

Masses

Saturday Eve 5:00PM
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30AM,
12 Noon 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., 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 Cornelius Dery

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
Linda Ohlsen

The Parish of St. Raymond

*A Eucharistic Community of
Faith, Love and Friendship*

Sunday, December 8, 2019

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000

*"a voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way
of the Lord, make straight his paths."*

~Matthew 3:1-3



Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2019

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-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 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

Sunday, December 8th

6-9:00pm Christmas Pageant

Cafeteria

Tuesday, December 10th

6:30-8pm Cub Scouts

Cafeteria

7:30pm Charismatic Prayer Group

MWMR

7:30-9pm Handbell Choir

Church

Wednesday, December 11th

9:00am Art Club

MWMR

7:00pm Christmas Concert

Auditorium

7:30pm Choir

Church

7:30-8:30 Folk Group Practice

MWMR

Thursday, December 12th

9:30am Bible Sharing

MWMR

7:30pm Revue

MWMR

Friday, December 13th

7:00pm Cub Scouts

Cafeteria

7:30-10pm Boy Scouts

Gym

Saturday, December 14th

3:30pm Confessions

Church



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



SPC Frank Candreva, ARMY
PFC Giuseppina Coppola, ARMY
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

Please remember to pray for our wounded soldiers.

Father Chuck's Corner

Greetings and God's blessings be yours on the Second Sunday of Advent! The theme of this Sunday continues from last week as we try to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord, Jesus and the restoration of all God's creation. God works throughout history for the salvation of his people. The first reading from Isaiah offers an idealized vision of the future. The promised king will come from the line of David and the people's task is to turn away from sin in preparation to meet him. **"On that day the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious."** Then the second reading from Romans builds on Isaiah by proclaiming that through God's word all the nations will glorify God with one voice. **"Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name."** And finally, our gospel from Matthew brings the character of John the Baptist into the Advent theme of preparing for the Lord's coming. John spoke of repentance and the immanence of the kingdom. Of him Isaiah had written: **"A voice of one crying out in the desert, prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."**

Now is the time when children are writing to Santa with their Christmas wish lists including assurances that they have been **"nice"** and not **"naughty."** However, children are not the only ones with a wish list nor are they the only ones who need to ask, **"Have I been naughty or nice?"** As we mature in life, we realize that our deepest desires are never satisfied by trinkets or status. What we truly long for is a life with purpose in a world where justice and peace reign. Such a world God promised to provide through his Son. We are invited to turn away from sin, which takes us away from God's vision, and instead prepare a place for the coming of God's Son in our lives. Ever since the prophecy of Isaiah, the people of Israel had sought after the promised Messiah. John the Baptist announces that now the time has come. In order to welcome the kingdom, people had to turn away from sin and have a change of heart in order to prepare a way for the Lord. Jesus, the Messiah did come but he will return, bringing to fulfillment all that has been promised. So, like those who heard the words of John the Baptist, we also are urged to repent and turn back to the Lord of justice. May our turning from sin and reception of his Body and Blood draw us into the eternal kingdom of God.

Thanks to everyone who spent some time in church during the **Forty Hours Devotion** that we held to start the Advent Season last Sunday. It was a time of grace and blessing for all who spent some time with the Lord in church, for all those who were prayed for as well as for St. Raymond Parish. May our Advent journey continue to be time spent with Jesus, for that is truly time well spent.

At this time, I would like to welcome **Father Syriac Cine** who is a Montfort Father from Haiti. Father Cine will be staying with us for the months of December and January. He has already served in our diocese some years past, so he is familiar with Long Island. On behalf of all the people of St. Raymond Parish, I welcome you, Father Cine, and hope that your time with us will be a restful and joy-filled experience. Look for Father Cine at a Mass near you.

Our Christmas Cash 50/50 and Christmas Plant Sale is only a week away. Chances for the 50/50 and order forms for Christmas Plants will be available at the tables in the Altar Server Sacristy and church vestibule after all the Masses this weekend. Don't miss out on a chance to win some big money, and don't forget to get your plant order in as well. Next weekend on Gaudete Sunday, the 50/50 drawing will be held, and the Christmas Plants will be picked up during Hospitality in the school cafeteria.

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 additional note is news and needs from **Parish Social Ministry**, (especially the **Giving Tree and Sponsor a Family** programs at this time), info from **Religious Education** and the **Principal's Corner** of St. Raymond School, the **Mass Schedule** for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 9th, this Sunday's **Christmas Pageant** at 7pm in the church, an invitation to the musical, **"Scrooge"** on Friday evening, December 13th and much more. To keep informed, keep a copy of the bulletin at home each week for quick and easy reference.

Have a great Second Week of Advent! **Smile, share and remember: Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus.** God bless always.

-Father Chuck



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 22nd**. Thank you, **Father Chuck**



An evening of reflection and prayer
on the coming of
Jesus from the perspectives of Matthew,
Mark, Luke and John.
Presented by Fr. Bret Stockdale, S.J.
Sundays December 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd
6:00pm-7:30pm
Tabor House-St. Anthony's
60 Anchor Ave Oceanside, NY
Community Room and Chapel
RSVP to Karen: ksuero@jesuits.org
516-675-4012

HOPE
LOVE

ADVENT

JOY
PEACE



Gaudete Sunday



Sunday, December 15th, the Third Sunday of Advent, takes the name "Gaudete Sunday" to emphasize that having reached the halfway point of Advent it is the time to focus on "rejoicing." As part of our parish rejoicing for Gaudete Sunday, we will have a special Gaudete Hospitality throughout the day from **10:00am until 2:00pm** in the School Cafeteria.

There will be refreshments, carols, the picking up of Christmas Plant Orders, the pulling of the winning Christmas Cash ticket at 2:00pm and other "Gaudete Surprises." So make plans to stop by after Mass to get in the spirit of Advent Rejoicing that will lead to Christmas Joy!

Blessing the Crèche

The blessing of our outdoor crèche will take place immediately following the 9:00am Family Mass on **Sunday December 15th**. Be sure to stop by the school cafeteria for the Gaudete celebration afterwards! Bring the whole family!

O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel!



DECEMBER 2019
SPONSOR A FAMILY PROGRAM
*If you can possibly share
Christmas Blessings
with a family!*

**PLEASE CALL PARISH SOCIAL
MINISTRY AT 887-9197**

FOR DETAILS
*We are requesting that the
family gifts be
returned to the Parish
Social Ministry at
The Ryan House by
December 9, 2019*



Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 8th; 7:00pm
St. Raymond Church

TODAY



Our Children's Gift to our Parish!
*Refreshments to follow in the
school cafeteria, courtesy of the
Knights of Columbus!*

Giving Tree

If you would like to share a little Christmas cheer with someone in need, please take a card from our parish Giving Tree; each card contains an item from someone's "wish" list. When you return your wrapped gift, please be sure to attach the card securely to the outside of the package.

*Please deliver your gift back to the Giving Tree no later than Monday,
December 9th to allow for distribution*

Thank you for your generosity!



**An Evening of
Lessons & Carols**

***Presented by...
St. Raymond's Choir***

Celebrate the Miracle!

Sunday, December 15th; 7:00pm
St. Raymond Church
Laura Garbitelli, Director
Eric Williams, Organist

"No Questions Asked"
Advent Penance Service
With Confessions

Tuesday, December 17th, 7:30pm
St. Raymond Church



**A gentle way to come back
To this healing sacrament.**



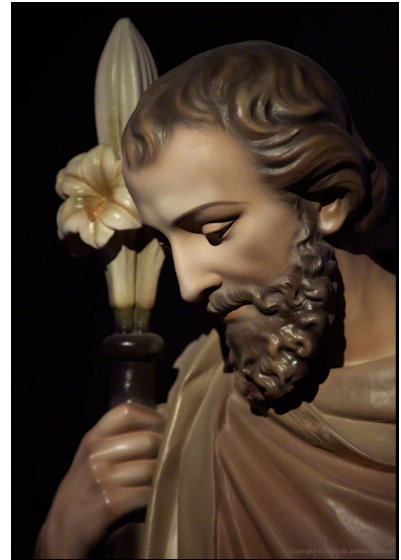
SPECIAL ONE YEAR MEMORIAL CANDLE

As you have probably noticed, 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 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 1, 2019 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):

BEST
Advent
EVER

AMAZING POSSIBILITIES

Because a Great Christmas Begins
with an **Incredible Advent**



*We're passionate about re-energizing the
Catholic Church in America and inspiring people
to rediscover the genius of Catholicism.*

Are You Ready to Get Ready?

**SO... WHAT IS BEST
ADVENT EVER?**

**It's a totally free and totally
awesome daily video
program (sent straight to
your email) that will help you
prepare for Christmas like
never before!**

***SIGN UP AT [https://
dynamiccatholic.com](https://dynamiccatholic.com)***



The Three MMMs

Missals- The Season of Advent signals the change of missals for the new liturgical year. Our book, entitled ***Breaking Bread*** which is ***one book containing the hymnal and readings for the entire year.*** In addition, all of the missals are enclosed in new and old blue hard covers. This new book in its binder makes an attractive and effective worship aid. ***Now I appeal for your help in keeping them in good condition. Please do not separate the book from the binder or take them from the pews.*** It seems that as time goes by, we begin missing a number of them. We have just the right amount to fill our worship needs. ***Also, please do not give them to young children for coloring or pacifying purposes.*** The pages are delicate and easily torn. ***When finished always close the binder and place upright in the pew rack.*** With your help their durability and quality will be maintained for the entire liturgical season, plus a neat appearance maintained in the congregation areas of our church worship space.

Munchies- You would be surprised at the amount of food that is left in the pew book racks and on the floors of the church. ***Crumbs are everywhere, food and candy wrappings are strewn all over and gum is often left stuck to the wood of the pews.*** I know that munchies have become necessary to occupy young children at Mass and we certainly want the children at Mass. However, it would be most helpful if some alternative behavior control could be utilized, especially when there are many not so young children with snack food at Mass. ***I ask that if you must have munchies for your children, please help by cleaning up after them.***

Messiness- Each weekend we try to have the church looking good for the Sunday Masses. There is a dedicated crew of workers and volunteers who spend time each week making sure that our church is clean and attractive to be a fitting place to celebrate Mass. Many people come to our church from Saturday morning through Sunday night. They come for one of our six regular Sunday Masses, Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and other services. ***As the weekend events accumulate so does the general messiness of both places.*** Bulletins are strewn about, the blue booklets are haphazardly left about, and all sorts of litter is found in the pews, on the floor and especially in the book racks. The ushers, sacristans, ministers and others, like me, try to keep on top of things as we move along, but still it gets messy. ***If everyone would just be attentive to the space, you use and what you see around you I am sure that we can eliminate a lot of the messiness.***

I mention these ***Three MMMs*** as we start our new Church Year of Advent. Our church has been cared for so that we start everything in a good, clean and attractive order. ***Let's all do our fair share to keep our church as a beautiful place of prayer.*** A little more concern and care is all we need. Thanks for taking the time to read this notice and for your help in carrying out its message.

-Father Chuck



Sky's the Limit 50/50

On December 15, 2019 at our "**Gaudete Sunday**" celebration, the winning "**Christmas Cash**" ticket will be drawn. The winner will receive one half of the money raised. Tickets are \$10 each or three for \$25 and may be purchased at the rectory during regular office hours or through the following tear-off. Simply fill out the information, include your check and mail it to the rectory (263 Atlantic Avenue). Ticket(s) will be sent to you the same day. The drawing date gets closer each week so get your order in as soon as possible. The more tickets sold the greater *your* winning share and the greater the profit to the parish. Wouldn't it be great to win some extra "**Christmas Cash**" just before the holidays? Don't miss out. Only \$10 each or three for \$25 and the "**Sky's the Limit.**" Winner need not be present!

Christmas Cash "Sky's the Limit" 50/50

Name _____ Address _____

Phone # _____ # of Tickets _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

**Return this tear-off to the rectory, 263 Atlantic Ave., East Rockaway, NY 11518.
Winner need not be present! Only \$10 per ticket or 3 for \$25.**



CHRISTMAS PLANT SALE



This year, Saint Raymond's will be offering special decorated **Christmas Wreaths, Grave Blankets, Poinsettias, Crosses and Candy Canes** for sale on a pre-ordered basis only. I am sure these items will be well received as they are high quality seasonal plants at a good price that benefits both you and Saint Raymond's Parish.

The wreaths are balsam, 12" double faced and decorated with a red velvet bow, pine cones and silk poinsettias. The grave blankets are handmade, decorated on a wooden base with two size offerings, a 24" length and a 42" length. Then there are poinsettias available in two sizes also. One is a 6" pot, one branched plant with 4 plus flowers or an 8" pot with 3 branched plants and 9 plus flowers. And finally there is a 24" cross decorated with red bow, pine cones and poinsettias.

All items ordered will be available for payment and pickup on Sunday, December 15, 2019 at the School Cafeteria during our "Gaudete Sunday" celebration which will run from 8:30am till 2pm. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items please fill out the tear-off below and return it to the rectory. **Payment is on pickup.** However all items must be pre-ordered so we know how much of each item to order.

We hope you will take advantage of these great holiday decorations at good prices. **The deadline for all orders is Sunday, December 8th.** You must have your order form to the rectory by 4 PM that day. **Remember, payment not required until pickup on Sunday, December 15th.** Any questions please call the rectory at (516-593-5000).

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Christmas Wreaths	12" - \$15 _____	Quantity	
Grave Blankets	24" - \$25 _____	Quantity	42" - \$35 _____ Quantity
Poinsettias	6" - \$10 _____	Quantity	8" - \$20 _____ Quantity
	Red/White/Pink (Circle One)		Red/White/Pink (Circle One)

Decorated Crosses 24" - \$20 _____ Quantity

Decorated Candy Canes 24" - \$20 _____ Quantity

Order Total: Number of Items _____ Total Cost \$ _____

Principal's Corner

Sister Ruthanne



On this Second Sunday of Advent we are that much closer to celebrating the Nativity of our Savior. Hopefully, we are taking this preparation time seriously and working at ways to spiritually grow during this season. Like John the Baptist we too need to "prepare the way of the Lord and make straight His paths." Prayer and sacrifice will help tremendously along the way!

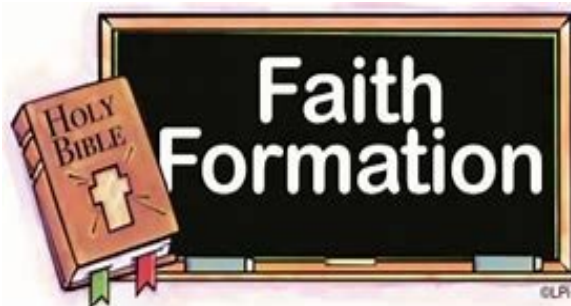
There are so many helps here at St. Raymond to highlight the prayer part of our preparation. Tonight, the children of the parish present THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT at 7:00 PM in the Church. It's an ideal way to "catch" the true spirit of Christmas! Then on Wednesday, the annual school CHRISTMAS CONCERT takes place in the school auditorium at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.

For fun, please note that St. Raymond School is hosting Plaza Production's "Scrooge" on Friday, December 13th at 7:30 PM in the auditorium. Tickets are available at the school for \$10 each. The performance is about one hour in length so children can still get to bed at a decent hour. It will be a fun way to start the weekend! Let me share the specifics of the upcoming week:

- Monday: Feast of the Immaculate Conception so the school will attend the 8:45am mass; Baked ziti; 2:00pm dismissal for the monthly faculty meeting
- Tuesday: Grade 8 to morning mass; Pizza at lunch; Chorus practice at recess; Bookworms and Math Olympiads for 4-6 after school; Spirit home game with St. Mary's
- Wednesday: Full Experienced Band at 8:00am; String lessons and Band Assembly at 9:00am; Deli sandwiches; Spanish Scrabble and Math Olympiads for 7-8 after school; CHRISTMAS CONCERT at 7:00 PM
- Thursday: Grades 6 & 7 to morning mass; Bagel day; Junior Sodality for 1-3 at lunchtime and 4-8 after school; Chorus at recess; last Bookworms after school; Spirit game at St. William the Abbot
- Friday: Grades 4&5 to morning mass; Hot pretzels at lunch; Toastmasters after school; SCROOGE at 7:30pm in the auditorium

The school is collecting new unwrapped toys for little ones through this week. If anyone would like to participate, we would be most grateful. We simply need to get them to the school by Friday, December 13th. As always, thank you so much for your support.

Finally, as Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, both Sister Lorraine and I want you to know that you all are in our prayers - especially on our Lady's feast. This is a most important feast in our Congregation and a special time to carry you all to our God in prayer. God bless you all.



Religious Education — Faith Formation

Evelyn Contaldi, Director

Tomorrow is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This year it is celebrated on December 9, nine months before the feast of the Nativity of Mary, which is celebrated on September 8. The Immaculate Conception is one of the most important Marian feasts in the liturgical calendar of the Roman Catholic Church, and is celebrated worldwide.

Please plan on attending the Christmas Pageant presented by the children of our parish on the Eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Sunday, December 8th, 2019 at 7pm in the St. Raymond Church. The students who are in the choir and play are working very hard to tell the beautiful story of our Lord Jesus' Birth 'Through the Eyes of a Child'. After the presentation, all are invited to the cafeteria for hot chocolate and cookies sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Please take the time from your busy Christmas preparations and join us!!!

Thanks, and gratitude to our 7th grade students and parents for their generosity to the residents of St. Christopher's Inn. The students' Confirmation service project was to purchase a men's collared shirt and donate to the Inn. St. Christopher's Inn is a substance abuse rehabilitation center for men who suffer from alcohol or drug additions. When the men attend their mandatory weekly group sessions, they are required to wear a collared shirt (t-shirts are not allowed). The residents were very grateful and appreciative of the generosity and encouragement that was shown to them by our students.





Stewardship

A Way of Life

Living Stewardship

A popular saying around this time of year is "Keep Christ in Christmas." This is true in so many ways, and one way is to do good to others. We have been given gifts by God to use for the service of others; there is no better time to start than now. Consider donating a gift to your parish's Giving Tree for someone in need.

Sacrificial Giving

December 1, 2019: \$18,608

December 2, 2018: \$15,096



Plaza Thatrical Productions, Inc.

Presents.....SCROOGE



The sixty-minute holiday musical tradition, based on Charles Dickens' classic novel, A Christmas Carol, comes to life on the Stage. Follow miserly Ebenezer Scrooge as he learns the true Spirit of the holidays!
St. Raymond's Auditorium
263 Atlantic Avenue
East Rockaway, NY
December 13, 2019 at 7:30pm
Tickets: \$10.00
To reserve tickets, call (516) 593-9010
Tickets will be on sale at the door.



St. Raymond Human Life Committee

"NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE"

Due to a conflict in scheduling, we will not have the "National Night of Prayer for Life" **BUT** instead, will join with the Sodality of Our Lady for the recitation of the rosary at 7:00pm on Monday, December 9th, followed by the Mass celebrating the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

As soon as the Holy Spirit overshadowed the womb of the Virgin Mary, God immediately became one of our human family. In like manner, when a child is conceived in his or her mother's womb, that child becomes one of us. This little human being now dwells among us. So that the world may understand this truth, **COME PRAY WITH US!** Sins against life have inflicted deep wounds upon our land and throughout the world. Our Lord promises in Holy Scripture, "If My people, upon whom My Name has been pronounced, humble themselves and pray, and seek My Presence and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear them from heaven and pardon their sins and revive their land." (2Chronicles 7:14-15) It is through Our Blessed Mother that this revival will take place. Under the titles of the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Blessed Mother must be invoked to shower the necessary graces to protect Life, preserve Religious Liberty and to save our country from the "Culture of Death". In earlier times, the Aztec Nation read pictures (not words).. Our Lady of Guadalupe's picture on the tilma of St. Juan Diego in 1531 told the people to abandon their evil gods who demanded human sacrifice and to embrace her son. Today's culture has abandoned the innocent little ones in the womb through abortion on demand. Please with us in a "unity of prayer" across our nation to establish a "Culture of Life" asking Our Lady to intervene for us, that we may abandon the evil practices of abortion, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide and lead us to her Son. There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of rosaries for life, chaplet of Divine Mercy, litany for an end to abortion, concluding with Benediction.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who supported our annual Christmas card fundraiser. Through your generosity, we will be able to continue many of our pro-life activities throughout the year. We would like to give special thanks to all the wonderful volunteers, who through their gift of "time" made this fundraiser so successful. May God bless all of you!

"If we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?"

- Mother Teresa



ENHANCED OFFERTORY PROGRAM

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Who will be asked to support this appeal?

We plan to ask each member of our parish family to consider making a sacrificial increase in their regular support for our parish. We hope each parishioner will play a conscientious role in shaping the future of our parish.

By how much should I increase my offering?

Only you can decide what is appropriate for you and your family. A lasting and meaningful increase by all of the faithful of our parish will make a tremendous impact.

What if I miss Mass and am unable to bring my offering?

The church depends upon the consistent, regular offerings of all its members. If you are unable to attend Mass, it would be very helpful if you could "make-up" your offering at the next Mass that you are able to attend.

What if I cannot increase my offering at this time?

While it is our hope that this appeal will have a significant, positive impact on our offertory, I am particularly interested in hearing from 100% of our parish. Not everyone is in a position to increase their support. However, everyone can respond to the appeal. Perhaps there is something that we can do to assist you and your family. I ask everyone to pray for the success of this appeal.

When should I start contributing at my new level?

Please start contributing at your new level immediately. Please try and maintain this new amount as your regular giving level each time you make an offering.

Is Automated/Electronic Giving available for our offering?

Yes. We offer Automated/Electronic Giving (ACH) for those who like to pay their regular bills (mortgage, car payments, etc.) in this manner. Please check the appropriate box on the Intention Card this weekend.

GUIDELINE TO GIVING

Find your present weekly giving level and, if possible, consider giving the suggested amount. A forward step by all who can will make a significant difference.

Present Weekly Giving Level	Suggested New Giving Level
\$1.00	\$2.00 to \$3.00
\$2.00	\$4.00 to \$5.00
\$3.00	\$6.00 to \$8.00
\$4.00	\$7.00 to \$9.00
\$5.00	\$8.00 to \$10.00
\$7.00	\$11.00 to \$14.00
\$10.00	\$14.00 to \$17.00
\$15.00	\$20.00 to \$25.00
\$20.00	\$27.00 to \$32.00
\$25.00	\$32.00 to \$39.00
\$30.00	\$37.00 to \$44.00
\$35.00	\$42.00 to \$49.00
\$40.00	\$47.00 to \$54.00
\$45.00	\$52.00 to \$59.00
\$50.00	\$57.00 to \$64.00
\$55.00	\$62.00 to \$69.00
\$60.00	\$67.00 to \$74.00
\$65.00	\$72.00 to \$79.00
\$70.00	\$77.00 to \$84.00
\$75.00	\$82.00 to \$89.00
\$80.00	\$87.00 to \$94.00
\$85.00	\$92.00 to \$99.00
\$90.00	\$97.00 to \$104.00
\$95.00	\$102.00 to \$109.00
\$100.00	\$110.00 to \$115.00

What Our Lord Asks Is

Not Equal Gifts — But Equal Sacrifice

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

I come to You in Thanksgiving, knowing that all that I am and all that I have are gifts from you. Teach me to be generous as You have been generous with me. I offer to You this day all the facets of my life, whether at home, at work or at school—to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous and to be holy.

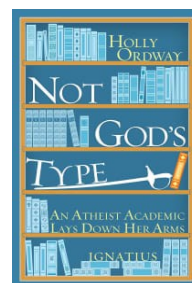
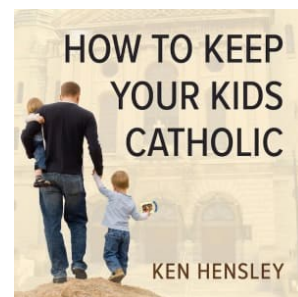
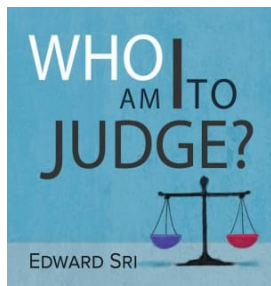
Keep me mindful that as Your disciple, I am called through the Holy Spirit, to be an instrument of *dramatic missionary growth*, radically faithful to participation in the Sunday Mass, deeply devoted to the presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist, and courageous in living the truths of our Faith and sharing the "Good News" with the world.

Make us One Family in Mission so that together, we may ignite our Church with the joy of the Gospel. Amen.

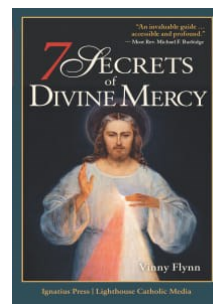


FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND
STUDY/WATCH/LISTEN/READ

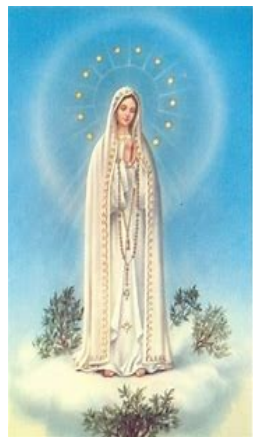


**GO TO THE ST. RAYMOND
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Sodality of Our Lady of the Annunciation
"Sodality is a women's organization devoted in prayer and service to the Blessed Mother."

The membership is active in many ways doing what we call "Mary's Work", helping those in need in any way we can."



"Annual Christmas Social"

December Meeting
Monday, December 16th

Time: 7:30

Place: St. Raymond's Cafeteria

Please join us and bring a friend as we are always looking for and happy to welcome new members.

To Honor Our Blessed Mother....



All are invited to join the ladies of The Sodality of Our Lady For a Candlelight Procession and Living Rosary at St. Raymond's Church to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Monday, December 9, 2019 7:00 pm Mass will follow at 7:30 pm

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

WHERE: St. Raymond School Cafeteria

WHEN: Saturday-January 11, 2020

9:00 am to 3:30 pm

COST: \$50.00

Please call Rose Giglio at the school office 593-9010 to reserve your seat for this defensive driving course.



Come check out our wonderful paintings...



St. Raymond's Art Club Show

Rockville Centre Library

221 N. Village Avenue

Basement Meeting Rooms

Months of November & December



The Rose for Life Program

The Rose for Life program began here at St. Raymond on Mother's Day, May 12, 1985. A rose is placed on the Offertory Table at the 5:00pm Mass and is presented to the priest at the Offertory. The rose symbolizes the life of a preborn baby who dies from abortion. It remains at the tabernacle for the coming week.

The main purpose of the rose is to remind each one of us to pray for the babies who are in danger of abortion. Prayer is one of the most important ways to stop abortion. The rose also serves a special remembrance of the life of our loved ones, in whose name the rose is dedicated each week.

For dedications, please call Mary Healy at 887-4062.



Masses for this Week

Monday, December 9th *The Immaculate*

7:15am Rita Dombrowski *Conception*
8:45am Arthur & Charles Henshaw
12:15pm Rosemary Peterson
7:00pm Sodality Rosary
7:30pm The Sodality

Tuesday, December 10th

7:15am Priests of St. Raymond
8:45am Edward Zapke

Wednesday, December 11th

7:15am Davalere Layng
8:45am Daniel Pignataro

Thursday, December 12th *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

7:15am Human Life Committee
8:45am Anna L. Campbell

Friday, December 13th *Saint Lucy*

7:15am Joseph Kenny
8:45am Hannah M. Sullivan

Saturday, December 14th *Saint John of the Cross*

8:45am Barbara Lenahan
 Captain Edward Higgins
 Robert Chjonacki
 Holy Souls in Purgatory
5:00pm John & Nancy Mastrandrea

Sunday, December 15th *Third Sunday of Advent*

7:30am Anne Cuite
9:00am Joan Casey
10:30am The Sodality
12:00pm Christopher Sugrue, Ann McCawley
 George O'Kane, Kathleen Scire
 Nicholas Yanatos, Robert Esposito
4:30pm St. Raymond Parish

Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday

Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday

Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday

Zec 2:14-17/Lk 1:26-38

Friday

Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday

Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Please Pray for Our Sick

Bridget Feminella, Dickie Ohlsen, James Ryder,
 Margaret Mary Bardato, Helen Skelos, Lydia Dengel, Thomas
 Botkin, Jack Dempsey, Bill Saar, Jane Fitzpatrick.

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



Rest in Peace

Margaret Falzone
 Salvatore Tuttolomondo
 Alan Rossomangno
 Thomas J. Lombardo



The Bread & Wine

For this week in
 Thanksgiving for Fr. Chuck
 40 Years a Priest



The Sanctuary Light

For this week in
 Thanksgiving for Fr. Chuck
 40 Years a Priest



The Rose for Life

For this week is in Memory of
 Peter McCaffrey

Donated by Jean & Ed Cook

For Dedications call Mary Healy at 887-4062

Pastoral Council

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Him:

A spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of
 counsel and of strength, A spirit of knowledge and
 of fear of the Lord, and His
 delight shall be the fear of the Lord.

-Isaiah 11:2-3

Pastoral Council Members

Jean Chojnacki; Monica Collins, Vice Chairperson;
 Jeanne LaSala; Patricia Mayle, Chairperson;
 Patricia McCormack, Secretary; Mary Carmel Murphy;
 Liz Tortorella; Father Chuck Romano.

Parish Bulletin Board

Supervised, Meaningful Caregiver Support Group of Long Standing

Wednesday's from 3:50 to 4:50 at SNCH Health Counseling Center.

2277 Grand Ave Baldwin NY 11510.

We create a comfortable and caring environment where ideas are shared and strategies are suggested to provide resources to reduce caregiver stress. Please join us. For information contact Mental Health Center at 516-377-5400

TOMORROW'S HOPE FOUNDATION

The mission of Tomorrow's Hope Foundation is to ensure the excellence as well as the continuance of Catholic Schools on Long Island by increasing awareness and by providing scholarship and program funding for the needs of students and schools.

If you are interested in knowing more, please contact Val Seitz at 516-745-7611 or vseitz@thfn.com

Reclaim

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

For info, visit www.reclaimsexualhealth.com

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.

Position Available—Homeworker

Catholic Health Services of Long Island Helping Hands addresses the needs of the frail, elderly, or disabled in the RVC community by providing non-medical in-home support services. Looking for kind and compassionate companions. Good verbal communication skills and a warm, friendly demeanor. Prior housekeeping experience preferred. Candidates may apply online or email us at hr@chsli.org. <https://jobs.chsli.org/job/rockville-centre/home-worker-helping-hands-grant-program/247/13957347>

Excellent benefits!

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!

AA Meeting

Monday Nights; 7:00pm

VFW Post 3350 164 Main St., East Rockaway

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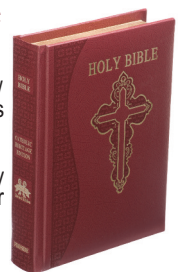
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