

## 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

**Business Manager**  
Christopher Grennen

**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*

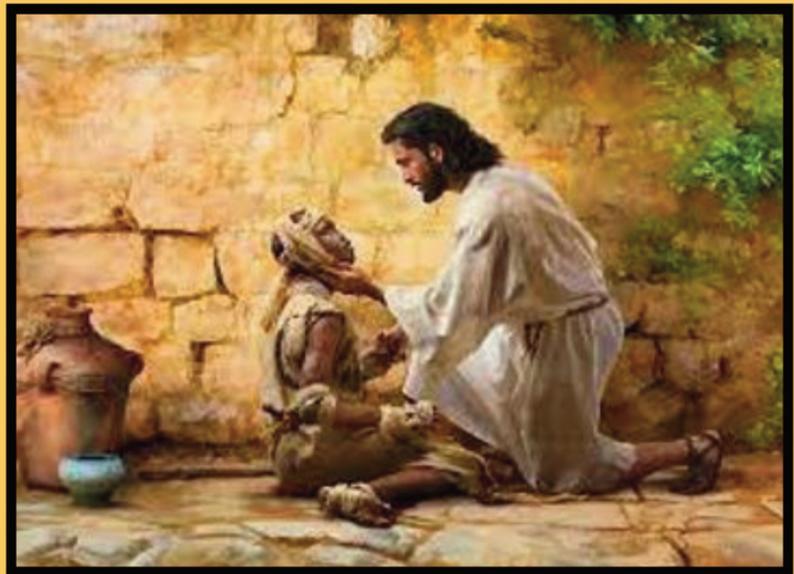
Sunday, February 11, 2024

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000

“Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand,  
touched him, and said to him, I do will it.

Be made clean.” -Mark 1:41



February 11, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 14, 2024 Ash Wednesday

## 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

**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](mailto: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  
PFC Hunter Deets, #10 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 blessings be yours on the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time!** In today's readings we see a rough side of the Old Testament and how Jesus went to the edges in his outreach to people. The first reading from Leviticus proclaims how a disease such as leprosy caused a person to be viewed as unclean and should be kept from everybody else. **"As long as the sore is upon him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean."** Then in the second reading from 1 Corinthians, Paul instructs the people to be imitators of Jesus Christ in all they say and do. He even tells the people to look at him for the best example of how to live as followers of Jesus. **"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."** Then in Mark's gospel we see Jesus curing a leper who had approached him. This is Jesus going beyond the acceptable boundaries of interaction. He did not see the leper as being punished for his sins or those of his parents. Jesus was not afraid of the leper and didn't want to keep him at a distance as was the practice of the time. He did not send him away, rejecting him as was usually done. Least of all did Jesus want to convey that rejection was what God wanted. He wanted to help the leper. **"Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him and said: 'I do will it. Be made clean.'"**

Back in the time of Moses, the Jewish people saw things a certain way and it was impossible for them to think differently. God made rules and motivated the people to make rules too. And when those rules were violated and people sinned, they were punished by God. It meant being distanced from God and the community. Now I wonder if we see sin this way too. When we sin, God sort of pushes us to the margins, keeps us at a distance, denies us blessings. Do we believe that when we sin, God denies us his love, his care, his kindness? Do we believe that we have to remain this way until we turn our lives around all by ourselves? In effect are the consequences of sin some sort of divine retribution? Now I'm not saying there aren't consequences to sin, or pain or disappointment, or hardship that comes upon us. But I don't believe those things come about principally through God's action or are a product of God getting back at us. God doesn't banish us or kick us out or drive us away from his love, mercy, and compassion. Rather, when we sin, we do these things to ourselves. We wander off to a place where we feel alone, cut off and rejected. Banishment is because of our choices, not God's

. I believe that God always wants us back into his loving arms and to experience the security of his compassion and the fire of his love. He wants to forgive us seventy times seven. He doesn't want us to be alone and afraid. What he can do is make us clean, heal us, forgive us and save us. Imagine that! So be grateful for a God who never stops loving you, never stops giving you chance after chance or ever keeps you at a distance. Try not to do those things to yourself.

It has come to my attention that many of our elderly parishioners often, when trying to park in the back parking lot, are unable to find a space. Many times, a person with a walker, cane or in a wheelchair can't find a parking space in this lot. I would just urge those who are more physically capable to please consider using the street or another lot for parking. It means walking a bit to the church, but it would be a very considerate gesture for those who truly need to park close to the rear entrance. Thanks for your consideration of this request.

**This Wednesday, February 14th is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.** I urge everyone to pay attention to the bulletin which contains the times for receiving ashes as well as a comprehensive schedule for all the spiritual opportunities being offered at St. Raymond Parish this Lenten season. Together, let's make this journey a holy and faith-filled one so that Easter will be a truly joyous and uplifting experience for our parish.

**Please remember to take home a copy of the bulletin when you leave Mass today.** It contains many items of interest and invitation with something for everyone. Of special note is news and needs from **Parish Social Ministry**, info from **Religious Education** (Faith Formation), the schedule of the **Distribution of Ashes** this Wednesday, February 14th, information about **Lent** at St. Raymond in 2024, the **Eucharistic Revival Centerfold**, the **Communal Prayer Before Mass** (found on the inside back cover of the bulletin), 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 first week of Lent. **Pray, sacrifice, and help others, all with your Lenten smile on. And remember: Lent is here. Get your ash in church.** God bless always. **Father Chuck**



# WEEKLY MASS PRAYERS

FEBRUARY 11, 2024-SIXTH 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

FEBRUARY 11, 2024-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## FIRST READING

**Lv 13:1-2, 44-46**

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants. If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head. "The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!' As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp."

## SECOND READING

**1 Cor 10:31-11:1**

Brothers and sisters, Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

## ALLELUIA

**Lk 7:16**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.  
A great prophet has arisen in our midst,  
God has visited his people.  
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11**

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Blessed is he whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered. Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes not guilt, in whose spirit there is no guile.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not. I said, "I confess my faults to the LORD," and you took away the guilt of my sin.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

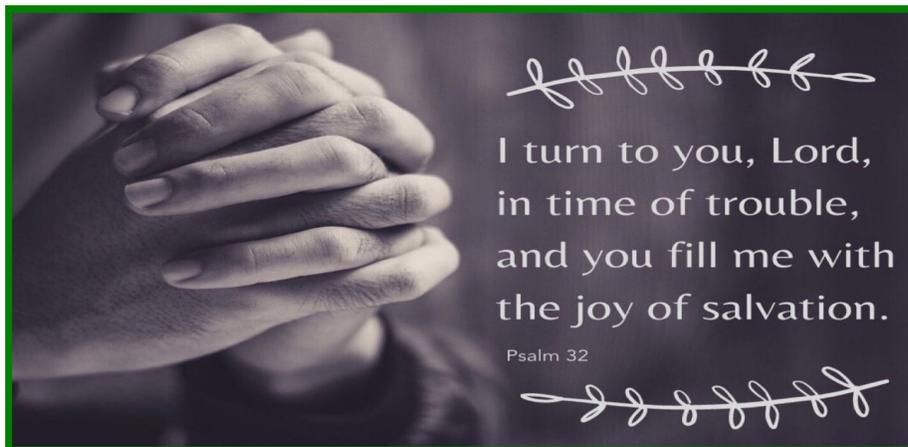
Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

## GOSPEL

**Mk 1:40-45**

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.



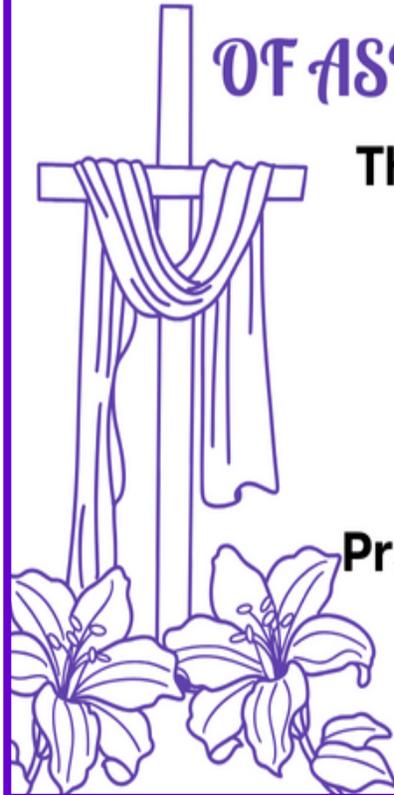
I turn to you, Lord,  
in time of trouble,  
and you fill me with  
the joy of salvation.

Psalm 32

## Abstinence and Fasting

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth year are bound to abstain entirely from meat/poultry on **Ash Wednesday** and all the **Fridays of Lent**. All Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine inclusive are also bound to observe the law of fast on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day. Those whose work or health would be impaired and excused from fast and abstinence. Individual conscience should decide proper cause for excuse. A more serious reason is required to excuse oneself from **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** fast and abstinence.

## ASH WEDNESDAY DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES



### The Following Masses

7:15am

8:45am

12:15pm

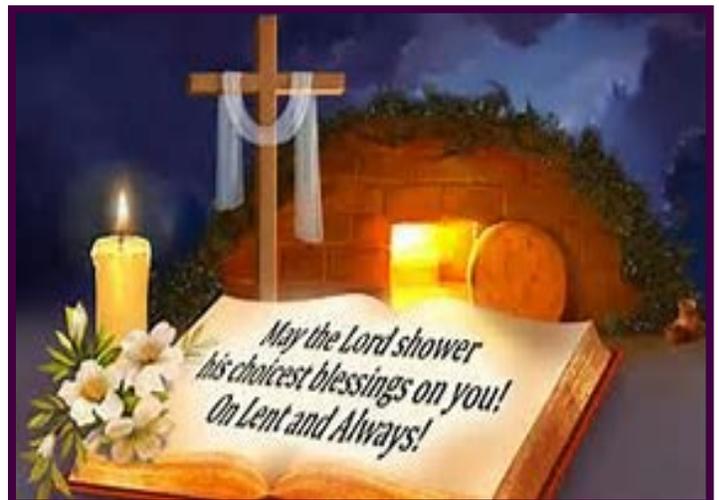
7:30pm

### Prayer Service

4:00pm

# LENT

Pray + Fast + Give



Jesus, dear Savior,  
during these days of Lent,  
I want to fast,  
to repent and to pray.  
Above all else I want  
to stay in the circle  
of Your love.  
Walk with me and  
surround me with  
Your light; lead me and  
guide me in Your footsteps.  
During this season of Lent  
help me to follow You  
and imitate Your love.  
May this cross remind me today  
and throughout Lent of  
Your great love for me.

Amen.

# LENT 2024

The Holy Season of Lent is an opportunity for all Christians to grow in faith through prayer, fasting and works of charity. St. Raymond Parish offers the following opportunities to assist you on your spiritual journey. Perhaps you can join us for some of these prayer gatherings during the coming weeks. Hopefully, we may all grow in our personal and communal experiences of Jesus during the holy time.

So, join us often and anytime.



**We'd love to see you!**

## Additional Daily Mass

There will be an additional daily Mass  
at 12:15pm every week day throughout Lent.

## Stations of the Cross

Will be prayed every Friday during Lent  
at 7:00pm in the church.

## Eucharistic Adoration

In the Church every Thursday from 1-4pm and the  
First Friday of every month from 7:30-8:30pm

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions are heard every Saturday in the church  
from 3:30-4:30pm, or by appointment at the rectory

## Special Holy Hours

Tuesdays, February 20th, March 5th & March 12th

7:00-8:00pm in the church

Exposition-Adoration-Prayer-Reflection-  
Music & Benediction

# Sodality of Our Lady of the Annunciation



February Meeting:

Monday, February 19, 2024

Place: St. Raymond's Cafeteria

Time: 7:30pm

Speaker: NCPD

Topic: Scams and 911

Please join us and bring a friend as we are always looking for and happy to welcome new members.

SAVE THE DATE: Sodality Spring Dinner at Knight of Columbus Hall  
Hempstead Avenue, Lynbrook, New York

April 10, 2024 at 6pm

*"Sodality is a women's organization devoted to prayer and service to the Blessed Mother. The membership is active in many ways doing what we call "Mary Work," helping those in need in any way we can."*

**MEN OF ST. ANTHONY**

**SPIRITUALITY GROUP**

**MOSA**

Our Group will conduct a Lenten Book  
and Video Series

Saturday mornings during Lent:

February 17 / February 24

March 9 / March 23

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Knights of Columbus

2984 Kenneth Place, Oceanside

Books will be available at each gathering.

All men are welcome.

Bagels and coffee are served.

For more info contact

[mosa.spirituality@gmail.com](mailto:mosa.spirituality@gmail.com)

**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!**



# SODALITY OF OUR LADY SCHOLARSHIP EXAM 2024



**WHAT:** THREE \$1000 SCHOLARSHIPS SPONSORED BY THE SODALITY OF OUR LADY AT ST. RAYMOND'S CHURCH. THREE \$150 MARIANNE MALONE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS.

**WHO:** ANY EIGHTH GRADE STUDENT IN ST. RAYMOND'S PARISH, WHO HAS BEEN ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION TO A CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER, 2024

**WHEN:** THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024. TIME 3:30PM

**WHERE:** ST. RAYMOND SCHOOL CAFETERIA  
263 ATLANTIC AVENUE  
EAST ROCKAWAY, NY 11518

**EXAM:** 15 MULTIPLE CHOICE AND TWO ESSAYS

**HOW:** TO REGISTER-CALL JULIANNE GRENNEN (516) 593-5000 OR SEND AN EMAIL TO STRAYRCC@OPTONLINE.NET - ATTN. JULIANNE GRENNEN BEFORE FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024. YOUR REGISTRATION WILL BE CONFIRMED. IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED A CONFIRMATION, PLEASE CALL AGAIN.

**REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER  
FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024**

**STEP BY STEP WALK THROUGH THE MASS**  
**DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME**  
**FATHER LUKE SPANNAGEL**  
**NATIONAL EUCHARIST REVIVAL BLOG**



**The**  
**“Fifth”**  
**Gospel**

More on the Gospels? This week, for our final Gospel topic, we are going to discuss the fifth Gospel. Fifth Gospel?! But Father, you went into detail last time about why there are four Gospels! Before I cause too much confusion, let me clarify that the fifth “Gospel” is not one that is written. It is the place where Jesus lived, the place where he walked on the water and worked miracles, the place where he celebrated the Last Supper with the Apostles, and the place where he carried the Cross and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice to the Father for the forgiveness of sins: the Holy Land.

**The Land**  
**Where**  
**Jesus Walked**



A New Catholic Encyclopedia article quotes Gino Concetti's 1974 article in L'Osservatore Romano: “The geographical and historical setting...bears a quite special witness (to Christ). It has been said that the Holy Land is itself a Gospel, the fifth Gospel. The judgment is not an exaggerated one. [...] Those places that Christians have venerated, since the beginning, as sacred because sanctified by the Savior, are still able today, 2000 years later, to re-echo his voice and his message” (New Catholic Encyclopedia, p. 245). Similarly, Pope Francis recently encouraged journalists to “keep telling stories from the Holy Land, calling it the ‘Fifth Gospel,’” a title which “has been invoked by popes from Paul VI to Benedict XVI to describe the Holy Land” (Courtney Mares, Pope Francis: The story of the Holy Land is the “Fifth Gospel” CNA, January 17, 2022). The Holy Land is more than a spot on the map half a world away: it is a true witness to the Lord Jesus as the place where he lived and walked and died for our sins!

Since I had the privilege to spend some time in the places where Jesus walked, the words of the four Gospels truly do feel different. Standing by the shore of the Sea of

Galilee and feeling the afternoon breeze, it is not hard to see where a large crowd could have gathered to listen to Jesus. Experiencing the dusty, dry environment brings a deeper understanding of the moment Jesus asks the Samaritan woman for a drink. Walking up the stone steps in part of the Old City of Jerusalem, the Way of the Cross is vivid and closer.



Unfortunately, the Holy Land continues to be a place of turmoil and violence. As an important center for three world religions (Christianity, Judaism, and Islam), there has

been a long history of ongoing tensions. Although leaders have worked together to secure and protect important religious shrines and historical places, the struggle for territory and control has long made the Holy Land a place of unrest and uncertainty. Sadly, this uncertainty has at times prevented many Christians from journeying to Israel and walking in the places and pathways that Christ walked, losing an opportunity to grow closer to him by walking in his footsteps. May our respect for this unique “fifth Gospel” inspire us to pray always for peace and justice and for the opportunity for each soul to freely seek out the true Savior of the world, Jesus Christ.

**For Reflection:**

1. Next time you read or hear a Gospel passage referring to a place Jesus visited, find its location on a map. You can watch the Holy Land Franciscan's YouTube video that offers a virtual tour of the Holy Land. Imagine yourself in that place with Jesus and any others in the Gospel passage. If you have time, learn more about the condition of that place now. Pray for those who live there, that they, too, might encounter Jesus in the land where he lived.
2. Do you have any images or artifacts from the Holy Land? If possible, display such items in a suitable area of your home as a way to remember and pray for the Church there.

**Next Week: The Homily**

**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



**The remedy for neglect, one of  
life's greatest sufferings**  
**By Fr. Peter John Cameron, OP**

Even before the Fall, Adam experienced a need deep at the core of our humanity – as God says, “It is not good for the man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18). What God declares we have all felt.

The simple truth is that “we need the presence in our lives of what is real and permanent so that we can approach it” (Pope Benedict XVI). The Holy Eucharist is that Presence. We approach it in Holy Communion. This Real Presence is a real remedy for our longing, anguish, and isolation.

In Introduction to Christianity, Pope Benedict XVI reflected on a fear nearly universal among people: that of being alone in a room with a dead body. We cannot be “reasoned” out of that fear. But he pointed to one thing instantly effective in quelling such a fear: someone we love coming to be with us in that room. Presence allays our worst fears.

Presence is always an approximation of our longing for an end to barriers. Presence is to know that there are experiences that lessen the dread of separation, loneliness, and even death (Ralph Harper).

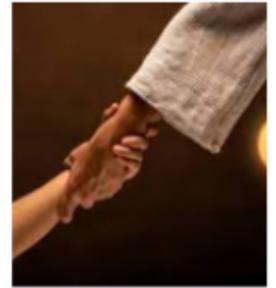
One of the greatest forms of suffering is the experience of neglect. Jeff VanVonderen, a certified intervention professional, writes: “Neglect (failing to meet needs when present or not being present at all) says, ‘You are not important enough for me to be here for you.’”

**The mystery of the Eucharist is the antidote for neglect.**

**The Eucharistic Christ constantly assures us:**

*You are not alone! Here is a Presence you can approach — real and permanent. I am present in the Eucharist to put down the barriers that hold you back ... to end the domination of dread. What remains is the persevering promise ... one I never cease to repeat. You are important enough for Me to be here for you.*

**“MOVED WITH PITY, HE  
STRETCHED OUT HIS  
HAND, TOUCHED HIM,  
AND SAID TO HIM, “I DO  
WILL IT. BE MADE  
CLEAN.” -Mark 1: 40**



**Eucharistic Witness**  
**Saint Josephine Bakhita**  
**Religious (+1947)**  
**Feast: February 8th**

Her kidnappers gave her the name Bakhita, meaning “fortunate.” Her life in captivity wasn’t quite so. Born in Darfur in 1869, Josephine Bakhita was taken by Arab slave traders when she was 9. Forced to walk 600 miles to southern Sudan, she was bought and sold before arriving in El Obeid. She faced countless beatings and lashings from a revolving door of owners as well as a forced conversion to Islam. In 1888, one of her owners put her in the custody of the Daughters of Charity in Venice where she finally found refuge. Baptized in 1890, she took her final vows in 1896, and spent the rest of her life in Vicenza as a doorkeeper and cook.

**Lessons from St. Josephine**

**Forgiveness:** Josephine endured unimaginable hardships in her life, but she showed mercy. “The Lord has loved me so much. We must love everyone.” In the face of inhuman trials, she only saw the face of Christ.

**Identity:** Josephine found spiritual fortune in her true identity as a child of God.

**Faith:** Though she carried the physical and psychological scarring of her years as a Sudanese slave, she never lost her faith. Josephine showed what can be overcome when we hold to our faith.

**Freedom:** In a recent report, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children found that one in six endangered run-aways has likely been trafficked. Globally, the statistics are worse. The International Labor Organization estimates that there are 4.5 million exploited sexually—and those numbers are rising. Taken from her family and trafficked, Josephine found physical freedom in an Italian convent and spiritual freedom in God. Today, she is considered a kindred spirit to those who are trafficked worldwide.



## ST. RAYMOND'S HUMAN LIFE COMMITTEE

"The Reproductive Rights Task Force (RRTF), recently 'celebrated' its record and promised more of the same. The Dept. of Justice (DOJ) has won 23 of its 24 cases prosecuted under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE) since 2021. The criminalization of pro-life activity has massively increased since the Dobbs Decision. Associate Atty. General Vanita Gupta stated the task force will 'continue to work creatively and relentlessly to use all our available tools to protect' abortion and that the DOJ is 'closely monitoring' any 'emergent threats' presented by state laws that protect the unborn. We are committed to doing all we can. There is no understating the devastation wrought by the Dobbs Decision. It dealt a devastating blow to the abortion industry, increasing the urgency of our work, including the enforcement of the FACE Act.' The FACE Act supposedly protects abortion facilities and Pregnancy Care Centers. Of the 130 uses of the Act since 1994, 126 were to defend abortion providers and only 4 were for pro-lifers or churches, even though pregnancy centers are 22 more times to be attacked than abortion facilities. Matthew M. Graves, US Atty. for the District of Columbia said pro-life advocates had to be brought to heel..." (Ben Johnson, LifeNews.com, 12/7/23) Did you notice the terminology used by those in the DOJ regarding abortion and those who are pro-life working to protect the unborn: "work creatively and relentlessly to protect abortion" (what does "creatively" mean), "closely monitoring emergent threats" by state laws that protect the unborn (according to the Dobbs Decision, each state has the right to make laws regarding abortion and the unborn, not the DOJ), and finally, the Dobbs Decision "dealt a devastating blow to the abortion industry" (finally the truth comes out, abortion is not about health, it's about an "industry" - an "industry", which makes its money through the killing of innocent unborn babies.

Next HLC meeting: Thursday,  
February 15, 7-8 pm,  
Parish Social Ministry House.



## 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)

*"For I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink, I was a foreigner and you invited me in." - Matthew 25:35*

Food assistance is available for those in need who live within our Parish boundaries. During the month of January 2024, our Parish Social Ministry assisted 88 households with food, personal care items, household items and other services they needed. Our client number has increased in the last few months and we truly appreciate all of your donations that help us provide for these people. 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 call our office and we can assist you with food. Pantry items needed this week: Bar Soap, Laundry Detergent, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Peanut Butter, Grape Jelly, Canned Meat, Pinto Beans, Rice or Pasta Side Dishes, Sugar, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Canned Beets, Pancake Mix, Juice and Cold Cereal.

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 as always for helping.  
May God's blessings shower upon all of you!*

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - FAITH FORMATION

*Lucy Ostermann, Director*



Faith Formation



Our 2nd grade Religious Education students received their First Reconciliation this past Tuesday, February 6th, 2024. We congratulate the children and their parents as they continue their faith journey.

May God always be with these little children!



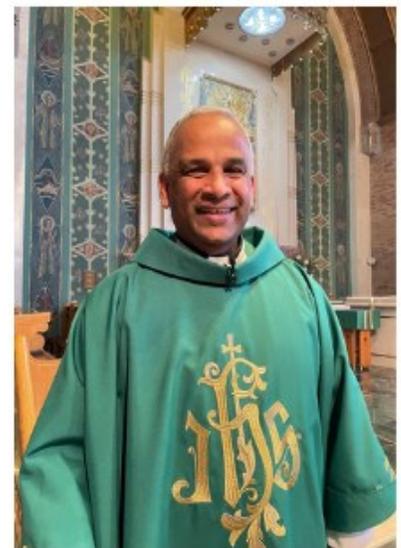
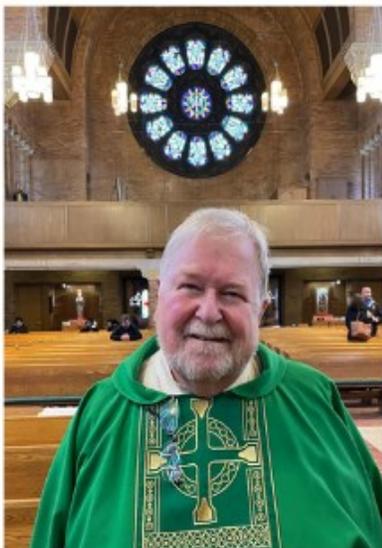
Mrs. Michaelene Cooper, one of our Catechists, is running a Winter Coat drive for the Kiwanis Club. Mrs. Cooper is collecting new and gently used winter coats for kids. Our Religious Education students are participating and have already brought in two large bags of coats. We are so proud of them and gratefully acknowledge theirs and their family's generosity. The drive goes until the end of February.

## Ash Wednesday

The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday. It's hard to believe that Ash Wednesday is this week on February 14th. There are Religious Education classes for our Wednesday students. After a short prayer service and Ashes will be distributed to the students and their catechists.



Much gratitude and thanks goes out to our Sweetheart Valentine Dance Committee – Chairperson Jennie Saia assisted by Gina Lee, Jane O'Hanlon, Kelly DeSola, Kelly Khan, Laura MacLeish, Michelle DeLuca, Lindsay Joyce, Amanda Lettieri, Maria Claudia Lora, Mary Thompson, Marie Walsh, Erin McCadden, Stephanie Paul, Sara Sollin, Alicia Brenneis, Darlene Gladstone, Joanna Agnello, Peggy Lynch and Marguerite Reilly. This dance is one of the highlight events for our school year and without these amazing, young women it would not have been possible. We cannot say enough about this team and all of their efforts throughout the year!!! Thank you from the bottom of our 'hearts'!!!



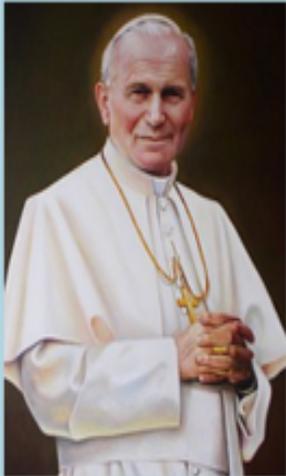
*5th & 6th Grade Meeting and Mass*

# 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



The Gospel of Life  
is not for believers  
alone: it is for  
everyone  
-St. John Paul II

## 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



## 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.



*Is there something in your life that is causing you stress or discomfort? Come to Jesus in prayer (especially before the Blessed Sacrament) and bring your troubles to Him.*



**THE ROSE  
FOR LIFE**

**In Memory of  
John Healy  
Donated by His Family**

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

**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)



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

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

**visit their website at: [www.oceanfinancial.org](http://www.oceanfinancial.org).**

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**



# FORMED

This week on **FORMED...**



**As Lent begins, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, reminds you that Lent is really about transformation. She encourages you to bring your heart to the Lord in prayer, to be honest with him, and to allow his love and mercy to bring you into communion with him.**



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

**FORMED**

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

# Masses for this week

## Monday, February 12th

7:15am Thomas P. Duggan  
8:45am Eileen Walker

## Tuesday, February 13th

7:15am Rosemary Pazzini  
8:45am Patricia Shanagan

## Wednesday, February 14th

### Ash Wednesday

7:15am St. Raymond Parish  
8:45am Arthur Schreiber  
12:15pm Terese L. Campbell  
4:00pm Prayer Service  
7:30pm Nocturnal Adoration Society

## Thursday, February 15th

7:15am Holy Souls in Purgatory  
8:45am Donald Laux  
12:15pm Loretta & Patrick Collins

## Friday, February 16th

7:15am Frances Hess  
8:45am Jeanne Healey  
12:15pm Dennis McDougal

## Saturday, February 17th

8:45am James & Kathleen Ryder  
5:00pm Thorne & Drugan Families

## Sunday, February 18th

7:30am Judith Svendsen  
9:00am Filomena Cibellis  
10:30am Sodality of our Lady  
12:00pm Dorothy & William Riehl, James McLean, Mary Guiliano, Juan Antonio Deras, Gerard Wollweber, Richard Lehmann  
4:30pm St. Raymond

### Scripture Readings for the Week

#### Monday

Jas 1:1-11/Mk 8:11-13

#### Tuesday

Jas 1:12-18/Mk 8:14-21

#### Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

#### Thursday

Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25

#### Friday

Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15

#### Saturday

Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32

#### Sunday

Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15



## Please Pray for Our Sick

James R., Baby Brady, Mike L.,  
Jodi Neckles, Baby Faith Madison,  
Baby Cooper Graham, Michael McPike,  
Christine L., Samir. Leo B., Maureen  
Condiss, Bennett William Chevalier,  
Mary Lynch, Maureen McCarthy,  
Fr. Don Hansen, Nick S., Dawn,  
Jay Witemeyer, Christine Gillidan,  
Linda Dagostino, Joseph DelGiorno,  
Rory Romano, Timothy Murphy

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



**Rest in Peace**  
**Richard McInerney**



The Sanctuary Light  
For this week in memory of  
**The Raia Family**

**Love & Prayers**  
**Diane Minucci**

# Parish Bulletin Board

*Dear Lord,  
Please help me to accept myself for who I am. Help me to see and appreciate the wonderful person You have created. Let me recognize the importance of my birthright as Your child and realize my significance in the universe. Help me to understand that the opportunities I possess are limitless...  
For You have given me the chance to achieve all things for my own good and that of the whole world. Make my life, starting today, starting now, a worthy testament of Your wondrous glory and infinite love. For with You all things are possible.*

## 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.

**IF YOU LIVE ALONE  
YOU NEED A MEDICAL ALERT  
At HOME or AWAY**

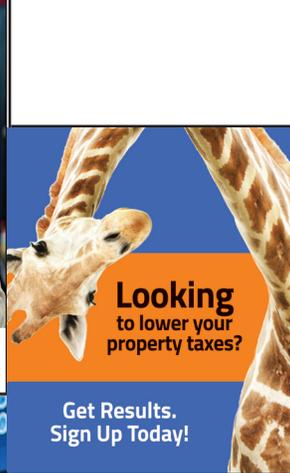
• GPS • Fall Alert • 24/7 • 365 Monitoring  
Ambulance • Police • Fire • Family/Friends



As Low As **\$19<sup>95</sup>**  
/month\*



No Contract • No Fees • E-Z Setup • [md-medalert.com](http://md-medalert.com) **CALL 800 867-7250**



**Looking  
to lower your  
property taxes?**

**Get Results.  
Sign Up Today!**

**DEADLINE MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**MAIDENBAUM**

THE LEADER IN PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION

Apply online at [mptrg.com/bulletins](http://mptrg.com/bulletins)  
or call 516.715.1223  
Hablamos Español

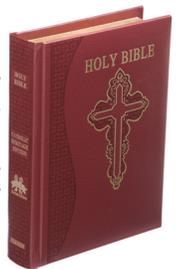
Maidenbaum Property Tax Reduction Group, LLC • 481 Chestnut Street, Cedarhurst, NY 11006

## Fireside Catholic Heritage Edition Bible

The Catholic Heritage Edition in the New American Bible Revised Edition translation is the ideal Catholic Family Bible.

**Features:** Our Catholic Family, Family Record section and Burgundy padded cover with gold-gilded page edges.

**Only \$79.99 post paid**



C/O The Church Bulletin, Inc.  
200 Dale Street • W. Babylon, NY 11704  
Enclosed please find check/money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the cost of \_\_\_\_\_ (quantity) copies of the Fireside Family Bible, to be shipped post paid to:  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



EVERY  
PATIENT

EVERY  
MOMENT

THAT'S WHAT IT  
MEANS TO BE  
**DEDICATED  
TO BETTER**

By growing in every aspect of patient experience and quality, Catholic Health is becoming the most preferred choice on Long Island.

 **Catholic Health**  
LONG LIVE LONG ISLAND™



**Sound Audiology**  
Hearing Aids and Audiology Services

**Dr. Donna Rubino  
Dr. Clare Villanueva**  
Doctors of Audiology

215a Atlantic Ave.  
Lynbrook, NY 11563  
**516-224-7588**

**Edwin C. Gerrity Agency**  
All your Insurance needs  
25D Main St., East Rockaway, NY 11518  
Serving the Community over 50 years  
**(516) 593-4242**



# Perry Funeral Home, Inc.

**Kenneth Lysak Jr., Philip M. Taglia**

- Family Owned & Operated
- Newly Renovated
- Area's Largest Chapel
- Preplanning
- Prepayment

Since 1825

118 Union Avenue, Lynbrook

516.593.1111

www.perryfh.com

- Handicap Accessible
- Monuments & Inscriptions
- Children's Playroom
- Competitive Pricing
- Ample Parking

**BIRTHRIGHT  
OF  
NASSAU/SUFFOLK**  
**(516) 785-4070**  
**Confidential  
Assistance**

### Celebrity Chase Collision

191 Earle Ave., Lynbrook, NY 11563

516 593-0920

Ask about your parish discount



**Ellen Blaney**  
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson  
M 917.259.2077 | ellen.blaney@elliman.com  
elliman.com/ellenblaney

Rockville Centre Office  
304 Merrick Road  
O 516.669.3700

DouglasElliman

- For all of your **Real Estate** needs
- Parishioner for over 40 years

- Selling, Buying, Renting
- Mortgage, Purchase, Refinance, Reverse



**Kevin Blaney**  
Sales Manager • NMLS# 43951

(516) 714-4169  
(516) 250-1012  
kblaney@fhan.com



100 Merrick Road, Suite 510E, Rockville Centre, NY 11570 • NMLS# 2203111  
Scan here to apply

Nationwide Mortgage Bankers, Inc. (NMB) NMLS# 811982 (www.nationwidemortgage.com)  
3140 Spring Garden Lane, Suite 402B, Manassas, VA 20108 (800) 705-8884 (www.nmb.com)  
"NMBNOW" is a registered CMA of Nationwide Mortgage Bankers, Inc. (NMB).  
NMB is in a new affiliation with Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. This is an advertisement. Licensed Mortgage Banker. NYS Banking Department. Additional state licensing information can be found at <http://www.nmbnow.com/disclosure-and-borrower>.



Looking to buy or sell call me today!  
Call for free market evaluation.



**ANNA STELMACH ROSIAK**  
Lic. Real Estate Associate Broker  
C: 516.225.5988 | O: 516.766.7900  
Arosiak@signaturepremier.com  
Parishioner & East Rockaway resident

\*If your property is currently listed with another brokerage please disregard. It's not our intention to solicit the listings of other brokerages.

### CAREFREE

AIR CONDITIONING GAS HEATING  
AIR FILTRATION WATER FILTRATION  
516-599-2848

### Assisi Veterinary Hospital

Internal Medicine, Surgery  
& Emergency Medicine  
Pet Grooming and  
Boarding Available  
250 Hempstead Ave., Malverne  
516-256-0022  
www.assisivh.com



Guy Donza, Thomas Donza  
& Christine Donza  
Funeral Directors &  
Pre-Arrangement Counselors

1926 **90** YEARS **2016**  
Warm and Personal Service -  
A Family Tradition Since 1926

# Donza

FUNERAL HOME, INC.

- Solely Owned & Operated by The Donza Family
- Newly Expanded and Decorated Chapels
- Ample Parking

333 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, N.Y. 11518  
Tel: (516) 593-2521 / Fax: (516) 825-6380  
email: donzafuneralhome@aol.com



### FATHER & SON

Est. 1978



**AUTO CORP.**  
AUTO REPAIRS SALES  
170 Atlantic Ave., Lynbrook  
516.599-8666  
www.fatherandsonauto.com



"Long Island's Most Trusted  
Name in Real Estate"  
**HILARY H. BECKER, C.P.M.**  
(516) 887-0677

### Hewlett Point Yacht Club, Inc.

"The most desirable place to dock your boat  
in East Rockaway"

- Boating and non boating Memberships
- Air Conditioned Party Room for rent
- Social Events throughout the year
- Activities and events for children • Free Wi-Fi
- Beautiful views of Hewlett Bay
- Private Beach • Skeet Shooting • Deep water access • Slips with updated water and electric

Call Ed for Details 516-359-2676



Scoop up a sweet savings rate!

6-Month Certificate

5.00% | 5.11%  
APY\*

Ask us about it today!

OceanFinancial.org  
516.620.8100 • 833.642.1645

FEDERALLY INSURED BY NCUA

\*APY=Annual Percentage Yield. Rate effective as of 12/18/2023. Rates and terms are subject to change without notice. \$500 minimum deposit required to open Certificate.



## Flinch & Bruns Funeral Home Inc.

CREMATION SERVICES - BURIAL - FUNERAL

Serving the entire South Shore Since 1932

34 Hempstead Avenue. Corner Peninsula Blvd. Lynbrook  
516-599-3600 www.flinchandbruns.com

*James*

**Tech Electric**  
Your East Rockaway  
Licensed & Insured  
Electrical Contractor  
Jamestechelectric.com  
536-6900 647-0960

EAST ROCKAWAY FLORIST  
338 Atlantic Ave.  
East Rockaway,  
516.568.7077  
www.eastrockawayflorist.com  
info@eastrock-  
awayflorist.com  
@eastrockawayflorist @e\_rockflorist

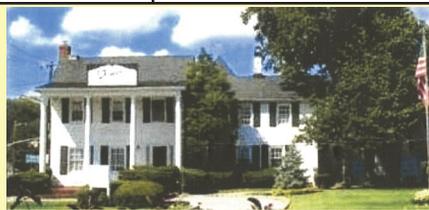
# TOWERS

Est. 1933

FUNERAL HOME INC.

2681 Long Beach Rd Oceanside  
(516) 766-0425

www.towersfuneralhomeny.com



Family Owned and Operated