### Masses

Saturday Eve

5:00PM

Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30AM,

12 Noon and 4:30 PM

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

### Pastoral Team

Father Chuck Romano

**Associate Pastors** 

Father Theodore Iloh

#### **Deacons**

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

**Director of Religious Education** 

Mrs. Lucy Ostermann

**Business Manager** 

Christopher Grennen

South Nassau Hospital Chaplain

Father Cornelius Derv

### 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 Raymond

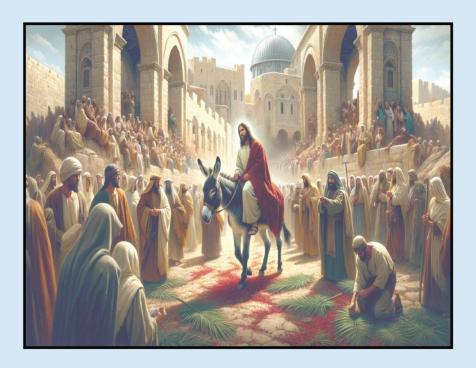
## A Eucharistic Community of Faith, Jove and Friendship

Sunday, March 24, 2024

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000

"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest! -Matthew 21:9



March 24, 2024 Palm Sunday

#### Welcome To Our Parish Family!

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

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

StRayRcc@optonline.net E-Mail:

Rectory......593-5000 Rectory Fax......887-0554

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

Religious Education Office ......593-9075

Religious Education Office Fax ......593-1156

E-Mail: strayfaithformation@aol.com

#### **Pastoral Care Of The Sick**

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

#### **Devotions**

#### **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

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

#### **Nocturnal Adoration**

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

#### **Miraculous Medal Novena**

Saturdays following 8:45am Mass.

#### **Confessions**

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

#### **Baptisms**

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

#### **Bereavement Support Group**

Call the rectory office for meeting times.

#### **Marriages**

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

#### **Prayer Groups**

Charismatic Prayer Group: Every Tuesday at 7:30pm

in the rectory lower level.

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

#### **Music Ministries**

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

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

#### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

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

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



#### The Catholic Faith Network (CFN)

Broadcast of the Celebration of the Eucharist:

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

Monday - Friday at 11:00 am, 9:30 pm ET Saturday at 11:00 am, 9:30 pm ET Sunday at 1:30 pm, 8:30 pm ET

#### St. Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre, NY

Monday – Friday at 8:30 am, 12:30 pm ET Sunday at 11:00 am, 7:00 pm ET

#### St. Patrick's Cathedral, NY

Monday – Friday at 6:30 pm ET Sunday at 3:30 pm ET



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

LC Alex James Cooper US MARINE CORPS LC Dean Thomas Cooper US MARINE CORPS Lt. Col. Mary P. King, M.D., US ARMY Commander Joseph Garbitelli US NAVY Staff /Sgt. Matthew R. Hines - US ARMY LC Connor Thomas McHale US MARINE CORPS Sgt. Gerard Moran

Lt. Com. Joseph Leahy US NAVY

Sgt. Bryan Petriccione US ARMY - Cavalry Unit Lt. JG Joseph Woloszyn US NAVY

Sgt. Hunter Deets, 10th Mountain Division, US ARMY TSGT Curt Abdool US AIRFORCE

> Please remember to pray for our wounded soldiers.

### Father Chuck's Corner

Greetings and God's final Lenten blessings be vours as we celebrate Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week! We now start our week-long movement from the Passion and Death of Jesus to his glorious Resurrection on Easter Sunday. To me, this is a time when our Catholic identity and faith should be front and center through prayer, reflection, repentance and by attending the Church's Holy Week services. Today's readings show us what it means to sacrifice for love. In the first reading from Isaiah, the people of Israel have grown wise since being in exile and no longer try to resist God's ways. "I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame." Then in Pauls' letter to the Philippians, Jesus is fully one of us even to the point of accepting death on the cross. "Christ Jesus, though he ws in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped." And of course, we then have the traditional reading of the Passion of Jesus, this year from Mark's gospel, which tells of the most earth-shattering event in his-

Consider the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem that begins the Masses celebrated on Palm Sunday. Knowing what he knew, why would Jesus come into the city? I don't think any of us would have done the same thing. We are conditioned to keep ourselves out of harm's way. Truthfully, I'm sure the vast majority of people would never have entered Jerusalem that fateful day. But Jesus did. I don't think it's right to presume Jesus wasn't conflicted about this, that it was an easy decision for him. Remember that scripture shows him praying that this cup might pass him by. His humanity didn't disappear during his passion. It was still there for all to see. Yet, unlike us, his humanity was not an obstacle for the will of the Father to be lived through him. His humanity didn't overpower his divinity. Rather, the two came perfectly together and revealed the fullness of both natures, a oneness of everything God is and everything we are called to be. This makes me look on Jesus in awe, and rightfully so. We all owe hm immense gratitude. We owe him our love, our obedience. We owe him absolutely everything, our whole selves. What Jesus shows us perfectly is not meant for him alone. It is what each of us is called to do, each of us called to be. This is made possible only by the Holy Spirit, the spirit of the living God who dwells within us, not from afar. Our fallen nature doesn't have to be the dominant force in our lives,

deciding what we say and do. The Divine spark is in each of us as a flame of love and goodness, compassion, and mercy, that allows us to be the best that we can be. And when we allow God to come alive in us in this way, we just might find ourselves willing to do the hard things, the scary things. In other words, we just might have the courage to enter the holy city with Jesus rather than turn and head in another direction. Today begins the holiest of weeks and Jesus will walk a path none of us would ever choose. Let's not let him walk it alone. Let's journey with him, up that hill, trusting that God's way is always the best way. And when loving seems a bit too hard, and forgiving feels a little too hard and showing mercy and compassion feels too hard, let that be our fallen humanity talking. But there is another voice, the One that Jesus listened to every single day, every single moment. It's the One inviting us to choose a different path, a different vision, a different way. And don't worry; you won't be alone.

Tomorrow on Holy Monday, there will be a "No Questions Asked" Penance Service with Confessions starting at 7:30pm in the church. It is a peaceful way to join in prayer and experience the healing power of God's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The format is designed to help those who may have been away from the sacrament for a period of time. Come, pray together, and bring a friend.

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

Have a Happy Holy Week! Enjoy the last days of Lent, the Triduum days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, and then the glory of Easter Sunday. Remember: Jesus loves you to the cross and back. God bless always!

-Father Chuck

#### THE PASSION OF THE LORD

#### MARCH 24, 2024-PALM SUNDAY

N- NARRATOR + - CHRIST V - VOICE C - CROWD Mk 14:1—15:47

N. The Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were to take place in two days' time. So the chief priests and the scribes were seeking a way to arrest him by treachery and put him to death. They said,

C. "Not during the festival, for fear that there may be a riot among the people."

N. When he was in Bethany reclining at table in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of perfumed oil, costly genuine spikenard. She broke the alabaster jar and poured it on his head. There were some who were indignant.

C. "Why has there been this waste of perfumed oil? It could have been sold for more than three hundred days' wages and the money given to the poor."

N. They were infuriated with her. Jesus said, + "Let her alone. Why do you make trouble for her? She has done a good thing for me. The poor you will always have with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them, but you will not always have me. She has done what she could. She has anticipated anointing my body for burial. Amen, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed to the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

N. Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went off to the chief priests to hand him over to them. When they heard him they were pleased and promised to pay him money. Then he looked for an opportunity to hand him over. On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him,

C. "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?"

N. He sent two of his disciples and said to them.

+. Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there."

N. The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he came with the Twelve. And as they reclined at table and were eating, Jesus said,

+. "Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me."

N. They began to be distressed and to say to him, one by one,

V. "Surely it is not I?"

N. He said to them,

+. "One of the Twelve, the one who dips with me into the dish. For the Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born."

N. While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said.

+. "Take it; this is my body."

N. Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them,

+. "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

N. Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

+. "All of you will have your faith shaken, for it is written: *I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be dispersed*. But after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee."

N. Peter said to him,

V. "Even though all should have their faith shaken, mine will not be."

N. Then Jesus said to him,

+. "Amen, I say to you, this very night before the cock crows twice you will deny me three times."

N. But he vehemently replied,

V. "Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you."

N. And they all spoke similarly. Then they came to a place named Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,

+. "Sit here while I pray."

N. He took with him Peter, James, and John, and began to be troubled and distressed.

Then he said to them,

+. "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch."

N. He advanced a little and fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour might pass by him; he said,

#### THE PASSION OF THE LORD

#### MARCH 24, 2024-PALM SUNDAY

+. "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will."

N. When he returned he found them asleep. He said to Peter,

+. "Simon, are you asleep?

Could you not keep watch for one hour?
Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."
N. Withdrawing again, he prayed, saying the same thing. Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open and did not know what to answer him. He returned a third time and said to them.

+. "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough. The hour has come. Behold, the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. See, my betrayer is at hand."

N. Then, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying,

V. "The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely."

N. He came and immediately went over to him and said.

V. "Rabbi."

N. And he kissed him. At this they laid hands on him and arrested him. One of the bystanders drew his sword, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear. Jesus said to them in reply,

+. "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs, to seize me? Day after day I was with you teaching in the temple area, yet you did not arrest me; but that the Scriptures may be fulfilled."

N. And they all left him and fled. Now a young man followed him wearing nothing but a linen cloth about his body. They seized him, but he left the cloth behind and ran off naked. They led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. Peter followed him at a distance into the high priest's courtyard and was seated with the guards, warming himself at the fire. The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they found none. Many gave false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. Some took the stand and testified falsely against him, alleging,

C. "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands and within three days I will build another not made with hands."

N. Even so their testimony did not agree. The high priest rose before the assembly and questioned Jesus, saying,

V. "Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?"

N. But he was silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him and said to him.

V. "Are you the Christ, the son of the Blessed One?"

N. Then Jesus answered,

+. "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven."

N. At that the high priest tore his garments and said,

V. "What further need have we of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

N. They all condemned him as deserving to die. Some began to spit on him. They blindfolded him and struck him and said to him,

C. "Prophesy!"

N. And the guards greeted him with blows. While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the high priest's maids came along. Seeing Peter warming himself, she looked intently at him and said,

C. "You too were with the Nazarene, Jesus."

N. But he denied it saying,

V. "I neither know nor understand what you are talking about."

N. So he went out into the outer court. Then the cock crowed. The maid saw him and began again to say to the bystanders,

C. "This man is one of them."

N. Once again he denied it.

A little later the bystanders said to Peter once more,

C. "Surely you are one of them; for you too are a Galilean."

N. He began to curse and to swear,

V. "I do not know this man about whom you are talking."

N. And immediately a cock crowed a second time. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice you will deny me three times." He broke down and wept. As soon as morning came, the chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him,

## THE PASSION OF THE LORD

#### MARCH 24, 2024-PALM SUNDAY

- V. "Are you the king of the Jews?"
- N. He said to him in reply,
- +. "You say so."
- N. The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him,
- V. "Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of."
- N. Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. Now on the occasion of the feast he used to release to them one prisoner whom they requested. A man called Barabbas was then in prison along with the rebels who had committed murder in a rebellion. The crowd came forward and began to ask him to do for them as he was accustomed. Pilate answered.
- V. "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?"
- N. For he knew that it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate again said to them in reply,
- V. "Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the king of the Jews?"
- N. They shouted again,
- C. "Crucify him."
- N. Pilate said to them,
- V. "Why? What evil has he done?"
- N. They only shouted the louder,
- C. "Crucify him."
- N. So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led him away inside the palace, that is, the praetorium, and assembled the whole cohort. They clothed him in purple and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him. They began to salute him with,
- C. "Hail, King of the Jews!"
- N. and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him. They knelt before him in homage. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him. They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. They brought him to the place of Golgotha— which is translated Place of the Skull -, They gave him wine drugged with myrrh, but he did not take it. Then they crucified him and divided his garments by casting lots for them to see what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when thev crucified him.

The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." With him they crucified two revolutionaries, one on his right and one on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying,

C. "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself by coming down from the cross."

N. Likewise the chief priests, with the scribes, mocked him among themselves and said, C. "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe."

N. Those who were crucified with him also kept abusing him. At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

- +. "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"
- N. which is translated,
- +. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- N. Some of the bystanders who heard it said, C. "Look, he is calling Elijah."
- N. One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink saying.
- V. "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."
- N. Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

#### Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

N. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said,

V. "Truly this man was the Son of God!" N. There were also women looking on from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene. Mary the mother of the younger James and of Joses, and Salome. These women had followed him when he was in Galilee and ministered to him. There were also many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. When it was already evening, since it was the day of preparation, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a distinguished member of the council, who was himself awaiting the kingdom of God, came and courageously went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was amazed that he was already dead. He summoned the centurion and asked him if Jesus had already died. And when he learned of it from the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. Having bought a linen cloth, he took him down, wrapped him in the linen cloth, and laid him in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses watched where he was laid.

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - FAITH FORMATION

#### Lucy Ostermann, Director



There are no Religious Education classes and the Religious Education office will be closed for Easter break from Wednesday  $\frac{3}{27}$  2024-Monday  $\frac{4}{1}$  2024. Classes will resume and the office will re-open on Tuesday  $\frac{4}{2}$  2024.

#### Attention 7Th & 8th Grade Parents/Students

Congratulations to our 7th & 8th grade students for their participation in the Stations of the Cross by Teens presentation. The students along with their parents attended this service on Tuesday 3/19/2024. It was well attended and the readers and symbol bearers did a terrific job. Reminder – the Stations of the Cross by Teens reflection paper is due Monday 3/25 or Tuesday 3/26 in class.

At today's 12Noon Mass our 5th & 6th grade students will participate in a Palm Sunday Procession.

We are very proud of the students who signed up for the parts of Jesus, the Twelve Apostles and the palm-waving crowd! Special thanks to the students in our Religious Education program who attended this Mass to show support to their fellow classmates.

Have a blessed Palm Sunday. On this holy occasion, may you enjoy the favor of God this blessed Holy Week and always!

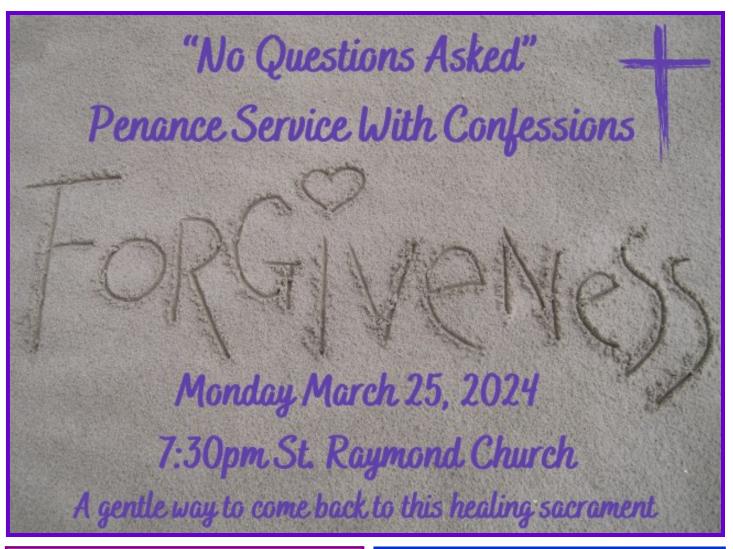
Lucy, Nancy & Stephanie



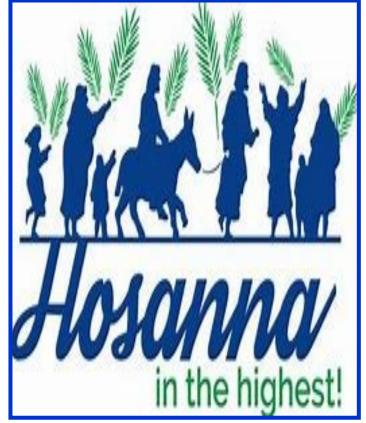




The Children of St. Raymond collect for the people of our parish











# 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 eh 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 wooded boxes marked "Easter Masses." Please do so by Sunday March 31st. Thank you! -Father Chuck

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2024

#### PALM SUNDAY 03/24/24

Blessing and Distribution of Palm at all Masses Regular Saturday/Sunday Mass Schedule

#### HOLY MONDAY 03/25/24

Confessions in Rectory during the Day 7:30pm Penance Service with Confessions

#### HOLY TUESDAY 03/26/24

- 5-6pm Confessions in the Church
- 7-8pm Confessions in the Church

#### HOLY WEDNESDAY 03/27/24

- 5-6pm Confessions in the Church
- 7-8pm Confessions in the Church

#### HOLY THURSDAY 03/28/24

8:00pm Parish Mass of the Last Supper in Church (Eucharist Adoration till Midnight)

#### GOOD FRIDAY 03/29/24

3:00pm Solemn Liturgical Service in the Church 7:30pm Folk Group Stations of the Cross

#### HOLY SATURDAY 3/30/24

11:30am Blessing of Easter Foods in the Church 8:00pm Easter Vigil Mass in the Church (The most beautiful Church Service of the year)

#### EASTER SUNDAY 03/31/24

Mass schedule in the Church
7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00noon, 1:30pm
(No 4:30pm Mass on Easter Sunday)



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 THRU WEDNESDAY FROM 10AM TO 3PM

(Suggested to call for an appointment)

"Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

The Parish Social Ministry would like to sincerely thank all those who donated gift cards this past weekend. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by both the staff and their clients. The gift cards will help the food pantry restock the shelves and meet the needs of the people we serve. Thank you again for your continued support.

During the month of February, the Parish Social Ministry assisted 75 households with food, personal care and household items and other services they needed. We also welcomed 4 new clients, who are in need of our services, into the Outreach Program. Food assistance is available to those in need who live within our Parish boundaries, including seniors who depend on their Social Security benefit as their only source of income and need help with food assistance.

Pantry items needed this week: Stuffing, Pasta,
Jarred Pasta Sauce, Chef Boyardee Pasta, Pancake
Syrup, Pancake Mix, Mayonnaise, Mustard, Juice,
Canned White Potatoes and Yams, Tuna, Deodorant,
Shaving Creme and Coffee.

Thank you as always for helping us serve the people in need in our community. Food donations are greatly appreciated and can be brought to the Ryan House when it is open. Also, donations can be left in the bin on the porch or in the Altar Servers Sacristy.

May God's blessings shower upon all of you!



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

The Life Center has several people, women and men, who volunteer in various ways who have suffered an abortion experience themselves. Many have become counselors and work directly with the women and men who are considering abortion, sharing with the clients what they experienced and how the abortion providers generally don't inform the women the negative after- effects of abortion. Usually, when a woman goes to an abortion facility, there is pressure put on her to make her decision "now". The counselors at the Life Center stress to the client how important it is for them to take time and to see their ultrasound before making a decision. Did you know, that the abortion providers turn the ultrasound away from the women who are going for an abortion? The reason is obvious. It is much harder to sell an abortion when the woman hears her baby's heartbeat and sees her own child moving. In fact, the majority of women who have seen an ultrasound, provided by the Life Center, have chosen to bring their babies to birth. "Abortion testimonies from clients throughout the Center's past 37 years continue to stress the impact this healing has in saving and redirecting people's lives. Our programs have helped hundreds of post-abortive women and men find forgiveness and peace, whether it be through our Rachel Vineyard weekends, "Surrendering the Secret" for women or "Healing a Father's Heart" for men." If you or anyone you know needs healing, please contact:

Gloria Schreiber (Life Center CEO) - 516-798-8746

(all inquiries are confidential)





## **Vocations Prayer**

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







## WELCOME



No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church,
No matter what your current family or marital situation,
No matter what your past or present situation,
No matter what your personal history, age, background or race,
No matter what your own self image or self-esteem.
You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected at

St. Raymond Church!

We are so happy to have you here!



## SOCIETY OF St. Vincent de Paul

FOUNDED IN 1833, THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL IS A WORLDWIDE ORGANIZATION OF LAY (ATHOLICS, FOLLOWING CHRIST'S CALL TO SERVE THE POOR. THE SUFFERING, AND THE DEPRIVED.

OUR FOUNDING ACTIVITY, STILL PRACTICED TODAY, IS THE HOME VISIT. THROUGH THESE VISITS, VINCENTIAN MEMBERS ESTABLISH PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED, NOT ONLY PROVIDING MATERIAL ASSISTANCE SUCH AS RENT, UTILITIES, FOOD, OR CLOTHING, BUT ALSO OFFERING FRIENDSHIP, UNDERSTANDING, AND PRAYER.

#### ST. RAYMOND PARISH

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

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#### STEP BY STEP WALK THROUGH THE MASS

#### DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

## FATHER LUKE SPANNAGEL





#### The Creed as Statement of Faith in the Trinity

Having considered the Creed in general, let's take a closer look at the contents of this statement of our Faith. As we look through the phrases, the Creed is very clearly laying out the main truths about the Holy Trinity, our belief in One God in Three Persons. As our current Catechism guotes from the Roman Catechism (or the Catechism of the Council of Trent), explaining "The Creed is divided into three parts: 'the first part speaks of the first divine Person and the wonderful work of creation; the next speaks of the second divine Person and the mystery of his redemption of men; the final part speaks of the third divine Person, the origin and source of our sanctification" (CCC, no. 190).



#### The Three Parts of the Creed

The author Charles Belmonte expands this introduction to the three parts of the Creed: A confession of faith in God. the Father, our Creator, maker of heaven and earth, of all [things visible and invisible]. A confession of faith in Christ, our Lord. He is God, who by the power of the Spirit became incarnate [of] the Virgin Mary and was made man. Then we focus on Christ's Passion and Death on the Cross; his Resurrection, Ascension, and participation in the judgment to reign forever, as it was announced by the angel to the Virgin Mary (Lk. 1:33). A confession of faith in the means of salvation, supplied by God, the Holy Spirit, the giver of supernatural life. We declare how he works through the Church.

Continuing through the last part of the Creed, Belmonte writes, "[I] believe in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. [The word] catholic means 'universal'-a reminder that the Church exists throughout the world and embraces the entire revelation of God... The Church is apostolic because she traces her origins back to Christ through the apostles and always teaches the message the apostles received from him. The Church is one and holy because it is founded by Christ and led by the Holy Spirit toward the unity and holiness that Jesus calls all Christians to live. We call this list the Four Marks of the Church.

These like characteristics are landmarks distinguishing features that help us to know the one true Church of Jesus.

#### Words to Speak... and Believe



As we go through each phrase, we are reviewing the truths we believe in, and we are also invited into a reflection on the ways that God has made himself known to us. We recall the steps of salvation history and the moment when God dwells among us. We remember the ultimate gift of God's love and the gift of the Holy Spirit who helps unite us and strengthen us for life in that love. As Belmonte concludes:

The Creed is none other than the marvelous history of God's love for us... In these times of doctrinal confusion, we should be careful not to compromise the content of our faith, not even in small things... It is worthwhile, above all, to decide to take our Christian life seriously. When we recite the Creed, we state that we believe in God the Father Almighty, in his Son, Jesus Christ, who died and rose again, and in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life. We affirm that the Church-one, holy, catholic, and apostolic-is the body of Christ enlivened by the Holy Spirit. We rejoice in the forgiveness of sins and in the hope of the resurrection. But do those words penetrate to the depths of our own heart? Or do they remain only on our lips?

#### For Reflection:

- Take time to reflect on each of the four marks of the Church (one, holy, catholic, apostolic), using the Catechism or another resource. Consider how you experience the unity, holiness, universality, and living tradition of the Church in your own life.
- · In your reflection on the Creed, which line(s) or phrase(s) most stand out to you? Pray with these sections and invite the Holy Spirit to lead you to deeper understanding of the mysteries of our Faith.

Next Week: The Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist

#### ST. RAYMOND CHURCH

Opportunities for a Holy Hour / Adoration and Eucharistic Exposition

Holy Week - Confessions Monday-Wednesday
Holy Thursday: Mass of the Last Supper 8:00 PM with
Eucharistic Adoration until Midnight
Good Friday: Solemn Liturgical Service
in the Church 3PM



"... through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear."

Stations of the Cross Good Friday 7-7:30PM



## The Seven Last Words of Christ

The words "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" are the most striking of Jesus at Calvary in terms of its portrayal of human suffering. It speaks to the greatest of these sufferings, the most fearful punishment for sin, the worst thing that can possibly happen to a person: separation from God.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, Ia'ma sabach-tha'ni?" that is.

#### "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Christ, Who is God Himself-abandoned by God? Separated from God? How? What do these words mean? Of course, Christ was never truly separated from or abandoned by His Father. But He exempted Himself from none of the punishments due to our sins, not even the worst experience—Hell itself, the most desolate state of separation from God, a punishment that would have been ours if He had not borne it for us.

But, you may ask, how does a divine Person suffer? The answer lies in His two natures. He allowed Himself to experience all these things in His human nature, without the aid of His divine nature. As Bishop Fulton Sheen says, "Our Lord restrained His divinity from mitigating even with one drop of consolation the bitterness of His chalice."

Hearing these words of Christ, we are also compelled to think of those times in every human life when God feels far away, even when sin is not a factor. These moments can be the result of some human loss, or perhaps the "dark night of the soul" that afflicts holy souls striving for God in prayer. These can be excruciating moments, but we can't accuse God of "not knowing what it's like." He knows.

Of course, He didn't have to put Himself through it to know-but He did anyway, so that our human minds could understand.

## The Sacred Triduum Is the Real Summit of Eucharistic Revival

By Father Roger Landry
Excerpts from the National Catholic Register

In the run-up to Easter, we ought to live the Sacred Triduum, that is Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, with a particularly Eucharistic focus.

On Holy Thursday, the Church normally focuses on three things: institution the Holy of Eucharist, yes, the also institution priesthood, of the through whom Christ makes himself present, and his call for priests to imitate Jesus in washing the feet of the world. However, particular gratitude should be given since it's Jesus who gives himself, leads, accompanies, saves and sanctifies us!





On Good Friday, we should look toward the reception of Jesus as the culmination of our participation in Jesus' passion, his self-sacrifice on the cross.

At the Easter vigil, we remember that the Eucharistic Christ is the true fire, the One who seeks to illumine and warm us from within.



As we prepare for the Sacred Triduum and to enter into the Paschal Mystery of Christ's passion, death and resurrection, which the Catechism says "stands at the center of the Good News" the Church proclaims to the world. There's no better way to do that than by focusing, and entering into communion with, Jesus in the Eucharist, the source and summit, root and center of Christian faith and life.

## 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's 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.



## St. Raymond's Bereavement Ministry

We are offering a Program for those grieving the death of a loved one.

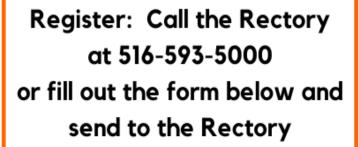


Six Sessions beginning

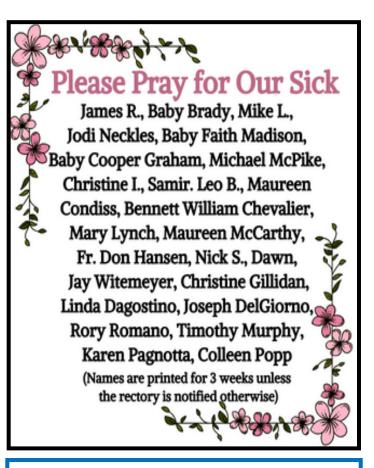
Thursday April 11, 2024

at 7:30 PM

in St. Raymond's School Cafeteria



Your Name:
Address:
Best Tel. #:
Relationship to the Deceased:





## Nine Bay Novena

Jesus requested that St. Faustina make a special novena before Divine Mercy Sunday.

The Divine Mercy Nine-Day Novena begins on Good Friday, March 29th after the 9am morning prayer and continues through Saturday, April 6th.

## Ministry of Consolation

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



If Interested Call Doreen Dolan 516-593-5000



St. Joseph, defender of families, pray for us.

#### **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



This Holy Week, be sure to take part in all the spiritual opportunities the Church has available to you. Go to Mass on Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday, go to the Good Triday service, go to confession and be sure to pray often and meditate on Christ's Passion.



-Is your marriage tearing you apart?

- -Do you feel hurt and angry?
- -Does talking make it worse?
- -Thought of leaving or divorce?

-Is your marriage heading in the wrong direction?

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HelpOurMarriage.org Retrouvaille is a practical program for married couples facing difficult challenges It is not a marriage retreat, or counseling. You will not be asked to share the personal details of your story.

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St. Raymond's Parish Social Ministry is in need of volunteers to help stock shelves, pack groceries, make appointments, greet clients and assist them with food pickup. The food pantry is open from Monday through Wednesday from 10am to 3pm. As a volunteer, you would work two and a half hours, either morning or afternoon, one day a week.

For more information please call 516-887-9197

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## Revitalizing our Faith — Renewed by the Eucharist



"As Christians, we do not only receive a vocation individually; we are also called together. We are like the tiles of a mosaic."

#### - Pope Francis

Your donation to the Catholic Ministries Appeal supports vocations in our diocese.

Ordained in 2023, Fr. Steven McClernon spoke to us about what his goals are as a priest in our Diocese and how your support has helped him to accomplish this!

"This year's CMA theme, Revitalizing our Faith -- Renewed by the Eucharist, relates to my vocation as it was fostered through Eucharistic Adoration. I see the People of God revitalized and renewed in their faith when I celebrate Mass. I see how people really love receiving the Eucharist. During Covid when we were separated from receiving the Eucharist, it was a difficult time for many. Now seeing the people back to church, and receiving the Eucharist, I am renewed in my faith and I know God's people are revitalized by the true presence of God in the Eucharist.

The CMA has been greatly influential in my life. One of the ministries it supports is the Holy Hours for Vocations at the Seminary. We gather young people from across the Island to hold Eucharistic Adoration. During my college years, this experience was a big part of my faith and my decision to become a priest. The Catholic Ministries Appeal has helped foster my vocation to the priesthood."



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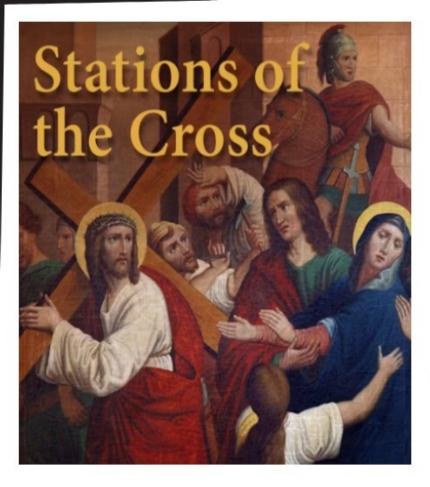
## Ocean Financial Federal Credit Union Supports St. Raymond!

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.

## **FORMED**

## This week on FORMED...



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Stations by
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Liguori, narrated
by Dr. Christopher
Blum.



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#### Masses for this week

#### Monday, March 25th

7:15am Xavier Lazar (living)

8:45am Timothy Case

12:15pm Joyce Sellitti (living)

#### Tuesday, March 26th

7:15am Lorraine Edgar

8:45am Brian Flood

12:15pm Donald Laux

#### Wednesday, March 27th

7:15am David D. Valerio

8:45am Violet McHale

12:15pm John Stender

#### Thursday, March 28th

9:00am Morning Prayer

8:00pm Mass of the Last Supper

#### Friday, March 29th

9:00am Morning Prayer

3:00pm Solemn Liturgy of Communion

#### Saturday, March 30th

9:00am Morning Prayer

11:30pm Blessing of Easter Food

8:00pm Easter Vigil Mass

#### Sunday, March 31st Easter Sunday

7:30am Frances Carrano

9:00am June C. Golson

10:30am Louise Coscia

12:00pm Mary Alice Roth, Daisy Helen O'Neill,

Francis G. Murphy, James F. Abrams,

Robert Peter Schreiber, Jane Donlon,

Jean and James Shea,

Frank and Mildred Abrams

4:30pm St. Raymond Parish

#### Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday

Is 42:1-7/Jn 12:1-11

#### Tuesday

Is 49:1-6/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

#### Wednesday

Is 50:4-9a/Mt 26:14-25

#### Thursday

Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Jn 13:1-15

#### Friday

Is 52:13-53:12/Jn 18:1-19:42

#### Saturday

Gn 1:1-2:2/Mark 16:1-7

#### Sunday

Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4/Jn 20:1-9



#### **Rest in Peace**

Peter Albano

Joseph Rossini

Theresa Anna Maselli

Paul Dzielak



## The 2024 Paschal Candle In Loving Memory of Helen & Theodore Rehm From the Rehm-Shapiro

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# The Sanctuary Light For this week in memory of Christopher Poppe Love, The Matthew

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#### **Parish Bulletin Board**



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#### 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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