



## **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,  
11:00 am and 1:00 pm

### **WEEKDAY MASSES:**

Monday through Friday:  
8:30 am  
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  
Elisabeth Turco, Director of Liturgical Music  
Jeanne Sause, Director of Youth Apostolate  
Mary Salmon, Director of Religious Education  
Vince Drouillard, Religious Education Secretary  
Joe Marquart, Plant Manager  
Kirsti Tyson, Office Manager  
Mary Butler, Secretary  
Virginia Osella, 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

**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**

6:00-6:55 p.m. (during Exposition)

#### **Saturday Morning**

8:00 - 8:45 a.m.

#### **Saturday Afternoon**

3:00 - 5 p.m.

### **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.

**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.

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

## Pastor's Corner

**Presentation of the Lord: Candlemas.** This Tuesday, February 2, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord Jesus, recalling the presentation of the Baby Jesus in the Temple 40 days after his birth, as prescribed by the Law of Moses. It also recalls the prophetic prayer of Simeon, the *Nunc Dimittis*, said every night in the Liturgy of the Hours of the Church, and the prophetic proclamations of the prophetess Anna.

This feast is also called “**Candlemas**”, because historically it was the day priests would bless the beeswax and candles for use in the Church, symbolizing the line from the *Nunc Dimittis*, that Jesus would be “a light for revelation to the Gentiles.” If you wish for your own candles to be blessed, bring them with you to the 8:30 Mass and I will bless them at the beginning of Mass, along with the candles we will be using in the church.

Traditionally, this is considered the last of the Christmas feasts, for obvious reasons (i.e., the date is determined by Christmas and it is a feast of the Baby Jesus). So, perhaps one last time we can say, “Merry Christmas.”

**Feast of St. Blaise.** This Wednesday, February 3, is the Feast of St. Blaise—the day we bless throats. St. Blaise was Bishop of Sebaste (in present day Turkey) and was martyred about A.D. 316. Legend has it that one day Bishop Blaise restored a pig (alive) to its owner, a poor woman, after it had been eaten by a wolf. A few days later, when Bishop was imprisoned for his Catholic faith, the woman brought him candles to light the darkness of his cell. In that same prison, he miraculously cured a boy who was choking to death from a fishbone lodged in his throat. Thus, the custom arose of using candles and invoking the Saint to bless throats against all sorts of ailments.

The blessing will be given at the end of the 8:30 Mass, and then I will give the blessing without Mass at Noon and 5:45pm, and then after Benediction at 7pm. Because of COVID I will give the blessing in two ways: first to all the people present at once (so you need not approach me) and then individually using the candles but without touching you/your throats.

**First Confessions.** Please keep our second graders in your prayers this week as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Penance for the first time next Saturday morning, February 6. Pray that the little ones are not too nervous, make good confessions, accept God’s grace and develop a true love for this sacrament.

**Vaccines.** I’d like to call your attention to two items on our website. Go to the website and at the top of the page click “Apostolates,” then on the new page click “Respect Life.” Near the bottom of the Respect Life page you will see two links. The first is “Important article on The Unborn Babies Used For Vaccine Development Were Alive at Tissue Extraction.” The second, “Pfizer COVID Letter,” is a **form letter we drafted that you can use** (making your own appropriate changes) to send to the manufacturer(s) of the COVID vaccines using cell-lines aborted fetuses in their development, testing or production. **Specifically, if you elect to take the vaccine, the Church says you must do something to show your objection to the use of these cell-lines.** This is a very simple way to do that.

**Government Schools vs. Science.** Sadly, Virginia government/public schools and many (but not all) of their teachers have lately officially abandoned science.

**Re-Opening.** By now we should all be aware that for months teachers’ unions, have objected to re-opening Virginia’s government/public schools for in-person instruction. Because of this the government has made the teachers eligible to receive the COVID vaccine. But because there is a local vaccine shortage, a

Fairfax union wants to postpone FCPS’s new “tentative return to class start date” from February 16 to some later date.

We all want the teachers to be safe, but **all the science tells us** we can do that and that we must open the schools NOW: there is “no consistent relationship between in-person K-12 schooling and the spread of the coronavirus.” FCPS and teachers, all we ask is “follow the science.”

**Transgenderism.** We also ask them to “follow the science” when it comes to their policies on transgenderism. As we all know, science, not to mention common sense, clearly teaches us that **males are males and females are females**—every cell in their body tells us this through the DNA. But the government of Virginia and its schools reject the science.

On January 4<sup>th</sup> the Virginia Department of Education’s (VDOE) opened the public comment period on new draft model policies for the treatment of transgender students that can be adopted or expanded by local school districts. According to the Family Foundation the proposed policies include:

*“Failure to use a student’s new “preferred pronouns” – which can change from day to day and even defy basic rules of grammar (“ze/hir/hirs”, “they/them/their”) – would be “harassment” and “discrimination”, for which both faculty and students would be subject to disciplinary action....*

*“Schools will be permitted to help a student explore, facilitate and make decisions regarding their gender expression of sexual identity while at school, without a parent even knowing!...*

*“The definition of “Gender identity” is completely subjective to each person claiming it, hence it cannot possibly be known by anyone except that person. ...[N]othing could prevent any student from constantly “changing” their “gender identity” to exploit many situations...*

*“Parents who encourage their children to embrace their God-given sex would be at risk of being reported for child abuse or neglect by the school....*

*“Students will be allowed to claim to be either a biological male or female (or both, neither, or something else entirely) for any duration of time, without providing any evidence to a teacher or administrator, making it impossible for teachers to comply with these policies....*

*“Schools would be prohibited from notifying parents if a biological male is using the same changing facility as their daughter that was designated for girls....*

*“All students will be allowed to use any bathroom or locker room they choose, without being questioned by any school administrator or faculty, eliminating privacy and safety of students in states of undress....*

*“The requirements for schools to maintain gender-neutral dress code standards will cause disruptions and distractions, permitting boys to wear skirts and girls to go topless in activities where boys can....*

*“Parents will not be notified that their child is being interrogated by school officials for allegedly violating these policies, or have the opportunity to intervene on their child’s behalf, UNLESS the complaints are not resolved “at the school level.”...*

*“The policies provide absolutely no exceptions or accommodations for a student or teacher whose religious faith, conscience, or understanding of biology and sociology prevents them from being able to go along with the “transgender” ideology and policies...”*

**If you haven’t added your voice to the comments please do so as soon as possible.** Go to our website (“<https://straymonds.org/>”) and on the drop down menu “Important Announcements” click “Comment on awful school transgender policies.” This will take you to the State’s website.

**Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles**



**MASS INTENTIONS****Monday Feb. 1st**

8:30 am Elizabeth Quidleg +

**Tuesday, Feb. 2nd**

8:30 am John Tracy +

**Wednesday, Feb. 3rd**

8:30 am Victor Costa, II +

**Thursday, Feb. 4th**

8:30 am Ramon Dominguez +

**Friday, Feb. 5th**8:30 am William Bihner +  
7:00 pm EFM (Latin)**Masses to be said Privately**Feb. 1 Charlene Kovach+  
Feb. 2 Ruth McBride +  
Feb. 3 The Abebe Family  
Feb. 5 Sr. Maria Sarradet  
Feb. 7 RE Students & their  
Families**Saturday, Feb. 6th**

9:00 am Laura Ann Valentine

**Vigil Mass**5:00 pm  
Andrei Filippov**Sunday, Feb. 7th**7:00 am  
Tina Dubicki +  
9:00 am  
Parishioners  
11:00 am  
Joey Santos +  
1:00 pm  
Jack Nolan**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.****Anthony Nsekela****Brandon Skiba  
Colleen McFadden****Please pray for the sick of our parish**Glenn Bliss  
Tom Dietz  
Michael O'Neill  
Cindy Laird  
Patricia Lewis  
Barbara McGinn  
Mai Pham  
Joan Opiela  
Donald Zacherl  
Leonora Ramos  
Jason Saenz  
Phyllis ZitnikMary K. Randazzo  
Patricia Del Buono  
Michael  
Malachowski  
Juanita Boarman  
Angela Colom  
John Florio  
Debra Henkel  
Daniel Moore  
Maria Daugherty  
Lauren Hornsby  
Gaudencio DizonAntoinette Baptist  
Margaret O'Neill  
Ada Prabhavat  
Julia Oaks  
Paul Haynes  
Minnie Taylor  
Dwayne Taylor  
Donna Foster  
Mervyn Carter  
Leah Brennan**View livestreaming of the Holy Mass  
at St. Raymond's!**<https://straymonds.org/view-mass-online/>**Monday through Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am****Saturday at 9:00 am****SUNDAY MASS at 11:00 am****Confessions in the Church  
(in the flower room)****Wednesdays: 6:00 pm - 6:55 pm****Saturday: 8:00 am - 8:45 am, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm***Please see the front of the bulletin for our current Mass,  
Confession, and Adoration schedules.****Face masks are expected at all Masses unless you are  
exempt.******The 1:00 pm Sunday Mass is "Masks Mandatory".******Sign ups are required for 9 am and 11 am Sunday Masses.******Visit our website or contact the parish office.*****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](mailto:office@straymonds.org) to verify your email address.**Legion of Mary:** The Legion of Mary weekly meeting is held Virtually on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm. All auxiliary members and anyone interested in joining the Legion of Mary are welcome. For more information, please contact Tom Delaney at 703-690-1930 or by e-mail at [tdelaney51@verizon.net](mailto:tdelaney51@verizon.net).**Luminaries of Holy Mary:** Come join us on Feb. 6th to honor the Blessed Mother's request for making the 5 First Saturdays: Mass at 9am, then meet in the Parish Hall for Rosary, meditation and Gospel reflection. All are welcome.**Feast of St. Blaise (Feb. 3rd).** We will have the **Blessing of the Throats at the 8:30 am Mass, and also at Noon, 5:45 pm and following benediction at 7:00 pm this day.****ANNUAL FIVE-CAR RAFFLE:** All Saints Church (Manassas, VA) has invited our parishioners to participate in their five-car raffle. Prizes include five 2021 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 will be receiving tickets in the mail within the next week or so. Please consider selling/purchasing the tickets mailed to you.**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. They are neither theologians, philosophers, nor great scholars. Just some guys, coming together to pray, read, and share a simple breakfast. Everyone is welcome. Please join us at 7:30 am Saturday, Feb. 7th. For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.**Support Trail Life Troop 0683 - buy mulch and topsoil!** Trail Life Troop 0683, the troop sponsored by St. Raymond of Peñafort, is kicking off its annual mulch and topsoil sale to help parish families prepare for spring lawn and garden care. Your support will help our growing troop buy camping gear, advancement and recognition badges and instructional material. You can mail in your order or order online. You will find instructions for ordering at: <https://straymonds.org/trail-life/>. We offer home delivery for an extra donation. Questions? Contact Eric Michael at (703) 372-1240. **Thank you very much!****February 14 is VALENTINE's DAY!** The American Heritage Girls (AHG) Troop VA 0638 will be selling Chocolate & Roses for Valentine's Day February 13 and 14, 2020. Please stop in the Narthex of St. Raymond's after Mass and purchase some delicious Ghirardelli Chocolate and Roses.

**GOSPEL MK 1:21-28**

Then they came to Capernaum,  
and on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and  
taught.

The people were astonished at His teaching,  
for He taught them as one having authority and not as  
the scribes.

In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit;  
he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of  
Nazareth?"

Have you come to destroy us?

I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

Jesus rebuked him and said,

"Quiet! Come out of him!"

The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry  
came out of him.

All were amazed and asked one another,

"What is this?"

A new teaching with authority.

He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey  
Him."

His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole  
region of Galilee.



**St. John Bosco Council #12846 Knights of Columbus:** Are you a man of 17 ½ years of more?

Are you a practicing Catholic? 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!

**The St. John Bosco Council Knights of Columbus are co-sponsoring a blood drive** on Saturday February 20, at the Church of the Nativity parish hall from 7:00 AM to 1:00 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](http://www.inovabloodsaves.org) or in the Narthex after all Masses in the coming weekends.

**Catholic Book Club:** The next Parish Book Club meeting is on Friday, Feb. 12th in the Maurer Room at 10:00 am. There is limited space but virtual attendance is possible... The book for discussion is: *Christus Vincit: Christ's Triumph Over the Darkness of the Age* by Bishop Athanasius Schneider (321 pgs.) Newcomers welcome. If you have any questions or to register, please contact Jim Mault at [bookclub@straymonds.org](mailto:bookclub@straymonds.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 emailing Elaine Perricone at [jpebtp@verizon.net](mailto:jpebtp@verizon.net) or by calling the parish office at 703-440-0535.

**Post-Abortion Healing Retreats for Women** in English and Spanish: An Entering Canaan Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be held on **Saturday, March 20, 2021**. Come begin your healing journey and experience God's hope and mercy. You are not alone. There is hope. There is healing. For more information and confidential registration, please contact Project Rachel Ministry 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*

*"As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes  
the whole world in which we live." St. Pope John Paul II*

**Our next support weekend for MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center is next weekend; Feb 6-7.** Your generosity - accompanied by your prayers - is so very much appreciated. There is a particular need for size 3T and 4T diapers. God bless you!

Thank you to all who observed the Parish Day of Prayer for Life. Our prayerful sacrificial efforts are needed every day to restore a culture of life.



**Spring Campaign Feb 17-  
March 28. Watch for Sign Ups in the narthex soon.**

**Save the date! The 3<sup>RD</sup> Annual Virginia March for Life** is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, in Richmond. Stay tuned for details.

**Tepeyac Pro Life OB/GYN: Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare.** [tepeyacobgyn.com](http://tepeyacobgyn.com) 703-273-9440. Thank you for your referrals and your support.

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

**Special thanks to those who have been making such beautiful blankets!!** 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 parish office or MaRiH collection box in the narthex.

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



Both our junior high and high school youth groups are shifting from a social focus to a more spiritual/instructional focus. This

will put us in line with what is permissible under the guidelines for religious/educational exemptions to the 10 person limit.

### Junior High (7-8th Grade) Youth Group

**5-6:30pm Sunday, January 31st (Parish Hall)**

Come eat pizza, make new friends and have fun all while growing in your faith! All 7-8th graders are welcome! You do not have to be a parishioner, or even Catholic for that matter, in order to attend. There is no charge, however, we do need the forms (below) on file before you come. If possible, please RSVP by emailing Jeanne, to give an idea of how much pizza we will need.

### High School Youth Group

**8-9pm Sunday, January 31st (Parish Hall)**

All students grades 9-12 are invited to join us to grow in faith & fellowship! No RSVP required. Make sure forms (below) are on file before coming.

### Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group

**7-8:30pm Monday, February 1st (Parish Hall)**

Join us as we cultivate and witness authentic community, friendships, and space to share our faith, learn and encourage one another in ways to practically apply the faith to our daily lives.

You are welcome here! Make sure forms (below) are on file before coming.

### Youth Apostolate Participation 2 REQUIRED Forms

**2020-2021 YA Info. Sheet** is to be completed annually for every child *prior* participating in any Youth Apostolate function.

**Youth Ministry Participant Waiver**, a one-time form is to be signed and turned in for every youth *prior* to participating in any St. Raymond's Youth Ministry activity/event on or off site.

Forms can be found online at <http://bit.ly/YAforms> and can be emailed to Jeanne at [youth@straymonds.org](mailto:youth@straymonds.org) or turned in to the main office.



### Podcast: The Bible in a Year with Fr. Mike Schmitz

With this podcast, you won't just read the Bible in a year ... you'll finally understand how all the pieces of the Bible fit together to tell an amazing story that continues in your life today!

**Each episode is only 20-25 minutes & includes:**

- Two to three scripture readings
- A reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz
- A guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word

To listen, search for "Bible in a Year" on your favorite podcast app or go to <http://bit.ly/biblepod> to listen online.

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)  
[youth@straymonds.org](mailto:youth@straymonds.org) Call/Text: 571-334-9890  
<http://bit.ly/youthapostolate>

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Parents of 7<sup>th</sup> Grade students** : Confirmation Registry form with Certificate of Baptism attached is due in the Religious Education Office on **February 4th**.

**Parents of Second Grade students: First Penance is scheduled for Saturday, February 6th at 10 a.m. –Please consider attending the 9:00 a.m. Mass** with your child that morning to prepare for this wonderful Sacrament of Healing. All students - whether they attend Mass or not - are to gather in the Narthex no later than 9:45 a.m. and should check in with their teacher. Home school and Catholic School students should check in with Mr. Drouillard or Mrs. Salmon. At least one parent should remain at the church; the children will be released after reception of the Sacrament and completion of their penance.

**Looking ahead....** There will be no CCD classes February 14, 15, and 16 in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

**Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for Saturday March 13th** at St. John Paul the Great High School. More information to follow.

### **New Year Save the Dates from John Paul the Great**

*Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School will be hosting a number of virtual community events, free and open to anyone interested in logging on! Check out [jpthegreat.org](http://jpthegreat.org) for details on the following events:*

- February 6, Virtual "How to High School" Workshop
- February 10, Virtual Photography Workshop
- February 27, Virtual Super Science Saturday Workshop
- Every Day: Students studying in-person, growing as members of the Wolfpack!

**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 any non-perishable food donations are welcome. 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). During this crisis the need for food is greater than ever. Please be generous. The St. Martin de Porres committee thanks all of the parishioners for your food donations. Your generosity really makes a difference in helping the needy, especially during the pandemic.

**St. Raymond's has Adoration every Wednesday and Friday!** Would you like to spend an hour in silent prayer and reflection with our Lord during weekly exposition of the Blessed Sacrament? We are in need of adorers **especially at 10:00 am, 12:00 pm & 2:00 pm on Wednesday**. If you are interested in Wednesdays, please call Leslie Schratz at 703-569-1940 or email [spoiledk9s@verizon.net](mailto:spoiledk9s@verizon.net). If you are interested in Fridays, please call Virginia Osella at 703-440-0535 or email [virginia.osella@straymonds.org](mailto:virginia.osella@straymonds.org). Drop-ins are always welcome.

## Church Persecuted

“There are no understudies in God’s plan for salvation.” So stated a priest friend many years ago. As the culture continues to grow darker, those words resonate daily. Perhaps it is this darkness that will force us to make a more productive accounting of how God wants us each to use our strengths...and weaknesses...in our various “roles” within His plan for salvation.

Over these past several months, we have witnessed chaos/anarchy on multiple levels within our country (and beyond), so much so that many of us cannot even bear to read/watch/hear anything dispersed by secular news sources. It is somewhat profound, but as we turn away from this darkness, we are driven ever closer to our “Light” – the Trinity: God the Father who designed us in a specific way; Jesus who showed us how to live out this “design”; and the Holy Spirit who is trying to guide us so that we can fulfill our role in salvation by becoming saints.

Although we may feel less and less “visible” within our current “cancel culture,” the Holy Spirit has inspired many individuals to write, speak, and create excellent sources to enlighten, challenge, and entertain us in ways that lead us to become humbler, more knowledgeable, and even more joy-filled Catholics. As we anticipate more persecutions within our country at this time in history...more darkness...let us “not mourn what we have lost, but celebrate what we have gained.”

**Protecting Our Future: Child Protection & Safety:** The Office of Child Protection & Safety was created to assist all parishes and schools in creating a safe environment where our children are free from sexual abuse, physical abuse and neglect. The office provides various services including child abuse prevention training for employees, volunteers, children and youth and criminal background history investigations for employees and volunteers who work with children. For more information about services provided by the Office of Child Protection & Safety as well as diocesan policy regarding the prevention of child abuse, please visit our website at [www.arlingtondiocese.org](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org).

**Are you looking for a faith-filled family summer vacation?** Visit [afc.org](http://afc.org) to learn more about Catholic Familyland and The Apostolate for Family Consecration in Bloomingdale, Ohio. Registration is open. Holy families can change the world.

## FORMED®

**Get In-Formed!**

**From Love, By Love, For Love** by Fr. Mike Schmitz – Father Michael Schmitz tackles some of the most difficult topics in the Church today. With compassion, clarity, and humor, he shows that the Church's teachings on contraception and same-sex attraction are rooted in the yearnings for authentic love that is shared by all, for everyone is made in the image and likeness of God.

Watch now at [www.straymonds.formed.org](http://www.straymonds.formed.org)

Questions? Need help? Email us at: [formed@straymonds.org](mailto:formed@straymonds.org)



## Angelus Academy

Pre K—8th

*Offering a liberal arts education in the classical tradition.*

We are thrilled to be offering in-person instruction,  
5 days a week!

Looking for a gentle introduction to school for your 3-5 year old? Our Little Messengers program (MWF mornings) includes Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium).

Thank you for your prayers and support. With God, nothing will be impossible!

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

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

**2021 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL BEGINS!** This month the mailing for the 2021 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) was sent to all registered diocesan households. The theme this year is “Encourage One Another by Word and Deed.” After reflecting upon the blessings that God has given you, please prayerfully consider making a pledge to this important appeal that funds many programs and ministries that serve thousands of people in our diocese. Together, through the BLA, let us renew our personal commitment to furthering the Mission of our Lord Jesus throughout our diocese. You may go online to make a donation at: [www.arlingtondiocese.org](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org) or scan the QR code below:



**FAITH DIRECT:** Although public Masses are limited and many parish events 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 help. Please visit our website [www.straymonds.org](http://www.straymonds.org) to join online or call directly at 866-507-8757.

**Please remember that our parish's expenses continue during this crisis! Your donations may be mailed, dropped off at the parish office, or given online through Faith Direct.**

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$13,819.00
Family Assistance	\$ 200.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 892.00
Church in Latin America	\$ 1,318.00

The Second Collection Next Week, Feb. 7th, is for the Diocesan Newspaper (The Arlington Catholic Herald).



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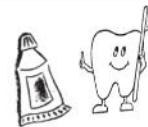
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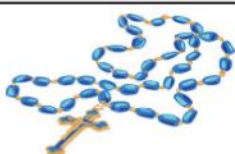
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