

Welcome To Our Parish Family!

Not registered? Please stop by our rectory during office hours and we will be happy to include you in our parish family.

Rectory

Office Hours are Monday -- Friday from 9am - 5pm.
Please call ahead for an appointment.

Telephone Numbers

Rectory.....593-5000
Rectory Fax.....887-0554
St. Raymond School.....593-9010
St. Raymond School Fax.....593-0986
Religious Education Office.....593-9075
Religious Education Office Fax.....593-1156
Parish Social Ministry.....887-9197
Parish Social Ministry Fax.....593-6278
Web Site: www.saintraymonds.org
E-Mail: StRayRcc@optonline.net

Pastoral Care Of The Sick

Holy Communion— Available to the homebound.

Devotions

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursdays from 1:00-4:00pm in Our Lady's Chapel.

Nocturnal Adoration

First Fridays, 8:00-9:00pm.

Miraculous Medal Novena-Saturdays following 8:45am Mass.

Confessions

Saturdays: 3:30 - 4:30pm or by appointment at the rectory.

Baptisms

Baptisms are celebrated the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Please call the Rectory for an appointment.

Bereavement Support Group

Meets every 3rd Friday of the month in the rectory basement (Msgr. Walsh Meeting Room) 12 Noon.

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 basement meeting room (MWMR).

Men's Prayer Group: Every 4th Friday at 8:00pm in Our Lady's Chapel.

Music Ministries

Choir: Sings at 10:30am Mass on Sundays from September—June, and meets for practice on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm in the church.

Folk Group: Sings at 12 Noon Mass on Sundays from September—June, and meets for practice on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm in the rectory basement.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Interested in becoming a Catholic or an adult Catholic seeking Eucharist or Confirmation? For information call the Rectory.

This Week In Our Parish

MONDAY, March 7th

3:30pm—Religious Education School
7:00pm—Religious Education School
7:30pm—RCIA MWMR

TUESDAY, March 8th

10:00am—Art Club MWMR
3:30pm—Religious Education School
7:00pm—Religious Education School
7:30pm—Charismatic Prayer Group MWMR

WEDNESDAY, March 9th

3:30pm—Religious Education School
7:30pm—Families Anonymous Cafeteria
7:30pm—Folk Group MWMR
7:30pm—Choir Church
7:30pm—St. Vincent de Paul Meeting Ryan House

THURSDAY, March 10th

9:30am—Bible Sharing MWMR
1:00pm—Adoration Chapel
3:30pm—Religious Education School
7:30pm—Handbell Choir Church
7:30pm—Human Life Committee Mtg. MWMR

FRIDAY, March 11th

SATURDAY, March 12th

3:30pm—Confessions Church

SUNDAY, March 6th

Holy Name Repast in cafeteria following 9:00 Mass.

Please pray for our United States Military

Captain Kathryn M. Costello, U.S.M.C.
Lance Corporal Sean M. Donohue, U.S.M.C.
Lt. Gregory Durso, U.S.A.
LCPL Brian Ferrera, U.S.M.C.
Michael Gondek, National Guard
LtCol. Mary P. King, M.D., U.S.A.
Ensign Joseph Leahy, U.S. N.
Captain Joseph McQuade, U.S.N.
Lance Corporal Alan Murphy, USMC
Captain Graham A. Perry, U.S.M.C.
1st Lt. Roy Ragusa, Jr., U.S. ARMY
Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Schimenti, U.S.N.

Please remember our wounded soldiers as well.

To add a name to this list, e-mail: StRayRcc@optonline.net

Pastoral Council

We recently celebrated the Feast Day of St. David, the Patron Saint of Wales, a monk who lived an extremely austere life, surviving on mostly bread, water and vegetables. Although he and his monks were known for their hard work, his message was always one of joy. On his deathbed he asked his fellow monks to be joyful and keep the faith. Perhaps he could say that to them—and to us—because he lived in and nurtured a constant awareness of God's nearness. For, as someone once said, "Joy is the infallible sign of God's presence." May his intercession bless us with the same awareness!

Pastoral Council Members

Thomas Cavanagh, Thomas Chojnacki (President.),
Meg Casey, Doreen Dolan,
Barbara Gribbon (Secretary), Mary Murphy,
Diane Page (Vice President), Maria Papini,
Christopher Simeti, Liz Tortorella

Fr. Chuck's Corner

Greetings and God's blessings be yours on the Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time. We come to the final days before Ash Wednesday and the start of the Lenten season. The color green gives way to violet and purple; decorations will be less; while the Gloria and alleluias will disappear from our prayers and singing. This Sunday's readings are a good prelude into Lent for they stress our need to follow God's will over our own and putting faith in God as our rock and Jesus as our source of hope. In the first reading from Deuteronomy, Moses urges the people to build their future on the law instead of their own designs. **"Be careful to observe all the statutes and decrees that I set before you today."** Then in Romans, Paul shifts the emphasis from the law to the person of Jesus Christ. **"Now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, though testified to by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe."**

In the gospel from Matthew, Jesus teaches that the will of God is the only sure foundation for our lives. **"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like the man who built his house on rock."** We often speak of the integrity of one's **"name"** and how we strive to keep our **"good name"** when challenged and criticized. Our **"good name"** is important to us. Just look at some news cycles and you see how quickly people can move from celebrity to notoriety. That is probably why **"blasphemy,"** using God's name in vain, is so devastating. You can see in today's reading and in many other biblical places how God acts to keep integrity with the Divine Name. This perfect integrity is transferred to Jesus who remains faithful despite our infidelity. He cannot deny himself.

Now contrast this with how you and I act. We say, **"Lord, Lord"** but don't behave like his followers. Oh yes, we call upon God in prayer, and call ourselves Christians, yet often there is a sizable gap between the name we bear and the testimony of our lives. We don't see this gap as blasphemy, but it's not far off, according to Jesus. **To use the name Christian as a category instead of as a job description is to use it in vain like a noisy gong or clashing cymbal.** If our lives aren't as Christian as the religious preference we check off on forms; then we mustn't be surprised when God could quite possibly declare in the final analysis of our lives, **"I hardly know you."** Yikes!

We who hear and know are held to a stricter account; an indictment churchgoers rarely accept. To often we believe that mere attendance has got to be worth something, punching a clock on those rituals should earn us more than the no-shows. **And it is very tempting to believe this.** But it isn't what scripture says. Moses advised the people to bind themselves to God's will, take it heart and soul into their observance. And Jesus predicts complete ruin to those who listen to divine words without acting on them. **Believing in what you do and doing what you believe is the only way to place oneself squarely on the "rock."** I don't know about you, but Lent couldn't be coming soon enough.

This week begins the holy season of Lent on **Ash Wednesday, March 9th.** Please refer to the bulletin ad for the times that ashes will be distributed. Wednesday will also be the start of the 12:15 PM daily Mass and the Friday evening Stations of the Cross at 7:30 PM.

Please remember to take home a copy of the bulletin when you leave Mass today. There are many items of interest and information with something for everyone. Of special note is news and needs from **"Parish Social Ministry,"** info from **"Religious Education"** and the **"Principal's Corner"** of St. Raymond School, the next **Human Life Committee Meeting** on Thursday, March 10th, ticket info for the **"St. Patrick's Celebration"** on the 19th, **"Pot of Gold 50/50"** chances, a notice on **"Votive Candles,"** the latest **2011 Catholic Ministry Appeal** update and much more. To keep informed, keep a copy of the bulletin at home each week for quick and easy reference.

Have a great week. **Let's all prayerfully enter this Lenten season so that the graces of God will truly impact our faith and most of all our love in action.** And remember: **Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important.** God bless always.

Father Chuck



PARISH BULLETIN BOARD

Religious Education

This Sunday, 2nd and 3rd grade students in our program and St. Raymond School are hosting the 9:00am Mass. We also welcome the second and third grade Brownie Troop who are participating in this Mass as well. Third graders will be doing the readings, and second graders are donating non-perishable food for distribution to the needy of our parish community. We are sure the efforts and support of our children and their families will be greatly appreciated.

REMINDER #1: THERE WILL BE NO RELIGION CLASSES HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9TH WHICH IS ASH WEDNESDAY, THE BEGINNING OF LENT!

REMINDER #2: TO ALL YOUNGSTERS WHO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE—PLEASE REMEMBER TO COME TO REHEARSAL ON THURSDAY, IN THE CHURCH, NO LATER THAN 5:00PM.

We must also express our good feelings about, and share with you, some of the wonderful responses given by Mrs. Hobbs' 6th graders, who were taken to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday during class time. They wrote:

"In Adoration I felt relieved in the quiet. I could pray and be relieved of my worries. Then at the end, I sang the hymns and followed the prayers."

"At the end of Adoration when we sat down and prayed I felt one with Jesus and God. At the end of Adoration my mind was cleared from all distraction."

"During Adoration I got the feeling that God came into me and it gave me a really good feeling. I liked the silence and that I could pray to God without a disturbance."

Adoration was a very nice time. It was very silent which gave us a lot of time to pray and think. I did a little bit of both. I prayed and thought about things. I prayed to let me sins be forgiven. I had a great time. It was very cleansing."

Our youngsters are definitely responding to the powerful presence and love our Lord Jesus. We will continue to give them the opportunity to experience going to the Adoration service during the year.

Faith Formation

St. Raymond Holy Name Society

"Blessed be the Holy Name of Jesus"

Members of the Holy Name Society will be receiving corporate Communion:

Date: Sunday, March 13th

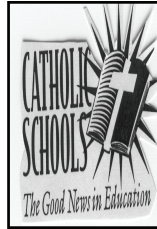
Time: 9:00 am Mass

Guest Speaker: Deacon Bob Campbell

(Meeting and light repast will be held immediately after Mass in the school cafeteria.)

Please join with us in restoring the dignity and respect due the Holy Name of Jesus!
Our society is open to all men and women.

Principal's Corner



Lent begins this week so it's again time for all of us to consider what special thing we might do for this special penitential season. I always like to suggest to the children that we think about something positive to do – perhaps making an extra visit to Church, or praying a rosary for world peace, or offering to help someone with a little work.

Whatever the gesture, the Lord knows the intention and adds it to our "eternal bank account" balance!

Looking for the pleasant aromas of spring and summer? We may just have the perfect solution for you. It's YANKEE CANDLE time at St. Raymond School. Candles may be ordered from any of our children or by contacting the school office. All orders must be placed by March 18, 2011. They make great gifts for special occasions.

Next Saturday, March 12th we have several young people who are participating in the annual Long Island Catholic School Honor Band. They are truly the "Best of the Best" and we are most proud of them. Please join me in congratulating those students who are representing St. Raymond School (* denotes students participating in the Honor Band Wind Ensemble):

Tyler Aitchison, Lauren Aragona, Joseph Becker, Katherine Boyle*, Liam Boyle, Peter Brennan, Nicholas Cafiero, Grace Canty, Anthony Capellupo*, Joseph Cascio, Thomas Chojnacki, Theresa Coscia, Matthew Crowe, Lauren DiCanio, Matthew DiCarlo*, James DiCarlo, Michael Farkash, Gabriella Flammia, Daniel Kaiser, Kyle Kessler, Christina Lynch, Catherine McClure, Maggie Peknic, Dylan Reilly, Christopher Shaw, Sally Sormilic, Robert Stewart*, Michael Thilman, Tristan Umowski, Joseph Woloszyn, Jacqueline Woloszyn.

Now for a look at the upcoming week:

- **Monday** – Yankee Candle sale begins; Baked ziti; Math Enrichment and Boys' Chorus after school
- **Tuesday** – Marching practice at lunchtime (with instruments); Math Olympiads 4-8 after school
- **Wednesday** – Band lessons with Full Band at 8:00 AM; Ash Wednesday Mass at 8:45 (ALL); COGAT testing for Grade 1; Pizza at lunch; Math Enrichment and Girls' Chorus after school
- **Thursday** – 8th grade to 8:45 Mass; COGAT testing continues for Grade 1; Noon dismissal for faculty meeting
- **Friday** – 7th grade to 8:45 Mass; Bagel day

Save money and earn cash back!

The Market America Company website features thousands of partner stores like Target, Walmart, Best Buy, Kohls, The Home Depot and many more. When you make a purchase on www.shop4saintrays.com, St. Raymond receives royalties and you earn up to 35% cash back on qualified purchases! Getting Started is Easy! Visit our website at www.shop4saintrays.com and register as a Preferred Customer and go shopping!

PARISH BULLETIN BOARD

Votive Candles



As you know we have four votive candle stands in our church. Two have the large candles and two have the smaller candles. One of each kind is located to the side of the **Blessed Mother and St. Joseph's Altars**. Usually, the offering was placed in an envelope and dropped in the wall drawer by the side doors. As of now, there are **"offering boxes"**

attached to each candle stand. If you wish to light a candle and make a donation simply place the money in the box attached to the stand. Do not use the wall receptacles. Also, there will no longer be intention envelopes for these candles. If you wish to write an intention for additional prayer, use the prayer request forms found on the back pew shelves. The donation for the candles remains at **\$1** for the smaller candle and **\$2** for the larger candle. Thanks for your attention and cooperation.

Father Chuck

St. Raymond Human Life Committee

2011 Diocesan Respect Life Contest

Congratulation to the following students who won on the Parish level in this year's Diocesan Respect Life Contest:

- 1st Prize - Daphne O'Leary, 8th grade
- 2nd Prize - Alison Bashford, 7th grade
- 3rd Prize - Robert Stewart, 8th grade



The above students' entries were sent to the Diocesan Respect Life Office to be considered for awards on the Diocesan level and all three were selected as finalists on the Diocesan level.

This is a great honor as there were approximately 1,200 entries from the entire Diocese. The awards from the Diocese will be presented on Thursday, March 24th at 7:00pm at Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale.

There were 250 students who entered this contest from our parish. We thank all of you for participating and sharing your thoughts about the respect for all God's children, those born and those in the womb waiting to be born. Thanks also to the support and dedication of Sr. Ruthanne, Principal of St. Raymond's, Mrs. Evelyn Contaldi, Religious Education Director, Mrs. Jeanmarie Becker, and the Religion teachers who encouraged and worked with the students on this important life project.

The next meeting of the Human Life Committee will be held on Thursday, March 10th, in the rectory basement. Pro-Life video at 7:00pm, recitation of the rosary at 7:30pm, and meeting at 8:00pm. Our meetings are open to all who desire to work for an end to abortion and the return to the respect for all human life—born and those in the womb waiting to be born.

"Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.." Matthew 7:21



ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 9, 2011

This Wednesday, March 9th is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the 2011 Lenten Season. The distribution of "ashes" will be at the following times:

- 7:15 AM- Mass
- 8:45 AM- Mass
- 12:15 PM- Mass
- 3:30 PM- Prayer Service
- 7:30 PM- Mass

(Note that beginning on Ash Wednesday there will be an additional Mass celebrated at 12:15pm on Mondays through Fridays during Lent and **Stations of the Cross** will also be prayed each Friday evening during Lent at 7:30 PM in the church)

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. All Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine inclusive are also bound to observe the law of fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day.

Golden Wedding Jubilee



On Sunday, May 1st couples married 50 years or more are invited to a special Mass to be celebrated by Bishop John Dunne at Maria Regina in Seaford at 2:00pm. Please pick up your registration card at the rectory, (Mon. through Fri, 9-5pm.) Registration cards are due to the Diocese of Rockville Centre no later than April 14th. Approximately one week before the ceremony, information regarding the day will be mailed to you. Although a date has not yet been confirmed, there will be another celebration in the Fall for those who may find that date more convenient. For information, call 516-678-5800, ext. 207.

20th Annual Communion Boutique

The next Communion Boutique will be held on Tuesday, 22nd in the school cafeteria from 2:30 to 4:45pm. Low prices on pocketbook and wallet sets (contains rosary beads with case, brown scapular, missal, and Communion pin), veils, ties, arm bows, jewelry for boys and girls, bibles, prayer books, Communion candle, remembrance albums, and Communion beanie bears. All would be appropriate gifts of remembrance for this once in a lifetime occasion.

A percentage of all profits goes to Religious Education and St. Raymond School's Twirlers. For info, call Judy Kelly at 593-1829.

PARISH BULLETIN BOARD



Stewardship

A Way of Life

Stewardship Thought for the Week

Today's second reading encourages us to trust in the Lord! A trusting heart can say with confidence and security, like the Psalmist, "Lord, be my rock of safety." Good stewards should demonstrate that same kind of trust every day.

Living Stewardship

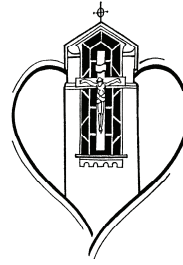
We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who seek to recognize the Lord's plan for them and share their gifts generously with all.

Sacrificial Giving :

Last Week \$13,549
Last Year \$18,440

Monthly Sharing with the Catholic Council in Santa Lucia, Guatemala

Parish Social Ministry



The Heart of the Parish

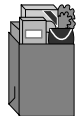
Have you ever questioned the amount you are expected to continue to give when the pleas for your donations, along with your expenses, have increased, yet, your income remains the same or, perhaps, even decreased? How do we measure our responsibility to help all of those requesting our aid against our ability to satisfy our own needs? It certainly is a matter of conscience and never easy to say yes or no, when we are presented with supplications for our support. The solution may lay in the

answer to another question, one we may have also asked ourselves from time to time. What is life all about?

St. Ignatius addresses this question with a clear statement that emphasizes the basic purpose of every human life: Human beings are created to praise, reverence, and serve God our Lord, and by means of doing this to save their souls' the other things of the earth are created for the human beings, to help them in the pursuit of the end for which they are created. Our guidelines, then, should be to use these things to the extent that they help us toward our end, and free ourselves from them to the extent that they hinder us from it. This calls for a detachment from created things---indifference, Ignatius calls it. We ought to desire and choose only that which is more conducive to the end for which we are created. The challenge is to recognize that created things attain their true value only to the extent that they lead to the fulfillment of God's plan. For this reason, we must accept or make use of them when they are useful for accomplishing God's will, but forego or flee them when they are not. As we follow this norm, we will contribute to a world in which everyone and everything work together for the praise of God's glory. (For the Greater Glory of God, Spiritual Exercises, 23 pp 19, 22)

If we can view our possessions with detachment and develop the practice of prayerful deliberation and reflection of what God wishes us to achieve with the gifts He has given us, then we can be more confident that our decision regarding the extent of our assistance will be attuned to God's will.

Pantry Needs: Mayonnaise, Cooking Oil, Coffee, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Canned Meat, Shampoo, Conditioner, Baby Wipes, & Diapers Sizes 4,5, & 6.



MISSION NEWS

From our Sister Parish in Guatemala ...



I have been thinking about going on the Mission Awareness trip to Guatemala for a number of years. My family has been sponsoring a child for about 6 years and we feel blessed to have been able to do this. Even though over the years I have thought about going on this trip, I could not make a commitment not knowing why. I believe it may have been fear of going to a third world country. I have been told that there is so much love and happiness and the feeling of God's presence by those who have gone in other years. I prayed asking God to help me overcome my fear. He answered my prayers because I have never felt so confident in my decision to go and I am ready to have a humbling and spiritual experience. I want to learn from the people of Guatemala and with their help become one with God and feel His presence.



-Teresa Schloth

"Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me."

Psalm 51:10



LENT



Society of St. Vincent de Paul Monthly Food Collection

This Weekend: Mar. 5th & 6th

Please leave your non-perishable food donations in the boxes in the altar server sacristy or at the back of the church.

Your donation will benefit Our Lady of Loretto Parish. Thank you for remembering those in need.



The 19th Annual St. Raymond School Golf & Dinner Event

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

Lawrence Yacht & Country Club & Mezza On The Green

2011 Honorees

We are truly proud to recognize the 2011 St. Raymond Golf Outing honorees and hope you can join as we celebrate their dedication, spirit and continued support of St. Raymond's School.

John & Mary Lou Celiberti and Patrick & Mary Lavelle

Golf Package: \$225 per person

Includes Golf Cart, Locker Room Facilities, B-B-Q Lunch, Cocktail Party, Dinner, Live Music, Contests, Gifts, Raffles & Live Auction.

Play for a chance to win a new Audi – sponsored by Anchor Audi of Lynbrook.

Just Dinner Package: \$95 per person

Includes Cocktail Party, Dinner, Live Music, Gifts, Raffles & Live Auction.

For more information, visit www.srsny.org for an on-line brochure and registration form, or contact Donna O'Reilly-Einemann at einemann21@verizon.net.

For information on the Lawrence Yacht & Country Club and Mezza On The Green visit www.lycc.cc



HERE'S YOUR INVITATION TO THE... ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION!



FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Come enjoy the rich Irish traditions, complete dinner, Irish music by "The O'Switch," plentiful drink & sweets, so get a table of friends to enjoy!

March 19th at 7:30pm
at St. Raymond's "Green Room" (Cafeteria)

All are Welcome! Raffles, Food, Music,
Beer, Wine and more!

Tickets are only \$35 ea. Table of 12 welcome!

For tickets, call Tom Donza at 593-2521

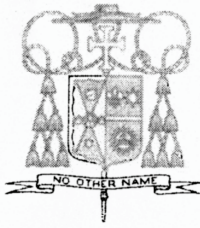


Pot of Gold 50/50

In the spirit of St. Patrick and all that is Irish within us, our special Patrick's "Pot of Gold 50/50" is steadily climbing. As of this weekend we have over \$5,000 in the "Pot of Gold." This "pot" has no lid so the "sky's the limit." The winning ticket will be pulled at the St. Patrick's Party, Saturday, March 19th, which is being held in the school cafeteria and sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. **The "Pot of Gold" tickets are always available and on sale!** They are \$10. each and three for \$25. Special "Pot of Gold" ticket envelopes are available on the pew shelves in the back of the church. They also have been included in the March/April envelope packets. Simply return the ticket stubs with payment in the envelope to the rectory, either by mail or in the Sunday collection before March 19th. Tickets are also available for purchase at the rectory during regular office hours. The more tickets sold, the greater your winning share and the greater the profit to St. Raymond's. And you don't have to be Irish or at the party on the 19th to win, but you do have to be in it **plus** a wee bit of leprechaun luck wouldn't hurt either.



Remember...Three for \$25 or \$10 each, and the "Sky's the Limit!"



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

LENT 2011

Dear Friends in Christ:

*Have mercy on me God in your goodness;
In the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt
And of my sin cleanse me! (Ps 50)*

This perennial Lenten plea comes from the hearts of all of us who embrace this season of Lent for our spiritual good and the good of the whole Church. It is a plea that God in His merciful love will make us whole through our Lenten observances. It is a prayer of hope for we know that He is the One who "sent His Son" so that we might have life and life to the full. We who make this Lenten journey together not only seek our own forgiveness, not only desire to be reconciled with one another, but, even more, we want to be one with Him who died and rose for us. He wants us to be cleansed by the water flowing from His wounded side. He wants us to be redeemed by the blood He shed for us. He wants us to join Mary and the other women at the Easter tomb, an Easter tomb that is empty, an Easter tomb that bears silent witness to the greatest news we can ever hear, the greatest message we can ever receive, the greatest gift that is ours: "He is risen. He is not here. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Alleluia, Alleluia!"

The way to enter into these saving mysteries is the way of Lent, the journey to Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The more deeply we embrace this holy season of repentance and renewal, the more will we share in the redemptive acts of the Lord and become one with Him and the whole Church this coming Easter. Let us all make a commitment to ourselves and to one another, and especially to the Lord, to make this Lent the "acceptable time for now is the day of salvation".

We have many reasons to do this. Some are personal. We know them in the quiet of the day when we turn our hearts to God and see what He asks of us. Some of them we share as a Church that is always on a pilgrimage of faith, a journey of repentance and renewal to become ever more the Bride of Christ whom He loves and whom He wishes to cleanse from any and every sin.

This year we are in a process of getting ready to embrace the new Roman Missal. We will begin to use it the first Sunday of Advent. In the meantime we must prepare our hearts and minds to welcome this Missal and to let it work its grace in our hearts drawing us all to belong more deeply to Christ and to one another in His Church.

Part of that preparation should include prayers for forgiveness and reconciliation. To that end, I have composed a prayer for use in all our parishes and oratories and places of prayer and worship. I ask you to use it frequently during Lent. You may pray it privately or in groups. You may include it in prayer meetings and public recitation of the rosary, at Benediction or in study groups. I ask you to make it our *Lenten Prayer*, the prayer that will bring us through Lent to find us belonging more deeply to the Lord in His Church, forgiving one another, being reconciled to one another in a Church that watches over all her children and extends her loving arms to embrace us all.

*Dear God and loving Father, we ask your forgiveness for our own sins
And for sins committed in the name of the Church. In your loving mercy, forgive especially those sins
That have harmed children and young people as well as sins against the unborn, the poor and the vulnerable.
Help us to be reconciled to one another and make us holy in your sight, that united in the one Body of Christ,
We may worship you with pure hearts, proclaim your name with faith and hope
And witness your love to all humankind. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Bishop of Rockville Centre

PO Box 9023, Rockville Centre, New York 11571-9023 • phone 516.678.5800 • fax 516.678.3138 • www.drvc.org

2011 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL



"One Faith, One Hope, Many Gifts"

Last weekend, our parish began its efforts for the 2011 Catholic Ministries Appeal! It was a good start as the two speakers from the diocesan office enlightened us with first hand experience and examples on how the Catholic Ministries Appeal helps so many people in need throughout Long Island. Thanks to all our volunteers who staffed the appeal table after all the Masses and thanks to everyone who stopped by to make a donation or take some of the appeal information to ponder at home. Remember, our 2011 goal remains the same as last year: **\$95,960.00**. The rebate formula also stays the same. If we reach our goal in total payment we will receive **20% back** and then **80%** of every dollar paid in over the goal. **Basically, the better we do for the diocese, the better we do for St. Raymond's.** The first mailing to parishioners has already gone out from the appeal office and there has been a good early return of pledges and gifts. A second mailing is going out this week. Our current totals are listed below in the appeal update numbers.

As a priest, a pastor, and a Catholic member of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, I really believe in the importance of the **Catholic Ministries Appeal**. This appeal helps support more than 40 pastoral programs and ministries that serve 133 parishes across Long Island. The funds raised help us in fulfilling our mission to live and share our faith, care for God's people, and build God's Kingdom throughout Long Island. **All the money is used to support four main areas of ministry: Catholic Charities, Education, Formation and Pastoral Ministry.**

So, by making a pledge or donation to the **Catholic Ministries Appeal** you not only help St. Raymond's by achieving a rebate, but you also play a big part in helping to fund the good works of the Catholic Church on Long Island. **Pledge envelopes and brochures will always be available in the church on the pew shelves at the back of the church.** Otherwise, look for the mailings sent by the appeal office or use the bulletin tear-off. You can always respond directly to the appeal office and St. Raymond's Parish will get full credit. Last year's amount of **\$87,029.00** was reached from **423** individual pledges and gifts. We really need to increase the amount of donors in order to be successful and qualify for the maximum rebate. Please take time to prayerfully consider making a pledge or one time gift. You can respond by direct mail to the appeal office or back to the rectory using either one of the appeal envelopes found on the rear pew shelves of the church or the tear-off on this page. Together, let's make the **2011 Catholic Ministries Appeal** a success for St. Raymond's and the diocese. Below is our current appeal update.

2011 Parish Goal
\$95,960.00
Pledge/Gift Amount as of 2/28/11
\$24,451.00
Number of Pledges/Gifts
114



Please make checks payable to: **Catholic Ministries Appeal**

Pledge: \$ _____
Down Payment: \$ _____
Balance: \$ _____

Parish: _____

Name: _____

Payment Plan:

Address: _____

Monthly Quarterly

Town/State/Zip: _____

Annually Other

Phone: _____ **Donor Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Masses For The Week



Monday, March 7th

7:15 Timothy Joseph Motherway
8:45 Margaret R. Miranda

St. Perpetua & St. Felicity

Tuesday, March 8th

7:15 Marko Krasnic
8:45 Frank Collins

St. John of God

Wednesday, March 9th

7:15 Esther O'Donnell
8:45 Buddy Keane
12:15 Therese L. Campbell
7:30 The People of the Parish

Ash Wednesday

Thursday, March 10th

7:15 Walter & Margaret Grossefinger
8:45 The Deller Family
12:15 Jerry Ferrara

Friday, March 10th

7:15 Anne O'Keefe
8:45 Muriel Henry
12:15 Ruth Gossy

Saturday, March 11th

8:45 Julian & Margaret Miranda, Frank Farino, Peggy Hughes, Michael Percella, Jim Gracey
5:00 Mae Zinser

Sunday, March 12th

7:30 Mark Dejak
9:00 Angelo Stallone
10:30 Mark Dejak
12:00 Nick Figliola, Sally Gilroy, Robert A. Lacchini, Thomas McGoldrick Ildo & Gusepina Lazzinnaro

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday

Tobit 1:3; 2:1-8; Psalm 112:1-6; Mark 12:1-12

Tuesday

Tobit 2:9-14; Psalm 112:1-2, 7-9; Mark 12:13-17

Wednesday

Joel 2:12-18; Psalm 51:3-6, 12-14, 17;
2 Corinthians 5:20 -- 6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1:4, 6; Luke 9:22-25

Friday

Isaiah 58:1-9; Psalm 51:3-6, 18-19; Matthew 9:14-15

Saturday

Isaiah 58:9-14; Psalm 86:1-6; Luke 5:27-32

Sunday

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Psalm 51:3-6, 12-13, 17
Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Matthew 4:1-11

Please Pray For Our Sick...



Baby Aidan Pearsall, Baby Andrew Richetti, Baby Brady James Hicks, Baby Nicholas Savino, Baby Michelina Vito, Janet Kelly, Thomas Reynolds, Jr., Robert Sheiman, Danny Collins, Bob Cavanaugh, Joan Thompson, Pat Pisani, Nicole Roletter, Brian Wilcox,

Arthur Conforti, Jack Perlunger, Thomas King, Margaret Casey, "Little" Bridget Feminella, Patty Cavanagh, Mary Lou Kavanaugh, Mary Riccio, Kate Manzoni, Salvatore Iannone, Charles Henshaw, Sr., Louis J. Larkin, John Halatas, Richard Nerod, Michael Pirrone, Josephine Parente, Raymond Mayle, Kathleen Christ, Denise Scarry, Bill Brosnan, Charlie Soldano, Anna Capobianco, Alex Bogdan.

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



Rest in Peace

Carleena Esposito
Dominic Piccoro
Alma Bisi
Helen DeSaro

The Altar Bread & Wine...

For this week is in loving memory of

Muriel Henry

From the Sodality of Our Lady.



The Rose for Life...

For this week is in loving memory of

Theresa Keane

I love you and miss you, Mom.

For future dedications, call Mary Healy: 887-4062.



The Sanctuary Lamp...

For this week is in loving memory of...

Frank & Vina Szssa

From their family.



A Rosary for Priests

The next rosary for priests will be held Sunday, March 13th, in the church following the 4:30pm Mass. All are welcome to join us in prayer.

DIOCESAN & COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Lenten Mission with Bishop Libasci

St. Christopher's Church, Baldwin
March 14th-16th at 7:30pm

**“Do we say what we believe,
do we believe what we say?”**

Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary-Oceanside **Lucky Leprechauns Bingo Brunch**

Saturday, March 19th—11am-4pm
 \$25 per person. For info, call: Jane at 764-2181.

Hofstra University hosts the 13th Annual Irish Experience Festival

Sunday, March 13th, 11am-6pm

Physical Ed. Bldg., North Campus (Indoors)

More than 50 vendors, authentic Irish food.
 Performances by Girsu, The Black Velvet Band
 & The Hirten Family Irish Dancers.
 For the kids, Katie's Puppets, Amazing Fred Collins,
 Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus Clowns.

Master of Ceremonies: Tony Jackson (WRHU, 88.7FM)
 Admission: \$5 adult, \$3 seniors, children under 12 free.
 For info, call 463-6582 or visit hofstra.edu/festivals.

Hibernian Festival Singers on Sat., Mar. 13th, 8pm.

St. Mary of the Isle Fundraiser Trip

Showboat Casino in Atlantic City

March 20th —\$35 per person—with free \$30 slot play!

Bus leaves from St. Mary's in Long Beach at 9:00am.

For info, call Gloria at 404-7161 or the rectory at 432-0157.

Harvest Houses

Harvest Houses, provider of affordable, family-like housing that offers seniors both privacy and companionship, security and quality of life, currently has openings in their Syosset and Floral Park residences. For info or to visit any of their Long Island residences, call: Sr. Jeanne Brendel, OP, CSW, Exec. Dir. at 516-496-9796 or sjeanne@harvesthouses.org.

Divorced, Separated, Single & Widowed Catholics

New Member Orientation

Tuesday, March 22nd at 7:30pm

St. Frances de Chantal School, Wantagh

Please bring proof of single status to join.

Refreshments served after the meeting.

For info, call Carol: 794-4933

Listen Up! Jesus is on the Air!

With Dr. John Palmer & Dr. Anthony Ciuffo

WGBB-1240AM on Saturdays from 10am to 11am .

Interviews, music, prayers for healing and “Saints Alive!”



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 Open 7 Days

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 East Rockaway

(516) 887-5716

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100 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook

Celebrating our 20th Anniversary

Roofing • Siding • Windows
 Free Gutters & Leaders w/full
 siding or complete roof job.

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