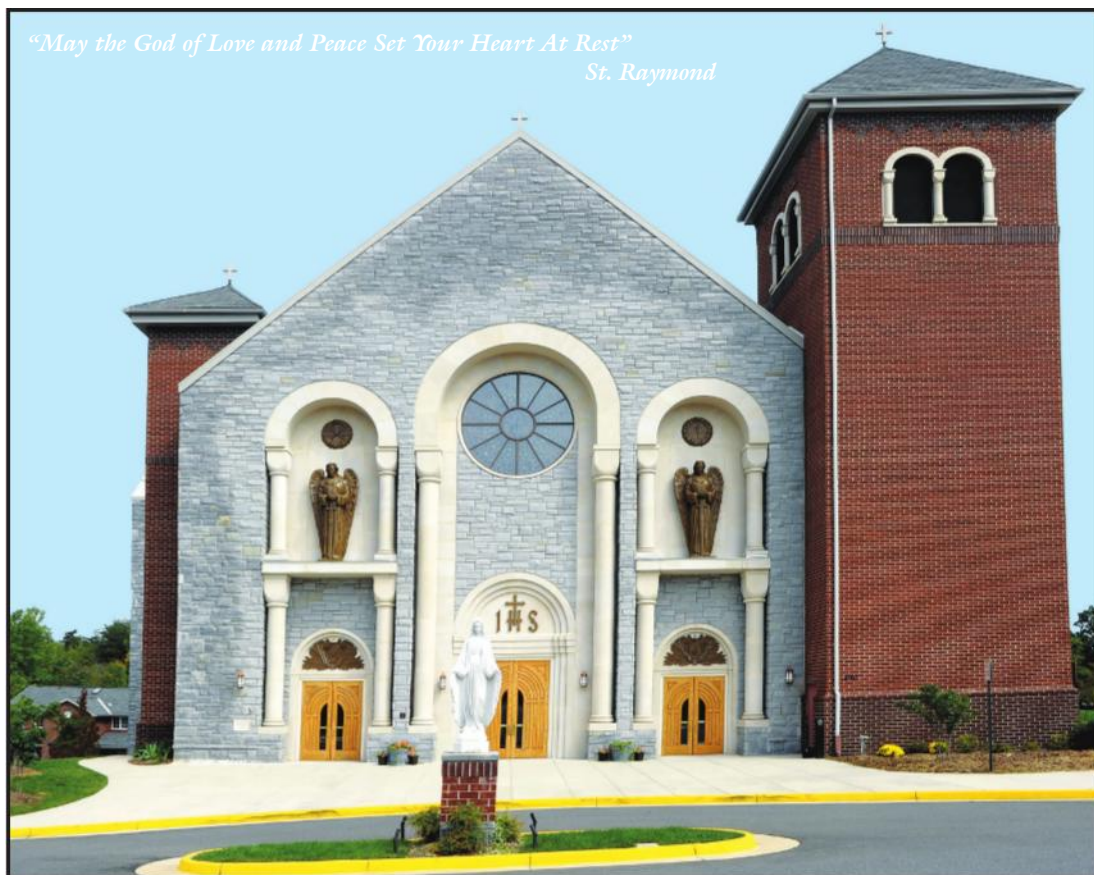


*"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"*  
*St. Raymond*



## **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, 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](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**

6:15-6:55 p.m. (during Exposition)

#### **Saturday Morning**

8:00 - 8:45 a.m.

#### **Saturday Afternoon**

3:00 - 4:45 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

**Assumption of Mary.** Today, August 15, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Normally Sunday is a Feast of the Lord's Day, celebrating the Resurrection, but today is one of the rare times that that celebration is replaced by the celebration of another important event in the life of the Church.

The Solemnity of the Assumption recalls the day in history when, as Pope Pius XII infallibly declared in his 1950 Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*: "the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory." This, of course, is a great day in the life of our Blessed Mother so we rightly celebrate it as such. But it is also a great day for the life of the Church and for each Christian. Because, as we pray, "where she has gone, we hope to follow." Our Lord Jesus has given to His Mother the heavenly rewards of her faith and love on earth, rewards that we hope to share in when we die.

But it's important to remember that this feast is not just about Mary going to heaven: it is about her having her body with her in heaven, just as Jesus has His Body in heaven. This reminds us that at the end of time all the souls who go to heaven after death (including by way of the cleansing of Purgatory) will be reunited with their glorified bodies in the Resurrection of the Dead.

This, in turn, reminds us that all of us are created to live bodily in heaven, that we are not souls imprisoned in bodies, nor are we souls using an outward shell (the body) that we can manipulate or abuse as we choose without affecting or damaging our souls. Our body is part of us, that part that communicates to others. And so what we do with our bodies expresses us and who we are. This is important in these days when so many people seem to think the body means nothing—you can abuse it with drugs or deviant sex, or you can even mutilate it with senseless surgeries. The Assumption reminds us, no! The human body—ours and everyone else's—has a fundamental dignity. It is US. It is, in some fundamental sense, created in the image of God. And is destined for the glory of heaven.

So let's celebrate the Assumption this year, giving glory to God through our devotion to His Mother Mary, giving Him thanks for the gift and dignity of the human body, and expressing our hope in the Resurrection of the Body!

**Divorce and Remarriage in Canon Law.** Following up on last week's column, I'd like to discuss another aspect of Catholic Church law, called "canon law," on marriage. In particular I would like to discuss divorce, "remarriage" and annulments.

**Divorce.** Once a valid marriage ("in the eyes of God") is entered into, it is permanent, or indissoluble. While the state may allow a couple to divorce, that does not end the marriage in God's eyes, so that the couple is still married.

Sadly, sometimes the relationship between spouses disintegrates and they need to live separately (e.g., spousal abuse, abandonment, etc.). In many cases they may then morally pursue what the Catechism calls a "civil divorce," if that is "the only possible way of ensuring certain legal rights, the care of the children, or the protection of inheritance" (2383). So that *civil divorce* is not itself sinful.

But there is also "the sin of divorce," that is, the willful attempt to break-up/ end a valid marriage. For example, if a husband civilly divorces his wife in order to marry another woman, that husband commits the *sin of divorce*, while his abandoned wife is not guilty of any sin. As the Catechism teaches: "*Divorce* is a grave offense against the natural law. It

claims to break the contract, to which the spouses freely consented, to live with each other till death..." (2384). (See below for discussion of repentance).

**Divorce and Remarriage.** But even when there is a civil divorce, neither spouse is free to marry anyone else, and to attempt to do so would be an act of public adultery and bigamy. By "attempt to do so" I mean undergoing a civil or non-Catholic religious ceremony, with another "spouse." This is not a real marriage in Church law, even if other non-Catholic religions might recognize it as valid. As Jesus clearly teaches in Matthew 19: "whoever divorces his wife (unless the marriage is unlawful) and marries another commits adultery."

Note Jesus says, "unless the marriage is *unlawful*." Some marriages, from their very beginning, lack something so essential that they are invalid. A clear example of this might be when either of the "spouses" is already previously validly married to someone else or was forced to marry against their will. (I'll leave other grounds for another column). In those cases, the Church has formal procedures, including a whole court system of judges, lawyers and experts, to justly ascertain the true status of the marriage. If those procedures determine that there was no valid marriage from the beginning, the Church declares the marriage null from the beginning ("**annulment**") and the "spouses" are free to marry someone else.

But if an annulment is not obtained, the Church must assume that the couple did what they stood up and declared before God and society: that they were validly married.

**Some Consequences.** There are no direct canonical consequences to a Catholic who receives a civil divorce, although, they should repent any sins related to the break down of the marriage (and go to confession) and make necessary amendments. They should also make a true effort to restore the marital relationship, if this is possible.

However, canon law prohibits those who (attempt to) remarry without an annulment from receiving the Eucharist, since they "obstinately persist in manifest grave sin" (Canon 915). Marriage is a persistent and manifest act, so that these Catholics who continue to publicly live in a way that is objectively contrary to the meaning of Holy Communion, i.e., radical communion with both God and other Catholics, effectively exclude themselves from the Eucharist. (This rule extends also to Catholics who are merely civil married).

**Solutions.** What should Catholics who find themselves in "irregular marriages" do? First, of course, they can cease to live in the invalid marriage, although many find this extremely difficult to do, especially those who were not aware of Church teaching previously. Second, they can work with their priest to try to validate their "irregular marriage"; a divorced/remarried Catholic might pursue an annulment so that they would be free to marry. Third, if for grave reasons it is not possible to either leave the "irregular marriage" (e.g., there are minor children, etc.) or to obtain an annulment, then couples may sometimes, working with a priest, commit to live forever as "brother as sister," i.e., in separate bedrooms with no sexual relations (although care must be taken to reduce any moral confusion this might cause others).

**Remember.** I am not writing to chastise, but to teach the truth. Let us continue to show charity and kindness to each other, especially those among us who find themselves in difficult and trying circumstances.

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*



**MASS INTENTIONS****Monday, August 16th**8:30 am Keith & Suzie  
McCreedy**Tuesday, August 17th**

8:30 am Eleanor Jane Crum +

**Wednesday, August 18th**8:30 am Maeve Diane  
Zaloumis**Thursday, August 19th**

8:30 am Barbara De Celles +

**Friday, August 20th**8:30 am Dr. Carol  
Petersen-Pilat +  
7:00 pm EFM (Latin)**Masses to be said Privately**Aug. 18 Vince Aungier +  
Aug. 18 Anthony & Kendra  
Pomilla  
Aug. 19 Rev. John C  
De Celles**Saturday, August 21st**9:00 am Maria Marcela  
Reynoso**Vigil Mass**5:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**  
Walter & Cara Seiberling**Sunday, August 22nd**7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**  
Norma Larraga  
9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**  
Parishioners  
11:00 am **Fr. De Celles**  
Patrick A. Franco, Sr. +  
1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**  
Jose Cruz Mora Jimenez+**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.****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  
Leonora Ramos  
Jason Saenz  
Phyllis Zitnik  
Patricia Del Buono  
Juanita BoarmanMichael  
Malachowski  
John Florio  
Debra Henkel  
Daniel Moore  
Maria Daugherty  
Lauren Hornsby  
Gaudencio Dizon  
Antoinette Baptist  
Paul Haynes  
Dwayne Taylor  
Bernadette  
D'Agostino  
Christopher QuanTed Tolpa  
Nena Brennan  
Donald Hale  
Christina Cautero  
Serrin Foster  
Amy Wells  
Alex Wells  
Minnie Lezeriza  
Campos  
Frankie Downs  
Hansen Family  
Joan Vannucci  
Kasey Boga**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church****Extended to Aug 15 Back to School Sock  
& Underwear Drive****August 16 Legion of Mary - 5:00 pm****August 18 Adoration****August 19 Bridge Club -12:00 pm****August 20 Adoration****August 21 Men's Prayer Group - 7:30 am****August 28-29 Bethlehem Wood Carvers****August 29 Parish Picnic****Sept. 4 Luminaries of Mary****Sept. 18 Speaker -Fr. Tad Pacholczyk****Back to School Sock & Underwear Drive:** The St. Martin de Porres Committee is again sponsoring a "Back to School" drive for students in the Springfield area. We will be accepting donations of NEW Socks and Underwear for school aged children (age 5-17). A collection box will be in the Narthex through August 15<sup>th</sup>. For health code reasons we can only accept NEW items. Items requested are:

Boys: Socks, Undershirts, Briefs &amp; Boxers

Girls: Socks, Tights, Undershirts, Camisoles &amp; Briefs

Thank you for your continued support!

**Ushers Needed:** Prayerfully consider becoming an usher at St. Raymond's. Help is especially needed for each of our Sunday Masses, especially the 9AM, 11AM, and 1PM. Our ushers help support the liturgy, assist people to be seated, take up the offerings, support the distribution of Holy Communion, and ensure our parishioners and priests have the support they need. It is a great opportunity for individuals and couples alike to support our parish community and is very easy. Please contact the office or our head usher at [headusher@straymonds.org](mailto:headusher@straymonds.org) to volunteer or learn more.**Pilgrim Virgin Statue / Sacred Heart Home Enthronement:** The Legion of Mary will once again be bringing the Pilgrim Virgin statue to parishioner homes. You can sign up by contacting Judy Mayer at [jmayer9014@aol.com](mailto:jmayer9014@aol.com).**Extraordinary Form / Traditional Latin Mass at St. Raymond Church** will be available Friday, August 20. St. Raymond's normally 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. Because of the Motu Proprio Tradiciones Custodes we are unsure if we will be able to continue this practice. As of now, the Bishop is allowing us to do so, but we are still waiting for his final decision. We will plan on going ahead as scheduled, but please see the website for any updates before each scheduled EFM.**View livestreaming of the Holy Mass  
at St. Raymond's!**<https://straymonds.org/view-mass-online/>

Monday - Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am

Saturday at 9:00 am

Sunday Mass at 9:00 am &amp; 11:00 am

**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.**Luminaries of Holy Mary:** Come join us on Sept. 4th to honor the Blessed Mother's request for making the 5 First Saturdays: Mass at 9am, then meet in **the Maurer Room** for Rosary, meditation and Gospel reflection. All are welcome.**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 on Saturday, Aug. 21st. For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.**NEW: St. Raymond's Young Adult Group.** Are you 21-40 yrs old? (Single or married, with or without kids) Contact [youngadults@straymonds.org](mailto:youngadults@straymonds.org) to be added to our email list and hear about upcoming events!



**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 Larry Saenz (703-832-1042) or go to [www.KofC.org/JoinUs](http://www.KofC.org/JoinUs) to become a Knight today!

Did You Know? Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus, named in honor of Christopher Columbus, in 1882 to provide support and financial resources to Catholic men and families who were coping with the loss of their sole provider.

**Altar Server Training:** St Raymond's Parish has a very active Altar Server program. We invite all young men of the Parish to consider becoming an Altar Server. Young men between the ages of 9 and 18, who have received their First Communion are eligible. This is your opportunity to help assist the priest at Mass. **Training begins on Aug. 21st.** Please contact the Parish Office this week 703-440-0535 to sign up.

**Book Club News:** We are pleased to announce that the parish Book Club will once again be meeting face-to-face, in person, in the parish Library for the 2021-2022 year. Our first meeting will be on Friday, September 10, at 10 AM. We will be discussing the "Consecration to St Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father" by Fr Donald Calloway. The schedule for the full year can be found on the parish website: <https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/book-club/>. New members are welcome. If you have questions, please contact Jim Mault at [bookclub@straymonds.org](mailto:bookclub@straymonds.org).

**Virtus Seminar at St. Raymond's:** There is a Virtus Seminar scheduled at St. Raymond's on Thursday, October 7th from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. Attending a Virtus Seminar is required (in addition to a background check) for anyone who has substantial contact with youth as part of their volunteer activities at St. Raymond. Attending a Virtus Seminar is required only once in a lifetime. You can register for the Virtus Seminar at [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org). Any questions, contact Vince Drouillard at 703-440-0537.

**St. Martin de Porres Committee** - collects non-perishable 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). **This year the need for food is greater than ever. Please be generous.**

**Celebrating A Silver or Golden Wedding Anniversary This Year?** Were you married in 1971 or 1996? Then join Bishop Michael F. Burbidge for the 2021 Mass for Jubilarians to be celebrated on Sunday, October 17th at 3:00 pm at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, Va. Contact the parish office to register no later than October 1st. For more info, visit [www.arlingtondiocese.org/MJM](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/MJM).

**PARISH PICNIC RETURNS! - Sunday, August 29th (2:00pm - 5:00pm)** Come enjoy the Annual Parish Picnic with your fellow parishioners. Food and Fun for All Ages! **We are in need of volunteers** to help with set up, cooking, games, clean up and more. Please find the sign up on our website. Call the parish office 703-440-0535 for more information or to volunteer.

**SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE**  
*Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH. Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE*

**There is no morally significant difference between the embryo that you once were and the adult that you are today.** Differences of size, level of development, environment, and degree of dependency are not relevant such that we can say that you had no rights as an embryo but you do have rights today. Thou shalt not kill applies. [Prolifetraining.com](http://Prolifetraining.com)

Please see the parish website for info regarding **COVID-19 Vaccines** and their relation to aborted fetal cell lines. **You must speak up!** Sample letter to pharmaceutical companies urging ethical practices available in the narthex and on the parish website.

**DAY OF HEALING AND PRAYER:** *Post-Abortion Healing Retreat.* An Entering Canaan Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be held on Saturday, September 25th. 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** at (703) 841-2504 or [info@helpafterabortion.org](mailto:info@helpafterabortion.org)



**The 40 days for Life Fall Campaign** will run from Sept 22 – Oct 31st. Stay tuned for information about how you can participate! Our vigil site is in front of the Falls Church Women's Healthcare Center (900 S Washington Street). Sign-up sheets will be online and in the narthex.

**EVERY SATURDAY MORNING from 8:00am - 12:00pm** join with others to pray at the Falls Church Women's Healthcare Center (900 S. Washington St.). Your prayers and presence are powerful deterrents to those entering the facility for abortion. Be part of the year-round movement to save lives and souls.



**A Best Choice Mobile Ultrasound & Pregnancy Resource Center is praying for new wheels.** Might your generosity be an answer to those prayers? Visit [abestchoice.us](http://abestchoice.us) for more information.

**Natural Family Planning:** *A gift to your marriage.* [celi.org](http://celi.org)

**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.

**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).

**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

### Prayer Request & Call to Action/Volunteer: "Here I am Lord, Send me!"

We are still in **need of an army of prayer warriors**, folks willing to commit to praying for the Youth Apostolate, including our youth, leaders & their families. We need your prayers to back us up spiritually, especially now, as the more we say yes to God, the more the devil tries to interfere. We are also in **need of more volunteers to serve our youth, in various capacities**. Please pray to the Holy Spirit for a heart open to His promptings, asking Him to take away any fears, busyness, doubts, or anything that might get in the way of you hearing Him, and more importantly, of keeping you from responding with a wholehearted, "Here I am Lord, send me" if He is indeed calling.

We still need volunteers for the following:

\***Serve dinner** to our high school teens from 6:45-7:20pm on Sunday nights

\***Coordinate our Sunday dinner donations on signupgenius.**

\*Ask local restaurants for donations

\***Lead our high school bake nights** one Friday a month 7-9pm

\*Help coordinate monthly service opportunities for Jr. High as well as High School.

\*Prayer Warriors!

God is calling and our youth are responding! But the Holy Spirit is not only calling the young, He is calling all of us in one way or another. The question is, *how* is He calling you? And will you respond? **If you're feeling a possible nudge to help with the Youth Apostolate or to be part of our army of prayer warriors, please contact Jeanne.**

### Junior High & High School Sunday Night Youth Groups!

This year our CCD start time is moving back a little bit, which will allow us a full hour & a half for both Jr. High & HS youth groups! We HIGHLY encourage everyone to attend both youth group & CCD! No fee for HS CCD & no homework or tests either! Remember, learning about our Faith is a life-long process. It does not end after Confirmation. We should all continue to seek out opportunities to learn more about our Faith throughout our entire lives. AND at the same time, it is super important to have friends who share your values and beliefs, with whom you can form life-long friendships and grow in the Faith... thus youth group! **Register for CCD at <https://bit.ly/CCDforMe>**

Here are the times for this coming school year, starting 9/12:

4-5:30pm Junior High Youth Group (snacks served)

5:30-7pm 1st-12th Grade CCD

7-8:30pm High School Youth Group (dinner served)

**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

### 2021-2022 Religious Education (CCD) classes begin September 12th

If you have not already registered your children, please do so. Use the bright yellow registration form or you can register online at the parish website. We have classes for grades K-12.

**Attention homeschool parents:** if you have a child in a sacramental preparation year (grades 2, 7-8) it is necessary to register the child with the Religious Education Office. This will ensure you receive all information regarding sacrament preparation.

**Attention volunteers for the 2021-2022 academic year:** there is a training session scheduled for August 28th - **ALL VOLUNTEERS are required to attend.**

**2021-2022 Religious Education volunteers needed:** We are in need of the following:

### MONDAY (4:45-6:15 p.m.)

Grade K High school aide

Grade 1 Teacher

Grade 6 Teacher

Grade 7 Teacher

Assistant Teacher

Grade 8 Teacher

Assistant Teacher

### TUESDAY (6-7:30 p.m.)

RCIC Teacher (sacrament preparation)

**PLEASE NOTE:** If we are unable to fill teacher and assistant teacher vacancies, we will cancel the class and move the students to another day.

**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 [ipebtp@verizon.net](mailto:ipebtp@verizon.net) or by calling the parish office. Meetings in the Church will resume October 18th.

**Bridge Club:** We will play Bridge every Thursday at 12 noon. New members welcome. Contact Lois Kotlowski 703-455-6567 or James Kolakoski 703-455-3009.

**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).

**Scholarships to Catholic Schools.** St. Raymond's will again offer a **one-time \$2,000 scholarship** for each parish child who is **switching from public school (K-12) to Catholic school this year**. Fr. De Celles has also decided to **raise the amount of the scholarship** we have available to **all qualified parishioners** who attend Catholic grade school from \$500 to **\$1,000** and Catholic high school from \$1,000 to **\$2,000**. This amount is renewable every year and is subject only to minimal qualification terms. You need to be a parishioner and send a request for the scholarship to Fr. De Celles. Also, additional financial aid is available if a family truly can't afford Catholic school, even with the above scholarships. These decisions are made on a case by case basis.



## Church Persecuted

This past week, another federal court blocked the Biden administration's controversial transgender mandate – requiring physicians to perform the potentially harmful gender-transition procedures even though it violates their conscience and **has not been proven to be medically beneficial to the patients**. In *Franciscan Alliance v. Becerra*, a religious hospital and over 20,000 healthcare professionals were threatened with multi-million penalties if they refused to perform these procedures.

Luke Goodrich, at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, said, "Today's ruling protects patients, aligns with current medical research, and ensures doctors aren't forced to violate their religious beliefs and medical judgment – a victory for common-sense conscience, and sound medicine."

Ironically Fairfax County Public Schools is bending over backwards to accommodate such "transgenders" allowing them to use the opposite sex's bathrooms, locker rooms, and be called by whatever pronoun they desire (see [FCPS Implementation of New Policy on Gender Expansive and Transgender Youth - Saint Raymond of Penafort Catholic Church \(straymonds.org\)](#)).

This ruling is nothing new. Five years ago, one federal court put on hold, and two years later another federal court struck down a provision of Obamacare requiring that physicians perform gender transitions on any patient, including children, even though the physician believed that the procedures would harm the patient. *Franciscan Alliance v. Becerra* counters an attempt by the Biden administration to revive the same case, but this most recent ruling stops that attempt.

(<https://www.becketlaw.org/media/federal-court-shuts-down-harmful-transgender-mandate/>)

**Legion of Mary:** The Legion of Mary weekly meeting is held on Monday afternoons at 5:00 pm in the Maurer Room. 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).

## FORMED®

### Get In-Formed!

**Augustine: A Voice for all Generations with Mike Aquilina** – St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430) is a preeminent Doctor of the Church and the patron of the Augustinian order. His works, including *The City of God*, *On the Trinity*, and *Confessions*, among many others, have had an inestimable impact on the Church and, by extension, on Western Civilization at large. Yet, where did such faith begin? After rejecting his mother's Christianity as simplistic and restraining, Augustine embarked on a path towards self-gratification, marked by the pursuit of money, political power, and sexual pleasure. Explore the conversion story of one of the most significant figures in Church history and learn about his struggle to find answers amid a sea of competing voices. Travel to fourth-century Rome and Milan to discover why St. Augustine has become "A Voice for All Generations."

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

Offering a liberal arts education in  
the classical tradition.

Pre K—8th

Will your 6th, 7th and/or 8th grader's current learning community and curriculum help them build the spiritual armor and academic skills they need for high school and beyond? Call to discuss enrollment for the 2021-22 school year. We offer rolling admissions as space is available.

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**Bethlehem Wood Carvers:** On the weekend of August 28/29, there will be a display of beautiful olivewood handmade carvings from the Holy Land. These Carvings are made by the Christians of Bethlehem who use them as their source of income. These brothers and sisters of ours are enduring hardships at this moment because of the volatile situation in their home country. Christians in the Holy Land used to be more than 37% of the population. There is less than 1% now because of the situation. As Christians of faith, it is our duty to support our brothers and sisters in The Holy Land. YOU can support them by purchasing some of these beautiful carvings after Mass.

**Save the date: Father Tad Pacholczyk from the National Catholic Bioethics Center returns to St. Raymond's on Sept. 18th!** His talk will be from 10:00 - 11:30 am on "The Church's Authentic Teaching on Same Sex Attraction and Transgender" Q&A session follows.

**As you are traveling this summer you can find a Mass near your destination by going to [Masstimes.org](http://Masstimes.org).** Also, please remember that our parish expenses continue while you are away.

**Now that the pandemic is over, please review your weekly donations.** Your donations may be mailed, dropped off at the parish office, or given online through Faith Direct. Please visit our website [www.straymonds.org](http://www.straymonds.org) to join online or call directly at 866-507-8757.

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