



210 Oak Grove Avenue  
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[www.nativitymenlo.org](http://www.nativitymenlo.org)

# Church of the Nativity

## MASSES

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

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

<b>Saturdays</b>	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** 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**

Whoever glorifies his father will have long life, and whoever obeys the Lord will refresh his mother.

*Sirach 3: 2-7, 12-14*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

*Psalms 128*

**SECOND READING**

whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

*Colossians 3: 12-21*

**GOSPEL**

He rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel.

*Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23*



# THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

## 28 DECEMBER 2025

Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.

*Matthew 2: 13*

## CALENDAR

### SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS WEEK OF 28 DEC-03 JAN

SAT:	05:00 PM	Priest's intentions
SUN:	Masses	Priest's intentions
MON:	07:30 AM	† Sia Kaufisi
	05:30 PM	Mata Kaufisi
TUE:	07:30 AM	The Ortiz and Rubio families, living and deceased
	05:30 PM	† Alfredo Gomez; † Graham Albarracin; † Victoria Baynosa; † Conrado Baynosa
WED:	07:30 AM	† Rev. Robert Hughes
	06:00 PM	† Lia Purcell Smith
THU:	09:00 AM	Jose Trinidad Alva Pliego and all descendants
	05:30 PM	Rafael Alva Gonsalez and all descendants
FRI:	07:30 AM	† John and Virginia Conway
	05:30 PM	Maria Cenni
SAT:	08:00 AM	† George Gould; † Marie and Adolph Firenzi; Brian and Cuc Lee and family; † Erin Donahue; Nora Maria Cantu Perez; Christine Semler

Please pray for those in need of physical or spiritual healing



### PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

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

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)

**28 DEC** (Sunday)

**29 DEC** (Monday)  
08:00 AM Legion of Mary

**30 DEC** (Tuesday)

**31 DEC** (Wednesday)  
06:00 PM Vigil Mass: *Mary, Mother of God*

**01 JAN** (Thursday) *Mary, the Holy Mother of God*<sup>HDO</sup>

**02 JAN** (Friday) *First Friday* 1<sup>st</sup>

**03 JAN** (Saturday) *First Saturday* 1<sup>st</sup>



The parish office will be closed  
from Thursday, 25 DEC 2025  
to Friday, 02 JAN 2026  
for the holidays.

The parish office re-opens on  
Monday, 05 JAN 2026

PARISH OFFERINGS	
	WEEK OF 13-14 DEC
FIGURES	UNAVAILABLE
AT TIME	OF PUBLICATION
ADA Progress: 2023 ADA Goal:	\$63,663 \$156,819

# SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

SOLEMNITY, FEAST, MEMORIAL • OPTIONAL MEMORIAL • OTHER

## 28 DEC (Sunday)

### THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs

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

## 31 DEC (Wednesday)

### SAINT SYLVESTER I, Pope (d. 335)

Pope in the reign of Emperor Constantine I, who built the Lateran and other churches. Sent legates to the First Council of Nicaea, and was involved in the controversy over Arianism.

## 02 JAN (Friday):

### 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*.



## HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

### 01 JAN (Thursday)

#### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

01 JAN 2026 is the *Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God*, and a holy day of obligation.

Masses will be on **Thursday, 01 JAN 2026** at **09:00 AM** and **05:30 PM**. The *Vigil Mass* on **Wednesday** will be celebrated at **06:00 PM**.

## 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.



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

## MINISTRY AND GROUP NEWS

### 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.



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.*

### 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**).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### 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.

### 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.



### 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](http://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**).



tiptap

### 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 05:00 PM**.

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).

### 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

### CATHOLIC STUDY BIBLE APP

The entire *Catholic Bible (RSV-2CE)* can be downloaded for free! Packed with additional content from **Augustine Institute**, **Ignatius Press**, and other Catholic apostolates; it includes: complete text of the Old and New Testaments; *Truth and Life* dramatized audio New Testament Gospel of St. John; 10 hours of audio commentary from **Dr. Scott Hahn**; over 140 *Lighthouse Talks*; and much more. Download this app by searching "Catholic Study Bible" in your App Store.

### 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>28 DEC (SUN)</b>	FIRST DAY: Epiphany Novena
<b>29 DEC (MON)</b>	SECOND DAY: Epiphany Novena
<b>30 DEC (TUE)</b>	THIRD DAY: Epiphany Novena
<b>31 DEC (WED)</b>	FOURTH DAY: Epiphany Novena
<b>01 JAN (THU)</b>	FIFTH DAY: Epiphany Novena
<b>02 JAN (FRI)</b>	SIXTH DAY: Epiphany Novena
<b>03 JAN (SAT)</b>	SEVENTH DAY: Epiphany Novena
<b>04 JAN (SUN)</b>	EIGHTH DAY: Epiphany Novena
<b>05 JAN (MON)</b>	NINTH DAY: Epiphany Novena
<b>06 JAN (TUE)</b>	Feast of the Epiphany
<b>07 JAN (WED)</b>	
<b>08 JAN (THU)</b>	
<b>09 JAN (FRI)</b>	
<b>10 JAN (SAT)</b>	

### FIND THE NOVENA PRAYERS

#### Epiphany Novena:

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

### 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.

## Schedule of Christmas and New Year Services

<b>31 DEC</b>	(Wednesday)	
	07:30 AM	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
	06:00 PM	Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)
<b>01 JAN</b>	(Thursday)	<b>Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</b>
	09:00 AM	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
	05:30 PM	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass (Holy Day of Obligation)
<b>02 JAN</b>	(Friday)	(regular Mass schedule resumes)
	07:30 AM	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
	05:30 PM	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

## 2026 Catholic Calendar

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## 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.



Mary, The Holy Mother of God

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

## 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 GOLD 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.

## DID YOU KNOW?

For the last **42 years**, PNC Wealth Management has calculated the cost of purchasing all the gifts named in "The 12 Days of Christmas". In 2025, 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 colly birds, 30 French hens, 22 turtle doves, and 12 partridges in pear trees (**364** gifts) would cost **\$218,543**.

As in years past, the single most expensive item continues to be the **swans** (**\$1875** apiece, just like the last two years). The single biggest price jump this year? **Gold rings**, +32.5% over last year.