





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

Church of the Nativity

MASSES

08:00, 09:30, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM **Sundays**

05:00 PM (traditional Latin Mass)

08:00 AM and 05:00 PM (Vigil) **Saturdays**

07:30 AM and 05:30 PM Weekdays

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)

1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of the month **BAPTISMS**

(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

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

Be strong, fear not! Here is your God.

Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord raises up those who were bowed down.

Psalms 146

SECOND READING

Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.

James 5: 7-10

GOSPEL

The least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than [John the Baptist].

Matthew 11: 2-1



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 14 DECEMBER 2025

Are You the One Who is to come, or should we look for another?

Matthew 11: 3

≡CAL€NDAR

SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS WEEK OF 14-20 DEC

		WEEK OF 14-20 DEC
SAT:	05:00 PM	Priest's intentions
SUN:	Masses	Priest's intentions
MON:	07:30 AM 05:30 PM	† Joseph Masuda† Shelby Drazan
TUE:	07:30 AM 05:30 PM	Ismael Joves John and Elisa Schnur
WED:	07:30 AM 05:30 PM	† Anton John Logronio† Edward J. Hogan Jr.
THU:	07:30 AM 05:30 PM	† Pepito Talens Alexander Ferrando
FRI:	07:30 AM 05:30 PM	 † Ruth and Arthur Bellaire Anthony Lillies and family; † Pia and Hugo Straub; † Lia Purcell Smith; † Thomas Edward Welch
SAT:	MA 00:80	 † Maria Gai Doan; † Michael Haid; † Luis Galindo Sr.; Fr. Andrew Salapapa; Luis Diaz and Matthew Kelly

Please pray for those in need of physical or spiritual healing Gaudete in Pomino semper.

BIBLICAL ART



St. John the Baptist in the Wilderness
Indicating Christ, the River Jordan Beyond

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

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

			CALENDAR
SUN MON-FRI MON-FRI MON TUE WED THU SAT SAT SAT SAT	07:00 PM 07:10 AM 08:00 AM 05:10 PM 07:00 PM 06:00 PM 06:00 PM 06:15 AM 07:40 AM 09:00 - 10:00 A 10:00 AM - 12:	00 PM	Holy Hour for Priests Morning Prayer Morning Rosary Evening Prayer Nativity Family Rosary Cenacles of Life Rosary Novena to Saint Joseph Perpetual Help Novena Men's Prayer Group Morning Prayer Confessions (parish priest) Confessions (parish priest) Confessions (parish priest)
14 DEC	(Sunday) 09:15 AM	OCIA a	and Faith Formation
15 DEC	(Monday) 08:00 AM 07:00 PM	_	n of Mary Igorje Prayer Group
16 DEC	(Tuesday) 09:30 AM	Fall Bi	ble Study
17 DEC	(Wednesday) 03:00 PM 07:00 PM 07:30 PM	Confir	Jesus of Prague Society mation Prep Class cration to the BVM
18 DEC	(Thursday) 12:00 PM 06:30 PM 07:00 PM	Nativi	enior Thursday Group ty Women's Faith and Study Practice
19 DEC	(Friday) 08:45 AM	Nativit	ry School Stations of the Cross
20 DEC	(Saturday)		

ADA Progress: 2025 ADA Goal:	\$48,278 \$156,819
AT TIME	OF PUBLICATION
FIGURES	UNAVAILABLE
	WEEK OF 29-30 NOV
PAF	RISH OFFERINGS

ESAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

SOLEMNITY, FEAST, MEMORIAL · OPTIONAL MEMORIAL · OTHER



14 DEC (Sunday): SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS

A *Doctor of the Church*, he was persuaded by **Saint Teresa of Avila** to begin the *Discalced* or *barefoot* reform within the Carmelite Order. John became the Master of novices, spiritual director and confessor at Saint Teresa's convent.

His reforms revitalized the order. John was a great mystical and spiritual writer.

NOVENATO SAINT JOSEPH

Every **Wednesday** evening after the **o5:30 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 os: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.



EMINISTRY AND GROUP NEWS

INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE PRAYER SOCIETY

NOVENA, LITANY, PRAYER INTENTIONS/THANKSGIVING, AND ADORATION

The Infant Jesus of Prague Prayer Society invites parishioners and guests to join in prayer before our Infant Jesus shrine on 17 DEC 2025 at 03:00 PM. Each month, on the 17th day, we begin the first day of the *Infant Jesus of Prague Novena*, a litany, prayer intentions/thanksqivings, and conclude with adoration.



Our Lord answers all prayers; it is how God answers that is most compelling. Let the Word made flesh, the Infant Jesus, open your heart, mind, and soul to receive and trust in His Divine Plan for your life. Our 24-hour Infant Jesus Prayer Line is always open to receive any prayer request

and thanksgivings. Please call **650/281-3339** or write to prayzinfantjesus@aol.com.

We give glory to God through our gratitude.

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 (<u>mem.rudolph@gmail.com</u>), loan Desmond (jfdesmond@aol.com)

Joan Desmond (jfdesmond@aol.com), Hal Fletcher (hal.fletcher@gmail.com) or the Rectory (650/323-7914).

AREYOUR 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 fo-



cused 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

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





EUCHARISTIC 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 Antonio Mendonça, son of Stephen Mendonça and Erica Ruggeri
 - Tobechuwku Josiah Ozigbo-Evans, son of Hezekiah Evans and Chikwelu Ozigbo
 - Sofia Cabrera, daughter of Rigoberto Cabrera Jr. and Sasha Diaz

MARRIAGES • Sergii Zhuk and Julianne Patricia Smith

PARISHIONERS

DEATHS

LOST AND FOUND

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

MISSA CANTATA: TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

We are pleased to share that our first Traditional Latin Mass was attended by nearly 200 faithful. Your presence, reverence, and devotion made the celebration truly beautiful.

As we continue offering the Traditional Latin Mass, we warmly invite you and anyone who may be seeking a deeper encounter with the sacred to join us again. Whether you are returning to this form of worship or experiencing it for the first time, you are welcome.

May this liturgy continue to draw us closer to Christ through its timeless beauty, silence, and prayer. We look forward to praying with you every Sunday at o5:00 PM.

Can't find your copy of the 1962 Roman Missal? https://tinyurl.com/1962missal



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

IN THE COMMUNITY



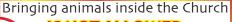
"THEREFORE I HAVE HOPE"

We are delighted to invite you to a special Photo Gallery Showing featuring the inspiring work of Charlene Dorman (Nativity parishioner whose photos grace the cover of our bulletin every week!).

Date: 13-14 DEC 2025 Time: 01:00-04:00 PM Venue: St. Patrick's Seminary

Charlene's collection captures moments of beauty, reflection, and community spirit. This showing is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate her artistry and connect with fellow parishioners and friends.

Admission is free. Come and experience the creativity and vision of Charlene Dorman – we look forward to welcoming you!





IS NOT ALLOWED AT ANY TIME!

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 Genocide in Darfur The Sudanese American Physicians Tens of thousands of men, Association provides food, water, Hot meals, shelter, medical supplies, women and children are being killed now by the Sumedical care and a mobile medical danese Rapid Defense Forces clinic in the Tawila refugee camp in in western Sudan's Darfur Darfur. region. No mercy is being shown. Please donate soon: sapa-usa.org

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Spend some time with your fellow parishioners after the og: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.

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.

> 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 **o5:30 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 **o6:15 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 **o5:30 PM** Mass followed at **o6:00-08:00 PM** rosary, music, meditation and closing with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome. (in the church).

<u>ECALENDAR OF NOVENAS</u>

——CALCINDAN OF NOVCINAS			
14 DEC (SUN)			
15 DEC (MON)			
16 DEC (TUE)	FIRST DAY: Christmas Novena		
17 DEC (WED)	SECOND DAY: Christmas Novena		
18 DEC (THU)	THIRD DAY: Christmas Novena		
19 DEC (FRI)	FOURTH DAY: Christmas Novena		
20 DEC (SAT)	FIFTH DAY: Christmas Novena		
21 DEC (SUN)	SIXTH DAY: Christmas Novena		
22 DEC (MON)	SEVENTH DAY: Christmas Novena		
23 DEC (TUE)	EIGHTH DAY: Christmas Novena		
24 DEC (WED)	NINTH DAY: Christmas Novena		
25 DEC (THU)	Christmas Day		
26 DEC (FRI)			
27 DEC (SAT)			

FIND THE NOVENA PRAYERS

Christmas Novena:

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

TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS: SANTA LUCIA

In **Sweden** the **13th of December** is not a national holiday, but it is a day of special celebrations. It is the feast day of **Saint Lucy** (Santa Lucia) and many traditions are celebrated in Swedish and other Scandinavian homes. In the historical tradition, the eldest daughter brings coffee and St. Lucia buns to her parents, while wearing a crown of candles and singing a Lucia song. Other daughters may help, dressed in the same type of white robe with red sash, and holding a candle in one hand (but only the oldest daughter wears the candle-wreath).

In modern tradition, public processions are held in Swedish cities, with national and regional "Lucias" selected. The regional Lucias will visit shopping malls, elder homes, and churches, singing and handing out ginger snaps. Boys also join in the processions, dressed as "star boys" in white robes and tall cone-shaped hats covered in golden stars, as "tomtenissar" (Santa's helpers), or as gingerbread men.

St. Lucia's Day is a festival of lights to dispel the darkness, and candles are a prominent part of all the celebrations.



EBULLETIN NEWS

REMINDER: SUBMISSION GUIDELINES r the bulletin should be emailed to the

Items for the bulletin should be emailed to the bulletin editors at 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
28 DEC 2025	18 DEC 2025 (Thursday)
04 JAN 2026	25 DEC 2025 (Thursday)



LA BISCOTTERIA



(650) 366-4888 www.labiscotteria.com



f this space





CatholicMatch.com/CA









1200 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (650) 868-1837

SERVING MENLO PARK SINCE 1974 Stop by and Fill-up with Chevron Quality Gasolines. Visit our Extra Mile Store today

JOHN CONWAY, DEALER



WWW.MENLOCHEVRON.COM

NEVER MISS OUR BULLETIN!

SUBSCRIBE

Have our bulletin emailed to you every week.



Visit www.parishesonline.com

Place Your Ad Here and Support our Parish!

Instantly create and purchase an ad with



VISA



Dr. Richard S. Durando, D.D.S.

FAMILY **DENTAL CARE**

625 Menlo Ave., Suite 4 Menlo Park

323-8328



Julie Rossi Rideau MBA, Realtor (650) 720-0167

julie@rossirideau.com www.rossirideau.com

"strength, service, success-C ⊘ M PASS Your Complete Real Estate Experience."



Probate **Estate Planning** Trust Administration 650-727-0900 www.laurenrioslaw.com

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!





Marie Zernovoj Children's Book Author Teaches kids:

- Love & Kindness
- Early geography lessons
- Different cultures
- Ages 5-9 vrs



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CEMETERY THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES | ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

Engaging, ad-supported print and digital newsletters

to reach your community.

Visit Ipicommunities.com



Your Catholic Cemeteries offer a variety of burial and cremation options.

MENLO PARK 1500 Mission Rd. Santa Cruz Ave. 650-756-2060 650-323-6375 www.holycrosscemeteries.com

A Tradition of Faith Throughout Our Lives.



Scan to

contact us!

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME Jose Altamirano

Jaltamirano@4LPi.com • (800) 950-9952 x2610



650.743.0734 Elyse@ElyseBarca.com DRE 01006027



ElyseBarcaHomes

ElyseBarca



Welcome to **Kensington Place**

We promise to love and care for your family as we do our own



1800 El Camino Real, Redwood City, CA | KensingtonPlaceRedwoodCity.com (650) 363-9200

WE APPRECIATE OUR ADVERTISERS!

Your Comeback Story Starts Here.

HOLLYWOOD DET X (213) 333-3869

Assisted Living • Two Tiers of Memory Care • Couples Care

2 BR / 2 BA HOUSE in Atherton to Share with

Professional Single Woman Call Lucy 650-330-1873

SUPPORT OUR **ADVERTISERS**



NOW ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS

> **Tour Today** (650) 487-1898





IF YOU LIVE ALONE

MDMedAlert! TM STARTING AT ✓ Ambulance ✓ Police/Fire ✓ Family/Friends ✓ GPS & Fall Alert

CALL NOW! 800.809.3570 amd-medalert.com

ADT-Monitored Home Security Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trus Flood Detection

Fire Safety

 Carbon Monoxide SafeStreets



833-287-3502

SHOULD HAVE CALLED AN EXPERT! 800-378-DRIP





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, beginning on 15 DEC and ending on 23 DEC. These daily novena Masses are now also celebrated in the evening.



The most popular symbol for *Simbang Gabi* is the *parol*, or star lantern, with 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				
15 DEC	(Monday) 05:00 PM	Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Redwood City)		
16 DEC	(Tuesday) o5:00 PM	St. Charles (San Carlos)		
17 DEC	(Wednesday) 07:00 PM	St. Matthias (Redwood City)		
18 DEC	(Thursday) 07:00 PM	St. Denis (Menlo Park)		
19 DEC	(Friday) 07:00 PM	St. Raymond (Menlo Park)		
20 DEC	(Saturday) 05:00 PM	St. Pius (Redwood City)		
21 DEC	(Sunday) 05:00 PM	St. Raymond (Menlo Park)		
22 DEC	(Monday) 07:00 PM	Church of the Nativity (Menlo Park)		
23 DEC	(Tuesday) o5:00 PM	Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Redwood City)		

A.	New Year	Services ****
15-19 DEC 22-23 DEC	after 05:30 PM Mass	Confession Service Confession Service
24 DEC	(Wednesday) o6:oo PM og:oo PM	Vigil of Christmas Vigil Mass of Christmas Choral Prelude to Mass at Night
	09:45 PM	Christmas Proclamation and Procession to the Crib
	10:00 PM 12:00 AM	Christmas Mass at Night Traditional Latin Mass
25 DEC	(Thursday) 08:00 AM 09:30 AM 11:00 AM	Christmas Day Christmas Day Mass Christmas Day Mass Christmas Day Mass
26 DEC	(Friday) 09:00 AM	Feast of St. Stephen Daily Mass (one Mass only)
31 DEC	(Wednesday) 07:30 AM 06:00 PM	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)

Schedule of Christmas and

THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

(regular Mass schedule resumes) Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Imagine you came home from school today and your family had received a note in the mail. The note said: "The government requires your entire family to be in Monterey, CA in two weeks."

Now imagine you have no car, there is no form of public transportation, and all the roads between Menlo Park and Monterey are dirt and gravel. You can bring one wagon to ride in, but it has no cushions inside and you will feel every single bump and hole in the road as you go.

01 JAN

02 JAN

(Thursday)

09:00 AM

05:30 PM

(Friday)

07:30 AM

05:30 PM

Now you need to **WALK** from Menlo Park to Monterey, a distance of about **85** miles. It will take you several days to do this, and you will arrive very tired and very sore. When you arrive, there won't be a single empty hotel room anywhere in Monterey, from the hotel chains down to bed-and-breakfast inns in Carmel. One small hotel owner says you can sleep in his carport. It is open to the elements in front (no door you can close) and it smells like a garage that stores old tires and gym socks. And when the sun goes down, it is really cold in the carport.

This is similar to what Joseph and Mary had to do, right before the King of all kings was born. Nazareth and Bethlehem are **82** miles apart, and the Roman road through the Jordan Valley is dirt, gravel, and potholes. Today it is very dangerous to travel on the road through the Jordan valley, because terrorists sit up in the hills and shoot at you. It was also dangerous to travel that road in the time of Joseph and Mary. Many parts of the road are long and deserted, and thieves and bandits would hide, then beat and rob travelers (remember the story of the *Good Samaritan*?). If you resisted the bandits, they might just kill you. Imagine taking that trip (on foot!).



By the time you got to Bethlehem (or Monterey), all you would want to do was rest. But if you couldn't find a room, you would have to walk some more, all over town, trying to find some place to stay ... and then have to be satisfied with whatever was offered, even a barn or a cave (or a carport).

Let us remember to thank God for the incredible sacrifice the Holy Family made, so that God's Son could save each and every one of us from Hell forever.