



BULLETIN

ST. RAYMOND CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 24, 2020



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VIRTUAL EVENTS
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ONLINE SCHEDULE

ALL EVENTS WILL BE LIVESTREAMED ON:

FATHER JEROME'S FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/fatherjerome.cudden/live
(This link will work with or without a Facebook account)

AND

FATHER JEROME'S YOUTUBE:

straymondmp.org/youtube

* UNLESS NOTED AS ST. RAYMOND'S FACEBOOK PAGE WHICH IS: www.facebook.com/straymondmp/live

WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 am Mass
9:15 am Scripture Reading *
1:30 pm Rosary *
3:00 pm Prayer Opportunity (Various) *
6:40 pm Rosary with Fr. Jerome **

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020

9:00 am Sunday Mass

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2020

No 6:40 pm Rosary or 7:00 pm Taizé

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2020

8:30 am Mass

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020

9:00 am Sunday Mass

** Please check straymondmp.org for the latest schedule for the day.

EMAIL SCAMS

A familiar e-mail scam is operating again. It generally involves an e-mail purporting to originate from a priest or bishop and asking for donations or contributions in the form of **gift cards**. No priest or bishop or archbishop will ever ask for money in this way. Anyone who receives such a message should ignore it and delete it. Anyone with a concern should phone the parish or the archdiocese.

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.

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS

ALL MASS INTENTIONS WILL BE SAID, THOUGH SOME MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO A NEW DATE, DUE TO OUR REDUCED SCHEDULE.

Sun., May 24, 9:00 am St. Raymond Parish


The Ascension of the Lord

Mon., May 25, 8:30 am Harold Curtis †

St. Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor of the Church (m); St. Gregory VIII, Pope (m); St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi, virgin (m)

Tues., May 26, 8:30 am Charles Galdes †

St. Philip Neri, priest (M)

Wed., May 27, 8:30 am Fr. Christopher Fadok, O.P. 

St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop (m)

Thur., May 28, 8:30 am Aurelio Maestrini †

Fri., May 29, 8:30 am Martin & Rina Dioli ††

St. Paul VI, Pope (m)

Sat., May 30, 8:30 am St. Raymond School
Class of 2020

Sun., May 31, 9:00 am St. Raymond Parish

Pentecost Sunday

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

UPCOMING DATES

June 7 The Most Holy Trinity

June 14 The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
(Corpus Christi)

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You

are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment

receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there

and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from

You. Amen.

SUMMER BOOK GROUP

POPE FRANCIS' *LAUDATO SI'*: *ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME*

Have you, like many of us, been thinking about our planet and what is happening in our world right now? Or wondering how we, as people of the Church, are called to care for our earth? Join Amy Jobin and Colleen Foraker for a 6 week book study and discussion group on Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, meeting **Thursdays from June 4 through July 16 from 12 noon-1:15 pm** (one extra week scheduled for make-up date/extra class).



WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ADULTS AS WELL AS ANY STUDENTS AGE 12 AND UP (or just finished with 7th grade) to join us for an intergenerational conversation. The class will meet on Zoom; space is limited. Email Amy at ajobin@straymondmp.org to register.

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK



THE WILD GOOSE Father Dave Pivonka

The Wild Goose is a work of the Holy Spirit, which is awakening in the hearts of all those participating God's love and transforming power. As you walk through this series, pray for the Spirit to breathe life into your heart.

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VIRTUAL EVENTS

3

FREE!
ONE DAY
VIRTUAL RETREAT

SATURDAY MAY 30TH

LIVE 9AM - 6PM PST, EST, WET (UK)
or on your own time!

YOUNG ADULT WOMEN
(but all ages welcome)

TALKS + SMALL GROUPS

REFLECTION TIME & MUSIC BREAKS

TOPICS WE'RE COVERING:

MARY!
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FINDING OUR UNIQUE GIFTS
STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS
HEALING --> WHOLENESS

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On ZOOM**

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GUEST SPEAKER EACH WEEK
HOSTED BY RICHARD CHERVENY

FRIDAY NIGHTS
(MAY 8TH, MAY 15TH, MAY 22ND AND MAY 29)
6:30 - 7:30 PM

[HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/5303667954](https://zoom.us/j/5303667954)
<https://zoom.us/j/5303667954>

[WWW.SCD.ORG/OOYA](https://www.scd.org/ooya)

 **OYYA**
Diocese of Sacramento

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Did you know that St. Raymond Parish is a partner to the St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club in East Palo Alto that is sponsored and run by Catholic Charities? The partnership began this past Fall and we look forward to continuing our work with them. At present, Catholic Charities is helping individuals and families meet their most basic needs- for shelter, food, medicines, and more. Visit their website catholiccharitiessf.org, take a virtual tour of their programs, and consider donating to the important work they are doing during the pandemic.

These are just some of the ways Catholic Charities is serving individuals and families in San Mateo, San Francisco, and Marin Counties:

- Staffing a 64-room **hotel for homeless families** during shelter-in-place and providing robust problem solving to move these families out of homelessness when the pandemic is over;
- Helping families remain housed by providing financial assistance for rent, medical bills, groceries, and utilities through the **Silicon Valley Community Foundation COVID-19 Regional Response Fund**;
- Helping San Francisco families and individuals, regardless of immigration status, maintain housing stability through temporary financial assistance through the **Give2SF COVID-19 Response & Recovery Fund**;
- Providing groceries and delivery services to seniors and neighbors who otherwise would go hungry;
- Staffing residential homes 24/7 for children and youth and chronically-ill people; and
- Helping undocumented adults residing in California who have been affected by COVID-19 apply for vital, one-time financial assistance through the state-funded **Disaster Relief Assistance for Immigrants (DRAI)** project.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and helping support our local Catholic organizations who are providing the essential services and support that are keeping so many safe and healthy at this time.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”~ Matthew 25:40

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

Donate to SVdP's COVID-19 Relief Fund at: svdpsm.org.

SVdP continues to provide much needed housing assistance, food, and clothing to those in need, along with continuing to operate their Catherine Center ministry for women. With the closure of many other social service agencies in our area, their services are more important than ever.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Second Harvest coordinates with their vast partner network throughout Silicon Valley to meet the increased need resulting from the economic crisis. Serving almost 5,500 households each week, **Catholic Charities** is instrumental in the operation of our new home delivery program, while also running seven large drive-thru distributions.



Joseph Eckert, a volunteer at last week's Catholic Charities distribution at St. John Vianney's Catholic Church shared:

"There is a tremendous sense of uncertainty in all of us during this time. By distributing food during the week, we aim to provide people with the feeling of hope that there will soon be an end to this virus and that we all need to support each other as a family during these times."

IMAGE CREDITS

Cover—Ascension of the Lord, stained glass window from Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Alroona, PA . Photo by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P. CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

PRIEST, NURSE FORTIFY NIGERIAN VILLAGERS AGAINST LOCKDOWN HUNGER

Rural Nigerian villagers practice social distancing as they wait to receive bags of food and soap provided by San Francisco-based Mother of Mercy Charitable Foundation. Father Edward Inyanwachi, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in the Diocese of Abakaliki in Ebonyi state and co-founder of the nonprofit, is helping sustain his parish members amid the global pandemic crisis. (Courtesy photo)

May 8, 2020
Christina Gray
Catholic San Francisco

God willing, **Father Edward Inyanwachi** will soon again celebrate Mass for the members of his rural southeastern Nigerian parish. Until then he's trying to keep them from starving.

The pastor of St. Patrick Parish and two mission churches in the Diocese of Abakaliki in Nigeria's impoverished Ebonyi State served several Catholic parishes in the Archdiocese of San Francisco when he was a doctoral student here eight years ago, returning to his native parish in 2013.

Over the last two months, he has traveled in a truck over dirt roads outside the village to buy food staples that are out of reach — physically and financially — for some parish families amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"The cost of food items, especially the staple foods, is rising each day," he shared in an April 24 email to longtime Holy Name of Jesus parishioner Angela Testani from the village of Uburu-Amachi.

Father Inyanwachi and Testani, a retired San Francisco nurse, met at the parish when the priest visited during his studies at the University of San Francisco. In 2016 they co-founded Mother of Mercy Charitable Foundation out of a mutual desire to improve the lives of the rural poor in Ebonyi, the third-poorest state in

Nigeria.

In a May 12 email, the priest told Catholic San Francisco that he sees increasing "panic, anxiety and a sense of hopelessness" among the local people for whom communal practice of their faith at morning Mass at St. Patrick is the center of their lives.

"Usually when there is a disaster, the people are in church asking for the mercy of God," said Father Inyanwachi. "But with COVID-19 that is not the case."

Testani said in a May 7 phone call from her home in San Francisco that the pandemic has increased the hardship and already-heavy burden of poverty for villagers. Father Inyanwachi's food assistance is sustaining the neediest families who were struggling with hunger long before the pandemic hit.



"When you can't preach, you are living God's word by works," Testani said in a May 7 phone call with Catholic San Francisco.

The pair and the Bay Area donors who support their mission are making these works and others possible, such as improving access to medical care at a

local Catholic hospital, drilling wells for safe drinking water and providing scholarships to local women who want to train as nurses.

"Father Ed," as Testani calls him, included photos in his email dispatches from Abakaliki that showed volunteers separating bulk provisions into smaller bags for distribution. Recipients sat spaced a good distance from one another in a receiving area.

Over 120 village households have thus far received rice, beans, flour, seasoning cubes and soap to sustain them, he reported.

In mid-April, Nigerian President Muhammadu

(Continued on page 6)

Buhari ordered a national lockdown to halt the spread of the coronavirus.

News reports recorded the reaction. Food delivery trucks were looted in Lagos, Nigeria's largest city after the government promised the people food assistance that did not arrive. Gangs soon moved in to take advantage of the chaos by going house-to-house to rob people. Whole neighborhoods armed themselves with machetes and home-made weapons to defend themselves.

"The situation here in Ebonyi State has not gotten bad as that of Lagos, but it is gradually simmering," Father Inyanwachi said.

On March 24, Ebonyi State, like all of Nigeria's 36 states, closed its borders to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus.

At that time the West African country reported 44 confirmed cases of COVID-19. That was less than a month after the first confirmed case was announced Feb. 27. Two months later, on May 11, the World Health Organization reported 4,399 positive cases and 143 deaths in Nigeria.

In a country with a population of almost 200 million people, those numbers seem to reflect relative success in Africa's most populous country, though there is a growing hotspot in the city of Kano in northern Nigeria even as lockdown restrictions begin to lift.

Father Inyanwachi considers the village "blessed" without a single identified positive case of the virus.

"I say 'an identified positive case' because we have almost no testing going on, not only in the village but in the entire Ebonyi State," he added.

As in other places around the world, Nigeria shows that efforts to contain the virus have compounded pre-existing problems that disproportionately impact the poor.

In Abakaliki, said Testani, the virus peaked at the end of the dry season when home larders of yams and cassava and other local crops are naturally in low supply. Many farmers had just planted their spring crops.

The border closure blocked farm trucks from nearby states from selling their products at the local open market, creating food shortages. The

open market is the only affordable option for villagers who can buy or barter to supplement what they might grow themselves.

Shortages have led to price increases far outside the means of most villagers, said Father Inyanwachi.

"Only a few are able to make regular purchases now due to the high cost, and so many families eat only one meal a day," he said.

Water access is also an issue, said Testani. Most homes in Ebonyi State lack running water, making hand-washing for disease prevention nearly impossible.

"With them not having any clean water on any average day, we panicked," she said.

Even those who might be able to afford to buy food at the open market could not gain entrance without washed hands.

Testani, who spent three weeks in Abakaliki in 2016, learned that a combination of poverty, poor nutrition, native superstitions and inadequate health care causes suffering, illness and an early death for villagers of all ages.

She said she believes the villagers are taking the virus restrictions "very seriously," many of them having lived through the West African Ebola crisis that killed more than 11,000 people before it ended in 2016.

There have been some overdoses of anti-malarial medication, she said. In early April, President Donald Trump promoted the experimental use of hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 treatment despite limited information on its efficacy and side effects. A New York hospital study found no significant difference in death rates between patients who received the drug and those who did not, according to a Journal of the American Medical Association article published May 11.

Father Inyanwachi said that morning Mass is a "very important part of our lives here." For many villagers, being away from Mass has been the greatest difficulty.

"Some of them come and hang out outside the church while I celebrate Mass inside," he said.

Visit mmcharitablefoundation.org.

Article courtesy of catholic-sf.org.

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 ⁷

MASSES (see p.2 for current online schedule)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the parish office at 650-323-1755.

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.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

As a parish community we pray for the sick among us, including: Balvina Gonzalez, Bernice Corcoran, Candy Hernandez,, Celeste Green, Diane Mojtehed, Emmanuel Barbariol, Gayland Hagy, GB, Janice Hagy, Lorraine Macchello, Lynn Bacon, Lynn Cintron, Margaret McSweeney, Modesta Cintron, Penny Bantug, PN, those suffering from the coronavirus, and those who wish not to be named. Please contact the parish office if you wish to have a name added to this list.



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.

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