

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

The Parish of St. Raymond

*A Eucharistic Community of
Faith, Love and Friendship*

Sunday, November 30, 2025

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000



“So too , you
also must be
prepared, for at
an hour you do
not expect, the
Son of Man
will come.”

Matthew 24:44

First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025

Welcome To Our Parish Family!

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

Rectory

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

Web Site: www.SaintRaymonds.org

Facebook: St. Raymond Parish, East Rockaway

E-Mail: StRayRcc@optonline.net

Rectory.....593-5000

Rectory Fax.....887-0554

Parish Social Ministry.....887-9197

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

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

Religious Education Office.....593-9075

Religious Education Office 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

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

THE FIRST PURPLE CANDLE IS THE

"Candle of Hope."

IT SYMBOLIZES THE HOPE WE HAVE
IN CHRIST AND OUR DESIRE TO
SPEND ETERNITY WITH HIM. DURING
THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT,
WE WAIT FOR JESUS WITH HOPE.



Please Pray for Our Sick

Baby Faith Madison

Mary Lynch

Linda Dagostino

Karen Pagnotta

Jodi Neckles

Jim Marasco

Christine I.

Jeanne Swanson

Nick S.

Gerry Peknic

Rosemarie Lombardo

Elaine & Eddie

Corrado

Julianne Grennen

Herb McIntyre

Anthony Campanile

Baby Cooper Graham

Maureen Condiss

Timothy Murphy

Lauren Greco

Eileen Roberts

Betty McHale

Fran Halas

Eileen Appel

Dianna Viglieta

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

Greetings and God's blessings be yours on the First Sunday of Advent! Today we begin a new Church liturgical year. This year we will follow St. Matthew's gospel for most of the Sundays starting today. Advent signals to God's people that the day of the Lord is a hand. We are told to stay awake! The time is now. We do not know the hour, so we should be prepared now. The urgency of our readings today is unmistakable. In the first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, so much will happen in the days to come as nations will stream to God's holy mountain. The prophet exhorts the people to get ready. **"O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord."** Then in the second reading from Romans, Paul tells the people that now is the time to be ready. People should get out of the darkness of sin and step into the light of salvation. Do not procrastinate any longer. **"Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the desires of the flesh."** And finally, Matthew's gospel shows Jesus giving the warning that we never know when The Lord will come. We never know when our life here some to its ending. We should live in readiness and preparation for whenever that time comes. **"So too, you must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."**

Of course, we do not have to wonder about the date or hour of Jesus' coming at Christmas. But at the beginning of Advent, the Church doesn't direct us immediately to the manger in Bethlehem. Those readings come later in the season. Rather we are encouraged to contemplate two other "comings" of Jesus. They are his coming at the end of time and his coming to us here and now. These two "comings" go hand in hand. Everything we do to receive Jesus with love here and now will form us to receive him at the end of time. The good news is we don't have to take on this burden of preparation all by ourselves. So how can we prepare while the world around us is already celebrating Christmas? We have reminders like the violet vestments at Mass which remind us of the need to practice penance in order to fix our hearts on Jesus. We can also prepare by acts of service when so many people around us struggle. Don't neglect the Sacrament of Reconciliation either. By our prayer, good works, sacrifices and efforts to grow in virtue, we follow Paul's direction to be fully united to Jesus.

I would also offer another possible way to start Advent. Recognize that the Mass is an **"advent"** and a Christmas in itself. In the Eucharist, Jesus comes to us, and we encounter him in a way no less real than Mary and Joseph did in Bethlehem or than we will at the end of time. The more we immerse ourselves in this holy mystery, the more we become attuned to God and his light rather than darkness. At each Mass and on every day of this Advent season, may we have the courage to be vigilant and do whatever is necessary to prepare our hearts for Jesus, our Savior.

If you want to make Advent a really special time of spiritual enrichment this year, I encourage you to watch the excellent programming on **FORMED**. If you are not a member yet, why not? It's free and there is so much content to make your Catholic Faith deepen with more insight and depth. Simply go to the parish website, click on **FORMED** and follow the directions.

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 are news and needs from **Parish Social Ministry** (today begins the **"Giving Tree"** gift ornaments, info from **Religious Education** (Faith Formation), the **Statement on Immigration** by the Catholic Bishops of New York state, order forms for **the Christmas Plans**, **the Christmas Cash 50/50** and the special **One-Year Memorial Candles**, the **Come and See Centerfold**, the **Communal Prayer Before Mass** (found on the inside back cover), the 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 Advent. **Smile, share, stay alert and be ready. Plus remember: Hope is the ability to hear the music of the future. Faith is having the courage to dance to it today.** God bless always.

-Father Chuck



WEEKLY MASS PRAYERS

NOVEMBER 30, 2025—FIRST 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

NOVEMBER 30, 2025—FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

This is what Isaiah, son of Amoz, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come, the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills. All nations shall stream toward it; many peoples shall come and say: "Come, let us climb the LORD's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths." For from Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and impose terms on many peoples. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

Brothers and sisters: You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and lust, not in rivalry and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.

ALLELUIA

Cf. Psalm 85:8

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Show us Lord, your love;
and grant us your salvation.
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 122: 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
I rejoiced because they said to me, "We will go up to the house of the LORD." And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
Jerusalem, built as a city with compact unity. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
According to the decree for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD. In it are set up judgment seats, seats for the house of David.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May those who love you prosper! May peace be within your walls, prosperity in your buildings.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
Because of my brothers and friends I will say, "Peace be within you!" Because of the house of the LORD, our God, I will pray for your good.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAITH FORMATION

Lucy Ostermann, Director



Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Our students participated in an Advent Prayer Service and the first candle was lit. Each week until Christmas vacation, we will light a candle on the Advent wreath.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The flyer for our Breakfast with Santa scheduled for Saturday 12/6/2025 was put into the bulletin three weeks ago and sent home at the same time to our Religious Education families. The response was overwhelming. Both sessions sold out within days. Prayers for a successful and wonderful event for our little ones and their families.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS



For all of the students who signed up (sign-up is now closed) for our Christmas Carols scheduled for Saturday 12/21/2025 at the 5pm Mass, rehearsals are as follows: Mondays – 12/1, 12/8, 12/15 – 5pm-6pm in the Church. Please be on time for drop-off and pick-up.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

We are very proud of our students for all of the Thanksgiving donations they provided over these past few weeks to our Parish Social Ministry. We advised the parents what was needed and there was an immediate response from our families. Their generosity is so great to our community. Thank you to everyone. One of our Girl Scout troops #2572 lead by Mrs. Christina Kollbeck, Mrs. Gina Lee and Mrs. Christina Kollbeck posted outside of the Stop n Shop in Oceanside and collected an overabundance of food for the clients of Social Ministry. The spirit of giving is truly in our Religious Education students and their families. Thank you for all that you did to help our parish.







JOY

Christmas Plant Sale

Once again, we are offering beautiful Christmas Plants for sale.

All items ordered will be available for payment & pickup on Sunday December 14th. in the School Cafeteria during our "Gaudete Sunday" celebration which will run from 8:30am till 2:00pm. Below is an order form.

Simply fill it out and return to the rectory by Sunday, December 7th.

You must have your order form to the rectory by 5pm that day.

Remember, payment not required until pickup on Sunday December 14th.

Any questions please call the rectory at 516-593-5000.

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Christmas Wreaths 12" - \$20 _____ Quantity

Grave Blankets 24" - \$30 _____ Quantity 42" - \$40 _____ Quantity

Poinsettias 6" - \$12 _____ Quantity 8" - \$22 _____ Quantity

Red/ White/ Pink (circle one)

Red/ White/ Pink (circle one)

Decorated Crosses 24" - \$30 _____ Quantity

Decorated Candy Canes 24" - \$30 _____ Quantity

Order Total: Number of Items _____ Total Cost \$ _____





Christmas Cash "Gaudete Sunday"

Sky's the Limit 50/50

ON DECEMBER 14, 2025 AT OUR "GAUDETE SUNDAY" CELEBRATION, THE WINNING "CHRISTMAS CASH" TICKET WILL BE DRAWN. THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE ONE HALF OF THE MONEY RAISED. TICKETS ARE \$10 EACH OR THREE FOR \$25 AND MAY BE PURCHASED AT THE RECTORY DURING REGULAR OFFICE HOURS OR THROUGH THE FOLLOWING TEAR-OFF. SIMPLY FILL OUT THE INFORMATION, INCLUDE YOUR CHECK AND MAIL IT TO THE RECTORY (263 ATLANTIC AVENUE). TICKET(S) WILL BE SENT TO YOU THE SAME DAY. THE DRAWING DATE GETS CLOSER EACH WEEK SO GET YOUR ORDER IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE MORE TICKETS SOLD THE GREATER YOUR WINNING SHARE AND THE GREATER THE PROFIT TO THE PARISH. WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO WIN SOME EXTRA "CHRISTMAS CASH" JUST BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS? DON'T MISS OUT. ONLY \$10 EACH OR THREE FOR \$25 AND THE "SKY'S THE LIMIT." WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT!



Christmas Cash "Sky's the Limit" 50/50

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE# _____ #OF TICKETS _____
AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

RETURN THIS TEAR-OFF TO THE RECTORY,
263 ATLANTIC AVE., EAST ROCKAWAY, NY 11518.



ST. RAYMOND'S HUMAN LIFE COMMITTEE

NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE

DATE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

TIME: 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM

(Directly following the 7:30 pm Feast Day Mass)

Our parish will be participating in the National Night of Prayer for Life, joining spiritually with parishes throughout the country, praying for the establishment of a "Culture of Life". Sins against human life have inflicted deep moral wounds upon our country and throughout the world. Our Lord promises in Holy Scripture,

"If My people, upon whom My Name has been pronounced, humble themselves and pray, and seek My Presence and turn from their evil ways, I will hear them from heaven and pardon their sins and revive their land". (2 Chronicles 7:14-15)

It is through Our Blessed Mother that this revival will take place. Under the titles of the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Blessed Virgin must be invoked to shower the necessary graces to protect human life and to save our country from the "Culture of Death". In earlier times the Aztec Nation read pictures (not writing). Our Lady's image on the tilma of Juan Diego in 1531, told the people to abandon their evil gods who demanded human sacrifice and to embrace her Son. Today's culture has abandoned innocent, human babies in the womb by sacrificing their lives by the barbaric surgical and chemical abortions. Please join with us in prayer on December 8th, asking Our Lady to intervene for us, that we may abandon the evil practices of abortion, euthanasia, contraception and physician-assisted suicide and lead us to her Son.

*"Never forget that whether we are addressing the killing of an innocent preborn child or the decriminalized act of imposing death on an elderly person, every human being's life is precious... Therefore let us strive to always pursue justice for every human person; God will take care of the rest."
(Judie Brown, Pres. American Life League)*

Special One year Memorial Candle first come-first serve!

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, November 30, 2025 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) _____

The Giving Tree

"It's that Wonderful Time of the Year"

The Giving Tree, sponsored by the Parish Social Ministry, will be set up on the weekend after Thanksgiving in St. Raymond's Church. If you would like to share a little Christmas cheer with someone in need, please take a card from the Giving Tree. The card will have a gift request from someone's "wish" list that they would like to receive for Christmas.

When you return your wrapped gift, be sure to attach the card, which you removed from the tree, securely to the outside of the package.

Please deliver your gift back to the Giving Tree no later than Sunday, December 14th, to allow time for distribution of the gifts.

Thank you for your never-ending generosity and for making someone's Christmas a little brighter!



THE ROSE FOR LIFE

*In Loving Memory of
The Deceased Members of
St. Raymond's Human
Life Committee*

For Dedications call
Mary Caffrey 516-887-2458



Do some reading about
Advent traditions and
pick some traditions up
for this year (especially
if you are a family with
small children).

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT TIME WEEKLY GUIDE FOR PERSONAL PRAYER



Come & See

Until you do, you will
never know

Summary of the Readings for the Week

The purpose of the season of Advent is to awaken in us a spirit of watchfulness, repentance, and hopeful longing as we prepare our hearts for Christ's coming in



history, mystery, and glory. Each Sunday of Advent guides us step-by-step: from awakening to God's call, to embracing repentance, to rejoicing in hope, to contemplating the nearness of Christ, so that our hearts become a fitting place for Jesus to be born anew.

The First Sunday of Advent (Year A) calls us to spiritual vigilance, urging us to "stay awake" and live each day ready to welcome Christ with renewed faith and purpose. Jesus warns us in the Gospel that His return will come unexpectedly, reminding us through the words "you also must be prepared" that faithful vigilance is the posture of a hopeful disciple.

For the First Week of Advent, the Catholic Church honors three saints who share a deep spirit of selfless service and giving that is rooted in Christian love: Saint Francis Xavier (Jesuity priest; Memorial on Wednesday) dedicated his life to bring Christ to others, Saint John Damascene (Monk; Optional Memorial on Thursday) defended the faith, and Saint Nicholas (Bishop; Optional Memorial on Saturday) gave generously to the poor in secret.

Friday is the First Friday of the month in which we honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Jesus asked that the faithful receive Holy Communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months, as an act of reparation to His Sacred Heart. Saturday is the First Saturday of the month, which, in addition to Saint Nicholas, is the Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin.



The First Readings for this week are all taken from the Book of Isaiah, which was written during the Assyrian threat to Judah and later the Babylonian exile.

From Monday through Wednesday, the First Readings emphasize divine renewal, messianic promise, and the banquet of salvation. From Thursday through Saturday, the focus shifts to trust, guidance, restoration, and the journey of the faithful.

The daily Gospel readings for the first week of Advent come primarily from the Gospel of Matthew, with one day (Tuesday) from the Gospel of Luke. The Gospel of Matthew emphasizes Jesus as the Messiah, the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, and the teacher of the Kingdom of Heaven. The Gospel of Luke, stresses Jesus' mercy, universal mission, and concern for the marginalized.

On Monday, the Gospel (Matthew 8:5-11) tells of the centurion who approaches Jesus on behalf of his servant: though a Gentile, his faith is admired by Jesus. Tuesday's Gospel (Luke 10:21-24) shares



Jesus' joyful praise of his Father for revealing divine truths to "little children" rather than to the wise and learned. On Wednesday (Matthew 15:29-37), Jesus heals the infirmed and then miraculously feeds a large crowd with seven loaves and a few small fish, showing both his compassion and his abundant provision.

Thursday's Gospel (Matthew 7:21, 24-27) is part of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount: he warns that only those who do the will of the Father will enter the Kingdom, comparing such people to a wise builder who built his house on rock, so that when the storms came, "it did not fall." On Friday (Matthew 9:27-31), two blind men approach Jesus and he restores their sight, and tells them, "Your faith has saved you." Finally, Saturday (Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8), Jesus heals the lame, blind, mute, and more, and then calling his twelve apostles, giving them authority to drive out unclean spirits, heal the sick, and proclaim that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

For the Second Sunday of Advent, Saint John the Baptist's cry, "Prepare the way of the Lord," urges us to a honest repentance and a readiness of heart that welcomes Christ's transforming presence.



"For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light ..." -Romans 13:11-12



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

Daily Prayer This Week

The season of Advent asks me to wake up my heart, to step out of spiritual autopilot, and to make room for Christ with renewed faith, hope, and love. It calls me to wait with expectation, to pray with longing, to repent sincerely, and to let God's promises rekindle my desire for His presence in every part of my life.

To prepare for Christ's coming in *history*, Advent invites me to meditate on the humility of the Incarnation and to cultivate a spirit of gratitude for God dwelling among all of us.

To prepare for His coming in *mystery*, it calls me to deepen my daily prayer, receive the sacraments with intention, and notice Christ's quiet presence in Scripture, the Eucharist, and the people around me.

And to prepare for His coming in *glory*, Advent urges me to live with spiritual alertness, examine my priorities, grow in virtue, and shape my choices as someone who truly hopes in the Kingdom that will have no end.

As the week begins, the Gospel readings invite me to embrace a posture of watchfulness and trust, starting with the centurion who approaches Jesus with humble confidence. His words, "Lord, I am not worthy... but only say the word," remind me that faith, not control, is what Christ asks of me as I begin this season.

On Tuesday, Jesus rejoices that the Father reveals His mysteries to the "childlike," encouraging me to cultivate simplicity of heart. Rather than overcomplicating my days with anxious striving

or overthinking, I am called to approach God with openness, gratitude, and trust. This childlike disposition helps me remain grounded in peace, especially when navigating complex decisions or competing priorities.

Wednesday's Gospel shows Jesus healing the sick and feeding the crowds, revealing His compassionate desire to meet both physical and spiritual needs. His words, "My heart is moved with pity," remind me that Christ sees the burdens I carry and wishes to multiply grace in the very places that feel stretched or insufficient. When I feel like the "seven loaves" are not enough for the demands before me, Jesus invites me to bring what I have and trust Him to provide the rest.

On Thursday, Jesus teaches that only those who "hear these words of mine and act on them" build their lives on solid rock. This challenges me to weave His teachings into daily habits, patience in conflict, integrity in decisions, and charity in service, so that my spiritual foundation remains steady when the storms of life arise. Living this way transforms ordinary responsibilities into opportunities to grow in holiness.

Finally, Friday and Saturday's Gospels deepen the theme of faith in action as Jesus heals the blind men and sends out the apostles with authority to serve. I am called to seek God's mercy and extend that same mercy to others.

In Advent, I will be encouraged to combine prayer with generosity, allowing Christ's healing and mission-focused love to flow into my family life, my work, and every relationship entrusted to me.

My prayer: Jesus, open my eyes, strengthen my faith, and guide my steps so that I may welcome You with a trusting heart, hear Your word with humility, and follow You with the courage to love and serve as You call.



St. Francis Xavier

Saint Francis Xavier, was a Navarrese cleric and missionary. He co-founded the Society of Jesus and, as a representative of the Portuguese Empire, led the first Christian mission to Japan. He is the patron saint of Catholic missions and missionaries, Japan, sailors, and the youth.



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. WHERE RESOURCES ALLOW WE CAN PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED AND OR LEAD THEM TO OTHER RESOURCES WHERE THEY MAY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN THE HELP THEY REQUIRE.

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

St. Joseph, Defender of Life Prayer

Dearest St. Joseph, at the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God's humble servant, you guided the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem, welcomed Jesus as your own son in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child. We praise God that as their faithful protector, you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you. May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God's most precious gift of life. Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life—especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things. Amen.

We ask Catholics to offer this prayer daily, from now until October 1, the beginning of Respect Life Month. Free online and print versions of the prayer can be found at www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph. Thank you for responding to this invitation to pray and for your support in protecting innocent children and their vulnerable mothers from the evil of abortion.

St. Joseph, Defender of Life, pray for us!

All are invited to attend an

Evening of Advent Reflection

*through Sacred Music and a Special Message with
Catholic Recording Artist, Evangelist and Lay Franciscan*

AL BARBARINO

Thursday, December 4, 2025 - 7:30 pm



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Al's music will be available
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God bless you for your
support of this ministry!

Invite Al to your parish: www.AlBarbarino.com



St. Raymond

CYO

Volleyball



Registration will be open

from November 21st

until December 21st

Space is limited

Registration is online at the

below website:

www.straymondscyo.com

Girls Grades 5-12



Nocturnal Adoration

The Nocturnal Adoration Society will meet
Friday, December 5th from 7:30-8:30pm in
the Church for its monthly hour of Adoration.

Nocturnal Adoration is fashioned after the
Liturgy of Hours, this time of prayer is a
blessed way to intensify our walk with Jesus.

Come spend some time with Jesus!



First Saturday

Novena

Our Lady of

Fatima

Rosary

December 6, 2025

8:10am

St. Raymond Church

Near the Blessed Mother Statue

Make Reparation for sins against

The Immaculate Heart of Mary

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 THROUGH
WEDNESDAY**

FROM 10AM TO 3PM

(Suggested to call for an appointment)

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

The generosity to the Parish Social Ministry continues. St. Raymond's Religious Education students and their families are donating food and personal items each week during November to our parish food pantry. The students have been very busy collecting the food and are very happy they are helping members of their community who are in need. Thank you to the Religious Ed staff, students and families for your never ending support.

Also, the leaders of Girl Scout Troop 2600 of Lynbrook organized a food collection at Cross Island Fruit Supermarket and delivered a car load of food this past week to our food pantry. The shoppers at Cross Island were very generous and we thank the leaders and girls for their support in helping the clients of our food pantry.

St. Raymond's Cub Scout Pack 84 also held a food drive and this past week they delivered an overwhelming amount of food to the Parish Social Ministry. The Cub Scouts surely worked hard in collecting the food and we thank them and their families for caring about other people and taking the time to collect the food to help them.

Finally, we would like to thank all our parishioners and community neighbors who have responded so generously to our need for food to restock our shelves.

You are always in our prayers.

The staff of the Parish Social Ministry hope that you and your families had a blessed Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the season of Advent and all the blessings it holds as we await the coming of Jesus, our Lord.

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

Thank you all for always helping us serve the people in need in our community. You are all in our prayers and may God's blessings shower upon all of you!

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 We sing at the 12 Noon Sunday Mass

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 Or email: straymondsfolkgroup@gmail.com

Come make a joyful noise with us!



"We must pray without tiring, for the salvation of mankind does not depend upon material success...but on Jesus alone".

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
(Memorial: November 13th)

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2025

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100% of every dollar raised is restricted to fund the objectives, programs, and mission supported by the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

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call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296.**

Thank You!

For You Too Were Once Aliens...

A STATEMENT BY THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF NEW YORK STATE

November 13, 2025 | Memorial of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini



Leviticus 19:33-34

"When an alien resides with you in your land, do not mistreat such a one. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt."



In September, a striking mural depicting immigrants of the past and present was dedicated at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan. Among the multitude of those immigrants now gracing the narthex walls of our venerable metropolitan cathedral – nameless men and women who came to this land often "tired...poor...[and] yearning to be free" – stands a young Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini.

Mother Cabrini, a woman consecrated to the Lord, was an indefatigable advocate, protector, and educator of newly arrived immigrants to New York. A native of Italy, she overcame anti-Italian prejudice in her adopted country of America and established, with God's grace, numerous charitable institutions and schools to serve those finding their way in a new land. Mother Cabrini reminds us of the Church's longstanding care and concern for immigrants, as the mural itself, stunning in its scope, illustrates an indisputable fact: New York was and is a land of immigrants whose contributions have enriched and transformed, indeed built, our society.

Contemplating this magnificent mural at a moment when our nation considers again the plight of the immigrant, we recall that Christian charity, as lived so powerfully by Mother Cabrini, demands we welcome the stranger and treat every individual with respect and dignity.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* makes this clear.

"The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him."

"Political authorities, for the sake of the common good for which they are responsible, may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various juridical conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants' duties toward their country of adoption. Immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying civic burdens." (n. 2241) Pope Leo XIV, like his predecessors, has already taught this truth and shown particular solicitude towards migrant refugees—those who leave their homes not simply to seek a better life abroad, but who are forced to take flight because of violence and oppression in their own nations. In his first apostolic exhortation, *Dilexi Te*, proclaimed on October 4, 2025, the Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi, he wrote:

"The Church, like a mother, accompanies those who are walking. Where the world sees threats, she sees children; where walls are built, she builds bridges. She knows that her proclamation of the Gospel is credible only when it is translated into gestures of closeness and welcome. And she knows that in every rejected migrant, it is Christ himself who knocks at the door of the community." (Section 75)

In recent years, many such refugee migrants have come to New York. Some have arrived from war-torn countries like Ukraine and Afghanistan; others from Central or South America have fled poverty, authoritarian governments, and drug cartels that made life in their country of origin dangerous for themselves and their families. Some have been granted refugee or temporary protected status, while others have no legal status. Most of these migrants – the majority, our neighbors – are good people who arrived on our shores seeking a better life.

Sadly, as in any group, some have exploited the system and committed serious crimes and other misdeeds. Those immigrants or refugees who commit crimes should face the appropriate criminal and civil penalties, including deportation. At the same time, general enforcement of the immigration laws must be carried out in a humane manner that does not target the hard-working and law-abiding; that does not permit the wanton and unnecessary separation of families; and that does not rely on campaigns of fear that cripple whole communities.

As such, we do not support the sweeping revocation of the temporary protected status that was granted to many migrants who arrived in this country to escape the horrors occurring in their own, and who have justifiably relied upon the legal protections our government offered to them. Such persons should not be subject to the arbitrary cancellation of their legal status and threatened with a sudden return to the troubled and dangerous nations from which they fled. At the same time, while we support the right to peacefully protest and witness opposition to political policies, we can never condone violence against immigration and law enforcement agents.

Before the complex questions of immigration, we maintain, without question, that our government has a duty to secure our borders and ensure that those who wish to enter the United States do so lawfully. In union with our brother Bishops across the United States, we have consistently urged our civil leaders to craft immigration laws that respect our borders and create an orderly process for those who wish to enter our nation, while offering a measure of forgiveness towards those who arrived here without legal status but who have proven their contributions and loyalty to our country over a period of time.

These are all good points to ponder. However, most important to recall is the law of Christ set down in the Great Commandments: To love God with all our hearts and to love our neighbor as ourselves. All other imperatives are subject to this law of charity, and it is concerned neither with legal status nor country of origin. As individuals and as a society, we are bound to follow this supreme command and to make all our actions consistent with it, to the best of our abilities, even in difficult circumstances.

Returning to the example of Mother Cabrini, the Bishops of the United States have called on Catholics in all walks of life to stand in solidarity with immigrants and refugees by signing *The Cabrini Pledge, an Invitation to be Keepers of Hope*. We encourage New York Catholics to sign the pledge. By doing so, you will follow in the footsteps of our beloved Mother Cabrini in acknowledging our duty to welcome, to protect, to promote, and to integrate immigrants in accordance with the guidance proclaimed by Sacred Scripture and the Magisterium of the Church.

The Cabrini Pledge

Sign the pledge today by scanning the QR code or visiting this link: www.usccb.org/cabrinipledge. Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini is the patron saint of all migrants. We seek her intercession for the concerns we have mentioned. By joining us in signing the Pledge, you commit your prayers and energy for the welcome, protection, promotion, and integration of migrants.



Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York
Most Reverend Edward B. Scharfenberger, Apostolic Administrator of Albany
Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, Bishop of Brooklyn
Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher, Bishop of Buffalo

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg
Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano, Bishop of Rochester
Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop of Rockville Centre
Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia, Bishop of Syracuse

And the Most Reverend Auxiliary and Emeritus Bishops of New York State



Photo courtesy of Diane Bondareff/AP Content Services for the Archdiocese of New York

MASSSES FOR THIS WEEK

Monday, December 1st

7:15am Anne Gallagher

8:45am Mary Guiliano

Tuesday, December 2nd

7:15am Barbara Patarno

8:45am Joseph Ninivaggi

Wednesday, December 3rd

St. Francis Xavier

7:15am James LoCascio

8:45am Violet McHale, Sr.

Thursday, December 4th

7:15am Michael J. Maiello

8:45am Peter G. Ledwith

Friday, December 5th

7:15am Muriel & Tom Henry

8:45am Anthony & Rose Marie Simeti

Saturday, December 6th

8:45am Filomena Cibellis, Breda

Kenny(L), Jonathan James Brand

5:00pm Robert Cea

Sunday, December 7th

Second Sunday of Advent

7:30am Anthony Corda

9:00am Elizabeth McCarthy

10:30am Norma Esposito

12:00pm Anelle Laucuis

Kenneth R. Hettler

Grace Ligarzewski

Grace Demarris

Nilda Sondon

Salvatore Restivo

Robert J. Chojnacki

Alicia Mackie

4:30pm St. Raymond Parish



REST IN PEACE

Juliette Fleming

Donald M. Smith

Elizabeth Lacchini

Concetta Baldacchino

Andrew M. Pernice

Edward R. Murphy

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



Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday

Isaiah 4:2-6/Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday

Isaiah 11:1-10/Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday

Isaiah 25:6-10a/Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday

Isaiah 26:1-6/Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Friday

Isaiah 29:17-24/Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26

Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday

Isaiah 11:1-10/Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12

Parish Bulletin Board



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Communal Prayer Before Mass

Father in heaven, we wish to prepare well for participation in this Mass, in which we enter the Last Supper, Passion, Death and Resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. He is as present to us today in his Word and in the Eucharist, as he was with his apostles. Holy Spirit please quiet our minds from the busyness and distractions of our day, so that we will have hearts and minds attentive to the words of Jesus and ready to receive his Body and Blood in Holy Communion. Blessed Mother, take our hearts and give us yours, that like you, we may ponder Jesus' words and do whatever he tells us to do. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

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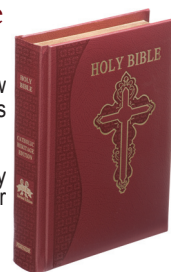
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