

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



Rev. John C. De Celles, Pastor
Rev. Joseph D. Bergida, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Edward R. Horkan, In Residence
Elisabeth Turco, Director of Liturgical Music
Jeanne Sause, Director of Youth Apostolate
Virginia Osella, Director of Religious Education
Mary Hansen, Religious Education Secretary
Michael Thompson, Plant Manager
Maerose Naduvilekunnel, Business Manager
Eva Radel, Parish Secretary
Mary Butler, Parish Office Support

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

Email

Church: Office@straymonds.org
Pastor: fdc@straymonds.org
Rel. Ed.: ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org

Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School and Home School Scholarship Fund: Please inquire with our office about the availability of partial scholarships for the upcoming school year.

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.

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, 9:00 am (Latin-English),
11:00 am and 1:00 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday - Friday:

6:30 am & 8:30 am

7:00 pm on Wednesdays

Saturday: 9:00 am

WEBSITE: www.straymonds.org

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

(Reconciliation/Confession)

Wednesday Evening

6:15 - 7:00 pm (during Exposition)

First Fridays

3:00-4:00 pm and 6:00-7:00 pm

Saturday Morning

8:00 - 9:00 am

Saturday Afternoon

3:30 - 5:00 pm

Sunday Morning

8:30-9:00 am and 10:30-11:00 am

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Friday from 9:00 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.

OCIA: The Order 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.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please submit announcements to bulletin@straymonds.org 10 days prior to publication date.

Pastor's Corner

LABOR DAY. The Church has a long history of defending the dignity of work and workers, but with the rise of Marxism (which includes Socialism and Communism) in the 19th century, the Popes began to speak vociferously against these inherently unjust ideologies. All this came to a head in 1891, when Pope Leo XIII issued his monumental encyclical, *Rerum Novarum* ("Of the New Things"), which is the foundational document of modern Catholic teaching on "social justice." Sadly, many Catholics misunderstand this teaching. Some Catholics even believe that Socialism is the way to social justice. But as **Pope Pius XI wrote** in his 1931 encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*: "Religious socialism, Christian socialism, are contradictory terms; **no one can be at the same time a good Catholic and a true socialist.**"

One of the errors/sins of Marxism is to promote class warfare—to pit different groups in society against each other. How is this consistent with the Christian command to "love your neighbor as yourself"? So the Church particularly condemns this aspect of Marxism, whether it manifests in the supposed struggle between the "proletariat" vs. the "bourgeoisie," capitalists vs. labor, rich vs. poor, male vs. female, or minority race(s) vs. majority race (s).

Yet there is a movement in our country, and on the November ballot, that embraces this Marxist class warfare approach in its often-violent struggle to reshape our country's values. Many Catholics have fallen into the snares of this movement, even though it is directly contrary to basic Catholic principles.

Moreover, the dignity of work, especially as a participation in divine creativity, is particularly promoted in what we now commonly call "Capitalism." Sadly, the term "capitalism" is actually a term coined as a pejorative in the lexicon of the earliest Marxists, particularly Karl Marx himself (c.1867). But the great Pope St. John Paul II, who lived under the repressive evil of a Marxist regime for over 33 years in Poland and was a crucial force in the fall of Soviet-Communism, had a different view about this economic view of "Capitalism."

In his classic encyclical, *Centesimus Annus* (1991) John Paul wrote: "...**Is [capitalism] the model which ought to be proposed** to the countries of the Third World which are searching for **the path to true economic and civil progress?**... **If by "capitalism" is meant an economic system** which recognizes the fundamental and positive role of business, the market, private property and the resulting responsibility for the means of production, as well as **free human creativity** in the economic sector, then **the answer is certainly in the affirmative**, even though it would perhaps be more appropriate to speak of a "business economy", "market economy" or simply **"free economy"**."

"Free human creativity"— is the basis of the American economy, government and culture. Not the oppressive chains of Marxism, Communism, Socialism.

SARAH! Here is an excerpt from an interview Nico Spuntoni conducted with **Cardinal Robert Sarah** formerly prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship. (From an English translation in Diane Montagna's Substack, from the original published in *Il Giornale*):

Spuntoni: *Your Eminence, do you believe there is an aversion to Latin and Gregorian chant in certain parts of the Church?*

Cardinal: *It strikes me as an aversion confined to a few self-referential cultural circles — more a matter of psychology than of substance — and I think it's simply a generational issue: once the '68 generation has passed, these baseless, one-sided positions, which diminish the very cultural stature of Latin Catholicism, will pass with it.*

Spuntoni: *Benedict XVI was convinced that ...the so-called Latin Mass ...could positively influence celebrations in the*

ordinary form that lacked a sense of the sacred. Was he right?

Cardinal: *Among the effects of liberalizing the extraordinary form was a positive influence — I would even call it a correction — on possible abuses in the celebration of the ordinary form. Such abuses are extremely serious acts, but they must never be conflated with the ordinary form itself. Many priests testify that discovering the extraordinary form helped them celebrate better. I believe Benedict XVI's intention also reflected a deeply humble and democratic instinct: to ensure the widest possible access to it, so that over the decades the people of God could choose for themselves which form better embodied their lived faith. But all of that was cut off by Traditionis Custodes, while the Pope Emeritus was still living...*

It didn't strike me as a wise or respectful decision. But Benedict, meek as a lamb, allowed himself to be humbled, and in silence and prayer offered his suffering to God, the better to share in Christ's own suffering for his Church and to purify it.

Spuntoni: *What do you make of calls to repeal the restrictions?*

Cardinal: *Access to ritual forms recognized and in use for centuries can never be artificially restricted by decree. If a rite ceased to serve the faith, it would die out on its own; but if it preserves and nurtures the faith, may we never limit it — because in doing so we would be restricting the preservation and spread of the faith itself.*

Spuntoni: *What would you say to the many faithful drawn to the old liturgy who may have to drive miles just to attend a Mass?*

Cardinal: *I can only admire this profound expression of love for God. The phenomenon is spreading. If the hierarchy proves capable of truly reading the signs of the present age — rather than those of '68, arriving late once again — then room can open for a fraternal and peaceful dialogue.*

As a Church, we cannot wage war on those who devoutly attend Mass simply because they prefer one form over another. That is a shortsighted, purely ideological stance — not pastoral, not Christian. It is harmful, and destructive to the Church.

REMINDERS:

Religious Education: CCD classes started last Sunday. It's not too late to register.

OCIA ("RCIA"/"Convert Class"). Classes for adults interested in becoming a Catholic, or is a Catholic in need of the sacrament of Confirmation (or First Communion and Confession) have begun on Tuesday evenings at 7pm.

Adult Bible Study: Classes start September 14, with sessions on Monday morning and evening. This year's topic is: **"The Deuterocanon...The Preamble to the New Testament."** **Thomas Hoerner** will discuss the seven books of the Bible that Protestants have excluded from their version of the Bible.

Fr. Tad on AI. On Saturday, **September 19**, Fr. Tad Pacholczyk returns to St. Raymond's to speak on **"Ethics Issues in Artificial Intelligence."** His conference will begin after the 9am Mass at 9:45 a.m. and conclude at about Noon. Fr. Tad holds a PhD in Neuroscience from Yale University and did post-doctoral work at Harvard, and now serves as Senior Ethicist at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. **All are invited!**

25 Years: September 11, 2001. Never forget. God bless America, and all her warriors and others who protect our freedoms. May the Lord bless and protect us from all who wish to harm us. And let us pray for the conversion of all Muslims. "Go and teach all nation, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 7th

10:00 am Jimmy Lai

Tuesday, September 8th

6:30 am Robert & Marian Cahill +

8:30 am Carlo Enrico Javier +

Wednesday, September 9th

6:30 am Ben Biscoe +

8:30 am Don & Louise Sundberg +

7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, September 10th

6:30 am Martha Rollandini

8:30 am Bill Roche +

Friday, September 11th

6:30 am Susan Sundberg +

8:30 am Filomena Tulayba +

Saturday, September 12th

9:00 am Fakir & Kursheed Chand+

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm

Oscar Padilla +

Sunday, September 13th

7:00 am

Carlo Enrico Javier +

9:00 am

Parishioners

11:00 am

Marge O'Kane +

1:00 pm

Family of Jesus Prayer Group

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.

Brandon Skiba

Please pray for the sick of our parish

Glenn Bliss

Michael O'Neill

Cindy Laird

Patricia Lewis

Mai Pham

Jason Saenz

Phyllis Zitnik

John Florio

Carolina Baker

Debra Henkel

Gaudencio Dizon

Paul Haynes

Nena Brennan

Donald Trayer

Ellen Trayer

Arlene Pietraszko

Virginia Cummings

Mary M. Dixon

Michael Snaveley

Annette Haynes

Joann Alba

Beth Fitzgibbons

Robert Petitti

Alicia Tocconi

Jay & Linda Cabacar

Rita Felkel

Frankie Downs

Pauline Ferguson

Serrin Foster

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Sept 6/7 No Religious Education Classes

Sept 6 No Youth Apostolate Events

Sept 7 Labor Day—One Mass at 10 am Daily Family Rosary at 10:45 am and Parish Offices Closed

Sept 7 No OCIA

Sept 8 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15 pm

Sept 8 Legion of Mary 6:30 pm

Sept 9 Adoration 9 am-7 pm

Sept 14 Adult Bible Study Resumes (9:30 am and 7 pm)

Sept 19 Father Tad Talk 10 am

Sept 19 Knights of Columbus Document Shredding in Parking Lot

Sept 19 In Igne

Sept 23 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign Begins

Sept 26 WAY Daystar Mother Daughter Retreat

**View livestreaming
of the Holy Mass at St. Raymond's
www.straymonds.org**

**Monday - Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am
Wednesday at 7 pm
Saturday at 9:00 am
Sunday Mass at 9:00 am & 11:00 am
(See the website for Holy Days)**



WE ARE IN NEED OF USHERS—If you would like to volunteer, please contact headushers@straymonds.org.

DAILY FAMILY ROSARY LEADERS NEEDED! St. Raymond's has a Daily Family Rosary in the Church: Monday–Friday at 6:30pm and Saturday and Sunday after the 9am Mass. **Please visit our website to sign up to lead during September!** All are invited to attend.

YOUNG ADULT WOMEN—ages 20-40, join the women of our parish in an Endow study of Saint Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Letter, Mulieris Dignitatem (Dignity of Women). They meet on first and third Thursdays from 7-9pm to read together, discuss our roles as women in Christ, and grow in Christian fellowship. For more information, please contact Dominique Bliss, domarch20@gmail.com, (470) 652-3411 or Elise Hamilton, 2EliseHamilton@gmail.com, (703) 300-4131.

SAINT RAYMOND'S TRAIL LIFE TROOP VA-0683 is a great scouting opportunity for the boys of the parish. By pairing outdoor opportunities like camping and wood tools with spiritual formation and a focus on developing the faith life of our sons, Trail Life seeks to develop boys into young men who are Godly and responsible husbands, fathers, and citizens. Our troop meets on the first and third Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall, beginning again this September. For additional information, please contact TrailLifeUSA@straymonds.org.

CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF CHRIST THE KING is a small co-ed classical high school that is part of the international Chesterton Schools Network, opens at St. Lawrence Catholic Church this fall. Chesterton Academies are known for their strong Catholic identity anchored in daily school Mass, rigorous classical curriculum, screen-free socratic seminar format, and affordable tuition. Visit Chesterton-ChristTheKing.org to learn more or to apply. Limited spaces remain for rising freshmen for the 2026-2027 school year.

HOME SCHOOL GROUP - for more information visit our website www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/ Or email straymondhsg@gmail.com.

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. **Our next meeting will be September 19th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryndavew7705@gmail.com.

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS - Did you know we have an American Heritage Girls troop here at St. Raymond's? AHG is a fun Christian scouting group for girls from Kindergarten to 12th grade. Our troop, Troop VA0683, meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month beginning in September at St. Raymond's. Please contact our Troop Coordinator, Bea Frey, At ahgva0683@gmail.com or visit our website, <https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/american-heritage-girls-troop/>, for more information.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS—Interested in becoming Catholic? In need of your Sacrament of Confirmation? Classes began but not too late to begin. Please call the Parish Office for more information.



THE FULLNESS OF KNIGHTHOOD: Join the Knights! Your very own St. John Bosco Council #12846 has just been awarded the prestigious and distinguished **STATE DEPUTY AWARD** for a **THIRD YEAR** in a row as one of the most outstanding councils in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This noteworthy award is only earned by strong Catholic men tirelessly working together to serve their parish, community and their nation. Now is the **perfect time** to take your place with us. Just go to <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> to experience the Knights **free** for one year. Enter our council #12846 for local information when you register. Please contact our Grand Knight, Dave Hayes, at cell (703) 380-4550 if you have any questions or want to learn more about the many benefits of being a Knight! Get in the game, answer the call, **LIVE FULLY; BECOME A KNIGHT!**

Upcoming Events—SEPTEMBER

- 14 Membership Meeting 7 pm
- 19 Shredding Event (Parking Lot) 10 am—Noon
- 19 Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 19 In Igne (7:00PM - 9:00PM, Parish Hall)



IN IGNE (On Fire): The Knights of St. John Bosco Council invite all men of the parish to a night of Theology and Fraternity around the fire pit behind the Parish Hall on Saturday September 19th at 7pm. Fr. Horkan will lead a theology discussion about Angels. Our fraternal topic will be card games with several tables being set up for Euchre and Cribbage so people can learn to play. Dinner and beverages will be provided. You don't have to be a knight to participate and **admission is FREE**. Please RSVP to Barry Ryan at jamesbarryryan@aol.com so we make sure to have enough food.

NEW ONLINE GIVING PLATFORM! We have transitioned to Pushpay, our new online giving platform. Please visit our website and click on the blue button in the upper right corner titled "Online Giving" or scan the QR code provided here.



LEGION OF MARY INVITATION—Do you want to develop a closer relationship with our Mother Mary and her Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ? The Legion of Mary meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm in the Maurer Room. All auxiliary members and anyone interested in joining the Legion of Mary are welcome! Point of Contact: Judy Mayer, jmayer9014@aol.com, or 703-627-7320.

JUNIOR LEGION OF MARY - Children between the ages of 7 - 12+ at St. Raymond's who have received their First Holy Communion and parents seeking an extracurricular activity that enriches a young person's spiritual life and engages them in age-appropriate spiritual works of mercy under the spiritual direction of Father Bergida, please consider joining the Junior Legion of Mary. Meetings will be every Tuesday, 4:15-5:15pm, in the rectory Maurer Room. Two adult members of the Legion (Virtus certified) lead the meetings. Parents are welcome to attend / participate. Please email Patty Miller, pamiller35@gmail.com, or call / text her at: C - 703-663-0480.

FAMILY OF JESUS PRAYER GROUP— Weekly meetings are in the Church on Mondays at 3:00 pm. If you have any prayer requests, please us know by emailing Elaine Perricone at jpebtp@verizon.net or by calling the parish office. We will not be meeting in person September 14th or 21st.

ST. RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

Senior Ethicist at the National Catholic Bioethics Center

The New Technologies of Artificial Intelligence: Should We Be Concerned About the Ethics?



SATURDAY, SEPT. 19

8750 Pohick Rd., Springfield, Va. 22153

9 a.m. Mass in Church | 10 a.m. Talk in Parish Hall

11:30 a.m. Questions/Answers

Light breakfast available No reservation required

EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

www.straymonds.org

For information, contact 703-440-0535 or mary.butler@straymonds.org

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He was ordained in 1999 as a priest for the diocese of Fall River, MA, and currently serves as Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

SAINT RAYMOND'S LOVES LIFE

*Are **YOU** registered to vote in the Virginia November election?*

Life is on the line!

***elections.virginia.gov/registration/how-to-register**
Catholics VOTE NO in November!
arlingtondiocese.org/vote*

Beware! Did you know that the proposed Right to Reproductive Freedom amendment to the Virginia Constitution opens a path to challenge and ultimately remove Virginia's current parental notification laws. This is the strategy being used in other states. Learn more at VSHL.org.



Spring Campaign runs from 23 September - 1 November. Our witness weekend will be 31 Oct- 1 Nov with other Saturday opportunities before then. Sign Up Sheets will be in the

Narthex soon. Our location for this peaceful prayerful witness is on the sidewalk in front of the Falls Church Healthcare Center 900 S Washington Street. Non graphic signs. Can you spare one hour?! Come with friends. Bring the family. Bring your rosary. 40daysforlife.org.

ToughTopics.Life What comes to mind when you hear the word 'abortion'? Learn what it is and what it leaves behind. **Abortion Basics** equips you with straightforward knowledge and listening skills so you are ready to answer questions and guide others to life affirming choices.

MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center... Thank you for the continued steady stream of overwhelming material support! May God bless you for your goodness. Diapers are always so very much appreciated. Collection box is in the narthex. **Greatest needs:** size 5 and 6 diapers, clothes up to 2T, formula, wipes. Please do not leave bouncy seats, walkers, gates or jogging strollers.

To those who have suffered an abortion: "Do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. **The Father of Mercies** is ready to give you His Forgiveness and His Peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation." **Project Rachel** helps women and men who are carrying the grief and sorrow of a past abortion. (888)456-HOPE. Men: (703) 841-3833. Confidentiality always respected. www.helpafterabortion.org.

Mary's Comfort of VA. An independent nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization committed to making the world a better place by supporting expecting and new Moms in need. We have a beautiful home, several current residents, and an opening for another expecting Mother in Springfield. To learn more, visit maryscomfortva.org.

Women often regret the desperate isolated decision to take the **abortion pill**. Call the **abortion reversal helpline 855-209-4848**. It may not be too late. abortionpillreversal.com.



CHOOSE LIFE License plates bring the pro-life message to the highways and byways - wherever you go. chooselifeva.org. Partial proceeds from these plates support Heartbeat International's efforts to provide services to expectant mothers.

THE POWER OF PRAYER. Abortionists and those who work in the abortion industry trespass against us. Yet how much more they offend Almighty God! As we call on Our Father to forgive us, we are called to forgive those who trespass against us. Every abortion deforms the abortionist and desensitizes him or her to the humanity of both the mother and child violated through abortion. In fact, it diminishes their understanding of the inherent value of every human being. **Pray fervently for the conversion of abortionists.** Somehow, they have been led astray by greed, ignorance, a misguided sense of compassion or perhaps evil itself.

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate Grades 6-12

A new **YA Info. Sheet** is REQUIRED to be turned in once **each school year** for every child *prior* to participating in any Youth Apostolate event on or off site. <http://bit.ly/YAforms>

9/6 NO Youth Group or RE this Sunday due to Labor Day

9/12: High School Swing Dance this Saturday 7-9pm Parish Hall

All high school students are invited! Please come at 6:45 as we will start right at 7pm. We have **instructors** so please don't worry if you have never danced before. Most of the folks who have been attending had never swing danced before, but now are quite good! See flyer or email for more info. *Mark the date & tell your friends! No cost!* Make sure to bring a completed YA Info. sheet if you have not turned one in yet this year.

9/13 Middle School Youth Group Begins & High School Youth Group & Religious Ed. Resume

3:30-5pm Middle School (Grades 6-8)

5-6:30pm Religious Ed

6:30-8pm High School Youth Group

Every Friday in September & October

6:30am Friday Morning Mass & Breakfast

Calling all 6-12th Graders: Add Mass before class as a part of your Friday sacrifice, then come downstairs for breakfast with Fr. Bergida & Fr. Horkan before school! Please RSVP by Wednesday night, at <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVPS>, so we have enough food!

Sons of Thunder: High School Guys' Group

7-8:30pm 1st & 3rd Tuesdays beginning 9/15 (Maurer Room)

High School Men: Come hungry (physically and intellectually) and ready to rumble. Sons of Thunder meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30 pm in the Maurer Room with Phil, Nate, and Father Bergida.

Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group

7-8:30pm 2nd & 4th Tuesday's beginning 9/22 (Maurer Rm)

ALL High School Ladies are invited to become part of our authentic sisterhood in Christ, deepening our faith, sharing life & growing in holiness. It's a real special time of friendship together, immersing ourselves in the Good, True & Beautiful.

1-2 WOMEN VOLUNTEERS (age 21+) are still needed to supervise, no prep, no standing up front, just extra eyes! **Contact Jeanne if willing to help and/or for more info!**



FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

Would you be willing to contribute a breakfast casserole or other meatless dish one Friday this semester? More details at <https://bit.ly/breakfastfriday>

Are you able to contribute some snacks or heavy hors d'oeuvres one Sunday

evening for our high school youth group to enjoy? More details at <https://bit.ly/feedthehungryteens>

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

youth@straymonds.org Call/Text: 571-334-9890

Email Jeanne to be added to the email list for the most updated info on Youth Apostolate news & upcoming events!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Please note, no classes Sunday or Monday due to Labor Day. The next classes are on Sept. 13 and 14.

Religious Education Classes began last week! We still have limited space available for additional students, but **please contact our office as soon as possible**. All CCD sessions begin in the church - **Sunday at 5:00 pm and Monday at 4:45 pm**.

ALL CCD PARENTS are expected to attend a "Back to CCD Night" meeting on Sept. 20 at 5:20 pm or Sept. 21 at 5 pm in the parish hall. You may attend the meeting which is most convenient for you. **Parents of Homeschool and Catholic School students** who are in sacrament preparation years (grades 2, 7 and 8) and are receiving their Sacraments here at St. Raymond's, should attend one of these meetings. **And don't forget to register your students with the RE office!**



OUR LADY OF RANSOM Scholarships to Catholic Schools. St. Raymond's will again offer a one-time \$2,000 scholarship for each parish child who is switching from public school (K-12) to Catholic school this year. For all parish families, each student in Catholic grade school can receive \$1,000 and Catholic high school students can receive \$2,000. This amount is renewable every year and is subject only to minimal qualification terms. You need to be a parishioner and send a request for the scholarship to Fr. De Celles. Also, additional financial aid is available if a family truly can't afford Catholic school, even with the above scholarships. These decisions are made on a case by case basis.

There is also assistance available for homeschooling families. Contact the parish office for more information.

BRIDGE CLUB - All levels of players are welcome. We play Bridge cards each week in the Parish Hall. Contact Lois Kotlowski at 703-455-6567 or bridgeclub402@gmail.com if interested in joining us.



ALTAR SERVING TRAINING— Saint Raymond's has a very active Altar Server Program. We invite all young men of the parish to consider becoming an Altar Server. Young men between the ages of 9 and 18, who have received their First Communion are eligible. Training sessions with Fr. Bergida in Sept. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/SRPAltarServerTraining> or contact the Parish Office to sign up.



AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS SAINT JOSEPH GARDEN PROJECT - On the weekend of 9/5-6, Miriam Hale will be in the Narthex after all Masses to share more about her St. Joseph Garden Project. This project is part of her Stars & Stripes Award to benefit the St. Raymond's community. Donations are greatly appreciated. For more information, please email carlyhale@gmail.com.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY resumes Monday September 14th. There will be two classes—one in the morning at 9:30 am in the Parish Hall and the same class in the evening at 7 pm in the Maurer Room. Come to the one that is most convenient. The topic: *Jerusalem Will Be Built With Gold: The Preamble to the New Testament*. Seven books have been excluded from the Protestant canon of Scripture and kept by the Catholic Church: Baruch, Sirach, Wisdom, Judith, Tobit, and 1 & 2 Maccabees, along with portions of Daniel and Esther. They are a brilliant gem in her crown, "a wholly indispensable link in the economy of revelation," connecting the world of the Hebrew Bible to the life and times of Christ. Please join us and bring your bible.

SHREDDING EVENT -The Knights will sponsor a Document Shredding Event on Saturday, 9/19, from 10a.m. to Noon in the church parking lot. This is a convenient and secure way to dispose of documents and canceled checks. Donations are gratefully accepted and will benefit individuals with intellectual disabilities and support vocations. For more information, please call or text Tim Williams at (571) 451-5648.

CHURCH PERSECUTED

We will continue our discussion of evangelizing lapsed Catholics back to the Church which we began last week as reflections of the writings of to-be-beatified Fulton J. Sheen by Father John Hardon, S.J., soon.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen “gives three reasons why non-Catholics turn to the Church: 1) a moral crisis, especially the consciousness of sin and the desire of forgiveness which the sacraments of the Church assure them; 2) an intellectual crisis, when people who have wandered for years in the desert of agnosticism suddenly realize that in the Catholic Faith are to be found that conviction of mind and peace of soul which they had been looking for elsewhere in vain; 3) a physical crisis such as illness, and accident or the loss of a loved one by desertion or death, when they realize that only in the teachings of the Church can they find that courage and strength of will which they need to carry their cross in conformity to the will of God.”

“Before instructions are possible, a likely convert must first be disposed to wish to become a Catholic or, if lapsed, to return to the Church. Sheen went out in search of the sheep, not hesitating to call on them personally, or to call them by phone and invite them to pay him a visit.” One of these was Louis Budenz who left the Church to join the Communist Party and eventually became the managing editor of the Communist *Daily Worker* in 1937 publicly inviting Catholics to join him. “Fulton Sheen answered him in a pamphlet in which he said: ‘I am convinced that the greatest propagandists of communism know practically nothing factual about it. They talk about Russia either in general terms or in the stereotyped language of its propaganda.’”

At dinner with Budenz after he was extolling the “democratic merits of the new Soviet Constitution”, Sheen exclaimed: “Let us talk about the Blessed Virgin!” As Budenz would later exclaim, “Immediately, I was conscious of the senselessness and sinfulness of my life as then I lived it. The peace that flows from Mary, and which had been mine in the early days, flashed back to me with an overwhelming vividness.”

Read the rest of the story and other similar ones at the link below.

https://hardonsj.org/archbishop-fulton-j-sheen-advancing-the-kingdom-of-christ-in-america/#_edn8

FORMED®



Formed is available for FREE! To set up an account visit

formed.org/signup and select our parish.

Questions? Email us at formed@straymonds.org.



Angelus Academy

Where the Truth of Catholic teaching takes flesh in the lives of 3 year-old to 8th grade children and their families.

Openings still available for students at Angelus Academy.

We love having St. Raymond parishioners at our school. What a blessing it is to be learning together! We are continuing to accept applications for the 2026-27 school year as space permits. Spots are filling up fast--apply soon! Application information can be found at angelusacademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/. Call or email Julie Maimone, Director of Admissions, for more information or to schedule a tour: admissions@angelusacademy.org or 703.924.3996 x18. We are located at 7644 Dynatech Court in Springfield, just down the parkway from St. Raymond.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

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.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD) If you are 70-1/2 or more, please consider making an IRA Charitable gift to the parish before December 31. If you are 73 or older and need to make required minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA, your QCD counts toward your annual RMD for the year. QCDs can have a significant tax benefit for you. Eligible accounts for QCDs can be made from most IRAs, including Traditional IRAs, Rollover IRAs, Inherited IRAs, and Roth IRAs. Always consult your Tax professional regarding your specific situation. Use our parish address: St. Raymond of Penafort Catholic Church, 8750 Pohick Road, Springfield, VA 22153.

BOOK CLUB—The Parish Book Club will have it's first meeting of the 2026-27 year on Thursday, September 10, 2026 in the St. Raymond Library to discuss “The City of God: Selections and Introduction by Hans Urs von Balthasar” by St. Augustine. The schedule for the full year is on the parish website at <https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/book-club/>. New members are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.

JOIN THE CHOIR AT SAINT RAYMONDS. Rehearsals resume on September 15! We practice on Tuesdays from 7 –8:30 pm and sing at 11 am Mass on Sundays with a warm up at 10 am. The choir also provides music for Easter, Christmas and Holy Days. The repertoire of the choir contains masterpieces of classical liturgical choir music. Singers who have a pleasant voice and sing in pitch are welcome. Enjoy wonderful fellowship, music training and the joy of making uplifting music for the liturgy. Contact Elisabeth Turco at music@straymonds.org or call 703-861-1302.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SECOND COLLECTION -The Second Collection next weekend supports our parish's Religious Education Program. All donations from next weekend's second collection stay here in the parish to help fund our amazing program! The RE office has many necessary expenses throughout the year, including textbooks and other educational materials, equipment, gifts for sacramental students and volunteer teachers, retreat costs, confirmation reception, and more. Your generosity helps us keep the cost of tuition low for our families. Thank you for your continued support of St. Raymond's Religious Education with your prayers and donations. God bless you!

Collections

	8/30/26	Online August 2026
Offertory	\$ 14,130.00	\$ 61,600.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 1,239.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 732.00	\$ 6,612.00
OLOR Scholarship Fund	\$ 410.00	\$ 3,700.00