

Masses

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

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

Pastoral Team

Pastor

Father Chuck Romano

Associate Pastors

Father Benedict Kim
Father Joseph Rwamwenge

Deacons

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

Director of Religious Education

Mrs. Lucy Ostermann

Business Manager

Christopher Grennen

Parish Staff

Music Ministry

Laura Garbitelli

Folk Group

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 22, 2024

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed
is the fruit of your womb”

-Luke 1:42



December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 25, 2024

Merry Christmas!

Welcome To Our Parish Family!

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

Rectory

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

Web Site: www.SaintRaymonds.org

Facebook: St. Raymond Parish, East Rockaway

E-Mail: StRayRcc@optonline.net

Rectory.....593-5000

Rectory Fax.....887-0554

Parish Social Ministry.....887-9197

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

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

Religious Education Office.....593-9075

Religious Education Office Fax593-1156

E-Mail: strayfaithformation@aol.com

Pastoral Care Of The Sick

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

Devotions

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Nocturnal Adoration

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

Miraculous Medal Novena

Saturdays following 8:45am Mass.

Confessions

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

Baptisms

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

Bereavement Support Group

Call the rectory office for meeting times.

Marriages

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

Prayer Groups

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

Music Ministries

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

Folk Group: Sings at 12 Noon Mass on Sundays from September—June; practice on Sunday at 10:30 in the Rectory Basement

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

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

THE FINAL PURPLE CANDLE IS THE

"Candle of Love."

IT REMINDS US THAT GOD SO LOVED
THE WORLD (I.E. YOU, US, ... EVEN
THAT DIFFICULT FRIEND OR RELATIVE!)
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON TO US SO
WE COULD HAVE ABUNDANT LIFE.

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 you email. All bulletin articles are subject to the Pastor's approval.



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

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

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

Merry Christmas! From the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we move quickly to Christmas Eve on Tuesday and then to Christmas Day on Wednesday, December 25th. No matter where you live or happen to be, the Christmas story is loudly being proclaimed. And no matter what difficulties our world faces, if you are Christian, you must grapple a bit on how best to respond to the Christmas story. It is a unique gift giving time as we receive gifts on someone else's birthday-namely that of Jesus Christ! ***But any gift we receive pales in comparison to the gift of Jesus being born into our world and becoming our Lord, Savior and King.***

There really is a different feel to the Christmas season and even in the weeks leading up to it. Our whole environment looks different. The streets look different. Stores and restaurants look different. Churches look different. Even people look different. Many of us seem to be a little happier during this time. We become more generous and helpful and charitable during these weeks. We make more time for each other, and especially for our of town guests. It's as if the changes we see around actually change us a little on the inside. Some of our thoughts and attitudes and personality traits change even for just a short time. It's a shame, though, that it comes to an end. But does it have to? Think about it. What we celebrate is not simply Jesus' birthday. What we celebrate is his birth into a family, into a community, into a broken world, and into each and every human heart that is open to the life he wants to put into each one of us. That's the true miracle of Christmas, that our God is not far off somewhere, disinterested and removed from his creation. Rather, the mind-blowing reality is that God wants to be close to us, intimate with us, in a loving relationship with us, even to dwell within us. This is an incredible gift. Our God isn't out there somewhere. He is among us and within us.

So, Christmas is not a collection of external things that remind us we are in the month of December. Rather, Christmas should look like a world that embraces the Incarnation, men and women able to recognize the presence of Jesus all over the place. God doesn't just lie in a manger in Bethlehem. He is reborn into the hearts and lives of all who make room for him.

So, open the door to Jesus, and give him a manger to lie in-namely you! Then don't look for Christmas to end. Oh yes, the season ends, and the externals are put away, but every day of our lives can look like Christmas if we have the faith that can see Jesus just about everywhere. And when that happens, when we recognize Jesus in the person standing before us, the world will become a little kinder, a little more merciful, a little more compassionate. In other words, it will start to become the world God wanted all along. One more thing. As you try to see Jesus in people during the coming year, don't forget to also look for him within yourself. He is there too, ready to help you be the beautiful person you were created to be. And that's a miracle every one of us needs. ***Have a blessed, joyful Jesus-centered Christmas, not just on the 25th, but every day.***

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

Have a great Christmas with your family and friends. Welcome to all our visitors who have travelled to be with us on this day. ***Merry Christmas and God Bless everyone, always!***

Father Chuck



READINGS FOR TODAY'S MASS

DECEMBER 22, 2024-4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING

Mi 5:1-4a

Thus says the LORD: You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Rouse your power, and come to save us.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING

Heb 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters:

When Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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 1:39-45

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

READINGS FOR TODAY'S MASS

DECEMBER 25, 2024-CHRISTMAS DAY

FIRST READING

Is 52:7-10

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

SECOND READING

Heb 1:1-6

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6.

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds; his right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm.

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

The LORD has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice. He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel.

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God. Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; break into song; sing praise.

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and melodious song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

GOSPEL

Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

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 Tuesday, December 24th.

Thank you, Father Chuck



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Mrs. John St. Amand

Joseph Snidutti
John St. Amand
Mom & Dad

M/M J. Ackerina

Louis Acerina
Gary Facella

M/M Robert Barnek

Family

M/M Philip Barone

Luigi & Domenica Cascino
Gaetano & Caterina Barone
Frank Abate
Leo Rosa Quarino

The Borja Family

Antonio & Eleuteria Borja

Mrs. Mary Burkard

Harry & Helen Helmstadt
Noreen & Gilbert Helmstadt
Marie & Joe Burkard
Nuala O'Donoghue

M/M A. Campanaro

Eva Marie Campanaro
Sadus & Fortunato Families
Menna & Campanaro Families
Flo Iannarelli

Ms. Dorothy Caraher

Michael & Frank Caraher
and Family

Mrs. Carmela Demasi

Demasi Family
DelBolio Family
M/M J. Sambriski
M/M A. Ozor

M/M M. Carney

Hannah Sullivan
Maryellen Sullivan Chiardello

M/M M. Caputo

Tony & Carolann Ferrara
Joseph & Rose Calistro

M/M E. Casazza

William Chelius
Mary Chelius

Mrs. Mark Charles

VanCura & Charles Family

M/M T. Chojnacki

Robert J. Chojnacki
Cathy Turner
Mary Alice Roth

Mrs. E. Christiansen

William Christiansen

Cimato Family

Joseph Lupo
Kathleen Lupo

M/M R. Cipriano

Joseph Mehrmann
Dorothea Mehrmann
Octavio Cipriano
Santa Cipriano

M/M. F. Coppola

Frank Coppola
Mike & Peg Venditt

Mr. J. Dempsey

Marie C. Dempsey

Ms. K. Desola

John & Anna Burns
Frank & ROse DeSola

M/M D. Digirolamo

Aurora Crevani
Maria Ragusa
Andrew DiGirolamo
Michele Ragusa
Mary & Phil DiGirolamo

M/M P. Dixon

Deceased member of
Dixon, Lee & Kivlian
Families

M/M K. Dombrowski

Frank Dombrowski
Marian Dombrowski
Angela Krewski
Theodore Krewski
Helen Kewski

Mr. T. Duggan

Mary Duggan

Ms. R. Evans

Rose Scola

M/M J. Fiorentino

Pat & Lucille Mastrandrea
Nicolette Ray

Mr. Raymond Flaherty

Regina A. Flaherty

M/M J. Gallo

Helen Gallo
Stella Mentel

Giannotti Family

Amelia Giannotti
Pasquale Giannotti
Gennaro Giannetti

M/M J. Girardi

Carmela Romanellil
Gennaro Girardi



CHRISTMAS 2024

(Note additional Masses and time changes)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confessions)

Saturday, December 21st

3:30 till 4:30 in the Church

(other times by request at the rectory)

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24th

5:00 pm

8:00 pm (Folk Group)

10:30 pm (Christmas Carols)

11:00 pm (mass ending at Midnight)

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25th

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

(No Evening Mass on Christmas Day)

Solemnity of Mary

New Year's Eve

Tuesday, December 31st

5:00pm

New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

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



Lord, as Christmas morning approaches quickly, prepare my heart to receive you. I want to believe without any doubts. I want to trust you unconditionally. I want to say YES to your will, but my pride and selfishness get in the way. I desire my will. I want to do things my way. I think I know what will make me ultimately happy, but deep down I know that only you can fulfill my deepest desires. Help me to dedicate time to be with you daily in prayer. Give me the desire to read your holy Word. Help me to make time for the Eucharist and Reconciliation on a regular basis. May I echo Mary's words, "May it be done to me according to your word."



THE ROSE FOR LIFE

In Loving Memory of

*All Deceased Members of the
Pampino, Hallock & Metzger
Families. Always in our Hearts*

*Donated by the Children,
Grandchildren & Great
Grandchildren*

For Dedications call

Mary Healy 887-4062



Special One year Memorial Candle It's not too late!

Bring in the attached form to the rectory



Once again we will be having special one year devotional candles at the St. Joseph Statue in the front. These candles surround the base of the statue. There are 2 more candles available at the St. Joseph statue. The cost is \$300.00 for an entire year of having a candle lit for your intention. A small name plate will be placed at each candle that has been taken for the year. Only the name of the person you are remembering will be on each name plate. These candles will be lit for the entire Church Liturgical Year. If you are interested in one of these candles, simply fill out the following information, include your donation and bring it to the rectory. This also includes existing candles for this past year that have been lit. They need to be renewed.



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Name for the candle name plate (please print) _____



St. Raymond's Parish Social Ministry

The Ryan House

"The Heart of the Parish"

12 Roosevelt Avenue, Lynbrook, NY 11563

516-887-9197



FOOD PANTRY HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY THRU WEDNESDAY FROM

10AM TO 3PM

(Suggested to call for an appointment)

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices

God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16

As the season of giving continues, the Parish Social Ministry would like to express its sincere thanks to the East Rockaway Knights of Columbus for an extremely generous donation which will assist our ministry to continue to provide food to our clients. Also, we would like to thank the St. Raymond's CYO Basketball team and their coaches for organizing an ongoing food drive to help our food pantry. On behalf of our clients, we greatly appreciate all your continued generosity and support.

Pantry items still needed: Deodorant, Shaving Cream, Razors, Shampoo, Conditioner, Coffee, Cooking Oil (small bottles), Mayonnaise, Laundry Detergent and Sugar.

Food donations can be brought to the Ryan House during its open hours or non-perishable food can be left in the bin on the Ryan House porch or in the Altar Server's Sacristy.

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



Ministry of Consolation



Offer the precious gift of your time, presence and sympathy to those who have lost a loved one.

**Work one week a month with a team to assist families in preparing and celebrating the Funeral Mass for recently deceased loved ones.
If Interested Call Doreen Dolan 516-593-5000**

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



**Exchanging
the Sign
of Peace - Part 2**

Continuing from last week, how do we exchange the sign of peace? According to local custom, we exchange with one another a sign of peace. Typically, in the United States, the normative gesture is a handshake to those around us” (Diocese of Peoria: A Study of the Mass, p. 18).

Practical Gestures of Peace

While the deeper meaning of this gesture may be more clear for us, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) included a new paragraph addressing the practical gesture itself, which says, “As for the actual sign of peace to be given, the manner is to be established by the Conferences of Bishops in accordance with the culture and customs of the peoples. However, it is appropriate that each person, in a sober manner, offer the sign of peace only to those who are nearest” (GIRM, 82).



So, what is the norm for us? While we don’t have a defined standard, as mentioned previously, our typical local norm is a simple handshake with people that are nearby. Certainly, spouses, families, and others may have more intimate exchanges of peace such as a hug or a kiss. During times when people are being more cautious about illness and contact, a simple bow or a wave and a smile can be fine gestures of peace as well. Generally, I would encourage people to choose the sign that is

comfortable for people around us. The main thing we want to remember is to make the gesture a real sign of peace, while at the same time not being too carefree or moving throughout the church, where we might risk being disrespectful to Jesus present on the altar (which is also why we shouldn’t have conversations at this time).



For a few more summary thoughts, the Diocese of Peoria says, “This rite of peace acknowledges a few things: forgiveness, humility and community. In Matthew, Chapter 5, our Lord taught us we must first be reconciled with one another before approaching the altar. We approach the altar to receive the Prince of Peace; His command is that we be peacemakers ourselves by forgiving others and asking pardon for our sins... It is also a gesture of the communal Spirit which resides in the Church. The gesture of peace signifies this ‘ecclesial bond’ that with Christ we are a community of believers and children of the same Father” (A Study of the Mass, p. 18). The next time you offer the Sign of Peace at Mass, whether a hug, kiss, handshake, simple bow, wave, or smile, think about what it truly means—what you truly want to offer to those around you—and how it helps prepare your heart for Jesus truly present in Holy Communion.

For Reflection: As part of your preparation the next time you participate in Mass, pray Psalm 122, which celebrates the gift of worshipping in God’s “house” and includes the phrase, “Peace be with you.”

**Next Week:
Lamb of God**



“Behold, I come to do your will.” By this “will,” we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

Hebrews 10:9,10

Eucharistic Revival -The Year of Mission

July 21, 2024 - Pentecost 2025

Now that we have introduced the Four Pillars of Mission, we now offer ideas on how to apply them to your life.

PILLAR 2 – EUCHARISTIC IDENTITY

Practical Suggestions for Practicing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Spiritual Work of Mercy to bear wrongs patiently invites us to practice patience, forgiveness, and humility in the face of harm or injustice. Here are suggestions for you to actively live out this mercy:

To Bear Wrongs Patiently:

- **Remember Christ's example:** Reflect on how Jesus bore the wrongs of others—especially His suffering on the cross—and use His example as strength to bear your own trials patiently.
- **Respond with calmness:** When someone wrongs you, instead of reacting in anger or frustration, take a deep breath and respond calmly, maintaining your peace.
- **Pray for those who wrong you:** Ask God to help you forgive and understand the person who has hurt you. Prayer softens hearts and helps you grow in compassion.
- **Practice forgiveness in your heart:** Even if the wrongdoer does not ask for forgiveness, choose to forgive them in your heart. Let go of grudges.
- **Offer it up for others:** When enduring wrong, offer the suffering as a prayer for others in need, whether they are in spiritual, physical, or emotional distress.
- **Be patient with their flaws:** Recognize that everyone has weaknesses and that wrongs are often a result of personal struggles or imperfections. Extend mercy by allowing them room to grow.
- **Let go of the need to be right:** Sometimes, bearing wrongs patiently means letting go of your need to “win” the argument or prove that you’re right. Prioritize peace and reconciliation.

Pillar 2 - Eucharistic Witness

“Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.” St. Paul VI

The Spiritual Works of Mercy in Real Life

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.” Matthew 5:38

YOU DID IT TO ME: BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY

by Michele Fritz

Recently someone told me that Matthew 5:38-39 shows how weak Christians are. He told me that people should be able to retaliate when they have been hurt. When you retaliate you show your strength. But does this verse show weakness or does it show incredible strength and fortitude? When we struggle to forgive others or to bear wrongs patiently, we simply need to look at the cross to know it is possible to forgive even the most terrible injustices that others commit against us. Christ, fully human, felt all the emotions we feel. And yet, as He hung painfully, dying on the cross, He prayed, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34) Through this simple prayer He showed us how we should react when we too are wrongly punished, ridiculed, or blamed.

Forgiving doesn't mean that what someone else did to you is ok or that you won't protect yourself from it happening again; but it means you are letting go of the hurt so that you can heal. Likewise, when we bear wrongs patiently, we are not saying that we deserve to be treated poorly or that we even accept that treatment. When we bear wrongs patiently, we are saying that we know God will bring good from the pain we are experiencing and that we are willing to allow Him the time He needs to do exactly that. We are saying we want to model the love Christ showed to us when He forgave those who persecuted Him.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - FAITH FORMATION

Lucy Ostermann, Director



Breakfast with Santa

This was our third year hosting a Breakfast with Santa and both sessions were a complete sell-out. This event is one of the highlights of the Religious Education program and it never would be possible without the hard work and commitment of the following people: Chairpersons – Michele DeLuca & Gina Lee – the word 'no' is not in their vocabulary. There are no words of thanks to them for heading up this project – it's not an easy one but your efforts do not go unnoticed. Special thanks goes to Michele & Gina's 'crew' – Joanna Agnello, Kelly DeSola, Darlene Gladstone, Lindsay Joyce, Kelly Khan, Maria Claudia Lora, Erin McCadden-Grey and Jennie Saia. Thank you to Stephanie Paul who coordinated with the Fourth Precinct two police officers who donated their time to be 'Mr. & Mrs. Claus' – P.O. Jarryd Ruff and P.O. Colleen Shea. Thank you to Frank Honerkamp for acting as our 'front door host'. Special thanks to Dennis Ostermann and fellow Knights of Columbus for providing and cooking the breakfast food to the families. Again, these men do not have the word 'no' in their vocabulary. An event like this takes hard work and the dedication of many – these people made it happen for the children and families of our parish. Thank God for each and every one of them – our parish is truly blessed.

After this weekend's 5pm Mass, we had a treat from our Religious Education students. They sang Christmas Carols that took us away from the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations and put us in the true Christmas spirit. We would like to thank Madeline Parlato and Laura Garbitelli for working with the children to get them ready for this joyous event.



Christmas Vacation is from Monday 12/23/2024-Thursday 1/2/2025.

Classes will resume and the office will re-open on Monday 1/6/2025.

Epiphany Sunday – Sunday 1/5/2025 - 12Noon Mass - Epiphany Sunday procession. All students are invited to attend this Mass. Students in grades 2 & 3 will participate in a procession leading the Three Kings to our Lord's Manger.



May the joy of Christmas fill your heart with

God's blessings and peace!

Merry Christmas!!

Lucy, Nancy & Mary Ann



Breakfast with Santa



Christmas PJ Mass





*"I am the
Immaculate
Conception."
Our Blessed
Mother to St.
Bernadette Soubirous
at Lourdes*

Pastoral Council Members

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



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

visit their website at: www.oceanfinancial.org.



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Your spiritually adopted baby is developing quite beautifully now. Her weight is approaching 2 pounds. She sits up straight now to accommodate her internal organs which have moved into their final place in her little body. Babies born prematurely at this time have a very good chance of surviving. The medical advances in caring for extremely small newborn infants are extraordinary indeed. Don't forget to pray for your baby. Abortion is legal through all nine months and her mom might still feel pressure to abort.

*"And the Word was made flesh
and dwelt among us, and we have
seen His glory, glory as of the only
Son from the Father, full of
Grace and Truth."*

-John 1:14

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



Let this Christmas be a time of peace for you and your loved ones. Bury any hatchets and end any grudges within your family- let Christ's love shine.



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**Registration will be open from December 1st till December 30th
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Girls Grades 5-12**



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from the Knights of Columbus*

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Do you love Christmas traditions but don't know where they come from? Tune in for Dr. Michael Patrick Barber's Advent reflections called "The True Meaning of Christmas" and learn the meaning behind your favorite Christmas pastimes. To go deeper, be sure to get his accompanying book, "The True Meaning of Christmas", available on Catholic.Market.



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

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LINK TO REGISTER... IT'S FREE!

Masses for this week

Monday, December 23rd

7:15am Frances Hess

8:45am Janet Hillier

Tuesday, December 24th

7:15am William O'Sullivan

8:45am Anne & Frank Behrman

5:00pm Arthur Schreiber

8:00pm Mary & Neil Romano

11:00pm David Brand

Wednesday, December 25th Christmas Day

9:00am Jimmie Braggs

10:30am John K. Carver

12:00pm Elizabeth Griffin, Anthony Hoeffner
Rosemary A. Watson, Joanne Ganji
Mary & John Peduto

Thursday, December 26th St. Stephen

7:15am Donald Laux

8:45am Fr. Eric

Friday, December 27th St. John

7:15am Michael Horn

8:45am Vincent & Geraldine Malone

Saturday, December 28th Holy Innocents

8:45am Michael Ellis, Rosary Group Families

5:00pm Cheryl Drugan

Sunday, December 29th The Holy Family

7:30am Steven Albergo

9:00am Gilbert Helmstadt

10:30am Nocturnal Adoration

12:00pm David Valerio, Giacinto Anastasia,
Gennaro P. Giannotti, Mrs. Soto,
John Anthony Meirline, Emma
Lichtenberger, Genevieve Hill

4:30pm St. Raymond Parish

Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Saturday

1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18

Sunday

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



Please Pray for Our Sick

Baby Faith Madison

Mary Lynch

Fr. Don Hansen

Linda Dagostino

Karen Pagnotta

Colleen Popp

Jodi Neckles

Michael L.

Diane Minucci

Patrick Dunning

Philip Barone

Anthony Campanile

Baby Cooper Graham

Maureen Condiss

Timothy Murphy

Elizabeth Lacchini

Michael Malone

Noreen Concannon

Jose Colon

Patrick Malone

Eileen Schreiber

Maureen McCarthy

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



Rest in Peace

Deacon Stephen T. Hayes

Anna M. Accomando



The Bread & Wine
For this week is in
loving memory of

Helen Paglia

Love, Fran & Al Diaz



The Sanctuary Light
For this week in memory of
The Raia Family

Parish Bulletin Board



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Communal Prayer Before Mass

Father in heaven, we wish to prepare well for participation in this Mass, in which we enter the Last Supper, Passion, Death and Resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. He is as present to us today in his Word and in the Eucharist, as he was with his apostles. Holy Spirit please quiet our minds from the busyness and distractions of our day, so that we will have hearts and minds attentive to the words of Jesus and ready to receive his Body and Blood in Holy Communion. Blessed Mother, take our hearts and give us yours, that like you, we may ponder Jesus' words and do whatever he tells us to do. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

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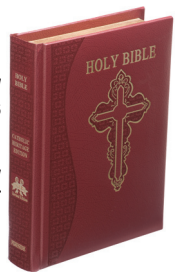
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