



ST. RAYMOND
CATHOLIC CHURCH
SERVED BY DOMINICAN FRIARS



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025

CHRISTMAS 2025

Wed., 12/24 3:30 pm Family Mass

6:00 pm Mass

Thu., 12/25 12:00 am Midnight Mass

10:00 am Mass

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 four ways:

- Online: <https://straymondmp.org/giving>.
- Drop your gift in the collection basket at Mass.
- Visit our new kiosks on the Marian side of the church!
- 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.



This Week

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

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY-SATURDAY

- 8:15 am Mass

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2025

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025

- 8:15 am Mass
- 3:30 pm Christmas Eve Family Mass
- 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025

- 12:00 am Christmas Midnight Mass
- 10:00 am Christmas Day Mass

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 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 28, 2025

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2025

- 5:00 pm Mary, Mother of God Vigil Mass

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026

- 9:30 am Mary, Mother of God Mass

Mass Intentions

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 †

Mon., Dec. 22, 8:15 am RJay Lane

Tue., Dec. 23, 8:15 am Maurice Galvez †

St. John of Katy, Priest (m)

Wed., Dec. 24, 8:15 am Gregorio Moises †

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

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord (S)

6:00 pm Neneve Polido 🍰

Thu., Dec. 25, 12:00 am Galvez, Herborn, & Ritzen Families, L&D

The Nativity of the Lord (S)

10:00 am Papa & Ruocco Families, L&D

Fri., Dec. 26, 8:15 am Ray Lane

St. Stephen, the First Martyr (F)

Sat., Dec. 27, 8:15 am Jesse Sanchez 🍰 †

St. John, Apostle & Evangelist (F)

Sat., Dec. 27, 5:00 pm Marta Bentolila †

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

Sun., Dec. 28, 8:00 am Herb Pickard †
10:00 am Eleanor Jekot †
5:00 pm St. Raymond Parish

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.



Once again, our generous neighbors are making their parking lot available for the Christmas Eve 3:30 pm Mass. If you're able-bodied, please use the neighbor lot (entrance via Arbor Road, as shown above) to reserve church parking for parishioners with mobility needs.

Please note: Our main parking lot will operate with one-way traffic on Christmas Eve—**enter from Arbor Road** and **exit onto Santa Cruz Avenue** only.

Prefer a quieter celebration? We're also offering Mass at 6:00 pm on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass at 12:00 am, and a Christmas Day Mass at 10:00 am.

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>.



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.



CHRISTMAS MIRACLES

SAINT THÉRÈSE'S CHRISTMAS MIRACLE: THE STORY OF THE DEFINING MOMENT THAT HELPED HER BECOME A SAINT

"...I was not the same Thérèse any more; Jesus had changed me completely."

By Caroline Perkins, ChurchPop

St. Thérèse of Lisieux is a powerhouse saint and beloved Doctor of the Church. Through her writings and holy example, she gifted us with her Little Way to holiness. What if I told you that her path to sainthood might be more relatable than you think? On Christmas in 1886, St. Thérèse of Lisieux was changed forever in a way that may surprise you.

Thérèse Martin was a difficult child. The young future saint was strong-willed and any minor inconvenience or conflict resulted in her crying—a lot. Her mother, St. Zélie, wrote of her stubborn and childish nature. Her parents often felt helpless and discouraged. Even Saint Thérèse herself knew it to be true! In her autobiography, "Story of a Soul," Thérèse reflects on this period of her life:

"I made myself almost unbearable by being far too sensitive, and nothing that was said to me seemed to help me overcome this tiresome fault."

She tells of the life-changing event that occurred on Christmas when she was 13 years old. She later referred to this as her "Christmas Miracle." Thérèse and her family had arrived home from **Midnight Mass** to see their shoes filled with gifts. In years past, Thérèse's father's attention spoiled her. This year was different. Instead, she overheard her father talking of how he hoped Thérèse would soon outgrow this sort of thing. Thérèse said that her typical reaction included a lot of tears, but the Lord cured her of this childishness.

She recounts the miracle that followed:

"...I was not the same Thérèse any more; Jesus had changed me completely. I held back my tears, and trying to stop my heart from beating so fast, I ran down into the dining room. I picked up the shoes and unwrapped my presents joyfully, looking all the while as happy as a queen. Father did not look cross anymore now and entered into the fun of it, while Céline thought she must have been dreaming. But

this was no dream. Thérèse had gotten back forever the strength of mind she had lost at four and a half."

Thérèse referred to this change of heart as the beginning of a new period in her life. It completely changed her understanding of what the Lord was calling her to do to follow His will completely. Thérèse concludes,

"God had lifted me out of my narrow world in a very short time, and I had taken the first step, but the road ahead was long. However, freed from my scruples and over-sensitiveness, my soul grew..."

Let this be a reminder that there is nothing too big or too small for the Lord. Our lives are full of mini miracles! It's important to recognize both the ordinary and the extraordinary ways God works in our lives.

This season, I challenge you to look for your own Christmas miracle. Even more, ask for the intercession of dear Saint Thérèse of Lisieux to help soften your heart to His graces. •

HOMELESS FAMILY FUND

When families in our community face homelessness, we step in to help. The Homeless Family Fund is a parishioner-supported ministry that provides the crucial first step toward stable housing—covering first and last month's rent plus deposits for displaced individuals and families.

We don't just write checks. Working closely with local agencies and caseworkers, we ensure that each family we support is ready to sustain their new home and has found quality, safe housing.

Your donation makes an immediate impact. Every dollar goes directly to families in need—no administrative costs, just life-changing assistance when it matters most.

Ready to help a family get back on their feet?

- Give online at straymondmp.org/giving or at our new kiosks on the Marian side of the church.
- Contact Hallie Colorado or Ronnica Hagy with questions.



Thank you for being part of the solution to homelessness in our community.

DOMINICAN CORNER

How Does Matthew Present Jesus as the New Moses?

Br. Ignatius Jerome Alsop, O.P., reflects on the Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Mt 1:18-24).

Today, we hear of a nervous father who is told in a dream that his unborn son will deliver the people from the darkness which enslaves them and be a sign of God's faithfulness to His people. An evil ruler will fear the birth of this new leader, and massacre many children to wipe him out, but through God's warning to his parents, the child will be safe, and taken into Egypt.

Indeed: What child is this?

If you asked a Jewish person at the time of Jesus, they wouldn't hesitate. Obviously, we're talking about *Moses*!

Ancient Jewish traditions record how Moses' father, Amram, was promised in a dream that his child would deliver the people from slavery in Egypt. Another dream also warned him that Pharaoh, to protect his power, would slaughter the innocent infants of Israel, and told him to save his son.

In today's Gospel, Matthew tells a story that would've sounded very familiar to his audience. But instead of Amram, Joseph receives the dream. Instead of Pharaoh, it is Herod who will seek the child's life. And instead of Moses, it is Jesus who will save the people from what enslaves them and be a sign of God's continued faithfulness.

This is just one of many places where Matthew presents Jesus as the New Moses.

It's easy for us to think of Christmas as the beginning of the story, a Hallmark story with nothing but joy in it. But that's just not true.

Moses was born into a dark time, when evil powers had crushed Israel for generations, and the people were worn out with crying to God for help. Egypt's reign seemed inevitable to them, and there was no human way that freedom could be won. God's promises seemed far away. But it was into *this* subjugation, a child was born, a child who would go unnoticed for a while as tyrants continued their oppression.

At that very moment, when darkness covered all the

earth, those tyrants were doomed to fall. God's old promises, almost forgotten, had begun to be fulfilled.

Through this child, God would wage war on the powers that kept His people in chains, and lead them to the freedom that had seemed impossible.

In our own time, the power of a hostile world, and our own slavery to sin, seem inevitable to us. We can't see any human path to freedom. But God has promised us victory, and His promises never fail. Once again, God has sent us a deliverer.

In a few days, then, let us celebrate Christmas for what it really is: the beginning of our Exodus. •

BLACK & WHITE GALA

Thank you to all who attended the Dominican Black & White Gala on December 6, 2025 in San Francisco. Here are some pictures of current and former St. Raymond clergy.



Rosary Sunday

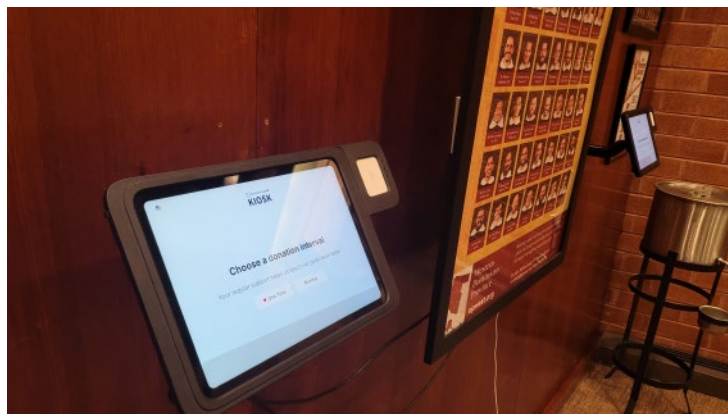
DOMINICAN STUDENT APPEAL

Thank You!

As of December 2, St. Raymond Parish has helped raise over \$100,000 in support of the Rosary Sunday: Dominican Student Appeal. We have surpassed last year's total of \$96,899.

The Western Dominican Province thanks you for your prayers and support. Formation takes about eight years and costs approximately \$59,500/year per student brother—or \$163/day. That investment includes a graduate education, housing, food, travel expenses, as well as their healthcare. Your gifts are stretched far!

If you still wish to donate, you can give online at www.opwest.org/rs, use a Rosary Sunday envelope located in the church, or mail a gift to: Western Dominican Province, 5877 Birch Court, Oakland, CA 94618. Thank you!



NEW DONATIONS KIOSKS!

We're happy to announce the addition of two donation kiosks on the Marian side of the church. You can now give using your credit or debit card, Google Pay, and Apple Pay.

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary meets every Monday at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Feel free to join us and learn more about the Legion of Mary. Members have been Praying, Serving, and Socializing since the 1950s.

ST. RAYMOND LITTLE LIBRARY

We have had some wonderful items in our Little Library and they have been very happily received. However, we have had very few donations. Please consider dropping off some books your children have outgrown. Others would love to read some of those treasures that you have finished with.

And be sure to drop by and see if there are things there to keep little ones entertained in Mass or to enrich your own faith.



13th Rummage Sale

SAVE THE DATE

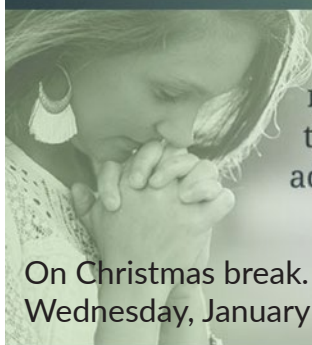
13th Annual World-Famous St. Raymond Rummage Sale

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.

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



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

On Christmas break. Returns Wednesday, January 7, 2026



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



THINKING ABOUT BECOMING CATHOLIC?

If you've been curious about the Catholic faith, we'd love to have you join us for OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults). It's a welcoming group where adults explore what it means to be Catholic—no pressure, just honest conversation and learning together.

Questions? Reach out to **Dn. Tom Kelly** at tfk@sbcglobal.net or 650-670-2200. He's happy to answer any questions you might have.



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.



Is the PERMANENT DIACONATE for you?

Diaconate Formation Informational Evenings

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

St. Raphael Church
1104 5th Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901
7-9 p.m.

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Archdiocese of San Francisco
One Peter Yorke Way
San Francisco, CA 94109
7-9 p.m.

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

St. Mark Catholic Church
325 Marine View Avenue
Belmont, CA 94002
7-9 p.m.

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.



Deacon Fred Totah,
Director of Diaconate Formation
Totah.fred@sfrch.org
(415) 614-5504

Office of Deacon Formation
Archdiocese of San Francisco
1 Peter Yorke Way, San Francisco, CA 94109

For more information visit:
www.sfrch.org/deacon-formation



Photo Credit: Cover - This sculpture from St. James the Greater Church in Charles Town, WV, shows Our Lady pregnant with the Christ Child, and St. Joseph. The lily between them indicates Our Lady's perfect virginity and St. Joseph's chastity. This sculpture was carved in Peru by poor artisans working through the Artesanal Cooperative Don Bosco of Chacas. Photo Credit: Photo by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P. (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

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 or register online at straymondmp.org/register.

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.

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.



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

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.

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

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SCHOOL WEBSITE www.straymond.org

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

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Fr. Antony Augustine Cherian, O.P.

franatomy@straymondmp.org

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