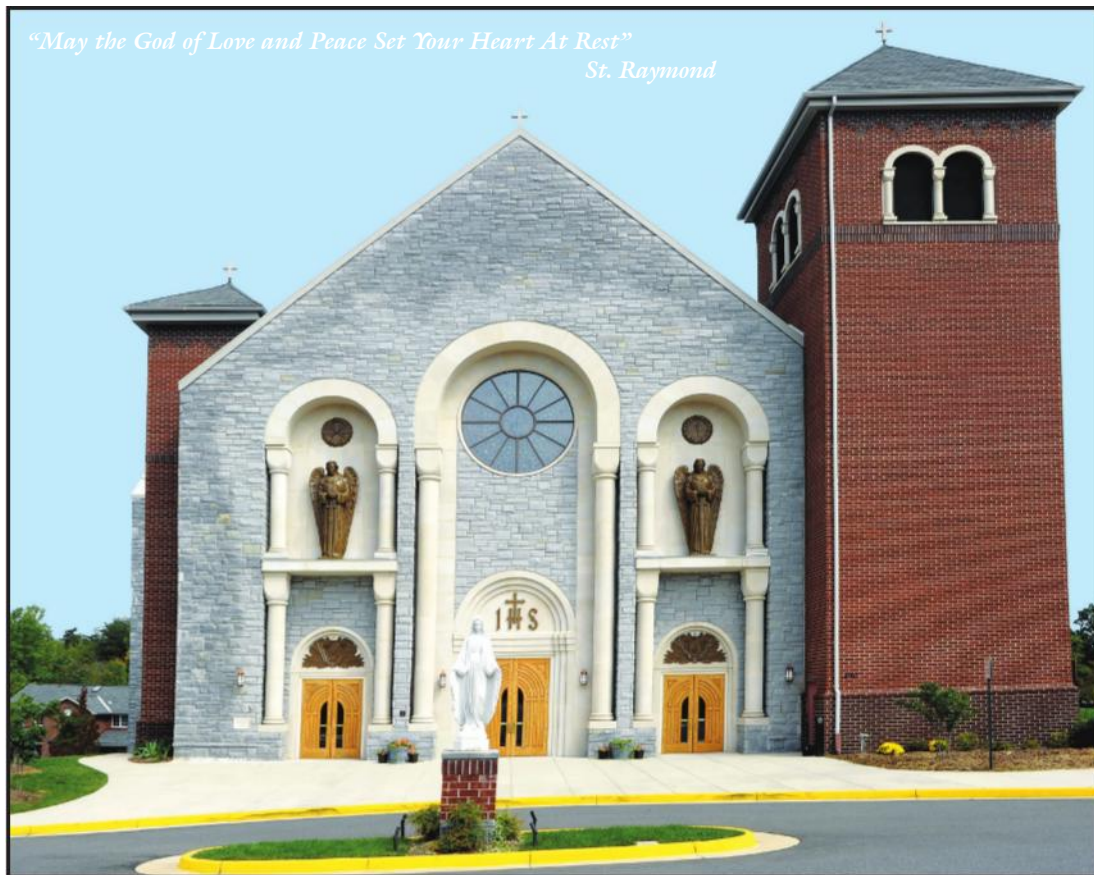


*"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"*  
*St. Raymond*



## **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  
Rev. Edward R. Horkan, In Residence  
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

**Mass Attendance.** During the month of October, the Bishop requires us to do a manual/visual attendance count at all the Sunday Masses (including the Saturday Vigils and excluding Columbus Day weekend). This year's Count showed that our total Sunday attendance total was **1,390 people**. This number is, of course way up from last year, during Covid, but represents a **972 person** or **41% decline** from 2,362 people in attendance in the 2019/pre-Covid Count.

Where is everybody? Some are staying home and watching on livestream: we have about 170 families still watching on livestream, which might represent anywhere from 170 to all 972 people (although I estimate it's more like 500 people). Perhaps others are at other parishes—we no longer have the 5pm Mass, which in 2019 had an average attendance of 389, although probably half of those were not our parishioners (it was a "last chance" Mass for many Catholics in other parishes). Between the 500 I estimate watching on the internet, and the 389 *maybe* lost from the 5pm, that gets us to just about 900 accounted for, so to speak. Sorry, I'm a numbers guy.

Maybe. But I am very dubious that we lost 389 Mass attendees with the cancelled 5pm: typically dropping a 5pm Mass in a parish does not markedly affect a parish's average attendance on Sunday, as parishioners tend to attend the earlier Masses. Perhaps we lost some of the "last chancers" from other parishes, which we can hope are going to 5pm Mass elsewhere.

In any case, I AM very concerned about the folks who haven't returned. Some/many of those, I'm afraid, may have abandoned any attempt to even "virtually" attend Mass. Not being required, maybe they just don't see the need. Or maybe with Covid and all the problems of the world they've given up on the Mass, or even the Faith itself.

To them I say: you need Jesus and the Blessed Sacrament He gave you, so don't give up! Come back to Mass, not just because you are required to by the Church, but because you want to be with Jesus, and He wants to be with you in this most holy and powerful way. Come back to Mass!

Then there are those who are watching the Mass "virtually" on the internet or TV. They would seem to be doing so for 1 of 2 reasons: 1) they are still afraid of Covid, or 2) they don't think it makes a huge difference between going to the Mass in person and watching it on the internet/TV—that the latter is good enough.

For those who are avoiding in-person Mass because of Covid, please consider coming back. Unless there are truly serious medical reasons that make you especially vulnerable to Covid (talk to your doctor), it seems to me you can return to Mass (but I'm not a doctor). To the best of my knowledge, there have been ZERO reports of contracting the virus at Mass in our Diocese. Now, I can't prove there have been no cases spread through our parish Masses, but it would seem we would know—the department of health would let us know.

Even so, I respect your decisions, and your concerns. I just want you back, for your own spiritual good.

Because remember, there is **no replacement for being at Mass and receiving Holy Communion, in person**. During the shut-down last year we tried to encourage you to watch the livestream and make a Spiritual Communion, because it was the best we could do for you at the time. But it's NOT the same as Mass. They call it "virtual" for a reason. The word "virtual" means, "almost or nearly as described, but not completely." In

speaking of the Eucharist Jesus commanded us, "take and eat" not "watch and pray." Christ's whole Incarnation is about being present, in the middle of things, coming together physically with us. He could have been with us virtually, he could have given the apostles a mere vision of himself, and he could have merely "appeared" to hang and die on a cross, but he did it in the flesh.

So come to Mass, in the flesh! And unite your prayers to the physical Sacrament of His Real Presence. And receive the true body of Christ in the flesh in Holy Communion.

And those of you who are already coming to Mass, seek out the friends you haven't seen or that you know are "going" only virtually, or who are staying away altogether. Jesus commands us, "love your neighbor as yourself." You go to Mass, so love them enough to help them come back too.

Come back to Sunday Mass!!

**Our "Baby" Sofi.** Today, November 14, is the 11<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sofi Hills. As many of you will recall, as a newborn baby she was left in our parking lot (November 14, 2010), where she was found by a parishioner and rushed to the hospital. She was soon placed with a loving family, which wound up adopting her. We usually celebrate her birthday with her with a special birthday party after Masses, but this year her family will be out of town. But we continue to give praise to the Lord Jesus for saving her life that day, and that she has grown into a healthy vivacious little girl.

**This Week's Speaker.** This week we continue our Distinguished Speaker series with **Austin Ruse** speaking on his new book, *Under Siege: No Finer Time to be a Faithful Catholic*.

Mr. Ruse has headed the Center for Family and Human Rights (C-Fam) since shortly after its creation in 1997. He is a founder of the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast and founding columnist at *The Catholic Thing*. He has published more than 800 essays, articles and columns in numerous publications including regular columns in *Crisis Magazine* and *The Catholic Thing*, and articles in *First Things*, *Washington Times*, *National Review Online*, *Weekly Standard*, *Human Events*, and *Touchstone*. He is a former foreign affairs commentator for EWTN's weekly news broadcast *The World Over* hosted by Raymond Arroyo. Most importantly, he is a husband and father of two daughters (his wife, Cathleen Ruse, has spoken at our parish several times).

He will be talking about his new book, *Under Siege: No Finer Time to be a Faithful Catholic*. According to his publisher, Crisis Publications: "In his new book, Ruse carefully examines how the anti-Christian forces gained power over every elite institution in America. He exposes their most deviant plans for the future. He then issues his authoritative call to arms, brilliantly arguing that there is no finer time to be a faithful Catholic. God Himself called each of us to live in this time and place, to contribute to the renewal society and the Church, and to vanquish the enemies of civilization..."

"More than anything, Ruse argues that, as dark as these days seem to be, future generations will look upon this generation with envy that they could not have been here with us in these dangerous times when everything seems so lost."

Please join us for what I'm sure will be an informative and inspiring evening.

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*



**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Monday, Nov. 15th</b> <b>6:30 am Cancelled</b> 8:30 am Paul & Marie Sundberg +	<b>Saturday, Nov. 20th</b> 9:00 am Jacques Anezin
<b>Tuesday, Nov. 16th</b> <b>6:30 am Cancelled</b> 8:30 am Mary Hildebeidel +	<b>Vigil Mass</b> 5:00 pm Lupe & Forbes Bowling
<b>Wednesday, Nov. 17th</b> <b>6:30 am Cancelled</b> 8:30 am Corinne Benson +	<b>Sunday, Nov. 21st</b> 7:00 am Fr. Arthur Humphrey +
<b>Thursday, Nov. 18th</b> <b>6:30 am Cancelled</b> 8:30 am Michael Turner +	9:00 am Parishioners
<b>Friday, Nov. 19th</b> <b>6:30 am Cancelled</b> 8:30 am Arthur Burrows + 7:00 pm EFM (Latin)	11:00 am Catherine Severin + 1:00 pm Family of Jesus Prayer Group
<b>Private Mass</b> Nov. 21 RE Catechists & their Families	

**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 Lauren Hornsby Gaudencio Dizon Antoinette Baptist Paul Haynes Dwayne Taylor	Bernadette D'Agostino Christopher Quan Ted Tolpa Nena Brennan Serrin Foster Fr. Jerry Daly Helen Estabrooks Tom Swengros Erick Reeder Allison Harper
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**The 6:30 am Weekday Mass will be Cancelled from Monday, Nov. 15th through Friday, Nov. 26th.**

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

<b>Nov. 13/14</b>	<b>Youth Apostolate Bake Sale</b>
<b>Nov. 15</b>	<b>Family of Jesus Prayer Group 4:00 pm</b>
<b>Nov. 15</b>	<b>Legion of Mary 5:00 pm</b>
<b>Nov. 18</b>	<b>Speaker - Austin Ruse 7:30 pm</b>
<b>Nov. 19</b>	<b>EFM (Latin) 7:00 pm</b>
<b>Nov. 20</b>	<b>Men's Prayer Group</b>
<b>Nov. 20-21</b>	<b>Gift Shop Sale in Narthex</b>
<b>Nov 22-23</b>	<b>No CCD Classes</b>
<b>Nov. 25</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>
	<b>1 Mass at 10:00 am</b>
	<b>Parish Offices are closed</b>
<b>Nov. 26</b>	<b>1 Mass at 8:30 am</b>
	<b>Parish Offices are closed</b>
<b>Nov. 28</b>	<b>No CCD Classes or Youth Groups</b>
<b>Dec. 4</b>	<b>Senior Advent Luncheon</b>

**Austin Ruse Talk** - Please join us Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall for our Special Speaker Series talk entitled "UNDER SIEGE: No Finer Time To Be A Faithful Catholic" based on his new book. No RSVP required. Austin Ruse is the President of the Center of Family and Human Rights. He founded the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast and is a columnist for *The Catholic Thing* and *Crisis Magazine*. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 703-440-0535.

**The Knights of Columbus are offering "Keep Christ in Christmas" Christmas cards** in the Narthex after Masses on the weekends of Nov. 20/21 & 27/28. You can also request an order form with a list of cards and place your order by calling/texting John Crennan at 339-223-0887. All proceeds go to local charities.

**Scholarships to Catholic Schools are still available!** Please send requests for these scholarships or additional financial assistance to Fr. De Celles.

**Extraordinary Form / Traditional Latin Mass at St. Raymond Church** will be available Friday, Nov. 19th. 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

**Wreaths Across America:** On December 18, the American Heritage Girls will place Wreaths on the Head Stones of the Soldier and Sailor Retirement Home Nat'l Cemetery (21 Harewood Rd NW, Washington DC 20011). This is a way of honoring the veterans who sacrificed to protect our freedom. **Please Sponsor a Wreath for a Veteran.** The American Heritage Girls (AHG) Troop VA0683 will be collecting money for Wreaths **after all Masses this weekend, November 13/14.** They will use the money to purchase the wreaths that they will place on the Head Stones. Questions can be directed to [AHGVA0683@gmail.com](mailto:AHGVA0683@gmail.com).

**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, Nov. 20th. 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! St. John Bosco Council 12846 welcomes Pete Lawton, Chinedu Ogbulie, Gopal Sharma and Doug Maines as new Knights of Columbus. Vivat Jesus!

**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.**

**Family of Jesus Prayer Group:** Weekly meetings in the Church have resumed on Mondays at 4:00 pm. 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. You may also write down your prayer requests and drop them in the "Prayer Box" on the table in the narthex of the church.

**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 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 Dec. 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.

**St. Raymond's has Adoration every Wednesday and Friday!** Would you like to spend an hour in silent prayer and reflection with our Lord during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament? We are in need of weekly adorers **especially 12:00 pm and 4:00 pm on Wednesdays and at 2:00 pm on Fridays**. We also need volunteers to be on our substitute list. If you are interested in Wednesdays, please call Leslie Schratz at 703-569-1940 or email [spoiledk9s@verizon.net](mailto:spoiledk9s@verizon.net). If you are interested in Fridays, please call Virginia Osella at 703-440-0535 or email [virginia.osella@straymonds.org](mailto:virginia.osella@straymonds.org). **Drop-ins are always welcome!**

**EnCourage: Help for the parents of children experiencing sexual identity confusion:** The Diocese of Arlington is starting a support group for the parents of children aged 22 and younger who are reporting gender dysphoria or have embraced a "trans" or "non-binary" identity. The group is part of the EnCourage apostolate. Facilitated by psychologist Dr. Frank Moncher and Fr. Stephen Schultz, the group will meet in person monthly. Please email [encourage@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:encourage@arlingtondiocese.org) for more information.

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

*"America you are beautiful . . . and blessed... If you want equal justice for all and true freedom and lasting peace, then America, defend life." St. Pope John Paul II*

**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 more 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. There is currently a particular need for size 5 & 6 diapers and Pack 'n Plays. Our next support weekend is November 20-21. Thank you for your continued generosity!**

*Some may remember but others may not...* that early on Sunday morning, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, a newborn baby girl was discovered in our church parking lot. By the grace of God, Sofi was in good health and adopted into a loving Christian family. Sofi is now a lovely young lady celebrating her 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. Please offer a prayer in thanksgiving for Sofi's life, for the well-being of the Mom who knew enough to bravely entrust her baby to our parish and for Sofi's family. *Life, what a beautiful gift!*

*Special thanks to those who have been making such beautiful blankets!!* Our **Wrapped In Love** program is up and stitching. Pray for the mothers and babies who will be wrapped in love by your efforts as you create baby blankets for distribution at Pregnancy Care Centers or for use by sidewalk counselors – wherever we find a need. God bless you for your efforts. Blankets may be delivered to the parish office or MaRiH collection box in the narthex. *"For we are God's handiwork." Eph 2:10*

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.

**Immediate regret often follows when a woman ingests the 'abortion pill'.** If you know someone in this situation, contact [abortionpillreversal.com](http://abortionpillreversal.com) 24/7 helpline: 877-558-0333. **It may not be too late.**

**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](http://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 After All Masses THIS Weekend

100% of the proceeds benefit the youth of the parish, helping to cover costs for WorkCamp, Steubenville, weekly youth group meetings and other events. Thank you for supporting St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate!



### 2021-2022 Bake Sale Dates:



November 13-14	March 12-13
December 11-12	April 9-10
January 8-9	May 7-8
February 5-6	June 11-12

### Youth Group & CCD this Sunday 11/14

**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)

### Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group!

#### 7-8:30pm Monday, November 15 (Parish Hall)

All 9-12th grade girls are invited to join us from 7-8:30pm on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month in the parish hall as we cultivate authentic community, friendships, and space to share our faith, and learn and encourage one another in ways to practically apply the faith to our daily lives. If you have questions or find yourself disagreeing with some teaching of the Church, this group is for you! If you are gung-ho about your faith, this group is for you! If you are looking for authentic friendships, a place to search, a place to grow in understanding, a place to practice defending the faith, a place to laugh, to cry, to be authentically you, to have fun...and so much more...come! You are welcome here! Make sure forms (below) are on file.

### Jr. High Service Opportunity: Giving Trees 4:30-6:30pm Friday, November 19 in the Narthex

7th & 8th graders are needed to help hang ornaments on the parish giving trees. Earn service hours, make new friends, and help families in need all at the same time! Meet in the church narthex. **We also need at least 1 compliant adult** to help supervise. Please RSVP if you are able to attend, at the following link <https://bit.ly/givingTree>. This counts as 2 service hours.



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

#### 2 REQUIRED Forms

**2021-2022 YA Info. Sheet** turned in annually for every child *prior* participating in any Youth Apostolate function. **Youth Ministry COVID Waiver** must be on file 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

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**November 21st: There WILL be CCD class**  
**November 22, 23 and 28: Thanksgiving Holiday -**  
**there WILL BE NO CCD classes**

**ATTENTION Parents of home school or Catholic school students in grades 2, 7 or 8** who are preparing to receive sacraments at St. Raymond parish, **you must register your child with the Religious Education Office.** Please pick up a bright yellow registration form at the Religious Education Office or at the Parish Office and return it to the RE Office as soon as possible. If you do not register, you will not receive important notices related to the reception of the sacraments.

**Giving Trees go up next weekend!** This year we have 35 families with a total of 209 people. All families are either parish families, referred by a parish family, or given to us by Our Lady of the Blue Ridge in Madison, VA. Please consider helping a needy family celebrate Christmas by taking an ornament from our giving tree. **All gifts are due by December 13.**

**St. Raymond 2021-22 Snow Team: Your Parish needs your HELP!** St. Raymond's is seeking industrious, able-bodied persons to join the 2021-22 Snow Removal Team. The Snow Team will work with the Plant Manager to clear and de-ice the sidewalks and paved walkways around the property during ice and snow events. Equipment is provided; sidewalks and aprons must be cleared no less than 30 minutes before the first Mass of the day (and as needed thereafter). Snow Team members must have reliable transportation that enables them to get to the church in bad weather. \$20.00 per hour. For more information or to apply, please contact the Parish Office, at 703-440-0535 during office hours.

**Book Club News:** Our next meeting will be on Friday, December 10th at 10 am in the Parish Hall. We will be discussing *Forty Reasons I am a Catholic* by Peter Kreeft (140 pgs.) 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).

**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).

**Gift Shop Sale after all Masses - November 21 & 22.** Advent candles/tapers, ornaments from Italy, and other religious items. Stop by the table in the narthex next weekend.



## Church Persecuted

The decline of the importance of religion in the lives of Americans continues to be an issue. Churches are still not seeing a return of worshipers after the government shutdown of places of worship in 2020 due to COVID. A recent poll commissioned by the new Catholic news organization called *The Pillar* shows that while it has become widely known that a “growing number of Americans” now claim “no religious affiliation” as their religion, the poll showed that only 35% of Americans attend any weekly religious service and 28% say that they have a different religious identity than the one in which they were raised.

This survey (<https://www.pillaratholic.com/p/special-report-who-we-are-and-what>) shows relevant information concerning the changing of religious identity. While each religious affiliation (including agnostic and atheist) saw at least a 15% decline in membership, only two (Catholic and Protestant) saw less than a 15% increase in converts. In *The Pillar's* survey, 32% of those responding said that they were raised Catholic, yet only 24% still consider themselves to be Catholic.

The survey also asked questions concerning what statements individuals believe. For example, only 38% of the respondents said that Jesus rose from the dead, and only 31% said that Jesus is God.

As we approach Thanksgiving, a time to be thankful to God for the bountiful gifts bestowed on this land, sharing the gift of our faith to our friends and family has become more relevant than ever.

## FORMED

### Get In-Formed!

**Restless Heart: The Confessions of Augustine** – This first full-length feature movie on Augustine uses a historic backdrop to tell the true story of one of the Church's most beloved and well-known Saints. Its message of sin, conversion, redemption is as timely today as it was in the 5th century of Augustine. It is the story of a gifted man who pursues fame and fortune without a moral compass - and the dramatic changes that occur in his soul when challenging events lead him to see the light of truth. It also chronicles the collapse of the Roman world and how Augustine laid the intellectual foundations of what became Europe. With Augustine, the stories of two other great saints, Monica and Ambrose, are also portrayed

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

## Free Advent Luncheon For All Seniors

**WHO:** All Seniors 55 years young and above  
**WHERE:** St. Raymond's Parish Hall  
**DATE:** Dec. 4, **TIME:** 12:00—2:00 pm  
**MENU:** Turkey and all the trimmings

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

How many guests will be attending? \_\_\_\_\_

To RSVP, return this coupon or Call the Office  
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**Do you have a St. Raymond's 2021 missalette at home?** We will be preparing the new 2022 books soon and will need the **red plastic covers**. You may keep the 2021 missalette, but will you please return your cover, including the prayer and liturgy inserts? There will be a box available in the narthex this month, or you can stop by the parish office. Call 703-440-0535 with any questions.

**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!

**Mothers' Group:** Do your young children seem to need a bit more excitement? Are you looking for Catholic friendship with fellow mothers? Come to the moms' meet-up on Wednesday mornings! We alternate between meeting at our church and parks. Email Michelle for more information at [mlcastry@gmail.com](mailto:mlcastry@gmail.com).

**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.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Offertory	\$ 19,040.00
All Saints Day	\$ 1,954.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,798.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,740.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 2,072.72

The second collection this week is for **Retired Religious**. Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to next week's second collection.

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