



ST. RAYMOND  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
SERVED BY DOMINICAN FRIARS



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 18, 2022



**Join us Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**

Dec. 24 - 3:30 pm (Family Mass) & 6:00 pm

Dec. 25 - 12:00 midnight & 10:00 am



# This Week

## MONDAY TO SATURDAY EACH WEEK

8:15 am Mass

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2022

8:15 am Mass followed by Advent Retreat  
(Confessions available during retreat)

5:00 pm Mass followed by Confessions

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022

8:00 am Mass followed by Confessions

10:00 am Outdoor Mass followed by Confessions  
and BBQ\*

5:00 pm Mass followed by Confessions

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2022

8:15 am Mass followed by Adoration and  
Confession

3:30 am Christmas Eve Family Mass

6:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2022

12:00 am Christmas Midnight Mass

10:00 am Christmas Day Mass

\*weather-permitting

## ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Confessions will be made available after next weekend's Masses. Additional Dominicans will be available.

## POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will once again decorate the altar this Christmas season. You can place your order online at <https://straymondmp.org/poinsettias> for \$25 each. You can purchase a poinsettia in the honor of or in remembrance of a loved one.

Poinsettias are now on sale IN PERSON after this weekend's Masses.

Names will be published in a bulletin in January. Proceeds will go toward Christmas decorations.

## Support St. Raymond Church on Amazon Smile.

Currently, there are now **27** supporters! Add St. Raymond as your charity at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1156739>.

# Liturgy

**Sat., Dec. 17, 5:00 pm** Puz & Harold Nelson ††, and the Nelson Family, L&D

## 4th Sunday of Advent

**Sun., Dec. 18, 8:00 am** Leonore Dascbach †

**10:00 am** The Bailetti Saez Family, L&D

**5:00 pm** St. Raymond Parish

**Mon., Dec. 19, 8:15 am** Jack McGraw †

**Tue., Dec. 20, 8:15 am** Gail Blach †, Sr. Joan Derry †, & the Blach & Derry Families, L&D

**Wed., Dec. 21, 8:15 am** Armando & Caterina Maestrini ††

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

**Thu., Dec. 22, 8:15 am** Maurice Galvez †

**Fri., Dec. 23, 8:15 am** Maurice Galvez †

*St. John of Kanty, Priest (m)*

**Sat., Dec. 24, 8:15 am** Herb Pickard †

**Sat., Dec. 24, 3:30 pm** St. Raymond Parish  
Neneve Polido

*Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord (S)*

**6:00 pm** Harold Curtis †

**Sun., Dec. 25, 12:00 am** The Galvez, Herborn, & Ritzen Families, L&D

*The Nativity of the Lord (S)*

**10:00 am** Charles Galdes †

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

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

## 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/savings account. Schedule or update recurring donations at [straymondmp.org/giving](https://straymondmp.org/giving).



## INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Discover the Catholic faith! Adults interested in Catholicism are invited to attend the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Did you not receive the sacrament of Confirmation? You're welcome too! We meet Sundays at 9 am. For more information, please contact Deacon Tom Kelly at [tfk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tfk@sbcglobal.net) or 650-670-2200.

## HALLOW APP REVIEW

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I have been exploring the Hallow app, which was recommended to me by a priest after I expressed my struggle in finding time to further deepen my faith given my busy work and family schedule. In the last year, I've found Hallow to be exactly what I needed. Whether it's starting my day with the ten-minute Daily Gospel reflections which set the tone for the day and give me something to think about during quiet moments between meetings, or the Morning Psalms, Daily Saints or Nightly Routine, the app offers meaningful guided short prayers for any time of day. And I've only begun to scratch the surface with respect to the app's various offerings. The homilies are also thought provoking and inspirational. I still want to try the music, novenas, and Bible stories. There's even something for children. This app has been a powerful tool, one that is helping me infuse my faith more fully into all aspects of my day to day activity. I don't know how many other parishioners have discovered Hallow, but I think almost all would benefit from it. It's particularly timely now as we are entering Advent. - Colleen Foraker

[Hallow.com/holyday](https://hallow.com/holyday)



**Find Peace in Prayer this Advent with Hallow**

"This app has been an answer for my weary soul. I am finding peace for the very first time."  
★★★★★

**Daily Prayers**  
Start your day with the Daily Gospel, Rosary, Examen, or one of over 5,000 sessions, including daily meditations, homilies, reflections, and Bible studies.

**Family Content**  
Pray as a family with weekly Mass Prep, or guide your little ones with introductory prayer sessions for ages 3 and up as well as sacrament prep.

**Bible Stories & Sleep Content**

Download on the App Store | Get it on Google Play | [hallow.com/holyday](https://hallow.com/holyday)

St. Raymond Parish has partnered with Hallow this Advent to provide every parishioner FREE access to all of Hallow's prayer content - including the Advent #Pray25 Challenge: Journey through Salvation History featuring the cast of 'The Chosen'.

Hallow is the #1 Catholic app worldwide and includes over 5,000 audio-guided sessions designed to help you grow closer to God and develop a daily habit of prayer. Hallow Plus includes prayers for kids and families, resources for mental health, meditations for sleep, seasonal music, multiple languages (including Spanish, Portuguese, and Polish!) daily trivia, podcast-style courses to learn more about faith, and more! Register today by searching for "St. Raymond" here: [Hallow.com/holyday](https://hallow.com/holyday).

**ON THE COVER—** *Magnificat. Mosaic depiction of the Virgin Mary visiting St. Elizabeth when she uttered her Magnificat, in the Rosary Basilica in Lourdes. Photo by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P. CC BY-NC-ND 2.0. <https://flic.kr/p/9NHCqB>*

Have any photos from any of our events? I know you took pictures at the Advent Fair. Send them to [bulletin@straymondmp.org](mailto:bulletin@straymondmp.org), or post them on Instagram and tag @straymond.mp (there's a dot).

**rummage**  
**sale**  
**2020 2021 2022 2023**  
**SAVE THE DATE**

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Raymond Parish Rummage Sale!**

**Saturday & Sunday,  
March 18-19, 2023**

**Super Donation Weekend is March 11-12, 2023**

Drop donations off directly into the school gym.  
Please mark your calendars to donate and volunteer to help with our biggest parish community fundraiser.  
All proceeds support Parish Ministries!

## COUPLES MINISTRY

Calling all married and engaged couples! We would love for you to take part in the couples ministry. Whether you have been married for 1 year or 50 years, come share in fellowship with other couples at St. Raymond. For more information contact Tina Augustine [taugustine@straymondmp.org](mailto:taugustine@straymondmp.org).

### AN INVITATION FROM OUR COUPLES MINISTRY

Join us this year in an opportunity to invest in your marriage and grow together.



### YEAR-ROUND MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES OF SPOUSES

Spouses gather for 7 sessions throughout the year to explore their call to holiness in and through marriage and family life.



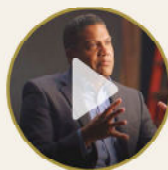
#### SERIES ONE

##### Family, a Domestic Church

The first of seven series, couples will have the opportunity to participate in up to seven years of ongoing formation within their small communities.



Danielle Bean



Damon Owens

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- A meal and time for fellowship
- Short, compelling video presentations
- Discussion facilitated by Host Couples
- A **Bring it Home** component that translates learning into living
- **Website** that serves as a portal to all videos, materials, and resources
- **Cost per couple: \$50**



VIEW TRAILER



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For questions, please contact:  
Tina Augustine  
[taugustine@straymondmp.org](mailto:taugustine@straymondmp.org)

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Together in Holiness: The St. John Paul II Foundation

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**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](mailto:chrisgalvez@aol.com).

**WEDNESDAY HOLY HOUR** is held weekly each **Wednesday from 7:00—8:00 pm** inside the Church. Holy Hour consists of Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

## PRAYERS

As a parish community we pray for the sick among us, including: Bonnie Morey, Connie Alvidrez, Janice Hagy, Lynn Bacon, Mary Shepherd, Modesta Cintron, Nony & Penny Bantug, Jesus Garber, William Cintron, Grace Cunningham, the homebound, and those who wish not to be named.

To add a name to these lists, please contact the Parish Office.

**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 and help us get in touch with those who need ministry.

**LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS**—Low-gluten hosts are available at each Mass. Please visit the presiding priest's Communion line to receive the low-gluten host.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Rosary Center: <https://rosarycenter.org/request-prayers>  
Corpus Christi Monastery: [opnunsmenlo.org/request-prayer](https://opnunsmenlo.org/request-prayer) St. Jude Shrine: <https://stjude-shrine.org/prayer-request>



## COMFORT AND JOY: SPIRITUAL LESSONS IN THE FINAL DAYS OF ADVENT

BY FR. BLAKE BRITTON, WORDONFIRE

The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the *Magnificat* canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

**December 17: O Sapientia**

**O Wisdom of our God Most High**, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

Christ is the Wisdom of God made flesh. This correlates to the opening lines of John's Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). In Greek, "Word" is *logos*, which means "reason" or "logic." Thus, Jesus is the way God thinks, the manifestation of God's logic: "When you see me you see the Father" (John 14:9). In Christ, we see how God exists; he reveals the deepest secrets of God's heart. This revelation reaches its fulfillment on the cross, when the full logic of God is on display. Christ crucified shows us what lies at the center of God's genius—namely, sacrificial love. The source of divine power is selflessness and gift. To suffer is to be sanctified, to die is to be divine, to be laid down is to rise up. We are most ourselves when we are given for another. This is the Wisdom from on high, the great secret of the heavenly *logos*. There is a God, and he is love (1 John 4:8).

**December 18: O Adonai**

**O Lord of the House of Israel**, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

Jesus is the supreme Lord of Israel, the promised Messiah who will liberate nations and bring all people into a single fold. What was inscribed upon slabs of stone by the finger of God is now hewed within the flesh of a virgin by the grace of the Spirit. No longer will humanity look to the pages of law for its guiding principles. Our model lies in the small hands of the Christ-child destined to be pierced with rusted nail. The wood of the manger at Bethlehem is a harbinger of the wood of the cross at Calvary, that precious tree that will become a distaff upon which is woven the souls of sinners.

**December 19: O Radix Jesse**

**O Root of Jesse's stem**, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

God keeps his promises in grander ways than we can <sup>5</sup> ever imagine. Did he not vow to exult the lineage of Abraham and reestablish the kingdom of David? How many centuries the Jews dreamed about God's salvation, the glorious manner in which he would liberate Israel. Little did they know how radically God planned to get involved. He did not send an emissary or third-party. He sent his own Son—the Word became flesh. God himself came to us. The root of Jesse's stem was watered with the blood of its gardener. Its produce harvested by the plow of the cross. The Holy Spirit speaks well through the author of Deuteronomy: "What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us?" (Deut. 4:7). He is more near than we often realize. For he has joined himself to our very flesh.

**December 20: O Clavis David**

**O Key of David**, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

In the second book of Samuel, chapter 7, we witness a moving exchange between God and King David. The monarch recognizes his own comfort in a house of cedar while the Ark of the Covenant is residing in a tent. David sees this as a gross injustice and seeks to remedy the situation by erecting a worthier dwelling place for God. That same night, God's utters a stirring exhortation through the prophet Nathan. The king will not build a house for the Lord. Rather, the Lord will build a house for the king and his descendants (2 Sam. 7:10-12). It will be a house of flesh that will establish an eternal dynasty. This promise is not only referring to Solomon. The early Church immediately recognized Christ as the true fulfillment of the pact between God and David. Jesus is the key of David's line—forged by the divine locksmith—that unlocks the doors of heaven for all humanity.

**December 21: O Oriens**

**O Radiant Dawn**, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The sun is a powerful symbol of the ancient world. All nascent civilizations revolved around it as the giver of day and nourisher of life. To see the sun's rays burst over the horizon is a sign of hope amidst the darkness of night. They announce a new day and all the aspirations that accompany it. Light is especially significant to Judaism, as it is the first reality created by God: "Let there be light" (Gen. 1:3). With this declaration, all things are thrust into being. It is no coincidence that God made light before all else. For it is an analogy of his son "through whom all things were made" (Col. 1:16). The light of creation is a precursor to the Light of the World (John 8:12). The birth of Jesus is the dawn of ages that points to a new day of salvation.

**December 22: O Rex Gentium**

**O King of all nations** and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

(Continued on page 6)

## 6 (COMFORT AND JOY: continued from page 5)

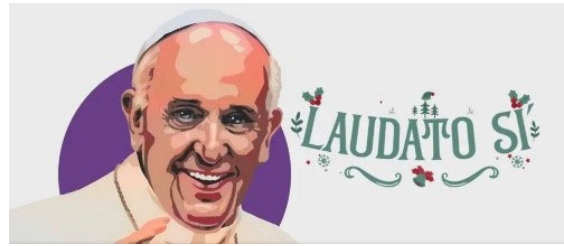
Sin divides. It disperses humanity and sets us apart from one another. Yet in Christ, we have a king who unites and gathers. Despite the varied backgrounds, cultures, languages, and traditions of this world, there is one reality that transcends every boundary: Catholicism. Jesus in his Church unites us universally with that unbreakable bond called mercy. Not as an ethereal abstract sentiment, but a concrete tangible reality. Whereas governments and political parties seek influence through power, Christ unites through a piercing of the heart and the common experience of redemption. Though people often disagree over the reasons *why* the world is broken, we do not disagree *that* it is broken. No matter how far apart we may drift in our theories, we are bonded by the shared need for salvation, and this is the impetus that inspires Catholic mission.

**December 23: O Emmanuel**

**O Emmanuel**, our King and Giver of Law:  
come to save us, Lord our God!

What is the greatest truth of Christianity? That God is with us. Not merely as an emotion or an idea, but actually with us—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. It was not enough for God to dwell among us, speak with us, die for us. He still did more. His love had to go *inside* of us. The death of Calvary could not remain a memory. It had to be lived and consumed. For this reason, we have the Eucharist. It is in the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass that Emmanuel comes into the world. The Incarnation remembered historically on Christmas day is relived in every human soul each time they receive Communion. What the shepherds and wise men saw with their eyes, we receive in our bodies. The splendor that angels adore at a distance, we touch with our hands and taste with our tongues. This is what we celebrate before all else at Christmastime. It is not only about being with family and friends or exchanging gifts. At the center of this season is the profoundest of truths: that he who arranged the stars of the sky and set the cosmos in motion took the form of a child—for me. Before I was conceived in my mother's womb, he was conceived in Mary's womb—for me. This is who our God is and why we rejoice. For we once were lost and wandered the world searching for hope. Then, hope was born for us in a cave.

Sources: <https://www.wordonfire.org/articles/comfort-and-joy-spiritual-lessons-in-the-final-days-of-advent/> and <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/o-antiphons-advent>.



### Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

*The Lord, in the culmination of the mystery of the Incarnation, chose to reach our intimate depths through a fragment of matter. He comes not from above, but from within, he comes that we might find him in this world of ours.*—Pope Francis (LS 236)

**During Advent**, we have embarked on a journey of preparation for our encounter with God, Jesus Christ who comes to meet us within Creation - this is the Good News! We anticipate with hope and joy the renewal of all Creation through the Incarnation as Jesus takes on the material life we share with all creatures.

**In this time of Advent retreat**, on this final Sunday of Love, you are invited to learn how we share this path of preparation in communion with Creation, who also eagerly awaits for redemption (cf. Rm 8:19-23). You will be guided by the words of Pope Francis and the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, his special letter to us all about the call to care for our common home.

You can sign up here: <https://hozana.org/en/community/11261-advent-with-pope-francis-and-laudato-si>

You will be invited to reflect on specific themes through:

- short videos from *The Letter* - a documentary with Pope Francis about *Laudato Si'*;
- a short reflection on that theme;
- a prayer;
- and a call to action, a concrete way to prepare for Christmas more sustainably.

As Pope Francis reminds us, "*Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.*" (LS 217)

## 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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**SCHOOL WEBSITE** [www.straymond.org](http://www.straymond.org)

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## 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](mailto:office@straymondmp.org) or register online at [straymondmp.org/register](http://straymondmp.org/register).

## CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturdays 5:00 pm Vigil

Sundays 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

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

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

### RECONCILIATION

Saturday 8:45-9:15 am & 3:30-4:30 pm,  
Wednesday 7-8 pm, or by appointment

### ADORATION

Saturday 8:45-9:15 am & Wednesday 7-8 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](mailto: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.



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