



## Welcome to St. Raymond of Peñafort Roman Catholic Church

**8750 Pohick Road  
Springfield, VA 22153**

### **WEEKEND MASSES:**

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm  
Sunday: 7:00 am, 9:00 am,  
11:00 am and 1:00 pm

### **WEEKDAY MASSES:**

Monday through Friday:  
8:30 am  
Saturday: 9:00 am

**EXTRAORDINARY  
FORM MASS (LATIN)**  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays 7:00 pm

Rev. John C. De Celles, Pastor  
Elisabeth Turco, Director of Liturgical Music  
Jeanne Sause, Director of Youth Apostolate  
Mary Salmon, Director of Religious Education  
Vince Drouillard, Religious Education Secretary  
Joe Marquart, Plant Manager  
Kirsti Tyson, Office Manager  
Mary Butler, Secretary  
Virginia Osella, Parish Secretary

### **PARISH OFFICE:**

Telephone Numbers:

Rectory: 703-440-0535  
Rel. Education: 703-440-0537  
Fax: 703-440-0538

### **Office Hours**

Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

### **E-Mail**

Church: Office@straymonds.org  
Rel. Ed.: ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org  
Choirs: Music@straymonds.org

### **Website**

www.straymonds.org

**TUITION ASSISTANCE:** Please inquire with our office about the availability of partial scholarships for the children of active St. Raymond parishioners attending local Catholic grade schools and high schools.

### **Angelus Academy**

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

Angelus Academy is a fully-accredited pre-K through 8th grade Catholic School affiliated with the Diocese of Arlington. Although it has no official connection with St. Raymond's, the parish has a longstanding close relationship with Angelus Academy. Many of our parish children already happily attend school there.

### **SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Reconciliation/Confession)**

#### **Wednesday Evening**

6:15-6:55 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

**Vacation.** Last Sunday I was away from the parish, finishing up a week of vacation playing golf down in Williamsburg. It was a great week of relaxing with 3 of my priest-friends. The weather was perfect, and I played very well (for me) on all 5 rounds of golf. Thanks be to God for the gift of rest. Now, back to work.

**Vaccine Mandate.** While I was relaxing, President Biden was busy. In particular he announced that he will force all employers (with 100 or more employees) to require their employees to receive a Covid vaccine or lose their jobs.

Of course, this is not only probably illegal and unconstitutional, but most importantly it is gravely evil. To quote the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, "practical reason makes evident that vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and that, therefore, it must be voluntary." This is even more clearly the case with a vaccine that is both morally compromised (e.g., tainted by the use of aborted fetal tissue) and brand new with the long term side-effects not fully known.

I'm not a Constitutional scholar, but here's the obvious question: If it is true that abortion is a Constitutional right because a woman has a right to privacy when it comes to her body, how does that same woman (and the rest of us) not have a right to refuse a vaccine under that same right to privacy when it comes to that same body?

I'm sure there are interesting legal arguments on both sides, but there is only one right conclusion: the government cannot force us to inject something into our bodies. I guarantee you, if the Founders had known about vaccines in 1791 they would have specifically included a 11<sup>th</sup> Amendment in the Bill of Rights to guarantee our right to refuse vaccinations.

Some might argue that it's necessary to protect society from the virus. Well, if it's so necessary, let Congress pass a law—we are a republic, not a kingdom, Reich or totalitarian state where a supreme leader dictates laws on a whim.

Some argue, but it's an emergency—the President has to exercise emergency powers! What emergency? It's been 18 months since the pandemic began, and it's no longer a pandemic. We've had the vaccine and anti-vaxxers for 9 months. Congress could act and we could have a bill signed in a week. This is what we have a constitution for.

Moreover, it is debatable whether it is necessary. Biden said, "The **vaccines provide strong protections for the vaccinated**," and "**This is a pandemic of the unvaccinated**." If that is true, then why say "The bottom line" behind his mandate is "We're going to **protect vaccinated workers from unvaccinated co-workers**." But I thought they were already protected by the vaccine, and the pandemic only affects the unvaccinated....

Biden also argued: "The unvaccinated overcrowd our hospitals, are overrunning the emergency rooms and intensive care units, leaving no room for someone with a heart attack, or pancreitis [sic], or cancer." Perhaps, but what about all the folks who live unhealthy lifestyles? Don't they cause the same "problems"? Does that mean the President, or even Congress, can force us all to eat only things he/they deem healthy? Or that we do specific exercises? Or perhaps desist from unhealthy or "risky" sexual practices?

Finally, did you notice the Marxist tactic of "class warfare" being employed, yet again, pitting the victimized "vaccinated" against the oppressive "unvaccinated?" So much for "we're all in this together."

**In any case, it's clearly "evidently" immoral**, and so obviously unjust. So are free to ignore it, and fight it in court, in protests and in the ballot box.

Once more the self-proclaimed "devout Catholic" Joe Biden shows he is more morally and dogmatically aligned with the Marxist-atheists-secularists than with the Christ and His Catholic Church.

**Your FCPS Board At Work.** Did you read that last week, at-large school board member, Abrar Omeish, voted against a resolution to honor the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks? She stated: "Why can we not also explicitly recognize the extensive and unwarranted structural discrimination and ethnic and religious profiling following 9/11 that tens of thousands of FCPS students experience on a daily basis." Wow.

**Do Our Kids Use Facebook and Instagram?** The parish no longer uses Facebook or Instagram. Do your kids? Consider An excerpt from "Facebook Knows Instagram Is Toxic for Teen Girls, Company Documents Show," Wall Street Journal, September 14, 2021:

*"'Thirty-two percent of teen girls said that when they felt bad about their bodies, Instagram made them feel worse,' the researchers said in a March 2020 slide presentation posted to Facebook's internal message board, reviewed by The Wall Street Journal. 'Comparisons on Instagram can change how young women view and describe themselves'..."*

*"For the past three years, Facebook has been conducting studies into how its photo-sharing app affects its millions of young users. Repeatedly, the company's researchers found that Instagram is harmful for a sizable percentage of them, most notably teenage girls."*

*"'We make body image issues worse for one in three teen girls,' said one slide from 2019, summarizing research about teen girls who experience the issues."*

*"'Teens blame Instagram for increases in the rate of anxiety and depression,' said another slide. 'This reaction was unprompted and consistent across all groups.'"*

*"Among teens who reported suicidal thoughts, 13% of British users and 6% of American users traced the desire to kill themselves to Instagram, one presentation showed...."*

**Virginia Election November 2021.** If you CAN vote, you MUST vote. But to vote in Virginia's election for **governor**, lieutenant governor, attorney general, senators and delegates **this coming November 2** you first have to be **registered to vote in Virginia**. Again, this can be done by mailing in a paper form or by going online to the state election website. The deadline to register to vote or update an existing registration is October 12, 2021.

To be eligible to vote in Virginia you must: be a resident of Virginia; be a U. S. Citizen; be 18 years old (at the next election); not be registered and plan to vote in another state; not currently declared mentally incompetent by a court of law; if convicted of a felony, your right to vote must have been restored.

Military voters should consider the special rules that apply to them regarding state residency.

**This weekend and next**, September 25th / 26th, we are hosting a **VOTER INFORMATION Table in the narthex**. Here you can file an absentee ballot request, register to vote, or update your voter information (e.g., if you have moved). Early voting has already started at three main locations and more open on October 21st. A handout provides you with all the Early VOTE locations and how to avoid the mail system.

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*



**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Monday, Sept. 20th</b> 6:30 am Fr. Jerome Daly 8:30 am Blake Hoopes	<b>Saturday, Sept. 25th</b> 9:00 am Mrs. Evelyn Hildebrand +
<b>Tuesday, Sept. 21st</b> 6:30 am Fr. Jerome Daly 8:30 am Ben Shealy	<b>Vigil Mass</b> 5:00 pm Fr. De Celles Carmelita Marguerite Elizabeth McMillan +
<b>Wednesday, Sept. 22nd</b> 6:30 am Fr. Jerome Daly 8:30 am Evan Zipperer	<b>Sunday, Sept. 26th</b> 7:00 am Fr. Horkan Barbara Ann Gresdo + 9:00 am Fr. De Celles Parishioners 11:00 am Fr. Rippy Blake Hoopes 1:00 pm Fr. De Celles Encarnacion Sy +
<b>Thursday, Sept. 23rd</b> 6:30 am Fr. Jerome Daly 8:30 am Phyllis D. Deeney	
<b>Friday, Sept. 24th</b> 6:30 am Fr. Jerome Daly 8:30 am Arthur Burrows +	

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

**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, Oct. 2. For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.

**The House of Mercy (HOM)** is accepting donations of *clothing and small household items that can fit in regular trash bags*. They are also accepting gently used toys and games provided all the parts of the games are included.

Halloween and Thanksgiving decorations can be donated from now until December 18 and Christmas decorations can be donated from November 1 until January 22. All donations may be left at St Raymond's (outside the library door inside the church door nearest to the rectory). POC is Jim Mault ([jmault1@cox.net](mailto:jmault1@cox.net)).

**Luminaries of Holy Mary:** Come join us on Oct. 2nd 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.

**Terry Schilling Talk** - Please join us Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall for our Special Speaker Series talk on "Why I Removed My Children from Fairfax County Public Schools and How to Fight Back." Terry Schilling is the president of the American Principles Project. No RSVP required. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 703-440-0535.

**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.**

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 Fr. Jerry Daly Lucille Janssens Danielle Matava Theresa Matava Regina Chopra Roland Lucas Helen Stephens Allison Wagoner Helen Estabrooks Msgr. Martin Field
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**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

Sept. 19-21	CCD Classes & Youth Group
Sept. 20	Legion of Mary
Sept. 20	Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group
Sept. 20	RCIA Program
Sept. 21	Adult Bible Study
Sept. 22	Adoration
Sept. 23	Bridge Club
Sept. 24	Adoration
Sept. 25	WAY Mother/Daughter Retreat
Sept. 30	Speaker—Terry Schilling
Oct. 1	EFM (Latin) 7:00 pm
Oct. 2	Men's Prayer Group - 7:30 am
Oct. 2	Luminaries of Mary

**JOIN the CHOIR at St. Raymond's:** We practice on Tuesdays (starting 9/14) from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and sing at 11:00 am Mass on Sundays (starting 9/19). 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.

**Samaritans need your help!** This wonderful group of volunteers are here to lend a hand in times of trouble by cooking dinners, running errands or even providing transportation to Mass for our fellow parishioners. If you are available to help out please join our dedicated team. Please contact Vanessa Oswald at 571-271-5498 or by e-mail at [kandvoswald@gmail.com](mailto:kandvoswald@gmail.com). Also, if you were part of our Samaritan team before, please let us know if you wish to continue so we can have an up-to-date list. Thanks!

**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).



**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! **Mini-pilgrimage to the Grotto at Emmitsburg**, Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. All Knights and families are invited to pray the rosary and tour this beautiful grotto in honor of Mary.

**Book Club News:** We are pleased to announce that the parish Book Club is once again meeting face-to-face, in person, in the parish Library for the 2021-2022 year. Our next meeting will be on Friday, October 8, at 10 AM. We will be discussing **"Columbus and the Crisis of the West"** by Robert Royal. 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 through **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 through **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).

**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!

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

**The MaRiH Center** is a Pro Life Pregnancy Support Center operating in Alexandria since 1974. Would you like to volunteer? Spanish language skills are most welcome, but not required. Please call 703-370-4774, email [marihcenter@gmail.com](mailto:marihcenter@gmail.com) or visit [marih.org](http://marih.org) for additional info. You'll be glad you did! To help from home... **Material donations of diapers and baby items up to 2T welcomed in the narthex.** God bless you for your continued generosity! See thank you note in narthex.



Join Fr. Paul Scalia for the **Fall KICK OFF Event TODAY** 19 Sept at 3pm 900 S. Washington Street, Falls Church. The fall campaign will run from Sept 22 – Oct 31. **Our Parish Commitment weekend will be October 23-24.** Sign-ups in the narthex and on the parish website. Come and see!

**DAY OF Post Abortion HEALING AND PRAYER** for women who have experienced abortion (English and Spanish). **Sat., Sept 25th.** You are not alone; there is hope and healing. More info/confidential registration, contact (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.



Mark your calendar for **Life Chain: Sunday Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2:30-3:30.** Park at Key Middle School 6402 Franconia Rd, Springfield. Join others of good will for

this annual peaceful prayerful witness. Non graphic signs (see examples) provided. Bring a friend!

**Introducing Olivia!!!** Olivia is the world's most realistic and medically accurate animation of a baby's development in her mother's womb. **babyolivia.com**

**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

### Bake Sale

#### **Last weekend's Bake Sale brought in \$888!**

Thank you to ALL who baked goodies, ran the table after Mass, and bought the delicious baked goods and/or donated to support our youth! Special thanks to Ann Incorvati & Mary Gelbach for leading our high school bake nights this year! It is good to be back! We are extra thankful for all those who donated to help make this first bake sale in a year and a half as successful as it was, even though we were short on variety and quantity of baked goods for sale. Please consider helping us by baking for **next month's bake sale: October 2-3.**

### Sun. September 19th: Youth Group & CCD (Parish Hall)

**4-5:30pm** Junior High Youth Group (light meal served)

**5:30-7pm** –Religious Education/CCD

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

**Make sure you have 2021-2022 YA Info. Sheet & COVID Waiver turned in or brought with you. See yellow box below.**

It's not too late to sign up for high school CCD! Our High school CCD program is like none other! Ask anyone who has participated...you'll want to check it out! No cost & no homework either :) Sign up at <https://bit.ly/CCDforMe>

### Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group Kick-off Outing!

**7-8:30pm Monday, September 20th (Meet at Sportrock)**

Calling all 9-12th grade ladies! Talitha Koum, our high school girls' group, is kicking off the new year with a **GIRLS ONLY indoor rock climbing outing** and YOU are invited! Talitha Koum meets from 7-8:30pm on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month to cultivate & witness authentic community, friendships, and space to share our faith, learn, and encourage one another in ways to practically apply the faith to our daily lives...and have fun while doing it! **Note: Meeting at Sportrock is a change from the original plan of meeting at the parish this week.**

Cost is \$20/person. (Contact Jeanne if you need assistance.)

**Transportation is not provided.** In order to participate you must have with you, or already turned in, the two required youth apostolate forms (below in yellow box). Sportrock also has a required waiver which was sent out via email. If you did not receive it but would like to come, email Jeanne. Please RSVP before Monday 9/20 by emailing Jeanne, so we know who to look for at Sportrock on Monday night.

### 2021-2022 Youth Apostolate Participation (Grades 7-12)

#### **2 REQUIRED Forms**

**2021-2022 YA Info. Sheet** is to be completed annually for every child **prior** participating in any Youth Apostolate function.

**2021-2022 Youth Ministry COVID Waiver** form is to be signed and turned in for every youth **prior** to participating in any St. Raymond's Youth Ministry activity/event on or off site.

**Forms can be found online at <http://bit.ly/YAforms>**

Completed forms can be emailed to Jeanne at [youth@straymonds.org](mailto:youth@straymonds.org) or turned in to the main office.

**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

**\*\*HELP NEEDED:** assistant teacher for the TUESDAY (6-7:30 p.m.) Grade 5 class. If interested, please contact the religious education office

### ALL PARENTS are expected to attend a "Back to CCD

**Night" meeting** scheduled NEXT WEEK - the week of September 26th. 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.

**Parents of homeschool students who are in sacramental preparation (grades 2, 7 and 8) need to attend one of these meetings, also. Please plan on arriving 25 minutes after the start times mentioned above, which is when sacramental information will be discussed.**

**Parents of Catholic school students in grades 2, 7 and 8 who will be receiving their Sacraments here at St. Raymond's also need to attend one of these meetings. Please plan on arriving 25 minutes after the start times mentioned above, which is when sacramental information will be discussed.**

**Special Event coming up:** Be sure to mark your calendar for the Parish Holy Hour and Rosary which is scheduled for **Thursday October 17th at 6:45 p.m.**

**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.

**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 at 4:00 pm.

**The 10th Annual PROJECT MANGER Fundraiser is NEXT weekend, September 25/26.** St Raymond will once again have the opportunity to support **Project Manger**, which purchases cribs for moms and their babies in need. The cribs are distributed through "A Woman's Choice" Pro-Life Crisis Pregnancy Center in Falls Church. "A Woman's Choice" is a pro-life organization whose mission statement is "to love pregnant women so much so that abortion becomes an unthinkable option." Please prayerfully consider donating to this wonderful Pro-Life effort which is changing hearts and minds one mom and baby at a time. POC for this effort is John Crennan who can be reached at 339-223-0887. This year's contributions can also be made throughout September and October on the St Raymond's Faith Direct website page or By using the Knights QR Code.



### Church Persecuted

A democratic republic (the U.S. form of government) is based on the principle of law with the foundation of the Constitution, yet President Biden has recently issued a national eviction moratorium mandate, even though "the bulk of the Constitutional scholarship says that it's not likely to pass muster." Rightly so, the U.S. Supreme Court struck it down.

On August 26<sup>th</sup>, a physician and two physicians' organizations filed suit in federal court over another Biden and HHS mandate — physicians would be required to perform gender-transition procedures, even on children. The administration is taking this action because "Obamacare" supposedly says so. But it doesn't. It prohibits sex discrimination as Congress understood the term when it enacted civil rights legislation decades ago.

In January, President Biden ordered all federal agencies to reinterpret "sex discrimination" to include "gender identity," as President Obama had done in 2016 requiring doctors to perform such life altering procedures.

Bishop Burbidge provides clear guidelines in his recent pastoral letter addressing gender ideology. In it he says that "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...is to mislead that person."

Thus, the "transgender mandate" — whether it requires doctors to perform transitions or everyone to use incorrect pronouns — is in direct conflict with religious, moral, and medical principles.

(Andrea Picciotti-Bayer Commentaries 9/7/21 [ncregister.com](https://www.ncregister.com))

**Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge:** Boy & Girls, ages 9–14 are eligible to compete in the annual Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021. Just show up anytime between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the field behind Holy Spirit School. The goal will be divided into a series of five scoring zones and each participant will have an opportunity to take 25 shots on goal to earn points. Certificates and prizes will be awarded for council and district winners. For more information, please contact Ed Gloninger at [edgloninger@gmail.com](mailto:edgloninger@gmail.com).

## FORMED®

### Get In-Formed!

**How to Keep Your Kids Catholic by Ken Hensley** - In a heartfelt and truly practical presentation, former Baptist minister Ken Hensley reveals effective strategies to help keep our kids within the fold of the Catholic Church. Drawing on personal experience and centuries of Catholic spiritual wisdom, he shares timeless, real-world advice we can readily use. His insights set us on the road to effective and successful parenting.

Watch now at [www.straymondsformed.org](https://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](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.

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!**

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**VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE:** St Raymond's will host a Voter Registration Drive after Masses the weekends of September 18-19 and September 25-26 in the Narthex. The registration deadline is **October 11**, so do not delay! The safest way to vote absentee is in-person at one of the many satellite locations. No mail is involved and you can even vote curbside and not enter the building. Information will be available at the table or on <https://straymonds.org>.

**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](https://faith.direct/VA64). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God Bless You.

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