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

Welcome to Saint Raymond of Peñafort Catholic Church

8750 Pohick Road
Springfield, VA 22153

WEEKEND MASSES:
Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm
Sunday:7:00 am,9:00 am (Latin-English),
11:00 am and 1:00pm

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 7:00pm
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.

Rev. John C. DeCelles,	**Pastor**
Rev. Joseph D. Bergida,	**Parochial Vicar**
Rev. Edward R. Horkan,	**In Residence**
ElisabethTurco,	**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

EMAILS:

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.

Pastor's Corner

Novena Prayers for the Election. With elections only 10 days away, I ask that all St. Raymond's parishioners join me in praying for God's will the elections. Specifically I propose that for nine days, beginning tomorrow, Monday, October 26 and ending Tuesday, November 3, we each pray daily: 1) the **Rosary**; and/or 2) the "**Prayer for Protection** from Virginia's 'Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment.'" I also propose that we each offer up some small **sacrifice**, perhaps skipping a meal, or fasting from social media.

This is in addition to the Bishop's request that we: "On Fridays,... pray the Stations of the Cross. And fast—which means eating only one full meal and no meat. On Sundays, …pray the Rosary and fast from social media for at least a few hours—especially before and after Mass."

Ads Opposing Question 1. Bishop Burbidge, through the Viriginia Catholic Conference, has joined with several pro-life groups to sponsor ads (streaming, radio, and hopefully TV) advocating for the defeat of Question 1 on the ballot, the proposed pro-abortion amendment. Several parishes and priests have made joined in raising almost $50,000 for this effort (St. Raymond's donated $10,000). If you would like to make a personal donation you can go to www.virginiansforsafereproductivepolicy.com.

Coming Diocesan Capital Campaign. The Bishop will soon announce the diocese's largest ever capital campaign, set to **raise $215 million**. The funds will support various large projects including: a new Catholic Vocational High School (focusing on training for skilled trades); a new home for St. Margaret of Cortona home for women and children fleeing domestic abuse; expansion of San Damiano Retreat House; expansion of Mother of Mercy medical clinics; expansion of the Priest Retirement Home; and several other large projects.

Every parish will be expected to raise 1.3 times their offertory collection, which **for St. Raymond's would be about $2.2 million** (based on current numbers). Of that, 20% will stay with the parish for our own use.

As I understand it, the campaign will begin on different dates for different parishes, as each parish will be included in one of four different six month "waves," with starting dates being either January 1 or July 1 of 2027, or January 1 or July 1 of 2028. **I do not know which starting date we will be assigned .**

This is all just a rough overview to keep you informed. I'll give you more specific information for us, including brochures etc., when they are available.

French Riots. I'm sure all of you are aware of the violent riots in France over the last few days. Although, maybe you're not, since for days the mainstream press completely downplayed the violence, e.g., CBS reporting, "**Scuffles broke out** Saturday in Paris between police and **small groups** of protesters joining a march as part of nationwide demonstrations against **rising living costs** and in support of **high school students' grievances**."

Talk about "fake news." The reality is that (as of Wednesday) 50,000 to 800,000 "protestors" have taken part, about 2,400 people have been arrested, 500 to 600 police and firefighters have been injured, two people have died, thousands of businesses and buildings have been damaged/ looted (the historic Limoges City Hall was burned down), with losses estimated in the hundreds of millions of euros.

Hardly a "scuffle," and hardly "small." **The media lies all the time.**

And is this just about "rising living costs" and "students grievances"? As our own Robert Royal wrote in *The Catholic Thing* last week: "It's difficult to sort out exactly who's responsible. It's being said to have started as a "student" protest over too few teachers and poor school facilities. But how such protests could have erupted in multiple places all over the nation among "student groups" without some extensive coordination remains unexplained. And whatever the origins, it's clear that the violence and destruction are coming now from the far-left and the worst elements in France's large Muslim population."

Pray for France. And for Italy, where this is spreading. And pray for America that we may not allow the politics that has led this to France become mainstream in our American elections.

Bishops Overreach. Recently you may have read that several American bishops have issued decrees/policies that attempt to regulate the liturgy in their diocese in unusual ways.

The Bishop of Knoxville called for the end of public prayers before or after Mass, including the Prayer to St. Michael. He argued, "During the reform of the liturgy called for by…the Second Vatican Council, one of the underlying principles of the reform was to restore "a noble simplicity" to the Roman Rite." But the problem is 1) these prayers are actually both noble and simple (as the Council fathers understood that meaning), and 2) any prayers after and before Masses are, by definition, not part of "the liturgy" so not the topic of the Council reform or the Bishop's limited authority over the liturgy.

Also, the Bishop of Gaylord, Jeffrey Walsh, placed limits on offering Mass "ad orientem." Sadly, he lacks the authority to do this, since ad orientem is actually the norm in the Roman Missal. In addition, he banned the exclusion of females from acting as lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC), and altar servers. Again, he lacks the authority to do this, since it is the pastor of the parish that Canon law invests with authority of choosing ministers at Mass. Moreover, papal norms have made it clear that no priest can be forced to allow females to serve at his Masses.

While Canon 835 §1 of the Code of Canon Law makes Bishops "the moderators…of the entire liturgical life" in their dioceses, a "moderator" is not the same as "legislator." Rather, Canon 838 §1 reserves this liturgical legislative authority "solely" to the "Apostolic See" [i.e., the Pope and his Vatican delegates], unless diocesan bishops are given specific authority "provided by law." No such authority has been provided by law on the above issues.

Next Sunday. Just an "fyi": next Sunday, November 1, we will celebrate the Mass of the **Solemnity of All Saints.** It is a Holy Day and one of the rare feasts the celebration of which "overrides" the normal celebration of Mass of Sunday, the Lord's Day.

All Hallow's Eve. Of course, this is proceeded on Saturday, October 31, by "Halloween." I am not a fan of this day, since it not only tends to distract us from the meaning of All Saints, but it is also used as a feast day by those that serve the devil (including Satanists, witches, etc.). Still, I understand the innocent fun involved, especially for kids. So, parents keep it balanced, and be careful not to let it, in any way, lead you or yours away from Christ, the Saints, or the Holy Souls.

Pope Leo. Please continue to pray for our Holy Father, as he recovers from surgery, and hopes for a full recovery from lung cancer.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, October 26th
6:30 am Carlo Enrico Javier +
8:30 am Pat Kolakoski +

Tuesday, October 27th
6:30 am Chantal Dao +
8:30 am Joseph Perricone +

Wednesday, October 28th
6:30 am Luis & Sarah Wolf +
8:30 am Barbara Ann Gresdo +
7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, October 29th
6:30 am Carlo Enrico Javier +
8:30 am James L. Mault +

Friday, October 30th
6:30 am Chantal Dao +
8:30 am Al Pirowski +

Saturday, October 31st
9:00 am
Elizabeth Fink Swallow

Vigil Mass
5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
Dominique Murray

Sunday, November 1st
7:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
R E Catechists

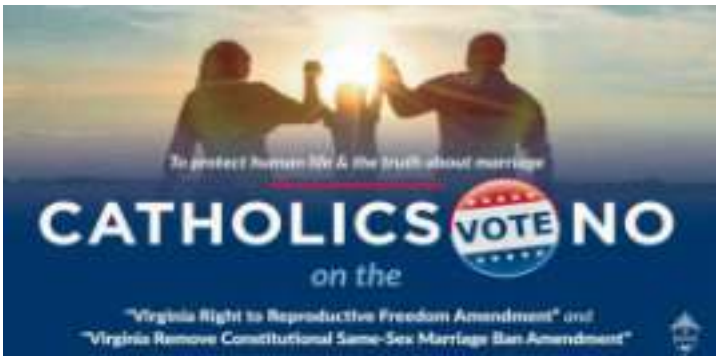
9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
Parishioners

11:00 am **Fr. Bergida**
Rose F. Finan +

1:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
All Souls of Legion of Mary +

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)



OPEN HOUSE at John Paul the Great - Sunday, November 1. Saint John Paul the Great's Open House is fun for the whole family! Learn more about our rigorous college-preparatory curriculum, competitive athletics, inspiring visual and performing arts, and abundant extracurricular opportunities. Meet students, faculty, coaches, administration, and parents to learn more about the programs you love. Pre-register here! https://jpthegreat.fsenrollment.com/portal/newinquiry

VISIT OF THE FATIMA "PILGRIM VIRGIN" STATUE TO PARISHIONER HOMES. St. Raymond of Peñafort Legion of Mary is honored to bring the Fatima 'Pilgrim Virgin' Statue to parishioner homes for a 1 or 2-week period! 1. To pray together! 2. To allow Our Blessed Lady to act as Mediatrix to bring Jesus Christ close to your family and household. 3. To make prayer a continuing daily foundation toward peace and forgiveness within the family. The Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary are enthroned in your home upon our return to pick up our Fatima statue. Allow us to assist you with this! Please contact Judy Mayer, call/text 703-627-7320, or email jmayer9014@aol.com to discuss and make arrangements.

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	Paul Haynes	Robert Petitti
Michael O'Neill	Nena Brennan	Alicia Tocconi
Cindy Laird	Donald Trayer	Jay & Linda Cabacar
Patricia Lewis	Ellen Trayer	Rita Felkel
Mai Pham	Arlene Pietraszko	Frankie Downs
Jason Saenz	Virginia Cummings	Pauline Ferguson
Phyllis Zitnik	Mary M. Dixon	Christina Urrutia
John Florio	Annette Haynes	Christy Shaiko
Carolina Baker	Beth Fitzgibbons	Lilia Unalivia
Debra Henkel		
Gaudencio Dizon		

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Oct 26 Novena for the Election (see Father's Column)
Nov 1 Donut Sunday
Nov 1 Reminder - Day Light Savings Time
Nov 2 All Souls Day Masses 6:30 am, 8:30 am and 7 pm
Nov 2-4 All Souls Day Triduum of Masses
Nov 3 Election Adoration 9am until polls close
Nov 3 Don't Forget to VOTE
Nov 4 Adoration 9 am- 7pm
Nov 5 A Mom's Peace Mass 7 pm (Miscarried - Stillborn babies and their mothers)
Nov 6-7 First Friday Nocturnal Adoration
Nov 18-21 Pictorial Directory Photoshoot
Dec 2-5 Pictorial Directory Photoshoot

SAINT BERNADETTE RELIC TOUR - Saint Bernadette Catholic Church will welcome the Relics of Its Patron Saint as Part of the National Journey of Grace Pilgrimage from Lourdes, France. The faithful of Northern Virginia will have an extraordinary opportunity to welcome and venerate the relics of Saint Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes when they visit Saint Bernadette Catholic Church in Springfield, Virginia, November 5–6, 2026. All are welcome.

VOTING INFORMATION TABLE IN THE NARTHEX
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.Vote Early.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Saint Raymond's will be putting together another Pictorial Directory and is in need of volunteers to form a committee. Some of the effort includes data entry and checking families in for their photo shoot. If you are interested in helping, please contact the Parish Office at 703-440-0535 or please email office@straymonds.org.

THE FULLNESSOF 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—
24/25 BloodDrive Sign Up in Narthex
31 Blood Drive Sign Up (Narthex, after all Masses)

NOVEMBER-
1 Blood Drive Sign up (Narthex, after all Masses)
5 OPM (7pm- Library)
7 Men'sPrayerGroup 7:30 am Parish Hall
7 Blood Drive in Parish Hall

INOVA BLOOD DRIVE - The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a blood drive on behalf of Inova Blood Donor Services on Saturday, November 7th here at St. Raymond's parish hall from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM . Please consider signing up for a 15 minute time slot within that period and giving the Gift of Life. You may sign up either on-line at www.inovabloodsaves.org or in the Narthex after all Masses in the coming weekends. If you have any questions or difficulty signing up, please contact Mark Maslyn of our parish at (202) 679-3293 (m/text) or email at: mam7253@msn.com.

Coats for Kids

St. John Bosco Council 12846 of the **Knights of Columbus** are collecting **NEW** coats for kids (infants to teenagers) after all Masses on November 14th and 15th, 2026. All coats collected will be donated to local charities (e.g., Lorton Community Action Center, ECHO and The Catholic Charities Christ House). Coats can be any size, and boxes will be in the Narthex and at all exits to collect them. Donations (cash/check/card) will also be accepted. Please use this QR Code for card donations. Money donated will be used to purchase new coats and given to the charities above. Your support is greatly appreciated.

SAINT RAYMOND'S LOVES LIFE

Life is on the line!

Catholics VOTE NO in November!
CatholicsVoteNo.com

40 DAYS FOR LIFE **Put your faith into action** and join with other people of good will. 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!

A MOM'S Peace is a Lay Apostolate for Mothers of Miscarried and Stillborn Souls. By discretely supporting mothers with burial, bereavement and remembrance programs, they lovingly guide families through difficult decisions in the immediate wake of loss. A Mom's Peace exists to fulfill the corporal and spiritual works of mercy "bury the dead" and "comfort the sorrowful." Kara Palladino, founder of this ministry, will be available in the narthex after **the 7pm Mass on Wednesday 4 November** to visit with you and answer questions.

***Did you know that there's a 24/7 Life Affirming Chatbot**? Introducing Olive chat.ai*. **Almost 80% of Gen Z and Millennials use AI to get answers.** *Olive — life-affirming AI assistant.* https://bit.ly/oliveAI

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. **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**.

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

10/25/26 Youth Group & Religious Ed.
3:30-5pm Middle School Youth Group
5-6:30pm Religious Ed.
NO High School Youth Group (due to RALLY)

10/27: Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group 7-8:30pm 2nd & 4th Tuesday's (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. This year we are going through ENDOW's High School study: Created for Holiness. It's not to late to join! Each session stands alone. It's a real special time of friendship together, immersing ourselves in the Good, True & Beautiful.

10/30: 6:30am Mass & Breakfast Before School
All 6-12th graders are invited to 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!

11/14: Witness for Life-Prayer Outside Abortion Facility (10:15am-1pm) All 6-12th graders are invited to join us for an hour of prayer for life, on the sidewalk outside the abortion clinic in Falls Church. We will meet at St. Raymond's and carpool over then return to the parish hall for pizza. For those that need it for Religious Ed., this can count as 1 prayer or church hour Much more importantly, your prayerful witness will impact lives. Compliant adult chaperones/drivers are also needed. Permission slips & more info found at http://bit.ly/YAforms **Due Nov. 10th.**

Food (or Financial) Contributions Needed
The Youth Apostolate is in need of folks willing to contribute to feeding our hungry teens. While a good number of families do contribute, not all are able to. We have 18-25 youth who have been coming to Friday 6:30am Mass and breakfast before school each week and are in particular need of a few more folks willing to get up early to bring a hot casserole by 7am to help ensure we have a meal each week. Here is the signup with our current needs: https://bit.ly/breakfastfriday We are also in need of folks willing to contribute a simple meal or dessert on Sunday evenings for our high school youth group. Again, many families contribute, but we still struggle to get all meals and desserts accounted for. https://bit.ly/feedthehungryteens Alternatively, perhaps you are willing to help but are not a baker or handy in the kitchen? If you would be willing to donate towards a meal, we could then use that donation to reimburse someone who enjoys cooking but either does not have the money or who already contributes often and would be happy to cook more frequently so long as they are not having to be donating all their resources each time. If that is you, please consider contributing by making a donation to the Youth Apostolate. with "meal contribution" in the memo. Here is a QR code to donate via pushpay.

Jeanne Sause
Director of Youth Apostolate (Grades 6-12)
youth@straymonds.org Call/Text: 571-334-9890
Email Jeanne to be added to the email list for the most updated information on Youth Apostolate news & upcoming events.

A new YA Information 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

Attention Parents: There **IS class on Nov. 1 and 2** even though FCPS is closed for the election/ teacher work days.

Mass Attendance Cards: Parents of students in grades 2, 7 and 8 are reminded that your child **should be submitting a Mass attendance card** every time they attend **weekend Mass** (Saturday Vigil / Sunday Masses). If your child attends Mass at a parish other than St. Raymond's, please pick up a bulletin, ask a priest or deacon to sign it if possible, **write the child's name** on it, and then drop it off in the RE Office at your earliest convenience.

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 at 703-440-0535.

CHRIST HOUSE. Our next Christ House Dinner will be Friday, October 30, 2026. We will need help with driving the meals to Christ House, a few people to help serve at Christ House, and some help preparing the bags at the St. Raymond's kitchen. The food as usual will be provided by the American Legion, and the rest purchased by the committee. Besides the physical help, monetary contributions are greatly appreciated, and can be made through the parish office. As always, thank you very much for your continued generous help.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY - It's time for our NEW Parish Directory. Every family who participates will recieve a free 8x10 family portrait and a printed directory. Photoshoot dates are November 18-21 and December 2-5. Wednesdays through Fridays between 2-8 pm and Saturdays between 10 am and 4 pm. Please select a date and time that is best for your family. There are three ways to sign up: 1) After all Masses in the Narthex, 2) Use the QR code below or log into www.ucdir.com, or 3) call the parish office. All family photos will arrive prior to Christmas and make great gifts!

CHURCH CODE:va319
PASSWORD: photo319

CHURCH PERSECUTED

"Do not lie!" Alexander Solzhenitsyn emphasized these words when discussing his time in the Soviet Gulags under socialism and Communism. He noted that, "The simplest, the most accessible key to liberation" from these "isms" is "a personal nonparticipation in lies! Even if all is covered by lies, even if all is under their rule, let us resist in the smallest way: Let their rule hold not through me!" Setting aside the sinfulness of a lie, the act of telling habitual intentional falsehoods dulls the mind and forms the conscience incorrectly.

Father De Celles outlined the rationale for voting "NO" on ballot measures 1 and 2 in the November elections in Virginia. Please take time to read them (Amendment 1 – Oct 11 and Amendment 2 – Oct 18 bulletins, respectively). These two ballot measures, as they appear on the ballot, one codifying abortion at any time with no restrictions and one codifying the so-called "same-sex" marriage in the Virginia Constitution, do not accurately explain what the legislators voted for.

The ballot language used in both amendments disguises the truth and only appeals to one's feelings. The truths about the human baby and marriage between one man and one woman are shrouded by a lie – a false definition of love that is self-ish rather than self-less.

But, let us return to their enactment in the Virginia legislature. Note that only members of the Democratic Party voted for each of these measures and not one member of the Republican Party did so. While not judging the moral conscience of each elector, either Democrat or Republican, both measures were enacted solely by one political party, and one party alone. Do these members actually believe that abortion should be available in all cases even to the point of birth, or are they merely following the advice of their leadership rather than following an informed conscience. Perhaps a vote with their conscience and against their leadership would rule out their reelection next year? Same thing with the marriage amendment. Did these legislators actually believe that it would legalize a wide variety of immoral marital abnormalities? Lies! Lies! Lies! A democracy cannot run on lies.

When individuals become so acclimated to lying and accept the lies of others, their consciences are dulled, and sound reasoning is no longer present. We cannot allow their lies to prevail! Vote "NO" on the Amendment on abortion and the Amendment on marriage.

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 2026-2027 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.

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.

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 but please try to turn in prior to that to help us.

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

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 7pm 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.

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.

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