

## This Week

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

Mass followed by Adoration & 8:15 am

Confession until 9:15 am

3:30 pm Confession until 4:30 pm

5:00 pm Mass

6:00 pm Religious Education Info Session

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

8:00 am Mass

10:00 am Mass followed by 🗢 & 🥯

5:00 pm

#### MONDAY-SATURDAY

8:15 am Mass

Monday, September 15, 2025

6:00 pm Legion of Mary (Hall)

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

10:00 am Bible Study

7:00 pm Catholic in Recovery (p.8) 7:00 pm Holy Hour (Adoration &

Confession)

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

8:15 am Women's Bible Study (p.10)

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

8:15 am Mass followed by Adoration &

Confession until 9:15 am

3:30 pm Confession until 4:30 pm

5:00 pm Mass

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

#### **Catechetical Sunday**

8:00 am Mass

9:00 am Pre-K to 6 Religious Education

**Begins** 

10:00 am Mass followed by 🚖 & 🥯

5:00 pm Mass

6:00 pm BEaST - Teen BBQ for Grades 7-12

& Confirmation Class (p. 4)



## Mass Intentions

Sat., Sept. 13, 5:00 pm

Patrick Foote† & Deceased

family members

#### The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Sun., Sept. 14, 8:00 am

St. Raymond Parish

10:00 am

Aurelio Maestrini †

5:00 pm

Rhodes & Matesky Families,

L&D

Mon., Sept. 15, 8:15 am

Bernie Keller †

Our Lady of Sorrows (M) (24th Week in Ordinary Time)

Carmen Luloaga de Lacau † Tue., Sept. 16, 8:15 am

Ss. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs (M)

Wed., Sept. 17, 8:15 am Lorenzo Sumulong †

St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church (m): St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin & Doctor of the Church (m)

Thu., Sept. 18, 8:15 am Conrado Eliasis † & Lydia St. Juan Macias, OP, Religious (m) Moreno †

Fri., Sept. 19, 8:15 am

Lose Bonilla

St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr (m)

Sat., Sept. 20, 8:15 am Kathryn Pryor †

St. Andrew Kim Taegŏn, priest, St. Paul Chŏng Hasang, and

companions, martyrs (M)

Sat., Sept. 20, 5:00 pm Ann Savan

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun., Sept. 21, 8:00 am

St. Raymond Parish Mary Ann Robbiano † 10:00 am 5:00 pm Puz Nelson †& Mary

Shepherd †

 $\boldsymbol{S}$  - Solemnity;  $\boldsymbol{F}\text{-}$  Feast;  $\boldsymbol{M}$  - Obligatory Memorial;  $\boldsymbol{m}$  - Optional Memorial; L&D - Living & Deceased

PRAYERS As a parish community we pray for the sick among us, including: Jackie Archibald, Nony & Penny Bantug, Anda-Louise Bozda, John Caletti, Modesta Cintron, William Cintron, Alessandra Colorado, Beverly Crawford, Andrea Edwards, Grace Cunningham, Ella DeLaMare, Maureen DeMoss, Esther Falsario, Anthony Galdes, Estela Gallegos, Anna Greco, Janice Hagy, David Huntzinger, Sandra Lecha, Bonnie Morey, Red Morrow, Anjuli Nunn, Glenn Olsen, Leo Paule, Nora Semaan, Joli Stieber, Connie Sutton, Karel Sykora, Connie Williams, Ralph Yob, the homebound, those in our local hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, and those who wish not to be named.

We also pray for the recently deceased Arthur Ferranti, Mary Shepherd, Frank Helfrich, and Margaret Head.

To add a name, please contact the Parish Office.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

#### **REGISTRATION OPEN**

The Religious Education Program will kick off next Sunday! Check the parish website for information about the program <a href="https://straymondmp.org/faith-formation/">https://straymondmp.org/faith-formation/</a>. Registration links can be found on this page and below.

**Grades Pre-K and Kindergarten** 

Register: https://delivr.com/2nrtu

First Communion (2 Year Program) - Grades 1 & 2

Register: <a href="https://delivr.com/2hshd">https://delivr.com/2hshd</a>

Religion Classes Grades 3, 4, 5, & 6

Register: <a href="https://delivr.com/2u7vm">https://delivr.com/2u7vm</a>

Register

At least two years of Religion classes after First Communion are a requirement before a student can enroll in the parish two year Confirmation program.

Confirmation (2 Year Program Grades 7 & 8

Register: <a href="https://delivr.com/25tyu">https://delivr.com/25tyu</a>

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

I'm so excited for this year's Religious Education classes and all the seeds of faith that will be planted in the hearts of our children! It's truly a joy and a privilege to be part of God's work—helping to form young souls and guide them closer to Him.

However, we are still in need of catechists and helpers, especially in PreK-K, 1st grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, and 6th grade. If you feel even the smallest tug in your heart, please consider joining us in this beautiful mission. God doesn't call the equipped—He equips the called!

Contact: florence.debretagne@straymondmp.org

## New developments of the faith formation programs

#### 1) PreK-K

We are reopening a **PreK-K** class, making it easier for families with young children to attend church on Sunday mornings. Open to 4-5 years old.

You can find the calendar on the website, under the Faith Formation tab.

#### 2) 7th & 8th Grade + Confirmation

The 7th and 8th-grade class will now meet on **Sundays** from 6–8 PM.

This is part of our integrated **Youth Group + Confirmation program**, which includes weekly gatherings focused on faith formation, service projects, guest speakers, and fun outings (like ice skating or art nights).

Youth will prepare for Confirmation through regular participation in this dynamic group.

#### 3) First Communion Parent Sessions

Parents of children preparing for First Communion will attend a **weekly parent class** (mandatory), taught by a team of dedicated catechists.

These sessions will follow the same themes as your child's lessons, helping you continue the conversation at home and grow in faith together.

#### 4) Youth Retreat - Save the Date

We're hosting a Youth Retreat at Redwood Christian Park from Nov 14-16 (Friday 4 PM to Sunday 3 PM).

Open to 8th grade and up, including catechists.

Spots are limited (40 total), and we expect to fill up quickly—so once registration opens, don't wait!

#### 5) Info Session - This Sunday at 6PM

Florence, our new DRE, will be hosting an information session **this Sunday right after the 5PM Mass**, for all families with children or youth.

Please come with any questions about our programs!

Contact: florence.debretagne@straymondmp.org





Train Rides • Pumpkin Patch • Games Bungee Trampoline • Food & Beer Garden Face Painting • Live Music Fri 5:30-8:30pm

> St. Raymond School 1100 Santa Cruz Avenue Menlo Park

Join Us! FREE Admission Friday

September 26th 3:30pm - 9:00pm

Saturday

September 27th 11:00am-4:00pm HOMELESS FAMILY FUND

When families in our community face homelessness, we step in to help. The Homeless Family Fund is a parishioner-supported ministry that provides the crucial first step toward stable housing—covering first and last month's rent plus deposits for displaced individuals and families.

We don't just write checks. Working closely with local

agencies and caseworkers, we ensure that each family we support is ready to sustain their new home and has found quality, safe housing.

Your donation makes an immediate impact. Every dollar goes directly to families in need—no administrative costs, just life-changing assistance when it matters most.



Ready to help a family get back on their feet?

- Give online at straymondmp.org/giving.
- Contact Hallie Colorado or Ronnica Hagy with questions.

Thank you for being part of the solution to homelessness in our community.



## FEAST OF THE WEEK

#### ONE AND ONLY NOBLE TREE

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Sept. 14)

By Fr. Leon Pereira, O.P.

Why did Jesus have to die? And why did he have to be crucified? Some Christians have a pat answer: it's because you are a sinner. And Jesus died to save you, a sinner.

I heard an agnostic object to this, saying that he wasn't that big a sinner, and that he didn't want anyone to kill Jesus. So he didn't want Jesus to have to die for him. Is the world truly that wicked that it needs an innocent God-man to die for it?

St Augustine saw in himself a darkness: the willingness to turn a blind eye to evil, to consent to evil, and usually just for the heck of it. St Augustine is a realist. There is something about all of us that inclines to making this world more like hell than like heaven. So we don't need to be convinced that the world needs redemption. We just need to be convinced that we need redemption.

Quite possibly the most well-known biblical quote

comes from the Gospel we heard today. You see it everywhere, on signs at bus-stops, supermarkets, football stadiums:

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.'

Although it's true that God loves the world a great deal, the word 'so' is often misinterpreted here. It doesn't mean 'so much' in the sense of 'For God loved the world so much that?' but it's in the sense of 'thus' or 'in this way'.

The passage really means:

'For God loved the world *this way*: that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.'

Could God have saved us another way? Quite possibly.

But the passage tells us simply that *this* is the way God chose to show us his love.

So God loves the world, and the world rejects the Son. Would we have crucified Jesus if we were there? But we are part of a world that would, that did, reject Jesus. And it prepared a cross for him.

Although the world crucifies God, the initiative and power is always God's. It is Jesus who embraces his cross, embraces the worst the world has to offer — and killing God is the worst possible thing the world could ever muster. Jesus is not a passive object in his arrest and execution. He goes to it willingly, knowing that his hour has come. It is he who lays down his life, and no one takes it away from him.

Jesus says, 'When you lift up the Son of man then you

will know that I Am' (John 8.28). It is when Christ is on the cross that we see his divinity manifest.

Medieval images show the Father supporting the arms of the cross, breathing out the Holy Spirit as a dove upon the crucified Christ. On the cross we see the eternal love of the Father for the Son, given freely and utterly in the Holy Spirit. The worst thing in the world, killing God, reveals the best thing the world could ever know:



the love of the Trinity.

Later in John's gospel Jesus says, 'And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all to myself' (12.32). Not simply 'all men' as most translations have it, but 'all things' are drawn to Christ, lifted up on the cross. Christ on the cross becomes the head of all things.

The worst the world has to offer is just not bad enough, nor ever could be. On the cross we see most clearly that love which is the Trinity, drawing an instrument of evil, the cross, and turning it into something glorious. By the cross Jesus draws all things to himself, with himself as head.

And as for us, no matter how dark our shadows, our sins — there is nothing that cannot be lit by the glorious cross.

Source: <a href="https://www.english.op.org/torch/one-and-onlynoble-tree/">https://www.english.op.org/torch/one-and-onlynoble-tree/</a>

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

#### September 21 - Archdiocese of San Francisco Priest Retirement Fund

Envelopes will be in the pews next weekend.

#### Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA

Last week's special collection was in support for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS). The AMS relies on the generosity of those whose values and priorities align with its mission, programs and services, to meet its









Catechetical Sunday

## Next Sunday is Catechetical Sunday!

Why do we celebrate Catechetical Sunday?

In 1935, the Vatican published On the Better Care and Promotion of Catechetical Education, a document that asks every country to acknowledge the importance of the Church's teaching ministry and to honor those who serve the Christian community as catechists. For the first few years after Catechetical Sunday was established, national catechetical congresses were held in conjunction with the celebration. Beginning in 1971, the USCCB's Department of Education began producing materials to help parishes celebrate the event at the local level. When the Committee on Catechesis, now named the Committee of Evangelization and Catechesis, was named by the Conference as a standing Committee, it continued to publish Catechetical Sunday materials each year. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has designated the third Sunday in September as Catechetical Sunday.

Those whom the community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

#### THINKING ABOUT BECOMING CATHOLIC??

If you've been curious about the Catholic faith, we'd love to have you join us for OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults). It's a welcoming group where adults explore what it means to be Catholic—no pressure, just honest conversation and learning together.

Maybe you grew up Catholic but never got confirmed? You're absolutely welcome too.

Questions? Reach out to Deacon Tom Kelly at tfk@sbcglobal.net or 650-670-2200. He's happy to answer any questions you might have.

## MERCY NIGHT III RECAP



#### St. Francis Center Fundraiser

Saturday, October 4, 2025 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm St. Denis Church 2250 Avy Avenue, Menlo Park

Appetizers & Beverages provided

The St. Francis Center Auxiliary invites you to this special event to share the mission and good works of the non-profit St. Francis Center. Meet Kate Young, our Executive Director, and visit with auxiliary members to explore opportunities for involvement. The St. Francis Center in Redwood City provides daily resources to the North Fair Oaks community, offering:

- Clothing and food assistance
- Holy Family School
- Housing support
- Community center services

#### Food & clothing donations welcome.

St. Raymond is glad to support the St. Francis Center with toy drives, food, and clothing. See what they're all about. https://stfrancisrwc.org/



If you or a loved one is experiencing mental or emotional wellness challenges, please contact our St. Raymond Emotional & Mental Health ministry at (650) 899-0370. This is a dedicated line and only co-leads of the ministry team will hear your message. You may also email the ministry team at <a href="mailto:emwm@straymondmp.org">emwm@straymondmp.org</a>.



# Catholic in Recovery St. Raymond Church

1100 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park | PARISHHALL



For more information visit: www.catholicinrecovery.com or contact Fr. Jerome at jcudden@straymondmp.org

and unhealthy attachments.

## THE CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF ST. JAMES

Are you exploring high school options for your son or daughter? Do you want an education that inspires wonder, analytical thinking, a love of truth, and a life of virtue?



The Chesterton Academy of St. James, a Catholic classical high school in Menlo Park, will be at St. Raymond after the 5:00 PM Mass on Sunday, September 21st.

Come learn how Chesterton-St. James helps students grow in wisdom, faith, and joy!

www.chestertonstjames.org

#### LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS AVAILABLE

Low-gluten hosts are available at every Mass. Simply join the presiding priest's Communion line to receive one.

#### MINISTRY TO THE SICK

Know someone who is homebound or ill? We'd love to connect with them. Our parish family cares for those who cannot join us for Mass, bringing the comfort of faith directly to their homes. Please contact the parish office at (650) 323-1755 so we can reach out and provide the ministry they need.



## Living the Sacraments as Women of Faith

Deepen your relationship with Jesus through the Sacraments of Initiation, Healing, and Service.

- + Discover ways to live your faith in 2026
- Presentations, discussions, & reflections on the seven sacraments
- → Connect with a community of Catholic women

Register Early and Save!

#### DATE

JAN 2 - 4 2026

#### **VALLOMBROSA**

250 OAK GROVE AVENUE MENLO PARK, CA 94025

COST \$435<sup>00</sup> SINGI F OCCUPANCY





Mail vour check to: St. Raymond Church Attention: Women's Retreat 1100 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park CA 94025



LOCATION

**CENTER** 

#### **REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES:**

Two nights accommodations & all meals.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: **NOVEMBER 15, 2025** 

#### Questions? Please Contact:

Yvette Gilardi: 650-248-4139, yvettegilardi@comcast.net Maria Cornell: 650-678-3545, mcornell428@gmail.com Mary Smith: 415-297-1754, mary@breathoflifecenter.com

Help us reach our goal of 25 participants & save! Register by October 15th.

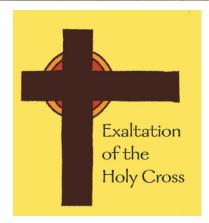
SPONSORED BY ST. RAYMOND CHURCH, MENLO PARK CA

## PACK THE PANTRY

As part of our parish mission to pray, serve, and socialize we will have a "Pack the Pantry" collection site at our parish. We will be collecting unopened non-perishable items to supplement our St. Raymond St. Vincent de Paul conference's mission to feed the vulnerable. Next time you're at the store, please grab a few extra items from our list! This will be an ongoing project.

Located in the black storage locker in the parish courtyard next to the parish hall.





#### CREATION IS THE CARESS OF GOD. GO OUT AND BE **EMBRACED**

audato s.

Creator God, thank you for the magnificent beauty of

Your world: the wondrous sounds and feelings in the warm breezy air, the prismatic colors that surround us, and the sunshine beaming down from cloud-smeared skies, shimmering through a canopy of trees reaching to the sky. And thank you for the vibrant colors of the oceans, the sparkle of the sun on the waves, amd the power of the tides. Thank You for the beauty of lakes whose waters reflect your glory. We praise You and we love You. Amen.

This Season of Creation we will share some amazing places to enjoy God's creation in "our own back yard."

#### **Baylands Nature Preserve**

Level, easy walk along the bay. Mostly salt-water life, but also a man-made freshwater ecosystem along with an interpretive center.

If you love birds, this is your local place.



Wunderlich County Park - Woodside. Numerous trails-easy to moderate. Lots of shade.



Lord, we pray that you fill our soles with wonder at Your creation. Keep us aware that this breaking beauty is You. O God, give us the courage to take action to protect Your common home for generations alive today and yet to be born.

In Jesus' name we pray.



#### **Together in Holiness Marriage Conference**

Saturday, September 27, 2025 10:45 AM – 6:00 PM Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Belmont, CA

Married and engaged couples are invited to the ninth annual Together in Holiness marriage conference. This one-day conference will help you strengthen your relationship with your spouse and discover God's plan for your family.

#### Registration:

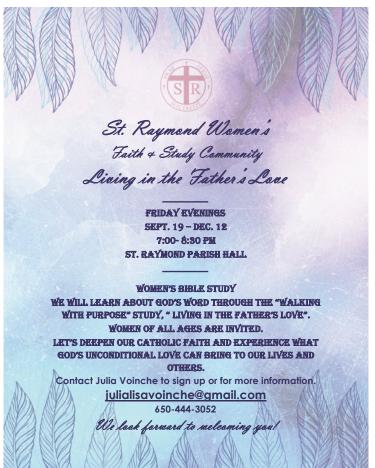
- \$64 per couple
- \$5 per child for on-site childcare

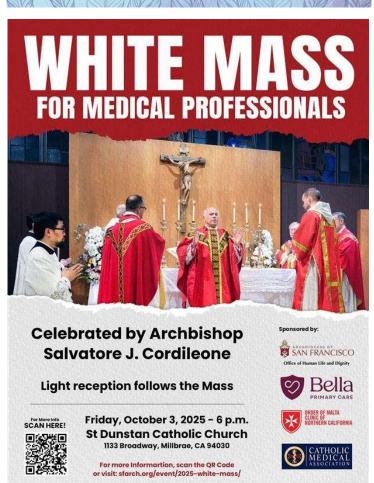
#### Presented by:

St. John Paul II Foundation and the Archdiocese of San Francisco

#### More Information:

togetherinholiness.org/sanfrancisco jessie@forlifeandfamily.org





# WELCOME

If you are a visitor to St. Raymond Parish, we want you to know you are welcome here—whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or another parish in the Bay Area. Say hello to any of our parishioners! For information about our parish or to register, contact us at <a href="mailto:office@straymondmp.org">office@straymondmp.org</a> or register online at <a href="mailto:straymondmp.org/register">straymondmp.org/register</a>.

#### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturdays 5:00 pm Vigil

Sundays 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

Weekdays 8:15 am (Mon-Sat)

Holy Days 8:15 am, 12:15 pm, 7:00 pm

#### RECONCILIATION

Saturday 8:45-9:15 am & 3:30-4:30 pm; Wednesday 7-8 pm, or by appointment

#### **ADORATION**

Saturday 8:45-9:15 am, Wednesday 7-8 pm

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK, BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, & FUNERALS -** Please contact the parish office at 650-323-1755 or email office@straymondmp.org.

#### **GIVING: ONLINE AND IN PERSON**

Make stewardship simple with eGiving! Set up secure automatic donations using your credit card, debit card, or bank account, and never worry about forgetting your weekly offering again. Manage your giving anytime at straymondmp. org/giving.



Photo Credits: Cover - Ave Crux, one of the ten angels designed by Bernini which flank the Ponte Sant'Angelo in Rome. <a href="https://flic.kr/p/kiRieR">https://flic.kr/p/kiRieR</a>. Page 5 - Santa Croce, Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem. This cross and angels surmounts the 18th-century facade of this ancient 4th-century basilica. <a href="https://flic.kr/p/2GqaYQ">https://flic.kr/p/2GqaYQ</a>. Photos by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P. CC BY-NC 2.0

### ST. RAYMOND PARISH

Served by the Dominican Friars of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus (Western Dominican Province) since 2013.

1100 SANTA CRUZ AVENUE, MENLO PARK, CA 94025

**T**ELEPHONE 650-323-1755

**EMAIL** office@straymondmp.org

PARISH WEBSITE www.straymondmp.org

SCHOOL WEBSITE www.straymond.org

Parish Office Hours Mon-Fri. 9:00 am-5:00 pm

#### **PASTOR**

Fr. Jerome Cudden, O.P. jcudden@straymondmp.org

#### PAROCHIAL VICAR

Fr. Antony Augustine Cherian, O.P. frantony@straymondmp.org

DEACON/OCIA (RCIA) - Tom Kelly tfk@sbcglobal.net

TRANSITIONAL DEACON/HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP/ BEAST/YOUNG ADULT GROUP/CHILDREN'S LITURGY/ RESCUE PROJECT/MERCY NIGHT - Dn. John Paul Puschautz, O.P. brjohnpaul@straymondmp.org

#### SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Roderick Harrison rharrison@straymond.org

#### Parish Staff

#### **DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

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Ronnica Hagy rhagy@straymondmp.org

**GROUNDSKEEPER** - Javier Hernandez

#### **FACILITIES SUPERVISOR**

Pedro Hernandez phernandez@straymondmp.org

#### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & LITURGY

Lauri Hofstrom music@straymondmp.org

#### Councils

PASTORAL COUNCIL - Lori Mirek (Chair), Lindsay Craig, Karyn Leahy, Chris Terndrup, Stephanie Howard pastoralcouncil@straymondmp.org

FINANCE COUNCIL - Patrick Green (Chair), Jane Ananyi, Dave Brenner, Caitlin Burke, Mark Secker finance@straymondmp.org



## The Rescue Project begins Monday, Sept. 22.

Register now at

## straymondmp.org/rescue

or use the QR Code below.

"Participating in the Rescue Project led by Br. John Paul was a transformative experience for my husband and me. The program drew us closer to our Catholic faith through a beautifully organized format centered on community and authentic connection. Along the way, we formed meaningful friendships, deepened our understanding, and truly explored our faith in a welcoming, supportive environment. It has been an incredible blessing for our spiritual journey." The Hamills

Registration is open for the Fall 2025 Rescue Project! The Rescue Project is an 8-week series on some of the most foundational parts of our faith such as God's plan for us, the devil's plan for us (2 weeks on spiritual warfare), God's rescue project to save the world through Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who equips us for our mission.

What is it? An 8-week faith-sharing series on the most essential parts of our faith. Dinner, talks, and small group discussions.

Who is it for? Everyone. Because every one of us can go deeper in our relationship with God. There are small groups for teens (ages 14-18), young adults (19-40), married couples (child care available), and adults of all ages.

Dates: Mondays 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20, 10/27, 11/3 6:30-8:30 PM; Saturday, Nov. 1 (retreat)

Register: straymondmp.org/rescue

