

"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

OCTOBER: THE ROSARY AND RESPECT LIFE. October is dedicated to both the Rosary and Pro-Life.

Life Chain Today. Today, as in the past, over 100 St. Raymond parishioners will join other local pro-lifers lining up on the sidewalk of Franconia Road in front of Key Middle School from 2:30 to 3:30 PM to simply stand peacefully and quietly praying, maybe holding a sign, as a public witness to our respect for the dignity of human life. Please join in. Parking is available at the school, and Pro-Life signs will be available.

40 Days for Life. The Fall "40 Days for Life" Campaign, a similar but more prolonged public witness to the right to life, has already begun, and St. Raymond's will once again take part. Our particular witness weekend will be October 31-November 1 in front of the Falls Church 'Healthcare' Center. (900 S Washington Street). Please visit the display and sign-up sheet in the narthex this weekend and sign up.

Catholics Vote No. I join Bishop Burbidge in calling all Catholics and all Virginians of goodwill to **vote "NO" to both on Ballot Questions #1 and #2 on the current November Ballot.** **Question #1** would amend the Virginia Constitution to make abortion a fundamental right in Virginia, even **up to full-term birth**, removing almost all regulations on abortion, including parental involvement their minor daughter's decision. **Question #2** would amend the Virginia Constitution to allow marriage between "any two adults," enshrining in our basic law the "right" to same-sex "marriage." No Catholic can morally vote "yes" for Questions 1 or 2.

Pray and Fasting. Did you see this week's short note from Bishop Burbidge?

"Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"I am asking you to take some specific actions throughout October to defeat two radically unjust ballot initiatives now before all Virginia voters.

"Our Catholics Vote No campaign is rooted in prayer and fasting.

"Therefore, On Fridays, I ask that you pray the Stations of the Cross. And fast—which means eating only one full meal and no meat.

"On Sundays, I ask that you pray the Rosary and fast from social media for at least a few hours—especially before and after Mass.

"It would be a powerful force if all in the Diocese of Arlington were united in these efforts. We entrust them to the Lord's amazing grace, so all that is just, right, and true will be done in this election.

"May God bless you and your families."

Daily Family Rosary. With this and the Bishop's above request in mind, I encourage all those who attend the **Sunday 9am Mass** to consider **staying after Mass** to pray the **"Daily Family Rosary"** regularly scheduled at that time.

Of course, I also invite you and your family to join us for the Daily Family Rosary in our church, every 6:30pm Monday to Friday, and Saturday (and Sunday) a few minutes after the 9am Mass.

October is the "Month of the Rosary." Tradition attributes the Rosary to an apparition of the Blessed Mother to St. Dominic around the year 1200. The use of strings of beads to count prayers dates back to pre-Christian times and to the first centuries of the Church. Over the early centuries of the Church the beads were used to count various prayers, including psalms, the Kyrie and the Our Father, especially among the monks. By

the end of the 8th century the custom of using the beads to count the praying of the 150 psalms. In the 10th and 11th century the string of beads commonly used by Catholics was used to count Our Fathers, and the strings of prayer beads became known by the name *Paternosters*. but by the 12th century they were more widely used to count the 150, or 50, *Hail Marys*. The practice of meditating on the mysteries of the life of Christ while praying the Aves became popular in the 15th century, and the devotion began to be called the *Rosarium*, meaning a "garland of roses." By the 16th century the division of the Rosary into the 5 decades of the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious mysteries of the life of Christ became set. Pope John Paul II proposed for popular a 4th set of mysteries, the "Luminous mysteries." Meditating on these 15 or 20 mysteries makes the Rosary a truly Christo-centric prayer.

October's particular association with the Rosary goes back at least to the year 1571, when Pope Pius V encouraged all Christians to pray the Rosary for the protection of Europe as it was being invaded by the Muslim Turks. On October 7, 1571, the Catholic fleet miraculously defeated a greatly superior Muslim fleet off the coast of Lepanto, Italy. Pope Pius subsequently declared October 7 the Feast of Our of Victory, but two years later Pope Gregory XIII changed the name to the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, as it remains today. In 1883 Pope Leo XIII dedicated the whole month of October to the Queen of the Holy Rosary.

The Rosary remains a devotion near and dear to the hearts of all Catholics—or at least it should. For centuries successive popes have commended it to all Catholics as a sure source of spiritual enrichment. Let me add my own personal admonishment to theirs to pray the rosary every day, or at least once a week. For those who ask me, "how can I deepen my prayer life," my first response is "pray the Rosary."

Also, remember that a **plenary indulgence** is gained by those who pray the Rosary (of five decades) **in a church**, public oratory, a family group, a religious community or a pious association (presuming the usual conditions).

A Reminder from Pope Leo XIV. *"...The vocation to love and to life, which manifests itself in an important way in the exclusive and indissoluble union between a woman and a man, implies a fundamental ethical imperative for enabling families to welcome and fully care for unborn life. This is increasingly a priority, especially in those countries that are experiencing a dramatic decline in birth rates. Life, in fact, is a priceless gift that develops within a committed relationship based on mutual self-giving and service.*

"In light of this profound vision of life as a gift to be cherished, and of the family as its responsible guardian, we categorically reject any practice that denies or exploits the origin of life and its development. Among these is abortion, which cuts short a growing life and refuses to welcome the gift of life. In this regard, the Holy See expresses deep concern about projects aimed at financing cross-border mobility for the purpose of accessing the so-called "right to safe abortion." It also considers it deplorable that public resources are allocated to suppress life, rather than being invested to support mothers and families. The primary objective must remain the protection of every unborn child and the effective and concrete support of every woman so that she is able to welcome life."

Blessed Fulton Sheen. It's official. The first American born Bishop to be beatified. Blessed Fulton Sheen, pray for us!

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, October 5th

6:30 am Carlo Enrico Javier +
8:30 am Adam Murray

Tuesday, October 6th

6:30 am Chantal Dao +
8:30 am John and Maureen Ber-
sart Jones +

Wednesday, October 7th

6:30 am Larry McKinley +
8:30 am Christine Rawls +
7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, October 8th

6:30 am Barnett Klehman +
8:30 am Tony Admana

Friday, October 9th

6:30 am Barbara Brady +
8:30 am Joseph + & Margaret
Maines

Saturday, October 10th

9:00 am Christopher Anezin

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles
Jonathan & Kara Per-
ricane

Sunday, October 11th

7:00 am Fr. Horkan
Mary Harter +
9:00 am Fr. Bergida
Parishioners
11:00 am Fr. De Celles
Vince & Nelly Drouillard
1:00 pm Fr. De Celles
Karen Sours +

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 and Ryan Higgins

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 Snavelly Annette Haynes Joann Alba Beth Fitzgibbons	Robert Petitti Alicia Tocconi Jay & Linda Cabacar Rita Felkel Frankie Downs Pauline Ferguson Celeste Hyde Lilia Unalivia Serrin Foster Matthew Ramos
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- Oct 4 Life Chain 2:30—3:30 pm (Please see Respect Life Column for more information)
- Oct 5 Adult Bible Study (9:30 am in Parish Hall and 7 pm in Maurer Room—both classes are the same)
- Oct 5 OCIA 7 pm in Parish Hall
- Oct 6 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15 pm in Classroom 2
- Oct 6 Legion of Mary 6:30 pm in Library
- Oct 7 Adoration 9 am-7 pm
- Oct 9 Adoration 9 am- 3 pm
- Oct 10 Blessing of the Animals 10:30 am
- Oct 12 Labor Day—One Mass at 10 am followed by Daily Family Rosary—Parish Offices Closed

CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF CHRIST THE KING Open House Nov. 7! Discover Chesterton Academy of Christ the King, a classical high school in the Catholic tradition dedicated to forming students in faith, reason, virtue, and truth. Join us for our Fall Open House on **November 7 from 3:00–4:30 p.m. on our campus at Saint Lawrence Church** in Alexandria. Families are invited to learn more about the school, meet members of the faculty, and see what makes a Chesterton education truly special. [Click here to RSVP](#) or visit our website at [Chesterton-ChristTheKing.org](#).

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 October 17th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email [maryndavew7705@gmail.com](#).

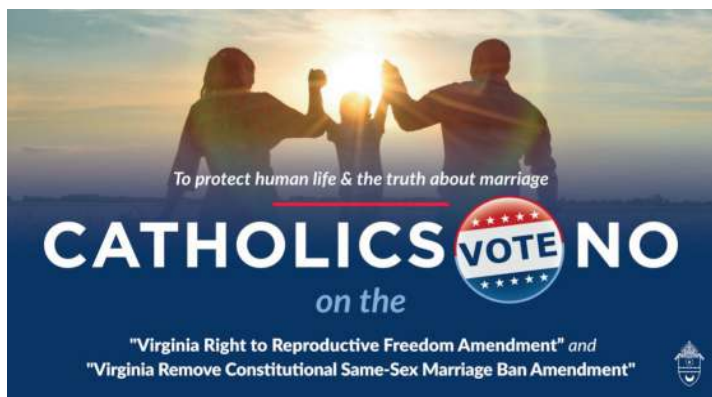
AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS - Did you know we have an American Heritage Girls troop here at St. Raymond's? AHG is a fun Christian scouting group for girls from Kindergarten to 12th grade. Our troop, Troop VA0683, meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month beginning in September at St. Raymond's. 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.

SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES COMMITTEE - collects food on an ongoing basis, for the Springfield Resource Center, which serves 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 all donations are welcome (no clothing). 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).

**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)**



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 October!** 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](#).

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS—In honor of St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day, the Patron Saint of Animals, we have the blessing of the animals next Saturday, October 10th at 10:30 am in the church parking lot by the rectory.



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—OCTOBER—
3-4 Project Manger Collections after all Masses
5 Membership Meeting
17 Men's Prayer Group 7:30 am Parish Hall
17/18 Blood Drive Sign Up in Narthex
17/18 Recruitment Drive in Narthex



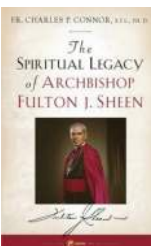
The 16th Annual PROJECT MANGER Fundraiser is THIS WEEKEND, 03/04 October! Join St. Raymond's Knights of Columbus and the Pro-Life Committee in supporting Project Manger – Cribs For Life! St Raymond will again have the opportunity to support PROJECT MANGER which purchases new cribs for moms and their babies in need. The cribs are distributed through "A Woman's Choice" and other Pro-Life crisis pregnancy centers in the local area. "A Woman's Choice" is a pro-life organization whose mission statement is "to love pregnant women so much so that abortion becomes an unthinkable option." The cost of one crib remains is approximately \$175, please prayerfully consider donating any amount or even the cost of one crib to this wonderful Pro-Life effort, which is changing hearts and minds one mom and her baby at a time. The POC for this effort is John Crennan who can be reached at 339.223.0887. For additional information, here is Project Manger's website, <https://www.projectmanger.org/> 100% of all proceeds goes to the purchase of new cribs. This year's contributions can also be made throughout October and November by using the Knights QR Code here.



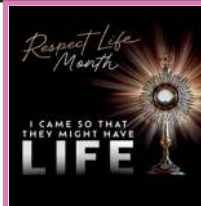
LEGION OF MARY INVITATION—Do you want to develop a closer relationship with our Mother Mary and her Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ? The Legion of Mary meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm in the Library. All auxiliary members and anyone interested in joining the Legion of Mary are welcome! Point 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 Classroom 2. 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.

DO YOU DESIRE A MORE MEANINGFUL PRAYER LIFE? Perhaps God is inviting you to an intercessory prayer ministry that helps keep a sense of awe and gratitude for His presence through His priests. Please consider joining the Seven Sisters Apostolate who prays an hour specifically for our St. Raymond's priests (at the church during a time you choose). Each priest at St. Raymond's should have at least one sister praying for him each day of the week. Join one of the Seven Sisters teams, or join Substitute. Visit www.sevensistersapostolate.org. Please contact Renee LeBoeuf for more information renee.leboeuf@gmail.com.



BOOK CLUB NEWS: Our next meeting is on Thursday, October 8th at 9:30 AM, in the Parish Library. We will be discussing "The Spiritual Legacy of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen" by Father Charles P. Connor. The schedule for the full year can be found on the parish website: <https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/book-club/>. New members welcome. If you have questions or plan to join us for the first time in October, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.



SAINT RAYMOND'S LOVES LIFE

PRAY! FAST! VOTE NO!
For the November Elections
Life is on the line!

LIFE CHAIN! TODAY!! Yes, it's back! And we are looking forward to seeing you and your family there! Join Father De Celles and fellow parishioners on **TODAY!** Sunday 4 October from 2:30-3:30 across the street from Key Middle School 6402 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Come, stand in silence with positive (No victim images) signs encouraging prayer. This location is not near an abortion facility.



Put your faith into action and join with other Christians and people of good will. Fall Campaign 23 Sept – 1 Nov. Our witness weekend will be 31 Oct- 1 Nov with other Saturday opportunities before then. Sign Up Sheets are in the narthex. 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.

• ... **and remember** if you are unable to be physically present, please offer up your prayers and sacrifices from home or from church. God hears our prayers wherever we are!

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.**

Tepeyac Pro-Life OB/GYN: Faith-based Pro-life OB/GYN restoring integrity of human person with modern medicine and healing of Christ. tepeyacobgyn.com, 703.273.9440.

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.

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.

Gabriel Project: Pregnancy Outreach for Expectant Mothers. Offers emotional, spiritual, material, and financial support through a pregnancy helpline and parish-based volunteer "Angel" support. helpforpregnantwomen.org. 866-444-3553.

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

10/4 Youth Group & Religious Ed.

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

5-6:30pm Religious Ed

6:30-8pm High School Youth Group

10/6 Sons of Thunder: High School Guys' Group 7-8:30pm 1st & 3rd Tuesdays (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.

10/10: 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.

10/12 High School Hike & Christendom Chapel (11am-6pm)

High School students are invited to join Fr. Bergida and Ms. Jeanne to hike Compton's Peak (2.4miles..a 2hr hike) culminating with a tour of Christendom's Chapel. The day will start with optional 10am Mass, leaving St. Raymond's at 11am and we will return around 6pm. Chaperones/drivers needed. **Permission slips are due Oct. 7th.** and can be found at <http://bit.ly/YAforms>

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!

10/24 HS Apple Picking & Dominican Monastery (8am-1:15pm)

All high school students are invited to join us on our annual trip to Hartland Orchard to pick fresh apples for our upcoming pie sale! After apples, we will join the nuns at the Dominican Monastery for midday prayer and then have a picnic lunch before heading back. No cost. Chaperones/driver needed. **Permission slips due Oct. 20.**

<http://bit.ly/YAforms>



FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

Would you be willing to contribute a breakfast casserole or other meatless dish one Friday this semester? More details can be found 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 can be found 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

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>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



October is the Month of the Holy Rosary!

Students will be praying a decade of the rosary together at the beginning of each class during October. We will keep all of your families' special intentions in mind!

PLEASE participate in the Daily Family Rosary

in our church, Monday - Friday at 6:30 pm and/or Saturday and Sunday after 9 am Mass during the month of October and beyond! See information in this week's bulletin about Rosary recitation and other prayer opportunities for your family.

There will be no CCD classes October 11 or 12 in observance of the Columbus Day holiday.

OUR LADY OF RANSOM Scholarships to Catholic Schools. St. Raymond's offers 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.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY There will be two classes each Monday—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.

VOTING INFORMATION TABLE—This year we have a very important Election for U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives coming up on November 3. There are also three proposed amendments to the Virginia Constitution that need your input. Our **VOTER INFORMATION TABLE** is set up in the Narthex. If you need to register to vote, update your registration, or vote absentee, we have the forms for you. Stop by to see us.

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 jpebp@verizon.net or by calling the parish office. Due to the holiday on October 12th, the prayer group will not meet that day.



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.



CHURCH PERSECUTED

The U.S. Supreme Court continues to take cases involving state and local governments infringing upon the rights of religious organizations contrary to the religious freedoms cherished in the Equal Protection Clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Several years ago, Colorado passed a law requiring state funding of pre-K education for students in public and private schools. The program offered families 15 hours of free pre-K school per week at the private or public schools of their choice. Families sending their kids to Catholic schools across Colorado were eager to participate.

That seemed simple enough to satisfy recent Supreme Court decisions indicating that to withhold funds from a religious school (when funding other private schools) just because it was religious is discriminatory and violates the Equal Protection Clause. But there was a catch. The legislation placed a caveat on the funds that the school must comply with the state's non-discrimination laws to include those related to so-called same-sex marriage and gender transition.

The Archdiocese of Denver requires parents enrolling their children in its schools to support the teaching of the Catholic Church on issues such as human sexuality teaching that a marriage is between one male and one female and the sex of an individual is that which is established at birth. These are core to the mission of Catholic education. Colorado legislators knew this when they were drafting the bill since the archdiocese lobbied strongly asking for a religious exemption. None was provided in the legislation.

Thus, the pre-K program at St. Mary's Catholic School in Littleton, Col. or any other Catholic school in the archdiocese could not receive the state funding. The parish and the archdiocese have been fighting this case in federal court for over two years. Now, the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear *St. Mary's Catholic Parish v. Roy*, on Nov. 3, 2026.

<https://becketfund.org/media/catholic-parents-and-preschools-ask-supreme-court-for-equal-treatment/>



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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.

JOIN THE CHOIR AT SAINT RAYMONDS. 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.

CALLING ALL MOMS OF YOUNG CHILDREN OR EXPECTANT MOTHERS! Our moms' group aims to build community through faith, meaningful conversations, and shared experiences. Each Wednesday we meet from 9:30am to 11:30am either at a local playground or at St. Raymond's. To join the group, email Morgan Hempfling for more information: sohlmb@gmail.com.

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

GIVING TREE—Each year, Saint Raymond's "adopts" families who need help with Christmas. If your family or someone you know could use help providing gifts for their children, please contact the Parish Office at 703-440-0535 or office@straymonds.org. Information is kept confidential. Applications are due October 31st.

Collections Below are for 9/27/26

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