

## 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

AnnMarie Lynch

### Plant Manager

Steve Bennett

### Parish Secretary

Doreen Dolan

### Bulletin Editor

Linda Ohlsen

# The Parish of St. Raymond

## A Eucharistic Community of Faith, Love and Friendship

Sunday, September 7, 2025

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000

“Whoever does not carry his own cross  
and come after me cannot be my disciple.”

-Luke 14:27



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 7, 2025

## Welcome To Our Parish Family!

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

### Rectory

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

**Web Site:** www.SaintRaymonds.org

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

**E-Mail:** StRayRcc@optonline.net

Rectory.....593-5000

Rectory Fax.....887-0554

**Parish Social Ministry**.....887-9197

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

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

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

Religious Education Office 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

**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

Diane Minucci

Caroline Saporito

Billy (Tri-Cycle)

Jim Marasco

Christine I.

Jeanne Swanson

Nick S.

Gerry Peknic

Rosemarie Lombardo

Julianne Grennen

Herb McIntyre

Anthony Campanile

Baby Cooper Graham

Maureen Condiss

Timothy Murphy

Elizabeth Lacchini

Maureen McCarthy

Breda Kenny

Sandra & Carmen Gilligan

Christina Gilligan

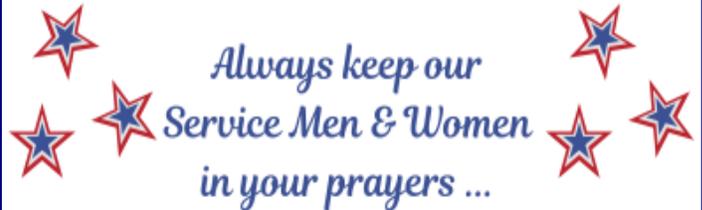
Anthony Sanchez Jr.

Cara

Maureen Ohlsen

Lauren Greco

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



**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**  
**Sgt. Thomas Stanley Golebiewski USMC**  
**Staff Sgt. Emily Golebiewski US AIRFORCE**  
**Staff /Sgt. Matthew R. Hines - US ARMY**  
**LC 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**

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



**Greetings and God's blessings be yours on the Twenty-second Sunday in ordinary Time!** The readings today point to what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. In the first reading from the Book of Wisdom, everything about life on earth is related to God's heavenly wisdom. All that comes from heaven affects positively what happens on earth. **"And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight."** Then the refrain from Psalm 90 echoes how involved God has always been with the world he created. **"In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge."** Finally in Luke's gospel, Jesus offers a series of challenging statements. His words grab our attention and grate against our sensibilities. Through the use of extreme examples, Jesus is trying to get at the heart of discipleship, namely, to orient our lives completely on God. His ultimate challenge is in his words: **"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."**

At the heart of every God-centered life is a life being in proper balance. That involves valuing everything in the proper way and to the proper degree. It involves making judgments about what a certain thing or certain pursuit is worth. It comes as no surprise to know that when it comes to the things of this earth, things that don't last, we tend to overvalue them in all sorts of ways and often to our great harm. In a sense, every temptation is precisely that, giving too high a value (and being willing to pay too high a cost) to something that falls far short of something else, someone else. In these situations, fulfilling our own needs and wants moves to the front seat rather than remaining in the back seat. It's evidence of a life out of balance.

On the other hand, the things we often undervalue are surprisingly the things that matter the most, the things that last, the God-things that give meaning to every aspect of our lives, on this earth and into eternity. Profound generosity seems way too big a gamble. Mystery? That's for suckers. And abundant love puts one in a risky place of not being loved back. Yes, sometimes God-things (and God himself) just seem to be a kind of bad deal. Today's gospel relies on faith to tell us we know better. The examples Jesus uses show the importance of understanding what something costs, what something is worth. No denying, Jesus' statements are rough stuff, hard to hear and difficult to wrap our minds around.

It seems pretty clear that Jesus always wants us to maintain a proper balance, always valuing things accurately, whether the cost is truly worth it. He's not saying things of this world aren't important, don't have value, not worth pursuing. They aren't worthless. It means there is one thing that is always worth the most, worth pursuing and embracing the cost, no matter what the cost. It's not a what. It's a who. **It's GOD!** Once we realize that and live accordingly, our lives take on a kind of beauty, fullness, peace, joy and meaning. If you want it, rest assured. No price is too high.

**Next Sunday, September 14th is our semi-annual Parish Blood Drive.** This is an important opportunity for parishioners to really make a difference in people's lives. By donating blood, you are not only making a life-saving gift, but also sharing in Jesus' ministry of caring for the sick and those in need. The drive is from 8am till 2pm in the school cafeteria. Members from the committee will be speaking at all the Masses this weekend to encourage everyone's participation. Tables are located in the church vestibule and altar server sacristy where you can sign up for a specific time to donate. Please consider making this gift of life donation next Sunday.

**Please take home a copy of the bulletin when you leave Mass today.** It contains many items of interest and invitation with something for everyone. Of special note is news and needs from **Parish Social Ministry**, info from Religious Education (Faith Formation), the **Parish Blood Drive** flyer, an invitation to the **Fatima Prayer Vigil** this Monday evening, September 8th, the **Friends of the Poor Walk** sponsored by the St. Vincent de Paul Society on Saturday, September 27th, the **Come and See Centerfold**, the **Communal Prayer Before Mass** (found on the inside back page), an invitation to join **FORMED** (your Catholic Faith on demand) and much more. To keep informed, keep a copy of the bulletin at home each week for quick and easy reference.

Have a great week. **Smile, share, pursue God first above all else and remember: It's hard to hear God's voice when you've already decided what you want him to say.**

God bless always. **Father Chuck**



# WEEKLY MASS PRAYERS

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025—23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## The Gloria

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

We praise you,

we bless you,

we adore you,

we glorify you,

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

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

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

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

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

Amen

## Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,

in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and  
in what I have failed to do,

[Pray while striking the breast 3 times.]

through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

## Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial  
with the Father; through him all things  
were made. For us men and for our  
Salvation he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate  
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the  
Son, who with the Father and the Son is  
adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

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

Amen.

# READINGS FOR TODAY'S MASS

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025—23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## FIRST READING Wisdom 9:13-18b

Who can know God's counsel, or who can conceive what the LORD intends? For the deliberations of mortals are timid, and unsure are our plans. For the corruptible body burdens the soul and the earthen shelter weighs down the mind that has many concerns. And scarce do we guess the things on earth, and what is within our grasp we find with difficulty; but when things are in heaven, who can search them out? Or who ever knew your counsel, except you had given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high? And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight.



## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17**

**R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.**

You turn man back to dust, saying, "Return, O children of men." For a thousand years in your sight are as yesterday, now that it is past, or as a watch of the night.

**R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.**

You make an end of them in their sleep; the next morning they are like the changing grass, Which at dawn springs up anew, but by evening wilts and fades.

**R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.**

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart. Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants!

**R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.**

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days. And may the gracious care of the LORD our God be ours; prosper the work of our hands for us! Prosper the work of our hands!

**R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.**

## SECOND READING Philemon 9-10, 12-17

I, Paul, an old man and now also a prisoner for Christ Jesus, urge you on behalf of my child Onesimus, whose father I have become in my imprisonment; I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I should have liked to retain him for myself, so that he might serve me on your behalf in my imprisonment for the gospel, but I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that the good you do might not be forced but voluntary. Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a brother, beloved especially to me, but even more so to you, as a man and in the Lord. So if you regard me as a partner, welcome him as you would me.

## ALLELUIA

**Psalm 119:135**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Let your face shine upon your servant;  
and teach me your laws.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

## GOSPEL

**Luke 14:25-33**

Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, 'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.' Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops? But if not, while he is still far away, he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms. In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAITH FORMATION

*Lucy Ostermann, Director*



Religious Education classes begin the week of 9/29/2025 and end the week of 4/20/2026.  
Please register your child(ren) as soon as possible. Classes are already filled to capacity.

Registration forms can be found on the Parish website. Please fill them out in their entirety and mail to the Religious Education office with full payment. Our address is: 263 Atlantic Ave., East Rockaway, NY 11518. Please note that the Registration fee is \$250 for the first child in the family – each additional child is \$100.

### ATTENTION CATECHISTS

There will be a Catechist meeting Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 7:30pm in the St. Raymond School auditorium

### ATTENTION 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PARENTS

9<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation is scheduled for Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in St. Raymond Church. The Most Reverend Andrzej Zglejszewski will be administering the Sacrament of Confirmation to the students. There will be two ceremonies that day - one at 11am and one at 2:30pm.

This information was e-mailed to parents in May.

The classes have been broken down into two groups. Please look for the name of the teacher your child had for 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE RELIGION CLASS.



#### GROUP 1 - 11AM CEREMONY

Mrs. Maria Lopez, Mrs. Danielle Peknic,  
Mrs. Petra Schoen

#### GROUP 2 – 2:30PM CEREMONY

Mrs. Nancy Mott, Ms. Denise Rivenburgh,  
Mrs. Jennifer Ruggiero,  
Kellenberg, St. Mary, Chaminade, Home



There will be a 9<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 7:30pm via ZOOM. The link and timeline will be e-mailed to parents on 9/9/2025.

### ATTENTION 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PARENTS

There will be an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Parent/Student meeting Wednesday 9/10/2025 in the St. Raymond School auditorium. In order to accommodate the East Rockaway Back-to-School night, there will be two meetings that evening – one at 7:30pm and the other at 8:40pm. Hopefully one of those times will work into family schedules.

# St. Raymond Families



# Victims of 9/11

James Barbella  
Dennis Buckley  
William Gardner

James Haran  
Michael Horn  
Timothy McSweeney

Patrick O'Keefe, Jr.  
Glenn Wall  
Paul Zois



"I am the Lady of the Rosary...  
Pray the Rosary every day."

## Prayer Vigil: Our Lady of Fatima

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & THE ROSARY

Please Join Us in Praying For:

The United States of America & World Peace

108th ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
FATIMA APPARITIONS

Date: Monday, September 8, 2025

Time: 7:00-8:30pm

Location: St. Raymond Church  
263 Atlantic Ave., East Rockaway, NY 11518

## The Message of Fatima

The message of Fatima consists of a number of precise predictions, requests, warnings and promises concerning the faith and the world, which were conveyed by the Blessed Virgin Mary to three shepherd children: Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco in a series of apparitions at Fatima, Portugal from May through October 1917.

# 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!*

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Sat. Sept 27, 2025 – 10AM**

**Heckscher State Park  
East Islip**



**The St. Vincent de Paul  
Society's...**



**Please join us at our annual walk to raise funds for our neighbors in need. You can register today or donate at:**

**<https://svdpli.org/walk17/> or by using the QR code.**

**When you select “St. Raymond Conference – East Rockaway” your donation will go directly toward helping neighbors in our community.**

**For more information, please contact**

**Anthony at (516) 220-2521.**



*"... and you yourself a sword  
will pierce ..."*

*Luke 2:29*

*Nativity of the Blessed Virgin*

*Mary, September 8th*

*Exaltation of the Holy Cross,*

*September 14th*

*Feast of Our Lady of*

*Sorrows, September 15th*

### **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**

## **ST. RAYMOND**

### **THREE DAY HOME VOTIVE CANDLE SALE \$10 EACH**



**IMMACULATE  
HEART  
OF MARY**



**SACRET  
HEART  
OF JESUS**

*Please Come Into The Rectory  
And Support Our Parish*



**The Parish Social Ministry needs  
volunteer drivers to assist our  
parishioners who have no one to  
take them to their medical  
appointments in the area.**

**Please contact the Parish Social Ministry, Monday thru  
Wednesday, from 10am to 3pm, at 516-887-9197 if you have  
some free time to volunteer to help us and your fellow  
parishioners. Thank you and God Bless You!**

**23RD WEEK IN ORDINARY  
TIME WEEKLY GUIDE FOR  
PERSONAL PRAYER  
CREIGHTON ONLINE MINISTRIES**



# Come & See

Until you do, you will  
never know

## Summary of the Readings for the Week



Sunday is the Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Gospel passage from Luke stresses that following Jesus requires a profound commitment, asking us to prioritize Him above even our closest family members and even our own lives. The readings from the Book of Wisdom and the Gospel, highlight that becoming a disciple involves sacrifice and setting priorities, a task that is difficult but ultimately leads to the fullness of life. The message from Saint Paul to Philemon adds the theme of reconciliation and love within the Christian community.

Monday is the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary with its own special readings. Mary's role is to bear the Son who is Immanuel ...



"God with us." Mary's obedience and role as mother fulfill God's promise, and in doing so, she points not to herself but to the One she carries.

*Blessed are you, holy Virgin Mary,  
deserving of all praise; from you rose the  
sun of justice, Christ our God.*

Tuesday is the Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, Priest. Friday is the Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Mary. Saturday is the Memorial of Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church.

The first readings for the first part of this week are from Paul's Second and Third Letters to the Colossians. The letters reflect Paul's message that faith in Christ isn't abstract—it transforms daily life, relationships, and behavior and therefore we must renounce our old, sinful patterns and identities. The first readings for the end of this week are from Paul's

First Letter to Timothy highlight that God's grace and mercy are the central gifts that define the Christian life and therefore our gratitude toward God flows from a deep awareness of His grace.

The Gospel passages for the week from Luke collectively are referred to as the Sermon on the Plain, which is Luke's parallel to the Sermon on the Mount found in the Gospel of Matthew. These Gospel passages show what Jesus is doing ... Jesus prays, He heals, and He teaches.

Jesus spends the night in prayer to seek the Father's guidance before choosing the twelve Apostles from among His disciples. He then heals the sick, and casts out demons, demonstrating that God cares and is deeply engaged with human suffering.



In teaching his disciples, Jesus delivers a powerful, counter-cultural message, known as the Beatitudes, which presents a reversal of worldly values ... calling people into a new kind of life: one that reflects God's mercy, justice, humility, and love. God blesses the lowly, not the powerful.

Jesus commands his followers to live radical love and mercy which requires loving enemies, blessing those who curse you, forgiving, and giving generously. "Do to others as you would have them do to you." He warns the disciples against judgment and hypocrisy: "Can the blind lead the blind?" "Remove the plank from your own eye." Jesus is forming a kingdom built on humility, mercy, love, and obedience to His teaching.

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. We fix our eyes on the crucified Christ, who was "obedient unto death, even death on a cross," as whoever believes in him may have eternal life.



*“Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart.”*

*Psalm 90:12*



**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

As we begin this week, we can pray with the spiritual vision that the daily scriptures present. It's not just an ethical program, but a call to live in the world as a new creation, conformed not to worldly standards but to the crucified and risen Christ. This is a call not merely to believe in Jesus, but to live in Him, and to allow His Word to shape every part of our lives ... from our inner desires to our external actions, from how we treat our friends to how we love our enemies.

“As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith.” The readings remind that Christianity is not just a system of belief but a way of life, a continual walking with Christ. This requires rooting ourselves deeply in Him through prayer, sacraments, Scripture, and community. In a world that tempts us to root our identity in success, appearance, or opinion, we are invited to sink our roots into something eternal ... Jesus.

This rooting is not passive so each morning, we can pray for grace to be deeply rooted in Christ, not in worldly identities or fears. “Lord, may I live in You. Root me in Your truth and love.” We can ask the Holy Spirit to show us where we are tempted to root our identity in ... success, reputation, control, etc. We must no longer walk according to the flesh, that is, according to our old patterns of sin, selfishness, and pride. Saint Paul shows us what this new life looks like: “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience...forgive each other...and,

above all these, put on love.” These are not optional virtues for extra-holy people, instead, they are the standard clothing for anyone who claims to follow Christ.



It is tempting to reduce the Christian life to simply “being a good person.” These virtues are not self-generated; they are fruit of a life hidden in Christ. When we “put on the new self,” we are not just improving our moral character, in fact, we are allowing Christ to live in us and through us. In short, we become Eucharistic people that are broken and shared for the life of the world.

To love like this requires grace. It is humanly impossible. That is why it must flow from a heart “hidden with Christ in God.” The “old self” cannot love enemies. Only the new self, formed by the cross and nourished by the Eucharist, can do this. Lord, today I choose to put on compassion, humility, and patience.

The Gospel leaves no room for self-deception. It is not enough to know the teachings of Christ ... we must live them. We must build our lives on the rock of obedience, not just admiration. “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I tell you?” The Gospel calls for response. Ask yourself: What am I building my life on? Each evening, examine your fruits: Are my words kind? Is my heart peaceful? Are my actions generous? What is forming the foundation of my decisions, my habits, my relationships?

Let the words of Colossians and Luke guide you into deeper conversion, so that when the storm comes, you may be found still standing – rooted in Christ, clothed in mercy, and overflowing with love.

Associated Vincentian  
Charities of Brooklyn

***Gives Back!***

For each donated car, truck or van, running or not, the Associated Vincentian Charities will give back to our parish \$75-\$200 per vehicle.

**IRS TAX DEDUCTION FREE TOWING  
ANY CONDITION**

If you or someone you know has an old or neglected vehicle that is not being used, please call: 718-491-2525

For details: [svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org](http://svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org)



**THE ROSE  
FOR LIFE**

**In Loving Memory of  
Patricia Rochford**

**Donated by  
her Family**

**For Dedications call  
Mary Healy 887-4062**

**Pilgrims of Hope  
Jubilee 2025**



**Announcement of the canonization of  
Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati  
during Jubilee 2025**

**The ceremony will take place at St. Peter's Square in Rome.**

**Pope Francis approved Acutis for sainthood in May 2024 after recognizing a second miracle attributed to him. The original canonization date of April 27, 2025, was postponed due to Pope Francis' death and later rescheduled for September 7 by his successor, Pope Leo XIV. Acutis will be canonized alongside another Italian layman, Pier Giorgio Frassati. Acutis, who died of leukemia at age 15 in 2006, is widely seen as a role model for young Catholics due to his strong devotion to the Eucharist and his use of technology to spread the faith online.**

## St. Peter Claver



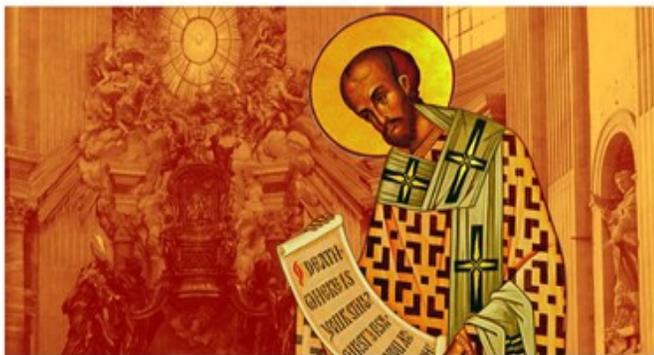
Saint Peter Claver (1580–1654) was a Spanish Jesuit priest and missionary who dedicated his life to ministering to enslaved Africans in Cartagena, Colombia, providing them with food, medicine, and spiritual comfort. He is known as the "Slave of the Slaves" and the patron saint of slaves, African missions, and interracial justice. His feast day is September 9, and he is remembered for his tireless service and his efforts to uphold the dignity of enslaved people during a period of widespread exploitation.

## Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary



The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a feast day on September 8th that celebrates Mary's birth. While the Bible doesn't detail her birth, Christian tradition holds she was born to Saints Anne and Joachim, a couple blessed with a child in their old age. This birth is significant because it represents the dawn of salvation, as Mary would later become the mother of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

## St. John Chrysostom



John Chrysostom was an important Church Father who served as archbishop of Constantinople. He is known for his preaching and public speaking, his denunciation of abuse of authority by both ecclesiastical and political leaders, his Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, and his ascetic sensibilities. He is the patron Saint of education, epilepsy, lecturers, public speakers & preachers.



Create a habit of asking God for guidance. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you each day of your life. Ask God to give you wisdom so that your paths may be made straight... "And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight."



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**Immaculate Conception Seminary, Huntington**

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**1-800-470-2230 HelpOurMarriage.org**

**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. Retrouvaille is different; it's a way to improve your communication, help you reconnect, and build a healthy, happier, stronger marriage. Catholic in origin, couples of all faiths, or no faith background, are welcome to attend. We are a Christian Peer Ministry offering tens of thousands of marriages hope in over 160 communities world-wide.**



*St. Raymond's Parish Social Ministry*

*The Ryan House*

*"The Heart of the Parish"*

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516-887-9197

*"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done."*

*-Proverbs 19:17*



**FOOD PANTRY HOURS OF OPERATION  
MONDAY THRU WEDNESDAY FROM  
10AM TO 3PM**

**(Suggested to call for an appointment)**

During the month of August, the Parish Social Ministry assisted 87 households with food, personal care and household items and advised them regarding other services offered through the Department of Social Services, Catholic Charities and St. Vincent DePaul. We also welcomed two new clients and provided them with food and we advised them of other services available to them.

Food assistance is available for those in need who live within our Parish boundaries. Also, if you are a senior citizen, living within the Parish boundaries, and depend on your Social Security benefit as your sole source of income, please contact the Parish Social Ministry and we can help you with food.

**PANTRY ITEMS STILL NEEDED TO RESTOCK THE SHELVES**

**PASTA, PASTA SAUCE, CANNED TOMATOES, INSTANT MASHED POTATOES, PASTA OR RICE SIDE DISHES, WHITE RICE, CANNED FRUIT, CANNED CARROTS, BEETS, CORN AND PEAS, PEANUT BUTTER, GRAPE JELLY, SOUP, TUNA, COLD CEREAL, PANCAKE MIX AND PANCAKE SYRUP.**

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

*Thank you all for always helping us serve the people in need in our community.*

*You are all in our prayers and may God's blessings shower upon all of you!*



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

In 1972 Fr. Paul Marx, a Benedictine monk, established the Human Life Center, with the purpose of fighting against the spread of abortion and the concern about the breakdown of the family within the USA. The Center worked to train and organize leaders within the pro-life movement, including priests, family counselors, and those involved in crisis pregnancy centers. In 1981, Fr. Marx expanded this mission globally and the Human Life Center became known as Human Life International and spread to over 100 countries. About 40 years ago, Fr. Marx was the guest speaker at a pro-life affair and he mentioned two great concerns - couples were limiting the size of their families to one, maybe two children or none at all. The other concern was that abortion would become "institutionalized" in the USA and throughout the world. To many, not all, abortion is just another "procedure" like any other medical procedure. Through the use of the media and lies, the pro-abortion advocates successfully conducted a public relation ruse of focusing on women only, shutting out the fathers, never talking about the baby, never using the word "baby", and stifling pro-lifers who would offer a choice of life and help to the pregnant women. And now through the chemical abortion pills, the killing of the babies has increased, 3,000 babies today, 3,000 babies tomorrow and....? Tragically, Fr. Marx's concerns have come to fruition. Is abortion just another medical procedure? No, abortion is the intentional killing of the youngest, most vulnerable and innocent of our human family - the babies in the womb waiting to be brought to birth. The good news is that there are many speaking, praying, and working to ensure that "abortion" does not continue to be "institutionalized" and one day it will be no more.

*Please join with us each Thursday, from 3:00 - 3:30, during weekly Adoration as we pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Rosary of Our Lady for an end to abortion and the return to the dignity, respect and protection of all God's children from conception till natural death.*

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY!!**



**JOIN US IN SHARING  
KINDNESS  
TO OTHERS!!**

**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 half  
hours, either morning or  
afternoon, one day a week.**

**For more information -  
Please call 516-887-9197**

# Blood Drive

**St. Raymond's  
School Cafeteria  
Sunday-September 14th  
8:00am – 2:00pm  
263 Atlantic Ave  
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Scan QR Code to make an appt.**

## Prepare to donate



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Bring a  
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Feel good and  
symptom free



Must be 17+ or  
16 with parental  
consent form

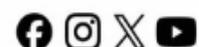


Meet minimum  
weight requirements

For full eligibility requirements  
and COVID-19 information, visit  
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# FORMED

## This week on **FORMED...**



**"Carlo Acutis: God's Influencer"** is a beautifully animated film that brings to life the inspiring story of Carlo Acutis, a modern teenager who used his passion for technology to share the Catholic faith with the world. Through his love for the Eucharist, his kindness to the poor, and his digital catalog of Eucharistic miracles, Carlo showed that holiness is possible—even in the digital age. Perfect for children and families, this film offers a moving and educational experience that celebrates faith, virtue, and the power of using one's gifts for God.



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

**FORMED**

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

## **MASSES FOR THIS WEEK**

**Monday, September 8th**

**Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

7:15am Enzo Rodriguez

8:45am Rory Polley

**Tuesday, September 9th**

**St. Peter Claver**

7:15am St. Raymond Parish

8:45am Felix Bosques

**Wednesday, September 10th**

7:15am St. Raymond Parish

8:45am Loretta Dieterich

**Thursday, September 11th**

7:15am Patricia Finken

8:45am Victims of 9/11

**Friday, September 12th**

7:15am Erlinda Sumritsirikul

8:45am Eileen Henshaw

**Saturday, September 13th**

**St. John Chrysostom**

8:45am Patricia Rochford

Christina Gilligan (L)

5:00pm Noreen Helmstadt

**Sunday, September 14th**

**Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

7:30am Antonia Saglimbeni

9:00am Thomas Comber

10:30am Nicholas Collins

12:00pm Mark Dejak

Alice Laukaitis

Marie Gallagher

4:30pm St. Raymond Parish



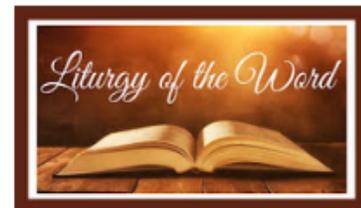
# **REST IN PEACE**

*Michael Barto*

*Regina Marie (Gina)*

*Dewind*

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



### **Scripture Readings for the Week**

#### **Monday**

Micah 5:1-4a /Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23

#### **Tuesday**

Colossians 2:6-15/Luke 6:12-19

#### **Wednesday**

Colossians 3:1-11/Luke 6:20-26

#### **Thursday**

Colossians 3:12-17/Luke 6:27-38

#### **Friday**

1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14/Luke 6:39-42

#### **Saturday**

1 Timothy 1:15-17/Luke 6:43-49

#### **Sunday**

Numbers 21:4b-9/Philippians 2:6-11  
John 3:13-17

# 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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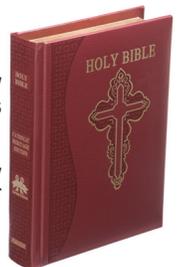
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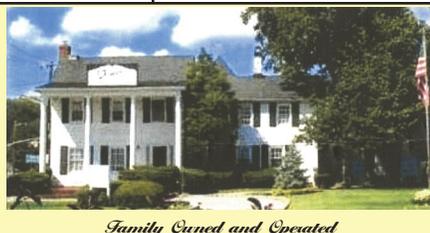
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