

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 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

Saint Raymond Convent
Sr. Ruthanne Gypalo, I.H.M.
Sr. Lorraine Studley, I.H.M

South Nassau Hospital Chaplain
Father Cornelius Dery

Parish Staff

Music Ministry
Laura Garbitelli

Folk Group
AnnMarie Lynch

Plant Manager
Steve Bennett

Parish Secretary
Doreen Dolan

Bulletin Editor
Linda Ohlsen

The Parish of St. Raymond

*A Eucharistic Community of
Faith, Love and Friendship*

Sunday, December 24, 2023

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000

December 24, 2023



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 Office593-9075
Religious Education Office Fax593-1156
E-Mail: strayfaithformation@aol.com

Pastoral Care Of The Sick

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

Devotions

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Nocturnal Adoration

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

Miraculous Medal Novena

Saturdays following 8:45am Mass.

Confessions

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

Baptisms

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

Bereavement Support Group

Call the rectory office for meeting times.

Marriages

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

Prayer Groups

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.

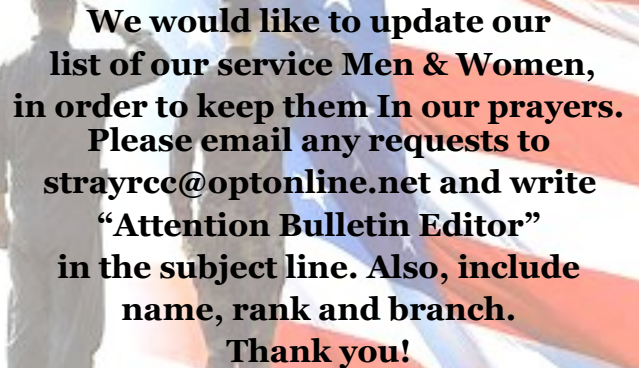
Music Ministries

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



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
Spec. Bryan Petriccione US ARMY –Cavalry Unit
Lt. JG Joseph Woloszyn US NAVY
PFC Hunter Deets, #10 Mountain Division US ARMY
Please remember to pray for our wounded soldiers.

Father Chuck's Corner

Merry Christmas! Feliz Navidad! Buon Natale! Frohe Weihnachtren! Wesotych Swiat! Joyeux Noel! Barka da Kirismati! Nkwagaliza Kurisimasi Ennunigi! Chriustumas Asamsakal! No matter in what language from English to the languages of our priest friends from other countries, Merry Christmas is a truly universal greeting. From Christmas Eve through Midnight Mass and all Christmas Day, no matter where you live or happen to be, the Christmas story is being loudly proclaimed. And no matter what difficulties our world faces, if you are Christian, you have to grapple a bit on how best to respond to the Christmas story. It is a gift giving time as we all receive gifts on someone else's birthday- namely that of Jesus Christ! But any gifts we may receive pale in comparison to the gift of Jesus, being born into this world and becoming our Lord, Savior and King.

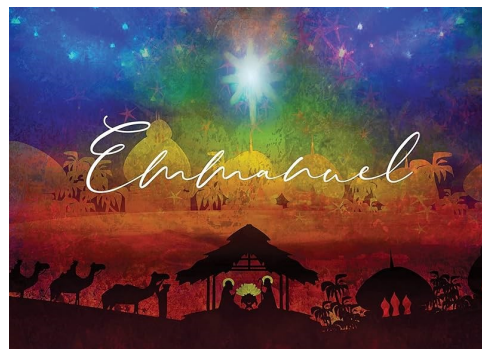
Now the whole reason we should get all excited about Christmas is because it is part of the greatest love story there is. To know that God so loved the world that he would deem to become one with us is truly a great gift to us. But what does God want us to do with this gift? Well, he wants us to make his gift of love so very personal that we can't live without him. To start with, don't see Christmas Day as the end of the Christmas season. It is actually the beginning of it, and I don't just mean in a liturgical, calendar way. I mean it in regard to what God wants to happen within each of us, within each human heart that is open to his grace, his life. Christmas is a time to invite Jesus into the core of our life, saying that we want him to live within us, helping us to become the people God want us to be. That's the true miracle, that God wants to be re-born in us each Christmas Day. Basically, God wants to be the present that keeps on giving, not the one we gaze at for a moment and then toss aside or put on a shelf. Then he wants us to re-gift him to the world, to carry him and share him wherever we go, to each person in each situation. Like Mary, he wants us to say "yes" to him, not just once in a while, but continually as he renews this world into the kingdom, not despite us, but through us. So, the best way to show people the great gift we have been given by our incredible God is by kindness, mercy generosity, compassion and understanding. Simply show it through love, not a love somewhere out there that we have to chase, but a love that is deep within you, a love that is alive and open to the miracle of Christmas.

I hope that you and your family are able to enjoy and celebrate Christmas even through your personal struggles and challenges. No matter what is happening or where you are, the gift of Christmas is to be remembered and celebrated. I truly believe that God wants us all to try as best we can to help each other with patience and love, even when we may be beaten down a bit. When you gather for Christmas dinner today, remember all those tending to the sick this day. And especially remember those who have died this past year. Say a prayer for them and their grieving families. Then look at each other and the Baby Jesus in your Nativity set and give thanks for the gifts you are to each other.

I want to thank all those who continue to be generous to St. Raymond Parish, even in times of hardship. We always need the financial boost that comes from many parishioners at Christmas. Thank you for including St. Raymond Parish in your giving this year. Thanks to all who helped make the "Giving Tree" a successful undertaking once again for Parish Social Ministry. You truly helped make many people in our community have a Blessed Christmas. I also want to thank all those who continue to make our various ministries thrive for our people: **Parish Social Ministry, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Religious Education, the Human Life Committee, Light of the World, the Nocturnal Adoration Society, the Ministries of Bereavement and Consolation, Pre-Cana, the Sodality of Our Lady, CYO, the Knights of Columbus, Scouting, Altar Servers, Lectors, EME's, the Adult Choir, Folk Group, Cantors and Altar Society, the Pastoral Council, my fellow Deacons and Priests,** and the entire **Rectory Staff**. Through all your efforts, St. Raymond Parish is able to live its mission of Faith, Love and Friendship. Thanks to all of you from the bottom of my heart.

Have a great Christmas week! Welcome to all our visitors. **And remember these true words: Jesus really is the reason for the season.** Merry Christmas and God bless always.

-Father Chuck



READINGS FOR TODAY'S MASS

DECEMBER 24, 2023-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?' "It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. The promises of the LORD I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, "My kindness is established forever"; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations."

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. "He shall say of me, 'You are my father, my God, the Rock, my savior.' Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm."

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING

Rom 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

ALLELUIA

Lk 1:38

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Lk 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

READINGS FOR TODAY'S MASS

DECEMBER 25, 2023-CHRISTMAS DAY

FIRST READING

Is 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, "Your God is King!" Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout for joy, for they see directly, before their eyes, the LORD restoring Zion. Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For the LORD comforts his people, he redeems Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6.

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds; his right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm.

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

The LORD has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice. He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel.

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God. Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; break into song; sing praise.

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and melodious song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Merry Christmas

ALLELUIA

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.

For today a great light has come upon the earth.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

SECOND READING

Heb 1:1-6

Brothers and sisters: In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say: *You are my son; this day I have begotten you?* Or again: *I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me?* And again, when he leads the firstborn into the world, he says: *Let all the angels of God worship him.*

GOSPEL

Jn 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - FAITH FORMATION

Lucy Ostermann, Director



THERE ARE NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES AND THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM CHRISTMAS DAY 12/25/2023-NEW YEAR'S DAY 1/1/2024. CLASSES WILL RESUME AND THE OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN ON TUESDAY 1/2/2024.



Christmas Carols

After this weekend's Saturday 5pm Mass, we have about 75 Religious Education students that will be singing a few Christmas Carols in the Church. This is a wonderful way to get into the true meaning of Christmas by listening to the voices of our beautiful children.

Epiphany Sunday Procession

There will be an Epiphany Sunday Procession at the 12Noon Mass on Sunday 1/7/2024. All children attending this Mass will receive a 'star' to help guide the Three Kings to visit the Savior of the world!!



Merry Christmas

"Because of His boundless love, Jesus became what we are that He might make us to be what He is".
Best wishes to you and your families for a very Merry and Blessed Christmas!!! Lucy, Nancy & Liz



Our Second Graders



Our Third Graders



Our Sixth Graders



Preparing for the birth of Jesus



Our First Graders Celebrate Mass Together





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 - Wednesday from 10am to 2pm

(Suggested to call for an appointment)

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

The Parish Social Ministry would like to sincerely thank

all our parishioners who participated in The Giving

Tree. Your tremendous generosity is greatly

appreciated and, because of your kindness, we are

able to provide Christmas gifts to 58 families. Thank

you for making someone's Christmas a little brighter.

Pantry items needed this week:

**Pasta, Jarred Pasta Sauce, Peanut Butter,
Grape Jelly, Tuna, Canned Meat, Pancake Mix,
Canned Fruit, Coffee, Laundry Detergent
and Dish Detergent.**

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 or donations can be left in the bin on the porch. Also food donations can be left in the Altar Servers Sacristy.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity. You are always in our prayers.

*Best wishes to everyone for a
Blessed Christmas.*



The Giving Tree




Thank You!



Merry Christmas

Countdown to Christmas Cash Raffle 2023

Over \$5,000.00 in Prizes – 33 Cash Prizes to be Awarded

December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent Prize: \$500.00		CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25 TH PRIZE \$1000		November 23 Thanksgiving Day Prize: \$500.00	November 24 Prize: \$100.00	November 25 Prize: \$100.00
November 26 #3067 Prize: \$250.00	November 27 #3355 Prize: \$100.00	November 28 #3423 Prize: \$100.00	November 29 #3071 Prize: \$100.00	November 30 #3333 Prize: \$100.00	December 1 #3118 Prize: \$100.00	December 2 #3075 Prize: \$100.00
December 3 #3184 First Sunday of Advent Prize: \$250.00	December 4 #3005 Prize: \$100.00	December 5 #3082 Prize: \$100.00	December 6 #3098 Prize: \$100.00	December 7 #3139 Prize: \$100.00	December 8 #3046 Feast of the Immaculate Conception Prize: \$250.00	December 9 #3392 Prize: \$100.00
December 10 #3350 Second Sunday of Advent Prize: \$250.00	December 11 #3340 Prize: \$100.00	December 12 #3199 Prize: \$100.00	December 13 #3072 Prize: \$100.00	December 14 #3142 Prize: \$100.00	December 15 #3339 Prize: \$100.00	December 16 #3207 Prize: \$100.00
December 17 #3102 Third Sunday of Advent Prize: \$250.00	December 18 #3192 Prize: \$100.00	December 19 Prize: \$100.00	December 20 Prize: \$100.00	December 21 Prize: \$100.00	December 22 Prize: \$100.00	December 23 Prize: \$100.00

Christmas 2023

(Note additional Masses and time changes)

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24th

5:00 pm

8:00 pm (Folk Group)

10:30 pm (Christmas Carols)

11:00 pm (mass ending at Midnight)

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25th

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

(No Evening Mass on Christmas Day)

Feast of Mary the Mother of God

New Year's Eve

Sunday, December 31st

5:00pm

New Year's Day

Monday, January 1, 2023

9 am, 10:30am and 12 noon

and 1:30pm

Lord, as Christmas morning approaches quickly, prepare my heart to receive you. I want to believe without any doubts. I want to trust you unconditionally. I want to say YES to your will, but my pride and selfishness get in the way. I desire my will. I want to do things my way. I think I know what will make me ultimately happy, but deep down I know that only you can fulfill my deepest desires. Help me to dedicate time to be with you daily in prayer. Give me the desire to read your holy Word. Help me to make time for the Eucharist and Reconciliation on a regular basis. May I echo Mary's words, "May it be done to me according to your word."

Christmas Masses of Remembrance

Many people like to request the intention for a Mass on Christmas Day. Since there are a limited number of Masses for Christmas, all requests are not able to be fulfilled. Therefore, there will be a special Novena of Masses for Christmas that will be the Christmas Masses of Remembrance. Those whom you would like will be remembered at all the Masses during the Christmas season. Special envelopes have been mailed with the regular envelope packet and in the Christmas mailing to all parishioners. They are also available on the front side pews and on the back pews by the doors of the church. Simply fill out the intention you wish to have remembered on the front of the envelope, include your donation and either mail it back, drop it in the Sunday Mass collection or place it in one of the wooden boxes marked "Christmas Masses."

Please do so by Sunday, December 24th.

Thank you, Father Chuck



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS

FROM

In Memory of...

M/M John Ackerina
Mrs. John St. Amand

Dr. M. Anderson

Eileen Appel
M/M Al Barbarino
M/M Joseph Bruzzo

M/M James Caffrey

M/M Thomas Callinan
M/M A. Campanaro

M/M Michael Caputo

M/M Michael Carney

Ms. Dorothy Caraher

M/M Edward Casazza

Mrs. Mark Charles
M/M Thomas Chojnacki

Mrs. E. Christiansen
Cimato Family
M/M Robert Cipriano

M/M Brian Connor

M/M Joseph Corio

M/M J. Costanzo

M/M Brenden Crowe

Mrs. Linda Daley

Mrs. Lucie Davis
Mrs. Barbara Defendis
Mr. Ronald Dirienzo

Ackerina & Facella Families
Joey, John & Vincent
Family & Friends
William & Anita Anderson
The Wells Family
Rev. James Isabakiki
Rev. Joseph Rwamevenge
Rev. Paul Mugenyi
Alice & Herb Mogensen
Barbarino & Leporati Families
Stella & John Dina
Ermina & Joseph Bruzzo
Lorraine Bornschein
Joan & Theresa Mooney
John & Philomena Caffrey
Nix McClure
Eva Marie Campanaro
Flora Iannarelli
Sadlis & Fortunato Families
Campanar & Menna Families
Tony Ferrara
Carolann Ferrara
Hannah M. Sullivan
Maryellen Sullivan Chicrello
Michael Caraher
Francis Caraher
William Chelius
Mary Chelius
Charles & VanCura Families
Robert J. Chojnacki
Mary Alice Roth
Cathy Turner
William Christiansen
Joseph Lupo
M/M Joseph Mehrmann
M/M Octavio Cipriano
Barbara Lyn Thornton
William E. Thornton
Members of the Connor Family
Joseph Corio
Celia Corio
Anna Vellazzi
John Vellazzi
Rose Florentine
Salvatore Florentine
Sarah & Joseph Costanzo
Patricia DeLarue
Thomas Kane, Sr.
Roseanne Kane Bomysoad
Harry Daley
Jean & Benjamin Cassese
Lucia Seeberg
Dom Defendis
Michael Riginio
Anna Riginio
Rosaria DiRienzo
Gerardo DiRienzo

FROM

In Memory of...

M/M Peter Dixon

M/M R. Dombrowski
Mr. Lawrence Dower
M/M Robert Drugan

Ms. Catherine Duggan

M/M Jeff Ferrara

M/M Robert Ferraro
M/M Joseph Fiorentino

Mr. Raymond Flaherty
M/M Thomas Flood
M/M James Gallagher

M/M John Gallo

Gangi Family

M/M Gerard Gonyon

Gilhooly Family

M/M Joseph Girardi

Mr. Paul Grupp

M/M G. Guinard

M/M John Hannon

M/M James Hillman

The Hoeffner Family

M/M F. Honerkamp
M/M Michael Hyland

Anne Dixon
William Dixon
Mary & Joseph Lee
Tessie & John Kivlan
Louise Sena
Clare Dower
Cheryl Drugan
Thorne & Drugan Families
Kathleen White
Deceased Members of the
Duggan & White Families
Donald & Judy Laux
Joan & Joe Ferrara
Gilda & Salvatore Raia
Pasquale Mastrandrea
Nicolette Ray
Regina Flaherty
Brian Flood
Henshaw Family
Gallagher Family
O'Brien Family
Helen Gallo
Stella Mentel
Nina Gangi
Vincent Gangi
Henry & Gonyon Families
Robert Lehr
Laurie Graff
Jane McElroy Gilhooly
John Kevin Gilhooly
Carmela Romanelli
Gennaro Girardi
The Grupp Family
The Neary Family
The O'Sullivan & Guinard
Families
Margaret Hannon
Clementine Madsen
Geri Brethel
Gisele Kerdauid
George C. Hillman
Kathleen P. Hillman
Grace Meyer
Philip Faber
Bruce Simmons
Robert LoBello
Kathleen Conlin
Mary Pearsall
Frank Honerkamp IV
James Hyland
Mary E. Driver

To be continued next week....

STEP BY STEP WALK THROUGH THE MASS

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

FATHER LUKE SPANNAGEL

NATIONAL EUCHARIST REVIVAL BLOG



The First Reading

After spending some time reflecting on the Liturgy of the Word as a whole, this week we begin looking more closely at each part, beginning with the First Reading. We might hear the lector proclaim, "A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. In the days of Ahaz, king of Judah, son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, Rezin, king of Aram, and Pekah, king of Israel, son of Remaliah..." (Isaiah 7:1-9). With all these names, which many of us may not even know how to pronounce, we might wonder: Why do we use the Old Testament at Mass, anyway?

The First Reading

As we said earlier, the First Reading at Mass is generally from the Old Testament. When we hear the stories of the Old Testament, we hear about how God called and began to form his people. If you are familiar with the Old Testament, you know there are times of faithfulness and falling away. There are prophets, judges, and other leaders that help call the people back to faithfulness. There are times where God is clearly directly involved and times where he seems to be more in the background. We learn about God's faithfulness, even in the midst of our unfaithfulness. I am often struck by that faithfulness of God: we know we don't deserve it, and yet there he is, consistently loving, forgiving, leading, providing, and protecting, doing all the things that good fathers do for their beloved children. Hopefully, as we hear those words each week, they remind us we can always go to our loving God and Father.

As we reflected before, generally when we talk about the Old Testament, we talk about a preparation. Through Moses, the prophets, and other writers, God was preparing his people (and us) to receive the truth about Jesus—that he truly is the Messiah who came to set us free from sin and death so that we might live with the Father forever. The Old and New Testament work together: the Old prepares for the New, and the New tells us what we've been waiting for, namely, Jesus Christ (cf. Dei Verbum, no. 15). understand their meaning, even from a reading about a most unusual topic!

The Family of God



But why do we need all those names? The whole Bible, even parts we don't understand or that don't seem helpful, is part of God's precious word to his people. Just as every particle of the Body of Christ is precious, so too is every word (and name) of the Bible. Sometimes the readings may seem "obscure" to us because we don't understand the ancient cultures of the Middle East. Sometimes they just mildly hint at one of the great mysteries of God and their importance can be easily overlooked. Sometimes we stumble over the names or we don't understand the poetic language. Nevertheless, we can be sure that if we do our best, the Holy Spirit will give us enough capacity to grasp whatever we may need for our sanctification and mission in life. And even if what we have read [or heard] does not stay in our memory, the Word of God has purified and nourished our souls.

We might think that the names aren't that important, but what they show us is a continuous string of people who are in relationship with God, an ongoing family which the Lord is building over time. Just like we remember the names of our grandparents and great-grandparents because they are part of our family tree, so too do we remember the names of these people who in some way had (and still have) an important part to play in God's family tree. As the Church teaches, "Christians should accept with veneration these writings which give expression to a lively sense of God, which are a storehouse of sublime teaching on God and of sound wisdom on human life, as well as a wonderful treasury of prayers; in them, too, the mystery of our salvation is present in a hidden way" (Dei Verbum, no. 15).

For Reflection:

In light of the insights on the significance of names and genealogy in the Old Testament, revisit Jesus' genealogy in Matthew 1:1-17 and/or Luke 3:23-38. Recall what you know about any of the persons whose names feature in these genealogies. For any names you do not recognize, pause and invite the Lord to help you see more clearly how he accomplishes his work through men and women throughout salvation history.

Next Week: The Responsorial Psalm

St. Raymond Church
Opportunities for a Holy Hour / Adoration
and Eucharistic Exposition

The Church is open daily for personal prayer until 5:00
Each Thursday Adoration/Benediction from 1-4:00 PM
Each First Friday Nocturnal Adoration from 7:30-8:30 PM



What is the meaning behind
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"?
Shrouded in powerful imagery
and mystery, this beloved hymn
is more than a festive song.

In a season where our music is filled with high-spirited festivity, upbeat rhythms, and clichéd images of wreaths and pretty wrapping paper, the haunting melody and archaic imagery of the beloved Advent hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel stand out sharply. The distinctly biblical feel of the lyrics differs from the more overtly celebratory tone of most carols, and the actual Nativity narrative doesn't appear in its usual way.

Rather, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel draws from Old Testament imagery of the coming Messiah, creating a hymn that feels anticipatory, prophetic, and timeless. Its incessant cries of "O Come!" echo our own hearts' desperate cries for a Messiah, making it a beautiful Advent hymn. Although a classic and well-known hymn, the history of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel is surprisingly shrouded in mystery. Who wrote the lyrics?

It is difficult to attribute the lyrics to any one writer. Originally written in Latin around the 7th or 8th centuries, these verses are actually part of the Divine Office. They are a rendering of the Greater Advent Antiphons, also called the "O" Antiphons based on the initial letter of each. These are sung at the Magnificat during Vespers (Evening Prayer) from December 17th through December 23rd. These special antiphons are verses extracted from the Old Testament that express our longing for the coming of the Christ. In fact, the word "come" is used in every O Antiphon. Once combined with the stunning and easily-recognizable tune, John Mason Neale's translation of the Latin text turned the verses into a perennial festive favorite. Who wrote the music?

The haunting melody of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel has its roots as far back as 15th-century France, with a rather uncertain history. It wasn't until the 1960s that musicologist and nun Mary Berry sourced the 15th-century manuscript that bore the tune's building blocks, finding it among many others used for processional chants for burials.

"So they went in haste
and found Mary and
Joseph, and the infant
lying in the manger."
Luke 2:16



So the actual composer of the music for one of the world's most popular carols is enigmatically anonymous. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel is a hymn that transforms the atmosphere of every space where it is heard, as well as the hearts of those who prayerfully listen to its beautiful biblical cries for the Savior we all so desperately need.



The Eucharist,
Christmas & the Manger

St. Luke places an extremely high value on the Eucharist, and it is a major point of emphasis woven into the fabric of his Gospel from beginning to end. He artfully inserts a curious detail into his birth account to begin to state his case: Mary "gave birth to her firstborn son ... and laid him in a manger" (Lk 2:7). The manger is mentioned twice more in verses 12 and 16. The shepherds represent people everywhere, and as the animals approached the manger for food, the shepherds approached the manger to feast their eyes upon Jesus, and the infant in the manger would be the one to feed their souls, both with his word and the Eucharist, the great banquet feast of his Body and Blood.

The manger on Christmas anticipates the table at the Last Supper, and as the owner of the animals made sure that his animals would be well-fed to provide for their physical health, the infant Jesus would feed his sheep to provide for their spiritual health. The infant in the manger would be the one who would take bread and say, "This is my body" (Lk 22:19), and a cup of wine and say, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood" (Lk 22:20). And wanting to provide ongoing spiritual sustenance, he told his disciples to "Do this in memory of me" (Lk 22:19b). Then Jesus showed them how to re-enact the Eucharist when he broke bread with two of his disciples on Easter Sunday night at Emmaus (Lk 24:30).

Most religious artists portray the infant Jesus in the manger on a bed of hay or straw, but those who grasp the Eucharist connection show him on a bed of wheat.

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Your baby has fine hair growing on his head and eyebrows. He has a delicate fringe of eyelashes. Your baby is now 12 inches long and weighs about 1 1/2 pounds. His skeleton has completed the change from cartilage to bone. If your baby were to be born now, he would have a very good chance at surviving.

"...and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14-15

We wish all a very Blessed and Merry Christmas!



What is the Veil Removed?

The Veil Removed is a short film that reveals the coming together of heaven and earth at Mass, as seen by saints and mystics, revealed by scripture and in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Watch it on FORMED



Sara Sadowsky & Leonard Sadowsky

Lauren Kasulke & John Nothdurft

Married at
St. Raymond's Church
in December 2023

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This Christmas, be at service to those in need. Invite a lonely friend or family member over for Christmas dinner. Perhaps, also, after Christmas dinner you can assist family and friends in cleaning up.



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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.



Special One year Memorial Candle It's not too late!

Bring in the attached form to the rectory



Once again we will be having special one year devotional candles at both the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph Statues in the front. These candles surround the base of each statue. There are 24 candles available for each statue. The cost is \$300.00 for an entire year of having a candle lit for your intention. A small name plate will be placed at each candle that has been taken for the year. Only the name of the person you are remembering will be on each name plate. These candles will be lit from the first Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2023 for the entire Church Liturgical Year. If you are interested in one of these candles for one of these statues, simply fill out the following information, include your donation and bring it to the rectory. This also includes existing candles for this past year that have been lit. They need to be renewed if you so wish.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Pick one: Blessed Mother _____ St. Joseph _____

Name for the candle name plate (please print) _____





SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

FOUNDED IN 1833, THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL IS A WORLDWIDE ORGANIZATION OF LAY CATHOLICS, FOLLOWING CHRIST'S CALL TO SERVE THE POOR, THE SUFFERING, AND THE DEPRIVED. OUR FOUNDING ACTIVITY, STILL PRACTICED TODAY, IS THE HOME VISIT. THROUGH THESE VISITS, VINCENTIAN MEMBERS ESTABLISH PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED, NOT ONLY PROVIDING MATERIAL ASSISTANCE SUCH AS RENT, UTILITIES, FOOD, OR CLOTHING, BUT ALSO OFFERING FRIENDSHIP, UNDERSTANDING, AND PRAYER.

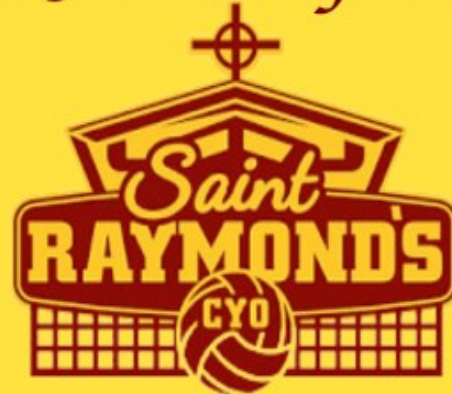
ST. RAYMOND PARISH

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.

PLEASE CALL ED AT 887-9325

FOR INFORMATION ON WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE.

St. Raymond CYO Volleyball



Volleyball registration is
now open!

Last day to register is

December 27th

<http://www.straymondscyoy.com>



Santa came down to our Saturday morning basketball clinic and gave all of the boys and girls their own basketball

Do you like to sing?
Do you play piano, flute or guitar?
Check out...

St. Raymond Folk Group!
We are back...

We rehearse Wednesday nights from
7pm-8pm & Sunday at 11am
in the Rectory Lower Level
and sing at the 12 Noon
Sunday Mass

If interested please
call AnnMarie Lynch at 599-6836
7th Grade and higher are Welcome!

St. Raymond's Choir
Can you sing?
Come be part of the
St. Raymond's Choir family!

Practice Wednesday Evenings
7:30pm in the Church

Mass with the Choir is @10:30am on Sunday
Please call Laura Garbitelli at 516-593-7345

AT THIS TIME, WE ARE SETTING UP THROUGH OUR PARISH ROSTER A WAY TO SEND EMAILS FROM ST. RAYMOND CHURCH STRAIGHT TO ALL REGISTERED PARISHIONERS OR EVEN SELECTED GROUPINGS OF PEOPLE IN THE PARISH. IT IS A FEATURE THAT OUR PDS PROGRAM OFFERS, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ITS CAPABILITIES GOING FORWARD. WE CAN SEND OUR REMINDERS, SCHEDULES, EMERGENCY NEWS AND OTHER TIMELY BITS OF INFORMATION. BUT, IN ORDER TO REACH THE LARGEST GROUP OF PARISHIONERS AS POSSIBLE, WE NEED TO GROW OUR PARISHIONER E-MAIL LIST. CURRENTLY WE HAVE ONLY ABOUT 500 EMAILS OUT OF 3800 REGISTERED PARISHIONER FAMILIES. SO, IN ORDER TO REACH AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE WITH THESE MESSAGES WE NEED MORE EMAILS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ON THIS LISTING FOR PARISH MESSAGES, PLEASE EITHER CALL THE RECTORY TO GIVE US YOUR EMAIL, SEND IT IN TO THE PARISH EMAIL (STRAYRCC@OPTONLINE.NET), OR FILL OUT THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE RECTORY. YOUR EMAIL INFORMATION GOES NO FURTHER THAN BEING A PART OF YOUR REGISTRATION PROFILE FOR THE PURPOSE STATED ABOVE.

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

PARISH (ON YOUR ENVELOPES) # _____

**Please update our
Parish Email List**



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 Jane Donlon
516-592-0672

A voice of one calling:
"Prepare the way for the Lord in the wilderness: make a straight highway for our God in the desert."
-Isaiah 40:3

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



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.





"Advent, then, is a time for overturning our perspectives ... for letting ourselves be surprised by the greatness of God's mercy."

-Pope Francis

Pause and Reflect this Advent Season

During the Advent Season we are called to slow down during the frenetic season of shopping, visiting friends and family, baking, wrapping gifts and perhaps even studying for finals.

Are you still struggling to get a unique present for someone special? Consider a gift for all seasons – a donation to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. It's a special gift that touches the lives of over 600,000 people by supporting programs that allow us to build of community of faith, hope and love in our diocese and beyond.

How does the Catholic Ministries Appeal Care for God's People?

It supports programs that help to feed people in our community each year through Catholic Charities and our Parish Outreach programs, providing food and nutrition to more than 15,000 people.



Have you tried Text-to-Give to make a donation! It's fast and secure.

Go to the following link to find your parish's keyword: bit.ly/3VFrMCE

**TEXT your parish's Keyword To:
(516) 271-3338**

Please consider donating to the Appeal and making a difference in someone's life. Thank you!

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Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

To make a donation, you can also visit CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296

THANK YOU!

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MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00AM ANNE & FRANK BEHRMAN

10:30AM LOMBARDI, LEONARDO & GARDELL FAMILIES

**12:00PM THORNE & DRUGAN FAMILIES,
MARK CHARLES, KRISTIANA MCCARLEY,
CARMINE SANTORO, DOLORES GOODHUE,
FLO IANNARELLI**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH ST. STEPHEN

7:15AM PETER MCELROY

8:45AM CHARLES & MICHAEL HORN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH ST. JOHN

7:15AM KATHLEEN GREANEY

8:45AM JAMES MULROY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28TH HOLY INNOCENTS

7:15AM CAROL GOTTCENT

8:45AM CHERYL DRUGAN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

7:15AM ELIZABETH ORIOL

8:45AM GILBERT HELMSTADT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

8:45AM JOHN O'HANLON, RAYMOND BUTLER

5:00PM JENNIE GAETA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

7:30AM JENNIE GAETA

9:00AM ROULA PAPAMAKARIOU

10:30AM FRANCES GUADAGNO

**12:00PM DENNIS MCDUGAL, PHIL LOUGHRAN,
WILLIAM KIRrane, BURKHART, NINA GANGI,
ADRIENNE DOLDER, MARIO RINALDI**

5:00PM CARMEN L. ROJAS

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY

IS 52:7-10/JN 1:1-18

TUESDAY

ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59/MT 10:17-22

WEDNESDAY

1 JN 1:1-4/JN 20:1A AND 2-8

THURSDAY

1 JN 1:5-2:2/MT 2:13-18

FRIDAY

1 JN 2:3-11/LK 2:22-35

SATURDAY

1 JN 2:12-17/LK 2:36-40

SUNDAY

SIR 3:2-6, 12-14/COL 3:12-21 OR 3:12-17/LK 2:22-40



Please Pray for Our Sick

James R., Baby Brady, Mike L.,
Jodi Neckles, Baby Faith Madison,
Baby Cooper Graham, Michael McPike,
Christine I., Samir. Leo B., Maureen
Condiss, Bennett William Chevalier, Mary
Lynch, Maureen McCarthy,
Baby Connor William, Fr. Don Hansen,
Nick S., Dawn, Baby Daisey O'Neill,
Jack Butler, Jay Witemeyer,
Christine Gillidan, Linda Dagostino

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



Rest in Peace

Louis Capone



The Bread & Wine

For this week is in loving
memory of

Winifred & Joseph Bock

Love & Prayers

Dorothy & Michael Bock



The Sanctuary Light

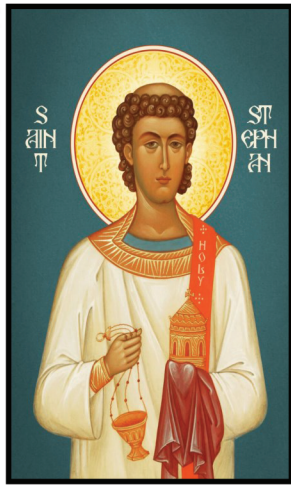
For this week in memory of

The Raia Family

From Diane Minucci

Parish Bulletin Board

Prayer to the Holy Innocents



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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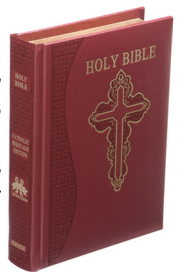
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