

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 Theodore Iloh

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

Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Lucy Ostermann

Saint Raymond Convent
Sr. Ruthanne Gypalo, I.H.M.
Sr. Lorraine Studley, I.H.M

South Nassau Hospital Chaplain
Father Cornelius Dery

Parish Staff

Music Ministry
Laura Garbitelli

Folk Group
AnnMarie Lynch

Plant Manager
Steve Bennett

Parish Secretary
Doreen Dolan

Bulletin Editor
Linda Ohlsen

The Parish of St. Raymond

*A Eucharistic Community of
Faith, Love and Friendship*

Sunday, December 17, 2023

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000



“I am the voice of
one crying out in
the desert, ‘make
straight the way
of the Lord.’”

-John 1:20

December 17, 2023

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-4pm;
Saturdays from 9:30am-4pm. Sundays 9am-5pm
Web Site: www.SaintRaymonds.org
Facebook: St. Raymond Parish, East Rockaway
E-Mail: StRayRcc@optonline.net
Rectory.....593-5000
Rectory Fax.....887-0554

Parish Social Ministry.....887-9197
Office Hours are Monday-Wednesday from 10am-2pm.
Parish Social Ministry Fax.....593-6278

Religious Education Office593-9075
Religious Education Office Fax593-1156
E-Mail: strayfaithformation@aol.com

Pastoral Care Of The Sick

Holy Communion—Available to the homebound;
call the rectory to schedule a visit

Devotions

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Nocturnal Adoration

First Fridays from 7:30pm-8:30pm

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.

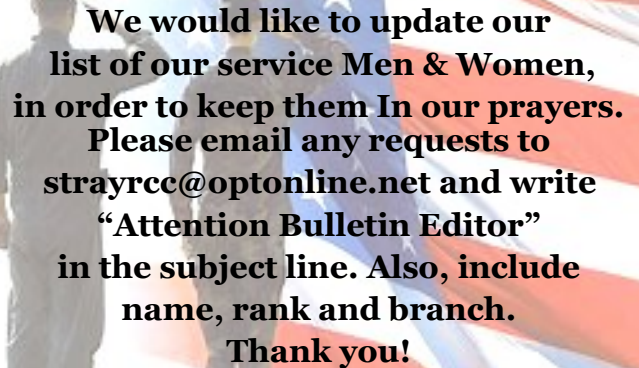
Music Ministries

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.

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 Fr. Chuck Romano



We would like to update our list of our service Men & Women, in order to keep them In our prayers. Please email any requests to strayrcc@optonline.net and write "Attention Bulletin Editor" in the subject line. Also, include name, rank and branch. Thank you!



The Catholic Faith Network (CFN)

Broadcast of the Celebration of the Eucharist:

Daily Mass Celebrated by Pope Francis from the Santa Marta Chapel in Rome

Monday - Friday at 11:00 am, 9:30 pm ET

Saturday at 11:00 am, 9:30 pm ET

Sunday at 1:30 pm, 8:30 pm ET

St. Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre, NY

Monday – Friday at 8:30 am, 12:30 pm ET

Sunday at 11:00 am, 7:00 pm ET

St. Patrick's Cathedral, NY

Monday – Friday at 6:30 pm ET



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

LC Alex James Cooper US MARINE CORPS
LC Dean Thomas Cooper US MARINE CORPS
Lt. Col. Mary P. King , M.D., US ARMY
Commander Joseph Garbitelli US NAVY
Staff /Sgt. Matthew R. Hines - US ARMY
LC Connor Thomas McHale US MARINE CORPS
Sgt. Gerard Moran
Lt. Com. Joseph Leahy US NAVY
Spec. Bryan Petriccione US ARMY –Cavalry Unit
Lt. JG Joseph Woloszyn US NAVY
PFC Hunter Deets, #10 Mountain Division US ARMY
Please remember to pray for our wounded soldiers.

Greetings and God's continued Advent blessings be yours on the Third Sunday of Advent, known as "Gaudete Sunday." The pink candle we light this Sunday signifies joy because in Jesus we have found **"Good News."** In the first reading the prophet Isaiah is overjoyed because the spirit of the Lord is upon him and sends him to do good works. Isaiah knows that God is with him and has given him great work to do. **"I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul..."** Then today's Psalm with verses taken from Luke's gospel show that Mary is full of joy because the Lord has looked upon her lowliness and done great things for her. Like Isaiah, Mary knows that God is with her and gives her great meaning and purpose. **"My soul rejoices in my God."** Even Paul tells the Thessalonians in today's second reading to **"Rejoice always!"** And finally, John's gospel continues to tout the importance of John the Baptist who seems to also take delight in his mission and purpose of preparing the way for Jesus. **"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord."** Isaiah, Mary, Paul and John all rejoice because they know that God is with them and working through them. In the darkness of Advent, look to the light of Jesus and rejoice in his Good News.

Now John the Baptist speaks of Jesus who will be among the people but not recognized by them. Many people won't accept or recognize Jesus for who he is, God's Son and the Messiah. But are those people long ago the only ones John is referring to? Of course, we believe in Jesus as God's Son who was born of Mary, had a lot of great things to say, important truths to tell us. And we believe that he suffered an incredibly unjust and cruel death. Yet in that selfless act, we believe most importantly that Jesus saved the world, and redeemed each of us. So, who among us doesn't recognize him? Now I'm not just talking about the Jesus of history and the nexus of our faith. But about the Jesus who still lives among us, and graces us with his presence everywhere, in the good and the bad, the joyful times and the tragic moments, with saints and sinners. The miracle of the Incarnation is not that God just visited a long time ago but that the one who broke into our world in a most profound way continues to do that same thing day after day, moment after moment. That's what Advent prepares us for, not just Christmas but for every day, in every person, and in every situation. That's what Christmas did for us. We don't have to gaze into the heavens to search for him.

We just have to pay attention to him here and now with the eyes of faith. So, don't just go through life finding it hard to recognize Jesus in our midst. Find him where he truly is, on the altar, in the sacred scriptures, within each of us and everywhere else too.

Today after all the morning Masses there is a special **"Gaudete Sunday Hospitality"** sponsored by the Sodality of Our Lady in the school cafeteria. During this time all the Christmas Plant Orders are ready for pick-up. If you placed an order for some plants, come by the school cafeteria and pick up your Christmas plants. So, get in the holiday spirit and stop by the cafeteria after Mass for some refreshments and fellowship.

On Tuesday evening, December 19th there will be a special **"No Questions Asked Penance Service"** with Confessions, starting at 7:30pm in the church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a great way of spiritual preparation during Advent so that your celebration of Christmas will be a truly joyous time. The **"No Questions Asked"** aspect of this service can also help make this an inviting way for people to return to this sacrament who have been away from the sacrament for a long time.

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** (Faith Formation), the latest **Countdown to Christmas** calendar update, an order form for the **Special One-Year Memorial Candles** (only 5 left by St. Joseph's statue), envelopes for the **Christmas Masses of Remembrance**, the **Christmas and New Year's Day Mass Schedules**, the **Eucharistic Revival Centerfold**, the **Communal Prayer Before Mass** (found on the inside back cover), an invitation to join **FORMED** (your Catholic Faith on demand) and much more. To keep informed, keep a copy of the bulletin at home each week for quick and easy reference.

Have a great Third Week of Advent. One week to go and then Christmas. **Keep smiling and try to spread some "Gaudete" joy to all you meet. Plus remember: Christmas without Jesus is just a mess.** God bless always. **Father Chuck**



WEEKLY MASS PRAYERS

DECEMBER 17, 2023-THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,

we bless you,

we adore you,

we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great

glory, Lord God, Heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the

Father, You take away the sin of the

world, have mercy on us;

You take away the sin of the world,

receive our prayer; You are seated

at the right hand of the Father,

have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One;

you alone are the Lord.

You alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God, the Father.

Amen

Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,

that I have greatly sinned,

in my thoughts and in my words,

in what I have done and

in what I have failed to do,

[Pray while striking the breast 3 times.]

through my fault, through my fault,

through my most grievous fault;

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,

all the Angels and Saints,

and you, my brothers and sisters,

to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,

the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the Only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial

with the Father; through him all things

were made. For us men and for our

Salvation he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate

of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under

Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand

of the Father. He will come again in

Glory to judge the living and the dead

and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the

Son, who with the Father and the Son is

adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and

apostolic Church. I confess one

Baptism for the forgiveness of

Sins and I look forward to the

resurrection of the dead and the

life of the world to come.

Amen.

READINGS FOR TODAY'S MASS

DECEMBER 17, 2023-THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING

Is 61:1-2A, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God. I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

SECOND READING

1 Thes 5:16-24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

ALLELUIA

Is 61:1 (cited in Lk 4:18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

GOSPEL

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - FAITH FORMATION

Lucy Ostermann, Director



Attention 1st Grade Parents

Today, Gaudete Sunday 12/17/2023, is our third First Grade Parent/Student meeting. We ask that all First grade parents and students go to the auditorium at 11am, attend the meeting and then the entire group go to the 12Noon Mass. Attending the 12Noon Mass is a continuation of the lesson from the meeting held in the auditorium. All first graders and their families are invited to attend the Gaudete Sunday celebration that will be held in the cafeteria after they attend the 12Noon Mass.



Christmas Carols

Next Saturday, 12/23/2023, after the 5pm Mass, we have about 70 Religious Education students that will be singing a few Christmas Carols in the Church. This is a wonderful way to get into the true meaning of Christmas by listening to the voices of our children.

Our Parish Children celebrate Mass in their Christmas Pajamas



Families were all given cake mix to make Jesus a birthday cake



Breakfast with Santa





St. Raymond's Parish Social Ministry

The Ryan House

"The Heart of the Parish"

12 Roosevelt Avenue, Lynbrook, NY 11563

516-887-9197

Food Pantry Hours of Operation

Monday - Wednesday from 10am to 2pm

(Suggested to call for an appointment)

*" God delights in the one whose heart
is in his gift". Corinthians 9:7*

The Parish Social Ministry would like to sincerely thank all our parishioners who participated in The Giving Tree. Your tremendous generosity is greatly appreciated and, because of your kindness, we are able to provide Christmas gifts to 58 families. Thank you for making someone's Christmas a little brighter.

Best wishes to everyone for a blessed Christmas.

Pantry items needed this week:

Razors, Dish Detergent, Shampoo, Conditioner, Pancake Mix, Mayonnaise, Grape Jelly, Pasta and Rice Side Dishes and Canned Fruit.

Thank you as always for helping us serve the people in need in our community. Food donations are greatly appreciated and can be brought to the Ryan House when it is open or donations can be left in the bin on the porch. Also food donations can be left in the Altar Servers Sacristy.

*There is still time to return any
Giving Tree gifts to either the Parish
Social Ministry office during working
hours or St. Raymond's rectory.
Thank you for your continued support and
generosity. You are always in our prayers.*




Thank You!



Merry Christmas

Countdown to Christmas Cash Raffle 2023

Over \$5,000.00 in Prizes – 33 Cash Prizes to be Awarded

December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent Prize: \$500.00	 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25TH PRIZE \$1000</p> </div>			November 23 Thanksgiving Day Prize: \$500.00	November 24 Prize: \$100.00	November 25 Prize: \$100.00
November 26 #3067 Prize: \$250.00	November 27 #3355 Prize: \$100.00	November 28 #3423 Prize: \$100.00	November 29 #3071 Prize: \$100.00	November 30 #3333 Prize: \$100.00	December 1 #3118 Prize: \$100.00	December 2 #3075 Prize: \$100.00
December 3 #3184 First Sunday of Advent Prize: \$250.00	December 4 #3005 Prize: \$100.00	December 5 #3082 Prize: \$100.00	December 6 #3098 Prize: \$100.00	December 7 #3139 Prize: \$100.00	December 8 #3046 Feast of the Immaculate Conception Prize: \$250.00	December 9 #3392 Prize: \$100.00
December 10 #3350 Second Sunday of Advent Prize: \$250.00	December 11 #3340 Prize: \$100.00	December 12 #3199 Prize: \$100.00	December 13 Prize: \$100.00	December 14 Prize: \$100.00	December 15 Prize: \$100.00	December 16 Prize: \$100.00
December 17 Third Sunday of Advent Prize: \$250.00	December 18 Prize: \$100.00	December 19 Prize: \$100.00	December 20 Prize: \$100.00	December 21 Prize: \$100.00	December 22 Prize: \$100.00	December 23 Prize: \$100.00



Christmas 2023

(Note additional Masses and time changes)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

(Confessions)

Saturdays, December 16th & 23rd

3:30 till 4:30 in the Church

Tuesday, December 19th

7:30pm Penance Service in the Church

Wednesday, December 20th

and Thursday December 21st

Confessions in the Church

5pm-6pm and 7pm-8pm

(other times by request at the rectory)

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24th

5:00 pm

8:00 pm (Folk Group)

10:30 pm (Christmas Carols)

11:00 pm (mass ending at Midnight)

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25th

Church at 9:00am, 10:30am and 12 noon

(No Evening Mass on Christmas Day)

Feast of Mary the Mother of God

New Year's Eve


Sunday, December 31st

5:00pm

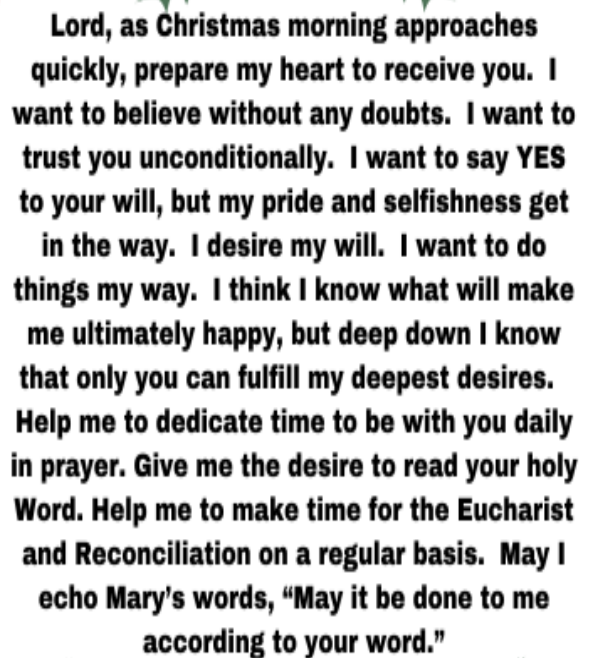
New Year's Day

Monday, January 1, 2023

**9 am, 10:30am and 12 noon
and 1:30pm**



**JESUS
IS THE
REASON
FOR THE
SEASON**



Lord, as Christmas morning approaches quickly, prepare my heart to receive you. I want to believe without any doubts. I want to trust you unconditionally. I want to say YES to your will, but my pride and selfishness get in the way. I desire my will. I want to do things my way. I think I know what will make me ultimately happy, but deep down I know that only you can fulfill my deepest desires. Help me to dedicate time to be with you daily in prayer. Give me the desire to read your holy Word. Help me to make time for the Eucharist and Reconciliation on a regular basis. May I echo Mary's words, "May it be done to me according to your word."

"No Questions Asked"

Advent Penance Service With Confessions

Tuesday

December 19th 7:30pm

St. Raymond Church



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

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, all requests are not able to be fulfilled. Therefore, there will be a special Novena of Masses for Christmas that will be 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. They are also available on the front side pews and on the 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 either mail it back, drop it in the Sunday Mass collection or place it in one of the wooden boxes marked "Christmas Masses."

Please do so by Sunday, December 24th.

Thank you, Father Chuck



STEP BY STEP WALK THROUGH THE MASS

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

FATHER LUKE SPANNAGEL

NATIONAL EUCHARIST REVIVAL BLOG



Listening to God's Word

As St. Jerome said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." Without a doubt, St. Jerome understood that the Bible truly is God speaking to his people. That is why it is so important to have readings from the Bible during Mass. Listening to God's Word helps us to learn about and understand who God is and how much He loves us. Also, we learn about ourselves and just how much we need God in our lives. As we continue some reflections on the Liturgy of the Word, we focus this week on the more spiritual aspects of listening to God's Word and receiving it into our hearts.

Start with Silence

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal reminds us that silence is a very important part of the Mass. Not only are we silent while the readings are read, but there should also be a brief silence after each of the readings. As the Diocese of Peoria's A Study of the Mass teaches, "Even these brief moments allow us to meditate on the marvels and mysteries we just heard... In our world of 'noise,' this silence may seem uncomfortable to us. Yet, this is all the more reason for us to pay close attention to this detail of the sacred Liturgy." Silence is an important means for the faithful to actively participate in the Mass, since it allows the opportunity to really listen with our hearts and take in God's Word.

What if the readings don't make sense to you? The Word of God is not a document. It is not something of the past that happens to narrate a stage of revelation. The Word of God continues to be alive and active (Hebrews 4:12), seeking us out and helping to draw us nearer to God. That is why it is important for us to do our part during the readings of the Mass by really listening and thinking about the words of Scripture. If God is speaking to his people through the Scriptures, and we are part of God's family, then God is saying something to us through each reading. A great question to ask ourselves is: What is God teaching me here? About himself? About us as his people? About how he asks us to live? These reflections will help us concentrate more on the words and help us understand their meaning, even from a reading about a most unusual topic!



Allow His Word to Grow Roots

His Word to Grow Roots

Another way to help us better understand the readings is to recognize that the entire Old Testament is a preparation of God's people for receiving Jesus. The New Testament is a fulfillment of the Old—all the prophecies, all the expectations—all perfectly fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. One of my favorite meditations is to think about something from the Old Testament and see how it leads to Jesus. In the same way, then, look at something in the New Testament and remember back to its beginnings in the Old Testament. For example, we read in Isaiah 7:14, "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel." For many of us, our mind probably jumps to Mary and Jesus. Some of the connections are very clear, and some are subtler. Spending time reflecting on the readings can not only help us better understand what we hear, but it also helps the Word of God to be truly rooted in our hearts, our thoughts, and our actions.

What we hear during the Liturgy of the Word is truth about God and the narrative of the marvels God performed... Its culmination is the Paschal Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Christ, which is perpetuated in the Eucharist. Therefore, the central theme of the readings is always Christ... By carefully listening to the Word of God and reflecting on it, we will realize who ... Christ is, what he says and does, what he expects of us, and how we are to go about accomplishing the task he entrusted to us. Gradually, we will enter into the intimacy of God and discover the meaning of our own existence.

For Reflection:

1. Recognizing the unique presence of Jesus in the Scriptures, reflect on the Risen Lord's appearance to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). Pay particular attention to what Jesus says about his presence in "all the scriptures," including "Moses and all the prophets" (Lk. 24:27).
2. Next time you are at Mass, listen to hear how Jesus is present in each part of the Liturgy of the Word.

Next Week: The First Reading

St. Raymond Church
Opportunities for a Holy Hour / Adoration
and Eucharistic Exposition

The Church is open daily for personal prayer until 5:00
 Each Thursday Adoration/Benediction from 1-4:00 PM
 Each First Friday Nocturnal Adoration from 7:30-8:30 PM

"Let us implore Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas and Star of the New Evangelization, who has been chosen as the Patroness of the National Eucharistic Revival, to heal us of those things that afflict and hurt us so that we may be united in Jesus."

What is the origin of Christmas stockings?



St. Nicholas

(Feast Day: December 6th)
is said to have inspired this beloved Christmas tradition.

The old man went to bed sad that night. There is no worse feeling for a father than being powerless to protect his children and give them a good life. And it seemed as though he had failed in this regard. It had been a hard year, and he and his daughters barely had enough money to live on from day to day. There was no way he could provide a dowry for them. Without that, they could not marry and faced a life of slavery.

His daughters were afraid, too, but tried to be hopeful. They spoke words of comfort to each other as they did their evening chores. Maybe something good would come along, maybe a miracle would happen, they said. Scrubbing their stockings clean as best they could, they hung them up by the window to dry near the dying fire. Then they went to bed.

The next morning, the daughters went to collect their stockings. But as they approached the window where they hung, what did they see? The stockings were stretched out of shape, with a lump of something in the toes. They quickly investigated, and nearly cried for joy when they found gold coins in each one—more than enough to pay a good dowry. They ran to tell their father, and all four gave thanks to God. Indeed, a miracle had happened.

God's agent that night had been a clever and generous soul named Nicholas. He had heard of the father's plight and, wishing to spare the father the shame of accepting charity, had snuck to the window during the night and tossed the money inside, where it had landed inside the girls' stockings. Nicholas had saved the day—and started a tradition.

This legend of the Christmas stockings is one of the most famous stories handed down to us about St. Nicholas, the 4th-century bishop of Myra in modern-day Turkey. Appearing under various regional titles "Father Christmas" in Great Britain, "Sinterklaas" in the Netherlands, or "Papa Noël" in France—good St. Nicholas has become the symbol of generosity everywhere Christmas is celebrated.



Eucharistic Witness

Saint Lucy of Syracuse, Sicily
Laywoman & Martyr († 304)

Feast:

December 13

The First Eucharistic Prayer, or the Roman Canon, is the one that has had the longest history in the Roman Catholic Church. Some parts of this prayer stretch back to the very beginning of the Church, and it has been said by every Roman Catholic priest who celebrated the Mass since Gregory the Great in 590 A.D.

This ancient prayer is not marked as much by all of those saints, but double listing of some of the saints of the early church (think of "... John and Paul, Cosmas and Damien ...") and this week we celebrate one of the women listed in the second such litany: St. Lucy, named after the Latin word for light. St. Lucy was a young woman living in the 300s in Sicily. Like St. Agatha, Lucy was also maltreated and then martyred.



How can Lucy begin our delving into the mystery and gift of the Eucharist? Perhaps she teaches us the simplest, but most profound, of truths: the Eucharist is a gift, and must be received. If we receive a gift but never unwrap it, have we really received it?! If we receive Christ, but never return the favor, have we really opened our heart to Him?!

When you or I receive Holy Communion, do we listen to Christ and how He asks us to give ourselves back? Or do we go on with our day just exactly as we were planning to before? Shouldn't there be results? Where is the joy? Why haven't I been transformed yet? St. Lucy shows us that the fault lies not with Christ's gift to me, but my lackluster self-gift back to Him.



ST. RAYMOND'S HUMAN LIFE COMMITTEE

*"We are here to be witnesses of love and to celebrate life, because life has been created in the image and likeness of God. Life is to love and to be loved. That's why we all have to take a strong stand so that no child - boy or girl - will be rejected or unloved. Every child is a sign of God's love."
-St. Teresa of Calcutta*

Advent Prayer

**Mary, Mother of Compassion,
You showed us how valuable a
single life can be; help us to
guard and protect all human life
from the moment of conception
to the moment of natural death.**

**We ask this prayer in Jesus
Name. Amen**



What is the Veil Removed?

The Veil Removed is a short film that reveals the coming together of heaven and earth at Mass, as seen by saints and mystics, revealed by scripture and in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Watch it on FORMED

Will you answer him?



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For each donated car, truck or van, running or not, the Associated Vincentian Charities will give back to our parish \$75-\$200 per vehicle.

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If you or someone you know has an old or neglected vehicle that is not being used, please call: 718-491-2525

For details: svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org



As Christmas approaches, do not become stressed out with shopping, cooking and preparing—rejoice in God's love for us and deepen your prayer life.

Sodality of Our Lady of the Annunciation



**December Meeting:
Monday, December 18th**

**Place: St. Raymond's
Cafeteria**

Time: 7:30

**"Annual Christmas
Celebration"**

Please join us and bring a friend as we are always looking for and happy to welcome new members.

"Sodality is a women's organization devoted to prayer and service to the Blessed Mother.

The membership is active in many ways doing what we call "Mary' Work," helping those in need in any way we can."



**Ocean Financial
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Supports
St. Raymond!**

We have received our quarterly revenue sharing check from the Ocean Financial Federal Credit Union Parish revenue Sharing Program. Since its inception, our parish has received a total of \$20,986! The amount we receive each quarter is determined by the number of our parishioner who are members of the credit union and their usage of the Ocean Financial Federal Credit Union 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 516-620-8100

visit their website at: www.oceanfinancial.org.



Special One year Memorial Candle

It's not too late!

Bring in the attached form to the rectory



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 3, 2023 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: _____

Pick one: Blessed Mother _____ St. Joseph _____

Name for the candle name plate (please print) _____





SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

FOUNDED IN 1833, THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL IS A WORLDWIDE ORGANIZATION OF LAY CATHOLICS, FOLLOWING CHRIST'S CALL TO SERVE THE POOR, THE SUFFERING, AND THE DEPRIVED. OUR FOUNDING ACTIVITY, STILL PRACTICED TODAY, IS THE HOME VISIT. THROUGH THESE VISITS, VINCENTIAN MEMBERS ESTABLISH PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED, NOT ONLY PROVIDING MATERIAL ASSISTANCE SUCH AS RENT, UTILITIES, FOOD, OR CLOTHING, BUT ALSO OFFERING FRIENDSHIP, UNDERSTANDING, AND PRAYER.

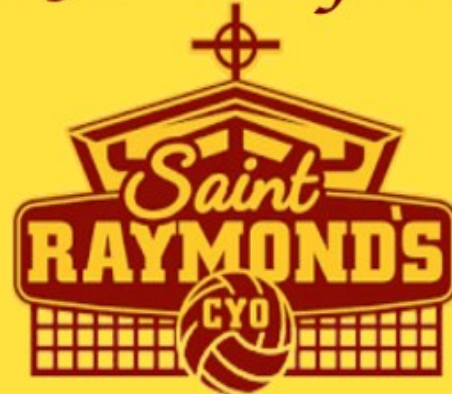
ST. RAYMOND PARISH

HAS HAD AN ACTIVE CHAPTER (KNOWN AS A "CONFERENCE") OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOR DECADES AND INVITES ALL WHO WISH TO HELP NEIGHBORS IN NEED.

PLEASE CALL ED AT 887-9325

FOR INFORMATION ON WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE.

St. Raymond CYO Volleyball



Volleyball registration is
now open!

Last day to register is

December 27th

<http://www.straymondscyos.com>



WELCOME

**No matter what your present status in
the Catholic Church,**

**No matter what your current family or
marital situation,**

**No matter what your past or present
situation,**

**No matter what your personal history,
age, background or race,**

**No matter what your own self image
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We are so happy to have you here!



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**For Dedications call
Mary Healy 887-4062**

Do you like to sing?
Do you play piano, flute or guitar?
Check out...

St. Raymond Folk Group!
We are back...

We rehearse Wednesday nights from
7pm-8pm & Sunday at 11am
in the Rectory Lower Level
and sing at the 12 Noon
Sunday Mass

If interested please
call AnnMarie Lynch at 599-6836
7th Grade and higher are Welcome!

St. Raymond's Choir
Can you sing?
Come be part of the
St. Raymond's Choir family!

Practice Wednesday Evenings
7:30pm in the Church

Mass with the Choir is @10:30am on Sunday
Please call Laura Garbitelli at 516-593-7345

AT THIS TIME, WE ARE SETTING UP THROUGH OUR PARISH ROSTER A WAY TO SEND EMAILS FROM ST. RAYMOND CHURCH STRAIGHT TO ALL REGISTERED PARISHIONERS OR EVEN SELECTED GROUPINGS OF PEOPLE IN THE PARISH. IT IS A FEATURE THAT OUR PDS PROGRAM OFFERS, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ITS CAPABILITIES GOING FORWARD. WE CAN SEND OUR REMINDERS, SCHEDULES, EMERGENCY NEWS AND OTHER TIMELY BITS OF INFORMATION. BUT, IN ORDER TO REACH THE LARGEST GROUP OF PARISHIONERS AS POSSIBLE, WE NEED TO GROW OUR PARISHIONER E-MAIL LIST. CURRENTLY WE HAVE ONLY ABOUT 500 EMAILS OUT OF 3800 REGISTERED PARISHIONER FAMILIES. SO, IN ORDER TO REACH AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE WITH THESE MESSAGES WE NEED MORE EMAILS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ON THIS LISTING FOR PARISH MESSAGES, PLEASE EITHER CALL THE RECTORY TO GIVE US YOUR EMAIL, SEND IT IN TO THE PARISH EMAIL (STRAYRCC@OPTONLINE.NET), OR FILL OUT THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE RECTORY. YOUR EMAIL INFORMATION GOES NO FURTHER THAN BEING A PART OF YOUR REGISTRATION PROFILE FOR THE PURPOSE STATED ABOVE.

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

PARISH (ON YOUR ENVELOPES) # _____

**Please update our
Parish Email List**



Ministry of Consolation

Work one week a month with a team to assist families in preparing and celebrating the Funeral Mass for recently deceased loved ones.

If Interested
Call Jane Donlon
516-592-0672

A voice of one calling:
"Prepare the way for the Lord in the wilderness: make a straight highway for our God in the desert."

-Isaiah 40:3

Pastoral Council Members

Peter Chojnacki, Linda Daley, Julianne Grennen, Kimberly Moran, Mary Murphy, Dave Ohlsen, Linda Ohlsen, Secretary, Stephen Rochford, Chairperson, Fr. Chuck Romano, Monica Tobin, Vice Chairperson



Vocations Prayer

Almighty Father, we beg you for an increase in religious vocations and holy marriages in our Parish of St. Raymond. Help us to be generous in our response to Your call. Choose from our homes those who are needed for Your work and strengthen us with the courage to say "yes" and to follow You. Help us as a diocese, as a parish, as families to encourage and foster vocations to the priesthood, permanent diaconate, and consecrated life. We commend our prayers to Mary, the Mother of God, and ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.





"Advent, then, is a time for overturning our perspectives ... for letting ourselves be surprised by the greatness of God's mercy."

-Pope Francis

Pause and Reflect this Advent Season

During the Advent Season we are called to slow down during the frenetic season of shopping, visiting friends and family, baking, wrapping gifts and perhaps even studying for finals.

Are you still struggling to get a unique present for someone special? Consider a gift for all seasons – a donation to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. It's a special gift that touches the lives of over 600,000 people by supporting programs that allow us to build of community of faith, hope and love in our diocese and beyond.

How does the Catholic Ministries Appeal Care for God's People?

It supports programs that help to feed people in our community each year through Catholic Charities and our Parish Outreach programs, providing food and nutrition to more than 15,000 people.



Have you tried Text-to-Give to make a donation! It's fast and secure.

Go to the following link to find your parish's keyword: bit.ly/3VFrMCE

**TEXT your parish's Keyword To:
(516) 271-3338**

Please consider donating to the Appeal and making a difference in someone's life. Thank you!

Make checks payable to: Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish _____ Pledge: \$ _____

Name _____ Down payment: \$ _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

To make a donation, you can also visit CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296

THANK YOU!

FORMED

This week on **FORMED...**



Christ's teaching about the Eucharist was not reserved solely for the Last Supper. Rather, this profound mystery is the crescendo of Jesus' entire ministry: all his work in Galilee prepared for and pointed to the Eucharist. Join Dr. Tim Gray in Bread of Life: The Eucharist in Galilee for an exciting five-part series about Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist

GO TO THE ST. RAYMOND

WEBSITE FOLLOW THE

FORMED

LINK TO REGISTER...IT'S FREE!

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

7:15AM MARY DUGGAN

8:45AM ROSALIE MONACO

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

7:15AM MICHAEL O. MCCORD

8:45AM JOSEPH INGRAO

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

7:15AM EUGENE KELLY

8:45AM JEANNE HEALEY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

7:15AM SANDRA MCGUCKIN

8:45AM JANE GELSON

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

7:15AM FRANCES HESS

8:45AM LOUISE COSCIA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

8:45AM ANOTHY SCARCELLA, TED WITTING

5:00PM MULDOWNNEY & VENIS FAMILIES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE

7:30AM DOROTHY KULES

9:00AM DECEASED MEMBERS OF CASSESE FAMILY

10:30AM ROSE MARIE & ANTHONY SIMETI

12:00PM MARY LOU HART, MARK DEASE,
KENNETH GRANVILLE, DENNIS MCDUGAL

5:00PM HENRY & GANYON FAMILIES

8:00PM ALICE & HERB MOGENSEN

11:00PM DOLAN & THIES FAMILIES

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY

JER 23:5-8/MT 1:18-25

TUESDAY

JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A/LK 1:5-25

WEDNESDAY

IS 7:10-14/LK 1:26-38

THURSDAY

SG 2:8-14/LK 1:39-45

FRIDAY

1 SM 1:24-28/LK 1:46-56

SATURDAY

MAL 3:1-4, 23-24/LK 1:57-66

SUNDAY

2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16/ROM 16:25-27/
LK 1:26-38



Please Pray for Our Sick

James R., Baby Brady, Mike L.,
Jodi Neckles, Baby Faith Madison,
Baby Cooper Graham, Michael McPike,
Christine I., Samir. Leo B., Maureen
Condiss, Bennett William Chevalier, Mary
Lynch, Maureen McCarthy,
Baby Connor William, Fr. Don Hansen,
Nick S., Adrienne Dolder, Dawn,
Baby Daisey O'Neill, Jack Butler,
Jay Witemeyer, Christine Gillidan,
Linda Dagostino
(Names are printed for 3 weeks unless
the rectory is notified otherwise)



The Bread & Wine
For this week is in loving
memory of
Josephine, William &
Thomas Huhn
Love & Prayers
Dorothy & Michael Bock



The Sanctuary Light
For this week in memory of
The Raia Family
From Diane Minucci

Parish Bulletin Board

Dear Lord,

Please help me to accept myself for who I am. Help me to see and appreciate the wonderful person You have created.

Let me recognize the importance of my birthright as Your child and realize my significance in the universe. Help me to understand that the opportunities

I possess are limitless...

For You have given me the chance to achieve all things for my own good and that of the whole world.

Make my life, starting today, starting now, a worthy testament of Your wondrous glory and infinite love. For with You all things are possible.

Communal Prayer Before Mass

Father in heaven, we wish to prepare well for participation in this Mass, in which we enter the Last Supper, Passion, Death and Resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. He is as present to us today in his Word and in the Eucharist, as he was with his apostles. Holy Spirit please quiet our minds from the busyness and distractions of our day, so that we will have hearts and minds attentive to the words of Jesus and ready to receive his Body and Blood in Holy Communion.

Blessed Mother, take our hearts and give us yours, that like you, we may ponder Jesus' words and do whatever he tells us to do. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

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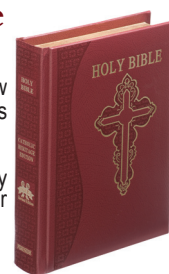
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