

Pastor's Corner

Shutdown. By now you all know of Governor Northam's re-imposing limits on public gatherings at no more than 25 people. This rule does not apply to "church services" or "educational" activities. So **it will not affect St. Raymond's Masses, confessions or Religious Education (CCD).** It will also not affect most of our other activities, except for a few that are not liturgical or educational and exceed 25 in attendance. If this might describe your parish group or activity please contact the parish office for clarification and instructions.

"McCarrick Report." On November 10, the Vatican released its long awaited 449 page report on its investigation into how former-cardinal Ted McCarrick rose to his high status in the Church despite his decades of homosexual activities and abuse.

First, let me say, I haven't read the whole report. After reading the official summary and reviews of trusted sources who have read the whole report, I decided not to waste my time.

From everything I've read, it seems to me the report is an almost complete whitewash. First, it is only an examination of "what did 'Rome' know," and not much about what folks in the US knew. And so it essentially says, "we didn't know, no one told us." It's not until he is considered for appointment to Washington that finally someone drew "Rome's" attention to the problem: "These allegations were generally summarized in a 28 October 1999 letter from Cardinal O'Connor, the Archbishop of New York, to the Apostolic Nuncio, and were shared with Pope John Paul II shortly thereafter."

It then goes on to blame four American Bishops (all deceased now) for not disclosing important facts to Rome, and then to blame the great St. John Paul II for dismissing the concerns as mere rumors after reading a letter from McCarrick strenuously denying the accusations.

It also apparently downplays Pope Benedict's actions to prohibit the retired McCarrick from public activities, and then to absolve anyone currently in ecclesiastical office of any blame at all. It also dismisses the charges levelled by whistleblower Archbishop Viganò as unsubstantiated.

Consider: the report was prepared by the Vatican Secretariat of State, i.e., it was not an independent investigation, but conducted by the very folks who should have known, and probably did know, there was a problem. Also, there is no mention of the role played by the homosexual "lavender mafia" in the hierarchy (including Rome). There is also no mention of the role McCarrick's well-known fundraising prowess played in greasing the skids in Rome. It also does not examine the role played by John Paul II's close advisors in advising him on McCarrick, or their possible connection to McCarrick's fundraising or the "lavender mafia." Finally, it essentially places the greatest blame on dead people who can't defend themselves, including St. John Paul II.

So much for transparency.

Biden and Catholicism. Many, including myself, were "disappointed" to see the Holy Father and the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Archbishop Jose Gomez (Los Angeles) congratulate Vice President Biden for his election as president. Even though the election isn't over yet: they're still counting the popular votes, the President's lawyers are in court claiming vast election fraud, not one state has certified their totals, and the Electoral College has not yet been appointed. Sigh.

But my strongest "disappointment" was in Gomez referring to Biden as, "the second United States president to profess the Catholic faith." Now, technically it is true that Biden does "profess the Catholic faith." But by saying that, in this

context, Gomez creates the impression that Biden is a practicing and faithful Catholic, which he definitely is not.

I preferred what Bishop Joseph Strickland (Tyler, Texas) had to say: "A dark cloud has descended on this nation when the USCCB and Planned Parenthood speak in unison in support of a Biden-Harris administration that supports the slaughter of innocents by abortion for all 9 months of pregnancy."

Now, Archbishop Gomez is generally a solid bishop. So I was very glad to see a more nuanced approach at the USCCB meeting this week, when he announced the formation of a "bishops' working group" to consider the problems Biden poses to the Church, particularly as a "professed" Catholic. According to Gomez,

"The *president-elect* [sic] has given us reason to believe that his faith commitments will move him to support some good policies....He has also given us reason to believe that he will support policies that are against some fundamental values that we hold dear as Catholics. These policies include: the repeal of the Hyde Amendment and the preservation of *Roe vs. Wade*. Both of these policies undermine our preeminent priority of the elimination of abortion....[Also] "the restoration of the HHS mandate [contraception insurance], the passage of the Equality Act, and the unequal treatment of Catholic schools."

Good for him. On the other hand, this is just what the Bishops need: another committee. Well, we will see if it does what it should. Please God.

Justice for All. In a speech on November 12, Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito stated:

"For many today, religious liberty is not a cherished freedom. It's often just an excuse for bigotry and can't be tolerated, even when there is no evidence that anybody has been harmed. ... The question we face is whether our society will be inclusive enough to tolerate people with unpopular religious beliefs...."

"Over the summer, the Supreme Court received two applications to stay COVID restrictions that blatantly discriminated against houses of worship....In both cases, the Court allowed the discrimination to stand...."

"Consider what that deference meant in the Nevada case. After initially closing the state's casinos for a time, the governor opened them up and allowed them to admit 50% of their normal occupancy. And since many casinos are enormous, that is a lot of people.So if you go to Nevada, you can gamble, drink, and attend all sorts of shows."

"But here's what you can't do. If you want to worship and you're the 51st person in line -- sorry, you are out of luck. ...The size of the building doesn't matter; nor does it matter if you wear a mask and keep more than six feet away from everybody else. And it doesn't matter if the building is carefully sanitized ...The state's message is this: Forget about worship and head for the slot machines...."

"...Take a quick look at the Constitution. You will see the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment, which protects religious liberty. You will not find a craps clause or a blackjack clause or a slot machine clause...."

Thanksgiving. This week, of course, we celebrate Thanksgiving. Although this is a secular holiday, it was and is established as a day not to thank other people, but to thank Almighty God for the many gifts he's bestowed on us. May He continue to bless us, and our beloved nation.

And what better way to begin Thanksgiving Day than by coming to our 10am Mass? After all, Eucharistic comes from the Greek word *eukharistia*, which means *thanksgiving*. I hope to see you there. (The Mass will be livestreamed also).

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, Nov. 23rd 8:30 am Chris Shealy	Saturday, Nov. 28th 9:00 am Mary & Brad Salmon
Tuesday, Nov. 24th 8:30 am John & Theresa Mattoi +	
Wednesday, Nov. 25th 8:30 am Marie Goggin +	
Thursday, Nov. 26th Thanksgiving Day 10:00 am Dr. Willard A Foster+	Vigil Mass 5:00 pm Fr. Rippy Marie Goggin +
Friday, Nov. 27th 8:30 am Kirsti Tyson	Sunday, Nov. 29th 7:00 am Fr. De Celles Vincent Greco + 9:00 am Fr. De Celles Parishioners 11:00 am Fr. Daly Teresa Xuan Nguyen + 1:00 pm Fr. Rippy Teresa Monzon Alafritz +
Masses to be said Privately Nov. 23 Don Spinelli Nov. 24 Fr. Arthur Humphrey + Nov. 25 Poor Souls in Purgatory+ Nov. 25 Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary+ Nov. 29 Dee Dee Mathews +	

**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
Thanksgiving, Thurs., Nov. 26th: One Mass at 10:00 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. 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.

The Knights of Columbus will hold a Document Shredding event on Dec. 12th from 10 am to 1 pm in the church parking lot. Proceeds from the event go to support two wonderful causes: Housing for the intellectually disadvantaged, and Vocations. For more information contact Dave Wilson at 703-966-5327.

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 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 Donald Hale Margaret O'Neill Eric Nguyen Ada Prabhavat Julia Oaks
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Thanksgiving is Nov. 26th. There will be one Mass at 10:00 am which will be Livestreamed! Parish Offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26th, and Friday, Nov. 27th for the Holiday. We hope you all have a safe and happy Thanksgiving Day!

PRE-ADVENT GIFT SHOP SALES: this weekend (Nov 21/22) AFTER ALL MASSES the Gift Shop will have tables in Narthex with seasonal gift items for sale, including boxed Advent candle sets (10" & 12" candles) and brass Advent Wreath rings. You may also pick up Advent candles and mugs with church crest that you ordered last Sunday.

Annual Giving Trees are up! This is our 20th year that we are helping families provide Christmas for their children. We have 33 families this year with 173 members. We need your help! This year, due to COVID-19 we have changed our procedures slightly to allow everyone to participate. The requests for Gift Cards are on the Trees in the Narthex. Actual Gift Items are on a Signup Genius that you may access through our website. Instructions are on our website & next to the Trees in the Narthex. Any questions, please call Kirsti in the parish office (703-440-0535).

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.

The Knights of Columbus will be selling Christmas Trees & Wreaths in the Church's south parking lot starting—next week—Friday, November 27 through Sunday, December 13. Please support the Knights who use the contributions to support St Raymond and various other local charities throughout the year. Points of Contact are: Mark Menotti, 401-644-7128; Phil Bettwy, 703-868-9411; and John Crennan, 339-223-0887.

GOSPEL MT 25:31-46

Jesus said to His disciples:

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory,
and all the angels with Him,

He will sit upon his glorious throne,
and all the nations will be assembled before Him.

And He will separate them one from another,
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
He will place the sheep on His right and the goats on
His left.

Then the king will say to those on his right,
'Come, you who are blessed by my Father.
Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation
of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
a stranger and you welcomed me,
naked and you clothed me,
ill and you cared for me,
in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him and say,
'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,
or thirsty and give you drink?
When did we see you a stranger and welcome you,
or naked and clothe you?
When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'
And the king will say to them in reply,
'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did
for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Then he will say to those on his left,
'Depart from me, you accursed,
into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his
angels.

For I was hungry and you gave me no food,
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
a stranger and you gave me no welcome,
naked and you gave me no clothing,
ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'

Then they will answer and say,
'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty
or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison,
and not minister to your needs?'

He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you,
what you did not do for one of these least ones,
you did not do for me.'

And these will go off to eternal punishment,
but the righteous to eternal life."

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

*Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH.
Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE*

Thanks be to God for the gift of Life!

**November is National Adoption Month.
God bless all birth and adoptive parents.**



You are invited to join Bishop Burbidge in a **Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe**, offered for the intentions of couples struggling with infertility, miscarriage and early infant death. The novena will be prayed from Dec. 4 to Dec. 12. A concluding Mass will be offered by Father Jamie Workman, Vicar General of the Diocese **St. Luke Catholic Church in McLean, at 9:00 am on Saturday Dec. 12.**

For more information, please visit
www.arlingtondiocese.org/novena

Mark your calendar! The 48th Annual March for Life is scheduled for Friday January 29th. Stay tuned for details.

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

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.

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 22nd (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.

HS Youth Group **8-9pm Sunday, November 22nd (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 24th (Parish Hall)**

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.



New 25 PERSON LIMIT for Sunday Youth Apostolate

Governor Northam's newly imposed 25 person limit for social gatherings went into effect on 11/16. As a result, for both the Jr. High and High School Youth Groups on Sundays, **we will henceforth be requiring folks to RSVP, via a signup genius that will be emailed weekly.** If you are not on the email list or do not receive the email and would like to attend, please email Jeanne to sign up. As of right now, the Sunday youth groups are the only ones that seem to be an issue. If the high school boys' group (Sons of Thunder) or girls' group grow to exceed 25 folks, we will address it at that time.

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 **TONIGHT, Sunday 11/22!**
There will be **NO CCD classes** Monday 11/23, Tuesday 11/24
and Sunday 11/29 in observance of the Thanksgiving
Holiday.

The Religious Education Office wishes everyone a joyful and
blessed Thanksgiving!!



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@holyfamilyacademy.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.

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.

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.

Church Persecuted

The Brooklyn Catholic Diocese asked the U.S. Supreme Court last Thursday to block the limits on in-person church attendance imposed by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo. His order states that there can be no more than 10 or 25 individuals at a given service, based on the number of COVID-19 cases in the area where a given church is located. The diocese contends that the order “effectively bars in-person worship at the affected churches – a ‘devastating’ and ‘spiritually harmful’ burden on the Catholic community.” The petition noted that many secular businesses including “everything from supermarkets to pet stores,” are permitted to remain open.

In May, a divided 5-4 court rebuffed similar challenges by religious institutions on orders created by Gov. Gavin Newsom and San Diego County in California. They also argued that the churches remained closed while commercial businesses, offices, and restaurants remain open. The diocese is hoping that the addition of Justice Amy Barrett on the court may swing that 5-4 vote in their favor. The diocese first went to the federal district court in New York arguing that Cuomo’s order violates the Constitution’s free exercise clause. Both that court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit declined to block the limits. Justice Stephen Breyer gave New York until this past Wednesday to respond.

<https://www.scotusblog.com/2020/11/brooklyn-catholic-diocese-asks-justices-to-block-limits-on-attendance-at-church-services/>

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.

FORMED[®]
Get In-Formed!

Just for Kids! The Jesus Stories Series: The Wiseman and the Fool - In this episode, The Wiseman and the Fool, we learn how following instructions is better than guessing.

Watch now at www.straymonds.formed.org

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



Angelus Academy

Pre K—8th

Offering a liberal arts education in the classical tradition.

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

“I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink.” Is Christ calling you to serve Him in others as a sister, brother, deacon or priest? 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.

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	\$11,545.00
Family Assistance	\$ 210.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 982.00

The Second Collection today is for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). CCHD helps the poor in our Diocese move out of poverty and support their families with dignity. Your contributions assist projects right here in the Diocese of Arlington that help people start businesses and gain job skills. Last year, your generosity enabled us to give over \$100,000 in grants to support these projects. Bishop Burbidge personally approves all grant awards to ensure compliance with Catholic moral and social teaching. Please give to the CCHD Collection!