



210 Oak Grove Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
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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

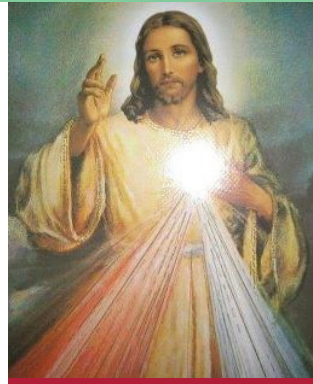


DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

23 APRIL 2017

Blessed are those who have not seen
and have believed.

JOHN 20: 29



FIRST READING

Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

ACTS 2: 42-47

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

My strength and my courage is the Lord, and He has been my Savior.

PSALMS 118

SECOND READING

You rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy.

1 PETER 1: 3-9

GOSPEL

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

JOHN 20: 19-31

CALENDAR

SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS WEEK OF 23 - 29 APR

SAT	05:00 PM	Priest's intentions
SUN	Masses	Priest's intentions
MON	07:30 AM	The Neylan and Cardine families
	05:30 PM	Evangeline Carlos; Barbara Cardinali; The President and all elected officials; † Constance Ribisi
TUE	07:30 AM	† John Kates
	05:30 PM	† Miriam and Rolly Somer; † Tom Del Sarto
WED	07:30 AM	† Diana Thurman
	05:30 PM	† Gene Winnike; † Joseph Carr
THU	07:30 AM	† Gregory Turner, Sr.
	05:30 PM	Judge Barton Phelps
FRI	07:30 AM	† Jose Guevara, Jr.
	05:30 PM	† Tina Reyes
SAT	08:00 AM	† Ambrose Mainini; † Katherine Eastman; † Becky Mosser; † Maximo DeLunas

Please pray for those in need of physical or spiritual healing




Parish Office Hours
09:00 AM-04:00 PM
Monday-Friday

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)
23 APR	(Sunday)	
	02:00 PM	Divine Mercy Mass
24 APR	(Monday)	
	07:30 PM	Saint Faustina Play
	07:30 PM	Legion of Mary
	07:30 PM	RCIA
25 APR	(Tuesday)	
	08:00 PM	H ⁴
26 APR	(Wednesday)	
27 APR	(Thursday)	
	11:00 AM	The Thursday Group
	03:15 PM	Altar Server Training
	07:00 PM	Confirmation Rehearsal
28 APR	(Friday)	
	09:30 AM	Nativity Moms Group
	07:00 PM	Confirmation
29 APR	(Saturday)	

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR LOURDES

Monsignor Otellini will be leaving on Sunday, 30 APR 2017 for his annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, with the Order of Malta. If you have any prayer intentions that you would like Monsignor to take with him, please seal them in an envelope, and bring them to the rectory by Friday, 28 APR 2017. These intentions will be put into the grotto at Lourdes where Our Lady appeared to St. Bernadette.

PARISH OFFERINGS	
	WEEK OF 08-09 APR
TOTAL:	\$14,637
Altar Society:	\$3,373
Annual Diocesan Appeal Progress:	\$20,822
2017 ADA Goal:	\$165,940

SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

SOLEMNITY, FEAST, MEMORIAL • OPTIONAL MEMORIAL • OTHER

25 APR (Tuesday):

SAINT MARK, Evangelist (d. ~74)



The second of the four evangelists, whose gospel—which sets out to proclaim the divinity of Christ—is likely the common source for both Luke and Matthew. He was a disciple of **Peter**, and his gospel is most vivid when recounting Peter’s eyewitness testimony. He was a cousin of Barnabas and accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey.

ETERNAL FATHER . . .

. . . in Whom Mercy is endless, and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us, and increase Your Mercy in us, so that in difficult moments, we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your Holy Will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

28 APR (Thursday):

SAINT PETER CHANEL, Priest and Martyr (1803-1841)

The first martyr in Oceania, where he was ministering in New Hebrides.

SAINT LOUIS MARY DE MONTFORT, Priest (1673-1716)

Devout from his youth, Louis entered a Paris seminary after walking 130 miles in the rain. While recuperating from a deliberate poisoning, he wrote *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*.

29 APR (Friday):

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA, Doctor of the Church (1347-1380)

Deeply loving God from her youth, Catherine entered the Third Order of St. Dominic. She fought for the rights of the Roman Pontiff and promoted the renewal of religious life. Her spiritual writings are classics of Christian mysticism.

MINISTRY AND GROUP NEWS

NATIVITY MOMS GROUP

All moms are invited to join the **Nativity Moms’ Group**. Our next meeting will be **Friday, 28 APR 2017** 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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Nativity Church is open 24x7. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration and there is always someone present in prayer. Won’t you join us by signing up for a weekly Holy Hour? 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 AM

Thursday: 09:00 AM

Friday: 09:00 AM

Saturday: 07:00 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.

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

FATIMA ACTIVITIES

In celebration of the **100th anniversary** of the appearance of our Lady at Fatima, Portugal in 1917, Nativity parish will be having a number of special activities. On **12 MAY 2017**, we will have the first of six Fatima Masses, processions and benedictions. It begins at **07:30 PM** in the church. Everyone is encouraged to participate as this is the vigil of the actual feast of our Lady of Fatima. Additionally there will be a Fatima talk given by **Deacon Dominick Peloso** in the **O’Hare Center** on **Saturday, 13 MAY 2017** at **06:30 PM**. This will be a complete overview of the Blessed Mother’s appearances including many facts not generally known. For questions call **Deacon Dominick** at **650/269-6279**.

First Saturday Request: Most importantly, all parishioners are encouraged to follow Our Lady’s request at Fatima and do the **Five First Saturdays**. She requested that in five first Saturdays in succession, we receive communion, go to confession within a reasonable time before and after that date (generally one week before or after), say the rosary, and keep her company meditating on the mysteries for 15 minutes. For questions call **Deacon Dominick** at **650/269-6279**.

“See, my daughter, my Heart encircled by thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Do you, at least, strive to console me. Tell them that I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those who, in order to make reparation to me, on the First Saturday of five successive months, go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for a quarter of an hour, meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary.”

Our Lady to Lucia dos Santos on 10 DEC 1925

*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 • Lucina Rita, daughter of Anthony and Luz Maria Palomo

MARRIAGES

PARISHIONERS

DEATHS • Robert Masi
• Beverly Rowen

SAINT FAUSTINA PLAY

On **Monday, 24 APR 2017**, the day after the Divine Mercy celebration, Nativity will be hosting a St. Luke Production on the life of **St. Faustina**. She was the saint that Jesus appeared to in Poland and He asked her to spread the devotion to His Divine Mercy. The play begins at **07:30 PM** in the church. We will need volunteers for that afternoon to set up. Please call **Deacon Dominick** for questions and if you are able to help with the set up (we need the help).

SPECIAL COLLECTION

This weekend there will be a special collection for the **Catholic Home Missions**. Over 40% of US dioceses, even some in California, are considered home missions because they are unable to fund essential pastoral work needed in their communities. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/home-missions.

"BROWN BAG" SUNDAY



Next week the **St. Vincent de Paul Society** will be collecting donations after the Masses.

IN THE COMMUNITY

FULL-TIME TEACHING POSITIONS: NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nativity Catholic School, 1250 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025, is accepting resumes for full-time teaching positions for the 2017–2018 school year. A BS/BA degree and a current California Teaching credential is required. Candidates should be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Roman Catholic Church. Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience. Submit cover letter, resume, and copy of credential to **Mrs. Susie Foster** via postal mail or email sfoster@nativityschool.com. Phone: **650/325-7304**.



FULL-TIME CLASSROOM ASSISTANT POSITIONS: NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Nativity Catholic School, 1250 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025, is accepting resumes for full-time classroom assistant positions for the 2017–2018 school year. A BA/BS degree is preferred. Experience working with children is required. Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience and locally competitive. Submit cover letter and resume to **Mrs. Susie Foster**, Principal, via the postal mail or email sfoster@nativityschool.com. Phone: **650/325-7304**.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE GLUTEN-INTOLERANT

We now have available low-gluten altar bread for those who are gluten-intolerant. These hosts contain **less than 0.01%** gluten and are approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. If you wish to receive Holy Communion with this special host please get at the end of the Communion line and let the priest know that you would like to receive the low-gluten host. If you have any questions please call the parish office, **650/323-7914**. If you would like to learn more about this altar bread visit www.altarbreadsbpa.com/lowgluten.php



NATIVITY LADIES OF YESTERYEAR

We will once again be having a **Nativity Ladies of Yesteryear** dinner at **Angelo Mio's** on Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park, on **05 JUN 2017** at **05:00 PM**. For more information call **Bonnie Neylan** at **650/269-4653**.

MOTHERS DAY CARDS

Mother's Day is **14 MAY 2017**! What could be a better gift to your mother, wife, mother-in-law, grandmother, godmother, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, daughter, or friend then to be remembered in a novena of Masses in observance of Mother's Day at the Church of the Nativity? Mother's Day Cards are available at the entrances to the church. Put the name(s) of your loved ones who are mothers, living or deceased, on the larger envelope and return it to the parish office or put it into the collection. Send the card to your favorite mother. These names will be placed on the altar during May so that they will be remembered in a novena of Masses that will be said in their honor.



AFFORDABLE CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE

The **Archdiocesan Respect Life Program** is sponsoring a conference at **St. Mary's Cathedral** on **Saturday, 29 APR 2017**, on "*Restoring Affordable Catholic Health Care in the San Francisco Bay Area.*" The conference begins at **08:00 AM** with Mass, a continental breakfast in St. Francis Hall, and opening prayer and welcome by Archbishop Cordileone at **09:00 AM**. Adjournment is at **12:00 PM**; cost is **\$20**. For additional information and to RSVP, contact **Vicki Evans** at **415/614-5533** or evansv@sfarch.org.

FROM THE HOLY SEE

THE HOLY FATHER'S
PRAYER INTENTIONS

Each month **His Holiness** asks for prayer intentions. For **April 2017**, the Holy Father's prayer intentions are:

Intention: *Young People*

That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY HOMILY OF POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II Sunday, 22 April 2001

"Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one; I died, and behold I am alive for evermore" (Rv 1: 17-18).

We heard these comforting words in the Second Reading taken from the Book of Revelation. They invite us to turn our gaze to Christ, to experience his reassuring presence. To each person, whatever his condition, even if it were the most complicated and dramatic, the Risen One repeats: "Fear not!"; I died on the Cross but now "I am alive for evermore"; "I am the first and the last, and the living one".

"The first", that is, the source of every being and the first-fruits of the new creation; "the last", the definitive end of history; "the living one", the inexhaustible source of life that triumphed over death for ever. In the Messiah, crucified and risen, we recognize the features of the Lamb sacrificed on Golgotha, who implores forgiveness for his torturers and opens the gates of heaven to repentant sinners; we glimpse the face of the immortal King who now has "the keys of Death and Hades" (Rv 1: 18)

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endures for ever!" (Ps 117: 1).

Let us make our own the Psalmist's exclamation which we sang in the Responsorial Psalm: the Lord's mercy endures for ever! In order to understand thoroughly the truth of these words, let us be led by the liturgy to the heart of the event of salvation, which unites Christ's Death and Resurrection with our lives and with the world's history. This miracle of mercy has radically changed humanity's destiny. It is a miracle in which is unfolded the fullness of the love of the Father who, for our redemption, does not even draw back before the sacrifice of his Only-begotten Son.

OTHER NOVENA PRAYERS

Infant Jesus of Prague (nine-hour):

www.ewtn.com/library/PRAYER/PRAGNOV.TXT

St. Therese "24 Glory Be's" Novena:

www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/24_glory.htm

Novena for Priests:

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

Effecacious Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus:

www.ewtn.com/devotionals/heart/sh_novena.htm

CALENDAR OF NOVENAE

23 APR (SUN)	DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY Feast of Saint George FIFTH Day: St. Louis de Montfort FOURTH Day: St. Catherine of Siena SECOND Day: St. Joseph the Worker
24 APR (MON)	SIXTH Day: St. Louis de Montfort FIFTH Day: St. Catherine of Siena THIRD Day: St. Joseph the Worker
25 APR (TUE)	SEVENTH Day: St. Louis de Montfort SIXTH Day: St. Catherine of Siena FOURTH Day: St. Joseph the Worker
26 APR (WED)	EIGHTH Day: St. Louis de Montfort SEVENTH Day: St. Catherine of Siena FIFTH Day: St. Joseph the Worker
27 APR (THU)	NINTH Day: St. Louis de Montfort EIGHTH Day: St. Catherine of Siena SIXTH Day: St. Joseph the Worker
28 APR (FRI)	Feast of Saint Louis de Montfort NINTH Day: St. Catherine of Siena SEVENTH Day: St. Joseph the Worker
29 APR (SAT)	Feast of Saint Catherine of Siena EIGHTH Day: St. Joseph the Worker
30 APR (SUN)	NINTH Day: St. Joseph the Worker
01 MAY (MON)	Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker
02 MAY (TUE)	
03 MAY (WED)	
04 MAY (THU)	
05 MAY (FRI)	
06 MAY (SAT)	

FIND THE NOVENA PRAYERS

Saint Louis de Montfort:

novena.com/2011/04/26/novena-for-april-3/

Saint Catherine of Siena:

www.praymorenovenas.com/st-catherine-of-siena-novena/

Saint Joseph the Worker:

www.stjosephshrine.org/about-the-shrine/prayers-to-saint-joseph/

DID YOU KNOW?

The **Octave of Easter** refers to both the eight-day period following Easter Sunday and the eighth day after Easter itself (i.e., the first Sunday after Easter). Over the course of history, that Sunday has been referred to as *St. Thomas Sunday*, *White Sunday* and *Low Sunday*. In the year 2000 it was designated **Divine Mercy Sunday** by **Pope Saint John Paul II**.

- *St. Thomas Sunday* is derived from the Gospel reading for that day, which recounts the story of "doubting" St. Thomas the Apostle.
- *White Sunday* is a historical reference to the time when those newly baptized at Easter would wear their baptismal gowns until that day.
- *Low Sunday* is believed to derive from the Latin "*Laudes*", which is the first word in the Sequence for that day ("*Laudes Salvatori voce modulemur supplici*") -- "*Let us sing praises to the Savior with humble voice.*")

THE DIVINE MERCY IMAGE

There have been multiple images of the Divine Mercy produced over the years. Although **Saint Faustina** was frequently consulted about the progress of the original painting, it was her spiritual director and confessor, **Venerable Michael Sopocko**, who was responsible for hiring an artist by the name of **Eugene Kazimirowski** to paint from **Saint Faustina's** description. There is a detailed letter from Fr. Sopocko that describes what happened. He wrote: "For several months the painter was unable to satisfy the author, who became sad on that account, and it was at this time that she wrote in her diary: "Once when I was at that painter's, who's painting this image, and saw that it is not as beautiful as Jesus is, I became very sad, but I hid that deep in my heart. When we left the painter, Mother Superior remained in the city to settle various matters, but I returned home by myself, immediately I made my way to the chapel and I had a good cry. I said to the Lord: 'Who will paint You as beautiful as You are?' Of a sudden I heard the words: 'not in the beauty of the color, nor of the brush is the greatness of this image, but in my grace.'" ...



Kazimirowski's painting is the "original", and now hangs in the Cathedral in Vilnius, Lithuania. But many have noted that the facial expression and direction of the rays do not match what Saint Faustina described.

I received a deeper understanding of divine mercy. Only that soul who wants it will be damned, for God condemns no one.

*Saint Faustina
(diary paragraph 1452)*



At the end of World War II, an artist named **Adolf Hyla** presented the Sisters of our Lady of Mercy with a painting in thanksgiving that his family had been spared during the war. This painting now hangs above the tomb of Saint Faustina in the convent chapel in Lagiewniki, Poland. Hyla's version is popular in Europe and Latin America.

LISTEN TO OUR LORD'S OWN WORDS

Jesus Himself speaks of His limitless Mercy for us in the **Diary of Saint Faustina**. No Christian should ever despair if they hear what our Lord and Savior has promised us. These are only a few of the messages:

(1577) *Tell souls not to place within their own hearts obstacles to My mercy, which so greatly wants to act within them. My mercy works in all those hearts which open their doors to it. Both the sinner and the righteous person have need of My mercy. Conversion, as well as perseverance, is a grace of My mercy.*

(1520) *I have opened my Heart as a living fountain of mercy. Let all souls draw life from it. Let them approach this sea of mercy with great trust. Sinners will attain justification, and the just will be confirmed in good. Whoever places his trust in My mercy will be filled with My divine peace at the hour of death.*

(1146) *Let the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy. They have the right before others to trust in the abyss of My mercy. My daughter, write about My mercy towards tormented souls. Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask. I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion, but on the contrary, I justify him in My unfathomable and inscrutable mercy. Write: before I come as a just judge, I first open wide the door of My mercy. He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My justice...*

(1273) *There is no misery that could be a match for My mercy, neither will misery exhaust it, because as it is being granted it increases. The soul that trusts in My mercy is most fortunate, because I myself take care of it.*



Based on Saint Faustina's original description of the image, many people were dissatisfied with details of both the Kazimirowski and Hyla versions (the rays in the original were pointing downward, and the right hand in Hyla's is too high, being raised above the shoulder). So an American artist named **Robert Skemp** tried to correct these with his own version. The Skemp version is the most popular version in the Philippines even today, and hangs above the Divine Mercy Shrine in Manila.



All three of the images above have ecclesiastical approval for display in churches and for distribution to the faithful. But a fourth image has become possibly the most wide-spread, painted by another American, **Kathleen Weber**, based on Hyla's version. In fact, some refer to this as the "Hyla by Weber" image.