

# St. Patrick Catholic Church

*San Francisco's Historic Landmark #4*

*(Founded in 1851)*

756 Mission St. (between 3rd and 4th Streets) San Francisco, CA 94103 | Tel (415) 421-3730

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

**December 21, 2025 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*They shall name him Emmanuel,  
which means God is with us. ~ Matthew 1:23*

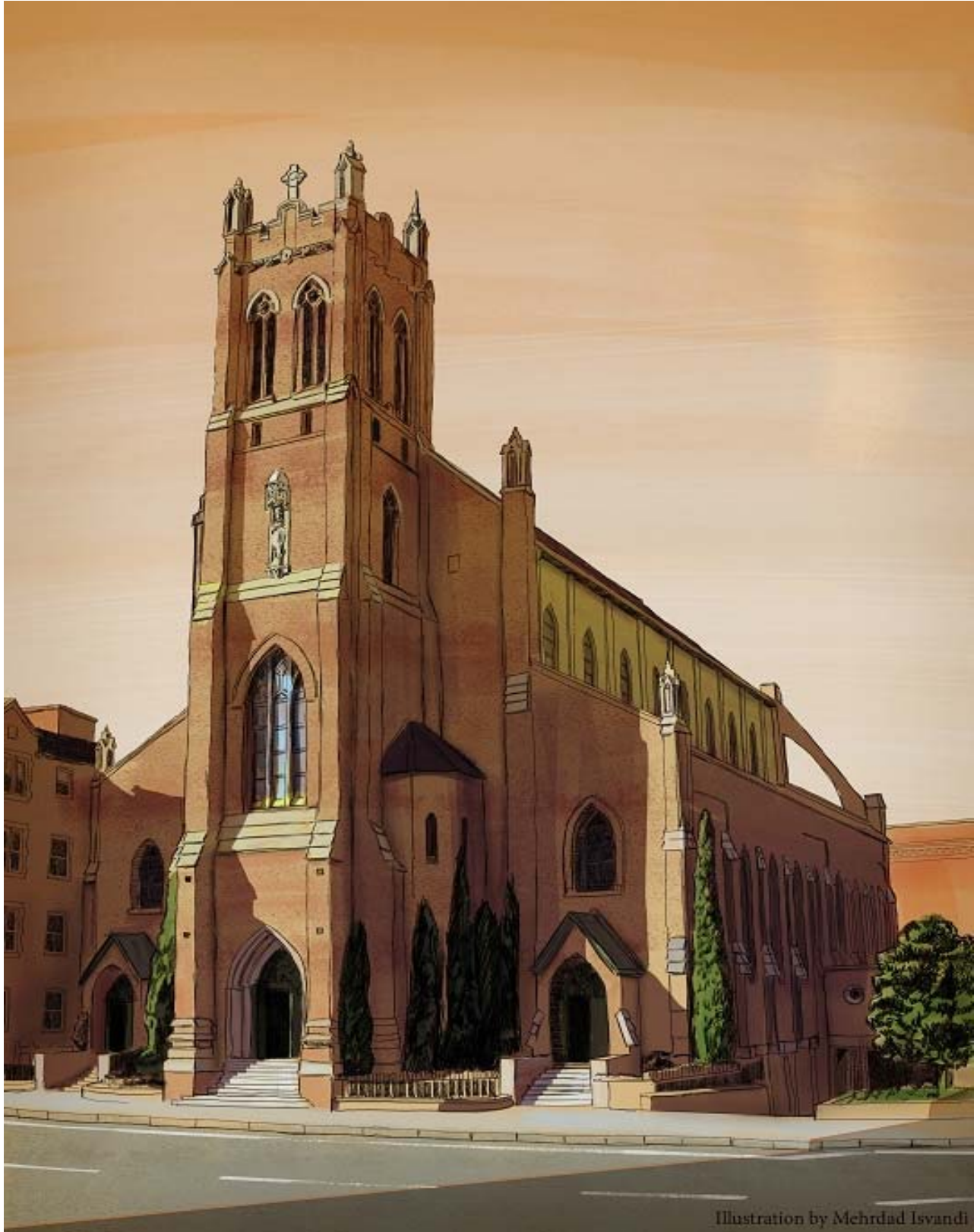


Illustration by Mehrdad Isvandi

## December 21, 2025 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Year A

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Jesus is Emmanuel, "God with us" (1,3), risen from the dead (2). He is the king of glory (Ps).

### Pastoral Staff

Rev. Andrew Spyrow - *Pastor*

Rev. Teodoro "Fr. Ted" P. Magpayo - *Parochial Vicar*

Rev. Patrick Okoye - *Parochial Vicar*

Deacon Ferdinand Mariano - *OCIA Coordinator*

### Parish Staff

Rachelle Morales and Nenette Murata -

*Religious Education Coordinators*

Charles Corpus - *Music Coordinator*

Virginia Dilim - *Wedding Coordinator*

Nora Regaspi - *Office Manager*

Camelle Sudario - *Parish Receptionist*

Emy Pasion - *Bookkeeper*

### Mass Times

Monday - Friday: 7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5:15 p.m.

Saturday: 7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m. Vigil Mass

Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 5:15 p.m.

Tagalog Mass: 1st Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Family Mass: 2nd Sunday at 12:00 p.m.

Charismatic & Healing Mass: 3rd Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

### Parish Schedule

#### **Parish Office Hours**

Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (in the Rectory)**

(appointments are preferred)

Monday through Thursday

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help**

Every Tuesday after the 12:00 p.m. Mass

**Sacred Heart**

First Friday of the month at 4:00 p.m.

**Sto. Niño Devotion**

Every Friday after the 12:00 p.m. Mass

**Our Lady of Fatima**

First Saturday of the month at 11:30 a.m.



### *From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear Saint Patrick Parishioners,

*A Blessed Christmas!*

As we come together at this time of year – a time for family and friends – it is good for us to also spend some time reflecting on the "reason for the season" – Jesus Christ, the Lord! It is important that we welcome Him to our homes and to our celebrations, remembering that, as Christians, we celebrate Christmas not as a secular holiday, but as a proclamation of our faith that God so loved the world He sent His only Son ... and that the Word became flesh of the Virgin Mary and dwells among us. In a world that wants to make Christmas only about presents, and food and Santa Claus and self-indulgence, we, as Catholics are not ashamed to profess our Faith: Christmas is about the Incarnation of the Lord and our salvation history. We are not ashamed to say "Merry Christmas." We are not ashamed to send out "religious" Christmas cards, which celebrate his birth to our friends and family members. We are not ashamed to have the "Manger Scene" in front of our homes, in our homes and in our streets. We are not ashamed to give witness to Jesus in the midst of so many counter-testimonies. We are proud to be disciples of Jesus and we want all to rejoice with us as we celebrate His birth!

As we ready ourselves for the celebration of Jesus' birth, putting up the tree, putting up the creche, doing the baking and cooking, going shopping and wrapping the gifts, decorating the house with lights and all the other many things that go into making this such a special family time of year with our own cultural traditions, it is good for us to remember that the best preparation is to make a good confession so that we can worthily receive Him in the Eucharist at Christmas Mass. I invite all of you to take advantage of our confession schedule: Monday – Saturday from 11:30am-noon and Monday -Thursday by appointment in the rectory – come and receive God's merciful love and forgiveness in this wonderful sacrament. Come to Christmas Masses to praise and thank God for the gift of His Son Jesus. Bring someone with you who perhaps has not been to Church for a while or just needs a ride! It is my hope to be able to greet all of you at one of our Masses. #

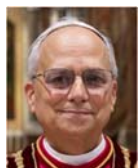
To all of you and your families, I, along with Fr. Okoye and Fr. Magpayo, extend our greetings at St. Patrick Church. Be sure that each of you is in our prayers and thoughts in this holy season, and our wish is that your hearts may know the joy of the presence of the new Born King. May the Virgin Mary and her Infant Son, Jesus, the King of Peace, fill your hearts and lives and homes with the choicest of blessings at Christmas and throughout the New Year!

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Grace-filled New Year! God bless you!

May Christ's light in your heart shine out,

*Rev. Andrew P. Spyrow  
Pastor*

***An expanded color version of our printed bulletin, with online-only content, is available on our website:  
[www.stpatricksf.org](http://www.stpatricksf.org)***



### ***Please Pray for Pope Francis' Intention for December***

**Pope's 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.

## Saints & Special Observances

*Tuesday: optional memorial ~ St. John of Kanty, Priest*

**WEDNESDAY:**

**VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**THURSDAY: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**FRIDAY: FEAST ~**

**ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR**

**SATURDAY: FEAST ~**

**ST. JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST**

**SUNDAY:**

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH**

## Readings for the Week

*Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56*

*Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4,23-24; Lk 1:57-66*

*Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5,8-12,14a,16; Lk 1:67-79*

*Mass During the Night*

*Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14*

**THURSDAY: Mass During the Day**

*Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1-5, 9-14*

**FRIDAY: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22**

**SATURDAY: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a,2-8**

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH**

*Sir 3:2-6,12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17;*

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

## Today's Readings

**First Reading** — You will be given this sign: The virgin shall conceive and bear a son (Isaiah 7:10-14).

**Psalm** — Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory (Psalm 24).

**Second Reading** — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

**Gospel** — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:18-24).

*The English translation of the Psalm Responses*

*from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,*

*International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.*

## Relevant Radio

Tune your radio to 1260 AM or 101.7 FM for 24-hour broadcasts concerning Catholic teachings and prayers.

## Happy Birthday!!

Happy Birthday to our Parishioners celebrating a birthday this week.

Steven Moersalin	12/21	Steven Moersalin	12/25
Aiden De Guzman	12/24	Alyssa Bautista	12/26
Mark Jason Ramoran	12/24	David Taylor	12/27
Maria Jessica Castro	12/25		

## AAA Update

(as of 04 November 2025)

2025 AAA Goal	\$38,705.00
Received	\$32,479.00
Amount Remaining	\$6,226.00
% of Goal	84%

## God Wants to be One With Us

What great lengths God will go to in loving and saving us! Think of the most outlandish circumstance you might conceive. That seems to be what the Lord is saying to Ahaz in today's first reading. "A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." Not only is the idea of a virgin conceiving beyond comprehension in Ahaz's time, so would the concept of God wanting to be with us be, as the name Emmanuel indicates. And yet, this is what we celebrate in the Incarnation—God wants so completely to be one with us that God came to be with us in a son born to a virgin, the Blessed Virgin Mary. There is more to this story than even these amazing and outlandish occurrences, however. God wants to be one with us so deeply that God partners with us to make God's presence known.

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## Our Fascinating Faith

**Las Posadas (December 16–24)**

Of the many Latin American traditions for the celebration of Advent and Christmas, the tradition of *Las Posadas* seems to be the best known. It originated in the last half of the eighteenth century when the boisterous *Misas de Aguinaldo* were no longer celebrated in Mexico. To replace these Masses, the laity decided to celebrate in their own homes by taking what they had seen dramatized in the churches: the journey of the Galilean immigrants, Joseph and Mary of Nazareth, when they were looking for an inn (*posada*) in Bethlehem of Judea. Like the "O Antiphons" of the official liturgy, these *posadas* were celebrated on nine consecutive nights.

The journey of Joseph and Mary from inn to inn sadly continues every day in the fearful and tired steps taken by so many immigrants in this country. Like the Holy Family, Latin American families look for hospitality with the hope of finding a new life for their sons and daughters. Unfortunately, many citizens of the United States behave like the people of Bethlehem, preferring to close their door in the face of the immigrants rather than welcoming them. Perhaps that is the reason that the tradition of *Las Posadas* has taken on so much importance among the Latinos in the United States. We know firsthand what Joseph and Mary experienced two thousand years ago. We have to ask ourselves: When will the human heart change? When will we open the doors of our heart to our immigrant Lord?

*~ Friar Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.*

## The God Squad Catholic TV Mass

The God Squad Catholic TV Mass, aired every Sunday, provides inclusion for those who are homebound, hospitalized, incarcerated and/or unable to attend Sunday Mass. Monsignor Harry Schlitt began broadcasting the TV Mass in the late 1970s and it has been airing ever since. Please watch the TV Mass on Sunday mornings on the following stations:

*In San Francisco*

*KTSF (CH 26) at 6:00 a.m.; KRON (CH 4) at 5:30 a.m.;*

*and in Sacramento*

*KTXL (Fox 40) at 5:30 a.m.*

You may also view the Mass at any time by going to *FatherHarry.org*. You may also find the program beneficial to you, someone in your family, or a friend.

We need your participation and support to continue this valuable ministry.

## Christmas in the Heart

Christmas! 'Tis the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial fire of charity in the heart.

*~ Washington Irving*



## Mass Intentions for Dec 21 - 27

Date	Time	Intention
<b>Sunday 21</b>	7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	FH Susan Pacheco SI Felicitas Locsin † Maria Luisa Corcuera SI All Parishioners Of St. Patrick † Fernando Rodriguez Tenerio
<b>Monday 22</b>	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	SI Dan & Annie Lacap † Luz Bertha Jacinto SI Judy Neri Labaria
<b>Tuesday 23</b>	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	† Marilyn Sumulong BD Tonette Corpuz SI Tita Labaria
<b>Wednesday 24</b>	7:30 a.m. 12: p.m. 8:00 p.m.	SI Agnes Kumi † Emilio & Rosa Collado TG Maximo & Susana Dimapasoc
<b>Thursday 25</b>	7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	TG Virginia Chan TG Rene & Elena Delos Santos † Sofronio Padre Galapon, Jr.
<b>Friday 26</b>	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	BD Susana Pacheco TG Stephen Sun † Jesus Aujero
<b>Saturday 27</b>	7:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	BD Cristine Dedios † Lourdes Villanueva SI Georgina Jose

## Catholic Prayer Corner

### Prayer for Generosity

Lord, teach me to be generous.  
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labor and not to ask for reward,  
save that of knowing that I do your will.

~ Saint Ignatius of Loyola

## Christmas Children

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas.

~ Charles Dickens



## Diaconate Formation Informational Evenings

The Office of Formation for the Permanent Diaconate will hold Informational Evenings for men considering the possibility of serving the Church as Permanent Deacons. The evening will include discussion of the ministry of the Deacon in the Church, the Formation program and the application process. Please join us.

*Deacon Fred Totah, Director of Diaconate Formation*  
*Deacon Arthur Sanchez, Director of Permanent Diaconate*

### Who should attend?

Single and married men between the ages of 30 and 60 may apply for the program and are invited to the evening. However, married applicants must be married at least five years. All married applicants need the complete support of their wives in order to pursue the program; therefore, wives are encouraged to attend.

### Dates:

Wednesday, January 07, 2026  
St. Raphael Church  
1104 5th Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901

Wednesday, January 14, 2026  
Archdiocese of San Francisco  
One Peter Yorke Way  
San Francisco, CA 94109

Wednesday, January 21, 2026  
St. Mark Catholic Church  
325 Marine View Avenue  
Belmont, CA 94002

### Time:

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

**Diaconate Formation Office**  
**Deacon Fred Totah,**  
**Director of Diaconate Formation**  
**Phone: 415-614-5615**  
**Email: totah.fred@sfarch.org**



## At Table During Advent

*Advent candles may be lighted as the leader says:*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation:  
In the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you in this food and in our sharing.

Blessed are you as we wait in joyful hope  
For the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ.

*All respond:*

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now  
and for ever.

*The leader says:*

Come, Lord Jesus!

*All respond:*

Come quickly!

*From Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 21, 2025**

They shall name him Emmanuel,  
which means "God is with us."

— Matthew 1:23

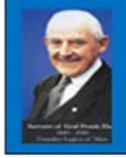
## LEGION OF MARY - ST. PATRICK CHURCH

JOIN THE LEGION OF MARY, OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL **PRAESIDIUM**

Meeting - Sunday at 1:30 p.m. in Bitanga Hall



The Legion Family Worldwide  
On all continents  
In over 170 countries  
4 million active members  
5 million auxiliary members



The Founder Frank Duff  
1889 - 1980

### Legion of Mary's History

The Legion of Mary was founded in Dublin, Ireland on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September in 1921.

It is a lay Catholic organization giving service to the Church on a voluntary basis in almost every country.

### Legion of Mary's Aim

The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active co-operation in Mary's and the Church's works.

### Legion of Mary's Unit

The unit of a Legion of Mary is called a praesidium, which holds a weekly meeting where prayer is intermingled with reports and discussions. Persons who wish to join the Legion must apply for membership in a praesidium.

### Legion of Mary's Active Works

The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of everyone. The members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick, both in homes and hospitals and through collaboration in every apostolate and missionary undertakings sponsored by the parish. The works are more of spiritual works of mercy.

### Legion of Mary's Active Membership

This membership is open to all faithfully practicing Catholics. Members attend weekly meetings and engage in prayers and active works. Candidates under 18 years of age can be received in a Junior Praesidium.



## Letters from Heaven



Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

The Lord had said through the prophet:  
"Behold, the virgin shall be with child  
and bear a son, and they shall ..."

	H	I	E
E	N	M	M
A	M	M	N
L	E	U	A

N \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Answer: *name him Emmanuel*

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saint snippets

If you have too much to do, with God's help you will find time to do it all.

### St. Peter Canisius

Dutch Jesuit priest who reformed universities and attracted many back to the Catholic faith; known as the Second Apostle of Germany

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December 21

saint snippets

I want to follow you wherever you take me, freely, willingly, joyfully. Break my will! Let your will reign in me!

### Bl. Sára Salkaházi

Hungarian journalist and religious sister who saved approximately 100 Jews during World War II. In 1944, she was executed by the pro-Nazi party.

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December 27

saint snippets

...and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

### St. John the Beloved

Gospel-writer and beloved disciple of Christ who remained with Christ to the foot of the cross

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December 27

## Living God's Word

We ask God to continue to save us in our own day from all that would lead us away from God. We ask God to continue to help us to know Jesus as Emmanuel, God with us, so that our faith may be rooted in the wisdom and power of God.

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The Birth of Our Lord



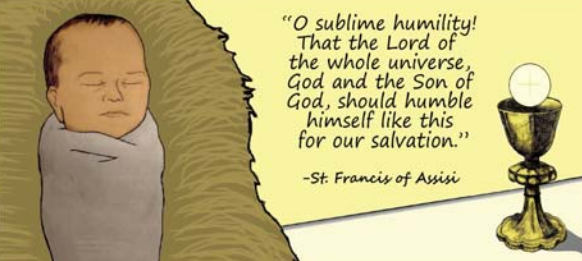
"A God who became so small could only be mercy and love."

-St. Thérèse of Lisieux

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December 25

Merry Christmas



"O sublime humility! That the Lord of the whole universe, God and the Son of God, should humble himself like this for our salvation."

-St. Francis of Assisi

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December 25





## GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

Christmas is almost here. We make the last links of our Advent chain. When it is complete, you will have a large star to use as a hanger. Write one of the "O Antiphon" names of Jesus in the middle. Hang it on your tree or use it to decorate your house. Think about all the things you learned about Jesus during this Advent season.



**December 22**

"O King," "The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice" (Psalm 97:1). What sort of king is Jesus?



**December 23**

"O Emmanuel," "God with us," the name first mentioned by the prophet Isaiah. Where do you find Jesus "with us" now?



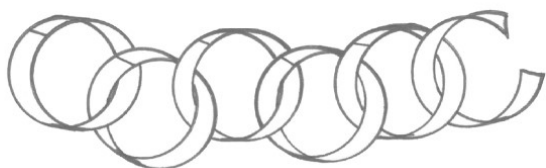
**December 24**

Christmas Eve! The Gospel of the Vigil Mass names Jesus' ancestors. Who are your family's ancestors in faith?



**December 25**

"I proclaim to you good news of great joy.... For today.... a Savior is born for you who is Christ and Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).



## The Little Ones

Jim Burrows




•BURROWS•

*Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Emmanuel,  
which translated means, "God with us." Mt 1:23*

December 21, 2025

# FOURTH SUNDAY of Advent



Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."  
Matthew 1:23

## Pastor Al™



CHRIS McDONOUGH

"He said he comes here to Pastor-ize the milk.  
He was just kidding, right, Mommy?"

## Tips on Keeping Christ in Christmas More Than A Holiday ~ Christmas is Christ



Pope Benedict XVI said that the contemporary Christmas season is being spoiled by "commercial pollution" that obscures the true meaning of Christ's humble birth. People need to remember that Christ was born in a manger, in a sign of poverty. The Holy Father said Christmas brings true joy and peace to those who, like the shepherds at Bethlehem, recognize the sign of "an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

*Here are some insights on how to focus on the birth of Christ...*

- Cut the trimmings. The circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth were "no-frills" at best. Let this simplicity be reflected in your celebration of His birth.
- Encourage family members to talk about the meaning of Christmas and how each has lived like Christ that day.
- Let your words and actions underscore the importance of your faith. Don't let Christ's birth be lost in a sea of "Happy Holidays" and "Season's Greetings." Respect for people of other beliefs should always guide us, but should never stop us from celebrating the spiritual essence of Christmas.

## Getting Even

The only ones you should try to get even with are those who have helped you.

*~ Anonymous*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF**

# Advent



**DECEMBER 21, 2025**

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,  
which means "God is with us."*

**MATTHEW 1:23**

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## Summoned by God

As Christmas draws near, Advent's scriptures lure us into a world of dreams, signs, wonders, and the miracle of the virgin birth. Too often we allow the great stories of our faith, the ones that are most familiar, simply to wash over us. Today's Gospel account of the events leading up to the birth of the Lord reads like a present-day soap opera. Yet Joseph's courage, even in the midst of what must have been an incredibly confusing time, provides a model for us. Each week, we are summoned by God to embrace the way of goodness and truth through the proclamation of God's holy word. Like Joseph, we are called to do as the Lord commands us. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, let us have the courage to be open to whatever it is that the Lord will require of us as we celebrate the miracle of Bethlehem.

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## Treasures From Our Tradition

By now, the first Christmas carols are heard in the home, but usually not yet in church. What is a "carol" anyway? Originally, a carol was any kind of communal song sung at a festival such as a harvest. By the thirteenth century or so, carols were associated with household celebrations. "Carol" comes from the Old French *carula*, meaning a circular dance. Carols weren't for church, since the language of liturgy was Latin and the carols were in the common language. Their characteristic sound comes from medieval chord patterns, and they often have strong refrains for everyone to sing. Even in the churches of the Reformation, carols didn't make it into church services until the 1870s or so, since there was a preference for psalms. Anglicans resisted popular carols; most of our beloved carols came via the Methodists, an offshoot of the Church of England. The Catholic Church generally didn't admit carols to liturgy either, but we didn't make laws against them.

We are told that the beloved carol "Silent Night" comes from Catholic Austria and a harried parish music director. Joseph Mohr, the priest of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, had written the words in 1816, but offered them to his music director, Franz Gruber, when the church's organ broke. Mohr asked him to write a melody that could be played on guitar as a prelude to Mass. Gruber finished the tune just hours before midnight Mass in 1818. The people were shocked to hear a guitar in church, but were charmed by the sweet lullaby. The church was swept away by a flood in the 1990s and the village later relocated, but the townspeople have set up the "Silent Night Memorial Chapel" at the site. Today the carol is in print in some three hundred languages. How wonderful that the pipe organ broke on that night!

Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## St. Stephen (First Century)

**December 26**

"A man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5): thus Luke introduces Stephen, first of seven deacons chosen by the community for its ministry of charity, first to lay down his life in witness to Christ. As the church's first martyr, Stephen's life and death mirror the preaching and passion of Jesus, "the faithful witness" (Greek, martyr) (Revelation 1:5). Like Jesus, Stephen works "great signs and wonders among the people" (Acts 6:8). Like Jesus, when falsely accused, Stephen's face radiates angelic serenity (Acts 6:15), though his tongue, like Jesus', is a two-edged sword. As the dying Jesus forgave his executioners, even making excuses for them, then commended his spirit into his Father's hands (Luke 23:34, 46), so Stephen intercedes for his murderers and begs Jesus to receive his spirit (Acts 7:60, 59). How fruitful both passions! The penitent thief inherits Paradise; Saul, who consented to Stephen's killing, is transformed into the fearless preacher Paul. Thus Stephen challenges us to bear witness not in words only, but by Christ-like forgiveness toward all.

~ Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



## Trust in God

On this final Sunday of Advent our scriptures focus on the historical birth of Jesus, who is son of David and Son of God, child and king, Jesus and Emmanuel.

Isaiah the prophet begs Ahaz to ask for a sign, to allow God to offer him reassurance of the survival of the Davidic dynasty. The king hypocritically refuses to “tempt the LORD” in that way (Isaiah 7:12), but the prophet foretells the birth of a son, an heir to the throne, who will prove the Lord’s enduring protection of God’s chosen lineage on the throne of David. The child will be called Emmanuel.

Matthew’s reference to this history in his description of the birth of Jesus highlights the contrast between the faithless refusal of trust shown by Ahaz, and the complete trust in God shown by Mary and Joseph in bringing about the birth of Jesus Christ.

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## Treasures From Our Tradition

How many languages do you know? Most Americans might say they have a primary language, can follow the basics of another encountered in school or in the workplace, and maybe know the barest elements of a third. Yet nearly everyone is fluent in languages of symbol and ritual, languages that transcend the spoken word and may perhaps communicate more clearly. A dance, the delights of the table, the thrill of sport, the power of a painting, a shared silence on a surf-washed beach or under a desert sky, a burst of delighted applause, all communicate without a single word.

Sacrament empowers fluency in these languages. A little girl returning from Mass where a baby had been baptized was asked to summarize her day thus far. “I went to church, and some little baby became my brother.” That’s far more accurate than the adult’s remark, “There was a baptism at Mass today.” When we celebrate sacrament, Christ is always calling us into deeper fluency with the languages beyond speech. Sacraments open our senses to the presence of God precisely so we can respond to the depth of that love more fully. ~ Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Christmas

A young mother, her eyes shining with fatigue, who is arranging her hair; a father who finds himself alone with his pretty wife and baby, straightening the stable to make himself useful in some way; shepherds who bring cheese and perhaps also some curdled milk; sheep who look at their shepherds while bleating; a donkey who is eyeing his manger changed into a cradle; an adorable swaddled baby whom one calls Savior, Christ and Lord: This is the manifestation of the goodness and the tenderness of God. This is the most fantastic birth in the history of humanity, the one which changed the face of the world! This is how far God humbled and compromised himself with us! This is Emmanuel!

~ From God’s Word Is Our Joy, Vol. 1

## The True Meaning of Christmas



In his 1843 story “The Christmas Carol,” Charles Dickens explores the meaning of Christmas through the eyes of a miserly old man, Ebenezer Scrooge. You know the story: Scrooge hates Christmas. On Christmas Eve night he is visited by the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future, who show Scrooge how he used to be, what he is missing now, and who he will become if he continues down his current path.

These visits bring about a change in Scrooge’s hard heart, and he ends up being filled with the Christmas spirit.

Christmas is the day when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Christ. It marks the beginning of a two week period known as the Christmas season. It celebrates Jesus’ birth, his revelation to the world (the Epiphany, the coming of the Magi bringing gifts, from whose example we give gifts at Christmas), and ends with his Baptism. As the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” makes clear, we are to celebrate every day of the Christmas season, not just Christmas day.

But what exactly are we celebrating during this festive period? Let’s take a look.

**Jesus Is the Light of the World:** No one knows the exact date, month, or year of Jesus’ birth. We celebrate on December 25 because the winter solstice—the longest night of the year—has passed and we welcome the growing amount of daylight each day. For Christians, this is a sign of Jesus bringing the new light of salvation into the world. During the Christmas season we are reminded that we, too, are to bring the light of Christ into the world through our lives.

**Generosity of Spirit:** During the Christmas season we celebrate God’s generous gift to us, the Incarnation—God becoming man in Jesus. No greater gift has ever been given, no greater display of a generous spirit is possible. God gives this gift to us freely, no strings attached, and with no expectation of repayment. It is pure gift. That’s why gift giving is such a big part of the Christmas season: we are encouraged to develop this same generosity of spirit, giving to others freely because we want to give, and not because the gift is earned or expected.

Ultimately, this is the message at the heart of Dickens’ story. Scrooge’s conversion experience changes his miserly heart. As we prepare for the Christmas season, perhaps we could benefit from examining our own consciences—what the ghosts helped Scrooge to do—and see how we might change our own hearts so that we can better share the light of Christ with the world in a generous spirit.

*The True Meaning of Christmas by Daniel S. Mulhall  
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## Fourth Sunday of Advent

"This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about." So begins Matthew's narration of Mary and Joseph's first adventure as husband and wife. The early Christians who were his audience must have been eager to hear the story of Jesus' early years, and wondered if what they had heard about Mary was true. It must have been Mary who handed this story down to the apostles, which subsequently found itself in the scriptural canon. One would imagine that this was a rather private matter between Mary and Joseph, but so important that it needed to be shared later. It's a tender and lovely story of a young couple in love and faced with a dilemma.

### Joseph was a Righteous Man

Today's Gospel is one of only a few stories that mention Joseph. It is clear from these Gospel accounts that Joseph was a man of good character and also a loving man, not willing to harm Mary, even though it appeared that she had betrayed him in the most hurtful way. He could have denounced her publicly and she would have been stoned to death. But he did not want that to happen to her. Did he and Mary have a conversation about the Annunciation events, and could that conversation have made him more open to the dream in which the angel appeared to him?

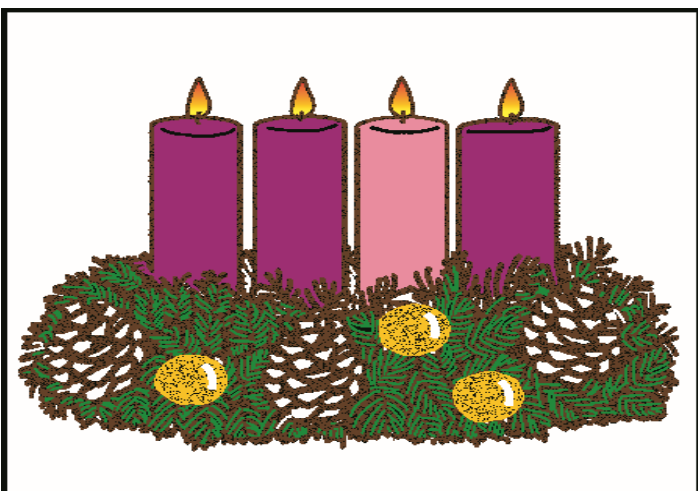
### In a Dream

Do we believe that our dreams hold meaning for our lives? Many psychologists say so, and yet we often dismiss what we have dreamed because our dreams may seem so far-fetched and implausible. If we paid attention to our dreams, and God revealed something important to us, would we believe it? If something scary or evil occurred in a dream, would we just shake it off, or would we say a prayer to God to protect us from evil and know that God would never will bad things for us?

The Jews then, as today, looked for the Messiah to come. When the angel told Joseph that this child was conceived through the Holy Spirit, he readily believed that Mary would bear a son who would save people from their sins. They named him Jesus, which in Hebrew is "Yeshua." It means "God saves." Joseph was willing to believe that the prophecy from Isaiah, "*the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, / and they shall name him Emmanuel, / which means 'God is with us'*" would be fulfilled in his own life (Matthew 1:23). When he awoke, he did not shake off the dream, but acted on it in a way that would change his life, and would change the world.

In this season of waiting for the Messiah, we can dream of that time of the Reign of God to come, and we can believe that it will be fulfilled.

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## Emmanuel



On this last Sunday before Christmas, we see that Jesus' birth is the fulfillment of the promise of Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:23). The Gospel refers to the first reading from Isaiah. There we see the king of Judah, Ahaz, under attack by the kings of Aram and Israel. He wants to ask the Assyrians for help instead of relying on God. That's why he says, "I will not tempt the Lord" (Isaiah 7:12). He is afraid to admit his lack of faith. So the weakness of Ahaz gives us the wonderful prophecy of the birth of Jesus.

Ahaz, of course, did not understand the full meaning of that prophecy. For him, the prophecy meant the destruction of Judah.

In the Gospel, Joseph also does not understand how Mary came to be pregnant. But unlike Ahaz, Joseph did have faith in God and the message of the angel. He took Mary as his wife and helped her through her pregnancy and in raising Jesus afterwards. His faith in God kept Jesus from being murdered by Herod after the magi's visit.

So now we have to choose whom to rely on. Do I act like Ahaz, relying on worldly powers, or like Joseph, who trusted the Lord? I would like to say that I trust in the Lord only. But if I look at my actions and priorities, I might be more like Ahaz than I want to admit.

How much time do I spend watching television (especially now that it's in HD) compared to time in prayer? How much time do I spend reading the scriptures compared to the newspaper or magazines? How much do I spend on Christmas decorations or gifts for my family, compared to what I give to the Church? If I really believe that "God is with us," which is what Christmas is all about, how much of God can people see in my actions?

Maybe if we kept in mind that promise that God *is* with us—in the baptism we received and the sacraments of the Church, and in the love of our spouse or parents—we could see how close God really is, and let others see in our actions that Jesus is Emmanuel.

~ Tom Schmidt, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



## Reflecting on God's Word

The Bible offers us a rich variety of men and women who qualify as heroes, warriors, prophets, and wise men and women. And every so often it places before us a dreamer. Jacob had the first big dream, with that ladder connecting heaven and earth, bearing ascending and descending angels.

His son Joseph started off with dreams that put himself at the center, much to his brothers' chagrin, but later he saved himself by interpreting the dreams of others, including Pharaoh. However, the most important dreamer of all was Joseph, spouse of Mary and foster father to Jesus.

Joseph was asked to live out his dream. "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her," he was told in a dream (Matthew 1:20). And not only that, he was to name the child Jesus, which means "God saves." What all this cost him we don't know. All we hear is that when he awoke from the dream, he did what had been asked and took Mary into his home.

That wasn't the end of the dreams. "Joseph, take the mother and child into Egypt—Herod is trying to kill him." "Joseph, take the mother and child out of Egypt—Herod is dead." And Joseph did. Maybe once you begin to live God's dream it gets easier.

God's dream is that we live in the world as God's adopted and saved children, working to bring God's peace and justice, mercy and forgiveness into our world wherever they are needed.

~ James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

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## Emmanuel

To name someone or something means that we have a relationship with that entity. Family names identify us with our heritage; nicknames denote familiarity or a special bond. In the Old Testament, the meaning of a name ran deep. It identified one's mission, even one's very being.

The amazing name "Emmanuel" was first uttered by Isaiah as he described to the frightened King Ahaz the promised one who would come to redeem the people. Emmanuel is not a frightening philosophical name, such as Omnipotent, Omniscient, Almighty. It does not connote distance and transcendence. It does not generate reverential fear. The name Emmanuel implies closeness and intimacy and compassion. Emmanuel is the name given to the one who is coming. It means "God is with us." God is entrusted to the care of a virgin, who will bear this child. Only God would be so compassionate to draw so near, to be so available and vulnerable. Only God could love this well.

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## Love Now

Let those love now  
who never lov'd before;  
let those who always lov'd  
now love the more.

~ Anonymous

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

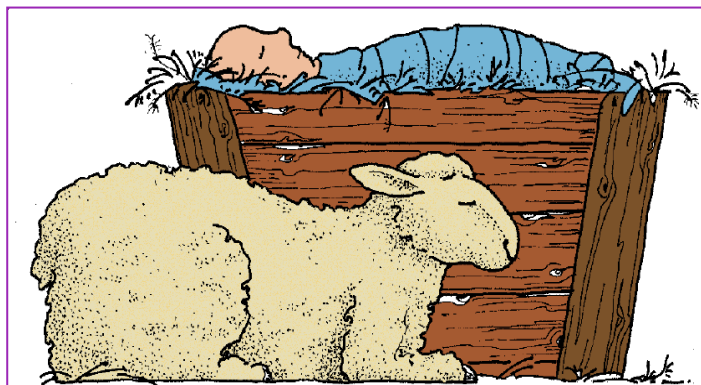
December 18, 2016

They shall name him Emmanuel,  
which means "God is with us."

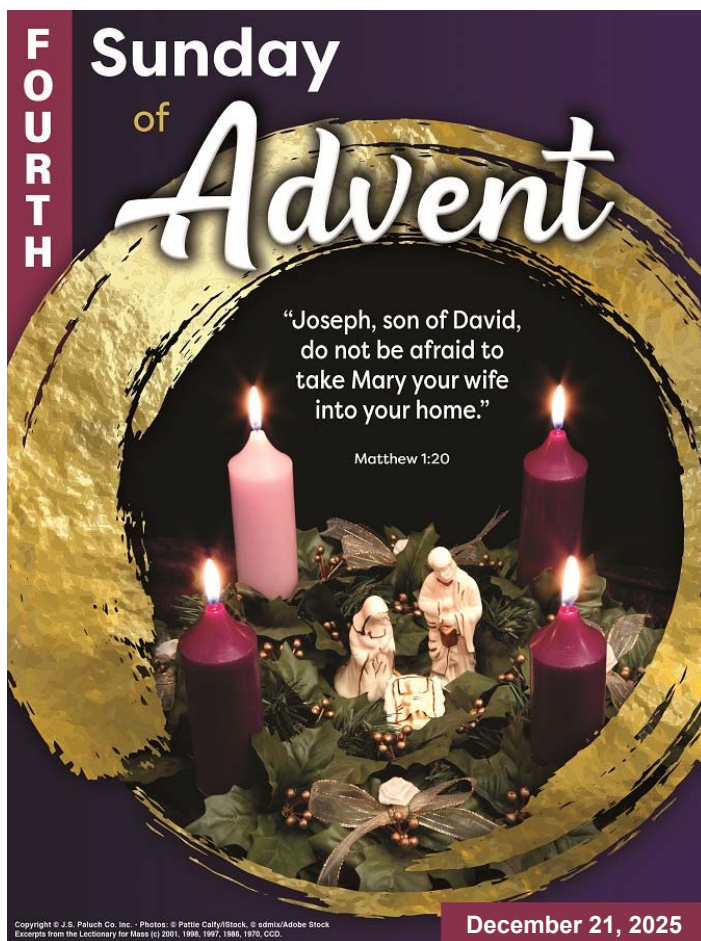
~ Matthew 1:23

## Lord of All

Jesus Christ will be Lord of all, or he will not be Lord at all.  
~ St. Augustine



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*“Do everything for  
the glory of God.”*

1 Corinthians 10:31



## YOUR GIFTS CHANGE LIVES

Your gift to the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal allows us to provide ministries, programs and services that benefit parishes and people throughout the Archdiocese of San Francisco. The Annual Appeal is an opportunity for all in the Archdiocese to come together as one community to support one another and everyone we serve.

*“For almost a quarter of a millennium, the Church in San Francisco has been a beacon of hope, spreading the light of Christ to all in our community. I ask you to be generous with your prayers and with your material support for the mission of the Church here in our Archdiocese.”*

ARCHBISHOP SALVATORE CORDILEONE



Photo by Brother Chris Garcia



## ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL 2025 GOAL: \$6,400,000

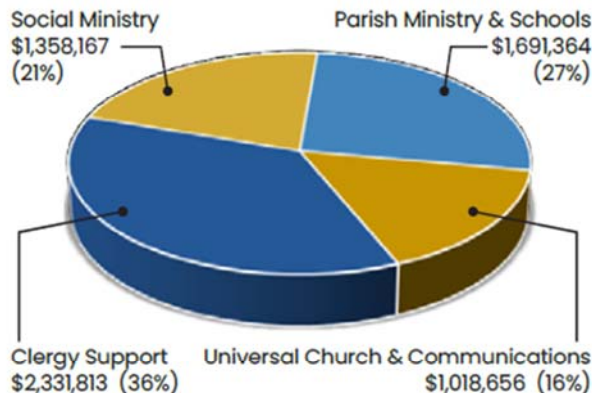


Photo by Dennis Callahan



Photo by Dennis Callahan

## CHANCERY BUDGET FOR 2025 SOURCES OF INCOME: \$17,200,000

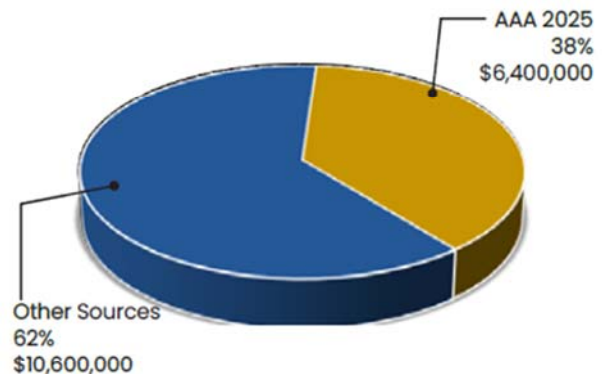


Photo by Christina Gray



Photo by Dennis Callahan

### PARISH MINISTRY & SCHOOLS

The Archdiocese provides additional funding for its parish schools, varied educational programs, and financial aid. Supported offices and ministries include: Department of Pastoral Ministry, Faith Formation, Youth & Young Adult, Office of Worship, Marriage and Family Life, Teacher Incentive Grants, Alliance for Mission District Schools and Child and Youth Protection.

22,950 Catholic School Students • 2,576 Teachers & Staff • 70 Teacher Incentive Grants • Premarital & Marriage Support • Office of Faith Formation • Office of Worship

### SOCIAL MINISTRY

Through its variety of social ministries, the Archdiocese is able to thoughtfully engage with its diverse communities. Supported offices and ministries include: Hospital Chaplains, the Tribunal, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Human Life & Dignity, Prison Ministry, Ethnic Ministry, Chinese Ministry, Ministry for the Spanish Speaking, Filipino Ministry, Ecumenical and Interreligious Programs.

Hospital & Prison Chaplains • Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries • Respect Life • Restorative Justice • Ecumenical & Interreligious Programs • Ministry Support in 22 Languages

### CLERGY SUPPORT

Clergy Support helps those who care for us. It supports priests, deacons and seminarians in their ministry. This ministry includes: Council of Priests, Vicar General, Vicar for Clergy, Clergy Education, Priests' Education Fund, Permanent Diaconate, Diaconate Formation, Office of Consecrated Life, Office of Vocations, Priests' Retirement Fund, Serra Clergy House and Priests' Elder Care.

Active Priests' Support • Retired Priests' Support • Seminarian Formation • Diaconate Formation

### UNIVERSAL CHURCH & COMMUNICATIONS

The Universal Church supports the larger work of the California Conference of Catholic Bishops, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Holy See. The Office of Communications provides internal constituent communications and external communications that fund media relations, public information and special projects.

The Holy See • Catholic San Francisco • San Francisco Católico • SFArchdiocese.org & Social Media • California Catholic Conference of Bishops • U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops



# IMMIGRANT KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

IN THIS COUNTRY, EVERY INDIVIDUAL HAS RIGHTS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, RACE, LEGAL STATUS, NATIVE LANGUAGE, RELIGION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR GENDER IDENTITY.

## 1. THE RIGHT TO NOT OPEN THE DOOR

Ask for warrant under the door; verify details first.

## 2. THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT

Give only your name; speak with an attorney present.

## 3. THE RIGHT TO MAKE A PHONE CALL

Call your attorney or family; keep a number ready.

## 4. THE RIGHT TO A HEARING BEFORE A JUDGE

You can ask for a judge to hear your case.

## 5. THE RIGHT TO HAVE YOUR PHYSICAL INTEGRITY RESPECTED

No one can abuse you physically or verbally.

## 6. THE RIGHT TO NOT SIGN ANY DOCUMENTS

Only sign documents with attorney approval.

## 7. THE RIGHT TO EVALUATE WHETHER YOU QUALIFY FOR ANY IMMIGRATION PROCESS

Ask an attorney if you qualify for relief program.

## ADDITIONAL RIGHTS

There are additional laws and policies in place for Immigrant Tenants and Workers in CA. To learn more, please contact us!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN  
MORE ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS AND  
RESOURCE INFORMATION FOR  
SUPPORT.



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Kimberly Lozano

408-325-5107

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[www.CCSCC.org/Refugee-Foster-Care](http://www.CCSCC.org/Refugee-Foster-Care)





# 2026 RESPECT LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

Theme: Religious Freedom,  
*an essential requirement of the dignity  
of every person*



Essays due Friday, January 23, 2026  
**For all students in grades K-12 in public school,  
Catholic school, and home school in  
the Archdiocese of San Francisco.**

*Cash  
Prizes!*

For Essay Instructions, visit  
**[sfarch.org/essay-contest](https://sfarch.org/essay-contest)**



ARCHDIOCESE OF  
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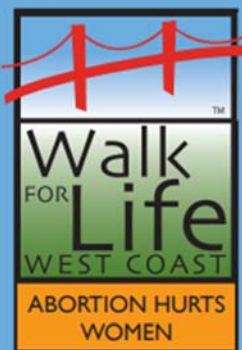
# WALK for LIFE

WEST COAST



SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026 • CIVIC CENTER PLAZA • SAN FRANCISCO

**Rally: 12:30PM**  
**CIVIC CENTER PLAZA**  
**Info Faire: 11:00AM**  
**Saturday, January 24, 2026**



Rally starts at Civic Center Plaza,  
walking down Market Street (2 miles).  
Walk ends at Embarcadero Plaza.

BART stations at both locations. Ample parking.



Register and info:  
(415) 658-1793 | email: [info@WalkforLifeWC.com](mailto:info@WalkforLifeWC.com)

**WalkforLifeWC.com**

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Porque Las Mujeres Merecen Algo Mejor que el Aborto.®

22ª Caminata Anual

# CAMINATA por la VIDA

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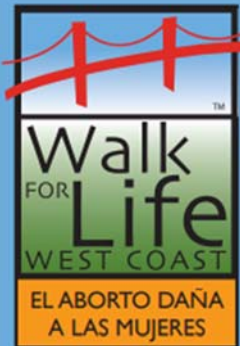


SÁBADO, 24 DE ENERO 2026 • PLAZA DEL CENTRO CÍVICO • SAN FRANCISCO

**Rally: 12:30PM**

(Mesas informativas: 11:00AM)

**Sábado, 24 de enero 2026**



Rally da inicio en la Plaza del Centro Civico. Luego caminaremos por la calle Market (2 millas). Finaliza en Embarcadero Plaza/Ferry Building. BART en ambos lugares. Amplio estacionamiento.



Información:  
415/658-1793 | email: [info@WalkforLifeWC.com](mailto:info@WalkforLifeWC.com)

**WalkforLifeWC.com**

® Las mujeres merecen algo mejor es una marca registrada de Feministas por la Vida de América.

因為墮胎傷害婦女

第二十二屆

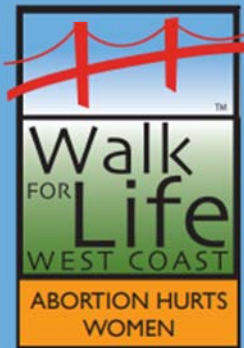
# 為生命而行

## 西岸



星期六、一月二十四日・三藩市・CIVIC CENTER PLAZA 市政府廣場

聚會: 下午十二時半  
市政府廣場  
資訊展: 早上十一時  
星期六、二零二六年一月二十四日



聚會由 Civic Center 市政府廣場  
為起點, 沿著 Market 街行二英里。  
於 Embarcadero 廣場為終站。

這兩個地點均有 BART 站和充裕的停車位。



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16 DAYS 15 NIGHTS

PHILIPPINE TOUR

January 27 - February 11



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Pastor, Mission Dolores  
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- Three (3) nights accommodation in Seda Centria, Cagayan de Oro City
- Two (2) nights accommodation at The Oriental, Legaspi City
- One (1) night accommodation at Summit Hotel Naga
- One (1) night accommodation at Villa Escudero, Tiaong, Quezon
- One (1) night accommodation at Pico de Loro, Nasugbu, Batangas
- Two (2) nights accommodation at Seda Manila Bay, Paranaque City
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- All meals stated on the itinerary
- Travel insurance within the Philippines during the tour
- English speaking guides during the tours

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Come with us on a meaningful journey to deepen our faith,  
rediscover our vibrant religious and cultural heritage, and  
experience the beauty of the Philippines!

## PHILIPPINES PILGRIMAGE 2026

January 27 - February 11

16 DAYS 15 NIGHTS





**LUZON – VISAYAS – MINDANAO**  
**CEBU – BOHOL – CAGAYAN DE ORO – BICOL – QUEZON – MANILA**  
**BATANGAS – PANGASINAN – TARLAC – PAMPANGA**

**27 January | Arrival in Cebu**

Welcome reception at the airport by the Department of Tourism and Rajah Tours Philippines. Transfer to hotel and check-in. Rest of the day free at leisure. Mass at the hotel before dinner. Welcome dinner at the hotel.

**28 January | Simala Monastery and Minor Basilica de Sto. Niño**

Breakfast at the hotel. Depart for a whole day Cebu Tour. Visit Simala Monastery of the Holy Eucharist. Lunch at a local restaurant. Head back to Cebu City. Stop at the Archbishop Teofilo Camomot Shrine. Mass at Minor Basilica de Sto. Nino de Cebu and then visit Magellan's Cross. Head to a local restaurant for dinner then transfer to hotel.

**29 January | Travel from Cebu to Tagbilaran**

Breakfast at the hotel. Head to Cebu Port for the your morning ferry to Tagbilaran. Arrive in Bohol and meet and greet at Tagbilaran Port. Commence Bohol Countryside Tour. Proceed to Baclayon Church for Mass. After the Mass proceed to River Cruise Lunch at Loboc. After lunch continue tour and visit Chocolate Hills and the Tarsier Sanctuary. Head to your hotel and check in.

**30 January | Free day**

Breakfast at the hotel. Free day. Optional activities to be offered.

- Balicasag Island Tour
- Food Tour
- Cadapdapan Rice Paddies and Can-Umantad Waterfalls

Mass before Dinner. Dinner at the resort.

**31 January | Bohol – Cebu – Cagayan de Oro**

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out and proceed to the pier for ferry to the Cebu. Arrive in Cebu and transfer to Mactan Airport for flight to Cagayan de Oro. Arrive in Cagayan de Oro and proceed to hotel and check in. Free time. Mass before dinner. Dinner at a local restaurant.

**01 February | Bukidnon Day Trip**

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to Dahilayan Adventure Park, Bukidnon. During this visit, the guests will experience Panampulot, a ritual of Manobo Tribe. Banog-Banog dance will welcome the arriving guests and they will experience 8 different stations of Manolo Fortich Culture. Various activities available such as Tsokolate making, Bead making, Coffee Making, Binake wrapping & Tasting Corn Grinding, Corn Grilling, Panampulot Ritual, Binukid Language Learning. Lunch at Ricardo's restaurant. After lunch proceed to the Abbey of Transfiguration for Mass. Head back to Cagayan de Oro in the afternoon. Dinner at the hotel.

**02 February | Cagayan de Oro City Tour**

Breakfast at the hotel. Depart for Cagayan de Oro City Tour. Mass at St. Augustine Metropolitan Cathedral. After Mass, proceed to Cagayan De Oro City Museum, Museo de Oro and Plaza Divisoria. Lunch at Panagatan Seaside Restaurant. After lunch, proceed to Divine Mercy Shrine. Head back to the hotel. Free time. Dinner at the hotel.

**03 February | Cagayan de Oro – Legaspi (via Manila)**

Packed breakfast at the hotel. Check out and proceed to airport for your early flight to Legaspi. Arrive in Legaspi and proceed to Albay Tour. Highlights are Cagsawa Ruins, Sumlang Lake, Daraga Church, Casa Simeon for lunch, Tiwi Pottery, Mt. Masaraga Volcano Camp Site for spectacular views of Mayon Volcano. After the tour, proceed to your hotel for dinner and check in. Mass before dinner. Dinner at the hotel.

**04 February | Bicol tour options**

Breakfast at the hotel. Tour options are:

- Donsol Eco Tour – Whale Shark Interaction
- Culinary Tour
- Ticao Island Hopping

Head back to the hotel. Mass at St. Gregory the Great Cathedral. Dinner at the hotel.

**05 February | Legaspi – Naga**

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out and proceed to Naga City for Mass at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Peñafrancia. Lunch at a local restaurant. Proceed to St John The Evangelist Metropolitan Cathedral, Museo del Seminario Conciliar de Nueva Caceres. After the tour, proceed to the hotel and check in. Dinner at the hotel.

**06 February | Naga – Quezon**

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out and proceed to Quezon stopping at town churches along the way. Lunch at a local restaurant. Proceed to Kamay ni Hesus Healing Church. Mass at Kamay ni Hesus. Proceed to Villa Escudero and check in. Barrio Fiesta themed dinner at Villa Escudero.

**07 February | Quezon – Batangas**

Breakfast at Villa Escudero. Check out and proceed to Montemaria Shrine in Batangas City. Lunch at a local restaurant. Proceed to Taal Heritage Town. Mass at Minor Basilica of St. Martin of Tours. Proceed to Pico de Loro and check in. Dinner at the resort.

**08 February | Pico de Loro – Manila via Tagaytay**

Breakfast at the resort. Check out and proceed to Tagaytay for sightseeing. Lunch at Farmer's Table. Head to Manila after lunch. Mass at Manila Cathedral. Dinner at Illustrado restaurant, Intramuros.

**09 February | Antipolo – Manila**

Breakfast at the hotel. Proceed to Antipolo Cathedral for Mass. Lunch at Pinto Art Museum. Head to Manila after lunch. Proceed to Quiapo Church and Binondo Church then to Baclaran Church. Dinner at the hotel

**10 February | Manaoag – Tarlac**

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out and proceed to Manaoag for Mass at the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Manaoag. Lunch at a local restaurant. Proceed to Monasterio de Tarlac for a visit. Visit Death March Monument. Depart for Clark and check in at hotel. Farewell Dinner at the hotel

**11 February | Departure day**

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out and proceed to airport.

# **CARDS OF MERCY SEND LOVE BEHIND THE WALLS**

**WRITE ST. VALENTINE'S DAY  
CARD MESSAGES AND  
PREPARE TREATS FOR  
INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS  
IN SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY  
JAILS**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025  
9:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
FREE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST  
AND LUNCH  
PARKING IS PROVIDED**

**ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO  
1 PETER YORKE WAY, SF, CA 94109**



**PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE AT  
[WWW.SFARCH.ORG/RJVOLUNTEER](http://WWW.SFARCH.ORG/RJVOLUNTEER)**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION, CONTACT,  
JULIO ESCOBAR AT  
[ESCOBARJ@SFARCH.ORG](mailto:ESCOBARJ@SFARCH.ORG)  
OR CALL (415) 614-5572**



# Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope



As the Universal Church looks toward the Jubilee Year 2025, the USCCB is thrilled to support the Holy Father in this "event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church."

Pope Francis stated in his February 2022 letter announcing the Jubilee 2025: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire..."

The Jubilee Year will offer the faithful opportunities to participate in various jubilee events at the Vatican and in their own dioceses. The great tradition of opening the Holy Door will begin when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024. Other holy doors will be opened at the Rome basilicas of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls. For pilgrims who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world are expected to designate their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for Holy Year pilgrims, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences and other events intended to strengthen and revive faith.



Pope Francis has asked that the year 2024 be dedicated to a "great symphony of prayer" as the Church prepares for the Jubilee of 2025. The Jubilee prayer can be found below.

Additional information about Jubilee events and materials can be found in the Calendar of Events below, or on the Vatican website [here](https://www.vatican.va). As information becomes available for specific initiatives of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, that information will be available on this web page.

USCCB Jubilee Calendar: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/jubilee-celebration-calendar-2025>  
Vatican website: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>



# Information for Jubilee 2025 Preparation and Participation

*Prepared by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for use in local dioceses and eparchies across the United States.*

In preparation for Jubilee 2025 in the local Church, the USCCB has prepared this document for your reference.

## JUBILEE WEBSITE

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>  
(English)

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/es.html>  
(Spanish)

## JUBILEE MOBILE APP

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/iubilaeum25/id6467652982?platform=iphone>  
(for iOS devices, i.e. Apple products)

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=va.iubilaeum2025.app&pli=1>  
(for Android devices)

*The digital app for mobile devices, which makes registration for Jubilee 2025 events easier, can be downloaded from the App Store for iOS and from the Play Store for Android. By using the mobile app, which is available in six languages, a person can access all the latest news on the Jubilee, register as a pilgrim for the Holy Year, and obtain the Pilgrim Card for free. Once registered on the portal, individuals will also be able to register for Jubilee events and pilgrimages to the Holy Door.*

## THE JUBILEE LOGO

Individuals and organizations may download the Jubilee logo in high resolution and the main languages at this link. Since the logo is subject to copyright, its use is intended for pastoral and non-profit purposes only. Such use is to be linked to the following pastoral and ecclesial initiatives with no commercial purposes:



- Place the trademark on materials related to the Jubilee, such as: leaflets, pamphlets, postcards, brochures, posters, outlines, banners, websites and other media;
- Place branding on pastoral materials to be used for spiritual preparation for the Jubilee;
- Place trademark on promotional materials related to the Jubilee, particularly on posters, banners, T-shirts, hats, mugs, and other materials and media; not for commercial use.
  - The use of the logo to third parties will not be granted.
  - A manual for logo use can be found online here at [this link](#).







## THE JUBILEE PRAYER

*Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.*

*May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.*

The official prayer can be found here in sixteen languages, other languages are being added.

## THE JUBILEE HYMN ("PILGRIMS OF HOPE")

- The official Jubilee hymn has been available for download.
- The necessary information (audio and sheet music) can be found at the following link.
- Currently, the hymn is available in Italian, English, Spanish, and French.
- The translations for other major languages are currently being worked on.

The Vatican invites all of us to use the hymn as widely as possible and in liturgical assemblies.

## THE JUBILEE CALENDAR

- The *Opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica* will be December 24, 2024.
- The Jubilee celebrations for various audiences will take place from January to December 2025.
- The **overview calendar** and **tentative schedule** for the Jubilee celebrations in Rome can be found in a separate information sheet, available [at this link](#)

## DIOCESAN AND EPARCHIAL PILGRIMAGES TO ROME

- Dioceses and eparchies are welcome to coordinate pilgrimages to Rome for the Jubilee celebrations.
- Dioceses and eparchies may come to Rome at any time throughout 2025 to celebrate the Jubilee, or they can choose to coordinate a visit in conjunction with one of the particular Jubilee events on the calendar.
- Dioceses and eparchies may consider working with a reputable local or national travel agency that specializes in overseas and/or pilgrimage travel. It may also be helpful to have **1 or 2 point person(s)** at the diocesan/eparchial level who can coordinate activities for the group(s) and liaison with the travel agency.
- For official registration of diocesan or eparchial pilgrimages and large groups for the Jubilee, point persons should contact [pilgrim@iubilaeum2025.va](mailto:pilgrim@iubilaeum2025.va) and communicate the dates of the intended pilgrimage and an indicative estimate of the number of participants. Staff from the Vatican Dicastery for Evangelization will respond accordingly.





- As the Jubilee year approaches, as soon as practicably possible, it will be necessary for point persons to send the list of names of those from the local diocese or eparchy who will take part in Jubilee events.
- The Dicastery for Evangelization will register the participants among the official list of those enrolled.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

The USCCB is NOT coordinating any *national* activities in Rome during the Jubilee Year, nor is the USCCB coordinating any official *national delegation* to Jubilee events.

## JUBILEE VOLUNTEERS

If people from dioceses/eparchies are interested in volunteering, here are the requirements and expectations.

#### Who can serve as a volunteer for the 2025 Jubilee?

- Any adult member of the faithful who intends to offer their availability for a fixed period of one week, from Saturday to Saturday, or for specific events and/or jubilees.
- It will also be necessary to present a letter from the volunteer's parish priest at the time of application which attests to the volunteer's Catholic faith and active participation in parish life.
- Knowledge of the Italian language is preferable, but not mandatory.

#### How can one apply to become a volunteer for Jubilee 2025?

- Via the official Jubilee platforms, [www.iubilaeum2025.va](http://www.iubilaeum2025.va) or the **iubilaeum25 app**, applicants may submit their application and register the week of availability for service.
- Volunteers may also offer multiple weeks of service.

- The Secretariat will then contact the volunteer to confirm details depending on requirements.
- All travel expenses to and from Rome are the responsibility of the volunteers.
- The Dicastery for Evangelization will provide *food and accommodation* during the service period.

#### What will be expected of a Volunteer for the Jubilee of 2025?

- Volunteers will welcome pilgrims at the different meeting points, providing them with information on all available services; accompanying them along the routes specially reserved to access the Papal Basilicas; and will provide assistance/ further services that may be necessary in various circumstances.
- He/she offers this service freely and without payment He/she is committed to carrying out the tasks assigned by the Jubilee Secretariat, based on the logistical-operational needs of the Jubilee program.

## COORDINATING "STATESIDE" CELEBRATIONS

- Recognizing that many cannot or choose to not travel to Rome for the Jubilee, it is **highly recommended** that dioceses and eparchies (and/or parishes and other organizations, apostolates, movements, and communities) develop "stateside" celebrations in conjunction with the Jubilee Year.
- The USCCB will be sharing **ideas on how to develop these "stateside" local events**, which will be posted on the bishops-only and public websites as they are created.





- Dioceses, eparchies, and local communities may wish to host their “stateside” activity in conjunction with the timing of the Jubilee celebrations of particular groups who will be gathered with the Holy Father in Rome throughout the year (i.e., catechists, families and children, young people, the elderly, the poor, etc.).
- The audience-specific “stateside” events **can occur concurrently** with events taking place in Rome; dioceses, eparchies, and local communities can also *live-stream* the Vatican celebrations with the Holy Father as part of their particular “stateside” celebration.
- Dioceses, eparchies and local communities may also wish to coordinate a **domestic Jubilee pilgrimage** to Catholic sites and destinations across the United States throughout the year or at a specific moment that corresponds to one of the audience-specific celebrations taking place in Rome.

## FAQs ON THE JUBILEE

### Should our diocese/eparchy coordinate a trip to Rome or plan a “stateside” event?

Both options can be done. However, to ensure engagement of the most Catholics with regard to the Jubilee, it is highly recommended that “stateside” activities and resourcing local communities be carried out in 2025.

### Will our diocese/eparchy be able to see the Holy Father?

Throughout the year, the agenda for most Jubilee celebrations involve programs at which the Pope is present, such as a Mass or particular audience. The exact details of those experiences are yet to be shared.

### What are the “Jubilee rites” that are listed on the agenda for the various Jubilee celebrations?

These are special moments of prayer that will take place at various basilicas and locations around Rome. The exact details of those experiences are yet to be shared.

### If we take a group to Rome, how do we get accommodation, meals, and transportation?

Should your diocese or eparchy or local group be working with a travel agency, those companies are able to book those elements of travel for or with you. If you are not going with an outside agency, diocesan/eparchial leaders may need to explore these options on their own as they would with any personal trip abroad.

### Will there be any U.S. activities happening in Rome during the Jubilee?

The USCCB is not coordinating any U.S. events during any of the Jubilee celebrations.

### What about the groups or ministries not included on the Jubilee calendar?

While the Holy See has designated a number of groups and ministries on their Jubilee calendar, not everything was included. However, in your local diocese or eparchy, or in collaboration with other dioceses, eparchies, or organizations, you can hold a special celebration for another population, ministry, or area of celebration in your local area. You can also celebrate the already-listed groups on alternative days, based on local circumstances.

### For any additional questions, you are welcome to contact the following individuals on staff at USCCB:

- Marilyn Santos, Secretariat of Evangelization and Catechesis, [msantos@usccb.org](mailto:msantos@usccb.org)
- Paul Jarzembowski, Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, [pjarzembowski@usccb.org](mailto:pjarzembowski@usccb.org)







***Sto. Niño  
Devotion***  
(every Friday  
after the  
12:10 p.m. Mass)

*Judy Labaria  
Alma Raymundo  
Cathy Bohol  
Sheila Montemayor  
Anonymous*



***Black  
Nazarene***  
***Feast Day  
January 9***

*Rosie Drapiza  
Lydia Cagampan  
Rene & Elsa Tuazon  
Celia & Paul Gravador*



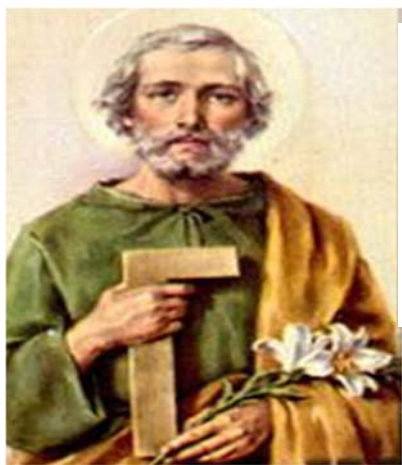
***Our Lady of  
Perpetual Help  
Devotion***  
(every Tuesday  
after the  
12:10 Mass)

*Raya & Gamboa  
Families*



***San Lorenzo Ruiz***  
***First  
Filipino Saint***  
***(Sep 28)***

*Fe Macatangay  
Jeanette Chafe  
John & Gemma O'Donnell  
Evelyn Grande  
Mely Saavedra*

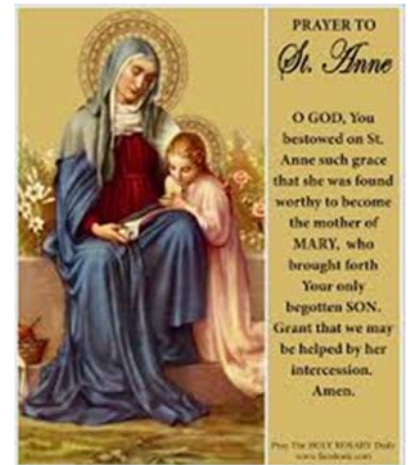


***Saint  
Joseph***

***Feast Day  
March 19***

*Xenia Villamejor*

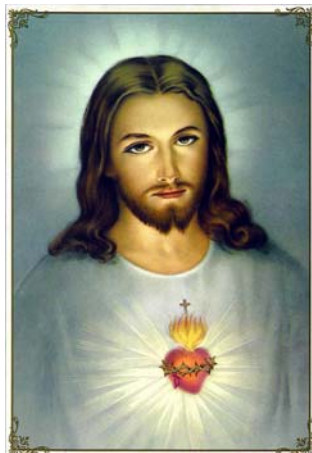
***St. Anne***  
***Feast Day  
July 26***



***Sacred  
Heart***

***First Friday  
Schedule***

***4pm Holy Hour  
5:15 Mass***



***OUR  
LADY  
OF  
FATIMA***

***Pray the  
rosary***





The Graceful Chapter

## Psalm 23

1 The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

3 He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

The Graceful Chapter

*Yap Family*



### *St. Patrick Charismatic Prayer Group*

*Charismatic & Healing Mass:  
Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 2:00 p.m.*

**Matt Dorsey**  
SAN FRANCISCO SUPERVISOR

I'm proud to represent you in City Hall — and grateful for the faith community we share at St. Patrick's. For help with city matters, feel free to call my office at (415) 554-7970 or email [Matt.Dorsey@sfgov.org](mailto:Matt.Dorsey@sfgov.org).

Best,

*Matt Dorsey*

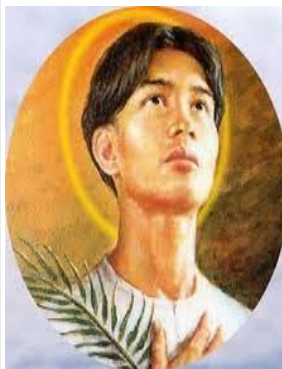


### *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

*Feast Day  
December 12*



### *St. Pedro Calungsod 2<sup>nd</sup> Filipino Saint (April 2)*



*Elena & Mark Ramoran Gayapa Family,  
Romeo & Antonina Real Family,  
Dan & Annie Lacap Family,  
Jesus, Jr. & Malou Paningbatan,  
Vida Ventura,  
Nenette Murata,  
Cristin Salangsang*