



## 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

**“Pre-Lent.”** In the “old days” (50 or so years ago) the 3 Sundays before Ash Wednesday were called Septuagesima (“seventieth”), Sexagesima (“sixtieth”) and Quinquagesima (“fortieth”) Sundays, respectively, referring to the days left before Easter (approximately). This was done to remind us that Lent (“Quadragesima,”) was approaching, in order that we might begin to prepare for Lent.

I used to think this was kind of unnecessary, reasoning that Lent itself is a season of preparation for Easter, so why did we need a “semi-season” before that to prepare for Lent—i.e., preparing to prepare for Easter.

But over time I've come to see the wisdom of the “old calendar.” Preparing for Lent doesn't involve beginning to do extra penances, etc. of Lent, but it can involve thinking about what those penances should be. Considering, what sins really need to work on, whether particular mortal sins, or even particular venial sins that are habitual, i.e., a “vice.” And then figuring out what sacrifices, prayers and acts of charity I should adopt as Lenten penances to help me to overcome them, with Christ's grace. Or maybe I want to grow in a particular virtue. Maybe you want to be kinder to your spouse, or more honoring of your parents. What penance(s) would help me to do this?

Last Sunday was Septuagesima Sunday and today is Sexagesima Sunday. So start to think and pray about what you can do for Lent that it may be truly fruitful.

**Politics and the Pulpit.** It was brought to my attention recently that I've been preaching on political matters a lot lately, and some say I am expressing my own personal political opinions from the pulpit. I don't like to preach about political issues, and I especially don't want to insert my mere opinions. I try very hard to avoid both. But the former is all too often necessary and unavoidable these days when our government is intruding so much into our lives and culture, and so affecting our rights, duties, liberties, morality, culture and spirits.

Moreover, while some facts are open to different interpretations, sometimes we risk serious damage if we are frozen by an unwillingness to make a judgment and act. Again, I am very hesitant to do so, but sometimes it seems necessary, if I am to be a true spiritual father. I apologize if I sometimes do so unnecessarily. Pray that the Lord give me wisdom, prudence and courage.

**Developments in Richmond.** While political eyes have been focused on the events in Washington the last few weeks and months, “our” legislators in Richmond have been busy trying to undermine our culture. Here are several examples listed last week by the *Family Foundation*:

**Repealing Natural Marriage - HJ 557** (Lopez - D), **HJ 539** (Levine - D) and **HJ 582** (Sickles - D) seek to amend the Virginia Constitution to remove language affirming natural marriage. These would enshrine in the state constitution the right to “marriage” between individuals of the same sex even if the *Obergefell* (2015) is ever overturned by the newly comprised Supreme Court. The House Privileges and Elections committee will vote on these resolutions February 1. The Senate version, SJ 270 (Ebbin - D), has not been heard.

**Suicide Decriminalization - HB 1951** (Simon - D) repeals the common-law crime of suicide, which will remove legal obstacles that could open the door to physician-assisted suicide. The bill passed the House 66-34.

**Freedom From Medical Mandates - HB 2335** (Walker - R) declared that each adult has a fundamental right to be free

from medical mandates from the government, private employers, health care entities, or providers of public accommodations. The bill would prevent people from being forced to undergo treatments or procedures, including receiving vaccines against their will. The bill failed in the Health, Welfare, and Institutions committee on a vote of 15-6.

**Religious Exemption for COVID Vaccine - HB 2268** (Cole, M – R) sought to protect individual freedom by preventing Virginians from being forced to get a COVID-19 vaccine despite their sincere religious objections, and by protecting parents' rights to object to mandated vaccinations for their children during a declared emergency. It was defeated on a party-line vote 13-9, with Democrats voting against it.

**Health Insurance Coverage of Abortion - SB 1276** (McClellan – D) would allow coverage of abortion on demand in health insurance plans in Virginia's Obamacare health exchange. Taxes pay for managing the exchange and for subsidizing health plans in many cases. The Senate passed the bill 20-17, and it now goes to the House for consideration.

**Health Insurance Coverage of Abortion - HB 1896** (Hudson – D) is identical to SB 1276. The House passed the bill 55-45.

**Conscience Protections for Genetic Counseling - SB 1178** (Ebbin – D) seeks to eliminate the religious conscience protections for genetic counselors who assist a patient in understanding certain genetic tests and any inheritable diseases, which could be used to choose an abortion or the destruction of a human embryo. The Senate Education and Health reconsidered the bill on Thursday (even though it was not on the docket), and passed it 11-4.

**“Workplace Harassment” based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity - SB 1360** (McClellan – D) would punish virtually all private employees for dissenting over the LGBTQ ideology. It would make any “direct or indirect” and “verbal or nonverbal” conduct on the basis of “sexual orientation,” or “gender identity,” etc. “workplace harassment” - even when the accusation occurs outside the workplace. The Senate Commerce and Labor committee voted to pass the bill 10-1, with 3 abstentions. The House version, HB 2155 (Watts - D), was approved by the House General Laws committee on a party line vote 13-9.

**Prohibit Anonymous Teen Sex Text Lines - SB 1235** (Peake – R) would prohibit the Virginia Department of Health from facilitating dangerous programs that involve contacting children without parents' consent or knowledge, like the **Teen Sex Text Hotline**. The bill passed the Senate Education and Health committee 8-6. The House version, HB 2084 (Byron - R), failed in a subcommittee for lack of a motion because some legislators raised concerns about how broad the bill could be interpreted.

**Passed Senate: Expanding Who Can Become a Parent - SB 1321** (Boysko - D) would amend current law to allow “a person with a legitimate interest” to file a petition to the circuit court for adoption of a child. This bill could potentially allow a live-in boyfriend or former step-parent, with no real connection to the child, to be able to petition the court for adoption. The bill passed the Senate 24-13.

**Legalized Marijuana - SB 1406** (Ebbin – D) would legalize the recreational use of marijuana. The Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services committee approved a 500+ page bill and referred it to the Courts of Justice committee. A subcommittee recently debated the specifics of the bill. The House version, HB 2312 (Herring - D), was debated in a House General Laws subcommittee.

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*



**MASS INTENTIONS****Monday Feb. 8th**

8:30 am Mary Lee Glicko +

**Tuesday, Feb. 9th**

8:30 am John Maschoff +

**Wednesday, Feb. 10th**

8:30 am The Carter Family

**Thursday, Feb. 11th**

8:30 am Melvin Dela Cuesta +

**Friday, Feb. 12th**

8:30 am Rosalino Garcia +

**Masses to be said Privately**

Feb. 9 The Boak Family  
 Feb. 10 The Bradley Family  
 Feb. 10 The Castry Family  
 Feb. 11 The Cautero Family  
 Feb. 12 The Cox Family  
 Feb. 14 Theodore Gerald  
 Buckless +

**Saturday, Feb. 13th**

9:00 am Andy Yelenosky +

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles  
 Gertrude Seiberling +

**Sunday, Feb. 14th**

7:00 am Fr. Rippy  
 Catherine Golinowski +  
 9:00 am Fr. De Celles  
 Parishioners  
 11:00 am Fr. De Celles  
 Peter S. Blair +  
 1:00 pm Fr. Miserendino  
 Family of Jesus Prayer  
 Group

**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 Opie  
 Donald Zacherl  
 Leonora Ramos  
 Jason Saenz  
 Phyllis Zitnik

Mary K. Randazzo  
 Patricia Del Buono  
 Michael  
 Malachowski  
 Juanita Boarman  
 Angela Colom  
 John Florio  
 Debra Henkel  
 Daniel Moore  
 Maria Daugherty  
 Lauren Hornsby  
 Gaudencio Dizon

Antoinette Baptist  
 Margaret O'Neill  
 Ada Prabhavat  
 Julia Oaks  
 Paul Haynes  
 Minnie Taylor  
 Dwayne Taylor  
 Donna Foster  
 Mervyn Carter  
 Leah Brennan  
 Marty Brennan  
 Bernadette  
 D'Agostino

**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 Mar. 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.

**Ash Wednesday is Feb. 17th. Mass times will be 6:30 am, 8:30 am, Noon, 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Ashes will be distributed at all the Masses 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.

**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).

**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, 2021. Please stop in the Narthex of St. Raymond's after Mass and purchase some delicious Ghirardelli Chocolate and Roses.

**GOSPEL MK 1:29-39**

On leaving the synagogue  
Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with  
James and John.  
Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever.  
They immediately told Him about her.  
He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up.  
Then the fever left her and she waited on them.  
When it was evening, after sunset,  
they brought to Him all who were ill or possessed by  
demons.  
The whole town was gathered at the door.  
He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and  
He drove out many demons,  
not permitting them to speak because they knew Him.  
Rising very early before dawn, He left  
and went off to a deserted place, where He prayed.  
Simon and those who were with Him pursued Him  
and on finding Him said, "Everyone is looking for You."  
He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages  
that I may preach there also.  
For this purpose have I come."  
So He went into their synagogues,  
preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole  
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.

**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. 20th. For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.

**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*

*"The real question today is not when human life begins,  
but what is the value of human life?"  
President Ronald Reagan*

**This is our support weekend for MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center.** 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!



Please see the parish website for updated information regarding COVID-19 Vaccines and their relation to aborted fetal cell lines.

**Spring Campaign Feb 17-March 28. Our Parish Witness Weekend will be March 20/21. 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: [ccli.org](http://ccli.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, February 7th (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, February 7th (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.

### Sons of Thunder High School Boys' Group

#### 7-8:30pm Tuesday, January 26th Parish Hall

9-12th Grade Guys, come join the brotherhood! Sons of Thunder meets regularly IN-PERSON from 7-8:30pm on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month in the Parish Hall. Come learn more about your faith, deepen your relationship with Christ, and hang out with other guys in a chill atmosphere. Make sure forms (below) are on file before coming. New folks always welcome!

### 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

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the students who received the **Sacrament of Penance** for the first time this weekend!! It was wonderful to share that special time with you. Thank you to all the parents and teachers who prepared the children for this healing sacrament. God bless you all!

There **WILL BE NO CCD classes on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, February 14-16** in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

**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**.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION for Parents of 8th grade

**Confirmation candidates:** Please make note of a change in venue for the Confirmation Retreat - the Retreat will be held here at St. Raymond's on March 13th and not at St. John Paul the Great High School. More information will follow.

**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.

**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 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.

**AHG Tiny Saints Fundraiser:** Have you ever seen an adorable saintly zipper pull hanging from someone's jacket or backpack, and wondered where they got it? Likely from the Tiny Saints website! This site features 100+ saints in cute charm form, as well as some sweet board books, plush animals, and even a rosary! **For the month of February**, if you select **"American Heritage Girls Troop VA0683 - Alexandria, VA"** from the drop-down menu (we are third on the list!), our troop will receive 25% of all purchases. Please check out this great site for uniquely Catholic gifts for birthdays, Easter, or just to make someone smile, and support our AHG troop at the same time! [tinysaints.com](http://tinysaints.com).



## Church Persecuted

Dr. Ryan Anderson, began his first day as the new president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center by penning an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal (“Religious Liberty Isn’t Enough,” 2/1/2021, pg. A17). In it, he reiterated the theme that he used when he spoke at St. Raymond’s five years ago — when discussing cultural issues, the biological and physiological facts of the matter are more important than arguments of freedom of speech, freedom of religion, or the separation of powers in the Constitution.

Anderson uses the example of President Biden’s call for the repeal of the Hyde Amendment (prohibiting the federal funding abortion) that he supported for the past 40 years. “Complicity matters,” says Anderson, “because killing unborn babies is profoundly unjust.” In his approach to gender ideology, Mr. Biden states, “Transgender equality is the civil rights issue for our time. There is no room for compromise when it comes to basic human rights.” Anderson’s response is that “the terrain to defend is not primarily about religious liberty, or religion at all. Children feeling discomfort with their bodies shouldn’t be told the lie that they’re ‘trapped in a wrong body,’ nor should adults pump them full of puberty-blocking drugs and cross-sex hormones. Doing so is unethical medicine, a violation of the bodily integrity of children — whether or not these kids or their parents or doctors are religious.”

Ditto with preserving female athletics — a legal right that women correctly fought hard for. It is about “fair competition that is undermined when boys who ‘identify’ as girls compete against girls.” Anderson reminds us that, “The main reason for separation is not religious qualms, but biology.” (Continued next week).

## FORMED<sup>®</sup> Get In-Formed!

**The Search – Trailer** - The Search from FORMED is an innovative video-based journey that tackles the key questions of every human heart. In seven beautifully filmed episodes, Chris Stefanick and experts from the fields of science, medicine, psychology, art, and religion examine our place in the larger story of existence.

Week of February 7: The Search Trailer  
Week of February 14: Episode 1—What Do You Seek?  
Week of February 21: Episode 2—Who Are You?  
Week of February 28: Episode 3—Why a God?  
Week of March 7: Episode 4—What’s Our Story?  
Week of March 14: Episode 5—Who Is Jesus?  
Week of March 21: Episode 6—Am I Saved?  
Week of April 4: Episode 7—Why a Church?

Make Lent 2021 something to really remember, take this journey and watch *The Search*!

Be **Led by the Spirit** this Lent and

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

The best Catholic content in one place - movies, programs, talks, dramas, & ebooks—just one click away!

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 (BLA) Encourage One Another by Word and Deed

This weekend every household in our parish will be asked to make a Bishop’s Lenten Appeal (BLA) pledge or gift. The BLA provides an opportunity to unite as a Catholic family and support programs, ministries and services that no single individual or parish could offer by itself. After reflecting upon the many blessings that God has given you, please prayerfully consider making BLA pledge. Every donation is vital to the success of the BLA. You may complete a pledge card at Mass, mail in your pledge, go online to [www.arlingtondiocese.org](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org) or scan the QR code to make a donation.



## 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.

**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	\$ 9,986.00
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The Second Collection This Week, Feb. 7th, is for the Diocesan Newspaper (The Arlington Catholic Herald).

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