



**ST. RAYMOND**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
SERVED BY DOMINICAN FRIARS



Third Sunday of Advent  
December 14, 2025



**THIS WEEK**

# TRIUMPH of the HEART

THE PASSION OF ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

**Sunday, December 14**  
**6:15 pm St. Raymond Gym**



***Tickets Available At The Door***

## Mercy Night

Need healing? Renewal? A miracle?

### Penance Service

Encounter God in Adoration,  
Reconciliation, Fellowship  
& Worship Music

**Wednesday December 17<sup>th</sup> 7-8:30pm**

**ST RAYMOND CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**1100 Santa Cruz Ave. Menlo Park**



# This Week

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025

- 8:15 am Mass followed by Adoration & Confession until 9:15 am
- 3:30 pm Confession until 4:30 pm
- 5:00 pm Mass

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

- 8:00 am Mass
- 9:00 am Pre-K to 6 Religious Education
- 10:00 am Mass followed by ☕ & 🍩
- 5:00 pm Mass
- 6:15 pm *Triumph of the Heart* movie (Gym) (cover)

## MONDAY-SATURDAY

- 8:15 am Mass

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025

- 6:00 pm Legion of Mary (Parish Hall)

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025

- 10:00 am Bible Study
- 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Mercy Night Penance Service (Holy Hour +)
- 7:00 pm Catholic in Recovery

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025

- 7:00 pm 4D - Young Adult Event

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025

- 7:00 pm Simbang Gabi Mass followed by Dinner

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2025

- 8:15 am Mass followed by Adoration & Confession until 9:15 am
- 10:30 am Christmas Caroling (Atherton Post-Acute Care)
- 3:30 pm Confession until 4:30 pm
- 5:00 pm Mass

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

- 8:00 am Mass
- 10:00 am Mass followed by ☕ & 🍩
- 5:00 pm Mass

# Mass Intentions

Sat., Dec. 13, 5:00 pm Cormick & Caletti Families, L&D

## Third Sunday of Advent

Sun., Dec. 14, 8:00 am St. Raymond Parish  
10:00 am Olga Mirek †  
5:00 pm Aurelio Maestrini †

Mon., Dec. 15, 8:15 am Sr. Judy Roach, RSCJ 🎂

Tue., Dec. 16, 8:15 am Luke DuRussel †

Wed., Dec. 17, 8:15 am DeRussel Family, L&D

Thu., Dec. 18, 9:30 am Frazier Family, L&D

Fri., Dec. 19, 8:15 am Aurora Abelon † 🎂  
7:00 pm Charles Guevara †, Candy Hernandez †, Dity Tavora †

## Simbang Gabi Mass

Sat., Dec. 20, 8:15 am John & Lily Duzanica ††;  
Caterina & Armando Maestrini ††; Puz & Harold Nelson ††, & Family, L&D; Joseph Semaan †; Ralph Yob †

Sat., Dec. 20, 5:00 pm St. Raymond Parish

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

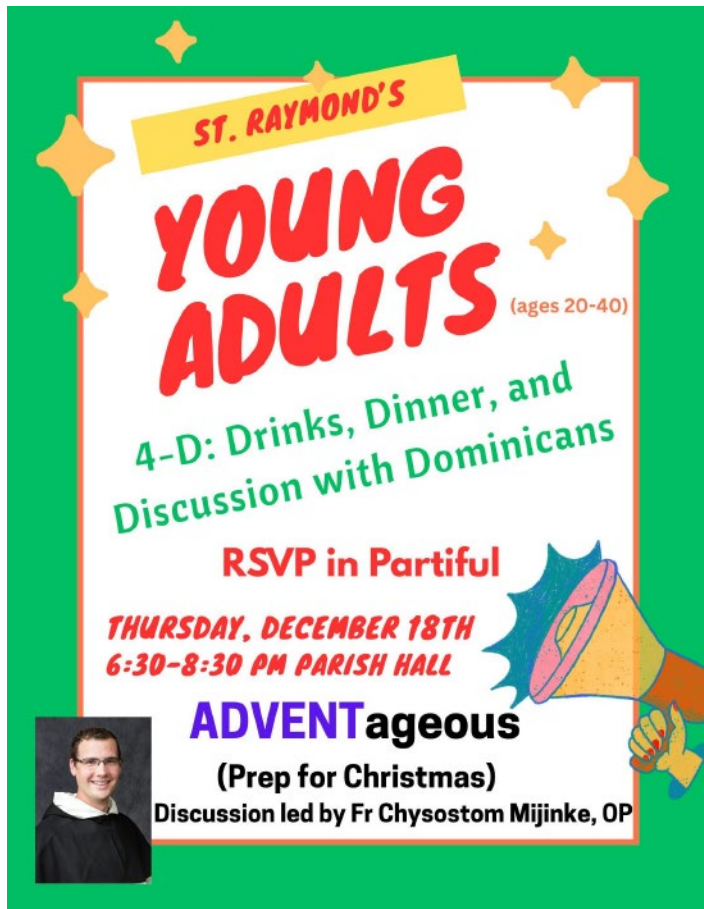
Sun., Dec. 21, 8:00 am Betty Herle  
10:00 am Scherba & Philip Families, L&D  
5:00 pm Maurice Galvez †

S - Solemnity; F - Feast; M - Obligatory Memorial; m - Optional Memorial; L&D - Living & Deceased

**PRAYERS** As a parish community we pray for the sick, including: Jackie Archibald, Nony & Penny Bantug, Anda-Louise Bozda, John Caletti, Modesta Cintron, William Cintron, Suzette Cram, Beverly Crawford, Andrea Edwards, Grace Cunningham, Ella DeLaMare, Maureen DeMoss, Esther Falsario, Anthony Galdes, Estela Gallegos, Anna Greco, Janice Hagy, David Huntzinger, Sandra Lecha, Gloria Margozi, Bonnie Morey, Red Morrow, Anjuli Nunn, Glenn Olsen, Leo Paule, Rosie & Roger, Nora Semaan, Joli Stieber, Connie Sutton, Karel Sykora, the homebound, those in our local hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, those formerly on the list, and those who wish not to be named.

We also pray for the recently deceased Joseph Semaan, Aldo Dossola, Dr. Ralph Yob, and Jim Kelly, Jr.

To add a name, please contact the Parish Office.



### *Simbang Gabi – December 19 & 21*

Mass - Friday, December 19, 2025 7 pm followed by dinner.

Mass - Sunday, December 21, 2025 5:00 pm (regular Sunday night Mass)

Our Simbang Gabi weeknight (12/19) collections will benefit Street Life Ministries.

## A CHRISTMAS GIFT IN HONOR OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Dear Parish Family,

As Christmas draws near, we reflect on the profound mystery of the Incarnation: God taking on our human nature in the person of Jesus Christ. We picture the infant King in the manger, loved by Mary and Joseph, and later honored by the Magi with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Today, the Holy Family - Jesus, Mary, and Joseph - are in heaven; they need no earthly treasures. However, our parish does.

This Christmas, consider making a monetary gift in honor of the Holy Family to support the mission and ministries that make our parish thrive. Also, your support is needed for the ongoing care of our Church and parish hall, beautiful grounds, and unexpected expenses that always arise.

Imagine a donation in honor of the Holy Family in the amount of:

- Treating the Holy Family and yours to dinner at a local restaurant.
- Booking the Holy Family a week at a local Airbnb. Remember, there was no room at the inn.
- Sending the Holy Family on an all-expense-paid two-week trip to Hawaii.

Your Christmas offering, made in honor of the Holy Family, ensures our parish remains a vibrant center of worship, service, and community.

Please know we gladly accept donations of stock and other financial instruments. Also, many employers offer gift-matching programs—please check with yours. Your gift can have great meaning at whatever feel your family can afford. Contact the parish office for more information if you are interested in one of these options. Or give today in one of three ways:

- Online: <https://straymondmp.org/giving>.
- Drop your gift in the collection basket at Mass.
- Scan the QR code.

Thank you for your generosity. May God bless you with a joyful and peace-filled Christmas.

Fr. Jerome Cudden, O.P.





## FAITH FORMATION NEWS

This Sunday, all families are invited to pray the rosary with the children and catechists right at 9:35 am in the church. Following the rosary, the 10 am Mass will be our first "Family Mass" with children taking part in the liturgy as singers, readers, and gift bearers!

### BEaST News:

The youth are doing a fundraiser this weekend, selling homemade tamales, Christmas cookies, and other treats after each Mass. Come with your appetite to support this amazing ministry and read what parents and teens are saying about it!

"My youth had an absolute blast and loved everything about the retreat. It was a perfect combination of meaningful content, downtime, and fun.

I'm so impressed and so incredibly grateful for Dn. John Paul and for Florence and your amazing leadership over our young people. I have never seen a youth retreat done so well! It reminded me of all those photos of St. John Paul II in the mountains with young adults and the impact that had on many generations. Your work today will bear fruit beyond anything any of us can imagine. God be praised!" - A mom

"Five stars! This retreat was fun, eye opening, and a way to make great connections with your faith and friends." - A youth

### Upcoming Events

- Dec. 14, 6:15 pm — Movie Night: *Triumph of the Heart: The Passion of St. Maximilian Kolbe*
- Dec. 20 (Saturday), 10:30 am-1 pm — Christmas Caroling & Celebration
- Jan. 10 — Confirmation morning retreat at St. Raymond
- Jan. 11 — Ice skating for the whole family!

## THINKING ABOUT BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Reach out to Dn. Tom Kelly at [tfk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tfk@sbcglobal.net) or 650-670-2200. He's happy to answer any questions you might have.

# CHRISTMAS CAROLING

JOY TO THE WORLD! OUR SAVIOR IS BORN!

SHARE CHRISTMAS JOY AND HOT CHOCOLATE!

**Saturday, December 20th**  
10:30 AM to 12 PM  
Meet at St Raymond Parish Hall

We will walk over to Atherton Acute Care to sing for the residents, making singing stops downtown along the way.



## SPECIAL COLLECTION



# Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Please donate at your local parish, or by mail at:

National Religious Retirement Office  
3211 Fourth Street NE  
Washington DC 20017-1194

Make check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.

[retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org)

## DECK THE HALLS (AND THE TREES)!

Help us prepare for Christmas by decorating our beautiful church Christmas trees! We need volunteers on Monday, Dec. 22 at 10:00 am to string lights and make our church shine for the holiday season. Many hands make light work—can you spare an hour?

Please let Angie Robbiano know if you can help: [DirofOPs@straymondmp.org](mailto:DirofOPs@straymondmp.org).



## OPEN THE CHURCH DOORS

*"Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted, you ancient portals, that the king of glory may enter." - Psalm 24:7*

This Christmas, help us make St. Raymond more welcoming for all! We're raising \$9,000 to install ADA-compliant door openers on both the Mary and St. Joseph side entrances. These openers will serve parishioners with mobility challenges, parents with strollers, and anyone who could use a helping hand.

Your donation—large or small—brings us closer to making our church accessible to everyone. To contribute, please contact the parish office or donate online at <https://strmp.link/doors>.



## DOMINICAN CORNER

### What's So Great About John the Baptist?

Br. Francis Dominic Nguyen, O.P., reflects on the Gospel for the Third Sunday of Advent (Mt 11:2-11)

What's so great about St. John the Baptist? We hear today that among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist. If we observe carefully, the Gospel passage today gives us at least one good reason why: John the Baptist is so careful to lead others to Christ. He already knew that Jesus was the Christ, because he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus when he baptized Him. Yet, he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, "are you the one who is to come?"

Jesus answers them with this: "Go and tell John what you see and hear:

the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news proclaimed to them."

Now, notice carefully how Jesus began his answer. He said, "go and tell John what you see and hear."

What astonishes me about this verse is that within it, you already get an example the blind seeing! The disciples themselves were some of the blind ones — blind to the fact that Jesus was the Messiah. The fact that John the Baptist needed to send them to Jesus to ask this question suggests that perhaps they were not willing to listen to him, and they were deaf to his preaching about Jesus as the Messiah. But, St. John the Baptist knows the right cure to open the ears of those deaf to his preaching about Jesus. It is to go straight to Jesus and to let yourself be amazed by the countless miracles Jesus works in your life and in the lives of those around you. Let us too open our eyes and ears to this reality.

Again, "what's so great about St. John the Baptist?" He is great in humility. Like a good road sign, he doesn't put the focus on himself but on the destination and on the Truth. Everything he did was about preparing the way for the Lord. As we look forward to Christmas, may we, too, imitate his great humility and point others to Jesus, the one who comes to save. •





In this season of thanks and joy we bring you another edition of "In Our Own Backyard," coming to you from Bedwell Bayfront Park—part of the Bay Trail system. A couple of us walked here several months ago and it was rather dry with few birds. But after the glorious rains we've had, what a difference!



The whole park has greened up, and the Pacific Flyway (which provides critical stopover habitats vital for the birds' feeding and breeding) passes overhead. The area calls to the birds: Come, stop, take a rest here. This is its time of glory! There is also plenty of beautiful educational signage.



A Great Blue Heron and a Great Egret parent and young one; there are ducks, sandpipers, and many other types of birds.

Like other local areas, a salt marsh and a landfill area have been rejuvenated with much work into a thing of beauty. Make plans to enjoy this area with friends and family soon!



*Loving Lord of heaven and earth, we thank you for the amazing beauty of your creation and for the incredible diversity of your creatures. Help us to love and revere your creation and to care for it with love, wisdom, gratitude, and gentleness. •*

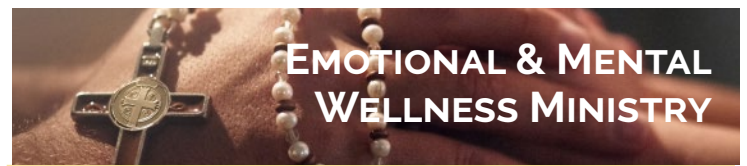


13th Annual World-Famous St. Raymond Rummage Sale

**Saturday, April 25 & Sunday, April 26, 2026**

Start collecting donations now! A storage container will be available in early January near the priests' home off Arbor Road for you to bring your items.

Questions? Contact Karyn Leahy at [leahyfamily@msn.com](mailto:leahyfamily@msn.com).



## EMOTIONAL & MENTAL WELLNESS MINISTRY

If you or a loved one is experiencing mental or emotional wellness challenges, please contact our St. Raymond Emotional & Mental Health ministry at (650) 899-0370. This is a dedicated line and only co-leads of the ministry team will hear your message. You may also email the ministry team at [emwm@straymondmp.org](mailto:emwm@straymondmp.org).

## DIACONATE FORMATION INFORMATIONAL EVENINGS

The Office of Formation for the Permanent Diaconate will hold Informational Evenings for men considering the possibility of serving the Church as Permanent Deacons. The evening will include discussion of the ministry of the Deacon in the Church, the Formation program and the application process. Please join us.



**7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

**Wednesday, January 7, 2026**

St. Raphael Church, 1104 5th Avenue, San Rafael

**Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

Archdiocese of San Francisco, One Peter Yorke Way, SF

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026**

St. Mark Church, 325 Marine View Avenue, Belmont

**Photo Credits:** Cover - *St. John the Baptist* by El Greco (c. 1600). Oil on canvas, 111 x 66 cm. Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. Public Domain

# WELCOME



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 Bay Area. 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).

## Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. St. Raymond Church

Catholic sacramental recovery and fellowship for those seeking freedom from addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments.



FAITH | FREEDOM | FELLOWSHIP

## PACK THE PANTRY

As part of our parish mission to pray, serve, and socialize we will have a "Pack the Pantry" collection site at our parish. We will be collecting unopened non-perishable items to supplement our St. Raymond St. Vincent de Paul conference's mission to feed the vulnerable. Next time you're at the store, please grab a few extra items from our list! This will be an ongoing project.

Located in the black storage locker in the parish courtyard next to the parish hall.



All items MUST be NON-PERISHABLE. Items needed:

Peanut Butter (16oz preferred)  
Canned Tuna  
Canned Chicken  
Canned Fruits  
Canned Vegetables  
Pasta  
Rice  
Beans



## 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

**EMAIL** [office@straymondmp.org](mailto:office@straymondmp.org)

**PARISH WEBSITE** [www.straymondmp.org](http://www.straymondmp.org)

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

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS** Mon-Fri. 9:00 am-5:00 pm

### PASTOR

Fr. Jerome Cudden, O.P. [jcudden@straymondmp.org](mailto:jcudden@straymondmp.org)

### PAROCHIAL VICAR

Fr. Antony Augustine Cherian, O.P.

[frantony@straymondmp.org](mailto:frantony@straymondmp.org)

**DEACON/OCIA (RCIA)** - Tom Kelly [tfk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tfk@sbcglobal.net)

**TRANSITIONAL DEACON/BEAST YOUTH MINISTRY/YOUNG**

**ADULT GROUP/CHILDREN'S LITURGY/MERCY NIGHT** -

Dn. John Paul Puschautz, O.P.

[brjohnpaul@straymondmp.org](mailto:brjohnpaul@straymondmp.org)

### SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Roderick Harrison [rharrison@straymond.org](mailto:rharrison@straymond.org)

### PARISH STAFF

#### DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

Hallie Colorado [Hallie@straymondmp.org](mailto:Hallie@straymondmp.org)

#### DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

Florence de Bretagne

[florence.debretagne@straymondmp.org](mailto:florence.debretagne@straymondmp.org)

#### PARISH COORDINATOR

Ronnica Hagy [rhagy@straymondmp.org](mailto:rhagy@straymondmp.org)

#### GROUNDSCKEEPER

 - Javier Hernandez

#### FACILITIES SUPERVISOR

Pedro Hernandez [pfernandez@straymondmp.org](mailto:pfernandez@straymondmp.org)

#### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & LITURGY

Lauri Hofstrom [music@straymondmp.org](mailto:music@straymondmp.org)

#### DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Angie Robbiano [dirofOPs@straymondmp.org](mailto:dirofOPs@straymondmp.org)

#### BULLETIN EDITOR/SACRISTAN

John Sanchez [jsanchez@straymondmp.org](mailto:jsanchez@straymondmp.org)

### COUNCILS

**PASTORAL COUNCIL** - Lori Mirek (Chair), Lindsay Craig, Karyn Leahy, Chris Terndrup, Stephanie Howard  
[pastoralcouncil@straymondmp.org](mailto:pastoralcouncil@straymondmp.org)

**FINANCE COUNCIL** - Patrick Green (Chair), Dave Brenner, Caitlin Burke, Mark Secker  
[finance@straymondmp.org](mailto:finance@straymondmp.org)

**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.



# ADVENT 2025

Sun., 12/14	6:15 pm	Triumph of the Heart movie
Wed., 12/17	7:00 pm	Mercy Night Penance Service
Thu., 12/18	6:30 pm	4D Event ADVENTageous
Fri., 12/19	7:00 pm	Simbang Gabi Mass and Dinner
Sat., 12/20	10:30 am	Christmas Caroling at Atherton Post-Acute Care

# CHRISTMAS 2025

Wed., 12/24	3:30 pm	Christmas Eve Family Mass
	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Mass
Thu., 12/25	12:00 am	Christmas Midnight Mass
	10:00 am	Christmas Day Mass



**ST. RAYMOND**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
SERVED BY DOMINICAN FRIARS



## GIVING: ONLINE AND IN PERSON

Make stewardship simple with eGiving! Set up secure automatic donations using your credit card, debit card, or bank account, and never worry about forgetting your weekly offering again. Manage your giving anytime at [straymondmp.org/giving](http://straymondmp.org/giving).



## REGULAR 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, BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, & FUNERALS** - Please contact the parish office at 650-323-1755 or email [office@straymondmp.org](mailto:office@straymondmp.org).