

Pastor's Corner

No “In-Person Education” in Public Schools? Can you believe that Fairfax County Public Schools has decided not to have in-person classes this Fall? Even though the CDC and medical health professionals say it's absolutely necessary to get the kids back in the classroom? Amazing.

According to the CDC: “As families and policymakers make decisions about their children returning to school, it is important to consider the full spectrum of benefits and risks of both in-person and virtual learning options. Parents are understandably concerned about the safety of their children at school in the wake of COVID-19. The best available evidence indicates if children become infected, they are far less likely to suffer severe symptoms. Death rates among school-aged children are much lower than among adults. At the same time, the harms attributed to closed schools on the social, emotional, and behavioral health, economic well-being, and academic achievement of children, in both the short- and long-term, are well-known and significant.”

In a recent FCPS poll, 60% of parents wanted in-person attendance. And originally FCPS had planned on giving parents a choice between in-person and online. But then the FCPS Superintendent Scott Brabrand changed his mind. As NBC News reported: “...Brabrand said the shift to a fully virtual start is based on health data. ‘The surge comes four to six weeks after the data... We're seeing a surge across the nation, we're seeing a surge in Virginia, and four to six weeks puts us squarely at the beginning of school.’”

I'm not sure what that means, especially in the light of the data I've seen. As Yahoo News reports: “Looking at week-by-week changes in new cases, Fairfax County had a notable decline from early June to mid-June. New cases have remained stable in the weeks since the decline. The peak — over 2,000 new cases — happened between the weeks of May 24 and May 31....Deaths have been in the single digits in recent weeks. The peak week-to-week change of deaths was 89 between the weeks of April 26 and May 3.” New cases in the last week of July were 426 cases, while new cases at the beginning of June were 1,345. Some surge. Is a 68% *decline* a surge?

Maybe the decision was influenced by the teachers' unions opposition to even giving parents—and teachers—a choice to return to in-person education. As the Washington Post reported in June: “A day after [FCPS] announced its proposal for fall learning, teachers [unions] within Fairfax County Public Schools rose in revolt and refused to teach in-person, as the plan demands, until officials revise their strategy...”

I understand that many teachers are concerned about their personal health—the kids may not be at risk, but elderly teachers or teachers with health conditions might be. **But parents and many teachers want the choice.**

\$2000 Scholarship to Help You Switch. On the other hand, Catholic schools are opening for in-person classroom education this Fall. And homeschooling is a great alternative for many families. I've been a huge critic of the county schools, a.k.a. the government schools, and have repeatedly urged you to find an alternative. Maybe the FCPS decision is the nudge you need to change now.

And I want to help you with your decision. So, with the agreement of my parish Finance Council, **I've decided to offer a one-time \$2,000 scholarship for each child (a parishioner) who switches from public school (k-12) to Catholic school this year.**

We also will continue to give a scholarship to every parishioner who attends Catholic grade school (\$500) or Catholic high school (\$1,000), which is renewable every year. Moreover,

assistance to cover direct educational costs is also available to folks who homeschool. Let me know if you're interested.

First Amendment: 1st clause vs. 3rd clause. The first amendment to the constitution provides:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Over the last few months I have stood in amazement that leftist politicians and media are effectively arguing that somehow the 1st Clause of the amendment (on religion) is less important than the 3rd clause (on assembly and petition). I say this because state after state, including our own, has restricted and even closed down church services during the Covid19 crisis, but at the same time stood by and even promoted violent riots and forceful occupations (e.g., CHAD in Portland). Even though the government is constitutionally prohibited from “prohibiting the free exercise” of religion, but not “prohibiting” violent riots or sedition/treason. NOTE: the 3rd clause protects “the right of the people peaceably to assemble,” not to riot, or commit violence.

Last week, Congressman Jerrold Nadler, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, eviscerated U.S. Attorney General William Barr for effectively protecting federal government buildings and federal law enforcement agents from violent attacks:

“[U]nder your leadership, the Department [of Justice] has endangered Americans and violated their constitutional rights by flooding federal law enforcement into the streets of American cities, against the wishes of the state and local leaders of those cities, to forcefully and unconstitutionally suppress dissent.”

Barr responded: “Federal courts are under attack. Since when is it OK to burn down a federal court?....He continued: “If someone went down the street to the Prettyman Court here, that beautiful courthouse we have right at the bottom of the hill and started breaking windows and firing industrial-grade fireworks in to start a fire, throw kerosene balloons in and start fires in the court, is that OK? Is that OK now? No, the U.S. Marshals have a duty to stop that and defend the courthouse, and that's what we are doing in Portland. We are at the courthouse, defending the courthouse.”

On the other hand, last week, *The Richmond Times-Dispatch* criticized Richmond officials for not defending Virginians. “What is the end game to these protests? The violence seems to escalate daily... We've normalized too many behaviors that make Richmond — and the United States — a less safe and prosperous place to live...Individuals are desecrating property and being absolved of any wrongdoing...Banks and businesses are boarded up and...VCU ...incurred \$100,000 in damage....During the attack on the police station, multiple fires were set...Both police officers and firemen were assaulted with batteries, fireworks, hunks of asphalt, water bottles and other objects.”

As I preached a few weeks ago, the violence is largely coming from Marxist-inspired groups that believe violence is a legitimate means of gaining power. Not all liberal politicians and journalists are Marxists, “but over ...the last few years, we have seen liberal political and academic elements of our society being gradually taken over, or manipulated by, a smaller, ultra-radical, Marxist minority... And we see the mainstream media going along, and even advocating for it.”

We have an election coming up in a few months, and polls indicate that the liberal party will gain the presidency and control of both houses of congress. With the rise of the ultra-radical-far-left-Marxist-inspired minority's influence and even control of the liberal party, this is a very frightening thought.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, Aug 3rd**

6:30 am Eufonio Surban +
8:30 am Dominic Bogdan

Tuesday, Aug 4th

8:30 am David Quan

Wednesday, Aug 5th

6:30 am Annmarie Rondeau +
8:30 am Margaret McNamara

Thursday, Aug. 6th

8:30 am Elizabeth Brisson +

Friday, Aug. 7th

6:30 am Youth of the Parish
8:30 am The Ortiz-Diaz Family+

Masses to be said Privately

Aug. 4 Mary Browne +
Aug. 5 Barbara De Celles +
Aug. 6 Poor Souls in Purgatory+
Aug. 9 Joe Jekot +

Saturday, Aug. 8th

9:00 am Harriet Shealy +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
Bob & Bev Ward

Sunday, Aug. 9th

7:00 am **Fr. Willard**
Margot Carter Blair
9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
Parishioners
11:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
Jim & Marge O'Kane
1:00 pm **Fr. Rippy**
Maria Therese Wong +

Please pray for our parishioners serving in Combat Zones and their families. If you have a relative serving in harm's way and would like to have his/her name included in our prayer list, please contact the parish office. **Also, please be sure to let us know when they return home.**

Anthony Nsekela

Please pray for the sick of our parish

Glenn Bliss Tom Dietz Nena Brennan Michael O'Neill Cindy Laird Christine B Petitti Patricia Lewis Barbara McGinn Mai Pham Joan Opiela Donald Zacherl	Leonora Ramos Jason Saenz Phyllis Zitnik Mary K. Randazzo Patricia Del Buono Joann Alba Michael Malachowski Juanita Boarman Angela Colom John Florio Debra Henkel	Daniel Moore Maria Daugherty Howie DeWolf Lauren Hornsby Gaudencio Dizon Antoinette Baptist David Snavelly Jeannie Leson Kim Dwinell Chris Quan
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Public Masses

Weekday Masses will be :

8:30 am Monday thru Friday
6:30 am Monday, Wednesday and Friday
9:00 am Saturday

Sunday Masses will be:

Saturday Vigil at **5:00 pm**
Sunday at **7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, & 1:00 pm**
(There will not be a 5:00 pm Sunday Mass at this time)

Feast of the Assumption, Saturday, August 15th: Is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year as it falls on Saturday. But we will add a vigil Mass at 7:00 pm on Friday, Aug. 14th and a Mass at Noon, in addition to our regular 9:00 am, on Saturday, Aug. 15th, to celebrate this special feast day of our Holy Mother, Mary. Please join us.

Face Masks will be expected at all Masses.

*Sign ups are required for 9am and 11 am Sunday Masses.
Contact the parish office.*

Altar Rail Project Update: At last word, the ship (and marble) had arrived in the Bahamas! At press time, we don't have the timing of the ship's departure from Freeport or its arrival in Baltimore, but we're getting closer...

Wednesday Adoration: Would you like to spend an hour in silent prayer and reflection with our Lord during weekly exposition of the Blessed Sacrament? We are in immediate need of permanent adorers for Wednesday Adoration. In particular 2 adorers are every needed every Wednesday for the 9-10 am hour; 1 adorer is needed for both the 10-11 am and 2-3 pm hours. If you are interested please call Leslie Schratz at 703-569-1940 or email to spoiledk9s@verizon.net. And we can always use substitute adorers!

**View livestreaming of the Holy Mass
at St. Raymond's!**

<https://straymonds.org/view-mass-online/>

**Monday through Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am
Saturday at 9:00 am
SUNDAY MASS at 11:00 am**

**Confessions in the Church
(in the flower room)**

Wednesday: 6:15 pm - 7:00 pm
Saturday: 8:30 am - 9:00 am; and 3:00 pm - 4:45 pm
(No Sunday Confessions at this time.)

Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Wednesdays: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
Fridays: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Watch for our Constant Contact Updates! If you are not receiving emails from the parish, please contact the parish office at 703-440-0535 or office@straymonds.org to verify your email address.

Volunteer teachers/catechists, assistant teachers and aides (high school students) **are needed for the 2020-2021 Religious Education year.** If you would like to help, please fill out a gray Volunteer Registration form which can be found in the Narthex of the church, at the Groveland entrance, in the Parish Office or outside the Religious Education Office. You may also find it on our website at: straymonds.org/religious-education/volunteer-registration-form/. Please complete and return the form to the Religious Education Office.

Celebrating A Silver or Golden Wedding Anniversary This Year? Were you married in 1970 or 1995? Then join Bishop Michael F. Burbidge for the 2020 Mass for Jubilarians to be celebrated on Sunday, October 4th at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, Va. Contact the parish office to register no later than September 18th. For more info, visit www.arlingtondiocese.org/MJM.

GOSPEL MT 14:13-21

When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist,
He withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by Himself.
The crowds heard of this and followed Him on foot from
their towns.

When He disembarked and saw the vast crowd,
His heart was moved with pity for them, and He cured their
sick.

When it was evening, the disciples approached Him and
said,

“This is a deserted place and it is already late;
dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages
and buy food for themselves.”

Jesus said to them, “There is no need for them to go away;
give them some food yourselves.”

But they said to Him,

“Five loaves and two fish are all we have here.”

Then He said, “Bring them here to Me,”

and He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass.

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to
heaven,

He said the blessing, broke the loaves,

and gave them to the disciples,

who in turn gave them to the crowds.

They all ate and were satisfied,

and they picked up the fragments left over—
twelve wicker baskets full.

Those who ate were about five thousand men,
not counting women and children.

St. Martin de Porres Committee - collects food on an ongoing basis for the Springfield Resource Center which services over 250 families in the Springfield area. A collection box is in the Narthex and donations are collected and distributed weekly. Suggested food items are listed, but all donations are welcome (no clothing). For equitable distribution, smaller packaging is requested (i.e. 1 lb bags of rice vs. 5 lb. bags, 1 qt. oil vs. 1 gal oil). **During this crisis the need for food is greater than ever. Please be generous. We can only accept non-perishable food items.**

Angelus Academy is currently accepting resumes for part-time teachers of art, music/choir, and Spanish and for a part-time preschool aide. Please contact Mrs. Vivian Zini, Director of School Mission, at employment@angelusacademy.org to apply. Positions may be combined to create a half- or full-time position.

Family of Jesus Prayer Group: Though our weekly meetings are currently canceled - we are still praying! If you have any prayer requests, please let us know by e-mailing Elaine Perricone at jpebtp@verizon.net or by calling the parish office at 703-440-0535.

Parish Library: The Parish Library will remain closed until further notice. While there is nothing quite like a good book in hand, and we regret that we can not make them available for circulation from our parish library at this time, please do check out online possibilities for good Catholic reading and viewing. Additionally, Ignatius Press (ignatius.com) and Bethlehem Books (bethlehembooks.com) are wonderful publishers to purchase great literature for adults and children alike.

SAINT RAYMOND’S RESPECTS LIFE

Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH.

Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE



Natural Family Planning. A gift to your marriage. For more info visit: ccli.org

MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center Thanks YOU! Again! This is our monthly support weekend. **Your continued generosity is truly life giving.**

The issue of **vaccines** is in the news as scientists strive to find relief from the COVID19 virus. Many vaccines presently in use for various diseases have been derived from aborted fetal cell lines. Catholics should educate themselves on the pertinent concerns that fact presents. The National Catholic Bioethics Center can answer many questions. <https://www.ncbcenter.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions/use-vaccines/> Visit cogforlife.org for current information regarding ethical vaccines. Please consult the parish website for more detailed information.

If you feel called to peacefully witness outside the Alexandria Women’s (Abortion) Clinic near Landmark Mall, please contact Geneva Park at Jim.Geneva@cox.net

For the past many years Saint Raymond’s has sponsored courageous young adults (including 4 parishioners) who have dedicated their summer to walking across our great nation witnessing to the sanctity of human life – especially in the unborn. Sadly, **CROSSROADS** could not fulfill their mission this year because of COVID19 concerns. They are dedicating any funds raised this summer to a **“CROSSROADS Scholarship Fund”**. Donations can be mailed to: (put “Scholarship Fund” in the check memo line).

Crossroads Pro-Life
PO Box 2219
Columbia, MD 21045

Has the sorrow of miscarriage or still birth touched your life? Or perhaps you know someone in this situation. ***A Mom’s Peace***, A Lay Apostolate for Mothers of Miscarried and Stillborn Souls offers discreet support to families with bereavement, burial and remembrance assistance. For more information visit amomspeace.org

HOPE POST ABORTION HEALING RETREAT FOR WOMEN: An Entering Canaan Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be held on **Saturday October 17, 2020**. Come. Begin your healing journey. Experience God’s hope and mercy. You are not alone. There is hope. There is healing. For more information and confidential registration, please contact Project Rachel Ministry at 888-456-HOPE (4673) or info@helpafterabortion.org.

Give a Gift for Life! **Gabriel Project** helps pregnant moms welcome their babies. Please consider donating at www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife. For more info, contact them at 1-866-444-3553 or GabrielProject@arlingtondiocese.org.

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate*Thank You!*

What a year 2019-2020 was! I am so grateful to all of the many volunteers who responded to God's call to serve, minister to, and walk with our teens in their journey of faith, particularly over this past year. Between my surgery and COVID-19, it was certainly not the year any of us anticipated. How blessed I am, and how blessed our teens are, to have had the prayers and volunteer support of our incredible parish family to make it through the challenges of this past year. From the Sunday night youth group volunteers, to those who helped in so many ways to feed our youth, to those who helped bake, sell and buy goodies from our bake sales-thank you. To those who help put a smile on so many faces through our birthday card ministry, to the men of our Sons of Thunder, and to the ladies who got up so early to prepare a beautiful breakfast array on Friday mornings, thank you! To our WorkCamp volunteers, contractors, leaders, and all who set aside their lives to help with this tremendous event, which unfortunately did not even end up happening...we thank you for your willingness and for all that you did do with and for us. The list goes on and on. The result is the same...nothing but extreme gratitude from the bottom of our hearts! Lives will never be the same, because you cared.

We Need You!

Alas, while last year had its challenges...and while so many rose to the occasion...it appears that this year will have its own set of unique challenges and I am certainly not prepared nor able to face them alone! I need creative minds! We need folks who are willing to share their time and talents with our youth. One great example has been of a mom who over the past month has worked so diligently sharing her talent with our youth in working with them to create a socially distanced film project on the life of St. Raymond! This is something I NEVER would have been able to even comprehend on my own. What a fun project it was too! The teens really enjoyed it, made new friends, and learned so many new things in the process. Do you have a talent you can share? Or perhaps a creative idea of a game or a COVID safe way to share in fellowship and faith together? I am all ears! Creativity is tough when there are so many restrictions, not to mention the time it takes to learn the new tech skills for these times, such as updating our new website, Instagram and the like, as well as doing a myriad of administrative tasks that need tending to. I can certainly use the help if you have the time or ability to share! The teens and I can also use as much prayer as you can muster, because I have a feeling that this year will be a year like no other....and in that...I have faith that God's grace will abound...but we need to ask for it!

Heading Off To College?

The Arlington Diocese Office of Youth, Campus, and Young Adult Ministry encourages you to go to <https://bit.ly/CampusMinistryStudentInfo> to enter your information. They will then send this information to the campus ministry at the college where you plan to attend. (This includes community college.)

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

youth@straymonds.org Call/Text: 571-334-9890

<https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/youth-apostolate/>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR CHILD BY AUGUST 15TH FOR 2020-2021 CCD CLASSES

We are reducing the number of students allowed in each class in order to incorporate social distancing in the classrooms. Some classes are already full and others are nearly full!

You can register online at: <https://straymonds.org/religious-education/registration-3/> or pick up a bright orange registration form and return it to the Religious Education Office.

Please note: We have classes for high school students on Sunday (6:30-8 p.m.), there is no fee to participate in the high school program.

Attention 2020-2021 home school parents: if you have a child in a sacramental preparation year (grades 2, 7-8) it is necessary to register the child with the Religious Education Office in order to receive information regarding the sacrament they are preparing to receive.

2020-2021 Religious Education volunteers needed: If you love Christ and His Church and want to pass the truths of our awesome Catholic faith to the young people of St. Raymond's, please pick up and complete a gray volunteer registration form. We are in need of the following:

SUNDAY (6:30 - 8:00 p.m.)

Grade 8 Teacher

Grade 9 Teacher (Advanced degree in Philosophy or Theology required)

MONDAY (4:45-6:15 p.m.)

Grade 1 Assistant Teacher

Grade 2 Teacher

Assistant Teacher

Grade 6 Assistant Teacher

TUESDAY (6-7:30 p.m.)

Grade 1 Teacher

Grade 2 Teacher

Grade 5 Assistant Teacher

Grade 7 Assistant Teacher

Grade 8 Teacher

Grade 8 Assistant Teacher

RCIC Teacher

**St. John Bosco Council #12846 Knights of Columbus:**

Are you a man of 17 ½ years of more? Are you a practicing Catholic? Do you want to help others and preach the Gospel by your life?

Then we invite you to join the Knights! Contact Deputy Grand Knight Stephen Delaney (703-627-8090) or go to www.KofC.org/JoinUs to become a Knight today!

Home School Group: for more information visit our website www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/ Contact: Katherine Bogacki or Malia Cameron at straymondhsg@gmail.com.

Church Persecuted

Casinos can host thousands, but churches are limited to 50 congregants - so says the U.S. Supreme Court when asked to intervene in a recent Nevada case involving Calvary Chapel, an evangelical church. The court was asked to intervene because of the disparity between the two circumstances described above. Even though the normal social distancing rules were in place for the church, the court in a 5-4 ruling would not grant an emergency appeal. The four dissenting justices: Alito, Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, and Thomas all said that the court should have taken the case. Calvary chapel wished to offer services for up to 90 people representing 50% capacity. On the other hand, the state argued that it could lawfully discriminate against places of worship for public health and economic reasons.

As for the "economic reasons," the casinos bring much tax money to the state so it's beneficial to have them operating whereas churches don't. Justice Kavanaugh argued to that specific point citing that, "no precedent suggests that a State may discriminate against a religion simply because a religious organization does not generate the economic benefits that a restaurant, bar, casino, or gym might provide." The case returns to the lower courts where it will be pleaded.

(See [LifeSiteNews.com](https://www.lifesitenews.com/July-27-2020) July 27, 2020)

Links to these and other articles can be found on the St. Raymond's parish website: <https://straymonds.org/religious-liberty-blog/>. Check it often during the week for updates.

The House of Mercy (HOM) has reopened! St. Raymond's is now accepting donations for HOM. **HOM will only be accepting a limited number of items currently: accepting only clothing and small household items that can fit in regular trash bags.** NO boxes, furniture, or large items will be accepted at this time. All donations must be placed in plastic trash bags before being deposited at St. Raymond's (outside the library door inside the church door nearest to the rectory). POC is Jim Mault (jmault1@cox.net). Donations may be dropped off Monday—Friday from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm. Sorry we cannot have weekend drop offs at this time.

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

Just for kids! The Young People's Book of Saints
by Hugh Ross Williamson

Saints are the men and women who best love Christ and His Church. They may be kings or queens, statesmen or soldiers, scholars, visionaries, workmen or beggars. They teach us the real meaning of human history, and they show us how to live in any walk of life or set of circumstances. Included in this anthology are famous saints—Francis of Assisi, Dominic, Joan of Arc, Ignatius of Loyola, Teresa of Avila—but also more obscure ones, such as Raymond Lull and Hugh of Lincoln. Many of these saints were martyrs, killed in periods of persecution. Others died trying to bring the knowledge of Christ to pagan tribes. Yet others built up the Church through their example and their teaching, but were never called upon to shed their blood.

Read now at www.straymonds.formed.org

The best Catholic content in one place - movies, programs, talks, dramas, & ebooks—just one click away!

Questions? Need help? Email us at: formed@straymonds.org



Angelus Academy

Pre K—8th

Offering a liberal arts education in the classical tradition.

2020-21 Admissions are ongoing: Tuition assistance is available for all parishioners. Share the treasures of a solid Catholic education with your child(ren)/grandchild(ren).

Looking for a gentle introduction to school for your 3-5 year old? Our Little Messengers program (MWF mornings) includes Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium) sessions.

www.AngelusAcademy.org

7644 Dynatech Ct., Springfield, VA 22153
703-924-3996

Please reference the second page of this Bulletin for our current "temporary" schedule for Masses and Confession Times or visit the parish website.

Please remember that our parish's expenses will continue during this crisis. We need your continued support! Your donations may be mailed to, or dropped off at, the parish office or sign up to give online through Faith Direct.

FAITH DIRECT: Although public Masses are limited, Religious Education, Bible Study, Apostolate events and other parish events have been canceled, our parish is still in need of your donations. We have operating costs (utility, maintenance, service contracts, supplies and staff payroll and benefits) that must continue. Now more than ever we have requests for FAMILY ASSISTANCE to support those members of our parish who are in need of our help. Please visit our website www.straymonds.org to join online or call directly at (866) 507-8757.

Financial Assistance Available: During this difficult time, we know that there are parishioners who have been financially affected by this crisis. Please know that the parish has funds available to financially help our parishioners or someone they know who is in need. Please contact the parish office at 703-440-0535 or e-mail eva.radel@straymonds.org, if you are in need of financial assistance or have any questions.

FAITH DIRECT JULY 2020

Sunday Offertory	\$46,068.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,383.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,531.00
Pastoral Solidarity for the Church in Africa	\$ 567.00

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 12,674.00
Family Assistance	\$ 562.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,691.00