

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 Benedict Kim
Father Joseph Rwamwenge

Deacons

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

Director of Religious Education

Mrs. Lucy Ostermann

Business Manager

Christopher Grennen

Parish Staff

Music Ministry

Laura Garbitelli

Folk Group

Nadine Robinson

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 14, 2025

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000



“Behold, I am
sending my
messenger ahead
of you; he will
prepare your way
before you.”

-Matthew 11:10

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

Welcome To Our Parish Family!

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

Rectory

Office Hours are Monday-Friday from 9am-4pm;
Saturdays from 9:30am-4pm. Sundays 9am-5pm

Web Site: www.SaintRaymonds.org

Facebook: St. Raymond Parish, East Rockaway

E-Mail: StRayRcc@optonline.net

Rectory.....593-5000

Rectory Fax.....887-0554

Parish Social Ministry.....887-9197

Office Hours are Monday-Wednesday from 10am-2pm.

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

Religious Education Office.....593-9075

Religious Education Office Fax593-1156

E-Mail: strayfaithformation@aol.com

Pastoral Care Of The Sick

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

Devotions

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Nocturnal Adoration

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

Miraculous Medal Novena

Saturdays following 8:45am Mass.

Confessions

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

Baptisms

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

Bereavement Support Group

Call the rectory office for meeting times.

Marriages

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

Prayer Groups

Men's Prayer Group: Every Monday at 10:00am in the Rectory Basement.

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 Sunday at 11:00 in the Rectory Basement

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



Please Pray for Our Sick

Baby Faith Madison

Mary Lynch

Linda Dagostino

Karen Pagnotta

Jodi Neckles

Jim Marasco

Christine I.

Jeanne Swanson

Nick S.

Gerry Peknic

Rosemarie Lombardo

Elaine & Eddie

Corrado

Julianne Grennen

Herb McIntyre

Anthony Campanile

Baby Cooper Graham

Maureen Condiss

Timothy Murphy

Lauren Greco

Eileen Roberts

Betty McHale

Fran Halas

Eileen Appel

Dianna Viglieta

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

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

Cpl. Alex James Cooper US MARINE CORPS

Cpl. Dean Thomas Cooper US MARINE CORPS

Lt. Col. Mary P. King, M.D., US ARMY

Commander Joseph Garbitelli US NAVY

Sgt. Thomas Stanley Golebiewski USMC

Staff Sgt. Emily Golebiewski US AIRFORCE

Staff /Sgt. Matthew R. Hines - US ARMY

Cpl. Connor Thomas McHale US MARINE CORPS

Commander Joseph Leahy US NAVY

Sgt. Bryan Petriccione US ARMY –Cavalry Unit

Lt. Joseph Woloszyn US NAVY

TSGT Curt Abdool US AIRFORCE

2nd Lt. Nicholas J. Carinci US AIRFORCE

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR OUR
WOUNDED SOLDIERS.**

Greetings and God's continued Advent blessings be yours on the Third Sunday of Advent! This Sunday is also called "**Gaudete Sunday**" as our theme is one of joy. We rejoice because we have been included in Jesus' kingdom. As we prepare for heaven to actually come to earth with the birth of Jesus. First the prophet Isaiah speaks of the beautiful and fruitful places in Lebanon in contrast to the barren hills surrounding Jerusalem. The coming of Jesus will be the wedding of what "**will be**" with what currently "**is.**" "**Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense comes to save you.**" Then in the second reading from the Letter of James, the people are encouraged to be patient until the coming of the Lord. "**Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.**" And finally, in Matthew's gospel, we see John, from prison, asking Jesus if he is truly the long-awaited promised savior. Jesus tells John's disciples to report back all the things Jesus has done and said as proof of who he was. And he wanted John to know how important he always was in God's plan to get the people ready for Jesus' coming. "**Behold I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.**"

Just as people flocked to John the Baptist to hear what he had to say, they flocked to Jesus for the same reason. Yet, Jesus doesn't just provide answers. Rather he starts as usual by asking them a question, one that is meant to get them thinking. "**What did you go out to the desert to see?**" There would be different answers. Some came out of curiosity, some to hear fiery talk, or to get baptized. By asking this question, Jesus wants the people to take a sincere look at their motives, their expectations, hopes and desires. Why go to see John? What did they want to experience? What were they hoping to see? Jesus asks us the same question. What are we hoping to see? Jesus didn't tell people what to do or not do. Rather he painted pictures in people's minds. He painted a lot of pictures of what the kingdom looks like. We call them parables. And he painted pictures of what blessedness looks like which we call the beatitudes. Jesus painted pictures where deserts bloomed and the blind could see and the lame walk and people loved their enemies and forgave the seemingly unforgiveable. It's as if Jesus was telling people that faith isn't about what one knows, but about what one sees.

. In a very real sense, we see what we want to see, what we expect to see. In less than two weeks we will celebrate Christmas, and the manger we now see empty will no longer be so. Coming close we will see a small baby statue representing something that happened 2000 years ago. Will we realize that Christmas is more than just a remembrance but about making something present, someone present. That it is a breaking into our hearts and minds and world of the One who can make all the wonderful things we hope for possible. Jesus is the one who can help us see not as we usually do but as God sees. As Advent continues, truly reflect on what you hope to see come Christmas morning. And may what you do see last for much more than a day.

Today we have our special **Gaudete Hospitality Sunday**, sponsored by the Sodality of Our Lady after all the morning Masses in the cafeteria. All those who ordered **Christmas Plants** are asked to pick them up in the cafeteria during this time. Also, our **Christmas Cash 50/50** winning number will be drawn at 2pm when hospitality ends in the cafeteria. So, stop by for some refreshments and friendship with fellow parishioners after Mass. Pick up your plants and get some more Christmas Cash 50/50 tickets. You may be the lucky winner!

Please remember to take home a copy of the bulletin when you leave Mass today. It contains many items of interest and invitation with something for everyone. Of special note is news and needs from **Parish Social Ministry**, info from **Religious Education** (Faith Formation), the **Christmas Masses of Remembrance** envelope information, the **Christmas Mass and Confession Schedule**, the **Come and See Centerfold**, the **Communal Prayer Before Mass** (found on the inside back cover, an invitation to join **FORMED** (your Catholic Faith on demand) and much more. To keep informed, keep a copy of the bulletin at home each week for quick and easy reference.

Have a great Third Week of Advent. **Smile, share and spread some joy everywhere you go. Plus remember: God is also making a list and checking it twice.** God bless always.

-Father Chuck



ST. RAYMOND PARISH FINANCIAL STATEMENT ***(Fiscal Year September 2024-August 2025)***

The following statement is a condensed version of our yearly financial report which is submitted to the diocese. I make this report available so that everyone can see how we are doing on a yearly basis and what fiscal challenges our parish faces in the immediate future. This past year has definitely been a difficult one. The stability of our day-to-day operations will only hold if we are able to increase revenue and build a savings base for the future. Thank you for your faithful stewardship to our parish and God bless always.
Father Chuck

Income (Ordinary)

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|---|
| 1. Regular Collections: | \$893,215 | (Includes Sundays and Holy Days, Easter, Christmas) |
| 2. Fund Raising: | \$143,590 | (Backwards Money Drawing, Memorial Bricks
Pot of Gold, Memorial Candles, Christmas & Easter Flowers,
Camps R Us, plus smaller fund raisers) |
| 3. Parish Programs: | \$347,525 | (Religious Education, Parish Social Ministry, CYO,
Sodality of Our Lady, Human Life Committee, Pre Cana) |
| 4. Auxiliary Income: | \$86,308 | (Church Fees, Candles, Interest, Donations, Bequests
Bulletin Commission, Miscellaneous) |

Total Income: **\$1,470,638**

Expenses (Ordinary)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|---|
| 1. Salary/Benefits: | \$727,210 | (Priests and Lay Personnel) |
| 2. Parish Programs: | \$175,681 | (Religious Education, Parish Social Ministry, CYO,
Pre Cana, Human Life Committee, Sodality of Our Lady) |
| 3. Office Expenses: | \$100,992 | (Printing, Postage, Computers, Telephone, Professional Fees)
Furniture, Cable, Copiers, Stationary, Paper) |
| 4. Rectory Household: | \$42,100 | (Food, Laundry and Household Expenses) |
| 5. Maintenance/Utilities | \$281,410 | (Utilities, Ordinary Repairs, Equipment, Contracted Services,
Supplies, PSIP-Insurance, Furniture) |
| 6. Diocesan Assessments: | \$84,044 | (Annual Tax to Diocese) |
| 7. Auxiliary Expenses: | \$35,422 | (Liturgical Expenses, Hospitality, Charity) |

Expense Total **\$1,446,859**

Extraordinary Expenses:

Diocesan Bankruptcy Settlement: \$165,775
Emergency Plant Repairs: \$144,163

Year End Totals

Income	\$1,470,638
Expenses	<u>\$1,446,859</u>
Ordinary Income/Loss	\$23,779

Disposable Parish Assets as of August 31, 2025

\$119,283

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 the St. Joseph Statue in the front. These candles surround the base of the statue. There are a few candles available at the St. Joseph 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 for the entire Church Liturgical Year. If you are interested in one of these candles, 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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Name for the candle name plate (please print) _____

WEEKLY MASS PRAYERS

DECEMBER 14, 2025—THIRD 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 14, 2025—THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing. Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10.

R. Lord, come and save us.

The LORD God keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets captives free.

R. Lord, come and save us.

The LORD gives sight to the blind; the LORD raises up those who were bowed down. The LORD loves the just; the LORD protects strangers.

R. Lord, come and save us.

The fatherless and the widow he sustains, but the way of the wicked he thwarts. The LORD shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, through all generations.

R. Lord, come and save us.

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates. Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

Isaiah 61:1

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.* Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAITH FORMATION

Lucy Ostermann, Director



Faith Formation

Breakfast with Santa

Another successful Breakfast with Santa was held last Saturday 12/6/2025. We had two sessions with a combined attendance of 350 children and adults (not including the volunteers helping with the event). None of this could have happened without the ingenious help and creativity of Michelle DeLuca and Gina Lee. These two ladies have been heading this event for the past 4 years, and it just gets better and better every time. They are a blessing to our parish. Gina & Michelle were aided by our parents – people who do not have the word 'no' in their vocabulary – James DeLuca, Kelly DeSola, Lindsay Joyce, Kelly Khan, Cindy LaPollo, Erin McCadden, Jane O'Hanlon, Marguerite Reilly, Jennie Saia and Christina Vuotto. John Kelhetter along with the help of his mom, Siobhan Kelhetter, aided us in getting the 'guest of honor' to the cafeteria on time. Karen Gerrity returned to the parish for the day and worked as the receptionist welcoming our attendees. The breakfast was prepared and served by none other than our Knights of Columbus. Dennis Ostermann led the charge with the assistance of: Kyle Falbee, Bob Forte, Jay Galante, Dan Gerrity, Brian Joyce, Sean Lynch, Jerry Murphy, Al Narizzano, Jim Page, Kevin O'Hanlon, Mike Schenck, John Sommer and Bob Stewart. Whenever we call on our Knights, they continuously go above and beyond whatever task is asked of them. Gentlemen, please consider joining this fabulous, warm, giving and friendly group of men. They are truly a gift to St. Raymond's Parish. We are grateful to Fr. Chuck for his continuous support to our Religious Education program. His guidance and encouragement help keep our program alive and thriving!

Our parish is blessed and fortunate to have such wonderful people give of their time and talent to our children. The Breakfast with Santa, along with the other events planned throughout the year, could not be made possible without the love and dedication of our Religious Education parents and the Knights of Columbus.

We are humbly and truly grateful to them.



Christmas Carols



For all the students who signed up for our Christmas Carols scheduled for Saturday 12/20/2025 at the 5pm Mass, the last rehearsal is Mondays 12/15 – 5pm-6pm in the Church. Please be on time for drop-off and pick-up. At next Saturday's 5pm Mass, the children will sing Christmas Carols in the Church.

All are so very welcome to attend. What is better than hearing the voices of our children singing joyful hymns to get us ready for our Savior's Birth.

Christmas Pajama Mass

This Sunday 12/14/2025 is Gaudete Sunday and all parish children are invited to attend the 10:30am Mass dressed in their Christmas Pajamas (children only please). After Mass, each family will be given a cake mix to take home to bake a cake for Jesus's birthday. All students and their families are invited to continue the celebration of Gaudete Sunday by attending the festivities being held in the cafeteria after this and all Sunday morning Masses.



Attention First Grade Parents

Next Sunday 12/21/2025 is the third First Grade Parent/Student meeting scheduled for 10:30am in the St. Raymond School auditorium. Please remember to bring your child's workbook, pencil and a folder. After the session, all parents and their 1st graders will go to the 12Noon Mass where Fr. Chuck continues the lesson.







BREAKFAST WITH SANTA 2025



*We ♥ our
Volunteers*
**THANK
YOU!**



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT TIME WEEKLY GUIDE FOR PERSONAL PRAYER



Come & See

Until you do, you will
never know

Summary of the Readings for the Week



The Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday, when we are called to rejoice with expectant faith, letting Christ dispel our discouragement and renew our hope as we await His coming with trust and perseverance. In the Gospel, Jesus reassures John the Baptist by pointing to His works: healing, restoring, and proclaiming good news. This reassurance invites us as well to recognize Him through the fruits of mercy and transformation in our own lives.

During this week, the liturgy deliberately limits saint celebrations because the Church focuses intensely on preparing for Christ's birth, inviting us to contemplate the mystery of His coming with undivided attention.

The First Readings for this week are taken from the Book of Numbers (Monday–Tuesday), the Book of Isaiah (Wednesday–Thursday), and the Book of Zephaniah (Friday–Saturday). Numbers, a historical book, recounts Israel's desert wanderings and God's guidance for the community, emphasizing covenant fidelity and divine provision. Isaiah, a prophetic book, calls the people to repentance, hope, and trust in God's saving power, while Zephaniah calls Israel to reform and rejoices in the coming of the Lord who restores justice and mercy.

The First Readings at the start of the week highlight God's faithful guidance and the human response of trust and obedience. Numbers reminds the faithful that God provides direction and protection for His people: "The Lord bless you and keep you!" (Numbers 6:24), emphasizing the need to follow His commands even when the journey seems uncertain. Isaiah encourages the people to prepare for the Lord's coming and to place their hope in His promises: "The Lord will come to save you" (Isaiah 35:4), reinforcing that Advent is a season to ready the heart for Christ.

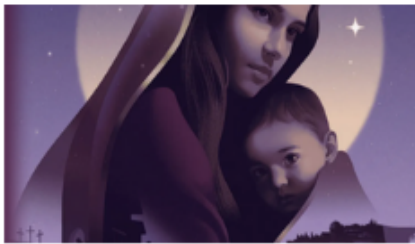
For Thursday through Saturday, the First Readings focus on God's promises of redemption and the need

for conversion. Isaiah's prophecy emphasizes God's salvation and the coming joy of the Messiah: "Say to the faint of heart: Be strong, fear not!" (Is 35:4). Zephaniah calls for trust in God and rejoicing in His restoration, declaring: "The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty savior" (Zephaniah 3:17). Together, these passages guide the faithful to reflect, prepare, and celebrate the nearness of the Lord in their hearts and lives during Advent.

In the Gospels for Monday through Wednesday, Jesus faces the chief priests and elders who question His authority, prompting Him to expose their closed hearts by challenging them with His own question, showing that true authority is rooted in truth and openness to God. On Tuesday, the parable of the two sons underscores that repentance and obedience matter more than empty words, highlighted by Jesus' piercing line, "Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you." By Wednesday, the focus shifts toward the unfolding of salvation history through the genealogy of Jesus, revealing that God works faithfully through imperfect people and generations to fulfill His promise of a Savior.

On Thursday, the Gospel tells of Joseph's quiet righteousness and his obedience to God's revelation in a dream which sets the tone of humble surrender as Christ's birth draws near. Friday brings the annunciation to Zechariah, where human doubt meets divine fidelity as God promises a son who will "turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord," ushering in the final moments before the Messiah's arrival. On Saturday, the angel Gabriel appears to Mary with the most profound invitation of salvation history, and her fiat: "May it be done to me according to your word" which becomes the model of Advent readiness: open, trusting, and joyfully surrendered to God's plan.

On Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Gospel of Thursday is repeated, recounting that Joseph moved from fear to trust as he accepted God's plan, embracing his role in salvation history after the angel tells him, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife."



*“Lord, come and save us.”
-Isaiah 35:4*



St. Raymond Church

🔥 **Kindle The Fire Within**
Each Day, the Church is open
for personal prayer until 5:00pm
Each Thursday - Eucharistic
Exposition from 1-4:00pm
Each First Friday
Nocturnal Adoration
7:30pm-8:30pm

Daily Prayer This Week

Rejoice in Hope

“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unstopped.” -Isaiah 35:5

The Third Week of Advent asks me to rejoice in the nearness of Christ while preparing my heart through trust, faithful obedience, and joyful readiness. Spiritually, it invites me to examine my openness to God's will, cultivate patience in waiting, and respond with humble surrender like Mary and Joseph, allowing Christ's presence to transform my thoughts, decisions, and relationships.

Trust in Authority

*“The baptism of John, from where did it come?”
Matthew 21:25*

The Gospel from Matthew 21:23–27 shows Jesus' authority questioned by the chief priests and elders, emphasizing that true faith and obedience matter more than appearances. “The baptism of John, from where did it come?” reminds me to prioritize living faithfully according to God's word, even amidst pressure and conflicting priorities at work and home, grounding my decisions in integrity and trust.

*My Prayer: Lord, grant me the wisdom to recognize
Your authority in my life and the courage to follow
Your ways faithfully, even when others question or
challenge me. Help me to act always with integrity.*

Repent and Act

“Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you.” -Matthew 21:31

The parable of the two sons (Matthew 21:28–32) underscores that action and repentance matter more

than promises. “Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you.” This encourages me to examine my own life, ensuring that my intentions translate into loving action for my family, colleagues, and community, not just words or plans.

My Prayer: Lord, help me to turn my intentions into loving actions, not empty words, and to respond with repentance and obedience to Your will in every aspect of my life.

Courageous Obedience

*“Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife”
Matthew 1:20*



Matthew 1:18–25 recounts Joseph's humble obedience. The angel's reassurance to Joseph calls me to embrace God's plan for my life with courage, responding faithfully with the trust that God works through ordinary people and situations.

*My Prayer: Lord, grant me the courage to follow
Your plan with humility, like Saint Joseph.
May I serve faithfully and joyfully.*

Humble Surrender

*“May it be done to me according to your word.”
- Luke 1:38*

Luke 1:5–25 and 1:26–38 focus on the angelic announcements to Zechariah and Mary, emphasizing God's providence and our call to trust and cooperation. Mary's fiat reminds me to adopt an open and trusting heart, allowing God's guidance to shape how I meet the needs of my family, balance work priorities, and cultivate joy and hope in Advent anticipation.

My Prayer: Lord, teach me to respond like Mary with openness and trust, saying, May my heart be ready to receive You and allow Your grace to guide my actions in family, work, and daily life.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



Mrs. John St. Amand

Joseph Snidutti
John St. Amand
Mom & Dad

Aragona Family

Milici & Ferrara Families

M/M Al Barbarino

Barbarino/Leporati
Shelley Families

M/M Peter Bishun

Maria Montero
Carmen Ramdat
Junior Jimenez
Nelly Jimenez

Mrs. Mary Burkard

Helen Helmstadt

M/M A. Campanaro

George Sadlis
Baby Eva Marie
Campanaro
Flora Iannarelli & EP
Campanaro, Sadlis,
Fortunato & Menna Family

M/M Michael Caputo

Tony & Carolann Ferrara

Ms. Dorothy Caraher

Michael & Frank Caraher
and Family

Cardus Family

Nielsen, Cardus & McCotter
Family

Mrs. Mark Charles

Charles & VanCura Family

M/M F. Coppola

Frank Coppola II
Mickey & Peg Venditti

Mrs. Carmela Demasi

M/M Peter Dixon

Deceased Members of the
Dixon, Lee & Kivlan Family

M/M K. Dombrowski

Frank Dombrowski
Marian Dombrowski
Theodore Krewski
Aniela Krewski
Helen Krewski

Miss Catherine Duggan

Mary W. Duggan
Thomas P. Duggan

M/M Thomas Flood

Brian Flood
Sophia Flood

Giannotti Family

Amelia Giannotti
Pasquale Giannotti

Goulston Family

Michael Farrell
M/M S. Ambrosecchia
Laurence Goulston
Family Farrell

M/M Daniel Juno

Maria A. DePalma
Angela DePalma
Pasquale DePalma
Patricia DePalma

Mrs. Mary Healy

Julia McCabe
Henry Duggan
John Healy
Mary & C. Duggan

Miss Gail Herbst

Herbst & Hoffman
Families

M/M Richard Hishaw

Mary & Thomas P. Duggan

M/M Francis Kahn

Elizabeth Lacchini

M/M R. Laperuta

Raymond Laperuta

Deceased members of the

Kilgannon Family

M/M J. Lonergan III

Lonergan Family

Robin Family

Ms. Kathleen Lanzetta

Armando & Nettie Lanzetta

Ms. G. Longo

Bartholomeo Longo

Celia Longo

Anna Marie Longo

Rosemarie Zaino

Donna Marie Belouvich

M/M Sean Lynch

Bernard D. Lynch

Nora M. Lynch

Jerry Roppa

Mary Ann Mulroy

Christmas Masses of Remembrance

Many people like to request the intention for a Mass on Christmas Day. Since there are a limited number of Masses for Christmas, all requests are not able to be fulfilled. Therefore, there will be a special Novena of Masses for Christmas that will be the Christmas Masses of Remembrance. Those whom you would like will be remembered at all the Masses during the Christmas season.

Special envelopes have been mailed with the regular envelope packet and in the Christmas mailing to all parishioners. They are also available on the front side pews and on the back pews by the doors of the church. Simply fill out the intention 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 "Christmas Masses."

Please do so by Wednesday, December 24th.

Thank you, Father Chuck





CHRISTMAS 2025

(Note additional Masses and time changes)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

(Confessions)

Saturdays,

December 6th, 13th, 20th

3:30 till 4:30 in the Church

Monday & Tuesday

December 22nd & 23rd

Confessions in the Church

5pm-6pm & 7pm-8pm

(other times by request at the rectory)

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th

5:00 pm

8:00 pm (Folk Group)

10:30 pm (Christmas Carols)

11:00 pm (Mass ending at Midnight)

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th

Church at 9:00am, 10:30am & 12 noon

(No Evening Mass on Christmas Day)

Solemnity of Mary

New Year's Eve

Wednesday, December 31st

5:00pm

New Year's Day

Thursday, January 1, 2026

9 am, 10:30am, 12 noon & 1:30pm



ST. RAYMOND'S HUMAN LIFE COMMITTEE

The L.I. Coalition for Life has sponsored many trips to Albany to stop anti-life legislation dealing with abortion and physician-assisted suicide. They are still "fighting the doctor-prescribed suicide bill, with the false, harmless sounding title, 'Medical Aid in Dying'. Like abortion, which was only supposed to be for the so-called 'hard cases', but has expanded to abortion on demand through all nine months of pregnancy, so it will be for doctor-prescribed suicide. First, like the NYS bill, it will be for patients with terminal illnesses predicted to die within six months. However, just as in Belgium, the Netherlands, and Canada, the law will be expanded to the mentally ill and physically disabled, who may feel they have a 'duty to die' to spare their family emotional and financial costs. The slippery slope is real." (L.I.C.L Life News, December 2025) The Medical Aid in dying bill has not been yet been delivered to Gov. Hochul's desk. Once delivered to her desk, she will have 10 days to sign or veto the bill. It is imperative that Gov. Hochul receive calls telling her to Veto this bill if it is sent to her desk. Please pass this information on to those you know and ask them to make a call also.

Phone Gov. Hochul - #1-518-474-8390

*Prayer for the Third week of Advent-
Let us pray for all Catholics that the Lord will
strengthen our resolve to protect
the Gift of every human life from conception till
natural death. Amen.*



The Sodality of Our Lady's December Meeting & Social

Our December meeting and Christmas Social will be on Monday December 15th, at 7:30 pm in the school cafeteria. Doors open at 7pm. Our Chairlady, Gerry Moseman, has planned the "SWEETEST" evening for us with a menu of delicious Christmas desserts and beverages.

You don't need to bring a thing! Gerry's "Christmas Angels" will assist in providing a beautifully decorated cafeteria. The tables will be decorated, and all paper goods will be supplied. We have musical entertainment, and other surprises! Come ready to "carol along"!



We are called to think of and care for others. We only have a certain amount of time on this earth to do good and prepare ourselves for the next life. This week, do something kind for someone else.



*"O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us
who have recourse to you."*

*Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary (December 8th)*

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**



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Peter McCaffrey

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Mary Caffrey 516-887-2458**

*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 THROUGH
WEDNESDAY
FROM 10AM TO 3PM**

(Suggested to call for an appointment)

*"For I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me
to drink, I was a foreigner and you invited me in".*

Matthew 25:35



The Parish Social Ministry would like to sincerely thank all those who chose a card ornament from the Giving Tree. All the wish ornaments have been taken and the presents have been returned to the tree. Next, the gifts will be sorted, packed and the families will be notified to come pick up their gifts in time for Christmas morning. Thank you all for your generosity in helping make Christmas a special and memorable time for so many others.

During the month of November, the Parish Social Ministry assisted 93 households with food, personal and household items and advised them regarding other services offered through the Department of Social Services, Catholic Charities and St. Vincent DePaul. We also welcomed one new client and provided the client with food and advised them of other services available to them.

Food donations can be brought to the Ryan House during its open hours or non-perishable food can be left in the bin on the Ryan House porch and in the Altar Server's Sacristy.

*Thank you all for always helping us serve the people in need in our
community. You are all in our prayers and may
God's blessings shower upon all of you!*

JOIN THE FOLK GROUP!

A MINISTRY OF MUSIC, FAITH & COMMUNITY

Do you love music and want to be part of something joyful and meaningful?

The Folk Group offers a fun, modern take on traditional church music,

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU WITH US!

We're a welcoming group of people who come together to share music, faith, and friendship. While some of us play instruments or have formal training, it's not required. What connects us is our shared love of music, community, and worship.


Whether you sing, play, or just want to be part of a faith-filled musical group,

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN!

Open to anyone from 7th grade and up—no upper age limit!

 Rehearsals: Sundays at 11:00 AM

 Location: Rectory Lower Level

 We sing at the 12 Noon Sunday Mass

Interested? We'd love to hear from you!

 Call Nadine Robinson at 516-784-6775

 Or email: straymondsfolkgroup@gmail.com

Come make a joyful noise with us!



ST. RAYMOND THREE DAY HOME VOTIVE CANDLE SALE \$10 EACH



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HEART
OF MARY**



**SACRET
HEART
OF JESUS**

*Please Come Into The Rectory
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St. Raymond CYO Volleyball



**Registration will be open
from November 21st
until December 21st
Space is limited
Registration is online at the
below website:
www.straymondscyo.com
Girls Grades 5-12**



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

FOUNDED IN 1833, THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL IS A WORLDWIDE ORGANIZATION OF LAY CATHOLICS, FOLLOWING CHRIST'S CALL TO SERVE THE POOR, THE SUFFERING, AND THE DEPRIVED. OUR FOUNDING ACTIVITY, STILL PRACTICED TODAY, IS THE HOME VISIT. THROUGH THESE VISITS, VINCENTIAN MEMBERS ESTABLISH PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED. WHERE RESOURCES ALLOW WE CAN PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED AND OR LEAD THEM TO OTHER RESOURCES WHERE THEY MAY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN THE HELP THEY REQUIRE.

ST. RAYMOND PARISH

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

PLEASE CALL ED AT 887-9325

St. Joseph, Defender of Life Prayer

Dearest St. Joseph, at the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God's humble servant, you guided the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem, welcomed Jesus as your own son in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child. We praise God that as their faithful protector, you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you. May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God's most precious gift of life. Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life—especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things. Amen.

We ask Catholics to offer this prayer daily, from now until October 1, the beginning of Respect Life Month. Free online and print versions of the prayer can be found at www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph. Thank you for responding to this invitation to pray and for your support in protecting innocent children and their vulnerable mothers from the evil of abortion.

St. Joseph, Defender of Life, pray for us!

2025

Catholic Ministries Appeal
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*Renewed by the Eucharist
Sent on Mission*



The Eucharistic Revival has enkindled a missionary fire in the hearts of the American faithful. Going out on Mission - for the life of the World is the most important phase, where we go out and share the love of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist to transform the world. Faith is alive in our parishes and schools, soup kitchens and housing programs, on street corners and in churches. It is lived through people of all backgrounds, from every neighborhood. People everywhere come together to support one another. It is in this spirit that the Catholic Ministries Appeal exists: to bring support and build strong communities through faith and your generosity. Every year, the annual Catholic Appeal provides us an opportunity to realize the difference we can make when we act together in God's love. Please consider joining us again this year by making a gift to the 2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal.



100% of every dollar raised is restricted to fund the objectives, programs, and mission supported by the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

Please make check payable to the Catholic Ministries Appeal

Name: _____

Parish: _____

Address: _____

City, State _____

Zip Code: _____

Telephone number: _____

Home _____

Cell: _____

Signature: _____

**To make a donation, you can also visit <https://www.drvc.org/CMA/or>
call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296.**

Thank You!

FORMED

This week on **FORMED...**



Explore the seasons of Advent and Christmas with other great videos, audiobooks, and talks by visiting our Advent & Christmas collection: <https://app.formed.org/app/collections/793959-and-christmas>



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

FORMED

LINK TO REGISTER... IT'S FREE!

MASSSES FOR THIS WEEK

Monday, December 15th

7:15am Mary McIntyre (L)

8:45am Joan Casey

Tuesday, December 16th

7:15am Don Butler

8:45am Giuseppe Cibellis

Wednesday, December 17th

7:15am Ron Barth

8:45am Anne Gallagher

Thursday, December 18th

7:15am Mary W. Duggan

8:45am Michael Brandon (L)

Friday, December 19th

7:15am St. Raymond Parish

8:45am Pat Imbriale

Saturday, December 20th

8:45am Joseph Ingrao, Anthony Scarcella,
Salvatore Iannone, Ellen Cahill (L)
Brid Wyndham (L), Sheila Borres,
Ridley Gunderson

5:00pm Ivan M. Rodriguez

Sunday, December 21st

Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30am Kathleen & James Ryder

9:00am Sadie Vulpis

10:30am Sodality

12:00pm Thomas Hourican & Family

Josefina Alarcon

Jean Contwell

Thomas Cea

Kellyann Connors

Robert D'Onofrio

Winifred & Joseph Bock

Ann Marie F. Cueto

Ann Gallagher

Rafael Sondon

4:30pm St. Raymond Parish



Altar Bread & Wine

*In Loving Memory of
Josephine, William & Thomas Huhn
With Love & Prayers
Dorothy & Michael Bock & Family*

SANCTUARY LIGHT

*In Memory of
The Raia Family
Love & Prayers
Dianne Minucci*



Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday

Numbers 24:2-7/Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday

Zephaniah 3:1-2/Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday

Genesis 49:2, 8-10/Matthew 1:1-17

Thursday

Jeremiah 23:5-8/Matthew 1:18-25

Friday

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a/Luke 1:5-25

Saturday

Isaiah 7:10-14/Luke 1:26-38

Sunday

Isaiah 7:10-14/Matthew 1:18-24

Parish Bulletin Board



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WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIES.CC

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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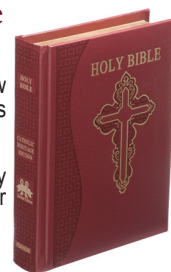
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