

Pastor's Corner

Elections. Well I guess I am still a political junkie. I stayed up very late watching the election results on Tuesday, and as of this writing (Wednesday, noon) still don't know who the next president will be. I hope by the time you read this, we all do know. God's will be done.

The Month of the Saints. All during the month of November we remember the Communion of Saints: the Saints in Heaven, the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and the Church on Earth (you and me). Nowhere is this communion, or unity, made more apparent than at every Holy Mass, as Christ descends to our altar in the Eucharist, and the Communion of Saints comes together to worship Him.

Last Sunday we read from the Book of Revelation how the saints in heaven worship God: "I had a vision of a great multitude... They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes.... All the angels stood around the throne... They prostrated themselves before the throne, worshiped God, and exclaimed: 'Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving... be to our God forever and ever. Amen.'" Similar descriptions of the heavenly liturgy are found throughout the Book of Revelation, including the description of the heavenly wedding feast of the Lamb (Christ) and His Bride (the Church). We also find similar allusions throughout the Scriptures, including Hebrews 9:24: "Christ did not enter into a sanctuary made by hands, a copy of the true one, but heaven itself, that He might now appear before God on our behalf."

Every Holy Mass is a participation in this heavenly worship. Therefore, no Mass is a merely earthly activity, much less the activity of one congregation, but is taken up into heavenly realities, especially with the sense of wonder, awe and reverence that are really at the heart of the meaning of the words "worship" and "liturgy."

It has always been my goal to promote this sense of worship in my priesthood. Not because it is my preference, but because it is the amazing reality we are celebrating. So I encourage you, during this month of the Communion of Saints, to especially consider how you participate in Holy Mass. Ask yourself: "Do I actively and fully participate in Mass by focusing my whole being on Christ? Do I pray (and sing) reverently, realizing I am praying with the angels and saints? Do I reverently join in the common gestures of the Mass, standing bowing and kneeling at the prescribed times ["the angels stood... They prostrated themselves..."]?"

I have to say, I am very proud of our parish because I think we celebrate the liturgy very reverently. But we can always improve—always striving for heavenly perfection. Not to become a group of unthinking automatons, but to humbly unite ourselves to the will of Christ, the tradition of the Church and the reverence of the saints and angels.

However, **I am afraid of what effect the Covid shutdown will have** on all this, especially with so many parishioners staying away from Mass. It seems to me it would be very easy to just grab a cup of coffee and settle down on the couch in your pajamas and "catch" the Mass on livestream or TV. Now, I'm sure most of you are being very reverent even while watching the Mass at home. But just take this as a reminder to examine how you're approaching watching the Mass at home. Do you dress neatly, respond to the prayers, make the appropriate gestures and adopt the appropriate posture? Do you pray or just watch?

And also consider if it's time, factoring in all pertinent health and safety concerns, for you to return to Mass. There is no substitute for participating at the Mass in person.

Clarifications. Sometimes I notice some confusion with regard to certain gestures at Mass. Let me offer some brief clarifications:

-- **Bowing.** *During the Mass, from the opening greeting until the consecration of the Body of Christ, we bow at the waist toward the altar (not to the tabernacle, as is our inclination—see below). We also bow at the waist during the Creed at the line, "and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man." Likewise, we bow our heads slightly whenever the name of Jesus, Mary, or the saint of the day are said, or when the three Divine persons are named together (i.e., "the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit").*

-- **Genuflecting.** We genuflect (touch our right knee to the ground and then rise) at various times during Mass. Note, the priest and ministers genuflect to Our Lord in the tabernacle at the beginning of Mass, but from then until the consecration, do not genuflect, but instead bow to the altar. This is because, although our Lord is present in the tabernacle, in the current form of Mass the Church asks us to move into an anticipatory mode, waiting for the Lord to come to the altar at the consecration before we genuflect again.

But note that after the consecration the priest no longer bows to the altar but begins to genuflect to the Host on the altar, and as he reposes the Host in the tabernacle. The people should generally do the same, although during the reception of Holy Communion they are allowed to receive either standing (after making some sign of reverence, e.g., bow of the head or body, genuflecting) or kneeling.

Moreover, it is the universal and ancient Catholic custom that outside of Mass we genuflect to the Our Lord in the tabernacle whenever we approach or cross in front of it. Outside of Mass we should never merely bow toward the tabernacle, unless of course you are physically unable to genuflect.

Hands. There are no explicit rules guiding what the congregants should do with their hands during Mass. But consider the norms for altar servers: when sitting, hands are rested on the knees; when kneeling, standing, or genuflecting, hands are folded palm to palm.

Some ask if they can hold their hands extended when they pray at Mass. While not specifically prohibited, it is not the custom and seems grossly inappropriate, since this is the gesture of the priest when he is praying in the name of Christ and the people.

Some folks hold hands during the Our Father as a sign of unity. This seems contrary to the norms and prudence, since the priest and servers are required to fold their hands at this point, thus nullifying the sign of unity. Covid, however, seems to be diminishing this practice.

Wednesday Adorers. We need more regular adorers during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays. If you're interested, please contact Leslie Schratz at 703-569-1940.

Snow Team: HELP! We need some strong, able-bodied folks to help us clean up during snow season. Equipment is provided. This is a paid position, but we will also happily accept volunteers. For more information or to apply, please contact Mary Butler at the Parish office.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, Nov. 9th 8:30 am Briggitta Sanchez-O'Brien	Saturday, Nov. 14th 9:00 am Audrey Murphy +
Tuesday, Nov. 10th 8:30 am Rosemary Ritzer +	
Wednesday, Nov. 11th Veterans' Day 10:00 am Bob & Bev Ward	Vigil Mass 5:00 pm Sofi Rae Hills
Thursday, Nov. 12th 8:30 am Brian Michael Adams+	Sunday, Nov. 15th 7:00 am Thomas Hanniff +
Friday, Nov. 13th 8:30 am Freddie L Kemp +	9:00 am Parishioners
Masses to be said Privately Nov. 9 Mary Butler Nov. 10 Lydia B Semcheski + Nov. 12 Evelyn Michaud + Nov. 13 Kathy Tran Nov. 15 David Quan	11:00 am Janet Jeffers + 1:00 pm Jerry Schratz

**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

Wednesday, Nov 11th—Veterans' Day

Mass at 10:00 am (Not at 8:30)

Saturday at 9:00 am

SUNDAY MASS at 11:00 am

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

Wednesday: 6:00 pm - 6:55 pm

Saturday: 8:15 am –8:45 am, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

*Please see the front of the bulletin for our current Mass,
Confession, and Adoration schedules.*

Face masks will be expected at all Masses.

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

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.

Altar Rail Project Update: Still no news—the marble is still on the ship just outside of Miami! We still do not know yet when the marble will arrive at St. Raymond's, but hopefully soon...

St. Raymond 2020-21 Snow Team: Your Parish needs your HELP! St. Raymond's is seeking industrious, able-bodied persons to join the 2020-21 Snow Removal Team. The Snow Team will work with the Plant Manager to clear and de-ice the sidewalks and paved walkways around the property during ice and snow events. Equipment is provided; sidewalks and aprons must be cleared no less than 30 minutes before the first Mass of the day (and as needed thereafter). Snow Team members must have reliable transportation that enables them to get to the church in bad weather. \$20.00 per hour. For more information or to apply, please contact Mary Butler at the Parish Office, at 703-440-0535 during office hours.

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

Brandon Skiba

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 Opie Donald Zacherl	Leonora Ramos Jason Saenz Phyllis Zitnik Mary K Randazzo Patricia Del Buono Michael Malachowski Juanita Boarman Angela Colom John Florio Debra Henkel	Daniel Moore Maria Daugherty Lauren Hornsby Gaudencio Dizon Antoinette Baptist Chris Quan Brenda Starr Donald Hale Margaret O'Neill Paul Rinn
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Veterans' Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11th: Federal Holiday. There will be one Mass at 10:00 am (livestreamed). **Adoration will start following the Mass.** Parish Office will be closed.

Catholic Book Club: The Parish Book Club meets next this Friday, Nov. 13th in the Maurer Room at 10:00 am. There is limited space but virtual attendance is possible. The book for discussion is: *"Hope to Die" by Scott Hahn*. Newcomers welcome. If you have any questions or to register, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.

Wreaths Across America is an annual national service project that takes place every 3rd Sunday in December. American Heritage Girls troops from around the D.C. area meet at the US Soldiers' & Airmen's Home National Cemetery to lay wreaths on the graves of the veterans in honor of what they have given to our country. After Masses this week (Nov. 7th & 8th), our St. Raymond's troop, VA0683, is going to be collecting donations to help sponsor wreaths for this event. A wreath sponsorship is \$15, but all donations are welcome! In person donations may be made by cash or check. For check payments, please make them payable to St. Raymond's and in the memo line, write "AHG". If you wish to donate by credit card, please go to our fundraising website at <https://tinyurl.com/VA0683WAA>. Thank you for your support!

St. Raymond's has Adoration every Wednesday and Friday! 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 need of adorers **especially at 10:00 am, 12:00 pm & 2:00 pm on Wednesday**. If you are interested in Wednesdays, please call Leslie Schratz at 703-569-1940 or email spoiledk9s@verizon.net. If you are interested in Fridays, please call Virginia Osella at 703-440-0535 or email virginia.osella@straymonds.org. Drop-ins are always welcome!

"My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God." We were created with a thirst for God. Could He be calling you to quench it by living in Him as a priest, sister or brother? Call Father Michael Isenberg 703-841-2514, or email at: michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org.

GOSPEL MT 25:1-13

Jesus told His disciples this parable:

"The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.

Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight, there was a cry,

'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish ones said to the wise,

'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

But the wise ones replied,

'No, for there may not be enough for us and you.

Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.'

While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came

and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him.

Then the door was locked.

Afterwards the other virgins came and said,

'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!'

But He said in reply,

'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.'

Therefore, stay awake,

for you know neither the day nor the hour."

K of C Blood Drive: The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a blood drive on behalf of Inova Blood Donor Services on Saturday, Nov. 14, here at St. Raymond's in the parish hall 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 either online at www.inovabloodsaves.org or in the Narthex after all Masses. 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.

The Knights of Columbus will be offering "Keep Christ in Christmas" Christmas cards in the Narthex after Masses starting next weekend. You can also request an order form with a list of cards and place your order by calling/texting John Crennan at 339-223-0887. All proceeds go to local charities.

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 emailing Elaine Perricone at jpebtp@verizon.net or by calling the parish office at 703-440-0535.

Men's Prayer Group: On the first and third Saturdays of each month a group of men meet in the parish hall to pray and read the scriptures. They are neither theologians, philosophers, nor great scholars. Just some guys, coming together to pray, read, and share a simple breakfast. Everyone is welcome. Please join us at 7:30 am Saturday, Nov. 21st. For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH.

Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE

**This weekend is MaRiH Support Weekend.
Thank you!**

November is National Adoption Month

Diocese of Arlington Catholic Charities invites you to #ShoutYourAdoption! Send in a 200-400 word blog, a picture with a few sentences for social media post or a 1-3 minute video. Questions to Consider: Were you called to adopt? Were you called to place your child? How did you hear that call and what led you to answer? Why did YOU choose to work with a faith-based agency? Please send all questions and submissions to Meaghan.lane@ccda.net by November 15th so we can share them on our various platforms throughout Virginia.



Thank you to all who prayerfully witnessed for life in front of the abortion clinic. Your presence made a difference – for life! Please continue to pray for conversion of hearts.

Save the date! The 3RD annual Virginia March for Life will take place on Wednesday, April 7th in Richmond. Stay tuned for details.

Tepeyac Pro Life OB/GYN: Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare. tepeyacobgyn.com 703-273-9440. Thank you for your referrals and your support.

Natural Family Planning. A gift to your marriage. For more info visit: cdi.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 info regarding ethical vaccines.

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

To those who have suffered an abortion Project Rachel can help someone who is carrying the grief and sorrow of a past abortion. (888)456-HOPE. Confidentiality always respected. www.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

Junior High (7-8th Grade) Youth Group!

5-6:30pm Sunday, November 8th (Parish Hall)



We are super excited to be starting a weekly junior high youth group! Come eat pizza, make new friends and have fun all while keeping Jesus at the center of it all! All 7-8th graders are welcome! You do not have to be a parishioner, or even Catholic for that matter, in order to attend. There is no charge, however, we do need the forms (below) on file before you come.

HS Youth Group

8-9pm Sunday, November 8th (Parish Hall)

Every Sunday night all students grades 9-12 are invited to join us for faith, fun & fellowship! Meet in the parish hall. Dress for the weather as we will try to stay outside until it gets too cold to do so. Make sure forms (below) are on file before coming.

Sons of Thunder High School Boys' Group!!

7-8:30pm Tuesday, November 10th (Maurer Room)

Come join the brotherhood! Sons of Thunder will meet regularly IN-PERSON from 7-8:30pm on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month in the Maurer Room. All 9-12th grade guys are invited! Come learn more about your faith, deepen your relationship with Christ, and hang out with other guys in a chill atmosphere. Make sure forms (below) are on file before coming.

High School Girls' Group

7-8:30pm Monday, November 16th (Parish Hall)

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate is starting a new high school girl's group! Mark your calendars! We will meet IN-PERSON from 7-8:30pm on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month in the parish hall. This group will be led by an outstanding trio of young adult women, recent college graduates, who are super pumped for this opportunity to witness to and grow in holiness alongside our young women. Join us as we cultivate and witness authentic community, friendships, and space to share our faith, learn and encourage one another in ways to practically apply the faith to our daily lives. If you have questions or find yourself disagreeing with some teaching of the Church, this group is for you! If you are gung ho about your faith, this group is for you! If you are looking for authentic friendships, a place to search, a place to grow in understanding, a place to practice defending the faith, a place to laugh, to cry, to be authentically you, to have fun...and so much more...come! You are welcome here! Make sure forms (below) are on file before coming.

Youth Apostolate Participation 2 REQUIRED Forms

2020-2021 YA Info. Sheet is to be completed annually for every child *prior* participating in any Youth Apostolate function. **Youth Ministry Participant Waiver**, a one-time form is to be signed and turned in for every youth *prior* to participating in any St. Raymond's Youth Ministry activity/event on or off site. **Forms can be found online at** <http://bit.ly/YAforms> and should be emailed to Jeanne at youth@straymonds.org or turned in to the main office.

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)
youth@straymonds.org Call/Text: 571-334-9890
<http://bit.ly/youthapostolate>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



There **WILL BE** CCD classes on Sunday, November 22

There will be **NO CCD classes** on November 23, 24 and 29 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday

ATTENTION Parents of home school or Catholic school students in grades 2, 7 or 8 who are preparing to receive sacraments at St. Raymond parish: **you must register your child with the Religious Education Office.** Please pick up a bright orange registration form at the Religious Education Office or at the Parish Office and return it to the RE Office as soon as possible.

You can also register online at: <https://straymonds.org/religious-education/registration-3/>

If you do not register, you will not receive important notices related to the reception of the sacrament.

****Reminder to parents regarding dress code for CCD****
 (please refer to page 6 of the Parent Handbook for more information)

1. It is preferred that shorts not be worn to class. If shorts are worn to class, they must be of appropriate length – NO SHORT SHORTS.
2. No student should wear excessively baggy pants, or pants with rips. All pants must be worn at the waist.
3. No hats or headbands with accessories extending above/beyond the band are allowed.
4. No one should wear tight-fitting clothing including leggings, unless leggings are worn under a dress or under a tunic which is at least mid-thigh length.



St. John Bosco Council #12846 Knights of Columbus: Are you a man of 17 ½ years of more? Are you a practicing Catholic? 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!

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 any non-perishable food donations are welcome. 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.

Virtual JP5K & Fun Run, Nov 21 – 29: Come RUN with JP – Virtually! Register now and support the Special Services Programs at Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School. Join an existing team, create a new team, become a fundraiser, or make a donation. Participants receive a JP5K 2020 t-shirt and electronic race bib. It's VIRTUAL! A virtual run/walk can be completed anytime and anywhere beginning Saturday, Nov. 21st through Sunday, Nov. 29th 2020. Then submit your time to the JP5K website. (Submit pictures too and challenge others to sign-up!) To sign up: <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Dumfries/JP5KRunWalkforOptions>

Church Persecuted

Vienna, Austria and Nice, France are the latest cities where Islamic terrorists attacked either Catholics or Catholic churches. Last Saturday, a 76-year-old religious sister was struck in the face as she rode a bus in Vienna. A 19-year-old Afghan was later arrested and confessed to striking the sister.

A parish church in the Favoriten suburb of Vienna was the scene of an attack by a group of Turkish nationals. They stormed St. Aton's Catholic Church shouting, "Allahu Akbar," while kicking pews and damaging other furnishings in the church.

Another Afghan was arrested last weekend after shouting Islamic slogans in St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna.

In a matter not directly linked to anti-Catholicism, Austrian police and Islamic terrorists exchanged gunfire in six different locations in Vienna, killing at least four people and injuring another 17. Cardinal Christoph Schönborn and other Austrian bishops appealed for prayers for the victims of the terror attacks.

These attacks followed a knife attack in the Notre-Dame Basilica in Nice, France on October 29th. Dead were a mother of three young children, the basilica sacristan, and a 60-year old French prosecutor. Both women had stopped by the basilica to pray. Others were injured in the attack. The lone attacker, who had shouted "Allahu Akbar" during and after the attack, was shot, injured, and arrested by police.

(CatholicNewsAgency.com, Nov 2, 2020)

FAITH DIRECT: Although public Masses are limited and many 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 help. Please visit our website www.straymonds.org to join online or call directly at 866-507-8757.

FORMED[®]

Get In-Formed!

Pope John Paul II – This epic film follows Karol Wojtyla's journey from his youth in Poland through his late days on the Chair of St. Peter. It explores his life behind the scenes: how he touched millions of people, changed the face of the Church and the world, and how he defended the dignity of mankind. Shot on location in Rome and Poland in close connection with the Vatican, this is the definitive epic film on the life of Pope John Paul II.

This movie is not rated, but was created with an adult audience in mind. Parental Guidance is suggested and that parents preview it before watching with children.

Watch 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



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Pre K—8th

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We are thrilled to be offering in-person instruction, 5 days a week!

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).

Thank you for your prayers and support. With God, nothing will be impossible!

www.AngelusAcademy.org

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



Angelus Academy Messengers of Hope Campaign

Expect **MIRACLES!**

Angelus Academy is a small, vibrant, faith-filled community of caring educators and supportive parents who are committed to raising the next generation of well-educated, prayerful, patriotic Catholic leaders dedicated to serving others with great love. **Angelus Academy** offers a Catholic liberal arts education in the classical tradition.

Will you join **Angelus Academy** in its efforts to ensure that the next generation knows what truly matters in this world?

Please prayerfully consider a donation to the **Messengers of Hope** campaign. As an independent Catholic school, we receive no funds from the Diocese or the state; we rely entirely on tuition and donations to cover our expenses.

To donate, please go to AngelusAcademy.org and click on "donate" or mail a check directly to the school: 7644 Dynatech Court, Springfield, Virginia 22153.

Luminaries of Holy Mary: Come join us on Dec. 5th to honor the Blessed Mother's request for making the 5 First Saturdays: Mass at 9am, then meet in the Parish Hall for Rosary, meditation and Gospel reflection. All are welcome.

Please remember that our parish's expenses continue during this crisis! Your donations may be mailed, dropped off at the parish office, or given online through Faith Direct.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$14,219.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,236.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,791.00
All Saints Day	\$ 1,155.00

The second collection this week is for Retired Religious. Please give generously to those who have dedicated their lives in service to our Lord.