

Pastor's Corner

PRAISED BE JESUS CHRIST! PUBLIC MASS IS BACK!

After an 8 week suppression, we're finally having public Masses this weekend, May 30-31! Nothing can replace the Holy Mass—not livestreaming and not even Communion Services. The Mass! The Holy Sacrifice of the Cross offered and made present on the altar. Jesus, The Lamb of God offering Himself up for our sins. The heavenly wedding banquet—heaven, with Mary and all the saints and angels, come down to earth, and earth taken up into to heaven! Alleluia!

For those of you who can come, I hope you appreciate it with a new zeal and love. For those of you who can't join us, yet, keep your heart fixed on Jesus, and know it will be soon for you as well.

PENTECOST. And what a better day for Mass to return than on Pentecost! This Sunday's readings tell us that the Holy Spirit first descended on the early Christians with "a noise like a strong driving wind," and appeared like "tongues as of fire." After this they "began to speak in different tongues" so that the people gathered in Jerusalem "from every nation under heaven" could hear them "speaking in his own language."

That same Holy Spirit descended on each of us in Baptism, and came again to strengthen ("confirm"—see below) His gifts in us in our Confirmations. By the baptismal indwelling of the Spirit we were united to the Divine life of Jesus Christ, and in Confirmation we were given the gifts to live the fullness of the faith amidst the great challenges of world.

And the Holy Spirit does not merely come to individuals, He comes and dwells in the Church as One Body of Christ. Because of this, no gift of the Holy Spirit is meant merely for personal enhancement separate from the Church, or contrary to the unity of the Church.

Speaking of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Because of the coronavirus, our 8th graders were not able to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Burbidge on May 19 as originally scheduled. However, he has granted me faculties (authority) to administer the sacrament any time in the next few months. That will take place in 2 different ceremonies on June 10 and 11.

Many people are confused about this sacrament.

The key, it seems to me, to understanding this sacrament is to understand the word "confirm." Webster's gives two basic definitions for the word: **1:** *to give approval to; ratify*... **2 :** *to make firm or firmer; strengthen*... It is the second definition that defines our sacramental use of the word: Confirmation is about the Holy Spirit strengthening us.

Some think, for example, that the word "confirmation" means that the sacrament is the opportunity for the young person to publicly "ratify" their faith in Christ and His Catholic Church (i.e., the first definition of the word in Webster's), which they couldn't do when they were baptized as babies. But that is not the case, and anyway, they do that every Sunday when they proclaim the Creed (I believe in God...). Remember, a sacrament is something God does, not something we do. As the Catechism (1308) teaches: *"we must not...forget that the baptismal grace is a grace of free, unmerited election and does not need "ratification" to become effective..."*

Others think the sacrament is when the child "becomes an adult." Again, a misunderstanding. As the Catechism tells us: *"Although Confirmation is sometimes called the "sacrament of Christian maturity," we must not confuse adult faith with the*

adult age of natural growth..." Confirmation does give us the grace we need to live out our faith as adults, but the grace does not make someone who is a child into an adult—it only gives a child, who is growing into an adult, the ability to face difficult adult decisions etc. with the fullness of grace they will need.

Still others think that because Confirmation is usually the last of the "Sacraments of Initiation" (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) to be received that it therefore makes us "full members of the Church." To be absolutely clear: we become full members of the Church at Baptism. However, Confirmation and Eucharist, strengthen our bond with Christ and His Church, and enable us to live out our part in the Church's mission more perfectly. So, Confirmation, *"renders our bond with the Church more perfect"* (CCC 1303).

A much more appropriate short description of the sacrament is that, "it makes us soldiers for Christ." However, incomplete it is, it still communicates the strength of the sacrament and the gifts given for determined (though peaceful) proclamation of the Gospel and defense of the Church.

But let's consider the more full and comprehensive description given by the Catechism:

1303 Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

- it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation [sonship] which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!";*
- it unites us more firmly to Christ;*
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;*
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;*
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross: "Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence..." [St. Ambrose].*

1304 Like Baptism which it completes, Confirmation is given only once, for it too imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual mark, the "character," which is the sign that Jesus Christ has marked a Christian with the seal of His Spirit by clothing him with power from on high so that he may be his witness.

1305 This "character" perfects the common priesthood of the faithful, received in Baptism, and "the confirmed person receives the power to profess faith in Christ publicly and as it were officially (quasi Ex officio)."

TRANSFERS. This last week the Bishop released his list of priest transfers in the Diocese. Frankly, the priests were all caught off guard by how many transfers there were. There were 6 retirements, 10 pastors transferred, 15 vicars or chaplains transferred. That's a lot for a Bishop who really does believe in "stability." But no changes at St. Raymond's.

GOLF UPDATE. As you know, I try to play golf once a week when the weather is nice, but the plague has kept me away so far this Spring. But last Tuesday, I was able to get out and had a great day: not only was it wonderful to be outside playing, but I hit one of my best scores ever, a 91, and for the first time I hit 2 birdies in one round. Wow! Praised be Jesus Christ!

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Public Masses have Returned !****Monday, June 1st**8:30 am The Fraternity of
St. Peter**Tuesday, June 2nd**

8:30 am Samuel Drouillard

Wednesday, June 3rd

8:30 am Joey Santos +

Thursday, June 4th8:30 am Family of Jesus Prayer
Group**Friday, June 5th**

8:30 am Mrs Evelyn Hildebrand+

Mass to be said Privately

6/1 Elizabeth Hagan +

6/2 Mrs. Evelyn Hildebrand +

6/3 Mrs. Evelyn Hildebrand +

6/3 - Clotilde Martinez +

6/4 Family of Jesus Prayer Group

6/5 Youth of the parish

Saturday, June 6th

9:00 am Bob & Geri Laird

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm

Jean & Walt Seiberling

Sunday, June 7th

7:00 am

Frances Geuttler +

9:00 am

Parishioners

11:00 am

Randazzo Family

1:00 pm

Julia Riordan

5:00 pm

Eduardo Visaya +

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**Stephen Aldridge****Please pray for the sick of our parish**

Glenn Bliss

Tom Dietz

Nena Brennan

Michael O'Neill

Cindy Laird

Christine B Petitti

Ofelia Vitek

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

Serrin Foster

James Bowling

Amy Thomason

Chris Quan

Debra Henkel

Daniel Moore

Maria Daugherty

Michael Franetic

George Rouson

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

May 30/31

Public Masses RETURN!**(Modified Schedule—Limited Attendance—****Sign ups Required)**

June 3

Adoration 9:00 am—7:00 pm

June 5

Adoration 9:00 am—3:00 pm

**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: 11:00 am

In the Church*(in person, in the flower room),***Confessions**

Wednesday: 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Saturday: 8:30 am - 9:00 am; and 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Public Masses Return Starting This Weekend!**Modified Schedules****Weekday Masses will be :**

8:30 am Monday through Friday

9:00 am Saturday

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil at 5:00 pm

Sunday at: 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm & 5:00 pm

Face Masks will be required at all Masses. Sign ups are required for Sunday Masses. Contact the parish office.

Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Returns to our normal schedule

Wednesdays 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Fridays 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

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

Financial Assistance Available:

During this difficult time, we know that there are parishioners who have been financially affected by this crisis. Please know that the parish has funds available to financially help our parishioners or someone they know who is in need.

Please contact the parish office 703-440-0535 or e-mail eva.radel@straymonds.org, if you are in need of financial assistance or have any questions.

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, 1qt. oil vs. 1 gal oil). **During this crisis the need for food is greater than ever. Please be generous.**

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.

GOSPEL JN 20:19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,

Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."

When He had said this, He showed them His hands and
His side.

The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.

As the Father has sent Me, so I send you."

And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said
to them,

"Receive the Holy Spirit.

Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained."

Sequence

Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.
You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul's most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below;
In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.
O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts of yours,
And our inmost being fill!
Where you are not, we have naught,
Nothing good in deed or thought,
Nothing free from taint of ill.
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away;
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.
On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
In your sevenfold gift descend;
Give them virtue's sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
Give them joys that never end. Amen.
Alleluia.

"There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit." Is the Lord
inviting you to share your gifts as a priest, deacon, sister or
brother? Call Father Michael Isenberg (703) 841-2514, or
write: michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

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

The future of humanity passes by way of the family.

Pope Saint John Paul II *Familiaris Consortio*

*Next weekend, June 6/7, is our MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center
Support Weekend!*

**Thank you for your continued generosity as the needs
remain great.**

**Donations (diapers, baby items up to 2T) may be left in the
box in the narthex.**



*"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He
will repay him for his deed." Proverbs 19:17*

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

Have you been logging some extra walking miles these days?

Now you can *Walk for Life!* Consider supporting or
participating in this one mile fundraiser to benefit Divine Mercy
Care, CareNet PRC's and Catholic Charities. June 27th,
Manassas <https://www.voice4life.org/bettertogether.html>.

Do you have extra time on your hands?

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 MaRiH collection box
in the narthex.

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

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

Vocations Panel!!

7:30-9pm Monday, June 1st via Zoom

Have you ever wondered how to discern which vocation God is calling you to? "Come" hear from special guests as they share their vocation stories with us! Joining us will be:

Bob & Bev Ward (Back by popular demand from the last time we held a vocations panel, Bob & Bev, St. Raymond's parishioners, are sure to engage and bring a smile to your face as they share the story of how God brought them together!)

Sr. Marie Celine, O.P. (Nashville Dominican, and daughter of St. Raymond parishioners Bob and Gerri Laird), along with the sisters she lives with.

...and our very own, **Fr. Willard!**

Email Jeanne youth@straymonds.org to RSVP for the link.

Acting/Theater Opportunity: Social Distance Film Project

7-12th Graders interested in helping with a social distance film project? Our idea: 2 -5 minute film project that's made to look like it was filmed in a group setting, but wasn't. Artists would record themselves and submit the video or music for editing. Story: St. Raymond, the Surfing Friar. We are looking for actors, musical artists, writers, costume props advisor, video editor, etc. Email Jeanne if interested!

ADORATION

Every year, without fail, when we bring our teens home from WorkCamp and Steubenville, the part of these events that they tell me time and time again had the greatest impact on them was the time spent in Adoration. Jesus wants to spend time with you! Can you make time for Him?



See the parish website for updated hours.

Sign up (encouraged, not required) here: <https://bit.ly/spendtimewithJesus>

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

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

Registration for the 2020-2021 Religious Education year has begun. You can pick up one of the bright orange forms in the Narthex of the church, at the Groveland entrance, in the Parish Office or outside the Religious Education Office. You may also register online at the parish website. Class enrollment is on a first come, first served basis so register early to get the session you want.

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 same locations as the student registration forms. Please complete and return the form to the Religious Education Office.



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!

"KOVAR" is a Virginia Knights of Columbus charity. It works to provide assistance through grants and home loans to tax exempt organizations. These organizations give training and assistance to persons with intellectual disabilities. We need your help through donations to fund this vital charity. KOVAR collections typically occur in May and this year will be different. Please see our website at www.straymonds.org/kovar/ for more information and how to contribute.

ECHO continues to respond to families struggling to cope with financial challenges and/or lack of food. Currently, the food pantry can use **any type of food or personal care items**. Because of shortages, we are asking for donations of **eggs and margarine**. We also especially need sliced bread, canned meats, boxed pasta, dried beans, canned tomatoes, flour, shaving cream, deodorant and toilet paper. We need cleaning supplies, wipes, and sanitizers. We have an urgent need for standard sized **brown paper grocery bags**. We are open to receive donations on weekdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, and on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA. Volunteers will come to your vehicle to get the donated foods.

Online Virtus Sessions Available: For parishioners who plan to volunteer in parish activities which include substantial contact with children, Virtus compliance is required. This is a two step process: a background check and attendance at a Virtus seminar. To initiate a background check, contact the St. Raymond Virtus liaison: Vince Drouillard at vince.drouillard@straymonds.org. For the Virtus seminar requirement, the chancery is temporarily holding online "Zoom" seminars. To sign up for an online seminar, register at www.virtusonline.org.

Church Persecuted

The headline ([FoxNews.com](https://www.foxnews.com/story/2020/05/20/devastating-mississippi-church-fire-investigated-as-arson), May 20, 2020) read, "Devastating Mississippi church fire investigated as arson." This was not a story from the 60's or 70's but last week. The First Pentecostal Church of Holly Springs, Mississippi was torched as it was engaged in a legal battle over opening. Spray-painted on the front was a message, "I Bet you stay home now you hypikrits."

The church was cited by the town for holding Easter Sunday services and 10 days later a Bible study. Even though the governor has declared churches as essential businesses, but the mayor and city council has balked and would not permit it to open. A U.S. District Judge Michael Mills issued an order allowing the church to remain open for drive-through services. In this ruling, the judge acknowledged that "the First Amendment guarantee of the Free Exercise of religion is one of the most important ones set forth in the Bill of Rights, and, without question, it grants the Church, in this case, the right to assert certain rights which, say, a barbershop would have no right to assert."

Each time a church goes to court to have restored its First Amendment right to worship, it has won. Why is it taking so long for governors and local officials to understand that this right is not only embedded in the Bill of Rights in the Constitution, but is also an "essential service."

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.

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.

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To a Rome ravaged by war and wearied by the decadence of the Renaissance popes, Saint Philip Neri came as an unlikely reformer. Mystic, hermit, prankster, and effortless leader of men, Neri had a great sense of humor and an even greater heart. His creative response to the challenge of the reformation era made him the Apostle of Rome.

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 continue to pray for all those affected by the coronavirus.

We are so grateful for **CL@H!** Continued Learning@Home is how our students, teachers and parents stay in touch while our school building is closed. And, most importantly, we stay united in prayer.

Rolling admissions for 2020-2021 remain open. Please contact admissions@AngelusAcademy.org for more information. Our Admissions Team welcomes your questions and looks forward to sharing information with you about our mission, curriculum and school traditions.

www.AngelusAcademy.org

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

Please note the parish schedule on the front of the bulletin is our normal Mass and Confession Schedule. Please reference the second page of the Bulletin for our current "temporary" schedule or visit the parish website.

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

FAITH DIRECT: Although public Masses, Religious Education, Bible Study, Apostolate events and events involving ten or more people at a time 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	\$ 13,058.00
Family Assistance	\$ 2,651.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,210.00
Diocesan Retired Priests	\$ 1,076.00
Catholic Communications	\$ 393.00

FAITH DIRECT MAY 2020

Sunday Offertory	\$ 56,839.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,588.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 8,731.00
Parish Special Needs	\$ 1,144.00
Diocesan Retired Priests	\$ 4,057.00
Catholic Communications	\$ 844.00