

St. Raymond of the Mountains Church
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www.straymondchurch.org



Celebrating Our 100th Anniversary 1919 - 2019

Dear Friends of St. Raymond,

We have reached the half-way mark of Advent. The sights and sounds surround us --- the Advent wreath with purple and pink candles, purple and rose vestments, special scripture readings, the Jesse Tree and the St. Andrew's Christmas Novena. The Gloria (Glory to God), is omitted during Mass with the exception of the third Sunday of Advent. If we allow ourselves to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of this Christmas season we truly will forget what Advent really means and miss the excitement of the arrival of the birth of Christ. In Latin, Advent is *Advenio* meaning "to come to" referring to the "Coming of Christ". It's a time of prayer, fasting and giving to others. We all need to experience the power of God's presence through Advent, as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas, the coming of Christ in our lives through the Eucharist and anticipate His second coming at the end-of-time. When you begin to sit quietly and listen, that is when you will find Jesus in your heart. And once you have found Him, the hustle and bustle will tend to go more slowly, the illness or disease will become more acceptable, hope will triumph over anxiety and the future becomes much smaller and worries fade. Look into your heart and experience the power of God's presence as we await His birth.

I want to thank all of you for your kindness, gracious generosity, friendship and continued support of St. Raymond. So please, if you can, come and visit with us on the mountain. Come Celebrate Mass with us at 4:30 p.m., Saturday (Vigil) and 8 and 10:30 a.m., Sundays. Come share our love for Christ in our lives and with our family and friends. And please visit our website www.straymondchurch.org for updated information.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Normal weekend Mass times for Saturday and Sunday December 23 & 24 and December 30 & 31
5 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass Celebration, December 24
12 a.m. Midnight and 10 a.m. Christmas Day Celebration, December 25
4:30 p.m., New Year's Eve Celebration, December 31
10 a.m., New Year's Day Celebration, January 1, 2018

Wishing each of you and your families a Blessed Christmas Season!

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Richard J. Kosisko, *Administrator*