



ST. RAYMOND CATHOLIC CHURCH

SERVED BY DOMINICAN FRIARS



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 5, 2021



INSIDE

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, CHRISTMAS SCHEDULES
THE GIVING TREE**

**P.3
P.4**

This Week

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

MONDAY TO SATURDAY EACH WEEK

8:15 am Mass (Church)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021

9:00 am Legion of Mary (below)
7:00 pm Matthew Bible Study (p.3)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021

8:15 am Immaculate Conception Mass
10:00 am Zoom Weekly Bible Study (below)
12:15 pm Immaculate Conception Mass
7:00 pm Immaculate Conception Mass

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021

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

SATURDAY DECEMBER 11, 2021

8:15 am Mass (Church) followed by
Adoration & Confession until 9:15 am
3:30 pm Confessions
5:00 pm Vigil Mass (Church)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021

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

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.

SATURDAY ADORATION RETURNS following the 8:15 am morning Mass (approx. 8:45 am to 9:15 am). Confessions will also be held at this time.

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.

Liturgy

Sat., Dec. 4, 5:00 pm Sharon Kennedy Gerlach †

Second Sunday of Advent

Sun., Dec. 5, 8:00 am Sosefo Afu Veatama †

10:00 am Olga Mirek †

5:00 pm St. Raymond Parish

Mon., Dec. 6, 8:15 am Bill Roloff †

St. Nicholas, Bishop (m)

Tue., Dec. 7, 8:15 am Fr. Ambrose Sigman, O.P.

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church (M)

Wed., Dec. 8, 8:15 am  Concepcion Sanchez

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (S)
- Holy Day of Obligation

12:15 pm Charles Galdes †

7:00 pm Daya Carver

Thur., Dec. 9, 9:30 am  Carolina Reyes-Pitera

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin (m)

Fri., Dec. 10, 8:15 am St. Raymond in thanksgiving

Our Lady of Loreto (m)

Sat., Dec. 11, 8:15 am Kali Grogan †

Our Lady of Guadalupe (F)

Sat., Dec. 11, 5:00 pm St. Raymond Parish

Third Sunday of Advent

Sun., Dec. 12, 8:00 am Wan-Lan Lee †

10:00 am Bob Ferrando †, and the
Ferrando Family, Both Living
& Deceased

5:00 pm Armando Maestrini †

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

To request a Mass Intention, please call the parish office.
Mass intentions are full for 2021 and now available for 2022.

The Funeral Mass for **Bob Ferrando** will be held December 10, 2021 at 11 am at the Church of the Nativity in Menlo Park (where Bob and Grace were married).

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.

Bible Studies

MATTHEW: THE KING & HIS KINGDOM— WEEK 8

In this study we will learn how Jesus Christ fulfills God's promises to Israel and establishes his kingdom on earth. Through references to the Old Testament promises of God to His people and the messages God sent them through the prophets, this Bible study provides the key to understanding the rest of the New Testament and Christ as the fulfillment of God's plan.



The study will be going chapter by chapter through the entire Gospel of Matthew.

For week 8 (Tuesday, December 7, 7 pm):

Video: Session 8
Workbook: 54-56
Bible Reading: Matthew 8

You can purchase the book at <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/matthew-the-king-and-his-kingdom>. An online version of the book is also available.

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE
with Br. David will return on January 26th.

UPCOMING SESSION DATES ARE 2022: 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, 3/9.

To order the material, please visit: <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/unlocking-the-mystery> and choose the "Unlocking the Bible Study Set".

Immaculate Conception

Wednesday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Masses will be held at **8:15 am, 12:15 pm, and 7:00 pm**. There will be no vigil Mass.



Christmas at St. Raymond³

Friday, December 24, 2021

3:30 pm (Lawn)

5:30 pm (Church)

Saturday, December 25, 2021

12:00 am (Church)

8:00 am (Church)

10:00 am (Lawn)

Sunday, December 26, 2021

8:00 am (Church)

10:00 am (Lawn)

5:00 pm (Church)

POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will once again decorate the altar this Christmas season. You can place your order online at <https://straymondmp.org/poinsettias> for \$20 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.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Sunday, December 12, after the 10 am Mass.
Thursday, December 16, 7:00 pm during Holy Hour.

Additional priests will be available for both of these dates.

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.



Simbang Gabi

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2021, 7:00 PM

Please join us in celebrating Simbang Gabi, a Filipino Christmas tradition. Our Mass is part of a 9-day Novena of Masses as a spiritual preparation for the



Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Mass will be followed by dinner and fellowship.

SUNDAY READINGS

December 5, 2021 (Second Sunday of Advent)

Reading 1: Baruch 5:1-9

Resp. Psalm: Psalms 126:1-6

Reading 2: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/120521.cfm

December 12, 2021 (Third Sunday of Advent)

Reading 1: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Resp. Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

Reading 2: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/121221.cfm

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.

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>.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Discover the Catholic faith! Adults interested in Catholicism are invited to attend the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). A schedule will be announced in the upcoming weeks. For more information or to sign up, please contact Deacon Tom Kelly at tfk@sbcglobal.net or 650-670-2200. We look forward to welcoming you.

St. Raymond Giving Tree 2021

NOW UNTIL DEC. 12, 2021



Benefitting the St. Francis Center in Redwood City.

The parish would like to thank the families and students who made the angel ornaments for the Giving Tree.

God bless you all!

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, Ricardo Paule, 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.



Good News

EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS MINISTRY - A GIFT FOR OUR PARISH (PART 2)

The Gospel writer, Mark, gives evidence that Jesus designed the ministry of his disciples to be a team effort. Mark wrote, *"Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two."* (Mark 6:6-7)

Sue, a team member of our new ministry, reminded me of this quote from Mark's gospel. She emphasized how important it was for the team to get to know one another. Their six months of training and time spent sharing their own stories with one another has helped them better understand Jesus' "two by two" design for his disciples and the nature of a team approach to sharing our faith and compassion in this new ministry. Sue has had many years of lived experience accompanying others in their difficult times. *"It is a very different experience to have someone walk with you than to walk alone,"* she said. *"I'm very proud to be a part of this ministry."* She also looks forward to what the team will learn from the parish survey. By example, this team will lead us into a deeper understanding of how intimately connected our faith is to our emotional and mental well-being.

Dora called on her break from her pre-K class. She was ready and eager to talk about why she felt the call to this ministry. Influenced by her own personal experience of a serious physical illness, convinced of the power of faith and communal prayer, it was with great joy and gratitude that she said YES. To serve is her way of saying thank you to God and her faith community. *"We are vessels, God's vessels. Spiritual health is primary to physical and mental well-being. God's presence moves in each of us. We are each being transformed and restored to our Christ consciousness when we open our hearts, our minds, our souls, our spirits to one another."*

Cecilia brings her program management skills to this ministry along with a personal reason. *"I want to be a part of bringing to others what I couldn't find when I needed help. Building trust means everything to our team. Trust begins with being able to connect quickly, listen well, and discover the best ways to serve our parishioners with their challenges. I know of the significance of those needs from my own experience."* Cecilia is also developing a list of resources that will

St. Raymond Emotional &
Mental Wellness Ministry
straymondmp.org/emwm



be available to the team and the parish, a list that will take time to develop as the team learns more about the needs of parishioners. A survey is available on the St. Raymond website and where you pick up your bulletin after mass. This survey is important and anonymous.

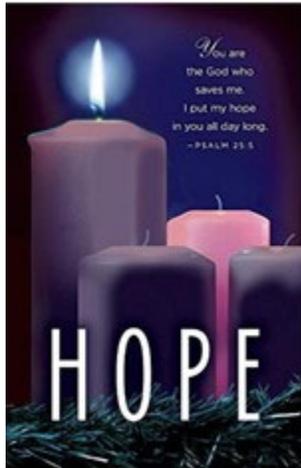
Arlene is the latest addition to the team. She is a retired middle school teacher from Sacramento who lost her husband to cancer five years ago. Her natural compassion for others found a solution to her deep concern for the multiple challenges her students were facing at home and at school. She went back to school and obtained a master's degree in counseling at St. Mary's College in Moraga. Arlene has moved here very recently, persuaded by her daughter and grandchildren to come to Menlo Park. After an accidental meeting with Father Jerome (she came late to a BBQ), she found herself saying yes to her first love, which is working with children. She too talked of the importance of building trust between team members and within the larger parish community. *"It was with pure joy that I learned of this new ministry from Father Jerome. It's perfect timing for me."* (Another hint of Good News; Father Jerome has 'the knack'!)

I close this GOOD NEWS column with **Lori**, co-lead with **Gabrielle** of St. Raymond's newest, visionary ministry. In her words, *"May God bless you as we journey together to bring Christ to families experiencing emotional and mental health challenges!"* She adds the words of Pope Francis in his prayer intention for the month of November, *"Jesus' words can help us and others to find solace: Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*

Pat: It's been a joy to meet this faith-filled, enthusiastic, and talented group of people, each with different gifts and life experience. They remind me of the words of Thomas Merton, *"God is generosity. Creation is always happening. God loves us into the presence of God pouring Himself out into each of us."*



From November 1-12, the gathering of nations, politicians, scientists, and individuals at COP26 has foretold to us, as Daniel did, “a time unsurpassed in distress”. But also, agreements were made and plans laid to lead our environment and economies away from the tipping point. It is time for each of us to do what we can, individually and in communities; in national and international governments; to act with HOPE for a cleaner, more sustainable and just future for the planet and all its inhabitants. There are many secular movements and organizations we recognize, not as competitors or new quasi-religions, but as partners in the hope of renewal of climate integrity and social justice. (See the Laudato Si’ Action Plan for the San Francisco Archdiocese [here](http://www.sfarch.org/laudato-si-action-platform/):

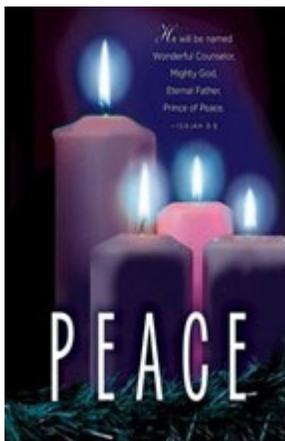


[www.sfarch.org/laudato-si-action-platform/.](http://www.sfarch.org/laudato-si-action-platform/))

We know the fruition of our waiting and working is still to come, but in the words of Pope Francis:

As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning ... Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life. (LS207).

As we begin the second week of Advent, we light the candle of PEACE, *For God will show all the earth your splendor you will be named by God forever, the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship...*



How often PEACE is joined with justice! Pope Francis’s two recent encyclicals link the two as well: the PEACE and healing of the earth described in *Laudato Si’* must be forged by justice for the lands and

living things of God’s creation. The fraternity of Fratelli Tutti is possible only through justice between all peoples of the earth in their social, ecological, and economic interactions.

During the previous month of November, designated “Indigenous Peoples’ Month”, and at the recent COP26 conference on climate change, our attention has been drawn to the injustices and harms repeatedly borne by indigenous peoples in the social, political, economic, and critically, environmental spheres. Pope Francis reminds us:

Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day. Its worst impact will probably be felt by developing countries in coming decades. Many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming, and their means of subsistence are largely dependent on natural reserves and ecosystemic services such as agriculture, fishing and forestry (LS25).

During this second week of Advent, let us work and pray for PEACE and justice between all peoples of the earth as we “hear the cry of the earth, the cry of the poor.”

LAUDATO SI’ WEEKLY ZOOM

Please join our Zoom meetings **each Thursday at noon** to pray, learn, socialize & serve. To join the Zoom Meeting, click here: <http://bit.ly/LaudatoSiZoom>.

Women's Post Abortion Healing Weekend Retreat

Weekend of December 10-12, Bilingual Spanish-English

Counseling, Mass, and Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered. Retreats are sponsored by the Archdiocese of San Francisco and held at a confidential site. Details are confidential.

To register, go to sfarch.org/event/womens-healing-retreats/.

Questions? Please email projectrachel@sfarch.org.

IMAGE CREDITS

COVER – *Our Lady Mediatrix of All Graces*. Mosaic is from the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi (Mission Dolores) in San Francisco. Photo by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P. CC BY-NC-ND 2.0. <https://flic.kr/p/UcbfXe>

PAGE 5 – *Saint Dymphna of Gheel*. Photo by Eri Fragiadaki, Byzantine icon hand painted with egg tempera. CC BY-NC 2.0. <https://flic.kr/p/t4m7gB>

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)

Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8)
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

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.