

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 Vincent H. Buls
Father Lawrence N. Onyegu

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

**Pastoral Associate, Youth &
Parish Social Ministry**
Deacon Richard W. LaRossa

School Principal
Sr. Ruthanne Gypalo, I.H.M.

Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Evelyn Contaldi

Business Manager
Thomas J. Donovan

South Nassau Hospital Chaplain
Father Sylvester Ikela

Parish Staff

Music Ministry **Folk Group**
Laura Garbitelli AnnMarie Lynch

Children's Choir
Patricia Mayle

Hand Bell Choir
Se-beng Koh

Plant Manager
Steve Bennett

Parish Secretary
Doreen Dolan

Bulletin Editor
Pauline Birmingham

The Parish of St. Raymond

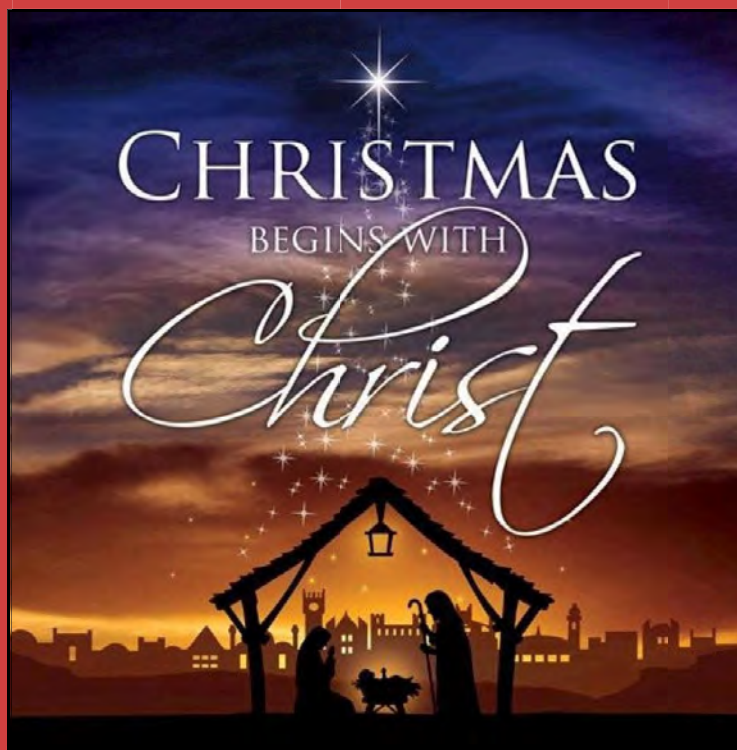
A Eucharistic Community of Faith, Love and Friendship

Sunday, December 23, 2018

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000

Merry Christmas!



**December 23, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 25, 2018
Nativity of the Lord**

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-5pm;
Saturdays from 9:30am-1pm.

Web Site: www.SaintRaymonds.org

E-Mail: StRayRcc@optonline.net

Rectory.....593-5000

Rectory Fax.....887-0554

Parish Social Ministry.....887-9197

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

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

St. Raymond School.....593-9010

St. Raymond School Fax.....593-0986

Religious Education Office.....593-9075

Religious Education Office Fax593-1156

Pastoral Care Of The Sick

Holy Communion—Available to the homebound;
call the rectory to schedule an appointment.

Devotions

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Nocturnal Adoration

First Fridays from 8-9pm.

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

Children's Choir: Sings at the 9am Mass on the 3rd Sunday of the month from September—June; practice on Tuesdays at 5pm in the school auditorium.

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.

Hand Bell Choir: Plays at the 5pm Mass on the last Saturday of the month from September— June; practice on Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the church.

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 Deacon Rich LaRossa.

This Week in Our Parish



Wednesday, December 26th

7:30pm: Folk Group Practice

MWMR

7:30pm: Adult Choir Practice

Church

Thursday, December 27th

9:30am: Bible Sharing

MWMR

Saturday, December 28th

3:30pm: Confessions

Church

Collection Envelopes

To insure the accuracy of the recording of your weekly offering, please indicate the amount of your offering on the front of your envelope and write your envelope number on your check. And please do not tape or staple the contents or envelope flap.

Thank you! And God Bless you for your stewardship!

What once was lost, now is found!

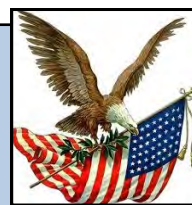
Are you missing a hat, or maybe your reading glasses? Can't find your Rosary Beads? Misplaced your cane? Don't want to tell your spouse you've lost your wedding band? Can't find your house keys? If so, stop by the Altar Servers' Sacristy in the Church to see if your long lost item is in our Lost & Found box.



Bulletin Deadline

Articles for the Jan. 13th Bulletin
are due Friday, **Dec. 28th.**

Please email your article to: strayrcc@optonline.net
Please write "Attention Bulletin Editor"



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

Pvt. 2Giuseppina Coppola, AMARY
Capt. Kathryn M. Costello, U.S.M.C.,
Recruit Joseph R. Diltz, USMC,
Lance Corporal Sean M. Donohue, U.S.M.C.,
Pvt. Brian Efferen, U.S.M.C., Sgt. John David Efferen, U.S.M.C.,
Corporal Daniel J. Ferrato, U.S.M.C.,
Lt. Commander Joseph Garbitelli, U. S. Navy,
Michael Gondek, National Guard, SPC John C. Hayes, U.S. ARMY,
Lance Corporal Dylan J. Hickam, U.S.M.C.
Lt. Col. Mary P. King, M.D., U.S. ARMY,
PFC Brian Lantz, U.S. ARMY, Lt. jg Joseph Leahy, U.S.N.,
Capt. Joseph McQuade, U.S.N., Lt. Jake Murphy, U.S.ARM, Capt.
Brian Peterson, U.S.A.F., Capt. Graham A. Perry, U.S.M.C.,
1ST Lt. Roy Ragusa, Jr., U.S. ARMY,
Capt. Kimberly Russo, National Guard, Lt. Kevin Reilly, U.S. ARMY, Lt.
Cmdr. Andrew Schimenti, Lt. Justin Winter

Father Chuck's Corner



Merry Christmas to everyone! Once again, I feel so very blest to be here and to be able to wish everyone Merry Christmas in print and in person. The holiday time from Thanksgiving through the New Year has added meaning for me when I reflect on where I was two years ago. Believe me when I say that ***“God is good, all the time. And all the time, God is good.”*** I hope that all of you can feel the same spirit of gratitude to God for all he has done for you this past year too. And if it has been difficult, know that he has been there right with you. Believe me, I know that to be true with all my heart.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent pushes us to try and follow the lead of Joseph and Mary in doing the will of God. We wouldn't be celebrating Christmas in two days if it hadn't been for Mary and Joseph. A ***“no”*** from either of them would have changed the course of history. Then we move dramatically to explore the meaning of the Word made Flesh! The astounding mystery of the Word-made-Flesh changes the world and transforms our lives. Our scripture readings for the Masses of Christmas proclaim this mystery with wonder: ***“The grace of God has appeared. Do not be afraid; I bring you Good News of great joy. God has spoken to us through the Son. The word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.”*** The word became flesh on Christmas Day. Jesus becomes the Bread of Life at every Mass. May he be reborn in us today, and through us be reborn in the world in the days ahead.

I always see Christmas as a time for our parish of St. Raymond's to be very grateful as a whole. We have tried our best to share faith, love and friendship while building God's kingdom in our time and place. The prayer life of St. Raymond's brings us closer to God and one another through all our Masses and services. The beauty of our church is evidence of the ***TLC*** of so many dedicated people who keep this holy place as a most fitting one for prayerful encounters with the Lord. Our ***Liturgical Ministers*** give powerful witness in support of all our seasonal observances: the ***Lectors, Altar Servers, Ushers, Sacristans and Extraordinary Ministers*** all show a deep love for God and our church. The ***Music***

season. Our ***Maintenance Staff*** gives tireless efforts to keep our grounds and buildings beautiful and fitting settings for all our gatherings. The children in ***Religious Education*** and ***St. Raymond Grammar School*** have all been taught the true meanings of Advent and Christmas. Those in need have been helped by so many giving hearts through ***Parish Social Ministry*** and the ***St. Vincent de Paul Society***. Plus, we have a wonderful ***Rectory Staff*** who carry out their daily tasks in a true spirit of service. I am also privileged to serve with great ***Deacons and Priests*** who share the grace of Holy Orders with each other and our people. And then of course there are the many ***Parish Volunteers*** who give life and vitality to the many ministries we maintain here at St. Raymond's. Thanks to all of you from the bottom of my heart. You are truly the face of Christ.

And a final thanks to all of you for your steady and generous commitment of financial support through Stewardship and Fundraising. As a parish we are being fiscally challenged. We can only keep relatively stable because of your regular and extraordinary donations. Without your generosity at Christmas and throughout the year we would be hard pressed to accomplish all we do at St. Raymond Parish.

Again, I thank you for all your continued prayers and good wishes. I am very blest and grateful. Believe me there is no place I'd rather be than right here for Christmas! ***So Merry Christmas to all of you!*** Share the same greeting often and with joyous gratitude. May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts. And of course, God bless always!

—Father Chuck





Christmas Flower Dedications



From

In Memory of...

John Ackerina
Ursula Anatra
Aragona Family
Pat Ayers
M/M Gary Barnable
M/M Joseph Bruzzo

Burke Family
Dorothy Caraher
Canty Family

M/M John Carroll

M/M Mark Charles
Maura Christ
Elizabeth Christiansen
M/M John Clarke
Margaret Connolly
M/M Mario Coscia

M/M Brenden Crowe
Alice Dillon
Barbara Defendis
M/M James Donlon

Alice Donnelly
Donato Family
Drugan Family
M/M Robert Duffy
Catherine Duggan
M/M James Espopa
M/M Sean Finnegan
Katherine Fitzgerald
M/M Anthony Ferrara
M/M Thomas Flood
Gangi Family
M/M Gerard Gonyon

Ronald Hansen
M/M Kevin Harrington
Mary Lou Hart
Mary Ann Hartt

Mary Healy
M/M Charles Henshaw

M/M William Johnson
M/M Mark Klang

M/M James Lacchini
M/M Donald Maloy
M/M Thomas Marchesini
Amelia Marcucci

Louis Ackerina
Anatra Family, Thomas DiCarlo
Ferrara & Milici Family
Edward Ayers
Foran & Barnable Families
Stella & John Dina,
Ermina & Joe Bruzzo
Theresa Andriani, Elinor Burke
Michael & Francis Caraher
Mary & Eugene Canty, Sr.,
Thomas Bishop
Joseph F. Carroll, Florence Carroll
M/M Vincent D. Callagy,
Frank Pignataro
Charles & Van Cura Families
Philip Christ, Caroline Christ
William Christiansen, John Behr
Albert Martino
John W. Connolly
Guadalagno & Coscia Families,
Ken Grassano
Thomas J. Kane, Sr.
Sheeham & Dillon Families
Dominic Defendis
Ruth & William Hanna,
Jim & Ellen Donlon
Kim Donnelly, Silvestri Tomas
Pat & Jack O'Shaughnessy
Cheryl Drugan
Duffy & Callagy Family
Mary W. Duggan
Mildred & Charles Carmen
Sean Vincent Finnegan
Helen M. Tvilt, John Carl Tvilt, Sr.
Joseph & Rose Calistro
Brian Flood
Vincent J. Gangi
Henry & Gonyon Families,
Eddie Kerns
Toni Hansen
Vincent Saldutti
Peter Hart
John R. Hartt, William J. Hartt,
Winifred Coughlin
John Healy
Anne & Terrence Kennedy,
Janey Kennedy,
Mary & Arthur Henshaw,
Deceased Henshaw Brothers
Ceratolo & Johnson Families
Felix Klang, Mildred Weber,
Antoinette Schaver, Fred Weber,
John Schaver
Robert J. Lacchini
Gargiola & Maloy Families
Baby Thomas Luigi Marchesini
Marcucci & Penzavecchia Family

From

In Memory of...

M/M Richard McCauley
McDonnell Family
Mary Ann Mulroy
M/M Robert Murray

M/M Gerald Murphy
Gordana O'Brien
Maureen O'Hagan
M/M David Ohlsen
M/M Dennis Ostermann

M/M Michael Palumbo
Jenny Pellegrino

M/M Robert Powers
Ellen Rehm

Rochard Family
Dawn Sahakian
M/M Werner Schneider
M/M John Schmidt
M/M Paul Sirianni
M/M Michael Sloan
Alice Valgoi
M/M Frank Venis
Judy Vesce
M/M Andrew Vlasi

Midge Webster
Weis Family
M/M Douglas Yadanza

Ann M. Kennedy
James McDonnell
Jeanne Marie & James Mulroy
The Murray & Brett Families,
Bill O'Leary, Jeanne & Jim Mulroy
Nicholas Murphy
Mabija & Moris Markoc
James O'Hagan
James & Kathleen Ryder
Deceased Members of the
Ostermann & Gaeta Family
Betty & Rich Jacobs
Vito Colasacco, Nicholas Pelligrino,
Mary & Cosimo Russo
Powers & Moran Families
Deceased Members of the
Shapiro Families
Collen McNamara
Gloria Pizzingrillo
Tucio & Bouno
Henry & Frances Schmidt
Walsh & Sirianni Families
Sloan & Boyle Family
Josef Valgoi
Muldowney & Venis Family
Frank O'Grady
M/M Anthony Amabile
M/M Andrew Vlasi
Dave Webster
Ed Weis
M/M Victor Ydanza,
M/M Robert Sisco

Donated by:

Gina Mazzola, Frances Bonfa, Carol Marren, Marie Jones
M/M Kevin Canty, M/M Brian Irwin, M/M Raoul Fernandez,
M/M Michael Prisciandaro, Mary Becker, Keil Family.
Mrs. John St. Armand, M/M Thomas Reilly, Gail Gerbst,
M/M Daniel Digirolamo.

To be continued next week...

And there shall be no night there;
and they need no candle,
neither light of the sun;
for the Lord God giveth them light:
And they shall reign forever and ever.

—Revelation 22:5



Jesus Lord at Thy Birth

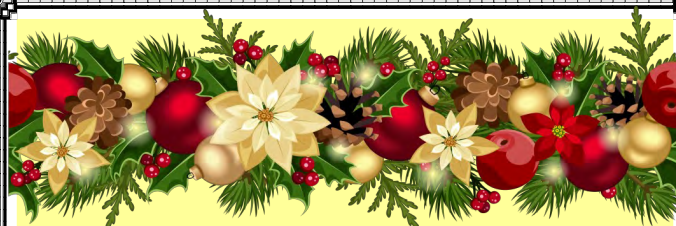


Christmas Masses of Remembrance

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 Monday, Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve.** Thank you.

Comfort
& Joy



Christmas 2018

(Note additional Masses and time changes)

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24th

5:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m. (Folk Group)

10:30 p.m. (Choir Carol Service)

11:00 p.m. (Mass ending at Midnight)

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25th

Church at 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12 Noon

(No Evening Mass on Christmas Day)

Solemnity of Mary

New Year's Eve

Monday, December 31st

5:00 p.m.

New Year's Day

Tuesday, January 1, 2018

9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12 Noon



Parish Bulletin Board

Principal's Corner Sister Ruthanne Gypalo

Today's Communion Antiphon reads: "Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel." The celebration of that special event begins tomorrow evening as we concentrate on the birth of Emmanuel, our King and Savior. May He enter each of our hearts and fill us with peace and joy.

Obviously, we will all be celebrating Christmas and the holidays this coming week. Be reminded that the school is closed, and no one will be in the office. If it is necessary to contact us, please call the school number and leave a message with your name and number. Messages will be checked on a regular basis, so either Mrs. Giglio or I will return your call as soon as possible. Please note that school will reopen on Wednesday, January 2nd at the regular time.

I would like to thank each of you for your generosity and love to our St. Raymond School Faculty and Staff this Christmas season. We all are most appreciative of the cards, thoughts, prayers and gifts that you shared with us. Our prayer is that the Lord will repay you abundantly for your kindness to us and shower you with His choicest blessings.

There are a few reminders for the New Year – first, we have scheduled BINGO for Saturday, January 5th and DEFENSIVE DRIVING for Saturday, January 12th. Those with a sweet tooth may be happy to know that our annual WORLD'S FINEST CHOCOLATE sale begins on the 7th. I just want to keep you informed!

Again, thanks for everything – especially sharing your children with us.

Have a blessed, fun and peace-filled Christmas!



Religious Education — Faith Formation Evelyn Contaldi, Director

There are no Religious Education classes and the Religious Education Office will be closed from Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th through New Year's Day, Jan. 1st. Classes will resume and the office will re-open on Wednesday, Jan. 2nd.

Today and always, may the love of Jesus be your most precious gift. Blessings at Christmas and in the New Year! Merry Christmas and best wishes for a healthy, safe and happy New Year!



*Evelyn Contaldi,
Lucy Ostermann,
& Terry Leonetti*

Defensive Driving Course

Where: St. Raymond School Cafeteria

When: Saturday, Jan. 12th

Time: 9am-3:30pm

Cost: \$50.

For reservations, call Rose Giglio at St. Raymond School Office: 593-9010



Dynamic Catholic
Be Bold. Be Catholic.

Meeting people where they are....

Leading them to where God calls them to be!

We prepare for everything we consider important in life. In every case preparation makes a wonderful experience possible. When was the last time you prepared your heart for Christmas?

What Is BEST ADVENT EVER?

It's a free email program that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during this busy season. You'll experience Advent in a whole new way—leading to the best Christmas of your life!

Sign-up at <https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever>

Our Parish will be giving as a special gift at the Christmas Masses the book, *The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity*. We have been given a limited number of advance copies and if you would like a Free copy to help you prepare for Christmas, please email your contact information to srochford06@gmail.com

**Jesus is the
REASON
for the
Season**

Parish Bulletin Board



Stewardship

A Way of Life

Stewardship "Thought for the Week"

Today's Gospel provides a blue print for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

Parish Social Ministry

The Heart of the Parish



We wish to thank all our benefactors for your support and for all you do throughout the year. You have made a difference in the lives of numerous people and have put a smile on the faces of many this Christmas. God bless you.

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice
heard in the joy of your heart.
Isaiah 30:19,30

Pantry Items Needed: Hot cereal, pancake mix, hot chocolate, jello, pudding, mayonnaise, small bottles of cooking oil, pasta sauce and ketchup.

St. Raymond Human Life Committee

"Fear not | Am with you;
be not dismayed | Am your God.
I will strengthen you, and help you,
and uphold you with My right Hand."

Isaiah 41:10



For anyone experiencing or for anyone who knows of someone needing help because of an unplanned pregnancy, please call one of the following numbers for free, caring and confidential assistance:

The Life Center of Long Island:
516-798-8746 or 631-243-2373

Birthright of Long Island: 516-785-4070

For those who are suffering the effects of having had or having been part of an abortion experience, you are not alone. You are truly loved by God and us! Please call the following number for free, confidential, caring assistance:

The Life Center Post Abortion Healing:
631-RACHELL

Jesus | trust in You.

At this special time when God became man, let us pray that the wondrous birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ will awaken our hearts to the priceless gift of every child.

Save the Date!

The Annual March for Life
Friday, January 18, 2019

Detailed information in next week's Bulletin.

We wish all a very Blessed & Merry Christmas!

Gaudete Sunday Celebration



Last Sunday our parish had a truly wonderful advent celebration for **Gaudete Sunday**. It was a day of joy for all who participated. The **Family Mass** was musically led by our Children's Choir and afterwards we blest the outdoor **Crèche** (even naming the shepherds and animals). Then there was **Hospitality** offered by the **Sodality of Our Lady**. People came to pick up their **Christmas Plants**, music played and the **Christmas Cash 50/50** steadily grew. The winner was **#F02021** who received **\$5,400**. This was our highest total ever. Congratulations to our lucky winner. And then the day was beautifully capped by the stirring rendition of **Lessons and Carols** offered by our **Adult Choir**. All in all the day was a great way to get in the Christmas spirit. Thanks to all who participated and had the chance to be with us. **Merry Christmas! — Father Chuck**

A Journey Through Grief

St. Raymond's Bereavement Ministry



Grief Support to Offer Hope

6 Sessions beginning Thursday, Jan. 3rd at 7:30pm.
Rectory Lower Level
Any inquiries, please call 516-593-5000.



SPECIAL ONE YEAR MEMORIAL CANDLE



As you know, several years ago we upgraded our devotional candles by both the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph statues. The older ones were outdated and ready to break down. In addition added four new statues in the rear of the church with smaller new candle stands. They are the Mother Teresa, St. Therese of the Little Flower, St. Anthony and St. Jude. Hopefully they will enhance many people's prayer and desire to light candles as a sign of their devotion.

Once again we will be having special one year devotional candles at both the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph Statues in the front. These candles surround the base of each statue. There are 24 candles available for each statue. The cost is \$300.00 for an entire year of having a candle lit for your intention. A small name plate will be placed at each candle that has been taken for the year. Only the name of the person you are remembering will be on each name plate. These candles will be lit from the first Sunday of Advent, December 2, 2018 and will remain lit for the entire Church Liturgical Year.

If you are interested in one of these candles for one of these statues, simply fill out the following information, include your donation and bring it to the rectory.

This also includes existing candles for this past year that have been lit. They need to be renewed if you so wish.



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

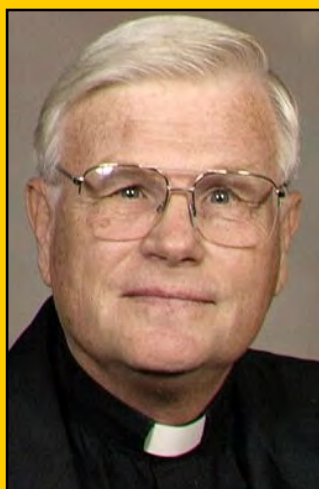
Please check:

Blessed Mother Statue: _____ St Joseph Statue: _____

Name for the candle name plate (please print):



Remembering Father Bill..



Reverend Monsignor William Jablonski

1937-2018

ORDAINED A PRIEST ON JUNE 1, 1963

PASTOR OF ST. RAYMOND CHURCH 1995-2010





I had just gotten word the night before that my sister Esther died. The first thing I thought of was going to the church to pray and just be with God. In walks Fr. Bill. He sees me crying, he comes over to me and consoled me. We were in the right place together. —Maureen Schwartz

I'll never forget when Fr. Bill came over to my house, it was May 2001, my husband Jack was on hospice care and I know he hadn't long to live. That Sunday he was outside greeting the parishioners after Mass as he often would do. I came out and told him about Jack, he said he would be over soon and he came and gave Jack the healing rites. We had a nice visit after that. At that point I don't think that Jack was aware of what was going on but it certainly put my mind at ease.

Fr. Bill was very encouraging with the Blood Drive. He would always come over every Sunday we had it in May and October. Many times he'd come over more than once not just to visit, but to take some of the packages of cookies, especially the Lorna Doones. They were his favorites. The donors were glad to see him as were Maura and I. —Mary Ann Hartt



I have so many good memories of Fr. Bill, he was so caring to everyone in my family. My father used to say he should have been made Bishop because he was so gifted, but I think he was happiest when he was with his parishioners in his beloved St. Raymond's. He was always quick with a joke and very thoughtful; he would casually show up in someone's hospital room unannounced and he never seemed to miss a parish function.

When I received a cancer diagnosis I approached him after Mass and asked him to pray for me; his response was, "Praise the Lord!" I was a little taken back, but quickly realized I was being prayed over by a man of true faith and his praising the Lord on my behalf was proof that he believed the Gospel message; that God will work all things for our good, we just need to trust Him. Father Bill was indeed a good shepherd. —Anonymous



Fr. Bill used to pass by our house regularly and admire our big blue spruce tree in the front yard. In October 2000, my husband George wound up in hospital. As it got closer to Christmas, Father would stop me and ask, "Who's going to decorate the tree this year?" Of course, he knew that one of our boys would come to the rescue. That job fell to our son Michael. I feel certain that he might have had a little encouragement from Fr. Bill to do this! Even after Fr. Bill left St. Raymond's he would drop us a note or stop us when we saw him and inquire about "that tree." Some years ago the tree fell down. We didn't have the heart to let him know!

My daughter and her family come from New Jersey every year to attend Midnight Mass with us. My granddaughter Lauren used to love it when Fr. Bill would walk down the aisle carrying the Baby Jesus up high for all to see and then place Him in the manger. This was such a special moment for everyone in the church. We really miss him! —Connie McDougal



Father Bill was always so kind to everyone. I remember going to Mercy Rehab for physical therapy, a friend of mine was going as was Fr. Bill and a friend of his from the parish. There were times Fr. Bill didn't want to do his exercises. We would coax him and tell him to do them with us and slowly he came around. We did a lot of laughing and encouraged each other and made it fun. It felt good to have others we knew from church and that we weren't doing our therapy all alone. We all looked forward to it. Quite often when Father Bill came to visit, he would ask me how my shoulder was. He never forgot.

—Judy Kelly

I remember Fr. Bill being a "Yes Man."
 When parishioners indicated they wanted a youth group,
 Fr. Bill said, "Yes."
 When parishioners asked to have a speakers bureau,
 Fr. Bill said, "Yes."
 When parishioners said they wanted to gather to recite
 Marian prayers at certain times,
 Fr. Bill said, "Yes."
 Forty Hours Devotion? ... Yes, of course.
 Fr. Bill created St. Raymond's Pastoral Advisory Committee.
 Fr. Bill not only approved of having Healing Masses at
 St. Raymond's he also instructed the St. Raymond Prayer Group
 to conduct two Healing Masses each year. He attended when
 possible and prayed with those who came for healing.
 Fr. Bill created, supported and participated in the parish's
 quarterly magazine, *The Cloak*.
 At Fr. Bill's request St. Raymond's welcomed back priests who
 had served in the parish. This series of Masses provided parish-
 ioners an opportunity to meet once again with priests who had
 officiated at their marriage ceremony, baptized their children, etc.
 There were and are many other programs from which
 St. Raymond parishioners have benefitted because Fr. Bill
 said "Yes" whenever he could.
 No doubt, Fr. Bill was a "Yes Man" in the best sense of the term.
 May the Lord respond to Fr. Bill's requests in the same way.

--Anonymous

*I remember when Fr. Bill rose early one
 morning to bless those going on a bus trip to
 Massachusetts to attend a healing service with
 Father Ralph DiOrto. —Deborah Simeti*



*I will never forget the kindness and
 compassion Fr. Bill showed to my dear
 friend Harold during his final days. As I
 entered the hospital room I saw Harold
 sitting in a chair. Fr. Bill was on his knees
 rubbing Harold's swollen feet.*

*Fr. Bill was a wonderful, humble priest
 and always had a smile on his face. He
 not only spoke the Word of God, he truly
 lived it. —Anonymous*

*Father Bill did us a big favor by Christening our
 girls Francesca and Lucia Palumbo on February 11,
 2007. The church traditionally gives the honor to
 deacons but we really wanted Fr. Bill to do it and
 he cleared his schedule for us! He was a wonderful
 person and the girls kept in touch by sending him a
 Christmas card every year!*

—Anne Marie Palumbo



While volunteering at St. Raymond's Church I had the
 true pleasure of getting to know Fr. Bill as a priest and as
 a friend. While reading all the names in the Sunday
 Bulletins of baby's or young children that are or were sick
 (and mine dying at a young age), I said there should be an
 angel garden to give strength and hope for all. As children
 are angels in disguise.

Fr. Bill agreed and I purchased the angels and angel stone
 and he decorated the Blessed Mother statue, as his words
 were that the Blessed Mother is the "Mother of all the
 angels." We are so proud of this angel garden and when I
 go there to visit I look to the heavens and see the angels
 smiling at us for making all believe in angels. Please know
 that due to Fr. Bill's influence this angel garden came about
 with lots of love.

I am sure the angels were at the heavenly gate and
 welcoming Fr. Bill with a big smile. Rest in peace Fr. Bill,
 with thanks. —Lorraine T. Keegan



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*Wishing you a
Blessed & Merry Christmas
From the St. Raymond School Family*





Christmas 2018

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

Merry Christmas to you and your families! Christmas is a powerful time of unity and communion for our families, and every Christmas is a time for our families to open even more deeply to the healing and transforming power of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of the Holy Family.

The Holy Family not only transformed but revolutionized the world and history through humility, poverty, adoration, and trust in the plan of God, and a complete dedication to the Glory of God.

Mary's silent adoration and awe teaches us to see through everyday human events and appearances to the presence of Christ in every situation. Joseph teaches us rock solid trust and bold docility in the shifting terrain and unexpected events of daily life. The shepherds teach us simplicity, humility and reverent adoration. The Infant Prince of Peace teaches us that God's Mercy is the beating heart of the Gospel and the beating heart of the Crèche scene. Mercy is the Foundation of the Church's mission to the world.

We approach the Prince of Peace this Christmas for special gifts of peace in our families, special gifts of peace for our Church and special gifts of peace for the World.

In the Mystery of the Nativity, we marvel and give Glory to God with the Shepherds and the Wise Men. We realize in the image of a poor, homeless family and the image of a poor, vulnerable baby that God's logic in the Incarnation overturns and confounds the narrow logic of human power and calculation. "Families transform the world and history."

The Holy Family continues to transform our marriages and our families – right in our daily experiences of the joys, crosses, crises and the unresolved issues of every marriage and every family in a fallen world. In the midst of the weaknesses and failures of daily family life, we remember the Glory of God that radiates from the manger filling our families, despite their daily imperfections, to transform the world and history through faith, holiness and a missionary spirit.

When we pray and meditate on the Crèche at Christmas, we experience a spiritual rebirth and fresh insights into our daily family routine and our daily family spiritual, emotional and relational patterns. We allow the sins of sin and selfishness in our families to be purified with daily patterns of prayer, grace and conversion. We remember that personal conversion sends ripple effects throughout a family.

The Crèche leads us to a deep experience of Mercy and Forgiveness in our families. And we remember that the confessionals in our churches are "Doors of Mercy" and forgiveness for our families. I invite you to take advantage of the gift of reconciliation by participating in the confessions offered at your parish during this holy season.

During this Christmas season, I want to thank you and your families for transforming the world and history with Christ's love.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barros
Bishop of Rockville Centre

IRA Charitable Rollover...

Equals Great Opportunity **Under New Tax Laws**

Whether you itemize or not in 2018, this unique opportunity allows you to make a charitable contribution through a direct IRA transfer while reducing your adjusted gross income.

If you would like to make a gift to our Parish using your IRA and if:

- You are at least 70 1/2 years old on the date you make your gift
- Your IRA is a traditional (some Roth IRA's may qualify)
- You don't exceed your personal maximum of \$100,000 per year in qualified charitable distributions

You will not have to report your distribution as income. It will be free of federal and New York State income tax, and it will count toward your required minimum distribution.

The best way for you to start is with your IRA custodian. Tell them you want to make a "qualified charitable distribution." In most cases you will only have to fill out a simple form.

VERY IMPORTANT: Your gift must go directly from your IRA to our Parish. If you receive the money first then you'll be taxed on it like any other distribution.

*Bill has a \$125,000 in a traditional IRA and would like to contribute \$5,000 as his yearly gift to his Parish. Upon hearing of the **Charitable IRA Rollover** opportunity, he directs the custodian of his IRA to transfer this amount not later than December 31, 2018 directly to the Parish as the family's 2018 gift. He will not be subject to income tax on the \$5,000 donation.*

This information is not intended and should not be construed as legal, tax or investment advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney, tax advisor or investment professional.

Give, and it will be given to you. A good portion—packed down, firmly shaken, and overflowing—will **fall into your lap.** The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return.

Luke 6:38 CEB

Light to guide
our feet into a
way of peace.

Luke 1:79

PEACE



Hands of
Christ's Mercy



**Thank you for your generous support of the
2018 Catholic Ministries Appeal.**

**Completing your 2018 pledge ensures that our Parish
will benefit by receiving our full rebate.**

**If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, please
prayerfully consider making a donation to the Appeal.**

***Pledges can be accepted until December 31, 2018
and payments can be made through January 31, 2019!***

Self-Mailers are provided in the back of the church.

**Join us as we join together as the *Hands of Christ's
Mercy!***

Thank You!

✕ _____

Please make checks payable to *Catholic Ministries Appeal*.

Parish: _____ Total Pledge: \$ _____

Name: _____ Down payment: \$ _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____



2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL *Hands of Christ's Mercy*

*Our official parish wide effort for the 2018 Catholic Ministries Appeal is coming to a close. We are \$5000 behind where we were currently in 2017. This means that our rebate for 2018 will be less than last year. As you know, this appeal is crucial in supporting the many vital diocesan and parish ministries each year. Everything will help and give us a bigger rebate when all is concluded for the 2018 campaign next month. I am always so grateful for your generosity and commitment each year to the appeal. **To more fully understand the importance of this appeal you can always view this year's video presentation online at www/dryc.org.***

As your pastor, I want you to know that I too financially support the *Catholic Ministries Appeal* and I have confidence that our parish will do its very best to once again make the *2018 Catholic Ministries Appeal* successful for our diocese and parish. We came close again in 2017 and I always believe we can make it each year. Remember that St. Raymond's will also benefit financially when we are successful in reaching our goal in payment by the end of the calendar year. We stand to receive 20% of any money raised up to the goal and then 80% of any money raised over the goal amount. Because we were close to our goal for 2017, our partial rebate totaled **\$10,681** when the final totals were calculated. That is great and a much needed boost to our parish's financial line. ***There are always pledge cards and envelopes on the pew shelves by the front doors for you to take home and use as you see fit.*** Many people also make their pledge/donation directly to the appeal office in Rockville Centre. ***We get full credit no matter how you do it!***

If everyone in our parish family contributed according to their means we could easily reach our goal and even go beyond. Then, not only will we be helping the diocese fund so many important ministries but St. Raymond's would also reap a sizable rebate. And that would be great

Please remember that no gift is too small and all gifts make a difference to someone's life. As Pope Francis reminds us all..... "a Church without charity does not exist."

Below is our 2018 CMA goal and the current totals. Thanks for your help. God bless always.

—*Father Chuck*



2018 CMA Goal
\$100,900.00
Pledges/Gifts as of 12/19/18
\$82,500.00
#Pledges/Gifts





Masses for this Week

Monday, December 24th *Christmas Eve*

7:15am John & Josephine Siascia
8:45am Dora Echvarria
5:00pm Muldowney /Venis Family
8:00pm Tom & Muriel Henry
11:00pm Dave Brand

Tuesday, December 25th *Nativity of the Lord*

9:00am Mary Lou Restfo
10:30am Eddie O'Reilly
12:00pm Jack Pellicano, Jr.

Wednesday, December 26th *St. Stephen*

7:15am Jack Butler
8:45am William Hartt

Thursday, December 27th *St. John, Apostle*

7:15am Msgr. William Jablonski
8:45am James Mulroy

Friday, December 28th *The Holy Innocents*

7:15am Michael Horn
8:45am Cheryl Drugan

Saturday, December 29th *St. Thomas Becket*

8:45am Gilbert Helmstadt, Ann Hess, Iris Zavatto,
 Mary McIntyre, Ray Sweeney,
 Yolunda Mercado Barcia
5:00pm Adolph Kump

Sunday, December 30th *The Holy Family*

7:30am Richard E. Boyd
9:00am Louise Saar
10:30am Nellie D'Agnee
12:00pm Agnes Conway, Martin Gilchrist,
 Camille, Jerry, Cathy Agrillo, Sharon Grupp,
 Fannie Lamontanoro, Mary Ruane,
4:30pm The People of St. Raymond Parish

Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79

Tuesday

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25
 Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Wednesday

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

Thursday

1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Friday

1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Mt 2:13-18

Saturday

1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35

Sunday

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52

Please Pray for Our Sick

Janet Kelly, Bob Kelly, Michaelina Vito, Catalina Aloj,
 Joseph Barbarino Giordano, Msgr. Thomas Candreva,
 Anne Gallagher, Irene Tortorella, Alyssa Fagan, Josie Genuth,
 Wolff Genuth, Olivia Bonino, Bridget Feminella, Barbara Neccio,
 Baby Dino Paul Scali, Pam Guzzardo, Marie Mazzola,
 Margaret Mary Barbato, Regina Dee, Michael Dee,
 Thomas Doty, John Devlin, George O'Kane, Anne Lintner,
 Connie & Fred Pollock, Frank Guidice, Jodi Neckles,
 Gina Mazzola, Taryn Cochio, Joseph Tray, Allen Labbe.



Rest in Peace

Paul Raymond Cecere
 Michael Lotito



The Bread & Wine

For this week is in loving memory of

Nicholas, Matthew & John

From their loving family.



The Sanctuary Light

For this week is in memory of

The Raia Family

Donated by Diane Minucci.



The Rose for Life

For this week is in loving memory of the

Deceased Members of the

Pampino & Hallock Family

From your children, grandchildren
 & great-grandchildren.

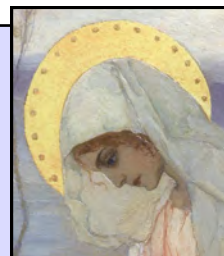
Pastoral Council

"Behold,
 I am the handmaid of the Lord.
 May it be done to me
 according to Your Word."

—Philippians 4:4

Pastoral Council Members

Jean Chojnacki; Monica Collins, Vice Chairperson;
 Jeanne LaSala; Patricia Mayle, Chairperson;
 Patricia McCormack; Mary Carmel Murphy;
 Michael Palumbo, Secretary;



Parish Bulletin Board

Spirituality for Singles

Monthly Singles Gathering

Saturday, Jan. 5th; 8:30pm

St. Aidan Parish, 510 Willis Ave., Williston Park

Our monthly gathering for singles; discussion and socialization. This gathering will feature a guest musical performance. All singles ages 35+ are welcome. Donation: \$5; snacks, pizza and beverages will be served.

Contact: Ray (516) 561-6994,
or spiritualityforsingles@gmail.com.

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Reclaim

A science-based Catholic program for overcoming addiction to pornography and other unhealthy sexual behaviors.

For info, visit www.reclaimsexualhealth.com

Birthingright

Pregnant? Need help?

24 Hour Hotline: 1-800-550-4900

Help the Poor in Appalachia

The emergency food pantry at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Cumberland, Kentucky distributes collected food, groceries and sanitary products to over 400 families in need every month. They need help to keep going. Please consider supporting the food pantry by sending a donation, large or small, to:

St. Stephen Catholic Church

304 Central St.

Cumberland, KY 40823

Att: Father Mani George Thellikalayil

Volunteer missionaries are welcome,

call Father Mani at 609-589-5616

May God forever bless you; whatever you do for the poor will be a treasure in heaven!

End of Life Decision Making

Catholic teaching on end of life decisions; nutrition and hydration; palliative and hospice care; assisted suicide, euthanasia; healthcare proxies and living wills.

For info, visit www.catholicendoflife.org

AA Meeting

Monday Nights; 7:00pm

VFW Post 3350

164 Main St., East Rockaway

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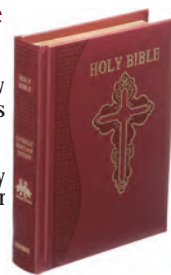
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