

## Pastor's Corner

**Vacation.** Well, I'm back from my winter golf vacation in Florida. The weather was a little chillier than usual, but still much warmer than here. And my golfing was pretty good, although I confess that on the last few days I played the shorter tees. I needed the break, and it was good to get away. But as always, it was good to come home again.

**Altar Rails and Pulpit.** What could be more emblematic of the problems of the last year than a new delay in the altar rail installation. Last Monday we were supposed to start work installing the rails but instead got a late Sunday night text from the designer that one of the installation crew had tested positive for COVID, and the rest of crew was awaiting their test results. On Tuesday morning we found out that several more of the crew had tested positive, **postponing the installation for at least another 2 weeks.** First the months-long delay by the Italian quarantine, then the quarantine in the Bahama port, and then in Miami port, then in the Baltimore port and customs. Now this. But as in all the troubles of this year, patience and trust in Jesus.

**Developments in Washington.** Well, we have a new president. Not too long ago the switch from a president from one party to a president of the opposing party was not that big a deal—the parties were different, but shared the same common values and goals/ends, with mainly the means to the ends/goals being different. But now things are different. The parties, and the American people they represent (generally speaking), have become polarized in their fundamental beliefs, values and even goals, so that every change in governing parties represents a complete sea change in American life.

Of course there are those on both the extremes of the so-called “left” and “right” who call for a violent overthrow of their opponents. This must be rejected by all of us.

But that leaves the overwhelming rest of us, who are now clearly divided by our absolutely radically opposed values and goals.

So, how do we go forward? God only knows. But I do know where Catholics should start: with the fundamental values of Jesus. That would mean, among other things, embracing the 10 Commandments, especially the “second tablet” (nos. 4 to 10) pertaining to loving our neighbor, as our most fundamental values—values that can be and should be understood and embraced by every human being of good will.

These values, held commonly by the vast majority of Americans for two centuries, have been at the heart of what has made America great, and the loss of these values is what is causing us so much trouble. Trouble that was predicted by the Father of our Nation, when in 1796 George Washington wrote to the nation as he retired from public life:

*“Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of Men and Citizens. The mere Politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked, Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths, which are the instruments of investigation in Courts of Justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the*

*influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect, that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle. It is substantially true, that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule, indeed, extends with more or less force to every species of free government. Who, that is a sincere friend to it, can look with indifference upon attempts to shake the foundation of the fabric?”*

Friends, for our own salvation as well as the common good of our nation, we must embrace and live the Commandments of our religion. We must not lose our hope in Jesus, BUT WE MUST ALSO not lose the rules of love which are the Commandments—and all the values that flow from them—that He has given us to rule our lives.

As we go forward under this new administration that is so opposed to so many values that have made this nation great, let us trust Jesus and keep His love at the center of all things. Let us avoid hatred and despair. And in all of this, let us continue to strive boldly and bravely to—for lack of a better phrase—make America great again.

**March for Life.** By now I hope you have heard that the in-person March for Life has been cancelled this year. The statement from the organizing committee tells us:

*“The protection of all of those who participate in the annual March, as well as the many law enforcement personnel and others who work tirelessly each year to ensure a safe and peaceful event, is a top priority of the March for Life. In light of the fact that we are in the midst of a pandemic which may be peaking, and in view of the heightened pressures that law enforcement officers and others are currently facing in and around the Capitol, this year’s March for Life will look different.*

*“The annual rally will take place virtually and we are asking all participants to stay home and to join the March virtually. We will invite a small group of pro-life leaders from across the country to march in Washington, DC this year. These leaders will represent pro-life Americans everywhere who, each in their own unique ways, work to make abortion unthinkable and build a culture where every human life is valued and protected.”*

When I was on vacation I briefly considered cancelling our participation in the March this year, because I was concerned about safety, especially the safety of our children. Not so much from COVID concerns, since you are adults and capable of making choices in this regard, but because of the potential violence that those on the left, and maybe even those on the extreme “right,” might decide to visit upon the March this year.

In the end I decided I should not cancel unilaterally. But I was not surprised that the organizers decided to cancel. And I condone their prudence. Prudence should never be confused with cowardice, and vice versa. But I think it is prudent for us to protect the safety of marchers and police, and to avoid giving the violent agitators an opportunity to use our movement to further their cause, and sully ours.

Nevertheless, **we will still take part in the “virtual March” on the 29<sup>th</sup>.** Our plans have not been completed yet (as I write this on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup>), but I will let you know as soon as they are. **So read your emails!**

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*

**MASS INTENTIONS****Monday Jan. 25th**

8:30 am John Durkin +

**Tuesday, Jan. 26th**

8:30 am Vicki &amp; Steve Skok

**Wednesday, Jan. 27th**


8:30 am Mary Ellen Browne +

**Thursday, Jan. 28th**

8:30 am John Tracy +

**Friday, Jan. 29th**8:30 am Daniel & Emily Shickel  
10:30 am For the Unborn +**Masses to be said Privately**Jan. 25 Rosemary Ritzer +  
Jan. 26 Poor Souls in Purgatory+  
Jan. 27 Family of Jesus Prayer Group  
Jan. 27 Ruth Delaney +  
Jan. 29 Van Thi Nguyen +**Saturday, Jan. 30th**

9:00 am Ramon Dominguez +

**Vigil Mass**5:00 pm Fr. De Celles  
William Bihner +**Sunday, Jan. 31st**7:00 am Fr. Rippy  
Russell Lowell +  
9:00 am Fr. De Celles  
Parishioners  
11:00 am Fr. De Celles  
Patricia Zolper +  
1:00 pm Fr. Miserendino  
Michael Chellis**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  
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 HornsbyGaudencio Dizon  
Antoinette Baptist  
Margaret O'Neill  
Ada Prabhavat  
Julia Oaks  
Paul Haynes  
Minnie Taylor  
Logan Seecrest  
Jose Rodriguez  
Family  
Howard DeWolf  
Barbara DeWolf**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](mailto:office@straymonds.org) to verify your email address.**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](mailto:tdelaney51@verizon.net).Our parish **Christ House Committee** provides a meal every quarter for Christ House Catholic Charities guests who are homeless or food insecure. **To sign up to volunteer for the January 29th Meal**, go to this PerfectPotluck link:[https://www.perfectpotluck.com/meals.php?](https://www.perfectpotluck.com/meals.php?i=PBYZ1173&v=d46ee4c7ec)[i=PBYZ1173&v=d46ee4c7ec](https://www.perfectpotluck.com/meals.php?i=PBYZ1173&v=d46ee4c7ec) Sign up for sandwich and/or soup making or to purchase other needed items, including Travel Kit items. No time to buy items to donate? You may drop off or mail a monetary donation to the parish office and obtain a receipt for your tax records. Mark your calendars for our NEXT Bagged Meal Dinner on Friday April 30. Inquiries may be directed to Committee Leads at [ChristHouseCommittee@StRaymonds.org](mailto:ChristHouseCommittee@StRaymonds.org)St. Raymond's Christ  Committee — AMDG ~ To God be all the Glory!**The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual March for Life** Friday, Jan 29<sup>th</sup> will be a **VIRTUAL EVENT**. Visit the parish website for parish-level opportunities to observe the day.**ANNUAL FIVE-CAR RAFFLE:** All Saints Church (Manassas, VA) has invited our parishioners to participate in their five-car raffle. Prizes include five 2021 vehicles from Koons of Manassas (Honda Civic, Buick Encore, GMC Canyon Truck, Honda CRV Sport Utility and Honda Odyssey Van). One \$5.00 ticket offers the purchaser a chance to win all five vehicles plus \$20,000 in cash prizes. You will be receiving tickets in the mail within the next week or so. Please consider selling/purchasing the tickets mailed to you.**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 MK 1:14-20**

After John had been arrested,  
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:  
"This is the time of fulfillment.  
The kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the gospel."  
As He passed by the Sea of Galilee,  
He saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets  
into the sea;  
they were fishermen.  
Jesus said to them,  
"Come after Me, and I will make you fishers of men."  
Then they abandoned their nets and followed Him.  
He walked along a little farther  
and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother  
John.  
They too were in a boat mending their nets.  
Then He called them.  
So they left their father Zebedee in the boat  
along with the hired men and followed Him.

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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/](http://www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/). Contact: Katherine Bogacki or Malia Cameron at [straymondhsg@gmail.com](mailto:straymondhsg@gmail.com).

**Post-Abortion Healing Retreats for Women** in English and Spanish: An Entering Canaan Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be held on **Saturday, March 20, 2021**. Come begin your healing journey and 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 703-841-2504 or [info@helpafterabortion.org](mailto:info@helpafterabortion.org).

**SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE**

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

*"As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes  
the whole world in which we live." St. Pope John Paul II*

**Our next support weekend for MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center is 6-7 February.** 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!

**The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual March for Life** Friday, Jan 29<sup>th</sup> will be a **VIRTUAL EVENT**. Visit the parish website for parish-level opportunities to observe the day.



**40 DAYS FOR LIFE** Spring Campaign Feb 17 - March 28. Watch for Sign Ups in the narthex soon.

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

**Tepeyac Pro Life OB/GYN: Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare.** [tepeyacobgyn.com](http://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](http://ccli.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](http://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](http://www.helpafterabortion.org).

**Give a Gift for Life! Gabriel Project** helps pregnant moms welcome their babies. Please consider donating at [www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife). For more info, contact them at 1-866-444-3553 or [GabrielProject@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto: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 24th & 31st (Parish Hall)**

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 24th & 31st (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 26th Parish Hall)**

Come join the brotherhood! Sons of Thunder meets regularly IN-PERSON from 7-8:30pm on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month in the Parish Hall. 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. New folks always welcome!

**Congratulations to freshman, Myles Carley**, on winning 1st place in the Youth Apostles senior division (grades 9-12) of their 27th annual ProLife Essay Contest! This year's theme was "The Challenge of Respecting Life". Myles did an outstanding job defending the importance of respecting life and upholding the dignity of every human being no matter what the cost. Myles will receive an award and a \$100 prize for his essay. Between Myles and the 270 other young applicants, we sure do have a future full of hope in this up and coming pro-life generation!

### **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](mailto:youth@straymonds.org) or turned in to the main office.

**Jeanne Sause**

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

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**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.

**Looking ahead.....**There will be no CCD classes February 14, 15, and 16 in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

**Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for Saturday March 13th** at St. John Paul the Great High School. More information to follow.

**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](http://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](mailto:spoiledk9s@verizon.net). If you are interested in Fridays, please call Virginia Osella at 703-440-0535 or email [virginia.osella@straymonds.org](mailto:virginia.osella@straymonds.org). Drop-ins are always welcome.

## Church Persecuted

Due to bulletin deadlines, this column is written prior to the inauguration and any immediate executive orders that may be forthcoming.

With the advent of a new administration in Washington beginning last week along with a new Congress, actions are already underway to dismantle the protections of unborn children, both here in the United States and abroad. The Biden administration has signaled that they intend to:

Continue to eliminate the religious liberty protections for the Little Sisters of the Poor by reinstating the ObamaCare contraception mandate.

Revoke the Mexico City Policy, which ensures that U.S. foreign aid funds are not spent on groups that commit abortions or refer people to abortion providers. This program ping-pongs back and forth, with Republican administrations halting the policy while Democratic administrations reinstate it.

Restore about \$60 million in Title X funding to Planned Parenthood in the U.S.

Attempt again to codify abortion into federal law to prevent any potential Supreme Court action to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

Attempt to overturn the Hyde Amendment which would then allow taxpayer dollars to be directly used for abortion services.

While it is important that we stay vigilant and make our concerns known, we must also continue to pray for our nation and its leaders, that they will protect the most vulnerable children in our society – the unborn.

*"Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men."* Is the Lord calling upon you to cast a wider net with a vocation as to the priesthood or consecrated life? Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org or 703-841-2514.

## FORMED<sup>®</sup> Get In-Formed!

**The Rosary: Joyful Mysteries** – Be led in the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary with this spoken Rosary set to music. Enter into some of the most joy-filled moments of our Lord Jesus Christ's life, alongside the Blessed Virgin, through this devotional prayer, accompanying Scripture passages, and beautiful sacred images from masterpieces of Catholic art.

Watch now at [www.straymonds.formed.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.AngelusAcademy.org)

7644 Dynatech Ct., Springfield, VA 22153  
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](http://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](http://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	\$13,663.00
Family Assistance	\$ 885.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,215.00

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