

"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"
St. Raymond



Welcome to St. Raymond of Peñafort Roman Catholic Church

**8750 Pohick Road
Springfield, VA 22153**

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:00 am, 8:45 am,
10:30 am and 12:15 pm &
5:00 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday through Friday:
6:30 am, 8:00 am
Wednesdays 7:00 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am

EXTRAORDINARY FORM MASS (LATIN)

1st and 3rd Fridays 7:00 pm

Rev. John C. De Celles, Pastor
Rev. Jordan M. Willard, Parochial Vicar
Elisabeth Turco, Director of Liturgical Music
Jeanne Sause, Director of Youth Apostolate
Mary Salmon, Director of Religious Education
Vince Drouillard, Religious Education Secretary
Tom Browne, Plant Manager
Kirsti Tyson, Office Manager
Mary Butler, Secretary
Eva Radel, Parish Secretary

PARISH OFFICE:

Telephone Numbers:

Rectory: 703-440-0535
Rel. Education: 703-440-0537
Fax: 703-440-0538

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

E-Mail

Church: Office@straymonds.org
Rel. Ed.: ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org
Choirs: Music@straymonds.org

Website

www.straymonds.org

TUITION ASSISTANCE: Please inquire with our office about the availability of partial scholarships for the children of active St. Raymond parishioners attending local Catholic grade schools and high schools.

Angelus Academy
7644 Dynatech Ct, Springfield, VA 22153
703-924-3996

Angelus Academy is a fully-accredited pre-K through 8th grade Catholic School affiliated with the Diocese of Arlington. Although it has no official connection with St. Raymond's, the parish has a longstanding close relationship with Angelus Academy. Many of our parish children already happily attend school there.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

(Reconciliation/Confession)

Wednesday Evening

6:15-6:50 p.m. (during Exposition); After 7 p.m. Mass

Saturday Morning

8:30 - 8:50 a.m.; After 9 a.m. Mass

Saturday Afternoon

3:30 - 5 p.m.

Sunday Morning

8:15 - 8:45 a.m.; 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.; 11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday from 8:30 am to 7:00 pm

Friday from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

MARRIAGE: Couples wishing to marry must contact a parish priest at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Couples who are living together will be expected to live separately at least during the 3 months prior to the wedding.

RCIA: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which adults (and children who have reached the age of reason) are instructed in the Doctrine of the Church and are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. If you or someone you know, would like to inquire about becoming a Catholic, please call the Parish Office.

BAPTISM: Parents are requested to make arrangements with the Parish Office ONE MONTH in advance. Parents must participate in a one-session pre-Baptismal program and are encouraged to do so before the birth of their child. You must be REGISTERED in the Parish 3 MONTHS prior to the Baptism. There will be a maximum of 4 Baptisms on any given Sunday. Please schedule early!

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please submit announcements in writing 10 days prior to publication.

Pastor's Corner

LENT. The Season of Lent begins this Wednesday, February 26, 2020, with **Ash Wednesday**. As I've said many times, this is my favorite time of year, in that it gives us a great opportunity to meditate on the immense love of God that it would lead Him to suffer and die for our sins. At the same time, then, it's also a time to consider our sins—how we have failed to love Him—and to work to overcome them, through our diligent efforts and cooperating with His grace. In short, it can be a time of intense growth in our personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Lent, of course, brings a much busier parish schedule, which we've laid out in detail in this week's "Lenten Schedule" insert. Please keep this insert in a central place in your home—maybe on your fridge door—to remind you of the many opportunities for spiritual growth the parish offers this Lent.

Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses on Ash Wednesday: 6:30am, 8am, 12noon, **5pm** and 7pm. Since ashes are merely symbolic (a "sacramental" not a "Sacrament") they may be received by anyone who wishes to repent their sins, Catholic or not, in "good standing" or not. (Note: There are no confessions scheduled on Ash Wednesday).

Fasting and Abstinence. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both fasting and abstinence, and every Friday in Lent is a day of abstinence. Failure to "substantially" keep these penances is grave matter (e.g., potentially a mortal sin).

The law of abstinence requires that no meat may be eaten on these days, and binds all Catholics who are 14 years old or older. No other penance may be substituted.

The law of fasting binds those who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The Church defines "fasting," for these purposes, as having only one full meal a day, with two additional smaller meals permitted, but only as necessary to keep up strength and so small that if added together they would not equal a full meal. Snacking is forbidden, but that does not include drinks that are not of the nature of a meal.

Even though these rules do not bind all age groups, all are encouraged to follow them to the extent possible. Children in particular learn the importance of penance from following the practice of their older family members. The sick, pregnant or nursing mothers, and other folks with special physical circumstances may be partially or totally exempt from these rules—use good judgment and take care of yourself.

Doing Penance. Of course, all Catholics are encouraged to do personal acts of penance throughout the season of Lent, traditionally of three types: **almsgiving** (including acts of charity), **sacrifice** (what you "give up"), and **prayer**. Please choose your penances carefully, considering your health and state in life. Challenge yourself, but pick things you can actually do, rather than things that are so difficult that you may easily give up on them. Offer all this in atonement for your sins and as acts of love for the God who, out of love, died on the Cross for your sins.

Sacrament of Penance. Confession is key to a fruitful Lent. I strongly encourage that you take advantage of our extended Lent confession schedule—**confessions are scheduled every single day in Lent**, except Ash Wednesday and Holy Thursday (see today's "Lenten Schedule" insert for exact times—they're a little different this year).

Please do not postpone your confession to the end of Lent. First of all, spiritually it's important to start the season on

the right foot, repent early so that Christ's grace may flow freely and unimpeded throughout the season. But also, more practically, what so often happens is we have just a few people coming to confession every weekday evening during Lent, but then in the last week the lines are much longer. So, beat the crowds and come early. (But also consider coming more than once during Lent).

Also, I remind you that while we schedule confessions every **Sunday morning**, that is **not the optimal time to go to confession**, for several reasons, but mainly because Sunday confession times are **provided** mainly to meet the *real needs* of **those who truly cannot confess on other days** or are *otherwise in need of the sacrament*. So, for example, this is not the time for "devotional" confessions.

Lenten Series. Every year I either bring in a particularly learned priest to give the Lenten Series, or I give it myself. This year I thought I'd do something different: I've invited 5 different priests of the diocese of Arlington to speak on, **"The Passion of the Lord: From the High Priest to the Crucifixion."**

-- March 5: **Fr. Joseph Bergida**. Topic: "Jesus before the High Priest and Sanhedrin." Fr. Bergida was ordained in 2012, and is the Parochial Vicar at St. Ambrose.

-- March 12: **Fr. Richard Miserendino**. Topic: "Peter's Denial and Judas' Suicide." Father was ordained in 2015, and is the Parochial Vicar at St. Bernadette's.

-- March 19: **Fr. Christopher Christensen**. Topic: "Jesus before Pilate." Father was ordained in 2014, and is the Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More.

-- March 26: **Fr. Nicholas Barnes**. Topic: "Jesus with the Soldiers." Father was ordained in 2013, and is the Parochial Vicar at St. Theresa's. Fr. Barnes is the son of parishioner Don Barnes, and offered his first Mass after ordination here at St. Raymond's.

-- April 2: **Fr. Steven Oetjen**. Topic: "The Crucifixion and Death." Father was ordained in 2017, and is the Parochial Vicar at St. James.

I am very much looking forward to hearing these young priests give their meditations on the Passion, and I highly encourage all of you to attend. As we did last year, each talk will last about a half-hour and will be given during a Holy Hour in the Church, which will also include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary, and Benediction. Please see the insert in next week's bulletin for more details.

MURAL OF OUR LADY OF RANSOM. In my column of December 17, I explained that our new mural of the Blessed Mother depicts her appearing to St. Raymond in 1218, to tell him to help St. Peter Nolasco found the Mercedarian Order. But I neglected to point out the meaning of some of the symbols depicted in the mural.

In particular: Mary is holding chains in her left hand, symbolizing that the Mercedarians were established to free the Christian captives of the Moorish pirates; She holds the scapular of the Mercedarians in her right hand.

St. Raymond is depicted wearing a simple cassock of the age, since at the time he was a priest, but had not yet entered the Dominicans (who wear white robes); on the floor next to him is a book which is a typical symbol of his learnedness and writings; his beard is symbol of his wisdom and eventual longevity, but it is short since the apparition occurred when he was middle-aged.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, Feb. 24th**

6:30 am Tom Hansen +
8:00 am Noah Shealy

Tuesday, Feb. 25th

6:30 am Jaxon Perricone
8:00 am Kelley Hand +

Wednesday, Feb. 26th**Ash Wednesday**

6:30 am Deirdre Boelter +
8:00 am Leonard J. Tiso
Noon Denise Anezin
5:00 pm Delores T. Van Nest +
7:00 pm The Peter Family

Thursday, Feb. 27th

6:30 am Alberto Rojas +
8:00 am Isabel Santos +

Friday, Feb. 28th

6:30 am Rick & Joan Crum
8:00 am Philip Bettwy

Saturday, Feb. 29th

9:00 am Martin Griffith +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
Eleanor Hickman +

Sunday, March 1st

7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
Hamid & Mary Faquir
8:45 am **Fr. Willard**
Parishioners
10:30 am **Fr. De Celles**
Allison Schweitzer
12:15 pm **Fr. Daly**
Jeremy Hand
5:00 pm **Fr. Willard**
Tony Kuders +

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.**

Daniel Keller
Anthony Nsekela

Stephen Aldridge

Please pray for the sick of our parish

Glenn Bliss
Tom Dietz
Nena Brennan
Michael O'Neill
Cindy Laird
Christine B Petitti
Ofelia Vitek
Patricia Lewis
Barbara McGinn

Mai Pham
Joan Opiea
Donald Zacherl
Leonora Ramos
Jason Saenz
Phyllis Zitnik
Loretta
Golinowski
Mary K Randazzo

Patricia Del Buono
Gerri Korpusik
Jeanne Sause
Joann Alba
Michael
Malachowski
Juanita Boarman
Joseph Chalk
Jeff Cade

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Feb. 26

Ash Wednesday

Mass times : 6:30 am, 8:00 am,
Noon, 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Feb. 28

Lenten Soup Supper

Feb. 28

Stations of the Cross 6:30 pm

Mar. 1

Donut Sunday

Mar. 5

Lenten Series Begins

Mar. 6

Lenten Soup Supper

Mar. 6

Stations of the Cross 6:30 pm

Mar. 6

EFM (Latin Mass) 7:00 pm

Mar. 7

Men's Prayer Group

Mar. 7

Luminaries of Mary

Mar. 7

Women's Retreat

Mar. 7/8

Youth Apostolate Bake Sale

Please Note: Due to concerns about the Coronavirus and the Flu, we will temporarily suspend the Sign of Peace at all Masses.

Confessions Every Weeknight during Lent! Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 6:30 pm—7:00 pm, Fridays: 6:00 pm—6:30 pm and Wednesday: 6:15 pm —8:00 pm (*including during Mass*).

Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent at 6:30 pm. Please join us.

Lenten Soup Supper this Friday, 5:00 to 6:30 pm. Please join your fellow parishioners for a delicious but simple meal each Friday during Lent. The cost is either a pot of homemade meatless soup or a salad & bread to share. This week's soup supper is being hosted by our Mom's Group.

Donut Sunday Next SUNDAY, Mar. 1st: after the 7:00, 8:45, and 10:30 AM Masses. Stop by the Parish Hall after Mass and enjoy some treats and drinks, and meet your fellow parishioners. March's Donut Sunday will be hosted by the Respect Life Committee & the Library Volunteers.

2020 Lenten Series: "The Passion of the Lord: From the High Priest to the Crucifixion"

This year's Lenten Series will take place during an Evening Holy Hour on **Thursdays (March 5 – April 2)** from **7pm to 8pm** with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a half-hour Talk, praying the Rosary and Benediction in the Church. Five Priests of the Diocese of Arlington will present the meditation on the different aspects of the Passion of Lord. For more information, please call the Parish Office 703-440-0535.

Luminaries of Holy Mary: Come join us to honor the Blessed Mother's request for making the 5 First Saturdays on March 7th, 2020: Mass at 9am, then meet in the Maurer Room for Rosary, meditation and Gospel reflection. All are welcome.

Fasting and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both fasting and abstinence, and every Friday in Lent is a day of abstinence. Failure to "substantially" keep these penances is grave matter (e.g., potentially a mortal sin). The law of abstinence requires that no meat may be eaten on these days, and binds all Catholics who are 14 years old or older. No other penance may be substituted. The law of fasting binds those who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The Church defines "fasting," for these purposes, as having only one full meal a day, with two additional smaller meals permitted, but only as necessary to keep up strength and so small that if added together they would not equal a full meal. Snacking is forbidden, but that does not include drinks that are not of the nature of a meal. Even though these rules do not bind all age groups, all are encouraged to follow them to the extent possible. Children in particular learn the importance of penance from following the practice of their older family members. The sick, pregnant or nursing mothers, and other folks with special physical circumstances may be partially or totally exempt from these rules—use good judgment and take care of yourself.

Attention mothers of children with special needs! You are warmly invited to attend a Morning Of Reflection, given by Fr Ed Guilloux, for mother's of children with special needs, at All Saints Catholic Church on Saturday, February 29 from 9 AM to 11:30 AM. To sign up and for more information please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084DA8A72EA3FB6-morning>. Space is limited so sign up soon! For questions call Sally, (703)789-1922, or email Betty, sampler80@verizon.net.

Family of Jesus Prayer Group: The Family of Jesus Prayer Group was formed in order to help individuals who are reaching out to God in the midst of difficulties. Prayer intentions are accepted in the petition box, which is located in the Narthex. The group meets each Monday evening in the church from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm to pray for these intentions. New members are welcome to join us. For more information, please contact Elaine Perricone at 703-440-8356 or by e-mail at jpebtp@verizon.net.

5-Car Raffle: All Saints Church (Manassas, VA) has invited our parishioners to participate in their 5-car raffle. Prizes include five 2020 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 should have received your 20 tickets by this time. Please consider selling/purchasing the tickets mailed to you. Remember to return unsold tickets and follow the instructions on the back of the green card. If you need more tickets call Larry Saenz 703-832-1042 or email at lsaenz1@verizon.net.

Support Trail Life Troop 0683 - buy mulch and topsoil! Trail Life Troop 0683, sponsored by St. Raymond of Peñafort, is kicking off its annual mulch and topsoil sale to help parish families prepare for spring lawn and garden care. Please support our troop. Your support will help our growing troop buy camping gear, advancement and recognition badges and instructional material. You will find an order form and you can order online by going to the Troop's website, trailifeusa.straymonds.org. We offer home delivery for an extra donation. Questions? Contact Eric Michael at (703) 372-1240. *Thank you very much!*

Men's Prayer Group: The Men's Prayer Group meets twice monthly, the 1st and 3rd Sat., in the Library at 7:30 am. We have breakfast, pray the morning office, & read the scriptures for the following Sunday. We discuss the scriptures and how they fit our daily lives. By 9 am we are finished so those who wish can attend Mass. All men of the parish are welcome. For more information contact Dave Wilson at Maryndavew7705@gmail.com or call Dave at 703-455-1847.

2020 Bishop's Lenten Appeal Steadfast in Faith and Joyful in Hope

This weekend every household in our parish will be asked to complete a Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) pledge form at Mass. The BLA provides an opportunity to unite as a Catholic family and support programs, ministries and services that no single individual or parish could offer by itself. After reflecting upon the many blessings that God has given you, please prayerfully consider making a pledge of support to this important appeal that furthers the Mission of Jesus Christ in our diocese. Your gift is very important! Every donation, regardless of the amount, is vital to the success of the BLA.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

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

"The fight for the right to life is not the cause of a special few, but the cause of every man woman and child who cares not only about his or her own family but the whole family of man." Dr. Mildred Jefferson

Next weekend is our MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center Support Weekend. Baby items up to 2T are welcome in the Narthex and Parish Hall during Donut Sunday! Thank you for your generosity!

Gabriel Project Mom needs your help. If anyone is selling a car, a Gabriel Project mom needs one! Contact Beth Berger kmb43@verizon.net



Join the worldwide movement (855 cities in over 61 nations!) to save mothers and babies in this peaceful, prayerful, pro-

life effort. We witness Fridays from 10am-noon and all day April 4-5.

Vigil location: 900 S. Washington Street, Falls Church. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex!

An unexpected pregnancy can be a difficult and frightening time. Don't forget the most important thing is to pray. Pray for the mom, the dad, the child, and for guidance in how you can give the best possible support. Pro Life **Tepeyac Family Center** in Fairfax welcomes OB/GYN referrals 703-273-9440. tepeyacfamilycenter.com.

Natural Family Planning. A gift to your marriage. To register for local classes visit www.ccli.org. For additional info, contact Len Rice at (703) 222-5121 or Stan Greer at vincegreer558@gmail.com.

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: "The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. If you have not already done so, give yourself over with humility and trust to repentance. **The Father of Mercies is ready to give you His forgiveness and His peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**"

St. Pope John Paul II

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

2/23 High School Youth Group & Religious Education

6-6:30pm Dinner for High School Teens in Rel. Ed.
 6:30-8pm Religious Education
 8-9pm High School Youth Group

Steubenville Youth Conference (July 10-12, 2020)

(Open to current 8-12th graders)



Join us for Steubenville 2020! It is a weekend where you will encounter God on a deeper level through prayer, Adoration, Mass, Confession, dynamic speakers, and music with a few thousand other Catholics your age! It's a great opportunity to make new friends too!

Here's what some of our teens have to say...

- ★ "This retreat completely changed my life."
- ★ "I was hesitant about attending the Steubenville Conference when my parents first approached me. I had never been so far away by myself and didn't have any friends attending. Eventually, I took their word for it and went. I had no idea how many friends I would make or the gift I would be given."
- ★ "The talks really helped me to apply my faith to real life concepts and to bring God into my life."

REGISTRATION DUE MARCH 31ST

Registration info. can be found on the youth bulletin boards and/or online, along with information about speakers, schedule, cost, etc. <http://straymondyyouth.com>
 *Financial assistance is available. Don't let money keep you from coming. Contact Jeanne.

Diocese of Arlington Summer Discernment Camps for High School Students

Rising 9th through 12th grade boys: The Diocese of Arlington's *Quo Vadis Camp 2020* will be July 12-16 at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The registration lottery will be open March 3-31. To be added to the email list, contact vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.

Rising 9th through 12th grade girls: The Diocese of Arlington's *FIAT Camp 2020* will be July 19-23 at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The registration lottery will be open March 3-31. To be added to the email list, contact vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.

Sun. Youth Group Dinner Contributions Needed

We are in need of meal contributions for our Sunday Night High School Dinners. Can you help, or do you know someone who can? Check the link for more info.:

<http://bit.ly/JanFebDinner>

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)
youth@straymonds.org Call/Text: 571-334-9890

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ATTENTION 8th Grade parents:

1. You should have received information about the upcoming Confirmation Retreat (3/21) - along with a permission slip - in your email the week of 2/10. **Permission slips must be completed and returned by March 5th in order for your child to attend the Retreat. If you did not receive the email, please contact the Religious Education Office.**

2. The following forms are due to the Religious Education Office by March 20th:

- Confirmation Gown Order Form
- Family Priest / Deacon Attendance Form

Service Hours opportunity for 7th and 8th grade students: be sure to sign up for service hours for the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Dinner which takes place March 21st.

Mothers Group—Moms Meet-Up: Do your young children seem to need a bit more excitement? Are you looking for Catholic friendship with fellow mothers? Come to the moms meet-up on Wednesday mornings! We alternate between meeting at our church and parks. Email Michelle for more information at mlcastry@gmail.com.

Bridge Club: All levels of players are welcome! We meet each Thursday from 12:00—2:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Contact Jay Kolakoski at jkolakos@verizon.net or by phone at 703-455-3009.

Home School Group: for more information visit our website www.homeschoollife.com/va/straymondhsg. Please join us for weekly co-op classes, fun activities and more. Contact: Katherine Bogacki or Malia Cameron at straymondhsg@gmail.com.

Legion of Mary: Do you want to develop a closer relationship with our Mother Mary and her Son, Jesus? The Legion of Mary weekly meeting is held on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm in the Maurer Room. All auxiliary members and anyone interested in joining the Legion of Mary are welcome.

St. Raymond's Lenten Women's Retreat conducted by the Women's Apostolate to Youth (WAY) on Saturday, **March 7th** - Topic: "ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX: Happy Victim of Merciful Love". Time : 8:30am -1:30 pm; Location: St. Raymond of Peñafort Parish Hall. The retreat will explore this very young, obscure French nun's conviction that Jesus wants above all else to be loved, not feared, and how accepting this as her mission led to a life of heroic sacrifice, intense suffering and to the devotion of countless Catholics today. Check in: 8:30am - 8:50am downstairs at the parish hall before going to 9:00am Mass, followed by continental breakfast, talks, confession/adoration, periods of silence, simple and delicious lunch, brief reflection and resolutions. Please RSVP on St. Raymond's parish website www.straymonds.org/lenenwomensretreat or contact St. Raymond's Parish Office (703) 440-0535 or email eva.radel@straymonds.org by March 3rd. **Space is limited, no cost to attend but please register early. All women of the parish are invited to join us.**

Church Persecuted

The Virginia Legislature is in the process of dismantling what is left of any rational thought left in public education with regard to human sexuality. The House of Delegates have passed two bills focusing on sexual orientation and gender identity. The Senate has passed a bill requiring all schools to incorporate sexual orientation and transgenderism in all aspects of K-12 education. The other legislative body is currently taking up each of these.

As the state of religious freedom and moral discord collapses around us, how can we become "smart" on these issues? How do you discuss these issues with other? your children?

Father Tad Pacholczyk of the Catholic Bioethics Center speaks often in our parish. He famously tells us that "we cannot yield to discouragement over the apparently widespread moral decline around us....Instead, we need to recognize how God has entrusted to each of us a small garden that he asks us to tend....By attending carefully to those responsibilities and conscientiously tending our gardens, the air around us can indeed begin to change."

Check out his *Making Sense of Bioethics*. You will find many informative articles to help you tend your garden at <https://www.ncbcenter.org/publications/making-sense-out-bioethics/>.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: "So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." Encourage the Holy Spirit to perfect your marriage by taking part in a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** on Mar 20-22, 2020 in FAIRFAX, VA and Sep 18-20, 2020 in FAIRFAX, VA. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: RenewMarriage-VANorth.org or contact us at applications@renewmarriage-vanorth.org or 703-646-1521.

Courage Support Group for Those Experiencing Same-Sex Attraction. COURAGE is a group that meets regularly to offer fraternal, moral, and spiritual support for those who experience same-sex attraction and desire to live chaste lives according to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Meetings are for men and women and strict confidentiality is maintained. For more information, please contact Courage@arlingtondiocese.org or visit <http://couragec.net/index.htm>.

FORMED[®]

Get In-Formed!

Love or Lust? by Jason and Crystalina Evert

Scare tactics, guilt trips, and climbing teen pregnancy rates have minimal inspiration in discovering the true meaning of love. In this presentation from Jason and Crystalina Evert, you'll discover the difference between love and lust while getting straight answers about dating, relationships, and sexual purity.

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

Listen now at www.straymonds.formed.org

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



Angelus Academy

Pre K—8th

Offering a liberal arts education in the classical tradition.

John Bosco Campaign: On January 31, the Feast of St. John Bosco, Angelus Academy kicked off its annual fundraiser, which will continue until the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support Catholic education in our area! Donations may be made online (AngelusAcademy.org; click the "Donate" button) or by mailing a check to the school. Thank you for your generosity.

www.AngelusAcademy.org

7644 Dynatech Ct., Springfield, VA 22153
703-924-3996

THE LAETARE BENEFIT SUPPORTING THE CLOISTERED NUNS OF ST. DOMINIC'S MONASTERY SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020

You are cordially invited to attend a benefit for the Cloistered Nuns of St. Dominic's Monastery, Linden, VA. The Laetare Benefit is our annual fundraising dinner. As cloistered nuns, they depend on the charity of the people of God for their existence. They have needs for everyday items such as food and healthcare, and are also trying to build a much-needed Chapel at the Monastery. Please join us for a reception, dinner, & auction on **Sunday, March 22, 2020** from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the **Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Avenue East, Vienna, Virginia.** **RSVP by March 16, 2020.** Tickets are \$175 each, if purchased by **March 9** (\$200 each after March 9). Please send a check payable to *Friends of St. Dominic's Monastery*, 524 N. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, or to purchase tickets online through Faith Direct, please visit <https://membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/3950#divTicketSelection>. For more information, please contact: friendsofstdominicsmonastery@gmail.com.

Gift Shop: Due to a shortage of Gift Shop volunteer availability this weekend the Gift Shop will reopen on Sat./Sun. 2/29-3/1. If you have any questions or need for sacramental or religious articles during this time, you may contact a Gift Shop volunteer by sending an email to: giftshop@straymonds.org.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 16,432.00
Family Assistance	\$ 286.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,349.00

The Collection on Ash Wednesday will be for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Please be generous.

The Second Collection next Sunday is for Black and Indian Missions here in the U.S. Please be generous.

Be a Good Steward!

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