

Masses

Saturday Eve 5:00PM
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30AM,
12Noon and 4:30PM

Daily 7:15, 8:45 AM
Saturday 8:45 AM

Pastoral Team

Pastor
Father Chuck Romano

Associate Pastors
Father Theodore Iloh

Deacons
Deacon Robert C. Campbell, OFS
Deacon Thomas Wm. Connolly, T.O Carm
Deacon Guy Donza, S.F.D.
Deacon Richard W. LaRossa
Deacon Thomas J. Malone Jr., T.S.A.

Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Lucy Ostermann

Business Manager
Christopher Grennen

South Nassau Hospital Chaplain
Father Cornelius Dery

Parish Staff

Music Ministry
Laura Garbitelli

Folk Group
AnnMarie Lynch

Plant Manager
Steve Bennett

Parish Secretary
Doreen Dolan

Bulletin Editor
Linda Ohlsen

The Parish of St. Raymond

*A Eucharistic Community of
Faith, Love and Friendship*

Sunday, March 17, 2024

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000

"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." -John 12:32



March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Welcome To Our Parish Family!

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

Rectory

Office Hours are Monday-Friday from 9am-4pm;
Saturdays from 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 Office593-9075
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

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

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

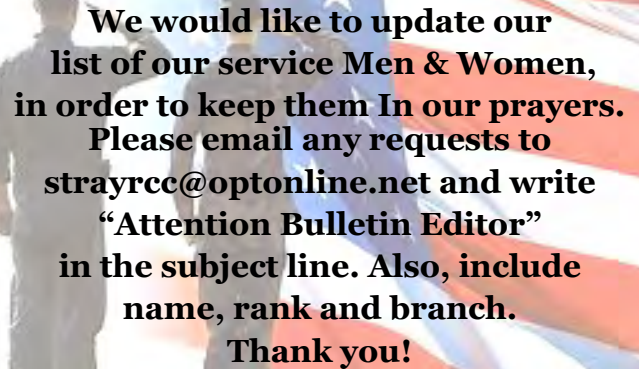
Music Ministries

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

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

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



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



The Catholic Faith Network (CFN)

Broadcast of the Celebration of the Eucharist:

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

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

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

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

St. Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre, NY

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

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

St. Patrick's Cathedral, NY

Monday – Friday at 6:30 pm ET

Sunday at 3:30 pm ET



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

LC Alex James Cooper US MARINE CORPS
LC Dean Thomas Cooper US MARINE CORPS
Lt. Col. Mary P. King , M.D., US ARMY
Commander Joseph Garbitelli US NAVY
Staff /Sgt. Matthew R. Hines - US ARMY
LC Connor Thomas McHale US MARINE CORPS
Sgt. Gerard Moran
Lt. Com. Joseph Leahy US NAVY
Sgt. Bryan Petriccione US ARMY –Cavalry Unit
Lt. JG Joseph Woloszyn US NAVY
PFC Hunter Deets, #10 Mountain Division US ARMY
TSGT Curt Abdool US AIRFORCE

Please remember to pray for our wounded soldiers.

Father Chuck's Corner

Greetings and God's continued Lenten blessings be with you on the Fifth Sunday of Lent! Also, Happy St. Patrick's Day to everyone. Today's readings encourage us to keep serving God even when we suffer life's trials. In the first reading from Jeremiah, the prophet speaks of a new covenant that God was forming with his people. Why a new covenant? Because time and again the Israelites failed to obey God's commandments and went the way of their neighboring people. That's why God established a new covenant in the blood of Jesus Christ. **"I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God and they shall be my people."** Then in the second reading from Hebrews, we are told of the obedience of God's Son and how through him all are reconciled. **"Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him."** And finally, in John's gospel, we see Jesus pointing directly at his coming suffering and death and how through his obedience to the Father, salvation would be possible for all people. He would not stay dead but be lifted up in glory through his resurrection. **"And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself."**

If you have ever seen the Coastal Redwoods or the Giant Sequoias in California, you can't help but be awed at their size and massive bases, as they grow so tall. And to think that each tree started out as a seed, a small object that looks like nothing, looking lifeless and insignificant. And yet, miraculously under certain conditions a slim few of these will become something quite majestic, other worldly, beautiful and lifegiving. **"Amen, amen I say to, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it produces much fruit."** This isn't the only time this sort of radical transformation takes place. A small business after time flourishes into a major chain located all across the country. A five-year-old who takes their first piano lesson becomes later in life a concert pianist. A young child, struggling to learn the basic ABCs becomes a college professor. A neighbor you hardly know becomes your best friend. Two cells come together and somehow, miraculously become you. From small things, insignificant things, wonderful things can happen

Lent is coming to a close, and now the tone becomes a bit more somber as the mystery starts to unfold. The pattern of authentic faith, on display in the life of Jesus is coming into focus. And it starts with dying! Faith is hard because dying is hard. We do so much to avoid it. We cling to all sorts of things, placing a value on them, when in the end they don't really matter. We pretty much get so wrapped up in ourselves that all else becomes secondary. But **"dying"** isn't like that. Dying is working long hours to provide for your family. It's making the extra effort to achieve something rather than taking the easier route. It's searching for ways to make your spouse feel a bit safer, happier, at peace. It's waking up each day wondering what you can do to make someone's life a little bit better. Dying is really about sacrifice and losing oneself so that something wonderful and beautiful and life-giving can happen. There's a redwood or sequoia of goodness in each one of us. That's how we were made. Let God work on you and in you to bring about all the wonderful things this world needs.

The special **"Pot of Gold 50/50"** is only a week away. The winning ticket will be pulled at the St. Patrick's Party on Saturday evening, March 23rd. Don't miss out on a chance to win some big bucks. And you don't have to be Irish to win. Chances are available at the rectory during office hours.

Please remember to take home a copy of the bulletin when you leave Mass today. It contains many items of interest and information, with something for everyone. Of special note is news and needs from **Parish Social Ministry**, info from **Religious Education** (Faith Formation), ticket info for the **St. Patrick's Celebration** next Saturday, March 23rd, the **Easter Masses of Remembrance** envelopes, the ongoing **2024 Lenten Schedule**, the **Eucharistic Revival Centerfold**, the **Communal Prayer Before Mass** (found on the inside back cover), an invitation to join **FORMED** (your Catholic Faith on demand) and much more. To keep informed, keep a copy of the bulletin at home each week for quick and easy reference.

Have a great Fifth Week of Lent! **Keep that Lenten smile going along with a bit of Irish laughter and remember: May the best day of your past be the worst day of your future.**

God Bless Always, Fr. Chuck



WEEKLY MASS PRAYERS

MARCH 17, 2024-FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

The Gloria

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

We praise you,

we bless you,

we adore you,

we glorify you,

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

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the

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

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

at the right hand of the Father,

have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One;

you alone are the Lord.

You alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God, the Father.

Amen

Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,

that I have greatly sinned,

in my thoughts and in my words,

in what I have done and

in what I have failed to do,

[Pray while striking the breast 3 times.]

through my fault, through my fault,

through my most grievous fault;

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,

all the Angels and Saints,

and you, my brothers and sisters,

to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,

the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the Only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial

with the Father; through him all things

were made. For us men and for our

Salvation he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate

of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under

Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand

of the Father. He will come again in

Glory to judge the living and the dead

and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the

Son, who with the Father and the Son is

adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and

apostolic Church. I confess one

Baptism for the forgiveness of

Sins and I look forward to the

resurrection of the dead and the

life of the world to come.

Amen.

READINGS FOR TODAY'S MASS

MARCH 17, 2024-FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

FIRST READING

Jer 31:31-34

The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant, and I had to show myself their master, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD. I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives how to know the LORD. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.

SECOND READING

Heb 5:7-9

In the days when Christ Jesus was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 12:26

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
King of endless glory!
Whoever serves me must follow me,
says the Lord; and where I am, there also
will my servant be.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.
Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.
R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.
A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me.
R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.
Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners shall return to you.
R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

GOSPEL

Jn 12:20-33

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

"Gift Card Sunday"

The weekend of March 16th & 17th, which is the Fifth Sunday of Lent, we will be having a special

"Gift Card Sunday"

for the benefit of our Parish Social Ministry. We are asking everyone to donate gift cards when you come to Mass that weekend. Simply place your gift card donations in the baskets along with your regular weekly contributions. Our Parish Social Ministry is requesting either Stop & Shop, King Kullen, Lidl or Visa cards. Please get only these cards, for they are the only ones needed to serve our community at this time. So, remember

"Gift Card Sunday"

March 16th & 17th, the Fifth Sunday of Lent. It is the perfect way to practice some almsgiving!



EASTER MASSES OF REMEMBRANCE

Many people like to request the intention for a Mass on Easter Sunday. Since there are a limited number of Masses for Easter, all requests are not able to be fulfilled.

Therefore, there will be a special Novena of Masses for Easter: the Easter Masses of Remembrance. Those who you mention will be remembered at all the Masses during the Easter season. Special envelopes have been mailed with the regular envelope packet and in the Easter mailing to all parishioners. They are also available on the front side pews and the back pews by the doors of the church. Simply fill out the intentions 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 wooded boxes marked "Easter Masses." Please do so by Sunday March 31st. Thank you!

-Father Chuck

LENT 2024

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

Hopefully, we may all grow in our personal and communal experiences of Jesus during the holy time.

So, join us often and anytime.

We'd love to see you!



Additional Daily Mass

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

Stations of the Cross

Will be prayed every Friday during Lent at 7:00pm in the church.

Eucharistic Adoration

In the Church every Thursday from 1-4pm and the First Friday of every month from 7:30-8:30pm



Sacrament of Reconciliation



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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - FAITH FORMATION

Lucy Ostermann, Director



Attention 7th & 8th Grade Parents/Students – REMINDER

All 7th & 8th grade students are to attend the Stations of the Cross by Teens scheduled for Tuesday 3/19/2024 7:30pm in the Church. A parent is to accompany the child to the presentation and after they attend the presentation, they will be completing the reflection paper that was given to parents at one of the parent meetings earlier this year. The reflection paper will be due 3/25 or 3/26.

Our 5th & 6th grade students will be participating in a Palm Sunday Procession during the 12 Noon Mass on Palm Sunday 3/24/2024. All students in grades 1-8 are encouraged to attend this Mass as well.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!!! Happy St. Joseph's Day!!!

Our Faith Formation Students



THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

STATIONS 1-7

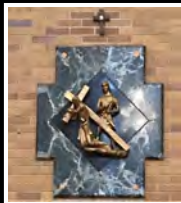


THE FIRST STATION-JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DIE

Just as Jesus was wrongfully accused, sometimes people falsely place blame on me to escape the responsibility themselves. And yes, sometimes I also put others down in order to build myself up. When Jesus was condemned to death, even those who had once followed Him went along with Pilate. Do I care more about being accepted by those around me than returning your love? Help me Lord. Be with me Lord.

THE SECOND STATION-JESUS IS GIVEN HIS CROSS

Lord, help me remember the humble and loving way You carried Your cross up to Calvary when I experience life's heavy burdens and strife. Sometimes I think I can't go on. Help me remember I am not alone. You are always with me. May I imitate Your virtues of love, humility and perseverance while dealing with my crosses and offer them up on behalf of my sins, for the sick and less fortunate. Help me to understand that there is nothing You and I can't get through together.

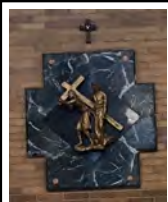


THE THIRD STATION-JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

I am like you, Jesus, in that I take up my own cross. But my cross is made up of my sins, temptation and Materialism. I carry my cross through my life, like You, Jesus, carried Your cross to Calvary. Jesus, You fell under the weight of my sins. I fall by accepting temptation and giving into evil. I fall when I give in to gossip or hurt others. You carry my sins to death so I can be free. Help me, Jesus, to really understand all that You have done for me. Help me to make my burden lighter.

THE FOURTH STATION-JESUS MET HIS MOTHER

How does anyone have the strength to watch someone they love suffer and die? Death knows no boundaries and takes everyone. I need to have the strength and faith of Mary when I am faced with the loss of a loved one. Lord, while I know death is not an end but really a beginning, please give me the strength of faith that Your mother showed, and help me to be strong for the others who are grieving.

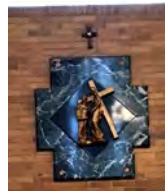


THE FIFTH STATION-SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS

I need Your help to get me through these tough situations that I encounter during my day. Help me discover my options through prayer. Please help me to be nicer to those who are against me, and let me be trusting in my relationships with my friends, family and neighbors. I have enough to handle on my own. Why, then, am I further burdened with worry about family members or friends? Why does it always seem to be me who has to take on their problems as well as my own? Lord, show me the way.

THE SIXTH STATION-VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

Every day I see people who are suffering or in need of help. They seem to be everywhere. I wish someone would help them. I'm so busy; I just don't have the time. That isn't really true. I guess I just don't want to be involved. I have my own problems, I don't need to take on any more. O Lord, teach me to see Your face in the faces of those who need comfort. You have assured us that random acts of kindness will have their own rewards, if not here and now, then later, with you in the kingdom.



THE SEVENTH STATION-JESUS FALLS AGAIN

In spite of my best intentions, I am so weak and fall again. I try to do the right thing, but temptations are so strong. I know, when Jesus stumbles and falls, He is suffering greatly. He knows He must continue in order to save me and lead me on the path to God. He loves me so much that He just keeps on going -for me. With Your help, I can have the courage and the faith to get up again and continue on. Help me to pray that I will not follow my own way but, instead, the way of the Lord, for which Jesus was sacrificed.

PUT YOUR CROSS AT THE FOOT OF HIS CROSS

STATIONS 8-14

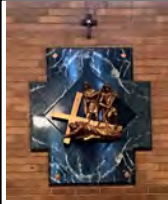
THE EIGHTH STATION - JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

How difficult I find it sometimes to think of others particularly when I am troubled or hurting. Sometimes I get so wrapped up in myself that I shut others out, and I wonder if I can go on. Lord, You have shown me love and compassion for others even when they scorn You. Please help me to look beyond the exterior of others and help me to show compassion as You did. Please don't let me be selfish. Instead, let me always be merciful in my journey through life.



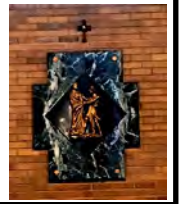
THE NINTH STATION - JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

I Sometimes fear the future. I become afraid of change. I am just so unsure of myself, let alone others. I need confidence. I need to know I am not alone. I need to understand that I am worthy of love and respect. Lord, forgive me for each day of my life that I sin against You. Sometimes I have the best intentions, but I turn away from You anyway. Help me to appreciate all you have done for me. Give me strength and wisdom to seek kindness in others and see myself in the image and likeness of God.



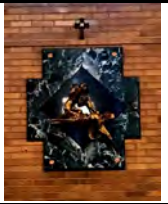
THE TENTH STATION - JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

My possessions are very important to me. I surround myself with beautiful and expensive things. I have far more clothes than I really need, and sometimes I spend money on silly things and forget about others who don't even have necessities. Dear Jesus, you not only sacrificed everything, You laid down Your life for me. Help me to be a strong spiritual follower in faith. Please show me the right way towards eternal happiness by following Your example.



THE ELEVENTH STATION - JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

O, my God, sometimes I persecute others because they are different. I am embarrassed when I think of some of the things I've said about others. It's so easy to gossip. Sometimes I just don't like people because of their skin color or religion. Give me the courage to not give in to the pressures of putting others down. Dear Jesus, please forgive me and the others like me, and help me, instead to be Your messenger of love and care to all I meet so that they may experience Your love and concern through me.



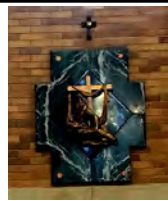
THE TWELFTH STATION - JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Jesus, give me the strength so that I can survive the mysteries of life that are ahead of me. I know I'm going to fall many times. Give me the courage to stand back up. Let me recognize all the good things that surround me each day of my life. Our heavenly Father gave all of us a beautiful world. You even died so our sins would be forgiven. May I be like You in Your perfect example of sacrifice and love. Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.



THE THIRTEENTH STATION - JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

Lord I am truly sorry for forgetting You. I am sometimes preoccupied by my life when I should be focusing on You. I really don't know why, but I always seem to let all the things in my life crowd you out. Often, when I do pray, I do not concentrate on my prayer. I sometimes just say the words and don't pay attention to what I am saying. Help me to show that You are my first priority by setting aside time for You each day.



THE FOURTEENTH STATION - JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

Dear Jesus, following Your death, helplessness and despair was felt by many. Your death on the cross left those who really knew You empty inside. Lord, when I am feeling empty inside, help me to attain inner strength and peace to make it through the day. Knowing that You love me and believe in me, gives me the reassurance I need. Help me to face my problems, and to remember that You are with me always until the end of time.





The Sodality of Our Lady

invites women of faith to our
6th Annual Women's Day Retreat
Saturday, March 23, 2024

We will begin at the 8:45 mass then proceed
to the school cafeteria for coffee.

The presentation begins at 10:00 and concludes at 3:00
with a break for lunch at noon.

A Lenten Renewal

Presented by Sr. Marie Mackey, CSJ

Topic: Paschal Mysteries and personal growth

Program Fee: \$30, including lunch

Registration Closes: Monday, March 20

Checks made payable to: Sodality of Our Lady

Please remit payment along with registration form to:

**Sodality of Our Lady, St. Raymond Church
263 Atlantic Ave, East Rockaway, NY 11518**

Name:

Address:

Telephone #:

Email:

Dietary Restrictions:

**If you have questions, please contact Frances Corio at 516-401-5734
or Mary Thorpe at 516-524-3103**



ST. RAYMOND'S HUMAN LIFE COMMITTEE

Did you know that "the federal government just announced that it will fund a 'national abortion hotline'. When a woman finds out she is pregnant, she needs compassion, hope and accurate information about all of her options - including the costs and risks associated with abortion. But the government wants to make sure that the only choice she is given is abortion...while ignoring the science about its risks. That's why the government is using the controversial Title X grant program - a key funding source for abortion giants like Planned Parenthood - to finance their new abortion referral line....This new abortion hotline will compete with the pro-life hotlines that help women and men find life-affirming alternatives to abortion, like pregnancy centers. These pro-life alternatives are in danger of being overtake by the government's deep pockets and pro-choice propaganda..." (Care Net)

For years, the pro-abortion lobby has stressed "choice". Why then hasn't the government set up a "national pro-life hotline" also? Where's the "choice", if only one choice is provided?

The next Human Life Committee meeting is:

Thursday, March 21st, 7:00pm-8:00pm

Parish Social Ministry Office

Join with us in being a voice for the vulnerable, pre-born babies.

**THEY HAVE
NO VOICE
BUT OURS!**



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 THRU WEDNESDAY FROM 10AM TO 3PM

(Suggested to call for an appointment)

"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor." Proverbs 22:9

"Giving, not giving up"

The number of clients served by St. Raymond's Food Pantry is currently increasing. It is becoming difficult to keep our shelves stocked, and since it is the Lenten Season, Fr. Chuck will be asking his parishioners to donate a gift card to assist the Parish Social Ministry in meeting the needs of the people they serve.

The "Gift Card" collection will be held on the weekend of March 17th at all the Masses. Gift cards to Stop and Shop, King Kullen and Lidl would greatly be appreciated. Also, Visa and MasterCard would help too. The Parish Social Ministry sincerely thanks Fr. Chuck for his continued support and also thanks to all of our parishioners for their never-ending generosity.

Pantry items needed this week: Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Jarred Pasta Sauce, Pasta, Peanut Butter, Grape Jelly, Cold Cereal, Chick Peas, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Carrots, White Potatoes and Yams, Rice and Pasta Side Dishes, Coffee, Dish Detergent and Shaving Cream.

Thank you as always for helping us serve the people in need in our community. Food donations are greatly appreciated and can be brought to the Ryan House when it is open. Also, donations can be left in the bin on the porch or in the Altar Servers Sacristy.

May God's blessings shower upon all of you!

STEP BY STEP WALK THROUGH THE MASS
DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME
FATHER LUKE SPANNAGEL
NATIONAL EUCHARIST REVIVAL BLOG



**The Creed as
Profession
of Faith**

What does the word Creed mean? A Latin word for the Creed is *symbolum*. Its first meaning is that of a sign, a mark of recognition by which an envoy is accredited or strangers know each other as belonging to the same group. The 'symbol' of faith identifies Christians. People who are not Christian cannot profess it without a lie on their part.

In addition to being a sign of our unity, the Creed also is a summary of core doctrines we believe in and an important part of the Mass. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal states, "The purpose of the Creed or Profession of Faith is that the whole gathered people may respond to the Word of God proclaimed in the readings taken from Sacred Scripture and explained in the Homily and that they may also honor and confess the great mysteries of the faith by pronouncing the rule of faith in a formula approved for liturgical use and before the celebration of these mysteries in the Eucharist begins" (GIRM, no. 67). In summary, Charles Belmonte says, "The symbol or Creed expresses our response and assent to what we have just heard in the readings and in the homily" (Understanding the Mass, p. 99). Having heard the truths of the Faith in the Liturgy of the Word, now we profess them in the Creed.

Stand and Profess

Why do we stand up to profess our Faith? As the Diocese of Peoria teaches, "Through the Creed, we as a community of believers stand and profess, in precise terms, the foundations of our faith. We stand for the Creed because of its importance in our Church and in our lives. Of important note is another gesture the Church asks of us as we profess the Creed. As we say '[and by] the Holy Spirit [was



incarnate] of the Virgin Mary and became man,' we are to bow in adoration of the incarnation and birth of our Lord. Interestingly, on those respective solemnities (Annunciation and Christmas) we are to retain the ancient custom of genuflecting during those lines. As we have reviewed previously, each of the gestures and postures within the liturgy has a meaning and can help us pray more deeply. Throughout the Mass, we stand together for the principal prayers. In a very practical way, standing is another way of giving our assent, as when a crowd stands in applause. Standing adds an additional fervor to the recognition. In a similar way, standing to pray together adds an element of strength to the words we proclaim. Bowing while we recall the Incarnation acknowledges in a humble way how much we honor that significant moment in world history.

As we profess our faith together, we are joined in a unity that began at our Baptism. "As on the day of our Baptism, when our whole life was entrusted to the 'standard teaching,' let us embrace the Creed of our life-giving faith. To say the Credo with faith is to enter into communion with God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and also with the whole Church which transmits the faith to us and in whose midst we believe" (CCC, no. 197).

For Reflection:

- Consider your posture(s) during various forms of prayer. What prompts you to stand in respect and fervor? What leads you to bow your head in awe and wonder?

**Next Week: The Creed as Statement
of Faith in the Trinity**

St. Raymond Church
Opportunities for a Holy Hour / Adoration
and Eucharistic Exposition

The Church is open daily for personal prayer until 5:00
Each Thursday Adoration/Benediction from 1-4:00 PM
Each First Friday Nocturnal Adoration from 7:30-8:30 PM



**“Yet it was our
infirmities that he bore,
our sufferings that he
endured”**
Stations of the Cross
Fridays 7-7:30PM

The Seven Last Words of Christ



This week, we reflect on the second of Our Lord's final words from the Cross. They were spoken to St. Dismas, the Good Thief, as he and Jesus hung dying side by side on Good Friday. We find these words only in the Gospel of Luke.

Dismas and his fellow-thief had, like Christ, been condemned to death by crucifixion. Unlike them, Jesus was innocent, suffering His punishment due to others. The bad thief reviled Christ and demanded that He save Himself and them, if He be truly the Son of God. Dismas rebuked him for his impiety, proclaiming that they—as criminals—deserved their punishment, but that Christ had done no wrong.

**“Truly, I say to you, today you will be
with Me in Paradise.”**

Dismas then made a rather strange request of Jesus: “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He did not ask to be saved from the cross. He did not ask to escape the punishment for his crimes. He did not even ask for mercy. He simply asked to be remembered. The request is stunning in its simplicity and its profound humility. Even more stunning is the response of Our Lord, Who does far more than simply remember the repentant. “Truly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

Dismas will not only be remembered. He will be forgiven, and the gates of Paradise will be open to him, once his (and Our Lord's) agonies are complete. The Just Man hanging beside Dismas has taken the crimes of Dismas and all of humanity upon Himself, so that we can escape the punishment we deserve.

Dismas' reaction is left to the imagination of the reader, but one can surmise that he died filled with joy and hope. Perhaps he offered up his suffering—in union with Christ—in reparation for his sins and those of humanity. What a beautiful and extraordinary thing, to suffer in such perfect imitation of Christ! What a grace—to rise from being a common thief to being the chosen companion of Jesus in His final hours! How superabundant is the mercy of God!

Eucharistic Witness

**Saint Joseph and
the Holy Eucharist**



By Fr. Serafino Lanzetta

Let me introduce this topic with a question: did Jesus reveal to St Joseph his desire to institute the Holy Eucharist? Perhaps during the years of his hidden life in Nazareth? Or before the beginning of his public life, e.g., before St. Joseph fell asleep in God? It is not easy to answer this question, nor is it easy to get some clues from the Gospel accounts.

It was certainly fitting for Jesus to reveal to the one who after Mary his Mother was closest to him the secret of secrets, the love of his Heart, the desire of all desires: the Holy Eucharist. We can well imagine that this great desire animated Jesus from his earliest years and that he, therefore, did not hold back his heart from confiding it to Mary his mother and then to Joseph his father. It must have been this "Eucharistic desire" confided to Joseph that motivated the holy Carpenter in a very special way to make himself one with his Son and his Bride.

St Peter Julian Eymard, who describes it as follows: Joseph "penetrated, so to speak, the coarse garment of Jesus: his faith penetrated the Sacred Heart and, illuminated by the divine light, he saw in advance all the states through which Jesus would pass, and he adored them and united himself to the grace of those mysteries. He worshipped Jesus in his hidden life; he worshipped him in his passion and death; he worshipped him even then in the holy Tabernacle. Could Our Lord have hidden anything from St. Joseph? St. Joseph therefore received the grace of all the states of Jesus, including that of adoring the Blessed Sacrament. St. Joseph is therefore a "minister of the Eucharist" because he prepared Jesus to "break bread", to break himself, his body for us, offering him the example of his daily and indomitable sacrifice. He is our model of adoration of the Holy Eucharist.

Ite ad Ioseph – Go to Joseph!

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MARCH 23, 2024

7:00PM



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**St. Raymond's
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**We are offering
a Program for
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the death of a
loved one.**



**Six Sessions beginning
Thursday April 11, 2024
at 7:30 PM
in St. Raymond's
School Cafeteria**



**Register: Call the Rectory
at 516-593-5000
or fill out the form below and
send to the Rectory**

Your Name:



Address:

Best Tel. #:

Relationship to the Deceased:

 **Pot of Gold
50/50**

There will be a special "Pot of Gold 50/50" that will be held on Saturday, March 23rd. This "pot" has no lid so the "sky's the limit." The winning ticket will be pulled at the St. Patrick's Celebration, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus on the 23rd. The "Pot of Gold" tickets are always available and on sale! They are \$10 each and three for \$25.

 Special "Pot of Gold" tickets were included in the March/April regular envelope mailing. Simply return the ticket stubs with payment in the envelope to the rectory, either by mail, in person or in the Sunday collection before March 23rd. 

Tickets are also available for purchase at the rectory during regular office hours and as special courtesy they will be available for sale after all the Masses next weekend in the church vestibule and altar server sacristy. The more tickets sold, the greater your winning share and the greater the profit for St. Raymond's. And you don't have to be Irish to win; but a wee bit of leprechaun luck wouldn't hurt now would it!



Remember!

**Three for only \$25
or \$10 each and the
"Sky's the Limit!"**

St. Joseph
Spouse of Mary

Feast Day
March 19th



Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great,
so strong, so prompt before the throne of
God. I place in you all my interests and
desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by
your powerful intercession, and obtain for
me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that,
having engaged here below your heavenly
power, I may offer my thanksgiving and
homage to the most loving of Fathers.

Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary of contemplat-
ing you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare
not approach while He reposes near your
heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His
fine head for me and ask him to return the Kiss
when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph,
Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

Amen

St. Patrick
Patron of Ireland

Feast Day
March 17th



May the Strength of God pilot us.
May the Power of God preserve us.
May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
May the Hand of God protect us.
May the Way of God direct us.
May the Shield of God defend us.
May the Host of God guard us.
Against the snares of the evil ones.
Against temptations of the world.

May Christ be with us!

May Christ be before us!

May Christ be in us, Christ be over all!

May Thy Salvation, Lord, Always be ours!

This day, O Lord, and evermore.

Amen

Ministry of Consolation

Work one week a month with a team to assist families in preparing and celebrating the Funeral Mass for recently deceased loved ones.



If Interested Call Doreen Dolan 516-593-5000



**St. Joseph,
defender of
families,
pray for us.**

Pastoral Council Members

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



*As we celebrate the
Feast of St. Patrick, let
us drive out all of the
snakes in our lives—
the actions and
thoughts that separate
us from Christ.*



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-Is your marriage heading in the wrong direction?

HelpOurMarriage.org Retrouvaille is a practical program for married couples facing difficult challenges It is not a marriage retreat, or counseling. You will not be asked to share the personal details of your story.

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St. Raymond's Parish Social Ministry is in need of volunteers to help stock shelves, pack groceries, make appointments, greet clients and assist them with food pickup. The food pantry is open from Monday through Wednesday from 10am to 3pm. As a volunteer, you would work two and a half hours, either morning or afternoon, one day a week.

For more information please

call 516-887-9197

2024

**CATHOLIC
MINISTRIES
APPEAL**
HOUSE OF HOPEVILLE LINDEN

*Revitalizing our Faith -
Renewed by the Eucharist*



“As Christians, we do not only receive a vocation individually; we are also called together. We are like the tiles of a mosaic.”

- Pope Francis

Your donation to the Catholic Ministries Appeal supports vocations in our diocese.

Ordained in 2023, Fr. Steven McClernon spoke to us about what his goals are as a priest in our Diocese and how your support has helped him to accomplish this!

“This year’s CMA theme, Revitalizing our Faith -- Renewed by the Eucharist, relates to my vocation as it was fostered through Eucharistic Adoration. I see the People of God revitalized and renewed in their faith when I celebrate Mass. I see how people really love receiving the Eucharist. During Covid when we were separated from receiving the Eucharist, it was a difficult time for many. Now seeing the people back to church, and receiving the Eucharist, I am renewed in my faith and I know God’s people are revitalized by the true presence of God in the Eucharist.



The CMA has been greatly influential in my life. One of the ministries it supports is the Holy Hours for Vocations at the Seminary. We gather young people from across the Island to hold Eucharistic Adoration. During my college years, this experience was a big part of my faith and my decision to become a priest. The Catholic Ministries Appeal has helped foster my vocation to the priesthood.”

Please make check payable to the Catholic Ministries Appeal

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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!



Sodality of Our Lady of the Annunciation

March Meeting:

Monday, March 18, 2024

Place: St. Raymond's Cafeteria

Time: 7:30 pm

We will honor St. Joseph and St. Patrick at this meeting!

Wear green or red as we sing Irish and Italian tunes and enjoy a game of Trivia.

Come and join us for a fun evening !

St. Raymond's Choir Can you sing?

Come be part of the

St. Raymond's Choir family!



Practice Wednesday Evenings

7:30pm in the Church

Mass with the Choir is @10:30am on Sunday

Please call Laura Garbitelli at 516-593-7345

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For each donated car, truck or van, running or not, the Associated Vincentian Charities will give back to our parish \$75-\$200 per vehicle.

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Ocean Financial Federal Credit Union Supports St. Raymond!

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

visit their website at: www.oceanfinancial.org.

FORMED

This week on **FORMED...**



Daily Bread: Discover the Eucharist in Scripture explores the biblical roots of the Eucharist and how the earliest Christians understood it as the fulfillment of many Old Testament promises. Based on Dr. Brant Pitre's book **Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist**, these daily Lenten reflection videos will radically transform your love for the Blessed Sacrament.



**GO TO THE ST. RAYMOND
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Masses for this week

Monday, March 18th

7:15am Margaret Haas
8:45am Donald Laux
12:15pm Jane Donlon

Tuesday, March 19th

Solemnity of St. Joseph

7:15am Ivo Linares
8:45am Frank & Anne Behrman
12:15pm Joseph Ferrara, Sr.

Wednesday, March 20th

7:15am Carmela Serani
8:45am Vincent Monahan
12:15pm Richard McInerney

Thursday, March 21st

7:15am Holy Souls in Purgatory
8:45am Anthony & Rosemarie Simeti
12:15pm Nunzio Olivieri

Friday, March 22nd

7:15am Muriel Henry
8:45am Josephine Genova
12:15pm Michael Manus

Saturday, March 23rd

8:45am Mary Esposito
5:00pm Gus Nicholas

Sunday, March 24th Palm Sunday

7:30am Daniel Carrano
9:00am Delores Lelia
10:30am Angela Ciriello
12:00pm Victor Martinez, Frank Barbella,
Elizabeth LaChance-Fernandez,
J.R. Armstrong, Richard McInerney,
Donald Laux, Pola Cifuentz,
Dioselina Ruiz

4:30pm St. Raymond Parish

Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62/Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Wednesday

Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday

Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59

Friday

Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42

Saturday

Ez 37:21-28/Jn 11:45-56

Sunday

Mk 11:1-10/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1-15:47



Please Pray for Our Sick

James R., Baby Brady, Mike L.,
Jodi Neckles, Baby Faith Madison,
Baby Cooper Graham, Michael McPike,
Christine I., Samir. Leo B., Maureen
Condiss, Bennett William Chevalier,
Mary Lynch, Maureen McCarthy,
Fr. Don Hansen, Nick S., Dawn,
Jay Witemeyer, Christine Gillidan,
Linda Dagostino, Joseph DelGiorno,
Rory Romano, Timothy Murphy,
Karen Pagnotta, Colleen Popp

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



Rest in Peace
Diana Miglio



Parish Bulletin Board

Divorced or Separated Catholic of Long Island including Widows, Widowers and Singles

Tuesday March 19th at 7:00pm
St. Frances Club

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Terry 516-650-5528 or
Maryanne 516-205-2590



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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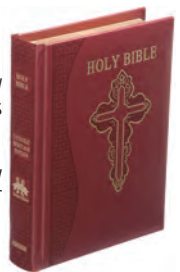
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