

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 Vincent H. Bulus
Father Theodore Iloh

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

**Pastoral Associate, Youth &
Parish Social Ministry**
Deacon Richard W. LaRossa

School Principal
Sr. Ruthanne Gypalo, I.H.M.

Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Evelyn Contaldi

Business Manager
Thomas J. Donovan (RIP)

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*

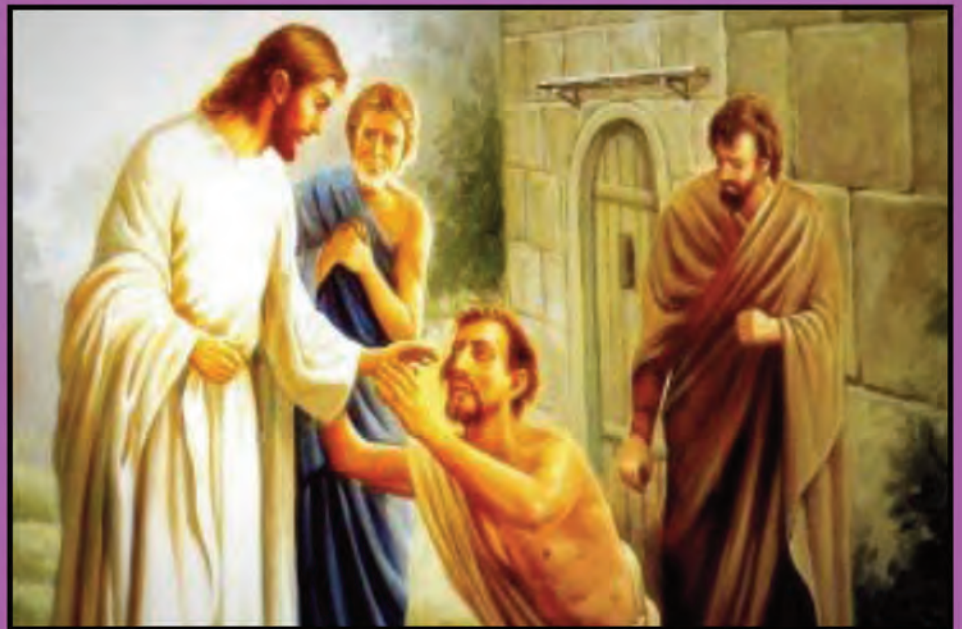
Sunday, February 14, 2021

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000

"I do will it. Be made clean"

-Mark 1:42



February 14, 2021

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday

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-5pm;
Saturdays from 9:30am-1pm.

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-Thursday from 10am-2pm.

Parish Social Ministry Fax.....593-6278

St. Raymond School.....593-9010

St. Raymond School Fax.....593-0986

Religious Education Office.....593-9075

Religious Education Office Fax593-1156

Pastoral Care Of The Sick

Holy Communion—Available to the homebound;
call the rectory to schedule an appointment.

Devotions

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Nocturnal Adoration

First Fridays from 8-9pm.

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

Children's Choir: Sings at the 9am Mass on the 3rd
Sunday of the month from September—June; practice on
Tuesdays at 5pm in the school auditorium.

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 Deacon Rich LaRossa.



**PLEASE REQUEST TO JOIN OUR
NEW FACEBOOK GROUP!
ST. RAYMOND PARISH, EAST ROCKAWAY
SPIRITUAL AIDS AND INFORMATION
WILL BE POSTED TO KEEP US
ALL CONNECTED
DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIMES.**



**CATHOLIC FAITH
— NETWORK —**

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 ...***

SPC Frank Candreva US ARMY
SPC Giuseppina (Josie) Coppola US ARMY
Lt. Col. Mary P. King, M.D., US ARMY
Lt. Com. Joseph Garbitelli US NAVY
Sgt. Gerard Moran
Lt. Com. Joseph Leahy US NAVY

***Please remember to pray for our
wounded soldiers.***

Father Chuck's Corner

Greetings and God's blessings be yours on the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time! And Happy Valentine's Day to everyone also. A special blessing will be offered for all married couples at each Mass today to honor your marriages and the power of the sacramental grace you received on your wedding day. The theme of today's readings is that by encountering others we encounter God and are called to conversion. In the first reading from Leviticus, we see how those who were judged to have leprosy were kept apart from the regular community. It showed that life outside of Eden meant that humans were subject to sickness and disease. **"He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp."** Then in the second reading from 1 Corinthians, Paul encourages the people to work only for the glory of God. Be like him for he does everything in the name of Jesus. **"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."** And finally, in Mark's gospel, we see Jesus moved emotionally to cure the leper who has approached him and begged for healing. Jesus cures him by word and gesture. He orders him to be made clean and he touches him. **"I do will it. Be made clean."**

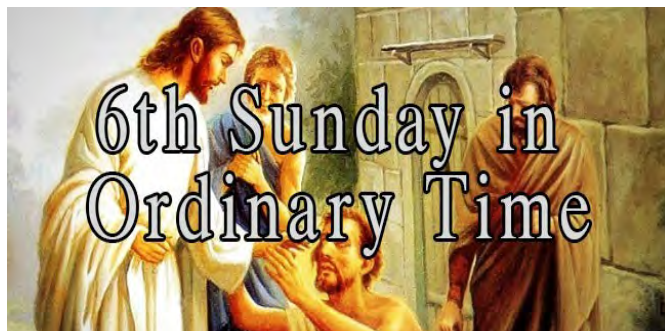
St. Francis experienced an intense interior conversion when he encountered a leper near his hometown. He was already following Jesus with great fervor, but his encounter with the leper made him come to see, accept and love the most marginalized members of society. Francis surrendered to the transforming mercy of God and experienced a powerful life-altering conversion. Like St. Francis we too are called to encounter the **"lepers"** of our own society and be moved to deeper Christian conversion. In our society who and what gets cast aside, marginalized, or thrown away? The elderly, the unborn, immigrants, the poor, LGBT people, those with addictions; the list is endless. Jesus built a culture of encounter. He listened and heard the story of pain and the cry for help. In the gospel Jesus felt compelled to reach out to the leper and touch him. Jesus doesn't blame the leper or reinforce his exclusion. Rather he allows himself to be moved by what he encounters. Jesus healed the leper, but not just of his disease, also socially. As a former leper he is now welcomed into the body of the community. We too are called to imitate Jesus and build a culture of encounter. We should refrain from seeking our own benefits and be imitators of Jesus. When we intentionally encounter those on the margins, we open ourselves to a divine encounter just as St. Francis did. From bitterness to sweetness, God invites us to conversion which can help bring about personal and societal healing.

This coming Wednesday, February 17th is Ash Wednesday and signals the start of the 2021 Lenten Season. Because of the pandemic, ashes cannot be distributed as usual. The only way ashes can be given is to sprinkle them on the person's head. Since this is awkward and I am still feeling symptoms from COVID-19, I decided that we will not offer this way to give ashes. ***We will bless ashes at each Mass and offer the prayer for everyone at Mass.*** There will not be ashes available for people to take with them like past years either. In this bulletin you will find a complete ***Stations of the Cross***-prayer service for your use during Lent. We will not be having the regular Friday evening Stations this year. This prayer service for the Stations will be published every Sunday in Lent. Use this service for private prayer at home or for a visit to church. Check the bulletin announcement for more details about Ash Wednesday and the Lenten Season at St. Raymond's.

Please remember to take home a copy of the bulletin when you leave Mass today. It contains many items of information and invitation with something for everyone. Of special note is news and needs from ***Parish Social Ministry***, info from ***Religious Education*** and the ***Principal's Corner*** of St. Raymond School, an order form for the new round of ***Parish Picks*** which will start later this month (***we need your help to make this fund raiser successful!***), an order form for the special ***One Year Memorial Candles***, 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 start to Lent this week. ***Wear that Lenten smile as you pray, sacrifice and help others. Plus remember: Don't wallow in the challenge of Lent; wallow in the mercy of God.*** God bless always.

-Father Chuck



WEEKLY MASS PRAYERS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021 –SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.

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

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants. If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head. "The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!' As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Blessed is he whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered. Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes not guilt, in whose spirit there is no guile.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not. I said, "I confess my faults to the LORD," and you took away the guilt of my sin.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

SECOND READING

1 Cor 10:31-11:1

Brothers and sisters,
Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

ALLELUIA

Lk 7:16

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A great prophet has arisen in our midst,
God has visited his people.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Mk 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.



THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

STATIONS 1-7

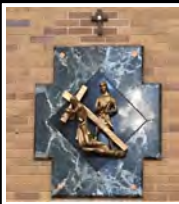
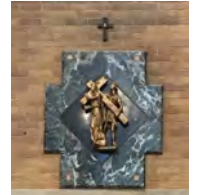


THE FIRST STATION-JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DIE

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

THE SECOND STATION-JESUS IS GIVEN HIS CROSS

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

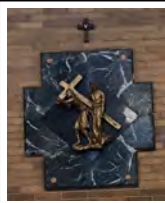


THE THIRD STATION-JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

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

THE FOURTH STATION-JESUS MET HIS MOTHER

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

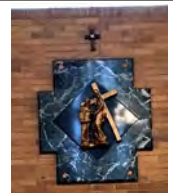


THE FIFTH STATION-SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS

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

THE SIXTH STATION-VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

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



THE SEVENTH STATION-JESUS FALLS AGAIN

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

PUT YOUR CROSS AT THE FOOT OF HIS CROSS

STATIONS 8-14

THE EIGHTH STATION-JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

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



THE NINTH STATION-JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

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



THE TENTH STATION-JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

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



THE ELEVENTH STATION-JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

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



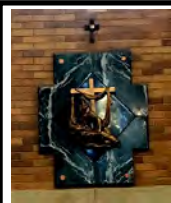
THE TWELFTH STATION-JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

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



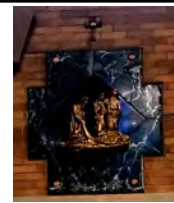
THE THIRTEENTH STATION-JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

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



THE FOURTEENTH STATION-JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

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



ASH WEDNESDAY

This Wednesday, February 17th is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten Season. Many Catholic faithful usually receive blessed ashes to mark the start of this holy season.

Because of the pandemic, the imposition of ashes in the usual manner is not possible. Plus remember that Ash Wednesday is ***not*** a Holy Day of Obligation. No one is obliged to come to church or receive ashes. The only way that ashes can be distributed is to sprinkle them on the head of each person. Since I don't see this option as sensible or safe, I have decided not to offer this alternative. I am still feeling the effects of the virus for over a month now. To stand, sprinkle, clean my hands and repeat over and over won't work for me. Also, I don't feel comfortable asking our deacons, who are all compromised, nor Eucharistic Ministers to help do this. So instead, we will celebrate ***4 Masses*** on Ash Wednesday and at each Mass, a bowl of ashes will be blessed, and the formula recited for the entire congregation.

Also, during Lent, there will be a 12:15pm Mass celebrated each weekday, Monday through Friday. Starting with this bulletin there will be a ***Stations of the Cross***-prayer service in the bulletin each week that you can use to pray the Stations at home or during a visit to church. We will not have the usual Friday evening Stations of the Cross. So, even with restrictions, let us enter Lent the best way we can, either by attending Mass or watching from home on Ash Wednesday.

-God bless always. Father Chuck



EASTER MASSES OF REMEMBRANCE

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

Those who you mention will be remembered at all the Masses during the Easter season. Special envelopes have been mailed with the regular envelope packet and in the Easter mailing to all parishioners. They are also available on the front side pews and the back pews by the doors of the church. Simply fill out the intentions you wish to have remembered on the front of the envelope, include your donation and either mail it back, drop it in the Sunday Mass collection or place it in one of the wooden boxes marked "Easter Masses." Please do so by Sunday April 4th. Thank you! -Father Chuck

Abstinence and Fasting

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



Parish Social Ministry
The Heart of the Parish

Your Parish Social Ministry Workers want to thank you for your continued support. The office is reopening this week, Monday's through Wednesday's. Due to the exceptional support we receive from the St. Raymond's Parish and East Rockaway Community, our shelves are full.

Please do not send any donations at this time. We have been truly blessed to be able to help so many during this Pandemic. In addition if you need assistance or know someone who needs assistance, and they cannot make it to the ministry house during regular hours, please have them call us at 516-887-9197 to see if other arrangements can be made.

***If today you hear God's voice,
harden not your hearts.
-Psalm 95***



The Year of St. Joseph

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse
of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

*To you God entrusted his only Son; in you
Mary placed her trust; with you Christ
became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too, show
yourself a father and guide us in the
path of life.*

*Obtain for us grace, mercy, and
courage, and defend us from
every evil. Amen.*

-Pope Francis



A PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

O Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, at this most critical time, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care.

Most Holy Mother, we beg you to reclaim this Land for the glory of your Son. Overwhelmed With the burden of the sins of our nation, we cry to you from the depths of our hearts and seek refuge in you motherly protection.

Look down with mercy upon us and touch the hearts of our people. Open our minds to the great worth of human life and to the responsibilities that accompany human freedom.

Free us from the falsehoods that lead to the evil of abortion and threaten the sanctity of family life. Grant our country the wisdom to proclaim that God's law is the foundation on which this nation was founded, and that He alone is the True Source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

O Merciful Mother, give us the courage to reject the culture of death and the strength to build a new Culture of Life. **Amen.**

**2021
MASS BOOK**

The 2021 Mass Book is now open! Come into the Rectory and have a Mass said for a loved one!

"Put all the good works in the world against one Holy Mass; they will be as a grain of sand beside a mountain."

— St. John Vianney



**St. Raymond
Human Life
Committee**

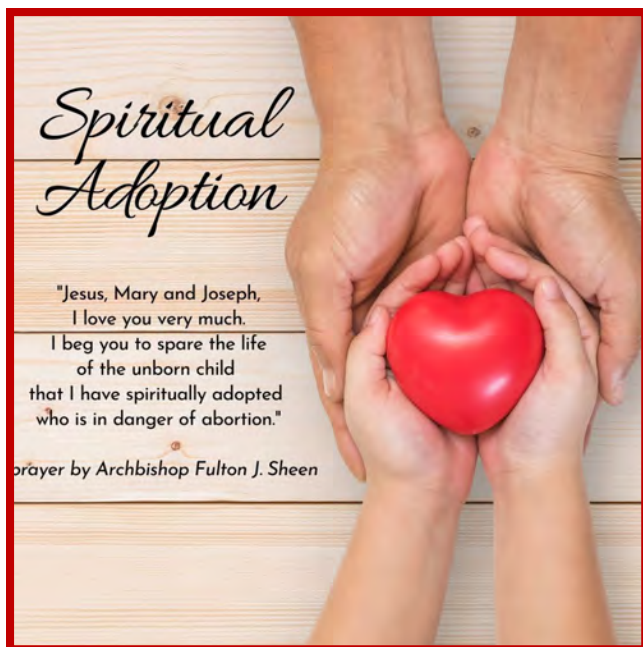
**SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PRAYER PROGRAM
EIGHTH MONTH DEVELOPING BABY**

Your spiritual adopted baby is about 16" - 20" long and weighs between 4-6 pounds. With only one month to go, a layer of fat is produced and stored beneath the skin, for both insulation and as a food supply. Antibodies that give immunity to diseases are building up. The amniotic fluid is totally replaced every three hours, and the baby absorbs a gallon of it every day, more if the fluid is sweetened! Your baby's heart pumps 300 gallons of blood per day and the placenta begins to age. The center of the baby's bones are hardening, but the bones in the head are soft and flexible for delivery. Even though your baby could survive outside the womb at this point without much medical help, it is still legal to have him or her killed through abortion for any reason! Please keep praying for your little one and his or her mother and father, that they will trust in God and be graced with a loving, generous heart and bring their baby birth. On a personal witness, this week I visited with my granddaughter who is in the eighth month of her pregnancy. She showed me 14 sonogram pictures of her daughter, my great-granddaughter, Sofia Marie. There she was in full sight, 4lbs. 12 oz., a little bit of hair on her head, and sucking her thumb, and then it seemed trying to get her whole fist into her little mouth. As the Scriptures states, "fearfully and wonderfully made..." Another gift from God not only to the parents but to all!!

For those experiencing an unexpected pregnancy, do not fear. You are not alone. God is right beside you; He will not forsake you. Your little one is a gift from Him. There is much help available. Please contact either of the following numbers for caring, confidential assistance:

The Life Center of L.I. - #516-798-9100

Birthingright of L.I. - #516- 785-4070



Religious Education- Faith Formation
Evelyn Contaldi, Director

There are no Religious Education classes and the Religious Education office will be closed for President's Week beginning 2/15/2021. Classes will resume and the office will re-open on Monday 2/22/2021. Have a safe and enjoyable week!!

ATTENTION 2ND GRADE PARENTS

Dates for 2021 First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are still yet to be determined due to the uncertainty of the pandemic. As soon as the dates are set, parents will be notified.

ATTENTION 8TH GRADE PARENTS

Dates for 2021 Confirmation are not yet determined due to the pandemic. As soon as we know what the plan will be, we will advise parents immediately.

HOME TEACHING

For parents who have opted to teach Religion to their children at home, the student's completed workbooks are due the week of 4/19/2021. We are more than half way through the Religious Education school year and this is a reminder that you have until our final week of classes to complete your child's lessons. Mrs. Contaldi has been in touch with each of you and will be following up with you again early February. As we get closer to April, we will advise you of the procedure to return the completed books to the Religious Education office.



Principal's Corner
Sister Ruthanne

I could not help but think about our present situation with COVID-19 when I pondered the readings from today's mass. In the Book of Leviticus, we hear the prophet talking about people with visible sores or scabs and how they needed to stay away from everyone (or quarantine!) and yell out "Unclean, unclean" (that could be us, except for the yelling). In the Gospel, Mark tells us that Jesus willed to make the leper (or one covered with sores and scabs) clean and did so. I think that is what we are looking for also - to be healed! It has been a long and difficult time since we first started with the coronavirus early in 2020 (perhaps even earlier!) and, I am certain that many of us have begged the Lord to heal those we love, protect others from getting it, and allow all to be vaccinated against it. Do not get discouraged. Remember that time is different for the Lord and He will end the pandemic when He sees fit. Let us keep praying.

I almost forgot to wish a happy Valentine's Day to all. May you feel embraced in the love of our God and have loving surprises throughout the day.

This, of course, is the beginning of our WINTER RECESS! We have had a couple of weeks of being attacked by COVID, so it is good for us to be able to have a break from each other. Our custodians will continue to deep clean the building so that hopefully we will be virus-free upon return.

I want to thank all those folks who braved the cold and supported the school through our recent "foody" fundraisers. We also had friends who made donations for the annual NCEA Day of Giving and I am most grateful for that continued support. Your generosity never ceases to amaze me! May God continue to bless your kindness to St. Raymond School.

Please contact the school or check our website (www.srsny.org) - especially the "I am new" tab - for information about the school. Registration officially will begin on Monday, March 1st. We look forward to meeting new people!

Please enjoy the winter break. Get some extra rest, watch a movie, read a book, spend some time outside in God's fresh air. JUST STAY SAFE. Remember that there are state regulations in place for traveling outside of New York. Please follow all protocols to keep the coronavirus at bay!

God bless you all!



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Lent 2021

Dear Friends:

"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan...After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the Gospel of God."(Mark 1:12 – 14) Each year on the First Sunday of Lent, the Church presents for our reflection and prayer the experience of Jesus in the desert. Jesus's experience in the desert follows immediately upon His baptism by Saint John the Baptist and immediately precedes His public ministry and proclamation of the Kingdom of God, in word and in deed. Saint Mark points out to us that the Spirit, who had just descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove, drove Jesus into the desert.

The desert was a barren place, a place of lifelessness, the home of the devil and evil. The Spirit sends Jesus into the desert to prepare himself for the years of His public ministry, ultimately leading to His Death and Resurrection. Jesus spends time away from the world to prepare himself. But He also goes forth into the desert to begin His battle against evil, sin and death. Jesus goes into the very dwelling of evil to begin the confrontation. This battle will continue throughout the rest of Jesus's life. The ultimate victory will come on Good Friday through His ultimate act of love on the Cross.

Our yearly experience of Lent, our forty day "desert experience," can be viewed in the same way. We are inspired and sent by the Spirit to spend some time apart from the world of noise and recover the beauty of silence. But, we are also sent to do battle. Our experience of true silence should allow us the opportunity to both listen to the voice and promptings of God as well as to better know ourselves. This personal battle against sin and evil can be painful, because we come to realize that we are all in need of constant conversion. There are real changes each and every one of us need to make in our lives and our hearts this Lent. But like Jesus, we are not alone. The Lord was ministered to by angels during His forty days in the desert. We are constantly aided by our guardian angels, by the angels and saints in heaven, by the community of the baptized, and by the grace of the sacraments of the Church. Like Jesus, we need to emerge from the desert ready to take on the evils of the world and work to spread the Gospel.

It was only a few short weeks into Lent 2020 that the experience of Covid-19 made radical changes to our society, our Church, and our families. The experience of desert isolation was no longer a metaphor but a lived reality. The experience of having our parishes locked down for months was painful for all of us. Many of us still experience this isolation in many ways. But as Christians we always remain men and women of hope. We know that the Cross of Good Friday leads to the empty tomb of Easter Sunday.

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Pope Francis has declared this year as a special Year of Saint Joseph. In Saint Joseph we find a man of profound hope and strength as well as prayerful silence. Scripture does not record one word spoken by Saint Joseph. But Scripture does tell us of his unwavering faith and trust, which go beyond words. Following Jesus, and like Saint Joseph, men and women in the first centuries of the Church began to leave the towns and villages and settle in the isolation of the desert. Like the Lord, they sought to rid themselves of the distractions of everyday life so they too could do battle with evil, and through their quiet example proclaim the Kingdom of God.

This continued throughout the history of the Church, even to our present moment. Saint Antony, Saint Benedict, Saint Bruno, and so many others show us the lived experience of the desert is not an escape from the reality of life but a privileged encounter with the Lord and a revelation of our true selves. While most of us are not called to the monastic or solitary life, the last twelve months have given each of us an experience of solitude. We are encouraged to remain "socially distant." In the midst of the real suffering and hardships this has caused, perhaps the hidden grace is that it has led us to be "temporary monastics."

Our typical Lenten "desert experience" of forty days has lasted a bit longer. But we will come out of it! And like the Lord, when we emerge our goal is to proclaim the Gospel of God according to our vocation and the graces given to us. In addition to our personal sins and the evils present in our own hearts, we live in a world that is right now suffering from real physical illness as well as real division and hurt of every kind. Jesus emerged from the desert bringing the healing presence of God to all he encountered. As the baptized, the Church, the continuing presence of Jesus in the world, we need to do the same. The same Holy Spirit that drove Jesus into the desert is driving us on.



Sincerely in Christ,

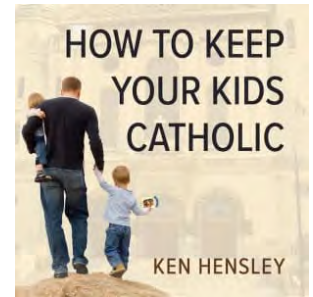
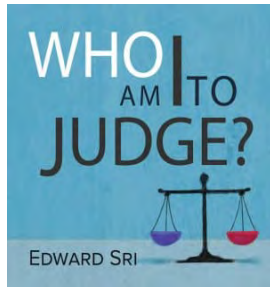
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ John O. Barres".

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

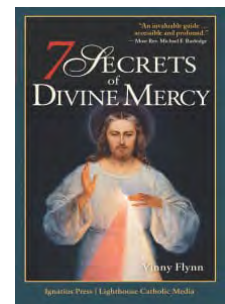
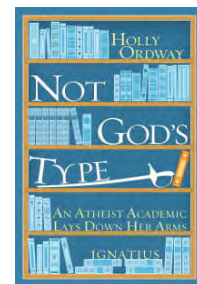


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WEBSITE FOLLOW THE
FORMED
LINK TO REGISTER IT'S FREE!**



It's time for the next round of...



Dear Friends,

We are about to venture on another segment of Parish Picks. To enhance Parish Picks we have added a new system so you can obtain additional tickets.

Here's how the new system works: The basic entry to participate in Parish Picks is \$60.00. For \$60.00 you will get **THREE TICKETS**. If you contribute \$120 you will receive **SIX TICKETS**. Yes, we are offering additional tickets for **FREE** according to the amount you contribute (see below)

| | Number of Tickets | | | TOTAL AMOUNT |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Ticket Cost | for each \$60.00 | Free Tickets | BONUS TICKETS | OF TICKETS |
| \$60.00 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| \$120.00 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| \$180.00 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| \$240.00 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 12 |
| \$300.00 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 15 |
| \$360.00 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 18 |

Your participation would greatly help the expenses St. Raymond incurs. **YOU GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!** We would like to give you a call and **MAKE YOU HAPPY!**

The next segment begins in **February 2021** and goes through **July 2021**. You "**regulars**" know how it works, but for those of you who haven't yet joined...here's the scoop: The cost of a ticket is still \$60, and you're eligible to participate in all the monthly drawings because even if you win, your ticket automatically goes back in for the remaining drawings. Each month the following prize amounts are awarded:

1st Prize: \$1,000 2nd Prize: \$500 3rd Prize: \$250 4th Prize \$250

Entry money for the next six months must be received by January 18, 2021. Ticket numbers are not reserved; they will be given in the order in which your payment is received. Members of the committee can be contacted to answer any questions.

On behalf of the Parish Picks Committee, I thank you for your continuous support of this parish fundraiser. Your participation is a big help to St. Raymond Parish and our many ministries. God bless you always.

Sincerely, Father Chuck, Pastor & Julianne Grennen & Doreen Dolan
StRayRCC@optonline.net or 516-593-5000

St. Raymond's Parish Picks Order Form

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ ticket (s) in the Parish Picks. I will receive extra tickets for each ticket that I purchase in accordance with the chart shown on the enclosed letter.
 (Each ticket is good for 6 months of chances and costs \$60.)

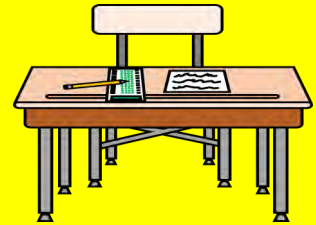
Name: _____ **Envelope #:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Sodality of Our Lady Scholarship Exam 2021

- WHAT:** Three \$800 scholarships sponsored by
The Sodality of Our Lady at St. Raymond's Church.
Three \$150 Marianne Malone Scholarships.
- WHO:** Any **eighth grade student**, living within the geographic boundaries of St. Raymond's Parish, who has been accepted for admission to a Catholic High School in September 2021.
- WHEN:** Thursday, March 11, 2021.
Time 4:00pm to 5:00pm
- WHERE:** The test will be administered through Email
(instructions will be sent to participants after the registration deadline)
- EXAM:** ONE ESSAY
- HOW:** To Register – Call or text Patricia Winter (516)376-0364 before Friday, March 5, 2021. **Your registration will be confirmed. If you have not received a confirmation please call again.**



**REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER
FRIDAY, March 5, 2021**

*****ABSOLUTELY No add-ons past the DEADLINE.**

A student cannot sit for the exam without first being registered***

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



AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE
We will serve the Lord.
JEREMIAH 29:13



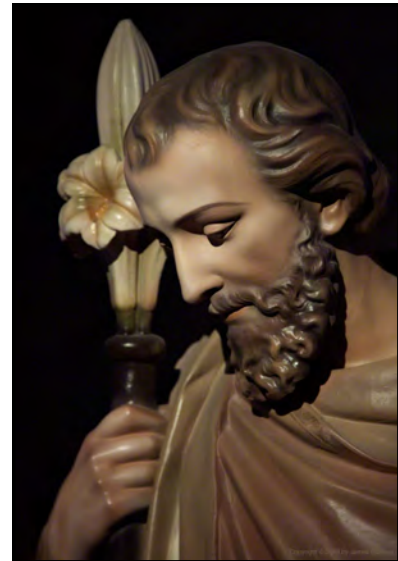
SPECIAL ONE YEAR MEMORIAL CANDLE

As you know, several years ago we have upgraded our devotional candles by both the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. The older ones were outdated and ready to break down. In addition we have added four new statues in the rear of the church with smaller new candle stands. They are Mother Teresa, St. Therese of the Little Flower, St. Anthony and St. Jude. Hopefully they have enhanced people's prayer and desire to light candles as a sign of their devotion.

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, November 29, 2020 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: _____

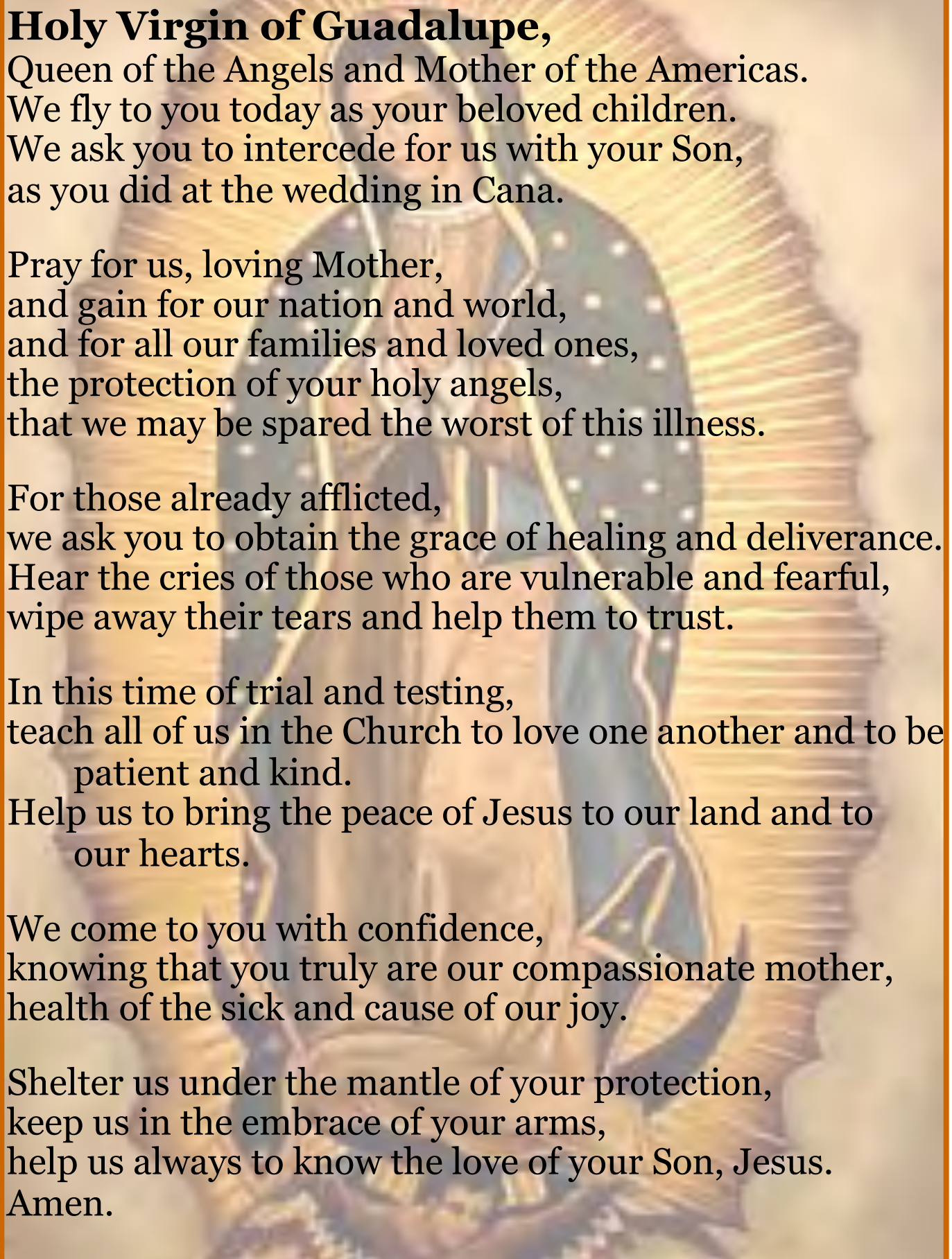
Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please check:

Blessed Mother Statue: _____ St Joseph Statue: _____

Name for the candle name plate (please print):

The background of the page features a faint, artistic representation of the Virgin of Guadalupe. She is depicted with her characteristic blue mantle adorned with white stars, and a golden sunburst radiating from behind her head. The image is centered and serves as a backdrop for the text.

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,

Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.

We fly to you today as your beloved children.

We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be
patient and kind.

Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to
our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.
Amen.

A Prayer as I put on my mask:

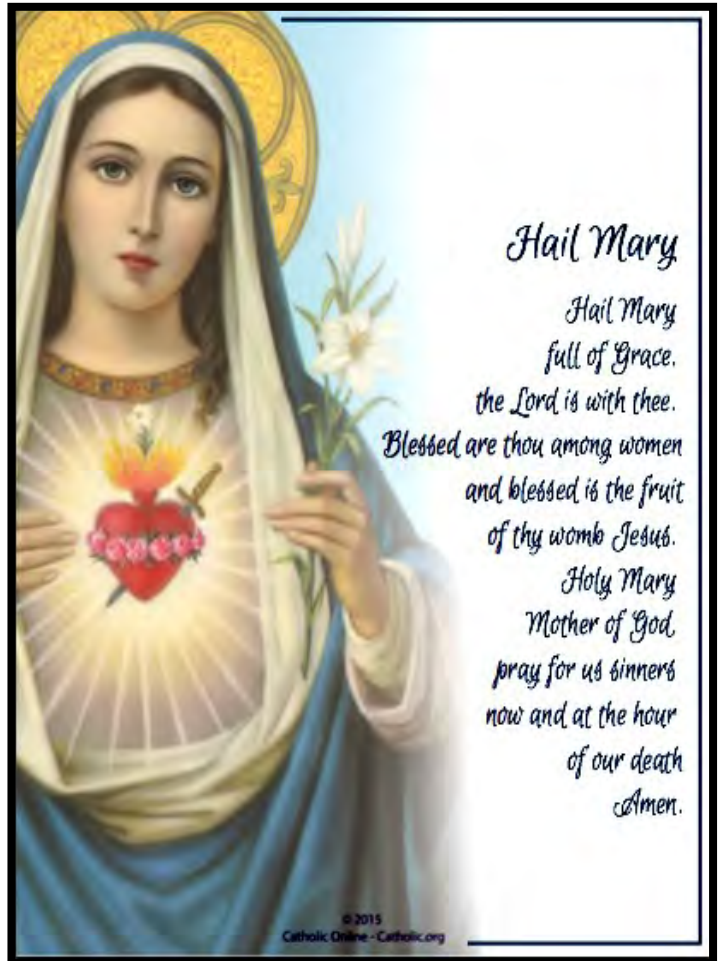
Creator,
As I prepare to go into the world,
Help me to see the sacrament
In the wearing of this cloth-
Let it be "an outward sign
Of an inward grace"-

**A tangible and visible way of living
Love for my neighbors,**

Christ,
Since my lips will be covered,
Uncover my heart,
That people would see my smile
In the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled,
Help me to speak clearly,
Not only with my words,
But with my actions.

Holy Spirit,
As the elastic touches my ears,
Remind me to listen carefully-
And full of care-
To all those I meet.

**May this simple piece of cloth be
Shield and banner,
And each breath that it holds,
Be filled with your love.
In your name and in
The name of love
I pray.
May it be so, May it be so.**



Hail Mary

*Hail Mary
full of Grace.
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed are thou among women
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb Jesus.
Holy Mary
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners
now and at the hour
of our death
Amen.*

**PRAYER OF
SPIRITUAL
COMMUNION**

*My Jesus, I believe that you are
present in the most Blessed
Sacrament, I love You above all
things and I desire to receive You
Into my soul. Since I cannot now
receive You sacramentally, come at
least spiritually into my heart. I
embrace You as if You have already
come, and unite myself wholly to
You. Never permit me to be
separated from You.
Amen*





Masses for this Week

Monday, February 15th

7:15am James Genoy
8:45am George Carroll

Tuesday, February 16th

7:15am Judy Ricci
8:45am Joseph Pisano

Wednesday, February 17th

7:15am George Broyles
8:45am Brendan McGuire
12:15pm Terese Campbell
7:30pm Michael Gordon

Thursday, February 18th

7:15am Frances Hess
8:45am Gaspare Minervini
12:15pm Patrick Collins

Friday, February 19th

7:15am Loretta Collins
8:45am Pat & Bob Keenan
12:15pm Kathy Stiffle

Saturday, February 20th

8:45am Jack Wilson
5:00pm Margaret "Peggy" Motherway

Sunday, February 21st

7:30am Daniel Carrano
9:00am Loretta O'Connell
10:30am Sodality of Our Lady
12:00pm Dorothy Riehl, Terese L. Campbell
Mary & James Lehr-50th Anniversary
Mary Guiliano, Florence Bell
Rosemarie Dyke
4:30pm St. Raymond Parish

Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday

Gn 4:1-15, 25/ Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday

Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10 /Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18 /Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday

Dt 30:15-20 /Lk 9:22-25

Friday

Is 58:1-9a /Mt 9:14-15

Saturday

Is 58:9b-14 /Lk 5:27-32

Sunday

Gn 9:8-15 /1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Please Pray for Our Sick

Fr, Tom Moriarity, Deacon Rich LaRossa, Valerie Fellows, Jeanette Kostyrka, Rudy Romano, Tamika Brown, Azai Betty McCormack, Cathy Maziejka, Stephen Iervalino, Ralph Cerrato, Sky Mary Cirrito, Pat Bolino, Anthony Sisco Gloria Criscuolo, Gina Mazzola, Dr. Sam Iyer, Samara Q, Patricia Criscuolo, Joan Ellyn Bolino, Connie & Fred Polik, Margaret Mary Barbato, Taylor Clark, Liz Biondi, Jodi Neckles, Olivia Bonino, Anthony B., Alyssa B., Bart Castellaneta, Victoria Wilkinson, Nick, Kathleen Clancy, Rob Ruggiero, Peter Scala, Suzie McHale, Baby Madison Grace Layman

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



Rest in Peace

John Wilburn



The Rose for Life

In Memory of

Michael O'Donnell

For Dedication call Mary Healy
887-4062



This week, set aside time each day and pray to the Lord. Thank Him for all the blessings in your life and do not be afraid to ask Him to help you with whatever issues you are facing.

Parish Bulletin Board



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE of ROCKVILLE CENTRE

The Catholic Faith Network (CFN) is available on Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon FiOS TV channel 296, and Charter Spectrum channel 162/471 throughout the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut area. The Catholic Faith Network (CFN) is also available on selected cable and satellite systems nationwide, along with a vast on-demand library of original programming and a high quality 24/7 live stream.

Engaged Encounter Preparing for Marriage?

March 6-7, 2021

Seminary of the Immaculate Conception Huntington

Engaged Encounter is an effective PreCana program designed to provide you with the tools for a successful marriage. Couples are given the opportunity to explore many aspects of their relationship through a series of presentations, writings and dialog. There are no group discussions. Couples are provided with social-distancing during this time.

For info, call Lenny & Pat Walker at 631-563-1032, or visit www.engagedencounterli.org

End of Life Decision Making

Catholic teaching on end of life decisions; nutrition and hydration; palliative and hospice care; assisted suicide, euthanasia; healthcare proxies and living wills.

For info, visit www.catholicendoflife.org.

Collection Envelopes

To insure the accuracy of the recording of your weekly offering, please indicate the amount of your offering on the front of your envelope and write your envelope number on your check. And please do not tape or staple the contents or envelope flap.

Thank you! And God Bless you for your stewardship!

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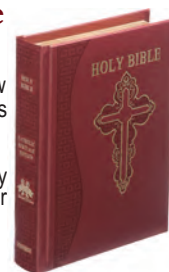
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| <p>Edwin C. Gerrity Agency All your Insurance needs 25D Main St., East Rockaway, NY 11518 Serving the Community over 50 years (516) 593-4242</p> | <p>Celebrity Chase Collision 191 Earle Ave., Lynbrook, NY 11563 516 593-0920 Ask about your parish discount</p> <p>Umanoff Boyer Agency The Right Coverage Doesn't Cost... It Pays! umanoffboyerinsurance.com</p> <p>Give us a call today: 516-872-2000 We represent many carriers and do the shopping for you!</p> | | <p>Sound Audiology Hearing Aids and Audiology Services Clare Villanueva, AuD & Donna Rubino, AuD 215a Atlantic Avenue, Lynbrook, NY 11563 (516) 224-7588</p> |
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