



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)

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



FIRST READING

Light shall rise for you in the darkness.
Isaiah 58: 7-10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Light shines through the darkness for the upright.
Psalms 112

SECOND READING

So that your faith might rest ... on the power of God.
1 Corinthians 2: 1-5

GOSPEL

Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.
Matthew 5: 13-16



The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

08 February 2026

You are the light of the world.
A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.

Matthew 5: 14

CALENDAR

SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS WEEK OF 08-14 FEB

SAT: 05:00 PM	Priest's intentions
SUN: Masses	Priest's intentions
MON: 07:30 AM	† John and Virginia Conway
05:30 PM	† Ned Gallagher
TUE: 07:30 AM	Jacob Coradetti Gendron
05:30 PM	† Carolyn Colonelli
WED: 07:30 AM	† Ruth and Arthur Bellaire
05:30 PM	† Brian Gallagher; Ronald Reis; Bianca Dorman Humphries; St. Raymond's Young Adult Group
THU: 07:30 AM	The Barret and Ferrando families, living and deceased
05:30 PM	† Ivica Milicevic
FRI: 07:30 AM	Protection of the unborn; † Holy Souls in Purgatory
05:30 PM	† Calvin Chiang
SAT: 08:00 AM	Lapitu Mahoni; † Shelby Drazan; † Valentina Garcia Cantu; † Adrienne Perez; † Theron Bergeron; † Walter Fleischer

Please pray for those in need of physical or spiritual healing

		PARISH OFFERINGS	
		WEEK OF 24-25 JAN	
TOTAL:		\$9,589	
ADA Progress:		GOAL MET!	
2025 ADA Goal:		\$156,819	
2026 ADA Goal:		TBD	

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)

08 FEB	(Sunday)	
	09:15 AM	OCIA
	09:30 AM	Buddy Class Family Mass
09 FEB	(Monday)	
	08:00 AM	Legion of Mary
	07:00 PM	Medjugorje Prayer Group
	07:00 PM	Nativity Family Rosary
10 FEB	(Tuesday)	
	09:30 AM	Bible Study
	06:00 PM	Evangelization/ADSF PRIVATE CLASS ONLY
11 FEB	(Wednesday)	
	08:45 AM	Nativity School Mass
	07:00 PM	Confirmation Prep
	07:30 PM	Total Consecration to Jesus
12 FEB	(Thursday)	
	09:30 AM	Opus Dei Women's Group
	12:00 PM	Opus Dei Mass
	12:00 PM	Senior Thursday Group
	07:00 PM	Nativity Women's Faith & Study
13 FEB	(Friday)	
	05:00 PM	Our Lady Queen of Peace Novena
14 FEB	(Saturday)	
	09:30 AM	Baptism Class



**Ash Wednesday is
Wednesday, 18 FEB 2026**

**LENT?
ALREADY?**

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

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

SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

SOLEMNITY, FEAST, MEMORIAL • OPTIONAL MEMORIAL • OTHER

10 FEB (Tuesday):

SAINT SCHOLASTICA, Virgin (480-543)

Twin sister of St. Benedict. After Benedict founded the monastery of Monte Cassino, Scholastica founded a community of nuns nearby, leading an exemplary life.

11 FEB (Wednesday):

OUR LADY OF LOURDES (1858)

- Our Lady appeared to Bernadette 18 times at the Grotto de Massabielle.
- Over 5 million visitors journey to Lourdes every year.
- It has been estimated that in the first 50 years of pilgrimages to Lourdes, over 4000 cures were attributed and recorded. This number is considered to be significantly lower than the actual number of cures.
- Two basilicas, the *Basilique du Rosaire* and the *Upper Basilica*, were built in the late 1800's on either side of the grotto.



13 FEB (Friday):

SAINT CYRIL and SAINT METHIDIUS, Bishops

Greek brothers, both monks, who preached successfully among the Russians and Moravians and became known as the “*Apostles to the Slavs*.” They mastered the Slavic language and codified an alphabet for it (the forerunner of the “Cyrillic” alphabet used in the Russian language today). They frequently incurred ecclesial censure for using Slavonic—the vernacular of their congregation—in the liturgy.

14 FEB (Saturday):

VALENTINES DAY

But where is Saint Valentine? St. Valentine was removed from the Church calendar in 1969 because of ambiguity over his identity, and the day's association with so many pagan beliefs. There were two St. Valentines, a priest and a bishop (“Valentine of Rome” and “Valentine of Terni”), recorded as martyrs in the early Church, but scholars now believe they were the same person.

MINISTRY AND GROUP NEWS

MEN'S CLUB PANCAKE SOCIAL

The Nativity Men's Club will be serving their always-popular Pancake Social on **Sunday, 15 FEB 2026**. All are invited to gather and enjoy a delicious breakfast featuring pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, orange juice, coffee, and mimosas.

The meal is offered free of charge, and donations are gratefully appreciated. The Men's Club will be serving after all Sunday Masses. Come share good food, warm fellowship, and a wonderful start to your Sunday.

CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE ETHICS CONFERENCE

Health care professionals are invited to the fifth *Converging Roads* health care ethics conference on **21 FEB 2026** from **09:45 AM–06:15 PM** at **St. Patrick's Seminary** in Menlo Park, CA. This one-day conference will explore the theme of *The Future of Human Flourishing in Medicine* and offers continuing education for health care professionals rooted in the Hippocratic and Catholic ethical tradition. Registration: **\$75-\$159** based on CME/CNE inclusion. This conference is presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation, the Archdiocese of San Francisco, the San Francisco and Santa Clara Guilds of the Catholic Medical Association, and St. Patrick's Seminary.

For more info, please visit convergingroads.com/sanfrancisco or email nancy@forlifeandfamily.org.

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



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.

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

FEB'26 THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR (topics subject to change) FEB'26

- Natural Moral Law, Grace, and the Decalogue
- Commandments I, II, III, and IV
- Commandments VII, VIII, and X
- no class on 22 FEB 2026
Rite of Election at St. Mary's Cathedral

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).

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.



- PARISHIONERS**
- Laura Egan
 - Michael and Jeanne McCarthy
 - Nigel Newby
 - Jessica Caballero
 - Mercedes Ramirez

- DEATHS**
- Frank Fonteyn



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

IN THE COMMUNITY

ST. ANTHONY'S PADUA DINING HALL

On the weekend of **14-15 FEB 2026**, there will be a special second collection in support of St. Anthony's Padua Dining Hall. The Dining Hall, which has been in operation for over 50 years, serves up to 600 individuals, six days a week, providing them with a hot meal as well as grocery bags and clothing assistance to local families. Last year, over 100,000 hot meals were served to our neighbors in need with no questions asked and no one ever turned away.

Despite a heavy reliance on volunteers and donors, rising operational costs and aging equipment, as well as reduced federal food support, are creating significant challenges and continued needs which, with your generosity, will help keep the mission alive. Please be generous. Thank you for your continued support.

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!

NATIVITY BIBLE STUDY

We are holding a Bible Study on the *Book of Revelation* each **Tuesday** morning from **27 JAN to 31 MAR 2026** in the Parish Center. The classes are from **09:30-11:00 AM**. They feature DVDs by Jeff Cavins, a short lecture, and group discussion. It has been said that the Book of Revelation has been mostly symbolic until the current time. We will see how the Kingdom of Christ and His Church is connected to the Kingdom of Heaven, especially through the Sacrifice of the Mass. We will learn about all the mysterious figures and images in the book, as well as what will happen during the Second Coming of Christ, what has happened, and what is now happening in salvation history. This should be very interesting and challenging to our spiritual life. No sign-ups ahead of time needed. For information, call **Deacon Dominick Peloso: 650/269-6279**.



INSTITUTE OF CATHOLIC CULTURE

THE BEAUTY OF FAITH: CHRISTIAN ART HISTORY 101

The Institute of Catholic Culture would like to offer this gift to you at no charge. Perhaps a friend or family member might be interested, or maybe you are part of a group that could take this course together, like a parish guild, Knights of Columbus Council or a Bible study group.

WHAT: Free online course
Taught by Jared Staudt, Ph.D

WHEN: **Thursdays, 22 JAN-25 JUN 2026 (8:00 PM EST)**

MORE DETAILS: <https://tinyurl.com/BoF-CAH101>

Bringing animals inside the Church



IS NOT ALLOWED AT ANYTIME!



SAVE THE DATE: PARISH-WIDE AUCTION

The **Parish Nativity Community**, collectively (church and school) warmly invites our church and school families to the **2026 Parish Nativity Community Auction** on **Saturday, 02 MAY 2026**. Rooted in faith and united as one community, we will gather for an evening of *Growing Faith, Growing Community, and Growing Funds*, supporting our students and furthering the mission God has entrusted to Nativity.

More details on the event, donations and sponsorship opportunities to come! We look forward to coming together with gratitude, generosity, and a shared purpose.

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 **February 2026**, the Holy Father's intention is:

Intention: *For Children With Incurable Diseases*

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

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.

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 of 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

08 FEB (SUN)	SEVENTH Day: Our Lady of Lourdes
09 FEB (MON)	EIGHTH Day: Our Lady of Lourdes
10 FEB (TUE)	NINTH Day: Our Lady of Lourdes
11 FEB (WED)	Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes
12 FEB (THU)	
13 FEB (FRI)	
14 FEB (SAT)	
15 FEB (SUN)	
16 FEB (MON)	
17 FEB (TUE)	
18 FEB (WED)	Ash Wednesday F+A 
19 FEB (THU)	
20 FEB (FRI)	Lenten Friday A 
21 FEB (SAT)	

FIND THE NOVENA PRAYERS

Saint Agatha:

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/qcm7zmr>

Our Lady of Lourdes:

<http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/lourdes.htm>



EVANGELIZATION CLASS

This eight-week class on evangelization, partnered with the Office of Evangelization of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, is running from **27 JAN-17 MAR 2026**. Class is held at the O'Hare Center, Guadalupe Room on **Tuesdays** from **06:00-09:00 PM**. **Registration is required**, please contact Julia Voinche at julialisavoinche@gmail.com **NO DROP INS**.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE 2026

This Lent 2026 please take a stand for life! From **18 FEB-29 MAR 2026** commit to one hour weekly at the **40 Days for Life** peaceful sidewalk prayer vigil, at 2907 El Camino Real, Redwood City. Meet many other faithful committed Catholics. It's easy. Schedule your Lenten commitment through Jessica: phone/text **650/918-9119**, or email themunns@yahoo.com Or schedule yourself online at:

www.40daysforlife.com/redwoodcity

God will surely bless you for it ~ you will not be at the vigil alone ~ and you may save a life!

Approved by the Archdiocese of San Francisco

DEMAND ETHICAL RESEARCH

Experiments on aborted humans are happening at UCSF, and they must stop. We can - and must - pursue lifesaving medical discoveries without exploiting pregnant women and the preborn. UCSF can choose to continue these practices, or lead the way in humane, ethical science. **Take action**. Email the UC Regents, UC President, and the Human Research Protection Program. Let the people in power hear from you!

<https://ethicalresearchnow.org/>



The Story of Saint Valentine

Valentine was a Roman bishop at a time when the emperor Claudius was persecuting the church. Claudius also issued an edict that prohibited the marriage of young people. This was based on the hypothesis that unmarried soldiers fought better than married soldiers because married soldiers might be afraid of what might happen to them or their wives or families if they died.

"It was a very permissive society in which Valentine lived," says Father Frank O'Gara, a priest at Whitefriar Street Church in Dublin, Ireland. "Polygamy would have been much more popular than just one woman and one man living together. And yet some of them seemed to be attracted to Christian faith. But obviously the church taught that marriage was very sacred between one man and one woman, for their life, and that it was to be encouraged. And so this edict immediately presented a problem to the Christian church of what to do about this. The idea of encouraging them to marry within the Christian church was what Valentine was about. And he secretly married couples because of the edict."

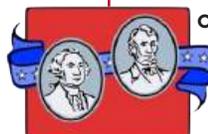
Valentine was eventually caught, imprisoned and tortured for performing marriage ceremonies against the command of Emperor Claudius II. There are legends surrounding Valentine's actions while in prison. One of the men who was to judge him in line with the Roman law was a man called Asterius, whose daughter was blind. Valentine was supposed to have prayed with and healed the young girl with such astonishing effect that Asterius himself became a Christian as a result.

In the year 269 AD, Valentine was sentenced to a three-part execution of a beating, stoning, and finally decapitation, all because of his stand for Christian marriage. The story goes that the last words he wrote were in a note to Asterius' daughter, signing it "from your Valentine."

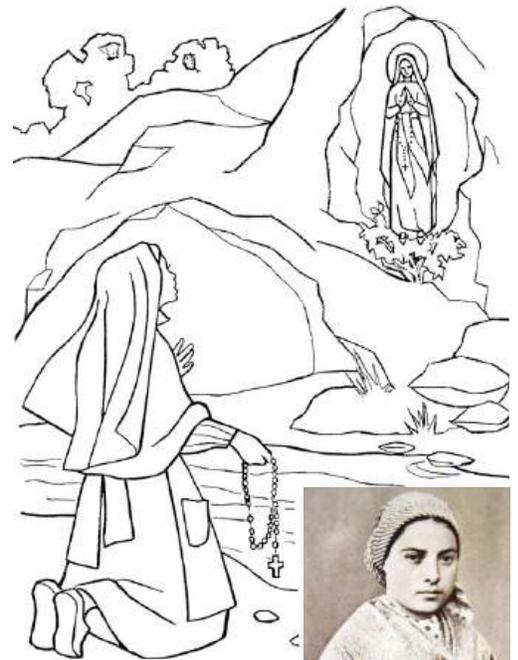
"What Valentine means to me as a priest," explains Father O'Gara, "is that there comes a time where you have to lay your life upon the line for what you believe. And with the power of the Holy Spirit we can do that -- even to the point of death."

Whitefriar Street Church in Dublin is home to relics of Saint Valentine, granted by Pope Gregory XVI.

www.whitefriarstreetchurch.ie/shrines.html#Valentine



The parish office will be closed on Monday, 16 FEB 2026 for Presidents Day.



"She has the appearance of a young girl of sixteen or seventeen. She is dressed in a white robe, girdled at the waist with a blue ribbon which flows down all around it. A yoke closes it in graceful pleats at the base of the neck. The sleeves are long and tight-fitting. She wears upon her head a veil which is also white. This veil gives just a glimpse of her hair and then falls down at the back below her waist. Her feet are bare but covered by the last folds of her robe, except at the point where a yellow rose shines upon each of them. She holds on her right arm a rosary of white beads with a chain of gold, shining like the two roses on her feet."

-- Bernadette's description of **Our Lady of Lourdes** after the first apparition.

<https://www.lourdes-france.org/en/>

Help bring the light to shine on the mountaintop

