



**Blessed Christmas** On this fourth Sunday of Advent allow me to wish you all a very blessed and merry Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There is no salvation in any other name, nor can we find happiness in this life or the next except in His perfect will. He loves

us infinitely beyond our ability to understand or receive. There are times in life, however, when God's love feels like rejection and hardship. But we must never doubt God's will. His love for us seems unreasonable only because our ideas of "love" are so poor. We must learn to trust God the way Our Lady trusted Him. She said "let it be done to me according to Your Word." Full stop. Through her surrender, Jesus was conceived in her womb, and she put the rest in His Hands.

**Let it Snow** Dean Martin's famous song *Let it Snow* sings of love: "When we finally kiss goodnight, How I'll hate going out in the storm, But if you'll really hold me tight, All the way home I'll be warm!" The world is increasingly cold and dark, and all of us long to give and receive love from someone who treasures us. It was a snowy twilight in 1982 when I realized I was in love. I was looking out the window of my college girlfriend's family home as it snowed heavily on the fir trees outside. She put her hand on my arm and suddenly I longed to go through the storms of life with her at my side. But God's will for me was not that, and I had to say good-bye to this beautiful creature when I left for seminary three years later. We spent the next year in darkness and pain, having been denied such an intense natural love. I had to ask myself how this could be an expression of God's love. Forty years later, however, I can clearly see that this separation was holy and necessary. Both of us are so much happier in our respective vocations than we would have been had we refused God's

will. In His will is our peace....

**Same Sex Blessings?** Many of you have heard on the news that "the Vatican has approved same sex blessings." That is not actually the case, but last week the Vatican did publish a confusing document encouraging priests to bless *people* in same-sex unions. There is a subtle but important difference between blessing people and blessing a behavior, but of course the news media is saying the Catholic Church now "approves of gay marriage." A bishop in Austria, in fact, has declared that no priest in his diocese can *refuse* a same-sex blessing, while a bishop in Kazakhstan has declared that no priest can *give* a same-sex blessing. This confusion and division in the Church is certainly not God's will, and quite harmful to the people of God. Our own Archbishop, it seems to me, got it right when he told a local newspaper that we should read the Vatican document "in continuity with the Church's unchanging teaching." The Church's unchanging teaching is that any sexual acts outside of the matrimonial covenant are sinful because they harm the human person. Sinful acts can never be "blessed," because God would never encourage acts that harm his beloved creatures. God loves us so much, and He sets rules for our safety and happiness. Those who respect this rule live much happier lives than those who don't. God has not only given us these precious rules to live by, but in the sacraments he gives us the grace to actually give and receive true love, even when very difficult. Let us receive His gifts with joy!

**The First Christmas Gift** God gave Our Lady the grace to completely trust in His Word. She totally surrendered to His will, and that's why we have Christmas. Let us try to imitate her splendid virtue, and so receive God's manifold gifts!

Fr. Joseph Illo



**STAR of the SEA  
Catholic Church**

4420 Geary Blvd.  
San Francisco, CA 94118  
(415) 751-0450  
www.starparish.com

**Office Hours**  
M-TH 8:30am-5pm  
Friday 8:30am-5pm,  
Closed 12:00-1:00pm

**CLERGY**

**Fr. Joseph Illo**  
Pastor

**Fr. Mike Konopik**  
Parochial Vicar

**Fr. Michael Rocha**  
Parochial Vicar

**Deacon Albert Nimri**  
Parish Manager

**STAFF**

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Communications and  
Parish Life Director

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**Dr. Gavin  
Colvert**

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Stella Maris Academy Christmas Concert

**LITURGY AND DEVOTIONS SCHEDULE**

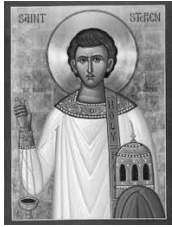
Daily Mass: M-F, 7am Latin, 12noon, 6pm. Saturday 8:30am, 12noon Latin. Sat. Vigil Mass 4:30pm. Sunday, 8am, 9:30am, 11:30am Latin, 7:30pm. Holy Day Mass, 7am Latin, 12noon, 6pm Sung Latin Mass. Confessions, 20 min. before Mass; Sat, 3:15-4:15pm.

Eucharistic Adoration 24/7. Lauds, Mon-Fri 6:45am. Vespers, Mon-Fri 5:45pm. Holy Hour & Confessions, Tuesday 7pm-8pm. Devotions: Sacred Heart First Friday 12noon, 6pm Latin. Divine Mercy, Saturday 3pm. Lady of Perpetual Help, Wed. 12noon. Lady of Fatima First Saturday, 8:30am. Communal Rosary prayer after all daily Masses.

# The Sunday Scriptures

By Fr. Joseph Illo (Mic 5: 1-4a; Heb 10: 5-10; Lk 1: 39-45)

**Let it be done** Our Lady gives herself to God, because He first gave Himself to her. "Behold, I am the Lord's servant. Let it be done to me as you have said." To submit in this way requires great trust, and that is what makes great saints. They trust God. Let us pray to Mary to be able to trust God!



## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

We celebrate St. Stephen, the first martyr on December 26. St. Stephen's discourse and martyrdom are captured in Acts 7, where he preaches of our forefathers of the OT to an unrelenting people. His dying words, as he was being stoned, were, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." - Act 7:59-60

Come ask God to give you St. Stephen's spirit of joyful abandonment and forgiveness, even in distress, by signing up for a weekly holy hour at [www.adorationpro.org/star](http://www.adorationpro.org/star)

## PLANNED GIVING

ONE CHARITABLE GIFT,  
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For information contact: [mariella@starparish.com](mailto:mariella@starparish.com)

Make a Will. Include your parish in your estate plans. Help preserve the mission and values of the church and its commitment to ministry.



## FORMED RECOMMENDATIONS

(Formed.org Free to all Parishioners)

Find the titles below at: <http://watch.formed.org>



**The Birth of the Messiah:** Mary and the Mystery of Christmas with *Dr. Brant Pitre Professor of Scripture at the Augustine Institute.*

### Christmas Special | Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids

Based on the award-winning Bible! Join Minno kids Margot, Lexi, Miguel, and Logan on a heartwarming journey through the Christmas story. Hosted by the Hopeful World, this beautiful retelling of the story of Jesus' birth will help kids understand the true meaning of Christmas. Viewers both young and old will be filled with hope as they recall God's promise fulfilled through our Savior's arrival.

# Mass Intentions

Sat 12/23	8:30am	+ Francis and Jenny Chow
	12noon	+ Luis and Purita Ibaseta
	4:30pm	+ Justina Tzeng
Sun 12/24	8:00am	+ Conchita and Enrique Ines
	9:30am	Int. of Thomas and Barbara Anderson and Family
	11:30am	People of the Parish
	7:30pm	No 7:30pm Mass
	Christmas Vigil 6pm	+ Marion Walsh
12 mid.		Int. of Star of the Sea Altar Servers & their families
Mon 12/25	8am	+ Victoria Viana (anniv)
	9:30am	Int. of Gerard Christian Ines (bday)
	11:30am	Int. of Mercedes dela Ysla
Tue 12/26	7:00am	+ Natividad Guinto
	12noon	+ Sister Maria Teresa Gabriel
	6:00pm	Int. of Jean Low
Wed 12/27	7:00am	+ Catherine Chow
	12noon	+ William R. Whelan
	6:00pm	+ Imelda Mary Walsh Gallagher
Thu 12/28	7:00am	Int. of Thomas Gotshall
	12noon	In Thanksgiving of Ramel Macalalad and Family
	6:00pm	+ Fernando Manzon (bday)
Fri 12/29	7:00am	+ Enrico and Rita Palencia (wedding anniv)
	12noon	Int. of Geraldine Doherty (bday)
	6:00pm	+ Patricia Keiter (anniv)
Int. of Catarina Lai		
Sat 12/30	8:30am	+ Gloria Agero (anniv)
	12noon	Int. of Jordi Cortez (bday)
	4:30pm	Int. of Celso & Sonia Calupad (56 yrs wedding anniv)

## Prayer for the Sick



Anne Kavanagh, Maria Jessue, Il'eana Rozario, Susan Lewitt, Paula Click, Brian Walsh, Mary Ann Eiler and all sick parishioners.

# Communal prayers

**Saturdays,** Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm in the church.

**Sundays,** Latin Rosary. You are invited to pray the rosary at 11am. Pamphlets with the Latin words will be provided.

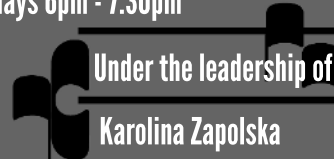
**Sundays,** Rosary Walk 2:30pm at St. Mary's Cathedral. For updates: <https://star.flocknote.com/Rosary Walk>

# Programs & Ministries

<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b> 415-751-0450 www.starparish.com	<b>BAPTISM, MARRIAGE &amp; ALL SACRAMENTS</b> 415-751-0450
<b>Adoration Committee</b> Laurie Murdock 415-244-8186 staradorationsf@gmail.com	<b>Parish Council</b> Ryan Sebers ryan@starparish.com
<b>Altar Servers</b> Bryan Calmeyer bryancalmeyer@me.com	<b>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)</b> Gregory Moeck 310-694-6380 gmoeck@gmail.com
<b>Filipino American Association (FAASTAR)</b> Estrelle Chan 415-336-9193	<b>Star of the Sea Preschool Stella Maris Academy</b> Dr. Gavin Colvert gcolvert@stellamarissf.org
<b>Knights' Men's Ministry</b> Sean Sullivan stsullivan12@gmail.com	<b>Star Pro-Life Prayer Group</b> Thursdays 6-7pm, 1522 Bush St. https://star.flocknote.com/ Star-Pro-life
<b>Knights of Columbus</b> Ron Merida ronmerida@yahoo.com	<b>Sacred Music Program</b> Lynn Kraehling 415-812-2462
<b>Legion of Mary</b> James Crim 415-577-9817 james9crim@gmail.com	<b>Ushers and Greeters</b> Kevin Carter kcart911@gmail.com
<b>Lectors</b> Deacon Albert Nimri 415-683-4295 animri@starparish.com	<b>Young Adults</b> Tamika Bassman tamikabassman@gmail.com or Mason Friedberg masonfriedberg@gmail.com
<b>Marriage &amp; Family Apostolate</b> Christina Sullivan starmarriageandfamily@gmail.com	<b>Volunteer Opportunities</b> Mariella Zevallos mariella@starparish.com
<b>Thursday Bible Study, 3-4:30PM</b> Mary Ann Eiler 650-660-4546 Bill McCarty 415-876-8551	<b>Star Outreach to the Poor/Feed the homeless</b> Call the office 415-751-0450

## Gregorian Chant Class for Adults

Beginning  
 January 22, 2024  
 Mondays 6pm - 7:30pm



For more information contact [karolina@zapolska.dk](mailto:karolina@zapolska.dk).

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## JOIN RCIA RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

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Contact Greg Moeck | [gmoeck@gmail.com](mailto:gmoeck@gmail.com) | (310) 694-6380

Receive news & updates from Fr. Joseph Illo, sign up to [Flocknote.com/star](http://Flocknote.com/star). Get access to the best selection of catholic educational materials, sign up for [formed.org](http://formed.org) (information below). Use Venmo to pay for candles, kiosk items, offertory, etc. Use your cellphone camera to scan the QR codes.



[Formed.org](http://Formed.org)/Sign up as a parishioner/Create new account: find your parish (zip code 94118)/ Select Star of the Sea/next/Create a new account:Your name and email/sign up!



New in the parish? Please register!  
 Nuevo en la Parroquia? Registrate!  
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Our Mission is: To evangelize God's people beginning with the gift of the Holy Eucharist



**UPDATED CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE**

**DECEMBER 24, 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE**  
8am, 9:30am, 11:30am (no 7:30pm Mass)  
6pm Lessons and Carols, followed by 6:15pm Sung English Mass.  
12Midnight Solemn High Mass in Latin with full Choir.

**DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY**  
8am Mass with Christmas Carols, 9:30am Sung Mass in English,  
11:30am Sung High Mass in Latin. No 7:30pm Mass.

**DECEMBER 31, NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
(Holy Family - *New* & Sunday in the Octave of Christmas - *Trad.*)  
8am, 9:30am, 11:30am and 7:30pm

**JANUARY 1, SOLEMNITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**  
Daily Masses: 7am low Latin Mass, 12noon Sung English Mass, 6pm  
Sung Latin Mass

*Confessions 20 minutes before every Mass*



Thank you to our FAASTAR friends for their hospitality after the Simbang Gabi Mass last Wednesday.

**JOIN OUR SCHOOL GALA**

Limited time discount - buy a table for 9 and get a complimentary ticket! Get to pick your table companions!

Want to support our Gala and help us offer complimentary tickets for Stella Maris Academy teachers - purchase a ticket for a teacher!

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**MARDI GRAS GALA**  
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**5PM HORS D'OEUVRES 6PM DINNER**  
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[www.starparish.com](http://www.starparish.com)

 **STEWARDS STATS**  
 Through work, we serve, minister, and become God's stewards on the earth.

**Time:** 20 parishioners joined the Lady of Perpetual Help devotional prayers last Wednesday.

**Talent:** Four altar servers attended the Rorate Caeli Mass last week.

**Treasure:** Sunday Offering \$8,415 | Emiliani Project \$3,873

**To give online:** [www.starparish.com/give](http://www.starparish.com/give)