

*Merry
Christmas*



CATHEDRAL OF
SAINT RAYMOND
NONNATUS



DEAR FRIENDS,



As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we, the priests at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus, pause in deep gratitude for the many blessings the Lord has poured upon our parish this past year. The photos and data highlighted in this newsletter offer only a glimpse of the grace at work in our community—moments of worship, service, fellowship, and renewal that remind us that the Holy Spirit is alive within our parish family.

One of the greatest gifts of this past year was hosting the Jubilee Year of Hope, a time when we intentionally opened wide the doors of our Cathedral and our hearts to encounter Christ anew. We are humbled and grateful for every person who participated, attended, prayed, volunteered, or invited others to experience God's mercy here at the Cathedral.

As we look toward the coming year, we do so with joyful expectation. Christ, whose birth we celebrate, is always doing something new. We pray that the months ahead will be a time of renewed faith, deeper communion, and strengthened discipleship for each of you. Christmas reminds us that God draws close; in return, we invite you to draw close again—to the Mass, to the sacraments, to parish life, and to one another. Your presence matters. Our parish is stronger, more vibrant, and more faithful because of you.

Please know of our prayers for you and your families during this holy season. May the peace of the Christ Child fill your hearts, may hope take deeper root in your lives, and may the coming year draw us all more fully into the love of God.

A blessed and joyful Christmas to you and your family!

Sincerely,

FR. WILLIAM DEWAN
Rector

FR. MICHAEL GROTH
Parochial Vicar



FR. WILLIAM DEWAN
Rector
info@straymond.net



FR. MICHAEL GROTH
Parochial Vicar
mgroth@straymond.net



MARJORIE HILL
Principal
mhill@csrnl.org



KATIE CHOUDHARY
Director of Religious Education
re@straymond.net



KEVIN O'DONNELL
Pastoral Associate
kevin@straymond.net

MASSES

Saturday 4 PM
Sunday 8 AM and 10:30 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 7:30 AM | Saturday 3 PM
Or by appointment

ADORATION

Saturday 8:30 to 9:30 AM



CATHEDRAL OF SAINT RAYMOND NONNATUS

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straymond.net



INSIDE

We invite you to learn more about our parish community!

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Faith

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Are you thinking of joining the Catholic Church or know someone who is? Or are you a baptized Catholic who never received the Sacraments of Confirmation or Eucharist? Check out our OCIA group where we will help strengthen your faith and journey toward the Sacraments. Contact: Fr. Michael Groth, mgroth@straymond.net, or Dcn. Darrell Kelsey, deacondarrell2011@gmail.com

- ✦ 7 parishioners (including 2 children) were baptized, confirmed and received Eucharist at Easter Vigil
- ✦ 5 parishioners made a Procession of Faith becoming Catholic from other Protestant denominations
- ✦ 6 parishioners were confirmed as adults



- ✦ 4 residents of the Joliet Treatment Center were baptized, confirmed and received Eucharist from Bishop Hicks and Fr. Michael
- ✦ 11 parishioners (including 6 children) are preparing for Baptism at the 2026 Easter Vigil

Weddings

Whether you are engaged or you were previously civilly married, we are here to walk with you to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony! Contact: Fr. Michael Groth, mgroth@straymond.net



By the Numbers

ST. RAYMOND
NONNATUS IN 2025

82



Received the Sacrament of Baptism



38

Received the Sacrament of First Communion

44



Received the Sacrament of Confirmation



115

Families registered as new parishioners

Bringing people
to Christ since
1917

Adult Faith Formation

Our parish offers a variety of gatherings and experiences for adult faith formation, including the “Sundays After Mass” Series, book discussions, Be Formed groups for men and women, Bible studies, parish missions, guest speakers, and Alpha. Check the website or weekly bulletin for details, or reach out to Kevin to inquire about joining any of our programs. Contact: Kevin O’Donnell, kevin@straymond.net



▲ Fr. Jack Welch presents an Advent reflection. The Be Formed women’s group. The Corpus Christi Eucharistic procession.

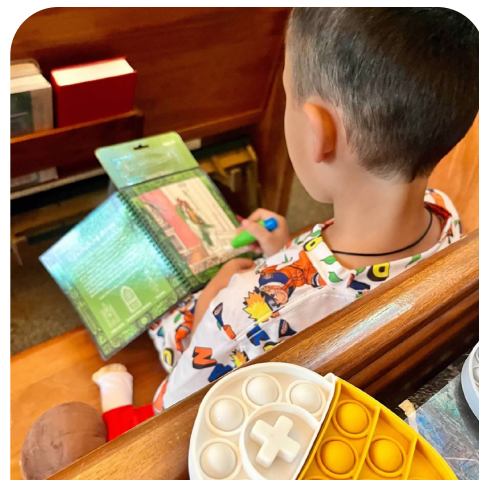
Fellowship Sundays

Once a month we gather as a family of faith to enjoy fellowship, coffee, and donuts after the Sunday Masses.



Music Ministries

Adults and children alike share their time and talent of music to help us worship during Mass. Contact: Stacy Sienko, stacy@straymond.net



Pray & Play

We joyfully welcome and equip families with little ones to join us for Mass. We provide grade school–level children with prayer materials, including the Sunday Mass readings and Mass responses, as well as fun, faith-related items for our infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and early elementary school children to help them focus on the mystery of the Mass. Contact: Katie Choudhary, re@straymond.net

Sensory Room

We are happy to offer a quiet room for those who need a space if overstimulated during Mass or for a nursing mother and child. Contact: Katie Choudhary, re@straymond.net



Fellowship

Men's and Women's Groups

Men and women from the parish regularly gather for fun and fellowship!
 Contact: Katie Choudhary, re@straymond.net or Fr. Michael Groth, mgroth@straymond.net



◀ Shown clockwise, from top left:
 Euchre Night, Bunco Night,
 Fall Bags Night, Paint and Sip Night,
 and Trivia Night

Seniors' Group

Seniors gather monthly for a meal, fellowship, and entertainment.
 Contact: Kevin O'Donnell, kevin@straymond.net



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

'25-'26 Special Events

See the website for a full listing of parish activities: straymond.net/calendar

December 28

10:30 AM | Mass Closing of
 the Jubilee Year of Hope

January 12-25

Hallow Prayer Challenge:
 How to Pray

January 16

Men's Chili Cook Off

January 30

Women's Bingo Night

February 1

Parish Mission Speaker

February 18 to April 5

Hallow Prayer Challenge:
 Lent Pray40

February 20

Men's Euchre Night

February 27

Women's Paint & Plant

March 13

Spaghetti Dinner

March 20

Women's Cooking Class

April 18

Couples' Night Out

May 3

Ministry Fair

September 13

Parish Picnic



CATHEDRAL OF
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Education

Religious Education

Religious education students work in small groups to build community and encounter Jesus by playing games, praying for each other as they learn different forms of prayer, participating in monthly service projects, working with students in other grade levels, and learning about our faith. Religious Education also includes our REACH program for children with special needs. *Contact: Katie Choudhary, re@straymond.net*

By the Numbers

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN 2025

142

Students enrolled in K–8 Religious Education (50 new)

70

Students actively participating in Junior High Youth Ministry

80

Students enrolled in Summer Vacation Bible School

Family Formation

Family formation is offered in the summer for all families from our school, homeschool families, RE program, and visitors. This past summer we used Exploring Nature with the Saints to relax and enjoy science experiments, play games, and learn about various saints who excelled in the science fields. *Contact: Katie Choudhary, re@straymond.net*



▲ Summer VBS Participants from both our school and religious education program brought food donations each day as they learned about our faith through physical activity, music, skits by our teens, art, science, and faith sharing with Scripture.

Youth Ministry

Every first Sunday of the month, junior high students from the school, RE, and broader parish gather for a fun environment of faith through games, team challenges, service projects, and competition. Registration is open all year long! Our Junior High Youth Ministry is organized by a House System, so Houses compete against each other to earn points throughout the year. *Contact: Katie Choudhary, re@straymond.net, or Fr. Michael Groth, mgroth@straymond.net*



St. Raymond School

This joy-filled community, rooted in the virtues and teachings of Jesus Christ, partners with parents to help each child reach their greatest academic, social and spiritual potential. Students and families find belonging and value, and are invited into lasting relationships that form our community.

Contact: Marjorie Hill, mhill@csrn.org



By the Numbers

ST. RAYMOND SCHOOL
IN 2025

354 Students enrolled in pre-K–8th grade

51 New students enrolled this academic year



▲ Shown clockwise, from top left: Bishop Hicks gathers with the “saints”—third graders dressed up for All Saints Day. Alumni of St. Raymond School welcome current and alumni families at the picnic. Fr. Michael is joined by three “chefs” during the spaghetti dinner. St. Raymond School students gather in the gymnasium for morning assembly, a time to build community and uphold the values that are important to our school.

Service

Mindful of the poor and needy, our parish engages in many different outreach methods to serve those in need. Our Religious Education and school students learn firsthand the importance of ministering to Joliet residents in need. Contact: Kevin O'Donnell, kevin@straymond.net

Shown clockwise, from top left: Religious education students help to prepare meals to bring to Daybreak Shelter. Parishioners serving lunch at Daybreak Shelter. A day of harvest from the Promised Land Gardens on campus.



St. Vincent de Paul

A group of parishioners dedicated to serving the poor, suffering and those in need through person to person service and ministry. All financial assistance provided to those in need is made possible through the generosity of our parishioners. Contact: Mary Spesia, svdp@straymond.net

By the Numbers

SERVICE MINISTRY IN 2025

72 Mealtimes organized at Daybreak Shelter, serving 40–150

35 Bushels of produce were grown by 22 gardeners

32 Thanksgiving meals were donated



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL IN 2025

160 Calls received on the helpline for food and essentials

17 Active council members serving the needy