

## 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, January 4, 2026

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000

“Then they opened their treasures  
and offered him gifts of gold,  
frankincense, and myrrh.”

-Matthew 2:11



January 4, 2026

Feast of the Epiphany

## 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](http://www.SaintRaymonds.org)

**Facebook:** St. Raymond Parish, East Rockaway

**E-Mail:** [StRayRcc@optonline.net](mailto: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 Fax .....593-1156

**E-Mail:** [strayfaithformation@aol.com](mailto: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 Christmas blessings be yours on the Feast of the Epiphany!** Today we give thanks to God for the hope we have, even in the midst of whatever current darkness we are facing. Why? Because the time of God's restoration has come through the birth of Jesus. The first reading from the prophet Isaiah speaks about a darkness that covers the earth, with thick clouds covering the people. Captivity brought the weight of hopelessness to Israel. Yet, the light of hope will ultimately triumph. **"Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you."** The Responsorial Psalm's refrain is: **"Lord, every nation on earth will adore you."** This shows the far-reaching power and effect the coming birth of the Savior will have on the world. Jew and Gentile will be coheirs of salvation won in Jesus Christ. And finally, Matthew's gospel passage tells of the Magi from the east, the Three Kings, who come searching for the newborn king of the Jews. They are led to Bethlehem where they find the infant Jesus. They pay him homage and offer their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Then they travel home, not reporting to Herod, who only wanted to kill this newborn baby threat. **"And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way."**

Today we hear again the story of the Magi, three people who came from the east, but not empty handed. They came bearing gifts that represented certain things (kingship, divinity, and death). Think about it. Did the baby Jesus really need these gifts? Not in the least. Yet they are the gifts the Magi needed to give. It is easy to think that God needs certain things from us, but this isn't really the case. God has no needs in the way we use this word. God is God and he can do whatever he wants in whatever way he chooses. God can't be diminished in any way by our failure to give him anything, no matter what it is. Yet maybe the gifts God desires are precisely what we *need* to give him. Sometimes it is hard to make relevant, a story of something long ago. It is not more than just interesting. What does the Magi really have to do with us? Like the Magi, we too go on a journey each week, a much shorter one, to church. We walk in and up an aisle to a pew of our choice to sit in. We too come from an ordinary place to the foot of a miracle. And the object is the same as it was for the Magi. We come to gaze on God, draw near to him, commune with him, worship him. But like the Magi do we come with something to give or are we empty handed?

What value do I have to give? My prayers, yet my mind wanders. My generosity, but I am often-times too self-centered. Maybe my kind heart, but I usually also do something unkind each day. How about forgiveness and mercy? Well, there are some grudges and hurts I'm not willing to part with yet. ***Basically, all I have to give is my imperfect, flawed, weak and sinful self, which is precisely the gift God wants from me.*** And it is the gift I need to give. It's wanting to imitate Jesus, knowing I can't completely do that. It's doing Godlike things when I mostly do ordinary things. It's wanting to forgive the unforgiveable, love the unlovable and show compassion and mercy when I really want to show something else altogether. In other words, God wants the gift of our whole selves. It is not the gift God needs, but rather the gift I need to give and what the world needs from me. So, give yourself to the God who is always giving himself to you. Remember this as we all remember that special gift-giving journey long ago.

***Remember to take home a copy of the bulletin when you leave Mass today.*** It contains many items of interest and invitation with something for everyone. Of special note is news and needs from ***Parish Social Ministry***, info from ***Religious Education*** (Faith Formation), an invitation to the ***Holy Hour*** on Tuesday evening, January 6th to honor the patron saint of our parish, St. Raymond, whose feast day is Wednesday, January 7th, 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.

Have a great first week of January 2026! ***Keep your Christmas joy going and remember: Follow the Wise Men, not the wise guys.*** God's Christmas blessing be yours always.

***-Father Chuck***





# **WEEKLY MASS PRAYERS**

**JANUARY 4, 2026—THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

## **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.

## **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.



# READINGS FOR TODAY'S MASS

## JANUARY 4, 2026—THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### FIRST READING

#### Isaiah 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

#### Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13.

**R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you**  
O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.

**R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you**  
Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

**R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you**  
The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.

**R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you**  
For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

**R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you**

### ALLELUIA

#### Matthew 2:2

R. Alleluia, alleluia.  
We saw his star at its rising  
and have come to do him homage.  
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

### SECOND READING

#### Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

### GOSPEL

#### Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

**The parish will hold a Holy Hour on Tuesday,  
January 6, in honor of St. Raymond, whose  
feast is celebrated on January 7. We will gather  
before the Blessed Sacrament to ask for his  
intercession and protection for our parish.  
All are warmly invited to attend.**



# **HOLY HOUR**

**Tuesday,  
January 6, 2026  
7:00pm - 8:00pm  
ST. RAYMOND  
CHURCH**

## **Exposition-Reflection Music-Benediction**

# St. Raymond of Penyafort



St. Raymond of Penyafort (c. 1175–1275) was a Spanish priest, Dominican friar, and one of the greatest canon lawyers in Church history. Born near Barcelona, he studied law and theology and became a respected teacher of canon law. Later, he joined the Dominican Order and lived a life of prayer, teaching, and service.

St. Raymond was appointed adviser to Pope Gregory IX and was asked to organize Church laws into what became a foundational collection of canon law. Known for his wisdom, humility, and dedication to justice, he lived to be nearly 100 years old and is the patron saint of canon lawyers.

His feast day is January 7th.

## 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)

*"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done." Proverbs 19:17*

The Parish Social Ministry staff hopes that you all enjoyed celebrating the arrival of the New Year and we hope God's grace will fill your home with love, joy and peace in 2026.

We have been busy making Christmas special for our clients but now our shelves are a little bare of certain items...

Pantry items needed to help restock the shelves are: Pancake Mix, Maple Syrup, Mayonnaise, Cooking Oil, Grape Jelly, Rice Side Dishes, Chef Boyardee Pasta, Canned Tomatoes, Canned Fruit, Shampoo, Conditioner and Laundry Detergent.

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 or 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!*



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAITH FORMATION

*Lucy Ostermann, Director*



**CLASSES WILL RESUME AND THE OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN ON MONDAY 1/5/2026**



### EPIPHANY SUNDAY

At today's 12Noon Mass, some of our students will participate in a procession of the Three Kings as they visit Jesus in his manger with their gifts of homage. Children in the congregation will be given a 'star' to help guide the Magi as they make their way to the newborn King!

All are welcome to attend.

### ATTENTION 8TH GRADE PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Early planning – there will be an 8th grade parent/student meeting on Tuesday 1/13/2026 at 7:30pm in the auditorium. At this meeting the following are to be handed in: Confirmation Information sheet, Confirmation Name report, Confirmation Sponsor report (Kellenberg students as well).

### SWEETHEART VALENTINE DANCE

Please look for the flyer in this week's bulletin for information and registration for our Sweetheart Valentine's Day Dance scheduled for Saturday, February 7th, 2026.



**Mrs. Saia's Second  
Grade students  
working on their  
Advent Journals**



# Our Children's First Holy Communion Projects



Parish Girls in Grades 1-8  
join us for our annual St. Raymond's

# SWEETHEART

## Valentine's Day Dance

Scan me to  
register and pay  
by Venmo



Payment is  
Non-Refundable



**Saturday**  
**7**  
**February**

**From 6:00p-8:00p**  
**St. Raymond's**  
**School Cafeteria**



**\$20 per person**  
Dinner, drinks  
dancing,  
desserts, & more

Tickets to be distributed at the 5p Mass on 2/7/26.

Must have a ticket for admittance.

Tickets are given on a first come, first serve basis as seating is limited.  
Dads, Grandfathers, Uncles, or any other adult figure is welcome to escort.

**RSVP By January 31st, 2026. Cash or check made  
out to St. Raymond's Religious Education or scan  
the QR code above and Venmo @Jennifer-Saia**

**Girl(s) Name (s)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade** \_\_\_\_\_

**Escort's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please wear pink,  
♥ red, or white ♥**





# 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) \_\_\_\_\_

## SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD WEEKLY GUIDE FOR PERSONAL PRAYER



## Come & See

Until you do, you will  
never know



### Summary of the Readings for the Week

This Sunday is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. The Gospel of Matthew recounts the journey of the magi who, having seen the star announcing the newborn King of the Jews, "have come to do him homage," offering gifts and worshipping Jesus, therefore manifesting Christ's revelation to all peoples.

This week, Monday is the Memorial of Saint John Neumann (bishop, religious) who, as Bishop of Philadelphia, is known for his tireless work in Catholic education and the growth of parochial schools in the United States. Tuesday is the Optional Memorial of Saint André Bessette (religious) who as a Holy Cross brother, was known for his deep devotion to Saint Joseph and his quiet ministry of hospitality and prayer at Saint Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, Canada. Wednesday is the Optional Memorial of Saint Raymond of Peñafort (our Parish patron), who as a Dominican priest, was known for his expertise in canon law and his efforts to reconcile conflicting interpretations of Church law.

This week, the First Readings are excerpts from the third, fourth and fifth chapters of the First Letter of John. The readings continue the apostle John's pastoral reflections on living in the light of Christ. He encourages believers to remain faithful, love one another deeply, and understand that whoever is born of God does not persist in sin but keeps safe in Christ, fostering confidence that "if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."

The Gospels for the first half of the week highlight the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and his compassionate authority. On Monday, (Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25) Jesus hears of John the Baptist's arrest and withdraws to Galilee, where he proclaims the nearness of the kingdom of heaven, calls for

repentance, and goes throughout Galilee teaching and healing "every disease and every infirmity," drawing great crowds from many regions as word of his teaching and miracles spreads.

On Tuesday (Mark 6:34-44), Jesus responds with deep compassion to the crowds like a shepherd to his sheep and performs the miracle of feeding the five thousand, multiplying five loaves and two fish to satisfy all who had come to hear him. On Wednesday (Mark 6:45-52), he demonstrates his dominion over creation's challenges by walking on the sea to reach his disciples struggling against the wind, calming their fear and revealing more fully his identity as Lord over the forces of nature.

For the remainder of the week, the focus of the Gospels shifts to Jesus' proclamation of his mission and his healing power at work in varied contexts. On Thursday the Gospel from Luke 4:14-22a presents Jesus in his hometown of Nazareth reading Isaiah's prophecy and declaring that the Spirit of the Lord is upon him to bring good news to the poor, release to captives, and sight to the blind, inaugurating his public mission as fulfillment of Scripture.

On Friday (Luke 5:12-16) Jesus heals a man with leprosy, touching and cleansing him, which both reveals his power over disease and invites deeper reflection on purity, mercy, and the kingdom breaking into the world. On Saturday (John 3:22-30) the reading shifts to an encounter between the disciples of John the Baptist and Jesus' disciples, where John acknowledges that "he must increase, but I must decrease," pointing all toward Christ.

Sunday, January 11th, is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, marking the end of the Christmas season. Matthew's Gospel shows Jesus approaching John at the Jordan to be baptized, teaching that even the sinless one enters into the waters "to fulfill all righteousness," and at that moment the heavens open and the Father's voice declares Jesus as His beloved Son.





*"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."  
- Matthew 2:2*



### 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

This week's Gospels invite me to recognize Jesus as the light revealed to all nations and to welcome his kingdom through trust, repentance, compassion, and humble discipleship. As Christ feeds, heals, calms, and calls, I am encouraged to let his presence shape my life so it points others to Him.

### Guided to Christ

*"They prostrated themselves and did him homage"  
(Matthew 2:11)*

The magi's faithful seeking invites me to pay attention to God's light leading me even in life's uncertainties.

*My Prayer: Lord, open my eyes to your presence  
each day and help me lead my family toward  
you with humble hearts.*

### Kingdom Proclamation

*"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."  
(Matthew 4:17)*

Jesus' compassionate outreach of calling people to repent, healing the sick and teaching with authority reminds me that God's presence brings wholeness and hope.

*My Prayer: Jesus, grant me courage to share your  
peace, welcoming your kingdom into every moment.*

### Compassionate Provider

*"He had compassion for them." (Mark 6:34)*

Jesus compassion for the crowds, feeding them with five loaves and two fish, reveals that Christ sees my needs and invites me to trust him with what I have.

*My Prayer: Jesus, help me trust you with my blessings  
and share generously with those around me.*

### Presence in the Storm

*"Take courage; it is I. Do not be afraid."  
(Mark 6:50)*

Jesus walking on the sea to his disciples amid the storm, calming their fear and proclaiming his steadfast presence, reassures me that I am never alone in struggle.

*My Prayer: Jesus, calm my anxieties and steady  
my heart so I may bring peace into my  
family and workplace.*

### Mission Fulfilled

*"Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your  
hearing." (Luke 4:21)*

Jesus proclaiming that he fulfills Isaiah's prophecy in bringing good news to the poor and freedom to captives invites me to recognize God's word is alive and to join him in His mission.

*My Prayer: Lord, help me live your word today so my  
actions uplift those I meet in love and service.*

### Mercy Revealed

*"I do will it. Be made clean" (Luke 5:13)*

Jesus healing a man with leprosy, touching him with mercy and restoring him, shows me that no one is beyond God's compassion.

*My Prayer: Jesus, make me attentive to the suffering  
around me and generous in offering comfort to those  
around me.*

### Joyful Witness

*"He must increase; I must decrease" (John 3:30).*

Saint John the Baptist's affirmation of Jesus teaches me that discipleship points to Christ as the source of life and joy. John's humility invites us to celebrate Christ above all.

*My Prayer: Jesus, help me set aside self-interest  
so that your love shines through me in every  
part of my life.*



# The Baptism of the Lord



The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, or Theophany, is the feast day commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist.



The Epiphany marks the arrival of visitors, identified in Scripture as the magi, to the place where Jesus was born. The Three Kings are known for the gifts they brought: Gold — a symbol of wealth and power, identifies the recipient as a king. Frankincense — the crystalized resinous sap of a tree used as incense and as an offering, is symbolic of prayer. Myrrh — another resinous tree sap, was used in healing liniments and as an embalming ointment.

## 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](mailto:straymondsfolkgroup@gmail.com)

Come make a joyful noise with us!



## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



### **Anatalio Family**

Jose G. Red  
Vicente G. Anatalio, Jr.  
Vicente G. Anatalio, Sr.  
Jose Mariano Anatalio

### **Deirdre E. Boller**

Maureen E. Boller  
Anthony J. Boller, Jr.  
**Mrs. Edward Carey**

VonUrff Family

Carey Family

### **M/M Mark Klang**

Mildred & Fred Weber

Viola & Felix Klang

Janet Molnar

John & Antoinette Schauer

### **Mrs. Teresa A. Meehan**

Daniel O'Brien

James Meehan

Helen Kelly

Edwin Kelly

### **Mrs. D. Minutello**

Patrick Minutello

Minutello Family

Forte Family

Muscattelli Family

### **Mrs. Maureen Rogone**

Joseph Rogone

### **M/M James Rooney**

Cuite Family

Rooney Family

Guarnieri Family

### **Ms. Noreen Sheehy**

Anne & Michael Sheehy

Thomas M. Sheehy

Christopher Connolly

Noreen C. Sheehy

### **M/M Rafael Sondon**

Rafael Lus Sondon

Nilda Sondon

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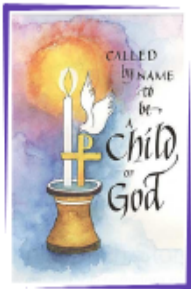


## St. John Neumann

John Nepomucene Neumann was a Bohemian-born American prelate of the Catholic Church. An immigrant from Bohemia, he came to the United States in 1836, where he was ordained, joined the Redemptorist order, and became the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia in 1852.

He is the patron saint of Catholic educators and schools, immigrants, and sick children





## God Bless Our Newly Baptized

*Antonio Giovanni Estevez*

*Kennedy Juliet Kuehn*

*Micaela Janine DiGiambattista*

*Olivia Grace Mosslih*

*Victoria Faith Mosslih*

*Robert Albert Naud*

*Alexia Russo Okano*

*Sophia Marie Riccio*

*Isla Rose Donnellan*

*Payton Elizabeth Brennan*

*Cornell Luc Chery*

*Colette Catherine Sagan*

*Luciano Giuseppe Visconti*

*Henry William Quinn*

*Gabriel Martin Guerrier*

*Angelo Stefano Vita*

*Catherine Mae VonHoffman*

*Vera Jett Palette*

*Bret Anthony Palmero-Torres*

*Rosalina Marie Anderson*

*Evaluna Jo Francia*

*Giovanni Michael Francia*



*"...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend ..." Philipians 2:10*

### **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**



*As we near the end of the Christmas season, be sure to keep Christ alive in your hearts. Don't let all the good deeds you performed and all the spiritual formation you developed during the Advent and Christmas seasons stay there- live the meaning of Christmas throughout the year, throughout your life.*





**ST. RAYMOND'S  
HUMAN LIFE  
COMMITTEE**

**If you are pregnant and feel that you may not be able to handle your pregnancy at this time, please do not rush, nor be pressured, into making a fast decision. Give yourself time before you make your decision. We want you to know that you are not alone.**

**There is free, confidential, help available to you. The caring volunteers at the Life Center are there to listen to you and offer meaningful information and assistance to you.**

**The Life Center - #516-798-9100**

**For anyone suffering (woman or man) from a past abortion, come begin your healing journey!**

**Please call the following for confidential, caring assistance.**

**Lorraine - #631-463-4399 or  
Deacon Fred Ferrara -  
#201-481-0800**

*God's Mercy and Peace are  
waiting for you!*

**For anyone who has just taken the chemical abortion pill regimen and does not want to continue with the abortion, please contact the following immediately. There may still be time to reverse the action of the pill.**

**Abortion Pill Reversal -  
#877-558-0333 (24/7)**

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Charities of Brooklyn**

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**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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HEART  
OF MARY**



**SACRET  
HEART  
OF JESUS**

*Please Come Into The Rectory  
And Support Our Parish*



## NYS Bishops' Statement on Gov. Hochul's Plan to Sign Assisted Suicide Bill

December 17, 2025

*Following is a joint statement by Timothy Cardinal Dolan and the Bishops of New York State on Governor Hochul's announcement that she will sign the physician-assisted suicide bill passed earlier this year by the legislature:*

*"We are extraordinarily troubled by Governor Hochul's announcement that she will sign the egregious bill passed by the legislature earlier this year sanctioning physician-assisted suicide in New York State. This new law signals our government's abandonment of its most vulnerable citizens, telling people who are sick or disabled that suicide in their case is not only acceptable, but is encouraged by our elected leaders.*

*Tragically, this new law will seriously undermine all of the anti-suicide and mental health care investments Governor Hochul has made through her tenure. How can any society have credibility to tell young people or people with depression that suicide is never the answer, while at the same time telling elderly and sick people that it is a compassionate choice to be celebrated?*

*"While physician-assisted suicide will soon be legal here in New York, we must clearly reiterate that it is in direct conflict with Catholic teaching on the sacredness and dignity of all human life from conception until natural death and is a grave moral evil on par with other direct attacks on human life. We call on Catholics and all New Yorkers to reject physician-assisted suicide for themselves, their loved ones, and those in their care. And we pray that our state turn away from its promotion of a Culture of Death and invest instead in life-affirming, compassionate hospice and palliative care, which is seriously underutilized."*

Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York  
Most Reverend Edward B. Scharfenberger, Bishop of Albany  
Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, Bishop of Brooklyn  
Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher, Bishop of Buffalo  
Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg  
Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano, Bishop of Rochester  
Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop of Rockville Centre  
Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia, Bishop of Syracuse  
And the Most Reverend Auxiliary and Emeritus Bishops of New York State





## Ocean Financial Federal Credit Union Supports St. Raymond!

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



## 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](http://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!**



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WEBSITE FOLLOW THE**

**FORMED**

**LINK TO REGISTER... IT'S FREE!**

## MASSSES FOR THIS WEEK

**Monday, January 5th**

**St. John Neumann**

7:15am Mary W. Duggan

8:45am Charles Holupka

**Tuesday, January 6th**

7:15am Colleen Rodgers

8:45am Carolin & Mary Sellitti (L)

**Wednesday, January 7th**

**St. Raymond Penyafort**

7:15am St. Raymond Parish

8:45am Joanne Spodafora (L)

**Thursday, January 8th**

7:15am Daniel O'Brien

8:45am Ann Webb

**Friday, January 9th**

7:15am Noreen & Anne Sheehy

8:45am Gerard Carnevale

**Saturday, January 10th**

8:45am Lucille DeMartini

5:00pm Salvatore Mannino

**Sunday, January 11th**

**The Baptism of the Lord**

7:30am Christopher Stewart

9:00am Maria Tavella

10:30am William Morea

12:00pm Helen DePalma

Danny Finneran

John & Anna Mahoney

Maureen Ohlsen

Anthony Santino

Nassau County Police Dept.

Donal McCarthy

John Peduto

4:30pm St. Raymond Parish



# REST IN PEACE

*Yolanda Stabile*

*John W. Schaefer*

*Charlotte A. Fabrizio*

*May the souls of the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace. Amen*



## Scripture Readings for the Week

### Monday

1 John 3:22-4:6/Matthew 4:12-17

### Tuesday

1 John 4:7-10/Mark 6:34-44

### Wednesday

1 John 4:11-18/Mark 6:45-52

### Thursday

1 John 4:19-5:4/Luke 4:14-22

### Friday

1 John 5:5-13/Luke 5:12-16

### Saturday

1 John 5:14-21/John 3:22-30

### Sunday

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38  
Matthew 3:13-17



## Parish Bulletin Board



**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE  
STRUGGLING WITH ALCOHOL  
OR SUBSTANCE USE?**  
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**ADDICTION TREATMENT SERVICES**  
**30-C CARLOUGH ROAD BOHEMIA, NY 11716**  
**631-589-4144**  
**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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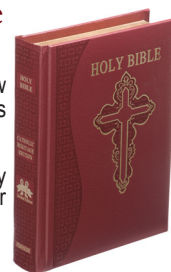
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