

## 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 Theodore Iloh

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

**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 (RIP)

**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, December 20, 2020

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of  
the Lord. May it be done to me  
according to your work."

-Luke 1:38



December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

## 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](http://www.SaintRaymonds.org)

**Facebook:** St. Raymond Parish, East Rockaway

**E-Mail:** [StRayRcc@optonline.net](mailto:StRayRcc@optonline.net)

Rectory.....593-5000

Rectory Fax.....887-0554

**Parish Social Ministry**.....887-9197

Office Hours are Monday-Thursday 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 Fax .....593-1156

### 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.

### 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.



**CATHOLIC FAITH  
— NETWORK —**

### **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



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

SPC Frank Candreva US ARMY  
SPC Giuseppina (Josie) Coppola US ARMY  
Lt. Col. Mary P. King, M.D., US ARMY  
Lt. Com. Joseph Garbitelli US NAVY  
Sgt. Gerard Moran  
Lt. Com. Joseph Leahy US NAVY

***Please remember to pray for our  
wounded soldiers.***

## Father Chuck's Corner

**Greetings and God's blessings be yours on the Fourth Sunday of Advent!** The focus for this final week of Advent is to encourage us to be true followers of Jesus who is the Light. All of us have been called to a certain mission in life as his followers and we have the freedom to say yes or no. In the first reading from 2 Samuel, King David wants to build a fitting dwelling for the Ark of the Covenant. But God is not concerned with this wish of David. He reminds him that despite David's royal status, he is still a servant and all he has is a gift from God. **"And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth."** Then in the second reading from Romans, Paul expresses lasting gratitude for the ability to preach about God's plan for salvation which had remained a mystery for so long. And finally, in today's gospel from Luke, we have the Annunciation reading as seen through the lens of Advent which is the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, and the Son of the Most High. We hear the announcement of the angel Gabriel and the explanation of how it will all happen, because nothing is impossible for God. And then there is the portrait of Mary, carefully pondering what all this could mean. And of course, there is her willing response: **"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."**

There are certain contrasts signified in Advent. There is both light and darkness and both fear and hope. We have the darkness of winter and the brightness in the lights of decorations. Darkness brings fear and light brings hope. Christmas reminds us that Jesus, the Light of God will sustain us and shine through us. And through us God will continue to be born into the world. Now think about the angel telling Mary not to be afraid. If an angel came and told me that, I'd probably quake in my boots. Why? Because life would never be the same. That is what happened to Mary, but only after she said yes! She allowed the light to permeate her being and she brought that light with her wherever she went. **Perhaps, with all that is going on in our world today, we can see this Advent as God again breaking into our world.** Only in deep prayer can we become aware of what God wants from us. It takes quiet and openness to be receptive to God's request. In times of distress, like our sheltering in place time, we can view such a moment as an opportunity to set apart quiet space to be more open to receiving God's word. Jesus became incarnate in the body of Mary because she said yes. And her yes opened the way for Jesus to show us God's saving love.

May we also say yes when asked so as to continue in the example of Mary. The Christmas story is our blueprint.

As we approach the celebration of Christmas this coming Friday, we are all trying to figure out the best way to celebrate this year. Of course, I would like to celebrate Christmas Masses with as many people as possible. But that just can't happen this year. With the COVID-19 pandemic on the rise at this time, the safety and health of all of us is of paramount importance. While we will have Christmas Masses in our church, we cannot accommodate all the people that usually attend. We will try to do the best we can but realize that we are at only 50% capacity. That means many people would be turned away. However, it is just impossible to really know what to expect in terms of attendees. So, I would say that if you have not been attending Mass pretty regularly since we reopened, Christmas day is not the time to start. And if you are sick or compromised in any way, please do not try to come for Christmas. If you do come, make sure it is only with family members you live with. We will try to accommodate safely as many people as possible under present guidelines. **Remember that no one is obligated to attend Mass at any time during this pandemic crisis.** An alternative to coming for Christmas would be to visit the church during Christmas week or at any time during the Christmas season. Our church will be beautifully decorated and inviting as a place to spend some time in prayer during the Christmas season. And you can always pray with a televised Mass for Christmas or any Sunday while making a Spiritual Communion. If we all do our part to keep safe and somewhat distant this year, we will most definitely be able to fully celebrate Christmas and all other holidays next year.

**Please remember to take home a copy of the bulletin when you leave Mass today.** It contains many items of interest and invitation with something for everyone. Of special note is news and needs from **Parish Social Ministry**, info from **Religious Education** and the **Principal's Corner** of St. Raymond School, the **Mass Schedule** for Christmas and New Year's Day, additional **Confession** times, and much more. To keep informed, keep a copy of the bulletin at home each week for quick and easy reference.

Have a great Fourth Week of Advent! **Keep that Advent rejoicing going and remember: The Christmas alphabet has only 25 letters. Why? There's Noel!** God bless always.

**-Father Chuck**



# WEEKLY MASS PRAYERS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## 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.

## 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

## 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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## FIRST READING

**2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16**

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?'"

"It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29**

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. The promises of the LORD I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, "My kindness is established forever";

in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations."

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. "He shall say of me, 'You are my father, my God, the Rock, my savior.' Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm."

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

## SECOND READING

**ROM 16:25-27**

Brothers and sisters:

To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

## ALLELUIA

**LK 1:38**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.

May it be done to me according to your word.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

## GOSPEL

**LK 1:26-38**

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

# LOVE

# Christmas 2020

(Note additional Masses and time changes)

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

(confessions)

**Saturdays December 19th**

3:30 till 4:30 in the Church

**Monday, December 21st**

**and Tuesday December 22nd**

Confessions in the Church

4:30-5:30pm

## Christmas Mass Schedule

**Christmas Eve**

**Thursday, December 24th**

3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

10:30 pm (Christmas Carols)

11:00pm (mass ending at Midnight)

**Christmas Day**

**Friday, December 25th**

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

(No Evening Mass on Christmas Day)

## Solemnity of Mary

**New Year's Eve**

**Thursday, December 31st**

5:00pm

**New Year's Day**

**Wednesday, January 1, 2020**

9:00am, 10:30am and 12 noon



## 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 **Sunday, December 20th**.

Thank you, **Father Chuck**



# CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS

## FROM

## In Memory of...

## FROM

## In Memory of...

Aragona Family  
M/M Al Barbarino  
Frank Barbella  
M/M P. Birmingham  
Peter Broughal  
Mary Burkard  
Jim & Mary Caffrey  
Mrs. Dorothy Calabrese

Rosemarie Calamari  
M/M A. Campanaro

Cathy Carey  
Elizabeth Carney

Kathleen Casazza  
Tom & Jean Chojnacki

M/M Robert Cipriano  
Jean & Ed Cook  
Louise Coscia  
Margaret & Brendan  
Crowe

Linda Daley  
Eileen DeAcetis  
Barbara DeFendis  
M/M Guy Donza  
M/M R. Dombrowski  
Jane Donlon

Frances Duffy

Cathy Duggan  
The Ferrara Family  
Donna & Robert Ferraro  
Katherine Fitzgerald

Tom & Kathie Flood  
Anna & Frank Gallagher  
M/M John Gallo

The Gangi Family  
M/M Gerard Gonyon

Kelly Hanratty  
Kevin & Phyllis  
Harrington

Mary Lou Hart  
Mary E. Healy  
Doreen Henshaw  
& Family

Milici & Ferrara Family  
Barbarino & Leporati Families  
Ruth Barbella  
Walker & Birmingham Families  
Loretta Broughal  
Noreen, Gilbert, Helen Helmstadt  
The Holy Innocents  
Anthony Calabrese  
Mary & William D'Onofrio  
Millie & Al Calabrese  
John Calamari  
Eva Marie Campanaro  
Sadles & Campanaro Families  
VonUrrf-Carey Families  
Hannah Sullivan  
Maryellen Sullivan Chiarello  
William & Mary Chelius  
Robert Chojnacki  
Cathy Turner  
Mehrmann & Cipriano Families  
Cook & McCaffrey Families  
Frances Forster  
Roseann Kane  
Thomas Kane  
Jean & John Casses  
Lucille & Edward Meehan  
Dominic DeFendis  
Armellino Donza  
Louise Sena  
James Donlon Jr.  
Ruth & William Hanna  
Ellen & James Donlon  
Robert Duffy  
Deceased members of the Callagy &  
Duffy Families  
Mary & Thomas Duggan  
Joan Ferrara  
Gilda & Salvatore Raia  
Mr. LeRoy Fitzgerald  
Mrs. Helen Wilt  
Mr. John Carl Wilt Sr.  
Mr. John Carl Wilt Jr.  
Brian Flood  
McHale & Gallagher Families  
Helen Gallo  
Stella Mentel  
Vincent J. Gangi  
Deceased members of  
The Henry & Gonyon Families  
Bobby Jones  
John St. Amand  
Ray Harrington  
Joseph Saldutti  
Vincent Saldutti  
Peter Hart  
John Healy  
Charlie Henshaw  
Kennedy & Henshaw Families

Mrs. Eileen Hinshaw  
The Hoeffner Family  
M/M William Johnson  
Peter & Marianne  
Kahlke

Mary Kelly  
Mark & Linda Klang

M/M J. Lacchini  
M/M Lawrence LaPlaca  
Geraldine Laperuta  
Jeanne LaSala  
M/M Robert Layng Jr.

Ita Lederman  
Jimmy Lores  
Lynch Family  
Mary Ann Lynch  
Pat Mahoney  
John Mangino  
Michael Marafioti  
The Marchesini Family

Amelia Marcucci  
Janet Matthews & Family  
Gail McCarthy  
Mary Ann McDonnell  
Mary McIntyre  
Kathleen McHale

Teresa Meehan  
M/M August Michela  
Rita Miller  
William Mincher  
Nancy Mott  
Mrs. Mary Ann Mulroy  
Mary Carmel & Jerry  
Murphy

Robert & Kay Murray  
Gordana O'Brien  
Maureen O'Hagan  
O'Hanlon Family

M/M David Ohlsen

Dennis & Lucy  
Ostermann  
Nina Padula

Michael & Annmarie  
Palumbo

Mrs. Papathomas

Charlie & Gerry Peknic

Thomas & Mary Duggan  
Kate Conlin  
Curatolo & Johnson Families  
Margaret Ferreri

Noel & Thomas Kelly  
Viola Klang  
Mildred Weber  
Phil Klang  
Fred Weber

Robert James Lacchini  
Anna Califano  
Ray Laperuta  
Frances & Charles Hess

Davaalene Layng  
Vincent Iovone

MaryKate & Thomas McCawley  
Lorayne & Manuel Lores

Thornton & Lynch Family  
Nora & Bernie Lynch

Mary Schmidt  
Gerald Mangino  
Frank Marafioti  
Baby Thomas Luigi Marchesini  
Mary (Mimi) Marchesini  
Cecilia Peppe

Joseph F. Marcucci  
John T. Matthews Sr.  
John P. McCarthy  
The Lockhart & McDonnell Families  
McIntyre & Winters Families  
James McHale & Other deceased  
Members of the McHale & Max families

James Meehan  
Vulpis & Michela Families  
Leonard & Margaret Miller  
Anne Mincher  
Jack & Jean Sweeney  
Jeanne Marie & James Mulroy  
Nicholas Murphy

Brett & Murray Families  
Marija & Boris Markoc  
James O'Hagan  
O'Hanlon, Carroll, Grano,  
Danza Family Members  
James & Kathleen Ryder  
David E. Ohlsen Sr.

Deceased Family of  
Gaeta & Ostermann  
Russo, Oliva, Padula &  
Ambrosio Families  
Rich & Betty Jacobs

Zoe Papathomas  
John Herbert  
G. Buell & C. Peknic Families



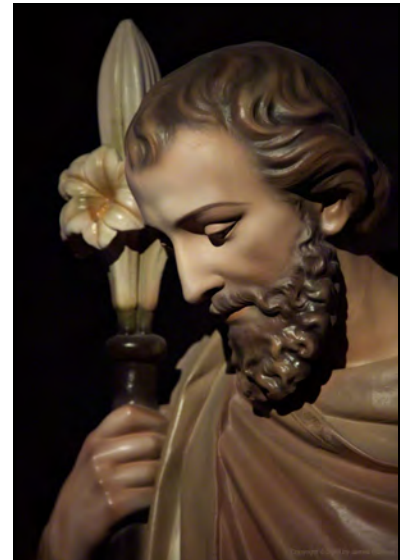
## SPECIAL ONE YEAR MEMORIAL CANDLE

As you know, several years ago we have upgraded our devotional candles by both the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. The older ones were outdated and ready to break down. In addition we have added four new statues in the rear of the church with smaller new candle stands. They are Mother Teresa, St. Therese of the Little Flower, St. Anthony and St. Jude. Hopefully they have enhanced 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, November 29, 2020 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):

\_\_\_\_\_



## Religious Education- Faith Formation

*Evelyn Contaldi, Director*

**THERE ARE NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES AND THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 12/23/2020-12/31/2020. CLASSES WILL RESUME AND THE OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN ON MONDAY 1/4/2021.**

### **ATTENTION 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE PARENTS**

Dates for 2021 First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are still yet to be determined due to the uncertainty of the pandemic. As soon as the dates are set, parents will be notified.

The fourth candle of Advent is called the "Angel Candle" and symbolizes peace. This name comes from the fact that the angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace on earth (Luke 2:14). During the Advent season we are reminded that the birth of Jesus brings peace to our hearts and to our world, not just at this time, but always.

***Wishing you a season that's merry and bright with the light of God's love. May God's blessings be with you and your family this Christmas and always.***

***Evelyn Contaldi  
Lucy Ostermann  
Nancy Mott***



**St. Raymond  
Human Life  
Committee**

### **SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PRAYER PROGRAM SIX MONTH DEVELOPING BABY**

Although your spiritually adopted baby is growing rapidly, your baby's organs are still developing. His or her skin is bright pink, covered by a heavy protective creamy ointment "vernix". His or her eyelids separate; eyelashes form and the eyes are partially opened. The baby's weight is about 2 pounds. Any baby born at this time has a very good chance of survival. Today, medical advances in caring for extremely small newborn infants are extraordinary. About 9 out of 10 babies will now survive with intensive care services. As this spiritually adopted baby is being formed by our loving God, please continue to pray for your little one's mother that she may choose life and bring her baby to birth. You can see a picture of the actual size of the baby at this stage of his or her development on the bulletin boards located at each of the Church's entrances.

***We wish all our parish family a very  
Blessed and Merry Christmas!!***

## Principal's Corner

***Sister Ruthanne***

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent with just a few days before we celebrate the Birth of Jesus. The Gospel story for this Sunday is most familiar to us as the angel Gabriel appears to Mary and announces that she is to become the mother of the Messiah. Can you imagine? Here is a young woman of about fifteen being told that she has been chosen by God to have his son. She knows the promise that God will send the Messiah and is not frightened by the announcement. But rather she questions how it can happen "since I have had no relations with a man." When the angel reveals that the Holy Spirit will come upon her, she willingly said that she would do whatever God wanted. What faith Mary had to be able to give her Fiat without hesitation! Let us pray that we may always be as responsive as Mary to do the will of God.

This is the final week of school for 2020! It has been quite a run and I believe we are all happy to see 2020 come to an end. Perhaps peace and joy will follow in the upcoming year. Meanwhile, we have two and a half days left before we break for Christmas. Actually, the half day is a day for the students and their teachers to have a little fun. Perhaps we could call it 'PAJAMA DAY' or maybe "CHRISTMAS MOVIE DAY". Whatever, it is, it will definitely be a fun time for all! The school will then be closed until Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. That should give everyone a little extra time for rest and relaxation.

Of course, both Mrs. Giglio and I will be homebound for the break, so we will be available via phone if we are needed. Seriously, you can contact us by calling the school and leaving a message. The messages are checked on a regular basis, so we will get back to you in a timely manner. Have a beautiful, blessed Christmas. Know that we will keep you all in prayer during this special season. May our Infant Savior bring peace and joy to each of us. Merry Christmas.



**JOY**  
*to the world*

## ***Christmas Cash 50/50 Winner***

*Last Sunday, the winning ticket for the 2020  
**Christmas** Cash 50/50 was drawn with the winner  
receiving \$4600.00 as the winning share.*

*The winning ticket number was #F01680.*

*Thanks to all who participated in this year's raffle.  
It really helps St. Raymond Parish as well as spread some  
**Christmas** cheer to the winner.*

*Maybe you will be the winner next time. You never know.  
Watch for **Paddy's Pot of Gold** in the coming months.*



*Feast of  
The Holy Family of  
Jesus, Mary and  
Joseph*



*Mary was called to become the mother  
of our Lord. Each of us are called to  
serve the Lord in some way, as well.  
Ask the Lord to reveal to you what He  
wills of you and ask Him for the  
courage to do His will.*



**December Parish Picks  
Winners**  
*Congratulation to this month's*

**1st Place—\$1,000**

#891-Mr. & Mrs. Randazzo

**2nd Place—\$500**

#810-Nancy Panzalcano

**3rd Place—\$250**

#334-Frank Felbingeo

**4th Place—\$250**

#485-Marie & Guy Donza

*You've got to be in it to win it!*



## **Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,**

Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.

We fly to you today as your beloved children.

We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,  
as you did at the wedding in Cana.

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

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

In this time of trial and testing,  
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be  
patient and kind.

Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to  
our hearts.

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

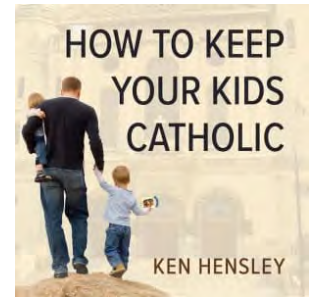
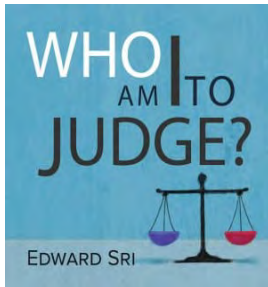
Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,  
keep us in the embrace of your arms,  
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.  
Amen.



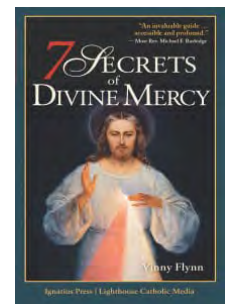
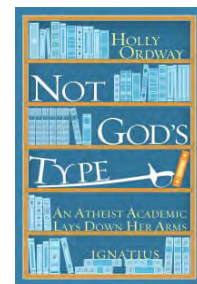


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*Hail Mary*

*Hail Mary  
full of Grace.  
the Lord is with thee.*

*Blessed are thou among women  
and blessed is the fruit  
of thy womb Jesus.*

*Holy Mary  
Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners  
now and at the hour  
of our death  
Amen.*

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## Parish Social Ministry

### *The Heart of the Parish*

***This year we are all fearful of shopping in the stores, fearful of an unseen enemy, the Corona virus. Yet the spirit of giving has not been thwarted. It has in fact never been stronger. The amazing faith and courage of the parishioners of St Raymond's shines as brightly as the Christmas star. The Giving Tree wishes have been fulfilled. You are each a gift, each a present given to our clients and the volunteers who work at our Parish Ministry. May the birth of the child Jesus continue to bless and inspire you this Christmas Season. We keep you in our prayers always. God bless***

## A Prayer as I put on my mask:

Creator,

As I prepare to go into the world,

Help me to see the sacrament

In the wearing of this cloth-

Let it be "an outward sign

Of an inward grace"-

A tangible and visible way of living

Love for my neighbors,

Christ,

Since my lips will be covered,

Uncover my heart,

That people would see my smile

In the crinkles around my eyes.

Since my voice may be muffled,

Help me to speak clearly,

Not only with my words,

But with my actions.

Holy Spirit,

As the elastic touches my ears,

Remind me to listen carefully-

And full of care-

To all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be

Shield and banner,

And each breath that it holds,

Be filled with your love.

In your name and in

The name of love

I pray.

May it be so, May it be so.

## Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn

### *Gives Back!*

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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## Masses for this Week

### Monday, December 21st

7:15am Vincent Ferrara

8:45am Joseph Ingrao

### Tuesday, December 22nd

7:15am Marion Paulson

8:45am Nick Taffner

### Wednesday, December 23rd

7:15am Frances Hess

8:45am James Torre

### Thursday, December 24th

7:15am Daniel Paolantonio

8:45am Peggy Lyons

3:00pm John Cliggett

5:00pm Muldowney-Venis Family

7:00pm Alice & Herb Mogensen

11:00pm David Brand

### Friday, December 25th *Merry Christmas*

9:00am Frank & Anne Behrman

10:30am Scala & O'Kane Families

12:00pm Patricia Betzag

### Saturday, December 26th *Saint Stephen*

8:45am Nora Mary Lynch, Jack Herbert

5:00pm William Hartt a

### Sunday, December 27th *The Holy Family*

7:30am Clare Oakes (100th Birthday)

9:00am Frances Guadagno

10:30am James Mulroy

12:00pm Cathy Turner, Michael Horn,  
William & Louise Saar, Florence Bell  
Connie & George McDougal - Living  
Jose & Alfredo Vargas

4:30pm St. Raymond Parish

### Scripture Readings for the Week

#### Monday

SG 2:8-14 /LK 1:39-45

#### Tuesday

1 SM 1:24-28/LK 1:46-56

#### Wednesday

MAL 3:1-4, 23-24 /LK 1:57-66

#### Thursday

2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16 /LK 1:67-79

#### Friday

Is 52:7-10 /Jn 1:1-18

#### Saturday

ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59/ MT 10:17-22

#### Sunday

SIR 3:2-6, 12-14 / COL 3:12-21 / LK 2:22-40

### Please Pray for Our Sick

Fr, Tom Moriarity, Deacon Rich LaRossa, Valerie Fellows,  
Jeanette Kostyrka, Rudy Romano, Tamika Brown, Azai  
Betty McCormack, Cathy Maziejka, Stephen Iervalino,  
Ralph Cerrato, Sky Mary Cirrito, Pat Bolino, Anthony Sisco  
Gloria Criscuolo, Gina Mazzola, Dr. Sam Iyer, Samara Q,  
Patricia Criscuolo, Joan Ellyn Bolino, Connie & Fred Polik,  
Margaret Mary Barbato, Taylor Clark, Liz Biondi, Jodi Neckles,  
Olivia Bonino, Anthony B., Alyssa B., Bart Castellaneta,  
Victoria Wilkinson, Nick, Kathleen Clancy, Peter Rapanaro Sr.

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



### Rest in Peace

Rosalia Barbaro

Roderick K. McLane



### The Bread & Wine

For this week is in loving memory of

Helen & Theodore Hehm

By the Rehms-Shapiro Family



### The Sanctuary Light

For this week in memory of

The Raia Family



### The Rose for Life

In Loving Memory of

All Deceased Members of the Pampino,

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### St. Raymond's Bulletin...

As a reminder, in case you forget to pick up your weekly Sunday bulletin, you can view it on our website:  
**www.saintraymonds.org.**

If you would like to advertise an upcoming event for a St. Raymond Ministry or group, please email your article or notice two Fridays before the date of the bulletin to:  
**strayrcc@optonline.net.**

Please write: "Attention Bulletin Editor" in the subject line of your email. All bulletin articles are subject to the Pastor's approval.

### Birthright

*Pregnant? Need help?*

**24 Hour Hotline: 1-800-550-4900.**

### 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](http://www.catholicendoflife.org).**

### 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!**

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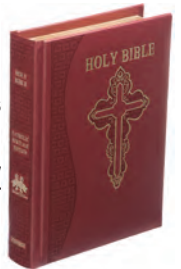
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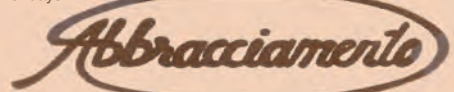
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