

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

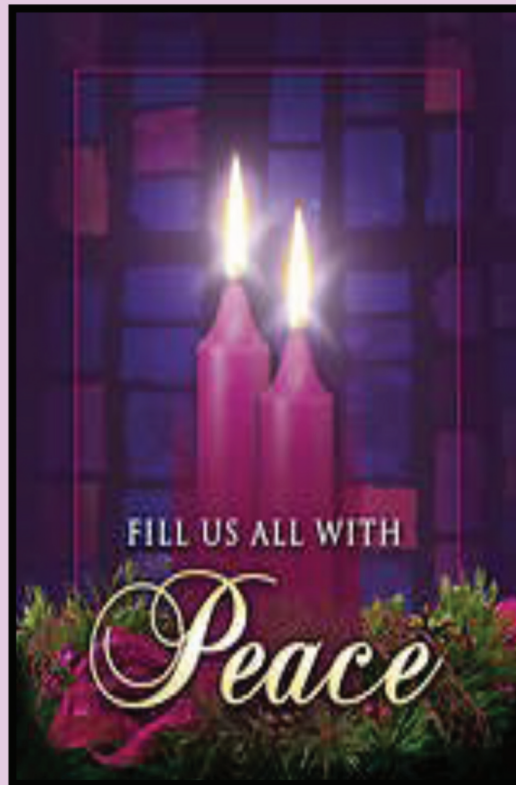
The Parish of St. Raymond

*A Eucharistic Community of
Faith, Love and Friendship*

Sunday, December 10, 2023

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000



“One mightier than
I is coming after
me. I am not worthy
to stop and loosing
the thongs of his
sandals”

-Mark 1:7

December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

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.

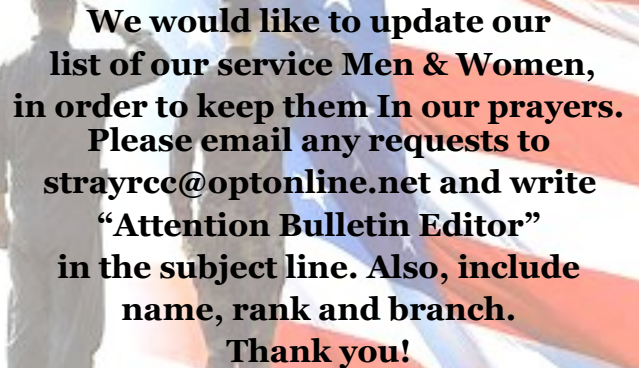
Music Ministries

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

Greetings and God's Advent blessings be yours on the Second Sunday of Advent! The focus of today's reading is to guide us to repentance of our sins and opening our hearts to God's mercy. In the first reading from Isaiah, comfort is being given to Israel as God is showing his mercy and forgiveness for all her transgressions. **"Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care."** Then in the second reading from 2 Peter, the people are being told that God is patient with them, giving them plenty of time to repent so they may be ready for when Jesus comes again. **"Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace."** And finally, in Mark's gospel, John the Baptist enters the scene preparing the way for the coming of Jesus with a message of repentance. **"One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the things of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."**

Most of us probably don't like reminders, especially when we were young. **"Don't forget this, don't forget that!"** It can be annoying especially when we actually did forget something that we didn't want to forget. But then sometimes reminders save the day. **"Don't forget the tickets to the concert"** or **"Don't forget to turn the power off."** Yes, sometimes reminders are a very good thing. The same thing can happen in our spiritual lives. We are aware of a lot of things when it comes to faith. We've heard certain stories a million times. We know what Jesus said about loving our enemies and forgiving others. Maybe we even presume that we won't ever forget those things and don't need to be reminded over and over. Well, I would say we couldn't be more wrong.

Advent looks pretty much the same each year, same stories, same characters, nothing really new. But what is going on is that we are getting sacred reminders, opportunities for God to tap each of us on the shoulder and whisper in our ear, **"In case you've forgotten..."** It's kind of what John the Baptist is doing. He was awfully good at reminding the people of what they already knew, about preparing for the Messiah and making changes in their lives now. Thank goodness we have Advent, with all its familiarities so we don't get complacent, and we wake up and stop sitting on the sidelines, watching from a distance. Nothing really new in Advent, except the chance for us to become **"new"** and reborn in our hearts.

As we enter the Second Week of Advent, several events have already taken place. **Breakfast With Santa**, sponsored by (Religious Education (Faith Formation) took place this Saturday with two seatings of 200 people at each filling our school cafeteria with the joyful sounds of the season. Then today at 10:30am Mass all our children were invited to come in their **"Christmas Pajamas"** to pray in anticipation of Jesus' birthday on Christmas Day. We celebrated a wonderful **Advent Prayer Vigil** last Tuesday with Father Roger Landry leading us in prayer focused on the Eucharistic Revival. Our **Countdown to Christmas Raffle** continues with a new winning ticket drawn each day. The calendar page shows all the winning numbers thus far. Still a full two weeks to get in on the action. Just use the order form in the bulletin and get it to the rectory as soon as possible. Maybe you will be one of the lucky winners-you never know. Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as **"Gaudete Sunday,"** which is when the focus is on joy. This is when we should really turn our Advent attention to Christmas. There will be a special **"Gaudete Hospitality"** sponsored by the Sodality of Our Lady in the school cafeteria after all the morning Masses. During this time is when all the **"Christmas Plants"** are picked up in the cafeteria. So, plan to stop by and share some Christmas spirit with fellow parishioners.

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 for the upcoming **Christmas Masses** and opportunities to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** (Confession), the **Eucharistic Revival Centerfold**, the **Communal Prayer Before Mass** (found on the inside back cover), an invitation to join **FORMED** (your Catholic Faith on demand) and much more. To keep informed, keep a copy of the bulletin at home each week for quick and easy reference.

Have a great Second Week of Advent! **Bring peace wherever you go and remember: If you can't figure out how to be kind, figure out how to be quiet.** God bless always.

-Father Chuck



WEEKLY MASS PRAYERS

DECEMBER 10, 2023-SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

DECEMBER 10, 2023-SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING

IS 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

SECOND READING

2 PT 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

ALLELUIA

LK 3:4, 6

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

GOSPEL

MK 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."* John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - FAITH FORMATION

Lucy Ostermann, Director



Breakfast with Santa

Our Breakfast with Santa held on Saturday 12/9/2023 was a huge success!!!! Fun was had by all and we truly appreciate the hard work our 'CCD Crew' put into making the day as great as it was. Without these young women, it would not have been possible: Michele DeLuca & Gina Lee (our chairladies), Kelly DeSola, Darlene Gladstone, Lindsay Joyce, Kelly Khan, Erin McCadden-Grey, Jane O'Hanlon, Stephanie Paul, Jennie Saia, Maureen Scatamacchia, Marie Walsh. We would also like to thank the following police officers from the 4th precinct for their participation in our Breakfast – PO John Zanni, PO Lou DiLeonardo, PO Jesse Destasio, PO Jarryd Ruff, PO Jennifer Akron. And it goes without saying how grateful we are to our Knights of Columbus for taking care of the food from start to finish. Again, without the help of all of the abovementioned individuals, this Breakfast with Santa wouldn't have gone as well as it did.



Christmas PJ Mass

At today's 10:30am Mass our parish children have been invited to attend Mass dressed in their favorite Christmas Pajamas. All families will receive a surprise at the end of Mass.



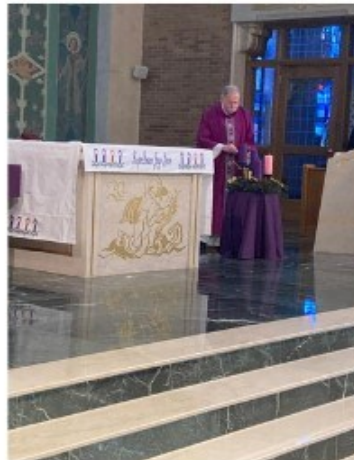
Attention 1st Grade Parents

Next Sunday 12/17/2023, is our third First Grade Parent/Student meeting. We ask that all First grade parents and students go to the auditorium at 11am, attend the meeting and then the entire group will go to the 12Noon Mass.

Please remember to bring the child's workbook, pencil, Bible, folder and any homework that as assigned.

Attending the 12Noon Mass is a continuation of the lesson from the meeting held in the auditorium.

Our 3rd and 4th Graders celebrate Mass together



First Sunday of Advent



Preparing for Christmas





Countdown to Christmas Raffle

Once again, we are having the exciting Countdown to Christmas Raffle where you have 33 chances to win some "Cash for Christmas." This raffle starts on Thanksgiving Day and concludes on Christmas Day. Each day a money prize will be awarded to the winning number drawn. Starting with \$500 on Thanksgiving Day and culminating with \$1000 on Christmas Day there will be 33 cash prizes awarded totaling over \$5000. Now to get in on the action all you have to do is fill out the tear-off found on this page, include the number of tickets you wish to purchase, the payment amount and return it to the rectory ASAP. Your control number will be sent to you and depending on how many tickets you purchase, that number of tickets, all with the same number, will be entered into the drawing.

Pricing for the tickets is as follows:

1 Ticket for \$25- 5 Tickets for \$50- 10 tickets for \$75- 15 Tickets for \$100



Order Form



Name: _____ Telephone Number _____

Address: _____

Number of Tickets requested: _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Please include payment for your ticket(s) with this form. Upon receipt, you will be mailed the number assigned to all your tickets. If you request more than 15 tickets an additional number will be assigned to you.

You may mail your order form to the rectory, place it in the collection basket at Mass, or drop it in the mail slot at the rectory at any time. Winners will receive a telephone call on the day they win. Winning tickets will be put back in the drum to possibly win again. You can join the raffle at any time but to be included in all 33 drawings, we must receive your entry and payment by Wednesday, November 22nd. Winning numbers will be added to the calendar that is printed in the weekly bulletin.

Merry Christmas to all. and Good Luck!

Let's have a peaceful and grace filled Thanksgiving Day, a holy and happy Advent, a joyous Christmas season, and a hope filled New Year. Thanks for your support in this fundraiser for St. Raymond Parish!


Father Chuck Romano



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	 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25TH PRIZE \$1000 </div>			November 23 #3018 Thanksgiving Day Prize: \$500.00	November 24 #3008 Prize: \$100.00	November 25 #3016 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 Prize: \$100.00	December 7 Prize: \$100.00	December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception Prize: \$250.00	December 9 Prize: \$100.00
December 10 Second Sunday of Advent Prize: \$250.00	December 11 Prize: \$100.00	December 12 Prize: \$100.00	December 13 Prize: \$100.00	December 14 Prize: \$100.00	December 15 Prize: \$100.00	December 16 Prize: \$100.00
December 17 Third Sunday of Advent Prize: \$250.00	December 18 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



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) _____



"No Questions Asked"

Advent Penance Service With Confessions

Tuesday

December 19th 7:30pm

St. Raymond Church

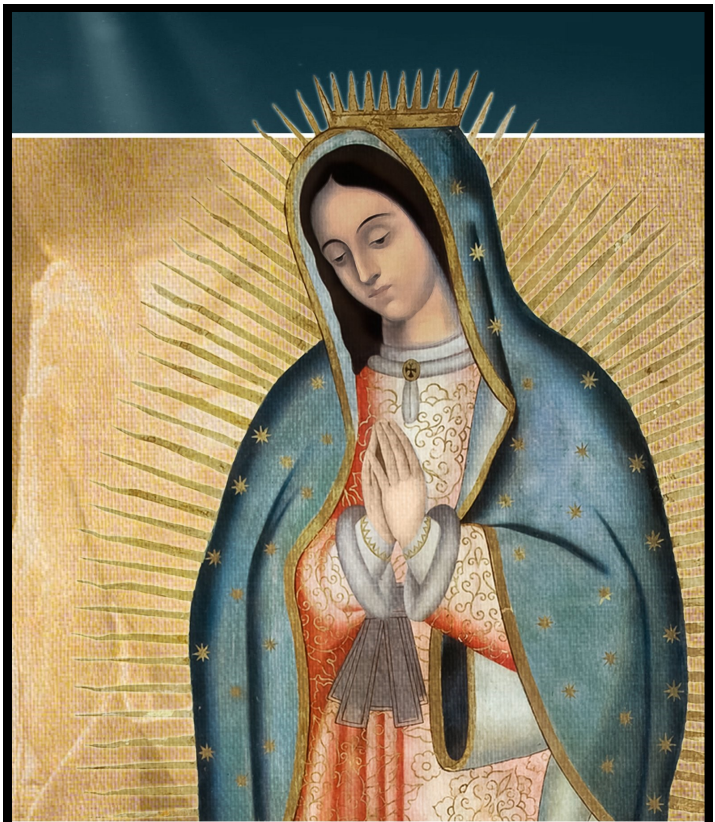


*A gentle way to come back
to this healing sacrament.*



*"Learn to abide with attention
in loving waiting upon God
in a state of quiet.
Contemplation is nothing else
but a secret, peaceful,
and loving infusion of God,
which, if admitted,
will set the soul on fire
with the Spirit of love."*

St John of the Cross



GUADALUPE

STEP BY STEP WALK THROUGH THE MASS

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

FATHER LUKE SPANNAGEL

NATIONAL EUCHARIST REVIVAL BLOG



Liturgy of the Word

Every Mass, after the Collect, we all sit down and begin the part of the Mass called the Liturgy of the Word. We listen to some readings from the Bible, and we stand for a special reading from the Holy Gospels. As we will see, there is a very thoughtful selection of the different readings and good reasons for why they are arranged in a particular way. As an overview, the Liturgy of the Word includes:

- **First Reading**, usually taken from the Old Testament
- A sung or recited **Responsorial Psalm**
- (On Sundays and Solemnities) **A Second Reading** from the New Testament (other than the Gospels)
- The **Alleluia** or Gospel Acclamation
- A reading from the **Gospels**

The Liturgy of the Word also includes the Homily, the Profession of Faith (Creed), and the Prayers of the Faithful with a concluding prayer. In the weeks ahead, we will take a closer look at each of these parts of the Liturgy of the Word.

The Word of the Lord

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal states, "For in the readings, as explained by the Homily, God speaks to his people, opening up to them the mystery of redemption and salvation, and offering spiritual nourishment; and Christ himself is present through his word in the midst of the faithful. By silence [listening to the readings] and singing [responding] the people make this divine word their own, and affirm their adherence to it by means of the Profession of Faith; finally, having been nourished by the divine word, the people pour out their petitions by means of the Universal Prayer for the needs of the whole Church and for the salvation of the whole world" (GIRM, 55).

A Three-Year Cycle

How are the readings chosen each week at Mass? Is there a pattern or certain order? Yes! Sunday readings are divided into a three-year cycle. (The readings for daily Mass are on a two-year cycle with one reading from various parts of the Bible and a Gospel reading each day.) For the Sunday readings, **Cycle A** focuses on the Gospel



according to St. Matthew, **Cycle B** (used from 12/1/2023-11/30/24) focuses on St. Mark, and **Cycle C** focuses on St. Luke. The Old Testament readings correspond to the subject of the Gospel. For example, if the Gospel is about Jesus being persecuted or people trying to kill him, the First Reading might be about one of the prophets and the conflicts he had with people. Or, if the Gospel is about the Eucharist, the First Reading might be about manna, a sacrifice, a shared meal. The Gospel of St. John is used during special times of the Church year (e.g., Christmas, Lent, Easter), during the summer Sundays of **Cycle B**, and it also usually has a corresponding First Reading from the Old Testament.

Tying It All Together

The Second Reading, which follows a different type of arrangement, is most often from a Letter of St. Paul to a community or individual. As we move through the three-year cycle, we also sometimes have a Second Reading from one of the other New Testament letters. Instead of mixing and matching New Testament readings to the Gospel, the Second Reading generally goes in a semi-continuous reading from one Sunday to the next (for example, in year C, the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time features Galatians 3:26-29; the Thirteenth Sunday continues with Galatians 5:1,13-18; and the Fourteenth Sunday continues with Galatians 6:14-18; etc.). Reading one of the letters in this way provides an ongoing teaching on various aspects of the faith, especially the moral life.

For Reflection:

In preparation for each Mass, take time to pray with each of the selected readings. What connections do you see between them? Which reading attracts your attention the most? Spend more time with that reading, and allow the insights there to shape your week.

Next Week: Listening to God's Word

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



She who first conceived
Jesus by faith in her
heart gave Him the
immaculate dwelling
place where His humanity
developed.

**The
Advent
Wreath**



Advent comes from Latin “ad-venio”, which means “to come, to arrive.” The Advent season begins on the Sunday closest to the feast of Saint Andrew (November 30) and lasts for four weeks. Advent is divided into two parts: the first two weeks serve to meditate on the coming of the Lord when the world ends; while the next two serve to concretely reflect on the birth of Jesus and His breakthrough in the history of man at Christmas.

The Four Candles

The four crown candles indicate the four weeks of Advent Time, the four stages of Salvation's history preparing for the Savior's coming, the four cardinal points radiating the light of salvation to the whole world, the Cross of Christ, the Sun of Salvation that illuminates the world around in the dark. In the beginning, we see our crown without light and glitter, this reminds us of the darkness experience of sin. The act of gradually lighting, one by one the candles during the weeks of Advent, means the progressive victory of Light over darkness, which will happen with the approaching Birth of Jesus, Light of the world, the One who dispels all darkness, bringing to our hearts the long-awaited reconciliation.

The Colors of the Advent Candles

The color of the candles originally followed the color of the Priest's liturgical robes, being as follows: three purple candles and one pink, the colors of Advent Sunday: purple, purple, pink, purple. The color purple is used on the first, second and fourth Sundays of Advent symbolizing conversion and penance and the color pink (rose) on the third Sunday (Rejoice) symbolizing joy amidst the anticipation of JESUS' arrival.

Materials Used in the Advent Wreath

Advent wreaths were traditionally made of evergreen branches, which have long been a symbol of the constancy and faithfulness we aspire to as Christians. Evergreens flourish during every season, remaining unchanged through the harshness of winter. We are called to live our Faith this same way—with holy confidence and fortitude. Holly, with its prickly leaves, represents the Crown of Thorns. Pinecones represent the Resurrection, because they contain the seeds of a new tree and therefore of new life



Eucharistic Witness
St. Juan Diego Cuauhtitlan
Layman (+ 1548)

Feast: December 9

Our Lady of Guadalupe's apparitions to St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, a Native American layman of Aztec ancestry, took place from December 9-12, 1531.

Our Lady of Guadalupe chose this simple layman to play a part a pivotal part in the salvation history of the New World. “Juanito. Juan Dieguito,” a female voice calls out from above. Up goes Juan Diego to the beckoning voice at the summit of Tepeyac Hill. And what a surprise to be introduced to a woman speaking in his native Náhuatl tongue: *“I am Mary, Mother of the God of truth through whom everything lives.”* Indeed, she brings none other than Jesus, who has offered his flesh and his blood, his humanity and his divinity, who has offered everything so that we may be saved. For this reason, **the Virgin of Guadalupe is a Eucharistic Woman.**

The central point of this unprecedented event is that she did not come alone, but carried Jesus in her immaculate womb. Her message was that a “sacred little house,” a church, should be built for Jesus Christ our Lord to make him known and to exalt him. And at the center of her miraculously imprinted image on Juan Diego's tilma, or cloak, is the black sash of motherhood, a sign that she is pregnant.

All these signs point to the Virgin of Guadalupe as a Woman of the Eucharist. The woman of the Eucharist, clothed with the sun and standing with the moon under her feet, brings to us the owner of heaven and earth.

Christmas 2023

(Note additional Masses and time changes)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

(Confessions)

Saturdays, December 9th, 16th & 23rd

3:30 till 4:30 in the Church

Tuesday, December 19th

7:30pm Penance Service in the Church

Wednesday, December 20th

and Thursday December 21st

Confessions in the Church

5pm-6pm and 7pm-8pm

(other times by request at the rectory)

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**



Christmas Gifts for Babies

This Advent, the St. Vincent DePaul Society will collect unwrapped baby gifts for the Life Center of Long Island to distribute to single mothers and their babies. Donations of diapers, blankets, new clothing (birth to 2T); smaller items (nipples, pacifiers, baby shampoo, baby wipes and lotion), as well as gently used baby gear (strollers, baby carriers, diaper bags, and recently manufactured car seats) are all greatly needed. Please leave items in or by the baskets by the Blessed Mother's statue by Sunday, December 10th. If you miss the deadline please leave the items at the Parish Social Ministry Office

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.

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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



As Catholics, we are called to proclaim Jesus Christ to others as St. John the Baptist did. We should use the talents and gifts God has given us to draw others to Him. Pray to God to show you how you are called to invite people to grow closer to Him.

Sodality of Our Lady of the Annunciation



**December Meeting:
Monday, December 18th**

**Place: St. Raymond's
Cafeteria**

Time: 7:30

**"Annual Christmas
Celebration"**

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

"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."



**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.



ST. RAYMOND'S HUMAN LIFE COMMITTEE

"As human beings, our job in life is to help people realize how rare and valuable each one of us really is, that each of us have something that no else has - or ever will have - something that is unique for all time..." (Fred Rogers)

If you are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, please do not rush to make a choice that would end the life of your little one. The child you are carrying is a unique creation of God - a never to be repeated child of yours. You are not alone. There is much free, meaningful help available for you and the baby. Please get this information by contacting either:

Women First (formerly known as The Life Center)

#516-408-6300 or Birthright of L.I.

#516-785-4070

During this week in Advent let us pray for expectant mothers and fathers who hearts are troubled. May they receive helpful, loving support for themselves and their babies.



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)

*"If you can't feed a hundred people,
then feed just one."*

- Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Food assistance is available for those in need who live within our Parish boundaries. During the month of November, our Parish Social Ministry assisted 76 households with food, personal care items, household items and other services they needed. We also welcomed 2 new clients into the Outreach Program. Also, if you are a senior citizen, living within Parish boundaries, and depend on your Social Security benefit as your sole source of income, please call the Parish Social Ministry and we can assist you with food.

Pantry items needed this week:

Rice Side Dishes, Instant Mashed Potatoes, White Rice, Coffee, Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup, Dish Detergent and Shaving Cream.

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.



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.



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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!

JESUS LOVES YOU.



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!

Make checks payable to: Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish _____ Pledge: \$ _____

Name _____ Down payment: \$ _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____


Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

THANK YOU!

FORMED[®]

This week on **FORMED**...

A night sky filled with stars, with a bright star on the left side. Below the sky, there are dark, silhouetted mountains.

Advent
WITH TIM GRAY

**GO TO THE ST. RAYMOND
WEBSITE FOLLOW THE
FORMED
LINK TO REGISTER...IT'S FREE!**

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

7:15AM DOLORES GOODHUE

8:45AM CONNIE MCDUGAL (L)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

7:15AM BOB MURRAY

8:45AM ANNA L. CAMPBELL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH ST. LUCY

7:15AM DR. MARYNITA ANDERSON (L)

8:45AM HANNAH M. SULLIVAN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

7:15AM PETER MCCAFFREY

8:45AM BARBARA LENAHAN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

7:15AM MARY COSGROVE

8:45AM JOAN CASEY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

8:45AM GEORGEANNE COX, HELEN & FRANK LUISI

DR. MARYNITA ANDERSON (L), PAUL FAUCI

PATRICIA TUZZI

5:00PM CATHERINE, MICHAEL, JOHN & THOMAS

HOURICAN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30AM GEORGE D'AGOSTINO

9:00AM WALTER F. LAWLER, JR.

10:30AM SODALITY

12:00PM MIFFIE RIZZO, VERONICA MCGREEVY,
FRANK D. PRENDERGAST, DCN. GILLIS,
DENNIS MCDUGAL, MARGARET KLENERT,
ANNE MARIE KAROLIS

4:30PM ST. RAYMOND'S PARISH

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY

IS 35:1-10/LK 5:17-26

TUESDAY

ZEC 2:14-17/LK 1:26-38

WEDNESDAY

IS 40:25-31/MT 11:28-30

THURSDAY

IS 41:13-20/MT 11:11-15

FRIDAY

IS 48:17-19/MT 11:16-19

SATURDAY

SIR 48:1-4, 9-11/MT 17:9A, 10-13

SUNDAY

IS 61:1-2A, 10-11/1 THES 5:16-24/JN 1:6-8, 19-28



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., Adrienne Dolder, 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

Adrienne Dolder



The 2023 Paschal Candle
In Loving Memory of
Helen & Theodore Rehm
From the Rehm-Shapiro
Family

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.

Amen.

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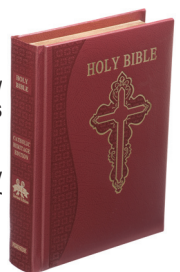


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