

St. Raymond Catholic Church

12348 Paramount Blvd., Downey, CA 90242

Phone: 562-923-4509

Website: SaintRaymond.org Email: StRaymondCatholicChurch@gmail.com



18th Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME

[Jesus] said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions." - Lk 12:15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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ST. RAYMOND PARISH

A joyous place filled with warmth and good friends,
A peaceful place filled with trust and love,
A place where everyone feels welcome,
A safe place to grow and learn,
A community that has been blessed.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass:
5:00 pm

Sunday: 7:00 am, 9:00 am,
12:00 pm (English)
10:30 am (Spanish)

Weekdays:
Monday to Friday
at 6:30 am & 5:00 pm
Saturday at 8:00 am

Holy Days of Obligation:
As Announced

CONFESSIONS

Mon, Wed, Fri: 4:15 to 4:50 pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 7:00 am
(until the last Penitent finishes)

Saturday: 8:30 am
(until the last Penitent finishes)
3:30 pm to 4:45 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction

Saturday: 8:30 am to 9:30 am
After Mass in Church

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Fri: 10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am to 1:30 pm

Our Parish Priests

Fr. Samuel W. Ward, Pastor
Fr. Justin Ordoveza, Associate Pastor
Fr. John Higgins, Pastor Emeritus
Fr. Benoy Kuriakose, In Residence
Fr. Cesar Galan, fsp Associate Pastor

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 3, 2025

PARISH STAFF

PASTORAL TEAM

Father Samuel W. Ward, Pastor
 Father Justin Ordoveza, Associate Pastor
 Father Cesar Galan, fsp Associate Pastor
 Valeria Pacheco, School Principal
 Sandy Gallegos, Director of R.C.I.A.
 Jennifer Quinones, Faith Formation & Youth Ministries

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Laura Larios, Parish Manager
 Emmanuel Larios, Office Clerk
 Geovanny Larios, Public Relations
 Jasmine Fernandez, Receptionist
 Erick Ramirez, Maintenance/Security

PRIESTS IN RESIDENCE

Father John W. Higgins, Pastor Emeritus
 Father Benoy Kuriakose

BAPTISM: One Sunday a month. *Call Parish Office to make arrangements for class and Baptism.*

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION: Please call our Parish, School, or Religious Education offices to learn about education opportunities for the reception of these sacraments. *We also have an initiation process for adults seeking Baptism in our Church!*

MARRIAGE: Arrangements should be made at least six months prior to anticipated wedding date. Must contact parish before setting date.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: *In the event of serious illness or medical emergency, anointing of the sick may be arranged by contacting the Parish Office. Make an appointment to come*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office 562-923-4509
 Parish School 562-862-3210
 Faith Formation Office 562-800-7592
 Parish Website: SaintRaymond.org
 Parish Email : StRaymondCatholicChurch@gmail.com
 School Website: straymondschool-downey.org
 School Email Address: principal@straymondschool-Downey.org
 Youth Ministry: YouthMinistries@SaintRaymond.org

OPEN FOR PRAYER

CHURCH HOURS

Monday - Friday (on School Days)
 6:00 am to 7:30 am
 3:30 pm to 8:00 pm
 Saturday 7:00 am to 6:00 pm
 Sunday 6:30 am to 1:30 pm

HOLY FAITH CHAPEL HOURS

Monday - Friday 6:00 am to 9:00 pm
 Saturday 7:00 am to 8:00 pm
 Sunday 6:00 am to 8:00 pm

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

ALTAR SERVERS.....	Danette Buckley 889-2248	MARRIAGE NULLITY.....	Fr. Samuel Ward 923-4509
ALTAR SOCIETY.....	Laura Larios 800-7592	MEN'S PRAYER GROUP.....	Fr. John Higgins 923-4509
BAPTISM	923-4509	MINISTERIO DE DUELO.....	Blanca Espinoza 869-3661
BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS.....	923-4509	MOVIMIENTO MATRIMONIAL PARROQUIAL.....	Mr. & Mrs. Larios 261-3449
CANCER SUPPORT GROUP.....	Elaine Kunkel 531-9620	RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CATECISMO).....	Jennifer Quinones 800-7593
CONFIRMATION (High School).....	Jennifer Quinones 800-7593	RELIGIOUS RECOGNITIONS FOR YOUTH.....	Diane Garcia 862-8309
DIVINE MERCY MINISTRY.....	Larry Wysocki 927-1482	RCIA-ADULTS.....	Sandy Gallegos 800-7594
FILIPINO MINISTRY.....	Tess De La Vega 544-8020	SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN/FAMILIES FIRST.....	Diana Moser 923-4509
FINANCE COUNCIL.....	Ricardo Gordillo 923-4509	SCHOOL & SCRIP-GIFT CERTIFICATES.....	School Office 862-3210
MINISTRY GUADALUPANO.....	Salvador Larios 862-9879	SENIOR CITIZENS.....	Irene Vallini 923-4509
HALL & ROOM RENTALS.....	Park Place Catering 866-5464	SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.....	Paul Iacovitti 923-4509
HAND MAID MINISTRY.....	Kathi Bode 716-7614	SPANISH BIBLE STUDY.....	Connie Ochoa 413-1475
ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION.....	Christine Ragusa 619-2168	SPANISH PRAYER GROUP.....	Liliam Flores 658-7890
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL 923-1932	Mario Campos 761-9804	TIJUANA ORPHANAGE.....	Joe & Edith Ibarra 923-4509
LEGION OF MARY English	Tess De La Vega 544-8020	WEDDING COORDINATOR	Tami Shilling 745-5592
LEGION OF MARY Spanish.....	Aida Rebollo 323-251-3976	YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY- THE UPPER ROOM.....	Julian Yopez 659-2234
LITURGY COMMITTEE/LITURGICAL MINISTRIES.....	Laura Larios 800-7592		



From our Pastor, Father Sam Ward

Dear St. Raymond's Family,

[Nicaea at 1,700: The council \(and creed\) that saved the Catholic Church \[Part I\]](#)

[Mike Aquilina](#) *Angeles News* July 23, 2025 <https://angelusnews.com/faith/nicaea-1700/>

Though he was struggling with poor health, Pope Francis announced last November that he planned to visit Nicaea (Iznik, in Turkey) in 2025. Pope Leo, soon after his election, voiced his intention to fulfill that plan of his predecessor. **Why were both men so determined to go as pilgrims to a Muslim city that hasn't had an active Christian community in more than 100 years?** Because in that place, in A.D. 325, a united Church laid the doctrinal foundations for believers in every age to follow.

Iznik is in the news this year because 1,700 years have passed since the Council of Nicaea. Pope Francis made the observance of this anniversary a keynote of the Jubilee Year of Hope, and Church leaders have expressed great expectations for what might be accomplished in 2025. **In its original historical moment, the Council of Nicaea was an occasion of hope — especially for the Emperor Constantine.**

It had been 13 years since he took the imperial throne in Rome. Within months of his conquest, early in 313, he issued the **Edict of Milan**, which legalized Christianity after centuries of Roman persecution. Constantine hoped that religious freedom would help him achieve unity and peace throughout the empire.

Though Constantine had not yet undergone baptism, he gave credit for his victories to the Christian God. As ruler of the Western Empire, he took an active interest in Church matters. He was bothered by disagreements among Christians and worried about their potential for causing political instability. **He urged bishops to meet in councils to bring an end to disputes.** In North Africa, Christianity had been rent by schism since the time of persecution. From a distance, Constantine summoned three councils there.

He also sponsored councils in Spain and Gaul (modern France) and spared no expense in encouraging attendance. Each bishop received free transportation — a carriage big enough to hold the prelate and his entourage. **Constantine judged these regional councils to be successful, and he was pleased to see bishops cooperating and coming to consensus.**

Meanwhile, his own power grew. The empire had been designed for rule by four men, a Caesar and his deputy in the West with a corresponding duo in the East. In the year 324, however, Constantine seized control of the Eastern lands and declared himself sole ruler. He was determined to bring unity to the Roman world, the better to ward off its enemies.

He was appalled, however, to find the Eastern churches in a virtual state of civil war—divided over the novel doctrine of a man named Arius.

A priest of Alexandria in Egypt, Arius preached that the divine Word (see John 1:1) was not God in the same sense that the Father was God. From scattered Scripture verses, Arius argued that the Son of God was neither coeternal nor coequal with the Father. Thus, he denied the full divinity of the Son of God, whom Arius described as a creature, though the greatest of all creatures.

Arius was skilled at preaching, and he had a knack for summarizing his doctrine in slogans, which spread rapidly like the common cold. One popular ditty went: "There was when he was not" — that is, there was a time when the Son did not exist.

The Bishop of Alexandria, named Alexander, condemned Arius for undermining the most foundational Christian tenets: the Trinity and the Incarnation. Such beliefs had long been enshrined in the liturgy and attested by the Fathers. So Arius was banished...

[Part II continued next week.]

I place you and your family under the guidance and protection of our Blessed Mother Mary and St. Joseph. St. Raymond Nonnatus, pray for us.

**In the Heart of Christ,
Father Sam Ward**

.....

Estimada Familia de San Ramón,

[Nicaea en el año 1700: El concilio \(y el credo\) que salvó a la Iglesia católica \[Parte I\]](#)

[Mike Aquilina](#) *Angeles News*, 23 de julio de 2025

Aunque sufría de mala salud, el Papa Francisco anunció en noviembre pasado que planeaba visitar Nicaea (Iznik, en Turquía) en 2025. El Papa León, poco después de su elección, expresó su intención de cumplir el plan de su predecesor. **¿Por qué ambos estaban tan decididos a peregrinar a una ciudad musulmana que no ha tenido una comunidad cristiana activa en más de 100 años? Porque en ese lugar, en el año 325, una Iglesia unida sentó las bases doctrinales que los creyentes de todas las épocas seguirían.**

Iznik es noticia este año porque han pasado 1700 años desde el Concilio de Nicaea. El Papa Francisco hizo de la celebración de este aniversario el tema central del Año Jubilar de la Esperanza, y los líderes de la Iglesia han expresado grandes expectativas por lo que podría lograrse en 2025.

Continuación en Pagina 4

Welcome to St. Raymond Parish

We are delighted you've come to our parish, and we hope you'll find a home with us. Being a registered member allows us to better serve you; you can register by calling (562) 923-4509 or going online to SaintRaymond.org.

If you move or change your phone number, please call the parish office at (562) 923-4509 to let us know.

BULLETIN INFO: The bulletin deadline is Friday, 6pm, nine days prior to issue date. Please email or deliver your input, in writing, to the Parish Office.

Email address ParishManager@SaintRaymond.org

All notices are subject to available space and may be edited.

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- Catholic books:
 - Theology
 - Catechisms
- Spirituality: Mariology, Lives of the Saints, etc.
 - Scripture studies
 - Papal writings
- Prayer books & Devotionals
- Only approved Catholic editions of the Bible
- Classic works of Literature
- Catholic children's books
- Children's Bibles

En su momento histórico original, el Concilio de Nicea fue una ocasión de esperanza, especialmente para el emperador Constantino.

Habían pasado 13 años desde que asumió el trono imperial en Roma. A los pocos meses de su conquista, **a principios del año 313, promulgó el Edicto de Milán**, que legalizó el cristianismo tras siglos de persecución romana. Constantino esperaba que la libertad religiosa le ayudara a lograr la unidad y la paz en todo el imperio.

Aunque Constantino aún no había sido bautizado, atribuyó sus victorias al Dios cristiano. Como gobernante del Imperio de Occidente, se interesó activamente en los asuntos de la Iglesia. Le preocupaban los desacuerdos entre los cristianos y su potencial para causar inestabilidad política. **Instó a los obispos a reunirse en concilios para poner fin a las disputas.** En el norte de África, el cristianismo había estado dividido por el cisma desde la época de la persecución. Desde la distancia, Constantino convocó tres concilios allí.

También patrocinó concilios en España y la Galia (la actual Francia) y no escatimó en gastos para fomentar la asistencia. Cada obispo recibió transporte gratuito: un carruaje lo suficientemente grande como para albergar al prelado y su séquito. **Constantino consideró que estos concilios regionales fueron un éxito y se alegró de ver a los obispos cooperar y llegar a un consenso.**

Mientras tanto, su propio poder crecía. El imperio había sido diseñado para ser gobernado por cuatro hombres: un César y su lugarteniente en Occidente, con un dúo correspondiente en Oriente. Sin embargo, en el año 324, Constantino tomó el control de las tierras orientales y se declaró gobernante único. Estaba decidido a unificar el mundo romano para protegerse mejor de sus enemigos.

Sin embargo, se horrorizó al encontrar a las iglesias orientales prácticamente en un estado de guerra civil, divididas por la novedosa doctrina de un hombre llamado Arrio.

Sacerdote de Alejandría, Egipto, Arrio predicaba que el Verbo Divino (véase Juan 1:1) no era Dios en el mismo sentido que el Padre. Basándose en versículos dispersos de las Escrituras, Arrio argumentó que el Hijo de Dios no era coeterno ni coigual con el Padre. Así, negaba la plena divinidad del Hijo de Dios, a quien Arrio describió como una criatura, aunque la más grande de todas las criaturas.

Arrio era hábil predicando y tenía un don para resumir su doctrina en lemas, que se propagaban rápidamente como un resfriado común. Una cancioncilla popular decía: "Hubo un tiempo en que él no existía", es decir, hubo un tiempo en que el Hijo no existía.

El Obispo de Alejandría, llamado Alejandro, condenó a Arrio por socavar los principios cristianos más fundamentales: la Trinidad y la Encarnación. Tales creencias habían estado consagradas desde hacía mucho tiempo en la liturgia y atestiguadas por los Padres. **Por lo tanto, Arrio fue desterrado...**

[La Parte II continúa la próxima semana.]

Y los pongo bajo el amparo y protección de la Santísima Virgen María y San José. San Ramón Nonato, ruega por nosotros.

**En el Corazón Sacratísimo de Jesucristo,
Padre Samuel Ward**

ST. RAYMOND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONFIRMATION & EDGE

Sacrament Program Important Dates

Last Registration for new and returning students: will be on Sunday, August 17th 9am - 1pm.

Must have to register:

1. Baptism Certificate (if not baptized, bring birth certificate)
2. First Communion Certificate (if applicable)
3. \$150 Deposit (cash or check only)

If you do not have copies of these for your child you can request them from the Church the Sacrament was done at and bring copies with you to registration.

Jennifer Quinones,
Faith Formation Director
(562) 800-7593
youthministries@saintraymond.org

**Friendship Sunday
this weekend
is hosted by:**

Spanish Bible Study



JOURNEYING THROUGH GRIEF BEREAVEMENT SUMMIT

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish Hall
7215 Newlin Ave Whittier, CA 90602
Cathy Narvaez (562) 631-8844

Saturday, September 27, 2025, 9am-6pm

Grief is not a disorder, a disease, or a sign of weakness. It is an emotional, physical, and spiritual necessity, the price you pay for love. The only cure for your grief is to grieve.
- Earl A. Grollman

There is a tremendous need for bereavement ministry. We hear stories of grief and trauma every day. But where do we find help to deal with our grief, to help with our mourning, to work through the pain and sadness? Unfortunately, there are very few places available.

The First Journeying Through Grief Bereavement Summit invites bereavement ministers, those interested in accompanying the grieving, and anyone who is interested in bereavement to join us. Resources will be available from organizations that provide help to those who have experienced the death of a child, the death of a spouse, the death of a loved one to suicide, and more.

Speakers will address topics such as what is bereavement, how to start a support group, pre-planning, working with mortuaries, planning Vigils and Funerals and more.

There will be time to meet others in the field of bereavement and make connections with the goal of reaching out to those in need.

The cost of \$75 will cover a continental breakfast, lunch and all materials, supplies and resources. Doors open at 8:30am.

To register, please include your name, the name of your parish/organization, your role or area of interest and whatever else you want to share or ask.

Payment can be made by Zelle to (562) 631-8844. Please RSVP by Monday, September 15, 2025.



WE GRIEVE BECAUSE WE HAVE LOVED. - Johann Hari



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We are currently **ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS** for **TK-8th Grade for the 2025-2026 school year!**

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SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN

Authority figures and boundary responsibilities

When an adult uses their authority to control or manipulate a situation, this puts children and vulnerable adults at risk for abuse. Manipulation can often occur through grooming behaviors, which can lead to boundary violations and ultimately abuse. It is always the responsibility of the adult to maintain appropriate, healthy boundaries with children in their care. For guidelines on how to interact with minors at our parishes, schools and ministries please visit <https://lacatholics.org/policies-and-procedures/>, and for more tips read the VIRTUS® article "Ministerial Boundaries, Power, and Authority" at lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.

Figuras de autoridad y la responsabilidad de mantener límites personales

Cuando un adulto utiliza su autoridad para controlar o manipular una situación, pone a los niños y adultos vulnerables en peligro de sufrir abusos. La manipulación puede producirse a menudo a través de comportamientos de engaño que pueden llevar a la violación de los límites personales y en última instancia al abuso. Siempre es responsabilidad del adulto de mantener los límites personales adecuados y saludables con los niños a su cargo. Para obtener una guía sobre cómo interactuar con los menores en nuestras parroquias, escuelas y ministerios, por favor visite <https://lacatholics.org/policies-and-procedures/> y lea el artículo de VIRTUS® "Ministerial Boundaries, Power and Authority" ("Límites ministeriales, poder y autoridad") en lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.

Victims Assistance Ministry (213) 637-7650 or Safeguard the Children Ministry at (213) 637-7508

PRIEST MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 3:	7:00 am - Fr. Sam 9:00am- Fr. Justin 10:30 am - Fr. Cesar 12:00 pm - Fr. John
Monday, August 4:	6:30 am - Fr. Justin 5:00pm - Fr. Cesar
Tuesday, August 5:	6:30 am - Fr. Justin 5:00 pm - Fr. Sam
Wednesday, August 6:	6:30 am - Fr. Justin 5:00 pm - Fr. John
Thursday, August 7:	6:30 pm - Fr. Benoy 5:00 pm - Fr. John
Friday, August 8:	6:30 am- Fr. Cesar 5:00 pm- Fr. Justin
Saturday, August 9:	8:00 am - Fr. Cesar 5:00 pm - Fr. Cesar
Sunday, August 10:	7:00 am - Fr. Justin 9:00 am - Fr. John 10:30 am - Fr. Sam 12:00 pm - Fr. Cesar

St. Raymond Senior's Ministry is hosting a trip to
Harrah's Casino on Saturday, August 16, 2025

Bus will leave at 9 am from
St. Raymond Parking Lot the cost is \$25

For questions and to reserve your seat,
text Connie (562) 889-3297

**Solemnity of the Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary**

Thursday, August 14
5:00 pm Vigil Mass

Friday, August 15
6:30 am English Mass
1:00 pm English Mass
5:00 pm English Mass
7:00 pm Spanish Mass

Holy Day of Obligation



2000 Hail Mary Devotion

TO JESUS THROUGH MARY...

"With the Rosary, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love."
Saint Pope John Paul II

"The Rosary is the most powerful weapon to touch the heart of Jesus, our Redeemer who loves His Mother."
St Louis de Montfort

Date: Saturday, September 13th, 2025. 8:00am to 6:30pm

3rd apparition of Our Lady of Fatima

Mass - 8:00 am

Adoration and Benediction - 8:30 to 9:30 am

Procession

Final Venue - Old Hall

Sponsored by: English and Spanish Legion of Mary

For more information please contact:

Our Lady Queen of Angels Presidium 562-544-8020 (Tess)

Nuestro Señora De Los Angeles Presidium 323 251-3976 (Aida)



St. Raymond Catholic Church, 12348 Paramount Blvd., Downey, CA 90242

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE HEALING AFTER SUICIDE LOSS

ALL ARE WELCOME

Please join us for a special bilingual Mass in memory of loved ones lost to suicide and to pray for healing for those mourning their loss.

September commemorates **National Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month**.

SMALL RECEPTION TO FOLLOW AFTER MASS.

ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC CHURCH

10827 PIONEER BLVD, SANTA FE SPRINGS, CA 90670

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2025 @ 8:00 AM

FOR MORE INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:
ROSA SANTANA AT 562-861-5099
rosamsantana2018@gmail.com

TO LEARN ABOUT RESOURCES FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION & AWARENESS MONTH PLEASE SCAN:



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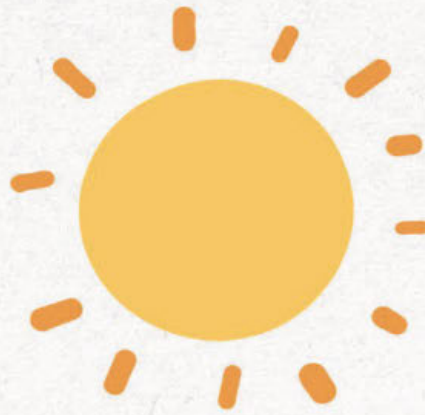
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St. Raymond Church, Downey, CA

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ST. RAYMOND'S FEAST DAY

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 31ST

AFTER ALL MASSES

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