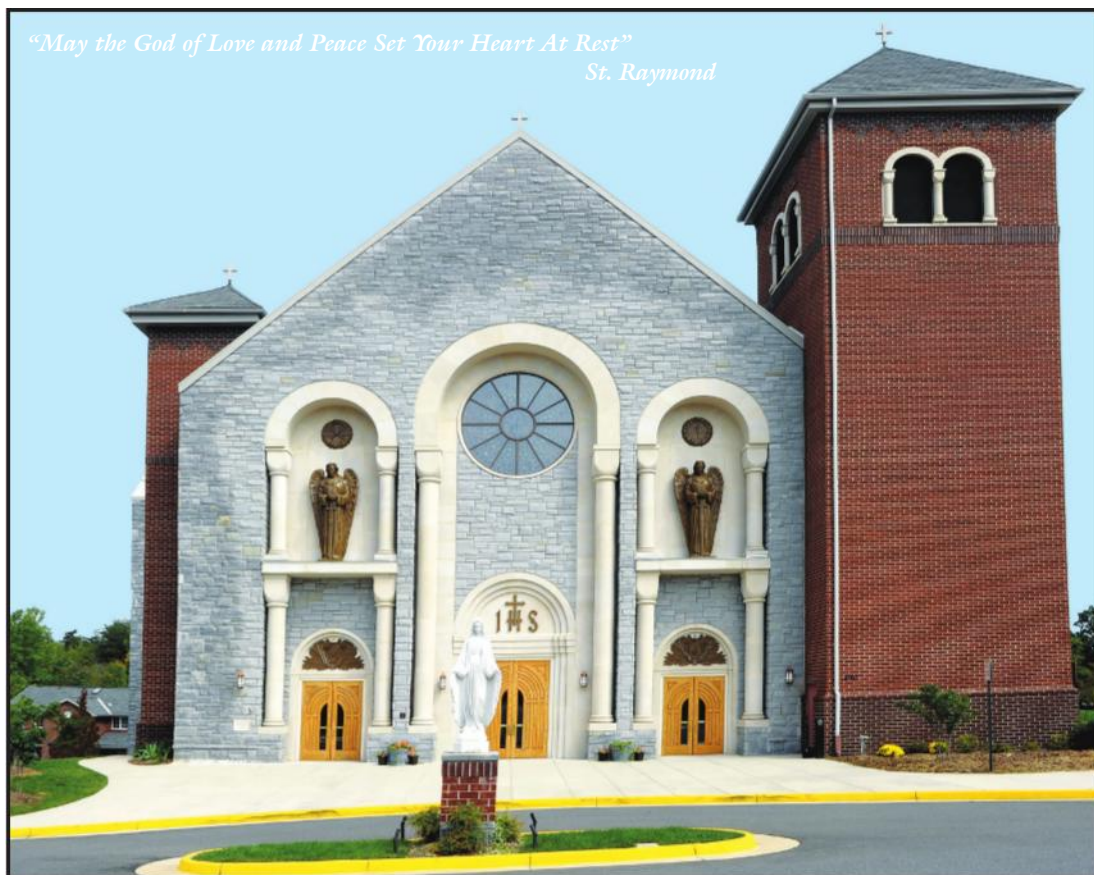


*"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"*  
*St. Raymond*



## **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

**Summer.** Is it really over? Say it isn't so. Maybe we can stretch it out to Labor Day...

**Back to School.** Most of our college and grade/high school children went back to school last week, and even many homeschoolers have started their new academic year. I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and are rested and refreshed and ready to take on the new challenges of the coming academic year, and have a blessed year.

**For those of you returning to the Fairfax County Public Schools,** I wish you wouldn't, but I respect your choices, and will pray for a good year for you. I remind you to be on guard against the growing anti-Christian bigotry, ideology and culture growing in the schools. Watch for curriculum that tries to degrade any race—including "whites." Catholics don't hate or degrade others or themselves. We don't dwell on the offenses of the past, but believe in conversion, forgiveness and the dignity of every human being. Beware also of those who try to degrade your or other's bodies, either by encouraging sexual promiscuity or identity confusion.

Parents, you know better than I do that you cannot simply let the government/public schools take charge of the education of your children. **YOU are the primary educators of your children**, so remember to monitor and discuss with your children what they are being taught in school. Of course, remember to opt your children out of anything that attempts to teach them secular morals, especially sexual and family morals, i.e. especially relevant sections of "Family Life Education." But also remember to be on guard against the Marxist-secularist-atheist ideologies that will be permeating almost every class, from social sciences to math. There are many good and dedicated teachers and administrators in public schools (many of our parishioners), so seek them out and support them. But don't assume that all teachers and administrators share your values or education goals.

**CCD/Religious Education.** And remember to register today (online or in person) for Religious Education classes here at St. Raymond's, beginning the week of September 12. Make sure your children attend class and do their homework every week. Please work with them at home to help them understand what they've learned in class. An hour a week in CCD isn't enough, on its own, to teach your children the faith—in fact, you should really consider it only as a supplement to what you continue to teach them at home.

And those of you with children in Catholic schools, don't forget your responsibilities either. Catholic schools are a great option when it comes to teaching morality and Christian values, but no school or teacher is perfect. So, trust, but verify. And continue to teach them the faith at home.

**Parish Picnic.** Today (Sunday, August 29) is our annual Parish Picnic from 2-5pm here on the Parish grounds, behind the church. **After the last year and a half, this is first big celebration we've had, the first time to get together socially as a parish—so please come!** There's lots of food, fun and music for kids and adults alike—a great way to meet and get to know your fellow parishioners. For new parishioners (and visitors) this is a great opportunity to meet people and learn more about the parish; for the rest of us, this is one of the best chances we will have all year to welcome others into a deeper participation in the life and fellowship of our parish—don't pass it up!

**Thank You Bishop!** Last week Bishop Burbidge courageously issued his document entitled, **"A Catechesis on the Human Person and Gender Ideology."** This is a must read for all of us, especially parents, teens and young adults, and a great tool for dealing with the lies being spread through our culture today about "identity" and sexuality. I sent an email link to the letter to all of you last week, I hope you received it and read it. Here are some important excerpts:

*"In this sensitive area of identity, however, there is a great danger of a misguided charity and false compassion. In this regard, we must recall, "Only what is true can ultimately be pastoral." ...*

*"The claim to "be transgender" or the desire to seek "transition" rests on a mistaken view of the human person, rejects the body as a gift from God, and leads to grave harm. To affirm someone in an identity at odds with biological sex or to affirm a person's desired "transition" is to mislead that person, speaking and interacting...in an untruthful manner. Although ...[we need to] discern the best time to communicate the fullness of the truth, in no circumstances can we confirm a person in error.*

*"Indeed, there is ample evidence that "gender affirmation" not only does not resolve a person's struggles but also can in fact exacerbate them. The acceptance...of a person's claimed transgender identity is particularly dangerous in the case of children, whose psychological development is both delicate and incomplete....Affirming a child's ...desire to "be" someone other than the person (male or female) God created, gravely misleads and confuses the child about "who" he or she is.*

*"In addition, "gender-affirming" medical or surgical interventions cause significant, even irreparable, bodily harm to children and adolescents.... and are morally unacceptable....*

*"Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to claims that "gender transition" will resolve their difficulties. Long-term studies show "higher rates of mortality, suicidal behavior and psychiatric morbidity in gender-transitioned individuals ... In addition, studies show that children...diagnosed with gender dysphoria have high rates of comorbid mental health disorders, such as depression ...Psychotherapeutic treatments ...are appropriate interventions....*

*"Those asserting a transgender identity and/or seeking to "transition" often adopt new names and pronouns.... We can never say something contrary to what we know to be true. To use names and pronouns that contradict the person's God-given identity is to speak falsely....[I]n no circumstances should anyone be compelled to use language contrary to the truth.*

***"For Parents....You are the first and the best teachers of your children. ...From you they will learn the truth of who they are, the dignity of the human body, the meaning of human sexuality, and the glory of their being children of God. Nothing can substitute for the school of the family...In addition...raising your children also requires vigilance against dangerous ideas and influences ...[including] the internet and social media. ...***

***"Another strong source of misinformation ...is, regrettably, the public education system. [M]any...aggressively promote a false understanding of the human person in their advocacy of gender ideology....Parents with children in public school must therefore ....be even more vigilant and vocal against this false and harmful ideology....***

*"Finally, a word to those struggling with gender dysphoria....Every one of us has a struggle that is unique. But none of us should feel alone or abandoned in his or her struggles....Please know that...God's unrelenting love for you means that He loves you in the totality of your body as well..."*

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



**MASS INTENTIONS****Monday, August 30th**

6:30 am Fr. Jerome Daly  
8:30 am John Christensen

**7:00 pm RCIA Mass**

For those brought into the  
Church

**Tuesday, August 31st**

6:30 am Fr. Jerome Daly  
8:30 am Catalina Legaspi +

**Wednesday, Sept. 1st**

6:30 am Fr. Jerome Daly  
8:30 am Meredith Hoopes

**Thursday, Sept. 2nd**

6:30 am Fr. Jerome Daly  
8:30 am Mason Shealy  
7:00 pm EFM (Latin)

**Private Masses**

8/31 Norma Legaspi-Royas +  
9/3 Bishop Emeritus Paul S.  
Loverde

**Friday, Sept. 3rd**

6:30 am Fr. Jerome Daly  
8:30 am Greg & Therese Zott  
7:00 pm EFM (Latin)

**Saturday, Sept. 4th**

9:00 am Donald Spinelli, Sr. +

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**  
Mandy Shealy

**Sunday, Sept. 5th**

7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**  
Bev & Buz Buczacki  
9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**  
Parishioners  
11:00 am **Fr. Horkan**  
Barbara & Ray Sherry  
1:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**  
Solud Roldan +

**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 Boarman  
Michael  
Malachowski  
John Florio  
Debra Henkel  
Daniel Moore  
Maria Daugherty  
Lauren Hornsby  
Gaudencio Dizon  
Antoinette Baptist

Paul Haynes  
Dwayne Taylor  
Bernadette  
D'Agostino  
Christopher Quan  
Ted Tolpa  
Nena Brennan  
Christina Cautero  
Serrin Foster  
Mary Jane Hale  
Fr. Jerry Daly

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

**August 28-29** Bethlehem Wood Carvers  
**August 29** **PARISH PICNIC TODAY 2:00–5:00 pm**  
**August 30** Legion of Mary - 5:00 pm  
**August 30** RCIA Mass 7:00 pm  
**Sept. 1** Adoration  
**Sept. 2** Bridge Club -12:00 pm  
**Sept. 3** Adoration  
**Sept. 3** EFM (Latin Mass) 7:00 pm  
**Sept. 4** Men's Prayer Group - 7:30 am  
**Sept. 4** Luminaries of Mary  
**Sept. 6** Labor Day Holiday—1 Mass at 10:00 am  
Parish Offices are Closed  
**Sept. 10** Catholic Book Club Returns  
**Sept. 11** Shredding Event 10:00—1:00 pm  
**Sept. 12-14** Rel. Educ. Classes & Youth Groups Begin!  
**Sept. 13** Fall RCIA Program begins  
**Sept. 14** Adult Bible Study Returns  
**Sept. 18** Speaker -Fr. Tad Pacholczyk  
**Sept. 25** Mother/Daughter Retreat

**Bethlehem Wood Carvers:** Today we have a display of beautiful handmade olivewood carvings from the Holy Land in our Church. During this difficult time, Bethlehem is **Shut Down**, No Tourism, No income since March 2020. Carving olivewood is now the only source of income of the Catholic families who still living in the Holy Land. Christians in the Holy Land used to be more than 37% of the population. Today they are less than 1%. Please consider purchasing some of these carvings after Mass. Your direct support will help more than 800 Catholic families to remain in the Holy Land. **Those families need your help now more than ever.**

**JOIN the CHOIR at St. Raymond's:** We practice on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and sing at 11:00 am Mass on Sundays. The choir also provides music for Easter, Christmas and Holy Days. The repertoire of the choir contains masterpieces of classical liturgical choir music. Singers who have a pleasant voice and sing in pitch are welcome. Enjoy wonderful fellowship, music training and the joy of making uplifting music for the liturgy. Contact Elisabeth Turco at [music@straymonds.org](mailto:music@straymonds.org) or call 703-506-4644.

**Extraordinary Form / Traditional Latin Mass at St. Raymond Church** will be available Friday, Sept. 3rd, 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 & 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, Sept. 4th. For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.



**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!

**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.

**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).

**St. Martin de Porres Committee** - collects non-perishable food on an ongoing basis for the Springfield Resource Center, which serves 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).

### Adult Enrichment Opportunities:

**2021-2022 RCIA/Catholic update** - St. Raymond's will offer RCIA classes on **Monday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 pm** in the Maurer Room from **September 13, 2021 until April 11, 2022 (except for Holidays)** Those seeking information to understand and/or to enter the Catholic Church, and baptized Catholics seeking additional sacraments are welcomed. No registration is required. If you have questions call Bob Ward, 703-644-5873 or via email at [biblestudy@straymonds.org](mailto:biblestudy@straymonds.org).

**2021-2022 Adult Bible Study** - St. Raymond's will offer an overview of the Gospel of John, his letters and the Book of Revelation, followed by the beginning of a detailed study of the Synoptic Gospels. Sessions are on **Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 am and again on Tuesday evening from 7:30 to 8:30 pm (except for holidays)** in the Parish Hall, from **Tuesday, September 14, 2021 until Tuesday, May 17, 2022.** For further information please call Bob Ward at 703-644-5873 or via email at [biblestudy@straymonds.org](mailto:biblestudy@straymonds.org).

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

**Level of development:** Of the 45 generations of cell divisions that take place before adulthood, 41 take place before birth! Only 4 more come before adolescence. But yes, it does remain scientifically true that embryos and 'fetuses' are therefore less developed than the adults they'll one day become. But why is this relevant? Should older humans have a greater right to life than their younger siblings? Some people say that self-awareness makes one human. But if that is true, newborns, infants, and toddlers do not qualify as fully valuable human beings since they lack the immediate capacity for performing human mental functions, as do the comatose, the sleeping, and those with conditions such as Alzheimer's Disease, etc. Are those among who are vulnerable less valuable? [Prolifetraining.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://ccli.org)

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

**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)



**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](http://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.

**Join us from 2-5pm TODAY (Sunday) for our Parish Picnic!**

Check out the inflatables just for 7-12th graders & meet new friends!

**Wrecking Ball inflatable for Jr. High youth!**



**Soccer Darts inflatable game for High School Youth!**



The Youth Apostolate is **STILL IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS** for the following:

\*1-2 more folks to help **serve dinner** to our high school teens from 6:45-7:20pm on Sunday nights

\*Ask local restaurants for donations

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

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

\*Prayer Warriors!

Please don't wait for someone else to volunteer. If you keep seeing this and thinking to yourself that you will do it if it's still here next week, that might just mean the Holy Spirit is calling *you*!

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, contact Jeanne at [youth@straymonds.org](mailto:youth@straymonds.org) or 571-334-9890.

**Jr. High & High School Youth Groups Resume 9/12!**

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)

**Youth Apostolate Info. Sheet & COVID Waivers**

All youth grades 7-12 interested in participating in any Youth Apostolate event this year must turn the following two forms which are good for all of 2021-2022 activities. 1) YA Info. Sheet 2) COVID waiver. Forms found on bulletin boards or online at <https://bit.ly/newYAforms>

**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/vouthapostolate>

**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.

**SUNDAY CLASS SESSION TIME is 5:30-7 p.m.** This is a change from last year!!

**PLEASE NOTE:** Some Monday and Tuesday classes are being cancelled because we were unable to fill the teacher position or because of low student enrollment. Parents will be notified by email of these cancellations and will be provided information regarding your child's new session assignment.

**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.

**ALL PARENTS are expected to attend a "Back to CCD Night" meeting** scheduled during the week of September 26. 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](mailto:jpebtp@verizon.net) or by calling the parish office. Meetings in the Church will resume October 18th.

**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 email at [tdelaney51@verizon.net](mailto:tdelaney51@verizon.net).

**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.

**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.



### Church Persecuted

The following column was published in a longer form at <https://newmansociety.org/statement-on-ruling-in-starkey-v-roncalli-high-school-and-archdiocese-of-indianapolis/>.

In a “landmark ruling with enormous implications for Catholic education and its First Amendment right to expect fidelity and moral behavior from all employees, not just teachers, whose duties impact the Christian formation of students,” the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana upheld the ministerial exception according to last summer’s Supreme Court ruling in *Our Lady of Guadalupe School v. Morrissey-Berru*. But the Supreme Court case concerned a lawsuit filed by a religion teacher in a Catholic school. The Indiana case is an important development, because it affirms that the federal court cannot interfere in the employment decisions of a Catholic school regarding its guidance counselor.

The case involves Lynn Starkey, who attempted to sue Roncalli High School and the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. She was fired from her job as Co-Director of Guidance when she entered into a same-sex union, a clear violation of Catholic moral teaching and of moral standards for Catholic school employees.

“Catholic schools must have the freedom to hire educators and other employees who model the teachings of the Church. Catholic schools around the country should take an example from Roncalli High School and the policies of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, which have clear moral standards for Catholic school employees. As this case shows, courts will uphold religious freedom when they see consistent application of Catholic moral standards,” said Patrick Reilly, president of The Cardinal Newman Society.”

**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).

**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.

## FORMED®

### Get In-Formed!

**Mary: The Indispensable Mother of God by Tim Staples** – In this Lighthouse Talk, Tim Staples explains the incredible impact that the Church’s understanding of Mary has on our spiritual lives, and the profound way that Marian doctrines and dogmas safeguard what we believe about her Son. Using penetrating insights and humor, Tim shows how correct knowledge of our humble Mother reveals our own identity in Christ and empowers us to say “Yes” to God!

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**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 Peñafort 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.

**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!

**FAITH DIRECT:** eGiving lets you continue to support St. Raymond’s and the ministries you cherish. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet, and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Recurring gifts sustain our parish throughout the year. You’ll provide us with consistent support, even if you’re away on a Sunday, so the programs, services, and ministries that mean so much to our community will never miss a beat. Sign up today by visiting [faith.direct/VA64](http://faith.direct/VA64). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God Bless You,

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