

Pastor's Corner

ALTAR RAILS AND PULPIT—FINALLY. After months of waiting, first, for the Italian authorities to allow our shipment, then for the various port authorities to lift their quarantines of the ship, and finally for the US Customs to release the shipment, we finally have marble pieces of our new altar rails and pulpit in the hands of our artisan in Maryland. Installation begins on Monday, January 18th after 8:30 Mass, and should be finished before the following weekend. Daily Mass will continue in the church, but the altar and sanctuary will be closed. The Blessed Sacrament will be kept in the small confessional chapel by the Family Room.

Thanks so much for your patience with this project (especially to all who donated). I'm so excited and give glory to God for this gift to our parish.

VACCINES. There's been a lot of discussion and debate in Catholic circles as to whether or not it is morally permissible/okay to take one of the new COVID-19 vaccines. Some go as far as to say, on the one hand, it is morally *necessary* to take the vaccine to protect others, or, on the other hand, it is morally *wrong* to take the vaccine.

The debate comes from the fact that all of the current vaccines approved or under development have, in some stage of their development, testing or manufacturing (DTM), made use of cells taken from aborted fetuses. Let's refer to these as "morally objectionable vaccines." (Note: these abortions occurred literally decades ago). I am not the ultimate expert, but my academic background is moral theology, and after consulting trusted authorities I'll give you my advice.

It is clear that the principle that applies to this case is the Catholic moral teaching on "cooperation with evil." The "evil" involved is direct intentional abortion, which is always evil in itself ("intrinsically evil"), as well as the evil of using these aborted fetus cells in the DMT of these vaccines (although not intrinsically evil, this is still clearly morally wrong under Catholic moral principles).

The problem/question for us is whether in receiving the morally objectionable vaccines we are *cooperating* or *promoting* abortion.

Applying long established Catholic moral teaching, it is clear that in taking the vaccine you are, in fact, not cooperating in the abortion (or abortion in general) either formally (you do not *intend* the abortion), nor immediately (you do not *directly* take part in or provide necessary material for the abortion), nor proximately (your participation is not *closely* associated with the abortion). To put it another way, your "cooperation" is essentially "very remote mediate material cooperation." Therefore, you are not guilty of "active cooperation" in the abortion.

However, there is the risk of what are called "passive cooperation" and "scandal." "Passive cooperation" refers to the omission of an act of denunciation of a sinful action carried out by another person, inasmuch as there was a moral duty to do so. "Scandal" is an attitude or behavior which leads another to do evil, e.g., by taking the objectionable vaccine you may lead others to reasonably conclude that abortion is morally okay.

To mitigate the possibility of these sins, particularly in this case involving the grave matter of abortion, if you take the objectionable vaccine you must first ascertain that there are grave reasons for taking it, and then make known your objections to the vaccine to those responsible for it's DMT (e.g., the manufacturer, the government, etc.).

So, in its 2005 "Moral Reflections" on such vaccines, the Pontifical Academy for Life stated:

"As regards the diseases against which there are no alternative vaccines which are available and ethically acceptable, it is right to abstain from using these vaccines if it can be done without causing children, and indirectly the population as a whole, to undergo significant risks to their health. However, if the latter are exposed to considerable dangers to their health, vaccines with moral problems pertaining to them may also be used on a temporary basis. The moral reason is that the duty to avoid passive material cooperation is not obligatory if there is grave inconvenience...In any case, there remains a moral duty to continue to fight and to employ every lawful means in order to make life difficult for the pharmaceutical industries which act unscrupulously and unethically."

And in its 2008 instruction "Dignitas Personae" the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, with the specific approval of Pope Benedict XVI, stated:

"Grave reasons may be morally proportionate to justify the use of such 'biological material'. Thus, for example, danger to the health of children could permit parents to use a vaccine which was developed using cell lines of illicit origin, while keeping in mind that everyone has the duty to make known their disagreement and to ask that their healthcare system make other types of vaccines available."

It is important to note that ascertaining whether there are grave reasons is up to your individual conscience. But that conscience must be well-formed by Catholic moral teachings and by reason.

While many good Catholics, including well-respected bishops, priests and theologians judge the situation differently, I strenuously disagree with any effort to compel Catholics to take or not take the vaccine. You are free to choose what you think is morally right, based on your honest application of Catholic principles and reason. For example, you may reasonably come to the conclusion that the vaccine is biologically dangerous in itself—how can a bishop compel you to endanger yourself, and how is his scientific judgment better than yours? Or you may reasonably conclude that the pandemic is so dangerous to you or your kin or society at large that you have a grave responsibility to take it—how can another bishop tell you must endanger your very life etc.?

They can't. It is wrong for them to do so. And it would be wrong for me to do so. And in like manner, it would be wrong for you to condemn others who disagree with your conclusions and choices in this matter.

Different Vaccines. From what I've read, all the various vaccines being distributed and still being developed are morally objectionable. But some are truly and clearly more objectionable than others, and I believe in very important ways. For example, some are developed using the aborted fetus cells in the development and even manufacturing stages—let's call these "very bad." Others used the aborted fetus cells only in the testing phase. The "very bad" are clearly more objectionable than the "less bad" vaccines. So if you have a choice between vaccines, you should demand one of the "less bad."

Among these "less bad" are the Pfizer vaccine and Moderna vaccine. Among the very bad are Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine and Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

STRANGE. Did you hear that Congressman Emanuel Cleaver closed his prayer on the House floor the other day by saying: "Amen. And a-woman." I hear that Joe Biden wants to institute a requirement that we all wear masks—it will be a mandate and a womandate.

Oremus pro invicem, Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday Jan. 11th**

8:30 am Joseph Spinelli

Tuesday, Jan. 12th

8:30 am Antoinette Trotta +

Wednesday, Jan. 13th

8:30 am William Boychuck

Thursday, Jan. 14th

8:30 am Lu Rowley +

Friday, Jan. 15th8:30 am Wilmer W.
Hoopes III +
7:00 pm EFM (Latin Mass)**Masses to be said Privately**Jan. 11 Ruth Delaney +
Jan. 13 Ruth Delaney +
Jan. 13 Linda Pasternak +
Jan. 14 Ellen Konieczke +
Jan. 15 Barbara England +**Saturday, Jan. 16th**

9:00 am Kathryn Quan

Vigil Mass5:00 pm Fr. De Celles
Donna Cabrera**Sunday, Jan. 17th**7:00 am Fr. Rippy
Sheila Masterson +
9:00 am Fr. Rippy
Parishioners
11:00 am Fr. De Celles
Wilmer W. Hoopes, III +
1:00 pm Fr. De Celles
Milton Dwight
Drummond, Jr +.

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 parishGlenn Bliss
Tom Dietz
Michael O'Neill
Cindy Laird
Patricia Lewis
Barbara McGinn
Mai Pham
Joan Opiela
Donald Zacherl
Leonora Ramos
Jason Saenz
Phyllis ZitnikMary K Randazzo
Patricia Del Buono
Michael
Malachowski
Juanita Boarman
Angela Colom
John Florio
Debra Henkel
Daniel Moore
Maria Daugherty
Lauren Hornsby
Gaudencio Dizon
Antoinette BaptistMargaret O'Neill
Ada Prabhavat
Julia Oaks
Christine Gloninger
Joan Snively
Paul Haynes
John Sause
Donald Letzkus
Kory Haddock-
Quinones
Desiree Quinones
Minnie Taylor
Charles Ferrara
Donna Foster

**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)**

Wednesdays: 6:00 pm - 6:55 pm

Saturday: 8:00 am - 8:45 am, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

*Please see the front of the bulletin for our current Mass,
Confession, and Adoration schedules.*

**Face masks are expected at all Masses unless you are
exempt.**

**The 1:00 pm Sunday Mass is "Masks Mandatory".
Sign ups are required for 9 am and 11 am Sunday Masses.
Contact the parish office.**

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

"Incline your ear and come to Me." What is the Lord asking you as you incline your ear? Could it be to consider a call to serve as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org or 703-841-2514.

January 18th is Martin Luther King Holiday. Due to the start of the Altar Rail installation the 1 Mass will be at 8:30 am (livestreamed). Parish Offices will be closed.

Adoration will be cancelled on Wednesday, Jan. 13th & Jan. 20th.

Mark your calendar! The 48th Annual March for Life is scheduled for Friday, Jan 29th. A special mass will be offered at 10:30 am. Information and sign-ups for the buses are available in the narthex and on the parish website. Stay tuned for any further details.

Legion of Mary: The Legion of Mary weekly meeting is held Virtually on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm. All auxiliary members and anyone interested in joining the Legion of Mary are welcome. For more information, please contact Tom Delaney at 703-690-1930 or by e-mail at tdelaney51@verizon.net.

Men's Prayer Group: On the first and third Saturdays of each month a group of men meet in the parish hall to pray and read the scriptures. They are neither theologians, philosophers, nor great scholars. Just some guys, coming together to pray, read, and share a simple breakfast. Everyone is welcome. Please join us at 7:30 am Saturday, Jan. 16th. For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.

Family of Jesus Prayer Group: Though our weekly meetings are currently canceled - we are still praying! If you have any prayer requests, please let us know by emailing Elaine Perricone at jpebtp@verizon.net or by calling the parish office at 703-440-0535.

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.

GOSPEL MK 1:7-11

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed:

"One mightier than I is coming after me.

I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of
his sandals.

I have baptized you with water;

he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

It happened in those days that Jesus came from
Nazareth of Galilee

and was baptized in the Jordan by John.

On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens
being torn open

and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him.

And a voice came from the heavens,

"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well
pleased."

Luminaries of Holy Mary: Come join us on Feb. 6th to honor the Blessed Mother's request for making the 5 First Saturdays: Mass at 9am, then meet in the Parish Hall for Rosary, meditation and Gospel reflection. All are welcome.



A tremendous **THANK YOU** goes out to **everyone** in the parish for all your prayers and generous donations that supported **PROJECT MANGER** this year. In one weekend the Parish, **YOU** raised \$7,411.00! That money went directly for the purchase of approximately 46 new cribs for the many local area (e.g. Springfield, Annandale, Fairfax) families in need of cribs; what a wonderful Christmas present for these new parents and their newborn babies.

In the past 10 years St. Raymond Parish has collected over \$154,000 in support of **PROJECT MANGER**, enough for the purchase of 971 new cribs! So **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU** for your continued support of **PROJECT MANGER** AND **A Women's Choice** <http://www.awomanschoicecenter.com/> in Fairfax and for the support of all those new babies now sleeping on brand new mattresses in the safety of their new cribs. God Bless you all, and a continued blessed and joy-filled Christmas to you and your families.

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!

Catholic Book Club: The next Parish Book Club meeting is on Friday, Feb. 12th in the Maurer Room at 10:00 am. There is limited space but virtual attendance is possible.. The book for discussion is: *Christus Vincit: Christ's Triumph Over the Darkness of the Age* by Bishop Athanasius Schneider (321 pgs.)

Newcomers welcome. If you have any questions or to register, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH.

Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE

"The family is the sanctuary of life." St. Pope John Paul II

Looking for a New Year's Resolution? Commit to praying daily for a restoration of the sanctity of Human Life in our culture. Be a witness. Get involved with Pro-Life activities.

This is our support weekend for the MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center. Your generosity - accompanied by your prayers - is so very much appreciated. There is a particular need for size 3T and 4T diapers. God bless you!

Mark your calendar! The 48th Annual March for Life is scheduled for Friday, Jan 29th. A special mass will be offered at 10:30 am. Information and sign-ups for the buses are available in the narthex and on the parish website. Stay tuned for any further details. **Please note information about the Post March Chili Dinner!**

Save the date! The 3rd Annual Virginia March for Life is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, April 7th, in Richmond. Stay tuned for details.

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

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

Special thanks to those who have been making such beautiful blankets!! Our Wrapped In Love program is up and stitching. Pray for the mothers and babies who will be wrapped in love by your efforts as you create baby blankets for distribution at Pregnancy Care Centers or for use by sidewalk counselors – wherever we find a need. God bless you for your efforts. Blankets may be delivered to the parish office or MaRiH collection box in the narthex.

Has the sorrow of miscarriage or still birth touched your life? Or perhaps you know someone in this situation. **A Mom's Peace**, a Lay Apostolate for Mothers of Miscarried and Stillborn Souls offers discreet support to families with bereavement, burial and remembrance assistance. For more information visit amomspeace.org.

To those who have suffered an abortion: Project Rachel can help someone who is carrying the grief and sorrow of a past abortion. (888)456-HOPE. Confidentiality always respected. www.helpafterabortion.org.

Give a Gift for Life! Gabriel Project helps pregnant moms welcome their babies. Please consider donating at www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife. For more info, contact them at 1-866-444-3553 or GabrielProject@arlingtondiocese.org

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate



**IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT**

Both our junior high and high school youth groups are shifting from a social focus to a more spiritual/instructional focus.

This will put us in line with what is permissible under the guidelines for religious/educational exemptions to the 10 person limit.

Junior High (7-8th Grade) Youth Group **5-6:30pm Sunday, January 10th**

Come eat pizza, make new friends and have fun all while growing in your faith! All 7-8th graders are welcome! You do not have to be a parishioner, or even Catholic for that matter, in order to attend. There is no charge, however, we do need the forms (below) on file before you come. If possible, please RSVP by emailing Jeanne, to give an idea of how much pizza we will need.

High School Youth Group **8-9pm Sunday, January 10th (Parish Hall)**

All students grades 9-12 are invited to join us to grow in faith & fellowship! No RSVP required. Make sure forms (below) are on file before coming.

Sons of Thunder High School Boys' Group!! **7-8:30pm Tuesday, January 12th Parish Hall**

Come join the brotherhood! Sons of Thunder will meet regularly IN-PERSON from 7-8:30pm on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month in the Maurer Room. All 9-12th grade guys are invited! Come learn more about your faith, deepen your relationship with Christ, and hang out with other guys in a chill atmosphere. Make sure forms (below) are on file before coming.

Youth Apostolate Participation 2 REQUIRED Forms
2020-2021 YA Info. Sheet is to be completed annually for every child *prior* participating in any Youth Apostolate function.

Youth Ministry Participant Waiver, a one-time form is to be signed and turned in for every youth *prior* to participating in any St. Raymond's Youth Ministry activity/event on or off site.

Forms can be found online at <http://bit.ly/YAforms> and should be emailed to Jeanne at youth@straymonds.org or turned in to the main office.

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)
youth@straymonds.org Call/Text: 571-334-9890
<http://bit.ly/youthapostolate>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Attention parents of students in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation (grades 7 and 8):

For 2021 Confirmation candidates (8th grade) the following paperwork is due January 13th:
- Service Hours Record Form and Experience Form

For 2022 Confirmation candidates (7th grade), the following paperwork is due February 4th:
- Confirmation Registry Form with copy of Certificate of Baptism (unless child was baptized here at St. Raymond parish)

ATTENTION 8th Grade parents: the Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, March 13th at St. John Paul the Great High School.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS: There will be **NO CCD CLASSES January 17th and 18th** in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

- There **WILL BE CCD CLASSES on Tuesday, January 19th.**

Looking ahead: **First Penance** is scheduled for Saturday February 6th.

New Year Save the Dates from John Paul the Great Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School will be hosting a number of virtual community events, free and open to anyone interested in logging on! Check out jpthegreat.org for details on the following events:

- January 14, Middle School Game Night on Zoom
- January 26, Evening Bioethics Webinar
- February 6, Virtual "How to High School" Workshop
- February 10, Virtual Photography Workshop
- February 27, Virtual Super Science Saturday Workshop
- Every Day: Students studying in-person, growing as members of the Wolfpack!

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. The St. Martin de Porres committee thanks all of the parishioners for your food donations. Your generosity really makes a difference in helping the needy, especially during the pandemic.

Church Persecuted

Justice Anthony Kennedy in the majority opinion *Planned Parenthood v Casey* (1992) wrote, "At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life." Today in the U.S. House of Representatives those are no longer mere words, but actions.

Last Sunday, Speaker Nancy Pelosi declared that the new rules of the House reflect "the views and values of the full range of our historically diverse House Democratic [party] Majority." The rules banned words such as "father, daughter, mother, and son." All pronouns which refer to one's gender are banned. Our representatives, Don Beyer and Gerry Connolly, both voted for these rules. Speaker Pelosi established rules which no longer represent the views of Catholics and the majority of the American people, but those of the "House Democratic Majority." These were demonstrated by Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO) in his opening prayer before the session ended it by declaring "Amen, and Awoman." Amen means, "it is so!" Not sure what awoman means?

(Lifesitenews.com, Monday, Jan 4, 2021)

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 **especially at 10:00 am, 12:00 pm & 2:00 pm on Wednesday**. 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!

FORMED[®]

Get In-Formed!

God's Doorkeeper: St. André of Montreal - On January 6, 1937, the death of a humble doorkeeper for a boys' college drew over a million people to Montreal for his funeral. For forty years, Brother André Bessette of the Congregation of Holy Cross welcomed people at the door and became known as a miraculous healer. God's Doorkeeper looks at the heart and legacy of Brother André—as a man of prayer, of hospitality, and of compassion, a man who draws people in to experience a God who is love. Brother André also had a tremendous devotion to St. Joseph that he shared with all who came in contact with him. On October 17, 2010, Brother André became the first Canadian-born male saint and the first saint for the Congregation of Holy Cross. He is living proof that "it is with the smallest brushes that the divine artist paints the most beautiful pictures."

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!

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

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.

SUNDAY, DEC. 27TH COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$16,517.00
Christmas	\$17,302.00
Family Assistance	\$ 6,623.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,033.00

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION SUNDAY, JAN. 3RD

Sunday Offertory	\$17,903.21
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 3,059.00
Family Assistance	\$ 5,677.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 4,862.00
Christmas	\$ 2,410.00

The second collection this week will be for **Crossroads Walk**. This collection was postponed from August due to Covid-19.