



210 Oak Grove Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
tel: (650) 323-7914
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 07:00 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. Patrick J. Driscoll

PERMANENT DEACONS

Rev. Mr. Dominick Peloso

Rev. Mr. Thomas Kelly

VISITING PRIESTS

Rev. Gregory Heidenblut, OSA

Msgr. James Kelly

Rev. Reginald Martin, O.P.

SCHOOL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Monica Hickam • mon.hickam@gmail.com

24-HOUR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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



HEARING LOOP ENABLED



HEARING LOOP ENABLED

FIRST READING

God will bring them back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones.

BARUCH 5: 1-9

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.

PSALMS 126

SECOND READING

This is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more.

PHILIPPIANS 1: 4-6, 8-11

GOSPEL

The word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert.

LUKE 3: 1-6



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

09 DECEMBER 2018

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance.

LUKE 3: 3

CALENDAR

SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS WEEK OF 08 - 15 DEC

SAT	05:00 PM	Priest's intentions
SUN	Masses	Priest's intentions
MON	07:30 AM	† Christian Betz
	05:30 PM	John Zappettini
TUE	07:30 AM	† Rosaleen Kelly
	05:30 PM	† Sally O'Hare; † Bob and Dot Connelly; † Terrence Meagher; † Sr. John Martin Fixa, O.P.
WED	07:30 AM	The Tropeano and Long families, living and deceased members
	05:30 PM	† Garrett Chiamparino
THU	07:30 AM	† Calvin Joe
	05:30 PM	† Victor Sygenco
FRI	07:30 AM	† Joseph Masuda
	05:30 PM	† Shelby Drazan
SAT	08:00 AM	Bob Baird; Sandra Turner; † Fulgencia Rodriguez; † Howard Walter Pierce

Please pray for those in need of physical or spiritual healing

Remember that we have the promise of Our Mother that we never need to worry about anything:

"Hear me and understand well, my son the least, that nothing should frighten or grieve you. Let not your heart be disturbed. Do not fear that sickness, nor any other sickness or anguish. Am I not here, who is your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything."



— Our Lady to Juan Diego

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)
09 DEC	(Sunday)	
	02:00 PM	Schola Seraphica Concert
	03:00 PM	RCIA
10 DEC	(Monday)	
	07:30 PM	Legion of Mary
11 DEC	(Tuesday)	
	07:00 PM	H ⁴
12 DEC	(Wednesday)	
	07:00 PM	Confirmation Class (at school)
13 DEC	(Thursday)	
	09:30 AM	Opus Dei Women's Group
	11:00 AM	The Thursday Group
14 DEC	(Friday)	
	01:00 PM	Adopt-a-Family Food Packing
15 DEC	(Saturday)	
	09:00 AM	Adopt-a-Family Deliveries
	06:00 PM	Volunteer Thank You Party

PARISH OFFERINGS

	WEEK OF 24-25 NOV
TOTAL:	\$8,839
Thanksgiving:	\$2,643
Annual Diocesan Appeal Progress:	\$91,686
2018 ADA Goal:	\$152,524

Donate online: <http://www.sfarch.org/aaa#DonateForm>

SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

SOLEMNITY, FEAST, MEMORIAL • OPTIONAL MEMORIAL • OTHER

12 DEC (Tuesday)

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE (1531)

The Blessed Virgin appeared to **Juan Diego** in 1531 calling herself the **Mother of the True God** and promising compassion and protection to all who come to her. She left an image of herself on his cloak, which is still preserved at the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Under this title, Mary has been declared **Patroness of the Americas**.



13 DEC (Wednesday)

SAINT LUCY, Martyr (~283 - ~304)

St. Lucy was a young Christian of Greek ancestry, living in Syracuse in the early fourth century. Like many early Christian



women, she devoted herself completely to Jesus. But her mother betrothed her to a pagan, and Lucy was only able to change her mother's mind after praying at the tomb of **St. Agatha** to cure her mother's illness. However, the spurned pagan suitor denounced her as a Christian, and she was martyred.



14 DEC (Thursday):

SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS

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

MINISTRY AND GROUP NEWS

ROSARY OUTSIDE ABORTION CLINIC

If you would like to pray the Rosary during the week in front of the Planned Parenthood in Redwood City, please contact **Laura** at nativitymenlorespectlife@yahoo.com or **650/257-7780** for more information. Additionally, every First Saturday of the month, a group of parishioners meets to pray there after going to the **08:00 AM** Mass and pray until about **10:00 AM**.



SPECIAL COLLECTION

The second collection today is for the **Retirement Fund for the Religious**. There are roughly **31,000** senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who benefit from this collection. They ministered for years for little pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities with our adequate savings. Today's collection helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for our elderly religious. Thank you for your generous support by giving to "those who have given a lifetime."

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: *Retirement Fund for Religious*.

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).

VOLUNTEER THANK YOU PARTY!

Msgr. Steven Otellini cordially invites all Nativity volunteers to the annual Thank You Christmas Party on **Saturday, 15 DEC 2018**, 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, Altar Society, Eucharistic Adoration, Men's club, Mom's club, carnival, tree lot, Adopt-a-Family, Legion of Mary, school of religion, St. Vincent de Paul Society, 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.

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):

Saturday: 03:00 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.

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 • Mathew Wunder and Cristina Chavez

PARISHIONERS

DEATHS • Jeanne Gressens

ON-GOING RESPONSE TO THE NATIONAL ABUSE CRISIS

Archbishop Cordileone has held several listening sessions in a Town Hall format.

Information on the archdiocesan and archbishop responses to this situation can be found at www.sfarch.org/protecting-children. Links to information on reporting abuse, archdiocesan services and resources, and much more is provided there.

Additional upcoming events are:

Saturday, 15 DEC 2018 (10:00 AM-12:00 PM) - Adoration (St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Isabella and St. Matthew)

IN THE COMMUNITY

ADOPT-A-FAMILY (PACKING AND DELIVERIES)

Our **28th Annual Christmas Adopt-A-Family** is underway. We will need volunteers for the packing of food at Nativity School on **14 DEC 2018**, and then the delivery of food and gifts on **Saturday, 15 DEC 2018**. This is a great way for everyone, especially families, to share with local families in need. For questions, call **Mary Ellen Peloso: 650/269-7794**.



BEST. ADVENT. EVER.

This year prepare for Christmas again with *Best Advent Ever*, a free email program from Dynamic Catholic that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during the busy season. Each day of Advent you will receive and email with a short inspirational video, practical tips for your everyday life, and real-life stories to encourage you in your faith journey. Each Sunday you will receive a thought provoking video reflection that will help you understand how the Gospel relates to your own life. To sign up, visit www.bestadventever.com/Christmas

MONTHLY DINNER MEETINGS FOR MEN DISCERNING A PRIESTLY VOCATION

Interested in knowing more about the priesthood as a vocation? Discernment involves listening to God, learning about yourself, and seeking the guidance of others. Discernment is not a solitary endeavor. The **Archdiocesan Office of Vocations** offers two monthly meetings for men who are interested in discovering more about the priesthood. **First Monday** meetings are in **Redwood City**. **First Thursday** meetings are in **San Francisco**. The program each time is Eucharistic Adoration in the church, followed by dinner and discussion in the rectory.

Upcoming dates:

Thursdays: 03 JAN, 07 FEB, 07 MAR 2019, (06:15-08:30 PM)

Church of the Epiphany, 826 Vienna St., San Francisco.

For information or to RSVP: **Fr. Patrick Summerhays**

415/614-5684 or summerhays.patrick@sfarch.org

Mondays: 07 JAN, 04 FEB, 04 MAR 2019 (06:15-08:30 PM)

St. Pius X Church, 1100 Woodside Rd. Redwood City

For information or to RSVP: **Fr. Tom Martin**

martin.thomas@sfarch.org

REGISTER WITH THE PARISH

We welcome all visitors and invite those who are considering coming home to the Catholic Church to register. Church attendance alone does not make you or your family registered members. To register online, please go to www.nativitymenlo.org and fill out the Parish Registration Form. To obtain one in the mail, please call the rectory office **650/323-7914** during regular business hours.

BUTTE COUNTY FIRE VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

The **Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento**, which includes **Butte County**, has established a Fire Assistance Fund. The diocesan website says, "*In light of the Northern California fires that have devastated various parts of our Diocese, Bishop Jaime Soto has asked the faithful to remember in their prayers all those affected, especially the firefighters and emergency personnel, as well as residents who have been displaced, lost their residences or evacuated.*" To donate to the diocesan Fire Assistance Fund go to: www.scd.org/catholicfoundation/giving.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL WARMS SAN MATEO COUNTY'S HOMELESS

We all want to be warm on frosty nights and be dry when the rain pours. Think of how the homeless in San Mateo County feel on these cold nights. They are sleeping in their cars, on friends' couches, under buildings or on a park bench.

You can change this dire situation by donating to the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Stay Warm Appeal**. \$25 will purchase one new sleeping bag rated for very cold weather to be distributed at one of SVdP's Homeless Help Centers in South San Francisco, San Mateo and Redwood City.

Donate online at www.svdpsm.org or mail a check to: SVdP Stay Warm Appeal, 50 North B St. San Mateo, CA 94401.

We appreciate your compassion for those without a warm bed or shelter to call their own.

FROM THE HOLY SEE

THE HOLY FATHER'S
PRAYER INTENTIONS

Each month His Holiness asks for prayer intentions. For **December 2018**, the Holy Father's intention is:

Intention: In the Service of the
(Evangelization) Transmission of Faith

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

BETHLEHEM A.D. 2018

Every Christmas downtown Redwood City comes alive with the largest living Nativity in California. *Bethlehem A.D.* is a popular community event that has inspired the San Francisco Bay Area for twenty-six years with the authentic spirit and experience of the first Christmas. This year *Bethlehem A.D.* will be held **21-23 DEC 2018** from **06:00-09:30 PM** at 1305 Middlefield Road in Redwood City. They are seeking adult and young actors, and workers to help build the sets.

For more information on volunteer opportunities and a video, visit www.bethlehemad.com. This is an amazing all-volunteer event that requires lots of support each year.

SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SERVICES

20 DEC	(Thursday)	Advent Penance Service
	07:00 PM	
24 DEC	(Monday)	Christmas Eve
	07:30 AM	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
	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	Midnight Mass of Christmas
25 DEC	(Tuesday)	Christmas Day
	08:00 AM	Christmas Day Mass
	09:30 AM	Christmas Day Mass
	11:30 AM	Christmas Day Mass (no 05:00 PM Mass)
26 DEC	(Wednesday)	Feast of St. Stephen
	09:00 AM	Daily Mass (one Mass only)
31 DEC	(Monday)	
	07:30 AM	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
	05:30 PM	Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary
01 JAN	(Tuesday)	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
	09:00 AM	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
	12:00 PM	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
	05:30 PM	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
02 JAN	(Wednesday)	Regular daily Mass schedule

CALENDAR OF NOVENAE

09 DEC (SUN)	SEVENTH DAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe SIXTH DAY: Saint Lucy
10 DEC (MON)	EIGHTH DAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe SEVENTH DAY: Saint Lucy
11 DEC (TUE)	NINTH DAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe EIGHTH DAY: Saint Lucy
12 DEC (WED)	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe NINTH DAY: Saint Lucy
13 DEC (THU)	Feast of Saint Lucy
14 DEC (FRI)	
15 DEC (SAT)	
16 DEC (SUN)	FIRST DAY: Christmas Novena
17 DEC (MON)	SECOND DAY: Christmas Novena
18 DEC (TUE)	THIRD DAY: Christmas Novena
19 DEC (WED)	FOURTH DAY: Christmas Novena
20 DEC (THU)	FIFTH DAY: Christmas Novena
21 DEC (FRI)	SIXTH DAY: Christmas Novena
22 DEC (SAT)	SEVENTH DAY: Christmas Novena

FIND THE NOVENA PRAYERS

Our Lady of Guadalupe:

www.sancta.org/novena.html

Saint Lucy:

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

Christmas Novena:

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

DID YOU
KNOW
???

In one version of this Christmas devotion, often referred to as the *Saint Andrew Prayer* or the *Advent Novena*, the Christmas novena prayer is recited **15 times** each day, starting on the **Feast of Saint Andrew (30 NOV)** and continuing every day until **24 DEC**.



BULLETIN NEWS

REMINDER: SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Items for the bulletin should be **emailed to the bulletin editors** at nativity.bulletin@gmail.com.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

During the holiday season our publishers have earlier-than-usual submission deadlines for specific bulletins.

- Items for the **23 DEC 2018** bulletin must be submitted by **Wednesday, 12 DEC 2018**.
- Items for the **30 DEC 2018** bulletin must be submitted by **Tuesday, 18 DEC 2018**.
- Items for the **01 JAN 2019** bulletin must be submitted by **Wednesday, 26 DEC 2018**.

VISIT THE "NATIVITY DIORAMA"

Our Lady of Peace Church and Shrine is presenting its *Nativity Diorama* again this year, on the **weekends** between **08-09 DEC 2018** and **05-06 JAN 2019**. Open Saturdays and Sundays from 09:00 AM-08:00 PM.

<http://www.olop-shrine.org/event/nativity-diorama/all/>

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 **15 DEC** and ending on **23 DEC**, 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, with represents the star of Bethlehem. A *parol* is usually brought up during the processional to remind us of the guiding light that led many to the manger. Through Simbang Gabi, the deanery hopes to offer s 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:

SIMBANG GABI 2018 FOR DEANERY 11		
15 DEC	(Saturday) 05:00 PM	St. Pius (Redwood City)
16 DEC	(Sunday) 05:00 PM	Vallombrosa Center (Menlo Park)
17 DEC	(Monday) 07:00 PM	St. Matthias (Redwood City)
18 DEC	(Tuesday) 07:00 PM	Church of the Nativity (Menlo Park)
19 DEC	(Wednesday) 07:00 PM	St. Charles (San Carlos)
20 DEC	(Thursday) 07:00 PM	TBD
21 DEC	(Friday) 07:00 PM	St. Raymond (Menlo Park)
22 DEC	(Saturday) 07:00 PM	Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Redwood City)
23 DEC	(Sunday) 07:00 PM	TBD

TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

DÍA de las VELITAS (Day of the Little Candles)

Día de las Velitas is one of the most-observed traditional holidays of **Colombia**. It is celebrated on **07 December**, on the eve of the *Immaculate Conception*, which is a public holiday in Colombia. This day is the unofficial start of the Christmas season in the country.

On this day, people place candles and paper lanterns on their windows, balconies, porches, sidewalks, streets, parks and squares, in short, everywhere they can be seen, in honor of the Virgin Mary and her Immaculate Conception.

The celebration of the Day of the Candles dates to 1854. On **08 December 1854**, **Pope Pius IX** solemnly defined as dogma the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, published in his constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*. In anticipation of this decision, people lit candles and paper lanterns to show their support and belief in this idea.

In Colombia, as in many places all over the world, this announcement was observed by lighting candles. The Catholic Church of Colombia kept alive the celebration and made an annual tradition of lighting candles the night of 07 December.

El Día de las Velitas is celebrated throughout Colombia, but traditions vary in each region and city.



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS: SANTA LUCIA

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



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

Before the conversion to the Gregorian calendar, the feast day of St. Lucia fell very close to the winter solstice, a time of very long, very dark nights in Scandinavia. St. Lucia's Day was a festival of lights to dispel the darkness, and candles are a prominent



part of all the celebrations. Though it is not an official part of the Advent celebrations, many Swedes consider this day to mark the beginning of the Christmas season.