

Emmanuel shall come. Rejoice



**MOST HOLY REDEEMER
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
100 Diamond Street
San Francisco, California
415-863-6259
www.mhr.org

CURRENT WORSHIP HOURS

Daily Mass: M - F 8am
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5pm
Sunday Masses: 8am, 10am & 6:30pm
Holy Days: 8am & 7pm
Reconciliation: Saturdays 3:45pm - 4:30pm

Fr. Matt Link, C.P.P.S., Pastor

frmatt@mhr.org

MUSIC MINISTRY

musicministry@mhr.org

PARISH OFFICE

Michael Poma, Parish Manager

mpoma@mhr.org

Will Ives, Secretary

secretary@mhr.org

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Simon Fung
Christian Irizarry
Michael Kirkland
Richard Levy
James Lonergan
Trudy Miller
Cyndy Zimmer

LITURGY COMMITTEE

John Michael Reyes, Chair
Hugo Gonzalez
Jacque Grillo
Pablo McLachlan
Sr. Marilyn Morgan
Steve Snelling

FINANCE COUNCIL

Marc Colelli - Chair
Steve Adams
Micaela Connery
Stephen McCarthy
John Solaegui
Diane Trewin



THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

Daily Mass

Monday - Friday 8:00am

Monday, December 19

Centering Prayer 7pm (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 21

Wednesday Night Suppers 5pm - 7pm

Advent Taizé Service with Reconciliation - 7pm

Christmas Eve. Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Mass: 10pm (Carols at 9:30pm)

Christmas Day, December 25

Christmas Day Masses: 8am, 10am & 6:30pm

FACE COVERINGS ARE RECOMMENDED.

Livestream the 10am Sunday Mass

on our MHR Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/mhrsf



DECEMBER 19 - 25

Monday: Jgs. 13:2-7, 24-24a, Lk. 1:5-25

Tuesday: Is. 7:10-14, Lk. 1:26-38

Wednesday: Sg. 2:8-14, Lk. 1:39-45

Thursday: 1Sm. 1:24-28, Lk. 1:46-56

Friday: Mal. 3:1-4, 23-24, Lk. 1:56-66

Christmas Eve: Is. 9:1-6, Ti. 2:11-14, Lk. 2:1-14

Christmas Day: Is. 52:7-10, Heb. 1:1-6, Jn. 1:1-18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

History tells us that Constantine became a catechumen after a symbol of Christ helped him win a crucial battle. Then, he waited until he was on his deathbed to be baptized. Baptism was a major commitment; until he knew his end was near, he didn't want to assume the demands of Christianity. He seemed a bit like King Ahaz, who rather ironically told Isaiah that he would not "tempt" God by asking for the sign that God had already offered him. Ahaz didn't want a sign that might require his conversion.

The fourth Sunday of Advent abounds in signs, one long misinterpreted, one hard to read, and one presented as a living example. They all focus our celebration of Emmanuel, God with us. First of all, the sign of Ahaz: "The young maid shall conceive and bear a son ... Emmanuel." Who could ask for a better Christmas prophecy! Unfortunately, Isaiah had no intention of speaking about a messiah like Jesus. The prophecy referred to his own time and a son to be born to Ahaz, a wicked ruler who was not particularly

Paul began his Letter to the Romans, our second reading, with a 90-word sentence in Greek. (Pitying readers, translators have added more punctuation.) Falling all over himself with the emotion of the total message, Paul introduces himself, his vocation and his Gospel to the Romans, framing his conversion and theirs in the context of Christ's incarnation and resurrection. Paul's sign was their life-changing common call to faith.

Finally, we hear Matthew's account of the "birth of Jesus Christ." This selection coming just after Matthew uses Jesus' genealogy to show how salvation history reached its high point in Jesus, who Matthew immediately identifies as the Messiah. The word translated as "birth" can also be translated as origins, or creation. Seen in context, we realize that Matthew is not talking about a nativity, he's chronicling God's ongoing outreach to humanity. (Luke is the only evangelist to give us details about Jesus' birthday.)

As soon as we have grasped the messianic significance of Jesus' origins, Matthew reminds us that Emmanuel's coming will feel problematic and conflictual. Theology and spirituality aside, there is a very real, practical problem: Mary is pregnant with a child Joseph did not engender. This is Joseph's test, his moment to confront the paradoxical dilemma that Paul calls "the obedience of faith." Joseph has to decide between righteous obedience to God's covenant in the law and the command of an angel who came to him in a dream.

The key to the angel's message is the words, "do not be afraid." Joseph would have recognized those words as God's reply to Abraham when he was worried that God's promises had been a fantasy and he would die childless (Genesis 15:1). Joseph had discerned that he should divorce Mary quietly, but, as one who had often prayed Psalm 127, he realized that the plan was not to be his, but God's. Risking faith over the security of the law, Joseph adopted what he believed was

God's plan. He adopted the unborn child as his own and remained faithful to Mary in spite of everything that seemed obvious.

Joseph received no irrefutable sign. All he had to go on was the dream and the intuition that God's future promised more than he could accomplish. With that, Joseph becomes a sign for the future.

The law and tradition offer guides, but, as Pope Francis teaches, the word of God is free and unruly, accomplishing "what it wills in ways that surpass our calculations and ways of thinking" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 22).

Today's readings are designed to remind us that encountering Emmanuel, God with us, is both very demanding and immensely surprising. Like his father Abraham, Joseph ventured into the risky unknown, trusting that, no matter what it would cost him, God and the divine promises were bigger and better than his wildest imaginings. Acting from the risky obedience of faith, Joseph adopted God's plan. Staking his life on God's promise, he anticipated the mercy his adopted son would offer; he took Mary into his home and accepted the fact that his life would never be what he expected.

Advent calls us, like Joseph, to be ready for unexpected, often un hoped-for, change. God offers, as Paul says, more than we could ever ask or imagine. Perhaps the lesson of Advent is that it's not so much we who are waiting, but God who comes to our door and appears in dreams, asking, "Will you, like Joseph, adopt my plan? Will you make room for Emmanuel in ways you've never imagined?"—*Sr Mary M. McGlone, National Catholic Reporter Contributor*



Our Mass celebrants will remember the following intentions during the celebration of the Eucharist:

Saturday, December 17

5pm Bill Mathews †

Sunday, December 18

8am

10am

6:30pm MHR Parishioners

Monday, December 19

8am

Tuesday, December 20

8am

Wednesday, December 21

8am Wednesday Night Suppers

Thursday, December 22

8am

Friday, December 23

8am Theresa Adams †

Mass Intentions are celebrated for those to remember a loved one, honor someone on an important date or celebrate a special occasion. To schedule a Mass Intention or sponsor the weekend altar flowers, please call the parish office at 415-863-6259 or email secretary@mhr.org.



Ted Alden, Jerry Anderson, Nick Andrade, Bob Barcewski, Joyce Bednarek, Anna Bycholski, Becky Caylor, Earl Chan, Dean Curtis, Jay D'Amato, David Gaitan, Eileen Gayton, Monica Grace, Wallace Greene, Serge Hubert, Kris Johnson, Florence Kaloquin, Larry Kolton, Amelia Marcin, Liz Kovack, David Kossman, David Lamdin, Doug Lawrence, Jill Laufenberg, Michael Leonard, Ronald & Sharon Martinkus, Edgar Matthews, Nancy McCann, Ben Montoya, Lou Montoya, Cliff Morrison, Doris Nassal, John Notor, Nadia O'Donnell, Lloyd Oksen, Paul Pelosi, Carlos Rodriguez, Maureen O'Sullivan, Richard Savelec, Bobby Schulte, Bob Schultz, Gregory Dake Schultz, Annie & Nok Sojka, Mary Stevens, Jim Stockholm, Ruth Varela, Joseph & Mary Vouglas, Maureen Vouglas, Stephen Wakefield, Dan Wandres, David Washington, Louis Washington and Ryan Zuniga, and +Joann Yenson Schmidt+.



COMMUNITY LIFE

Visit us:

On the web: www.mhr.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/mhrsf

Instagram: [mhrcatholicsf](https://www.instagram.com/mhrcatholicsf)

Centering Prayer is meeting via Zoom on Monday evenings @ 7:00pm.
Email centering@mhr.org for Zoom login details.

Bible Study on upcoming Sunday readings meets via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 7pm.
Email biblestudy@mhr.org for login and for more information.

Young Adults Meeting: Meetings are on hiatus during advent. Email yag@mhr.org for info.

Christian Healing Prayer Group: Please join us on the first Thursday of each month at 2pm in the Church. Email markwbass@yahoo.com for information.

An Auto External Defibrillator is located in hallway next to the women's restroom in Ellard Hall.



Volunteers Needed: We are looking for volunteers to call, visit and/or help our people. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Pete Toms at 415-612-0651 or email asg@mhr.org.

Community Thrift: Community Thrift returns to the Support Group a portion of the sales of items donated in our name which allows us to purchase food vouchers for the needy in our HIV community. Please bring your unwanted and usable clothing and household items to Community Thrift at 623 Valencia, between 17th & 18th Streets Be sure to mention that MHR AIDS Support Group is your charity.
---Charity # 242. Thank you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY BIRTHDAYS

**Greg Montana, Dean Atkinson, Kevin Thomas,
Tony Quarto, Rene Mendoza and
Francine DeMarco.**

Join the MHR Acolyte Ministry!

We are in need of additional acolytes (altar servers) for all of our Masses. We will provide you with individual training and an experienced mentor, and you won't be asked to serve until you feel ready. If you'd like to learn more about this important and meaningful ministry, please reach out. Women and young people are especially encouraged, but all are welcome!

Email acolytes@mhr.org if you are interested.





Most Holy Redeemer's
**EMMANUEL CHRISTMAS
GIFT PROJECT**

for

the M.H.R. AIDS Support Group
and Catholic Charities'
Peter Claver Community.

**Please select an ornament and
purchase the requested gift.**

**We ask that all clothing gifts be
wrapped, gift cards indicate the \$
amount, and all gifts be returned
to the Church or the Parish Office
no later than Tuesday,
December 20th.**

Simbang Gabi 2022

December 15 - 8:00am - Most Holy Redeemer
December 16 - 6:00pm - Star of the Sea
December 17 - 5:30pm - St. Dominic
December 18 - 6:30pm - Most Holy Redeemer
December 19 - 6:00pm - Star of the Sea
December 20 - 12 noon - St. Agnes
December 21 - 8:30am - St. Monica / St. Thomas
December 22 - 8:00am - St. Vincent de Paul
December 23 - 6:00pm - St. Mary's Cathedral

Contact individual parishes for
livestream information.

Advent Novena
Sponsored by the Cathedral Deanery

For more info contact: Estrelle Chan
415-336-9193
soler35jade@gmail.com

Simbang Gabi ("Night Mass" in Tagalog)
has been celebrated since the 17th Century.
This Novena of Masses is marked by bright and
colorful star lumens (parols) and the tradition of
hospitality. Please Join us as a Deanery to celebrate this
festive tradition for all 9 days!



John Solaegui | Haven Group Real Estate Team at Compass

We offer:

- Laser focus on your goals
- Community connections
- Strong negotiating skills
- Solid marketing plan
- Resources for every home need



John Solaegui (say it like So-Leggy)

DRE 01398160

415.999.0673 • John@HavenGroupSF.com



Read More Here

Please Patronize

The Sponsors Who Appear On This Bulletin. It Is Through Their Support That This Bulletin Is Made Possible.
Business Owners Interested In Advertising Please Call

J.S. Paluch

1-800-231-0805

ONE PARISH

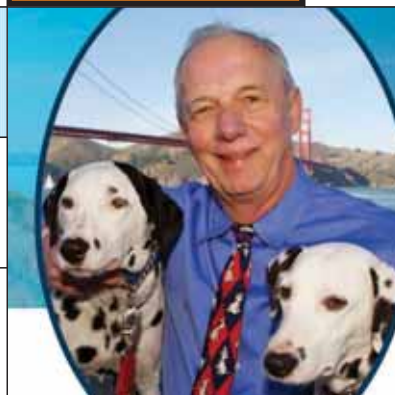
Grow in your faith, find a Mass, and connect with your Catholic Community with OneParish!

Download Our Free App or Visit
<https://www.oneparish.com>

FINDaPARISH.com

Check It Out Today!

*The Most Complete
Online National
Directory of
Catholic Parishes*



JIM LAUFENBERG

BROKER ASSOCIATE, CRS, GRI
YOUR SAN FRANCISCO REALTOR®

INTEGRITY • CUSTOMER SERVICE • EXPERIENCE

415-269-4997

jim@sf-realty.com

www.sf-realty.com

DRE#01201131



Please Cut Out This "Thank You Ad" and Present It The Next Time You Patronize One of Our Advertisers

Thank You

Thank you for advertising in our church bulletin. I am patronizing your business because of it!

If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!

24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!

✓ Ambulance Solutions as Low as **\$19.95** a month
✓ Police ✓ Fire
✓ Friends/Family **FREE Shipping**
FREE Activation
NO Long Term Contracts

CALL NOW! 800.809.3352

MDMedAlert
Safe-Guarding America's Seniors Nationwide

GPS Tracking w/Fall Detection
Nationwide, No Land Line Needed
EASY Set-up, NO Contract
24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA

This Button SAVES Lives!
As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!

Catholic Cruises and Tours and The Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America
Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY.
Call us today at **860-399-1785** or email eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com
www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com

Protecting **Seniors**
Nationwide

Medical Alert System

\$29.95/Mo. billed quarterly

- One Free Month
- No Long-Term Contract
- Price Guarantee
- Easy Self Installation

Call Today! Toll Free 1.877.801.8608

catholicmatch®
California



CatholicMatch.com/myCA