

Pastor's Corner

Liturgical Changes. A few weeks back I sent out a survey about some possible changes in liturgy and the schedule. Thanks for your amazing participation: 690 folks responded. It was not a vote, but it did help me to receive your input.

Interpreting the results is a little tricky. For example, on many of the questions that asked, "What would your reaction be if..." almost half of you responded, "It wouldn't make any difference to me." How to interpret that? Perhaps I'm wrong, but I tend to interpret that as trusting me to make the best decision. Of course, that in turn could heavily weight my interpretation of the rest of the answers: if 30% were in favor of a change I wanted make, and 50% said "It wouldn't make any difference to me," I might reasonably interpret that to mean that 80% would support the change I wanted.

Moreover, looking at the survey as a whole, without any "filters," it's possible that all the folks who supported the change I wanted might all attend just one Mass, while the people at another Mass might be unhappy with the change. For example, if the 600 people attending the 10:30/11am Mass supported a change at the 7am Mass, but all 200 people that attend the 7am Mass did not, that would mean 600 "for" and 200 "against"—even though the 600 don't even go to that Mass. So, I was able to isolate the responses for folks who regularly attend the different Masses, so I could see what the people at each Mass were thinking.

Results and Decisions: Mass Times. First, let's consider the questions about the Mass times: do we keep them as they are now or change back to the regular schedule when the Covid shutdown ends completely? Well, it hasn't ended completely, so I won't decide quite yet. But the survey did give me some guidance, sort of.

I say "sort of" because when it came to Sunday Masses you were almost evenly divided: 52% in favor of changing back, and 48% in favor of keeping the new Covid schedule permanently.

But when it came to Weekday Morning Mass times, the results were a little clearer, but not a mandate: 57% in favor of keeping the new Covid schedule permanently (with 8:30am Mass), and 43% in favor of changing back (with 8am Mass).

Results and Decisions: Ad Orientem. Four of the questions concerned changing Masses to "ad orientem" (the priest standing at the altar facing the same way as the people). Here is where the "It wouldn't make any difference" answers come into play. If I consider this group as being supportive of whatever my choice is—and my preference is "ad orientem"—the survey shows 66% would be happy to change all the Masses to "ad orientem."

But breaking it down by Mass, and counting only the responses of the folks who go to each Mass, gives us a slightly different picture. If I count those to whom "It wouldn't make any difference" as supportive of my preference then we still come up with between 66% and 84% supportive of changing each Mass to "ad orientem." But if we exclude that group, and only count those who indicated a clear preference, we find some important "nuances."

Given all this, and prayerfully considering your advice, this is my decision: all Sunday morning Masses (7, 8:45/9, 10:30/11) will be offered "ad orientem," while the 5pm Saturday and 12:15/1pm Sunday Mass (TWO) will remain "versus populum" (facing the people). If the 5pm Sunday returns, it will be offered "ad orientem."

In addition, all Weekday and Saturday morning Masses will be offered "ad orientem."

Results and Decisions: Latin Canon. One final question asked about the priest saying the Latin version of the Eucharistic Prayer at every 8:45/9am Mass (this is now done only on the 2nd Sunday every month). Regardless of how we count, the folks at this Mass were overwhelmingly supportive of adopting my proposed change: 84% with the "no difference" answers, and 66% counting only those with clear preferences. So, from now on the priest at every 8:45/9am Mass will pray the Eucharistic Prayer in Latin.

Exceptions. Not every priest feels comfortable saying Mass either "ad orientem" or in Latin, as Fr. Willard and I do. So when visiting priests come to help us (e.g., Fr. Daly, Fr. Rippy, etc.) they will have the option to say Mass "versus populum" and in English.

Conclusion. I've tried to be considerate of your thoughts and sensitivities. Please trust me in the decisions I've made, and let's all go forward in peace to worship the Lord in all reverence and love.

Thanks. I want to thank Brenda Doroski for her 5 year service as coordinator of our lectors at Mass. Not only did she schedule and train our lectors, but she also filled in whenever no other was available. But now she has retired and plans to be moving closer to her parents in North Carolina. God bless you, Brenda, and thanks for your service.

Requiescat in Pace. I lost two friends recently, but have confidence they are on their way to heaven.

Fr. Paul Mankowski, SJ, died from a brain aneurism on September 3, at the age of only 66. The Jesuits have had their problems over the last few decades, but when you find a good Jesuit, you've found a great priest. Fr. Mankowski was one of those.

As the former editor of *Catholic World Report (CWR)* Phil Lawler wrote: "*That he was a prodigious intellect is beyond dispute. He earned advanced degrees at Harvard and Oxford. He was fluent in multiple languages... advised Vatican prelates, and more than once I detected a familiar style of prose in an official document from the Holy See....*"

He was also perhaps the wittiest man I ever met: for those of you who are familiar with it, he was the anonymous author of most of *CWR's* hilariously clever "*Diogenes*" columns.

A kind and humble man, a great priest. His death is a loss to the Church on earth. But I'm sure he will be cajoling the Lord in Heaven on our behalf.

Also, **Eleanor Mazzei**, long-time St. Raymond parishioner and choir member, died on August 30, just a few months short of her 100th birthday. Eleanor was a lovely and sweet gal—we hit it off the first time we met. She will be missed, but she will, I'm sure, soon add a sweet voice to the choirs of heaven.

Requiem Aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Vacation--Again. I'm back. I had a great trip to Anchorage, Alaska, for the wedding of former parishioner Christine Forbes (John and Geri Forbes' daughter). I then flew down to Medford, Oregon, to visit our former parish secretary Monica Lyons (ne: Montanaro) and her young family, including my almost 3-year-old goddaughter, Magdalene.

Just fyi, I'll be off again at the end of this month for a week's golf in Williamsburg. I know I'm bunching up a lot of vacation here, but just chalk this up to another effect of Covid-19.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, Sept. 14th**

6:30 am Lourdes Centeno +
8:30 am Elizabeth Brisson +

Tuesday, Sept. 15th

8:30 am Sr. Scholastica Radel

Wednesday, Sept. 16th

6:30 am Helen Balcerak +
8:30 am Charles Tougas +

Thursday, Sept. 17th

8:30 am Serrin Marie Foster

Friday, Sept. 18th

6:30 am Anna M. Mault +
8:30 am Erica Anezin
7:00 pm EFM (Latin)

Masses to be said Privately

Sept 15 Elizabeth B. Zipperer
Sept 16 Beverly Buczacki
Sept 17 Anna Anezin +
Sept 20 Marie Gempferline

Saturday, Sept. 19th

9:00 am Bobbi Tiso

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm
Evan Zipperer

Sunday, Sept. 20th

7:00 am
Dick & Carole DeWitt
9:00 am
Parishioners
11:00 am
Re Catechists &
their families
1:00 pm
David Quan

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 Opiela
Donald Zacherl

Leonora Ramos
Jason Saenz
Phyllis Zitnik
Mary K. Randazzo
Patricia Del Buono
Joann Alba
Michael
Malachowski
Juanita Boarman
Angela Colom
John Florio

Debra Henkel
Daniel Moore
Maria Daugherty
Howie DeWolf
Lauren Hornsby
Gaudencio Dizon
Antoinette Baptist
Chris Quan
Quentin Hoffman
Julia Oaks
Margaret O'Neill
Carol Snavelly

**View livestreaming of the Holy Mass
at St. Raymond's!**

<https://straymonds.org/view-mass-online/>

Monday through Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am

Saturday at 9:00 am

SUNDAY MASS at 11:00 am

Confessions in the Church

(in the flower room)

Wednesday: 6:15 pm - 7:00 pm

Saturday: 8:30 am - 9:00 am; and 3:00 pm - 4:45 pm

(No Sunday Confessions at this time.)

Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesdays: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Fridays: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

(There will be no Adoration on Friday, Sept. 18th due to a funeral in the church)

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.

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.

**POST ABORTION HEALING RETREAT FOR WOMEN:**

An Entering Canaan Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be held on **Saturday, October 17, 2020**. Come. Begin your healing journey. Experience God's hope and mercy. You are not alone. There is hope. There is healing. For more information and confidential registration, please contact Project Rachel Ministry at 888-456-HOPE(4673) or info@helpafterabortion.org.

Public Masses

Weekday Masses will be:

6:30 am Monday, Wednesday & Friday

8:30 am Monday thru Friday

9:00 am Saturday

Sunday Masses will be:

Saturday Vigil at **5:00 pm**

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

(No 5:00 pm Sunday Mass at this time)

Extraordinary Form of Mass (Traditional Latin)

1st & 3rd Fridays at 7:00 pm

Face masks will be expected at all Masses.

Sign ups are required for 9am and 11 am Sunday Masses.

Contact the parish office.

Altar Rail Project Update: The Marble has been loaded onto a ship, but we still do not know when the ship (and marble) will leave the Bahamas, but hopefully soon...

Father Tad Returns to St. Raymond's September 19th!

Father Tad will be giving a talk on "New Ethical Challenges in the Midst of COVID." Registration is required. Please visit our website (straymonds.org) for more information and to register.

Increased Access to Parish Library. Patrons may access the Parish Library for a private, in-person visit by contacting the parish office for an appointment. Alternatively, patrons may contact Mary Hansen at straylibrarian@gmail.com for an electronic catalog inquiry and/or check-out request. She will leave your materials with the Parish Office for easy pickup during regular business hours. *"You will not find anyone who is truly striving after his spiritual advancement who is not given to spiritual reading."* - St Athanasius

GOSPEL MT 18:21-35

Peter approached Jesus and asked Him,
"Lord, if my brother sins against me,
how often must I forgive?
As many as seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.

That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants.

When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount.

Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold,

along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt.

At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.'

Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan.

When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount.

He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.'

Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

But he refused.

Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt.

Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair.

His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant!

I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?'

Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt.

So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

Adult Formation Opportunities:

2020-2021 RCIA/Catholic update - St. Raymond's will offer RCIA classes on **Monday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 pm** via Zoom from **September 14, 2020 until March 29, 2021** (except for holidays). Those seeking information to understand and/or to **enter the Catholic Church**, and baptized Catholics seeking **additional sacraments** are welcome. To register for the course please contact Bob Ward at (703) 644-5873 or via email at biblestudy@straymonds.org.

2020-2021 Adult Bible Study: St. Raymond's will offer a Bible Study every Tuesday from **September 15, 2020 until May 11, 2021** focusing on an overview of the **New Testament**. It will take place every **Tuesday** (except for holidays) from **9:30 to 10:30 am** and again from **7:30 to 8:30 pm** via Zoom. **The classes will be recorded and posted on the parish website.** For further information please contact Bob Ward at (703) 644-5873 or via email at biblestudy@straymonds.org.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH.

Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE

MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center **This is our support weekend!** God bless you all for your continued generosity.



Divine Mercy Care's (Tepeyac Pro-Life OB/GYN) Harvest Soiree Week is replacing our usual November Gala this year. We hope to resume our in-person gala in 2021.
<https://divinemercycare.ejoinme.org/soiree>

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

Vaccines are in the news as one way for scientists to strive to find relief from the COVID19 virus. Many vaccines presently in use for various diseases have been derived from aborted fetal cell lines. Catholics should educate themselves on the pertinent concerns that fact presents. The National Catholic Bioethics Center can answer many questions. <https://www.ncbcenter.org/resources/>

Visit cogforlife.org for current information regarding ethical vaccines. Please consult the parish website for more detailed information.

Life Chain. Sunday October 4th from 2:30-3:30 along Franconia Road across from Key Middle School. Life Chain is a nationwide peaceful, prayerful and mostly silent witness. Signs (non-graphic) will be made available in the front of the key Middle School Parking lot (as usual). Bring the family!

College Scholarship Available:

Visit 40daysforlife.com/scholarship



**Outside Falls Church
'Healthcare' Center
900 S Washington Street
Falls Church**

Fall Campaign Prayer Vigil

Our witness weekend will be 31 Oct 7am-5pm/ 1 Nov 11am-4pm as well as every Friday during the campaign from 10am - noon. Watch your email for a sign up genius.

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

Gearing up for the new year

Please keep the Youth Apostolate in your prayers as we gear up for a new year, which undoubtedly will have its challenges as we continue to face the unknown in light of Covid-19.

We are in need of more volunteers, particularly young adults, to help out with our high school youth group during the school year, which meets on Sunday nights from 7:45-9:15pm. Please contact Jeanne for more info.

Adults: Do you have a particular gift/talent to share?

Perhaps you are good at painting and could lead a paint night? Are you a talented guitarist? Perhaps you can lead praise and worship around the campfire? Do you have a gift for knitting/crocheting that you could teach our youth? We had a mom recently offer her skills in creating films, using green screens, and video editing and were able to produce the amazing film, "St. Raymond the Surfing Friar" (see below). What we are able to offer our teens largely depends on the skills we have available. Is God calling you? Contact Jeanne if you have an idea of something you may be able to share.

St. Raymond the Surfing Friar!

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

<https://safeYouTube.net/w/svSP>



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

Religious Education classes begin TONIGHT September 13th! If you have not registered your child, please do so immediately, keeping in mind you may not get your first choice of class session.

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD REPORT TO THE CHURCH (not the classrooms) FOR CCD CLASS

When you enter the church, make your way to the adult who is holding the sign with your grade level written on it. Parents of younger children may walk their child to the teacher.

PLEASE BE SURE TO ARRIVE A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE SESSION IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN, SO EVERYONE CAN BE SEATED AND WE CAN START ON TIME!!

The schedule for on site classes is:

- **Sunday 6:30 - 8 p.m.**
- **Monday 4:45-6:15 p.m.**
- **Tuesday 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

PARENTS: please mark your calendars: PARENT MEETINGS are scheduled to take place the week of September 27th while CCD classes are in session. Please make plans to attend one of the three meetings.



St. John Bosco #12846 Knights of Columbus VISIT TO THE NATIONAL SHRINE GROTTO OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES (WWW.NSGROTTO.ORG) Knights and Families - Join us as we leave together from St. Raymond's on Saturday, September 26th, at 8:30 am to arrive at 10:00am. We will walk to the Grotto and pray a family rosary. This is a wonderful opportunity to consecrate your family to the care of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Bring small bottles to fill with the grotto holy water. Bring a bag lunch to have lunch as a community of Knights and families. Don't miss this special day! There is no cost for admittance. Call Larry Saenz at 703-832-1042 or email at lsaenz1@verizon.net to confirm your attendance.

9th Annual PROJECT MANGER Fundraiser is NEXT week, September 19/20. Join St. Raymond's Knights of Columbus and the Pro-Life Committee in supporting Project Manger! After all the Masses next weekend, September 19/20, St. Raymond's will once again have the opportunity to support **Project Manger** which purchases cribs for moms and their babies in need. The cribs are distributed through "A Woman's Choice" Pro-Life Crisis Pregnancy Center in Falls Church. Please prayerfully consider donating to this wonderful Pro-Life effort, which is changing hearts and minds one mom and baby at a time. For additional information, visit their website, <http://www.awomanschoicecenter.com/>. Contact John Crennan at 339-223-0887 with any questions. This year contributions can also be made throughout September and October on the St Raymond's Faith Direct website page.

Church Persecuted

We continue to focus on life issues and those directly impacting religious liberty in the Democrat and Republican party platforms. This week we will focus on conscience clauses for healthcare providers and the requirement that religious hospitals perform abortions, transgender surgeries, etc.

Democratic platform: "We will address the discrimination and barriers that inhibit meaningful access to reproductive health care services, including those based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity...and other factors. Democrats oppose restrictions on medication abortion care that are inconsistent with the most recent medical and scientific evidence and that do not protect public health."

Republican platform: "America's healthcare professionals should not be forced to choose between following their faith and practicing their profession. We respect the rights of conscience of healthcare professionals, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and organizations, especially the faith-based groups which provide a major portion of care for the nation and the needy. We support the ability of all organizations to provide, purchase, and enroll in healthcare coverage consistent with their religious, moral, or ethical convictions without discrimination or penalty."

Comment: This clause is directed at religious hospitals and medical centers that will not provide services which are contrary to their beliefs and at medical personnel who will not provide services that are contrary to their deeply held religious convictions. Specifically, there have been lawsuits filed against Catholic hospitals that will not provide transgender-related surgeries.

(The entire series of party platform articles and other articles can be found at <https://straymonds.org/religious-liberty-blog/>.)

Divine Mercy Care Virtual Harvest Soiree Week September 21 - 26, 2020

Divine Mercy Care (DMC) is a non-profit umbrella organization whose mission is to advance pro-life healthcare through programs that serve those in need, inspire caregivers and medical professionals, and unify the pro-life movement. Divine Mercy Care's Harvest Soiree Week is replacing the annual Gala usually held in November. We hope to resume our in-person gala in 2021. Activities held Monday through Friday will all be virtual. Before the Soiree Week begins, you will be sent a text and/or email with links to watch the activities online. For registration and information visit their website: <https://divinemercycare.ejoinme.org/soiree> or call 703-934-5552.

FORMED® Get In-Formed!

Mary: Handmaid of the Lord by St. Teresa of Kolkata - St. Teresa of Kolkata is known throughout the world as a woman who was totally committed to the Gospel. In this inspiring talk, she shares her insights on the Blessed Virgin Mary as a model of womanhood and perfect discipleship. She shows us that we, too, can do the will of God by saying "yes" to the Lord in the big and little things in our lives; nothing is too insignificant.

Listen now at www.straymonds.formed.org

The best Catholic content in one place - movies, programs, talks, dramas, & ebooks—just one click away!

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



Angelus Academy

Pre K—8th

Offering a liberal arts education in the classical tradition.

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

2020-21 Admissions: Tuition assistance is available for all parishioners. Share the treasures of a solid Catholic education with your child(ren)/grandchild(ren). Visit "Admissions" on our website for our application and more information.

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

Wednesday and Friday Adoration at St. Raymond's:

Would you like to spend an hour in silent prayer and reflection with our Lord during weekly exposition of the Blessed Sacrament? We are in immediate need of permanent adorers for Wednesday and Friday Adoration. ON WEDNESDAYS, 1 adorer is needed for the 10-11 am hour. ON FRIDAYS in particular 1 adorer is needed for the 10-11 am, 11 am-12noon and 2-3 pm hours. If you are interested in Wednesdays, please call Leslie Schratz at 703-569-1940 or email spoiledk9s@verizon.net. If you are interested in Fridays, please call Virginia Osella at 703-440-0535 or email virginia.osella@straymonds.org. And we can always use substitute adorers!

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.

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.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 15,569.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,150.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 3,071.00
Catholic University of America	\$ 569.00

The second collection today is for **Religious Education** and stays here at our parish to help with the religious education of our children. Please be generous.