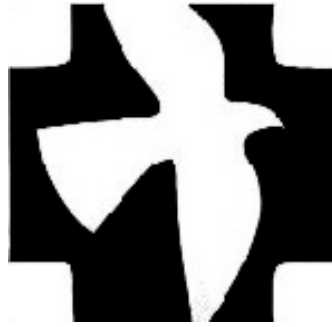


PRAYER



LEARNING



SERVICE



Spirituality *of* Stewardship

PARTNER



SUPPORT



WORSHIP



TREASURE



Mission Statement

THE CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY OF SAINT RAYMOND

WELCOME. LOVE. SERVE.

Our shared Catholic Faith is enlivened by the core values we hold.

Core Values

WELCOME : Jesus engaged everyone from the marginalized to the mainstream. All were and all *are* welcome.

- As a welcoming community, we strive to be a place where all are accepted in Christ, wherever they are in their journey and pilgrimage of faith.
- Our parish community endeavors to embody Christian joy and goodness. We celebrate our lives with various social events that support and renew us as community.

LOVE : Jesus inspires and instructs us to love everyone. Yes, everyone – people of every race, language, and way of life.

- In our willingness to embody Christ, we minister with love and compassion to those who suffer physically, emotionally and spiritually.
- We gather in communion and worship as one in a spirit of charity and acceptance.
- We stand in solidarity with the poor through our almsgiving and outreach. By doing so, we are committed to the Gospel's call for peace and justice.

Serve : Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, served his friends, healed, counseled, suffered and enjoyed humankind. He calls us to do the same.

- We nurture and encourage our faith in the religious formation of our children and youth. As Catholic adults, we share a commitment to grow in our faith, especially through continued learning and servant leadership.
- We cultivate a spirituality of Stewardship, developing these ideals through prayer, education and example.

WELCOME. LOVE. SERVE.
WE STRIVE...

Stewardship Directory

Table of Contents

Mission Statement.....	Inside Page
Stewardship Prayer	6
Pastor’s Letter	7
Preparation for Discernment	8
Stewardship 101	9
Worship	10
Adult Formation.....	14
Human Concerns	17
Parish Life.....	20
Youth Formation	22
Religious Education Programs	23
Parish School Programs	24
Parish Leadership	27
Protecting God’s Children	28
Important Things You Should Know.....	30
Parish Staff Telephone Directory.....	31
Parish Leadership	31
Parish Schools	
Religious Education Program	
School	31



Stewardship Prayer

Loving Father, you alone are the source of every good gift. We praise you for all your gifts to us, and we thank you for your generosity. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Help us to be grateful and responsible.

You have called us to follow your son, Jesus, without counting the cost. Send us your Holy Spirit to give us courage and wisdom to be faithful disciples.

We commit ourselves to being good stewards. Help us to be grateful, accountable, generous, and willing to give back with increase. Help us to make stewardship a way of life.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen

Dear Members of Saint Raymond,

Welcome to our Stewardship Festival! We continually strive to live out our Parish Mission Statement: **Welcome. Love. Serve.** I invite you to discern where God is calling you to continue living that mission statement, after reflecting on God's blessings and your personal gifts.

We have flourished as a Parish because many people have come forth to build up this community, by the sharing of their time, talent, and treasure.

In our ever-busy world, there is always the challenge of balance—balancing work, family, health, and other important responsibilities. It is important for us, as baptized Catholics, to recognize that our faith is not only a privilege, but also a responsibility. We have a responsibility to grow and support our community. We have a responsibility to care for those less fortunate than ourselves. We have a responsibility to nurture others in faith through Catholic education and formation. Perhaps we think of these in terms of our parish working as a whole; but we also need to think of these in terms of us as individuals and our response to the Gospel.

When we speak of ministry, it is not only for those who are ordained or called to live life as a religious. Ministry, by way of our baptism, is for all Catholic Christians to step beyond mere volunteerism to a greater realization that God calls each of us to some form of service in our parish community and beyond. Each of us, young or old, has been called by the Lord to a Christian vocation that proclaims the Good News.

For some people our *shared Baptismal call* might involve using our many God given gifts, talents and abilities in the work and ministry of Saint Raymond Parish. For others, this vocation might lead them to some involvement in the mission of building up the Reign of God in the world around us.

With this in mind, we are pleased to present our Stewardship Festival. This Festival showcases our one hundred-plus ministries, and allows us to discern our call as members of this faith community.

Again, I would ask you to spend some time in personal discernment. Listen for God speaking to your heart. What do you have to offer? In what way are you willing to commit yourself anew to our parish? Read through and study this *Stewardship Directory*. Then I would ask you to come to our Stewardship Festival, ask questions, and learn about the possibilities of ministry for you! As a community we will individually commit to our parish in various ways on the weekend of February 5 and 6..

Through our involvement in our parish and community—through service—through our love and generosity—do we truly build up the Body of Christ!

Thank you for all you do to make this a reality!

Fr. Steve

Fr. Steven G. Dombrowski
Pastor

Preparation for Discernment

Congratulations and thank you for your continued faithfulness to the Parish Community of St. Raymond. We are grateful to you for taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity to consider ministry in our Church and the gifts which you could bring to it. We know that it is costly in terms of time and energy—but the commitment is well worth making. The "gifts" you will receive in return will truly be abundant. Thank you for taking seriously your own spiritual growth—and for sharing that gift with St. Raymond Parish.

Hopefully these pages will help you in discerning how you can become involved in the life of the Parish. Often people are not aware of what "discernment" means within the Catholic tradition—and they underestimate the need to prepare for discernment. We ask you to prayerfully read through this material.

Discernment means to "**sift through.**" We sift through our life experiences, our feelings, gifts, energies and limitations. We then match these with the ministries available at our parish, while listening for the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Discernment really is a **holistic way of making decisions**—we gather the data; we pay attention to our feelings, thoughts and desires; and we bring to this decision-making process a deeper awareness of the pattern of God's action in our lives.

The context in which discernment should take place is two-fold: **prayer** and **community**. It is a process in prayer—so it takes time! The greatest gift of prayer is companionship with God. Through prayer we seek to recognize God in the depths of our selves—in order to know and follow God's will for us. It is in recognizing our own gifts—and in being willing to share these gifts with others that we truly do God's will.

Certain **attitudes** are helpful in the discernment process:

Openness of heart and mind

Come with your own thoughts, insights, questions and concerns, but also come with a willingness to listen for the ministry to which God may be calling you.

A truthful recognition of your own gifts

Be willing to share your unique interests, gifts, and talents.

Trust in God and in God's work in you

Remember that each ministry is a service to others. Each is important; each is significant in building up the Body of Christ.

Reflection Questions

1. We all have a **variety** of **life-experiences**—and from these we learn lessons. We grow stronger and we develop gifts or skills. What are some of the **gifts** and **skills** you have developed—and as a member of St. Raymond—that you'd bring to the table (gifts of personality or faith, strengths or abilities, etc.)?
2. Reflect on your present **life situation**
 - General emotional state, spiritual life, physical health, maturity
 - Time, energy, other commitments, etc.
3. What are your **hopes** (long term and short term) for St. Raymond as a parish community?
4. Why is St. Raymond important to you?
5. What does **collaboration** mean to you? How do you see yourself in collaboration with others?
6. What has been "**moving**" you towards a **willingness** to discern the possibility of ministry in our parish? Have you intuited **God's call** during this process?
7. As you consider the **ministries** at St. Raymond, and of your own **gifts**, do you feel you are being **called/able** to take on the responsibilities of being a minister to this faith community? If so, which one(s)?

Stewardship 101

Who is a Christian Steward?

A Christian Steward is one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord.

(Stewardship: A Disciple's Response)

- A Christian Steward is one who receives God's gifts **gratefully**,
 - ◆ **GRATITUDE**— Thank you God for all you have given to me.
- Cherishes and tends them in a **responsible** manner,
 - ◆ **RESPONSIBILITY**—God, I will take care of your world and what you have given me.
- Shares them in justice and love with others,
 - ◆ **GENEROSITY**—God, I will joyfully share my gifts with others.
- And returns them with increase to the Lord.
 - ◆ **ACCOUNTABILITY**—God, I will give back to you in proportion to what I have received.

Stewardship Is...

not a program...it is a way of life.
not an activity...it is an attitude.
not the latest fad...it is biblically based.
not a way to raise money...it is a way to attain holiness.
not just a decision of the head...it requires a conversion of the heart.
not an option...it is an integral part of our Catholic faith.
not another thing to do...it is why and how we do what we do.
not about our generosity...it is about our response to God's generosity.
It is what you do after you say, "I believe."

How do we put the concepts of gratitude, responsibility, generosity, and accountability into action?
Three words—Time, Talent, and Treasure

Time...

Time spent reflecting on the presence of God in our lives and serving God and others.

Talent...

Using the gifts/skills/talents I have to serve God.

Treasure...

Giving back in abundance to God.

Let's talk about

TIME—

We are responsible for ALL of our time. *How have I spent the last two hours?* EVERYTHING we do should be God Centered. Then we should set aside some time that is only devoted to God.

God-Centered Time (examples include)

Prayer and Worship

- Personal Prayer
- Family Prayer
- Sunday Mass
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Personal and Group Bible Study
- Family Time (Meals without TV)

Service of Time (examples include)

- PADS
- Afghan Group
- Visits to the hospitalized, homebound or nursing home patients
- Minister of Hospitality (Mardi Gras, Parish Picnic, Greeter Ministry)
- Choir
- Eucharistic Minister
- Lector
- Altar Server
- Enrichment (Gathering of Women, MAC, In by 8; Out by 11, Women's Spirituality)
- Spiritual Direction

Let's talk about

TALENT— (examples include)

- Preparing a meal for your family or friend (Good cook)
- Leading scouts (working with youth; camping skills; arts and crafts)
- Singing in the choir (love music, plays instrument, reads music)
- Ministering to the bereaved (compassionate, comforting personality)
- Lector (public speaking-Proclaiming God's Word)
- Gardening (Green thumb)
- Decorating (Good eye for color, perspective)
- Hospitality (Good cook, welcoming/outgoing personality)

Let's talk about

TREASURE— (examples include)

- Use your weekly church envelopes
- Sign up for electronic giving
- Support our fundraising efforts
- Attend the Spring Gala
- Use green alms envelopes
- Bring food items for the food pantry or Providence of God food collection
- Support the Archdiocesan Annual Catholic Appeal

WORSHIP

ALTAR SERVERS

Altar servers are ministers of the liturgy who serve the Lord and the faith community by fulfilling many important liturgical functions. These include: leading the procession of ministers by carrying the Cross and torches, serving at the Table of the Word and the Eucharist, handling of the sacred vessels and holding the Book of the presider's prayers, Sacramentary. All young people from 5th grade on, including high school, are invited to become an altar server at any time. High school servers minister on the weekends and at major liturgies. Grade school servers minister at daily liturgies. Servers may also elect to minister at funerals and weddings. Servers are scheduled approximately once or twice a month. The ministry is always more than willing to work with our servers to accommodate their school and extra curricular schedules. A short training period is provided.

Contact:

Grade School Servers—Dina Shaw
847-593-7368 / bdashaw@comcast.net

High School Servers—Sue Beck
847-545-9638 / susanbeck226@aol.com

ART AND ENVIRONMENT

The Art and Environment ministry designs and implements the seasonal decorations, banners, altar cloths, and anything necessary to enhance the aesthetic environment of the church throughout the liturgical year. Ministers care for the environmental setting throughout the church building including the Eucharistic Chapel, community room, and grounds surrounding the parish. Talents range from caring for the live arrangements, designing layouts, setting up for the liturgical year events (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ordinary Time) and removing environmental pieces. All are most welcome to join us! There is no training necessary.

Contact: Marie and Jeff Adams
847-364-6114 / jemamoonstars@comcast.net

CLOW (CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD)

Children's Liturgy of the Word brings the Good News to children through prayer, song and activities. This ministry leads a child-centered celebration of the Liturgy of the Word for children ages five and up. It provides children the opportunity to discuss and experience the Gospel in an age-appropriate, smaller group setting to better help them apply it to their daily lives. The CLOW year runs from September through May at the 9:30 a.m. liturgy, excluding Family Masses. CLOW leaders serve approximately every other week. Adult leaders also meet for two short planning meetings along with two spiritual reflection evenings (Advent and Lent) to better prepare them. All

adults are welcome to join and all necessary training is provided.

Contact:

Molly Sandberg
847-824-0107 / molly.s@comcast.net

Joyce Ochab
847-670-8389 / ajochab@aol.com

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Ministers of Communion reverently serve the Body and Blood of Christ to the faith community. Through this sharing of the Eucharist, all are invited to open their hearts and to always be aware of the lives they touch. Adults and teens are cordially invited to become Ministers of Communion. All necessary training is provided. Ministers are commissioned by the Archdiocese for a renewable three-year period. Ministers also participate by attending an annual spiritual enrichment meeting. They may elect to either designate a specific Mass time, or they may wish to minister through a rotating schedule for any weekend liturgy. Ministers serve approximately two weekends a month.

Contact: Ann and Richard Sobanski
847-669-9938 / amsoba1207@aol.com

COMMUNION MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Invited by the coordinator team, Communion Ministry Coordinators are members of the larger body of regularly scheduled Ministers of Communion. Communion Ministry Coordinators prepare the sanctuary for the liturgies along with assisting, training and guiding the Ministers of Communion. Coordinators serve a three year renewable term, and all necessary training is provided. Currently, coordinators serve approximately three weekends a month.

Contact: Ann and Richard Sobanski
847-669-9938 / amsoba1207@aol.com

ST. MARK/ST. RAYMOND ECUMENICAL MINISTRY

The St. Mark/St. Raymond Ecumenical Ministry fosters and encourages the special relationship and the shared ministries between St. Mark Lutheran Church and St. Raymond Catholic Church. This ministry helps to celebrate our oneness in Christ through our shared Covenant signed in 1999 and renewed in 2010. Our goal is to build upon our long lasting relationship and continue to live our covenant.

Contact:
Jan Saillard
847-736-0419 (cell) / j.saillard@comcast.net

Rich Lewitke
847-259-7359 / rlewitke@ellisontechnologies.com

FAMILY MASS MINISTRY

Family Mass Ministry provides a Sunday worship experience that is engaging and involves parents and children alike. Family Mass ministers help to facilitate the participation of families at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on the first Sunday of each month from October through June. This ministry also coordinates the following special events: the Christmas Eve Family Mass, the Stations of the Cross reenactment for families on Good Friday, and the pet blessing on St. Francis' feast day in October. Ministers rotate the various events. All adults are most welcome to join the Family Mass Ministry. Training is provided.

Contact: Debbie Russo
847-392-8548 / mickey313@aol.com

GREETERS

The Greeter Ministry attempts to ensure that everyone who walks through our doors will experience a warm and personal welcome. We invite all families to join...including, of course, a family of one! The Greeter Ministry is a perfect opportunity for anyone who might wish to serve in a ministry for the first time and this is an especially wonderful way for families to serve "together" in a ministry.

Contact: Kymm Recht
847-298-1162 / krecht01@yahoo.com

LECTORS

Lectors proclaim the Word of God for the assembly, making it understandable, inspirational and alive. Lectors proclaim as a two-person team, each team consisting of a male and female reader. Lectors prayerfully prepare to proclaim the Word once every other month on a rotating basis. Lectors also participate in a workshop each year along with attending an annual spiritual enrichment evening. All young people and adults are invited to discern this ministry. Training is provided.

Contact: Kathleen Pluth
847-705-5365 / kpluth@sphd.org

LITURGICAL DANCERS

Liturgical dancers are young people who share their gift of dance through interpreted steps and gestures during the procession, responsorial psalm and the recessional at Family Masses. The dancers also participate in scheduled rehearsals. All young people of our parish are most welcome.

Contacts:
Vikki Baron
224-875-2002 / vbaron@lawsonproducts.com

Joanne Palczynski
847-253-1273 / joepalczynski@wideopenwest.com

USHERS

Ushers are ministers of the liturgy who welcome the faith community and help to locate seating for all present at a Mass. They provide assistance and information. In addition, they facilitate the alms collection, direct the communion procession and distribute the weekly Sunday bulletins. All men and women, including high school teens are most welcome to join. Training will be provided.

Contacts:
Stan Komparda— 847-259-2363
Nick Acerenza— 847-228-9808
Adam Ruskuls—847-394-5693/ ruskuls614@hotmail.com

MUSIC MINISTRY

The Music Ministry creates the setting and brings the active participation of the entire community into the liturgy. There are several opportunities to serve within this ministry. **Unless otherwise noted, the contact for all Music Ministry is:**

Contact:
Dominic Trumfio, Music Director
847-253-8600 x136 / D.Trumfio@st-raymond.org

PARISH CHOIR

The Parish Choir supports the worshipping assembly weekly at the Sunday 11:15am liturgy, September through May. It is also the main choir for Midnight Mass and Holy Week celebrations. Aside from the regularly planned songs and responses, this choir presents a wide range of musical repertoire of varying styles and difficulty. Rehearsals of the Parish Choir take place in the church on **Tuesday** evenings from 7:00-9:00pm, and on Sunday mornings before mass at 10:45am. Membership is open to all adults and high school aged singers, of *any* ability level, who feel the call to serve God and this faith community through sung praise and most especially *prayer!*

PART-TIME CHOIR

The Part-time choir is open to all who are interested in praising God through singing and/or playing an instrument on a *once-a-month* basis. The Part-time Choir ministers at the 9:30am liturgy on the *second* Sunday of every month, September through May. Rehearsals take place on the **Thursday** evening, from 7-9pm, before the second Sunday of the month.

CANTORS

Cantors provide musical leadership at all Saturday and Sunday liturgies, as well as Holy Days and other liturgical celebrations. Cantors need to have strong vocal skills with the ability to sight-read and prepare music on their own. Membership in the Cantor Ministry is by audition.

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Many devoted instrumentalists volunteer their time and talent in service of the liturgy at St. Raymond. The Instrumentalists are responsible for much of the unique "sound" our liturgies have become known for. Instrumentalists can include rhythm section instruments such as guitar, bass, drums, and percussion as well as melody instruments such as flute, clarinet, saxophone, violin, cello, etc... A moderate to high level of proficiency is required in order to serve in this ministry, including the ability to read music and/or chord symbols.

CHERUB CHOIR

The Cherub Choir provides an introduction to liturgical music and encourages enthusiastic participation from our little ones. The Cherub Choir is made up of boys and girls in first and second grade who sing three to four times during the year, usually in harmony with the Children's Choir at the first Family Mass of the year and the Christmas and Easter Family Mass celebrations. This is a minimal time commitment and is a perfect introduction to the life and spirit of liturgical music. Rehearsals of the Cherub Choir are on designated Mondays from 4-5pm in the church.

Contact: Lucie Kreidler
847-342-1975 / luciekreidler@comcast.net

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Children's Choir is the mainstay of our popular first Sunday of the month Family Mass which takes place October through June at the 9:30am liturgy. A continuation of the Cherub Choir, the Children's Choir is made up of boys and girls in grades three through six and provides opportunity for furthering musical skills and liturgical understanding through more challenging music and more frequent participation at masses. The Children's Choir will also sing for the Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday Family Masses. For those in fourth through sixth grade, there will be opportunities to begin learning the fundamentals of cantoring through a mentoring process which will lead to real life experience at the cantor podium! Rehearsals of the Children's Choir take place on most Monday afternoons from 4:00-5:00pm in church.

Contact: Lucie Kreidler
847-342-1975 / luciekreidler@comcast.net

YOUTH ENSEMBLE

A continuation of the Children's Choir, the Youth Ensemble is comprised of young men and women in grades seven and eight. This group ministers on the third Sunday of the month at the 9:30am liturgy. Members of the Youth Ensemble will begin to sing more challenging repertoire with an emphasis on singing in two and three part harmony. They will also have the chance to begin official training as cantors through a mentoring process and semi-regular cantor/solo assignments during liturgies as the year progresses. The Youth Ensemble will also join the

High School Ensemble for the Christmas Eve Youth Mass. Rehearsals for the Youth Ensemble take place on most Tuesday's from 4:30-5:30pm in the church.

HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE

The High School Ensemble is comprised of students in grades nine through twelve and is a continuation of the Youth Ensemble. They will learn and perform more advanced liturgical music repertoire with emphasis on singing in four-part harmony (depending on which voices are present). The HS Ensemble will minister at the 9:30am liturgy on the 4th Sunday of every month as well as the 5PM Christmas Eve young adult focused mass. Rehearsals for Sunday liturgies will take place at 8:30am on the Sunday that they sing. Other rehearsal and liturgy times are to be determined, depending on the student's schedules.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Invite someone who has been away from the Church for a while to attend Mass with you.

Make the sign of the cross as you pray before a meal in a restaurant.

Say, "I will pray for you" to a friend who has shared some personal concern or difficulty.

Ask friends and family to pray for your special intentions.

Move to the center of the church pews, theater seats, etc. This invites others to join you and provides an opportunity for conversation.

Serve your parish as a Eucharistic minister, lector, choir member, or get involved in some other ministry.

Witness your faith with your own family and friends by gently stating "I believe..."

Allow your faith to carry over into your work by insisting on fair prices, good products and fair treatment for customers and employees alike.

Be an example to family and friends on how a believer acts and speaks.

Forgive someone who has wronged you. Ask for forgiveness from someone you have wronged.

Share your personal faith story of how God has worked in your life with a friend or family member.

Treat everyone you meet with dignity. No matter what they look like, how they try your patience, or how they speak, they are part of the Body of Christ.

Devote a specific amount of time to your daily prayer life. It is impossible to maintain a relationship with anyone without communication. Prayer should be viewed as a dialogue with God, not a monologue. Make sure you allow time for quiet reflection and listen with your heart to what the Lord tells you.

ADULT FORMATION

RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS)

St. Raymond Parish is a wonderful faith community with a strong tradition of warmth, inclusiveness, and outreach to those who are hurting. We find strength, love and support in this parish and we invite others who might be searching for a faith community to consider joining us. The RCIA is designed for women and men who have never been baptized or who were baptized in another Christian denomination and are considering becoming Catholic. It is also appropriate for baptized Catholics who have received little formal religious education and have not received the sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation.

The RCIA is a formation process for adult women and men to explore the Catholic faith in a community of believers, and if they so choose, to be initiated into this faith community. Each person's quest for God is unique, and we are most respectful of each one's particular journey. Throughout the process the candidates are mentored and supported by some wonderful St. Raymond parishioners, who form the "RCIA Team."

We meet weekly on Monday evenings beginning in September and end after Easter. We reflect upon the Scripture readings for the following Sunday and engage in faith-sharing. We also study the Church's teachings and we pray together. Additionally, we are involved in the parish liturgies during Advent and Lent. We take advantage of particular opportunities to be involved in the life of the parish. During this time the group develops a marvelous sense of belonging and an awareness of God's active presence in their lives. Each year the candidates are received into the church at the Easter Vigil.

Contact: Dee Peppard, BVM
847-253-8600 x151 / sr.dee@st-raymond.org

MEN'S CRHP (CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH)

(WOMEN'S CRHP IS TEMPORARILY ON SABBATICAL)

Christ Renews His Parish is a weekend renewal experience for men that begins on a Saturday morning and concludes on Sunday afternoon. It offers men the opportunity to hear other men share their faith and life experiences, to pray, reflect and enjoy the brotherhood of other men. Forget your past notions, ideas or images of a retreat! It's not like that! The time together highlights how God is at work in men's lives -- through both their struggles, joys and triumphs. Hundreds of men have experienced these special weekends since 1981. Ages of the participants range from men in their 20's to their 80's.

Following the CRHP weekend, an invitation is extended to be part of a year-long formation process. This process includes reflection on topics such as: images of God, spirituality, scripture, church, prayer, reconciliation, peace

and justice. At the conclusion of the formation process, this group of men will direct the next renewal weekend. If you're new to the parish, or have been inactive, it's a great way of meeting people and becoming involved. If you've been active in the parish for years, it's a wonderful way of refocusing your efforts and re-energizing your own faith journey.

Contact:
Chuck Hemler
847-427-1472 / chuck.kathy.hemler@comcast.net

Dee Peppard, BVM
847-253-8600 x151 / sr.dee@st-raymond.org

MOMS PLUS

Moms Plus has a long and wonderful history in our parish. Currently it is a ministry of over 140 women organized into 11 active groups. Each group is composed of between nine and fifteen members and usually meets twice a month. Morning and evening groups are available. Babysitting is also available as needed. These moms meet to support, encourage and share the benefits of their experiences with one another. Belonging to a Moms Plus group is a wonderful way of getting to know other moms and also of establishing roots in the parish. The Moms Plus groups also enrich the life of our faith-community as each group does one service project for St. Raymond parish during the year. Enrollment for new members is open at any time.

Contacts:
Brandi Sulak
847-818-9647 / bransulak@aol.com

Gail Bajkowski
847-506-1043 / gbajkowski@yahoo.com

IN BY EIGHT, OUT BY ELEVEN (MORNINGS FOR MEN)

Mornings For Men is a Saturday morning formation and fellowship opportunity for men that includes Mass, breakfast, a speaker and sharing. Topics include the many aspects of a man's life: business or professional, social, personal, family and spiritual. Two of these sessions are offered each year and, since each is an independent event, there is ample opportunity to participate as your schedule will allow.

Contact: David Sztuk
847-368-1592 / dsztuk@yahoo.com

GATHERING OF WOMEN

Gathering of Women is a Saturday morning enrichment opportunity for women which includes Mass, a continental breakfast, a speaker and time for sharing. Our speakers are women who are widely recognized as excellent presenters with good, practical insights. We offer this oppor-

tunity twice a year. Mass begins at 8:00 AM and the speaker is finished by 11:00 AM. Topics include issues that are of concern to women: living our faith, growing in our unique spiritualities, the church today, appreciating and dealing with relationships, understanding scripture in a way that nourishes us, etc. Gathering of Women has been very well received in our parish. The women especially appreciate the opportunity to get together with other women, to gather with old friends, to meet new friends and to be affirmed, nurtured and challenged in living our faith-life more fully. We usually have about 120 women participating at each session.

Contact: Margaret Novotny
Margaret.novotny@st-raymond.org

FAITH AND LEARNING GROUPS

Most of us “learned” our faith as children and young people, and our formal religious education might have ended with high school or college. While we grew up and took on adult relationships and responsibilities, sometimes our understanding of our faith did not keep pace. We may not have grown more fully into an adult faith that is conscious, active and alive.

St. Raymond’s Faith and Learning Groups are mini-courses taught by members of St. Raymond pastoral staff to give adults a variety of opportunities to learn about our faith in an adult manner. Topics include: scripture, Catholic faith, spirituality, prayer styles, book discussions, etc. Some of these courses meet in the mornings; others meet in the evenings. Growing in faith sessions are held throughout the year. Each course may include two to six sessions, usually meeting once a week.

Contact: Fr. Rodolfo Ramirez
847-253-8600 x161 / fr.ramirez@st-raymond.org

TUESDAY MORNING SCRIPTURE STUDY

Tuesday Morning Scripture Study is a weekly opportunity to read, learn and reflect upon the Scriptures. And as we do so, we pay special attention to the many ways the scriptures both affirm and challenge us today. We use its insights as a resource for living. Over the last several years we’ve studied and prayed the Gospels of Matthew and John and the Acts of the Apostles. It’s a wonderful, comfortable and diverse group of women and men. New members are always welcome. You can either call the PMC or just “walk in” any Tuesday morning if you’d like!

Contact: Dee Peppard, BVM
847-253-8600 x151 / sr.dee@st-raymond.org

MAC (MEN OF ACTION AND CONTEMPLATION)

MAC groups are comprised of five or six men who commit themselves to meeting twice a month for one hour to dialogue, support and encourage each other to live the Gospel message more fully in their daily lives. A resource book, based on the daily scripture readings is used. Each

daily reflection contains a part of a scripture reading, a contemporary story, a question for one’s own life application and a concluding thought for the day. Each man is asked to find ten minutes each day to reflect and pray over the daily reflection. When we gather for our one hour meeting, each person will have a chance to talk about those daily reflections that spoke to his life and soul over the previous weeks. Participants are invited to comment on the reflections others have given. The meeting closes with a prayer.

Contact: Johnny Burnett
847-707-3360 / yibidee63@aim.com

WOMEN’S SPIRITUALITY CIRCLES (“COME TO THE WELL”)

In John’s Gospel, Jesus has a conversation with a Samaritan woman at a well. Through their mutual sharing, she comes to recognize the life-giving presence of Jesus in her own life. She experiences Jesus as “living water.” As women, we too know the life-giving power of mutual sharing, support and dialogue. We too reflect on our lives, and recognize our own God-quest. In the very “stuff” of our lives we experience both the nurturing presence and the challenge of God’s Holy Spirit. Women’s Spirituality Circles are small groups of 12-18 women who gather once a month to nourish, reflect upon and share their own spiritual lives. A resource book is used, which enables the women to come to a deeper understanding of themselves and their own unique spirituality. Through reading, discussion and prayerful reflection, the women experience a deeper prayer life and the invitation to share their gifts in service to God’s people. They gather strength, insight and a sense of gratitude from one another. Each group has a facilitator whom we train.

Contact: Kathy Hemler
847-427-1472 / chuck.kathy.hemler@comcast.net

MEN’S MORNING BIBLE STUDY

“There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know him and to speak to others of our friendship with him.” (Pope Benedict XVI, April 24, 2005). The Men’s Bible Study is a group of men who meet weekly on Saturday mornings from 6:00 AM to 7:30 AM to study and reflect upon the scriptures. In addition to study and reflection on God’s word the men of the “Lower Room” (Coggins Hall) have become good friends. Each week some of life’s joys and challenges are shared. Throughout the years they have also been active in many of the out-reach ministries of our community. Although this ministry has been in existence almost twelve years, new members are always welcome at the table; no sign-up is necessary.

Contact: Ben Todesco
847-392-0430 / ourladyone@yahoo.com

CATHOLICS COME HOME

Catholics Come Home continues the Archdiocesan outreach to men and women who were baptized Catholics but are not active in the church at present. Television, radio and newspaper ads will be run from mid-December to mid-January. This is an invitation for adults to renew their relationship with the church and the faith community. It is respectful of each person's unique faith journey. St. Raymond Parish will offer a process that meets the needs of those returning. We genuinely respect the returning Catholics and the choices they've made. The reasons for becoming inactive in the church are many: some were differences over church teachings; others were hurt by religious leaders; still others just drifted away from the church community because it seemed meaningless or irrelevant. If you are someone who has been hurt by the church (or church personnel), we ask your forgiveness. We hope this can be an opportunity for healing and for discovering further meaning in life. We also hope you can feel "at home" at St. Raymond.

Contact: Dee Peppard, BVM
847-253-8600 x151 / Sr.dee@st-raymond.org

SKACH MEMORIAL LIBRARY (ADULT RESOURCE CENTER)

The Parish Library provides materials appropriate to the ongoing formation of adult faith. It also supports parents in their primary role as the religious educators of their children. The bulk of our collection are books and reference books, but we do have some audio tapes, videos, CDs and DVDs. Materials include the following: biography, church, death and dying, world religions, ethics, grief and loss, spirituality, Jesus, marriage, Mary and the saints, parenting, prayer, scripture, peace and justice, etc. The library is located in the Parish Ministry Center and is open any time the Parish Ministry Center is open.

Contact: Dee Peppard, BVM
847-253-8600 x151 / sr.dee@st-raymond.org

BEING MARRIED AND STAYING ENGAGED

The St. Raymond Marriage Enrichment Committee sponsors "Great Dates to Energize Your Marriage." These evenings include a short presentation on key, marriage-enriching themes such as: communication, conflict, encouragement, creative love life, balancing roles of parent and partner. After the presentation, the couples leave for their own private dates. Hopefully the presentation will have sparked what might become a memory-making evening. Whether newly wed or newly retired, a quiver full or an empty nest, parents of toddlers or parents of teens, all types of marriages benefit from the investment in great dates. Couples need not be present for each Date Night. Date Nights are offered on selected Friday evenings during the year. The time commitment is generally from 7:00 to 10:00 PM. This includes the couple's private date.

Contact: Dave and Dina Petricca
847-253-7698 / dina@petricca.org

MOM'S IN TOUCH/GRANDMOTHER'S IN TOUCH PRAYER GROUPS

We have two groups: "Moms In Touch International" and its sister group, "Grandmothers In Touch International." Each is an inter-denominational group of Christian women who meet once a week for one hour to pray for their children or grandchildren and their schools, both public and private. Many of our local schools already have groups. We use a beautiful Scriptural format that makes it comfortable to pray together. The women involved experience the power, blessing, and peace of regular prayer for their children or grandchildren and their schools.

Contact: Donna Czajka
847-228-6360 / czajkadon@aol.com

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Display a religious article in your room.

Recommend a good book or tape to help another person grow in their faith.

Witness your faith with your own family and friends by gently stating "I believe..."

Allow your faith to carry over into your work by insisting on fair prices, good products and fair treatment for customers and employees alike.

Be an example to family and friends on how a believer acts and speaks.

Do not judge others or speak unkindly of them. Always look for the good in others and point this out when they are hurting or being difficult.

Forgive someone who has wronged you. Ask for forgiveness from someone you have wronged.

Share your personal faith story of how God has worked in your life with a friend or family member.

Treat everyone you meet with dignity. No matter what they look like, how they try your patience, or how they speak, they are part of the Body of Christ.

Devote a specific amount of time to your daily prayer life. It is impossible to maintain a relationship with anyone without communication. Prayer should be viewed as a dialogue with God, not a monologue. Make sure you allow time for quiet reflection and listen with your heart to what the Lord tells you.

HUMAN CONCERNS

FUNERAL LUNCHEON MINISTRY

This is an “on-call” ministry. Team members provide food, setup and serve the luncheon after funerals. Some members of this ministry prepare salads or desserts, which they bring to the Community Room on the day of the funeral luncheon. Other members of this ministry set-up and serve the luncheons.

Contact: Marge Bogacki
847-392-0981 / dennislbogacki@comcast.net

BEREAVEMENT

Ministers assist grieving families through funeral liturgy preparation, wake service, funeral liturgy and the committal services. This is an on-call ministry. Team members serve two-week assignments on a rotating basis. Minister of Care training is an Archdiocesan prerequisite (see Minister of Care Training). Additional bereavement training is also provided at the Deanery level along with on-the-job training with a parish Bereavement Minister.

Contact: Kathy Hemler
847-427-1472 / chuck.kathy.hemler@comcast.net

NEW DAY MINISTRY

New Day is a grief support group for widows and widowers 65 and older. This group meets the 4th Thursday of the month in the Community Room. If you have lost a spouse, others who have traveled that path may help you along your grief journey. They understand the need that grieving people have to tell their story and to have it heard by supportive friends. All in need of grief support are welcome to attend any time.

Contact: Sr. Valerie Kulbacki
847-253-8600 x143 / sr.val@st-raymond.org

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

St. Raymond’s Domestic Violence Outreach mission is to offer tangible support—both spiritual and emotional—to victims of domestic violence by educating our community and providing individual and group counseling. **All contacts are confidential.**

Contact: Sr. Valerie Kulbacki
847-253-8600 x 143 / sr.val@st-raymond.org

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

References for psychological services are available through the Director of Care Ministries. Counseling is also provided by the Director of Care Ministries, especially in the areas of grief associated with the loss through

death or divorce, codependency and control issues, and other challenging life issues.

Contact: Sr. Valerie Kulbacki
847-253-8600 x143 / sr.val@st-raymond.org

OUTREACH TO THE HOMELESS MINISTRY

We have volunteers who assist in staffing the PADS site at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Mt. Prospect. This site operates on Monday nights from October to April. Volunteers provide and serve meals, help staff three shifts during the hours of operation, and help with clean-up the following morning. Volunteers serve once per month. Volunteers are always needed to help in this ministry. Training is provided.

Contact: Bev Glovetski
847-640-9427 / brglov@yahoo.com

P.E.A.R. MINISTRY

(PARISH EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE RELIEF)

PEAR is a ministry which provides emergency assistance, as resources allow, to people in need in the community as well as to transients. The PEAR network is facilitated by Catholic Charities. At St. Raymond, volunteers are “on call” to aid walk-ins or phone calls which come into the PMC. The front desk contacts a PEAR minister, who then collects information and history from the person requesting assistance. Assistance is provided and available along with referral to Catholic Charities, or other social service organizations. This is an “on call” ministry, averaging one to two hours per week, with some scheduled Catholic Charities meetings which move around the parishes in the Program. Training is necessary and provided. Volunteers are needed.

Contact: Sue Knippen
847-253-8600

ANNUAL PAINT-A-THON MINISTRY

This ministry paints and does small home repairs for needy individuals and families who are referred by Catholic Charities and by the St. Raymond Care Ministries Coordinator. The ministry currently has over 30 team members from 15 to 75 years old. The ministry’s major focus is the annual fall Northwest Suburban Paint-a-thon Project, the St. Raymond team is one of approximately 30 community service teams. This ministry team is available to do small home repair and improvement jobs for parishioners over the course of the year. Volunteers for this ministry are always welcome.

Contact: Steve Gonczy
847-870-1621 / gatewaymt@aol.com

SHARING PARISH MINISTRY

The purpose of the Sharing Parish Ministry is to build re-

lationships with other needier parishes, which will facilitate a better understanding of each other and our common humanity. In addition, we work to financially support these parishes. Various exchange events sponsored by the ministry include: monthly food collections and delivery from St. Raymond to Providence of God, and annual pulpit and liturgy exchanges with Holy Family Parish. Other events shared with Holy Family Parish are the ethnic ministry retreat day, Christmas Party, summer picnics, fall festivals and Easter egg hunts. Volunteers are welcome and needed for all of these events.

Contact:

Rich & Deb Russo
847-392-8548 / mickey313@aol.com

Jan and Steve D'Amico
847-437-7125 / jan203@sbcglobal.net

SEAMLESS GARMENT/RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

This is a ministry which witnesses to the Catholic Church's teaching regarding the sanctity of life at all stages from conception to natural death (seamless garment on issues from womb to tomb). This ministry provides education about life and dignity issues to the parish at large.

Contact: Sr. Valerie Kulbacki
847-253-8600 x143 / sr.val@st-raymond.org

RACIAL AND ETHNIC SENSITIVITY MINISTRY

This ministry works both locally and with an Archdiocesan-wide cluster of churches toward the elimination of racial and ethnic discrimination. Opportunities for participation in this ministry include attending workshops (either one day or weekend), attending one of the quarterly film presentations, and other events as they occur during the year. These workshops and events are published in advance in the weekly bulletin. Time commitment is open-ended. No training is required or involved.

Contact: Joe Hanafee
847-670-7538 / jhanafee@hotmail.com

MINISTRY OF CARE

Training for all Ministers of Care for the homebound, hospitalized, and nursing home residents is done at the Deanery level. Interviews for those considering becoming a Minister of Care precede registration for the training sessions which typically run for six consecutive weeks. Please watch the Bulletin for announcements concerning the next training session. Anyone who would like to know more about this ministry can contact Sr. Valerie Kulbacki for further information. Ministers of Care are also called on to assist with the Community Masses when the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is celebrated.

Contact: Sr. Valerie Kulbacki
847-253-8600 x143 / sr.val@st-raymond.org

MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND

Ministers of Care bring Eucharist to those unable to attend Mass at the parish due to illness or disability. Commitment varies with parishioner needs. Training is required (see Minister of Care Training).

Contact: Sr. Valerie Kulbacki
847-253-8600 x143 / sr.val@st-raymond.org

NURSING HOME VISITATION

Ministers of Care bring Eucharist and Communion services to Church Creek and The Moorings on a weekly basis. Commitment is for either once or twice a month. Training is required (see Minister of Care Training).

Contact: Barbara Drain
847-439-7786 / drainbarbara@yahoo.com

HOSPITAL VISITATION

Ministers of Care visit St. Raymond's parishioners in our local hospitals. The minister's role is to let the hospitalized parishioners know that we care about them and that we will be praying for them as a community. This is a pastoral visit, as our Ministers of Care will, if the patient is open to it, pray with them. With enough volunteers, ministers would be assigned to a specific day every other week. All visits are kept confidential. Training is required (see Minister of Care Training).

Contact: Robert Kawalek
847-394-3072

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Volunteers in this ministry pray daily for the needs of the community and the world. Many in this ministry are homebound. The goal of this ministry is to connect those who are no longer physically able to join us for worship, but can offer prayer for the community. They have meaningful gifts to offer through their service of prayer. A monthly letter is sent asking the ministers to pray daily for the intentions mentioned. If you know a homebound person who would like to be part of this ministry, please call the PMC.

Contact: Sr. Valerie Kulbacki
847-253-8600 x143 / sr.val@st-raymond.org

COMMUNITY COMPANION VOLUNTEERS AND RESPITE CARE

Volunteers in this ministry provide relief to family members caring for frail or dependent people. Volunteers keep adults company by reading aloud, playing cards or just listening and reminiscing. These regular visits can help

reduce the stress of the caregiver and enable them to take time away for personal business or to enjoy some recreation. The time commitment is for one to three hours per week. Training is provided.

Contact: Gloria Walkowiak
847-298-8566 / jgwalkol@comcast.net

SUBSTANCE ABUSE MINISTRY

The Substance Abuse Ministry Team provides education and awareness to individuals and the parish community about the disease of addiction. The team is a resource for those families who are in need of professional help because of this disease. The team makes itself available to offer hope and confidential help to active alcoholics or addicts and their family members who want a positive way to deal with their problems. The members of the team are addiction counselors or actively involved in a 12-step program or both. The names and telephone numbers of the team are published in the weekly bulletin. All calls are strictly confidential.

Contact: Marie Mc Garry
847-398-0415 / mariemcgarry@wowway.com

FOOD PANTRY

St. Raymond maintains a small food pantry stocked with non-perishable groceries. Any person, whether a parishioner or not, who is in need of food is provided groceries upon request at the parish offices. The pantry is stocked through donations of groceries and money by parishioners. Volunteers periodically sort and shelve donated food and prepare several bags of ready-to-distribute groceries.

Contact: Leah and Greg Sill 847-253-8600

AFGHAN MAKERS

Members of this ministry knit or crochet afghans for the residents of Women In Need Growing Stronger "WINGS" (domestic violence shelters) as well as other worthwhile organizations. This group meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month throughout the year to work on the afghans and other items. Instructions are available if you would like to join but do not know how to knit or crochet. In addition to volunteers, donations of yarn are always needed. Refreshments are provided at meetings. At any given meeting, from 18 to 25 ministers are present. The more volunteers involved, the more items there will be available to donate. Many of the volunteers in this ministry also work on projects at home.

Contact: Barbara Klett
847-255-3147 / pandbklett@sbcglobal.net

SENIOR CITIZENS

This is a ministry by and for senior citizens. The purpose of this group is to provide opportunities for our seniors and others to come together and share their knowledge

and experiences with each other, to engage in social activities and to help each other. Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at the Mt. Prospect Senior Center. In addition to the meetings, various social events, such as a Day of Reflection and a Christmas Luncheon take place. Your involvement can enlarge the ranks of this ministry so a greater variety of events can be planned.

Contact: Rocco & Evelyn Marchetta
847-253-7954

ROSARY MAKERS MINISTRY

Volunteers meet every Monday afternoon at St. Raymond from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. to make rosaries, which are then sent to groups and organizations around the world. Rosary makers give whatever time they can, and volunteers of all ages are always needed and welcome. Training to make rosaries is provided, and volunteers can make the rosaries at home if they desire.

Contact: Evelyn Mutzabaugh
847-392-4554 / mutzyclan@yahoo.com

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Offer to help your neighbor even when it's not convenient.

Respond, "Thank God" when someone shares a success story with you.

Take time in your life for those who are suffering or in need. Remember, people are more important than tasks.

Continue to comfort a grieving friend or neighbor well after a funeral. The process of dealing with a loss takes a long time.

Offer to accompany the person who is grieving to social activities or make yourself available just to talk.

Give money or food to a person in need. Remember that when you reach out to the poor, you are reaching out like Christ himself did.

Volunteer your time for visiting shut-ins, elderly, prisoners, etc. Share your favorite story in the Bible with them during your visit.

Be generous with compliments, especially to those who appear to be stressed or discouraged.

Work in a soup kitchen, a shelter for the homeless or some other charitable agency. Try to see Christ in everyone you encounter there.

PARISH LIFE

WELCOMING PARISH NEWCOMERS

Welcoming sessions are generally held on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Some Saturday sessions are also available. People new to the parish are invited to the Welcoming Sessions to meet the Pastor and various representatives from the parish who will provide information on the ministries offered at St. Raymond and answer any questions. Following the meeting and registration, the session concludes with a celebration of the liturgy.

Contact: Bill and Pam Doucette
847-806-0118 / prdpt@comcast.net

WEEKEND WORSHIP HOSPITALITY

Each Sunday after the morning Masses from September through June, various commissions and ministries host hospitality in the Community Room. This provides fellowship as well as an opportunity for the sponsoring ministry to provide information, answer questions and get interested people involved.

Contact: Roberta Nichols
847-253-8600 x121 / r.nichols@st-raymond.org

ST. RAYMOND WOMEN'S CLUB

The Women's Club was organized in 1982. The primary purpose is for the social welfare and the spiritual interests of its members, and to further the service interest and needs of the Parish. The Women's Club sponsors many projects and groups: Afghan Group, sewing of baptismal bibs, carrier bags for walkers, arm pillows for heart and cancer patients and the altar linen care. The Women's Club meets the first Wednesday of month starting in September with a pot luck supper and ending in May with the crowning of the Blessed Mother. To service the needs of the greater community, the Women's Club sponsors a different charity each month, such as Hines Hospital, Catholic Charities (toys collection) and the prison ministry. The Women's Club also takes two group trips a year. For more information, please contact us.

Contact: Terry Reinhardt
847-956-0187 / terry1012@yahoo.com

SPRING YOUTH THEATRE

The Youth Theatre Group provides an opportunity for the elementary school children of the parish to share their talents in the performing arts. Rehearsals are held from the end of March until show performances on Memorial Day weekend. Previous shows were The Wizard of Oz,

Music Man, Jr., Guys N' Dolls, Jr., Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Seussical the Musical, Annie Jr., Beauty and the Beast, Jr. and High School Musical Jr.

Contact: John Semerau
847-394-8209 / j.semerau@comcast.net

SUMMER ADULT THEATRE

The Adult Theatre Group provides an opportunity for the adults of the parish to share their time and talents in the performing arts.

Contact: John Semerau
847-394-8209 / j.semerau@comcast.net

MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION 2011

This celebration is the last adult social event the weekend before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season. It provides parishioners with an evening out to enjoy live entertainment, delicious food and the company of one another.

Contact: Roberta Nichols
847-253-8600 x 121 / r.nichols@st-raymond.org

FALL FESTIVAL/OKTOBERFEST

The annual Fall Festival/Oktoberfest is a family favorite at St. Raymond. After the Saturday liturgy, the Parish Life Center is transformed into an Oktoberfest environment with a beer garden, homemade German food, a live German band, a dance floor and fall crafts for the children.

Contact: Barbara Klett
847-255-3147 / pandbklett@sbcglobal.net

Paula Adam
847-827-0787 / pjadam901@hotmail.com

ROAD RALLY

Join us for an exciting opportunity to be amongst friends, enjoy some healthy competition, and serve your community! Come prepared to rally around town. Speed is key! This event is not for the weak at heart, but we guarantee your heart will be filled with joy after this amazing and fun experience!

Contact: Krissy Olson
847-788-9917 / olsongk@comcast.net

PANCAKE SUPPER AND FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Join us for an evening to be with family and friends as we share a meal and play some fabulous games, new and old. Pancakes and sausages are prepared by our cooks,

and after dinner we break out the board games, cards and Wii. We guarantee you won't be disappointed after this amazing and fun experience!

Contact: Lisa Lange
847-749-4256 / jmlange@comcast.net

Al Moreno
847-437-7656 / al.moreno@hotmail.com

FISH FRY FRIDAYS

During the Lenten season, the St. Raymond Parish Life Center, "Ray's Café" is the place to enjoy fresh fish prepared by the men and women of the parish along with family fellowship for people of all ages.

Contacts:
Krissy Olson
847-788-9917 / olsongk@comcast.net

Carol Mazanek
847-392-3497 / mazanek5@comcast.net

PARISH PICNIC AND RAFFLE

In July, the annual Parish Anniversary Picnic brings the parish community together to celebrate our annual Parish Anniversary. The picnic is held in the courtyard after worshipping together at Eucharist. There is something at the picnic for everyone to do. There are children's games and activities, live music in the courtyard and in the street, and of course, great food and fellowship. The winners of the car raffle are chosen and announced at this special parish anniversary event.

Contacts:
Lisa Lange (Picnic)
847-749-4256 / jmlange@comcast.net

Hank Matecki (Raffle)
847-253-8600 x 111 / h.matecki@st-raymond.org

ANNUAL SPRING GALA DINNER DANCE AND AUCTION

The Annual Spring Gala Dinner Dance and Auction is truly the social highlight of our year. It is the major fun and fundraising event of our parish community. Close to 300 people attend this elegant dinner dance and auction. This parish wide fundraiser is a great way to meet new people and catch up with old friends.

Contacts:
Libby Bullock
847-259-8027 / bullock501@comcast.net

Linda Maggi
847-797-9078 / lmaggi@mac.com

Rina McGuire
847-577-9834 / rina.mcguire@yahoo.com

GARGANTUAN GARAGE SALE

Just in time for Spring cleaning, the Garage Sale provides you the opportunity to rid yourself of old treasures and help raise funds for the parish. The Gargantuan Garage Sale is held during Spring Break. Volunteers are needed to sort, mark and display the goods, work checkout tables and sell refreshments. A fun time for all!!!

Contact: Lisa Lange
847-749-4256 / jmlange@comcast.net

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Invite friends to social functions of your parish.

Volunteer an hour or two to help on one of the many social or fundraising functions.

Volunteer to be a Chairperson for one of the many social or fundraising functions.

Be an example to family and friends on how a believer acts and speaks.

Do not judge others or speak unkindly of them. Always look for the good in others and point this out when they are hurting or being difficult.

Share your personal faith story of how God has worked in your life with a friend or family member.

Treat everyone you meet with dignity. No matter what they look like, how they try your patience, or how they speak, they are part of the Body of Christ.

Devote a specific amount of time to your daily prayer life. It is impossible to maintain a relationship with anyone without communication. Prayer should be viewed as a dialogue with God, not a monologue. Make sure you allow time for quiet reflection and listen with your heart to what the Lord tells you.

YOUTH FORMATION

BRANCHES

Branches groups, made of up 10 to 15 high school students, meet regularly in the home of their adult leaders for all four years of high school. The groups are designed for high school teens to learn more about their faith, share current issues that challenge that faith, and pray together for their concerns. Registration is required. Meetings are held twice a month on Sunday evenings. Meetings, which take place during the academic year, feature food, ice breaker games, sharing of ideas, enriching one's faith life, looking at current topics in the world today and discussing how our faith calls us to respond. Adult couples interested in being Branches leaders should contact the Youth Ministry Office.

5K FUN/RUN WALK

This annual benefit is sponsored by the youth of St. Raymond's to raise money in support of a charitable program or cause outside of the parish community. In the past, donations have benefited our sister parish, St. Anne's in Louisiana and Solidarity Bridge in Bolivia. It provides an opportunity for parishioners of all ages to participate and actively recruit those from the broader community. Approximately 80 volunteers are needed for the day of the event.

MISSION TRIP

The annual mission trip is a hands-on way for our high school youth to serve others and meet over 350 peers from around the country. For one week each summer, we help those in impoverished areas and grow spiritually in our faith. Students meet regularly to get to know one another in new and deeper ways and share in faith formation to prepare for the week of service and fellowship. Service tasks may range from building wheelchair ramps, painting homes, assisting in day care facilities or nursing homes, or working in food pantries.

TEEN LITURGY

Teens are encouraged to engage in the liturgy by ministering to the congregation as Eucharistic Ministers or Lectors.

TEEN LEADERSHIP MINISTRY

High school aged students interested in being a teen leader on junior high retreats or helping plan the Teen Advent Prayer Service will find it is an excellent way to increase their own leadership skills while deepening their spirituality.

For information on all Youth Formation Programs, please contact:

Contact: Mary Catherine Nelson
847-253-8600 x139 / m.nelson@st-raymond.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is an exciting program for children in Pre-K to 5th grade. It is a week during the summer that is filled with fun activities to teach children about our loving God through music, prayer, art, drama, snacks and play. Many volunteers are needed to make this amazing week happen from behind the scenes coordinators to group leaders during the week. It is a commitment to bring joy and excitement to the children while learning more about our God. You can dedicate one day, one week, or one season.

Contact:
Denise Klimas
847-253-8600 x150 / D.Klimas@St-Raymond.org

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Attend Mass weekly

Pray daily

Pray at Meal times

Participate in the Family Mass

Join the Choir, part-time, youth or parish

Ministers of Hospitality help with the Religious Education Opening Mass reception and Catechists Recognition Evening

Participate in the Spring Youth Theatre by sharing your gifts of song, acting or share your gifts of craftsmanship

Hall Monitors

Classroom Aides

Attendance Monitors

Office Helpers are needed to assist in bulletin boards and special projects
Attend the Mardi Gras/Spring Gala Celebration

Hall Monitors

Share your faith with the children of our parish by becoming a Catechist

Share your faith by becoming a SPRED Catechist ("Friends")

Volunteer to help at the Parish Picnic by working at a food booth, children's game or crafts

Offer to help your neighbor even when it's not convenient.

Respond, "Thank God" when someone shares a success story with you.

Treat everyone you meet with dignity. No matter what they look like, how they try your patience, or how they speak, they are part of the Body of Christ.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Religious Education Advisory Commission (REAC), is an advisory to the directors of catechesis, is designed for adults interested in providing the best religious education experience for the children of St. Raymond Parish. Its members, parents with children in the religious education program, also focus on relationship building and forming a sense of community. One REAC member serves on the Youth Formation Commission.

Contacts:

Maria Potratz

847-209-8290 / mariapotratz@sbcglobal.net

Chris Masini

847-818-1261 / masinifamily303@comcast.net

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SPRING GALA AUCTION

Members help determine and coordinate religious education's contribution(s) to the parish's annual Spring Gala/ Auction.

CAN JAM

Members meet new families, enjoy a sock hop and contribute to a mini-food drive all at the same time! Help is needed to plan this event, provide music, set up and clean up.

CATECHIST RECOGNITION

This end-of-year event (usually May) honors our catechists for their commitment to our children throughout the year. People are needed to plan for the evening, for set up, serving and clean up.

HOSPITALITY

This is a quick and easy way to volunteer and meet new people by serving coffee and doughnuts after designated Masses approximately twice a year.

PASTA DINNER

Typically held in November, the pasta dinner provides an opportunity to build community while enjoying a grand meal prepared by our religious education volunteers. Publicity organizers, servers, cooks, and reservation planners are needed.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OPEN HOUSE

This event welcomes families to become familiar with the school, visit their child's classroom and meet the catechists. It offers an opportunity to ask questions and con-

firm tuition and sacramental fees. Several people are needed to welcome families, answer questions and give directions to classrooms.

CLASSES

Pre-school and Kindergarten

Small groups meet on Sunday mornings during the 9:30 a.m. liturgy (during the school year). This activity-rich program provides opportunities to explore the stories of faith with creative activities

Grades 1-8

Formal religious education classes meet weekly during the school year to provide age-appropriate formation activities and events.

Catechists

Dedicated people of faith willing to share their talents with the children of our community on a weekly basis are needed to make our religious education program a success. New catechists are needed every year and catechist formation meetings are provided. Call the religious education office for more information.

Special Religious Education (SPRED)

SPRED is a religious formation program designed specifically to meet the needs of persons with developmental disabilities. Through the experience of friendship and one-to-one relationships, people with special needs can discover a place where they belong and are able to develop a sense of personal dignity as they are helped to realize their own giftedness. Various age groups meet in different parishes throughout the area. **"Friends" or helpers** are needed to work one-on-one with adults, help plan the lesson for the day and provide hospitality.

Contact: Sue Rudnick

847-818-1906 / rudsmc@comcast.net

Joan Wroblewski

847-299-5120 / jayjaywro@aol.com

SUPPORT

CLASSROOM AIDES

Aides help catechists with various classroom activities and may substitute for a catechist once or twice a year.

ATTENDANCE MONITOR

The Attendance Monitor collects attendance from classrooms.

HALL MONITOR

The Hall Monitor remains in the hallway during class time for the safety of the children.

CROSSING GUARD

The Crossing Guards help children cross the street safely for 15 minutes after class. Commitment could be for one week, one month, or one season.

PARISH SCHOOL

PARISH SCHOOL

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMISSION (SAC)

The School Advisory Commission is a leadership board that supports, advises and works with the school administration as needed to support the overall goals of St. Raymond School. The make up of SAC is role-based with three general types of positions: skill-based, organizational representatives and appointed positions. Those interested in serving on SAC need to have a visible track record of involvement and commitment to the school (and parish) or bring the necessary skills and experience related to the described role on SAC. Approximately 12 members perform the following roles: chairman, secretary, legal/policy, communications/marketing, athletic, faculty (principal and assistant principal), after-school clubs, family school association, finance, parish council representative, and principal-appointed position(s). SAC monthly meetings are open to all parents. Open positions are typically filled in the spring of each year. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact the school administration and/or a current member of SAC.

Contact: Pam Mueller
847-342-1069 / pam_mueller@yahoo.com

Margaret Denten
847-290-1974 / madaboutmd@aol.com

PARENT ROOM COORDINATOR

Are you interested in volunteering in your child's classroom but you work, have little ones at home or are just busy? Serving as a Parent Room Coordinator may be perfect for you! One head Parent Room Coordinator is selected from each classroom. That person is the communication liaison between classroom parents and the teacher. Responsibilities include: contacting parents to plan parties and for emergency closings. In addition, Parent Room Coordinators organize volunteers for Market Day delivery and plan Fun Night (P3 – 1st grade only).

Contacts: Bonnie Satinover
847-670-7508 /

CROSSING GUARD DUTY

A time commitment of only 15 to 20 minutes a week, morning or afternoon, can go a long way to provide for our students' safety. We are always in need of crossing guards before or after school. The times are: 7:45 a.m. – 8:05 a.m. or 2:40 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.

Contact: Eileen Cole
(847) 506-9317 / eileen.cole61@yahoo.com

PEACE COMMITTEE

The Peace Committee is a school ministry of parents and teachers whose mission is to bring the message of peace, inclusion, acceptance of others and no bullying to the students of St. Raymond. By teaching diversity and acceptance of differences, the students learn and experience how to get along with all people and negotiate conflicts. Classroom experiences, which provide opportunities for the students to role-play negotiating real life situations, are led by parents. School wide assemblies are also held to reinforce the message of peace and inclusion. Parents lead classroom activities throughout the year. Any adult who is interested in spreading peace to the children are invited to join this ministry.

Contact: Charman Brennan (Teacher/Counselor)
847-253-8555 / charman.brennan@st-raymond.org

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

The St. Raymond School Marketing and Publicity Committee meets regularly throughout the school year to brainstorm and deliver ways to increase the visibility of St. Raymond School among parishioners and within the broader community. Projects to date have included developing marketing brochures, planning events and publicizing activities. If you have a background in writing, design or marketing, or simply want to help share the positive story of St. Raymond School, help is needed.

Contact: Bill Pinter
847-577-5895

BAND BOOSTER

The Band Booster Association enhances and promotes the school band program and provides assistance and support to the Band Director. Meetings are held twice a year in the spring and fall. The Band Boosters help with performances, fundraisers, contests, chaperoning band trips, and other responsibilities. Band loving adults are welcome to join.

Contact: Cheryl Burt (Music teacher/band instructor)
847-253-8555 / cheryl.burt@St-raymond.org

FAMILY AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The Family and School Association is extremely active and plays an important role in strengthening the community of St. Raymond. The Association funds and organizes special cultural and educational events throughout the school year and raises money through a variety of events. The group meets monthly September through May. All parents are encouraged to participate. A membership fee of \$15 includes the school directory. Opportunities are available to serve in either a leadership capacity or as part of a team of volunteers. Family and School's leadership structure includes two co-presidents, two co-secretaries and a treasurer as well as committee chairs

for each special event. There are 22 committees with two chairpersons per committee.

Art Volunteers in the Classroom (AVIC)

Art Volunteers provides students the opportunity to view famous works of art, learn a bit about the artists and do an art project related to the piece of art. No formal art background is necessary for AVIC volunteers who spend 30-45 minutes monthly in a classroom. Scheduling is flexible and coordinated with the classroom teacher. Our goal is a minimum of two volunteers per classroom. Join the fun with the grandparents, aunts, moms and dads who are already serving! Sign up is in August through the day school office with an introductory meeting in early fall.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair takes place the first week of November during Parent/Teacher conferences. Volunteers are needed for set up and working two hour shifts throughout the week. Books are sold during the student's library time and/or after school, as well as to parents during Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Box Tops

Box Tops is a year round committee that involves setting up contests to create excitement around the collection of General Mills Box Tops. This person collects and sends the Box Tops in for redemption.

Buddy Care

Buddy Care is a year-round committee to coordinate Buddy Families. A "Buddy Family" is paired up with a new school family (usually pre-school or kindergarten). Park dates are set up in the summer to meet all of the new families. This person is also responsible for sending out condolences to school families who experience a death within their immediate family.

Cultural Committee

Cultural Committee is a year-round committee that selects appropriate assemblies for the school, such as magicians, dancers, sculptors, etc. The types of presentations vary from year-to-year and are tailored to fit specific grade/age levels.

Entertainment Books

Entertainment Books is a fundraiser that takes place in mid-September. Chairs are responsible for distributing books, scheduling sales after all Masses, tracking the distribution of books and collecting funds.

Gingerbread Houses

Gingerbread Houses is an annual event held the night before Thanksgiving. It involves securing a vendor who will come to the school and provide all supplies and instructions to create a Gingerbread House. This person is also responsible for collecting payment.

Great Books

Great Books is a year-round program offered to 3rd through 6th graders during recess. Interested students read and discuss a pre-determined short story, with adult volunteers leading the book discussions.

Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee provides coffee, donuts, and snacks at Special Persons Day that is held the day before Thanksgiving. It is also responsible for representing the Family & School Association after a pre-determined Mass during the school year.

Market Day

Market Day is a year-round committee responsible for promoting, managing and collecting payment for Market Day goods. Responsibilities include coordinating pick up of all goods and marketing the program to both school and parish families.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is responsible for collecting, typing and distributing the St. Raymond School Directory. It also works with the printer to ensure directories are printed in a timely manner.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is responsible for recruiting people to serve on open committees or to fill open officer positions

Parent Orientation

Parent Orientation takes place in the spring. Generally geared toward pre-school, kindergarten and 1st grade, it offers valuable information for parents on what to expect. Responsibilities include compiling pertinent information for new school families, researching school policy, securing a date, communicating to new parents and any necessary follow up from questions that may arise.

Restaurant Rewards

This year-round program selects restaurants to host "St. Raymond's Night". A portion of the sales are then donated to St. Raymond School. This committee negotiates the profit, the date, the communication and coordination of volunteers.

Santa Breakfast

This event is held early in December. This two-person team employs many volunteers to coordinate decorating, cooking, serving, table assignments, and clean up.

Sock Hop

A two-person team draws on a host of volunteers to help with decorating, set up, work shifts and clean up for this January event.

Special Lunch

This year-round committee provides a special lunch selection from area restaurants three or four times per year. Responsibilities include negotiating the price, managing the order process and coordinating volunteers.

Spring Sales

This catalogue fundraiser is held each spring. The committee is responsible for selecting the vendor, explaining the offering, collecting funds and distributing goods.

Teacher Appreciation

This committee serves year round and is responsible for delivering meals during Parent/Teacher conferences and the annual Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, which is held in January.

Trivia Night

This adult social serves as one of our cornerstone fundraisers. The committee is responsible for communication, collecting funds, set-up, clean up and running the event.

Welcome Back Picnic

Most of the planning and prep work for this mid-September event takes place over the summer. The committee is responsible for communicating, collecting funds, ordering food, set up and clean up.

Year Book

This year-round committee is responsible for compiling the yearbook. Duties include communicating the need for photos, collecting photos, formatting the yearbook, collecting funds and distributing the yearbook.

After School Clubs

Being an after school club leader is a way to share your passions and interests with the students of St. Raymond. Designated clubs operate during the school year and provide fun and unique opportunities for personal growth. Current clubs include chess, card making and Quiz Bowl, to name only a few. Meeting dates and frequency varies dependent on the parent volunteers who design, coordinate, and develop the club. Anyone who is interested in conducting an after school club may contact the school office to obtain more information.

For more information on how to get involved, please contact the School Office at 847-253-8555.

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The Athletic Association provides children the opportunity to participate in interscholastic competitive athletics through the school year, while at the same time developing and encouraging their moral, mental, social and physical growth. Competitive sports teams for boys and girls include volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, track and girls' softball. The Athletic Association sponsors skating parties, trips to sporting events, award banquets, tournaments and fund-raising. All parents are encouraged to

attend the meetings held on the 1st Wednesday of each month, September through May. Parents may volunteer to serve on the Athletic Association board, be a coach or assist at events. Spring and fall sign-up nights are held for team registration and to invite parent involvement. Interested parents are encouraged to contact the school Athletic Director.

Contact:

Brian Godziszewski (PE Teacher/Athletic Director)
847-253-8555 brian.godziszewski@st-raymond.org

KATE CONLON TOURNAMENT

This ministry is the major fundraiser for the Athletic Association each year. A portion of the proceeds goes to fund programs in Kate's name that touch all our students. All interested parents are invited to the formation of committees in the spring. Weekly meetings commence in the fall. Training is provided by the previous year's committee and experienced members of the Athletic Board. The tournament takes place the second weekend in December and demands the commitment of 10-20 committee members meeting weekly and over 60 volunteers to run the week-end event.

Contact: Brian Godziszewski (PE Teacher/Athletic Director)
847-253-8555 / brian.godziszewski@st-raymond.org

JOEY SYKES TOURNAMENT

The Joey Sykes Tournament is an annual memorial basketball tournament for 8th grade boys held each January. Joey fought a long battle with cancer and passed in 2002. Last year's tournament donated the gate receipts to Bear Necessities, a pediatric cancer foundation.

Contact: Brian Godziszewski (PE Teacher/Athletic Director)
847-253-8555 / brian.godziszewski@st-raymond.org

PARISH LEADERSHIP

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Pastoral Council is the primary advisory body to the pastor. Seventeen parishioners make up the council. They serve two to three year terms. Each of the five commissions discerns two members to represent them on the Council. The Pastor appoints four at large members to the council. The council operates in a collaborative manner and is committed to a consensus model of advising the Pastor. The Parish Council is responsible for the overall mission of our parish community, the continuing development of our parish vision, reviewing of any long-range capital campaign projects and policies pertaining to parish life.

CORE STAFF

St. Raymond has a large, talented, and dedicated professional core staff. The core staff serves as animators for the five commissions, and include the Pastor, Associate Pastors, Pastoral Associate, Director of Worship, School Principal, Co-Directors of Religious Education, Director of Music, Care Ministry Coordinator, Business Manager and Communications Coordinator. The core staff meets twice a month for prayer, business, planning and coordination of activities.

COMMISSIONS

There are five commissions in the parish that represent the five areas of our parish life. They are Worship, Adult Formation, Youth Formation, Human Concerns, and Parish Life. Each commission is made up of the various coordinators and representatives of the different ministries and organizations within that distinct area of parish life. Working in conjunction with the Pastor, the parish council chair, two core staff animators, two parish council representatives and commission members meet quarterly to oversee the development, evaluation, planning and growth of the various ministries and organizations that make up a particular commission.

OFFICE OF THE PASTOR

The Office of the Pastor exists as a leadership steering committee:

- To facilitate, encourage and enable the work and ministry of the five commissions of parish life.
- To act as the final oversight body regarding parish financial accountability, stability and development in our aim to be good stewards of parish resources.
- To manage all parish communication in the weekly bulletin and on our parish website. Approve parish mailings, while overseeing all official communication with the parish community at large.
- To work to maintain the beauty and upkeep of our parish buildings and grounds, the scheduling of the parish calendar and the supervision of the parish maintenance staff.

The members of the Office of the Pastor meet quarterly and include the Pastor, the Parish Council Chair, the Business and Operations Manager, the Communications Coordinator, the Finance Council Chair, the Stewardship Council chairpersons along with four at large members of the Parish Council.

FINANCE COUNCIL

The Parish Finance Council works closely with the Pastor, who is accountable to the people of Saint Raymond and the bishop for the administration and stewardship of the temporal goods of the parish. The Pastor, according to Canon Law, has among his responsibilities the supervision of parish financial and temporal management. The Parish Finance Council is a consultative body that advises and collaborates with the Pastor and the Business Manager in ensuring that we meet these obligations. Full consultation is at the heart of all of our financial decision-making process.

The full sharing of financial information, developing the preview of the annual parish budget and the sharing of wisdom regarding the financial operation of the parish are keys to the work of the committee. Both the Pastor and the council members discern membership on the Finance Council. Terms on this Council are two to four years.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

The Stewardship Council, working closely with and under the direction of the Pastor, is a group committed to instilling in the hearts and minds of St. Raymond parishioners, to gratefully receive Gods gifts, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord. Our goal as a consultative body is to interface with over 100 ministries to carry out the Stewardship effort of time, talent and treasure on an annual basis so that Stewardship becomes a way of life at St. Raymond. Members of the Stewardship Council spend 2-5 hours per month in their involvement with various ministries. The Stewardship Council meets once per month.

ALMS

The Alms program strives to raise the consciousness of the parish community to the diverse needs of the disadvantaged. It provides an opportunity for parishioners to live out the Gospel command to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, provide shelter and comfort those who have nowhere to turn. The Alms Committee researches and selects groups or agencies with tangible needs which come to its attention. The committee provides focus to our parish almsgiving. Where possible, the committee works to tie-in the time and the talent of St. Raymond parishioners along with their financial support. This five-member committee is also responsible for communicating the needs to the parish.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

The Archdiocese's Office For The Protection of Children and Youth and St. Raymond Church have developed procedures to assure the safety and protection of all our children, young and old. **All staff members, teachers, ministers, lectors, catechists, and volunteers are carefully screened using national and state best practices and standards.** Below are the requirements.

1. **Archdiocesan Background Check**

All clergy, all employees and all volunteers 18 years of age and older are to complete a background check.

2. **Virtus Training Session**

All ministers and volunteers 18 years of age and older are required to attend one (1) three hour Virtus training session. Once you have completed your session, you will receive a Virtus Attendance Certificate which is kept on file locally at the site of employment, ministry or service. Sessions are available throughout the Archdiocese. To register for a training session visit www.virtusonline.org.

Virtus on-line bulletins

Anyone who works with children is expected to read the monthly bulletins as long as they continue to work with children. The bulletins provide ongoing education about how to protect children: Predators on the internet; how are camera phones and webcams putting children at risk on the internet; How safe are the social networking sites such as Xenga, Facebook and My Space?

3. **Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking System** (CANTS Form)

CANTS is the Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking System maintained by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The CANTS check provides information on any person 18 years of age and older who has a founded case/s of child abuse or neglect against them in Illinois. All clergy, all employees who work with children, and all volunteers who spend time with children in our parishes and schools are to complete the CANTS form.

4. **Code of Conduct Form**

All clergy and all employees of the Archdiocese of Chicago 18 years of age and older are to read and sign the Code of Conduct. All volunteers who spend time with children also are to read and sign the Code of Conduct. The signed copy of the Acknowledgement Form is kept locally at the site of employment, ministry or service.

Once you have expressed an interest in one of our many ministries, you will be provided with the necessary forms. You may not participate as a volunteer or in any ministry until all the requirements have been met.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact Roberta Nichols at 847-253-8600 x 121 or r.nichols@st-raymond.org.

COMMON EXCUSES FOR AVOIDING INVOLVEMENT

"I WOULDN'T CLAIM TO HAVE MUCH TALENT."

... and yet, God has given to each of us something unique. He placed individual traits and gifts within us that no one else on Earth has.

The spirituality of stewardship provides a way of life that lets us grow in holiness and fulfill a truly personalized mission in the church. For example, there is an opportunity for every parent and grandparent to live out that calling each day, practicing stewardship through that family relationship in a way that no one else in St. Raymond's can fulfill in quite the same way.

Rather than denying our own God-given talent, through our gratitude for these many gifts Jesus instructs us on everything we need to know. He draws us closer in discipleship as we live the stewardship way of life.

"I'LL HELP WHEN ASKED. UNTIL THEN I'M NOT NEEDED."

The spirituality of stewardship demands responsibility, initiative, and a prayerful response. Waiting for a formal invitation is radically different from being called as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Why do we wait for another parishioner to call when it is God that has already called us? Clearly, serving our parish and the larger community is ministry in its most basic and essential form.

We can see this as a higher path of volunteerism, that uniquely American form of service and philanthropy. As Catholics, we are theologically called to give freely of ourselves, and to do so out of gratitude for our Lord's great generosity to us. It really is that simple.

Waiting to be asked or for a need to become urgent is a form of consumerism and a common problem in larger parishes like ours. Leaving the work and financial burden to others by trying to remain unnoticed or unasked is also not an effective strategy. Even if we somehow didn't recognize who the "free-riders" are in our parish, every one of us is still accountable to God for our stewardship.

"WITH MY BUSY LIFE, I CAN'T FIND EXTRA TIME."

God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness isn't measured out, it just is. He doesn't ask us for a certain portion of our time, talent, or treasure. Yet many of us seem predisposed to being cautious with our precious time. By contrast, the good steward is keenly aware of the opposite risk, which is the time we spend excluding God from our daily activities.

Practically speaking, our love of God and gratitude for the gift of time cannot be realized without returning it in service to others. St. Augustine said it well: "Our heart is restless until it rests in you."

In his Letter to the Philippians (3:20) St. Paul tells us that, "Our citizenship is in heaven," reminding us that the steward may be in the world yet is not of the world.

How sad it is if we become so busy that we lose sight of the source of our time. Perhaps we can also ask ourselves why we would want to return only our extra time to God.

"I GO TO MASS REGULARLY, SO THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH."

Each of us has already received a personal invitation to share in the fullness of our faith through stewardship. It came directly from our Father out of love for us. While we may read this to be a standing invitation, we do well by responding with some urgency so as not to test God's patience.

Good stewardship requires that we individually attend to everything the Lord is calling us to do. Receiving sacraments is certainly essential to practicing our faith, yet we also know that this is not everything necessary for the faithful Catholic.

We owe much to the hundreds of parish founders and thousands of households who built St. Raymond's over the past 63 years. A small portion of that debt is repaid with each day we remain committed to and involved in our parish. That begins-yet doesn't end-with Mass.

"I'VE DONE IT ALL BEFORE AND HAVE EARNED A REST."

As Catholic Christians we are called to thank God every day for the gifts we receive. We are to handle them responsibly and with justice, returning with an increase some portion of the gifts poured out on our lives.

At different stages of life we have differing capacities and interests, yet always receiving gifts worthy of offering back to our loving and merciful God. Consider that our next breath can be given with an increase by uttering a humble prayer of thanks.

For all that we have already done and are yet prepared to do, we long to hear the words in Matthew's Gospel (25:21), "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share in your Master's joy."

Information You Should Know

St. Raymond de Penafort Church
Parish Ministry Office
301 S. I-Oka Avenue
Mount Prospect, IL 60056
847-253-8600 Fax 847-253-0023
PMC@St-Raymond.org

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday:	8:30 AM—7:30 PM
Fridays	8:30 AM—6:30 PM
Weekdays Closed	Noon—1:00 PM
Saturday:	9:00 AM—1:00 PM
Sunday:	9:00 AM—12:30 PM

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday	7:00 AM
Saturday	8:00 AM

Holy Day Liturgies: 7:00, 8:15 AM, and 7:30 PM

Saturday: Mass of Anticipation 5:00 PM
Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, and 11:15 AM

Eucharistic Chapel

schedule

Monday - Friday	6:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sunday	1:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday—Saturday 6:00 AM — 9:00 AM

Visitation of the Sick:

If you or a family member are in a local hospital or are homebound, and would like a visit from a minister of care or a priest, please call Sr. Valerie Kulbacki (ext. 143), Director of Care Ministries.

Baptism:

Our Baptismal Ministry is pleased to help your family prepare for the special event of your child's entrance into our faith community. *Baptisms are scheduled every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. except during the season of Lent.* Parents and Godparents are encouraged to prepare themselves for this Sacrament through a preparation meeting at least two months in advance of the celebration. Please call the Worship Office (ext. 141) at the PMC for more information.

Adult Christian Initiation:

If you are looking for a place to belong or for a church community with whom you can share your questions and beliefs, perhaps you would like to find out more about what it means to be a Catholic Christian. The Faith Community of Saint Raymond has something quite special to offer and we would love to share the gift of faith with you. Please call Sr. Dee Peppard (847-253-8600 x 151) for more information regarding the RCIA (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*).

Marriage:

If you are planning to be married at St. Raymond, your preparation process should begin seven months to one year prior to your wedding date. Please call the Parish office to secure a date as soon as possible. Membership in St. Raymond is *not* a requirement. We look forward to helping you during this time of engagement and preparation for the vocation of Christian marriage.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays (*individual*) 4:00—4:30 PM

Parish Registration:

To enter into our faith community as a member of St. Raymond Parish, we invite you to attend one of our Welcoming Sessions. There will be no session in December. Contact the Parish Office for dates. Our session begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Buhrfiend Room, located in the Parish Ministry Center, 301 S. I-Oka. Following the information session we attend the 9:30 a.m. liturgy. For more information or questions, please feel free to contact Pam and Bill Doucette at 847-806-0118.

Staff Directory

Pastor

Rev. Steven Dombrowski, x123
Fr.Dombrowski@St-Raymond.org

Associate Pastors

Rev. Nhat Le, x142
Fr.Le@St-Raymond.org

Rev. Rodolfo Ramirez, 161
Fr.Ramirez@St-Raymond.org

Weekend Sacramental Minister

Rev. Mick Egan, C.S.V.
St. Viator High School

Pastoral Associate

Sr. Dee Peppard, x151
Sr.Dee@St-Raymond.org

Director of Worship

Deacon John Lorbach, x160
J.Lorbach@St-Raymond.org
Worship Office Secretary
Anne Granato, x145
WorshipOffice@St-Raymond.org

Director of Worship Music

Dominic Trumfio, x136
D.Trumfio@St-Raymond.org
Music Office Secretary
Mary Lou Larson, x153
MusicMinistry@St-Raymond.org

Director of Care Ministries

Sr. Valerie Kulbacki, x143
Sr.Val@St-Raymond.org

Business Manager

Hank Matecki, x111
H.Matecki@St-Raymond.org

Communication Coordinator/ Accounting

Roberta Nichols, x121
R.Nichols@St-Raymond.org

Hispanic Ministry

Fr. Jack Hurley, x137
Fr.Hurley@St-Raymond.org
Rosie Rosado, Assistant x163
R.Rosado@St-Raymond.org

Parish Secretaries, x110

Joanna Halvorsen
Rosemary Hinkemeyer
PMC@St-Raymond.org

Parish Leadership

Parish Council

Pam Doucette (Chairperson)
Donna Czajka, *Recording Secretary*
Theresa Drangines, *Deanery Rep.*
Ron Glovetski, *Office of the Pastor*
Chuck Hemler, *Adult Formation*
Kathy Hemler, *Human Concerns*
Steven Jensen, *Teen Representative*
Mary Kirby, *Worship*
Julia Kostyra, *Teen Representative*
Lisa Lange, *Parish Life*
Fr. Nhat Le, *Core Staff*
Ted Little, *Youth Formation*
Hank Matecki, *Finance/Stewardship*
Tom McGough, *Office of the Pastor*
Beth Menczywor, *Parish Life*
John Monaco, *Office of the Pastor*
Sally Murphy, *Human Concerns*
Margaret Novotny, *Adult Formation*
Debbie Russo, *Worship*
Carla Spanier, *Youth Formation*
Valerie Yokie, *Office of the Pastor*

Finance Council

Beverly Schulze (Chairperson)
Jim Barrett
Dennis Bogacki
Rich Casey
Tom McGough
John Napoleon
Dennis Saviano
Mark Spanier

Stewardship Council

Jim Russell (Chairperson)
Hank Matecki
Roberta Nichols
Laura Humbert
Stephanie Kenny
Tricia Fusilero

Parish Schools

St. Raymond School

300 S. Elmhurst Street
Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056
847-253-8555

Principal

Dawn Kapka
Dawn.Kapka@St-Raymond.org

Assistant Principal

Tina DiLorenzo
Tina.DiLorenzo@St-Raymond.org

Religious Education Programs

Program Director of Catechesis

Pre-School — 6th Grade
Denise Klimas, x150
D.Klimas@St-Raymond.org

Program Director of Catechesis Youth Ministry Coordinator

7th Grade — 12th Grade
Mary Catherine Nelson x 138 or 139
M.Nelson@St-Raymond.org

Debbie Fujara, Assistant, x134

D.Fujara@St-Raymond.org

