

"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)

1st and 3rd 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

6:15-6:55 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

Early Morning Mass. I'm very happy to announce that we've restarted our **6:30am Mass, Monday through Friday**. The only proviso is that if either Fr. Horkan or I are out of town or sick, the 6:30 Mass will be canceled for that day/week. We will do our best to keep you informed about any cancellations, including through emails and the website.

Our Lady of Ransom Scholarship Fund. As I mentioned at several of the Masses last weekend, I consider our efforts to raise money to assist families in either homeschooling or sending their kids to Catholic schools to be one of the most important endeavors of our parish at this time. I know that many parents do an excellent job of directing their kids through the public schools so as to keep their faith and recognize the many lies they are being taught. Some of these kids become zealous and active defenders of Christian and American values. But it takes a real, active and concerted effort to overcome the government/public school efforts to indoctrinate kids in an anti/un-Christian anti/un-American understanding of the world. So it is imperative that we assist those parents who want to remove their kids from this abuse by providing some financial assistance for alternative education.

I'm calling this effort the "Our Lady of Ransom Scholarship Fund," remembering the story depicted in the mural in our sanctuary of Our Lady appearing to St. Raymond, asking him to help found a religious order (The "Mercedarians") that would organize the ransom of Christians who had been kidnapped (usually onboard ships) by Moorish raiders and either held for ransom or forced into slavery or to renounce their Catholic faith. The Mercedarians were to do this either by raising funds, negotiating or by offering themselves in exchange for their captured Christian brothers and sisters.

How similar this is to our situation today. We need to do everything we can to free our children from those who seek to enslave and convert them to the strange ideology of the radical left, call it Wokism, Marxism, or Secularism.

I don't like to "hard sell" when it comes to raising money, because I always trust in your generosity and kindness. Which means that **when I DO "hard sell" it means I really believe in the cause, and see a grave need.**

What better work of charity can we do?

I've thought about starting our own school. I will keep thinking about that, but it really doesn't seem very feasible, for so many reasons. One being the fact that we don't have much land on our campus, and buying more land in the area would be extremely expensive. Moreover, the cost of building would be over \$5 million. And besides, I don't think the county would even permit the construction on our property, given our small acreage.

So it seems to me, at this time, the best we can do is give scholarships. Two weeks ago, when I last ran the numbers, we'd given scholarships to 37 families for 86 kids (9 schools and 3 homeschooling families) for a total of \$110,000 for the coming school year. Since then we've given several more scholarships—just this morning I approved \$8000.

So far this year (beginning July 1, 2021) we have raised \$22,363 from 23 families to support these scholarships (note, a good portion of the scholarships for the coming year were paid in the last months of the last fiscal year, ending June 30, 2021). This is pretty good: we are averaging \$1766 a week, plus a \$10,000 gift. At that rate we would raise \$101,839 in 12 months.

But consider this: as noted above, if we actually built a school, it would cost \$5 million. Assuming we financed 100% of that, it would cost us over \$600,000 a year to pay off that loan (over 10 years). And parish schools are usually subsidized by their parishioners anywhere from \$100,000 to \$200,000. So, it would cost us at least \$700,000 a year to operate a school for the first 10 years. That's a heck of a lot of money.

So instead, let's do scholarships. But we can do better than we are doing to fund these scholarships. Maybe we can't raise \$700,000 a year, but we can do better than \$101,839.

And let's be ambitious, at least with our hopes and dreams. Last year we had about 170 public school kids enrolled in grade school CCD, and 30 in high school CCD (numbers were down because of Covid). Using these as a starting point for parents who might be eligible for assistance (in reality, the numbers are much higher), it would cost about \$1.3 million to provide full scholarships to Catholic schools for these kids. What if we could raise \$500,000 a year? We could provide scholarships for over 1/3 of the cost of Catholic tuition, and some 100% scholarships, and help support scores of homeschoolers offset the direct costs of their education. Wouldn't that be great! And frankly, what better use could you put your money to?

We're talking about the salvation of souls here. Catholic schooling and homeschooling carry no guarantees, but it seems the best investment we can make to help our kids to stay close to Jesus, and not be corrupted by the abusive ideologies the culture is trying to indoctrinate them in.

Every month, in the envelope/offertory package you receive from the parish you will find an envelope with the label "Our Lady of Ransom Scholarship Fund," (for the next 2 months the envelope will read "Catholic Schools Scholarship Fund"). **Please be generous.**

To Vaccinate or Not to Vaccinate. I have heard that a lot of people are arguing, sometimes with great anger, about whether or not you must or must not take one of the Covid vaccines. Many who are very concerned about the virus, say you have a moral obligation to take the vaccine to prevent the spread etc. Others focus on the use of cells from aborted babies that may have been used in the development or even production of these vaccines and say you may not take the vaccine. Both are wrong.

There is no absolute moral requirement to take or not to take the vaccine—not according to the teaching of the Catholic Church. One should be aware of the moral importance of the various conflicting and potentially grave factors, i.e., on the one hand helping to stop the spread of a deadly virus, and on the other hand the sin of scandal connected with remotely cooperating in the evil of abortion. But each individual person has to weigh these and all other relevant factors, following Catholic moral principles, in deciding what they will do.

And they must be allowed to decide for themselves what they must do in their particular situation to properly apply and follow the guidance of the Church. It is not a question of "everyone must do the same thing" because we are not talking about an "absolute moral norm"—it is not always and everywhere wrong to take the vaccine or not take the vaccine. But it is wrong—always and everywhere—to coerce a person's conscience, to force them to act against what their properly formed Catholic conscience tells them.

Some have pointed to the good and well intentioned work of "Children of God for Life," and in particular, the work of Pamela Acker. But our old friend and annual guest speaker, Rev. Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D., the Director of Education of National Catholic Bioethics Center and nationally recognized bioethics expert, has assured us that most of Ms. Acker's most shocking claims are unfounded or at best conjecture. (See Fr. Tad's article on our website). But in any case, given the remoteness of the connection between abortion and taking the vaccine, it is still possible to morally take the vaccine.

Let me remind you of what the Church actually teaches.

"...Of course, within this general picture there exist *differing degrees of responsibility*. Grave reasons may be morally proportionate to justify the use of such "biological material". Thus, for example, danger to the health of children could permit parents to use a vaccine which was developed using cell lines of illicit origin, while keeping in mind that everyone has the duty to make known their disagreement and to ask that their healthcare system make other

types of vaccines available. Moreover, in organizations where cell lines of illicit origin are being utilized, the responsibility of those who make the decision to use them is not the same as that of those who have no voice in such a decision.” (*Dignitas Personae*, 35, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Benedict XVI, June 20, 2008).

“However, if the (patients) are exposed to considerable dangers to their health, vaccines with moral problems pertaining to them may also be used on a temporary basis. The moral reason is that the duty to avoid passive material cooperation **is not obligatory if there is grave inconvenience**. Moreover, we find, in such a case, a proportional reason, in order to accept the use of these vaccines in the presence of the danger of favoring the spread of the pathological agent, due to the lack of vaccination of children....” (*Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared From Cells Derived From Aborted Human Foetuses*, Pontifical Academy for Life (prepared at the request of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger and published during his pontificate as Benedict XVI), June 9, 2005.)

“At the same time, practical reason makes evident that **vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and that, therefore, it must be voluntary**. In any case, from the ethical point of view, the morality of vaccination depends not only on the duty to protect one's own health, but also on the duty to pursue the common good. In the absence of other means to stop or even prevent the epidemic, the common good **may** recommend vaccination, especially to protect the weakest and most exposed....” (Note on the Morality of Using Some Anti-Covid-19 Vaccines, 5, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, December 21, 2020).

“It's not up to me to tell people whether or not to take the vaccine, but to be informed, and to make their own informed conscience decision. That's really what the Catholic Church teaches.” (Bishop Joseph Strickland, Bishop of Tyler, March 3, 2021)

In sum, Church teaching says:

-- Catholics must form their consciences in accord with Church teaching;

-- Catholics may cooperate with evil in which they are not directly or materially participating in (e.g., by rendering taxes to Caesar, Jesus indirectly supported the brutal Roman oppression of the Jews);

-- Catholics may take a vaccine that is tainted by abortion in its development or production (indirect and remote cooperation with evil), if there are sufficient grave reasons for doing so;

-- It is up to the *individual's* properly formed conscience to judge for themselves the facts of the situation and apply moral teachings.

-- It is immoral to coerce their decision or mandate them to make one choice or the other. This applies to employers, and to friends and family.

My takeaway for you: you can take the vaccine if you believe there is a grave reason to do this (to protect others, to protect yourself, to avoid being fired, perhaps even to go to school, etc.). You may also freely choose to not take the vaccine (although you will have to deal with the consequences). And I will fully support your decision either way—even write a letter to protect your freedom of conscience and religion.

Moreover, PLEASE, families and friends and co-parishioners **MUST not argue amongst themselves and demand conformity—either way**. There are bigger fish to fry. Trust each other, and trust Jesus. And pick your fights, as long as you are not directly and materially doing evil. **The devil is laughing at us, using our good intentions to create divisions** and even the sin of scandal we are trying to avoid.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

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	Michael	Christopher Quan
Tom Dietz	Malachowski	Ted Tolpa
Michael O'Neill	John Florio	Nena Brennan
Cindy Laird	Debra Henkel	Christina Cautero
Patricia Lewis	Daniel Moore	Serrin Foster
Barbara McGinn	Maria Daugherty	Minnie Lezeriza
Mai Pham	Lauren Hornsby	Campos
Joan Opiela	Gaudencio Dizon	Kasey Boga
Leonora Ramos	Antoinette Baptist	Joan Vannucci
Jason Saenz	Paul Haynes	Mary Jane Hale
Phyllis Zitnik	Dwayne Taylor	Fr. Jerry Daly
Patricia Del Buono	Bernadette	
Juanita Boarman	D'Agostino	

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

August 23	Legion of Mary - 5:00 pm
August 25	Adoration
August 26	Bridge Club -12:00 pm
August 27	Adoration
August 28-29	Bethlehem Wood Carvers
August 29	Parish Picnic
Sept. 4	Men's Prayer Group - 7:30 am
Sept. 4	Luminaries of Mary
Sept. 10	Catholic Book Club
Sept. 11	Shredding Event 10:00—1:00 pm
Sept. 12-14	Rel. Educ. Classes Begin!
Sept. 18	Speaker -Fr. Tad Pacholczyk
Sept. 25	Mother/Daughter Retreat

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.

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 to volunteer or learn more.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 23rd

6:30 am Fr. Jerome Daly
8:30 am Maria Teresa Perilla

Tuesday, August 24th

6:30 am Fr. Jerome Daly
8:30 am Rose Marie Tougas +

Wednesday, August 25th

6:30 am Fr. Jerome Daly
8:30 am Sean Suiter +

Thursday, August 26th

6:30 am Fr. Jerome Daly
8:30 am Dang Nguyen

Friday, August 27th

6:30 am Fr. Jerome Daly
8:30 am Eugene Bettwy +

Saturday, August 28th

9:00 am Michael Goralski +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles
Donna & Ron Shickel

Sunday, August 29th

7:00 am Fr. Rippy
Eugene Bettwy +
9:00 am Fr. Horkan
Parishioners
11:00 am Fr. De Celles
Brad Hoopes
1:00 pm Fr. De Celles
Dan & Tessa Hoben

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 & 11:00 am

Here comes the Shredding Truck: The Knights of Columbus will have a bulk shredding truck in the south parking lot on Saturday, Sept. 11th, from 10 AM to 1 PM. Bring your old files, receipts, and tax papers for quick secure disposal. Your donations will be used to support vocations and provide homes for the intellectually disabled. No hard drives, 3 ring or spiral notebooks or binder clips please. For more information, call or text Dave Wilson at 703-966 5327.

THANK YOU! The St. Martin de Porres committee would like to thank all of the parishioners who donated 205 multi packs of new socks and underwear for the Back to School Event at the Springfield Franconia Family Resource Center. Your generous contributions helped assist over 250 families in the Springfield area. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated. We also collect non-perishable groceries in our food collection box in the Narthex. 20 - 50 bags of food are delivered weekly serving the same community. Thank you for your continued support and showing love to our neighbors in need.

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, 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.

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.

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

A person's a person no matter how small. True, embryos are smaller than newborns and adults, but why is that relevant? Do we really want to say that large people are more human than small ones? Men are generally larger than women, but that doesn't mean that they deserve more rights. Being big doesn't give a person the right to kill someone who is small. Size doesn't equal value. Prolifetraining.com

DAY OF HEALING AND PRAYER: 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, 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

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.**

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.

Natural Family Planning: *A gift to your marriage.* ccli.org

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

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



3rd Annual Virginia March for Life. Beginning at the Virginia Capitol Building in Richmond at 1:00pm on September 17th. Ahead of the November statewide elections, marchers will make their voices

heard on behalf of unborn children. For more information, visit: virginia.marchforlife.org



The fall campaign will run from September 22 - October 31. **Our Parish Commitment weekend will be October 23-24.** Watch for sign-ups in the narthex and online.

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 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 6 Teacher

Grade 7 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 by 20 August, we will cancel the class and move the students to another day.

ALL PARENTS are expected to attend a "Back to CCD Night" meeting scheduled during the week of 26 September.

The meetings will begin once we return from our *Holy Ten Minutes* in the church: September 26th (5:50 p.m.), 27th (5:05 p.m.) and 28th (6:20 p.m.). You may attend the meeting on the day of your child's CCD class or choose another day if it is more convenient for you.

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 or by calling the parish office. Meetings in the Church will resume October 18th.

Home School Group: for more information visit our website www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/
Contact: Katherine Bogacki or Malia Cameron at 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

Over the past months, Father DeCelles has spoken and written emphatically about the serious attacks against the dignity of the human person inherent within the Fairfax County School curriculum, especially regarding "gender identity" and the undermining of parental rights. School staff and children will be forced to act against their consciences regarding gender identity and the truth that we are created male and female. Furthermore, school employees are being instructed not to notify parents if their child requests to be identified by a gender other than his/her birth sex.

Father has made it clear that St. Raymond's parish is offering financial assistance to parents who have enrolled their children in Catholic schools but need help with tuition, as well as parents who have decided to homeschool their children rather than expose them to the perils of Fairfax County Schools.

Past articles have referenced Angelus Academy and St. John Paul the Great Catholic Schools as two excellent options.

But what about homeschooling? How does one begin homeschooling in Virginia? Am I really smart enough to homeschool my children? What about their socialization? Can they get into college? Military ROTC? NCAA sports? What if my child is a struggling learner? With school beginning, is it too late? These are all valid questions. For answers to these questions and more, contact the parish home school group at www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/.

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

NEW: St. Raymond's Young Adult Group. Are you 21-40 yrs old? (Single or married, with or without kids) Contact youngadults@straymonds.org to be added to our email list and hear about upcoming events!

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

Into the Breach - Into the Breach is a groundbreaking 12-episode video series from the Knights of Columbus that seeks to answer what it means to be a Catholic man in today's world. Into the Breach tells men they are made for greatness and challenges them to achieve it by founding their lives on God and pursuing heroic virtue. Each episode explores a different aspect of authentic Catholic masculinity and features well-known Catholic speakers, as well as the personal story of a man who has deeply experienced the episode's topic in his own life.

Into the Breach – Episode 1: Masculinity

Into the Breach – Episode 2: Brotherhood

Into the Breach – Episode 3: Leadership

This content was created for and is most appropriate for use by men or men's groups.

Watch now at www.straymondsformed.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



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.

Looking for a gentle introduction to school for your 3-4 year old? Our Little Messengers program (T/Th mornings) includes Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium). <https://angelusacademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/>.

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

www.AngelusAcademy.org

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

Mother-Daughter Retreat, Sept. 25th: The Women's Apostolate to Youth invites you to a Mother-Daughter retreat (for girls in grades 7-9) entitled, "**To Light and Guard, To Rule and Guide: Your Guardian Angel's Mission to Form You into a Woman of Integrity.**" The retreat includes talks, activities (fun!), as well as opportunities for Confession, Adoration, and Mass. It begins at 8:30 am and concludes at 3:30 pm at St. Raymond of Penafort Church, 8750 Pohick Rd. Springfield. The \$55 fee includes materials, breakfast, and lunch for both mother and daughter (\$15 per additional daughter). For more information and to register (by Sept 11) visit <https://www.waywomen.com/daystar>. Sorry, we cannot accept registrations at the door.

FAITH DIRECT JULY 2021

Offertory	\$ 48,735.50
Family Assistance	\$ 2,344.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,501.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donation	\$ 6,000.00
Church in Africa	\$ 582.00

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Offertory	\$ 13,503.00
Family Assistance	\$ 677.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,190.00
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