

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



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

**8750 Pohick Road  
Springfield, VA 22153**

### **WEEKEND MASSES:**

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

### **WEEKDAY MASSES:**

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

**EXTRAORDINARY  
FORM MASS (LATIN)**  
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

**Mother's Day.** Of course, today is Mother's Day. All human beings have a natural inclination toward a deep affection for their own mothers. But in spite of this, western culture has gradually been subtly degrading the dignity of motherhood and mothers, discouraging motherhood by pushing contraception, sterilization and, of course, abortion, and stressing "careers" over maternity. And now we have the new efforts of gay and transgender activists challenging the very notion and dignity of womanhood, and therefore motherhood.

Against all this stands the Catholic Church, which recognizes motherhood as a holy vocation, and mothers as the heart of the family. We recognize this dignity in all women, even before their first tiny baby rests in their wombs—women are created with this great gift written into their nature, with this tremendous capacity and potentiality to give life and love not only to their children and families, but to the world itself.

Furthermore, the Church sees in motherhood the model for her own relationship with God's children: "she" is the bride of Christ, and so also "Holy Mother Church." From motherhood the Church takes its lead in giving eternal life and love to the baptized, and with a mother's heart she looks on the unbaptized throughout the world, longing to take them into her embrace and bring them to Christ.

And finally, the Church recognizes that one of the greatest gifts Our Lord Jesus has given to us is His own Blessed Mother, Mary, to be our Mother: "Son behold your Mother!" Who is dearer to us than her, who tenderly comforts her children in their times of sadness, fear, and loneliness?

**"God Did Not Do That."** Two Sundays ago, I preached about how no one is talking about God during this pandemic. While we hear slogans like "we're all in this together" or "together we can do this," and we hear praise for the healthcare workers and first responders—all of which are fine and good—no one talks about the ONE person who is more powerful than all of us together and deserves our praise above all others: **God**. I wrote: "No one is talking about God. No one seems to think God matters. Instead it's as if human "togetherness" or generosity or intelligence are the new supreme forces in the world—mankind is the new god.

I gave as an example of the exception that proves the rule, President Trump's statement weeks ago about his hope we could re-open by Easter: "Wouldn't it be great to have all of the churches full?... You're going to have packed churches all over our country. I think it would be a beautiful time."

And he was roundly ridiculed and dismissed.

Since then, another leading political figure has spoken about God in a very powerful way—but in the opposite direction. The governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo, announced at one of his daily briefings, discussing how the number of new COVID-19 cases is dropping: "The number is down because *we* brought the number down... **God did not do that**. Faith did not do that...."

So, according to him, God does not matter. We are the ones that matter. If we can't do it, God certainly can't. We, collectively, are the new god.

Of course, he's wrong: God does matter. And you and I know He does. So keep praying and praising Him, and beg God to forgive people who blaspheme against Him.

**Adoration.** Just a short note to thank all the folks who have been coming to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We were

having some trouble filling up our commitments last weekend, so I sent out an email asking for volunteers—and within minutes we had 25 new people signed up. You are so generous. God bless you.

Remember, we have Exposition and Adoration from 9am to 9pm Monday through Friday, and from 9:30am to 6pm on Saturday, and noon to 6pm on Sunday. The Bishop says we need to have at least 2 people committed to every hour to keep Exposition going, so we need people to sign up at <https://straymonds.org/adoration/>. If you don't sign up, you can, of course, still come to adoration (observing the 10 person limitation).

**When Will Public Masses Return?** Good question, but I don't have an answer. Governor Northam says that on May 14 he will announce whether or not he will loosen his restrictions, including on churches. But as far as I can tell, he was not clear as to what exactly that would entail.

In any case, I'm pretty confident (and I have no inside information) that the Bishop will probably follow the Governor's guidance/rules, whatever and whenever it is.

**So, thinking ahead,** I'm anticipating that we will be required to go through a phase-in period that will probably limit the number of people we can have at Mass. I'm thinking/hoping that would begin with a 25% of capacity limit, meaning for us about 210 people per Mass. Typically we get about 2,350 people at the Sunday and Saturday Vigil Masses. I would also anticipate that there will probably still be strong encouragement for those who are particularly at risk (over 60, etc.) to stay home, and that the Sunday Mass *obligation* would still be suspended by the Bishop. Given that, I'm guessing that we can expect only 80% of the 2,350 to attend at first, or about 1,900. That means we would need at least 9 Masses ( $1900 \div 210 = 9$ ). Normally we have 6 Masses per Sunday, so we'd have to add 3 more.

**How would we add 3 more Masses?** I'd love to do this by adding an extra Mass downstairs in the Parish Hall, but capacity there is only 340, so we'd be limited to 85 people, which won't work. So I'd probably just add 2 Masses in the afternoon, and add 1 Mass on Saturday evening. This might involve changing the regular Mass times (e.g., 8:30 Mass rather than 8:45 Mass)

**How would we limit/control attendance to 210?** I think/hope we can use SignUpGenius to do this—a different page for each Mass, with 210 slots. You'd print out your email receipt from SUG and bring that to Mass as a sort of "ticket." Volunteers at the door would briefly confirm that you're at the right Mass. You'd have to be on time to Mass, because once Mass started we'd allow any folks who show up without a ticket to come in, up to the 210 limit (they'd have to wait in line outside until then).

**Once inside,** we'd require social distancing (not among families), and we'd close off every other pew. We might also have to ask you to wear masks. For Communion, again social distancing would be required... and we might be required by the Bishop to receive only in the hand. We would not employ Extraordinary Ministers. We would also ask for a staggered exiting after Mass, so that you won't all be crowded together in the aisles.

**These are my preliminary thoughts.** If you have some good ideas, alternatives, or improvements to propose, please send them my way ([fr.decelles@gmail.com](mailto:fr.decelles@gmail.com)).

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*



**GOSPEL [JN 14:1-12](#)**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.

If there were not,

would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come back again and take you to myself,

so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going you know the way.”

Thomas said to him,

“Master, we do not know where you are going;

how can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, AI am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

If you know me, then you will also know my Father.

From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him,

“Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.”

Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you for so long a time

and you still do not know me, Philip?

Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own.

The Father who dwells in me is doing his works.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me,

or else, believe because of the works themselves.

Amen, amen, I say to you,

whoever believes in me will do the works that I do,

and will do greater ones than these,

because I am going to the Father.”



**“But Mary kept all these words,  
Pondering them in her heart.”**

**Luke 2:19**

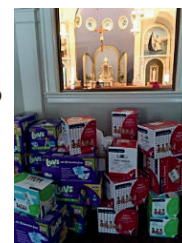
A blessed Mothers’ Day to all Mothers, Grandmothers,  
Godmothers, expectant Mothers and Mothers whose children  
have gone before them to eternity.

**SAINT RAYMOND’S RESPECTS LIFE**

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

The issue of **vaccines** will increase in the news as scientists work to find relief from the COVID19 virus. Many vaccines presently in use for various diseases have been derived from aborted fetal cell lines. Catholics should educate themselves on the pertinent concerns that fact presents. The National Catholic Bioethic Center <https://www.ncbcenter.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions/use-vaccines/> provides answers to many initial questions. Please consult the parish website for more detailed information.



Another most remarkable collection for those in need who seek help from the MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center.



Look beyond the donations and see Our Lord Who extols us to love one another as He has loved us. God bless you for your continued generosity.

*Thank you!*

***Do you have extra time on your hands?***

Our  **Wrapped In Love**  program is up and stitching. Pray for the mothers and babies who will be wrapped in love by your efforts as you create baby blankets for distribution at Pregnancy Care Centers or for use by sidewalk counselors – wherever we find a need. God bless you for your efforts. Blankets may be delivered to the MaRiH collection box in the narthex.

**Natural Family Planning.** A gift to your marriage. For more info visit: [ccli.org](http://ccli.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 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

All in-person Youth Apostolate Events are canceled **further notice**. We will let you know when we can meet again.

### Virtual High School Youth Group : 8pm Monday nights!

What we do varies from week to week. Some things we have done include virtual games, Lectio Divina with Fr. Willard, scavenger hunts, and prayer. Upcoming events include vocations panel, escape room night, and more games! **RSVP to [youth@straymonds.org](mailto:youth@straymonds.org) for the link to join us!**

### Acting/Theater Opportunity: Social Distance Film Project

7-12th Graders interested in helping with a social distance film project? Our idea: 2 -5 minute film project that's made to look like it was filmed in a group setting, but wasn't. Artists would record themselves and submit the video or music for editing. Story: St. Raymond, the Surfing Friar. We are looking for actors, musical artists, writers, costume props advisor, video editor, etc. Email Jeanne if interested!

### 11th & 12th Grade Pro-Life Oratory Contest

*It's virtual this year!*

Calling all high school juniors & seniors to the Virginia Society for Human Life (VSHL) Pro-life Oratory Contest. Check out the website <https://bit.ly/oratorycontest> for more info. **Deadline May 27th.**

Every year, without fail, when we bring our teens home from WorkCamp and Steubenville, the part of these events that they tell me (time and time again) had the greatest impact on them was the time spent in Adoration. And right now we have an opportunity right here in our own parish to spend time with Jesus, face to face, every single day!



### *Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

*Monday through Friday: 9:00 am - 9:00 pm*

*Saturday: 9:30 am - 6:00 pm*

*Sunday: Noon - 6:00 pm*

Sign up (encouraged, not required) here: <https://bit.ly/spendtimewithJesus>

***Happy Mother's Day!***

### ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

**Jeanne Sause**

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

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

<https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/youth-apostolate/>

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



### HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!!

**There have been no dates set for the Masses for Confirmation or First Holy Communion.** Please read Fr. De Celles' column in last week's bulletin (5/3) for more information on this. You can access the bulletin from the parish website: <https://straymonds.org/about-the-parish/bulletins/>

**2020-2021 Religious Education Registration Forms** are available in the Narthex of the church, in the Parish Office, outside the Religious Education Office and on the Parish website. Class assignment is made on a first come, first served basis with class sizes limited to 15 students. Register early to get your first choice!!

**2020-2021 Volunteer Registration forms** are available in the same places as the RE registration forms. If you are interested in helping out in a Religious Education classroom as a teacher, assistant teacher or aide (high school students), please complete a registration form and return it to the RE Office.



### **St. John Bosco Council #12846 Knights of Columbus:**

Are you a man of 17 ½ years or more? Are you a practicing Catholic? Do you want to help others and preach the Gospel by your life? Then we invite you to join the Knights! Contact Deputy Grand Knight Stephen Delaney (703-627-8090) or go to [www.KofC.org/JoinUs](http://www.KofC.org/JoinUs) to become a Knight today!

**"KOVAR"** is a Virginia Knights of Columbus charity. It works to provide assistance through grants and home loans to tax exempt organizations. These organizations give training and assistance to persons with intellectual disabilities. We need your help through donations to fund this vital charity. KOVAR collections typically occur in May and this year will be different. Please see our website at [www.straymonds.org/kovar/](http://www.straymonds.org/kovar/) for more information and how to contribute.

**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). **During this crisis the need for food is greater than ever. Please be generous.**

**Home School Group:** for more information visit our website [www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/](http://www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/) Contact: Katherine Bogacki or Malia Cameron at [straymondhsg@gmail.com](mailto:straymondhsg@gmail.com).

### Church Persecuted

Last week we introduced Bishop Clemens August Graf von Galen, a German count who became Bishop of Münster. In July 1941, he warned that “the right to life, to inviolability, to freedom is an indispensable part of and moral order of society.” This was in reaction to the Gestapo’s closing of religious houses, schools, convents, monasteries, abbeys, and confiscation of properties. In a sermon, he preached on the evils of euthanasia and a call for the Nazis to stop the practice, which they ignored.

Underground anti-Nazi forces circulated the sermon and British planes dropped copies on German cities. Nazi leaders wanted Von Galen tried for treason, but he was so popular that Hitler agreed that his writings on euthanasia had turned many Germans against the party and the Nazis needed the people’s support to conduct the war. Hitler ordered euthanasia halted and attacks on Church property cease with the proviso that after they won the war he would “extract retribution” from von Galen and start “a new euthanasia program.” We know who didn’t win the war.

Pius XII made him a cardinal for “his fearless resistance against national Socialism.” At the event, he called him the “Lion of Münster.” He died one week later. His episcopal motto was, *Nec Laudibus, Nec Timore* – “Unconcerned about praise, of fear.”

(*The Catholic Thing*, “The Lion of Münster” by George J. Marlin, 8/3/2016 [www.thecatholicthing.org](http://www.thecatholicthing.org))

**Family of Jesus Prayer Group:** Though our weekly meetings are currently canceled - we are still praying! If you have any prayer requests, please let us know by e-mailing Elaine Perricone at [jpebtp@verizon.net](mailto:jpebtp@verizon.net) or by calling the parish office at 703-440-0535.

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### Angelus Academy

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We continue to pray for all those affected by the coronavirus.

We are so grateful for **CL@H!** Continued Learning@Home is how our students, teachers and parents stay in touch while our school building is closed. And, most importantly, we stay united in prayer.

Rolling admissions for 2020-2021 remain open. Please contact [admissions@AngelusAcademy.org](mailto:admissions@AngelusAcademy.org) for more information. Our Admissions Team welcomes your questions and looks forward to sharing information with you about our mission, curriculum and school traditions.

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

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***Please remember that our parish’s expenses will continue during this crisis, We need your continued support! Your donations may be mail to, or dropped off at, the parish office or sign up to give online through Faith Direct.***

**FAITH DIRECT:** Although public Masses, Religious Education, Bible Study, Apostolate events and events involving ten or more people at a time have been canceled, our parish is still in need of your donations. We have operating costs (utility, maintenance, service contracts, supplies and staff payroll and benefits) that must continue. Now more than ever we have requests for FAMILY ASSISTANCE to support those members of our parish who are in need of our help. Please visit our website [www.straymonds.org](http://www.straymonds.org) to join online or call directly at (866) 507-8757.

### LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 11,685.00
Family Assistance	\$ 3,231.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,688.00
Easter	\$ 695.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$ 307.00

**This Week’s Second Collection for Special Parish Needs is CANCELED due to the current crisis.** The needs of some of our families during this crisis is greater than those of our parish, (We do still need your Sunday Offertory!).

**Next Week’s Second Collection is for Diocesan Retired Priests.** This collection aids in caring for our retired priests who have served our diocese so faithfully over the years. Please consider donating to this important collection. Thank you for your kind support.

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