

# *St. Anselm Catholic Church*

**December 21, 2025**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**



*The Dream of Saint Joseph—Luca Giordano, 1626*

97 Shady Lane, PO Box 1061, Ross, CA 94957

Parish office phone: (415) 453-2342

Parish office hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00am--4:00pm

Parish email: [Info@SaintAnselm.org](mailto:Info@SaintAnselm.org)

Parish website: [www.SaintAnselm.org](http://www.SaintAnselm.org)

Parish Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SaintAnselmChurchRossCalifornia](https://www.facebook.com/SaintAnselmChurchRossCalifornia)

**Clergy:** Fr. Gabriel Wankar, Pastor  
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Fr. Gabriel Achiaga -In Residence  
Deacon Ed Cunningham  
Deacon Robert Meave

**Admin Assist:** Mark Wilson  
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[Dre@saintanselm.org](mailto:Dre@saintanselm.org)

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[jgonzalez@saintanselmschool.com](mailto:jgonzalez@saintanselmschool.com)

**St. Anselm School:** Kim Orendorff, Principal  
School Office: (415) 454-8667

**School Website:** [www.StAnselmSchool.com](http://www.StAnselmSchool.com)

## **Weekend Masses:**

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm,

Sunday 8:00am, 10:00am, and 5:00pm

**Weekday Mass:** Monday-Friday 8:30am, Rosary 8:00am

**Holy Day Masses:** 8:30am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

**Adoration:** with Rosary, weekdays from 7:25—8:25 am  
and First Fridays from 9 am—12 noon

**Eucharist for Homebound:** (415) 453-2342

**Reconciliation:** Before 8:30am weekday Mass, Saturday  
4:00pm-4:45pm, during Adoration on First Fridays 9:00am-  
12:00pm or by Appointment

**Baptism:** Preparation Class required. Please email  
[dre@saintanselm.org](mailto:dre@saintanselm.org) or call the Parish Office ext.105

**Anointing of the Sick:** Anytime upon request.  
Contact Pastor.

**Matrimony:** Six months notification required prior to  
desired date. Contact Pastor.

**St. Vincent de Paul Help Desk:** (415) 454-3303 ext. 11

**Cursillo Information:** Cathy Cunningham  
(415) 453-7174

*St. Anselm's Parish is a Catholic community formed by families, individuals and clergy that worship together, celebrate the sacramental life of the Church, and seek to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ everyday. We welcome, serve, and educate according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church.*

## Pastor's Reflection: Fourth Sunday of Advent 2025

Today's Gospel speaks to us of a crisis at Christmas. Let's look at this Gospel in three stages: distress, direction, and decision.

**DISTRESS** –To read that Mary was found to be with child before she and Joseph were together, we need to understand that pregnancy in this circumstance brought forth a real crisis for both families involved in Joseph and Mary's marriage plans. Quite simply, it put all plans for the continuation of the marriage permanently off owing to the prescriptions of the Mosaic Law in reference to such a matter (Deut 22:20-21). As a virtuous and patient man, Joseph looks for and senses some freedom in not "exposing" Mary to the full effects of the Law (stoning). We see here the distress of these two: **Mary** –She risked her very life by being found with child outside the normal marital act with her husband. Mary's fiat placed her in real danger. **Joseph** –The social pressure on him to be legally freed from Mary was strong, regardless of his feelings or plans.

**DIRECTION** – *Be not afraid.* The principal exhortation of the angel was that Joseph "not be afraid" to take Mary as his wife. This exhortation is powerful because fear *was* a huge factor. Joseph could easily be rejected by his family for taking Mary in. The community could likewise shun him as a businessman. However, the angel instructs him not to fear; this requires courageous faith. Further, Joseph hears all this in a dream. We all know what dreams can be like. Joseph must trust that what he was told is real and that he should not be afraid because God has given him direction. Joseph has a decision to make.

**DECISION** – *When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.* Recognize the crisis of that first Christmas and the powerful faith of Joseph and Mary. For neither of them was their "yes" easy. Yet, their difficulties were far from over. There was a poorly timed census, which required a journey to Bethlehem in the ninth month of Mary's pregnancy. And then there was no room in the inn; Jesus had to be born in a smelly stable. Shortly thereafter, they had to flee through the desert to Egypt because Herod sought to kill Jesus. The crisis of the first Christmas prefigures passion. This is where Jesus is found: in the crisis of the first Christmas. You may wish for the perfect Christmas, but there *is* no such thing as a perfect Christmas. Jesus will find you where you are, in real life, in the imperfect Christmas, where loved ones have passed away and there is grief, where a job has been lost and there is anxiety, where health is poor and there is stress, where families are experiencing strife. That's where Jesus will be found, in your *real* Christmas. A Christmas of joy, yes, but also of imperfections, even crises. Amid all these challenges is the real Christmas of your life!

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon</b>	<b>Dec. 22</b>	8:30am	Andrew Previtali (INT)
<b>Tues</b>	<b>Dec. 23</b>	8:30am	Mario Previtali (INT)
<b>Wed</b>	<b>Dec. 24</b>	4:00pm	Joe McGarry (D)
		6:00pm	Joseph, Catherine, Linda Gill (D)
		9:00pm	Rebecca Kpiishi (INT)
<b>Thur</b>	<b>Dec. 25</b>	8:00am	People of the Parish
		10:00am	Teresa Cunningham Gardner (D)
		12:00pm	Marco, Maggie & Leo Martin (INT)
<b>Fri</b>	<b>Dec. 26</b>	8:30am	SF Archdiocese Seminarians (INT)
<b>Sat</b>	<b>Dec. 27</b>	5:00pm	Sue & Paul Thompson (D)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Dec. 28</b>	8:00am	Sr. Mary Kellady (INT)
		10:00am	Carmen Castro (D)
		5:00pm	Lucille Massemino (D)

## Sick Relatives & Friends

*Note: please call parish office to update names*

**As a community we ask God's blessing for the ill:** Stan & Donna Pechalonis, Mark Gardner, Terese Marklinger, Karen Poligono, Marilyn Marklinger, Don Orlandi, Fr. Neil Healy, Jordan Roggenbuck, Matt Hansen, Jim Sweeney, Bob Hoffman, John Alkazin, Lorraine Matteucci, Deidra Carson, Fr. Bill Brown, Bryan Green, Chris Ryan, Elaine Innes, Arlene Hansen, Rose Michelle D'Haiti, John Peterson, Erin Granucci, Bruce Hubal, Charles Cavagnetto, J.R. Maricich, Isabella O'Brien, Dorothy Laddish, Penny Maioli, Gretchen Libby, Murhal Orendorff, Dennis O'Keefe

**For the Repose of the Soul:** Pauline O'Brien-DeLury, Susan Catinella, Sal Catinella, Linda Biesheuvel, Pat Daly, Katherine Elizabeth Devcich, Catherine Ward, Theresa Sullivan, Michael Killelea, Gary McPartlin

**For Our Military:** Matthew Kerry O'Brien, Robert Gebhardt, Tyler Lopez, Alex Boatwright, Elizabeth Baumsteiger, Christian Miller, Robert Kent, Shane Morgan, Daniel Lowe, and Rob Manifold

## The Pope's Monthly Intentions

### December—For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

### SAVE THE DATE AND COMMUNITY NOTES

- The usual monthly food drive for the Ritter Center will be **this weekend**. Please bring non-perishable foods for donation to the truck in the rectory parking lot.
- Christmas Flower Envelopes are available to honor your loved ones, living or deceased, during the Christmas season. Please indicate which on the envelope and submit your envelopes no later than **Monday, December 22**.
- During the **Wednesday, Dec. 24 daily Mass at 8:30am**, school children will be receiving Baptisms and First Holy Communion. Please note that this is NOT a Christmas Eve Mass and does not fulfill the Christmas Mass obligation.
- **Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass Schedule**  
12/24—4:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm  
12/25—8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm
- **January 1** is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. Mass times are **8:00am and 10:00am**.
- **Religious Education for Children**  
The Religious Education program is still accepting new students. Classes for Pre-K to 7th meet Sunday mornings at 9am and conclude in time to attend the 10am Mass. The Confirmation classes for 8th+ grade meet on Sunday evenings and include attending the 5pm Mass. Visit SaintAnselm.org to learn more.



One time donation



Recurring donation



Registration

#### **St. Anselm Planned Giving**

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

Contact Steve Easley for

#### **End of Year Donation**

Please consider making an end of year donation to St. Anselm Church to enhance our parish ministries!

Thank you for your generosity!

### **The Family Ministry at St. Anselm**

Beloved St. Anselm Family,

Our Church and School Community is starting a new ministry focused on relationships and family health. This is in sync with my original pastoral plan, which continues to focus on the Eucharist as the fulfillment of all the sacraments, including the sacraments of healing (Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation). As we strive for the salvation of our souls, we will direct our efforts to enhance a fundamental unity of society: the family.

Our new family outreach ministry will be supported by *Communio*, a nonprofit ministry that trains and equips churches to share the Gospel through the renewal of healthy relationships, marriages, and the family.

This initiative is not exclusive to marriages or troubled families. It will help single men and women to establish healthy dating habits and discern when to consider marriage. Those preparing to be married will work with mentors before and after their wedding. Married couples will learn skills to strengthen their relationship. Couples facing challenges will have access to coaching resources to help them get back on track.

We recently administered a short, anonymous survey developed by Harvard's Human Flourishing Program to better understand and appreciate our parish family's marriage, family, and relationship needs. The results of this effort will highlight our Church and School community's strengths as well as identify areas for encouragement and support.

Please, keep this initiative in your prayers, and stay tuned!



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