

Join us Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Dec. 24 - 3:00 pm & 4:15 pm

Dec. 25 - 9:00 am & 10:30 am



ST. RAYMOND

CATHOLIC CHURCH

SERVED BY DOMINICAN FRIARS



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 20, 2020



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CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
ON THE ANNUNCIATION
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Schedule

ALL EVENTS ARE STREAMED ON FACEBOOK AT
facebook.com/straymondmp/live

ALL MASSES ARE ALSO STREAMED ON YOUTUBE AT
straymondmp.org/youtube

MONDAY TO FRIDAY EACH WEEK

9:00 am Mass (Outdoors)
3:00 pm Prayer/Devotional
6:40 pm Rosary (M-Th) / Stations of the Cross (F)*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020

10:00 am Zoom Bible Study (below)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020

3:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass (Outdoors)
4:15 pm Christmas Eve Mass (Outdoors)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2020

9:00 am Christmas Day Mass (Outdoors)
10:30 am Christmas Day Mass (Outdoors)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2020

9:00 am Mass (Outdoors)
3:00 pm Confessions in Rose Garden
3:30 pm Vigil Mass (Outdoors)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020

9:00 am Sunday Mass (Outdoors)
10:00 am Sunday Mass (Outdoors)
3:30 pm Sunday Mass (Outdoors)

RSVP for weekend Masses at
www.straymondmp.org/eventbrite

* Due to the holidays, please visit straymondmp.org for the latest schedule for the day.

Sunday Readings

Dec. 20, 2020 (Fourth Sunday of Advent)
Reading 1: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29
Reading 2: Romans 16:25-27
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38
bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/122020.cfm

Dec. 27, 2020 (Holy Family)
Reading 1: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 128:1-5
Reading 2: Colossians 3:12-21a
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40
bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/122020.cfm

Liturgy

Sat., Dec. 19, 3:30am The Nelson Family, Both Living & Deceased

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sun., Dec. 20, 9:00 am The Papa Family, Both Living & Deceased

10:00 am Charles Galdes †

3:30 pm St. Raymond Parish

Mon., Dec. 21, 9:00 am  Betty Herle

St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church (m)

Tue., Dec. 22, 9:00 am Maurice Galvez †

Wed., Dec. 23, 9:00 am Maurice Galvez †

St. John of Kanty, Priest (m)

Thur., Dec. 24, 9:00 am Gregorio † & Marta Moises †

Thur., Dec. 24, 3:00 pm St. Raymond Parish

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve) (S)

Thur., Dec. 24, 4:15 pm The Galvez, Herborn, & Ritzen Families, Both Living & Deceased

Fri., Dec. 25, 9:00 am Harold Curtis †

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) (S)

Fri., Dec. 25, 10:30 am Herb Pickard †

Sat., Dec. 26, 9:00 am  Ray Lane

St. Stephen, the First Martyr (F)

Sat., Dec. 26, 3:30am The Hernandez Family, Both Living & Deceased

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (F)

Sun., Dec. 27, 9:00 am The Papa Family, Both Living & Deceased

10:00 am Eleanor Jekot †

3:30 pm St. Raymond Parish

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

To request a Mass Intention, please contact the parish office.

Bible Study

The St. Raymond Small Group Bible Study meets on **Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 11:30 am** on Zoom. The group discusses the readings for the upcoming Sunday. If you would like more information, please contact Christine Galvez at chrisgalvez@aol.com.



Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve

3:00 PM

4:15 PM

Christmas Day

9:00 AM

10:30 AM

All Masses will be held outdoors.

Please sign up for these Masses at straymondmp.eventbrite.com/. Registering for Masses allows us to better prepare for each liturgy.

Bishop Barron

On The Annunciation

The Church Fathers were fond of exploring the relationship between Eve, mother of all the living, and the new Eve, Mary the Mother of God. Where Eve grasped and lost, Mary surrendered and received; where Eve said no to the alluring mystery, Mary said yes.

The angel of the Lord—an agent from a realm beyond what can be seen and known—appears to the maid of Nazareth and greets her in what Balthasar describes as the language of heaven: “Hail, full of grace.” The sinful earth is a place of grasping, but the angel salutes her as someone who is ready to accept gifts.

Then he lays out for her the divine plan in which she is to play a signal role: “*And now you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High*” (Luke 1:32). Standing still within the confines of what she can know, Mary responds, “*How can this be, since I am a virgin?*” What the angel has

(Continued on page 6)



Fall Drive R.I.P. and End of Year Gift

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

You may have noticed this year there was no Fall Drive. When COVID hit in March, I asked parishioners to consider converting their one time Fall Drive donation to twelve monthly recurring gifts equal to the amount they usually give to the Fall Drive. Because we had great success in doing so, we no longer have an official Fall Drive. God is good!

While we no longer need an official Fall Drive, we do currently project a shortage of \$130,000 between our current monthly collections and annual expenses for the financial year, which ends June 30th. This is great news because last year our Fall Drive goal was \$600,000.

So, if you are waiting to make a gift to our Fall Drive, now is the time. If you are looking to make an end of the year gift it would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate stocks or any other financial instruments, we have the ability to accept them.

To donate online, please visit straymondmp.org/donate. You may bring your donation to Mass or mail it to us at St. Raymond Church, 1100 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park, CA, 94025.

Thank you so much for your incredible generosity to our worshipping community.

Holy Christmas,
Fr. Jerome

Poinsettias

Last chance for poinsettias! You can sponsor a poinsettia in the honor of or in remembrance of a loved one. The suggested donation is \$20 per poinsettia. Proceeds will go toward Christmas decorations.

You can place your order at straymondmp.org/poinsettias/.

GET PARISH NEWS VIA EMAIL

Sign up for our parish email newsletter at straymondmp.org/newsletter/.

Speaker Series

Did you miss one of our latest Speaker Series Zoom Talks? Visit straymondmp.org/zoom/ to watch all the Speaker Series talks including:

- *Christmas Conspiracies* with Fr. Jerome
- *Forgiveness: Healing the Darkness of Resentment* with Dn. John
- *The Eucharist in the Life & Faith of the Church* with Fr. Ambrose Sigman, O.P.
- *From Hard Science Ph.D to Religious O.P.*
- *Meeting Jesus Christ at Mass* with Fr. Augustine Hilander, O.P.

New talks will also be announced here soon!

Catholic Charities

CHRISTMAS REQUEST DURING THE PANDEMIC

2020 has been an incredibly hard year for every family and individual that Catholic Charities serves. The pandemic has upended our holiday gift giving and we need 500 gift cards to provide some Christmas Joy to children and families who rely on us. To give a \$25 gift card, contact CLaughlin@catholiccharitiessf.org or call 415-972-1236. Thank you!



REQUIESCE IN PACE

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of the following members of our parish community.

Elizabeth “Betty” Clark
William “Bill” Farrar

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS—Low-gluten hosts are available at each Mass. Father will announce which line has the low-gluten host.

SUPPORT FOR FR. EDWARD'S PARISH IN NIGERIA

Fr. Edward Inyanwachi, who many of you will remember from his wonderful service to our parish as Administrator in 2013, is in URGENT need of financial support for his parish in Nigeria. The closing down of regular church services due to the COVID-19 pandemic and escalating violence within the country have created extreme circumstances and financial stress for his community.



Fr. Edward has used all of his local resources to do what he can to sustain his parish during this challenging time. Reluctantly, he has reached out to his friends in the Bay Area asking for any financial assistance we may be able to provide. He is in desperate need of funding to help provide basic goods such food, water, and medicines, which are in very short supply.

Update! To make a donation, please visit www.mmcharitablefoundation.org/undesigned-donation.html.

You can also make a check out to **The Mother of Mercy Charitable Foundation** and send it to 361 Gonzalez Drive, San Francisco, CA 94132-2345.

COOKIE MINISTRY

The next collection date is **Tuesday, Dec. 22**. If you can provide 48-60 cookies, please contact Carol at the Parish Office (650-323-1755) or office@straymondmp.org.

HOLIDAY CARDS

Please make a card to be given to one of our brothers or sisters who go to **Table of Plenty** in Half Moon Bay to have a meal. With the holidays, we would like to give them a handmade card to put a smile on their face and let them know they are being thought of in a special way.

Grab a sheet of paper at your home and just be creative! (Draw flowers, trees, cars, planes, heroes - anything you like.) You might also write them a message from your heart. (Such as, 'I Am Thinking of You', 'I Am Saying a Prayer For You', 'You Are Loved' or whatever comes to your heart.)

Collection schedule for cookies and cards is December 22nd. Cards can be left at the Parish Office. Thank you for caring for your brothers and sisters.

THANK YOU, St. Raymond Parishioners, for your INCREDIBLE generosity with the Homeless Family Fund.

- ◆ Since the beginning of October, St. Raymond Parish has disbursed over \$182,000,
- ◆ Preventing **47 households** (including 61 adults and 75 children) from being evicted; and,
- ◆ Providing, through Catholic Charities, **just-in-time information referrals** to other services and benefits within the San Mateo County system including CalFresh, Legal Aid, and employment.

As we enter this last week of Advent, we ask that you stand with, pray and serve your neighbor. Fr. Goode and St. Francis of Assisi Parish in East Palo Alto are grateful for this partnership and continue to ask for your ongoing support to help prevent evictions for family's this holiday season.

On January 31, 2021, the moratorium on evictions in California will no longer be in place. For those households who have not paid at least 25% of what they owe in back rent, effective February 1, they will be homeless and out on the street.

St. Raymond Parish and THIS Fund with your support is working to ensure that doesn't happen. Every dollar you give will go toward rental assistance and ensure families stay safe during this pandemic by maintaining stable housing and keeping kids out of shelters. On average, rent in East Palo Alto for a 1 bedroom (usually in a shared house) runs approximately \$1,400 to \$2,600 a month.

Please consider making a reoccurring monthly e-donation or a large lump sum to help support the ongoing need. Please make donations payable to St. Raymond Homeless Family Fund. They may be placed in the collection basket, sent to the parish office or through the St. Raymond website (e-contributions). Questions or want to get involved? Please reach out to: HFF@straymondmp.org.

In responding to the signs of the times, the Homeless Family Fund at St. Raymond Parish is partnering with Catholic Charities San Mateo and St. Francis of Assisi Parish in East Palo Alto to identify individuals and families in need of support to cover basic necessities and to provide information referrals to other services and opportunities in the County.

The applicant and his family (wife and three children- 23 years old, 21 years old and 17 years old) are devout parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi parish. Both the applicant and his wife lost their jobs at the start of the pandemic due to the stay-at-home order (he works as a bartender at a hotel and she is an office clerk). Over the summer, she was able to return to work part time, though the hotel never fully reopened its services. They have been able to use their savings to get through and save what they can to help buffer unforeseen costs. Their two oldest sons are in college and their youngest daughter in high school, all distance learning.

In October 2020 though, the family received a notice from their oldest son's student loan agency demanding they pay the remainder of the bill or it could compromise his situation to graduate from the College of Southern Nevada. Knowing how central education is to his future and mobility, they used the remainder of their savings to pay off the last of the debt. This, however, made them unable to make their housing payments for the months of October and November. With support from St. Raymond Parish, the Homeless Family Fund was able to provide 2 months of support for a total of \$3996.60, allowing them to maintain a roof over their head.

The applicant, a single father of two children, 8 and 7 years old, rents a garage outfitted as an apartment down the road from St. Francis of Assisi Parish in East Palo Alto. He works as a landscape gardener and has been able to maintain nearly full employment during the COVID-19 pandemic. In early October 2020, though, he contracted COVID-19 and was unable to resume work until he was feeling better and had a negative test result.

Temporarily out of work and burning through all of his savings, he turned to Fr. Goode for support. Fr. Goode referred him to the Homeless Family Fund, where the Fund was able to provide rental support for a total of \$2,400 for the month in arrears (October) and the following month. In late November, the applicant was well enough to return to work and maintain his housing.



Joyful Hope for the Coming of the Lord

Good and gracious God, as we wait in joyful hope for your coming.

Let us serve you with humility, generosity, and trust.

ANGEL GABRIEL: "MARY BEHOLD THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH"

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to announce the Coming of the Lord:

"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High."

- ◆ Who are the Angel Gabriels in our lives that nudge us to say YES?
- ◆ Who asks us to care for others and for the safety and future of our planet?
- ◆ How many times have you been asked to do something significant to help others?
- ◆ How easy is it to say yes when it tests your courage and you wonder if you are up to the task?

YES! MARY'S RESOUNDING YES!

In saying "yes" to the Angel Gabriel, Mary demonstrated her humility and trust in God, even though she did not fully understand what lay ahead.

Though filled with uncertainty and anxiety, she responded: "I am the handmaid of the Lord; may it be according to your word." (Luke 1:27-29)

Pope Francis said "Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world." (LS 241) Can we, like Mary, discover God in the people and things around us? Can you look in the face of someone you love and see, really see God?

Mary sings out her resounding Yes to God!

Thank God for this earth He has given us, as we care for each other and for our planet.

What will your "Yes" to God be today?

ANNUNCIATION *(Continued from page 3)*

told her does not conform to her expectations, and she is, understandably enough, puzzled.

Then the messenger says: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" (Luke 1:35). In other words: someone much more powerful than you will overwhelm your physical, moral, intellectual, and spiritual capacities, and in the measure that you cooperate with this intervention, you will come to a life you hadn't imagined.

Finally, he reminds Mary of her cousin Elizabeth's unlikely pregnancy and adds, "Nothing will be impossible for God" (Luke 1:37).

Søren Kierkegaard, tweaking the noses of the tidy rationalists of his day, said that authentic faith is a "passion for the impossible." It is a surrender in love to that which the mind (the too-often arrogant determiner of what is and is not possible) cannot see.

When Mary says, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word," she exhibits such faith and thereby undoes the refusal of Eve. And this fiat to the impossible made possible the Incarnation of God.

In accepting the seduction of the alluring Mystery, Mary allowed God's love to become enfleshed for the transformation of the world. In the Catholic faith, Mary is praised as the mother of the Church, the matrix of all discipleship. What this means is that her fiat is the ground and model of every disciple's response to God's desire for incarnation.

Meister Eckhart said that all believers become "mothers of Christ," bearers of the incarnate word, in the measure that they acquiesce to the divine passion to push concretely into creation.

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PRAYER REQUESTS

Send in your prayer requests to the Rosary Center at rosarycenter.org/homepage-2/request-prayers/ and the Dominican Nuns at Corpus Christi Monastery at opnunsmenlo.org/request-prayer.

E-GIVING: GIVING MADE EASY

eGiving provides an opportunity to simplify your stewardship donations through secure automatic giving. You can also support the Homeless Family Fund and St. Vincent de Paul. You can pay with a credit/debit card or your checking or savings account. Schedule or update recurring donations at straymondmp.org/giving.

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.

1100 Santa Cruz Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025

TELEPHONE 650-323-1755 **FAX** 650-561-3755

EMAIL office@straymondmp.org

PARISH WEBSITE www.straymondmp.org

SCHOOL WEBSITE www.straymond.org

OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Wednesday 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. For other weekdays, call before visiting.

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Stephanie Lane

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Amy Staas (Chair) finance@straymondmp.org
Members: Jane Ananyi, Caitlin Burke, Tim
Connors, Tres Evans

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS ⁷

MASS SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE NOV 30, 2020

Saturdays 3:30 pm Vigil (Outdoors)

Sundays 9:00 am (Outdoors), 10:00 am (Outdoors), 3:30 pm (Outdoors)

Weekdays 9:00 am (Mon.-Sat. Outdoors)

Holy Days Jan 1 9:00 am, 12:15 pm

ANOIDING 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 as we pray-serve-socialize in His Name.

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 as we pray-serve-socialize together, and 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, Bill Pflaum, Candy Hernandez, Celeste Green, Diane Mojtehed, Emmanuel Barbariol, Gail Blach, Janice Hagy, Lorraine Macchello, Lynn Bacon, Modesta Cintron, Patricia Rigsby, Penny Bantug, William Cintron, those suffering from the coronavirus, the homebound, and those who wish not to be named. Please contact the parish office if you wish to have a name added to this list.



Deacon's Dalmatic

At Mass there is an option for our deacons to wear a dalmatic at Mass. Please see the picture to see what a dalmatic looks like. We would love to order dalmatics for Deacons Tom and John that match the chasuble, the vestment the priest wears. In keeping with the five liturgical colors, we would like to order a dalmatic for each liturgical color. Each dalmatic is \$800. If you would like to make a donation for one or more of the five dalmatics, please reach out to Fr. Jerome at jcudden@straymondmp.org. Thank you for considering this gift.



For illustrative purposes only

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

December 20, 2020

WATCH

CHRISTMAS IN ROME: A CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY
Nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like Rome. This Christmas, marvel at the Holy City's festive celebration of the coming of the child Jesus in Bethlehem.

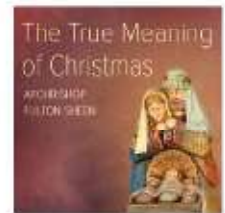


THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY: THE TRUTH OF CHRISTMAS
Christmas is so much more than a humdrum story we've heard since childhood. Join top scholars, speakers, and authors as they explain the gravity of Christ's miraculous birth.

LEARN

LISTEN

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS BY FULTON SHEEN
This presentation combines recordings of Fulton Sheen's timeless reflections on the meaning of Christmas, mixed with Gregorian chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite!



Our parish has a FORMED subscription. To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

IMAGE CREDITS

COVER — *Annunciation* by Bl. Fra Angelico, O.P. Basilica di San Marco, Florence, Italy. Public domain.

PAGE 3—*Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary*, stained glass window from Memorial Church in Stanford University. Photo by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P. CC BY-NC-ND 2.0. <https://flic.kr/p/HKa2XH>

PAGE 4—Christmas ball made of decorations and cookies by Zamurovic Brothers from Noun Project.

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. They form a union of hundreds of thousands of the faithful throughout the world who, along with their own intentions, include the intentions and needs of all its members.

To enroll and learn more, please visit www.rosary-center.org.

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Contact me with any of your Real Estate questions or needs
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COMPASS



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