

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 3, 2023

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000



Jesus said to his
disciples:

“Be watchful!

Be alert!

You do not know
when the time
will come.”

--Mark 13:33

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2023

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Welcome To Our Parish Family!

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

Rectory

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

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

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

Pastoral Care Of The Sick

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

Devotions

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Nocturnal Adoration

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

Miraculous Medal Novena

Saturdays following 8:45am Mass.

Confessions

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

Baptisms

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

Bereavement Support Group

Call the rectory office for meeting times.

Marriages

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

Prayer Groups

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

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

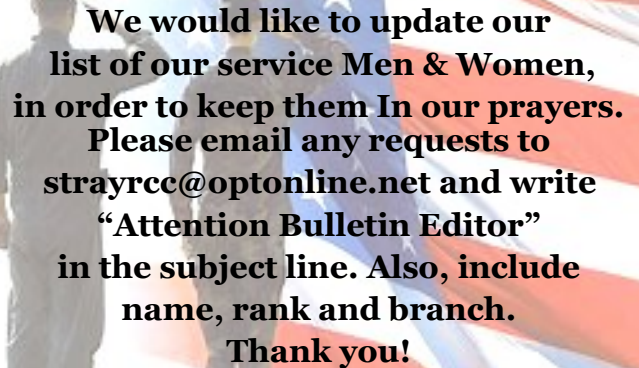
Music Ministries

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

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Interested in becoming a Catholic or an adult Catholic seeking Eucharist or Confirmation? Call the rectory and ask for Fr. Chuck Romano



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



The Catholic Faith Network (CFN)

Broadcast of the Celebration of the Eucharist:

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

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

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

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

St. Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre, NY

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

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

St. Patrick's Cathedral, NY

Monday – Friday at 6:30 pm ET



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

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

Father Chuck's Corner

Greetings and God's Advent blessings be yours on the first Sunday of Advent! Once again, we find ourselves on the threshold of another Church Year and another Church season-Advent. It's kind of like hitting the re-set button, having come full circle and about to start the same journey once again. In the first reading from Isaiah, the people of Israel have hope that God will still care for them even though they know that have been unfaithful. **"Why do you let us wander, O Lord, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not?"** Then in the second reading from I Corinthians, Paul is encouraging the people of Corinth for being true in their faith of Jesus Christ. **"God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."** And finally, we begin this new Church Year by journeying with Mark. Jesus is telling his disciples to be alert, to be ready, and to watch. **"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time come."** Advent is a season of hope and Jesus is telling his followers and us to be full of hope. Are you?

Sometimes in our spiritual life we convince ourselves that the ultimate goal of a life of faith is **"finding God"** or **"finding meaning"** or **"finding truth,"** as if these things were far away. But actually, when it comes to faith it is not so much our going out to find God, but letting God find us, come to us, visit us, and accompany us on the journey. Our task is to find a way to let him in so he can accomplish whatever it is that he is asking of us. And that means being ready for each moment of each day, ready to recognize grace in all its forms. It means opening the door to God who comes knocking over and over again. And so, we wait, and we watch. During Advent we look back and are thankful that God came into our world and changed absolutely everything in the person of Jesus. And we look forward, far ahead to when Jesus will return, and God's plan comes to fulfillment. But we also wait and are on watch for our God who wants to come to us in this time and place, our God who wants to be reborn in each of our hearts this Christmas and every day after that. Now it can't happen if we don't think it can happen or refuse to open ourselves up to the possibility. Nor can it happen if we refuse to be open to grace or let other things become more of a priority. Or simply if we are too busy or just don't want it to happen. In other words, God is ready to do some pretty wonderful things through us, but it's up to us to open the door and invite him in. Advent is such a great time to do just that.



As a way to spiritually start the Advent Season, there will be a **Night of Eucharistic Revival** in our church beginning at 7pm on Tuesday, December 5th. Father Roger Landry, a priest of the Fall River Diocese and a designated Eucharistic Preacher by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will preside over this service. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, scripture, teaching, music, communal and private prayer time with Benediction concluding the service. The opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be provided during this time. Hopefully you can come to start your Advent in a truly holy way by spending some time prayerfully with friends in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Hope to see you there; and bring a friend!

The **Countdown to Christmas Raffle** is in full swing. The early winning numbers have been posted on the calendar in the bulletin. There is still time and many cash prizes to be won. Get in on the action by using the order form found in the bulletin and hopefully you will see your winning # posted in a future bulletin. Also, this Sunday is the deadline for getting the order for your **Christmas Plants** in. Don't delay! Use the order form and return it to the rectory ASAP! Payment is not due until pick up on Gaudete Sunday, December 17th.

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 additional note is the **Mass Schedule** for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation, on Friday, December 8th, news and needs from **Parish Social Ministry** (gift request ornaments still available on the Giving Tree at each Mass), the special **One-Year Memorial Candle** order form, 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 First Week of Advent! **Smile and bring hope to all you meet this week. And think to yourself: What on earth are you doing for heaven's sake?** God bless always.

-Father Chuck

WEEKLY MASS PRAYERS

DECEMBER 3, 2023-FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Gloria

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

**We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,**

**we give you thanks for your great
glory, Lord God, Heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the
Father, You take away the sin of the
world, have mercy on us;**

**You take away the sin of the world,
receive our prayer; You are seated
at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One;
you alone are the Lord.**

**You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God, the Father.
Amen**

Penitential Act

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and
in what I have failed to do,**

**[Pray while striking the breast 3 times.]
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial
with the Father; through him all things
were made. For us men and for our
Salvation he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of the Father. He will come again in
Glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the
Son, who with the Father and the Son is
adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church. I confess one
Baptism for the forgiveness of
Sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead and the
life of the world to come.**

Amen.

READINGS FOR TODAY'S MASS

DECEMBER 3, 2023-FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING

IS 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7

You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

SECOND READING

1 COR 1:3-9

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALLELUIA

PS 85:8

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Show us Lord, your love;
and grant us your salvation.
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.
O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us.
R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.
Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.
R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.
May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.
R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1st Sunday in Advent

December 3, 2023



GOSPEL

MK 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples:
“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - FAITH FORMATION

Lucy Ostermann, Director



Today our 3rd & 4th grade parents and students will attend a grade level Mass at 12 Noon. The group will gather in the auditorium at 11am for a brief meeting then the entire group will go onto the 12 Noon Mass.

Reminder to the 3rd & 4th grade parents – this week (12/4/2023), the children will go directly to the church at 3:30pm for confession. They do not need to bring their books. Confession for the children will take place during class time (3:30pm-4:30pm). The children will be dismissed from the front of the school building at 4:30pm. Parents please work on the Act of Contrition with your child.

Immaculate Conception Friday 12/8/2023

This Friday 12/8/2023 is the Feast of the Immaculate of Conception and a Holy Day of Obligation. Please bring your child to Mass it is a good opportunity to complete one of their Mass Reflections.

The Mass schedule is as follows: Thursday 12/7/2023 7:30pm,
Friday 12/8/2023 7:15am, 8:45am, 12:15pm, 7:30pm.



Christmas PJ Mass

Sunday 12/10/2023 we invite our parish children to attend the 10:30am Mass dressed in their Christmas pajamas.



Next Saturday 12/9/2023 is our 2nd Annual Breakfast with Santa. Both sessions (9am and 11:30am) are sold out with approximately 350 people (total) attending. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets – we hope this year will be fun for all! Stay tuned for pictures!!!

Saint Raymond Of Penyafort



The Light of the World Ministry invites you to:

*A Night of Eucharist Revival to
Begin Advent*



**An evening to
reinvigorate your
faith and prepare your
heart for the
Birth of Our Savior
Tuesday, December 5th
7:00pm
In the Church**

During Eucharistic Exposition, Father Roger Landry will offer a reflection on Advent in this Parish Year of the Revival followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Benediction. Fr. Landry is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River and serves as the Catholic Chaplain to Columbia University in New York City and to the Thomas Merton Institute for Catholic Life.

He has been designated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as a Eucharistic Preacher.



Countdown to Christmas Raffle

Once again, we are having the exciting Countdown to Christmas Raffle where you have 33 chances to win some "Cash for Christmas." This raffle starts on Thanksgiving Day and concludes on Christmas Day. Each day a money prize will be awarded to the winning number drawn. Starting with \$500 on Thanksgiving Day and culminating with \$1000 on Christmas Day there will be 33 cash prizes awarded totaling over \$5000. Now to get in on the action all you have to do is fill out the tear-off found on this page, include the number of tickets you wish to purchase, the payment amount and return it to the rectory ASAP. Your control number will be sent to you and depending on how many tickets you purchase, that number of tickets, all with the same number, will be entered into the drawing.

Pricing for the tickets is as follows:

1 Ticket for \$25- 5 Tickets for \$50- 10 tickets for \$75- 15 Tickets for \$100



Order Form



Name: _____ Telephone Number _____

Address: _____

Number of Tickets requested: _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Please include payment for your ticket(s) with this form. Upon receipt, you will be mailed the number assigned to all your tickets. If you request more than 15 tickets an additional number will be assigned to you.

You may mail your order form to the rectory, place it in the collection basket at Mass, or drop it in the mail slot at the rectory at any time. Winners will receive a telephone call on the day they win. Winning tickets will be put back in the drum to possibly win again. You can join the raffle at any time but to be included in all 33 drawings, we must receive your entry and payment by Wednesday, November 22nd. Winning numbers will be added to the calendar that is printed in the weekly bulletin.

Merry Christmas to all. and Good Luck!

Let's have a peaceful and grace filled Thanksgiving Day, a holy and happy Advent, a joyous Christmas season, and a hope filled New Year. Thanks for your support in this fundraiser for St. Raymond Parish!


Father Chuck Romano



Merry Christmas

Countdown to Christmas Cash Raffle 2023

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

December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent Prize: \$500.00	 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25TH PRIZE \$1000</p> </div>			November 23 #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 Prize: \$100.00	November 30 Prize: \$100.00	December 1 Prize: \$100.00	December 2 Prize: \$100.00
December 3 First Sunday of Advent Prize: \$250.00	December 4 Prize: \$100.00	December 5 Prize: \$100.00	December 6 Prize: \$100.00	December 7 Prize: \$100.00	December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception Prize: \$250.00	December 9 Prize: \$100.00
December 10 Second Sunday of Advent Prize: \$250.00	December 11 Prize: \$100.00	December 12 Prize: \$100.00	December 13 Prize: \$100.00	December 14 Prize: \$100.00	December 15 Prize: \$100.00	December 16 Prize: \$100.00
December 17 Third Sunday of Advent Prize: \$250.00	December 18 Prize: \$100.00	December 19 Prize: \$100.00	December 20 Prize: \$100.00	December 21 Prize: \$100.00	December 22 Prize: \$100.00	December 23 Prize: \$100.00



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) _____





JOY

Christmas Plant Sale

Once again, we are offering beautiful Christmas Plants for sale. Below is an order form. Simply fill it out and return to the rectory by **Sunday, December 3, 2023**. All orders will be picked up on **December 17th** during **Gaudete Sunday Hospitality** in the school cafeteria. All orders are to be paid up on **Sunday December 17th**.

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

<u>Christmas Wreaths</u>	12" - \$20 _____	Quantity		
<u>Grave Blankets</u>	24" - \$30 _____	Quantity	42" - \$40 _____	Quantity
<u>Poinsettias</u>	6" - \$12 _____	Quantity	8" - \$22 _____	Quantity
	Red/White/Pink (circle one)		Red/White/Pink (circle one)	

Decorated Crosses 24" - \$25 _____ Quantity

Decorated Candy Canes 24" - \$30 _____ Quantity

Order Total: Number of Items _____ Total Cost \$ _____



STEP BY STEP WALK THROUGH THE MASS

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

FATHER LUKE SPANNAGEL

NATIONAL EUCHARIST REVIVAL BLOG



The Collect A Prayer in Four Parts

"Let us pray..." After the Gloria, the priest sings or says this invitation to pray. As the General Instruction of the Roman Missal ("GIRM") describes, "Next the Priest calls upon the people to pray and everybody, together with the Priest, observes a brief silence so that they may become aware of being in God's presence and may call to mind their intentions. Then the priest pronounces the prayer usually called the 'Collect' and through which the character of the celebration finds expression" (GIRM, no. 54). It is called the Collect because it sums up and gathers together all the intentions of the day's sacrifice.

The Collect has a standard structure of four parts: an invocation to God, the grounds on which we base our confidence (or a reference to the feast of the day), a petition, and a conclusion. For example, we see these four parts in this Collect from the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: "O God [invocation], who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true [grounds for confidence], grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you [petition]. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever."



Praying Together

During the Collect and other prayers in the Mass, the priest extends his hands and arms outward in what is called the "orans" position, which means a position of prayer. This position was used by our Jewish ancestors and adapted for Christian prayer. With a historical note from the early Christian writer Tertullian, the Christians adjusted how the hands are held "so as to resemble those of the Lord on the cross." During the Mass, the priest uses this gesture to

indicate that we are all praying together; he is collecting all our prayers and offering them up to the Father.

At the end of this prayer, the people respond by saying, "Amen." As Fr. Guy Oury teaches us, this Hebrew word means "so be it, without question." He continues, "The Amen is the people's stamp of approval on what has just been said in their name. It is a Yes to the priest as having spoken the prayer" (The Mass, p. 57). The meaning and function of this simple response invite the congregation to respond boldly with a confident "Amen" in affirmation of this prayer in their name.

Preparing for Prayer

How should we pray during the Collect? Does the Collect seem to happen so quickly that you miss the words? That brief moment of silence before the prayer is an important one when each person can offer personal intentions to be joined with what the priest is about to pray. Here is a great moment to share interiorly any specific prayers you would like to offer along with the spoken prayers of the Mass. It is also an opportunity to prepare ourselves to listen attentively to the words of the Collect as an overview or summary of the main emphases of the prayers for that particular Mass. Perhaps we could see it as an invitation for how Jesus might teach us in the Mass. We might benefit greatly from reading over the words of the Collect before the Mass. If you have never done it, I would invite you to read through the words a couple of times and ask the Lord to prepare your mind and heart for what is to come. This mentality also prepares us to listen to the Liturgy of the Word, God's word spoken to His people.

For Reflection: Take time before Mass, either at home or in church, to pray with the Collect prayer for that liturgy. You can find Collects in Missals, missalettes, or online.

Reflect on Psalm 33, which tells us that God "surveys all who dwell on earth" (v. 14). Consider God receiving all the prayers we lift up during the moment of silence that belongs to the Collect. The Psalm further claims, "The One who fashioned together their hearts / is the One who knows all their works" (Ps. 33:15). Allow the Collect to "fashion" and shape your heart by listening attentively to the words the presider proclaims.

Next Week: Liturgy of the Word

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
December 5th: Advent Holy Hour with Eucharistic
Exposition, Benediction & Confession 7:00 PM

THE VEIL REMOVED

The Veil Removed is a 7-minute 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.



The video can be viewed on YouTube.



What do the liturgical colors of
Advent signify?

This December, instead of red
and green, learn from the
colors purple and rose.

Once Thanksgiving has come and gone, our culture moves on quickly to the celebration of the Christmas season. All around us, there will be an explosion of Christmas reds and greens, holly and evergreen, ornaments, and wreaths. However, you might notice that your parish is colored a different way.

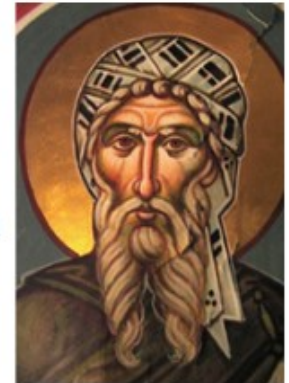
Rather than reds and greens, the altar is draped in a deep violet, the priests wear violet vestments, and our wreaths have candles of that same violet and a lovely rose. Why does the Church abstain from the colors of Christmas until the 24th? And why do these seemingly random shades of violet and rose take their place? It is because violet and rose are the liturgical colors of Advent. As a preparatory season, Advent does not yet share in the joy of Christmas. Rather, it anticipates it through penance and the practice of patient waiting, humbly and sincerely give thanks to Almighty God, the source of all grace and goodness!

Violet is the liturgical color that symbolizes penance, sacrifice, and prayer, and as such, it characterizes both Advent and Lent. Moreover, during Advent, we meditate particularly on the coming of our King at Christmas. In this way, the color violet—traditionally associated with royalty—takes on a dual meaning, representing both the penitential nature of the season and the kingship of the coming Christ.

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (“Rejoice”) Sunday. On this day, we celebrate that our wait is almost over and we witness the sudden introduction of a lovely shade of rose in our churches and our Advent wreath. As the liturgical color used to signify joy, rose is used in the third week of Advent in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah.

These colors of the Advent season are not arbitrary—rather, they are intentional reminders of how we should orient our hearts as we prepare for the coming Christ. While it is fine to join in the festivity around us, we must keep our hearts aligned with the Church during this season, joining in the hopeful and penitential anticipation of our coming Savior.

Eucharistic Witness
St. John Damascene
Religious &
Doctor of the Church
(† 749) Feast:
December 4



St. John of Damascus, also known as John Damascene, was a monk and theologian whose writings were crucially important in staunchly defending the value of visual art in communicating the Christian faith and in worship.

In the Tradition of the Church, we have evidence that the very early Church believed in the real presence of Christ’s flesh and blood in the Eucharist. St. John Damascene wrote: “You ask how the bread becomes the Body of Christ, and the wine...the Blood of Christ. I shall tell you: the Holy Spirit comes upon them and accomplishes what surpasses every word and thought...Let it be enough for you to understand that it is by the Holy Spirit, just as it was of the Holy Virgin and by the Holy Spirit that the Lord, through and in himself, took flesh” (De Fide Orthodoxa).

We can see the faith St. John has in the power of the Holy Spirit to carry out great miracles. He reminds us of this power by pointing out the fact that the Holy Spirit made Jesus in the flesh within the Blessed Virgin’s womb. In doubting the truth of the Eucharist, we are doubting that miraculous power of the Holy Spirit that brought about our Savior in the flesh.

“The Eucharist is a fire which
inflames us.”

The Giving Tree

"It's that Wonderful Time of the Year"

The Giving Tree, sponsored by the Parish Social Ministry, will be set up on the weekend after Thanksgiving in St. Raymond's Church. If you would like to share a little Christmas cheer with someone in need, please take a card from the Giving Tree. The card will have a gift request from someone's "wish" list that they would like to receive for Christmas.

When you return your wrapped gift, please be sure to attach the card, which you removed from the tree, securely to the outside of the package.

Please deliver your gift back to the Giving Tree no later than Wednesday, December 6th, to allow time for distribution of the gifts.

Thank you for your never-ending generosity and for making someone's Christmas a little brighter!



Christmas Gifts for Babies

This Advent, the St. Vincent DePaul Society will collect unwrapped baby gifts for the Life Center of Long Island to distribute to single mothers and their babies. Donations of diapers, blankets, new clothing (birth to 2T); smaller items (nipples, pacifiers, baby shampoo, baby wipes and lotion), as well as gently used baby gear (strollers, baby carriers, diaper bags, and recently manufactured car seats) are all greatly needed. Please leave items in or by the baskets by the Blessed Mother's statue by Friday December 10th. If you miss the deadline please leave the items at the Parish Social Ministry Office



THE ROSE FOR LIFE

In Memory of
Jane Gelson
Faithful Defender of
The Unborn

For Dedications call
Mary Healy 887-4062

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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ANY CONDITION**

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



To Honor Our Blessed Mother...



You are invited to join the ladies of The Sodality of Our Lady For a Candlelight Procession and Living Rosary at St. Raymond's Church to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Thursday, December 7, 2023 7:00 PM Mass will follow at 7:30

Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass Schedule:

Thursday December 7, 2023: 7:30pm

Friday December 8, 2023:

7:15am, 8:45am, 12:15pm & 7:30pm

Sodality of Our Lady of the Annunciation



December Meeting:
Monday, December 18th

Place: St. Raymond's
Cafeteria

Time: 7:30

"Annual Christmas
Celebration"

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

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

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



Ocean Financial 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.



*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)

*"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for
one of the least of these brothers of mine,
you did for me." -Matthew 25:40*

The Parish Social Ministry distributed turkeys, chickens and all the trimmings for a Thanksgiving dinner to 41 families. We would like to thank all our parishioners, Boy Scout Troop 332, Cub Scout Pack 84, the Kiwanis Kids Club from Rhame and Centre Avenue Schools and the East Rockaway Senior Center for all the food donations you gave to help make this Thanksgiving special for our clients. We hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the season of Advent and all the blessings it holds as we await the coming of Jesus our Lord.

Pantry items needed this week: Pork and Beans, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Jarred Pasta Sauce, Peanut Butter, Grape Jelly, Canned Fruit, Canned Beets, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Cooking Oil, Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup, Jello, Sugar, Cold Cereal, Laundry Detergent, Dish Detergent and Deodorant.

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. You are always in our prayers.



ST. RAYMOND'S HUMAN LIFE COMMITTEE

NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE

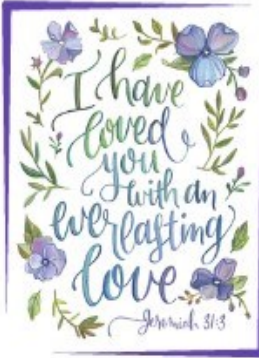
DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

TIME: 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM

(Immediately following the evening feast day Mass of the Immaculate Conception)

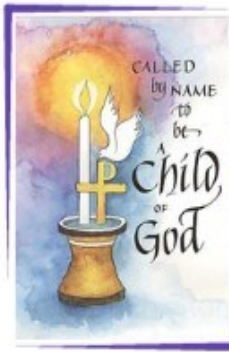
It was on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (then celebrated on December 9th) that Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas and the unborn, first appeared to St. Juan Diego. The National Night of Prayer bridges these two feasts to honor Our Blessed Mother and to pray for the sanctity of all human life. This year we also pray to protect the Church from persecution & reaffirm Religious Liberty. Sins against Life and Liberty have inflicted deep wounds upon our land. Our Lord promises in Holy Scripture, "If my people, upon whom My Name has been pronounced, humble themselves and pray, and seek My Presence and turn from their evil ways, I will hear them from heaven and pardon their sins and revive their land". (2Chronicles 7:14-15) In earlier times, the Aztec Nation read pictures, not writing. Our Lady of Guadalupe's picture on the tilma of St. Juan Diego in 1531 told the people to abandon their evil gods who demanded human sacrifice & embrace her Son. Today, the attacks against human life and religious liberty have escalated. Now is the time when prayer is most needed! Please join with us, for just one hour, before the Blessed Sacrament, asking Our Lady to intercede for us and our nation, that we may abandon the evil practices of abortion and physician-assisted suicide, and lead us back to her Son and a "Culture of Life".

Please pray for all mothers and fathers who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, that this season of joy might deepen within them a sense of awe at the mystery of life that is stirring within the mother's womb.



Congratulations goes out to...

Sara Sadowsky & Leonard Sadowsky
Lauren Kasulke & John Nontdurff
Will be married at
St. Raymond's Church
in December 2023



God Bless
Our Newly
Baptized

- Lorelai Mae Garthaffner
- Christian William Lucero
- Siena Ellie Marcello
- Reagan Alice Weaver
- Maya Alexis Troisi
- Emily Jayde Cruz
- Ryan Michael Meo
- Kerri Fiona Bellotti
- Genevieve Rosa Fiacco
- Mattea Carly Naso
- Caden Michael Kozlakowski
- Anthony Joseph Jaegers
- Pasquale John Sorbara
- Greyson Michael Minischetti
- Felicity Joan Milella
- Logan Abraham Morris



This week, put Jesus' warning into practice in your life- make time to go to confession and prepare yourself for this Advent season.

JESUS LOVES YOU.

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
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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: _____

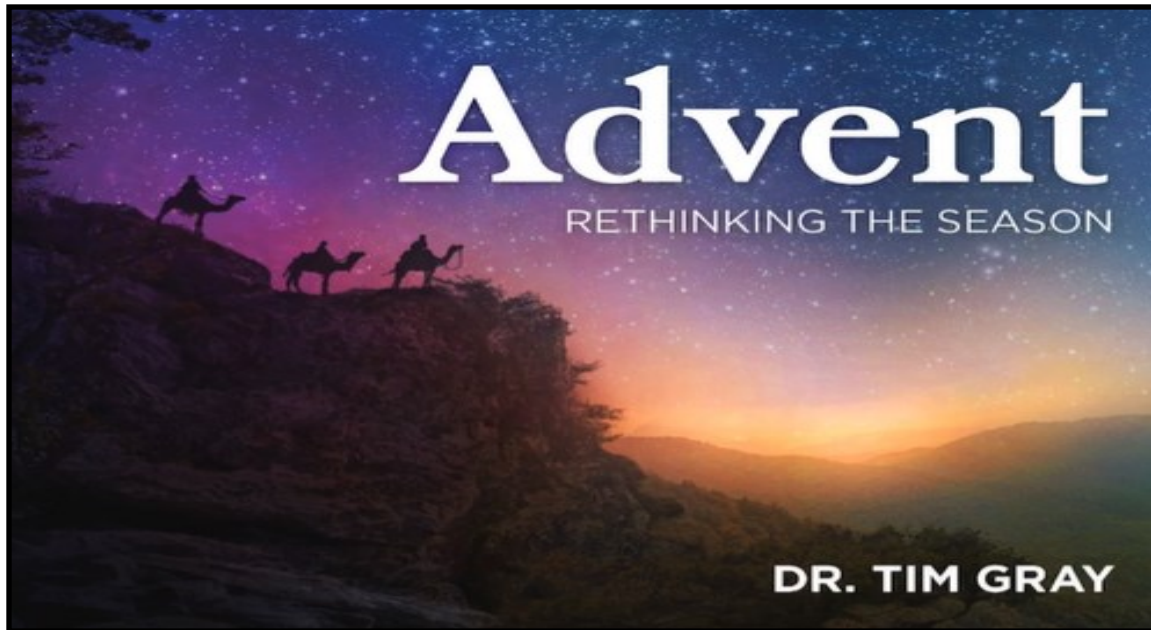
Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

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...**



Advent is an odd season. Unlike most other seasons, it's a season that isn't about itself, but is instead about preparing for Christmas. But that reality often gets lost in the shuffle and stress of trying to find all the right gifts, decorations, and dinner ingredients. In this Lighthouse Talk audio presentation, Dr. Tim Gray uses storytelling and the readings of the Old Testament to explain that we need to live the 'pre-season' of Advent well, so we can be prepared to welcome and receive the greatest gift God the Father wants to give us at Christmas: His Son, Jesus.

**GO TO THE ST. RAYMOND
WEBSITE FOLLOW THE
FORMED
LINK TO REGISTER...IT'S FREE!**

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

7:15AM HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY

8:45AM PETER LEDWITH

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

7:15AM HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY

8:45AM JAMES DONLON

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

7:15AM JOHN PETRO

8:45AM DENNIS MCDUGAL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH SAINT AMBROSE

7:15AM ST. RAYMOND PARISH

8:45AM LOUISE COSCIA

7:00PM LIVING ROSARY

7:30 SODALITY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

7:15AM GERALDINE KING

8:45AM INTENTIONS OF THE U.S.A

12:15PM JENNIE GAETA

7:30PM JANE MURRELL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

8:45AM RITA DOMBROWSKI

5:00PM ROSE PARISI

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30AM LOUISE COSCIA

9:00AM GEORGE D'AGOSTINO

10:30AM GLORIA MASCI

12:00PM RICHARD PALUSEO, DENNIS MCDUGAL

CATHERINE KOSTER, KATHLEEN SCIRE,

CAROLE CASAZZA, ROBERT ROSALIE, SR.

4:30PM ST. RAYMOND'S PARISH

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY

IS 2:1-5/MT 8:5-11

TUESDAY

IS 11:1-10/LK 10:21-24

WEDNESDAY

IS 25:6-10A/MT 15:29-37

THURSDAY

IS 26:1-6/MT 7:21, 24-27

FRIDAY

GN 3:9-15, 20/LK 1:26-38

SATURDAY

IS 30:19-21, 23-26/MT 9:35-10:1, 5A, 6-8

SUNDAY

IS 40:1-5, 9-11/2 PT 3:8-14/MK 1:1-8

Please Pray for Our Sick

James R., Baby Brady, Mike L.,
Jodi Neckles, Baby Faith Madison,
Baby Cooper Graham, Michael McPike,
Christine I., Samir. Leo B., Maureen
Condiss, Bennett William Chevalier, Mary

Lynch, Maureen McCarthy,
Baby Connor William, Fr. Don Hansen,

Nick S., Adrienne Dolder, Dawn,
Baby Daisey O'Neill, Jack Butler,
Jay Witemeyer, Christine Gillidan,

Linda Dagostino

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



Rest in Peace

Nina Gangi

Elizabeth Oriol

Alan George Zacker



The 2023 Paschal Candle
In Loving Memory of
Helen & Theodore Rehm
From the Rehm-Shapiro
Family

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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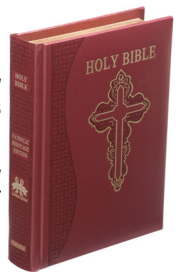
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