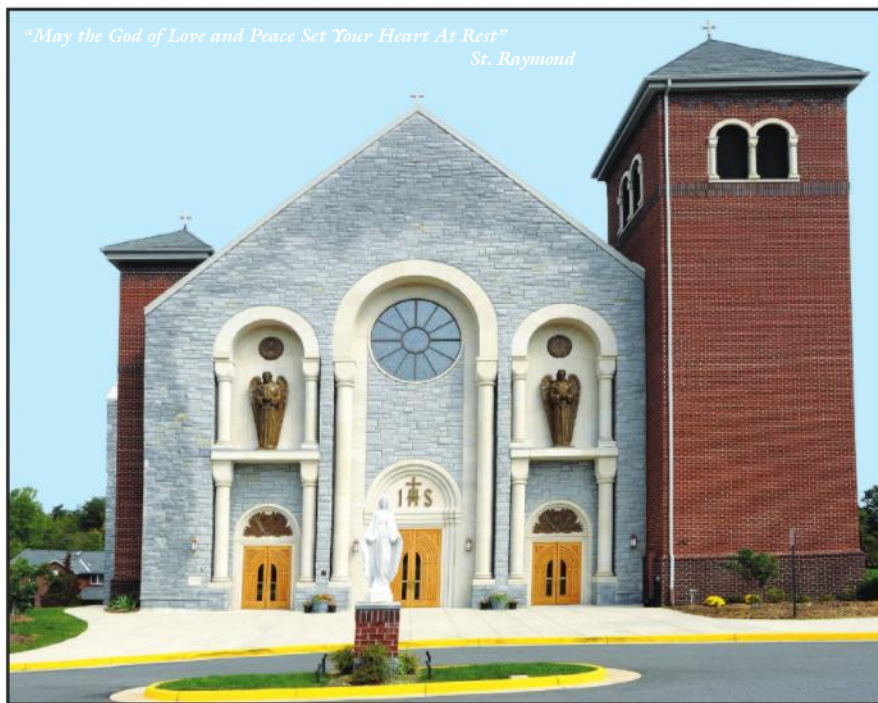


# THIRD SORROWFUL MYSTERY

## *The Crowning with Thorns*

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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



### **Welcome to St. Raymond of Peñafort Roman Catholic Church**

**8750 Pohick Road  
Springfield, VA 22153**

#### **WEEKEND MASSES:**

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

#### **WEEKDAY MASSES:**

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

#### **EXTRAORDINARY FORM MASS (LATIN)**

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays 7:00 pm

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

#### **PARISH OFFICE:**

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

#### **Office Hours**

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

#### **E-Mail**

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

#### **Website**

[www.straymonds.org](http://www.straymonds.org)

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

#### **Angelus Academy**

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

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

#### **SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Reconciliation/Confession)**

##### **Wednesday Evening**

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

##### **Saturday Morning**

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

##### **Saturday Afternoon**

3:30 - 5 p.m.

##### **Sunday Morning**

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

#### **EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Wednesday from 8:30 am to 7:00 pm

Friday from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

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

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

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

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



## Pastor's Corner

**Lenten Series Continues.** Our Lenten Series on the "The Passion of the Lord..." continues **this Thursday, March 19, at 7pm. Fr. Christopher Christensen**, will talk about: **"Jesus before Pilate."**

I highly encourage all of you to attend, even if you missed the first two weeks. The half-hour talk takes place during a Holy Hour in the Church, which will also include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary, and Benediction.

Fr. Christopher Christensen is from a Navy family and moved to the Diocese of Arlington as a child. He is a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (2002) and the University of Notre Dame (2006). After spending two years active duty as a US naval officer in Japan, he entered seminary for the Diocese of Arlington, attending Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. He was ordained in 2014 and is currently the parochial vicar at the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More in Arlington.

**Lenten Devotion.** This holy season is a great time to renew our appreciation for Jesus' love for us, and acknowledge our failure to love Him. So I urge you to pause every night before you go to bed and briefly examine your consciences, thinking both of your sins and of God's blessings of the day. Also, take a moment to consider how well you "kept Lent" that day: have you been faithful to the penances you have chosen for yourself, and are your penances both challenging enough and not so challenging as to be discouraging. And then make a sincere and devout act of contrition.

I also encourage you to carefully review the Lenten Schedule we distributed two weeks ago (go to [straymonds.org](http://straymonds.org) and "Lent 2020" near the top of the page) and think about which of the various Lenten liturgies and activities you should take part in—and resolve to make it happen.

Looking over the schedule, I see the daily confessions—have you been yet? And the Friday Stations of the Cross—such a simple but powerful devotion. Or maybe you can come to Exposition and Adoration on Wednesday or Friday. Or how about waking up early once a week to come to morning Mass. Or go to Mass at another church near your work during lunch. Or maybe on Wednesday evening you could go to confession, spend time in Adoration, and go to 7pm Mass!

Don't let this Lenten opportunity to grow in holiness pass you by!

**Coronavirus.** I know everyone is worried about the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. I am too. But while it can be very serious and even deadly, and we should be on guard, we also need to remember that the cases in the U.S. and Virginia are still very low, and the vast majority of those infected recover from it very well.

Here are some facts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website (go to [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov) for more info):

*"Some people are **at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness**. This includes: **Older adults [and] people who have serious chronic medical conditions like: heart disease, diabetes, lung disease...**"*

*"The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads...."*

*"Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath."*

*"People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions."*

*--Avoid close contact with people who are sick.*

*--Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. --Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.*

*--Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.*

*--If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should*

*--Stay home when you are sick.*

*--Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.*

*--Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.*

*"If you develop symptoms during that period (fever, cough, trouble breathing), seek medical advice. Call the office of your health care provider before you go...They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness..."*

**As for the parish**, we will probably **not** be making any substantial changes in operations (Masses, confessions, meetings, etc.) unless and until the Bishop issues particular guidance to do so. The Bishop and his staff are working closely with medical professionals and federal and state officials to determine "best practices" for the diocese.

In the meantime, we will continue to omit the exchange of the Sign of Peace at all Masses, and we have introduced cleaning protocols several times on Sunday to try to reduce the germs on common surfaces.

I encourage everyone in the church to keep a friendly distance from non-family members and avoid shaking hands. At the same time, strive to be charitable and neighborly.

Some have suggested we stop receiving Communion on the tongue. But that poses some problems. First, no one but the Pope can ban Communion on the tongue. Second, I'm not sure that this would serve any purpose. As the Archdiocese of Portland relates: "We consulted with two physicians regarding this issue, one of which is a specialist in immunology for the State of Oregon. They agreed that done properly the reception of Holy Communion on the tongue or in the hand poses a more or less equal risk..."

So it remains your choice to receive in the hand or tongue. But if you do, remember to do it correctly: 1) open your mouth, 2) stick out your tongue, 3) keep still until the priest moves his hand away.

Perhaps **most importantly, if you feel sick** (symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath) **stay home!** Do not come to meetings, and you are **automatically dispensed from going to Sunday Mass**.

And if you are an older adult or have serious chronic medical conditions (like asthma, heart disease, diabetes, lung disease, etc.) you also might want to consider staying away from large gatherings such as Mass. (I'm waiting on clarification from the Bishop, but if you truly believe that you are at higher risk, I think you would also be automatically dispensed from Sunday Mass).

**Above all, don't panic or worry.** Be careful and smart, pay attention to advisories. And **trust Jesus**. And **contact me if you need any help at all**.

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*

**MASS INTENTIONS****Monday, March 16th**

6:30 am Edward Fetzner +  
8:00 am Jack Mertinkovic +

**Tuesday, March 17th**

6:30 am Jack Gibbons +  
8:00 am Pittman Family

**Wednesday, March 18th**

6:30 am John Breunig +  
8:00 am Jack Mertinkovic +  
7:00 pm Veronica Riordan

**Thursday, March 19th**

6:30 am Vernon & Mary  
Butler  
8:00 am Joe Perricone +

**Friday, March 20th**

6:30 am Mary Anne Shekleton +  
8:00 am Jack Mertinkovic +  
7:00 pm EFM (Latin)

**Saturday, March 21st**

9:00 am Pat Ditanna +

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles  
Timothy Shook +

**Sunday, March 22nd**

7:00 am Fr. Willard  
Ceilito Gonzales +  
8:45 am Fr. Rippy  
Parishioners  
10:30 am Fr. Daly  
Nancy Christman  
12:15 pm Fr. De Celles  
Ruby Maramba  
5:00 pm Fr. De Celles  
Nathan Smith

**Please pray for our parishioners serving in Combat Zones and their families.** If you have a relative serving in harm's way and would like to have his/her name included in our prayer list, please contact the parish office. **Also, please be sure to let us know when they return home.**

**\*\*\*Daniel Keller -  
Returned Home Safely\*\*\***

**Anthony Nsekela  
Stephen Aldridge**

**Please pray for the sick of our parish**

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

Mai Pham  
Joan Opiela  
Donald Zacherl  
Leonora Ramos  
Jason Saenz  
Phyllis Zitnik  
Mary K Randazzo  
Patricia Del Buono

Jeanne Sause  
Joann Alba  
Michael  
Malachowski  
Juanita Boarman  
Angela Colom  
Denny Kruse

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

Mar. 16 Family of Jesus Prayer Group  
Mar. 18 Legion of Mary  
Mar. 19 Feast of St. Joseph 6:30 & 8:00 am Mass  
Mar. 19 Lenten Series  
Mar. 20 Lenten Soup Supper  
Mar. 20 Stations of the Cross 6:30 pm  
Mar. 20 EFM (Latin Mass) 7:00 pm  
Mar. 21 Men's Prayer Group  
Mar. 21 K of C St. Patrick's Day Dinner  
April 4 Luminaries of Mary

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

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

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

**RULES OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE** can be found on our website at: [straymonds.org/fasting-and-abstinence/](http://straymonds.org/fasting-and-abstinence/)

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

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

The Bishop's Lenten Appeal is critical to our diocesan needs and we are asking every household in our parish to support this appeal to the extent that they are able. The BLA funds many programs, services and ministries that serve people in need and furthers the Gospel mission of Jesus Christ in our diocese. Let us join together to do the Lord's work – works that touch the lives and souls of thousands of people. Thank you!

**Extraordinary Form/Traditional Latin Mass at St. Raymond Church This Friday, March 20th.** St. Raymond's offers the Mass according to the Roman Missal of 1962, also known as the "extraordinary form of the Roman Rite" (EFM), at 7:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month. For more information on this form of Mass, visit: <http://www.sanctamissa.org>.

**2020 Lenten Series: "The Passion of the Lord: From the High Priest to the Crucifixion"** This year's Lenten Series will take place during an Evening Holy Hour on **Thursdays (through April 2)** from **7pm to 8pm** with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a half-hour Talk, praying the Rosary and Benediction in the Church. Five Priests of the Diocese of Arlington will present the meditation on the different aspects of the Passion of Lord. This week's topic is "Jesus before Pilate" presented by Fr. Christopher Christensen. For more information, please call the Parish Office.

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

**St. Patrick's Day Dinner**, hosted by our St. John Bosco Council Knights of Columbus, on Saturday, March 21st, at 6:30 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm) in the parish hall. The menu will feature traditional corned beef, cooked cabbage, potatoes, carrots, Irish soda bread, and desserts. A children's buffet will include "Irish dogs," apple sauce, carrot sticks, and chips. Entertainment will include traditional Irish music by "Shepherd's Pie Caeli Band", and dancers from the Boyle School of Irish Dance. Ticket are \$15 for Adults and \$5 for children (8 and under), with a maximum price per family of \$50. Tickets will be sold after all Masses this weekend, March 14/15, as well as at the door the day of the event. There is limited seating, so get your tickets early. If you have any questions, contact Barry Ryan at [jamesbarryryan@aol.com](mailto:jamesbarryryan@aol.com).



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

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

**5-Car Raffle:** All Saints Church (Manassas, VA) has invited our parishioners to participate in their 5-car raffle. Prizes include five 2020 vehicles from Koons of Manassas (Honda Civic, Buick Encore, GMC Canyon Truck, Honda CRV Sport Utility and Honda Odyssey Van). One \$5.00 ticket offers the purchaser a chance to win all five vehicles plus \$20,000 in cash prizes. You should have received your 20 tickets by this time. Please consider selling/purchasing the tickets mailed to you. Remember to return unsold tickets and follow the instructions on the back of the green card. If you need more tickets call Larry Saenz 703-832-1042 or email at [lsaenz1@verizon.net](mailto:lsaenz1@verizon.net).

**The Gift Shop has re-opened.** Stop by and shop for your Lenten devotions. Fr. Calloway's NEW book, **Consecration to St. Joseph** & Fr. Gaitley's NEW book, **Greater Glory**, and his classic **33 Days to Morning Glory** are in! as well as **Missals** for toddlers, **MagnifiKids** and **Magnificat** and its *Lenten Companion!* One can start these consecration books anytime! **OTHER NEW ITEMS:** \*Divine Mercy Chaplet \*Prayer to St. Joseph & Our Lady Untier of Knots \*FullofGrace journals & cards \*Baptism gifts, including handmade cards by our friends the Dominican nuns \*Divine Mercy images \*travel size holy water bottles \*tall votive candles \*Liturgy of The Hours/Shorter Christian Prayer \* The Shop is open after Saturday 5 pm Mass and after Sunday Masses through the 12:15 pm Mass. Would you like to share your time and good cheer and volunteer as a Sub in the Shop, e-mail us at [giftshop@straymonds.org](mailto:giftshop@straymonds.org). **Oh, and good news:** the Shop is accepting Visa and MasterCard.

**St. Martin de Porres Committee** - collects food on an ongoing basis for the Springfield Resource Center which services over 250 families in the Springfield area. A collection box is in the Narthex and donations are collected and distributed weekly. Suggested food items are listed, but all donations are welcome (no clothing). For equitable distribution, smaller packaging is requested ( i.e. 1 lb bags of rice vs. 5 lb. bags, 1qt. oil vs. 1 gal oil).

**MAKE PEACE WITH YOUR PAST**

*This Lent, Come Home to God*

**Day of Prayer & Healing for Women Wounded by Abortion**

**English:** Sat., March 21st & Sat., Oct.3rd

**Spanish:** Sat., March 28th

--Confidential, Compassionate, Non-Judgmental--

For more info and/or to register: 703-841- 2504

or [info@helpafterabortion.org](mailto:info@helpafterabortion.org)

**SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE**

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

**Save the date.** On Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Burbidge will celebrate the 8:30 am Mass at Saint James in Falls Church. Immediately following Mass he will lead the Rosary at our 40 Days for Life Vigil Site. Plan to join us in prayer.



Join the worldwide movement (855 cities in over 61 nations!) to save mothers and babies

in this peaceful, prayerful, pro-life effort. We witness Fridays from 10am-noon and all day April 4-5. **Vigil location:** 900 S. Washington Street, Falls Church. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex!

**Manassas Walk for Life.** Pregnancy & Adoption Support is coming together with CareNet Pregnancy Resource Center and Divine Mercy Care for a Walk for Life fundraiser in Manassas on Divine Mercy Saturday, April 18th. Show your support for this life affirming coalition. **For more info:** [www.voice4life.org/bettertogether](http://www.voice4life.org/bettertogether) **Questions?** [kerre@carenetprcs.org](mailto:kerre@carenetprcs.org) or call 703-330-4572.

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

**Natural Family Planning.** A gift to your marriage. To register for local classes visit [www.celi.org](http://www.celi.org).

Has the sorrow of miscarriage or still birth touched your life? Or perhaps you know someone in this situation. **A Mom's Peace.** A Lay Apostolate for Mothers of Miscarried and Stillborn Souls offers discreet support to families with bereavement, burial and remembrance assistance. For more information, visit [amomspeace.org](http://amomspeace.org)

**To those who have suffered an abortion:** "The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. If you have not already done so, give yourself over with humility and trust to repentance. **The Father of Mercies is ready to give you His forgiveness and His peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**" St. Pope John Paul II **Project Rachel** can help someone who is carrying the grief and sorrow of a past abortion. (888)456-HOPE. Confidentiality always respected. [www.helpafterabortion.org](http://www.helpafterabortion.org).

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

## St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate

### Steubenville Youth Conference

(July 10-12, 2020)

(Open to current 8-12th graders)



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

### REGISTRATION DUE MARCH 31ST

Registration info. can be found on the youth bulletin boards and/or online, along with information about speakers, schedule, cost, etc. <http://straymondyouth.com>

\*Financial assistance is available. Don't let money keep you from coming. Contact Jeanne with any questions.

### Last weekend's Bake Sale brought in \$964!

Thank you to all who helped with our bake night, and to ALL who baked goodies, ran the table after Mass, bought the baked goods, and gave donations to support our youth!

### 3/15 High School Youth Group & Religious Education

6-6:30pm Dinner for High School Teens in Rel. Ed.

6:30-8pm Religious Education

8-9pm High School Youth Group

**Friday Morning Mass During Lent!** All high school students are invited to join us for 6:30am Mass on Fridays during Lent followed by a simple breakfast (cereal, yogurt, oatmeal, fruit). Compliant adults will drive you to school by 8am. We currently drive kids to W. Springfield and South County with the possibility for others as well. Email Jeanne by Thursday if you plan to come so we have enough food & drivers.

### Prayer Request for Confirmation Retreat this Saturday 3/21

Please keep our Confirmandi, as well as the high schoolers and adults who will be leading their retreat on Saturday in your prayers. May our hearts be open to receive all that God wants to bestow upon us. Come, Holy Spirit!

### Diocese of Arlington Summer Discernment Camps for High

**School Students:** *Rising 9th through 12th grade boys: The Diocese of Arlington's Quo Vadis Camp is July 12-16. Rising 9th through 12th grade girls: FIAT Camp is July 19-23. Both camps are at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. The registration lottery will be open March 3-31. Contact: [vocations@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org)*

### Sun. Youth Group Dinner Contributions Needed

We are in need of meal contributions for our Sunday Night High School Dinners. Can you help, or do you know someone who can? For more info.: <http://bit.ly/March2MayDinner>

**Jeanne Sause**

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

[youth@straymonds.org](mailto:youth@straymonds.org) Call/Text: 571-334-9890

[www.straymondyouth.com](http://www.straymondyouth.com)

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Parents of 8th grade candidates for

**Confirmation:** Confirmation Gown Order form is due in the Religious Education Office by March 20th.

### - Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for

**March 21st.** Be sure to drop your child off at St. John Paul the Great High School at 8:45 a.m. and pick them up at 5:00 p.m.

**Parents of 7th Grade students** please check the Confirmation requirements as outlined in the *Supplement to Parent/Student Handbook for Confirmation 2021* which you received in your red folder at the parent meeting in September. Confirmation Registry form was due February 6th and **Sponsor Interview is due by March 26th.**

### Parents of students preparing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist for the first time in

**May:** First Holy Communion mini-retreat and rehearsal is Saturday April 25th. First Holy Communion Mass is Saturday May 2nd at 11 a.m.

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

**Luminaries of Holy Mary:** Come join us to honor the Blessed Mother's request for making the 5 First Saturdays on April 4th, 2020: Mass at 9am, then meet in the Maurer Room for Rosary, meditation and Gospel reflection. All are welcome.

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

**The SHROUD OF TURIN talk and replica presentation is coming to St. Lawrence Catholic Church** (6222 Franconia Road Alexandria), Sunday March 22 at 2:30 p.m.

Don't miss this great opportunity to experience the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ in a way that can make this an **unforgettable event in your life.**

Considered one of the greatest mysteries of our time, the Shroud of Turin continues to amaze and baffle scientists, doctors, historians, artists and theologians. Scientists cannot explain the source of the image which contains photographic and 3-D properties on a cloth centuries old. But is this the actual burial cloth of Jesus Christ?

Bill Wingard, a speaker for the Shroud, will present the case for authenticity that has already been delivered on the east and west coasts including M.I.T., and you can be the judge. Come see a full size replica of the Shroud and the photographic negative images that sparked an explosion of scientific interest and debate over a century ago which continues today. What message does the Shroud have for each of us? Bring others including teens on up and your cameras. RSVP helpful for refreshments but not mandatory: <http://bit.ly/377D4FN>



## Church Persecuted

(Continued from last week)

Last week we introduced Rafeal Schächter, a Czech composer, imprisoned in the Nazi Concentration Camp Terezín during World War II. During his imprisonment, he trained 150 of his fellow primarily Jewish prisoners to learn and perform Verdi's *Requiem*. There was a problem. Schächter had only one score so he trained his novice orchestra to not only learn the *Requiem* but to memorize each individual part.

The *Requiem* was performed on 16 occasions for fellow prisoners. Over the years, the number of members decreased as individuals were sent to the death camps, but the performances continued. The Nazis had one more performance in mind even though the numbers had decreased to 60 members.

Their final performance was before a delegation of the International Red Cross to "support the charade that the prisoners were treated well and flourishing." For the survivors who initially felt that Schächter "was like a crazed man on a mission," they soon realized that, "We can sing to them what we cannot say to them." "Through the words of this Catholic liturgy, a Jewish chorus could stand up to the Nazis by letting them know what ultimately matters....They (the Nazis) probably couldn't understand the Mass sung in Latin, but Schächter and his choir understood exactly what they were doing." To conclude next week.

<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2011/06/03/december-10-2010-defiant-requiem-verdi-at-terezin/7628/>

**Parking at St. Raymond:** During the Lenten Season, the church parking lot is not large enough to accommodate all parishioners and their guests. Limited street parking is available, but can cause concern for our neighbors. One option available to you involves parking in the commuter lot at Gambrill Road and Fairfax County Parkway, where you can take advantage of carpooling. Please consider this as an option during the Lenten season. The Fairfax County Police will be monitoring the yellow striped "No Parking" zones in the parking lot, and tickets will be issued if violations occur. Please be considerate of our neighbors, and do not park where you block their driveways. Infractions will be ticketed and may possibly mean towing as well.

## FORMED<sup>®</sup>

### Get In-Formed!

**Swimming Upstream: Going Against the Current Culture**  
by Stephen Ray

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