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December 2012 Edition

## St. Raymond's Respects Life Newsletter

*The newsletter of the Respect Life Committee of St.  
Raymonds Parish Springfield, VA*

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Editor's Note: This is a short Newsletter alerting you to a few events.

### Important Dates:

- 12/6/2012 7:30 p.m. Advent Series – Part I
- 12/13/2012 7:30 p.m. Advent Series – Part II
- 12/16/2012 6:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols – Church (see below)
- 12/20/2012 7:30 p.m. Advent Series – Part III
- 01/17/2013 7:30 p.m. Save the date. We will soon announce our January Speaker
- 01/25/2013 March for Life – DC (Note this is a Friday) Buses leave from the parish in the morning
- 01/25-26/2013 Can you help with housing for Franciscan U. Students for Life

### Father De Celles leading parish Advent series. Mark your

**calendars for Thursdays: December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>.** Our pastor, Father John De Celles will lead the 2012 Advent Series in the "Year of Faith." They will be held on consecutive Thursdays from 7:30 – 8:45 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The topics include:

*How we Come to Know God (Faith, Reason, and Divine Revelation)* Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

*Re-Introduction to the Bible: An Overview*

Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

*The Church, Tradition and The Magisterium*

Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>

These talks are intended to be helpful to people at various levels and learning in Catholicism. So, whether you are advanced in your theological understanding or just a novice – or restarting – on your journey of faith, please join us. These should be especially helpful for teens. These sessions do not build on each other. So, if you miss the first, please come to the remaining two.

### Can you Help: We need your help for two things: (1)

If you are aware of a family or person that is in need of assistance this Advent, especially a parishioner, please do not hesitate to bring this to the attention of either Father De Celles directly, or the parish office. **(2) The Franciscan University Students for Life** group will be coming to DC with sleeping bags for the March for Life and **need housing in the form of floor space.** Dates are 25 and 26 January. If you live near St Raymond's and are willing to house 3-5 girls or boys (no mixed groups), please contact Liz Hildebrand at [hildebrandseven@cox.net](mailto:hildebrandseven@cox.net).

**Lessons and Carols: Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** Join the lectors and the choir for an evening of music and Scripture reading as our lectors weave the prophetic readings from the Old Testament and pre-nativity readings from the Gospels with popular hymns and other seasonal choral pieces into a

harmonious plan of the birth of Jesus. This is the third year of this renewal of an ancient tradition. Please join us for a very special treat.

**March For Life Alert:** The March for Life for 2013 *is not on January 22<sup>nd</sup>*, but on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to mark your calendars, plan your vacation time from work, etc. so that you can join the over 100,000 folks who converge on our capitol to Celebrate Life. There will be three buses for the March. Be sure to look for sign-up sheets in early January.

[Prayer for our Government](#) (From [Father De Celle's Corner Bulletin July 8, 2012](#)):

### **Prayer for Government**

*by Archbishop John Carroll,  
first bishop and archbishop of Baltimore,  
and of the United States*

We pray, Thee O Almighty and Eternal God! Who through Jesus Christ hast revealed Thy glory to all nations, to preserve the works of Thy mercy, that Thy Church, being spread through the whole world, may continue with unchanging faith in the confession of Thy Name.

We pray Thee, who alone art good and holy, to endow with heavenly knowledge, sincere zeal, and sanctity of life, our chief bishop, Pope *N.*, the Vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the government of his Church; our own bishop, *N.*, all other bishops, prelates, and pastors of the Church; and especially those who are appointed to exercise amongst us the functions of the holy ministry, and conduct Thy people into the ways of salvation.

We pray Thee O God of might, wisdom, and justice! Through whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment decreed, assist with Thy Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of these United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be eminently useful to Thy people over whom he presides; by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion; by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy; and by restraining vice and immorality. Let the light of Thy divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety, and useful knowledge; and may perpetuate to us the blessing of equal liberty.

We pray for his excellency, the governor of this state, for the members of the assembly, for all judges, magistrates, and other officers who are appointed to guard our political welfare, that they may be enabled, by Thy powerful protection, to discharge the duties of their respective stations with honesty and ability.

We recommend likewise, to Thy unbounded mercy, all our brethren and fellow citizens throughout the United States, that they may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of Thy most holy law; that they may be preserved in union, and in that peace which the world cannot give; and after enjoying the blessings of this life, be admitted to those which are eternal.

Finally, we pray to Thee, O Lord of mercy, to remember the souls of Thy servants departed who are gone before us with the sign of faith and repose in the sleep of peace; the souls of

our parents, relatives, and friends; of those who, when living, were members of this congregation, and particularly of such as are lately deceased; of all benefactors who, by their donations or legacies to this Church, witnessed their zeal for the decency of divine worship and proved their claim to our grateful and charitable remembrance. To these, O Lord, and to all that rest in Christ, grant, we beseech Thee, a place of refreshment, light, and everlasting peace, through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. Amen.