

Pastor's Corner

Very Special Scholarship. Last week I announced a one-time \$2,000 scholarship for children moving from public schools to Catholic schools this year.

This week, I'd like to make public a generous offer from a married couple in the parish who would like to sponsor, "a child whose parents desperately want to take them out of the ...public schools..., but do not have the financial means for it. We wanted to give them **full tuition to Angelus [Academy] for as many years as it takes to graduate** (or until the parents can comfortably afford the tuition themselves)." To clarify, this should be, "a child from a family that truly **cannot afford the tuition on their own.**"

Interested parents should contact me at the office.

Voting: Registration and Absentee Voting. There's been a lot of talk about "voting by mail" lately, i.e., some states are mailing ballots directly to ALL registered voters. Many claim this will result in many headaches, including fraudulent voting, lost ballots, and delay in determining election winners.

Be that as it may, Virginia has a kind of mail in ballot, but it is very different than this. Rather, we have what is called "**absentee voting by mail.**" Instead of the state sending out ballots to ALL registered voters, in Virginia if an individual voter wants to mail in their vote they first have to apply for a ballot to be mailed to them. To do that, you can either fill out and mail in a paper form (available in the parish narthex or on the state elections website) or apply online at the state elections website. This application for a ballot must be submitted by October 23, 2020. Once you receive your ballot, you then mail it to the state, but to be counted it must postmarked on or before November 3, 2020.

The Virginia state elections website is: "elections.virginia.gov"

You can also **vote early in person** (another form of absentee voting) from September 19 until October 31, 2020. It's my understanding that the locations for this voting have not been announced yet.

Also, you should be aware that a new law was passed this year that says you do not have to a reason or excuse to vote absentee in Virginia, either by mail or in-person.

But to vote, you first have to be **registered to vote in Virginia**. Again, this can be done by mailing in a paper form or by going online to the state election website. The deadline to register to vote, or update an existing registration, is October 13, 2020.

To be eligible to vote in Virginia you must: Be a resident of Virginia; Be a U. S. Citizen; Be 18 years old (at the next general election); Not be registered and plan to vote in another state; Not currently declared mentally incompetent by a court of law; If convicted of a felony, your right to vote must have been restored.

Military voters should consider the special rules that apply to them regarding state residency.

To summarize the above **deadlines**:

- to register to vote, or update an existing registration: October 13, 2020.
- to apply for an absentee ballot: October 23, 2020.
- to mail in your absentee ballot: postmarked no later than November 3, 2020.

Welcome to New Parishioners. Summer is always a time we lose and gain parishioners, especially those in the military. So I'd like to welcome all who have joined us in the last few months. I hope you find St. Raymond's to be a welcoming parish, and encourage you to get involved our many liturgies, committees, and activities.

Unfortunately, we are currently greatly limited in our activities by the restrictions by the COVID19 virus. So, please **make sure you register with our parish office**, so we can send you regular email updates on what's going on in the parish. You can register in person, by filling out a registration form in the church narthex and drop it in the mail or the Sunday offertory box, or by visiting our parish website and clicking the menu "Welcome," and then click to the page "New to St. Raymond's" (the link to the form is near the bottom of that page).

One thing to know about our parish is that we place great importance on the Grace and Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Flowing from this you will find a pronounced emphasis on reverence, especially during Holy Mass, what I call "emphatic reverence." Nowadays reverence seems to be a lost virtue. The word "reverence" comes from the Latin for "fear," "revere," and Scripture tells us, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." But this kind of fear is not like being in terror or afraid, but rather of being in "awe": recognizing that God is the all-powerful creator and sustainer of the whole world, and I am just a little tiny speck in comparison—and yet, He loves me. So Christian reverence is fundamentally rooted in love.

So we go out of our way here in our liturgies to be reverent, to remind ourselves we are in presence of God, the God who loved us so much He became one of us and died for our sins on the Cross, and gave us the Eucharist to be with us always, even to enter into us, especially in the mystery of His Sacrifice.

To encourage this reverence we follow some ancient customs of the Church that set the liturgy apart as radically different from the mundane world we live in. For example, we sing traditional Catholic hymns, which are different than most contemporary liturgical music that incorporates so many aspects of modern secular music. And we use the ancient language of the Church, Latin, to remind us we're doing something very different, in union with the Church all the way back to time of Jesus. And we incorporate beautiful vestments and vessels to remind us that Mass is a participation in the heavenly banquet come down to earth. And at many Masses the priest turns with the people, so that facing in the same way as them he leads them in prayer before the Most High God. We also use an altar rail to give folks the option to kneel to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion (in the next few weeks we should be installing our new permanent marble altar rail).

Things are just a little different here at St. Raymond's. But then again, so is God. Welcome to St. Raymond's.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This coming Saturday, August 15, is the Solemnity of the Assumption. Normally this is a Holy Day of Obligation, but between a special American rule and our Bishop's suspending all Mass obligations during the pandemic, you **DO NOT** have to attend Mass on Saturday. But I still encourage you to come to Mass, so we will have special Masses on Friday, August 14 at 7pm (the Vigil), and at noon on Saturday. The noon Mass will be **celebrated by our former parishioner, newly ordained Fr. James Waalkes**—his first Mass at St. Raymond's.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, Aug 10th**

6:30 am Dems Martinez+
8:30 am Elizabeth Brisson+

Tuesday, Aug 11th

8:30 am Ray Szczpanowski +

Wednesday, Aug 12th

6:30 am Mary Salmon
8:30 am Anna M. Mault +

Thursday, Aug. 13th

8:30 am Luell Hill +

Friday, Aug. 14th

6:30 am Maria Sanchez-O'Brien
& Family
8:30 am Molita Burrows

Vigil Mass

7:00 pm Bob & Pauline Ferguson

Masses to be said Privately

Aug 11 Stephen Kozich +
Aug. 12 Wian Coetzer+
Aug. 13 Joseph Maloney
Aug. 16 Edwin Neil Miller+

Saturday, Aug. 15th

The Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00 am

Audrey Murphy +

Noon

Fr. Jordan Willard

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Fr. Willard
Irene Krosnick +

Sunday, Aug. 16th

7:00 am Fr. Willard
Karl Benjamin Schnelle +

9:00 am Fr. Rippy
Parishioners

11:00 am Fr. De Celles

Weaver & Martin Families+

1:00 pm Fr. De Celles

Tammy Fantz +

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
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
Carol Snavelly
Jeannie Leson
Chris Quan
Minerva Barnhart
Ellen Trayer

**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.

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...

Blood Drive: The Knights of Columbus are co-sponsoring a blood drive on behalf of Inova Blood Donor Services at Nativity Parish on Saturday August 22, 2020 from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Please consider signing up for a 15 minute time slot within that period and giving the Gift of Life. You may sign up on-line at www.inovabloodsaves.org. If you have any questions or difficulty signing up, please contact Mark Maslyn of our parish at (703) 690-7285 or by email at mam7253@msn.com.

GOSPEL MT 14:22-33

After He had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get
into a boat
and precede Him to the other side,
while He dismissed the crowds.

After doing so, He went up on the mountain by Himself to
pray.

When it was evening He was there alone.

Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore,
was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was
against it.

During the fourth watch of the night,

He came toward them walking on the sea.

When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea they were
terrified.

"It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear.

At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not
be afraid."

Peter said to Him in reply,

"Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the
water."

He said, "Come."

Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water
toward Jesus.

But when he saw how strong the wind was he became
frightened;

and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught
Peter,

and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

After they got into the boat, the wind died down.

Those who were in the boat did Him homage, saying,
"Truly, you are the Son of God."

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 jpebt@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

MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center Thanks YOU! Again!

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

Vaccines are in the news as one way for scientists to 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/>

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

Our Own Pro Life Ambassador!

Fellow parishioner **Victoria Bliss** spent a phenomenal summer as a missionary with Created Equal working to change hearts and minds in our culture and share the Gospel. She has been trained by national pro-life leaders in apologetics, debate, the history of abortion related laws, sidewalk counseling, public communication, and so much more!



Says Victoria, "I have grown tremendously in my faith working alongside passionate believers who are all striving to grow in virtue and display Christ's love and mercy to everyone we meet. Though this work is emotionally draining and incredibly challenging, I am so very grateful for this opportunity. God is working in us and through us, and it is fulfilling despite its hardships. I am learning SO much every day, and being challenged out of my comfort zone - often. My cup is so full! Praise God!

I am seriously considering continuing this work full-time this fall. I would greatly appreciate prayer as I finalize this decision. Knowing that thousands of innocent babies are being brutally murdered every day in our country, and learning more everyday about how bad it is and how broken our culture is, I cannot sit back and do anything else. We must fight against this evil injustice!"

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

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate

Steubenville High School Youth Conference!



Limited **FREE** Streaming for teens & families available until Aug. 18th

While all of the in-person Steubenville High School Youth conferences were canceled this summer, Franciscan University did put together a live-streamed virtual Youth Conference, which was broadcast from Orlando, FL. The University is currently offering our parish a limited number of FREE "registrations" to access this conference in its entirety online until August 18th. **If you have ever wondered what a Steubenville High School Youth Conference is like, there is no better opportunity to check it out! Email Jeanne for the link to register for your free access.** Access includes all of the sessions (music and games too) from Friday night through Sunday Mass. Ministry Team: Fr. Mike Schmitz, Brian Kissinger, Chris Padgett, Josh Blakesley, Mary Bielski, Michael Gormley, Oscar Rivera Jr.

St. Raymond the Surfing Friar!

COVID-19 has allowed for some incredible talent to shine here at St. Raymond's! 14 of our teens have been busy putting together an amazing little film about St. Raymond the Surfing Friar!

Watch the trailer at <https://safeYouTube.net/w/GuSP> and check in for the link to the full film!



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

RCIC Teacher

PLEASE NOTE: If we are unable to fill teacher and assistant teacher vacancies, we will cancel the class and move the students to another day.



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

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act passed during the Clinton presidency, provides for a safe harbor for religious organization to act in the public square while still maintaining their religious beliefs. Catholic hospitals have come under attack for protecting the life of children and the dignity of others by denying abortions, sterilizations, and transgender hysterectomies. Now the ACLU and others are eyeing a proposed merger between a secular and Catholic hospital system in Washington state – CHI Franciscan (Catholic) and Virginia Mason (secular).

Even before the ink was dry on the press release announcing the proposed merger the ACLU, representatives of the LGBTQ community, and assisted suicide advocates were already lobbying to force the proposed merge system to practice medicine in a secular fashion, by requiring Catholic hospital to perform all of the immoral practices listed above.

Wesley Smith, J.D., a special consultant for the Center for Bioethics and Culture and a bioethics attorney, writes in [LifeNews.com](https://www.life.com/health/religious-freedom-restoration-act) (8/4/2020) that, “The attacks on medical conscience are likely going to increase into a nationwide legal conflagration, perhaps culminating with the Supreme Court determining whether the constitutional guarantees of free exercise of religion retains vigor or will be shriveled to a puny ‘freedom of worship’ concept.”

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.

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.

FORMED®
Get In-Formed!

This Changes Everything by Ken Yasinski

Many religions make contrasting claims about Jesus. Even different Christian denominations can't decide what they believe. So how do we know what's true? In this talk, Ken Yasinski gets to the heart of the issue by looking at what Jesus said about Himself and the impact this has on us.

Listen 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

Wednesday and Friday Adoration at St. Raymond's:

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 and Friday Adoration. ON WEDNESDAYS, 1 adorer is needed for the 10-11 am hour. ON FRIDAYS in particular 1 adorer is needed from 10- 11 am, 11 am -12noon and 2 - 3 pm hours. If you are interested in Wednesdays, please call Leslie Schratz at 703-569-1940 or email to spoiledk9s@verizon.net. If you are interested in Fridays, please call Eva Radel at 703-440-0535 or email to eva.radel@straymonds.org. And we can always use substitute adorers!

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.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 12,601.00
Family Assistance	\$ 2,237.01
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,111.02

The Weekend of Aug 22/23rd we will take up a second collection that supports the annual Mission Cooperative Plan Appeal for our diocese. Our parish mission organization is **Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist**. This appeal helps our brothers and sisters who do not have access to basic pastoral services that support and grow their faith, like Mass, the sacraments, religious education as well as basic needs – like food, shelter and healthcare. If donating by check, please make your check payable to our parish and put “MCP” in the memo line. Through your support, the MCP Appeal helps these mission organizations form vibrant faith communities and strengthens the global Church. Please be generous.