



December 21, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent (Red Missal: pg 33 | 1962 Black Missal: pg 168)



Happy Christmas In England, where I studied for a year, they don't say "Merry" Christmas but *Happy Christmas*. This is not because English gentlemen are not merry but because Christmas is not just to be merry for a day. The

Incarnation of God among us gives us a glimpse of eternal beatitude, in the shining face of the newborn Son. A happy, blessed, and merry Christmas to all of you!

Darkness and Light Tomorrow is the darkest day of the year, the Winter Solstice. On December 13 we celebrated the Feast of St. Lucy, whose name means "light" in Latin. She was tortured around the year 304 in Sicily by having her eyes gouged out and has ever been the patron saint of those who suffer eye problems. A year ago I underwent eye surgery that did not go well, so my friends and I prayed a novena to St. Lucy. A friend had some miraculous oil from St. Sharbel's incorrupt body, and I also smeared it on my eyes. I've made novenas to St. Jude, St. Cecilia, and St. Joseph, but my vision remains darkened. One might be tempted, when we don't get "what we ask for" in prayer, to look elsewhere than God. But Lord, Peter said in John 6, "to whom else shall we go?" After 18 months of many ophthalmologist appointments, I do not have much hope in medical interventions, as impressive as they sometimes are. I have learned to live my disability, and even (on a good day) to offer it to God with joy. This is the miracle I've prayed for, even without

knowing it: to remain joyful and peaceful in God's will. The miracle is that I still have my faith after all these years! The miracle is that any of us who have come to demand "next day delivery"—we white men who cannot wait in lines, we Karens who have become addicted to Instagram and



Peter Lorenzo Jacobi, 12/5/24

endless social media endorphins—the miracle is that any of us spoiled Americans have any faith in God at all. He makes us wait, sometimes a long time! The miracle is that we rejoice to know we are beggars at the throne of grace, that we don't own anything and are in no position to demand anything. It is ours to pray, to ask, to trust, and to wait upon God's ways. This is hard to do, but the miracle for which I thank St. Lucy is that I've given God my eyes, which are His anyway.

Manger Scenes I encourage everyone to set up a manger scene in your front window or in front of your domicile. The warmth of the creche gives passersby hope and joy in this darkest time of the year. A few men of the parish have put up our large outdoor manger scene on the steps of the church. Hay bales, 3-D, 3-foot shepherds and camels, a pinewood stable and picket fence, outdoor lighting—this Nativity Scene charms the onlooker. My office window looks down on the sidewalk in front of the church, but I can't actually see the Nativity Scene itself. What I've noticed, and what I love to see, are the passersby who stop to look. Some bow their heads, some make the sign of the Cross as they balance shopping bags, some stop their bikes and regard it intently, and some simply peer at the tableau in curiosity. Some don't see it at all because they are staring at their cellphones (and that's quite sad), but I could stand at my window for hours and just look at the people of San Francisco looking at the Nativity. The scene itself so beautifully touching that few see it without receiving hope and joy. It's the perfect picture of the hearth, of the dear home for which we all long, because it portrays the perfection of the Holy Family. It's also perfect because it really happened; there really was such a family in Bethlehem 2024 years ago. So put up those manger scenes if you can—it's not too late—to help us believe that such love is possible, and that we all have a place in God's home.

Fr. Joseph Illo

The office will be closed on Christmas Dec. 24, 25, and 26.

Star of the Sea Church
4420 Geary Blvd.
San Francisco, CA 94118
(415) 751-0450
www.starparish.com
Gym 345 8th Ave.
Office Hours
M-TH 8:30am-5pm
Friday 8:30am-12pm,
1pm-5pm

CLERGY
Fr. Joseph Illo, Pastor
Fr. Mike Konopik,
Parochial Vicar
Fr. Javier Ravasi,
Parochial Vicar
Fr. James Liebner,
Parochial Vicar
Deacon Albert Nimri,
Parish Manager

STAFF
Mariella Zevallos,
Director of Communications & Parish Life
Thelma Queri,
Bookkeeper
Karolina Zapolska,
Director of Sacred Music Program
Lynn Kraehling,
Director of Music
Juan Carlos Lopez,
Sacristan
Dennis Ow,
Maintenance
Santiago Ron,
Front desk

STELLA MARIS ACADEMY (K-8)
360 9th Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94118
www.stellamarissf.org
(628) 977-4836

John Monaco
Principal/Headmaster

NATIVITY HIGH SCHOOL
www.nativityhs.org
(415) 322-9229
Diana Adamson,
Principal

Nick Sparks,
Dean of Students & Academics

The Sunday Scripture

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Is 7: 10-14; Rom 1: 1-7; Mt 1:

18-24) The Visitation The last Gospel before Christmas is the last mystery of the rosary before the Nativity. It is the Visitation of Our Lady to her cousin Elizabeth. The unborn John leaps for joy in her womb in the presence of the unborn Messiah, whom Mary carries to him in her womb. Today, pray the joyful mysteries, from the Annunciation to the Presentation in the Temple, and leap for joy with John the Baptist in the presence of Jesus and Mary!



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION On

December 26, we celebrate St. Stephen (trad.). He was appointed by the first apostles to be a deacon, and is known as the protomartyr, or first martyr, for Christ. He was only 30 years old. Upon his stoning, mirroring Jesus, he was quoted, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them," and his final plea, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

With St. Stephen's surrender and forgiving heart, and as we celebrate Christmas, let us sing and pray, "Oh come all ye faithful... come let us adore Him" in the Blessed Sacrament with a weekly holy hour commitment at

www.adorationpro.org/star

FORMED WEEKLY RECOMMENDATIONS

<http://watch.formed.org>. Free to all parishioners!

The Story of the Nativity: The Truth of Christmas This thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity clears away widespread misunderstandings of Jesus' origin. Inspirational speakers, and popular authors explain the story of the Nativity, including stunning works of art depicting the biblical story, from Fra Angelico to Rembrandt, and footage from the Holy Land showing the places where the Christmas story actually took place. Explore the true story of Mary and Joseph, Jesus's miraculous conception, the birth of John the Baptist, the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, the Star of Bethlehem, and the birth of Jesus.



Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Do you wish to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and/or Confirmation?

Contact: Greg Moeck, (310) 694-6380, or email: gmoek@gmail.com

VISIT THE 16 APPARITION SHRINES OF OUR LADY AT STAR of the SEA

Book a tour:

mariella@starparish.com

(415) 751-0450

www.starparish.com/marys-shrine/



Mass Intentions

Saturday 12/20	8:30am 12noon 4:30pm	† Fr. Francis Felice † Dr. Donald and Mary T. Lintner † Enore Beltrame
Sunday 12/21	8:00am 9:30am 11:30am 7:30pm	Int. of Elizabeth Ing (bday) Int. of Leszek Markiewicz † Ma Sze Kee (anniv) People of the Parish
Monday 12/22	7:00am 12noon 6:00pm	Int. of Elizabeth Ing (bday) Int. of Jezabelle Kenealy Int. of Jesse Carlo Enriquez Int. of Javier and Ana Nunez Int. of Celso and Sonia Calupad Int. of Holy Family Congregation Sisters † Fides Bernard † Cynthia Aragon † Rosario Daquioag (bday)
Tuesday 12/23	7:00am 12noon 6:00pm	Int. of Bobbie Howard † Ely Raquel † Pascual Raquel † Christine Reyes † Jenny Lee Chow † William Zickgraf † Ernest Victor Derks † Virginia, Ereneo and Richard Copada
Wednesday 12/24	7:00am 12noon 6:00pm 12:00am	† Souls in Purgatory † Conchita Ines (bday) † Marion Walsh Carozzi † Amparo L. Velarde
Thursday 12/25	8:00am 9:30am 11:30am 7:30pm	† Victoria S. Viana (anniv) Int. of Gerard Christian Ines (bday) Int. of The Casavilca Family NO MASS
Friday 12/26	7:00am 12noon 6:00pm	† Martha Luna Int. of Jean Low (bday) † Catherine Chow
Saturday 12/27	8:30am 12noon 4:30pm	Int. of Nadia Janelli (bday) † Imelda Walsh Gallagher † Justina Tzeng

PRAYERS OF THE SICK

Mariana Mendieta, Margaret & Mark Sellai, Shawn Mickle, Marie Bellas, Justin Chin, Joyce Durbin, Andrew Abdo, Alex Tong, Julie Johnson, Brian Galloway, Charles Bolla, Maria Molina, Maria Avedano, Sarah Monaco, Denis Von Kaeppler, Oliva Setiawaty, Jose Abantao, Bryson Soncuya, O Lai Sau King, Guillermina Debuque, Jerr Dewey and all sick parishioners.

Programs & Apostolates

GENERAL INFORMATION Parish office, 415-751-0450 www.starparish.com	BAPTISM, MARRIAGE & ALL SACRAMENTS 415-751-0450
Adoration Committee Laurie Murdock 415-244-8186 staradorationsf@gmail.com	Parish Finance Council Ryan Sebers ryan@starparish.com
Altar Servers Bryan Calmeyer bryancalmeyer@me.com	OCIA Order of Christian Initiation of Adults Gregory Moeck 310-694-6380 gmoek@gmail.com
Filipino American Association (FAASTAR) Estrelle Chan 415-336-9193	Star of the Sea Preschool Stella Maris Academy 628-977-4836 www.stellamarissf.org
Foundation of Prayers for Priests Carmen Duran Register: foundationforpriests.org	Our Lady of Fatima, Star Pro-Life Apostolate Thursdays 6-7pm, & Sat. 10-11am. 1522 Bush St. star.flocknote.com/Star-Pro-life
Young Adults Nathan Chan nathanjchan2@gmail.com Aaron Cary aaronWcary@gmail.com	Sacred Music Program Lynn Kraehling 415-812-2462 lynn@starparish.com Karolina Zapsolska (Choirs) karolina@starparish.com
Lectors Deacon Albert Nimri 415-683-4295 animri@starparish.com	Star Outreach to the Poor Ed Katz 415-740-3939 Saori Okawa okawasaori@gmail.com
Legion of Mary Paul Palencia 415-858-3073 leopoldmpal@gmail.com	Ushers and Greeters Mariella Zevallos mariella@starparish.com
Marriage & Family Apostolate Christina Sullivan starmarriageandfamily@gmail.com	Knights of Columbus Mike Dumlao m_n_dumlao@yahoo.com
Tuesday Bible Study 3-4:30pm at Parish Rectory. Bill McCarty 415-876-8551	Holy Name Society (Divine Mercy Devotion) Thelma Queri, 415-751-0450
Bulletin Announcements Ad submissions due by 3pm on Tuesdays. Contact bulletin editor: mariella@starparish.com	Volunteer Opportunities Interested in volunteering? Information at: 415-751-0450



Keep Our Parish Prosperous

Your generous financial gifts ensure that Star of the Sea Catholic Church will continue thriving to provide a peaceful sanctuary for prayer, worship and evangelization in the Richmond District. Our doors are open 7 days a week!

WAYS OF SUPPORTING STAR OF THE THE SEA:

Offertory gifts online: www.starparish.com/give

Offertory envelopes: Place cash or check written to Star of the Sea in the offertory envelopes. Place in the collection basket, or drop envelope in the parish office mailbox: Star of the Sea 4420 Geary Blvd, San Francisco, CA. 94118



Matching Contribution:

Double your gift to Star of the Sea with an equal contribution from your employer! As 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, we qualify to receive matches from companies all over the Bay Area. If your company offers this program, ask for a form to submit a matching request. Contact: mariella@starparish.com

venmo



STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH
Use Venmo for: Sunday offertory, lighting candles, church kiosk purchases.

(Please add what the payment is for. Thank you!)

PLANNED GIVING

ONE CHARITABLE GIFT, A LEGACY OF FAITH

Consider listing Star of the Sea as beneficiary in your Will (advisable to have one). It preserves the mission and values of the church in its ministry.

GET STARTED WITH A PLANNED GIFT

Call for information:

Mariella Zevallos,
(415) 751-0450
mariella@starparish.com

Receive news & updates from Fr. Joseph Illo, sign up to Flocknote.com/star. Get access to the best selection of catholic educational materials, sign up for 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/Sign up as 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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www.starparish.com

You're invited to Stella Maris Academy's annual fundraising gala

A Winter Wassail!

JANUARY 31st 5:00

guest speaker

FR. DONALD CALLOWAY

STAR OF THE SEA GYMNASIUM 545 8th AVE SAN FRANCISCO 94118



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ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MASSES AND EVENTS



Latin Mass with Spanish readings and homily, celebrated by Fr. Javier Ravasi. (December 21): 3pm; reception following (auditorium).

Simbang Gabi Mass (December 22): 6pm Traditional Filipino Advent Mass, Followed by reception (auditorium).

Christmas Eve (December 24): 5:30pm Children's Christmas Pageant followed by Sung English Mass, 6pm; 12am Midnight Latin High Mass with full choir.

Christmas Day (December 25): 8am (Mass with Christmas Carols); 9:30am (English Sung Mass); 11:30am (Latin Sung High Mass). No 7:30 pm Mass

New Year's Eve (December 31): 7am (Latin); 12noon (English); 6pm (Latin).

Solemnity of the Mother of God (New)/Octave Day of the Nativity of Our Lord (TLM), (January 1): Holy Day of Obligation; 7am (Latin); 12noon (English); 6pm (Latin Sung High Mass).

Stella Maris Academy and Nativity

High School Christmas Concert

Special thanks to Dr. Tietze and Miss Jennifer Park for a wonderful and joyful Christmas concert last Wednesday.



Donate
Poinsettias to
decorate our
altars. Bring them
to the church or
parish office Dec.
21 - 24th.
Thank you!

Special thanks to all who have generously donated gift cards for families in need (Giving tree). We collected 61 cards! This Sunday, Archbishop Cordileone will be present at the Cathedral to hand out the Christmas gifts.



STEWARDS STATS

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.

Time: We pray 15 public Rosaries weekly at the parish

Talent: Three volunteers helped at the parish office this week.

Treasure: Sunday Offering \$8,950

Immaculate Conception \$1,526

Retirement Fund for Religious \$1,991

To give online: www.starparish.com/give

