

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 3, 2024

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000

“Take these out of here, and stop making
my Father’s house a marketplace.”

-John 2:15



March 3, 2024

Third 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 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.

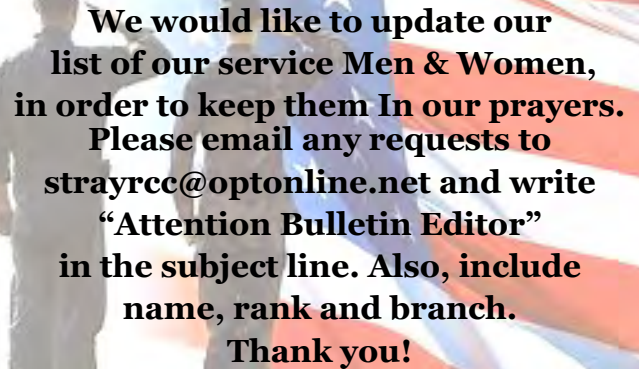
Music Ministries

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

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.

Father Chuck's Corner

Greetings and God's continued Lenten blessings be yours on the Third Sunday of Lent! Today's readings encourage us to realize that no matter what, at every turn, God is ready to help us. And this is especially true whenever we receive him in the Eucharist and encounter him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The first reading from Exodus enumerates God's commandments in detail trying to show the Israelites how they were to live this new covenant relationship they had with God. And it all starts with the first commandment: **"You shall not have other gods besides me."** If they deviated from this commandment, all else would fall apart. Then in the second reading from 1 Corinthians, Paul tells these new Christians that they don't need signs or wisdom. All they need do is proclaim Jesus Christ crucified. All else is in vain. **"For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength."** And finally, John's gospel depicts the scene when Jesus chased out the money changers from the temple. He was dismayed at seeing that the temple had been desecrated in such a way and its holiness compromised by making it a marketplace. **"Take these out of here and stop making my Father's house a marketplace."**

When Jesus shows his outrage at the temple scene in today's gospel, he makes a very outrageous statement: **"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."** Jesus was talking about his body and comparing it to the temple, the holiest of places. Was Jesus saying that he was as holy as the temple, the place where God dwelled? You bet he was. This is really a beautiful image, and it applies, not only to Jesus but also to describe our own bodies. It's the term the Church uses. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Huh? Sounds kooky, but it's true. Not in the same way as Jesus. He is God and the Savior of the world. Yet the term applies nonetheless, because God made us in his image, to be good with a dignity that can't be forfeited. And God loves us beyond all measure and Jesus promised to send his Spirit which means that God does indeed dwell within us. In other words, we were created in a certain way, for a certain purpose, with a God-given dignity, to be holy. That means sharing kindness, mercy, compassion, and love...you name it. And when we see ourselves this way, even the Ten Commandments are seen in a new light. They are no longer rules imposed from outside, but rather are deep truths that show us what is most real and authentic in ourselves.

Living this way is what will make us happy and fulfilled. A temple? Jesus was a perfect one, no doubt about it. May we also strive to be the best temples we can be, trusting that God will raise us up too.

This coming Tuesday evening, March 5th, we will have our third and final special **Lenten Holy Hour** from 7-8pm in the church. In the spirit of the Eucharistic Revival this is a great way to spend some quality spiritual time in the third week of Lent. Eucharistic Adoration is the best way for us to open our hearts to Jesus so that we may grow closer to him during Lent. The hour will consist of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, scripture, time for quiet prayer, a reflection, music and ending with Benediction. So, if you can make it again or for the first time, please come and join us for this hour with Jesus. And bring a friend.

Next Sunday, March 10th the Human Life Committee will be collecting baby items at all the Masses in the altar server sacristy. This collection coincides with the ninth and final month of this year's Adopt a Baby program. We have been praying together for the babies we adopted and now we have a sort of **"Baby Shower"** in anticipation of all their births. Thank you for your prayers and generosity to these babies in need.

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), an invitation to the **St. Patrick's Celebration** on Saturday, March 23rd, hosted by the Knights of Columbus, ads for the **Sodality of Our Lady's "Retreat Day" and "Scholarship Exam,"** 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 Lent. **Smile, share and live in the dignity God created you with. Plus remember: Maybe you have given God a thousand reasons not to love you. None of them have changed his mind.** God bless always.

-Father Chuck



WEEKLY MASS PRAYERS

MARCH 3, 2024-THIRD 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 3, 2024-THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

FIRST READING

Ex 20:1-17

In those days, God delivered all these commandments: "I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me. You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation; but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished the one who takes his name in vain. "Remember to keep holy the sabbath day. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you. In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy. "Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him."

SECOND READING

1 Cor 1:22-25

Brothers and sisters:
Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

19:8, 9, 10, 11

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life. The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul; The decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the command of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eye.

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true, all of them just.

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life. They are more precious than gold, than a heap of purest gold; sweeter also than syrup or honey from the comb.

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

GOSPEL

Jn 2:13-25

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, *Zeal for your house will consume me*. At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken. While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.

Abstinence and Fasting

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth year are bound to abstain entirely from meat/poultry on **Ash Wednesday** and all the **Fridays of Lent**. All Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine inclusive are also bound to observe the law of fast on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day. Those whose work or health would be impaired and excused from fast and abstinence. Individual conscience should decide proper cause for excuse. A more serious reason is required to excuse oneself from **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** fast and abstinence.

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

During the
*Season
of Lent*
contemplate
your heart and
look at our
world with
Hope.

Artwork: Mary Judine Bruch, BVM

"The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the Church and to the whole world... Let Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament speak to your hearts. It is he who is the true answer of life that you seek."

-Saint John Paul II



SPECIAL HOLY HOURS

Exposition-Adoration-Prayer-Reflection-Music-Benediction

THE FOLLOWING TUESDAY:

MARCH 5, 2024

7:00PM - 8:00PM ST. RAYMOND CHURCH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - FAITH FORMATION

Lucy Ostermann, Director



Faith Formation

ATTENTION 1ST GRADE PARENTS

The 5th First Grade Parent/Student meeting will be held on Sunday 3/3/2024. Parent(s) and their child are asked to come to the auditorium at 11am for their lesson then everyone will go to the 12Noon Mass where the lesson will continue.

Please remember to bring your child's workbook, Bible, pencil and folder.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE STAFF CHANGES

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to one of our office staff workers – Mrs. Elizabeth Gaeta. Liz has been with us for over a year and a half and she has aided us tremendously in transitioning our program. She and her husband, John, are retiring and will relocate to New Jersey. We wish both John & Liz all the best in the world.

All of Liz's efforts will never be forgotten.

We are happy to announce that Mrs. Stephanie Paul will take over Liz's position. Stephanie has expressed an interest in joining the Religious Education office for many years and now she is finally able to become part of our team. Stephanie is a wonderful catechist who has been teaching for years three weekly grades for each of her daughter's classes. Stephanie also holds a trustee position with the Village of East Rockaway. She is eager and willing to take on any task that needs to be done. We have complete trust that she will flourish in her new position in our program. Welcome, Stephanie!



*The Students of
St. Raymond*



Join
Bishop Andrzej

Light of the World Series

Date: Thursday, March 7, 2024

Time: 7:30pm

Place: St. Raymond's Cafeteria



**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



When you enter church for Mass, are you conscious of the way you act and/or dress? This Lenten season, be sure to wear your Sunday best (and make that a habit even after Lent) and when you sit in your pew, pray before God—don't scroll through text messages on your phone.



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, CSJ

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

For anyone who is experiencing an unplanned pregnancy and is upset, scared, worried, alone or is being pressured to have an abortion, please give yourself time. Abortion is a serious life-changing decision. It may seem like a quick and easy solution to the "problem" you have now, but it can lead to terrible issues later. Learn the truth first. The majority of women will deeply regret going through with their abortion. If you have already made an appointment, you don't have to go through with it. You can miss it. Or, if you are there already, you can leave. This decision is too big to be rushed. Please call the following number for free, confidential, caring help and information.

**Women First (Life Center)
#516-798-9100**

(Services offered in English and Spanish)

Abortion Pill Reversal

More than half of the abortions today are chemical abortions. This abortion method is a two part regimen. The first pill, RU-486, blocks progesterone which protects the lining of the uterus, causing it to break down. The second pill, Misoprostol, taken 24-28 hours later, causes contractions, cramping, bleeding and an unnatural miscarriage. If the woman changes her mind and has taken only the first pill and receives the reversal medicine within 72 hours, there is a 64%-68% of a successful reversal. Please call the following number for more information:

**Abortion Pill Reversal Hotline
#877-558-0333 (24/7) patient line
abortionpillreversal.com
info@apr.life**



Spiritual Adoption Prayer Program Conclusion

**Date: Weekend of
March 9th and 10th
(after each Mass)**

**Location
Altar Servers'
Sacristy**

Your spiritually adopted baby was born this month. He or she is no more human and alive, no more different now, than before he or she was before birth except in the manner the baby breathes and eats. In celebration, we will be conducting a "mini" baby shower. Volunteers will be stationed at the altar servers' sacristy to accept financial donations, disposable diapers (all sizes needed), formula, wipes, new baby clothing (up to 24 months) for mothers who cannot afford these items. Any gift will be appreciated. May God bless you for your faithfulness in prayer and caring for the baby and mother.



STEP BY STEP WALK THROUGH THE MASS

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

FATHER LUKE SPANNAGEL

NATIONAL EUCHARIST REVIVAL BLOG



How to Engage With the Homily

Why are Homilies so long anyway? To answer that question, we start by realizing that we don't always understand the Word of God perfectly when we first read it. Whenever we read a Bible passage, we should ask ourselves: "What is God saying here?" Sometimes it is pretty easy to listen to God; sometimes, it is not so easy. Sometimes reading the Bible can answer questions that we have; sometimes reading only seems to bring more questions. We humbly recognize that understanding everything about God and us is not always super-easy. So, in humility, we realize we need help. That is where the preachers of the Word come in—those who have been given a special grace to help God's people understand better his communication with us. With years of prayer and study, some preachers can become incredible resources, such as Cardinal Newman, who was known to preach on average about an hour and a half for every sermon!

Drawing Everyone Closer



In the homily, the bishop, priest, or deacon tries his best to help us hear what God is saying. We try to explain the Scripture and apply it to our lives in the local area. As we said last time, the whole point is to draw each heart in the congregation closer to Jesus. This is really important: the priest seeks out each heart. That is why sometimes the homily focuses on something you already know, do, or believe; that is why the homily might not always be perfectly on track with what you are thinking about. Because there are a lot of people in the pews with different backgrounds and experiences, preaching a homily that directly addresses everyone can be a little tricky. Have you noticed that sometimes the preacher says the same thing in a couple of ways? This is one way of helping different people to understand the same message.

Listening with Open Hearts

Make no mistake about it, though—the homily is not just the preacher trying to help people understand God's message to us. One of the most important parts of the

homily involves everyone sitting in the pews: all are invited to listen with an open heart. Each one is encouraged to follow the homily in his or her heart, taking in what is helpful and being on the lookout for the true needs of the heart.

If we believe that God is working through the ordained clergy who are preaching, then there will always be something in the homily for us; we just have to listen for it.

Another important part of listening to the homily is an openness to being challenged. If we think we already know it all (or enough), our hearts won't be ready to receive God's message to us through the preacher. We have to be ready to admit that we don't know everything and that we don't always understand everything perfectly. Listening to the homily takes some humility. I recall one of the seminary professors at Mount St. Mary's—Sister Joan—who had listened to decades of homilies day after day, including thousands by deacons in the seminary who were still learning their way. Even though she knew so much more than we did, even though at times it seemed we were trying her patience, she was always there in the front row, ready to listen attentively. What great humility! The preacher needs this same humility also, which is why we said above that he tries his best. Remember that when you hear something challenging, it is the preacher's duty to proclaim the truth, and perhaps could be God calling you closer to his heart through the preacher's very words.

This being said, we all know that the homily to the congregation is not always a spectacular touchdown pass. Sometimes we are distracted or tired. Sometimes we hope the preacher will speak on something in the readings that interests us, but he doesn't get to it. Whatever the case, the Lord only asks us to give a good effort at true listening, knowing there will be something there that will help us.

For Reflection:

· Pray with the account of the Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26–40. As you conclude your prayer, give thanks for those ordained ministers who help us understand and respond to God's Word in Scripture.

Next Week: The Creed

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

Lenten Holy Hours

Tuesday: March 5th

Eucharistic Exposition-Adoration-Prayer-Reflection-
Music-Benediction



The Eucharist is the only adequate way to approach our shadows

By Fr. Peter John Cameron, OP



*Reality is replete with challenges
and enigmas and contradictions.*

*Let us allow God's own light to
make our shadows flee.*

St. Thomas Aquinas helps us.

St. Thomas Aquinas, as evidenced by his many moving hymns, possessed a limitless, profound devotion to the Holy Eucharist. For St. Thomas, the Eucharist was the only adequate way to approach reality, replete as it is with its challenges and enigmas and contradictions. The ineffable power of the Eucharist to enlighten, to enable, to animate, to renew cannot be overstated. St. Thomas wrote:

No one can fully express the sweetness of this Sacrament in which spiritual delight is tasted at its very source, and in which we renew the memory of that surpassing love for us which Christ revealed in his Passion. It was to impress the vastness of this love more firmly upon the hearts of the faithful that our Lord instituted this sacrament at the Last Supper.

We can feel the heart of St. Thomas in his hymn "Lauda Sion":

*On the Table of the King, Our new Paschal offering Brings
to end the olden rite; Here for empty shadows fled, Is Reality
instead; here instead of darkness Light.*

If we long for the shadows in our life to flee, and for God's own light to replace the darkness that enshrouds us, let us abandon ourselves to the wonder and grace of the Eucharist. We can pray with St. Thomas as we prepare to receive Holy Communion:

I come as infirm to the Physician of life, as unclean to the fountain of mercy, as blind to the light of eternal splendor, as poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. I implore the abundance of your immense bounty that you would grant to cure my infirmity, to wash away my uncleanness, to enlighten my blindness, to enrich my poverty, to clothe my nakedness that I may receive the Bread of angels, the King of kings, the Lord of hosts.



Eucharistic Witnesses Saints Perpetua and Felicity Martyrs (+203)

Feast: March 7th

When we use Eucharistic Prayer I at Mass, we ask God for the ability to emulate a litany of saints. Sure, we recognize the apostles' names, but the others are less certain. Who were these people? Two of them were Felicity and Perpetua, North African women martyred very early in the third century. While their story isn't conventionally exciting, their quiet confidence and trust in Christ and their steadfastness in their faith can teach us much about living a Christian life today.

We are called to loyalty to Christ even before loyalty to our loved ones:

Like many of our own families today, Perpetua's family was divided in their beliefs. Her father pleaded desperately for Perpetua to renounce her Faith but she refused. St. Perpetua knew wholeheartedly that her identity was solely in Christ. Her loyalty was to Jesus who saved her, even before loyalty to the father who raised her, provided for her throughout her life, and truly loved her and wanted what he believed to be the best for her.

Any situation can be transformed by love:

While we may never experience so drastic a situation as a prison, we can transform the situations in which we feel trapped, discontent, rejected, or alone by focusing on who and how well we love.

We have a responsibility to pray for the souls in Purgatory:

While she was in prison, St. Perpetua prayed faithfully every day, and offered up her sufferings for her brother who had died. The poor souls in Purgatory, unable to pray or obtain any merits for themselves any longer, rely on us for our prayers and intercession.

HERE'S YOUR INVITATION TO THE



ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION



FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

COME ENJOY THE RICH IRISH TRADITIONS, COMPLETE DINNER,
IRISH MUSIC (BY THE McSWITCH), IRISH DANCING,
BAGPIPES, GUINNESS, IRISH COFFEE AND SWEETS
ALL INCLUDED, SO GET A TABLE OF FRIENDS TO ENJOY.

MARCH 23, 2024

7:00PM



AT ST. RAYMOND'S
SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM



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TICKETS ARE ONLY \$60PP
SENIOR DISCOUNT \$50PP (65+YRS)
TABLES OF 10 WELCOME!
CHARLES PEKNIC AT 516-732-0691
(TICKETS ON SALE NOW... LIMITED SEATING)



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. 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:

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



Bridget Greene & Connor Dorney

Married at
St. Raymond's Church
in March 2024



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's Parish Social Ministry
The Ryan House*

"The Heart of the Parish"

12 Roosevelt Avenue, Lynbrook, NY 11563
516-887-9197

**NEW FOOD PANTRY HOURS OF OPERATION
EFFECTIVE MARCH 4, 2024**

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY from 10am to 3pm
(Suggested to call for an appointment)

*"But love your enemies, and do good and lend,
expecting nothing in return and your reward
will be great." Luke 6:35*

Food assistance is available for those in need who live within our Parish boundaries. During the month of January 2024, our Parish Social Ministry assisted 88 households with food, personal care items, household items and other services they needed. Our client number has increased in the last few months and we truly appreciate all of your donations that help us provide for these people. Also, if you are a senior citizen, living within the Parish boundaries, and depend on your Social Security benefit as your sole source of income, please call our office and we can assist you with food.

Pantry items needed this week:

Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup, Cold Cereal, Jell-O or Pudding, Coffee, Juice, Sugar, Canned Potatoes, Corn and Carrots, Ketchup, Baked Beans Peanut Butter, Grape Jelly, Cannelloni and Pinto Beans, Chick Peas, Jarred Pasta Sauce and Snacks.

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.

May God's blessings shower upon all of you!



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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



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

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




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**Ocean Financial
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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 4th

7:15am Bob Duffy
8:45am Grace Ligarzewski-50th Anniversary
12:15pm St. Raymond Parish

Tuesday, March 5th

7:15am John Belcher
8:45am Richard Gottcent
12:15pm James P. Sullivan

Wednesday, March 6th

7:15am Peter Eagan
8:45am Peter Broughal
12:15pm LeeAnn O'Keffe

Thursday, March 7th

7:15am Michael Patrick Keahon
8:45am Mary Sellitti
12:15pm Cathy Turner

Friday, March 8th

7:15am Christina Cautero (living)
8:45am Loretta & Edward O'Connell
12:15pm Anne Hoffman

Saturday, March 9th

8:45am Tome Olie, Henry Berg,
Richard McInerney
5:00pm Terese L. Campbell

Sunday, March 10th

7:30am John Iannuzzi
9:00am Patricia Kemmel
10:30am Domenica Cuscino
12:00pm Fred Santucci, Carmel McHugh,
Cathy Turner, Walter Wojciechowski,
Matthew Sheehy, Margie Anne Edelson
Richard McInerney
4:30pm St. Raymond Parish

Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday

2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday

Dn 3:25, 34-43/Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday

Dt 4:1, 5-9/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday

Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23

Friday

Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday

Hos 6:1-6/Lk 18:9-14

Sunday

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41



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

Benjamin Charles Cortese

Helen Marie Delpizzo

Jane Donlon



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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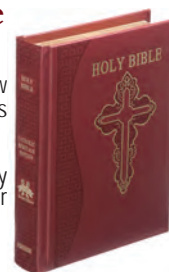
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