

Saint Raymond of Penafort Catholic Church

December 17, 2017 – Third Sunday of Advent



Week Three The Gift of Sharing Time with Other

Parish Office 1350 Vernon Road
Philadelphia, PA 19150
Phone: 215-549-3760
Fax: 215-549-1271
Web: www.saintraymond.net
Email: pastor@saintraymond.net

Parish School 7940 Williams Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19150
Phone: 215-548-1919
Fax: 215-548-1925
Web: www.saintraymond.net/school
Email: pwright@straymondphila.org

Mass: Monday - Thursday at 8:00am
Saturday at 8:00am & 5:00pm
Sunday at 8:00am & 10:00am

Confession: Saturday from 4:30pm - 4:50pm
Sunday from 9:10am - 9:50am
3rd Sunday of the Month at Noon

Those who are interested in joining our Church or learning more about the Catholic Faith, please call the Parish Office. You are most welcome because we need your gifts to enrich our Parish Family!

Saint Raymond Church: Where God is Glorified & His People are Sanctified
*We will use our Passion for Christ and Hope for Humanity to inspire and serve
so that the gospel is proclaimed and we live as disciples of Jesus.*

Meetings for the Week

*Small Groups have began and will meet until
Christmas. Are you joining one?*

Monday: Join us for Mass at 8am

Tuesday: Join us for the Holy Rosary after
Mass; **No Afternoon Bible Study** at 1:30pm
(SRR)

Wednesday: Join us for Mass at 8am

Thursday: Eucharistic Adoration 8:30am –
4pm

Friday: Gospel Choir Practice at 7pm

Saturday: Weight Watchers at 10am

*Catholic Call to Prayer continues at 6:30am, Monday
to Friday. Call (NEW NUMBER) 1-712-775-8972, Enter
Code 336656 and join us in prayer each day!*

Mass Intentions for the Week

Mon., Dec. 18 8am Fr. George Boyle

Tues., Dec. 19 8am Fr. Kearney (52nd Anniversary)

Wed., Dec. 20 8am William & Yolanda Jeter

Thurs., Dec. 21 8am Barbara Wallace

Eucharistic Adoration from 8:30am – 4:00pm

Sat., Dec. 23 8am Eleanor McCullum

5pm William Angus Morrison

Sun., Dec. 24 8am Dot Reilly

10am William Scott

7pm Intentions of Darlene Handy & Family

**Can you join us for Mass one day? Jesus is waiting for
you to experience His love and mercy!**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Rejoice in the Lord – I say it again, rejoice! Why? Because God blesses us beyond our imagining my friends, and I know that you know that as well!

I am most grateful for all who attended our Volunteer Meeting for Home for Christmas. There was a great deal of energy and enthusiasm in the room as we prepare once again to do such a beautiful thing for God's beloved poor. If you were not able to join us at the meeting, I assure you we still have a place for you on December 22nd or 23rd (for set-up) or on December 25th for the event itself (choose a shift: 6am to 10am, 10am to 2pm, 2pm to 4pm). You will be most welcome!

Have you shared an *Invitation Postcard for Christmas* yet? I am relying on you to share these cards (thru the mail with a note, through hand delivery with a kind smile or some other way...). I know that there are many people in our lives who are looking for a place to worship on Christmas, let's try to get people to join us!

If your schedule allows, we will be decorating the Church for Christmas on Friday, December 22nd from 9am until Noon. As the 4th Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve, we don't have much time this year. If you can join us, please call Michelle in the Rectory this week and let her know we can expect your help!

We will once again have our Watch Hour event at 10pm on December 31st followed by Mass at 11pm allowing us to be in prayer as we welcome 2018. Our Mass on January 1st at 9am as we start the new year begging for graces from Mary, our Heavenly Mother.

Starting January 17th, I will be teaching a course on prayer on Wednesday evenings. The course will meet Jan. 17th, Jan. 24th, Jan. 31st and Feb. 7th. Each week we will meet from 7pm to 8:30pm. Each week will be a unique and stand-alone topic on prayer, so come one week or come all four. Details to come. Of course, there is no cost and all are most welcome!

Father Chris



December 17, 2017

Notes from the Sunday Eucharist

Inspiration from the Word Proclaimed: Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 1:46-54, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-28.

Inspiration from Preaching:

Inspiration from Music and Song:

Inspiration from Quiet Prayer:

As a Disciple of Christ who seeks to give God Glory and also seeks my own sanctification, in the week to come I am moved to...

Why not begin preparing for next week when the Scripture Passages will be: 2 Samuel 7:1-16; Psalms 89:2-29; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.

AMEN – AMEN – AMEN – AMEN – AMEN



Are you new to our area or have you visited St. Raymond as a visitor? You are most welcome and we hope that you feel welcome too! If you would like to talk with someone about faith, our parish, or Catholicism, we want to be of service! Contact Richara, our Pastoral Associate at richara@saintraymond.net or at 215-549-3760.

021 Saint Raymond Church

What food item are you preparing for Home for Christmas at St. Raymond? Please sign up today in the back of Church!

December 17, 2017

Have you ever thought that God might use YOU to save the life of an unborn child? Do you know someone who is pregnant and needs help deciding what to do? Have them contact the Community Women's Center of Phila. (1202 Locust Street; 267-239-0753). There are people ready to help right now!

Our Discipleship Team has set a new goal: we want to welcome 18 new people into the Church by Pentecost 2018. In order for this to happen, we need to have at least 500 NEW people visit St. Raymond for Mass on a weekend. Who will you bring?



Riese Weir, Denise Smiley-Bradley, Yolande Renard & Princeton Matadi (17th), Mercedes Moody (18th), Roberta Griffin & Lloyd Paige (19th), Eric Manchester (21st), Jennifer Supplee & Konndor Pope (22nd). If you would like to be remembered by our parish community, please sign the book in the back of church. Good Samaritan Ministry

Mom's Café: On Saturday, December 30th at 10am come spend some time with other moms and tots as we decompress from the Holiday Rush. Warm drinks and cheer available.

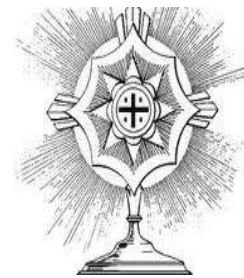
Pope Francis has repeatedly asked us to pray for him and his ministry. With that in mind...

Lord, I pray that You will be with our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and continue to fill his heart with Your wisdom and strength. Inspire him that he may continue to lead the Church through these changing times with a steady head, resolute spirit and loving heart. Father God, protect his mind, body and spirit and grant him many years in your holy service. Amen

School Hall Renovation: Consider purchasing a "Leaf on our Giving Tree" (in the Church Lobby) in honor of or in memory of a loved one or friend. Leaves cost \$1000. **We have had 21 leaves purchased so far – will you be next?** Call the Parish Office for more information.

New Church Missals Coming! In order to be better stewards of our resources and the environment, we will transition from the disposable missalettes in the pews (with Scripture Readings for Mass) to new Church Missals which will look more like our hymnals. As when we purchased hymnals, we are in need of "sponsors" to cover the cost of the Missals and additional pew racks. Envelopes will soon be available to make a \$25 donation to place the book "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" someone. What a nice Christmas gift! Please pick up a sponsor sheet in the back of Church or contact the Parish Office.

United Way at St. Raymond - Help support St. Raymond Social Ministry in your United Way Campaign (ID# 8689) as well as St. Raymond School (ID# 50960) and let your employer match your gift in a way that is a true blessing to St. Raymond and those we serve.



Join the Lord Jesus in quiet Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays from 8:30am until 4:00pm in the Chapel. He is waiting for you...so come and let us adore Him! This hour will be a blessing!

In addition, you can Adore Jesus on Mondays at the Miraculous Medal Shrine, Tuesdays at St. Athanasius and Wednesdays at St. Benedict. Come and let us adore Him!

ATTENTION

Parents of Children Attending Public School

A most precious gift a parent can give their child is the gift of faith formation. Parents are the primary educators of their children, which includes their spiritual formation. We are here to assist you in the process.

Children who do not attend Catholic School and have not received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist or Confirmation must attend Sunday morning PREP Classes in order to receive the Sacraments. PREP classes range from Pre-K, through seventh grade.

Candidates preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation must attend Confirmation classes for an 18 Month program in order to be confirmed in the Fall of 2018. This year we launch a new Confirmation Formation Program that will guide our youth in becoming lifelong disciples of Jesus. For more info call 215-549-3760.

021 St. Raymond

Have you logged into "FORMED" yet? This wonderful faith formation tool will allow you and your family to experience our faith in a new way through e-books, audio recordings and a great variety of movies and video teachings.

1. Visit www.formed.org
2. Use our access code 8TJNV2
3. Follow instructions to set up your own account and be formed in Christ!

Did you know... Formed has great resources to help you with your *Best Advent Ever*? **YOU CAN ALSO DOWNLOAD THE "FORMED" APP TO MAKE YOUR ACCESS EVEN EASIER.**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel...
Come Lord Jesus into my life today!*

Liturgical Ministers for December 23rd, 24th & 25th:

Saturday at 5pm: The **Reader** is Elaine Linkewich; **Euch. Ministers** are Deborah Briscoe, Christopher Bradley & Marsha Bradley; **Altar Servers** are Scott Williams & Taylor Yates.

Sunday at 8am: The **Reader(s)** is/are Kevin Williams & Tajmah Kelley; **Altar Servers** are London & Mason Powell.

Sunday at 10am: The **Reader** is Brenda Greene; **Euch. Ministers** are Deacon Bill, Donna Adams, Ella Cooper, Marilyn Lamore & Stephen Mathis; **Altar Servers** are Carlos Bensie & Kennedy Bailey.

Christmas Eve at 7pm: The **Readers** are Barbara Sweat & Araminta Brown; **Euch. Ministers** are Deacon Bill, Dorothy Robinson, Cynthia McCallister, Donny Odey & Jerome Outtarta; **Altar Servers** are Jillian Sweat, Noah Collier, Sean & Donovan Bradley.

Christmas Day at 10am: The **Readers** are Richara Krajewski & Brandy Weir; **Euch. Ministers** are (We need 2 volunteers); **Altar Servers** are Cyan Simmons & Brock Harris.

Please be faithful to your service; we need you!

Galilee Confirmation Candidates: The next Galilee Session will be Sunday, January, 14th. Please pray for our young people as they continue their walk with Jesus!

Marriage Ministry

Mark your calendar for our 2nd Annual Valentine Brunch for married couples on Sunday, February 11th, after the 10am Mass. Registration information will be available soon! Contact Richara at richara@saintraymond.net or 267-225-8268, if you would like to volunteer to assist with planning this great event.

Join our NEW Children's Choir!

If your child loves to sing and is interested in joining the Children's Choir, contact Lisa at 610-316-5582 for details or to sign up your child. We look forward to the Choir singing on Dec. 24th at 10am.

So... who will you share the Gift of Sharing Time with Others in SERVICE this week? You know that there is someone who really needs this gift from YOU!

Remember our sick brothers & sisters in prayer.... Pope Benedict XVI, Glenn Adams, Robert Adams, Joan Baran, Rhonda Beasley, Lorraine Beauparlant, Johanna Bender, Juanita Berry, Ethel Black, Barbara & Oscar Bowen, Larina Brooks, Margaret W. Brown, Maria Burrell, Gladys Callan, Cora Caviness, Gloria Crittenden, Joyce Coleman, Lillian Cooper, Valdez Coston, Cheryl Crockett, April DeMatto, Denise Derrick, Anne Durham, Marcellus Edwards, Carolyn Ervin, Joann Evans, Lonna Evans, Margaret "Peggy" Evans, Cayna Ford, Dorothy Foust, Patricia Gaither, Tina Glickman, Tyrone Harris, Meg Hayes, Jr., Marjorie Henry, Willa Hill, Pat Hughes, Maria Isaacs, David Johnson, Mary Jones, Valerie Jones, Yvonne Jordan, Jack Kollmer, Martin Lentz, Delores Mason, Florimel Mitchell, Towanda Mays, Amara MacPhee, Sherri McCullough, Samuel McKenzie, Jewel McLendon, Darlene McMillian, Lee McQueen, Elizabeth Miller, Henry Mills, Berta Morris, Darryl Myers, Altamesecarolye Neal, Rahniya Nealand, Msgr. John O'Brien, Emma Pajil, Tyrone Palmer, Helen Pettit, Richard Pickett, Gloria Price, Iris Pugh, Barry & Joan Quinn, Tracie Ragin, Totlyn Ricketts, Lillian Scott, Mary Shambor, Zonder Anthony Simmonton, Martha Smith, Dr. Pete Smith, Jim & Vera Sousa, Mary Steward, Maureen Unger, Edward "Ed" Wachowski, Claudette Williams, Johnnie Williams, LaToya Williams, Jennifer Wright, Carolyn Wylie, and all those recovering from injuries sustained in combat, those suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, Diabetes, Cancer, AIDS and Addictions.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Heal our Sick and Suffering

CYO Basketball is Starting: All young people from the parish in 5th to 8th grade are welcome to join our Boys or Girls Basketball Teams regardless of where they attend school. For more information, call our Athletic Director, Vince Beasley at 215-913-0426.

*Pause...breathe...breathe again...
Remind yourself that God is with You...always!*

The Parent Café – Once a month we invite parents of school age children (and all members of the parish) to join us on a Sunday morning from 9am to 10am (during our religious education session) to participate in a conversation on a particular faith topic. **Richara Krajewski will lead the next session on January 11th on the topic of “The Mystery of the Church”.** Coffee, tea and light refreshments will be served. Join us!

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Almighty and eternal God, in your unfailing love you provide ministers for your Church. **We pray for those whom you call to serve the Church of Philadelphia as priests, deacons and religious brothers and sisters.** Inspire in them a generous response. Grant them courage and vision to serve your people. May their lives and service call your people to respond to the presence of your Spirit among us, faithful to the Gospel and hope of Jesus the Christ, we may: announce glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, set prisoners free and renew the face of the earth! *There are currently four black men discerning a call to the priesthood for Philadelphia, please continue to pray for young people from our community to be raised up in service to the Church!!!*



Be sure to be present each weekend of Advent for an amazing sermon series! Yes, you also have to come the morning of December 24th for Sunday Mass and Christmas Eve or Christmas Day as well...come on people!

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...

Want to have an amazing Christmas? Join our **Annual Home for Christmas** event that serves the homeless and others who are in need on Christmas Day. We have many teams that need help: decorating, setting up the days before Christmas, receiving food early Christmas morning, serving during the event on various teams and of course the beloved clean-up crew! Please feel free to invite others to be a part of the day; we have jobs for everyone and need lots of help. In the weeks to come we will continue with sign-ups for food and begin collecting gifts for our guests as well (look for the bargains now of course – hats, gloves, socks, underwear – please consider purchasing XXL & XXXL sizes for men too).



The parish remains so grateful for your continued generosity and goodness. Our collection for Dec. 9th & 10th was \$5473 (the snow and ice kept some folks home, please make up your tithe next week). Our weekly average is now \$8402. Thank you for sharing your blessings. ***Did you know that St. Raymond offers electronic giving? Visit our website and go to Stewardship section.***

Have you considered making an End of the Year Gift to St. Raymond Church, St. Raymond School, St. Raymond Social Ministry or R.E.S.T. (our ministry to refugees)? Please donate before Dec. 31st to be able to claim the donation on this year's taxes. Please know that we remain good stewards of the gifts entrusted to our care.

We congratulate young people from our parish who have excelled. If your child received Honors, please let Michelle know at mdowning@saintraymond.net

B.A.T.T.L.E. Youth Ministry at Saint Raymond ***Become All That The Lord Expects.***

Sr. High Youth Group Stay connected: Text @holymixers to 81010 for reminders and updates; **Sr. High Youth** will gather on, Sunday, January 7th after Mass. **Service Opportunity:** We are looking for youth who will be available to assist with set up and clean up for the Home for Christmas Event. If you are available please contact Richara before Christmas Day. Mark your calendar for the **Youth Ice Skating Trip on Wednesday, December 27th.** Space is limited so contact Richara today if you would like to join us.

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