



BULLETIN

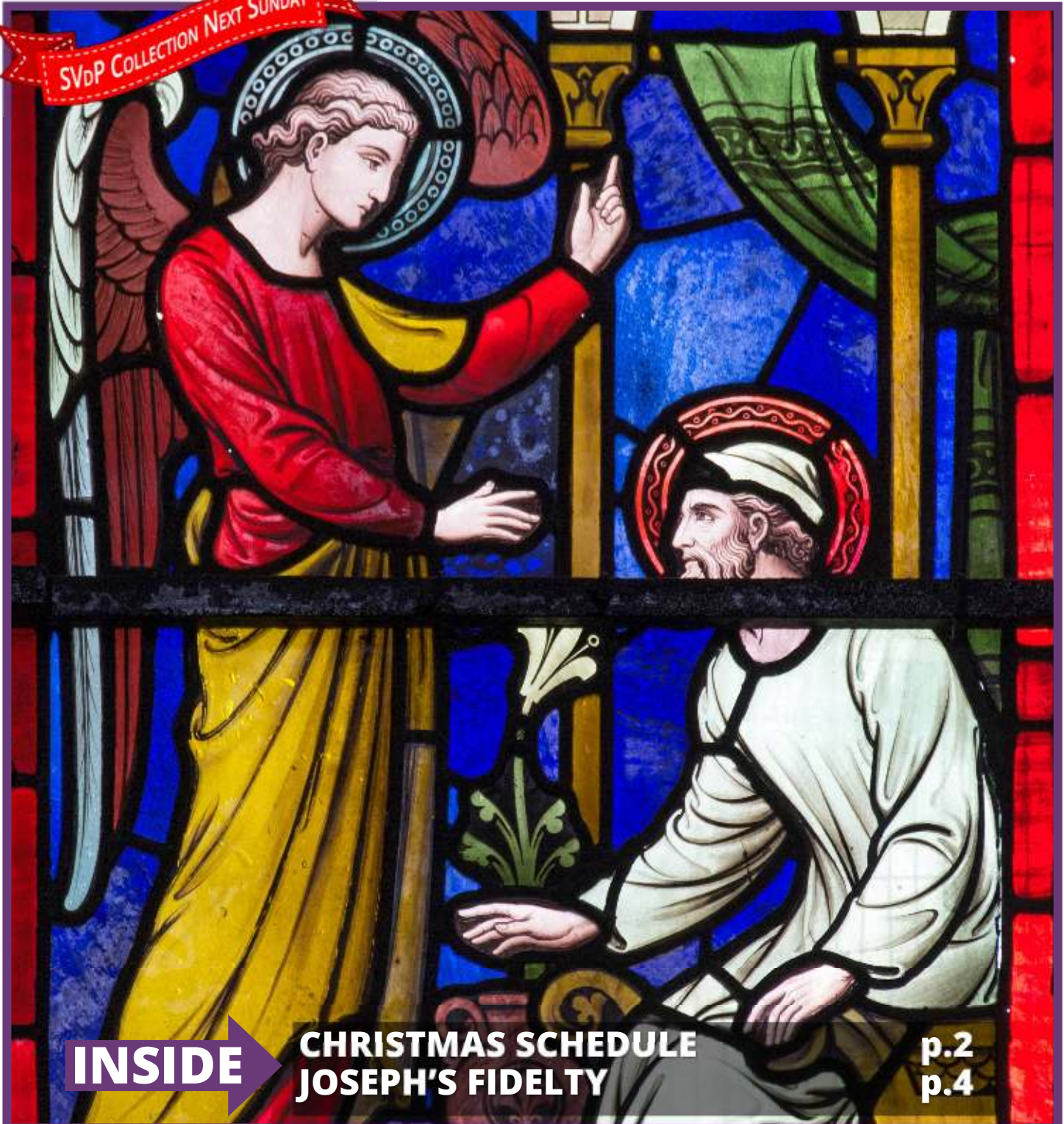
ST. RAYMOND

CATHOLIC CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2019

SVdP COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY



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CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
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Parish Events

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019

9:00 am Legion of Mary

4:40 pm Children's Singing Program

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Mass

9:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2019

12:00 am Christmas Midnight Mass

8:00 am Christmas Day Mass

10:00 am Christmas Day Mass

There will be no 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm Masses

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2019

7:00 pm Holy Hour

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2019

8:45 am Adoration after morning Mass

Children's Christmas Program

Calling all kids, any age: you are welcome to join us to sing in the children's choir for Christmas Eve 5 pm Mass!

BUT you must be in the chapel at the back of church **no later than 4:15 pm** on December 24th. We will start lining up to take our places shortly after that time and we want to be able to include you in our spacing as we line up.

This year we are singing FIVE songs: "Do You Hear What I Hear", "Away in a Manger", "Silent Night", "Little Drummer Boy" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing". Come join us.

ALSO: if any of you have taken drum lessons and own snare drums or djembe or other hand drums, we would love to have you bring them and play with us on Little Drummer Boy! If you have any questions, contact Donna Stoering at (408) 406-6240.



ON THE COVER: The Virgin's Assent, detail of stained glass window Annunciation by Edward Burne Jones in St. Mary's in Buscot, England. Photo by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P. Image: flic.kr/p/bG5cRg CC BY-NC-ND 2.0. License: bit.ly/ccbynend20

Liturgy

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat., Dec. 21, 5:15 pm Bette Herle

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sun., Dec. 22, 8:00 am St. Raymond Parish

10:00 am Charles Galdes †

12:00 pm Herb Pickard †

6:00 pm Maurice Galvez †

Mon., Dec. 23, 8:15 am Maurice Galvez †

Tues., Dec. 24, 8:15 am Herb Pickard †

5:00 pm Eleanor Jekot †

9:00 pm Neneve Polido,

St. Raymond Parish

Wed., Dec. 25, 12:00 am The Galvez, Herborn & Ritzen Families, Both Living & Deceased

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day) (S)

8:00 am Harold Curtis †

10:00 am The Ruocco & Papa Families, Both Living & Deceased

Thur., Dec. 26, 8:15 am Dick & Gail Blach (60th Wedding Anniversary)

St. Stephen, The First Martyr (F)

Fri., Dec. 27, 8:15 am Jesse E. Sanchez

St. John, Apostle & Evangelist (F)

Sat., Dec. 28, 8:15 am Ray Lane

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (M)

Sat., Dec. 28, 5:15 pm Aurelio Maestrini †

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

Sun., Dec. 29, 8:00 am James Miller

10:00 am Joseph Morrow † & Sandy Pearson †

12:00 pm St. Raymond Parish

6:00 pm Barbara Bonanno †

S—Solemnity F—Feast M—Memorial m—Optional Memorial

Mass intentions are now available through 2021. Please visit or call the parish office.

Sacraments

BAPTISMS

Sunday, December 22, 2019

Roxanna Joy Narula

CONGRATULATIONS!



Thank You

Thanks to all who came out to volunteer for and attend the Advent Fair!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His path! ~Matthew 3:3



Ministry Corner

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY recently had their Potluck & Gift Exchange. They have also been busy caroling for seniors. For future events, join their Facebook group page at bit.ly/yastraymond for updates.

BIBLE STUDY meets every Wednesday in the Parish Center at 10:00 am. Join us for prayer and scripture. (There will be no Bible Study on 12/25 and 1/1).

LEGION OF MARY meets every Tuesday at 9:00 am in the parish hall. Join us!

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is on break and will resume Sunday, January 5 at 3:00 pm in the parish hall.

Stewardship

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COLLECTIONS THROUGH DEC. 8, 2019

Sunday Collections	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	+ / -
At Mass	\$103,078.65	—	—
E-Giving	\$ 79,958.00	—	—
Total Offertory	\$183,036.65	\$217,925.00	(\$34,888.35)

COLLECTIONS THROUGH DEC. 13, 2019

	YTD Actual	YTD Goal	+ / -
Fall Campaign	\$258,851.15	\$600,000.00	(\$341,148.85)

Due to early bulletin deadlines for the holidays, the collection report will be caught up to date after the New Year.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL 5TH SUNDAY COLLECTION

As we approach the last 5th Sunday of the year (December 28 & 29), the Society of St. Vincent de Paul thanks you sincerely for both your financial and spiritual support.

St. Vincent de Paul envelopes are available at the tables by the four entrances of the church. If you're away for the holidays, please consider an early contribution. You can also contribute online at straymondmp.org/donate and look for "St. Vincent de Paul". Thank you.

Catholic Charities

MENTOR AN UNACCOMPANIED MINOR IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

The Catholic Accompaniment and Reflection Experience (CARE) program is an initiative by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office of Migration and Refugee Services in local partnership with the Archdiocese of San Francisco and Catholic Charities.

CARE connects Catholic volunteers with unaccompanied minors in need of companionship and connection to our local community. CARE volunteers build bridges of understanding to help unaccompanied minors integrate into the social and civic life of our communities.

For more information on becoming a mentor and to apply, contact Carlos Garcia, CARE Project Manager, at (650) 727-8428 or cgarciac@CatholicCharitiesSF.org; or contact Carol Laughlin at CLaughlin@CatholicCharitiesSF.org or visit us at www.catholiccharitiessf.org.

JOSEPH'S FIDELITY

BY RON ROLHEISER

*Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home."
(Matthew 1:20a)*

There are countless persons, basilicas, churches, shrines, seminaries, convents, and even towns and cities named after St. Joseph. My native country, Canada, has him as its patron.

Who exactly is this Joseph? He is that quiet figure prominently named in the Christmas story as the husband of Mary and the stepfather of Jesus, and then basically is never mentioned again. The pious conception of him is that of an older man, a safe protector to Mary, a carpenter by trade, chaste and holy, humble and quiet, the perfect patron for manual laborers and anonymous virtue, humility incarnate.

But what do we really know about him?

In the Gospel of Matthew the annunciation of Jesus' conception is given to Joseph rather than to Mary: Before they came together, Mary was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, being an upright man and unwilling to shame her, had decided to divorce her quietly, when an angel appeared to him in a dream and told him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife, that the child in her had been conceived through the Holy Spirit.

What can we learn from this text?

Partly it is symbolic: the Joseph of the Christmas story is clearly reminiscent of the Joseph of the Exodus story, he too has a dream, he too goes to Egypt, and he too saves the family. Likewise King Herod is clearly the counterpart of the Egyptian Pharaoh; both feel threatened and both kill the Hebrew male children only to have God protect the life of the one who is to save the people.

But, after that, the Joseph of the Christmas story writes his own history: he is presented to us as an "upright" man, a designation that scholars say implies that he has conformed himself to the Law of God, the supreme Jewish standard of holiness. In every way he is blameless, a paradigm of goodness, which he demonstrates in the Christmas story by refusing to expose Mary to shame, even as he decides to divorce her quietly.

What actually happened here?

The background, in so far as we can reconstruct it, to the relationship between Joseph and Mary would have been this: the marriage custom at the time was that a young woman, essentially at the age of puberty, would be given to a man, usually several years her senior, in an arranged marriage by her parents. They would be betrothed, technically married, but would not yet live together or begin sexual relations for several more years. The Jewish law was especially strict as to the couple remaining celibate while in the betrothal period. During this time, the young woman would continue to live with her parents and the young man would go about setting up a house and an occupation so as to be able to support his wife once they began to live together.

Joseph and Mary were at this stage of their relationship, legally married but not yet living together, when Mary became pregnant. Joseph, knowing that the child was not his, had a dilemma: if he wasn't the father, who was? In order to save his own reputation, he could have demanded a public inquiry and, indeed, had Mary been accused of adultery, it might have meant her death. However, he

decided to "divorce her quietly," that is, to avoid a public inquiry which would leave her in an awkward and vulnerable situation.

Then, after receiving revelation in a dream, he agrees to take her home as his wife and to name the child as his own. Partly we understand the significance of that: he spares Mary

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4)

embarrassment, he names the child as his, and he provides an accepted physical, social, and religious place for the child to be born and raised. But he does something else that is not so evident: he shows how a person can be a pious believer, deeply faithful to everything within his religious tradition, and yet at the same time be open to a mystery beyond both his human and religious understanding.

And this was exactly the problem for any Christians, including Matthew himself, at the time the Gospels were written: they were pious Jews who didn't know how to integrate Christ into their religious framework. What does one do when God breaks into one's life in new, previously unimaginable ways? How does one deal with an impossible conception? Here's how Raymond Brown puts it: the hero of Matthew's infancy story is Joseph, a very sensitive Jewish observer of the Law. ... In Joseph, the evangelist was portraying what he thought a Jew [a true pious believer] should be and probably what he himself was.

In essence what Joseph teaches us is how to live in loving fidelity to all that we cling to humanly and religiously, even as we are open to a mystery of God that takes us beyond all the categories of our religious practice and imagination.

Isn't that one of the ongoing challenges of Christmas?

Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Currently, Father Rolheiser is serving as President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio Texas. He can be contacted through his website, www.ronrolheiser.com.

THE ROSARY CONFRATERNITY

is a spiritual association of the Catholic Church, the members of which strive to pray the entire Rosary during the course of one week. To join, you must have your name inscribed in the register of the Confraternity. There are no meetings, and no dues. To enroll and learn more, please visit www.rosary-center.org.



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

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JANUARY 1, 2020

New Year's Day is a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Mass schedule is as follows:

8:15 am

12:15 pm

7:00 pm



"Mother of God is the most important title of Our Lady. But we might ask why we say Mother of God, and not Mother of Jesus. In the past some wanted to be content simply with the latter, but the Church has declared that Mary is the Mother of God. We should be grateful, because these words contain a magnificent truth about God and about ourselves. From the moment that our Lord became incarnate in Mary, and for all time, he took on our humanity. There is no longer God without man; the flesh Jesus took from his Mother is our own, now and for all eternity. To call Mary the Mother of God reminds us of this: God is close to humanity, even as a child is close to the mother who bears him in her womb."

- Pope Francis (January 1, 2018)

EGIVING: GIVING MADE EASY

eGiving provides an opportunity to simplify your stewardship donations through secure automatic giving. You can pay with a credit/debit card or your checking or savings account. Schedule or update recurring donations at straymondmp.org/giving. Thank you!

STOCK DONATION / MATCHING GIFTS / FALL DRIVE CAMPAIGN

I have been asked if the parish has the ability to accept stock donations. Yes! So, if you have stocks you would like to donate, we would love to receive them. Also, please check to see if your company does matching gifts. Last year one company matched its employee's gift 2 to 1.

—Fr. Jerome.

6 NEW YEAR'S EVE RETREAT

TUES., DECEMBER 31, 2019, 7:00 PM—10:30 PM

This retreat is facilitated by **Fr. Bartholomew Hutcherson, O.P.**, and will include a reflection, Eucharist, and festive dessert (provided by the Dominican Sisters).

Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose Chapel, 43326 Mission Circle (off Mission Tierra), Fremont, CA.

RSVP by Dec. 28th at bit.ly/2019NewYrRtrt or call 510-933-6360. Free will offering.



Homily Archive

Listen to homilies from Fr. Jerome and Deacon Tom, along with special guest preachers such as Fr. Edward Inyanwachi, Fr. Michael Amabisco, O.P., and more. Homilies are available online at www.straymondmp.org/homilies.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK As a parish community we pray for the sick among us, including: Arthur Ang, Balvina Gonzalez, Bernice Corcoran, Candy Hernandez, Celeste Green, Diane Mojtehedí, Emmanuel Barbariol, Gayland Hagy, Janice Hagy, Karen Lundberg, Lorraine Macchello, Lynn Bacon, Margaret McSweeney, Modesta Cintron, and those who wish not to be named.

LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS—Low-gluten hosts are available at each Mass. Go to Father's line during Communion and ask for a low-gluten host. To avoid contamination, please take a host from the low-gluten pyx.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK Do you know of anyone who is homebound or ill? If so, we want to hear from you. Please contact the parish office at (650) 323-1755 or email office@straymondmp.org and help us get in touch with those who need ministry.

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS If you have a notice for the bulletin, please send it to bulletin@straymondmp.org. Submissions are due by Friday two weeks before the publication date. You can also send any St. Raymond event photos that you would like to share with the community to the same address.

A gift to you from the Dominicans.
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Seek Truth. Learn the Faith.

FEATURED CONTENT

IS SIN A
LAUGHING
MATTER?

WITH FR. JEROME



IN THE OPWEST APP, SEARCH FOR "JEROME"

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK



The Story of the Nativity

WATCH ON
FORMED.ORG

Understanding the Full Story of Jesus' Birth

The birth of Jesus is often misunderstood, but this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity clarifies widespread misunderstandings of Jesus' origin. Join top scholars, inspirational speakers, and popular authors as they explain the story behind the story of the birth of Jesus.

POWERED BY THE  AQUINAS INSTITUTE

FORMED is free to parishioners of St. Raymond Parish. To register for FORMED, visit straymondmp.org and follow the instructions on the screen.

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS If you are a visitor to St. Raymond Parish, we want you to know you are welcome here—whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or another parish in the Archdiocese. Say hello to any of our parishioners! For information about our parish or to register, please contact us at office@straymondmp.org or register online at www.straymondmp.org/register

ST. RAYMOND PARISH

Served by the Dominican Friars of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus (Western Dominican Province) since 2013.

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CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

MASSES

Saturdays 5:15 pm Vigil

Sundays 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 Noon,
6:00 pm

Weekdays 8:15 am (Mon.-Sat.) in the Chapel

Holy Days 8:15 am, 12:15 pm & 7:00 pm

Christmas Schedule on page 2.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Saturdays after the 8:15 am Mass (Chapel)

Thursdays 7:00 pm—8:00 pm at Holy Hour

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

1st Thursdays after 8:15 am Mass (Chapel)
or by appointment

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:45 pm-4:45 pm or by
appointment

Thursdays 7:00 pm—8:00 pm at Holy Hour

HOLY HOUR (ADORATION & RECONCILIATION)

Thursdays 7:00 pm—8:00 pm

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Mon.-Sat. 7:25 am (Office of Readings and
Morning Prayer) in the Chapel

ROSARY

Mon.-Sat. 8:00 am in the Chapel

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, AND FUNERALS

Please contact the parish office at 650-323-1755 or
email office@straymondmp.org.

VISION STATEMENT St. Raymond Parish is a family. As disciples of Jesus, we are “children of God” and “brothers and sisters in Christ.” Jesus himself says, “Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother” (Matthew 12:50). We welcome all to belong to our Catholic family and to inherit with us in Christ the mission to preach the Gospel!

MISSION STATEMENT St. Raymond Parish is a community united by our Catholic Faith as disciples of Jesus Christ. We seek communion with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through ongoing personal and communal conversion to Christ and a deeper commitment to the mission Jesus gives each of us to preach the Gospel. The sacred scriptures and sacraments of the Church sustain us. We dedicate ourselves to Truth and strive to grow in love of God and neighbor through community, prayer, study, and service, as we work by grace to build up in one another and share freely with others the abundance of magnificent gifts God has given.