



ST. RAYMOND

CATHOLIC CHURCH

SERVED BY DOMINICAN FRIARS



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD/HOLY FAMILY | DECEMBER 25-26, 2021



This Week

facebook.com/straymondmp/live
youtube.com/c/straymondmp

MONDAY TO SATURDAY EACH WEEK

8:15 am Mass (Church)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2021

9:00 am Legion of Mary (below)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2021

10:00 am Zoom Weekly Bible Study (below)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2021

12:00 pm Laudato Si' Group Zoom (p.6)
7:00 pm Holy Hour (Adoration & Confession)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2022

9:00 am Mass (Church)
5:00 pm Mass (Church)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022

8:00 am Mass (Church)
10:00 am Mass (Outdoors), followed by donuts
5:00 pm Mass (Church)

LIVE STREAMING—Each 8:15 daily Mass (Mon.-Sat.) will be livestreamed at straymondmp.org, our Facebook and YouTube channels. On the weekend, the Saturday 5:00 pm and Sunday 10:00 am Masses will be livestreamed.

WEEKLY EVENTS

LEGION OF MARY meets every **Tuesday at 9:00 am** in the Legion of Mary conference room opposite the Parish Hall. Feel free to join us and learn more about the Legion of Mary.

ZOOM WEEKLY 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. For more information, contact Christine at chrisgalvez@aol.com.

THURSDAY HOLY HOUR is held weekly each **Thursday from 7:00–8:00 pm** inside the Church. Holy Hour consists of Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK As a parish community we pray for the sick among us, including: Balvina Gonzalez, Bernice Corcoran, Bonnie Morey, CM, Diane Mojtehed, Erik Olsen, Janice Hagy, Luis Mederos, Lynn Bacon, Modesta Cintron, MS, Nony & Penny Bantug, NM, William Cintron, those afflicted with COVID, the homebound, and those who wish not to be named. To add a name to this list, please contact the parish office. Please make sure to have the person's permission.

Liturgy

Fri., Dec. 24, 3:30 pm St. Raymond Parish

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord (S)

5:30 pm Herb Pickard †

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

The Nativity of the Lord (S)

8:00 am Harold Curtis †


10:00 am Neneve Polido (Birthday)

Sun., Dec. 26, 8:00 am The Ruocco Family, Both Living & Deceased

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

10:00 am The Papa Family, Both Living & Deceased

5:00 pm St. Raymond Parish

Mon., Dec. 27, 8:15 am  Jesse Sanchez
St. John, Apostle & Evangelist (F)

Tue., Dec. 28, 8:15 am Aurelio Maestrini †

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (F)

Wed., Dec. 29, 8:15 am Seini Wairasi †

St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr (m)

Thur., Dec. 30, 8:15 am Gail Blach † & the Blach & Derry Families, Both Living & Deceased

Fri., Dec. 31, 8:15 am Mother Cabrini in thanksgiving

St. Sylvester I, Pope (m)

Sat., Jan. 1, 9:00 am Dana Renée Harned †

Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God (S)

Sat., Jan. 1, 5:00 pm Oscar Banos

The Epiphany of the Lord

Sun., Jan. 2, 8:00 am Gail Blach † & the Blach & Derry Families, Both Living & Deceased

10:00 am Eleanor Jekot †

5:00 pm St. Raymond Parish

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

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

St. Raymond Giving Tree 2021

Thank you to all who participated in this year's Giving Tree supporting the St. Francis Center in Redwood City.

POINSETTIAS

Thank you to everyone who sponsored poinsettias to decorate the Altar.

Names will be published in the January 9, 2022 bulletin.

GIVING: ONLINE AND IN PERSON

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.



SUNDAY READINGS

Christmas Eve/Christmas Readings can be found at bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/122521.cfm

December 26, 2021 (Holy Family)

Reading 1: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Resp. Psalm: Psalms 128:1-5 or 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10

Reading 2: Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:13-17 or 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/122621.cfm

January 2, 2022 (Epiphany)

Reading 1: Isaiah 60:1-6

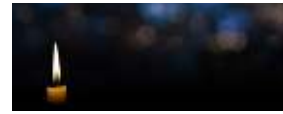
Resp. Psalm: Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

Reading 2: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/010222.cfm

A FLICK OF LIGHT



The St. Raymond Emotional and Mental Wellness Ministry has learned from our parish mental health survey that anxiety is the #1 issue in our community. Here is an insightful article on the topic from Susan Haarman, a therapist with a Masters in Divinity.

From the words of St. Paul: "Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

For anyone who's experienced anxiety, the admonition to just "not worry" or "stop being anxious" is usually ineffective and often feels like a dismissal. Anxiety spirals are overwhelming and attempts to reason our way out of them are typically ineffective in the face of powerful physical and emotional responses. In the wake of COVID, anxiety became an intimately familiar feeling as a result of the pandemic and its ongoing effects. I never thought that having a panic attack just going to a crowded grocery store would become a common shared experience, but here we are. And while the holidays are festive for many of us, for others this is a time of struggle and painful reminders of loss and broken relationships.

So, in the midst of our shared struggles, I encourage us not to focus on denying anxiety, pain, or fear, but rather to be joyful. Joy is the proclamation of knowing and feeling that we are loved by God. It can exist in times of pain AND happiness. Pope Francis reminds us that "Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved." Joy is not predicated on perfection, serenity, or having it all together. It begins and ends in the reality of a loving and faithful God who cares for us.

For more information, you can reach the Emotional and Mental Wellness Ministry at emwm@straymondmp.org or 650-899-0370. May you be filled with joy and peace.

God Moment

One Saturday afternoon while running errands, I stopped in a drive-thru to pick up a to-go burger to keep my day going when I noticed this big noisy truck backing up the wrong way in the drive-thru after getting his meal. His impatience and recklessness really annoyed me. As I watched him in my rear-view mirror, I noticed something extraordinary. He had purchased another value meal and was giving it to a homeless gentleman who was sitting next to his shopping cart at the far end of the parking lot. Mixed emotions went through my mind. After picking up my lunch and driving two blocks down El Camino I saw that same big noisy truck parked in an illegal manner, with him out of his truck giving another displaced individual a value meal.

Matthew 25:40 ("Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me") has always been an important passage for me, and I have acted on it in my own way, but this one caught me off guard and inspired me to another personal level. Right after seeing that, I drove to Costco where I picked up bulk hygiene supplies, socks, vitamins and whatever else I could find that would fit into individual lunch bags that might help the marginalized individuals in our community. I went home, filled up two dozen bags, and put them in my car. Now when I am driving around town and see an individual in need, I stop and offer them a care bag that might provide them a little comfort.

If I ever see that mystery guy in the big noisy truck again, I would love to buy HIM a value meal and thank him for what he did for me that day. Though I am sure the Almighty Lord doesn't actually eat fast food. God is good.

-Tom, St. Raymond Parishioner

EXPERIENCED GOD RECENTLY?

We would love to add brief, personal, parishioner stories to our weekly bulletin! Titled "God Moments," these short reflections will help our parish family get to know one another better. If you have been blessed by a special grace recently, received an answer to prayer, or experienced a moment of divine peace, please consider sharing it by emailing your "God Moment" to bulletin@straymondmp.org.



CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME

An Invitation for Non-Practicing Catholics

- Were you raised Catholic but do not come or seldom come to Church anymore?
- Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from the church?
- Would you like to know more about the Catholic church as it is today?
- Would you like to feel at home in the Catholic Church again?

No matter how long you have been away and no matter what reason, we invite you to consider renewing your relationship with the Catholic Church. Please join us for a 6-week program of informal sessions and engaging conversations of the Catholic faith. The sessions will be held Tuesdays beginning January 18th at St. Raymond. For more information or to register, contact Tina Augustine taugustine@straymondmp.org or 650-656-0505.

Catholics Returning Home 2022 Schedule

January 18, 2022	Welcome & overview of series
January 25, 2022	Stories of Faith from Catholics Returning Home Discussion & Sharing
February 1, 2022	Who is God and why does it matter?
February 8, 2022	Walk through of the Mass (along with explanation and historical overview)
February 15, 2022	Explanation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession)
March 1, 2022	The Creed: What Catholics Believe

Good News

Sunday, December 5th was a great day to be at St. Raymond. A BBQ lunch and the annual Advent Fair welcomed all mass-goers after the 10 am outdoor Mass. With a chill in the air and cloudy skies, hot cider and hot chocolate were just the thing to go with hot dogs and hamburgers. Parish children and parents helped serve the hungry and pour hot beverages into eager hands.

The Advent Fair drew crowds of people to holiday decorated tables advertising the vibrant ministries of our parish community. The new Emotional and Mental Wellness ministers greeted parishioners for the first time. Across the way, Carmen and Candace from our Art and Environment team supervised tables for making your own Advent wreath.

I want to highlight Candace in this Good News piece. By the time I finished my wreath, the long tables were packed with people eager for her help and suggestions. She patiently taught everyone how simple it was “if you started it right.” That meant learning how to anchor the greens with two long florist wires attached to opposite sides of the forms. With the excellent assistance of parish staff, Candace had everything that was needed for a beautiful wreath: boxes of Advent candles, fresh greens for wrapping gold forms, rose and purple ribbons, and her ideas for how to enhance your wreath at home with pinecones and small ornaments.

I was curious, so I asked her, “How did you come to do this for us?” She replied, “My mother began teaching me how to arrange flowers when I was a very little girl. I’ve been doing it ever since.”

Fr. Jerome happened by just then beaming with joy. I think we all felt that beam of light - and love too, for our parish community and all those who made December 5th a great day to be at St. Raymond. The photos say it all! (Candace is at the right of Fr. Jerome). Thank you, Candace!

Pat Clough
Parish “reporter”



CATHOLIC CHARITIES IMMIGRATION ⁵ CENTER REUNITES FAMILIES & SERVES INDIVIDUALS FROM ALL COUNTRIES

DID YOU KNOW that Catholic Charities offers our immigration legal services to reunite families and serve individuals from all countries?

With an experienced legal staff at our San Mateo and San Francisco offices, the Center provides family and marriage-based immigration as well as naturalization services for a reasonable legal fee. Call 650.727.8430 to schedule your free consultation today!

By choosing Catholic Charities to represent you, you will support the Center’s invaluable work consistent with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to help local immigrants participate in our society so that together we seek the common good and well-being of all.

LIFE-GIVING WOUNDS: A HEALING RETREAT FOR ADULT CHILDREN OF DIVORCED OR SEPARATED PARENTS

This is a retreat weekend that invites participants with divorced or separated parents to move past their parents’ relationship to their own deepest origin and identity as God’s beloved, capable of great love. It will be led by the Life-Giving Wounds traveling retreat team. The retreat will be held March 4-6, 2022 at Vallombrosa Retreat Center (250 Oak Grove Ave. in Menlo Park).

Cost per individual is \$350 (private room) if registered by Jan. 30 and includes lodging, meals and all materials. Must be 18 or older to attend. To register and for more information please visit <https://sfarch.org/event/life-giving-wounds-healing-retreat/>. Limited scholarships are available - contact Ed Hopfner (hopfnere@sfarch.org).

IMAGE CREDITS

COVER – *Adoration of the Shepherds* by El Greco, Spain. Public domain. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Adoration_of_the_Shepherds,_El_Greco.jpg

Support St. Raymond Church on Amazon Smile. Currently, there are **19** supporters. Add St. Raymond as your charity at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1156739>.



WE ARE FAMILY, WITH ONE COMMON HOME

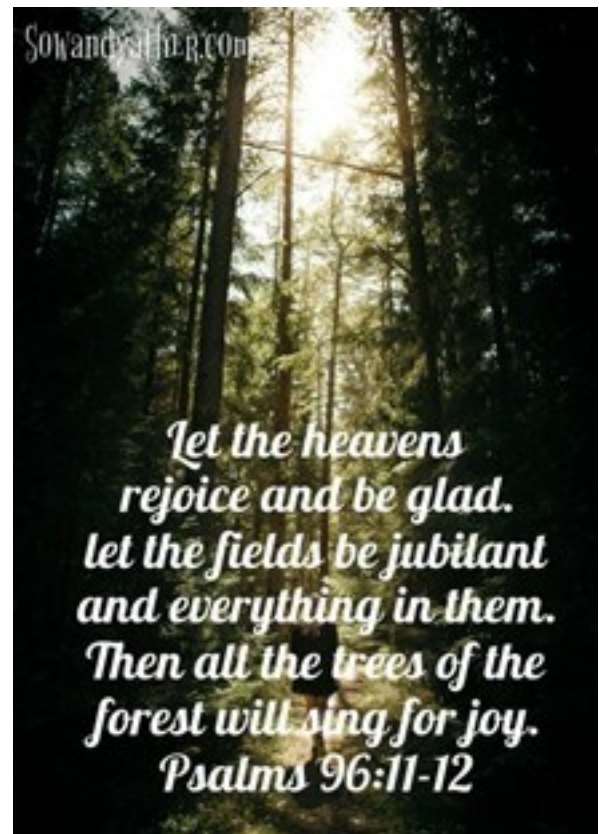
At every meeting of *Laudato Si'* we share a “God Moment” from the previous week. Sometimes those moments are glimpses of joy and gratitude for the beautiful world God has created for us. Others seem to be times of desolation, of problems, anxieties, worries. Sometimes sharing those worries triggers another God Moment of caring and understanding, as we bring all our experiences into God’s loving Grace. On this last Sunday of 2021, we’d like to begin sharing some of the actions of *Laudato Si'* over the last year and a half and the God moments we’ve experienced through those actions.

When Amy and Colleen first gathered us together in May 2020 (via Zoom, of course), simply as a reading group to read Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si'*, I (Mary McCarty) jumped in as an opportunity for intellectual stimulation and a bit of social interaction in our isolation. For me, it could have been any book, and indeed I joined several online reading communities for stimulation and interaction. (We also later read together Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* and *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.) I am sure none of us anticipated what this group would become. Through close reading (a sort of *Lectio Divina*) of one chapter a week, and sharing the parts that affected us the most, we clarified our own thoughts and reactions to the Pope’s words. We all learned more about the facts of the climate crisis, and were stimulated to educate ourselves more from other books, articles, and news stories that we shared. As we heard from the other members, we heard the diversity of concerns and priorities and responses among us. I expect that diversity will be revealed in upcoming stories from other members.

One thing that surprised and impressed all of us was to learn the history of environmental care in the social teachings of the Catholic Church as Pope Francis reports in the introduction. Personally, I discovered, and now cherish, the deep roots of care for creation in our Scriptures and teachings. This is not merely a social, economic, scientific, or political movement; it doesn’t matter which political party you favor, or even what country you call your home. The climate crisis we face, and are already experiencing, with its garbage and chemical pollution, drought, fires, intensified storms, sea-level rise, and accompanying eco-

migration, is a global phenomenon. It reminds us that all human beings are members of one global family that embraces not only human beings but all parts of God’s creation here on earth: animals, plants, and natural resources. And we all must take responsibility for all of it.

That is the concept I most wanted to share with you on this last Sunday of the year, the feast of the Holy Family, which reminds us of the love and power of relationships. As the mother of two recently married sons, I know both the challenges and rewards that extended family brings. We are all enriched when our loving arms and minds open up to more people, and beyond that, even to the animals, plants, and resources of our planet. The St. Raymond *Laudato Si'* group has truly become an extended family for me, and I invite you, my fellow members of St. Raymond parish, to join our family in our efforts to love, protect, and fight for our Common Home.



God of creation, who loves all He has made, make us love and care for each other and all your creatures as one family;

May your name be glorified through all that you have made. Through Jesus Christ, who walked this earth and calls us by name, Amen.

Merry Christmas from Laudato Si'

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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PRAYER REQUESTS

You can send prayer requests to **Rosary Center:** rosarycenter.org/homepage-2/request-prayers/
Corpus Christi Monastery: opnunsmenlo.org/request-prayer **St. Jude Shrine:** stjude-shrine.org/howweserve/prayer-requests/

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, contact us at office@straymondmp.org or register online at www.straymondmp.org/register.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturdays 5:00 pm Vigil (Church)

Sundays 8:00 am (Church), 10:00 am (Outdoors), 5:00 pm (Church)

Weekdays 8:15 am (Mon.-Sat. Church)

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

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 8:45-9:15 am & 3:30-4:30 pm,
Thursdays 7:00-8:00 pm, or by appointment

ADORATION

Saturday 8:45-9:15 am & Thursday 7:00-8:00 pm

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 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.