

## 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*

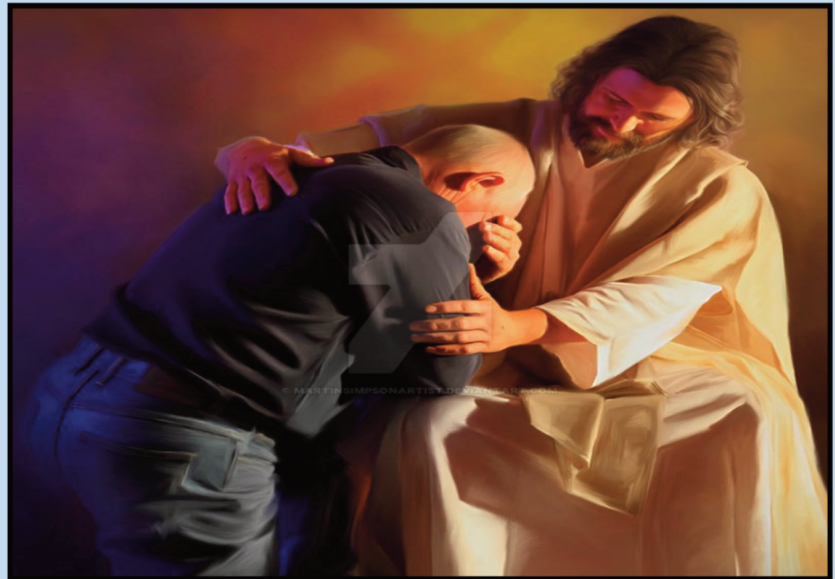
Sunday, September 17, 2023

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000

“Jesus answered, ‘I say to you, not seven times  
but seventy-seven times’ “

-Matthew 18:22



September 17, 2023

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time

## Welcome To Our Parish Family!

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

### Rectory

Office Hours are Monday-Friday from 9am-4pm;  
Saturdays from 9:30am-4pm. Sundays 9am-5pm  
**Web Site:** www.SaintRaymonds.org  
**Facebook:** St. Raymond Parish, East Rockaway  
**E-Mail:** StRayRcc@optonline.net  
Rectory.....593-5000  
Rectory Fax.....887-0554

**Parish Social Ministry**.....887-9197  
Office Hours are Monday-Wednesday from 10am-2pm.  
Parish Social Ministry Fax.....593-6278

**Religious Education Office** .....593-9075  
Religious Education Office Fax .....593-1156  
**E-Mail:** strayfaithformation@aol.com

### Pastoral Care Of The Sick

**Holy Communion**—Available to the homebound;  
call the rectory to schedule a visit

### Devotions

#### **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Thursdays from 1-4pm in Our Lady's Chapel.

#### **Nocturnal Adoration**

First Fridays from 7:30pm-8:30pm

#### **Miraculous Medal Novena**

Saturdays following 8:45am Mass.

### Confessions

Saturdays from 3:30-4:30pm, or call for appointment.

### Baptisms

Baptisms are celebrated the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Please call the rectory to schedule.

### Bereavement Support Group

Call the rectory office for meeting times.

### Marriages

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

### Prayer Groups

**Charismatic Prayer Group:** Every Tuesday at 7:30pm in the rectory lower level.

**Men's Prayer Group:** Every 4th Friday at 8pm in Our Lady's Chapel.

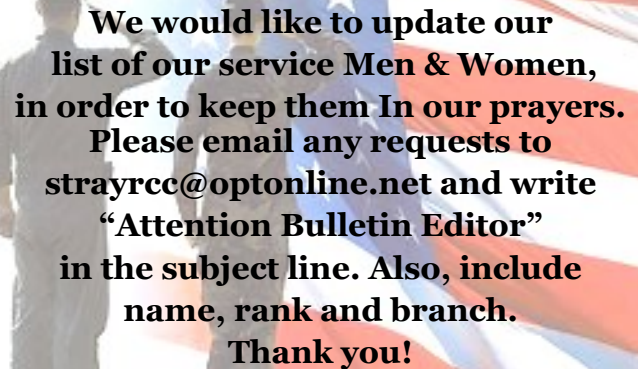
### Music Ministries

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

**Folk Group:** Sings at 12 Noon Mass on Sundays from September—June; practice on Wednesdays at 7:30pm in the rectory lower level.

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

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



**We would like to update our list of our service Men & Women, in order to keep them In our prayers. Please email any requests to [strayrcc@optonline.net](mailto:strayrcc@optonline.net) and write "Attention Bulletin Editor" in the subject line. Also, include name, rank and branch. Thank you!**



## The Catholic Faith Network (CFN)

Broadcast of the Celebration of the Eucharist:

### Daily Mass Celebrated by Pope Francis from the Santa Marta Chapel in Rome

Monday - Friday at 11:00 am, 9:30 pm ET

Saturday at 11:00 am, 9:30 pm ET

Sunday at 1:30 pm, 8:30 pm ET

### St. Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre, NY

Monday – Friday at 8:30 am, 12:30 pm ET

Sunday at 11:00 am, 7:00 pm ET

### St. Patrick's Cathedral, NY

Monday – Friday at 6:30 pm ET

Sunday at 3:30 pm ET



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

LC Alex James Cooper US MARINE CORPS  
LC Dean Thomas Cooper US MARINE CORPS  
Lt. Col. Mary P. King , M.D., US ARMY  
Commander Joseph Garbitelli US NAVY  
Staff /Sgt. Matthew R. Hines - US ARMY  
LC Connor Thomas McHale US MARINE CORPS  
Sgt. Gerard Moran  
Lt. Com. Joseph Leahy US NAVY  
Spec. Bryan Petriccione US ARMY –Cavalry Unit  
Lt. JG Joseph Woloszyn US NAVY  
**Please remember to pray for our wounded soldiers.**

## Father Chuck's Corner

**Greetings and God's blessings be yours on the Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time!** Today's readings teach us that forgiveness benefits not only the person who is forgiven but also the one who forgives. In the first reading from Sirach, we get words of wisdom that are practical for daily living. Right off the bat, anger is seen as hateful. What is good is mercy. Forgiveness brings about not only social benefits but also countless blessings from God. The people are reminded that their choices do not go unnoticed by God. **"Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven."** Then in the second reading from Romans, Paul reminds the faithful that through Baptism they live no longer for themselves but for Jesus. Jesus is now both Lord of the living and the dead. **"Brothers and sister: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself."** And finally in Matthew's gospel, Jesus very forcefully teaches about the importance of forgiveness and mercy, especially about how it will be an aspect of our lives that is judged by God. There is no limit on how many times we should forgive and there should always be the desire to be merciful to one another. Jesus is pretty clear that the way we treat each other in this matter is how we will be treated by God. **"So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."**

In Jesus' time forgiving someone three times was considered more than generous. Peter, in proposing seven times, thinks he will impress Jesus. But Jesus counters with 77 times. This means there should be no limits placed on forgiveness. We should extend unlimited forgiveness to others just as God extends unlimited forgiveness to us. The first reading and the gospel, both make it clear that God's gifts of mercy and forgiveness are for those who themselves extend mercy and forgiveness to others. Remember the words in the Lord's Prayer: **"And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."** In other words, we ask God to forgive us in the same measure that we forgive others. It is a definite experience of people that when you give forgiveness as well as receive it, the weight on your heart and spirit is most definitely lightened. We should always think of Jesus as being in the business of forgiveness. And if you doubt this, then just gaze at a crucifix. To me the first thing we should be saying to Jesus dying on the cross is: **"I'm sorry."** And the second thing to say is: **"Thank you."** May Jesus, who is the font of mercy, through the gifts of his Body and Blood cleanse, heal and restore us to right relationship with one another and with Jesus.

At this time, I would like to welcome **Father Xavier Lazar**, a priest from Kerala in India who will be staying with us for several months. This is the first time Father Xavier is visiting St. Raymond Parish and we all look forward to experiencing Father Xavier's priestly ministry during his stay with us. Father Xavier, welcome to St. Raymond Parish. I'm sure that you will enjoy your time with us. Look for Father Xavier at a Mass near you.

**Next weekend, September 23-24 is designated as IHM Weekend at St. Raymond Parish.** Sister Ruthanne and Sister Lorraine will spend a final weekend with us after so many years of faithful service to St. Raymond Grammar school and our parish. They have begun a new ministry for the IHM Congregation in the Scranton area of Pennsylvania. We wish them all the best in their new service to the people of God. The IHM Weekend here will include a final **"Nuns on the Run Bingo Night"** on Saturday, the 23rd starting at 6pm in the school cafeteria. **Then on Sunday, the 24th, we will honor both sisters at the 12noon Mass followed by a parish reception in the school cafeteria.** All are welcome to join in these events to wish your own personal thanks and best wishes to the sisters.

**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), information about the **St. Vincent de Paul "Friends of the Poor Walk"** on Saturday, September 30th, 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 week. **Smile, share, look for ways to forgive and be forgiven. Plus remember: Don't wish upon the stars. Talk to the one who made them.** God bless always.

**-Father Chuck**



# WEEKLY MASS PRAYERS

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023-24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great  
glory, Lord God, Heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the  
Father, You take away the sin of the  
world, have mercy on us;

You take away the sin of the world,  
receive our prayer; You are seated  
at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One;  
you alone are the Lord.

You alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God, the Father.  
Amen

## Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and  
in what I have failed to do,

[Pray while striking the breast 3 times.]  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

## Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial  
with the Father; through him all things  
were made. For us men and for our  
Salvation he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate  
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand  
of the Father. He will come again in  
Glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the  
Son, who with the Father and the Son is  
adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church. I confess one  
Baptism for the forgiveness of  
Sins and I look forward to the  
resurrection of the dead and the  
life of the world to come.

Amen.

# READINGS FOR TODAY'S MASS

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023-24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## FIRST READING

**Sir 27:30—28:7**

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail. Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the LORD? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins? If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins? Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

## ALLELUIA

**Jn 13:34**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord; love one another as I have loved you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12**

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills.

He redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

He will not always chide, nor does he keep his wrath forever. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

## GOSPEL

**Mt 18:21-35**

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

## SECOND READING

**Rom 14:7-9**

Brothers and sisters:

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - FAITH FORMATION

*Lucy Ostermann, Director*



The following are the 2023/2024 Religious Education school year start dates:

- Grades 2 Tuesday, October 3rd, 2023 3:30pm-4:30pm
- Grades 3-6 week of October 2nd, 2023 3:30pm-4:30pm
- Grades 7 & 8 Monday/Tuesday October 2nd & October 3rd, 2023 7pm-8pm
- Grade 1 is an at-home program.

Registration forms can be found on the parish website – [www.saintraymonds.org](http://www.saintraymonds.org). Please fill them out in their entirety and return to the Religious Education office with full payment. The Registration fee is now \$225.00.

### ATTENTION 9TH GRADE PARENTS

The following is important information regarding your child's upcoming Confirmation scheduled for Wednesday, October 25th, 2023. Please make note of these dates.

### YOUR CHILD'S GROUP IS BASED ON THE TEACHER HE/SHE HAD FOR 8TH GRADE RELIGION CLASS:

#### Group 1 – 11:00am Ceremony

- 8-1 Mrs. Patricia Canepa/Mrs. Gina Manos
- 8-2 Mr. Damien Becker
- 8-5 Mrs. Denise Rivenburgh
- 8-6 Mrs. Mary Murphy

#### Group 2 – 2:30pm Ceremony

- 8-3 Mrs. Jennifer Ruggiero
- 8-4 Mrs. Diana Gannascoli
- 8-7 Mrs. Julianne Grennen Kellenberg Holy Family

### ATTEND MANDATORY RETREAT @ ST. RAYMOND SCHOOL AUDITORIUM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 2023.

#### GROUP 1 ATTEND 10AM -12:30PM SESSION AND GROUP 2 ATTEND 1:30PM-4PM SESSION

### SPONSOR AND CANDIDATE REHEARSAL/SEATING ASSIGNMENTS/GOWN DISTRIBUTION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH	GROUP 1 <u>11:00AM CEREMONY</u> -Sponsor & Candidate Rehearsal/Seating Assignment/Gown Distribution	St. Raymond Church 7:30pm
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19TH	GROUP 2 <u>2:30PM CEREMONY</u> -Sponsor & Candidate Rehearsal/Seating Assignment/Gown Distribution	St. Raymond Church 7:30pm
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25TH	GROUP 1 - 11:00AM Confirmation Ceremony GROUP 2 - 2:30PM Confirmation Ceremony	Most Reverend Luis M. Romero Most Reverend Luis M. Romero

### REMINDER TO CATECHISTS

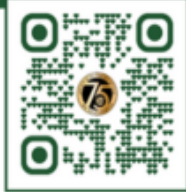
Sunday, September 17th, 2023 is Catechetical Sunday. At the 12Noon Mass we will recognize our wonderful and giving catechists. We will also be acknowledging ten of our catechists who have been teaching for our program for 5 years – Alicia Brenneis, Joanne Casucci, Kim Elliott, Maria Lopez, Jane O'Hanlon, Linda Ohlsen, Stephanie Paul, Danielle Peknic, Caitlyn Perez and Brian Seinwels. Congratulations and all of God's blessings to these wonderful people for giving their time and talent to the children of our parish. Without them and their fellow catechists, our Religious Education program could not thrive as it does.




**9th GRADE  
CONFIRMATION  
COMMITMENT  
MASS**



SCAN ME



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Sat. Sept 30, 2023**  
**10AM**  
**Cedar Creek Park,**  
**Seaford**



**15TH ANNUAL SVDPLI**

*Friends of the Poor 5K Walk*



**TOGETHER**  
**WE GO FAR**  
**2023**

Please register or donate today at <https://svdpli.org/walk/> or by using the QR code. When you select “St. Raymond Conference – East Rockaway” your donation will go directly toward helping neighbors in our community. For more information, please contact Anthony at (516) 220-2521.



# 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.



## 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).



## NYS Eucharistic Congress

October 20-22, 2023  
Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine, Auriesville, NY



*Held at the sacred spot where the North American Martyrs gave their lives for Christ and where St. Kateri Tekakwitha was born.*

### EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Great Speakers!
- Mass with Cardinal Dolan and NY Bishops
- Confessions
- Eucharistic Adoration and Procession

*Worship with 10,000 other Catholics in the Shrine's Colosseum, the largest church in North America!*



To register and find out more, visit [nyseucharisticcongress.org](http://nyseucharisticcongress.org).





## ST. RAYMOND'S HUMAN LIFE COMMITTEE

"In September 1971, Texas became the first state, since 1973, that the courts allowed to enforce a pre-viability abortion ban. Its heartbeat law bans elective abortions once an unborn baby's heartbeat is detectable, about 6 weeks of pregnancy....Since that time, research from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health suggests the Texas law has saved about 1,225 babies from abortion every month....Researchers at Johns Hopkins portrayed their findings in a negative light, referring to pregnant women as 'birthing people' and claiming pro-life laws cause harm...Suzanne Bell, PhD, MPH, an assistant professor at Bloomberg and another lead author of the study said, '...abortion bans have real implications for birthing people, thousands of whom have no choice but to continue an unwanted or unsafe pregnancy.' She said that most women seeking abortions are struggling financially. But killing unborn babies is not a solution to poverty. Most pregnant mothers want better support, not abortions, as attested by those who aid women who come to the many pregnancy care centers seeking help to carry their babies to term." (Lifenews.com) There are now 14 other states who are also enforcing laws that ban or strictly limit elective abortions, and more are fighting in court to do the same.

**Next Human Life Committee Meeting:**  
**Thursday, September 21st, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm**  
**Parish Social Ministry Office**  
**Please join with us in being a voice for the**  
**innocent, vulnerable pre-born 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)

*"The generous will themselves be blessed,  
for they share their food with the poor."*

*Proverbs 22:9*

Food assistance is available for those in need who live within our Parish boundaries. **During the month of August, our Parish Social Ministry assisted 78 households with food, personal care and household items. We also welcomed 2 new clients into the Outreach Program** and helped them with food and other services they needed. 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: Jarred Pasta Sauce, Rice Side Dishes, Grape Jelly, Hot Cereal, Laundry Detergent, Dish Detergent, Shampoo, Conditioner and Deodorant.**

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.*



**THE TWELVE STATIONS OF THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST**  
**STATION SIX**



**STATION SIX**

**BETHLEHEM, THE HOUSE OF BREAD:  
BIRTHPLACE OF THE BREAD OF LIFE**

***“BUT YOU, O BETHLEHEM EPHRATHAH, WHO ARE LITTLE TO BE AMONG THE CLANS OF JUDAH, FROM YOU SHALL COME FORTH FOR ME ONE WHO IS TO BE RULER IN ISRAEL, WHOSE ORIGIN IS FROM OF OLD, FROM ANCIENT DAYS.”***  
**MICAH 5:2 (MICAH 5:1 IN HEB.)**

As every Christian should know, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. This was prophesied in the Old Testament: “But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days...” (Micah 5:2).

Fast-forward hundreds of years later to the Gospel of Luke. We read: And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth to Judea, to the City of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (Luke 2:1-7).

***What is the connection to Jesus?***

Eternal Wisdom Incarnate had some good reasons for wanting to be born in Bethlehem. St. Thomas [Aquinas] mentions two of them [Summa Theologica 3a q.35, a. 7.1]. First, He wanted to be born in the city where David was born “so that the promise [made to David] would be shown to have been fulfilled from the very place of his birth”. Secondly, as St. Gregory the Great says, “Bethlehem” means “house of bread”. Now it is Christ Himself who said, “I am the Living Bread, which came down from Heaven” (cf. Jn. 6:41).

The City of David is thus the birthplace of the Eucharist. “The place He was born,” says St. Bede, “is rightly called the “House of Bread”, because He came down from heaven to earth to give us the food of heavenly life and to satisfy us with the flavor of eternal sweetness.” Since the Church contains within her the Bread of Life, she can be called “the perpetual Bethlehem.”

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Each week, we will present another of the twelve stations for your meditation for the week. Week 6 Thought: How can I express my thanks to the Divine Child Jesus for coming to earth to die for love of me?

## St. Raymond Church

Opportunities for a Holy Hour / Adoration  
and Eucharistic Exposition

Each day the Church is open 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

"I HAVE COME FROM ROME TO JOIN YOU IN ADORING  
AND LOVING OUR BLESSED LORD IN THE HOLY  
SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST, ALWAYS HAVE A  
WARM AND DEEP DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED  
SACRAMENT. VISIT OUR LORD AS OFTEN AS YOU CAN."

Feast of St. Pope Paul VI  
September 26th

## Step By Step walk through the Mass

By Father Luke Spannagel  
National Eucharist Revival Blog

### *Holy Water*

What is one of the first things you do when entering the body of a Catholic church? You reach down and dip your fingers in the holy water font and make the Sign of the Cross on yourself. We do this seemingly small gesture so often that sometimes we may not think about its meaning. First, have you ever wondered why there are holy water fonts located near the entrance of the church? Msgr. Peter Elliott explains, "The holy water stoups [fonts] at the doors of the church are signs which recall the baptismal washing of the faithful" (Ceremonies for the Modern Rite, no. 44). In many traditional church layouts, the baptistry was located near the main door of the church. So just as the Sacrament of Baptism is our entrance into the life of God and the Christian Faith, it's symbolic that baptistries and fonts are located at the entrance of churches. Their location just inside the church doors recalls for us our entrance into the life of the Church when we were baptized with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. So, as you enter the body of the church, you bless yourself with holy water to recall the sacrament through which you entered God's family, the Church. We have been given tremendous gifts as members of God's family, and holy water reminds us of these gifts. By blessing ourselves with holy water, we recommit ourselves to living holy lives in fidelity to Christ, and we prepare ourselves to participate fruitfully in the Holy Mass.

### *Sacramentals*

Holy water is water blessed by a bishop, priest, or deacon and is among holy things that fall into the category called "sacramentals." The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that sacramentals "are sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the sacraments" (CCC, no. 1667). That means that these holy things or actions remind us of sacraments in some way. They help us recall the graces of the sacraments. They don't confer grace but prepare us to receive grace and help us be ready to cooperate with those graces so we can grow in faith and holiness.

*Next week: Genuflection*

## Saints Who Promoted Eucharistic Devotion

Saint Robert Bellarmine

Cardinal and Doctor of the Church († 1621)

Feast: September 17

*"Take and eat: This is My Body. Weigh carefully,  
dear brethren, the force of those words..."*

Robert Bellarmine was born on the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, October 4, 1542, in the little town of Montepulciano near Tuscany in Italy. His mother attended a retreat patterned on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius; as a result, she was determined to send all her five sons into the Society of Jesus. In 1560, Robert joined the Jesuits and was ordained in 1670.

St. Bellarmine combined great wisdom and learning with a passionate love of Christ, while living a busy life fraught with much controversy. He was a tireless defender of the Church against the heresies of his era, always grounding his positions in logic and reasoned argumentation. He also wrote on issues of Church and government, refuting the idea of the divine right of Kings and criticizing the pope's authority over secular rulers. He believed that popes only possessed indirect, and not direct, jurisdiction over temporal governments – a view so controversial that it nearly landed Bellarmine's work on a blacklist called the Index.

His apologetic writings on the Sacrifice of the Mass, St. Robert divided his work into two topics: that the Mass is a Sacrifice, and secondly, that the nature of that Sacrifice and the ceremonies of the Mass are ancient and pleasing to God. He defended the Mass from Scripture and how the Church Fathers understood it, arguing that the Church Fathers and the whole history of the Church believed the Mass was a sacrifice instituted by Christ Himself.

As part of Bellarmine's argument on the question of whether Christ is truly present in the sacrament of the Eucharist, he said "Jesus says: 'This is my body. This is my blood.... Do this in memory of me.' Surely laws and decrees ought to be promulgated in clear, precise, simple terms and not obscurely or ambiguously. Now what Christian ever doubted that our Lord in instituting this Sacrament gave orders and framed a law that it was to be renewed perpetually in his Church? That is the literal meaning of: Do this in memory of me. Since, then, these words of Christ are the expression of a law or command, to read figures or metaphors into them is to make Almighty God the most imprudent and incompetent of legislators."



## 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.



## IHM WEEKEND AT ST. RAYMOND PARISH

As everyone knows, it is a sad time for our parish with both Sister Ruthane and Sister Lorraine leaving us and moving to Scranton, PA to assume a special Ministry for the IHM Community. While we will miss the Sisters, we also wish them all the best as they begin a new service to the Church. Now we can't just say goodbye, so we have a special weekend planned for Sisters Ruthane and Lorraine on Saturday/ Sunday, September 23-24. On Saturday evening we will have a last Nuns on the Run Bingo starting at 6pm in the school cafeteria. Then on Sunday, the 24th, we will honor both Sister Ruthane and Sister Lorraine at the 12noon Mass which will be followed by a parish reception in the school cafeteria. All are most welcome to join in these events to wish your own personal thanks and best wishes to the Sisters.



Is there a family member or friend that you are holding a grudge against? Let this be the week where you forgive that person or seek forgiveness from them—be the change.



“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”  
-Mother Teresa

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# **SAINTS FUN FACTS** by mario d. macari

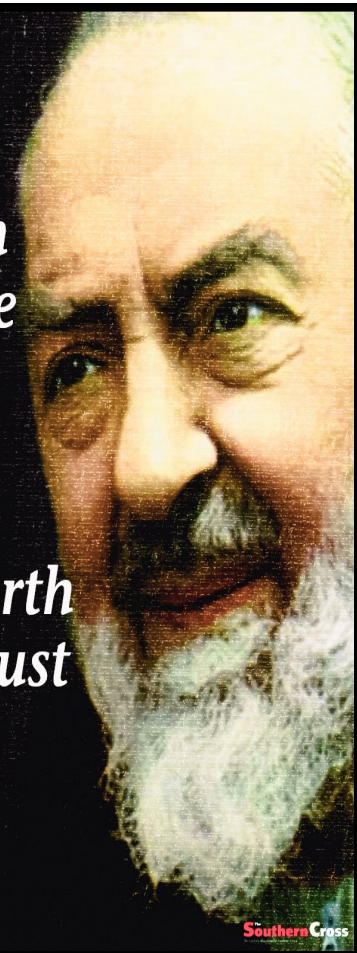
**S**AIN'T MATTHEW TELLS US THAT OUR LORD COMMANDED: "DO NOT WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW; TOMORROW WILL TAKE CARE OF ITSELF."

WASTE NO TIME IN WORRY! SATAN HOPES TO ENSNARE YOU IN A TRAP OF THE MOMENT FOR HIMSELF! INSTEAD, TURN TO GOD IN THAT MOMENT IN HOPE, FAITH AND LOVE. THEN GOD WILL BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY!



*Do not fear.  
Jesus is more  
powerful than  
all hell. At the  
invocation of  
his name  
every knee in  
heaven, on earth  
and in hell must  
bend before  
Jesus.*

*St Pio of Pietrelcina*



Southern Cross

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**





## *Sodality of Our Lady of the Annunciation*

**September Meeting: Monday,  
September 18, 2023**

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

**Time: 7:30**

**(Table set-ups will be available  
beginning at 7 pm)**

### *Our Lady's Tea and "Baby Shower"*

### *Benefitting "Women First" in Hempstead*

**Please join us, and if you would like to contribute**

**bring a baby gift of either newborn clothes  
from 0 to 24 months, diapers from newborn  
to size 6, or a gift card of \$25.00 or less  
from Walmart or Target.**

**Bring a friend or family member as we are  
always looking for and happy  
to welcome new members.**



**St. Pius X Residence for  
Retired Priests**

*Caring for those who cared for us*



*Embracing the Legacy of Service*

***“The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of our Lord Jesus Christ.” — St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests***

September 16, 2023

Please accept my deepest thanks for your prayers and continued financial support for our senior priests residing at St. Pius X Residence.

As our elderly priests enter this stage of their life, they often experience ongoing challenges that require added care and attention, and because of you, the St Pius X Residence is there for them.

Each year, we have the opportunity to respond generously and with grateful hearts to the priests who have given a lifetime of service. Even in retirement, our priests continue to make a profound impact on the spiritual and personal lives of Catholics of all ages. During this time of *Eucharistic Revival*, our senior priests continue to live out their vocation as eucharistic missionaries: celebrating Masses in local parishes, and bringing the Eucharist to the sick and homebound, and to those who are in prison. After a lifetime of sacrifice and service, it is our obligation to proudly bestow compassionate support to these men who have dedicated their vocation to the people of God on Long Island.

St. Pius X provides a life-enriching experience for the men who live there, enabling our dedicated priests to live or recuperate at a facility that gives them the extra care and attention that they need. At the same time, St. Pius X allows them to serve as active, fully engaged members of the community.

Please, take some time to review the enclosed materials. I encourage you to give prayerful consideration of a gift in support of our retired priests living at St. Pius X Residence. As our Holy Father, Pope Francis has emphasized, a community that takes care of the sick and elderly priests is one that is “well-rooted in Jesus.” May I ask that you remember all our priests in your prayers as you and your family are remembered in ours.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres  
*Bishop of Rockville Centre*



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# Masses for this week

## Monday, September 18th

7:15am Holy Souls in Purgatory

8:45am Ralph & Joyce Sellitti 50th Anniversary

## Tuesday, September 19th

7:15am Nicholas Minucci

8:45am Maria Amenta

## Wednesday, September 20th

*Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gön & Paul Chông Ha-sang*

7:15am Maryann Mulroy

8:45am Holy Souls in Purgatory

## Thursday, September 21st *Saint Matthew*

7:15am Holy Souls in Purgatory

8:45am Brian Flood

## Friday, September 22nd

7:15am John & Sheila Sparling

8:45am Francis Lenahen, Sr.

## Saturday, September 23rd

*St. Pius of Pietrelcina*

8:45am Maryann Mulroy, Charles Damiani

5:00pm Mario Rinaldi

## Sunday, September 24th

7:30am Maura Scully

9:00am Anna Califano

10:30am Joseph A. Vito

12:00pm Paul Ackerina, William Farrell,  
Stefano Puccio

4:30pm St. Raymond's Parish

### Scripture Readings for the Week

#### Monday

1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 7:1-10

#### Tuesday

1 Tm 3:1-13/Lk 7:11-17

#### Wednesday

1 Tm 3:14-16/Lk 7:31-35

#### Thursday

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Mt 9:9-13

#### Friday

1 Tm 6:2c-12/Lk 8:1-3

#### Saturday

1 Tm 6:13-16/Lk 8:4-15

#### Sunday

Is 55:6-9/Mt 20:1-16a

### Please Pray for Our Sick

James R., Baby Brady, Jodi Neckles, Mike L,  
Dawn, Baby Faith Madison, Rebekah Lyas,  
Baby Cooper Graham, Kevin O'Sullivan  
Michael McPike, Christine I., John Lynch  
Baby Daisy Ellen O'Neill, Jay Witemeyer,  
Bennett William Chevalier, Mary Perri, Samir  
Leo B., Caroline Saporito, Linda D'Agostino  
Mary Lou Hart, Marie Gay Oddo, Michael Sarro,  
Barbara, Nick S., Joseph Petrarò, Nicole Brack  
*(Names are printed for 3 weeks unless the  
rectory is notified otherwise.)*



### Rest in Peace

Giuseppa S. Iannitelli

Umberto Robert Montanino

Carlo Chiulli



### The 2023 Paschal Candle

In Loving Memory of

Helen & Theodore Rehm

From the Rehm-Shapiro

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# Parish Bulletin Board

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God is Love

## 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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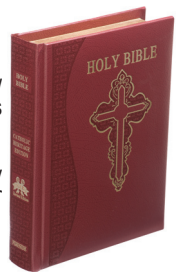


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