



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

The Church of the Nativity

MASSES

Sundays 08:00, 09:30, 11:30 AM and 05:00 PM

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

Weekdays 07:30 AM and 05:30 PM

Holy Days 07:30 AM, 05:30 and 07:30 PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Opus Dei priest)

03:30 PM - 04:30 PM (parish priest)

(also by appointment)

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

(contact rectory 2 months in advance)

WEDDINGS Saturdays 11:00 AM and 02:00 PM

(contact rectory at least 6 months in advance)

PASTOR

Rev. Msgr. Steven D. Otellini

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Mark G. Mazza

PERMANENT DEACONS

Rev. Mr. Dominick Peloso

Rev. Mr. Thomas Kelly

WEEKEND ASSISTANTS

Rev. Paul Maillet, P.S.S.

Rev. Gladstone Stevens, P.S.S.

SCHOOL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Monica Hickam • (650) 853-1009

24-HOUR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Mrs. Mary Ellen Peloso • (650) 269-7794



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

27 NOVEMBER 2016

“You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

MATTHEW 24: 44



FIRST READING

Come...that He may instruct us in His ways, and we may walk in His paths.

ISAIAH 2: 1-5

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem.

PSALMS 122

SECOND READING

Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

ROMANS 13: 11-14

GOSPEL

Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.

MATTHEW 24: 37-44

CALENDAR

SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS WEEK OF 27 NOV - 03 DEC

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|---|
| SAT | 05:00 PM | Priest's intentions |
| SUN | Masses | Priest's intentions |
| MON | 07:30 AM | Gregory Schoenstein |
| | 05:30 PM | John Geibel; † Hugh Jones; † Ruth Nardone; † Souls in Purgatory |
| TUE | 07:30 AM | † Souls in Purgatory |
| | 05:30 PM | † Miriam and Rolly Somer; † Tom Del Sarto |
| WED | 07:30 AM | † Souls in Purgatory |
| | 05:30 PM | Audrey Custodio |
| THU | 07:30 AM | † Pat Smythe |
| | 05:30 PM | ICF #351 living and deceased members |
| FRI | 07:30 AM | † John Martin |
| | 05:30 PM | † Thomas Meagher |
| SAT | 08:00 AM | Michael Samisoni Peavler; The Peloso and Munk families; Elizabeth Pinelli; Increase in vocations; † Catherine Semanyk |

Please pray for those in need of physical or spiritual healing

VOLUNTEER THANK YOU PARTY

Msgr. Steven Otellini cordially invites all Nativity volunteers to the annual Thank You Christmas Party on **Saturday, 17 DEC 2016**, after the **05:00 PM** Mass. Volunteers are a very important part of the Nativity community and your help is invaluable. The party will be in the rectory; if you have done any volunteer work for Nativity Church or School, please stop by for some friendly company, good food, drinks and general good cheer. This includes all volunteers, e.g., choir members, ushers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ministries and groups, carnival, tree lot, Adopt-a-Family, Respect Life, and anyone who has done a special project, etc. This is our chance to say “thanks” for all your generous help throughout the year.

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| SUN | 07:00 PM | Holy Hour for Priests |
| MON-FRI | 07:10 AM | Morning Prayer |
| MON-FRI | 05:10 PM | Evening Prayer |
| TUE | 06:00 PM | Cenacles of Life Rosary |
| THU | 06:00 PM | Perpetual Help Novena |
| SAT | 06:15 AM | Men's Prayer Group |
| SAT | 07:40 AM | Morning Prayer |
| SAT | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Confessions (Opus Dei priest) |
| SAT | 03:30 PM - 04:30 PM | Confessions (parish priest) |

27 NOV (Sunday)

28 NOV (Monday)

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| 07:30 PM | Legion of Mary |
| 07:30 PM | RCIA |
| 07:30 PM | St. Vincent de Paul Society |

29 NOV (Tuesday)

| | |
|----------|----------------|
| 09:30 AM | Bible Study |
| 08:00 PM | H ⁴ |
| 07:30 PM | Bible Study |

30 NOV (Wednesday)

01 DEC (Thursday)

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| 11:00 AM | The Thursday Group |
| 06:00 PM | ICF #351 Dinner and Meeting |

02 DEC (Friday)

| | |
|----------|----------------------|
| 09:30 AM | First Friday |
| | Nativity Moms' Group |


1st

03 DEC (Saturday)

First Saturday

1st

PARISH OFFERINGS

| | |
|---|----------------------|
|  | WEEK OF 12-13 NOV |
| TOTAL: | \$12,306 |
| Annual Diocesan Appeal Progress: | \$78,807 |
| 2016 ADA Goal: | \$148,082 |

SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

SOLEMNITY, FEAST, MEMORIAL • OPTIONAL MEMORIAL • OTHER

30 NOV (Wednesday) SAINT ANDREW, Apostle

St. Andrew was first a disciple of **John the Baptist**. When he became a follower of Christ, he brought along his brother, **Simon Peter**. Andrew is the apostle who found a boy carrying loaves and fishes, which Jesus multiplied for the hungry multitude. He was crucified at Achaia on an "X"-shaped cross (in heraldry an "X"-shaped charge (*saltire*) is often referred to as a *St. Andrew's cross*). Andrew is said to have preached for two days while on the cross. He is the patron saint of Scotland.



03 DEC (Saturday) SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER, Priest (1506-1552)

Born in Spain, Francis Xavier studied in Paris and became a follower of **Ignatius Loyola**. He was one of the founding **Jesuits**, and the first Jesuit missionary. He proclaimed the Gospel in India and Japan, and died on Sancian, an island near the China coast. He is the patron saint of foreign travelers.

MINISTRY AND GROUP NEWS

NATIVITY MOMS GROUP

All moms are invited to join the **Nativity Moms' Group**. Our next meeting will be **Friday, 02 DEC 2016** from **09:30-11:00 AM** in the **O'Hare Center**. Come meet other moms, share the joys and challenges of motherhood, and pray a rosary for our families! Refreshments will be provided. If you have little ones at home, please bring them along. Contact **Christine Semler** at **650/594-4637** or **Monica Hendricks** at **650/367-4944** for more information.

COME TO BETHLEHEM

An 800-ft² Nativity Diorama will be on display at **Our Lady of Peace Church and Shrine** from **09 DEC-08 JAN, 05:00-09:00 PM (M-F), 09:00 AM-09:00 PM (Sat-Sun)** and also by appointment. It is in the Family Learning Center and admittance is free. Our Lady of Peace is located at 2800 Mission College Blvd., Santa Clara. For more information call **408/988-4585**.

THANK YOU FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The **Nativity Conference of St. Vincent de Paul** thanks you for your generosity in the recent "Brown Bag Sunday" collection on 30 OCT. Your contributions for this collection totaled **\$8,680.00**. Almost every cent of this will go directly to those in need since we have almost no overhead costs.

In the past year Nativity Conference of SVdP volunteers made 744 visits to households in this parish who were experiencing financial difficulties. With the help of both 2nd Harvest and the San Mateo County Council of SVdP, we provided more than **10 tons** of food, **\$15,000** of Safeway gift cards and **\$50,000** in rent assistance. With humbleness and friendship, we enter these peoples' homes, meet them face to face, and in your name and because of your generosity, we are able to provide them with a helping hand.

Please also consider becoming a volunteer for as little as 3 hours per month. We need your help and you will find it rewarding. As with all giving you will receive more than you give. If you are interested, just leave a voice mail at **650/321-7424** and someone will get back to you.

Thank you again and God bless you for your generosity.

You have never strayed too far for the Father's forgiveness and grace.

SCHOLA SERAPHICA CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Tickets are available for **Schola Seraphica's 10th Annual Christmas Concert** on **04 DEC 2016, 02:30 PM** at **St. Patrick's Seminary**. Tickets are **\$20** for adults and **\$15** for seniors and students.

They may be purchased at the Nativity parish office between **09:00 AM-04:00 PM Monday to Friday**. Seating is limited. We are looking forward to sharing more beautiful music with you.

CENACLES OF LIFE PRAYER GROUP

Our Nativity rosary prayer group continues to pray to end the culture of death. All are invited to come! We pray two rosaries together and offer up a fast each week. We meet at **06:00 PM** in the church each **Tuesday** evening.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Nativity Church is open 24/7. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration and there is always someone present in prayer. Won't you join us by signing up for your weekly Holy Hour? When you sign up, you and your intentions share in the grace of everyone who comes to visit. Come and experience the dramatic presence of God in our lives. Please consider the following hours as there is no one currently assigned to them (or pick an hour that works for you):



Sunday: 10:00 PM

Tuesday: 04:00 PM

Thursday: 01:00 PM; 02:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 PM

Thank you in advance for your generosity. The God who is not outdone in generosity will certainly bless you and your intentions. Call **Mary Ellen Peloso (650/269-7794)** to sign up.

*Pregnant? Need Help? Please contact
the Juan Diego Society (408/258-2008),
the Gabriel Project (800/910-0191),
or San Juan Diego Centro por la Vida at St. Francis (650/322-2152).*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please keep all of our newest members in your prayers, as well as those who have preceded us to the Father.



BAPTISMS

MARRIAGES • John Sawin and Therese Vinal

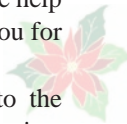
PARISHIONERS

DEATHS • Brooke Allison Armer
• Deirdre O'Sullivan

SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

This weekend the second collection is for the **Altar Society**. Christmas is just around the corner ... Advent is a time of preparation for Christ's birth! Your donation will help fund the flowers, linens, vestments, and all that beautifies our liturgy and church, not only at Christmas but throughout the year. Please help support the work of our creative Altar Society, who thank you for your continued generosity and support!

Checks for all special collections should be made out to the **Church of the Nativity**. In the memo line write the appropriate reference for your donation, for example: *Altar Society*.



NATIVITY SCHOOL ANNUAL APPEAL

Next weekend there will be a special collection for **Nativity School**. For the last five years instead of relying on monthly collections at Sunday Mass, we have issued an appeal to our parish family for a single donation to support Nativity School. The parish has always answered with extraordinary generosity. This appeal has doubled the amounts collected in monthly installments throughout the year. On **03-04 DEC 2016** our second collection will be for our Parish School which is indeed thriving. We are blessed with a strong Catholic identity. We hope all will give generously to this vital ministry and excellent education that is provided for our children.



IN THE COMMUNITY

BEST. ADVENT. EVER.

DynamicCatholic.com will once again help us all prepare for Christmas with their *Best Advent Ever*. The theme this year is *Rediscover Christmas!* This program will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during the busy holiday season. Advent is about getting ready to encounter Jesus. Opening your heart to Him; getting to know Him; becoming a better husband or wife, father or mother, son or daughter, friend, etc. This is a free email program. Each day you will receive practical tips, free Christmas music, or an inspirational video. To sign up for this program go to bestadventever.com. Be ready to *Rediscover Christmas!*

CATHOLIC PRIEST PROVIDES PSYCHO-SPIRITUAL COUNSELING

You may have seen or heard **Fr. Chris Arockiaraj, PSS**, at Masses at Nativity Church. He has been a counselor and spiritual director since 1995 and has professional experience as a clinician, pastor, teacher, formator, administrator and hospital chaplain. He studied psychology at Loyola University in Maryland and has a Ph.D. in Pastoral Psychology and a Doctorate in Ministry specializing in Pastoral Counseling. At present, he is a full-time faculty member and formator at St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park. Fr. Chris compassionately accompanies people in a gentle, collaborative and supportive way toward their goal. He is specializing in working with stress, depression, anxiety, addiction, grief, life transitions, relationship, family, faith and spiritual concerns and challenges. Fr. Chris integrates psychology and spirituality and is a certified Pastoral Counselor by the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. If you are interested, please contact him at **650/289-3356 / 410/428-0773** or carockiaraj@gmail.com.

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR MARRIAGE?

Many have read in the secular and Catholic press reports about the efforts of Pope Francis to assist married couples. For many reasons there is a lack of solid information about these matters. Your priests share the concerns of the Holy Father and make themselves available to help couples have the certainty of a Catholic marriage that is fully recognized by the state and the Catholic Church. For further information and for couples to arrange a personal meeting with a priest, please contact **Fr. Mark G. Mazza** at **650/323-7914, xtn 103** or frmgm2012@yahoo.com.

GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE

The *Rosary Jubilee Booklet*, compiled by the **Dominican Nuns of Corpus Christi Monastery**, Menlo Park, is a perfect gift for giving. Give it to your family and friends, VA hospitals and military personnel, nursing homes, people suffering with depression or other mental disorders, the homebound and the homeless. They are great for stocking stuffers and the perfect gift to send in a greeting card. You may obtain copies after the morning Masses outside Church beginning **27 NOV 2016**. The booklets are **\$2.00** apiece.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CYO TRANSPORTATION SERVICES SEEKING DRIVERS

Catholic Charities CYO Transportation Services has employment opportunities for individuals who wish to be a school bus driver. CHP – Certified School Bus Driver Training will be provided at no cost in **late November 2016**. If you are looking for a good paying job with benefits you may sign up for the free training. Please contact **Bill Avalos**, Operations Manager at bavalos@catholiccharitiessf.org or **650/757-2117**.

FROM THE HOLY SEE

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

Each month **His Holiness** asks for general and missionary prayer intentions. For **December 2016**, the Holy Father's prayer intentions are:

Universal: *End to Child-Soldiers*

That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

Missionary: *Europe*

That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.

SIMBANG GABI FOR DEANERY 11

What is *Simbang Gabi* (meaning "Masses at Night")? It is a long-treasured Filipino spiritual tradition. In the Philippines, it is celebrated as a series of nine dawn Masses right before Christmas, each Mass followed by a reception and fellowship. Beginning on **December 15th** and ending on **December 23rd**, these daily novena Masses are now also celebrated in the evening. Set within Advent, **Simbang Gabi** invites participants to heighten their preparation for the birth of Jesus, as well as honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. The most popular symbol for **Simbang Gabi** is the **parol**, or star lantern, which represents the star of Bethlehem. A parol is usually brought up during the processional to remind us of the guiding light that led many to the manger. Through **Simbang Gabi**, the deanery hopes to offer a deeper spiritual experience leading to a more meaningful Christmas season for all. This celebration of faith also hopes to strengthen the bonds between cultures and between parishes, thereby strengthening fellowship and family life in our community and deanery.

The following **Churches in Deanery 11** will be having Masses for *Simbang Gabi*:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 15 DEC (THU) | 07:00 PM St. Charles, San Carlos |
| 16 DEC (FRI) | 07:00 PM St. Raymond, Menlo Park |
| 17 DEC (SAT) | 07:00 PM Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Redwood City |
| 18 DEC (SUN) | 07:00 PM St. Charles, San Carlos |
| 19 DEC (MON) | 07:00 PM Church of the Nativity, Menlo Park |
| 20 DEC (TUE) | 05:00 PM St. Pius, Redwood City |
| 21 DEC (WED) | 05:00 PM St. Charles, San Carlos |
| 22 DEC (THU) | 05:00 PM St. Matthias, Redwood City |
| 23 DEC (FRI) | 07:00 PM St. Pius, Redwood City |

CALENDAR OF NOVENAE

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 27 NOV (SUN) | FIRST DAY: Saint Nicholas |
| 28 NOV (MON) | SECOND DAY: Saint Nicholas |
| 29 NOV (TUE) | THIRD DAY: Saint Nicholas |
| 30 NOV (WED) | FOURTH DAY: Saint Nicholas |
| 01 DEC (THU) | FIFTH DAY: Saint Nicholas |
| 02 DEC (FRI) | SIXTH DAY: Saint Nicholas |
| 03 DEC (SAT) | SEVENTH DAY: Saint Nicholas FIRST DAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe |
| 04 DEC (SUN) | EIGHTH DAY: Saint Nicholas SECOND DAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe FIRST DAY: Saint Lucy |
| 05 DEC (MON) | NINTH DAY: Saint Nicholas THIRD DAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe SECOND DAY: Saint Lucy |
| 06 DEC (TUE) | Feast of Saint Nicholas FOURTH DAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe THIRD DAY: Saint Lucy |
| 07 DEC (WED) | FIFTH DAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe FOURTH DAY: Saint Lucy |
| 08 DEC (THU) | SIXTH DAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe FIFTH DAY: Saint Lucy |
| 09 DEC (FRI) | SEVENTH DAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe SIXTH DAY: Saint Lucy |
| 10 DEC (SAT) | EIGHTH DAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe SEVENTH DAY: Saint Lucy |

FIND THE NOVENA PRAYERS

St. Nicholas:

www.fisheaters.com/novenas.html#nicholas

Our Lady of Guadalupe:

www.sancta.org/novena.html

St. Lucy:

www.novena.com/2013/12/10/saint-lucy/



NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, **08 DEC 2016**, Nativity Parish will again participate in the Nationwide Prayer for an end to abortion. The holy hours are from **08:30 PM-12:30 AM**, with the nationwide Hour of Unity **09:00-10:00 PM**. Please join us in this annual prayer for our country to end this very evil activity. For questions, call **Mary Ellen Peloso** at **650/269-7794**.

HELP NEEDED FOR SIMBANG GABI

The deanery will be observing Simbang Gabi from **15-23 DEC 2016**. Masses will be held at various parishes throughout the deanery. Nativity's mass will be celebrated on **19 DEC** at **07:00 PM** with a reception held after mass at Vallombrosa. We are asking all Filipino families in the parish to participate. Please provide **Ben** and **Grace Wikramanayake** (**650/324-4098** or Bengrace.wikramanayake@comcast.net) with your name and contact information. We will need a lector, Eucharistic minister, and altar servers to help with the mass. We will also need help with the reception (setup, food and clean-up). We welcome all parishioners to this glorious novena in preparation for Christmas and in honor of the blessed Mother. Thank you for your support.

Happy New Year!

For the Latin Rite of Roman Catholicism, this Sunday is the beginning of the liturgical year. Western Christian liturgical calendars are based on the cycle of the Roman or Latin Rite (even Protestant calendars, since this cycle pre-dates the Protestant Reformation). The liturgical seasons are **Advent**, **Christmas**, **Ordinary Time** (time after Epiphany), **Lent**, **Easter**, and **Ordinary Time** (time after Pentecost).

Advent begins four Sundays prior to Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve.

Christmas begins on the evening of 24 December and ends on the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus (13 January).

Ordinary Time does not mean “plain” or “regular” time. It comes from the same root word as “ordinal” (ordinal numbers are first, second, third, etc.). Ordinary time means “the counted weeks”. It begins after the Baptism of Our Lord and continues through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at the beginning of the Easter Vigil (the end of Holy Week).

Easter as a liturgical season begins with the Easter Vigil and ends on Pentecost Sunday. The date of Easter Sunday varies each year, according to the rule that it falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon that occurs on or after the day of the vernal equinox (21 March). This means that Easter Sunday will never be before 22 March nor after 25 April.

Ordinary Time resumes on Pentecost Monday and continues until the Saturday before the first Sunday of Advent.

The First Friday and First Saturday Devotions

Many Catholics observe special devotions on the First Friday and First Saturday of each month, particularly attendance at Mass and the reception of the Eucharist.

First Friday:

Our Lord revealed to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, as one of the 12 Promises of the Sacred Heart:

“In the excess of the mercy of My Heart, I promise you that My all-powerful love will grant to all those who will receive Communion on the First Fridays, for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance: they will not die in My displeasure, nor without receiving the sacraments; and My Heart will be their secure refuge in that last hour.”

First Saturday:

Subsequent to the apparitions at Fatima, our Blessed Mother appeared again to Saint Lucia, on 10 DEC 1925, with the Child Jesus by her side. At that time, she revealed her Immaculate Heart to Lucia, and told her: **“Look, my daughter, at My Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce Me at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console Me and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to Me.”**

Would you consider making this one of your own special devotions to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary?

SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SERVICES

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|---|
| 21 DEC | (Wednesday) | 07:30 PM | Advent Penance Service |
| 24 DEC | (Saturday) | 08:00 AM | Daily Mass |
| | | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Reconciliation |
| | | 01:00 PM - 03:00 PM | Reconciliation |
| | | 06:00 PM | Vigil Mass of Christmas |
| | | 10:00 PM | Choral Prelude to Christmas Mass |
| | | 10:45 PM | Christmas Proclamation and Procession to the Crib |
| | | 11:00 PM | Christmas Mass |
| 25 DEC | (Sunday) | 08:00 AM | Christmas Day Mass |
| | | 09:30 AM | Christmas Day Mass |
| | | 11:30 AM | Christmas Day Mass <i>(no 05:00 PM Mass)</i> |
| 26 DEC | (Monday) | 09:00 AM | Daily Mass <i>(one Mass only)</i> |
| 31 DEC | (Saturday) | 08:00 AM | Daily Mass |
| | | 05:00 PM | Vigil: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God |
| 01 JAN | (Sunday) | | Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i> |
| | | 08:00 AM | Holy Sacrifice of the Mass |
| | | 09:30 AM | Holy Sacrifice of the Mass |
| | | 11:30 AM | Holy Sacrifice of the Mass |
| | | 05:00 PM | Holy Sacrifice of the Mass |
| 02 JAN | (Monday) | 09:00 AM | Holy Sacrifice of the Mass |
| 03 JAN | (Tuesday) | | Regular daily Mass schedule |