### SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS WEEK OF 07-13 DEC

<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>	Lidia and Marco Roman
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Charles Moran
<b>TUE:</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	The Ortiz and Rubio families, living and deceased
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Edward and Mabel Wynne
<b>WED:</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	Protection of the unborn; † Kevin Gallagher
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	Frank Buonocore; † Holy Souls in Purgatory; † Gloria Ocampo Reyes; The Dorman and Tropeano families, living and deceased
<b>THU:</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	† Edna Logronio
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Ivica Milicevic
<b>FRI:</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	† Julie Anne Lenz
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Garrett Chiamparino
<b>SAT:</b>	<b>08:00 AM</b>	Chiara Marian Smith; † Diane Fisher; † Augustine Cuong Doan; Deacon Dominick and Mary Ellen Peloso; Claudia Loy Velasquez and family

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

### 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.



### PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

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

<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>08:00 AM</b>	Morning Rosary
<b>MON-FRI</b>	<b>05:10 PM</b>	Evening Prayer
<b>MON</b>	<b>07:00 PM</b>	Nativity Family Rosary
<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>09:00 - 10:00 AM</b>	Confessions (parish priest)
<b>SAT</b>	<b>10:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b>	Confessions (Opus Dei priest)
<b>SAT</b>	<b>03:30 - 04:30 PM</b>	Confessions (parish priest)

<b>07 DEC</b>	<b>(Sunday)</b>	
	<b>09:15 AM</b>	OCIA and Faith Formation
<b>08 DEC</b>	<b>(Monday)</b>	
	<b>08:00 AM</b>	Legion of Mary
	<b>07:00 PM</b>	Medjugorje Prayer Group
<b>09 DEC</b>	<b>(Tuesday)</b>	
	<b>09:30 AM</b>	Fall Bible Study
<b>10 DEC</b>	<b>(Wednesday)</b>	
	<b>07:00 PM</b>	Confirmation Prep Class
	<b>07:30 PM</b>	Consecration to the BVM
<b>11 DEC</b>	<b>(Thursday)</b>	
	<b>12:00 PM</b>	The Senior Thursday Group
	<b>07:00 PM</b>	Choir Practice
<b>12 DEC</b>	<b>(Friday)</b>	
	<b>08:45 AM</b>	Nativity School Stations of the Cross
<b>13 DEC</b>	<b>(Saturday)</b>	
	<b>08:45 AM</b>	Adopt-A-Family deliveries
	<b>06:00 PM</b>	Nativity Volunteer Appreciation



### PARISH OFFERINGS

	WEEK OF 15-16 NOV	WEEK OF 22-23 NOV
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$10,062</b>	<b>\$10,263</b>
<b>ADA Progress:</b>	<b>\$48,278</b>	<b>\$48,278</b>
<b>2025 ADA Goal:</b>	<b>\$156,819</b>	<b>\$156,819</b>

# SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

SOLEMNITY, FEAST, MEMORIAL • OPTIONAL MEMORIAL • OTHER

## 07 DEC (Sunday):

### SAINT AMBROSE, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Ambrose was a Roman citizen who served in the imperial government. Elected Bishop of Milan by popular acclaim, he was revered for his service to the poor and his writings against the Arian heresy.

## 08 DEC (Monday):

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY

This dogma, declared in **1854**, teaches that Mary was redeemed from the first moment of her conception.

*By the merits of her Son, Jesus Christ, she is preserved immune from all stain of original sin by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God. (Pius IX).*



## 09 DEC (Tuesday)

### SAINT JUAN DIEGO (1474-1548)

Born an impoverished freeman in a strongly class-conscious society, Cuauhtlatoatzin became an adult convert to Christianity at the age of 50, taking the name Juan Diego. The Virgin Mary appeared to him on 09 December 1531, leaving him her image on his tilma. He was canonized by Pope John Paul II in July of 2002.



## 12 DEC (Friday)

### OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE (1531)

The Blessed Virgin appeared to **Juan Diego** in **1531** calling herself the *Mother of the True God* and promising compassion and protection to all who come to her. She left an image of herself on his cloak, which is still preserved at the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Under this title, Mary has been declared *Patroness of the Americas*.



## 13 DEC (Saturday)

### SAINT LUCY, Martyr (~283 - ~304)

**St. Lucy** was a young Christian of Greek ancestry, living in Syracuse in the early fourth century. Like many early Christian women, she devoted herself completely to Jesus. But her mother betrothed her to a pagan, and Lucy was only able to change her mother's mind after praying at the tomb of **St.**

**Agatha** to cure her mother's illness. However, the spurned pagan suitor denounced her as a Christian, and she was martyred.



# MINISTRY AND GROUP NEWS

## 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.

## NATIVITY SCHOOL NEWS

### NATIVITY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS TREE LOT

We opened the day after Thanksgiving! Thank you as always for your support of Nativity School and we can't wait to welcome you this season.

[www.nativityschool.com/nativity-trees](http://www.nativityschool.com/nativity-trees)



## 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? 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.*

"Do not fear what may happen tomorrow. The same loving Father who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings."

-- St. Francis de Sales

## 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

## DEC'25 THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR (topics subject to change) DEC'25

- The Mass and the Eucharist (Part 1)
- The Mass and the Eucharist (Part 2)
- Confession and Anointing of the Sick

There will be **no class** on **30 NOV** (Thanksgiving holiday)

There will be **no class** on **28 DEC** (Christmas holiday)

Please contact **Mary Rudolph** ([mem.rudolph@gmail.com](mailto:mem.rudolph@gmail.com)),  
**Joan Desmond** ([jfdesmond@aol.com](mailto:jfdesmond@aol.com)),  
**Hal Fletcher** ([hal.fletcher@gmail.com](mailto:hal.fletcher@gmail.com))  
or the Rectory (650/323-7914).



# 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

### MARRIAGES

### PARISHIONERS

### DEATHS



## LOST AND FOUND

**FOUND:** • Beats Studio earbuds - case with earbuds inside  
Call 650/323-7914.

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## NATIVITY ADOPT-A-FAMILY VOLUNTEERS

On **Friday, 12 DEC 2025** we need volunteers to pack the food into about 400 bags that will be delivered to families. We will meet at the school gym at **11:00 AM**. It takes about 90 minutes.

Volunteers are greatly needed on **Saturday, 13 DEC 2025** to make deliveries to the 220 families. This is a great opportunity to see first-hand the people we help and to bring them some Christmas cheer. Families are encouraged to bring their children. We meet at the school gym at **08:45 AM** for coffee and donuts. Then we have a prayer by our pastor, organization meeting, and then form teams to make deliveries. We need all the help we can get and are usually done by **12:00-01:00 PM**. Lunch will be served. Please join us. For questions, call Mary Ellen Peloso, 650/269-7794.



## VOLUNTEER THANK YOU PARTY!

**Very Reverend Mark Doherty** cordially invites all Nativity volunteers to the annual *Thank You Christmas Party* on **Saturday, 13 DEC 2025**, at **04:00 PM**. Volunteers are a very important part of the Nativity community and your help is invaluable. The party will be in the **Guadalupe Room**. If you have done any volunteer work for Nativity Church or School, please stop by for some friendly company, good food, drinks, and general good cheer. This includes all volunteers, e.g., choir members, ushers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, Altar Society, Eucharistic Adoration, Men's club, Mom's club, carnival, tree lot, Adopt-a-Family, Legion of Mary, School of Religion, OCIA, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Respect Life, and anyone who has done a special project, etc. This is our chance to say "thanks" for all your generous help throughout the year.



## MISSA CANTATA: TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

Beginning last week (on the *first Sunday of Advent, 30 NOV 2025*), we have added a **05:00 PM** Sunday Mass. This Mass is a sung Traditional Latin Mass, (a sung Mass celebrated according to the Missal of 1962).

Can't find your copy of the 1962 Roman Missal?

<https://tinyurl.com/1962missal>



## 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](mailto:liz.palla@gmail.com).

## LOCAL AND GLOBAL RELIEF

The world is crying out for help, and the church has always been quick to answer those cries. Please prayerfully consider offering whatever assistance you can to these urgent needs, both close at hand and around the world.

The Need	How to Help
<b><u>Genocide in Darfur</u></b> Tens of thousands of men, women and children are being killed now by the Sudanese Rapid Defense Forces in western Sudan's Darfur region. <b>No mercy is being shown.</b>	The <i>Sudanese American Physicians Association</i> provides food, water, Hot meals, shelter, medical supplies, medical care and a mobile medical clinic in the Tawila refugee camp in Darfur. Please donate soon: <a href="http://sapa-usa.org">sapa-usa.org</a>



## Parish Office Hours

**09:00 AM-04:00 PM (M-F)**

**closed 12:00-01:00 PM (lunch)**

Bringing animals inside the Church



**IS NOT ALLOWED  
AT ANY TIME!**

## 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](http://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.

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 **December 2025**, the Holy Father's intention is:

**Intention:** *For Christians in areas of conflict*

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

### THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

#### SILENT RETREAT

**Monsignor Otellini** will again be leading Vallombrosa's *Advent Five Day Silent Retreat* from **14-20 DEC 2025**. Monsignor will be providing daily Mass, conferences, and confessions. The cost is **\$475** which includes meals from **Sunday evening, 14 DEC 2025** to breakfast on **Saturday, 20 DEC 2025**. This is 50% off Vallombrosa's regular price. Some scholarships are available. For questions, call **Deacon Dominick** at **650/269-6279**. To register, call **Jaynie** at **650/325-5614**.

#### 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

<b>07 DEC (SUN)</b>	FIFTH DAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe FOURTH DAY: Saint Lucy
<b>08 DEC (MON)</b>	SIXTH DAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe FIFTH DAY: Saint Lucy
<b>09 DEC (TUE)</b>	SEVENTH DAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe SIXTH DAY: Saint Lucy
<b>10 DEC (WED)</b>	EIGHTH DAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe SEVENTH DAY: Saint Lucy
<b>11 DEC (THU)</b>	NINTH DAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe EIGHTH DAY: Saint Lucy
<b>12 DEC (FRI)</b>	<b>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</b> NINTH DAY: Saint Lucy
<b>13 DEC (SAT)</b>	<b>Feast of Saint Lucy</b>
<b>14 DEC (SUN)</b>	
<b>15 DEC (MON)</b>	
<b>16 DEC (TUE)</b>	FIRST DAY: Christmas Novena
<b>17 DEC (WED)</b>	SECOND DAY: Christmas Novena
<b>18 DEC (THU)</b>	THIRD DAY: Christmas Novena
<b>19 DEC (FRI)</b>	FOURTH DAY: Christmas Novena
<b>20 DEC (SAT)</b>	FIFTH DAY: Christmas Novena

#### FIND THE NOVENA PRAYERS

**Our Lady of Guadalupe:**

[www.sancta.org/novena.html](http://www.sancta.org/novena.html)

**Saint Lucy:**

[www.novena.com/2013/12/10/saint-lucy/](http://www.novena.com/2013/12/10/saint-lucy/)

**Christmas Novena:**

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

#### OTHER 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)



#### BULLETIN NEWS

##### REMINDER: SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Items for the bulletin should be emailed to the bulletin editors at [nativity.bulletin@gmail.com](mailto:nativity.bulletin@gmail.com).

##### EARLY SUBMISSION DEADLINES

During the holiday season our publishers have earlier-than-usual submission deadlines for specific bulletins.

Bulletin items for...	Submit by...
<b>21 DEC 2025</b>	<b>10 DEC 2025 (Wednesday)</b>
<b>28 DEC 2025</b>	<b>18 DEC 2025 (Thursday)</b>
<b>04 JAN 2026</b>	<b>25 DEC 2025 (Thursday)</b>

## THE "SAINT ANDREW" NOVENA

This is a longer devotion of the **Christmas Novena**, and has been observed in this form for centuries. In this form, the novena prayer is recited **fifteen times each day** for the entire duration of Advent. It is often referred to as "The St. Andrew Novena" as the recitation begins on St. Andrew's feast day (30 NOV).

Most Catholics are familiar with this prayer ("...at midnight...in piercing cold...") and this longer devotion brings with it many blessings.

### Christmas Novena:

[www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/christmas-novena-276](http://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/christmas-novena-276)

## SIMBANG GABI FOR DEANERY 11

What is *Simbang Gabi* (meaning "Masses at Night")? It is a long-treasured Filipino spiritual tradition. In the Philippines, it is celebrated as a series of nine dawn Masses right before Christmas, each Mass followed by a reception and fellowship. Beginning on **15 DEC** and ending on **23 DEC**, these daily novena Masses are now also celebrated in the evening. Set within Advent, *Simbang Gabi* invites participants to heighten their preparation



for the birth of Jesus, as well as honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. The most popular symbol for *Simbang Gabi* is the **parol**, or star lantern, which represents the star of Bethlehem. A parol is usually brought up during the processional to remind us of the guiding light that led many to the manger. The following Churches in Deanery 11 will be having Masses for *Simbang Gabi*:

### SIMBANG GABI 2025 FOR DEANERY 11

<b>15 DEC</b>	<b>(Monday)</b> 05:00 PM	<b>Our Lady of Mount Carmel</b> (Redwood City)
<b>16 DEC</b>	<b>(Tuesday)</b> 05:00 PM	<b>St. Charles</b> (San Carlos)
<b>17 DEC</b>	<b>(Wednesday)</b> 07:00 PM	<b>St. Matthias</b> (Redwood City)
<b>18 DEC</b>	<b>(Thursday)</b> 07:00 PM	<b>St. Denis</b> (Menlo Park)
<b>19 DEC</b>	<b>(Friday)</b> 07:00 PM	<b>St. Raymond</b> (Menlo Park)
<b>20 DEC</b>	<b>(Saturday)</b> 05:00 PM	<b>St. Pius</b> (Redwood City)
<b>21 DEC</b>	<b>(Sunday)</b> 05:00 PM	<b>St. Raymond</b> (Menlo Park)
<b>22 DEC</b>	<b>(Monday)</b> 07:00 PM	<b>Church of the Nativity</b> (Menlo Park)
<b>23 DEC</b>	<b>(Tuesday)</b> 05:00 PM	<b>Our Lady of Mount Carmel</b> (Redwood City)

## Schedule of Christmas and New Year Services

<b>15-19 DEC</b>	after	Confession Service
<b>22-23 DEC</b>	05:30 PM Mass	Confession Service
<b>24 DEC</b>	<b>(Wednesday)</b> 06:00 PM 09:00 PM  09:45 PM  10:00 PM 12:00 AM	<b>Vigil of Christmas</b> Vigil Mass of Christmas Choral Prelude to Mass at Night Christmas Proclamation and Procession to the Crib Christmas Mass at Night Traditional Latin Mass
<b>25 DEC</b>	<b>(Thursday)</b> 08:00 AM 09:30 AM 11:00 AM	<b>Christmas Day</b> Christmas Day Mass Christmas Day Mass Christmas Day Mass
<b>26 DEC</b>	<b>(Friday)</b> 09:00 AM	<b>Feast of St. Stephen</b> Daily Mass (one Mass only)
<b>31 DEC</b>	<b>(Wednesday)</b> 07:30 AM 06:00 PM	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)
<b>01 JAN</b>	<b>(Thursday)</b>  09:00 AM 05:30 PM	<b>Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</b> Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Holy Sacrifice of the Mass (Holy Day of Obligation)
<b>02 JAN</b>	<b>(Friday)</b> 07:30 AM 05:30 PM	(regular Mass schedule resumes) Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

## TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

### DÍA de las VELITAS (Day of the Little Candles)

**Día de las Velitas** is one of the most-observed traditional holidays of **Colombia**. It is celebrated on **07 December**, on the eve of the *Immaculate Conception*, which is a public holiday in Colombia. This day is the unofficial start of the Christmas season in the country.

On this day, people place candles and paper lanterns on their windows, balconies, porches, sidewalks, streets, parks and squares, in short, everywhere they can be seen, in honor of the Virgin Mary and her Immaculate Conception.

The celebration of the Day of the Candles dates to **1854**. On **08 DEC 1854**, **Pope Pius IX** solemnly defined as dogma the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, published in his constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*.



In Colombia, as in many places all over the world, this announcement was observed by lighting candles. The Catholic Church of Colombia kept alive the celebration and made

an annual tradition of lighting candles the night of 07 December. **El Día de las Velitas** is celebrated throughout Colombia, but traditions vary in each region and city.