

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 21, 2025

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000



December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 25, 2025

Merry Christmas!

Welcome To Our Parish Family!

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

Rectory

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

Web Site: www.SaintRaymonds.org

Facebook: St. Raymond Parish, East Rockaway

E-Mail: StRayRcc@optonline.net

Rectory.....593-5000

Rectory Fax.....887-0554

Parish Social Ministry.....887-9197

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

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

Religious Education Office.....593-9075

Religious Education Office Fax593-1156

E-Mail: strayfaithformation@aol.com

Pastoral Care Of The Sick

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

Devotions

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Nocturnal Adoration

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

Miraculous Medal Novena

Saturdays following 8:45am Mass.

Confessions

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

Baptisms

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

Bereavement Support Group

Call the rectory office for meeting times.

Marriages

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

Prayer Groups

Men's Prayer Group: Every Monday at 10:00am in the Rectory Basement.

Music Ministries

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

Folk Group: Sings at 12 Noon Mass on Sundays from September—June; practice on Sunday at 11:00 in the Rectory Basement

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

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



4th Sunday of Advent The Candle of Love

Come, Lord Jesus, come soon.
In this time of your coming,
support and console us who
trust in your love. Who live
and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.



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)

Merry Christmas and God's continued Advent blessings be yours! We move from the Fourth Sunday of Advent quickly to Christmas Eve on Wednesday and then to Christmas Day on Thursday, December 25th. What a joy it is to gather with everyone and celebrate such an incredible mystery. And Christmas truly is a mystery. I wonder sometimes if much of what we believe in faith loses a certain specialness with each passing year. Things that amazed us when we were younger start feeling common, ordinary and routine. Does Christmas still astonish you, or has it too become a little too familiar, a little too common? Since it has been part of our lives for so long, it simply makes perfect sense or on the other hand, does it still have the power to make us realize just how amazing our God is? Is it something that rocks us to the core, believing that God loves us so much, so that healing our broken world is still his ultimate concern? That he refuses to remain at a distance, wanting instead to be in an intimate relationship with all creation? Can you really believe that God chose not to simply appear to us, but actually became one of us, assuming our human nature and immersing himself fully into our journey? That he refused to force himself into the world but rather chose to ask for the cooperation of a humble woman from an ordinary town in a nowhere place to say: "yes?" Do you believe that he is able to show us not simply who he is but who we are called to be? To believe that he came to us meekly, quietly, unassumingly, in a vulnerable way, showing us that true power is not what we think? And that he helped us to realize that God doesn't act despite the world, despite his creation, but rather through it, giving all of us a chance to cooperate with his plan and help transform the world into the beautiful, loving, peaceful place he created it to be? That may be a of faith questions to ponder at Christmas, but don't back off.

The mystery of Christmas teaches us so much, revealing to us a God unlike any god thought of or imagined. It reveals to us a God who human beings never believed could be possible. Our God is the opposite of ordinary, the opposite of predictable. He is the opposite of vengeful or distant. Rather, he is a God who wants to be near us, within us, within every human heart open to his grace, open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. **What a God we have!**

So, as you gather with your family and friends and do all the usual things you do on Christmas, all your traditions, the usual foods, exchanging presents; don't just lump the miracle and mystery of Christmas in with the usual things you do each year. Rather, truly think about the meaning of Christmas Day, not just the first one long ago, but the meaning it has for your life in this time and place. Unpack, unwrap the mystery and you will find there is more and more mystery to be in awe of and grateful for. Don't try to explain it. Just enjoy, embrace and live it!

I want to thank all those who continue to be generous to St. Raymond Parish, even when times are tough. We always need the financial boost that comes from many parishioners at Christmas. Thank you for once again including St. Raymond's in your giving this year. Thanks to all who helped make the "**Giving Tree**" such a success again for Parish Social Ministry. You truly helped make many people in our community have a blessed Christmas. I also want to thank all those who continue to make our various ministries thrive for all our people: **Parish Social Ministry**, the **St. Vincent de Paul Society**, our **Religious Education** (Faith Formation) program, the **Human Life Committee**, **Light of the World**, **Nocturnal Adoration**, the ministries of **Bereavement and Consolation**, **Pre Cana**, the **Sodality of Our Lady**, **CYO**, **Scouting**, the **Knights of Columbus**, our liturgical ministries: the **Altar Servers**, **Lectors**, **EM's**, the **Adult Choir**, **Folk Group**, **Cantors** and the **Altar Society**, the **Pastoral Council**, **Finance Council** and my fellow **Deacons and Priests**, plus the **entire St. Raymond Parish Staff**. (**Office, Household and Maintenance**). Through all your efforts, St. Raymond Parish continues to live its mission of Faith, Love and Friendship. Thanks to all of you from the bottom of my heart.

Have a great Christmas with your family and friends. Welcome also to all visitors who are celebrating with us this year. We are blessed by your presence with us at Mass. May Christmas this year be a reminder to all of you of just how much God loves you. May the birthday of Jesus be a beautiful day of grace for you and your family and friends. **God's Christmas blessings be with all of you.**
-Father Chuck



ST. RAYMOND PARISH FINANCIAL STATEMENT ***(Fiscal Year September 2024-August 2025)***

The following statement is a condensed version of our yearly financial report which is submitted to the diocese. I make this report available so that everyone can see how we are doing on a yearly basis and what fiscal challenges our parish faces in the immediate future. This past year has definitely been a difficult one. The stability of our day-to-day operations will only hold if we are able to increase revenue and build a savings base for the future. Thank you for your faithful stewardship to our parish and God bless always.
Father Chuck

Income (Ordinary)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Regular Collections: \$893,215 | (Includes Sundays and Holy Days, Easter, Christmas) |
| 2. Fund Raising: \$143,590 | (Backwards Money Drawing, Memorial Bricks Pot of Gold, Memorial Candles, Christmas & Easter Flowers, Camps R Us, plus smaller fund raisers) |
| 3. Parish Programs: \$347,525 | (Religious Education, Parish Social Ministry, CYO, Sodality of Our Lady, Human Life Committee, Pre Cana) |
| 4. Auxiliary Income: \$86,308 | (Church Fees, Candles, Interest, Donations, Bequests Bulletin Commission, Miscellaneous) |

Total Income: \$1,470,638

Expenses (Ordinary)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Salary/Benefits: \$727,210 | (Priests and Lay Personnel) |
| 2. Parish Programs: \$175,681 | (Religious Education, Parish Social Ministry, CYO, Pre Cana, Human Life Committee, Sodality of Our Lady) |
| 3. Office Expenses: \$100,992 | (Printing, Postage, Computers, Telephone, Professional Fees) Furniture, Cable, Copiers, Stationary, Paper) |
| 4. Rectory Household: \$42,100 | (Food, Laundry and Household Expenses) |
| 5. Maintenance/Utilities \$281,410 | (Utilities, Ordinary Repairs, Equipment, Contracted Services, Supplies, PSIP-Insurance, Furniture) |
| 6. Diocesan Assessments: \$84,044 | (Annual Tax to Diocese) |
| 7. Auxiliary Expenses: \$35,422 | (Liturgical Expenses, Hospitality, Charity) |

Expense Total \$1,446,859

Extraordinary Expenses:

Diocesan Bankruptcy Settlement: \$165,775
Emergency Plant Repairs: \$144,163

Year End Totals

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Income | \$1,470,638 |
| Expenses | <u>\$1,446,859</u> |
| Ordinary Income/Loss | \$23,779 |

Disposable Parish Assets as of August 31, 2025

\$119,283 -

Special One year Memorial Candle

It's not too late!

Bring in the attached form to the rectory



Once again we will be having special one year devotional candles at the St. Joseph Statue in the front. These candles surround the base of the statue. There are a few candles available at the St. Joseph 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 for the entire Church Liturgical Year. If you are interested in one of these candles, 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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Name for the candle name plate (please print) _____

READINGS FOR TODAY'S MASS

DECEMBER 21, 2025—FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-14

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying: Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!" Then Isaiah said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6.

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD? or who may stand in his holy place? One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain.

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD, a reward from God his savior. Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Alleluia

ALLELUIA

Matthew 1:23

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel*, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

READINGS FOR TODAY'S MASS

DECEMBER 25, 2025—CHRISTMAS DAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, "Your God is King!" Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout for joy, for they see directly, before their eyes, the LORD restoring Zion. Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For the LORD comforts his people, he redeems Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.



SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1-6

Brothers and sisters: In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say: *You are my son; this day I have begotten you?* Or again: *I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me?* And again, when he leads the firstborn into the world, he says: *Let all the angels of God worship him.*

ALLELUIA

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that a might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| M/M J. Ackerina Ackerina & Facella Families | M/M Brian Irwin Michael Nigro Eleanora Nigro MaryAnn Irwin Jack Irwin | Mrs. Robert Murray Murray-Brett Families Mulroy Family Heslin Family Cussen Family | M/M Robert Powers Powers & Moran Families |
| M/M B. Benedict Helen Entler William Entler | Ms. Jeanne LaSala Frances & Charles Hess Mary & Anton Kustrin Josef Turski | M/M Alvin Nesbot L. Torres-Rodriguez Jesus Maria Torres Rafael Torres | Mrs. Herb Pritchard Herb Pritchard Alice McKinney Cornelius McKinney |
| M/M Michael Carney Hannah Sullivan Maryellen Sullivan Chiarelle | Mrs. F. LaSelva Tony LaSelva Giovana & Carlo LaSelva | M/M Julio Novello Angelo Mannino Sal Mannino Maria Mannino Giulio Novello | M/M J. Profitlich Colleen Blanchard Maureen Taylor Florence Sullivan James Taylor |
| Mr. Carre The Carre, Aquilone & Amoruso Families | Mary & Donato Pignataro Angie & William Laidlaw | M/M A. Nozzolillo Antonio & Anna Nozzolillo | M/M M. Racanelli Mary Racanelli Pietro Racanelli Fanni Lamontanaro Thomas Lamontanaro |
| Mrs. Jennifer Cruz Juan Cruz Edward Abrew Tavito Cruz Roberto Fernandez | Mrs. B. Lindgren Robert Lindgren Irene & Walter Plen Ruth & Stanley Lindgren | Mrs. O'Brien Kristina M. Dillard Marija & Boris Markoc | Rehm-Shapiro Family Dec. Members of Rehm-Shapiro Family |
| Mrs. B. DeFendis Dominic DeFendis | Agnes Kowalski Elizabeth Sheehan Bourke | O'Hanlon Family John F. O'Hanlon Stephen Carrell Salvatore Grand George Grand | M/M S. Rochford John & Ann Connolly Patricia Rochford Colleen McNamara |
| Mr. John Dempsey Marie C. Dempsey | M/M John Lynch Catherine & John Thornton Mary J. & David Lynch | M/M D. Ostermann John & Jennie Gaeta Frank & Veronica Ostermann Christopher Stewart | Ms. Helen Rosalie Frank Rosalie, Sr. Frank Fazekas Margaret & Daniel Maximchuk Elvira & Barney Rosalie |
| M/M R. Dombrowski Louise Sena Rita Dombrowski | Ms. MaryAnn Lynch Bernard & Nora Lynch | M/M L. Papini John Walz Seven Papini Dolores Ryan John Ryan | Ms. Nilsa Santiago Candida Santiago Federico Santiago Anthony Benfante Honor of: Rebecca Marciano |
| M/M G. Donnelly Peter & Helene Mimnaugh | M/M V. Madonna Vincent Madonna | M/M A. Parrinello Chris Parrinello Terry & Joe Bracken Paul Parrinello | M/M John Schmidt Henry & Frances Schmidt |
| M/M J. Donnelly M/M K. Donnelly Ken Donnelly Silvestre Torres Jaime & Albert Torres | Ms. Mastroianni Rudolph Mastroianni Giovanni & Rosina Calzia | Mrs. D. Pignataro Frank & Daniel Pignataro Gertrude Charles John Kleinklaus Mary & Donato Pignataro All Deceased Family | M/M Ralph Sellitti Mary P. Sellitti Raphael Sellitti Grace Ligarzewski Stanley Ligarzewski |
| M/M R. Ferraro Gilda & Salvatore Raia | M/M James Mulroy Jim & MaryAnn Mulroy Jeanne Marie Mulroy | | |
| Mr. R. Flaherty Regina A. Flaherty | M/M G. Murphy Nicholas Murphy | | |
| M/M John Gallo Stella Mentel Helen Gallo | | | |
| M/M Gerard Gonyon Dec. Members of the Henry & Gonyon Families Cathy Turner Crystal Delricchio | | | |

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAITH FORMATION

Lucy Ostermann, Director



THERE ARE NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES AND THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THE WEEKS OF 12/22/25 & 12/29/25. CLASSES WILL RESUME AND THE OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN ON MONDAY 1/5/2026.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Christmas Carols will be sung by some of our Religious Education students on Saturday 12/20/2025 at the 5pm Mass. What is better than hearing the voices of our children sing joyful hymns to help get us ready for the true meaning of the Christmas season.

ATTENTION FIRST GRADE PARENTS

Sunday 12/21/2025 is the third First Grade Parent/Student meeting scheduled for 10:30am in the St. Raymond School auditorium. Please remember to bring your child's workbook, pencil and a folder. After the session, all parents and their 1st grader will go to the 12Noon Mass where Fr. Chuck continues the lesson.

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Please mark your calendars and join us at the 12Noon Mass on Epiphany Sunday 1/4/2026. Some of our students will participate in a procession of the Three Kings as they visit Jesus in his manger with their gifts of homage. Children in the congregation will be given a 'star' to help guide the Magi as they make their way to the newborn King!

All are welcome to attend.



May the joy and peace of Christ fill your heart and home this Christmas, and may His love guide you today and throughout the year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Lucy, Nancy, Colleen and Mary Ann







PAJAMA MASS 2025



FOURTH 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

For the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the first reading announces God's decisive sign of hope to a fearful people. In the second reading, Saint Paul affirms that Jesus Christ fulfills God's ancient promises and calls all people to the obedience of faith, reminding us that salvation is God's gracious initiative. The Gospel presents Joseph's quiet righteousness and trusting obedience, as he accepts God's plan. God comes to dwell with us through humble faith and courageous trust.

During this week, Tuesday is the Optional Memorial Saint John of Kanty, a humble university professor and priest known for his charity to the poor, simplicity of life, and fidelity to prayer. Friday is the Feast of Saint Stephen, the First Martyr and one of the first deacons of the Church. Saturday is the Feast of Saint John, the Apostle and Evangelist. Honoring these saints the Church teaches that welcoming the newborn Christ means living the Gospel with sincerity, courage, and self-giving love.

The First Readings for Monday through Wednesday this week come from 1-2 Samuel and Malachi, and are centered on waiting, promise, and God's faithful fulfillment. The First Readings for Thursday through Saturday shift from the Advent anticipation to witness and proclamation amid the Christmas season's immediate celebration.

Although Christmas Day belongs to its own solemn readings, the Friday celebration of Saint Stephen (Acts) recalls the cost of discipleship. On Saturday, the Feast of Saint John the Apostle from (1 John) draws our attention to the incarnate Word emphasizing the tangible reality of Christ made flesh and the joy that flows from that revelation. These readings call us not only to remember the joyful birth we have just celebrated, but also to live the implications of that birth, faithful witness, community in Christ, and joy rooted in the reality of the Word among us.

At the start of the week, the Gospel readings lead us deeper into the unfolding mystery of salvation and the joyful anticipation of Christ. On Monday Mary's Magnificat celebrates God's mercy and reversal of worldly values. Tuesday's reading continues the Luke infancy narrative as Elizabeth gives birth to John the Baptist, and the wonder of God's providence begins to be revealed that even in surprising circumstances God's plan is at work. By Wednesday, Zechariah's Benedictus bursts forth, proclaiming that God has visited His people and raised up a horn of salvation.

In the readings for Christmas Day, the Church proclaims the mystery of the Incarnation with joy and awe as God's saving Word enters human history. The First Reading from Isaiah 52:7-10 announces the good news of salvation and peace, declaring, "All the ends of the earth see the saving power of God," as the Lord reveals His victory to the nations. The Second Reading from Hebrews 1:1-6 affirms that in these last days God has spoken definitively through His Son, "the refulgence of his glory," who is exalted above all creation. The Gospel from John 1:1-18 reaches the heart of Christmas by proclaiming that the eternal Word who was with God and was God "became flesh and made his dwelling among us," revealing divine light, grace, and truth to a world longing for redemption.

After Christmas Day itself, the Gospel focus shifts to the lifelong witness to Christ and the reality of the Incarnation lived among us. In the Gospel on Friday, the young Jesus amazes the teachers in the temple with His wisdom and understanding. On Saturday, the Gospel silently circles back to the empty tomb and the risen Christ pointing to the ultimate fruit of Christ's coming: resurrection life. Together, these passages invite us to live the implications of Christmas beyond December 25: to understand Christ as Emmanuel who teaches, saves, and invites us into the joy of believing and witnessing His presence in every moment of life.

Sunday, December 28th is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The Gospel recounts the Holy Family's flight into Egypt and return to Nazareth, showing how God's saving plan unfolds through obedience and protection amid hardship, fulfilling the words, "Out of Egypt I called my son."



“The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.” -John 1:9



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 sacred week invites families to slow down and recognize that God enters ordinary life through trust, praise, patience, and love. As Advent gives way to Christmas, take time each day, perhaps at dinner or before bed, to recall where God was present in small moments, struggles, or joys.

Encourage one another to speak words of gratitude, forgiveness, and hope, remembering that Christ does not ask for perfection but for open hearts. Let the birth of Jesus renew your family's commitment to prayer, generosity, and attentive love, trusting that Emmanuel truly dwells among you.

Trusting Obedience

The Fourth Sunday of Advent invites me to imitate Saint Joseph, who listens to God in silence and acts with courage when he hears, “Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.” I am called to trust that God is present in unexpected circumstances and to respond with faithful obedience rather than fear or control.

My Prayer: Lord God, as Saint Joseph trusted your word without fully understanding your plan, help our family trust you in moments of uncertainty and decision. Give us the grace to act with quiet faith and loving obedience each day.

Humble Praise

As the week unfolds with Mary's song of praise, I am reminded that gratitude grounds the soul even when life feels overwhelming, for “the Almighty has done great things for me.” In prayer and daily routines, I am invited to cultivate humility and joy, teaching my family that recognizing God's blessings transforms ordinary days into moments of grace.

My Prayer: Almighty God, like Mary, we praise you for the wonderful things you have done in our lives, even those we do not yet fully see. Teach our family to recognize your blessings and to respond with grateful hearts.

Faithful Waiting

The Gospel accounts surrounding the birth of John the Baptist show that God works quietly and patiently through time, fulfilling promises beyond human calculation. I learn to trust that God is at work even when answers are delayed, shaping my heart for deeper faith.

My Prayer: Faithful God, you keep your promises in your time and in your way. Strengthen us when waiting feels difficult, and help our family remain patient, hopeful, and attentive to your work in our lives.

Living Emmanuel

As Christmas arrives, the Gospel proclaims that the Word “became flesh and made his dwelling among us,” revealing that God enters the very fabric of daily life. This week challenges me to live with reverence and attentiveness, allowing Emmanuel—God with us—to shape how I love my family, approach my work, and remain rooted in hope amid life's demands.

Christmas Day Prayer: Emmanuel, God-with-us, we thank you for entering our world in humility and love. May your presence transform our family relationships and renew our commitment to live as children of the light.

Witnessing Light

With the feasts of Saint Stephen and Saint John, the Church reminds me that welcoming Christ leads naturally to witness, sacrifice, and love. Whether through forgiveness at home, integrity at work, or kindness in conflict, I am called to reflect the light of Christ who has come into the world.

My Prayer: Lord Jesus, teach us to forgive and love even when it is difficult. Give our family courage to live the Gospel with compassion

JOIN THE FOLK GROUP!

A MINISTRY OF MUSIC, FAITH & COMMUNITY

Do you love music and want to be part of something joyful and meaningful?
The Folk Group offers a fun, modern take on traditional church music,

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU WITH US!


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!

 Rehearsals: Sundays at 11:00 AM

 Location: Rectory Lower Level

 We sing at the 12 Noon Sunday Mass

Interested? We'd love to hear from you!

 Call Nadine Robinson at 516-784-6775

 Or email: straymondsfolkgroup@gmail.com

Come make a joyful noise with us!



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





CHRISTMAS 2025

(Note additional Masses and time changes)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

(Confessions)

Saturdays,

December 6th, 13th, 20th

3:30 till 4:30 in the Church

Monday & Tuesday

December 22nd & 23rd

Confessions in the Church

5pm-6pm & 7pm-8pm

(other times by request at the rectory)

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th

5:00 pm

8:00 pm (Folk Group)

10:30 pm (Christmas Carols)

11:00 pm (Mass ending at Midnight)

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th

Church at 9:00am, 10:30am & 12 noon

(No Evening Mass on Christmas Day)

Solemnity of Mary

New Year's Eve

Wednesday, December 31st

5:00pm

New Year's Day

Thursday, January 1, 2026

9 am, 10:30am, 12 noon & 1:30pm



St. John

Saint John, known as the Apostle and Evangelist, was one of the twelve original apostles of Jesus and is traditionally identified as the "Beloved Disciple". He is a central figure in Christianity, celebrated for his intimate relationship with Jesus and his significant contributions to the New Testament.

He is the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors, as well as writers, printers, editors, and scholars



St. Stephen

Saint Stephen, the first Christian martyr, is the patron saint of deacons, bricklayers, stonemasons, altar servers, and casket makers, as well as being invoked for headaches and patronage of horses and Hungary (referring to St. Stephen of Hungary). He is often depicted with stones, symbolizing his martyrdom by stoning, and a Gospel book or church

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)

*"Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct
their affairs with justice." Psalm 112:5*



The Parish Social Ministry would like to sincerely thank all those who chose a card ornament from the Giving Tree. All the wish ornaments have been taken and the presents have been returned to the tree. Next, the gifts will be sorted, packed and the families will be notified to come pick up their gifts in time for Christmas morning. Thank you all for your generosity in helping make Christmas a special and memorable time for so many others.

During the month of November, the Parish Social Ministry assisted 93 households with food, personal and household items and advised them regarding other services offered through the Department of Social Services, Catholic Charities and St. Vincent DePaul.

We also welcomed one new client and provided the client with food and advised them of other services available to them.

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 the Parish Social Ministry serve the people in need in our community. May the light of God's love shine upon you this Christmas and guide you and your loved ones to a new year filled with peace, love and prosperity.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



ST. RAYMOND'S HUMAN LIFE COMMITTEE

**Spiritual Adoption Program
MONTH 6 – Developing Baby**

"I'm sitting up straight now!"

Your spiritually adopted baby is developing quite beautifully now. Her weight is approaching 2 pounds. She sits up straight now to accommodate her internal organs which have moved into their final place in her little body. Babies born prematurely at this time have a very good chance of surviving. The medical advances in caring for extremely small newborn infants are extraordinary indeed.

Don't forget to pray for your baby.

Abortion is legal through all nine months and her mom might still feel pressure to abort.

**If you are pregnant and worried that this pregnancy is more than you can handle right now, please call the following number for free, caring, confidential assistance. You are not alone! We will walk with you and help:
Women First (aka, The Life Center)
#516-798-9100**

**Prayer for the Fourth Week of Advent:
Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion. Help expectant parents to welcome, from God, the priceless gift of their child's life. We ask this in the Name of your Son, Jesus Christ, Who is Love and Mercy Itself.
Amen.**

*We wish all a very Blessed and
Merry Christmas!*



*Remember to keep Christ in
Christmas. Be sure to go to Mass
and take your family with you.
May God bless you and yours
this Christmas season!*



The Sodality of Our Lady

**The Sodality of Our Lady will gather
for Corporate Communion on
Sunday, December 21st at the 10:30
am Mass. All are welcome to join us
in the marked pews. Reminder that
there is no meeting on Monday,
December 22nd.**

*We wish all of you a
Blessed Merry Christmas.
and a Happy New year!*

**The parish will hold a Holy Hour on Tuesday,
January 6, in honor of St. Raymond, whose
feast is celebrated on January 7. We will gather
before the Blessed Sacrament to ask for his
intercession and protection for our parish.
All are warmly invited to attend.**



HOLY HOUR

**Tuesday,
January 6, 2026
7:00pm - 8:00pm
ST. RAYMOND
CHURCH**

**Exposition-Reflection
Music-Benediction**



THE ROSE FOR LIFE

In Loving Memory of
All Deceased Members of the

**Pampino, Hallock, Metzger
& Woods Families**

Always in Our Hearts

Donated by the Children,
Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren

For Dedications call
Mary Caffrey 516-887-2458



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

FOUNDED IN 1833, THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL IS A
WORLDWIDE ORGANIZATION OF LAY CATHOLICS, FOLLOWING CHRIST'S
CALL TO SERVE THE POOR, THE SUFFERING, AND THE DEPRIVED.
OUR FOUNDING ACTIVITY, STILL PRACTICED TODAY, IS THE HOME VISIT.
THROUGH THESE VISITS, VINCENTIAN MEMBERS ESTABLISH PERSONAL
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED. WHERE RESOURCES
ALLOW WE CAN PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED AND
OR LEAD THEM TO OTHER RESOURCES WHERE THEY MAY BE
ABLE TO OBTAIN THE HELP THEY REQUIRE.

ST. RAYMOND PARISH

HAS HAD AN ACTIVE CHAPTER (KNOWN AS A "CONFERENCE") OF
THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOR DECADES AND INVITES ALL
WHO WISH TO HELP NEIGHBORS IN NEED.

PLEASE CALL ED AT 887-9325

St. Joseph, Defender of Life Prayer

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

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

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

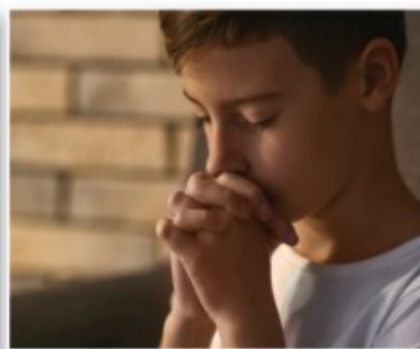
2025

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

Name: _____

Parish: _____

Address: _____

City, State _____

Zip Code: _____

Telephone number: _____

Home _____

Cell: _____

Signature: _____

**To make a donation, you can also visit <https://www.drvc.org/CMA/or>
call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296.**

Thank You!

FORMED

This week on **FORMED...**



Explore the seasons of Advent and Christmas with other great videos, audiobooks, and talks by visiting our Advent & Christmas collection: <https://app.formed.org/app/collections/793959-and-christmas>



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

FORMED

LINK TO REGISTER... IT'S FREE!

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

Monday, December 22nd

7:15am David & Maureen Ohlsen
Seamus & Kathleen Ryder

8:45am Jimmy Henshaw (5yrs)

Tuesday, December 23rd

7:15am Frances Hess

8:45am All Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, December 24th

7:15am William O'Sullivan

8:45am Domenico & Giuseppa Iannitelli

5:00pm Anne Sheehy

8:00pm Alice & Herb Mogensen

11:00pm John Vesey

Thursday, December 25th Christmas

9:00am Gallagher, Henshaw & O'Brien
Family

10:30am Jennifer Villacci

12:00pm Mark Charles, Pat Imbriale,
Michael Sean Sloan, Patrick Michael
McManus, Edward DelGiorno

Friday, December 26th St. Stephen

7:15am Pamela Frisch, Frank Cannino,
Vincent Cannino

8:45am Vincent & Geraldine Malone

Saturday, December 27th St. John

8:45am Jim Mulroy

5:00pm Rita Rowland

Sunday, December 28th The Holy Family

7:30am Thomas Curran

9:00am Elizabeth McCarthy

10:30am Cheryl Drugan

12:00pm Gilbert Helmstadt, Michael Sloan,
Maria DePalma, Grace Demarris,
Virginia M. Incorvaia, Richard
LeGrady, Maureen Ohlsen, Anna
Boyle, Richard Scrima, Anthony
Santino

4:30pm St. Raymond Parish



REST IN PEACE

John L. Thompson
Patricia A. Schwagen

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



Altar Bread & Wine

In Loving Memory of
Josephine, William & Thomas Huhn
With Love & Prayers
Dorothy & Michael Bock & Family

SANCTUARY LIGHT

In Memory of
The Raia Family
Love & Prayers
Dianne Minucci



Parish Bulletin Board



Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday

1 Samuel 1:24-28/Luke 1:46-56

Tuesday

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24/Luke 1:57-66

Wednesday

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12/Luke 1:67-79

Thursday

Isaiah 52:7-10/John 1:1-18

Friday

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59

Matthew 10:17-22

Saturday

1 John 1:1-4/John 20:1a and 2-8

Sunday

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Colossians 3:12-21 /Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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.

IF YOU LIVE ALONE YOU NEED A MEDICAL ALERT At HOME or AWAY

• GPS • Fall Alert • 24/7 • 365 Monitoring
Ambulance • Police • Fire • Family/Friends

MDMedAlert™

As Low As **\$19⁹⁵**
/month*



No Contract • No Fees • E-Z Setup • md-medalert.com **CALL 800 867-7250**

Tax Savings That Will Shock You!



MAIDENBAUM

THE LEADER IN PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION

Apply online at mptgr.com/bulletins
or call 516.715.1223
Hablamos Español

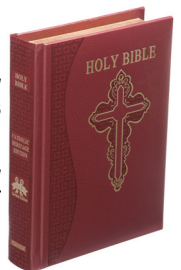
Maidenbaum Property Tax Reduction Group, LLC - 481 Chestnut Street, Cedarhurst, NY 11538

Fireside Catholic Heritage Edition Bible

The Catholic Heritage Edition in the New American Bible Revised Edition translation is the ideal Catholic Family Bible.

Features: Our Catholic Family, Family Record section and Burgundy padded cover with gold-gilded page edges.

Only \$79.99 post paid



C/O The Church Bulletin, Inc.

200 Dale Street • W. Babylon, NY 11704

Enclosed please find check/money order for \$ _____ to cover the cost of _____ (quantity) copies of the Fireside Family Bible, to be shipped post paid to:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Advanced health care, personalized for all

To schedule an appointment,
call **(866) MY-LI-DOC**



catholichealthli.org

At Ocean Financial, our members' financial well-being is at the heart of everything we do!



Speak with a Member Contact Representative today to learn more about how we can help you. **516.620.8100 • OceanFinancial.org**
Oceanside Branch 45 Atlantic Avenue Oceanside, NY 11572
Seaford Branch 4050 Merrick Road Seaford, NY 11783

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| |  <p><i>Perry Funeral Home, Inc.</i></p> | <p>BIRTHRIGHT OF NASSAU/SUFFOLK</p> |
| | <p>Kenneth Lysak Jr., Philip M. Taglia</p> | <p>(516) 785-4070 Confidential Assistance</p> |
| <p>Edwin C. Gerrity Agency All your Insurance needs 25D Main St., East Rockaway, NY 11518 Serving the Community over 50 years (516) 593-4242</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Owned & Operated • Newly Renovated • Area's Largest Chapel • Preplanning • Prepayment <p><i>Since 1825</i></p> <p>118 Union Avenue, Lynbrook 516.593.1111 www.perryfh.com</p> <p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handicap Accessible • Monuments & Inscriptions • Children's Playroom • Competitive Pricing • Ample Parking </p> | |
| | <p>Celebrity Chase Collision 191 Earle Ave., Lynbrook, NY 11563 516 593-0920 Ask about your parish discount</p> | |
|  | <p>BIANCA CAMARDA, DDS PEDIATRIC DENTIST</p> <p>133 BROADWAY, LYNBROOK 516-561-3333</p> <p>ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS</p> <p><i>little smiles on broadway</i> <i>pediatric dentistry and orthodontics</i></p> | |
| <p>CAREFREE AIR CONDITIONING GAS HEATING AIR FILTRATION WATER FILTRATION 516-599-2848</p> |  <p>Donza FUNERAL HOME, INC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solely Owned & Operated by The Donza Family • Newly Expanded and Decorated Chapels • Ample Parking <p>333 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, N.Y. 11518 Tel: (516) 593-2521 / Fax: (516) 825-6380 email: donzafuneralhome@aol.com</p> | |
| <p>Assisi Veterinary Hospital Internal Medicine, Surgery & Emergency Medicine Pet Grooming and Boarding Available 250 Hempstead Ave., Malverne 516-256-0022 www.assisivh.com</p> | <p><i>Guy Donza, Thomas Donza & Christine Donza Funeral Directors & Pre-Arrangement Counselors</i></p> <p>1926-2016 Warm and Personal Service - A Family Tradition Since 1926</p> |  <p>BECKER REALTY SERVICES, INC.</p> |
| <p>Final Touch <i>Auto Collision</i> All Insurance Accepted Collision Specialist 24 Hour Towing 3586 Merrick Rd., Seaford • 516.221.7611 169 Herricks Rd., Garden City Park • 516.741.7950 info@finaltouchli.com • www.finaltouchli.com</p> |  <p>Da Nicola Restaurant • Bar • Catering Private Party Room Available • APPETIZERS • SOUPS & SALADS • PASTAS • ENTREES • CLASSIC ITALIAN DISHES • STEAKS • CHOPS • SEAFOOD & MORE</p> <p>LET US CATER AN EVENT!</p> <p>1203 Broadway, Hewlett, NY • 516.812.5155 www.DaNicolaHewlett.com</p> | <p>"Long Island's Most Trusted Name in Real Estate" HILARY H. BECKER, C.P.M. (516) 887-0677</p> <p>Hewlett Point Yacht Club, Inc. "The most desirable place to dock your boat in East Rockaway"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boating and non boating Memberships • Air Conditioned Party Room for rent • Social Events throughout the year • Activities and events for children • Free Wi-Fi • Beautiful views of Hewlett Bay • Private Beach • Skeet Shooting • Deep water access • Slips with updated water and electric <p>Call Ed for Details 516-359-2676</p> |
| <p><i>James</i> Tech Electric Your East Rockaway Licensed & Insured Electrical Contractor Jamestechelectric.com 536-6900 647-0960</p> |  <p>Flinch & Bruns Funeral Home Inc. CREMATION SERVICES - BURIAL - FUNERAL Serving the entire South Shore Since 1932 34 Hempstead Avenue. Corner Peninsula Blvd. Lynbrook 516-599-3600 www.flinchandbruns.com</p> | <p>120 Merrick Rd. Lynbrook 516-887-2914 www.hiltonanimalhospital.net Preventive Care, Internal Medicine, Surgery & Dentistry Bathing & Boarding Available</p> |
| <p>TOWERS FUNERAL HOME INC. 2681 Long Beach Rd Oceanside (516) 766-0425 www.towersfuneralhomeny.com</p> |  <p>Est. 1933</p> <p><i>Family Owned and Operated</i></p> | <p>LYNBROOK PLUMBING AND HEATING, INC. www.lynbrookplumbing.com 307 Sunrise Hwy. Lynbrook 516-593-4000</p> <p>Plumbing Service & Repairs Water Heater Installation & Repairs Boiler Installation & Repair Oil to Gas Conversions Heating Zones Backflow Testing Leak & Pipe Repairs Water Filtration Systems Gas to Gas Boiler Installations Gas Appliance Installation Baseboard Radiation Service Oil Tank Abandonment Drain & Pipe Cleaning Gas Barbeques & Fire Pits Gas Fireplace Logs Water Mains Cast Iron Radiator Service</p> |