

Pastor's Corner

I've been on vacation the last week, and so that means a vacation from writing my column too! So consider these two texts, one from the first Catholic Bishop of America, and one from the Father of our Nation.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

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Archbishop John Carroll, first Bishop of Baltimore, and of the United States, in 1791: "Prayer for Government."

We pray, Thee O Almighty and Eternal God! Who through Jesus Christ hast revealed Thy glory to all nations, to preserve the works of Thy mercy, that Thy Church, being spread through the whole world, may continue with unchanging faith in the confession of Thy Name.

We pray Thee, who alone art good and holy, to endow with heavenly knowledge, sincere zeal, and sanctity of life, our chief bishop, Pope N., the Vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the government of his Church; our own bishop, N., all other bishops, prelates, and pastors of the Church; and especially those who are appointed to exercise amongst us the functions of the holy ministry, and conduct Thy people into the ways of salvation.

We pray Thee O God of might, wisdom, and justice! Through whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment decreed, assist with Thy Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of these United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be eminently useful to Thy people over whom he presides; by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion; by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy; and by restraining vice and immorality. Let the light of Thy divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety, and useful knowledge; and may perpetuate to us the blessing of equal liberty.

We pray for his excellency, the governor of this state, for the members of the assembly, for all judges, magistrates, and other officers who are appointed to guard our political welfare, that they may be enabled, by Thy powerful protection, to discharge the duties of their respective stations with honesty and ability.

We recommend likewise, to Thy unbounded mercy, all our brethren and fellow citizens throughout the United States, that they may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of Thy most holy law; that they may be preserved in union, and in that peace which the world cannot give; and after enjoying the blessings of this life, be admitted to those which are eternal.

Finally, we pray to Thee, O Lord of mercy, to remember the souls of Thy servants departed who are gone before us with the sign of faith and repose in the sleep of peace; the souls of our parents, relatives, and friends; of those who, when living, were members of this congregation, and particularly of such as are lately deceased; of all benefactors

who, by their donations or legacies to this Church, witnessed their zeal for the decency of divine worship and proved their claim to our grateful and charitable remembrance. To these, O Lord, and to all that rest in Christ, grant, we beseech Thee, a place of refreshment, light, and everlasting peace, through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. Amen.

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George Washington's First Inaugural Address, April 30, 1789 (excerpt)

...[I]t would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official Act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the Universe, who presides in the Councils of Nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that his benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the People of the United States, a Government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes: and may enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success, the functions allotted to his charge.

In tendering this homage to the Great Author of every public and private good I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own; nor those of my fellow-citizens at large, less than either. No People can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand, which conducts the Affairs of men more than the People of the United States.

Every step, by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation, seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency. And in the important revolution just accomplished in the system of their United Government, the tranquil deliberations and voluntary consent of so many distinct communities, from which the event has resulted, cannot be compared with the means by which most Governments have been established, without some return of pious gratitude along with an humble anticipation of the future blessings which the past seem to presage.

These reflections, arising out of the present crisis, have forced themselves too strongly on my mind to be suppressed. You will join with me I trust in thinking, that there are none under the influence of which, the proceedings of a new and free Government can more auspiciously commence.....

...Since we ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of Heaven, can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained: And since the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty, and the destiny of the Republican model of Government, are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally staked, on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people....

I shall take my present leave; but not without resorting once more to the benign parent of the human race, in humble supplication that since he has been pleased to favor the American people, with opportunities for deliberating in perfect tranquility, and dispositions for deciding with unparalleled unanimity on a form of Government, for the security of their Union, and the advancement of their happiness; so his divine blessing may be equally conspicuous in the enlarged views, the temperate consultations, and the wise measures on which the success of this Government must depend.

MASS INTENTIONS

<p>Monday Jan. 18th 8:30 am Joe Riedel +</p> <p>Tuesday, Jan. 19th 8:30 am James Maschoff +</p> <p>Wednesday, Jan. 20th 8:30 am Victor Costa +</p> <p>Thursday, Jan. 21st 8:30 am Family of Jesus Prayer Group</p> <p>Friday, Jan. 22nd 8:30 am Dale Creed +</p> <p>Masses to be said Privately Jan. 19 Victor John Costa, III + Jan. 20 Don & Claudette Parman Jan. 20 Jerald M. Brown + Jan. 21 Kristina Parman Jan 22 Tom & Eva Abel + Jan 24 Eugene & Rose Marie Tougas +</p>	<p>Saturday, Jan. 23rd 9:00 am Suzanne O'Connor +</p> <p>Vigil Mass 5:00 pm Fr. De Celles William Bihner +</p> <p>Sunday, Jan. 24th 7:00 am Fr. Rippy Tom Delaney 9:00 am Fr. De Celles Parishioners 11:00 am Fr. De Celles Derek & Stephanie Shickel 1:00 pm Fr. Miserendino Mary Paz Mora Lopez</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'Neill Cindy Laird Patricia Lewis Barbara McGinn Mai Pham Joan Opiela Donald Zacherl Leonora Ramos Jason Saenz Phyllis Zitnik</p>	<p>Mary K Randazzo Patricia Del Buono Michael Malachowski Juanita Boarman Angela Colom John Florio Debra Henkel Daniel Moore Maria Daugherty Lauren Hornsby</p>	<p>Gaudencio Dizon Antoinette Baptist Margaret O'Neill Ada Prabhavat Julia Oaks Paul Haynes Donald Letzkus Minnie Taylor Charles Ferrara Donna Foster Logan Seecrest</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)

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.

Visit our website or 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.

Samuel learns to hear the voice of the Lord, responding, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." Are you wondering how to respond to God's call? Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org or (703) 841-2514.

Altar Rail & Pulpit Installation begins Monday, January 18th! The main Altar & Sanctuary will be closed following the 8:30 am Mass & remain closed through Thursday, Jan. 21st. Daily Mass will continue each day at the rear of the church (seating is limited). Wednesday Adoration is cancelled this week, but we will have Confession from 6 pm – 7 pm. The Blessed Sacrament will be kept in the small confessional Chapel by the Family Room.

January 18th is the 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. 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 updates.

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.

GOSPEL JN 1:35-42

John was standing with two of his disciples,
and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said,
“Behold, the Lamb of God.”

The two disciples heard what he said and followed
Jesus.

Jesus turned and saw them following Him and said to
them,

“What are you looking for?”

They said to Him, “Rabbi” — which translated means
Teacher —,

“where are you staying?”

He said to them, “Come, and you will see.”

So they went and saw where Jesus was staying,
and they stayed with Him that day.

It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter,

was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus.

He first found his own brother Simon and told him,

“We have found the Messiah” — which is translated
Christ —.

Then he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said,

“You are Simon the son of John;

you will be called Cephas” — which is translated Peter.

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.



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

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.

SAINT RAYMOND’S RESPECTS LIFE

Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH.

Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE

“Abortion is profoundly anti-women. Three quarters of its victims are women: half the babies and all the mothers.” Saint Teresa of Calcutta

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.

Continued THANKS for your support of the MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center. Your generosity - accompanied by your prayers - is so very much appreciated. **Our next support weekend is 6-7 February.** 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: ccli.org

Special thanks to those who have been making such beautiful blankets!! Our Wrappèd In Lovè 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, visit GabrielProject@arlingtondiocese.org or call 1-866-444-3553.

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.

Jr. High & High School Youth Group will NOT meet this Sunday 1/17. We resume next Sunday, 1/24.

High School Girls' Group WILL meet this week!
7-8:30pm Monday, January 18th (Parish Hall)

Join us as we cultivate and witness authentic community, friendships, and space to share our faith, learn and encourage one another in ways to practically apply the faith to our daily lives. If you have questions or find yourself disagreeing with some teaching of the Church, this group is for you! If you are gung ho about your faith, this group is for you! If you are looking for authentic friendships, a place to search, a place to grow in understanding, a place to practice defending the faith, a place to laugh, to cry, to be authentically you, to have fun...and so much more...come! You are welcome here! Make sure forms (below) are on file before coming.

Junior High (7-8th Grade) Youth Group NEXT WEEK
5-6:30pm Sunday, January 24th

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 NEXT WEEK
8-9pm Sunday, January 24th (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.

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

No CCD classes tonight (1/17) or tomorrow (1/18)
There will be CCD classes on Tuesday 1/19

Heartfelt **CONGRATULATIONS** go out to:

Jose "Tito" Costacamps and Lourdes Costacamps who have completed the two-year Diocesan Master Catechist program. We are so proud to have them on our Religious Education team!! God bless you both.

Parents of Second Grade students: First Penance is scheduled for Saturday, February 6th at 10 a.m. –Please consider attending the 9:00 a.m. Mass with your child that morning to prepare for this wonderful Sacrament of Healing. All students - whether they attend Mass or not - are to gather in the Narthex no later than 9:45 a.m. and should check in with their teacher. Home school and Catholic School students should check in with Mr. Drouillard or Mrs. Salmon. At least one parent should remain at the church; the children will be released after reception of the Sacrament and completion of their penance.

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 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.

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.

Church Persecuted

Last week, we read of how the Democratic member of the U.S. House of Representatives stripped their rules of all language referring to individual sexes. Not to be outdone, the Virginia Department of Education has drafted policies for the treatment of transgender students. These policies were initially proposed during last year's legislative session but withdrawn by the sponsor (apparently for lack of support). Instead of the language being promulgated through our elected officials, they are being proposed by rules through the Department of Education. The comment period for these rules extends through February 2nd. See www.familyfoundation.org for an extensive discussion on the topic and proposed responses to the rules.

Here are a few of the rules:

“Gender Identity (definition): “A person’s internal sense of their own identity as a boy/man, girl/woman, something in between, or outside the male/female binary....” (pg. 6 of recommended policies)

Schools shall allow students to assert a name and gender pronouns that reflect their gender identity without any substantiating evidence.” (pg. 13)

“School staff should not confront students about their gender identity upon entry into the restrooms.” (pg. 18)

“Any incident or complaint of discrimination, harassment, or bullying shall be given prompt attention, including investigating the incident and taking appropriate corrective action, by the school administrator.” (pg. 10)

“Access to facilities such as restrooms and locker rooms that correspond to a student’s gender identity shall be available to all students.” (pg. 18)

These proposed policies not only conflict with the teachings of our faith, but also the fundamental laws of nature and the order of human society. (see www.FamilyFoundation.org)

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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

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703-924-3996

2021 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL BEGINS! This month the mailing for the 2021 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) was sent to all registered diocesan households. The theme this year is “Encourage One Another by Word and Deed.” After reflecting upon the blessings that God has given you, please prayerfully consider making a pledge to this important appeal that funds many programs and ministries that serve thousands of people in our diocese. Together, through the BLA, let us renew our personal commitment to furthering the Mission of our Lord Jesus throughout our diocese. You may go online to make a donation at: www.arlingtondiocese.org or scan the QR code below:



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	\$12,763.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,076.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,261.00
Crossroads Walk	\$ 570.00

The Second Collection next week, Jan. 24th, is for the Church in Latin America.