

ST. RAYMOND NONNATUS
Mercedarian Friar • Redeemer of Captives •
Patron of Mothers and Families

St. Raymond Nonnatus is one of the best-known saints of the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy—the Mercedarian Order that serves Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

According to tradition, Raymond was born in Portell, in what is now Catalonia, Spain, early in the thirteenth century. His mother died before giving birth, and the child was delivered by an emergency incision. From this extraordinary beginning he received the name by which he has been known ever since: **Nonnatus**, from the Latin *non natus*, “not born.”

As a young man, Raymond entered the newly founded Order of Mercy and became a disciple of St. Peter Nolasco. The Mercedarians had been founded for the redemption of Christians held captive because of their faith, and Raymond devoted himself courageously to this work.

During a mission of redemption in North Africa, Raymond remained behind as a hostage when the money available for ransoming captives had been exhausted. Even in captivity, he continued to strengthen his fellow prisoners and preach the Christian faith. Tradition recounts that his captors pierced his lips and fastened them with a padlock in an attempt to silence him.

Eventually ransomed by his Mercedarian brothers, Raymond returned to Christian lands. Pope Gregory IX named him a cardinal, but Raymond died in 1240 while traveling toward Rome.

Because of the circumstances of his birth, St. Raymond became especially associated with **pregnant women, mothers in labor, unborn children, and those praying for a safe delivery**. He is also invoked by Christian families, by the sick, and by those falsely accused. His feast is celebrated on **August 31**.



ST. RAYMOND WATER

Among the traditional devotions associated with St. Raymond Nonnatus is the blessing of **St. Raymond Water**.

This is a sacramental: water specially blessed in honor of St. Raymond and used with prayer, asking God for assistance through the saint's intercession. It has traditionally been associated especially with **the sick, women in labor, and mothers experiencing difficult pregnancies**.

The faithful have traditionally used St. Raymond Water by drinking some of the blessed water, applying it to the sick, or sprinkling a person with it while praying for God's protection and help. Like all sacramentals, its efficacy does not come from the water itself as though it possessed magical or medicinal powers. Rather, its use is an expression of faith and prayer, commending the person in need to God and seeking the intercession of St. Raymond.

BLESSING OF ST. RAYMOND WATER
Monday, August 31, following the morning Mass

In honor of the Feast of St. Raymond Nonnatus, Father will bless a supply of **St. Raymond Water** following the morning Mass on Monday.

St. Raymond Water is a traditional sacramental blessed in honor of St. Raymond Nonnatus and used with prayer especially for **the sick, women in labor, and mothers experiencing difficult pregnancies**.

The water will be blessed together in a large container and will be available afterward for parishioners to take home.

Please bring your own small bottle or container (1–3 oz.) if you would like to take St. Raymond Water with you.



3rd Annual Celebration Supper

St. Raymond Nonnatus Foundation for Freedom, Family, and Faith

Saturday, December 12, 2026

St. Charles Borromeo Seminary 1400 Evans Road Lower Gwynedd, PA	4:00 – 8:00 PM Mass at 4:00 PM Dinner & Celebration to Follow
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Join us for an evening of faith, fellowship, and celebration!

The evening will include presentations of the Foundation's **Family Life Award, Monstrance Award, and Selfless Service Award**, honoring those who live and serve the Catholic faith with dedication and love.

Keynote Address

Mr. Fran Novak
Recipient of the 2025 Family Life Award

Adults \$125 per person	Children Ages 3–10 \$75 per person	Sponsorships Available
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Registration Deadline: November 27, 2026

Scan the QR code to register or learn more.



Questions or Registration Assistance?

Dr. Anne DeSantis
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Nonnatus.org

Our Mission

*The St. Raymond Nonnatus Foundation offers **free pastoral care to individuals and families in crisis** through the Spiritual Works of Mercy. We are here to accompany families with compassion, prayer, and hope.*