

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

Business Manager
Christopher Grennen

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, March 10, 2024

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000

“For God so loved the world that he gave
his only Son, so that everyone who
believes in him might not perish but might
have eternal life.” -John 3:15



March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Lent

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 Office.....593-9075
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.

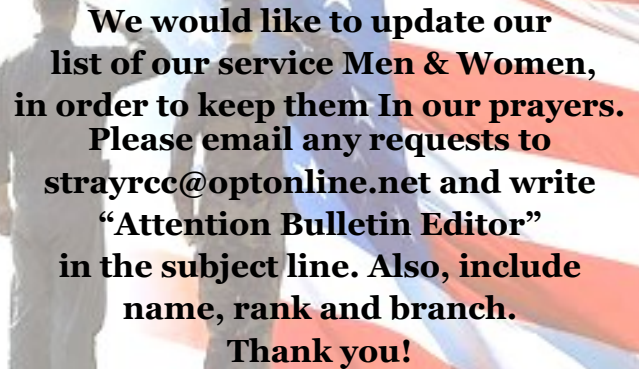
Music Ministries

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

Sunday at 3:30 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
Sgt. Bryan Petriccione US ARMY –Cavalry Unit
Lt. JG Joseph Woloszyn US NAVY
PFC Hunter Deets, #10 Mountain Division US ARMY
TSGT Curt Abdool US AIRFORCE

Please remember to pray for our wounded soldiers.

Greetings and God's blessings be yours on the Fourth Sunday of Lent! The focus of this Sunday's readings is to take to heart the words: **"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son."** In the first reading from the Second Book of Chronicles, we hear King Cyrus giving the Israelites permission to return to their homeland. Tradition tells us that King Cyrus did so out inspiration from God.

"Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go, and may his God be with him." Then in the second reading from Ephesians, Paul strongly teaches that we have been saved by Jesus and raised up to be with him in heaven. It is by grace that one is saved through faith. It is God's gift. **"For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them."** And finally, John's gospel has Jesus telling Nicodemus in a very direct way that he, the Son of God has come so that all who believe will have eternal life. The world will be saved through him. However, many people will prefer darkness to light and will not come to believe. And yet for those who believes Jesus says they will be saved. **"But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God."**

"Do you believe in Jesus?" What a silly question, right? But think about it. Do you believe in Jesus? Don't be shocked, but I wonder about this from time to time. I know that I say I believe in Jesus. I think about him a lot. I read stories about him, and I pray to him all the time, telling him stuff and laying out my needs before him. And I do all this with what I believe to be a sincere heart. But how do I know? How can I be sure? How can I tell if I'm just going through the motions, just doing things in case they are true? There is a familiarity and comfort and security that comes with hanging on to the traditions that have been passed down to us, especially when we hear the passage today from John's gospel: **"Whoever believes in me will not be condemned."** I really want that to be true. If there really is heaven, I don't want to be anyplace else. But is saying the words: **"I believe in Jesus"** the same as actually believing in him? His words seem a bit too easy. Doesn't God need some evidence? It's funny how we may think that our all-knowing, all-powerful God needs some proof to be convinced that we are believers. He knows all things and whether we love him or not, trust him or don't, hope in him or don't, believe in him or don't.

And how all those things shape what happens when we leave this earth. Best to just leave that to our merciful God. So, I believe that God certainly doesn't need any evidence. But he wants evidence. And the reason is simple. It's because we need to see evidence of our belief in Jesus, our faith in him. And others need to see evidence in us too, evidence that we believe what we say, evidence that we have a kind and generous heart. Evidence that we trust in God's promises, evidence that we are open to God working through us, evidence that we are willing to change for the better. Do I believe in Jesus? The only way I'll know is by actually doing my best to live as he wants me to live, by acting with kindness, forgiving those who have hurt me, reaching out to the lonely, the forgotten. If I'm not doing any of these things, then the words: **"I Believe in Jesus"** are just that-words. I don't want to fall into that trap.

Next weekend on the Fifth Sunday of Lent we are having a special **"Gift Card Sunday"** for the benefit of Parish Social Ministry. We are asking everyone to donate gift cards when you come to Mass next weekend. Simply place your donations in the regular collection basket at your Mass. We are only looking for the following cards: **"Stop and Shop," King Kullen," Lidl," and 'Visa or Master Card."** These are the only ones that serve the needs of Parish Social Ministry. So, remember **"Gift Card Sunday"** on March 17th. It's the perfect way to practice some almsgiving for Lent.

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 notes is news and needs from **Parish Social Ministry**, info from **Religious Education** (Faith Formation), the invitation to the **St. Patrick's Celebration** on Saturday, March 23rd, the continuing **Parish Lenten Schedule**, an invitation to the **Sodality of Our Lady's Annual Women's Retreat Day**, 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 Fourth Week of Lent. **Keep your Lenten smile going while you put your beliefs into practice. And remember: Get real! Get spiritual! Get real spiritual.** God bless always.

-Father Chuck

WEEKLY MASS PRAYERS

MARCH 10, 2024-FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

MARCH 10, 2024-FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

FIRST READING

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem. Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power. All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah: "Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled." In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing: "Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. On the aspens of that land we hung up our harps.

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! For there our captors asked of us the lyrics of our songs, And our despoilers urged us to be joyous: "Sing for us the songs of Zion!"

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! How could we sing a song of the LORD in a foreign land? If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand be forgotten!

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! May my tongue cleave to my palate if I remember you not, If I place not Jerusalem ahead of my joy.

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

SECOND READING

Eph 2:4-10

Brothers and sisters:

God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved —, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ,
King of endless glory!

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so everyone who believes in him might
have eternal life.

GOSPEL

Jn 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

"Gift Card Sunday"

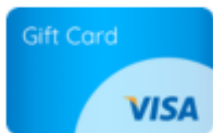
The weekend of March 16th & 17th, which is the Fifth Sunday of Lent, we will be having a special

"Gift Card Sunday"

for the benefit of our Parish Social Ministry. We are asking everyone to donate gift cards when you come to Mass that weekend. Simply place your gift card donations in the baskets along with your regular weekly contributions. Our Parish Social Ministry is requesting either Stop & Shop, King Kullen, Lidl or Visa cards. Please get only these cards, for they are the only ones needed to serve our community at this time. So, remember

"Gift Card Sunday"

March 16th & 17th, the Fifth Sunday of Lent. It is the perfect way to practice some almsgiving!



LENT 2024

The Holy Season of Lent is an opportunity for all Christians to grow in faith through prayer, fasting and works of charity. St. Raymond Parish offers the following opportunities to assist you on your spiritual journey. Perhaps you can join us for some of these prayer gatherings during the coming weeks. Hopefully, we may all grow in our personal and communal experiences of Jesus during the holy time.

So, join us often and anytime.



We'd love to see you!



Additional Daily Mass

There will be an additional daily Mass at 12:15pm every week day throughout Lent.

Stations of the Cross

Will be prayed every Friday during Lent at 7:00pm in the church.

Eucharistic Adoration

In the Church every Thursday from 1-4pm and the First Friday of every month from 7:30-8:30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions are heard every Saturday in the church from 3:30-4:30pm, or by appointment at the rectory

Special Holy Hours

Tuesday March 5th
7:00-8:00pm in the church
Exposition-Adoration-Prayer-Reflection-
Music & Benediction



EASTER MASSES OF REMEMBRANCE

Many people like to request the intention for a Mass on Easter Sunday. Since there are a limited number of Masses for Easter, all requests are not able to be fulfilled.

Therefore, there will be a special Novena of Masses for Easter: the Easter Masses of Remembrance. Those who you mention will be remembered at all the Masses during the Easter season. Special envelopes have been mailed with the regular envelope packet and in the Easter mailing to all parishioners. They are also available on the front side pews and the back pews by the doors of the church. Simply fill out the intentions 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 wooded boxes marked "Easter Masses." Please do so by Sunday March 31st. Thank you!

-Father Chuck

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - FAITH FORMATION

Lucy Ostermann, Director



Faith Formation

Attention 7th & 8th Grade Parents/Students

7th & 8th grade Religious Education students will go to Confession on Monday & Tuesday 3/11 & 3/12 during class time – (7pm-8pm). An e-mail was sent to the parents with details for both evenings.

During this season of Lent, we have decided to have our students give to the members of their community who are in need. Our 2nd & 3rd grade students during the month of March will be providing items that are needed by our Social Ministry. They are asked to bring in toothbrushes and toothpaste, small size laundry detergent, small size sugar and pancake mix or syrup. Our 4th, 5th & 6th grade students during the month of March will provide the following items for Social Ministry – shampoo and conditioner, bar soap, cans of coffee, peanut butter or jelly.

Our 7th & 8th grade students will be making up quart size sandwich bags filled with travel-size toiletries for the homeless. We have partnered with Catholic Charities and are hoping that our students are able to help those in need especially during this Lenten season.

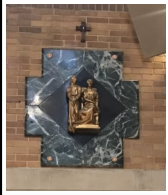


1st Grade Mass



THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

STATIONS 1-7

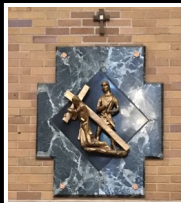
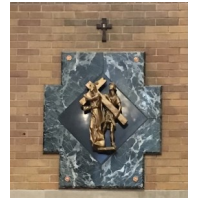


THE FIRST STATION-JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DIE

Just as Jesus was wrongfully accused, sometimes people falsely place blame on me to escape the responsibility themselves. And yes, sometimes I also put others down in order to build myself up. When Jesus was condemned to death, even those who had once followed Him went along with Pilate. Do I care more about being accepted by those around me than returning your love? Help me Lord. Be with me Lord.

THE SECOND STATION-JESUS IS GIVEN HIS CROSS

Lord, help me remember the humble and loving way You carried Your cross up to Calvary when I experience life's heavy burdens and strife. Sometimes I think I can't go on. Help me remember I am not alone. You are always with me. May I imitate Your virtues of love, humility and perseverance while dealing with my crosses and offer them up on behalf of my sins, for the sick and less fortunate. Help me to understand that there is nothing You and I can't get through together.

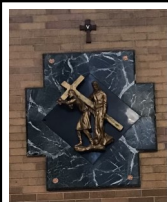
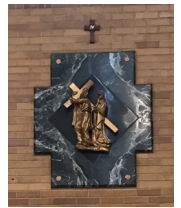


THE THIRD STATION-JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

I am like you, Jesus, in that I take up my own cross. But my cross is made up of my sins, temptation and Materialism. I carry my cross through my life, like You, Jesus, carried Your cross to Calvary. Jesus, You fell under the weight of my sins. I fall by accepting temptation and giving into evil. I fall when I give in to gossip or hurt others. You carry my sins to death so I can be free. Help me, Jesus, to really understand all that You have done for me. Help me to make my burden lighter.

THE FOURTH STATION-JESUS MET HIS MOTHER

How does anyone have the strength to watch someone they love suffer and die? Death knows no boundaries and takes everyone. I need to have the strength and faith of Mary when I am faced with the loss of a loved one. Lord, while I know death is not an end but really a beginning, please give me the strength of faith that Your mother showed, and help me to be strong for the others who are grieving.

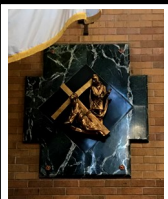
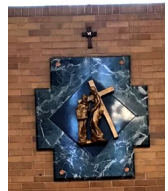


THE FIFTH STATION-SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS

I need Your help to get me through these tough situations that I encounter during my day. Help me discover my options through prayer. Please help me to be nicer to those who are against me, and let me be trusting in my relationships with my friends, family and neighbors. I have enough to handle on my own. Why, then, am I further burdened with worry about family members or friends? Why does it always seem to be me who has to take on their problems as well as my own? Lord, show me the way.

THE SIXTH STATION-VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

Every day I see people who are suffering or in need of help. They seem to be everywhere. I wish someone would help them. I'm so busy; I just don't have the time. That isn't really true. I guess I just don't want to be involved. I have my own problems, I don't need to take on any more. O Lord, teach me to see Your face in the faces of those who need comfort. You have assured us that random acts of kindness will have their own rewards, if not here and now, then later, with you in the kingdom.



THE SEVENTH STATION-JESUS FALLS AGAIN

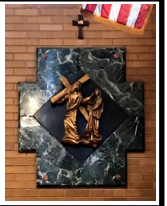
In spite of my best intentions, I am so weak and fall again. I try to do the right thing, but temptations are so strong. I know, when Jesus stumbles and falls, He is suffering greatly. He knows He must continue in order to save me and lead me on the path to God. He loves me so much that He just keeps on going-for me. With Your help, I can have the courage and the faith to get up again and continue on. Help me to pray that I will not follow my own way but, instead, the way of the Lord, for which Jesus was sacrificed.

PUT YOUR CROSS AT THE FOOT OF HIS CROSS

STATIONS 8-14

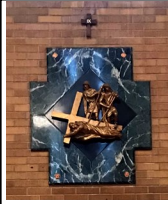
THE EIGHTH STATION-JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

How difficult I find it sometimes to think of others particularly when I am troubled or hurting. Sometimes I get so wrapped up in myself that I shut others out, and I wonder if I can go on. Lord, You have shown me love and compassion for others even when they scorn You. Please help me to look beyond the exterior of others and help me to show compassion as You did. Please don't let me be selfish. Instead, let me always be merciful in my journey through life.



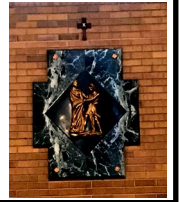
THE NINTH STATION-JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

I Sometimes fear the future. I become afraid of change. I am just so unsure of myself, let alone others. I need confidence. I need to know I am not alone. I need to understand that I am worthy of love and respect. Lord, forgive me for each day of my life that I sin against You. Sometimes I have the best intentions, but I turn away from You anyway. Help me to appreciate all you have done for me. Give me strength and wisdom to seek kindness in others and see myself in the image and likeness of God.



THE TENTH STATION-JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

My possessions are very important to me. I surround myself with beautiful and expensive things. I have far more clothes than I really need, and sometimes I spend money on silly things and forget about others who don't even have necessities. Dear Jesus, you not only sacrificed everything, You laid down Your life for me. Help me to be a strong spiritual follower in faith. Please show me the right way towards eternal happiness by following Your example.



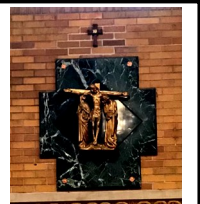
THE ELEVENTH STATION-JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

O, my God, sometimes I persecute others because they are different. I am embarrassed when I think of some of the things I've said about others. It's so easy to gossip. Sometimes I just don't like people because of their skin color or religion. Give me the courage to not give in to the pressures of putting others down. Dear Jesus, please forgive me and the others like me, and help me, instead to be Your messenger of love and care to all I meet so that they may experience Your love and concern through me.



THE TWELFTH STATION-JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Jesus, give me the strength so that I can survive the mysteries of life that are ahead of me. I know I'm going to fall many times. Give me the courage to stand back up. Let me recognize all the good things that surround me each day of my life. Our heavenly Father gave all of us a beautiful world. You even died so our sins would be forgiven. May I be like You in Your perfect example of sacrifice and love. Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.



THE THIRTEENTH STATION-JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

Lord I am truly sorry for forgetting You. I am sometimes preoccupied by my life when I should be focusing on You. I really don't know why, but I always seem to let all the things in my life crowd you out. Often, when I do pray, I do not concentrate on my prayer. I sometimes just say the words and don't pay attention to what I am saying. Help me to show that You are my first priority by setting aside time for You each day.



THE FOURTEENTH STATION-JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

Dear Jesus, following Your death, helplessness and despair was felt by many. Your death on the cross left those who really knew You empty inside. Lord, when I am feeling empty inside, help me to attain inner strength and peace to make it through the day. Knowing that You love me and believe in me, gives me the reassurance I need. Help me to face my problems, and to remember that You are with me always until the end of time.





The Sodality of Our Lady

invites women of faith to our

6th Annual Women's Day Retreat

Saturday, March 23, 2024

We will begin at the 8:45 mass then proceed
to the school cafeteria for coffee.

The presentation begins at 10:00 and concludes at 3:00
with a break for lunch at noon.

A Lenten Renewal

Presented by Sr. Marie Mackey, C&J

Topic: Paschal Mysteries and personal growth

Program Fee: \$30, including lunch

Registration Closes: Monday, March 20

Checks made payable to: Sodality of Our Lady

Please remit payment along with registration form to:

Sodality of Our Lady, St. Raymond Church

263 Atlantic Ave, East Rockaway, NY 11518

Name:

Address:

Telephone #:

Email:

Dietary Restrictions:

**If you have questions, please contact Frances Corio at 516-401-5734
or Mary Thorpe at 516-524-3103**



**ST. RAYMOND'S
HUMAN LIFE
COMMITTEE**

**SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PRAYER
PROGRAM CONCLUSION**

Your spiritually adopted baby was born this month - nine months after his or her conception. The only change at birth is a change in the external life support system of the baby. He or she is no more human and alive, no more different now, than he or she was before birth except in the manner the baby breathes and eats. This one is truly a miracle! Never before in history, nor ever again, will anyone exist that is just like your spiritually adopted baby!

This week-end we are conducting a "mini" baby shower in celebration of the baby's birth. Members of our committee will be stationed at the altar servers' sacristy, after each Mass, to accept baby items and financial donations for mothers who have brought their babies to birth and are not able to afford these items. Any gift is greatly appreciated. We would like to thank those parishioners who have, in recent months, anonymously donated baby items, hand made blankets, formula, and financial gifts to help the mothers and their babies. May God bless you for your faithfulness, generosity and caring for God's little ones and their mothers.

Please join with us in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament each Thursday during Adoration between 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm to prayer the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Rosary of Our Lady for the intention of an end to abortion and the return to the dignity, respect and protection of all God's children from conception until natural death.



*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 THRU WEDNESDAY FROM 10AM TO 3PM
(Suggested to call for an appointment)

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done."

Proverbs 19:17

"Giving, not giving up"

The number of clients served by St. Raymond's Food Pantry is currently increasing. It is becoming difficult to keep our shelves stocked, and since it is the Lenten Season, Fr. Chuck will be asking his parishioners to donate a gift card to assist the Parish Social Ministry in meeting the needs of the people they serve.

The "Gift Card" collection will be held on the weekend of March 17th at all the Masses. Gift cards to Stop and Shop, King Kullen and Lidl would greatly be appreciated. Also, Visa and MasterCard would help too. The Parish Social Ministry sincerely thanks Fr. Chuck for his continued support and also thanks to all of our parishioners for their never-ending generosity.

Pantry items needed this week: Cold Cereal, Pasta, Jarred Pasta Sauce, Canned Yams, Beets, White Potatoes, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Mustard, Sugar, Deodorant, Snacks, Shaving Cream, Deodorant and Laundry Detergent.

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. Also, donations can be left in the bin on the porch or in the Altar Servers Sacristy.

May God's blessings shower upon all of you!

STEP BY STEP WALK THROUGH THE MASS
DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME
FATHER LUKE SPANNAGEL
NATIONAL EUCHARIST REVIVAL BLOG



The Creed



"I believe in one God..." We all likely recognize these words as the beginning of the Creed which we say together after the homily. Besides needing to stand up and stretch our legs after the homily, why do we have the Creed?

What is the Creed

According to the glossary of our Catechism, a creed is "a brief, normative summary statement or profession of Christian faith, e.g., the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed. The word 'Creed' comes from the Latin Credo, meaning 'I believe,' with which the Creed begins" (CCC, Glossary, s.v. "Creed"). As we will see, a creed is a collection of core truths in which we believe.

As the Catechism teaches, there have been many professions of faith that have come from Church Councils or from certain individuals. "None of the creeds from the different stages in the Church's life can be considered superseded or irrelevant. They help us today to attain and deepen the faith of all times by means of the different summaries made of it" (CCC, no. 193).

The Catechism continues that two creeds have a special place in the Church's life: the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. "The Apostles' Creed is so called because it is rightly considered to be a faithful summary of the apostles' faith" (CCC, no. 194). "The Niceno-Constantinopolitan or Nicene Creed draws its great authority from the fact that it stems from the first two ecumenical Councils (in 325 and 381). It remains common to all the great Churches of both East and West to this day" (CCC, no. 195). Although either the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed can be used in the Mass, many of us probably most often hear the Nicene Creed being used.

**A Statement of Faith and
Renewal of Belief**



How did the Creed enter the Mass? As the Diocese of Peoria instructs, "The Creed, or Profession of Faith, stems from the Ancient Church. This statement of belief was not originally written to be recited at Mass; it was rather intended as a prerequisite 'contract' for adult baptism. One would profess these essential truths of the faith before being admitted into the Church through baptism. Eventually, the Creed would be inserted into the Mass as it is today" (A Study of the Mass, p. 9). Fr. Guy Oury says, "The Fathers of the Church recommended that Christians recite [the Creed] daily, morning and evening, as a renewal of their faith and safeguard against doctrinal error"

How many of you say the Creed when you get out of bed each morning?! Jokes aside, the Fathers of the Church were really on to something here. Because the Creed is a great summary of the truths of the Faith, especially the Holy Trinity (more on that to come), knowing the Creed is a wonderful way to know some of the basics of the faith and to keep them fresh in our minds and hearts.

For Reflection:

- Per Father Luke's advice, consider beginning and/or ending your day by reciting the Creed prayerfully.
- Consider gathering with others to study the Creed, using the Catechism or another resource. One option is to study one line of the Creed each week in preparation for participation in Mass on Sunday.

Next Week: The Creed as Profession of Faith

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



*"We adore you, O Christ,
and we praise you.
Because by your holy
cross you have
redeemed the world."*
Stations of the Cross
Fridays 7-7:30PM

The Seven Last Words of Christ



The seven last words of Christ—the final phrases that Our Lord spoke during His Passion—have been the subject of Christian meditation since His death, particularly on Good Friday. Bishop Fulton Sheen preached on these seven sacred words every Good Friday for over half a century.

*"Father, forgive them, for they
know not what they do."*

The words are stunning upon impact. It wasn't enough for Jesus to say to us, "Love your enemies." He showed us how to do it. He forgave the friend who betrayed Him, the chief priests who falsely accused Him, the cowardly judge who condemned Him, the vicious crowd that called for His crucifixion, the callous soldiers who scourged Him nearly to death, nailed Him to a cross, and left Him to asphyxiate. All when He was perfectly and clearly innocent. It doesn't make forgiving our enemies seem so difficult. Though we, too, suffer hurt, betrayal, and other wounds from those who challenge our charity in this life, Christ has gone before us in all these sufferings—and we have His grace to assist us. But there's something else.

Jesus wasn't just addressing the individuals responsible for His death. He was asking His Father to have mercy on all of us. On you and me. Sure, we can say that we aren't the historical Judas, or the soldiers that nailed Him to the Cross. But our sins were the reason for His Passion—it was our sin that He atoned for with His precious Blood. Our sin tormented Him far more than any physical torture.

And strangely, paradoxically, mysteriously—the very Blood that our sins shed was the cause of their forgiveness. The Blood of Christ, which, as St. Paul says, "speaks more eloquently than that of Abel" (Hebrews 12:24), cries out to His Father for mercy, rather than for the justice that Abel's demanded. Not only His words, but His Blood, His whole being, supplicate His Father on our behalf. It makes sense that these words would be the first of His seven last words. They encapsulate the entire purpose of His Passion. They are, as it were, the opening words of the final act of His Passion, His death upon the Cross.

Eucharistic Witness Living Sacrifice in Lent By Fr. Richard Veras Magnificat Magazine



When I was a seminarian, a beloved auxiliary bishop of New York spoke to us about the seeds of his own vocation, which were planted at the beginning of a Lent many years before.

When in high school, he had asked a classmate what he was giving up for Lent, and his friend said he was not going to give up anything that year, which scandalized the young future bishop. His friend explained that his plan was to attend Mass every day of Lent.

Going from scandal to fascination, he was moved to give up his own plans for Lenten sacrifice and follow his friend in attending daily Mass. During the course of that Lent, he found himself profoundly drawn to the Mass and to the Eucharist; Jesus was becoming a real presence in his life.

He continued to come before the Lord daily in the Eucharistic sacrifice beyond that Lent, and through his seminary and priestly years, and for the rest of his life. And he told us this story with a youthful joy which animated and enlivened his aged face.

May the sacrifices of young people this Lent be enlivened by the holy and living sacrifice of Jesus made present at every Mass, and may this bear fruit in their own lives and in the life of the Church. May the Lord's voice be heard in many young hearts during this Lenten season, that he may animate disciples who will keep his real presence alive and among us for generations to come... even until the end of time!

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MARCH 23, 2024

7:00PM

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Music, Beer, Wine
and more...

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SCHOOL
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**St. Raymond's
Bereavement Ministry**

**We are offering
a Program for
those grieving
the death of a
loved one.**



**Six Sessions beginning
Thursday April 11, 2024
at 7:30 PM
in St. Raymond's
School Cafeteria**



**Register: Call the Rectory
at 516-593-5000
or fill out the form below and
send to the Rectory**

Your Name:

Address:

Best Tel. #:

Relationship to the Deceased:

 **Pot of Gold
50/50**

There will be a special "Pot of Gold 50/50" that will be held on Saturday, March 23rd. This "pot" has no lid so the "sky's the limit." The winning ticket will be pulled at the St. Patrick's Celebration, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus on the 23rd. The "Pot of Gold" tickets are always available and on sale! They are \$10 each and three for \$25.

Special "Pot of Gold" tickets were included in the March/April regular envelope mailing. Simply return the ticket stubs with payment in the envelope to the rectory, either by mail, in person or in the Sunday collection before March 23rd.

Tickets are also available for purchase at the rectory during regular office hours and as special courtesy they will be available for sale after all the Masses next weekend in the church vestibule and altar server sacristy. The more tickets sold, the greater your winning share and the greater the profit for St. Raymond's. And you don't have to be Irish to win; but a wee bit of leprechaun luck wouldn't hurt now would it!



Remember!

***Three for only \$25
or \$10 each and the
"Sky's the limit!"***

St. Joseph
Spouse of Mary

Feast Day
March 19th



Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interests and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

Amen

St. Patrick
Patron of Ireland

Feast Day
March 17th



May the Strength of God pilot us.
May the Power of God preserve us.
May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
May the Hand of God protect us.
May the Way of God direct us.
May the Shield of God defend us.
May the Host of God guard us.
Against the snares of the evil ones.
Against temptations of the world.

May Christ be with us!

May Christ be before us!

May Christ be in us, Christ be over all!

May Thy Salvation, Lord, Always be ours!

This day, O Lord, and evermore.

Amen

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 Doreen Dolan 516-593-5000



**St. Joseph,
defender of
families,
pray for us.**

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



As Catholics, we are called to bring the light of Christ to others. Let your light attract others to Christ through good works, compassion and patience.



**Because no marriage is beyond hope...
A marriage-saving program her in the
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Retrouvaille can help.

Our Next Weekend is April 26-28, 2024

Immaculate Conception Seminary, Huntington

To register of for more information:

1-800-470-2230 HelpOurMarriage.org

-Is your marriage tearing you apart?

-Do you feel hurt and angry?

-Does talking make it worse?

-Thought of leaving or divorce?

-Is your marriage heading in the wrong direction?

HelpOurMarriage.org Retrouvaille is a practical program for married couples facing difficult challenges It is not a marriage retreat, or counseling. You will not be asked to share the personal details of your story.

Retrouvaille is different; it's a way to improve your communication, help you reconnect, and build a healthy, happier, stronger marriage.

Catholic in origin, couples of all faiths, or no faith background, are welcome to attend. We are a Christian Peer Ministry offering tens of thousands of marriages hope in over 160 communities world-wide.



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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!



**JOIN US IN SHARING KINDNESS
TO OTHERS!!**

St. Raymond's Parish Social Ministry is in need of volunteers to help stock shelves, pack groceries, make appointments, greet clients and assist them with food pickup. The food pantry is open from Monday through Wednesday from 10am to 3pm. As a volunteer, you would work two and a half hours, either morning or afternoon, one day a week.

**For more information please
call 516-887-9197**

2024

**CATHOLIC
MINISTRIES
APPEAL**

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*Revitalizing our Faith –
Renewed by the Eucharist*



Dear Friends:

"... the Lord speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, especially in the faces and the stories of those who are in need." - Pope Francis

The Lenten season is an opportunity to grow closer to the Lord and to prepare ourselves for His Resurrection on Easter. It is a time of true inner conversion of the heart as we seek to faithfully follow Christ's will.

This year's CMA theme, Revitalizing Our Faith – Renewed by the Eucharist, exemplifies this calling as we restore an understanding and fidelity to the great mystery of Jesus Christ really and truly present in the Eucharist.

Jesus selflessly gives himself to us in the Eucharist as spiritual nourishment. Your gift to the Catholic Ministries Appeal truly brings the real presence and spiritual nourishment of Jesus to more than 600,000 people each year.

The Catholic Ministries Appeal assists thousands of individuals on Long Island each year by supporting seminarians through their discernment and formation, evangelization programs to adults and our youth, and through Catholic Charities and parish outreach programs that provide food and shelter to seniors, veterans, the homeless and people with disabilities.

I personally invite you to continue this mission by joining me in making a gift to the 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal. Please do so to the best of your ability-- every gift matters, regardless of the size. Please remember that 100% of every dollar raised is restricted to fund the objectives, programs, and mission supported by the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

Finally, let me remind you, that if you are unable to make a gift at this time due to circumstances in your life—please reach out to the parish at any time, so that we may help you in any way that we can. You are never alone.

May God bless you, your loved ones and our parish as we begin our Lenten journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ



Sodality of Our Lady of the Annunciation

March Meeting:

Monday, March 18, 2024

Place: St. Raymond's Cafeteria

Time: 7:30 pm

We will honor St. Joseph and St. Patrick at this meeting!

Wear green or red as we sing Irish and Italian tunes and enjoy a game of Trivia.

Come and join us for a fun evening !

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

Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn

Gives Back !

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



Ocean Financial Federal Credit Union 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.

FORMED

This week on **FORMED...**



Made for Heaven | Lent with Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR
Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR, invites us to join him on the journey into the wilderness this Lent to become holy—because we are made for heaven. Are you ready to enter the wilderness with Jesus to experience grace, freedom, and transformation with our Lord?

New episodes will be released every Sunday at 9am EST



**GO TO THE ST. RAYMOND
WEBSITE FOLLOW THE**

FORMED

LINK TO REGISTER...IT'S FREE!

Masses for this week

Monday, March 11th

7:15am Viviana Reyes (living)
8:45am Souls in Purgatory
12:15pm Carolyn Talbot (living)

Tuesday, March 12th

7:15am Father Michael Dosch (living)
8:45am Donald Laux
12:15pm Tanya & Tatianna

Wednesday, March 13th

7:15am Merlinda Nanez (living)
8:45am Simona Voigt
12:15pm Jane Donlon

Thursday, March 14th

7:15am Franchill Cine
8:45am Carol Gottcent
12:15pm Nocturnal Adoration

Friday, March 15th

7:15am St. Raymond Parish
8:45am Patricia Shanagan
12:15pm Maryellen Sullivan-Chiarelo

Saturday, March 16th

8:45am Marie Maloy
5:00pm Joan Alexander

Sunday, March 17th

7:30am Steven Albergo
9:00am Eric Guzzo
10:30am Sodality of Our Lady
12:00pm Schreiber/Murphy Families,
Mark Dejak, Dennis McDougal,
Lillian Colasuonno, Patrick Arnao, Jr.,
Robert Mos, Vincent Madonna
4:30pm St. Raymond Parish

Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday

Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday

Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday

Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday

Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47

Friday

Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday

Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53

Sunday

Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45



Please Pray for Our Sick

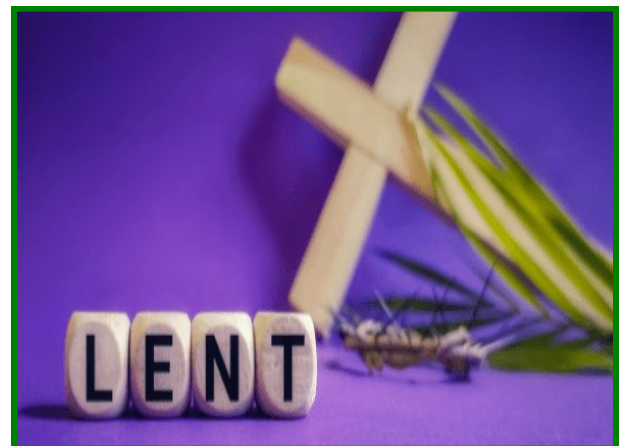
James R., Baby Brady, Mike L.,
Jodi Neckles, Baby Faith Madison,
Baby Cooper Graham, Michael McPike,
Christine I., Samir. Leo B., Maureen
Condiss, Bennett William Chevalier,
Mary Lynch, Maureen McCarthy,
Fr. Don Hansen, Nick S., Dawn,
Jay Witemeyer, Christine Gillidan,
Linda Dagostino, Joseph DelGiorno,
Rory Romano, Timothy Murphy,
Karen Pagnotta, Colleen Popp

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



Rest in Peace

Anthony James DeMarinis



Parish Bulletin Board

Divorced or Separated Catholic of Long Island including Widows, Widowers and Singles

Tuesday March 19th at 7:00pm
St. Frances Club

1869 Wantagh Avenue Wantagh, NY
(Parking in the rear of the building)

Non-Denominational
ALL ARE WELCOME!

A social organization for single persons
New Member Orientation Meeting
Bring Proof of Single Status To Join
Annual Dues are \$30 Refreshments following the

meeting. For Further Information, please call also to verify there will be a meeting.

Terry 516-650-5528 or
Maryanne 516-205-2590



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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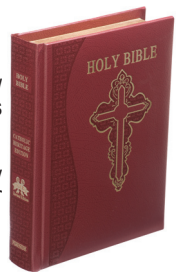
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Parishioner & East Rockaway resident

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