

## 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, December 7, 2025

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000



"A voice of one  
crying out in the  
desert, Prepare  
the way of the  
Lord, make  
straight his paths."  
-Matthew 3:3

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

December 8, 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](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-2pm.

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

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 SECOND PURPLE CANDLE IS THE

*"Candle of Peace."*

DURING THIS SECOND WEEK OF  
ADVENT, WE REFLECT ON OUR LIVES  
AND ORIENT OURSELVES TOWARD  
CHRIST'S COMING, PREPARING OUR  
HEARTS TO RECEIVE HIM ANEW.



## 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 continued Advent blessings be yours on the Second Sunday of Advent!** There is great hope in today's readings in addition to great challenge. It is the normal tension that permeates all our Advent preparations. In the first reading from Isaiah, there is hope built in the assurance that even from the remnants of a grand tree, even from a stump, new life blooms. No matter what has torn us down or stunted our growth, blossoms can still bud in our lives. **"On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom."** Then in the second reading from the Letter to the Romans, Paul preaches unity amongst the people so they may with one voice glorify God. **"Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope."** And finally in Matthew's gospel hope is essential in the midst of trying to practice repentance. We need to remember that God promises to enter into our broken relationships if we allow him to. John the Baptist asks us to prepare by repenting. We are called to turn away from the idols of power, money, comfort, self-reliance, distraction, or anything else that we might be in the place where only God should stand. We are to allow the purifying fire of God's love to clear space for the new growth he desires during this Advent season. **"Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."** Do this with silence, prayer, scripture and worship. Listen for God's voice and raise your hearts to him in worship.

While we all disagree about many things, there is one thing we should all be on the same page about. We should all be working toward creating the kind of world that God wants. But how can we do that when our differences feel almost unfixable, un-mendable, un-reconcilable. Too often I work for the kind of world that I want and hope for, what I think is best. Sadly, I too often leave out the most important criteria. What kind of world does God want? Today we hear John the Baptist, crying out for us to repent. Not tomorrow, or next year, but now. For if God's world has a chance of us helping to build it, we must change our hearts-now! We have heard this every year during Advent, and to an extent we do heed these words.

Yet often I know that I only do some minor tweaking at best. I don't really let the Holy Spirit baptize me with his purifying fire. We all have to agree on what this world should really look like, how it can resemble the world God wants for us. It is a world of true peace, a world of understanding, kindness and compassion. It is a world of generosity and humility. And it is a world of justice, tenderness and love. Jesus didn't come into this world to leave it unchanged. No, his coming was meant to change it forever. The best gifts we can give to God is to want the same, meaningful, loving world that God wants us to help bring about.

Today is the last day to submit your **Christmas Plant Sale** order for this year. If you would like to place an order, please fill out the order form in the bulletin and drop it off at the rectory by 5pm this Sunday, December 7th. No payment is necessary till you come and pick up your plants next Sunday, December 14th, during our Gaudete Sunday hospitality celebration.

**Please remember to take home a copy of the bulletin when you leave Mass today.** It contains many items of interest and invitation, with something for everyone. Of special note is news and needs from **Parish Social Ministry**, info from **Religious Education** (Faith Formation), the order form for the **Christmas Plant Sale** (last chance to place an order today), an order form for the **Christmas Cash 50/50** (drawing on Gaudete Sunday, December 14th, envelopes for the **Christmas Masses of Remembrance** (found on the pew shelves in the front and rear of the church), the **Come and See Centerfold**, the **Communal Prayer Before Mass** (found on the inside back cover of the bulletin), an invitation to join **FORMED** (your Catholic Faith on demand) and much more. To keep informed, keep a copy of the bulletin at home each week for quick and easy reference.

Have a great Second Week of Advent. **Keep sharing hope and this week peace with everyone you meet. And 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**

**DECEMBER 7, 2025—SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

## **THE GLORIA**

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

**We praise you,**

**we bless you,**

**we adore you,**

**we glorify you,**

**we give you thanks for your great  
glory, Lord God, Heavenly King,**

**O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the**

**Father, You take away the sin of the  
world, have mercy on us;**

**You take away the sin of the world,  
receive our prayer; You are seated**

**at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.**

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

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

**Amen**

## **PENITENTIAL ACT**

**I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,**

**in my thoughts and in my words,**

**in what I have done and**

**in what I have failed to do,**

**[Pray while striking the breast 3 times.]**

**through my fault, through my fault,**

**through my most grievous fault;**

**therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,**

**all the Angels and Saints,**

**and you, my brothers and sisters,**

**to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

## **NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God,**

**the Father almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,**

**the Only Begotten Son of God,**

**born of the Father before all ages.**

**God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made, consubstantial**

**with the Father; through him all things**

**were made. For us men and for our**

**Salvation he came down from heaven,**

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate**

**of the Virgin Mary, and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under**

**Pontius Pilate,**

**he suffered death and was buried,**

**and rose again on the third day**

**in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand**

**of the Father. He will come again in**

**Glory to judge the living and the dead**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the**

**Son, who with the Father and the Son is**

**adored and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and**

**apostolic Church. I confess one**

**Baptism for the forgiveness of**

**Sins and I look forward to the**

**resurrection of the dead and the**

**life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**



# READINGS FOR TODAY'S MASS

DECEMBER 7, 2025—SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## FIRST READING

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea. On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious.

## SECOND READING

**Romans 15:4-9**

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I say that Christ became a minister of the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, to confirm the promises to the patriarchs, but so that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: *Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name.*

## ALLELUIA

**Luke 3:4, 6**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.  
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.  
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 3:1-12**

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: *A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.* John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAITH FORMATION

*Lucy Ostermann, Director*



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is Monday, December 8th and it is a holy day of obligation. Religious Education classes will be in session. For the evening 7th & 8th grade classes, the students will go to the auditorium by 7pm, attendance will be taken and the students will go as a class to the 7:30pm Mass. Parents are asked to pick up their child in the church (as we do in the auditorium at pick-up) after Mass ends at approximately 8:30pm. Parents are welcome to attend this Mass as well.

### Christmas Carols

For all of the students who signed up (sign-up is now closed) for our Christmas Carols scheduled for Saturday 12/20/2025 at the 5pm Mass, rehearsals are as follows: Mondays -12/8, 12/15 - 5pm-6pm in the Church. Please be on time for drop-off and pick-up.



### Christmas Pajama Mass



Next Sunday 12/14/2025 is Gaudete Sunday and the perfect time for our children to come to the 10:30am Mass dressed in their Christmas Pajamas (children only please). After Mass, the children will be given a cake mix to take home to bake a cake for Jesus's birthday. All students and their families are invited to attend the Gaudete Sunday celebration being held in the cafeteria after Mass.



St. Raymond's Parish offers its deepest gratitude to the

### Oceanside Burger King

for their thoughtful and generous donation of crowns for our First Graders in the St. Raymond's Religious Education Program. Your kindness brought so much joy to our children, who proudly wore their crowns as we celebrated the Feast of Christ the King on Sunday, November 23rd. Their smiles and excitement were a true blessing to our entire parish community. Thank you once again to the

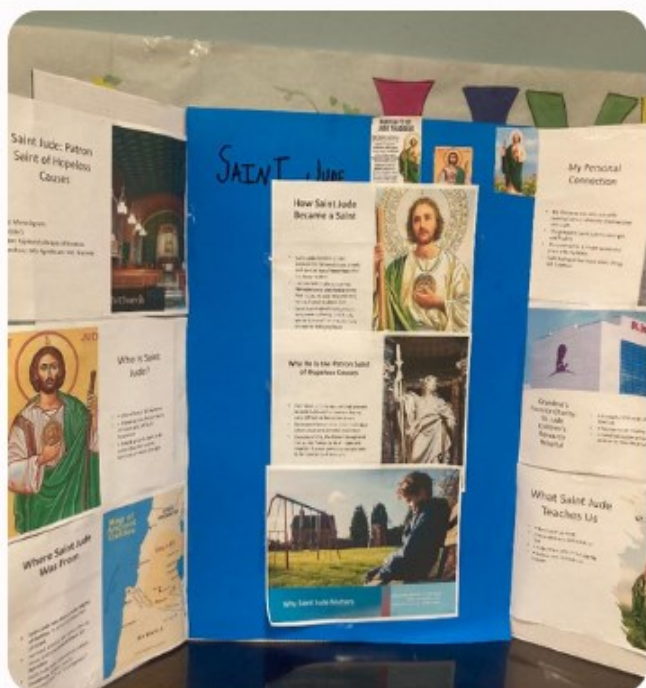
### Oceanside Burger King

for your wonderful generosity and continued support. You helped make this celebration even more special for our children and families.





**Mrs. Monica Kennedy's class shows us what they are thankful for.**



**Joanna Agnello and Laura MacLeish's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class present their Saint reports to classmates and parents**





# 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!



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 Mass)**

Please join with us in prayer, as we unite spiritually with parishes throughout the country, petitioning Our Lady to intervene for us to her Son that we may abandon the evil practice of abortion and all sins against the sanctity of human life.

During this second week of Advent, please pray for women who are unexpectedly pregnant. May they be filled with trust in God's Providence and lovingly welcome the gift of their child.

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

We would like to thank Mrs. Lucy Ostermann, Dir. of Religious Ed., and her staff who organized and encouraged the students to conduct their very own "Baby Bottle" fundraiser for the Life Center of L.I. In such a short time, through the students' generosity, a total of \$800.00 was donated to the Life Center last week. A special thank you to the students. May God abundantly bless you for your faithfulness and caring for the mothers in need and their babies.



# 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!

## *Christmas Masses of Remembrance*

Many people like to request the intention for a Mass on Christmas Day. Since there are a limited number of Masses for Christmas, all requests are not able to be fulfilled. Therefore, there will be a special Novena of Masses for Christmas that will be the Christmas Masses of Remembrance. Those whom you would like will be remembered at all the Masses during the Christmas season.

Special envelopes have been mailed with the regular envelope packet and in the Christmas mailing to all parishioners. They are also available on the front side pews and on the back pews by the doors of the church. Simply fill out the intention you wish to have remembered on the front of the envelope, include your donation and either mail it back, drop it in the Sunday Mass collection or place it in one of the wooden boxes marked "Christmas Masses."

**Please do so by Wednesday, December 24th.**

**Thank you, Father Chuck**





## SECOND 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

On the Second Sunday of Advent (Year A), we are called to prepare, to ready our hearts and lives through repentance, welcome, and hope, so that



we might truly receive the Savior who is coming. The Gospel gives a stark call to conversion and readiness when John the Baptist declares, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" ... prompting us to turn from sin and make straight the paths for the Lord's coming.

For the Second Week of Advent, the Catholic Church honors Mary in three celebrations with each one emphasizing a different dimension of her role in salvation history. Each Marian feast brings a message of tenderness and reassurance: purity (Immaculate Conception), home and nearness (Loreto), and loving protection (Guadalupe). These speak to the heart of Advent, a season that teaches hope in darkness and trust in God's promises.

Monday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Patroness of the United States of America: Holyday Day of Obligation with special Mass readings) in which we honor that Mary was preserved from original sin from the first moment of her conception in her mother, Saint Anne's, womb.

Wednesday is the Optional Memorial of Our Lady of Loreto which recalls Mary's "yes" and the mystery of the Incarnation. Friday is the Feast of Our Lady of



Guadalupe (with special Mass readings) recalling that Mary is mother of the poor, the marginalized, and the entire American continent. This underscores Advent's missionary dimension: Christ comes for all, and Mary leads all people to Him.

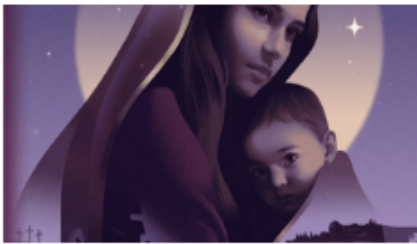
The Church also honors three saints, inviting us to adopt their dispositions: humility before God, readiness of heart, trustful faith, and fidelity to the Gospel as we await the coming of Christ: Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin (Layman; Optional Memorial on Tuesday), Saint Damasus I, (Pope; Optional Memorial on Thursday), and Saint Lucy (Virgin and Martyr; Memorial on Saturday).

The First Readings for this week are mostly from the Book of Isaiah calling Israel to hope in God's saving action, trust in His divine justice and protection, and watchful waiting for the fulfillment of God's promises. Excluding the special readings for the Marian feasts, the daily Gospel readings for the second week of Advent are taken from the Gospel of Matthew. In Matthew 18:12-14 (Tuesday), Jesus tells the Parable of the Lost Sheep, saying that a shepherd leaves the ninety-nine to search for the one lost sheep. The key theme is God's merciful, personal love which illustrates that every single person matters to Him.

On Wednesday, (Matthew 11:28-30), Jesus invites all who are weary and burdened to come to him for rest. Jesus offers rest for our souls, not burden. On Thursday (Matthew 11:11-15), Jesus speaks of the greatness of John the Baptist yet says the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John, as with Jesus, a new stage of salvation begins.

Finally, on Saturday (Matthew 17:9a, 10-13) at the moment after the Transfiguration, when the disciples ask Jesus: "Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?" Jesus explains that Elijah has already come (referring to John the Baptist), but people did not recognize him, and so he suffered. Believers are called to discern God's action among them, even when it does not match expectations.

Looking ahead to the Third Sunday of Advent, the Gospel assures us that the presence of the Messiah is already making a difference in the world: the blind see, the lame walk, the poor hear good news, all signs that the kingdom has begun among us, reminding believers to trust not just in words, but in God's works.



*“He will baptize you with  
the Holy Spirit and fire.”  
Matthew 3:11*



### 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 Conversion & Readiness

*“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”  
(Matthew 3:2)*

The Second Week of Advent asks me to go deeper into conversion of my heart, moving from simply “waking up” spiritually during the First Week to actively allowing God to reshape my attitudes, desires, and priorities.

Saint John the Baptist calls me to honest repentance, reminding me that preparing for Christ means clearing away whatever in my heart does not bear fruit for God: “Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance” (Matthew 3:8).

### The Father Who Seeks Me

*“It is not the will of your  
heavenly Father that one of  
these little ones be lost”  
Matthew 18:14*



Jesus reveals the Father’s relentless love; He searches for the one who has strayed and rejoices when it is found. As I enter this Advent week, I am invited to let God find me in the places where I feel distracted, overextended, or spiritually distant, trusting that His desire is never to lose me but to restore me.

*My Prayer: Father, seek out the places in my family where healing and unity are needed, and bring us back together in Your peace.*

### Rest in Christ

*“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28*

Jesus’ invitation to come to Him with all my burdens speaks directly into the pressures, responsibilities, and emotional strain that family and work life sometimes carry. He offers a gentleness that does not remove responsibility but transforms it, giving strength, calm, and clarity in place of exhaustion.

*My Prayer: Lord Jesus, teach my family to rest in  
You, and help us carry our responsibilities with  
Your gentleness and peace.*

### Listening With an Open Heart

*“Whoever has ears ought to hear” Matthew 11:15*

Jesus praises John the Baptist as the one who prepared His way and reminds me that truly hearing God requires openness, humility, and attentiveness. Advent invites me to quiet the noise of my daily routine so I can listen for the subtle movements of grace and allow God’s voice to shape my decisions at home and at work.



*My Prayer: Holy Spirit, open the ears of my family’s  
hearts, that we may listen to Your guidance and  
follow it with courage.*

### Recognizing Christ’s Presence

*“Elijah has already come... Then the disciples  
understood...” Matthew 17:12-13*

Jesus explains that Elijah has already come in the person of John the Baptist, showing me that God often arrives in forms I do not expect. This encourages me to look for Christ in the ordinary moments of family life—kindness, forgiveness, sacrifice—and to recognize that He is already at work renewing and guiding us.

*My Prayer: Lord, open my family’s eyes to recognize  
You in each other, so that Your presence may shape  
our home with love and mercy.*



# To Honor Our Blessed Mother...



**You are invited to join  
the ladies of  
The Sodality of Our Lady  
for the  
*Living Rosary*  
at St. Raymond's Church  
to celebrate the  
Feast of the Immaculate  
Conception Monday,  
December 8, 2025  
7:00 PM**

**Mass will follow at 7:30  
(All those participating as "beads"  
please arrive by 6:45pm.)**

## *Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass Schedule:*

**Monday December 8, 2025:  
7:15am, 8:45am, 12:15pm & 7:30pm**

*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)

*"Those who are generous to the poor lend to the Lord, and the Lord  
will fully repay them." Proverbs 19:17*



Thanksgiving is a special day of the year because it reminds us to give thanks and to count our blessings. This year, the Parish Social Ministry distributed, turkeys and all the trimmings to prepare a delicious Thanksgiving dinner to 37 households with the help of many generous organizations and people in our community and parish. Thank you to all those who made Thanksgiving so special to our clients.



The Advent season has begun and it reminds us that true giving is purposeful and reflects Christ's love in our world. It is not just about personal reflection but about reaching out in generosity, echoing the selfless love of Christ. Our Giving Tree is a means of reaching out in generosity. The Parish Social Ministry would like to sincerely thank all those who chose a card ornament from the tree and who will purchase and give a gift to someone who they do not know but who they would like to bring a little cheer and happiness into their life at Christmas.



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!*





## St. Lucy

St. Lucy was a 3rd-century Christian martyr and the patron of the blind and those with eye disorders. According to tradition, she endured persecution during the Diocletian persecutions, with her eyes being gouged out before her martyrdom, although some accounts state she removed them herself. Her name, meaning "light," and her feast day of December 13th, the shortest day of the year, make her a symbol of light overcoming darkness.



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*"O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us  
who have recourse to you."*

*Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary (December 8th)*

### **Pastoral Council Members**

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



**This week, find time to  
go to confession. Make  
this Advent season  
holy and prepare  
yourself for the  
coming of our God.**





**Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,  
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the  
Americas. We fly to you today as your  
beloved children. We ask you to  
intercede for us with your Son,  
as you did at the wedding in Cana.**

**Pray for us, loving Mother,  
and gain for our nation and world,  
and for all our families and loved ones,  
the protection of your holy angels,  
that we may be spared the worst of  
this illness.**

**For those already afflicted,  
we ask you to obtain the grace of  
healing and deliverance. Hear the  
cries of those who are vulnerable  
and fearful, wipe away their tears  
and help them to trust.**

**In this time of trial and testing,  
teach all of us in the Church to love  
one another and to be patient  
and kind. Help us to bring the  
peace of Jesus to our land  
and to our hearts.**

**We come to you with confidence,  
knowing that you truly are our  
compassionate mother, health  
of the sick and cause of our joy.**

**Shelter us under the mantle of your  
protection, keep us in the embrace  
of your arms, help us always to know  
the love of your Son, Jesus.**

**Amen.**

## JOIN THE FOLK GROUP!

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We're a welcoming group of people who come together to share music, faith, and friendship. While some of us play instruments or have formal training, it's not required. What connects us is our shared love of music, community, and worship.


Whether you sing, play, or just want to be part of a faith-filled musical group,

### YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN!

Open to anyone from 7th grade and up—no upper age limit!

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 Or email: [straymondsfolkgroup@gmail.com](mailto:straymondsfolkgroup@gmail.com)

Come make a joyful noise with us!



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## 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](http://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!*

# 2025

*Catholic Ministries Appeal*  
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*Renewed by the Eucharist  
Sent on Mission*



The Eucharistic Revival has enkindled a missionary fire in the hearts of the American faithful. Going out on Mission - for the life of the World is the most important phase, where we go out and share the love of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist to transform the world. Faith is alive in our parishes and schools, soup kitchens and housing programs, on street corners and in churches. It is lived through people of all backgrounds, from every neighborhood. People everywhere come together to support one another. It is in this spirit that the Catholic Ministries Appeal exists: to bring support and build strong communities through faith and your generosity. Every year, the annual Catholic Appeal provides us an opportunity to realize the difference we can make when we act together in God's love. Please consider joining us again this year by making a gift to the 2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal.



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

Please make check payable to the Catholic Ministries Appeal

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Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

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City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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Home \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**To make a donation, you can also visit <https://www.drvc.org/CMA/or>  
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**Thank You!**



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WEBSITE FOLLOW THE**

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

## MASSSES FOR THIS WEEK

### Monday, December 8th

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:15am Dec. Members Cassese Family

8:45am Carmela & Frank Sciallo

12:15pm Pat Imbriale

7:00pm Rosary

7:30pm Jennifer Lynn Villacci

### Tuesday, December 9th

7:15am Rita Dombrowski

8:45am Cathy Murphy

### Wednesday, December 10th

7:15am Patricia Kronquist

8:45am Patrick Ardezzone

### Thursday, December 11th

7:15am Ann Gallagher

8:45am Dominic Lazar

### Friday, December 12th

#### Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:15am Dec.Mem. Human Life Committee

8:45am Anna L. Campbell

### Saturday, December 13th St. Lucy

8:45am Lucia Marrone, Keith Howard

Angela M. Cavalli

5:00pm Arleen J. Puglissi

### Sunday, December 14th

#### Third Sunday of Advent

7:30am Hannah M. Sullivan

9:00am Elizabeth McCarthy

10:30am Robert Murphy

12:00pm Vincent Alvarez, Barbara Pepe,

Dec. Members of the Tauckus /

Mahoney Families, John

Harrington, Salvatore Restivo,

Angelo Maria & Sal Mannino.

Tommy Hynes, Diane Berman,

Concetta Boccia Maffettone

4:30pm St. Raymond Parish



## REST IN PEACE

Patrick Michael McManus

Rafael Sondon

Pedro Morales-Martinez

Paul Byrnes

Salvatore Iannone

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



### Scripture Readings for the Week Monday

Genesis 3:9-15, 20/Luke 1:26-38

#### Tuesday

Isaiah 40:1-11/Matthew 18:12-14

#### Wednesday

Isaiah 40:25-31/Matthew 11:28-30

#### Thursday

Isaiah 41:13-20/Matthew 11:11-15

#### Friday

Zechariah 2:14-17/Luke 1:26-38

#### Saturday

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11/Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

#### Sunday

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10/James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11



## 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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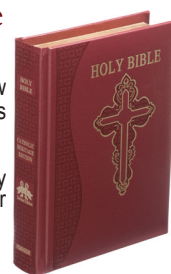
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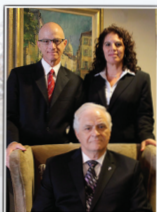
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