

Pastor's Corner

McCarrick Report. As I write this (Tuesday morning), I hear that the long awaited "McCarrick Report" has just been issued by the Vatican. There is no time now, given my publishing deadline (early this week, due to Veterans' Day), to comment on it with any kind of deliberateness. I will do so next week. In the meantime, you can find a copy of it online and read it yourself. Lord have mercy.

"Dewey Defeats Truman." This was the famous front page headline of the Chicago Daily Tribune on November 3, 1948, declaring New York governor Thomas Dewey the president-elect the morning after the 1948 presidential election. President Dewey isn't very well known in history, since he never was actually president. You see, the Tribune made its announcement before all the votes were counted. Which reminds us that the press doesn't get to decide who the president is, the voters do. And often when the press tries to proclaim a president, they are wrong.

Today we find the press and the whole media establishment, having "decided" that Former Vice President Joe Biden is now "President-Elect Biden." But here's the reality: no one is elected president until the all the votes are counted and certified by each state and there is a clear, uncontested winner. Actually, that's not even exactly correct: there is no president-elect until the actual electoral college votes to elect him on December 14.

Of course, none of that has happened yet: they are still counting the peoples' votes in lots of states (including key states with close totals), no state has certified their counts, lawsuits have been filed challenging the counts, and the members of electoral college haven't even been named.

But once again the press/media knows best, and has decided who the president-elect is, who won the election, before the election is even over.

For four years the media has waged war on the incumbent, President Trump, never hiding their disdain for him and pushing every story that might injure him politically, assuming facts with no evidence, reaching conclusions without deliberation. And for the last few months they have been telling us that Biden was way ahead in the polls, and that there would be a crushing blue wave that was going to wipe out conservative governance across America. And they've suppressed any negative story about the challenger, Biden.

They told us that Biden would win the popular vote in a landslide with between 11 and 8 percentage points—he is current ahead by only 3% points. They told us Biden would win most of the key states by large margins—but he either lost those states or is only ahead by less than 1% point (.45 in Arizona, .25% in Georgia, .69% in Pennsylvania); the Washington Post told us he would win Wisconsin by 17%, but he's currently only .7% ahead with 99% counted.

They assured us that mail-in balloting was fair and non-problematic, but now we see it's resulted in all sorts of problems, including late counting of votes and charges of voting fraud, all undermining voter confidence in the outcomes.

And now they tell us there are no credible claims of voter or election fraud or misbehavior, while the President's legal team has documented evidence of wide election irregularities. Consider that the Supreme Court has already ordered Pennsylvania to separate thousands of mail-in ballots for judicial scrutiny.

For 4 years the media chanted the mantra, "Trump lies." But I've said it before, and I'll say it again, **"THE PRESS LIES ALL THE TIME."** They lied for 4 years, they lied before the election... but now we're expected to accept their word that the election is over? Not me.

And remember: they lie especially when it comes to traditional values voters, sometimes called "conservatives." They really think we're stupid, ignorant. **Why do we listen to them?**

Oh, and social media. Big-tech thinks it's so important it has the right to censor even the president for saying things they don't like. Even though so far 71,563,681 million voters agree with him. Who do these oligarchs think they are? They spent millions of dollars, both in in-kind and direct donations, to sway the election, and now they tell us, "trust us, we know best."

Moral Imperative. I don't know who won the election—no one does yet. But I do know that we should not trust the media, at least filtering it through a thick net of reality and suspicion. You should seek alternative media sources, and defend the American Constitutional system that allows Trump to challenge the "results" in court—to prove his case.

This rant of mine is not about defending a candidate. It's about defending our rights to a free and fair election. Your right to vote is negated if political machines cheat. And while mistakes are made in any human endeavor, including elections, intentional violations of the law, including election law, cannot be tolerated. If they are, then all election laws are meaningless, which in turn renders all elections meaningless, and so the right to vote meaningless.

So, count the legal votes, give due process to legal claims, and determine the next president according to the law. God's will be done.

Sign Up for Masses. Please please please, if you want to attend the 9am or 11am Sunday Mass **you really need to sign up online**, and then bring proof (the confirmation email) with you to Mass. **No one will be admitted** to these Masses before Mass begins **without this proof/"ticket"**. Anyone who comes without a ticket will not be admitted (have to wait outside) until after Mass begins. And the ticket/reservation is void once Mass begins, so **if you come late to Mass, even with a ticket, you will not be guaranteed a seat.**

Apparently people have been **ignoring these policies in the last few weeks. That will stop this weekend.**

Remember, this policy is not meant to turn people away—it's meant to assure that you can get a seat at Mass if you just sign up. If you don't sign up, I can't be responsible for reserving you a seat.

Also remember, I am simply following the order of the Bishop regarding capacity limits. In that context I'm also trying respect the concerns of parishioners over social distancing etc.

Sofi's Birthday. Yesterday, Saturday, November 14, was the 10th birthday of Sofi Hills. As many of you will recall, as a newborn baby she was left in our parking lot, where she was found by a parishioner and rushed to the hospital. We continue to give praise to the Lord Jesus for saving her life that day, and that she has grown into a healthy vivacious little girl. Sad to say, the COVID restrictions make it impractical to have our annual birthday party for her this year. But I ask you all to say a special prayer for her today as a birthday gift to her.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, Nov. 16th**8:30 am Scott & Mary
Christman**Tuesday, Nov. 17th**

8:30 am Bernie Crum +

Wednesday, Nov. 18th

8:30 am Robert & Beverly Ward

Thursday, Nov. 19th

8:30 am Arthur Burrows +

Friday, Nov. 20th8:30 am Jacques Anezin
7:00 pm EFM (Latin)**Masses to be said Privately**Nov. 16 Catherine Hanniff +
Nov. 17 Jennifer Lawler
Nov. 18 Oskar Egger +
Nov. 18 Tom Gigliotti +
Nov. 19 Lupe & Forbes
Bowling+
Nov. 20 Ron Howley +
Nov. 22 RE Catechists & their
Families**Saturday, Nov. 21st**9:00 am Bernie & Jane
Crum +**Vigil Mass**5:00 pm
Mike Krosnick +**Sunday, Nov. 22nd**7:00 am
Eva Grant +
9:00 am
Parishioners
11:00 am
Joe Schweitzer
1:00 pm
Bob & Beverly Ward**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
Patricia Lewis
Barbara McGinn
Mai Pham
Joan Opiela
Donald Zacherl
Leonora Ramos
Jason SaenzPhyllis Zitnik
Mary K. Randazzo
Patricia Del Buono
Michael
Malachowski
Juanita Boarman
Angela Colom
John Florio
Debra Henkel
Daniel Moore
Maria DaughertyLauren Hornsby
Gaudencio Dizon
Antoinette Baptist
Chris Quan
Donald Hale
Margaret O'Neill
Eric Nguyen
Ada Prabhavat**PRE-ADVENT GIFT SHOP SALES:** this weekend (Nov. 14/15) the Gift Shop will have tables in the Narthex with seasonal gifts for sale after all Masses. Stop by to purchase coffee mugs with our church crest and prayer, advent candles, cards, calendars and puzzles along with order forms for ball caps and polo shirts with our church seal.**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 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!**Happy Birthday, Sofi!** Some of us remember, but many of us do not.... that on November 14, 2010 one of our parishioners who was on his way into the 7am Sunday Mass found a gym bag in the parking lot near the image of Divine Mercy. Upon investigation, he discovered a newborn girl. Initially named Mary by Father De Celles, she was later adopted into a local, wonderful, loving Christian family and is named Sofi Rae. They are grateful for the community who showered her with love during her initial time of trial. Please keep Sofi & her family in your prayers. **Happy 10th Birthday, Sofi, from your family at St. Raymond's.****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.**Extraordinary Form/Traditional Latin Mass at St. Raymond Church This Friday, Nov. 20th.** St. Raymond's offers the Mass according to the Roman Missal of 1962, also known as the "extraordinary form of the Roman Rite" (EFM), at 7:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month. For more information on this form of Mass, visit: <http://www.sanctamissa.org>.**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: 6:00 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.**The Knights of Columbus will be offering "Keep Christ in Christmas" Christmas cards** in the Narthex after Masses starting this 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.

GOSPEL MT 25:14-30

Jesus told His disciples this parable:

"A man going on a journey
called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them.
To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one--
to each according to his ability.
Then he went away.

Immediately the one who received five talents went and
traded with them,
and made another five.

Likewise, the one who received two made another two.
But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the
ground
and buried his master's money.

"After a long time
the master of those servants came back
and settled accounts with them.

The one who had received five talents came forward
bringing the additional five.

He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents.
See, I have made five more.'

His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful
servant.

Since you were faithful in small matters,
I will give you great responsibilities.
Come, share your master's joy.'

Then the one who had received two talents also came forward
and said,

'Master, you gave me two talents.
See, I have made two more.'

His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful
servant.

Since you were faithful in small matters,
I will give you great responsibilities.
Come, share your master's joy.'

Then the one who had received the one talent came forward
and said,

'Master, I knew you were a demanding person,
harvesting where you did not plant
and gathering where you did not scatter;
so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground.
Here it is back.'

His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy servant!
So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant
and gather where I did not scatter?

Should you not then have put my money in the bank
so that I could have got it back with interest on my return?
Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one
with ten.

For to everyone who has,
more will be given and he will grow rich;
but from the one who has not,
even what he has will be taken away.

And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside,
where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'"

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

Thank you for your continued support of **MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center!** You are making such a positive difference for those in need. **God bless 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.

Save the date! The 3rd annual Virginia March for Life will take place on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 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.

Special thanks to those who have been making such beautiful blankets!! Our **Wrapped In Love** program is up and stitching. Pray for the mothers and babies who will be wrapped in love by your efforts as you create baby blankets for distribution at Pregnancy Care Centers or for use by sidewalk counselors – wherever we find a need. God bless you for your efforts. Blankets may be delivered to the parish office or MaRiH collection box in the narthex.

The following note is attached to each blanket: *God bless you, dear Mother. You now wrap your baby with the love of your body created to keep your precious one safe and secure. With the gift of this blanket lovingly made for you, may you find strength, peace and comfort knowing that you are also wrapped in the love of God. In the fullness of time, may you wrap your baby in this gift of love. "You are precious in my sight and honored and I love you." Isaiah 43:4*

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 15th (Parish Hall)

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.



College Night for 9-12th Graders & Parents 8-9pm Sunday, November 15th (Parish Hall)

College preparation does not begin fall semester of senior year. It begins freshman year. All 9-12th graders & their parents **are invited** to join parishioner Bob Laird, Senior Counsel at The Cardinal Newman Society, for a discussion of college preparation and selection. **PARENTS** are encouraged to attend as well as students in **ALL** grades 9-12.

High School Girls' Group will resume Dec. 7th

There is NO Girls' Group 11/16.

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

Attention 8th grade students preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation: Service Hours Record Form and Service Hours / Prayer Service Experience Forms are due to the Religious Education Office on or before January 13, 2021.

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.



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



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!

Holy Family Academy Please join us for our Fall Open House on Sunday, November 22nd. There will be one session at 2:30 pm. Come tour our beautiful 11-acre campus in Manassas (right off of Prince William Parkway). Meet teachers, parents and students of the school from grades Kindergarten through 12th. We offer in person classes, daily Mass, the classics of Western Civilization, sacred music, classical drama, competitive athletics and family-friendly tuition. For more information or any questions, please contact admissions@holyfamiyacademy.net or call 703-368-5679.

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>

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 U.S. Department of Justice's periodic newsletter "Religious Freedom in Focus" provides updates on religious liberty and religious discrimination cases. Here is a sampling of their work:

1. In October the Dept. of Justice participated in oral arguments in the U.S. Court of Appeals (2nd Circuit) supporting a Vermont parochial school student challenging her exclusion from a state college course program for high school students because she was enrolled in a Catholic school. This was part of a program where high school students could take up to two college courses while still in high school with tuition paid by the State. It was open to virtually any student other than those in a religious school, under certain stipulations. The U.S. government sided with the student, noting that excluding her from the program violated the Free Exercise Clause of the Constitution.

2. In September the Dept. of Justice filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the Indiana Supreme Court explaining that the "First Amendment of the Constitution gives the Roman Catholic Archdiocese the right to decide for itself who should personify its beliefs, inculcate its teachings, and instruct students at religious high schools affiliated with the Archdiocese." The case involved a teacher in a public same-sex marriage. The DoJ argued that the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Our Lady of Guadalupe School* "shields from judicial review the Archdiocese's direction...to terminate the ...teacher."

<https://www.justice.gov/crt/religious-freedom-focus-volume-88-october2020>

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.

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.

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Paul of Tarsus: Messenger of Jesus Christ – Widely considered Christianity's greatest evangelizer, Paul of Tarsus dedicated his life to spreading the Gospel, travelling far and wide to deliver the word of God. His journeys ultimately brought him to the heart of the Roman empire, where Christianity took root. Shot on location in Rome, this documentary takes you to the places where he taught, lived, worked, was martyred and buried.

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



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"Well done, good and faithful servant. ..." How are you called to use your talents? Are you being called to love the Lord with an undivided heart as a priest, deacon or the consecrated life? Call Father Michael Isenberg (703) 841-2514, or write:

michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org.

Catholic Book Club: The next Parish Book Club meeting is on Friday, Dec. 11th in the Maurer Room at 10:00 am. There is limited space but virtual attendance is possible.. The book for discussion is: *His Angels at Our Side: Understanding Their Power in Our Souls and in the World* by Fr John Horgan (286 pgs.). Newcomers welcome. If you have any questions or to register, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.

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.

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.

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	\$14,552.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,174.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,785.00
Retired Religious	\$ 3,121.00

The second collection next week is for the Campaign for Human Development. Please give generously.