

# St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Parish



Rev. Nicholas Glisson, Pastor. The Most Reverend Michael Barber, SJ, Bishop – Diocese of Oakland

## WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5:30 pm  
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 am

## DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Tues.– Thurs. + Saturday 8:30 am  
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 5:30 pm

## LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Monday – Saturday 8:00 am  
Mon./Wed./Friday 5:10 pm

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 to 5:00 pm  
(and by appointment)

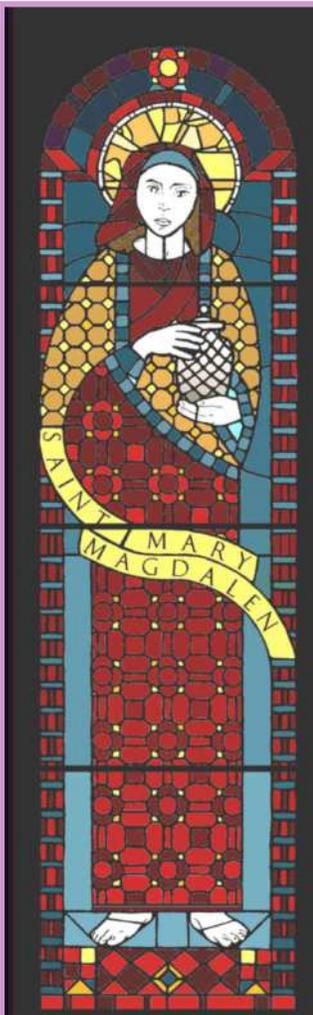
## OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday  
9:00 am – Noon  
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Phone: 510-526-4811  
Fax: 510-525-3638

## WEBSITE



marymagdalen.org



X David Lance Goines, 2002

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*“Together we share our  
Faith in Jesus Christ.*

*We live the Gospel,  
and we care for others.”*

**BAPTISM:** Preparation classes take place on the first Monday of the month. Please call the parish office for more information.

**CONFIRMATION:** Classes run from September through May; contact the office for more information.

**MARRIAGE:** Please contact the pastor at least six months prior to the wedding.

**ANointing OF THE SICK:** The Sacrament is offered at every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Mass, and by appointment.

## GIRL SCOUT TROOP 32694 FUNDRAISERS

To sponsor our trip to the Dominican Republic where we will learn about the country and culture.



### GARAGE SALE

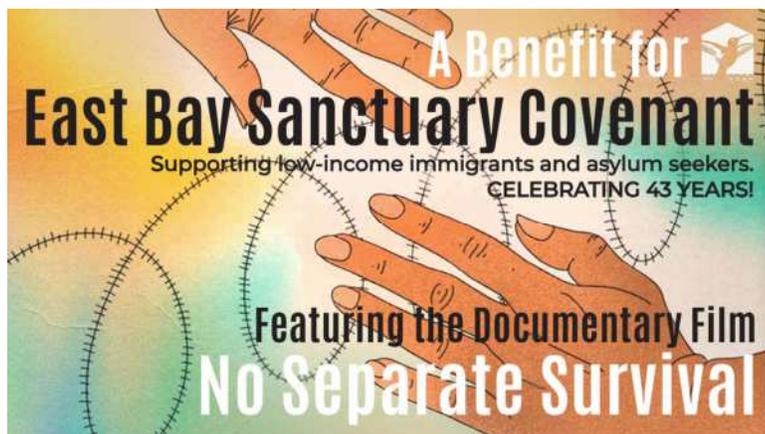
747 Richmond St.  
El Cerrito, CA  
December 20 • 12:30–4:30PM



### PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Take a break after the holidays for a Parent's Night Out. There will be games, pizza and other snacks, and entertainment.

Temple Beth Hillel, Richmond, CA • \$25 per person  
801 Park Central St. • December 27 • 5:30- 8:30 PM



East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, in collaboration with Berkeley Freight & Salvage, invites you to a screening of the short documentary film *No Separate Survival* followed by a discussion with the director and filmmakers. All funds raised will support EBSC's work in providing legal and social services, Know Your Rights education, and cash assistance for immigrants in the Bay Area.

**Date:** Sunday, January 4, 2026

**Time:** 4:30 pm Reception; 5:45 Film Screening

**Location:** Freight & Salvage (2020 Addison St, Berkeley)

**Suggested donation:** Sliding scale from \$25; no one turned away

This documentary considers the trauma that asylum-seekers face, their determination to find refuge, and the potential of art to help them process and express agency over their full experiences.

Tickets: [bit.ly/nss-film](https://bit.ly/nss-film)



## The Mystery of the Nativity

We are fortunate to have in our parish an artist whose talent is surpassed only by the profundity of their faith. We are honoring their request for anonymity, but also their desire that parishioners be made aware that their work of art has reappeared in the Eucharistic Chapel, available for viewing during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Consider taking time during Advent to meditate on this beautiful Nativity Scene while in the presence of our Lord in the Tabernacle.

A close examination of this work of art will reveal hidden treasures, including all five Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.

## Part II: Lectio Divina on the Nativity with Fr. Nicholas Glisson

Fr. Nick has brought us some of the fruits of his Priest's Retreat in Yorkshire: pondering the nativity narratives in film and art. This past Thursday, we screened Tony Jordan's *The Nativity*, and on January 3<sup>rd</sup> we will have Part II: a *Lectio Divina* in which we will encounter the story of the Jesus' nativity in a new way through an early Renaissance painting.



Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30 pm: *The Nativity* by Bicci di Lorenzo, c. 1415.

Fr. Nick emphasizes that it is not necessary for you to have watched last Thursday's film to appreciate this event; the two evenings embrace complementary, but different, ways of deepening our experience of the stories of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus surrounding the time of His Nativity. Light refreshments will be served.

## The Kids' Bulletin

Christmas Day



Help the shepherds find their way to Bethlehem to see Baby Jesus.

[thekidsbulletin.com](http://thekidsbulletin.com)

## Christmas Word-Find

BETHLEHEM  
 MNJESPOORO  
 OIMCJESUSN  
 TGAHOXENTK  
 HHNRSCUMAE  
 ETGIEOBABY  
 RSESPDLRLW  
 BIRTHDAYEA  
 ONNAZARETH  
 RNSTAYKSBO  
 NWRAPPEDRN



BABY	DONKEY	NAZARETH
BETHLEHEM	INN	NIGHT
BIRTHDAY	JESUS	OXEN
BORN	JOSEPH	POOR
CHRIST	MANGER	STABLE
COLD	MARY	STAY
DARK	MOTHER	WRAPPED

Why is Christmas so special? Because



\_\_\_\_\_!

## Christmas 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Metaphorically, birth crosses the threshold between potential energy and kinetic energy. Kinetic energy is energy in motion. One might also say birth shifts a person's being from theoretical to actual. When we are conceived, for all intents and purposes, we function as part of our mother. Gradually, we mature into a distinct human being and birth makes this transformation complete. After we are born we develop from complete *dependence* on our mother and family to *interdependence* with our community. (We misunderstand this process if we believe that maturation is about becoming *independent*.)

The genius of Christmas is that the Son of God, the second person in the Blessed Trinity, chose the same process to enter human existence. Saint Paul summarizes this elegantly:

...though he was in the form of God,  
Christ did not count equality with God  
a thing to be grasped, but emptied  
himself, taking the form of a servant,  
being born in the likeness of human beings. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:6-11)

What does this have to do with Christmas? Paul's meditation reveals the magnitude of God's commitment to us and the profundity of the incarnation. Christ's death on the cross was his greatest act of love as a human being, but his human birth—incarnation—shows the Trinity's unfathomable commitment to us as the Godhead.

As a human being, Christ fully identifies with us — our struggles and triumphs. Through Christ, God knows what it is like to be bored, feel elation, be tempted, and know heartache. As a human being, he can stand in for us when we are condemned for our treachery as sinful people. As the God-man he bridges the gap between the divine and earthly life—something we are incapable of doing on our own. The birth of the Christ begins to heal the rift between God and human beings. This healing doesn't end on the cross, but in His resurrection, and ultimately in our own resurrection as God's adopted children.

As we have crossed the threshold between the womb and this earthly life, so God crossed the threshold between heaven and our world. Potential redemption became "kinetic redemption" — theoretical salvation yielded actual salvation. The birth of Baby Jesus came about with all the warmth, ordinariness, and love of any human birth, but its reality was the greatest event since God created the world.



Giotto, *Nativity (Life of Christ)*, Scrovegni Chapel, Padua, 1320-1325

Merry Christmas !

Fr. Nick

# Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A ~ December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Due to our Bulletin publisher's early deadline, the financial report for the week ending December 14<sup>th</sup> will be reported in next week's Bulletin.

## An Easy Way to make your Christmas Donation !

This QR code leads to the Parish Donation page:



Use it to initiate a one-time Donation.

Or click below:

[tinyurl.com/SMM-Donations](https://tinyurl.com/SMM-Donations)

## Scripture Readings for the Week

### 21<sup>st</sup> FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 7:10-14 / Romans 1:1-7 /  
Matthew 1:18-24

### 22<sup>nd</sup> Advent Weekday

1 Samuel 1:24-28 / Luke 1:46-56

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Advent Weekday [Saint John of Kanty, Priest]

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 / Luke 1:57-66

### 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve

Isaiah 62:1-5 / Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 /  
Matthew 1:1-25

### 25<sup>th</sup> THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVOIR, JESUS CHRIST

Isaiah 52:7-10 / Hebrews 1:1-6 / John 1:1-18

### 26<sup>th</sup> FEAST: ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 / Matthew 10:17-22

### 27<sup>th</sup> FEAST: ST. JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

1 John 1:1-4 / John 20:1, 2-8

## Mass Intentions



Sunday	8:00	For the People of the Parish
	11:30	Intentions of the Grycz-Ovens Family
Wednesday	5:00	Intentions of the Children of The Parish
	10:00	For the People of the Parish
Thursday	9:00	Poor Souls in Purgatory
Thursday	11:00	Charles, Addis & Kieran O'Connell and Finuala O'Connell-Pol RIP
Saturday	8:30	Nellie Hansen RIP

## Parish Calendar through December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### December 19 Eucharistic Adoration (Holy Hour)

Friday 6:00 pm, Church (On Every Friday in Advent)

### December 20-21 Preacher at Weekend Masses: Fr. Wilson

Weekend 5:30 pm Saturday; 8:00/9:30/11:30 am Sunday

### December 22 Funeral Mass: Donna Marie Revecho

Monday Rosary: 9:00 am; Funeral: 10:30 am; Reception

### December 23 Discussion of the Sunday Gospel Zoom link:

Tuesday 2:00-3:00 pm, [tinyurl.com/SMM-GospelGroup](https://tinyurl.com/SMM-GospelGroup)

### December 24 Christmas Eve Masses

Wednesday 5:00 pm & 10:00 pm, Church

### December 25 Christmas Day Masses

Wednesday 9:00 am & 11:00 am, Church

### December 26 Discussion of the Sunday Gospel

Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am, Norton Hall

### December 27-28 Preacher at Weekend Masses: Fr. Titus

Weekend 5:30 pm Saturday; 8:00/9:30/11:30 am Sunday



MINISTRIES of  
**HOPE**  
2025 BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL

The Bishop's Ministries Appeal helps us extend the love of Christ to those seeking comfort, guidance, and support. Through **more than 70 vital programs** that serve as beacons of hope in communities across the Diocese, our ministries provide essential assistance and spiritual nourishment to all who seek it.



To donate, leave a check in the collection basket, or go to [tinyurl.com/BishopAppeal](https://tinyurl.com/BishopAppeal).

## Christmas Mass Schedule

### December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve

5:00 pm — Family Mass

9:30 pm — Christmas Concert

10:00 pm — Mass in the Night

### December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day

9:00 am — Christmas Day Mass

11:00 am — Christmas Day Mass

ONE NAME TO REMEMBER  
WHEN IT'S TIME TO  
REMEMBER



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