

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 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

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, May 5, 2024

263 Atlantic Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518

516-593-5000

“As the Father loves me, so I also love you.

Remain in my love.”

-John 15:9



May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2024 Ascension Thursday

Welcome To Our Parish Family!

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

Rectory

Office Hours are Monday-Friday from 9am-4pm;
Saturdays from 9:30am-4pm. Sundays 9am-5pm
Web Site: www.SaintRaymonds.org
Facebook: St. Raymond Parish, East Rockaway
E-Mail: StRayRcc@optonline.net
Rectory.....593-5000
Rectory Fax.....887-0554

Parish Social Ministry.....887-9197
Office Hours are Monday-Wednesday from 10am-2pm.
Parish Social Ministry Fax.....593-6278

Religious Education Office593-9075
Religious Education Office Fax593-1156
E-Mail: strayfaithformation@aol.com

Pastoral Care Of The Sick

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

Devotions

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Nocturnal Adoration

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

Miraculous Medal Novena

Saturdays following 8:45am Mass.

Confessions

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

Baptisms

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

Bereavement Support Group

Call the rectory office for meeting times.

Marriages

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

Prayer Groups

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

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

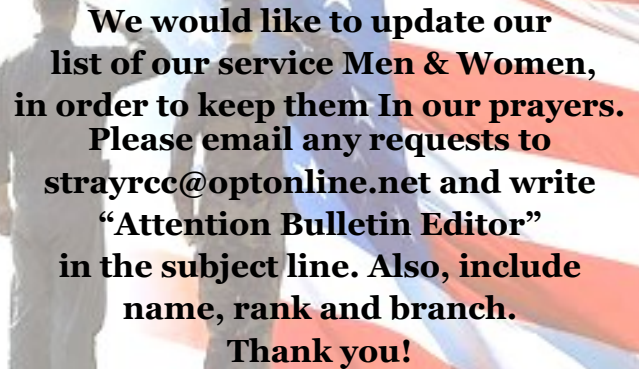
Music Ministries

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

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

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



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



The Catholic Faith Network (CFN)

Broadcast of the Celebration of the Eucharist:

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

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

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

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

St. Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre, NY

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

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

St. Patrick's Cathedral, NY

Monday – Friday at 6:30 pm ET

Sunday at 3:30 pm ET



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

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

Please remember to pray for our wounded soldiers.

Father Chuck's Corner

Greetings and God's continued Easter blessings be yours on the Sixth Sunday of Easter! Each of today's readings puts God's love at the center of its message. In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we see Peter advocating that Gentiles are also favored by God and can receive the Holy Spirit. **"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit even as we have? He ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ."** Then in the second reading from 1 John, we are told that any talk of God or expression of love that does not include God is shallow. **"Whoever is without love does not know love, for God is love."** And finally, John's gospel continues the theme from last Sunday by teaching that when we remain in God's love and love one another our joy will be complete. The result of Jesus' teaching is summed up in his great command: **"Love one another."**

All of us have had particular experiences when we have felt God's love, including through the love of others. Maybe it came from a parent, a dear friend or spouse. It might be the love we have felt when we take a moment to feel gratitude for the blessings in our lives. The gospel passage shines a light on how divine love shows itself to us. Jesus wants his disciples to start with their experience of his love to them. They witnessed his love when he spoke words of hope to people on the margins and when he healed the sick. They witnessed his love when he chose them to share his message with others. Now he wants then to take the love they have witnessed and practice it in their lives with those around them. The Easter season is 50 days for a reason. Lent was 40 days of preparing our hearts for Jesus' death and resurrection. The message of Easter is an ongoing understanding of what it means that Jesus has risen from the dead. It shapes our whole being and is at the center of our Christian calling. The Easter season is not over; let us continue to open ourselves up to experiences of God's love. Remain in it and share it with others. And that includes all people. Remember that God is the God of everybody, and he belongs to everyone. Treat each other with a little more understanding, a little more kindness, and a little more respect. After all, since God is love, that's really all we should be about. In this Eucharist pray for the grace to strengthen your friendship with God.

I am very happy to announce that as of May 1, 2024, Father Joseph Rwamwenge has been officially assigned as an Associate Pastor at St. Raymond Parish. I have known Father Joseph for 25 years and you have known him as a frequent visitor to our parish for the past 13 years. We have all benefited from Father Joseph's priestly ministry and friendship these past years. The journey to be assigned here has been a long one but finally it has happened. On behalf of all our parishioners, I officially welcome you, Father Joseph, to St. Raymond Parish (your home away from home.) May you have many fruitful and happy years with us.

This week we have two special evenings to experience Eucharistic Adoration in our church. On Tuesday, May 7th we will have a **Holy Hour** starting at 7:30pm which will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer, scripture, reflection, music and Benediction. All are most welcome to spend this time with Jesus. And then on Friday, May 10th, there will be a **Fatima Prayer Vigil** from 7-8:30pm in the church. Again, all are invited to spend this time in honor of our Blessed Lady, as we experience the life-giving and loving presence of her Son, Jesus in the Eucharist. Come and pray for Our Lady's intercession this coming Friday.

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**, info from **Religious Education** (Faith Formation), the Mass schedule for the **Feast of the Ascension** on Thursday, May 9th (a Holy Day of Obligation), an ad for the upcoming **Mother's Day Novena of Masses**, upcoming diocesan training sessions for potential **Eucharistic Ministers**, a call for new members to join our **Ministry of Consolation**, the **Eucharistic Revival** centerfold, the **Communal Prayer Before Mass** (found on the inside back cover of the bulletin, an invitation to join **FORMED** (your Catholic Faith on demand) and much more. To keep informed, keep a copy of the bulletin at home each week for quick and easy reference.

Have a great first week of May. **Keep sharing your Easter joy and remember: When you are full of love it confuses people who are full of loneliness.** God bless always.

-Father Chuck

WEEKLY MASS PRAYERS

MAY 5, 2024-SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Gloria

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

**We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,**

**we give you thanks for your great
glory, Lord God, Heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the
Father, You take away the sin of the
world, have mercy on us;**

**You take away the sin of the world,
receive our prayer; You are seated
at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One;
you alone are the Lord.**

**You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God, the Father.**

Amen

Penitential Act

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and
in what I have failed to do,**

**[Pray while striking the breast 3 times.]
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial
with the Father; through him all things
were made. For us men and for our
Salvation he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of the Father. He will come again in
Glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the
Son, who with the Father and the Son is
adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church. I confess one
Baptism for the forgiveness of
Sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead and the
life of the world to come.
Amen.**

READINGS FOR TODAY'S MASS

MAY 5, 2024-SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST READING

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, paid him homage. Peter, however, raised him up, saying, "Get up. I myself am also a human being." Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him." While Peter was still speaking these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word. The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. Then Peter responded, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit even as we have?" He ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

SECOND READING

1 Jn 4:7-10

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

ALLELUIA

Jn 14:23

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

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. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

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. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

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. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

GOSPEL

Jn 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another."

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - FAITH FORMATION

Lucy Ostermann, Director



Our 1st grade students along with their parents will be at today's 9am Mass. After Mass, they will partake in a 'Graduation Breakfast' in the cafeteria hosted by the Knights of Columbus. There they will receive a Completion of Certificate for finishing the 1st grade program. Congratulations to each of them and to their parents for a job well done!!!!

We are in need of Catechists for the 2024/2025 school year. Please consider joining this most important ministry. Our books are user friendly, we have videos to help with training our catechists and we will have a New Teacher session early in September. There is no Registration Fee for parents with children in the program. Catechists can set up a co-teacher situation so that the commitment is not too overwhelming. If you are interested, please contact the Religious Education office at 516-593-9075.

Here is where we need teachers:

Grade 1 – 8 teachers needed – Five scheduled Sundays 10:30am-11:30am – then attend 12 Noon Mass after class.

Grade 3 – 1 teacher needed Mondays & 1 teacher needed Thursdays – 3:30pm-4:30pm for both days.

Grade 6 – 2 teachers needed Thursdays 3:30pm-4:30pm

2024/2025 Registration forms have been e-mailed this month to parents and also found on the parish website.

PREPARATION FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY MAY 19TH

In preparation for the Feast of Pentecost on Sunday, May 19th any of the Novenas to the Holy Spirit are prayed from Friday, May 10th to Saturday, May 18th. (The day after the Ascension Thursday to the Saturday before Pentecost Sunday.) The tradition goes back to the time when the Apostles, the Blessed Mother, and the early Christian Church prayed before Pentecost Sunday. Some Novenas to the Holy Spirit include: The Coming of the Holy Spirit, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Pope Leo XIII issued an encyclical on the Holy Spirit to have Novena throughout the Church in preparation for Pentecost.



Members of the Charismatic Prayer Group will be receiving corporate Communion on May 19th, Pentecost Sunday, at the 9:00am Mass. All are welcome to come worship with us!



Come Holy Spirit. Fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth!



♥ WE WILL MISS YOU FATHER THEO ♥





ST. RAYMOND'S HUMAN LIFE COMMITTEE

In North Carolina, twin girls were expected to be born on April 9, 2020. Instead, to the parents surprise, the girls arrived early, on December 8, 2019. The prognosis for their survival was not good. The parents were told that babies born before 23 weeks usually don't survive. The girls weighed a little more than one pound each and they were breathing. Medical attention was immediately given to the little ones and overcoming many obstacles, the babies survived, thrived and were eventually brought home. "My two babies came out alive and looked fully formed.....Babies this small can survive and are a real life...It has been a long, draining journey...I feel blessed. They are a creation of God and I have watched them develop outside the womb" (Tracey Hernandez, the twin's mother) Recent studies out of Duke University and the New England Journal of Medicine have found a growing percent of premature infants are surviving as early as 22 weeks. The British Assn. of Medicine has issued guideline encouraging medical treatment for babies born at 22 weeks of pregnancy. Previously, the guidelines did not recommend treatment until 24 weeks. The standard procedure was to deny live babies born before 24 weeks medical treatment which would result in the baby's death. (lifeneews.com) Real health care involving a pregnancy should provide medical treatment for both human lives involved - mother and baby. Abortion is not health care. It is the intention killing of an innocent human life. Mother and baby deserve better. If you or someone you know needs help with a distressing pregnancy, please do not rush to make a quick decision, give yourself time, contact the following number to get important information that will help both you and your baby. There is much help available.

Fiat Pregnancy Support Program - #631-476-5683

(24/7, 365 days, including holidays)

All calls are safe and confidential



Let this week be the week to mend fences with those whom we have a strained relationship with. Also, try to be more empathetic this week -instead of thinking the worst about someone who has wronged you, try to be more forgiving and give them the benefit of the doubt.

*Ascension Thursday 2024
Mass Schedule*

**Wednesday May 8th
7:30pm Mass**

**Thursday May 9th
7:15am Mass
8:45am Mass
12:15pm Mass
7:30pm Mass**



Prayer Vigil: Our Lady of Fatima

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & THE ROSARY

Please Join Us in Praying For:
The United States of America & World Peace

107th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FATIMA APPARITIONS

Date: Friday, May 10th

Time: 7:00-8:30pm

Location: St. Raymond Church
263 Atlantic Ave., East Rockaway, NY 11518

"I am the Lady of the Rosary...
Pray the Rosary every day."

The Message of Fatima

The message of Fatima consists of a number of precise predictions, requests, warnings and promises concerning the faith and the world, which were conveyed by the Blessed Virgin Mary to three shepherd children: Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco in a series of apparitions at Fatima, Portugal from May through October 1917.

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.

**IRS TAX DEDUCTION FREE TOWING
ANY CONDITION**

If you or someone you know has an old or neglected vehicle that is not being used, please call: 718-491-2525
For details: svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org



Mother's Day Novena

As we celebrate Mother's Day this Sunday, May 14th, there will once again be the parish's Novena of Masses prayed for nine consecutive days starting on May 14th. It is very fitting to remember our Mothers in prayer during this novena. Envelopes for this novena were mailed to those who receive the weekly envelope mailing. They are also available near the doors of the church. If you wish to participate in this novena simply fill out one of these envelopes, include your donation and place it in one of the boxes marked "Mother's Day" which are located on the pew shelves by the doors of the church. Or you can return it by mail or just drop it off in the rectory mail slot. Please do so by Sunday, May 12th.



STEP BY STEP WALK THROUGH THE MASS

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

FATHER LUKE SPANNAGEL

NATIONAL EUCHARIST REVIVAL BLOG



Offertory Water and Wine

As we continue through the Offertory, this time we take a closer look at some of the prayers at the altar as the bread and wine are placed there. After the bread and wine are brought forward, they are placed on the altar by the priest (or a deacon if there is one present). Then the priest, speaking either silently or aloud, says the prayers over the bread and wine. These are the prayers that begin, "Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life."

You may also recognize the prayer as the priest holds the chalice: "Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink." As the Diocese of Peoria reminds us, "If there is no music playing, [the priest] may do this out loud. In this case, we would respond to these prayers by saying, 'Blessed be God forever!' These prayers are ancient and have profound meaning. We place before him in our procession 'our' gifts, yet in these formulas we immediately admit that while they are 'work of human hands' they are still ultimately from God. For this reason, we bless God for his goodness and ask him to accept and transform the gifts into 'bread of life' and 'spiritual drink'" (A Study of the Mass, p. 11).

The Mystery of the Water and Wine

As the priest is preparing the wine, the Diocese of Peoria continues, "notice that he places a small amount of water into the chalice with the wine. As he does this he says: 'By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.' The Church maintains this very ancient custom of mixing water and wine as it uniquely symbolizes what we pray for. At the Mass, we offer our lives in union with Christ. In all our weakness, in all our smallness, we pray to be inseparably united to the divine. The small drops of water symbolize us. As the water becomes inseparably

united to the wine, we pray we may become inseparably united to Jesus Christ" ("A Study of the Mass," p. 11-12). Along these lines, the author, Charles Belmonte teaches, "It was ancient custom to take the wine mixed with water, which the chalice of Jesus in the Last Supper contained. The Church retained this gesture to symbolize the sanctification of the Christian which is accomplished through his union with Jesus Christ. The water becomes the symbol of ourselves: our lives, with our weaknesses. Have you stopped to think what happens to the drops of water mixed with the wine? They are absorbed by it and then become inseparable from it. So does Jesus absorb us. The drops of water are of negligible worth; they are not even enough to quench anyone's thirst. Yet they will end up being divine blood! And all that because they let themselves be mixed with the wine and be dissolved in it, thus manifesting self-denial, personal renunciation. At this moment, we grow in our desire to offer ourselves in total self-surrender, as the few drops of water in the chalice have reminded us. So, we will be able to become one with Jesus Christ after the Consecration" (Understanding the Mass, p. 114).

An Offering of Spiritual Gifts

What a meaningful moment in this part of the Mass! A transition time in the Mass that could be easily missed, these brief prayers sometimes said silently provide a great invitation for prayer:

Jesus, help my heart to unite more perfectly with yours. I feel at times so far from you, but you give of yourself so that I have this opportunity to be more closely united with you. Help me to be attentive in this moment and bring my heart joy from knowing you will soon be truly present on the altar, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, in the Eucharist!

For Reflection:

- Make Father Luke's prayer above your own as you participate more fully in the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- Next time you participate in Mass, pay close attention to the preparation of the chalice and the mixing of water and wine. Make an act of faith, trusting that Jesus can and will receive all you offer him and transform your weakness into strength by his divine power.

Next Week: Bread and Wine

ST. RAYMOND CHURCH

Opportunities for a Holy Hour / Adoration
and Eucharistic Exposition

The Church is open for personal prayer until 5:00PM
Each Thursday - Eucharistic Exposition from 1-4:00 PM
Each First Friday - Nocturnal Adoration 7:30-8:30 PM
Upcoming Evening Holy Hours: May 7th and May 16th



"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain ..." John 15:16

***"Mary, give me your Heart: so beautiful,
So pure, so immaculate; your Heart so
full of love and humility that I may be
able to receive Jesus in the Bread of Life
and love Him as you love Him ..."***
-St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Jesus in the Eucharist **Imprint Magazine, Sisters of Life**

***This is the same Jesus
Who was conceived in Mary's womb,
held her hand as a child,
cut wood with Joseph,
ate with His friends,
gave up His life for you and me,
and rose from the dead.
He is alive. And He waits for you to come
so He can heal you with His love
and mercy in the Eucharist.***



**The prayer that has the power to
change everything**
**Prayer for peace in the midst
of fear and anxiety**

***"If you desire peace in your hearts. in
your homes. and in your country. assemble
each evening to recite the Rosary. Let not
even one day pass without saying it. no
matter how burdened you may be with
many cares and labors." - Pope Pius XI***

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***



Servant of God
Charlene Marie Richard
Laywoman (+1959)

Charlene Richard, a 12-year old Cajun girl from rural Louisiana, lived what could be considered a good but average life. The devout Catholic girl received good grades, did farm chores, played sports, and said her Rosary nightly. However, it was her sanctity during her suffering with acute lymphatic leukemia that has inspired many and is comparable to that of her idol, St. Thérèse of Lisieux. What can we learn from her Eucharistic witness?

Belief Intensifies Love: As Charlene dealt with leukemia, she remained a pillar of joyful support for her family and her community. Her acceptance of her remaining time bloomed into a beautiful catalyst for God's power. Charlene's life shows us that pain, whether it be physical, emotional, or spiritual, is truly a gift from God, as it gives us the opportunity to imitate Christ in His Passion and death.

Feeding and Being Fed by Love: Charlene's introduction to the Eucharist proved fruitful. Taught by the chaplain of hospital of merits of redemptive suffering, each day, Charlene would ask the chaplain, "Who am I to suffer for today?" Both the chaplain and the director of pediatrics at the hospital, noticed a sudden influx of miraculous healings and conversions to the Catholic faith as Charlene prayed. By the grace of God, she had taken her suffering and her crisis and created an astoundingly beautiful channel of prayer for others.

Made for Love: The overriding lesson of Charlene's story is in the words of Christ Himself in the Lord's Prayer: "Thy will be done." Rather than viewing suffering as something to complain about, we can look at it as not only an opportunity for growth in our relationship with God, but also a way to help others as Charlene did.

***"For just as the sufferings of Christ overflow into our lives. so
too does the encouragement we receive through Christ." 12***
(Corinthians 1:5)



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)

"Those who are generous to the poor lend to the Lord, and the Lord will fully repay them."

- Proverbs 19:17

On Saturday, April 27th, the Boy Scouts of Troop 332 held another Scouting for Food drive at the Stop and Shop on Atlantic Avenue in Oceanside for the benefit of St. Raymond's Parish Social Ministry. The scouts did an amazing job as they collected approximately 1,000 lbs. of non-perishable food, personal and household items that the store customers so generously donated. The scouts and leaders delivered three car loads of cartons of the donated items to the Ryan House and the staff were overwhelmed with the generosity of all the donors. Surely, our shelves will be stocked for a quite while and our clients will be so appreciative. We sincerely thank the scouts of Troop 332 and their leaders for taking the time out of their weekend to help support the Parish Social Ministry. Please know that you are all in our prayers.

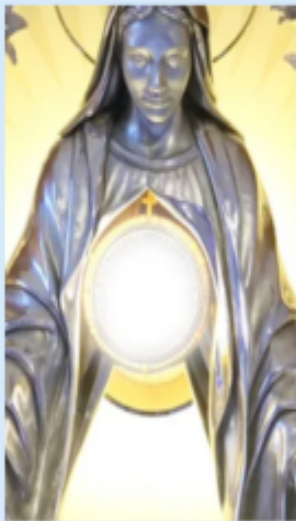


Food assistance is available to those in need who live within our Parish boundaries, including seniors who depend on their Social Security benefit as their only source of income and need help with food assistance.

Pantry items needed this week: Pancake Syrup, Cooking Oil, Tea, Juice, Baked Beans, Cold Cereal and Sugar.

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

May God's blessings shower upon all of you!



"It was you, Virgin Mary, who gave us this body and blood. May you be blessed throughout the world for giving us such a great gift." St. Louis Marie de Montfort

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-Saint John Paul II



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MAY 7, 2024

7:30PM

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Training in ENGLISH: · Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion –

Part A: Tuesday, April 16 - St. Elizabeth / Melville - Msgr. Kane Hall; 7 pm - 10 pm

Tuesday, May 21 – St. Christopher/Baldwin – McGoldrick Hall; 7 pm – 10 pm

Doors open 30 minutes before the training start time.

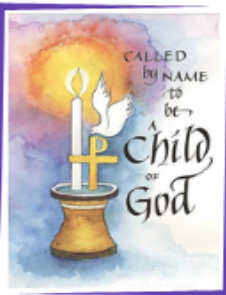
· Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Part B – presented in conjunction with Catholic Health. Part B is required for you to be able to bring Holy Communion to Hospitals and Nursing Homes.

Tuesday, May 14 - St. Elizabeth / Melville - Msgr. Kane Hall; 7 pm - 10 pm

Tuesday, June 4 - St. Christopher/Baldwin – McGoldrick Hall; 7 pm – 10 pm.

If you are interested in becoming An Extraordinary Minister, please contact me at the rectory in writing expressing your desire to serve St. Raymond Parish as an Extraordinary Minister. I will then reserve a place for you at the chosen session. Father Chuck

**To request registration for any of these sessions,
please contact the rectory, 516-593-5000**



God Bless
Our Newly
Baptized

Nicoletta Filomena Bilotta
Brady Nolan Monaco
Asher Jesse Ciofalo
Luciano Mateo Francia
Camila Loren Acevedo
Pierce Alexander Daley
Ava Grace Bisciello
Vienna Jo Cipriano
Jack Hudson O'Neill
Dominic Luca Genovese

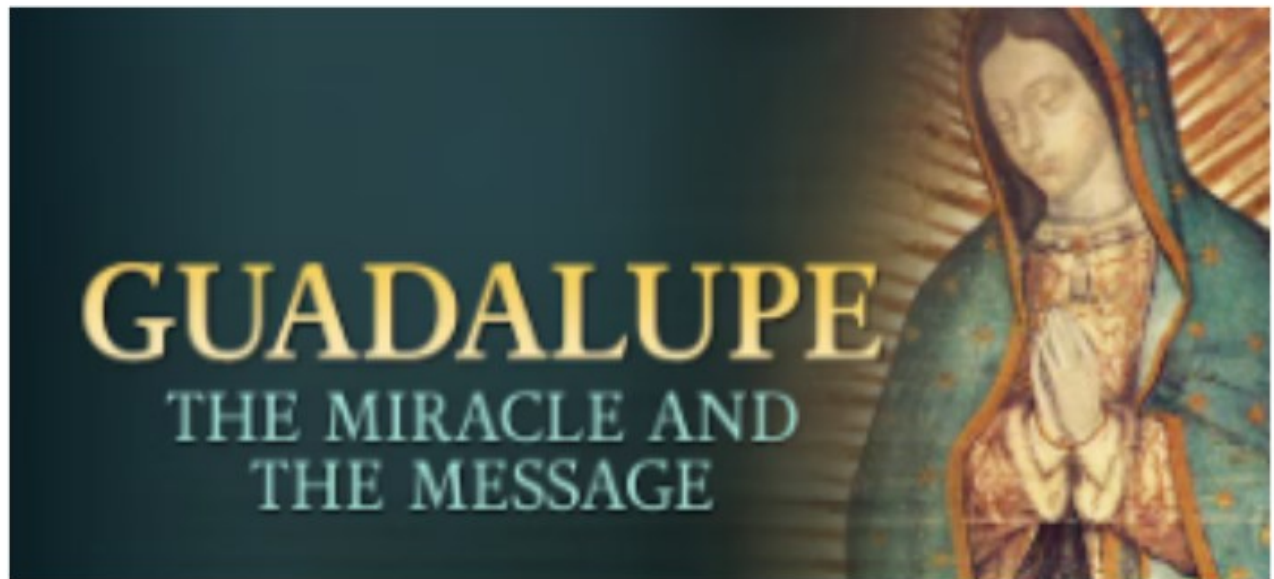


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The Growing Danger of Physician-Assisted Suicide in New York State

April 19, 2024

A Pastoral Statement
to the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre
Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop of Rockville Centre



My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Long Island is blessed to be home to several of the nation's most renowned healthcare systems. These systems consist of a vast network of physicians, nurses, technicians, and medical professionals of all kinds who live and work in our communities. In my weekly travels across the Diocese of Rockville Centre, I meet so many of these health professionals and I never fail to be inspired by their commitment to accompanying their patients throughout the courses of their lives. This includes the end of life.

However, legislation pending in Albany seeks to upend the doctor-patient relationship at its most vulnerable moment via physician-assisted suicide. The bill, which seems to be gaining momentum, authorizes doctors (whose careers are dedicated to healing and preserving life) to dispense pills that literally poison patients who have been given terminal diagnoses. Such a practice flies in the face of human dignity.

In fact, a groundbreaking new Vatican document approved in April by Pope Francis, titled— appropriately – *Dignitas Infinita* (Infinite Dignity), specifically singles out euthanasia and assisted suicide as grave assaults on human dignity which utilize “a mistaken understanding of human dignity to turn the concept of dignity against itself.”

This comment refers directly to the euphemism “death with dignity” that promoters of assisted suicide favor. *Dignitas Infinita* notes that, even in serious infirmity, “human life carries a dignity that must always be upheld, that can never be lost, and that calls for unconditional respect. Indeed, there are no circumstances under which human life would cease from being dignified and could, as a result, be put to an end.”

1

Clearly, Pope Francis views euthanasia and assisted suicide as symptoms of what he repeatedly has called a “throwaway culture” that has taken hold in the West. The pope, in his wisdom, sees what many supporters of this practice do not.

By virtue of their very humanity, people who are ill or who lack self-sufficiency never cease being infinitely valuable, even if society sends them a message to the contrary by urging them to “get out of the way” and end their lives.

What is being peddled by advocates as a last resort for those suffering from interminable pain will very quickly be expanded to resemble the dystopian nightmare we are seeing play out in Canada, which passed a law very similar to the New York bill in 2016 but which already has been expanded to allow people with non-terminal diagnoses to end their lives. In March, an Ottawa judge approved assisted suicide for a young woman whose only diagnoses are autism and ADHD, over her parents’ pleading objection. The Canadian law is set to expand again in 2027 – incredibly – to allow people with mental illnesses like depression, anorexia, or bipolar disorder to access suicide pills as prescribed by a medical professional.



Sadly, Canada is not an isolated case. The situation is similar in the Netherlands, the first nation to approve euthanasia, where people living with autism and intellectual disabilities reportedly are being euthanized.

I know that these scenarios are not what people have in mind when they answer a survey question asking if they support “medical aid in dying” or “death with dignity.” But we must not fool ourselves. What I’m describing is not fiction or fear mongering; these abuses are really happening today in jurisdictions that have legalized assisted suicide.

The medical professionals whom I speak with in our parishes and at Catholic Health medical facilities understand clearly that assisted suicide is a terrible, untenable policy. They know that when the end-of-life approaches, the answer is not to actively kill patients or to help them to kill themselves. Instead, true dignity is upheld by providing compassionate palliative care which manages patients’ pain and other symptoms, keeps them clean, tends to their bodily needs, and spiritually prepares them for their journey home.

As Pope Francis has said, “We must accompany people towards death, but not provoke death or facilitate any form of suicide...Life is a right, not death, which must be welcomed, not administered.”

During this time when we celebrate a National Eucharistic Revival, we pray that our reverence for the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ may inspire our witness in New York State’s public square to the reverence for the sanctity of human life at every stage of life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

Masses for this week

Monday, May 6th

7:15am Elfriede Bennett

8:45am George F. Carney, Sr.

Tuesday, May 7th

7:15am Margaret Klenert

8:45am Patricia A. Shanagan

Wednesday, May 8th

7:15am St. Raymond Parish

8:45am Donald Laux

7:30pm John P. Vesey

Thursday, May 9th

7:15am Elfriede Bennett

8:45am Dominick Consolazio & Jennie Gaeta

12:15pm Elfriede Bennett

7:30pm Fr. Joseph

Friday, May 10th

7:15am Fr. Joseph

8:45am Dennis McDougal

Saturday, May 11th

8:45am Robert Gardell, Duleclina Ruiz,
Elvira Barney Rosalie

5:00pm Richard Straub

Sunday, May 12th

7:30am

9:00am Mother's Day

10:30am

12:00pm

4:30pm St. Raymond Parish

Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday

Acts 16:11-15/Jn 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday

Acts 16:22-34/Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday

Acts 17:15, 22-18:1/Jn 16:12-15

Thursday

Acts 18:1-8/Jn 16:16-20

Friday

Acts 18:9-18/Jn 16:20-23

Saturday

Acts 18:23-28/Jn 16:23b-28

Sunday

Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26/1 Jn 4:11-16/
Jn 17:11b-19



Please Pray for Our Sick

James R., Mike L., Jodi Neckles,
Baby Faith Madison, Michael McPike,
Baby Cooper Graham, Christine I.,
Samir. Leo B., Maureen Condiss,
Marie Dempsey, Mary Lynch,
Maureen McCarthy, Fr. Don Hansen,
Nick S., Dawn, Jay Witemeyer,
Christine Gillidan, Linda Dagostino,
Joseph DelGiorno, Rory Romano,
Timothy Murphy,
Karen Pagnotta, Colleen Popp,
Michael Malone, Elizabeth Lacchini
(Names are printed for 3 weeks unless
the rectory is notified otherwise)



Rest in Peace
Carmella Anzalone



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Helen & Theodore Rehm
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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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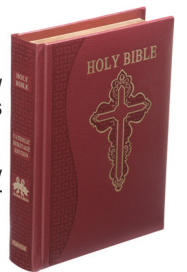


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