

Pastor's Corner

Fr. Willard's Transfer. By now you all know that Fr. Willard is being transferred to Our Lady of Hope in Sterling, effective this Thursday, October 15. He's only been with us a little less than a year, but he has made his impact and has been a huge help to me.

Because of Covid restrictions and the short time frame we will not be able to have a proper going away reception, so I hope you all will give Father a good send off either by greeting him after Mass, or sending a card, etc... And pray for him in his new assignment. Thank you, Father, and God bless you.

One-Priest Parish. As you know, we will not be receiving a replacement for Fr. Willard until this coming Summer. This means I'm on my own, which will require me to make several changes in the schedule and the general conduct of my ministry. I sent out an email last week with changes to the times of Mass, Confession, etc., which I hope you will read carefully. Bottom line: fewer Confessions and fewer weekday Masses.

I have to be honest with you: this is quite daunting to me. I've never been in a parish with only 1 priest, and we will be, by far, the largest parish in the Diocese without at least 2 priests assigned. So my plate is full. I'm tempted to fear that I won't be able to carry this off. But the Lord commands us, "Be not afraid," so I know He will give me the grace not to completely let you down. But in His plan, I know that He wants you to help me by your prayers. So, please do. And please be patient with me, especially if stress from time to time weakens me to be impatient with some of you.

But I need more than your prayers. The parish has been running very well, I think, for the last few years, and some of you may assume it will run without your help. But with Fr. Willard's leaving and other recent staff changes, we can't afford to leave it to someone else to help out around the parish. Particularly in this Covid shutdown, a lot of our regular volunteers are unable to help out because of their age or medical conditions.

So, please, please, **please: when I ask for volunteers**, either directly or through a committee chairman, please respond as best you can. don't leave it to someone else—if you can volunteer to help, then **YOU VOLUNTEER!**

Now, don't think I don't appreciate how much so many of you do around here, but some could do a little more, and a lot of you could do a lot more. Don't take this as a chastisement, but as encouragement to serve the Lord and your neighbor as the Lord is calling you to. To serve Him is a gift and a joy! Accept the gift, and rejoice in His service. And I will try my best to do the same.

Tom Browne. Speaking of staff leaving, our Plant Manager, Tom Browne, has accepted a position at St. Leo the Great Parish in Fairfax City, effective October 15 (same day as Fr Willard leaves). St. Leo's is a much larger parish than St. Raymond's, with a large school, so while he tells me he was reluctant to leave us, he is looking forward to the greater responsibilities and new challenges.

During his four-year tenure, Tom has done an outstanding job in running and improving our facilities, including implementing our lighting, security-camera, confessional, mural and altar rail projects. He's been there for everything from setting up chairs for meetings before sunup on weekdays, to handling emergency power outages in the middle of the night. And he has been a Godsend in implementing and

managing cleaning and safety protocols during the pandemic.

I can't begin to tell you how important he has been to the parish, and to me. Like my right arm. Thank you and God bless you, Tom. We will miss you, but you will remain in our prayers.

Get Well, Mr. President. We should all pray for President Trump and First Lady Melania Trump as they continue to recover from Covid. And we should also pray for all those filled with so much hate they can't even show respect and concern for the President of the United States. They even blamed him for getting sick. For example, when asked about Trump often not wearing a mask, Joe Biden responded: "Look, anybody who contracts the virus by essentially saying masks don't matter, social distancing doesn't matter, I think is responsible." Whatever happened to not blaming the victim? And what if your grandmother didn't like wearing a mask and got sick—would you appreciate Biden blaming her? And how does Biden know how Trump got the virus—he might even have caught it while wearing a mask, as many masks have a low rate of efficacy. As for me, God bless the President and his wife.

Judging Amy. Well, I told you that Supreme Court nominee Amy Barrett would be viciously attacked by the left, and it's happening. Most of it is directed at the fact that she's a serious, believing and practicing Catholic—as if that were a disqualifier for the Court. Here are some examples:

> In a clear allusion to Amy's Catholicism, Democrat Sen. Mazie Hirono questioned "whether her closely held views can be separated from her ability to make objective, fair decisions"

> Biden campaign Deputy Data Director Nikitha Rai, in response to a tweet claiming Amy was a trustee at a Catholic school that taught that homosexual acts are "at odds with Scripture," replied: "Isn't this the standard position for any orthodox Catholic?"I'd heavily prefer views like that not be elevated to SCOTUS, but unfortunately our current culture is relatively intolerant. It will be awhile before those types of beliefs are so taboo that they're disqualifiers."

> Boston University professor Ibram X. Kendi wrote of Amy's adoption of two black children from Haiti: "Some White colonizers 'adopted' Black children... They 'civilized' these 'savage' children in the 'superior' ways of White people, while using them as props in their lifelong pictures of denial, while cutting the biological parents of these children out of the picture of humanity."

New York Times Magazine journalist Vanessa Grigoriadis tweeted: "I guess one of the things I don't understand ...is how a potential Supreme Court justice can also be a loving, present mom to seven kids?....And if there aren't enough hours in the day for her to work and mother those kids, when she portrays herself as a home-centered Catholic who puts family over career, isn't she telling a lie?"

HBO's Bill Maher joked: "...Amy Coney ...she's a f*****g nut....Catholic. Really Catholic. I mean, really, really Catholic ...She doesn't believe in condoms, which she has in common with Trump, because he doesn't either. We learned that from Stormy Daniels."

Pray for our sister in Christ, Judge Amy Coney Barrett, especially as her Senate Confirmation Hearings begin this Monday.

Oremus pro invicem, et pro patria. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, Oct. 12th****Columbus Day**

10:00 am Adele Shook +

Tuesday, Oct. 13th

8:30 am Bob & Bev Ward

Wednesday, Oct. 14th

6:30 am Jodi Schlesinger

8:30 am Paul Lovgren +

Thursday, Oct.. 15th8:30 am Baby Lola -Mary
Catherine**Friday, Oct. 16th**

6:30 am William Hodgins +

8:30 am Margot Woodrough +

Masses to be said Privately

Oct. 13 Yolanda Mora Reynoso

Oct. 14 Bob Daffer +

Oct. 15 Sally Allman

Oct. 18 Miryam Pena +

Saturday, Oct. 17th

9:00 am Chad San Pedro

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm

Mike Krosnick +

Sunday, Oct. 18th

7:00 am

Dr. Robin Maas

9:00 am Parishioners

11:00 am

Araya Zerihum +

1:00 pm

RE Students & their families

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 Opie
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
Chris Quan
Christine Gloninger
Brenda Starr
Gavin MacDonald
Donald Hale
Fr. Paul Richardson

Public Masses**Weekday Masses Oct 12-16****Monday, Oct. 12th one Mass at 10:00 am****(Columbus Day Holiday)****6:30 am** Wednesday**8:30 am** Tuesday 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****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 9 am and 11 am Sunday Masses.****Contact the parish office.**

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

<https://straymonds.org/view-mass-online/>**Monday Oct. 12th at 10:00 am****Tuesday through Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am****Saturday at 9:00 am****SUNDAY MASS at 11:00 am****Confessions in the Church***(in the flower room)***Wednesday: 6:00 pm - 6:55 pm****Saturday: 8:15 am - 8:45 am, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm****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.

**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.

Altar Rail Project Update: The marble is still on the ship just outside of Miami! We still do not know yet when the marble will arrive at St. Raymond's, but hopefully soon...

Virtual Open House, (Oct. 25 – Nov. 7) Get to know Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School! JP's annual Fall Open House has gone virtual and will be jam-packed with great information for all families with elementary and middle school children! Reserve your spot online at jpthegreat.org today!

Columbus Day Holiday, Monday, October 12th. We will only have One Mass at 10:00 am. Parish Offices will be closed.

We are Looking for Families for our Christmas Giving Tree.

Each year, St. Raymond's "adopts" families who need help with Christmas. This year with the COVID-19 virus and the closures it has caused, there are more families in need than ever! If your family or someone you know could use help providing gifts for their children, please let Kirsti in the parish office know. The information is kept completely confidential! Office phone number is 703-440-0535 or email straychurch@aol.com.

St. Raymond's has Adoration every Wednesday and Friday!

Would you like to spend an hour in silent prayer and reflection with our Lord during weekly exposition of the Blessed Sacrament? We are in need of adorers for Wednesday (9 am to 7 pm) and Friday (9 am to 3 pm). If you are interested in Wednesdays, please call Leslie Schratz at 703-569-1940 or email spoiledk9s@verizon.net. If you are interested in Fridays, please call Virginia Osella at 703-440-0535 or email virginia.osella@straymonds.org. Drop-ins are always welcome!

GOSPEL MT 22:1-10

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying,

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.

He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come.

A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast."' Some ignored the invitation and went away,

one to his farm, another to his business.

The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them.

The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come.

Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.'

The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests."

FOOD DRIVE for ECHO: Sat., Oct. 17th, 10 am - 2 pm in the Church Parking Lot. ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others) is in urgent need of nonperishable food and personal items for those in need in the Springfield/Burke communities. Because of the current pandemic, ECHO is distributing more food than ever before. As a member congregation of ECHO, we will be sponsoring a food drive to help replenish the ECHO food room. Please bring donations in the back of your car, drive up to the delivery area, and volunteers will take donations from the car. Please wear masks - safety first for everyone! For more information about ECHO, and the current needs, please visit the website: echo-inc.org, or call Kathy Siner at 703-405-8164. Thanks for helping those in need in our community!

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 next Saturday. For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.

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.

Adult Formation Opportunities:

2020-2021 RCIA every Monday evening

2020-2021 Adult Bible Study every Tuesday morning & again in the evening. **Both are held via ZOOM this year!**

Contact Bob Ward 703-644-5873 or email at biblestudy@straymonds.org. for info & a link!

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

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



VOTE!

My life depends on it!

"Laws which legitimize the direct killing of innocent human beings through abortion or euthanasia are in complete opposition to the inviolable right to life proper to every individual; they thus deny the equality of everyone before the law." Saint JPII EV 72

MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center God bless you for your continued generosity!

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

Tepeyac Pro Life OB/GYN: Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare. tepeyacobgyn.com 703-273-9440. Thank you for your referrals and your support.

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.

Life Chain. Thank you to all who came with friends and family and spent a beautiful hour in prayer with hundreds of others along Franconia Road. The truth will set us free.

College Scholarship Available:

Visit 40daysforlife.com/scholarship



Fall Campaign Prayer Vigil
Outside Falls Church 'Healthcare' Center
900 S Washington Street Falls Church

Our witness weekend will be Oct 31/ Nov 1 as well as every **Friday during the campaign from 10am - noon.** **See the parish website for Sign Up Genius – or the SIGN UP SHEETS 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 amomsppeace.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

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.

There is NO High School CCD or Youth Group this Sunday, October 11th due to the holiday weekend. We will resume 8-9pm Sunday, October 18th in the parish hall. All students grades 9-12 are welcome. Please make sure forms (above) are on file before coming.

9-12th Grade Service Opportunity: Food Drive Help 10am-2pm Saturday, October 17th

We are in need of folks to help take food donations out of trunks as folks drive through. There will be two shifts, 10am-12pm, and 12pm-2pm. You must sign up in advance to help so that we can keep COVID protocol. A YA Form and COVID waiver must also be on file/turned in. Please email Jeanne (below) if you would like to help.

Compliant adults are also needed for each shift as well as to drive the donations to ECHO at 2pm. Please email Jeanne.

7-8th Grade Service Opportunity: Yard work 9am-2pm Saturday, October 26th

Great opportunity to help a few of our older parishioners with yard work while making new friends! You must sign up in advance to help so that we can keep COVID protocol. A YA Form and COVID waiver must also be on file/turned in. Please email Jeanne (below) if you would like to help. **Compliant adults are also needed!**

Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in helping with our 7-8th grade youth group? We are in need of more volunteers so we can get our junior high program up and running. Please pray about this opportunity or call Jeanne with questions.

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



The annual parish Holy Hour and Rosary is scheduled for **THIS Thursday October 15th at 6:45 p.m.** **All are invited to attend.** This is a good opportunity for 7th and 8th grade students to earn two Prayer Service Hours!! Please sign up if you plan to attend: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B48AAA92F4-holy>

There are NO CCD classes this week: October 11, 12 or 13 in observance of the Columbus Day holiday.



In thanksgiving to God and with deep pride, the Religious Education (CCD) Office would like to acknowledge the outstanding commitment of our CCD volunteers. Limited room in the bulletin makes it necessary to print the names in three separate bulletins. Here are the names of our Sunday night volunteers:

Ginger Avvenire	Pat Franco	Marilee McCauley
Dorothy Bryant	Anthony Hansen	Patty Miller
James Carlson	Liz Hildebrand	Michele O'Kane
Mike Connolly	Danny Hoben	Joe O'Kane
Nelly Drouillard	Don Jarvis	Heather Ruffner
Aubrey Franco	Bob Laird	Joe Sundy
Kolbie Franco	Gerri Laird	Colin Tansey



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!

All Knights of our Council and all men of St. Raymond's age 18 or over are invited to attend the initial session of the "Into the Breach" program on Oct. 17th, 10:30 - 12:00 in the Parish Hall. This will replace the annual Oktoberfest this year due to social distancing restrictions. "Into the Breach" is inspired by the Apostolic Exhortation for Catholic men written by Bishop Olmsted of Phoenix. KofC produced a 12-part video series, which seeks to answer the question of what it means to be a man and how to live as a man in today's world. The goal of the program is to help men grow in their faith and become the men that God is calling them to be. Pre-registration is required and limited to 30 attendees. Socially-distanced fellowship will follow the session. Please view the trailer at: <https://www.kofc.org/en/campaigns/into-the-breach.html>. For more information and to register, please contact Pat Franco at 703-220-2403 or at popsfr8@aol.com.

Home School Group: for more information visit our website www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhs/. Contact: Katherine Bogacki or Malia Cameron at straymondhs@gmail.com.

Church Persecuted

Justice Clarence Thomas, commenting on October 5th on the case of *Kim Davis v. David Ermold, et al.*, noted that the right to same-sex marriage, promulgated in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, by the Court “would threaten the religious liberty of the many Americans who believe that marriage is a sacred institution between one man and one woman.” While the Court recognized those who had “sincerely held objections to same-sex marriage are often ‘decent and honorable’, the Court went on to suggest that those beliefs espoused a bigoted worldview (...because it ‘teach[es] that gays and lesbians are unequal’).”

The dissenting justices in the case (of which Justice Thomas was one) “predicted that ‘[t]hese...assaults on the character of fair-minded people will have an effect, in society and in the court,’ allowing ‘governments, employers, and schools’ to ‘vilify’ those with these religious beliefs ‘as bigots.’ Those predictions did not take long to become reality.” The court declined to hear Davis’ case. As Justice Thomas notes: “Due to *Obergefell*, those with sincerely held religious beliefs concerning marriage will find it increasingly difficult to participate in society without running afoul of *Obergefell* and its effect on other antidiscrimination laws. It would be one thing if recognition for same-sex marriage had been debated and adopted through the democratic process, with the people deciding not to provide statutory protections for religious liberty under state law. But it is quite another when the Court forces that choice...leaving those with religious objections in a lurch.”

(see <https://straymonds.org/religious-liberty-blog/> for entire op-ed)

Men’s Retreat: Gentlemen: The civil turmoil and political division in our country presents a major spiritual challenge to all of us. What is being asked of faithful Catholic men in this time of trial? **The 22nd Annual Christ the King Men’s Day of Recollection**, directed by The Very Reverend Paul D. Scalia, will be held on **Sat. Oct. 24 from 9:15am-1:15pm** at St. Raymond of Peñafort Catholic Church. There is no charge for this event, **but you must register before Oct. 20 to attend. Attendance is limited. To register visit www.waywomen.com/mensretreat** For more information, contact Robin Maas at rmvmaas@gmail.com.

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Please prayerfully consider a donation to the **Messengers of Hope** campaign. As an independent Catholic school, we receive no funds from the Diocese or the state; we rely entirely on tuition and donations to cover our expenses.

To donate, please go to AngelusAcademy.org and click on “donate” or mail a check directly to the school: 7644 Dynatech Court, Springfield, Virginia 22153.

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	\$13,841.18
Family Assistance	\$ 2,417.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 4,075.00
“Special Kids, Special Needs”	\$ 528.00

The second collection next week will be for World Missions.