

## Masses

Saturday Eve 5:00PM  
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30AM,  
12Noon and 4:30PM

Daily 7:15, 8:45 AM  
Saturday 8:45 AM

## Pastoral Team

**Pastor**  
Father Chuck Romano

**Associate Pastors**  
Father Vincent H. Bulus  
Father Lawrence N. Onyegu

**Deacons**  
Deacon Robert C. Campbell, OFS  
Deacon Thomas Wm. Connolly, T.O Carm  
Deacon Guy Donza, S.F.D.  
Deacon Thomas J. Malone Jr., S.F.D.

**Pastoral Associate, Youth &  
Parish Social Ministry**  
Deacon Richard W. LaRossa

**School Principal**  
Sr. Ruthanne Gypalo, I.H.M.

**Director of Religious Education**  
Mrs. Evelyn Contaldi

**Business Manager**  
Thomas J. Donovan

**South Nassau Hospital Chaplain**  
Father Sylvester Ikela

## Parish Staff

**Music Ministry**    **Folk Group**  
Laura Garbitelli    AnnMarie Lynch

**Children's Choir**  
Patricia Mayle

**Hand Bell Choir**  
Se-beng Koh

**Plant Manager**  
Steve Bennett

**Parish Secretary**  
Doreen Dolan

**Bulletin Editor**  
Pauline Birmingham

# The Parish of St. Raymond

*A Eucharistic Community of  
Faith, Love and Friendship*

Sunday, December 16, 2018

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000

“The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all,  
but in everything, by prayer and petition,  
with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.”

Philippians 4:5



**December 16, 2018  
Gaudete Sunday  
Third Sunday of Advent**

## Welcome To Our Parish Family!

Not registered? Please stop by our rectory during office hours to be included in our parish family.

### Rectory

Office Hours are Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm;  
Saturdays from 9:30am-1pm.

**Web Site:** www.SaintRaymonds.org

**E-Mail:** StRayRcc@optonline.net

Rectory.....593-5000

Rectory Fax.....887-0554

**Parish Social Ministry**.....887-9197

Office Hours are Monday-Friday from 10am-2pm.

Parish Social Ministry Fax.....593-6278

**St. Raymond School**.....593-9010

St. Raymond School Fax.....593-0986

**Religious Education Office**.....593-9075

Religious Education Office Fax .....593-1156

### Pastoral Care Of The Sick

**Holy Communion**—Available to the homebound;  
call the rectory to schedule an appointment.

### Devotions

#### **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Thursdays from 1-4pm in Our Lady's Chapel.

#### **Nocturnal Adoration**

First Fridays from 8-9pm.

#### **Miraculous Medal Novena**

Saturdays following 8:45am Mass.

### Confessions

Saturdays from 3:30-4:30pm, or call for appointment.

### Baptisms

Baptisms are celebrated the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Please call the rectory to schedule.

### Bereavement Support Group

Call the rectory office for meeting times.

### Marriages

Engaged couples are encouraged to call the rectory a year in advance of their wedding date to assure adequate time to participate in preparation programs for the Sacrament of Marriage.

### Prayer Groups

**Charismatic Prayer Group:** Every Tuesday at 7:30pm in the rectory lower level.

**Men's Prayer Group:** Every 4th Friday at 8pm in Our Lady's Chapel.

### Music Ministries

**Children's Choir:** Sings at the 9am Mass on the 3rd Sunday of the month from September—June; practice on Tuesdays at 5pm in the school auditorium.

**Choir (Adult):** Sings at 10:30am Mass on Sundays from September—June; practice on Wednesdays at 7:30pm in the church.

**Folk Group:** Sings at 12 Noon Mass on Sundays from September—June; practice on Wednesdays at 7:30pm in the rectory lower level.

**Hand Bell Choir:** Plays at the 5pm Mass on the last Saturday of the month from September— June; practice on Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the church.

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Interested in becoming a Catholic or an adult Catholic seeking Eucharist or Confirmation? Call the rectory and ask for Deacon Rich LaRossa.

## This Week in Our Parish

### Monday, December 17th

1:00pm: Human Life Committee Meeting MWMR  
7:30pm: Sodality of Our Lady Meeting Cafeteria  
7:30pm: RCIA Meeting MWMR

### Tuesday, December 18th

5:00pm: Children's Choir Practice Auditorium  
7:00pm: Christmas Caroling Cafeteria  
7:30pm: Charismatic Prayer Group MWMR  
7:30pm: Hand Bell Choir Practice Church

### Wednesday, December 19th

7:30pm: Folk Group Practice MWMR  
7:30pm: Adult Choir Practice Church  
7:30pm: Advent Prayer Our Lady's Chapel

### Thursday, December 20th

9:30am: Bible Sharing MWMR

### Saturday, December 21st

3:30pm: Confessions Church



## Bulletin Deadlines

Articles for the **Jan. 6th** Bulletin are due **Friday, Dec. 21st.**

Articles for the **Jan. 13th** Bulletin are due **Friday, Dec. 28th.**

Please email your article to:

**strayrcc@optonline.net**

Please write "Attention Bulletin Editor" in the subject line of your email.

## Collection Envelopes

To insure the accuracy and efficiency of the recording of your weekly offering, please indicate the amount of your offering on the front of your envelope, as well as write your envelope number on the front of your check. And please do not tape or staple the contents or envelope flap.



## Always keep our Service Men & Women in your prayers ...

Pvt. 2 Giuseppina Coppola, ARMY  
Capt. Kathryn M. Costello, U.S.M.C.,  
Recruit Joseph R. Diltz, USMC,  
Lance Corporal Sean M. Donohue, U.S.M.C.,  
Pvt. Brian Efferen, U.S.M.C., Sgt. John David Efferen, U.S.M.C.,  
Corporal Daniel J. Ferrato, U.S.M.C.,  
Lt. Commander Joseph Garbitelli, U. S. Navy,  
Michael Gondek, National Guard, SPC John C. Hayes, U.S. ARMY,  
Lance Corporal Dylan J. Hickam, U.S.M.C.  
Lt. Col. Mary P. King, M.D., U.S. ARMY,  
PFC Brian Lantz, U.S. ARMY, Lt. jg Joseph Leahy, U.S.N.,  
Capt. Joseph McQuade, U.S.N., Lt. Jake John C. Hayes, U.S.ARM.Y, Capt.  
Brian Peterson, U.S.A.F., Capt. Graham A. Perry, U.S.M.C.,  
1<sup>ST</sup> Lt. Roy Ragusa, Jr., U.S. ARMY,  
Capt. Kimberly Russo, National Guard, Lt. Kevin Reilly, U.S. ARMY, Lt.  
Cmdr. Andrew Schimenti, Lt. Justin Winter

**Please remember to pray for our wounded soldiers.**

## Father Chuck's Corner



**Greetings and God's continued Advent blessings be yours on the Third Sunday of Advent-known as Gaudete Sunday!** Christian joy is born out of a divine encounter with God's unconditional love, mercy and liberation. We are compelled then to seek and share the Good News with the zeal of a missionary. Gaudete Sunday and the lighting of the pink candle on the Advent Wreath signals that our hearts are filled with joy in anticipation of the coming of Christmas. In the first reading from the Prophet Zephaniah, it is announced several times that God is in the midst of his people. **"The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals."** Then in the reading from Philippians, Paul reminds the community to be kind and generous as they focus on eternity. **"I shall say it again: rejoice!**

**Your kindness should be known to all."** And finally, in Luke's gospel, we have the encouragement and direction given by John the Baptist. It all is pointing to the coming of Jesus. **"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming."**

Joy comes from knowing that you are unconditionally loved by God. God is in our midst. The joy we have comes from knowing that God is truly present and never abandons us through trials or triumphs. God is always there. And God finds joy in us so much so that he offers new life, redemption and salvation through his mercy. God offers us peace, forgiveness and healing that can wipe away any anxiety. Joy enables us to live in the freedom of the children of God.

God invites us daily to choose joy and share it with others. The sacraments, scriptures, prayer and good works all help to claim and cultivate our relationship with God. True joy rooted in our experience of God's unconditional love compels us to be in relationship differently. As John the Baptist says we are to witness to this joy by living simply, sharing generously, and working for justice. Our faith compels us to share our joy with others. During this Advent season, we prepare for the birth of Christ. Let us welcome him into a joyful heart that finds freedom in God's love and shares joy with

all. Our world hungers so much for the freedom and peace found in Christian joy. The source of our joy has prepared a banquet for us today at Mass. Let us give him thanks for calling us once again into his presence.

**Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday with a special Hospitality Sunday after the 9am, 10:30am and 12noon Masses.** Join us in the school cafeteria for refreshments and joyful fellowship. The Sodality of Our Lady will be our hosts. Christmas Cash chances will still be available before the final drawing at 2pm. Those who ordered Christmas Plants should stop by for pick-up during hospitality. And Script Cards for those last-minute shoppers and stocking stuffers will also be on sale from our school.

This evening our Adult Choir will present our annual **Lessons and Carols** starting at 7pm in our church. It is a wonderful way to soak in the spiritual meaning of Advent. Through scripture and song, the Christmas story unfolds from the ancient prophecies right through the birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ. Make plans to get away from the hustle and bustle of the season to set a true spiritual tone for the rest of your Advent journey. Come join us and bring a friend.

**Please remember to take home a copy of the bulletin when you leave Mass today.** It contains many items of interest and invitation with something for everyone. Of special note is news and needs from **Parish Social Ministry**, info from **Religious Education** and the **Principal's Corner** of St. Raymond School, an invitation to the **Parish Advent Penance Service** on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, additional **Confession** times this coming week, an order form for the special **One-Year Memorial Candles**, envelopes for the **Christmas Masses of Remembrance**, the latest **2018 Catholic Ministries Appeal Update** and much more. To keep informed, keep a copy of the bulletin at home each week for quick and easy reference.

**Have a "joy-filled" Third Week of Advent!** Spread your joy with everyone you meet. Smile often and share with those in need. **Plus remember: Be kind whenever possible (hint: It's always possible).** God bless always.

*—Father Chuck*

## *"No Questions Asked"*

### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE WITH CONFESSIONS

**Tuesday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm**  
**St. Raymond Church**



*A gentle way to come back  
to this healing sacrament.*



## Christmas 2018

(Note additional Masses and time changes)

### Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)

**Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 p.m. Communal Penance Service  
in the Church

**Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>  
and Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup>**

Confessions in the Church  
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

3:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. in the Church

### Christmas Mass Schedule

**Christmas Eve**

**Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m. (Folk Group)

10:30 p.m. (Choir Carol Service)

11:00 p.m. (Mass ending at Midnight)

**Christmas Day**

**Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

Church at 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12 Noon  
(No Evening Mass on Christmas Day)

**Solemnity of Mary**

**New Year's Eve**

**Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

5:00 p.m.

**New Year's Day**

**Tuesday, January 1, 2018**

9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12 Noon



## Christmas Masses of Remembrance

Many people like to request the intention for a Mass on Christmas Day. Since there are a limited number of Masses for Christmas, there will be a special Novena of Masses for Christmas; the **Christmas Masses of Remembrance**. Those whom you would like will be remembered at all the Masses during the Christmas season.

Special envelopes have been mailed with the regular envelope packet and in the Christmas mailing to all parishioners. Envelopes are also available on the front and back pews by the doors of the church. Simply fill out the intention you wish to have remembered on the front of the envelope, include your donation and mail it/drop it in the Sunday Mass collection or place it in one of the wooden boxes marked "Christmas Masses." **Please do so by Monday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve.** Thank you.



○ shepherd of Israel, hearken,  
○ guide of the flock of Joseph!  
Rouse your power,  
and come to save us.

○ Lord of hosts, restore us,  
if your face shine upon us,  
then we shall be safe.

○ Lord of hosts,  
how long will you burn with anger  
while your people pray?  
You have fed them with the bread  
of tears and given them tears  
to drink in ample measure.  
You have left us to be fought  
over by our neighbors,  
and our enemies mock us.

○ Lord of hosts,  
restore us, if your face shine  
upon us, then we shall be safe.

—*Psalm 80:1-7*



## *An Evening of Lessons & Carols*

*Presented by...*

**ST. RAYMOND'S CHOIR**

### *Celebrate the Miracle!*

**Tonight!**

**Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>; 7:00pm  
St. Raymond Church**

*Laura Garbitelli, Director*

*Eric Williams, Organist*

## Gaudete Sunday

Today, December 16<sup>th</sup> is the Third Sunday of Advent. Traditionally we call this Sunday: **Gaudete Sunday** which is the signal for us to now turn our Advent preparation into a time of rejoicing and joy. That is why we light the rose colored candle on the Advent wreath. **As part of our parish's celebration for this day we have a special Hospitality Sunday** in the school cafeteria after the 9am, 10:30am and 12 Noon Masses. **The Sodality of our Lady is sponsoring this month's hospitality.** During this time all those who have made **Christmas Plant** orders can pick their plants up in the cafeteria starting at 10am. Chances will also be sold for our **Christmas Cash 50/50**. **Don't miss out on a chance to win some big money for the holidays.** Chances are \$10 each and three for \$25. Plus our school will have the ever popular **Script** gift cards for sale during this time. Get some great stocking stuffers for your family and friends. So come join us in the joyful spirit of **Gaudete Sunday** and enjoy friendship and refreshments with your fellow parishioners.



## Blessing of the Crèche

The blessing of our outdoor crèche will take place immediately following the **9:00am Family Mass today, Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**. Be sure to stop by the school cafeteria for the Gaudete celebration afterwards! Bring the whole family!



# Parish Bulletin Board

## Principal's Corner *Sister Ruthanne Gypalo*



"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near." Today's entrance antiphon sums the feeling up perfectly! Today, the Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday – is a time for rejoicing as the celebration of the Lord's birth is "on the horizon". One can feel the excitement in the air as we approach Christmas. Be careful not to allow the consumerism of our times to overshadow the real meaning of this special time. Jesus is, was and always will be the REASON FOR THE SEASON. Be sure to keep him at the CENTER of all your celebrations.

So, we have reached the final week of school for 2018. Yikes! That time has truly passed quickly. Of course, this week will be just as fast with all the activities before Christmas. Let's look at what the week holds:

- Monday: Grade 7 to morning Mass; Baked ziti; Student Council meeting at lunchtime
- Tuesday: Grade 6 to morning Mass; Enterprise for 5 and 6; Pizza; Spirit Basketball at St. Agnes at 3:30pm and 4:45pm; Parish Children's Choir's Christmas party in the cafeteria from 5-6pm; School Christmas caroling at 6:30pm (weather permitting – meet in the cafeteria); Parish PENANCE SERVICE at 7:00pm in the Church
- Wednesday: Kindergarten to morning mass; Band lessons (NO FULL BAND in the morning); Enterprise for 3 and 4; Deli sandwiches
- Thursday: Grade 5 to morning Mass; Bagel day; Math Enrichment I at lunchtime; Spirit Basketball BOYS with Notre Dame at 5:00pm
- Friday: School Mass at 8:45am with 7<sup>th</sup> Grade hosting; 11:30am dismissal for the Christmas holiday

One of our final Christmas activities for the school is our annual CHRISTMAS CAROLING on Tuesday evening beginning at 6:30pm. The group travels just around the vicinity of the school (not far) to bring a little holiday spirit to the area. The PSA is kind enough to serve cookies and hot chocolate to the group in the cafeteria at the end of the serenading. All are most welcome to join the festivities. Please feel free to join us in the cafeteria at 6:30pm or "fall into line" along the way. All you need is your Christmas spirit!

Please understand that NOTHING is written in stone and when I schedule something (an event, practice, whatever) it could change. Life happens, and things can sometimes get in the way. We simply try to do our best at all times.

Enjoy this third week of Advent as we quickly approach Christmas. And remember, it's better to give than to receive.

## Religious Education — Faith Formation *Evelyn Contaldi, Director*

### Christmas Pageant

Our annual Christmas Pageant was a success thanks to our students who participated in both the choir and play portion of the pageant. Congratulations to one and all on a wonderful evening!!!! A special thanks to the parents of these children for their cooperation in permitting their children to be part of the pageant. These days our students are involved in so many after-school activities and we appreciate that the parents were willing to add on one more commitment to both theirs and their child's schedule. However, I would say that after seeing the pageant, they know it was well-worth it because this pageant tells the true meaning of the season, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, as depicted through the eyes of a child!



There are not enough thanks or words to express the gratitude and appreciation felt for the women who conducted the choir for the pageant - Mrs. Donna Delia, Mrs. Theresa DiGirolamo, Mrs. Lynn Ferguson, Mrs. Julianne Grennen and Mrs. Donna Viemeister. These ladies have been involved in the production of this pageant from the beginning. It is a lot of hard work, commitment and dedication - and yet, they continue to come back year after year with the same amount of enthusiasm and zeal as they did the very first time we put on this production - 26 years ago! May they always know how much they are appreciated and valued by their parish community—may they always know how much they are loved and cherished by the Religious Education staff.

## Defensive Driving Course

**Where:** St. Raymond School Cafeteria

**When:** Saturday, Jan. 12th

**Time:** 9am-3:30pm

**Cost:** \$50.

**For reservations, call Rose Giglio at  
St. Raymond School Office: 593-9010**



# Parish Bulletin Board

**St. Raymond School  
is excited to announce...**

Show your pride in our School and our Parish



by voting for St. Raymond School for...  
**“Best Catholic School on Long Island.”**  
You can vote once each day through Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>  
at: [www.bestoflongisland.com](http://www.bestoflongisland.com)

**St. Raymond School...  
Inspiring Goodness.  
Achieving Greatness.**

Follow us: Facebook @strayeastrockaway  
• Instagram@straymondschool\_east\_rockaway

## A Journey Through Grief

*St. Raymond's  
Bereavement Ministry*



*Grief Support to Offer Hope*

6 Sessions beginning Thursday, Jan. 3rd at 7:30pm.  
Rectory Lower Level  
Any inquiries, please call 516-593-5000



## *The Sodality of Our Lady of the Annunciation*

All Ladies of the parish are cordially invited to attend  
the Sodality of Our Lady of the Annunciation of

**St. Raymond's Parish December Meeting:**

Monday, December 17th

Place: St. Raymond's Cafeteria

Time: 7:30pm

*As we celebrate the birth of Christ.*



*To Jesus Through Mary*  
Monica Tobin, Prefect



The EAC Network is an in-home respite program, not for profit, social service agency that provides respite for caregivers of the elderly in Nassau County.

Features include: 2-6 hours of in-home companion care per week. Companions try to engage the person, maybe take a walk, make lunch, play games or simply chat so that the caregiver gets a break (not able to provide personal care or do housework or shopping).

Nassau County residents 60 or older are eligible. Companions are screened and trained.

**For info, call Debra at 516-539-0150, x215  
or Christine at 516-593-0150, x 218.  
Or email: [debra.marks@eac-network.org](mailto:debra.marks@eac-network.org)  
or [christine.weber@eac-network.org](mailto:christine.weber@eac-network.org)**

# Parish Bulletin Board

## The Three MMMs

**Missals-** The Season of Advent signals the change of missals for the new liturgical year. **“Breaking Bread” is our one books containing the hymnal and readings for the entire year.** All the missals are enclosed in blue hard covers. This book in its binder makes an attractive and effective worship aid. **Now I appeal for your help in keeping them in good condition. Please do not separate the book from the binder or take them from the pews.** It seems that as time goes by, we begin missing several of them. We have just the right amount to fill our worship needs. **Also, please do not give them to young children for coloring or pacifying purposes.** The pages are delicate and easily torn. **When finished always close the binder and place upright in the pew rack.** With your help their durability and quality will be maintained for the entire liturgical season, plus a neat appearance maintained in the congregation areas of our church worship space.

**Munchies-** You would be surprised at the amount of food that is left in the church. **Crumbs can be anywhere, with food and candy wrappings strewn about and even gum left stuck to the wood of the pews.** I know that munchies may be necessary to occupy young children at Mass and we certainly want the children at Mass. However, it would be most helpful if some alternative behavior control could be utilized, especially when there are many not so young children with snack food at Mass. **I ask that if you must have munchies for your children, please help by cleaning up after them.**

**Messiness-** Each weekend we try to have the church looking good for the Sunday Masses. There are dedicated workers and volunteers who spend time each week making sure that our church is clean and attractive so as to be a fitting place to celebrate Mass. Many people come to our church from Saturday morning through Sunday night for Mass, Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and other services. **As the weekend events accumulate so can the general messiness.** Bulletins are strewn about; the blue booklets are haphazardly left about and all sorts of litter can be found in the pews, on the floor and pew shelves. The ushers, sacristans, maintenance staff and others, like me, try to keep on top of things as we move along, but still it can be messy. **If everyone would just be attentive to the space, you use and what you see around you I am sure that we can eliminate a lot of the messiness.**

I mention these **Three MMMs** as we start our new Church Year of Advent. Our church has been cared for so that we start everything in a good, clean and attractive order. **Let's all do our fair share to keep our church as a beautiful place of prayer.** A little more concern and care is all we need. Thanks for taking the time to read this notice and for your help in carrying out its message.

—*Father Chuck*



***Jesus is waiting to go to the homes of those who cannot come to His.***

If you know anyone in our parish who would like to receive the Eucharist at home, please call the rectory at 593-5000.

## Diocese of Rockville Centre The Office for the Protection of Children & Young People

**Please Remember...** We are all responsible for the safety of children and vulnerable adults! If you suspect mistreatment of a child or vulnerable adult by any member of the Clergy, Church Employee or Volunteer:  
**Phone the Hotline to make a report: 516-594-9063**

All appropriate steps will be taken to protect the reputation and privacy of those involved: the person making the complaint, the victim and the accused.  
For more information on the Charter for the Protection of Children/Young People visit: [www.drvc.com](http://www.drvc.com).



## Ocean Financial Federal Credit Union Supports St. Raymond!

We have received our quarterly revenue sharing check from the Oceanside Financial Federal Credit Union Parish revenue Sharing Program. Since its inception, our parish has received a total of **\$18,786!** The amount we receive each quarter is determined by the number of our parishioners who are members of the credit union and their usage of the Oceanside Christopher VISA credit and/or debit card. Therefore, I want to especially thank each of you—your credit card usage benefits our parish and that's great! For those of you who are not yet members, I encourage you to consider joining.

Visit their branch at 45 Atlantic Ave. in Oceanside, or for information call 620-8100, or visit their website at: [www.oceanfinancial.org](http://www.oceanfinancial.org).

## Families Anonymous

Families Anonymous (FA) is a Twelve-Step support program of recovery for relatives and friends concerned about the use of drugs, alcohol or related behavioral problems. We meet every Wednesday at 7:30pm in St. Raymond's School cafeteria.

**For details, visit: [www.FamiliesAnonymous.org](http://www.FamiliesAnonymous.org).**

# Parish Bulletin Board



## Stewardship

*A Way of Life*

### Stewardship "Thought for the Week"

Today's Gospel provides a blue print for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

#### Sacrificial Giving

December 9, 2018: \$16,428

December 10, 2017: \$15,713

### Baby Clothes Collection

During Advent, as we await the birth of the infant Jesus, St. Raymond's conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will again be collecting baby clothes for Momma's House, Regina Residence and Birthright. Most needed are clothing (sizes Infant to 2-years), blankets, diapers and nursing bottles. (Please note: we cannot accept car seats, infant carriers, cribs, carriages, etc.)



Please leave your donation in the baskets in front of the Blessed Mother's statue anytime until Sunday, Dec. 16th, Gaudete Sunday.



**Dynamic Catholic**  
Be Bold. Be Catholic.

Meeting people where they are....

Leading them to where *God calls them to be!*

We prepare for everything we consider important in life. In every case preparation makes a wonderful experience possible. When was the last time you prepared your heart for Christmas?

What Is BEST ADVENT EVER?

It's a free email program that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during this busy season. You'll experience Advent in a whole new way—leading to the best Christmas of your life!

Sign-up at <https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever>

Our Parish will be giving as a special gift at the Christmas Masses the book, *The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity*. We have been given a limited number of advance copies and if you would like a Free copy to help you prepare for Christmas, please email your contact information to [srochford06@gmail.com](mailto:srochford06@gmail.com)

### Parish Social Ministry

*The Heart of the Parish*

#### Prayer for Advent

Great giver of all that is, show us how much we have received through your abundant generosity. Satisfy our restless hearts with the assurance of your love for us, that we will grow to desire your potter's hands shaping and molding us.

Amen

**Pantry Items Needed:** Razors, shaving cream, deodorant, dish detergent, laundry detergent, hot cereal, hot chocolate, jello, pudding, cake mix, icing, coffee, canned potatoes, beets and canned pasta, small bottles of cooking oil, mayonnaise and juice.

### St. Raymond Human Life Committee

#### Spiritual Adoption Prayer Program Month Developing Baby



Although your spiritually adopted baby is growing rapidly, your baby's organs are still developing. His or her skin is bright pink, covered with a protective, creamy ointment "vernix." The baby's eyelids separate, eyelashes form and the eyes are partially opened. The baby now weighs about 2 pounds. Any baby born at this time has a very good chance of surviving. Today, medical advances in caring for extremely small newborn infants are extraordinary! About 9 out of 10 babies will survive with intensive care services.

As this spiritually adopted baby is being formed by our Loving God, please continue to be faithful in your prayers for him or her, so that the parents will choose to bring their baby to birth. Remember, the taking of innocent, human life in the womb through abortion is legal in America, up to and including, the 9th month of pregnancy for any reason.

#### Next monthly meeting:

Monday, Dec. 17th, 1:00pm - 2:30pm,

Lower level of the rectory.

**All are welcome and needed to be a voice for the babies in the womb.**

God doesn't want something from us.  
He simply wants us.  
- C.S. Lewis



Many will  
rejoice because  
of his birth.

Luke 1:14

Joy

## IRA Charitable Rollover... *Equals Great Opportunity* Under New Tax Laws

Whether you itemize or not in 2018, this unique opportunity allows you to make a charitable contribution through a direct IRA transfer while reducing your adjusted gross income.

### If you would like to make a gift to our Parish using your IRA and if:

- You are at least 70 1/2 years old on the date you make your gift
- Your IRA is a traditional (some Roth IRA's may qualify)
- You don't exceed your personal maximum of \$100,000 per year in qualified charitable distributions

You will not have to report your distribution as income. It will be free of federal and New York State income tax, and it will count toward your required minimum distribution.

The best way for you to start is with your IRA custodian. Tell them you want to make a "qualified charitable distribution." In most cases you will only have to fill out a simple form.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Your gift must go directly from your IRA to our Parish. If you receive the money first then you'll be taxed on it like any other distribution.

*Bill has a \$125,000 in a traditional IRA and would like to contribute \$5,000 as his yearly gift to his Parish. Upon hearing of the **Charitable IRA Rollover** opportunity, he directs the custodian of his IRA to transfer this amount not later than December 31, 2018 directly to the Parish as the family's 2018 gift. He will not be subject to income tax on the \$5,000 donation.*

*This information is not intended and should not be construed as legal, tax or investment advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney, tax advisor or investment professional.*

**Give, and it will be given to you.** A good portion—packed down, firmly shaken, and overflowing—will **fall into your lap.** The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return.

Luke 6:38 CEB



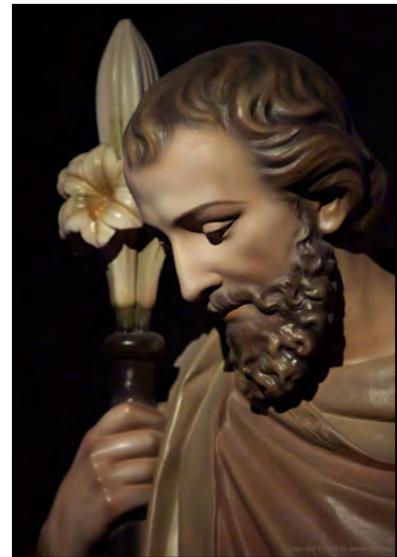
## SPECIAL ONE YEAR MEMORIAL CANDLE

As you know, several years ago we upgraded our devotional candles by both the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph statues. The older ones were outdated and ready to break down. In addition added four new statues in the rear of the church with smaller new candle stands. They are the Mother Teresa, St. Therese of the Little Flower, St. Anthony and St. Jude. Hopefully they will enhance many people's prayer and desire to light candles as a sign of their devotion.

Once again we will be having special one year devotional candles at both the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph Statues in the front. These candles surround the base of each statue. There are 24 candles available for each statue. The cost is \$300.00 for an entire year of having a candle lit for your intention. A small name plate will be placed at each candle that has been taken for the year. Only the name of the person you are remembering will be on each name plate. These candles will be lit from the first Sunday of Advent, December 2, 2018 and will remain lit for the entire Church Liturgical Year.

If you are interested in one of these candles for one of these statues, simply fill out the following information, include your donation and bring it to the rectory.

***This also includes existing candles for this past year that have been lit. They need to be renewed if you so wish.***



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check:

Blessed Mother Statue: \_\_\_\_\_ St Joseph Statue: \_\_\_\_\_

Name for the candle name plate (please print):

\_\_\_\_\_

**2018**  
**CATHOLIC MINISTRIES**  
**APPEAL**

*Supporting Dramatic Ministry Growth  
on Long Island and Beyond*

## Hands of Christ's Mercy



**Thank you for your generous support of the  
2018 Catholic Ministries Appeal.**

**Completing your 2018 pledge ensures that our Parish  
will benefit by receiving our full rebate.**

**If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, please  
prayerfully consider making a donation to the Appeal.**

***Pledges can be accepted until December 31, 2018  
and payments can be made through January 31, 2019!***

**Self-Mailers are provided in the back of the church.**

**Join us as we join together as the *Hands of Christ's  
Mercy!***

**Thank You!**

✕ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to *Catholic Ministries Appeal*.

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Pledge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Down payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL *Hands of Christ's Mercy*

*Our official parish wide effort for the 2018 Catholic Ministries Appeal is coming to a close.* We are **\$5000** behind where we were currently in 2017. This means that our rebate for 2018 will be less than last year. As you know, this appeal is crucial in supporting the many vital diocesan and parish ministries each year. Everything will help and give us a bigger rebate when all is concluded for the 2018 campaign next month. I am always so grateful for your generosity and commitment each year to the appeal. ***To more fully understand the importance of this appeal you can always view this year's video presentation online at [www/drvc.org](http://www/drvc.org).***

As your pastor, I want you to know that I too financially support the ***Catholic Ministries Appeal*** and I have confidence that our parish will do its very best to once again make the ***2018 Catholic Ministries Appeal*** successful for our diocese and parish. We came close again in 2017 and I always believe we can make it each year. Remember that St. Raymond's will also benefit financially when we are successful in reaching our goal in payment by the end of the calendar year. We stand to receive 20% of any money raised up to the goal and then 80% of any money raised over the goal amount. Because we were close to our goal for 2017, our partial rebate totaled **\$10,681** when the final totals were calculated. That is great and a much needed boost to our parish's financial line. ***There are always pledge cards and envelopes on the pew shelves by the front doors for you to take home and use as you see fit.*** Many people also make their pledge/donation directly to the appeal office in Rockville Centre. ***We get full credit no matter how you do it!***

If everyone in our parish family contributed according to their means we could easily reach our goal and even go beyond. Then, not only will we be helping the diocese fund so many important ministries but St. Raymond's would also reap a sizable rebate. And that would be great

***Please remember that no gift is too small and all gifts make a difference to someone's life. As Pope Francis reminds us all..... "a Church without charity does not exist."***

Below is our 2018 CMA goal and the current totals. Thanks for your help. God bless always.

—***Father Chuck***



<b><u>2018 CMA Goal</u></b>
<b><i>\$100,900.00</i></b>
<b><u>Pledges/Gifts as of 12/12/18</u></b>
<b><i>\$78,500.00</i></b>
<b><u>#Pledges/Gifts</u></b>
<b><i>256</i></b>





# Masses for this Week

## Monday, December 17th

7:15am Sara Linares  
8:45am Theresa & John Scafidi

## Tuesday, December 18th

7:15am Mary Duggan  
8:45am John V. Murphy

## Wednesday, December 19th

7:15am John Horan  
8:45am Holy Souls in Purgatory

## Thursday, December 20th

7:15am Stephen DelGiorno  
9:30am Joseph Ingrao

## Friday, December 21st *St. Peter Canisius*

7:15am Daniel Ruicon  
8:45am St. Raymond School Family

## Saturday, December 22nd

8:45am Gertrude Gypalo, Peter Broughal—*Living*,  
Suzanne Rice, Loretta & Edward O'Connell,  
Joseph Reisert, Winnie B. Morrissey  
5:00pm Henry Metzger

## Sunday, December 23rd *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

7:30am Frances Hess  
9:00am Peter Tauckus  
10:30am Rose & Jack Pellicano  
12:00pm Eugene Reilly, Timothy O'Connell,  
Stella Argiliou, Agnes Mary Renald,  
Stephen Rossi,  
4:30pm The People of St. Raymond Parish

## Scripture Readings for the Week

### Monday

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17

### Tuesday

Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25

### Wednesday

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

### Thursday

Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

### Friday

Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19

### Saturday

1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56

### Sunday

Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

## Please Pray for Our Sick

Janet Kelly, Bob Kelly, Michaelina Vito, Catalina Aloj, Joseph Barbarino Giordano, Msgr. Thomas Candreva, Anne Gallagher, Irene Tortorella, Alyssa Fagan, Josie Genuth, Wolff Genuth, Olivia Bonino, Bridget Feminella, Barbara Neccio, Baby Dino Paul Scali, Pam Guzzardo, Marie Mazzola, Margaret Mary Barbato, Regina Dee, Michael Dee, Thomas Doty, John Devlin, George O'Kane, Anne Lintner, Connie & Fred Pollock, Frank Guidice, Jodi Neckles, Gina Mazzola, Taryn Cochio, Joseph Tray, Allen Labbe.

*(Names are printed for 3 weeks unless the rectory is notified otherwise.)*



## Rest in Peace

Gene H. Torborg, Sr.  
Christopher Neary  
Christopher Sugrue



## The Rose for Life

For this week is in memory of

**Louis & Eleanor Perri**

Donated by the Perri Family.

For dedications, call Mary Healy at 887-4062.



## Pastoral Council

"Brothers and Sisters:  
Rejoice in the Lord always.  
I say it again: Rejoice!"

—Philippians 4:4

## Pastoral Council Members

Jean Chojnacki; Monica Collins, Vice Chairperson;  
Jeanne LaSala; Patricia Mayle, Chairperson;  
Patricia McCormack; Mary Carmel Murphy;  
Michael Palumbo, Secretary;



# Parish Bulletin Board

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## Courage

Spiritual support for men and women who experience same-sex attraction, who desire to lead a chaste life in accordance with authentic Catholic Church teaching.

**For info, visit [www.couragerc.net](http://www.couragerc.net) or [courage.org](http://courage.org)**

## Reclaim

A science-based Catholic program for overcoming addiction to pornography and other unhealthy sexual behaviors.

**For info, visit [www.reclaimsexualhealth.com](http://www.reclaimsexualhealth.com)**

## Position Available

### Driver

Catholic Charities' Oceanside Senior Center, located at St. Anthony's Church, needs passenger endorsed CDL drivers, 2 days per week at \$16.41 per hour.

**If interested please call Barbara at: 516-764-9792.**

## Help the Poor in the Appalachia Mountains

Deep in the Appalachian Mountains, an area hard hit by the loss of coal jobs, many are forced to leave while the elderly are forced to face the struggle. St. Stephen Church, distributes food, clothes, household items, cleaning materials and sanitary items to as many families as possible. We assist with heating and utility bills for those unable to pay them. Poverty in the area is increasing and our funds are all but exhausted. This is why we are asking for your generous help to keep this outreach program going. Any donation large or small will be a blessing and greatly appreciated.

**Kindly send donations to:**

**St. Stephen Catholic Church Outreach**

**304 Central Ave.**

**Cumberland, KY 40823**

**Att: Fr. Mani George Thellikalayil (Ph: 606-509-5616)**

**Volunteer missionaries for home repairs welcomed and greatly appreciated!**

## End of Life Decision Making

Catholic teaching on end of life decisions; nutrition and hydration; palliative and hospice care; assisted suicide, euthanasia; healthcare proxies and living wills.

**For info, visit [www.catholicendoflife.org](http://www.catholicendoflife.org)**

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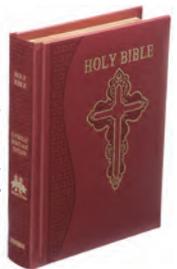
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