The Parish of St. Raymond

A Eucharistic Community of Faith, Love and Friendship

Sunday, March 15, 2026

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518 516-593-5000

Masses

Saturday Eve	5:00PM
Sunday	7:30, 9:00, 10:30AM, 12Noon and 4:30PM
Daily	7:15, 8:45 AM
Saturday	8:45 AM

Pastoral Team

Pastor
Father Chuck Romano

Associate Pastors
Father Benedict Kim
Father Joseph Rwamwenge

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

Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Lucy Ostermann

Business Manager
Christopher Grennen

Parish Staff

Music Ministry
Laura Garbitelli

Folk Group
Nadine Robinson

Plant Manager
Steve Bennett

Parish Secretary
Doreen Dolan

Bulletin Editor
Linda Ohlsen

"He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see."

~John 9:8

March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent

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 10 am-5pm. 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-3pm.

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

Please call the rectory to schedule.

Bereavement Support Group

Call the rectory office for meeting times.

Marriages

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

Prayer Groups

Men's Prayer Group: Every Monday at 10:00am in the Rectory Basement.

Music Ministries

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

Folk Group: Sings at 12 Noon Mass on Sundays from September—June; practice on Sunday at 11:00 in the Rectory Basement

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

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

Please Pray for Our Sick

Tristan Hollenstein
Baby Faith Madison
Mary Lynch
Linda Dagostino
Karen Pagnotta
Jodi Neckles
Jim Marasco
Christine I.
Jeanne Swanson
Rosemarie Lombardo
Elaine & Eddie Corrado
Nick S.
Rosemarie Salabini
Connie Montesino
Julianne Grennen
Herb McIntyre
Anthony Campanile
Baby Cooper Graham
Maureen Condiss
Timothy Murphy
Lauren Greco
Eileen Roberts
Betty McHale
Eileen Appel
Dianna Viglieta
Sally Perry
Caroline Saporito

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

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

Cpl. Alex James Cooper US MARINE CORPS
Cpl. Dean Thomas Cooper US MARINE CORPS
Lt. Col. Mary P. King , M.D., US ARMY
Commander Joseph Garbitelli US NAVY
Sgt. Thomas Stanley Golebiewski USMC
Staff Sgt. Emily Golebiewski US AIRFORCE
Staff /Sgt. Matthew R. Hines - US ARMY
Cpl. Connor Thomas McHale US MARINE CORPS
Commander Joseph Leahy US NAVY
Sgt. Bryan Petriccione US ARMY –Cavalry Unit
Lt. Joseph Woloszyn US NAVY
TSGT Curt Abdool US AIRFORCE
2nd Lt. Nicholas J. Carinci US AIRFORCE

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR OUR WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

Father Chuck's Corner

Greetings and God's continued Lenten blessings be yours on the Fourth Sunday of Lent! Today's readings encourage us to live as children of light. In the first reading from the Book of Samuel, God rebukes Samuel because he judges what he sees only with his eyes. God goes beyond appearances and looks into the heart. ***"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart."*** Then in the second reading from his Letter to the Ephesians, Paul encourages the people to put their faith into practice by living in the light. ***"Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth."*** And finally in Lukes's gospel passage about the man born blind, Jesus cures him as a sign to all people that his words from the gospel acclamation are true: ***"I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will have the light of life."***

At the heart of today's gospel story, which is chock full of good lessons, is the concept of ***"blindness."*** Now there are all sorts of things we might be ***"blind"*** to and fail to see as God sees. We might be blind to the needs of others or blind to our own prejudices or blind to what is most important in life or blind to any number of things. We are all on the same journey and struggle with the same kind of things. But there is one thing that we are ***"blind"*** to that hardly gets mentioned (even though Jesus points it out rather bluntly at the end of this passage). It is one that is hard to admit because it paints us all in a bad light. It's the easiest type to overlook. It is simply our own ***"blindness."*** Yes, our own blindness. We are often blind to the fact that we are blind. The Pharisees had this blindness, and Jesus was always calling them out on it. It is believing that our opinions are superior to others, that we are better than other people. We know more, are more faithful, and God loves us more. We see situations or issues in the ***"right"*** way. Basically, it is a self-righteousness that says to the world, ***"I see just fine. I don't need to change, others do."***

We can deny our failing physical eyesight all we want, but what about our spiritual sight? Jesus forgives completely our tough sins. He is always reaching out with compassion to public sinners. But his strongest language he saves for those who are convinced of their own goodness, who in a very real sense are blind to their own blindness.

In reflecting on Lent, it is important to see where we have failed to love, which causes us to commit the very sins we do confess. Take an honest look at your own attitudes and prejudices, your worldview on all sorts of things. Who are you looking at in the wrong way? Where do you refuse to consider counterarguments? Why do you feel the need to win every argument, to have people come around to your way of thinking. Who do you feel superior to? In what areas of life do you need a dose of genuine humility? Samuel (with God's help) saw something in David that no one else did. May we, with God's help, see things in each other that we've never seen before, see the things that God sees. Just don't refuse to admit that you are blind in the first place.

This Monday evening, March 16th, we will have our ***Lenten Holy Hour*** for the Fourth Week of Lent. This week we celebrate the Feasts of St. Patrick and St. Joseph. Come and spend time in Eucharistic Adoration reflecting on your Lenten journey as we ask these two well-loved saints for guidance and intercession. The next segment of our Lenten series, ***"Understanding the Mass"*** will be on Wednesday evening, March 18th at 7pm in the school cafeteria. Then there is a ***"Lenten Evening of Recollection"*** with our own Al Barbarino on Thursday evening, March 19th. And our ***"Giving, Not Giving Up…….It's a Lenten Thing"*** program concludes next weekend as we ask you to bring some ***"baby items"*** to Mass. Check the bulletin for the list of required items.

Please remember to take home a copy of the bulletin when you leave Mass today. Besides the aforementioned, there is an invitation to the ***St. Patrick's Celebration,*** sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, on Saturday, March 21st, info for our ***Pot of Gold 50/50,*** the ***Come and See Centerfold,*** the ***Communal Prayer Before Mass*** (found on the inside back cover), an invitation to join ***FORMED*** (your Catholic Faith on demand) and much more. To keep informed, keep a copy of the bulletin at home each week for quick and easy reference.

Have a great Fourth Week of Lent. ***Smile, share and come into the light of Jesus Christ. Plus remember: He is not the God of sometimes but the God of always.*** God bless always.

-Father Chuck

WEEKLY MASS PRAYERS

MARCH 15, 2026—FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

MARCH 15, 2026—FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

The LORD said to Samuel: "Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen my king from among his sons." As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is here before him." But the LORD said to Samuel: "Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart." In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any one of these." Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" Jesse replied, "There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep." Samuel said to Jesse, **"Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here." Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold and making a splendid appearance. The LORD said, "There—anoint him, for this is the one!" Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side With your rod and your staff that give me courage.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

GOSPEL

John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent —.So he went and washed, and came back able to see. His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is, "but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out. When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, **he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.**

ST. RAYMOND CHURCH
HOLY HOUR
Preparation for Lent Evening
FEBRUARY 23RD • MARCH 2ND
MARCH 12 • MARCH 16TH • MARCH 24TH
7:00PM - 8:00PM
Exposition • Reflection • Music • Benediction

Ra

St Raymond's Lenten Series
Understanding The Mass

REVIEW OF SESSION 3: THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

WE ENCOUNTER JESUS, THE WORD OF GOD, AS WE READ AND REFLECT ON SACRED SCRIPTURES.

SESSION 3

Preparation for Session 4 March 18th, 7 pm in the School Cafeteria: Liturgy of the Eucharist Read chapters 14-25 from A Biblical Walk Through The Mass by Edward Sri.

Ra

"Giving...Not Giving Up, It's a Lenten Thing"

Once again, our parish will be conducting the special Lenten program entitled: "Giving..... Not Giving Up, It's a Lenten Thing" for the Sundays of Lent. All the items collected will be used by our

Parish Social Ministry Office,
St. Vincent de Paul and the Human Life Committee.

Everyone is encouraged to bring the suggested items to Mass on the designated Sundays. We will bring our "gifts" forward at the time of the Presentation of the Gifts. This giving of our goods at the altar as a visible action will be a tangible sign of our Lenten efforts to help those in our community who have these basic needs. The collection weekends will be as follows:

March 15th SUPERMARKET GIFT CARDS

King Kullen, Stop & Shop, Lidl

March 22nd BABY ITEMS

Diapers - Sizes 1 - 6, Baby Wipes, Baby Shampoo, etc.

"Whenever hate or exasperation seizes you, think of the love of St. Joseph, who was the first man to set his eyes on the human face of God". Pope Benedict XVI Feast of Saint Joseph – March 19th

Pastoral Council Members

Peter Chojnacki, Linda Daley, Julianne Grennen, Kimberly Moran, Mary Murphy, Dave Ohlsen, Linda Ohlsen, Secretary, Stephen Rochford, Chairperson, Fr. Chuck Romano, Monica Tobin, Vice Chairperson

ST. RAYMOND'S HUMAN LIFE COMMITTEE

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PRAYER PROGRAM CONCLUSION

Time has surely flown! Your spiritually adopted baby was born this month - nine months after his or her conception. The only change at birth is a change in the external life support system of the baby. He or she is no more human, no more alive, no more different now, than he or she was before birth, except in the manner the baby breathes and eats. This little one is truly a miracle, a precious gift from God! Never before in history and never again will anyone exist that is just like your spiritually adopted baby! In celebration of the baby's birth, and in lieu of our usual "mini" baby shower, Fr. Chuck has set aside next weekend, March 21st and 22nd, asking our parishioners to donate baby items (diapers sizes 1-6, baby wipes, shampoo, blankets, clothing NB-2T) which will be given to the Hempstead pregnancy center, where the need is great. These gifts help mothers in need who have chosen life for their babies In addition, the mothers, who often times have no support from family and friends, are so touched that people they have never met care for them and their babies in their time of need. Thanks to all who participated in this simple, yet powerful, prayer program. May God bless you for your faithfulness in prayer and your generosity for these little ones and their mothers.

Next Human Life Committee Meeting:
Thursday, March 19th, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm,
located in the Parish Social Ministry Office.
All invited; all needed!

"God's love does not differentiate between the newly conceived human infant still in his mother's womb and the child or the young person, or the adult and the elderly person. God does not distinguish between them because "He sees an impression of His Own Image and Likeness in each one". (Pope Benedict XVI, 2006)

St. Joseph
Spouse of Mary
Feast Day - March 19th

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interests and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls – Pray for me. Amen

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
FAITH FORMATION

Lucy Ostermann, Director

Faith Formation

STATIONS OF THE CROSS BY TEENS – TUESDAY 3/10/2026

Special thanks to our 7th & 8th grade students for their participation in our Stations of the Cross by Teens held on Tuesday 3/10/2026. This presentation is very special as it goes through the events of the Stations as seen through the eyes of a teenager and it also gives thoughts of our Blessed Mother as she watches her son suffer so greatly to his death. REMINDER – the reflection paper is due in class either Monday 3/16 or Tuesday 3/17.

7TH & 8TH GRADE LEVEL MASS – SUNDAY 3/22/2026

All 7th & 8th grade Religious Education students along with a parent are asked to attend their grade level Mass on Sunday 3/22/2026 at 12Noon. Students and parents are to come to the auditorium at 11am for a meeting then we will all go to the 12Noon Mass.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY & HAPPY ST. JOSEPH'S DAY!!!

Lenten Promises
Joanna Agnello & Stacey Quiroz
3rd Grade
Monday Class

Mrs. Ohlsen's
2nd Grade Class
Prepare for Communion

7th and 8th Graders Stations of the Cross

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT WEEKLY GUIDE FOR PERSONAL PRAYER

Come & See

Until you do, you will never know

SUMMARY OF THE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

For the Fourth Sunday of Lent, the Gospel from John 9:1–41 recounts Jesus healing the man born blind, revealing that physical sight becomes a sign of the deeper gift of spiritual vision. Jesus proclaims, *"I am the light of the world"* (John 9:5), inviting us to move from darkness into the light of faith and to recognize Him as the One who opens our eyes to God's truth.

Tuesday is the Optional Memorial of Saint Patrick (bishop), who as a missionary bishop brought the Gospel to Ireland and is remembered for his tireless evangelization and pastoral zeal in converting many people to Christ. Wednesday is the Optional Memorial of Saint Cyril of Jerusalem (bishop and Doctor of the Church)..

Thursday celebrates the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a humble and faithful guardian of the Holy Family who is honored for his obedience, quiet strength, and trust in God's providence.

This week the First Readings are taken from Isaiah 65:17–21; Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12; Isaiah 49:8–15; 2 Samuel 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16; Wisdom 2:1a, 12–22; and Jeremiah 11:18–20. These passages reveal God's promise of renewal, healing, and covenant faithfulness even in the face of human opposition and suffering. Through prophetic visions of restoration, the promise of a lasting kingdom, and the experience of the righteous who suffer unjustly, the readings call us to trust that God's saving plan unfolds even amid trial.

The Gospels this week present us with the gradual revelation of Jesus' identity and the invitation to respond with faith. Christ calls us to move beyond doubt or hesitation and to recognize in Him the One sent by the Father who brings healing, truth, and eternal life.

For Monday and Tuesday, the Gospels are taken from John 4:43–54 and John 5:1–16, respectively. On Monday, Jesus heals the royal official's son and affirms the power of trusting faith when He tells the father, *"You may go; your son will live"* (John 4:50), revealing that belief in His word brings life. On Tuesday, Jesus heals the man who had been ill for thirty-eight years at the pool of Bethesda and commands, *"Rise, take up your mat, and walk"* (John 5:8), demonstrating that Christ restores both body and spirit.

On Wednesday, the Gospels is taken from John 5:17–30 and, and, on Thursday, for the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, the Gospel is taken from Matthew 1:16, 18–21, 24a. On Wednesday, Jesus teaches about His unity with the Father and the authority given to Him, declaring, *"Whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life"* (John 5:24), revealing that faith opens the path to salvation. On Thursday, the Gospel recounts Joseph's faithful obedience to God's message in a dream, showing how he accepted his role in salvation history when *"he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him"* (Matthew 1:24).

For Friday and Saturday, the Gospels are taken from John 7:1–2, 10, 25–30 and John 7:40–53, respectively. On Friday, Jesus speaks openly about His divine mission despite opposition, reminding the crowds that His authority comes from the One who sent Him when He proclaims, *"I did not come on my own, but the one who sent me...you do not know"* (John 7:28). On Saturday, the people debate Jesus' identity as some recognize Him as the Messiah while others doubt, illustrating the division His message creates when they ask, *"Could the Christ come from Galilee?"* (John 7:41).

For the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the Gospel from John 11:1–45 recounts the raising of Lazarus, revealing Christ's authority over death and His compassion for human sorrow.

"I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him." -John 9:38

St. Raymond Church
🔥 Kindle The Fire Within
Each Day, the Church is open
for personal prayer until 5:00pm
Each Thursday - Eucharistic
Exposition from 1-4:00pm
Each First Friday
Nocturnal Adoration 7:30pm-8:30pm

DAILY PRAYER THIS WEEK

For the Fourth Week of Lent, the Gospel readings invite me to deepen my faith in Christ as the One sent by the Father who brings healing, truth, and life. In my responsibilities at home and at work, I am called to trust His word, recognize His presence, and allow His light to guide my decisions and relationships.

MONDAY – TRUSTING FAITH

"You may go; your son will live" (John 4:50). Jesus responds to the royal official's plea with a simple promise that invites complete trust in His word, reminding me that faith often means believing before I see the outcome. In the pressures of family responsibilities and professional commitments, I am invited to rely on Christ's promises and trust that He is already at work in situations beyond my control.

My Prayer: Lord, strengthen my faith so I may trust Your word even when the path ahead is uncertain.

TUESDAY – HEALING GRACE ☘

"Rise, take up your mat, and walk" (John 5:8). Jesus restores the man who had suffered for many years, reminding me that no burden or weakness is beyond His power to heal. When discouragement or fatigue weighs on my heart, I am invited to rise with renewed hope and allow Christ's grace to restore my strength.

My Prayer: Lord, enlarge my heart so I may forgive quickly and completely.

WEDNESDAY – FAITH IN THE SON

"Whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life" (John 5:24). Jesus teaches that faith in Him leads to true life, encouraging me to listen carefully to His voice amid the noise and distractions of daily life. By grounding my choices in His word, I allow His truth to shape my priorities and guide my actions.

My Prayer: Lord, help me to listen to Your word and live each day with faith in Your promise of life.

THURSDAY – OBEDIENT TRUST

"He did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him" (Matthew 1:24). Saint Joseph's quiet obedience shows how faithfulness often unfolds through humble acceptance of God's plan in ordinary life. Like Joseph, I am called to trust God's guidance in the responsibilities entrusted to me, caring for my family and fulfilling my duties with steady devotion.

My Prayer: Lord, grant me the courage and humility to follow Your will as faithfully as St. Joseph.

FRIDAY – FAITH AMID OPPOSITION

"I did not come on my own, but the one who sent me" (John 7:28). Jesus continues His mission even when others question or oppose Him, reminding me that fidelity to God's call sometimes requires perseverance in difficult circumstances. In my work and relationships, I am invited to remain grounded in truth and to trust that God guides my efforts.

My Prayer: Lord, give me courage to remain faithful to You even when my faith is challenged.

Saturday – Seeking the Truth

"Could the Christ come from Galilee?" (John 7:41,). The crowd's debate over Jesus reveals how easily doubt and misunderstanding can cloud the search for truth. I am invited to look beyond assumptions and open my heart more fully to Christ, asking Him to guide me into deeper understanding and faith.

The Sodality of Our Lady

invites women of faith to our

8th Annual Women's Day Retreat

Saturday, March 21, 2026

We will begin at the 8:45 Mass followed by coffee in the school cafeteria. The presentation begins at 10:00 and concludes at 3:00pm with a break for lunch at noon.

A Lenten Renewal

Presented by Sr. Cecelia TJI

Topic: Listening to the ways that God speaks to us

Suggested Program Fee: $35 (includes lunch)

Registration Closes: Monday, March 16th

Maximum attendees - 60

Checks made payable to: Sodality of Our Lady

****Please remit payment along with registration form to:

Sodality of Our Lady, St. Raymond Church

263 Atlantic Ave, East Rockaway, NY 11518

Name:_____

Address: _____

Telephone #:_____

Email: _____

Dietary Restrictions:_____

If you have questions, please contact Frances Corio or Karen Doran through the rectory: 516-593-5000

JOIN TROOP 332!
BOYS & GIRLS 10-17YRS OLD ARE ELIGIBLE
COME TO OUR
RECRUITMENT NIGHT!
MARCH 20 • 7:30PM
ST. RAYMOND'S SCHOOL GYM
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE!
LEADERSHIP SKILLS!
COMMUNITY SERVICE!
LOTS OF FUN!
COME AND SEE WHAT SCOUTING IS ALL ABOUT!
Scouting America
TROOP 332

Ra

HERE'S YOUR INVITATION TO THE

ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION

FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Come enjoy the rich Irish traditions, complete dinner, Irish music (by The McSwitch), Irish Dancing, bagpipes, Guinness, Irish Coffee and sweets— all included, so get a table of friends to enjoy.

All are Welcomed! Raffles, Food, Music, Beer, Wine and more...

March 21, 2026 at 7:00pm

St. Raymond's School Auditorium

"Green Room"

Tickets are only *$60pp*

SENIOR DISCOUNT *$50* pp (65+ yrs)

Tables of 10 Welcome!

Charles Peknic at 516-732-0691

Tickets on Sale Now...Limited Seating

Ra

Pot of Gold 50/50

There will be a special "Pot of Gold 50/50" that will be held on Saturday, March 21st. This "pot" has no lid so the "sky's the limit." The winning ticket will be pulled at the St. Patrick's Celebration, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus on the 21st. The "Pot of Gold" tickets are always available and on sale! They are $10 each and three for $25.

Special "Pot of Gold" tickets were included in the March/April regular envelope mailing. Simply return the ticket stubs with payment in the envelope to the rectory, either by mail, in person or in the Sunday collection before March 21st.

Tickets are also available for purchase at the rectory during regular office hours. The more tickets sold, the greater your winning share and the greater the profit for St. Raymond's. And you don't have to be Irish to win; but a wee bit of leprechaun luck wouldn't hurt now would it!

Remember!

Three for only $25 or $10 each and the "Sky's the limit!"

St. Patrick Patron of Ireland Feast Day March 17th

May the Strength of God pilot us.
May the Power of God preserve us.
May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
May the Hand of God protect us.
May the Way of God direct us.
May the Shield of God defend us.
May the Host of God guard us.
Against the snares of the evil ones.
Against temptations of the world.
May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Chirst be in us,
Christ be over all!
May Thy Salvation, Lord,
Always be ours!
This day, O Lord, and evermore.
Amen

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." – Matthew 5:4

Our parish's Bereavement Support Group offers a supportive, peer-based space for those who are grieving after the death of someone dear. The group brings together individuals who share the common experience of grief and provides a safe, confidential environment where participants may talk, listen, and reflect alongside others who understand.

Our Bereavement Support Group meets in small groups and is gently facilitated to encourage respectful conversation, mutual support, and shared experience. This is not therapy, but a place to connect with others, speak openly about grief, and find comfort in knowing you are not alone.

The group usually welcomes participants after the initial four months following a death and honors each person's journey and pace. Through shared stories and thoughtful reflection, participants are encouraged to remember those who have died, acknowledge the impact of grief, and move forward with understanding and support from the community.

We meet in the fall and spring, on Thursday evenings for six consecutive weeks in our parish school cafeteria.

All who are grieving are welcome.

"Grief is the price we pay for love."

"Those we love do not leave us; they live on in our hearts and memories."

St. Raymond's Bereavement Ministry

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

Six Sessions beginning Thursday April 23, 2026 at 7:30 PM in St. Raymond's School Cafeteria

Register: Call the Rectory at 516-593-5000 or fill out the form below and send to the Rectory

---

Your Name:

_____

Address:

_____

Best Tel. #:

_____

Relationship to the Deceased:

_____

Ra

St. Raymond's Parish Social Ministry
The Ryan House
"The Heart of the Parish"
12 Roosevelt Avenue, Lynbrook
NY 11563 516-887-9197

God's Work Our Hands

FOOD PANTRY HOURS OF OPERATION MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY FROM 10AM TO 3PM
(Suggested to call for an appointment)

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart not reluctantly or out of compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

The Parish Social Ministry staff and its clients would like to thank all those those donated toiletries last weekend for the Lenten program - "Giving - Not Giving Up". Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will help the food pantry to stock their shelves for their clients.

Father Chuck set aside two more weekends when he asked parishioners to donate items after each Mass to assist the Parish Social Ministry meet the needs of the people they serve. Here are the scheduled dates and items requested.

MARCH 15TH SUPERMARKET GIFT CARDS - STOP and SHOP, KING KULLEN and LIDL,
MARCH 22ND BABY ITEMS - Diapers --- sizes 1 to 6, Baby Wipes, Baby Shampoo

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

Pantry Items still needed: Canned Fruit, Chef Boyardee Pasta, Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup, Cooking Oil (small bottles), Mustard, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Laundry Detergent, Dish Detergent and Snacks.

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

Thank you all for your continued support and you are always in our prayers!

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This week, take time each day to just sit and reflect on all the blessings God has bestowed upon you. Be sure to praise Him and give thanks

Ra

"Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us..."
- Pope Leo XIV

Dear Friends:

During the special Lenten season, please allow me to share a special request with you. If you have never contributed to the Catholic Ministries Appeal, or if you haven't contributed in a number of years, please consider making this the year that you join with me and other members of our Parish family to make a donation to the 2026 Appeal.

As you may already be aware, 100% of all the money raised is used to support the ministries of the Appeal that serve more than 600,000 people each year, and our parish shares in the money raised to use for our own local needs.

These programs include services to people in need; affordable housing for senior citizens; people with disabilities and our veterans; respect life initiatives; and formation of our priests, deacons, lay leaders, and young people. These are just a few of the programs that help make our church and this Island a vibrant and wonderful place to live.

But to help ensure that we can always serve those who come to us for aid, support and spiritual guidance, we need help from you!

If 100 of our parishioners who have not supported us in the recent past made a $25 contribution this year – think about how many more people we could help! If that amount is more than you can manage, consider $5 or $10. Every gift counts and makes a difference in the lives of others! THANK YOU!!

Please make check payable to the Catholic Ministries Appeal

Name: _____

Parish:_____

Address:_____

City, State _____

Zip Code:_____

Telephone number:

Home_____

Cell:_____

Signature: _____

To make a donation, you can also visit https://www.drvc.org/CMA/or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296.

Thank You!

Ra

FORMED

This week on FORMED...

The Mysteries of the Rosary is a four-part film series hosted by Mark Hartfiel, Vice President of Paradisus Dei and current developer of That Man is You! men's program The series began out of Mark Hartfiel's desire to deepen his spiritual life as a father and husband, which included taking steps to protect his family from evil. Saint Padre Pio said, "The Rosary is the 'weapon' for these times," and Hartfiel took that to heart, ultimately becoming convicted to pray the ancient prayers of the Rosary daily. It was through his daily Rosary that the idea came to him to create and film a series that takes viewers right to the Holy Land, right where these Mysteries actually happened.

GO TO THE ST. RAYMOND WEBSITE FOLLOW THE

FORMED

LINK TO REGISTER... IT'S FREE!

Ra

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

Monday, March 16th
7:15am Josie Rodriguez
8:45am Patrick Michael McManus
12:15pm June Vella

Tuesday, March 17th
7:15am John P. Dolan, Sr.
8:45am Sean Ledwith
12:15pm Paul McGovern

Wednesday, March 18th
7:15am Joseph A. Ferrara
8:45am St. Raymond Parish
12:15pm Holy Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, March 19th
7:15am Father Xavier Lazar (L)
8:45am Michael Joseph Farrell
12:15pm Ellen Derowski

Friday, March 20th
7:15am Holy Souls in Purgatory
8:45am Mimi Porcelli
12:15pm St. Raymond Parish

Saturday, March 21st
8:45am Sodality-Retreat
5:00pm Daniel Carrano

Sunday, March 22nd
7:30am Maryellen Sullivan Chiarello
9:00am Richard French
10:30am Josephine Genova
12:00pm Carolyn & Peter Tauckus
Robert Cea
Nora Cea
Thomas Cea
Edward Murphy
Ann V. Graham
Patrick Michael McManus
Vincent Madonna
4:30pm St. Raymond Parish

REST IN PEACE

Mary Lynch

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

Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday
Isaiah 65:17-21/John 4:43-54

Tuesday
Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12/John 5:1-16

Wednesday
Isaiah 49:8-15/John 5:17-30

Thursday
2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16
Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Friday
Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22/John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday
Jeremiah 11:18-20/John 7:40-53

Sunday
Ezekiel 37:12-14/Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45

Ra

Parish Bulletin Board

Altar Bread & Wine

In Loving Memory of

Anne Gallagher

With Much Love & Prayer

Dorothy & Michael Bock

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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