

## 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

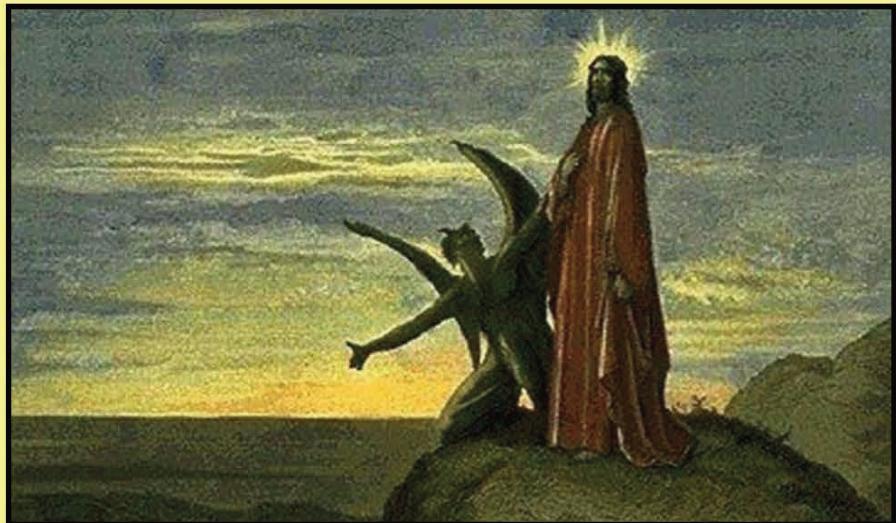
Sunday, February 22, 2026

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000

“The Lord, your God, shall you  
worship and him alone shall you serve.”

-Matthew 4:11



February 22, 2026

First 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](http://www.SaintRaymonds.org)  
**Facebook:** St. Raymond Parish, East Rockaway  
**E-Mail:** [StRayRcc@optonline.net](mailto: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](mailto: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

Julianne Grennen

Baby Faith Madison

Herb McIntyre

Mary Lynch

Anthony Campanile

Linda Dagostino

Baby Cooper Graham

Karen Pagnotta

Maureen Condiss

Jodi Neckles

Timothy Murphy

Jim Marasco

Lauren Greco

Christine I.

Eileen Roberts

Jeanne Swanson

Betty McHale

Rosemarie Lombardo

Eileen Appel

Elaine & Eddie Corrado

Dianna Viglieta

Nick S.

Sally Perry

Rosemarie Salabini

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 Abdoool 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 blessings on the First Sunday of Lent!** As we begin the First Week of Lent, the scriptures tell us that no matter the trial or temptation, God will provide enough grace for each day. In the first reading from Genesis, we have the fall of Adam and Eve. Everything in the Garden of Eden was theirs. All they had to do was refrain from eating the fruit from the tree located in the middle of the garden. The serpent tempted Eve who succumbed to the lure of being all knowing like a god. **"You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know what is good and what is evil."** The in his Letter to the Romans, Paul asserts that just as all were condemned to a life of sin and death through the transgression of Adam, it was through the sacrifice of Jesus that all are saved. **"For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous."** And finally, in Matthew's gospel we have the temptation of Jesus in the desert where Satan tries to lure Jesus away from fulfilling his mission as the Son of God. Jesus rebuffs the three temptations of riches, power and worldly glory and after wards: **"Then the devil left him and behold angels came and ministered to him."**

Lent has begun, and as you have heard before, we often talk about various Church seasons as journeys. Lent is no different, so in faith we are invited to enter this season in the hope of completing it in a different location from where we started. We are embarking on a spiritual quest, an adventure, a pilgrimage to a holy place. But how do we get there? Today's readings shed some light on this question. Genesis tells us how we got into this mess in the first place and wandered far from the path, getting lost. Paul states that Jesus reverses what happened in the Garden, now setting humanity on the path of God. So, the way to **"get there"** is by retracing our steps. We try to reverse the bad choices we've made, our disobedience and sins. To do this retracing requires honest reflection, knowing our sins and then letting God forgive. The story of the temptation of Jesus is rich with meaning. Today, let's just try to focus on entering our own deserts, what keeps us distracted, preoccupied, self-centered and focused on things that don't matter.

What gets in the way of getting to God and in the way of God getting to us. Our desert is where we can meet God honestly and courageously and deal with the temptations that lure us into being less than God created us to be. Use this Lent prayerfully in retracing your steps. Find the path filled with steps of love, kindness, mercy and compassion. That's the path of God, a great place to be at the end of Lent.

During the Lenten season, besides offering the extra weekday Mass at 12:15pm and the Stations of the Cross every Friday evening at 7pm, we also have some additional opportunities for Lenten prayer and learning. During each of the five weeks of Lent there will be a special **Lenten Holy Hour** in the church from 7pm till 8pm. The first one is this Monday, February 23rd. Check the bulletin for the subsequent dates. Spending some time in Eucharistic Adoration, reflecting on your Lenten journey, can bear much fruit. Also, on Thursday, March 19th there will be a special **Lenten Evening of Recollection** led by our very own Al Barbarino. On the learning side of Lent, we are having a five-week series on Wednesday evenings in the school cafeteria. The topic is: **"Understanding the Mass"** and will be offered by Father Matthew Roche SJ. Join us for this opportunity to grow in your appreciation of the Mass.

Please take home a copy of the bulletin when you leave Mass today. It contains many items of interest and invitation. Of additional note is news and needs from **Parish Social Ministry**, info from **Religious Education**, the complete **Lenten Schedule** of parish events, an invitation to join **FORMED** (your Catholic Faith on demand) and much more. To keep informed, keep a copy of the bulletin at home each week for quick and easy reference.

Have a great First Week of Lent. **May your Lenten journey be filled with joyful prayer, cheerful sharing and worthy sacrifices-all done with a Lenten smile; Plus remember: A ship in the harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for.** God bless always.

-Father Chuck



# WEEKLY MASS PRAYERS

FEBRUARY 22, 2026—FIRST 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

## FEBRUARY 22, 2026—FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### FIRST READING

**Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7**

The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being. Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and placed there the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made various trees grow that were delightful to look at and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals that the LORD God had made. The serpent asked the woman, "Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?" The woman answered the serpent: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman: "You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is evil." The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17**

**R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.

**R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

For I acknowledge my offense, and my sin is before me always: "Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight."

**R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from

**R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

### SECOND READING

**Romans 5:12, 17-19**

Brothers and sisters: Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned. For if, by the transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so, through one righteous act, acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous.

### GOSPEL

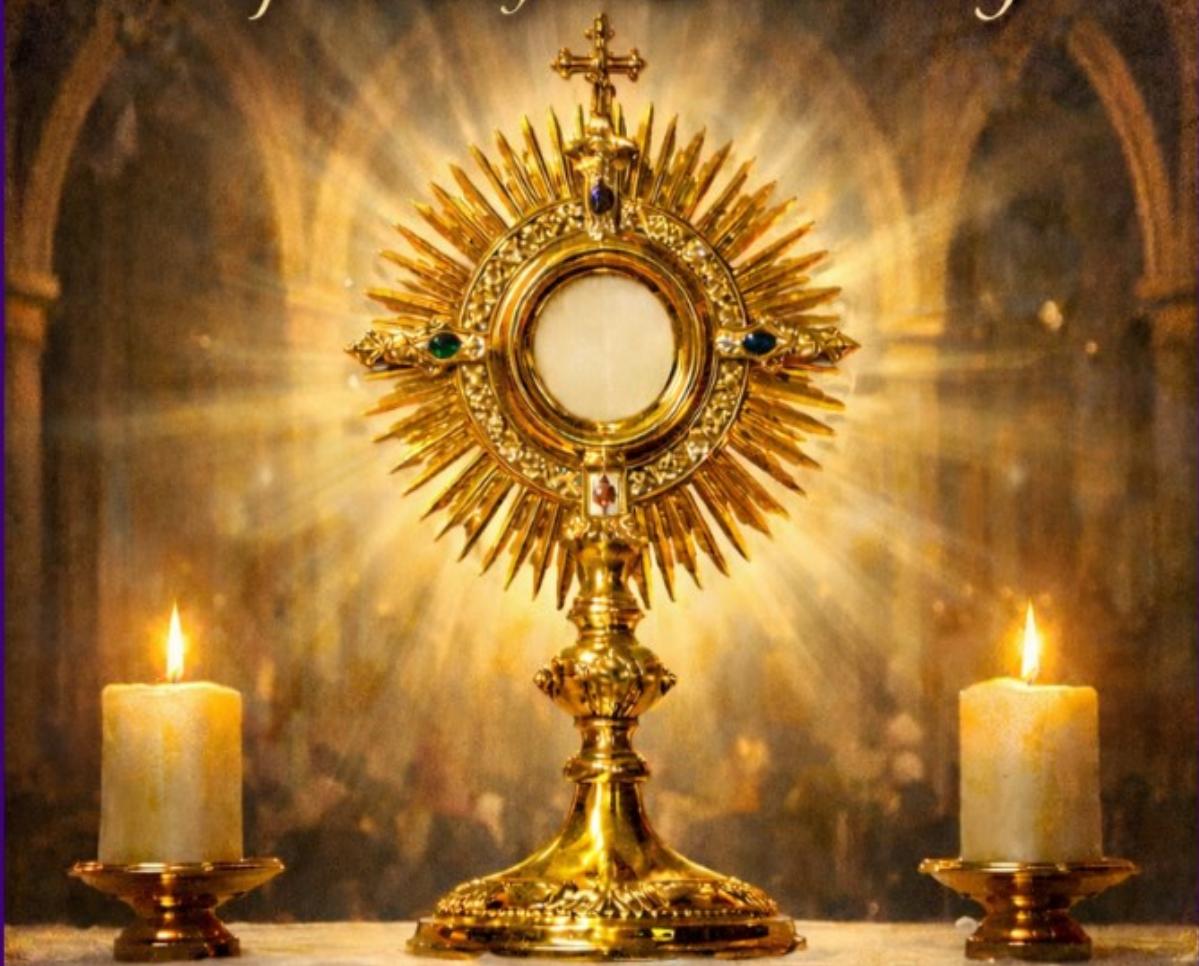
**Matthew 4:1-11**

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: *One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*" Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: *He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*" Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, *You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.*" Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, ""All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: *The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.*" Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

ST. RAYMOND CHURCH

# HOLY HOUR

*Preparation for Lent Evening*



FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup> • MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>

MARCH 12 • MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> • MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup>

❖ Exposition • Reflection • Music • Benediction

# St Raymond's Lenten Series



## UNDERSTANDING THE MASS

*Understanding what Jesus does for us and our response*

Based on the book entitled *A Biblical Walk Through The Mass* by Dr Edward Sri

**Wednesday evenings Feb 25, March 4, 11, 18 & 25**

**At 7 pm in St Raymond's School Cafeteria**

**Video and Presentation by Father Matthew Roche SJ**

**Session 1 (February 25): Foundations: What is the Mass? An OVERVIEW**

**Session 2: The Introductory Rite**

**Session 3: The Liturgy of the Word**

**Session 4: The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

**Session 5: The Concluding Rites**



## ***“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:



## ***Abstinence and Fasting***

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

## ***LENT 2026***

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



So, join us often and anytime.



*We'd love to see you!*



### ***Additional Daily Mass***

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

### ***Stations of the Cross***

Will be prayed every Friday during Lent at 7pm in the church beginning February 20th.

### ***Eucharistic Adoration***

In the Church Thursdays from 1-4pm

### ***Sacrament of Reconciliation***

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

### ***Holy Hour***

February 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm-8:00pm



# Lenten Reflections

presented by

## Al Barbarino

Thursday, March 19th at 7:30pm

St. Raymond Church

263 Atlantic Avenue

East Rockaway, NY 11518

**Do you know God? Do you know about Him?**

**What brings you to Him & What keeps you away?**

## **HOW TO GIVE ALMS THIS LENT**

- Volunteer your time**
- Clean out your pantry and give to a foodbank**
- Make a meal for a neighbor or family in need**
- Sacrifice a treat (coffee, dessert) and give that money to the poor.**
- Make bags of toiletry items to give to the homeless**
- Give away an outfit or item you still really like! (and others you no longer use)**



# SODALITY OF OUR LADY SCHOLARSHIP EXAM 2026



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

**WHO:** ANY EIGHTH GRADE STUDENT IN ST. RAYMOND'S PARISH, WHO  
HAS BEEN ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION TO A CATHOLIC HIGH  
SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER, 2026

**WHEN:** THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026. TIME 3:30PM

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

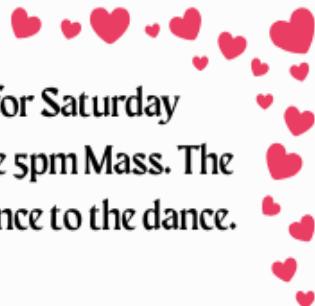
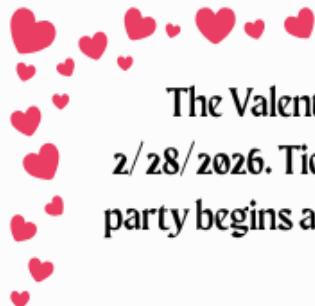
**EXAM:** 15 MULTIPLE CHOICE, FILL IN THE BLANKS AND TWO ESSAYS

**HOW:** TO REGISTER-CALL JULIANNE GRENNEN (516) 593-5000 OR  
SEND AN EMAIL TO [STRAYRCC@OPTONLINE.NET](mailto:STRAYRCC@OPTONLINE.NET) - ATTN.  
JULIANNE GRENNEN BEFORE FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026. YOUR  
REGISTRATION WILL BE CONFIRMED. IF YOU HAVE NOT  
RECEIVED A CONFIRMATION, PLEASE CALL AGAIN.

**REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER  
FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAITH FORMATION

*Lucy Ostermann, Director*



The Valentine Dance for boys and their escort is scheduled for Saturday 2/28/2026. Tickets for those attending will be distributed at the 5pm Mass. The party begins at 6pm in the cafeteria – ticket needed for admittance to the dance.

### ATTENTION 1ST GRADE PARENTS

The next 1st grade parent/student meeting will be held on Sunday, March 1st 2026 at 10:30am in the auditorium. After the meeting, all will go to the 12Noon Mass where Fr. Chuck continues the lesson for the children.

### ATTENTION 7TH & 8TH GRADE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PARENTS & STUDENTS

The 7th & 8th grade Religious Education students will participate in a Confirmation Service Project partnering, once again, with Catholic Charities. For Monday, March 2nd and Tuesday, March 3rd we ask if each student could bring to class the following (regular size please): shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant. Those evenings (during class time), the children will put together the toiletries and place them in a drawstring bag (provided by Religious Education). After they do that, we are going to have the students write a little note of encouragement and place it in each bag. When the individual from Catholic Charities receives his/her bag, they will also find kind thoughts written to them by our students. In addition, we will have representative from Catholic Charities come and speak to the children to let them know what they do for their clients.



### ATTENTION 2ND GRADE PARENTS

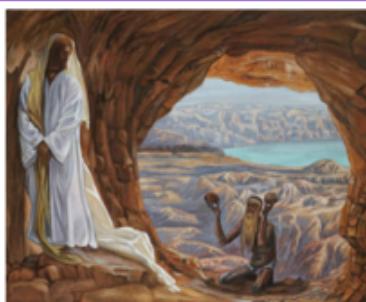
All 2nd grade students along with their parent(s) are to attend a First Holy Communion retreat on Saturday, March 7th 2026 at 2:30pm in the auditorium. The retreat will last 2 hours. After the retreat, all are to attend the 5pm Mass.



## THE FIRST 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 First Sunday of Lent, the Gospel from Matthew 4:1–11 reveals Jesus entering the desert to confront temptation, answering each trial of the devil with unwavering trust in the Father and fidelity to Scripture. In resisting the lure of comfort, power, and presumption, Christ teaches us that true freedom is found in obedience to God's Word: "One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

Monday of this week is the Optional Memorial of Saint Polycarp (Bishop and Martyr), known for his steadfast witness and courage in the face of persecution as an early Christian shepherd of Smyrna. Friday is the Optional Memorial of Saint Gregory of Narek (Abbot and Doctor of the Church) who is remembered for his profound mystical writings, especially the Book of Lamentations.

By honoring these saints during the first full week of Lent, the Church lifts up fidelity, perseverance, and heartfelt repentance as pathways to holiness. Their lives remind us that whether through martyrdom, pastoral leadership, or contemplative prayer, steadfast love for Christ sustains us in every trial.

The First Readings for the week (Monday through Friday) are taken from Leviticus 19:1–2, 11–18; Isaiah 55:10–11; Jonah 3:1–10; Esther C:12, 14–16, 23–25; and Ezekiel 18:21–28, and on Saturday from Deuteronomy 26:16–19. Together these passages call us to holiness of life, sincere repentance, trust in the power of God's word, heartfelt prayer in times of distress, and a deliberate turning away from sin, echoing the covenantal promise that we are to be "a people sacred to the LORD" (Deuteronomy 26:19).

The Gospels this first week of Lent call us to a conversion of our hearts expressed through mercy, prayer, and faithful obedience. The Lord calls us to move beyond surface religion and to allow His Word to reshape our actions, relationships, and desires.

For Monday and Tuesday, the Gospels are taken from Matthew 25:31–46 and Matthew 6:7–15, where Jesus first reveals the judgment of the nations and identifies Himself with the poor, declaring, "Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40), and then teaches the sincerity and trust of the Our Father, reminding us that "Your Father knows what you need before you ask him" (Matthew 6:8). These days call us to active charity and authentic prayer, showing that love of neighbor and humble dependence on the Father are inseparable marks of discipleship.

For Wednesday and Thursday, the Gospels are taken from Luke 11:29–32 and Matthew 7:7–12, as Jesus reproves a generation seeking signs, while pointing to His own presence as the greater sign, and then assures His disciples of the Father's generosity: "Ask and it will be given to you" (Matthew 7:7). Together these passages emphasize repentance and trust in God's providence.

For Friday and Saturday, the Gospels are taken from Matthew 5:20–26 and Matthew 5:43–48, where Christ deepens the law by urging reconciliation before worship and commands radical love of enemies so that we may "be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). In these teachings from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus moves us beyond external observance to interior conversion, calling us to mercy, forgiveness, and boundless charity.

For the Second Sunday of Lent, the Gospel from Matthew 17:1–9 recounts the Transfiguration, where the Father reveals Jesus in glory and commands the disciples, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matthew 17:5), inviting us to behold Christ's radiance and follow Him more deeply on the path toward the Cross.



*“A clean heart creates for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me.”*

**Psalm 51:12**



**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**

This first week of Lent invites me to deeper trust, attentive listening, active mercy, reconciliation, and self-giving love. By embracing Christ's Word in the desert and on the mountain, I am strengthened to carry His light into my home, workplace, and every hidden corner of my heart.

#### **MONDAY – MERCY IN ACTION**

“Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40). Jesus reveals that my love for Him is measured by how I treat the vulnerable, calling me to recognize His presence in family members, coworkers, and all who depend on my patience and care.



*My Prayer: Jesus, open my eyes to see You in those I serve each day and make my love generous and concrete.*

#### **TUESDAY – TRUSTING PRAYER**

“Your Father knows what you need before you ask him” (Matthew 6:8). Christ teaches me to pray with humility and confidence, entrusting my responsibilities and worries to the Father who already understands my needs.

*My Prayer: Father, deepen my trust in You and help me to pray with a sincere and peaceful heart.*

#### **WEDNESDAY – CALL TO REPENTANCE**

“This generation is an evil generation; it seeks a sign” (Luke 11:29). Jesus challenges me to seek conversion rather than constant reassurance, inviting me to recognize His presence without demanding proof on my own terms.

*My Prayer: Lord, grant me a humble heart that turns to You in repentance and faith.*

#### **THURSDAY – CONFIDENT PETITION**

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find” (Matthew 7:7). Jesus assures me of the Father’s generosity, encouraging perseverance in prayer while shaping my actions by the Golden Rule.



*My Prayer: Heavenly Father, strengthen my faith to ask boldly and to treat others with the kindness I desire.*

#### **FRIDAY – RECONCILED LOVE**

“Go first and be reconciled with your brother” (Matthew 5:24). Christ urges me to seek peace before offering worship, reminding me that forgiveness and restored relationships are essential to authentic discipleship.

*My Prayer: Merciful God, give me courage to forgive and to pursue reconciliation without delay.*

#### **SATURDAY – PERFECT CHARITY**

“Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). Jesus calls me beyond minimal obligation to a love that reflects the boundless mercy of the Father in every word and action.

*My Prayer: Holy Spirit, form in me a heart that mirrors the compassion and generosity of Christ*

HERE'S YOUR INVITATION TO THE  
**ST. PATRICK'S  
CELEBRATION**

FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Come enjoy the rich Irish traditions,  
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Irish Dancing, bagpipes, Guinness,  
Irish Coffee and sweets—  
all included, so get a table  
of friends to enjoy.



**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**

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)

*"Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon." Isaiah 58:10*

The St. Raymond's Religious Ed students, parent, teachers and staff donated another generous collection of food and personal care items to the Food Pantry. Our staff and clients sincerely thank you all for your never ending support and kindness. You are all in our prayers.

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 benefit as your only source of income, please call our office and we can assist you with food.

Pantry items still needed: Snacks, Baked Beans, Canned Beets, Pancake Mix, Canned Tomatoes, Grape Jelly, Mayonnaise, Dish Detergent, Laundry Detergent and Coffee.

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!*



*"As the family goes,  
so goes the nation  
and so goes the  
whole world in  
which we live."*

*Saint John Paul II,  
Homily - Perth  
(Australia)*

## 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**



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

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

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



## *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**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

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



**ST. RAYMOND'S  
HUMAN LIFE  
COMMITTEE**

**MONTH 8 – Developing Baby**

*"I like to listen to my Mommy's voice!"*  
**Spiritual Adoption Program**

Now your spiritually adopted baby is finished developing and is concentrating on gaining weight; she might be making her mother uncomfortable with her size. She will need a layer of fat to help her stay warm after she leaves the perfect temperature inside her mother's womb. For some weeks now she has recognized her mother's voice. In a short time, her baby will be born. Your baby's mother appreciated the prayers you have said for her and her baby throughout the pregnancy. It has not been easy, but your prayers have given her the grace she needed to bring her baby to term.

*Please join with us each Thursday, from 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm, during Adoration, to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Rosary of Our Lady for the intention of an end to abortion and the return to the respect, dignity and protection of all God's children from conception till natural death.*

*Next Human Life Committee meeting:  
Thursday, February 26th, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm,  
located in the Parish Social Ministry Office.*

*All invited and needed to be a voice for the voiceless, vulnerable babies in the womb who are in danger of being killed by abortion.*



**THE ROSE  
FOR LIFE**  
**In Loving  
Memory of**  
**Lou & Eleanor  
Perri**

For Dedications call  
Mary Caffrey 516-887-2458



**During Lent, we are called to practice prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Your parish and Diocese have many opportunities for you to grow in your Faith this season. Also consider making a gift to the Catholic Ministries Appeal as one way to practice almsgiving.**



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Lent 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In this Lenten season 2026, we offer our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for the Light of Christ's peace and justice to heal the many troubled parts of our nation and world.

Amid so many global and national crises, it is essential that we be guided and inspired by the Word of God. This Lent, let us rededicate ourselves to being deeply biblical Catholics on fire with the Word of God.<sup>1</sup>

In Saint Paul's Second Letter to Timothy (2:8-10), the Apostle writes: "The Word of God is not bound," or as another translation renders it, "The Word of God cannot be chained."

The Church of Santa Maria in Via Lata in Rome, near to both the Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon, is traditionally taken as the site of Saint Paul's imprisonment in the Eternal City. Beneath this holy church stands an ancient, freestanding granite column that I visited and prayed at on May 17, 2024.

Etched into that ancient column is the Latin phrase for "The Word of God is not bound." The column also has rust marks indicating that a chain – possibly the one discovered archaeologically in an adjacent well – was wrapped around it.

How powerful it was to place my hands on that granite column and to touch with my fingers the words of Saint Paul! In my ecclesial mission as the Successor of the Apostles on Long Island, that memorable day I asked Saint Paul for his intercession that each one of us in the Diocese of Rockville Centre could be as bold and as audacious in proclaiming that the Word of God cannot be chained!

The Word of God cannot be chained in our own lives and in the lives of our families!

The Word of God bursts through our sin, paralyses, and resistances to change, and ignites our own Road to Damascus conversions!

The Word of God breaks down the self-imposed prison doors of addiction, ego, pride, selfishness, and narcissism, and refocuses our lives on Christ and his call to rejoice!

The Word of God cannot be chained by sin, war, terrorism, racism, injustice, poverty,<sup>2</sup> or disrespect for the sanctity and dignity of human life!

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<sup>1</sup> See Bishop Barres' Pastoral Letter *God's Word is Living and Effective* available at [www.drv.org](http://www.drv.org).

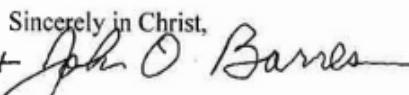
<sup>2</sup> See Pope Leo XIV's 2025 Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexit Te (On Love of the Poor)* available at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).

The Word of God cannot be chained by unethical deployments of Artificial Intelligence!<sup>3</sup>

The Word of God cannot be chained in the global mission of the Catholic Church, regardless of the 21st century persecutions and martyrdoms she experiences!<sup>4</sup>

As the Successor of the Apostles on Long Island, and in communion and mission with our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV, I thank each of you for the way you “cast fire on the earth” (Luke 12:49) through your daily reading, meditating, praying, contemplating, and living the inspired Sacred Scriptures.

Be assured of my prayers for a blessed Lent.

Sincerely in Christ,  
  
Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

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<sup>3</sup> See *Antiqua et Nova*, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Dicastery for Culture and Education's January 14, 2025, *Note on the Relationship Between Artificial Intelligence and Human Intelligence* available at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).

<sup>4</sup> See Robert Royal, *The Martyrs of the New Millennium: The Global Persecution of Christians in the Twenty-First Century*, (New York: Sophia Institute Press, 2025).

# WORLD Marriage DAY



Honoring love, faith, and commitment  
rooted in Christ

FORMED

This week on **FORMED...**



**Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent and a great day to make a plan for this holy and grace-filled season. Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Dr. Elizabeth Klein, Professor at the Augustine Institute Graduate School, to discuss the purpose of the season of Lent, how to prepare for it, and why it is such a fruitful season in our life of faith.**



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

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

## MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

Monday, February 23rd

7:15am James & Kathleen Ryder

8:45am St. Raymond Parish

12:15pm Danielle Kirrane

**Tuesday, February 24th**

7:15am Holy Souls in Purgatory

8:45am Christopher Connolly

12:15pm St. Raymond Parish

**Wednesday, February 25th**

7:15am Joseph A. Ferrara

8:45am Annemarie McInerney Scully

12:15pm Thomas Shearer

**Thursday, February 26th**

7:15am Christopher Rochford

8:45am Margaret F. McCotter

12:15pm Marie G. Abbott

**Friday, February 27th**

7:15am Holy Souls in Purgatory

8:45am Brian Fahey

12:15pm Vincent & Geraldine Malone

**Saturday, February 28th**

8:45am Mary Harte

5:00pm Daniel Carrano

**Sunday, March 1st**

7:30am John Schaefer

9:00am Charlotte Fabrizio

10:30am John & Josephine Soscia

12:00pm Walter Lange

Rosa Sanches

Rita H. Russo

Felipe Gonzalez

Carmela Romanelli

Angela Serra

Patrick Michael McManus

4:30pm St. Raymond Parish

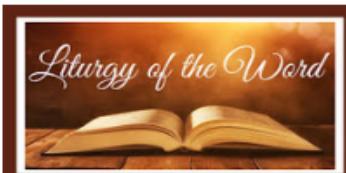


**REST IN  
PEACE**

*Joseph*

*Martino*

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



## Scripture Readings for the Week

### Monday

Leviticus 19:1-2/Matthew 25:31-46

### Tuesday

Isaiah 55:10-11/Matthew 6:7-15

### Wednesday

Jonah 3:1-10/Luke 11:29-32

### Thursday

Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25

Matthew 7:7-12

### Friday

Ezekiel 18:21-28/Matthew 5:20-26

### Saturday

Deuteronomy 26:16-19

Matthew 5:43-48

### Sunday

Genesis 12:1-4a/2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Matthew 17:1-9

# Parish Bulletin Board



**Altar Bread & Wine**  
In Loving Memory of  
Elizabeth S. Lacebini  
Love, The Sodality  
of Our Lady

## 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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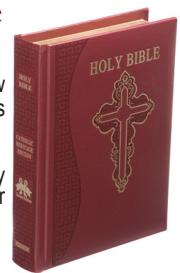
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