

Pastor's Corner

Voting. Many have called the upcoming General Election on November 3 “the most important election of our lifetimes.” As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us: “co-responsibility for the common good make[s] it morally obligatory...to exercise the right to vote...” [2240]. In my opinion, when someone is eligible to vote, failure to vote is usually grave matter (i.e., the stuff that mortal sins are made of) when the issues are as important as they are in this election.

Several parishioners have told me that they have received mailings from various political organizations that include either information about voting absentee, voting by mail or even apparent ballots. Since I have not seen all of these mailings, I can't really express an opinion or give any clarification regarding them.

But I can give you advice on how to avoid any confusion. Throw any such mailings away, and go to the official election page of the Commonwealth of Virginia: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov>. There you will find all the information you need about voting. It will tell you:

- how to register or change/update your registration to vote
- when to vote and where to vote
- how to vote **early IN-PERSON** (see below)
- how to vote early or absentee by mail

Also, we will have a **table set up in the narthex of the church** after all the Sunday Masses on the weekends of **September 26-27 and October 3-4**. They will be **manned by parishioners** knowledgeable in helping you to vote. There will also be all sorts of forms and informational handouts.

Also, many of you may have decided to vote early/absentee, especially if you think you may not be able to get to the polls on Election Day, or if you have health concerns about voting on Election Day. If you decide to vote early/absentee I recommend you do so “in person,” and not by mail.

Also, remember these important dates:

- September 18: first day of absentee in-person/early voting at the Fairfax County Government Center
- October 13: last day to register to vote (in-person: 5:00 p.m., online: 11:59 p.m.)
- October 14: first day of absentee in-person/early voting at satellite locations
- October 23: last day to apply for an absentee ballot by mail, 5:00 p.m.
- October 31: last day to apply in person for an absentee ballot, 5:00 p.m.
- October 31: last day for absentee in-person/early voting, 5:00 p.m.
- November 3: Deadline to hand deliver absentee ballots to Office of Elections is 7:00 p.m.
- November 3: absentee ballots must be postmarked no later than November 3.

Masks. Some folks have approached me about the “rules” about wearing face-masks at Mass. While it is “expected” that everyone (except little children) will wear masks, we all should realize that the **Governor's Executive Order provided several exceptions to his mandate**. For example, there are exceptions for “Persons with health conditions that prohibit wearing a face covering” (and we are prohibited from asking for proof of this), and also “to participate in a religious ritual.” Moreover, many reasonably question the constitutionality of his mandate.

Because of all this, while I “expect” you to wear a mask, I do not absolutely require it. Nor will I question you about not

wearing a mask, or in any way think lesser of you for not wearing a mask. I myself do not wear a mask for several reasons.

However, I will “**absolutely require**” than **no one cast judgment** on anyone for not wearing a mask. You don't know why they are not wearing one. Maybe it's because they have some medical reason (remember the law, and charity, says you can't even ask what that medical reason is). **This is the sin of rash judgment:** judging when you clearly don't have all the facts.

So it pains me when I hear of some folks at Mass giving “dirty,” “judgmental” or “condescending” looks at people who do not wear masks. And conversely, it pains me when those who don't wear masks are not at least sensitive to those who might be nervous about that. **Folks, everyone show some charity and compassion for each other**—even when you disagree. Good grief, we complain and worry about our country not being able to live civilly together. In church, at Mass, we have no choice **if we love one another as Christ commands**.

God Bless the Police. I for one am angry as heck that our police have come under attack from the far-left-Marxist-backed rioters in so many of our cities. Of course there have been a few cases unjustified violence against minorities, especially Blacks. Whatever the solution to that, a few bad apples don't spoil the whole orchard. Most police and law enforcement officers are men and women of great integrity and concern for the communities they serve. And they DO serve. Every day, they put on a badge and a gun and risk their lives to keep us safe. And every day we should appreciate the risk they take and the service they provide us.

A few years ago, I was having a particularly bad day. Everything was going wrong and I was depressed and angry at everything. And then it got worse: I was pulled over by a policeman for speeding. And it got even worse: I misunderstood the officers' instructions and understandably put him on edge. And then I did something really stupid, something I never do, because I know better: I started arguing with the officer. Now, he may have been somewhat in the wrong, but he was just doing the job I asked him to do—a tough job that you couldn't pay me enough money to do. What was I doing arguing with the poor and good man?

As he went back to his car to check on my registration, it struck me how stupid and offensive I'd been. By the time he came back to me I was literally fighting back tears of shame and I was profusely apologizing all over myself for my disrespect, and asking him to cite me for whatever violations he wanted. God bless the poor man, he seemed to choke up too, and let me go with a warning.

I am still embarrassed and ashamed of this relatively minor incident. So it breaks my heart to hear and see policemen today being spat at, yelled at and even shot at. The recent cold-blooded attempted assassination/ambush of two Los Angeles County deputies, should make us all angry to the bone, not to mention the “protesters” outside the critically wounded deputies' hospital shouting vile things, like, “f-- the police,” and “we hope they die.”

But remember, anger is a passion, that is not sinful in itself, but can become sinful if we let it be controlled by hatred and senselessness. Rather, let your anger be controlled by love and reason: forgive your enemies but remember to act courageously to end the violence against policemen. Speak out, with charity but with clarity. And remember to vote for those who support our police, and not those who support folks who disrespect police or commit violence against them, or who want to tear them down. And pray for all our law enforcement officers. God bless them.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

<p>Monday, Sept. 21st 6:30 am Stephen Kozich + 8:30 am Ben Shealy</p> <p>Tuesday, Sept. 22nd 8:30 am Evelyn Hildebrand +</p> <p>Wednesday, Sept. 23rd 6:30 am Betty Jo Lash 8:30 am Elizabeth Brisson +</p> <p>Thursday, Sept. 24th 8:30 am Arthur Burrows +</p> <p>Friday, Sept. 25th 6:30 am Youth of the Parish 8:30 am Timotea de la Cruz +</p> <p>Masses to be said Privately Sept 22 Evelyn Hildebrand + Sept 23 Greg Farrell + Sept 24 Poor Souls in Purgatory+ Sept 27 Encarnacion Sy +</p>	<p>Saturday, Sept. 26th 9:00 am Elaine Perricone</p> <p>Vigil Mass 5:00 pm Fr. De Celles Floriska Harper +</p> <p>Sunday, Sept. 27th 7:00 am Fr. Willard Lily Waldrup 9:00 am Fr. De Celles Parishioners 11:00 am Fr. De Celles Rosemarie Broderick 1:00 pm Fr. Rippy Lisa Kearns</p>
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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

<p>Glenn Bliss Tom Dietz Michael O'Neil Cindy Laird Christine B Petitti Patricia Lewis Barbara McGinn Mai Pham Joan Opiela Donald Zacherl</p>	<p>Leonora Ramos Jason Saenz Phyllis Zitnik Mary K. Randazzo Patricia Del Buono Joann Alba Michael Malachowski Juanita Boarman Angela Colom John Florio</p>	<p>Debra Henkel Daniel Moore Maria Daugherty Howie DeWolf Lauren Hornsby Gaudencio Dizon Antoinette Baptist Chris Quan Quentin Hoffman</p>
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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

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.

Religious Freedom Special Speakers Series - Dr. Robert Royal is giving a talk at Saint Raymond's on Saturday October 10th entitled "The New Marxism and Anti-Christian Socialism" after the 9 am Mass. Please visit our website for more information and to register.



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.

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

*(Modified Weekday Mass Schedule Sept. 28—Oct 2
Mass at 8:30 am only—Livestreamed)*

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...

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE: St Raymond's will host a Voter Registration Drive after Masses the weekends of September 26-27 and October 3-4 in the Narthex. The registration deadline is **October 13**, so do not delay! The safest way to vote absentee is in-person at one of the many satellite locations. No mail is involved and you can even vote curbside and not enter the building. Information will be available at the table or on <https://straymonds.org>.

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 20:1-16A

Jesus told His disciples this parable:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard.

After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

Going out about nine o'clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.’

So they went off.

And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise.

Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them,

‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’

They answered, ‘Because no one has hired us.’

He said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard.’

When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman,

‘Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.’

When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage.

So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more,

but each of them also got the usual wage.

And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying,

‘These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.’

He said to one of them in reply,

‘My friend, I am not cheating you.

Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?

Take what is yours and go.

What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?

Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money?

Are you envious because I am generous?’

Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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 Wow. Wow.

Wow! Thank you again!

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

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 on or off site.

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.

- This is a separate form from that required for CCD.
- Only one form per family is required, listing ALL of the children who participate in ANY of the activities covered by that form (e.g., AHG, Trail Life, and Altar Servers, among others, are all covered by the Youth Ministry Waiver).

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.

Sunday Night CCD began Sept. 13th
Sunday Night High School Youth Group begins
October 4th (8-9pm)

VOLUNTEERS, especially YOUNG ADULTS...
Our Youth Apostolate Needs YOU!

We are in need of volunteers for the following:

In-Person High School Youth Group

- Time Commitment: 7:45-9:15pm most Sunday Nights
- Volunteers (age 20+) to hang out with, journey alongside and share your love of Jesus with our teens **in person**.

In-Person Junior High (7th & 8th grade) Youth Group

- Meeting Dates/Times TBD
- Volunteers (ages 18+) willing to help out with our **in person** junior high youth group.

Virtual Junior High and/or High School Youth Group

- Meeting Dates/Times TBD
- Volunteers to participate in zoom meetings if/when we have them for, both junior high and high school meetings.

Please pray about these opportunities.

Our teens, perhaps more than any of us, are in great need of the ability to meet with one another, especially during these times of so much isolation. The only way to make this happen is through having enough committed volunteers. Is the Holy Spirit nudging you?

"A second time he said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you."

He said to him, "Tend my sheep."

~John 21:16

Interested in volunteering?

Email Jeanne with what you are interested in helping with and/or with any questions you may have.

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 (CCD) classes began **last week September 20th!** 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 FOR CCD CLASS. Please enter through the **Front Door.** 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.

****IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING**

PARENT MEETINGS:

1. There will be no general parent meeting.
2. Parents with students in sacrament preparation years (grades 2, 7 and 8) are expected to attend one of two meetings regarding preparing your children for reception of sacraments. The meetings will take place on 9/28 at 5 p.m. and 9/29 at 6:15 p.m. - space is limited, so you will need to sign up for the night you prefer to attend. Please look for an email from this office with sign up information.



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 THIS WEEK, September 19/20. Join St. Raymond's Knights of Columbus and the Pro-Life Committee in supporting Project Manger! After all the Masses this weekend, 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

A physician's assistant was fired from a "Catholic" hospital in Oregon because she refused to perform procedures and prescribe contraceptive and abortion-causing devices which were contrary to Catholic moral teaching. Not only that, but the hospital asked her to sign a statement affirming the U.S. Bishop's Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services which contained the Catholic teaching on such practices. This directive prohibited her from providing the services that she was fired for refusing to do. Megan Kraft had to excuse herself from these practices while in a secular medical school and she was excited about securing a position where she could practice her faith in the workplace at Providence Medical Group, part of the Providence-St. Joseph Health system, a Catholic entity located in the Portland, Oregon area.

She immediately noticed that on a routine form containing which procedures and practices she would do, she found procedures such as vasectomies, intrauterine device insertions, and emergency contraction. This was on the same list as "stitch or toenail removal." She soon found that other physicians recommended that patients be referred for an abortion and the clinic encouraged providers to prescribe hormonal contraceptives. Her Catholic faith in practice got her fired from a Catholic medical group six months into her first medical job.

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/a-catholic-healthcare-worker-objected-to-contraception-her-catholic-clinic-fired-her-30957>

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!

Just for kids! Hildegard's Gift by Megan Hoyt – Hildegard's Gift was not wrapped in shimmering paper and tied with gold ribbons. It was not a special package left under a beautiful, fragrant Christmas tree by old St. Nicholas. Hildegard's Gift was much more special than that. It took a lifetime for Hildegard to understand her gift completely, but when she finally did, she changed her entire world.

This beautiful children's picture book not only celebrates the life and work of Hildegard von Bingen; it also shows children that they, too, have gifts and talents hidden within, just waiting to be released.

Watch now at www.straymonds.formed.org

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

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



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, 2-3 pm and 4-5 pm hours. ON FRIDAYS in particular 1 adorer is needed for the 2-3 pm hour. 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	\$ 11,542.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,005.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,110.00
Religious Education Collection	\$ 1,793.00