

Masses

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

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

Pastoral Team

Pastor

Father Chuck Romano

Associate Pastors

Father Theodore Iloh

Deacons

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

Director of Religious Education

Mrs. Lucy Ostermann

Saint Raymond Convent

Sr. Ruthanne Gypalo, I.H.M.
Sr. Lorraine Studley, I.H.M

South Nassau Hospital Chaplain

Father Cornelius Dery

Parish Staff

Music Ministry

Laura Garbitelli

Folk Group

AnnMarie Lynch

Plant Manager

Steve Bennett

Parish Secretary

Doreen Dolan

Bulletin Editor

Linda Ohlsen

The Parish of St. Raymond

A Eucharistic Community of Faith, Love and Friendship

Sunday, December 31, 2023

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000

“The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.”

-Luke 2:40



December 31, 2023

Feast of the Holy Family

January 1, 2024

Feast of Mary the Mother of God

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



The Rectory office will be closed tomorrow, Tuesday, January 2nd in observance of New Year's Day.

The office will reopen on Wednesday January 3rd as usual. Best wishes for a happy & healthy New Year!



The Catholic Faith Network (CFN)

Broadcast of the Celebration of the Eucharist:

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

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

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

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

St. Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre, NY

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

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

St. Patrick's Cathedral, NY

Monday – Friday at 6:30 pm ET



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

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

Greetings and God's continues Christmas blessings be your as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family! This feast is part of the Christmas season which lasts until the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus. The message from today's readings is that God has been faithful throughout salvation history and will continue to be faithful to us. What a crazy sort of command God gave Abram in today's first reading from Genesis. He wanted him to look up at the sky and count all the stars, for that would be the number of his descendants. And this with Abram's wife Sarah being well beyond child-bearing age. Yet Abram did as God commanded. **"Abram put his faith in the Lord, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness."** Then in the second reading from Hebrews, we see the newly named Abraham told to trust in God even more. He followed where God told him to move and even was willing to offer his son Isaac as in sacrifice as commanded by God. **"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go."** And by faith Abraham, when put to the test, was ready to offer in sacrifice Isaac his son. And finally, Luke's gospel narrates the Fourth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary, the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. It is the faith of Mary and Joseph, not just the law that brings them to the temple. It is the law, but for them also an act of love to present their son in the temple. Here we have the fulfillment of revelation for two faithful prophets: Simeon and Anna. Long suffering in their waiting for the Messiah, they are now rewarded for their faith in old age with a glimpse of their salvation. After hearing what Simeon had to say, Mary and Joseph took Jesus home to live as a family. **"The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of the Lord was upon him."**

What makes a family holy? What makes the Holy Family **"holy?"** We know that this family is unique and has characteristics we don't have. After all the child is God. The mom was free of original sin and the dad? Well, we don't know too much about him, although he seems to be solid, upright, a faithful guy who took his responsibilities seriously. Our families don't compromise the same sort of elements. So, is the Holy Family **"holy"** in the same way we are called to be holy? Seems like an impossible mission. We do know that the Holy Family came together, how it was formed, how it came to be. And the stories surrounding the beginning of this family are incredible stories.

What comes out loud and clear is the role of God, the presence of God and the will of God. God brought them together and each of them responded to that God out of faith, despite what their wishes might have been. So, can we be holy like the Holy Family? I say yes! Now none of us are sinless like Mary and most of us fall far short of Joseph. But believing that God is the reason our families came together? Believing that God has a plan for our families? Believing that God is the glue holding it all together, challenging us to be the best husbands, wives, sons and daughters we can be? Yes! All that is possible.

Many thanks to all who gave generously in the Christmas collections at all the Masses for Christmas. Your generosity will go a long way in helping St. Raymond Parish keep up with its financial challenges and also help the needy in our community. It was also great seeing all the people who came to the Christmas Masses. Don't stop now but make it a New Year's resolution to attend Mass each Sunday. Jesus would love to see you and so would we.

Please remember to take home a copy of the bulletin when you leave Mass today. It contains many items of interest and invitation with something for everyone. Of special note is news and needs from **Parish Social Ministry**, info from **Religious Education** (Faith Formation), the **Mass Schedule** for the Feast of Mary the Mother of God (New Years Eve and Day), the **Eucharistic Revival** centerfold, the **Communal Prayer Before Mass** (found on the inside back cover of the bulletin), 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 first week of 2024! Stay in the Christmas spirit. Smile, share and remember: **You didn't come this far to only come this far.** Merry Christmas! Happy New Year and God bless always.

-Father Chuck



WEEKLY MASS PRAYERS

DECEMBER 31, 2023-FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The Gloria

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

We praise you,

we bless you,

we adore you,

we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great
glory, Lord God, Heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the

Father, You take away the sin of the
world, have mercy on us;

You take away the sin of the world,
receive our prayer; You are seated

at the right hand of the Father,

have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One;

you alone are the Lord.

You alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God, the Father.

Amen

Penitential Act

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

that I have greatly sinned,

in my thoughts and in my words,

in what I have done and

in what I have failed to do,

[Pray while striking the breast 3 times.]

through my fault, through my fault,

through my most grievous fault;

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,

all the Angels and Saints,

and you, my brothers and sisters,

to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,

the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the Only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial

with the Father; through him all things

were made. For us men and for our

Salvation he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate

of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under

Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand

of the Father. He will come again in

Glory to judge the living and the dead

and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the

Son, who with the Father and the Son is

adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and

apostolic Church. I confess one

Baptism for the forgiveness of

Sins and I look forward to the

resurrection of the dead and the

life of the world to come.

Amen.

READINGS FOR TODAY'S MASS

DECEMBER 31, 2023-FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

FIRST READING

Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying: "Fear not, Abram! I am your shield; I will make your reward very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what good will your gifts be, if I keep on being childless and have as my heir the steward of my house, Eliezer?" Abram continued, "See, you have given me no offspring, and so one of my servants will be my heir." Then the word of the LORD came to him: "No, that one shall not be your heir; your own issue shall be your heir." The Lord took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness. The LORD took note of Sarah as he had said he would; he did for her as he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time that God had stated. Abraham gave the name Isaac to this son of his whom Sarah bore him.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.
Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name; make known among the nations his deeds. Sing to him, sing his praise, proclaim all his wondrous deeds.
R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.
Glory in his holy name; rejoice, O hearts that seek the LORD! Look to the LORD in his strength; constantly seek his face.
R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.
You descendants of Abraham, his servants, sons of Jacob, his chosen ones! He, the LORD, is our God; throughout the earth his judgments prevail.
R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.
He remembers forever his covenant which he made binding for a thousand generations which he entered into with Abraham and by his oath to Isaac.
R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

SECOND READING

Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Brothers and sisters: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age --and Sarah herself was sterile--for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore. By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name." He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

ALLELUIA

Heb 1:1-2

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son.
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

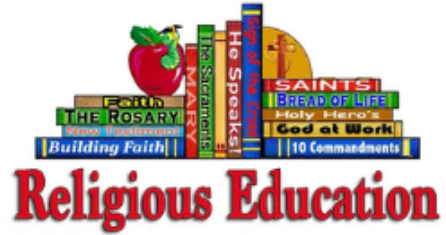
GOSPEL

Lk 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted --and you yourself a sword will pierce-- so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - FAITH FORMATION

Lucy Ostermann, Director



There are no Religious Education classes the week of 1/1/2024.
Classes will resume on Monday 1/8/2024.



Epiphany Sunday Procession

There will be an Epiphany Sunday Procession at the 12 Noon Mass on Sunday 1/7/2024. All children attending this Mass will receive a 'star' to help guide the Three Kings to visit the Savior of the world!!

Happy New Year!

During the season of transition from one to the next, may God continue to watch over you and your family.
May you have a safe and happy, healthy New Year!

Lucy, Nancy & Liz



Our Students do holiday crafts



70 Religious education students sang Christmas Carols after the 5:00pm mass! Special thanks to Sofia Abuin, Melissa Abuin and Laura Garbitelli for their help to make the carols so beautiful!! The kids did a great job. Kudos to Gina Lee, Marie Pizzaro, Lindsay Joyce, Theresa Gaffney, Kelly Desola, Joanna Agnello & Stephanie Paul.

Merry Christmas!





Feast of Mary the Mother of God

New Year's Eve

Sunday, December 31st

5:00pm

New Year's Day

Monday, January 1, 2023

9 am, 10:30am and 12 noon

and 1:30pm



THE ROSE FOR LIFE

In Memory of All Preborn Babies Who Die Through Abortion

*For Dedications call
Mary Healy 887-4062*



Nocturnal Adoration

The Nocturnal Adoration Society will meet Friday, January 5th from 7:30-8:30pm in the Church for its monthly hour of Adoration.

Nocturnal Adoration is fashioned after the Liturgy of Hours, this time of prayer is a blessed way to intensify our walk with Jesus.

Come spend some time with Jesus!



First Saturday Novena Our Lady of Fatima Rosary

January 6, 2024

8:10am

St. Raymond Church


*Near the Blessed
Mother Statue*

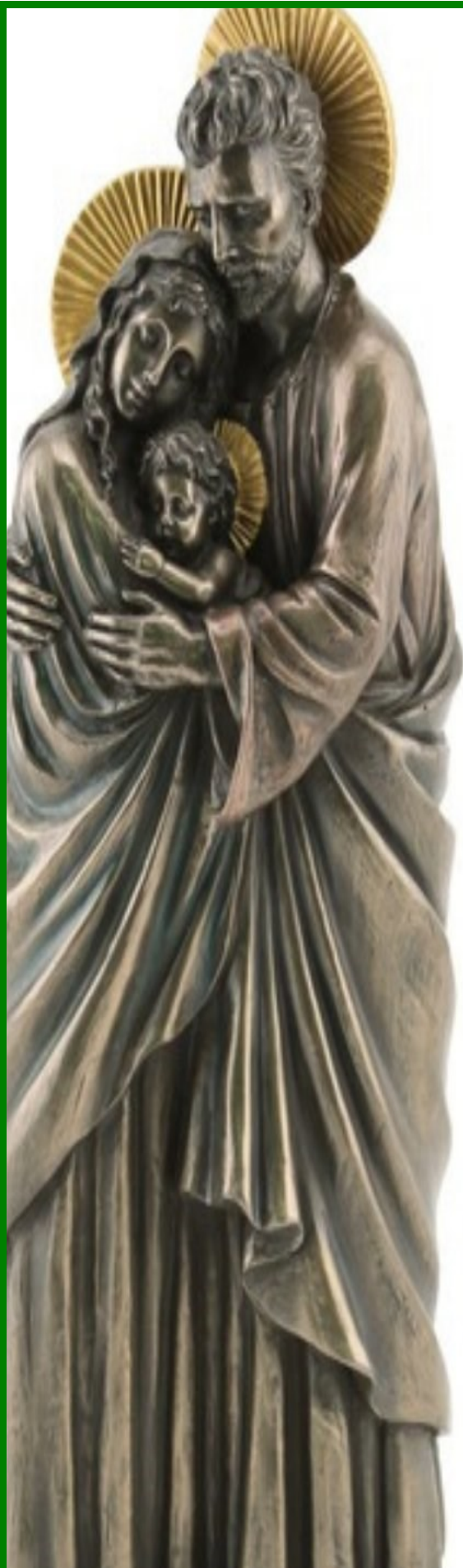
*Make Reparation for sins
against The Immaculate
Heart of Mary*

Merry Christmas

Countdown to Christmas Cash Raffle 2023

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

December 24 #3407 Prize: \$500.00	 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25TH #3148 PRIZE \$1000 </div>			November 23 #3018 Thanksgiving Day Prize: \$500.00	November 24 #3008 Prize: \$100.00	November 25 #3016 Prize: \$100.00
November 26 #3067 Prize: \$250.00	November 27 #3355 Prize: \$100.00	November 28 #3423 Prize: \$100.00	November 29 #3071 Prize: \$100.00	November 30 #3333 Prize: \$100.00	December 1 #3118 Prize: \$100.00	December 2 #3075 Prize: \$100.00
December 3 #3184 First Sunday of Advent Prize: \$250.00	December 4 #3005 Prize: \$100.00	December 5 #3082 Prize: \$100.00	December 6 #3098 Prize: \$100.00	December 7 #3139 Prize: \$100.00	December 8 #3046 Feast of the Immaculate Conception Prize: \$250.00	December 9 #3392 Prize: \$100.00
December 10 #3350 Second Sunday of Advent Prize: \$250.00	December 11 #3340 Prize: \$100.00	December 12 #3199 Prize: \$100.00	December 13 #3072 Prize: \$100.00	December 14 #3142 Prize: \$100.00	December 15 #3339 Prize: \$100.00	December 16 #3207 Prize: \$100.00
December 17 #3102 Third Sunday of Advent Prize: \$250.00	December 18 #3192 Prize: \$100.00	December 19 #3152 Prize: \$100.00	December 20 #3032 Prize: \$100.00	December 21 #3371 Prize: \$100.00	December 22 #3205 Prize: \$100.00	December 23 #130 Prize: \$100.00



Feast of the Holy Family

“GOD ALWAYS KNOCKS AT THE DOOR OF HEARTS. HE LIKES TO DO THIS. IT COMES FROM HIS HEART. BUT, DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE LIKES BEST? TO KNOCK ON THE DOORS OF FAMILIES AND FIND FAMILIES THAT ARE UNITED, TO FIND FAMILIES THAT LOVE EACH OTHER, TO FIND THE FAMILIES THAT BRING UP THEIR CHILDREN AND EDUCATE THEM AND HELP THEM TO KEEP GOING FORWARD AND THAT CREATE A SOCIETY OF GOODNESS, OF TRUTH, AND OF BEAUTY.”

- POPE FRANCIS

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS

FROM

In Memory of...

M/M Brian Irwin
Eleanora Nigro
Michael Nigro
Jack Irwin
Mary Ann Irwin

M/M Daoud Khan
Maria Perez
Clemente Perez
Mayra A. Balderas
Luis Enamorado

M/M Francis Kahn
Ms. K. Lanzetta
Sandra Johnson
Armand Lanzetta
Nettie Lanzetta
Helen Maffei
Elsie Lanzetta

M/M S. Lombardo
Mrs. Cynthia LaPollo
Thomas Lombardo
Carl LaPollo
Vera Oleanik
Mitch Oleanik
Ramon Becce

Mr. James Lores
Lorayne Lores
Manuall Lores

M/M R. Laperuta
Raymond Laperuta
Deceased Kilgannon Family

Ms. Jeanne LaSala
Frances Hess
Charles Hess
Mary Kustrin
Anton Kustrin

M/M V. LaSelva
Tony LaSelva
Mary & Dan Pignataro
Angie & Bill Laidlaw
Frank & Daniel Pignataro

Ms. Mary Ann Lynch
Nora & Bernard Lynch
Jeremih Keane
Mary Ann Mulroy

M/M Sean Lynch
Nora & Bernard Lynch
Jerry Keane
Mary Ann Mulroy

Donald Maloy
Maloy Family
Marie Rose Maloy
Donald J. Maloy, Jr.

M/M S. Marrandino
Mrs. Janet Matthews
John T. Matthews, Sr.

M/M John Mauro, Jr.
M/M Edward Archibald
Michela Family
Vulpis Family
Farinacci Family
All Family & Friends

Mrs. Gail McCarthy
John P. McCarthy
Downie & McCarthy Families

Ms. Maureen McCarthy
Teresa & Dick McCarthy
Elizabeth Boland

M/M R. McCauley
Kristianna McCauley Reily
Ann M. Kennedy

M/M T. McCormack
Louisa White
Veronica T. McCormack

Ms. Mary Ann McDonnell
James McDonnell
McDonnell & Loakhart Families

Mrs. Hugh McGrane
Hugh McGrane

FROM

In Memory of...

Mrs. Mary McGrory
Kay & John O'Connor & Family
Margaret & Paddy Cullin
Thomas Gilligan
Mary & Michael O'Malley

Mrs. Connie McDougal
George & Dennis McDougal
Mary Ann & Jim Mulroy
Jeanne Marie Mulroy

Murray Family
M/M Gerald Murphy
Donation
Les Price
Michelle Castellaneta
Nicholas Murphy
Dolly & Pat Castellaneta
Bob Murray

Mrs. Robert Murray
Murray & Brett Family
Cussen, Heslin & McCully Family

Mrs. Dorothy Minutello
Patrick Minutello
M/M Joseph Mistretta
Lucy & Carl Mistretta
Phyllis Ragusa
Philip & Mildred Ragusa
Roy & Christine Ragusa

Mrs. G. O'Brien
O'Hanlon Family
Marija & Boris Markoc
John F. O'Hanlon
Stephen T. Carroll

M/M Dennis Ostermann
John & Jennie Gaeta
Frank & Veronica Ostermann

Mrs. G. Papatomas
Joe Papatomas
Jack Herbert

M/M Charles Peknic
George W. Buell Family
Charles F. Peknic Family

Mrs. Sally Perry
George Perry
Mrs. Dorothy Pignataro
Frank & Daniel Pignataro
Gertrude, Charles, Joan Klein Klaus
Mary & Donato Pignataro
Michael & Mark Brennan
Vitantonio LaSelva
Angie & Willy Laidlae

M/M Robert Powers
Powers & Moran Families
M/M Herb Pritchard
Alice & Cornelias McKinney
M/M John Profitlich
John Profitlich
Colleen Blanchard
Maureen Taylor
James Taylor

Rehm-Shapiro Family
Fr. Charles Romano
Rehm & Shapiro Familis
Dot & Phil Nielsen
Mary Jane & James Cardus
From—The Cardus Family

Mrs. Agatha Ruvolo
Ruvolo Family
Ms. Nilsa Santiago
Candida Santiago
Federico Santiago
Sylvia Castro
Ana Schroeder

M/M John Schmidt
Henry Schmidt
Frances Schmidt

To be continued next week....

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



The Responsorial Psalm

Sing a joyful song unto the Lord! As the General Instruction of the Roman Missal states, "After the First Reading follows the Responsorial Psalm, which is an integral part of the Liturgy of the Word and which has great liturgical and pastoral importance, since it fosters meditation on the Word of God" (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 61). (The "P" in the word "Psalms" is silent, so it sounds like "Salms.")

According to the Glossary in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a Psalm is "A prayer in the Book of Psalms of the Old Testament, assembled over several centuries; a collection of prayers in the form of hymns or poetry. The Psalms have been used since Jesus' time as the public prayer of the Church." There are 150 Psalms altogether, varying in length from very short (Psalm 117 has only two verses) to incredibly long (Psalm 119 has 176 verses!).

For Every Condition and Time

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) indicates that the Responsorial Psalm should be sung, and that if "the Psalm cannot be sung, then it should be recited in a way that is particularly suited to fostering meditation on the Word of God" (GIRM, no. 61). We typically repeat a refrain in between the verses. The refrain gives a brief line for meditation, summarizing a theme of a particular Psalm. Speaking of the Psalms, the Catechism states, "Prayed and fulfilled in Christ, the Psalms are an essential and permanent element of the prayer of the Church. They are suitable for men of every condition and time" (CCC, no. 2597).

Speaking of the use of Psalms in earlier times, the Catechism notes, "The Psalms both nourished and expressed the prayer of the People of God gathered during the great feasts at Jerusalem and each Sabbath in the synagogues. Their prayer is inseparably personal and communal; it concerns both those who are praying and all men" (CCC, no. 2586). The Psalms still have great value for us as well. "Whether hymns or prayers of lamentation or thanksgiving, whether individual or communal, whether royal chants, songs of pilgrimage or wisdom-meditations,

the Psalms are a mirror of God's marvelous deeds in the history of his people, as well as reflections of the human experience of the Psalmist [the person writing the Psalm]. Though a given psalm may reflect an event of the past, it still possesses such direct simplicity that it can be prayed in truth by men of all times and conditions" (CCC, no. 2588).



Jesus Prayed the Same Words

We are encouraged sing the Psalms with faith and joy, recalling the exhortation of St. Paul. St. Paul recommends that the faithful gathered waiting for the coming of the Lord sing together psalms, hymns, and spiritual canticles (Col 3:16). The heart shows its joy by singing. Thus St. Augustine says rightly, 'to sing belongs to lovers.' There is also the ancient proverb: 'One who sings well prays twice'.

Our Lord Jesus would have also sung and prayed these same words in the Psalms. Since we know from the Gospels that he regularly went to the Jewish prayer gatherings, we can conclude that he would also have sung the Psalms regularly. There were times he referred directly to the Psalms, such as when he started praying Psalm 22 from the Cross: "My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?"

It doesn't get much better than spending a little time with the Lord using the exact words he used to pray. The next time you have 20 seconds to spare, try praying Psalm 117. If you have 20 minutes, check out a longer passage, like Psalm 119. If you are really feeling bold, try to sing one, whether at Church, working outside, or in the shower. It is always "good to praise the Lord!" (Psalm 92:1)

For Reflection:

1. Take time to pray with either Psalm 117 or with Psalm 119. If you choose the latter, perhaps select a shorter portion of the Psalm for deeper reflection after you pray with its full length!
2. Open your Bible to the Book of Psalms and allow yourself to "wander" through the pages. Find and pray with a Psalm that speaks to you at this moment in your life.

Next Week: The Second Reading

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

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



Feast of the Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
December 31, 2023



PRAYER TO THE PRINCE
OF PEACE
for the family
[Written by the
Sisters of Life]

O Jesus, King of the World,
You entered our lives hidden and humble in a
Bethlehem cave.
Now, hidden in the Host, You come.
O Jesus in the Eucharist,
let the rays of Your love
flood my soul, and the soul
of every person in my family.
With Your saving power, Jesus,
cast out all anxiety, unforgiveness,
addiction, pride, impurity, confusion,
hatred, and despair.
Pierce the darkness with Your light and fill us
with Your presence.
O Jesus in the Eucharist,
King filled with compassion,
Come, reign in my family.
O Jesus in the Eucharist, King of infinite
mercy, Come, reign in my family.
O Jesus in the Eucharist, King who is all truth
and beauty, Come, reign in my family.
Mary, Mother of God,
St. Joseph, protector of the Holy Family,
Help us to love Jesus and to entrust ourselves
completely to Him.
O Jesus in the Eucharist,
Prince of Peace, Come, reign in us!
Amen

Eucharistic Witness

St. Stephen

Deacon & First Martyr († 36)

Feast: December 26

St. Stephen, deacon and first martyr of the Church, died at the hands of Saul somewhere in the mid-30s AD (see Acts 7:58). After Stephen is arrested, he points out how God was with many of their great forefathers in faith apart from the land of Israel—how God first came to Abraham “in Mesopotamia” (Acts 7:2), how God was with Joseph in Egypt (7:9-10), and how God appeared to Moses in the burning bush while he was exiled in the land of Midian (7:29-30). For Stephen, these Old Testament examples foreshadow how—in the fullness of time—there is a movement from the Temple made with stones to the Temple of Christ’s Risen Body (see John 2:19-21), from a plot of land to worship in spirit and in truth. The earthly Temple gives way to the Temple of Christ’s Mystical Body—gathered in worship of the Risen Lamb, especially in the Holy Eucharist.

Christianity, in fact, can be boiled down precisely to this: the Holy Spirit reproducing the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in and through each of us. This begins in baptism, and it is consummated in the Holy Eucharist—where we are offered up to the Father in him, with him, and through him.

St. Stephen and all the martyrs embody this recapitulation of Christ’s life in a concrete way. But this is the path for us all: for some, it’s a red martyrdom—like St. Stephen (and which is still occurring to this day). For others, this will entail a white martyrdom, a daily death to ourselves—that Christ may live through us. This begins in our baptism; it is consummated in the Holy Eucharist; and it continues in the outpouring of our lives in love to others—whereby Christ’s life is reproduced in and through us. This is what Christianity is all about: to love as Christ loves, to the point of giving our lives—in one way or another.

ST. RAYMOND'S HUMAN LIFE COMMITTEE

Since the Supreme Court's overturn of Roe vs. Wade, the pro-abortion forces have been working steadily and determinedly to get the "right" to abortion throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy, for any reason or no reason, with no restrictions written into each State's Constitution. On the Federal level, there is an unprecedented support in Congress to codify nation-wide late-term abortion mandate through the "Women's Health Protection Act" H.R. 12. If passed, all the state laws restricting abortion would be invalidated since Roe was overturned. In addition, this bill would go even further than Roe by prohibiting waiting period laws, laws forbidding brutal abortion methods (though all abortions are brutal), and laws restricting discrimination abortions based on diagnoses like Down Syndrome. The bill is sponsored by 212 Democrats in the House and on the Senate side, the bill was introduced with 48 co-sponsors. Pres. Biden has promised to sign this radical anti-life bill if it reaches his desks. These are but a few threats to the babies in the womb coming in the 2024 year. Please tell your representatives in D.C. to vote "no" to this assault on human life.

March for Life, Washington, D.C. Friday, January 19, 2024

We will not be having a bus going to this year's March for Life. On that day we will have a special day of Adoration from 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm in our Church. We will be spiritually connected with those in D.C., praying for their safety and success in being a visible witness for the voiceless preborn and for the conversion of our country to shed the culture of death and become a true culture of life. Please consider joining with us in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament sometime during that day.

The power of prayer is great! We wish all a very Blessed, Happy and Healthy New Year!



MARCH *for* LIFE

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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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For details: svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org



What is the Veil Removed?

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

Watch it on FORMED



*As we enter the new year,
make a resolution to
deepen your prayer life.
Adopt a new spiritual
practice, like praying the
Rosary daily, attending a
weekday Mass or going to
confession monthly.*



**Ocean Financial
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Supports
St. Raymond!**

We have received our quarterly revenue sharing check from the Ocean Financial Federal Credit Union Parish revenue Sharing Program. Since its inception, our parish has received a total of \$20,986! The amount we receive each quarter is determined by the number of our parishioner who are members of the credit union and their usage of the Ocean Financial Federal Credit Union VISA credit and/or debit card. Therefore, I want to especially thank each of you—your credit card usage benefits our parish and that's great! For those of you who are not yet members, I encourage you to consider joining. Visit their branch at 45 Atlantic Ave. in Oceanside, or for information call 516-620-8100

visit their website at: www.oceanfinancial.org.



Special One year Memorial Candle

It's not too late!

Bring in the attached form to the rectory



Once again we will be having special one year devotional candles at both the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph Statues in the front. These candles surround the base of each statue. There are 24 candles available for each statue. The cost is \$300.00 for an entire year of having a candle lit for your intention. A small name plate will be placed at each candle that has been taken for the year. Only the name of the person you are remembering will be on each name plate. These candles will be lit from the first Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2023 for the entire Church Liturgical Year. If you are interested in one of these candles for one of these statues, simply fill out the following information, include your donation and bring it to the rectory. This also includes existing candles for this past year that have been lit. They need to be renewed if you so wish.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Pick one: Blessed Mother _____ St. Joseph _____

Name for the candle name plate (please print) _____





SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

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

ST. RAYMOND PARISH

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

PLEASE CALL ED AT 887-9325

FOR INFORMATION ON WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE.



*St. Raymond's Parish Social Ministry
The Ryan House*

"The Heart of the Parish"

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

Food Pantry Hours of Operation
Monday - Wednesday from 10am to 2pm
(Suggested to call for an appointment)

"And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Colossians 3:17

The Parish Social Ministry would like to sincerely thank all our parishioners who participated in The Giving Tree. Your tremendous generosity is greatly appreciated and, because of your kindness, we are able to provide Christmas gifts to 58 families. Thank you for making someone's Christmas a little brighter. We hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and best wishes for a New Year filled with peace and love.

Pantry items needed this week: Grape Jelly, Peanut Butter, White Rice, Jarred Pasta Sauce, Canned Fruit, Tea, Coffee, Mayonnaise, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Toothpaste, Razors, and Shaving Cream.

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.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

3 important facts

- She was the first native born American to be canonized by the Catholic Church
- She held the first catholic church
- At age 19 she married William Maggee Seton



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

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

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

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

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

Practice Wednesday Evenings
7:30pm in the Church

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

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

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

PARISH (ON YOUR ENVELOPES) # _____

**Please update our
Parish Email List**



Ministry of Consolation

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

If Interested
Call Jane Donlon
516-592-0672

A voice of one calling:
"Prepare the way for the Lord in
the wilderness: make a straight
highway for our God in the desert."
-Isaiah 40:3

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



Vocations Prayer

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





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

-Pope Francis

Pause and Reflect this Advent Season

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Make checks payable to: Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish _____ Pledge: \$ _____

Name _____ Down payment: \$ _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

THANK YOU!

FORMED

This week on **FORMED...**



Elements of the Catholic Mass is designed to help the faithful better appreciate the beauty of the Mass. Featuring Fr. Douglas Martis, former director of the Liturgical Institute, the program consists of thirty-one beautifully produced short videos. Because each episode comes with a discussion guide with references, Elements of the Catholic Mass is ideal for personal faith formation or group discussion.

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

FORMED

LINK TO REGISTER...IT'S FREE!

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST

9:00AM MARK CHARLES

10:30AM GENORA / SIMETI FAMILIES

12:00PM LOUISE COSCIA, DOLORES GOODHUE,
DORIS MAY DOUCETT

1:30PM ST. RAYMOND

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2ND

BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN

7:15AM HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY

8:45AM VIOLET MCHALE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3RD

7:15AM RICHARD STRAUB

8:45AM CATHERINE BALOSSI

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4TH SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON

7:15AM ERNEST PUGLIESE

8:45AM DONALD JOSEPH MALOY, JR.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5TH SAINT JOHN NEUMANN

7:15AM MARY DUGGAN

8:45AM JOSEPH NINIVAGGI

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH

8:45AM JACQUELINE & FRANK CASSESE,
PAUL CHIARELLO

5:00PM RICHARD STRAUB

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7:30AM LOUISE COSCIA

9:00AM GEORGE, CATHERINE HUMPHREY

10:30AM MICHELANGELO SAPIENZA

12:00PM JOHN ROMEO, DORIS MAY DOUCETT,
LAUREN & JOHN NOTHDURFT

4:30PM MARIA MONTAGNINO

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY

NM 6:22-27/LK 2:16-21

TUESDAY

1 JN 2:22-28/JN 1:19-28

WEDNESDAY

1 JN 2:29-3:6/JN 1:29-34

THURSDAY

1 JN 3:7-10/JN 1:35-42

FRIDAY

1 JN 3:11-21/JN 1:43-51

SATURDAY

1 JN 5:5-13/MK 1:7-11

SUNDAY

IS 60:1-6/EPH 3:2-3A, 5-6/MT 2:1-12



Please Pray for Our Sick

James R., Baby Brady, Mike L.,
Jodi Neckles, Baby Faith Madison,
Baby Cooper Graham, Michael McPike,
Christine I., Samir. Leo B., Maureen
Condiss, Bennett William Chevalier, Mary
Lynch, Maureen McCarthy,
Baby Connor William, Fr. Don Hansen,
Nick S., Dawn, Baby Daisey O'Neill,
Jay Witemeyer, Christine Gillidan,
Linda Dagostino

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



Rest in Peace

Grazia Sisillo

John "Jack" Patrick Butler

John McCauley



The Sanctuary Light

For this week in memory of

Marie Rose Maloy

Love & Prayers

Linda Daley

Parish Bulletin Board



We had a visitor on Christmas Eve
"Cardinal Raymond"

It's said that cardinals appear when angels are near and that the cardinal represents loved ones who have passed away. They are seen as messengers from Heaven who deliver words of love and comfort during difficult times.

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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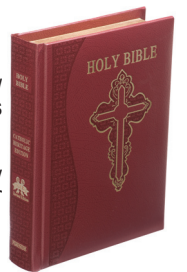
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