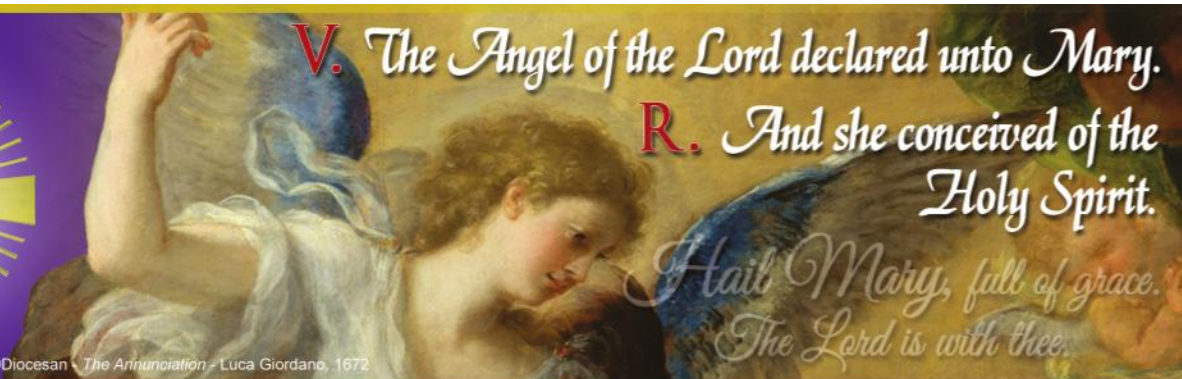


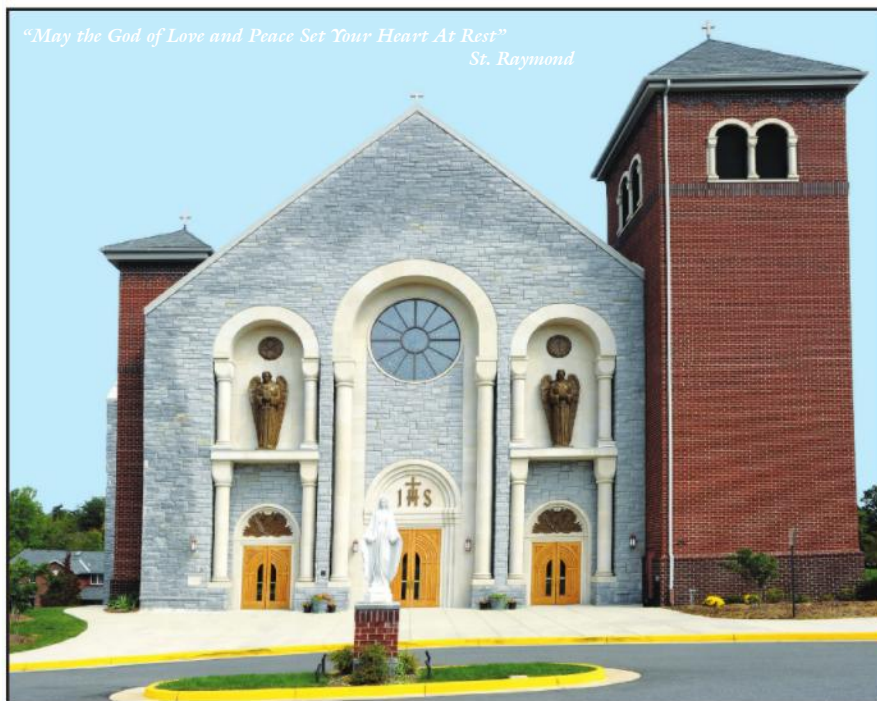


ANGELUS

©Diocesan - The Annunciation - Luca Giordano, 1672



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



Welcome to St. Raymond of Peñafort Roman Catholic Church

8750 Pohick Road
Springfield, VA 22153

WEEKEND MASSES:

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

WEEKDAY MASSES:

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

EXTRAORDINARY FORM MASS (LATIN)

1st and 3rd Fridays 7:00 pm

Rev. John C. De Celles, Pastor
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:
Rector: 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

(Due to Bulletin deadlines, I'm writing this on Nov. 19.)

SEASON OF ADVENT. Today we begin the season of Advent, in preparation for Christmas. Every year most people forget that the Advent season is primarily about *preparing* for Christmas, and instead spend these weeks prematurely *celebrating* Christmas, and doing so from a largely secularized perspective. And then when the actual 3-week Christmas Season *begins on Christmas Day*, they put all the Christmas things away and go on with life!

This premature celebration isn't necessarily a bad thing, if we see it as part of the strong influence of Christianity on our culture. Many Catholics see people around them start celebrating Christmas, and it's such a wonderful feast they (Catholics) get all caught up in it.

But take care. First of all, much of this early celebration is driven not by a Christian culture, but by commercial interests taking advantage of that culture. Sadly, much of this is nothing more than retailers playing on our emotional attachment to Christmas in order to increase sales. Increasing sales is not a bad thing, especially in the current economic environment, but the reduction of Advent to a period of rampant commercialism/materialism and emotionalism *is a terrible thing*. All but forgotten is the spiritual/faith preparation to celebrate the wonder of the birth of the Baby Jesus.

Don't let this happen to you this Advent. Remember to spend time *preparing* for the celebration of the Day that changed the world forever. Here are some suggestions:

-- Catholics always prepare for Holy Days by doing penance. I know many are still enduring suffering due to COVID. But maybe you offer these up as penance, transforming them into acts of loving acceptance of God's permissive will.

-- Add extra prayers to your daily routine. The Rosary is an excellent addition to our prayers, especially meditating on the Joyful Mysteries, or at least praying one decade every day, meditating on one of the Joyful Mysteries.

-- Reading Scripture is an excellent way to renew your faith in Christ. Perhaps challenge yourself to read one of the Gospels beginning to end in Advent. Or perhaps read short passages daily from the Christmas-related texts: Matthew 1-2, Luke 1-2, John 1:1-17.

-- Of course, charitable giving is a wonderful way to prepare for the gift of the Baby Jesus. A lot of folks are struggling financially this year, so think about giving to those folks directly, or to charities that help them. The parish Giving Tree is another very good way to do this, as is the special collections for Catholic Charities of Arlington Diocese.

-- Receiving the sacraments is one of the most important things you can do in Advent. Consider coming to Mass (or watching the livestream) and Adoration during the week.

As always, we will have **confessions every weekday evening during Advent**. But this year we will also add, for Advent only, **confessions every Sunday Morning between 8am and 9am**. Which means confession is available every single day during Advent (except Christmas Eve).

-- Most importantly, live the life that Christ came to give us: make every day about loving God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself. Follow the 10 Commandments. Love one another as Jesus, who out of love for us stripped Himself of the glory of heaven to be born in a cold manger, loves us.

Two Other Advent Changes. Unfortunately, as I announced last week, we cannot yet return to our tradition of having "Lessons & Carols" this Advent, as our choir is still in the process of rebuilding after Covid.

Also, instead of my usual three-part Advent Series, this year we have **Advent Holy Hours** on the first 3 Thursdays in Advent. At each of these we will have Exposition, Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. We will also pray the Rosary together and I will give a short talk on the topic of, "**Faith, Hope and Charity at Christmas.**"

A LAST WORD ON THANKSGIVING. I hope you all had a happy and blessed Thanksgiving last week. In last Sunday's bulletin I included the first Presidential declaration of America's Thanksgiving Day, by George Washington. Today, as we still struggle with the effects of Covid, I'd like to cite Abraham Lincoln's declaration, given in the middle of the Civil War.

President Abraham Lincoln, October 3, 1863.

*A Proclamation. The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity...peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. **They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God**, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as **a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens**. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union....*

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, Nov. 29th**

6:30 am Rev. Jerome Daly
8:30 am Susan Sundberg+

Tuesday, Nov. 30th

6:30 am Rev. Jerome Daly
8:30 am Richard Mora
Reynoso +

Wednesday, Dec. 1st

6:30 am Rev. Jerome Daly
8:30 am Jane Maloy +

Thursday, Dec. 2nd

6:30 am Rev. Jerome Daly
8:30 am Catherine Flynn

Friday, Dec. 3rd

6:30 am Rev. Jerome Daly
8:30 am Michael
Cunningham+
7:00 pm EFM (Latin)

Private Mass

Dec. 5 RE Students & their
Families

Saturday, Dec. 4th

9:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Daniel
Nicoloso

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
Mike Krosnick +

Sunday, Dec. 5th

7:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
Deceased Members of the
Kenneally Family +
9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
Parishioners
11:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
Philip Hansen
1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
Catherine Hoopes

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
Allison Harper
Maureen Simms

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- Nov. 28** No CCD Classes or Youth Groups
Nov. 29 Family of Jesus Prayer Group 4:00 pm
Nov. 30-Dec 1 Continuous Adoration from 6pm Tuesday to 7:00 pm Wednesday
Dec. 2 Holy Hour & Talk with Fr. De Celles 7:00 pm
Dec. 4 Senior Advent Luncheon, Noon - 2:00 pm
Dec. 4 Men's Prayer Group
Dec. 4 Luminaries of Mary
Dec. 8 Immaculate Conception
Holy Day of Obligation
Vigil 12/7 7 pm
12/8 6:30 am, 8:30 am, Noon & 7:00 pm
Parish offices will be closed
Dec. 10 Catholic Book Club
Dec. 11 Breakfast with Santa

Giving Trees are up! This year we have 35 families with a total of 210 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 12.**

Join Catholics across the country in Eucharistic adoration to pray for the Supreme Court as they hear the landmark pro-life case, Dobbs vs Jackson Women's Health. Continuous adoration at St. Raymond's - except during Mass times - from Tuesday, November 30th at 6 pm until Wednesday, December 1st at 7pm. Two adorers are required per hour so that Our Lord will not be left alone, but you can come at any time. We especially need adorers for the NIGHT hours. Please visit our website to sign up. You can go to catholicvote.org/dobbs to learn more.

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

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, Dec. 4th. For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.

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.

Additional Confession Times for Advent! Starting on the First Sunday of Advent, we will add additional Confession times each week of Advent. We will have confessions on Sunday from 8:00 am – 9:00 am; Monday—Friday from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm; Saturday 8:15 am– 8:45 am & 3:00 pm –5:00 pm.

The Knights of Columbus are selling Christmas Trees & Wreaths in the Church's south parking lot Starting Friday, Nov. 26; sales will continue through Sunday, December 12. Please support the Knights who use the contributions to support St Raymond's and other various local charities throughout the year. Points of Contact are: Mark Menotti, 401-644-7128; Phil Bettwy, 703-868-9411; and John Crennan, 339-223-0887.



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 to become a Knight today!

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 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).

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. If you are interested in Fridays, please call Virginia Osella at 703-440-0535 or email 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 for more information.

The Legion of Mary Potomac Comitium invites all Active and Auxiliary Legion of Mary members and their families to the Legion of Mary **Yearly Annual General Reunion.** **Date:** Saturday, December 4, 10am-2pm **Place:** The "Parish Activity Center" at All Saints Catholic Church, 9300 Stonewall Rd, Manassas, VA. Auxiliary members should contact Judy Mayer, 703-627-7320, jmayer9014@aol.com if they plan to attend.

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

I give you thanks, O God, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."
Psalm 139:14

The MaRiH Center humbly and sincerely THANKS YOU for your remarkable outpouring of support this month. We are overwhelmed at your incredibly generous response to our particular needs. God bless you all for caring for those who have chosen life and are in need of material support. If you would like to know more about the mission of the MaRiH center, please call 703-370-4774, email marihcenter@gmail.com or visit marih.org. You'll be glad you did!

2 Chronicles 7:14 Special opportunity to pray and witness for life at our 40 Days for Life vigil site: 900 S Washington Street, Falls Church 7am-6pm on both **30 Nov. and 1 Dec.** as the Supreme Court hears arguments in 'the Dobbs case' which could overturn the 1973 Roe v Wade decision. Wherever you are on those days, **PRAY that the principles of the sanctity of life be restored to the people of our nation.**

The Power of Prayer. Abortionists trespass against us. Yet we are called to 'forgive those who trespass against us'. Through the Evangelist Matthew, the Lord also admonishes us to love and pray for those who persecute us. At St Raymond's we have Mass offered every year for each of the known abortionists in our area. As we each strive to live the Gospel of Life, **please continue to pray for the conversion of abortionists.**

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.

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 reverseabortionpill.com. 24/7 helpline: 855-209-4848 **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

Tepeyac Pro Life OB/GYN: Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare. 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.

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

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate

*All are welcome to participate in Youth Apostolate events.

Make sure forms are signed and on file. <http://bit.ly/YAforms>

No Youth Group this weekend, 12/28 Happy Thanksgiving!

Youth Group & CCD resume Sunday 12/5 & 12/12

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 29 (Parish Hall)

Talitha Koum invites all 9-12th grade ladies to join us for an evening of spirit filled fellowship baking gingerbread cookies!



Bake Sale Table After Masses Dec. 11-12

Compliant adults are needed to "man the table" for our Bake Sale after each Mass Dec. 11-12. **If ALL Masses are not covered by Tuesday 11/30, we will have to cancel the bake sale for December.** If you can commit to helping, please sign up at <https://bit.ly/ManTheTable> ASAP. Thank you!

HS Service Opportunity: Breakfast with Santa!

7:30am-12pm Saturday, December 11

Come be a part of putting smiles on the faces of the little children with this festive and fun event! We need **high school volunteers and compliant** adults to help decorate the hall, serve breakfast and help Santa! Signup: <https://bit.ly/bfastsanta>



WorkCamp Info. Meeting for HS Teens & Parents

2:00 pm Sunday, December 12 (Parish Hall)

The Diocesan week-long overnight High School WorkCamp week of service is back! Mark your calendar for June 18-24! Spend a week of your summer with 800+ teens from across our diocese helping folks within our diocese who are in need by building decks, putting in windows or doing other things to make their homes warmer, safer and drier. This week of service and evening talks, music and activities is a great way to start your summer, make lots of new friends, learn new skills, and grow deeper in your relationship with God. WorkCamp is open to current 9-12th graders. **Come to this info. meeting if you are interested in joining us for WorkCamp this summer.**



6:30am High School Fri. Morning Mass & Breakfast Club

High school youth who would like to participate, please contact Jeanne ASAP so we can organize rides to schools and get this group back up & running! More details sent via email.

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

youth@straymonds.org Call/Text: 571-334-9890

<http://bit.ly/youthapostolate>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

HEARTFELT THANKS to all of you who supported our collection of diapers and "pack-n-plays" for the MaRiH center. Our CCD families came through in an amazing fashion and the MaRiH center was overwhelmed by your generosity. May God bless you abundantly!!!!

There will be **no CCD classes this evening Sunday 11/28.**

There will be **CCD classes Monday and Tuesday 11/29 and 11/30.**

Parents of students in preparation for First Holy

Communion (CCD, Catholic school and homeschool): the First Holy Communion Registry Form with Certificate of Baptism attached is due in the Religious Education Office **December 16th.** If your child was baptized at St. Raymond's, you do not need to attach the Baptism Certificate.

All students in the Religious Education Program grades three through twelve are encouraged to take advantage of the **many opportunities for Confession** during this penitential Season of Advent. Confessions will be heard every weekday evening during Advent as we prepare for the celebration of Our Savior's birth and in anticipation of His Second Coming. There will be no Confession opportunities during regular CCD class times.

For planning purposes: There will be **NO CCD classes the week of 12/19 and 12/26.** We will resume our regular class schedule beginning Sunday January 2nd.

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 mlecastry@gmail.com.

Gift Shop Sale after all Masses – Dec. 4th & 5th. Advent candles/tapers, Christmas cards, ornaments from Italy, and other religious items. Stop by the table in the narthex.

FORMED[®] Get In-Formed!

Mary of Nazareth – Mary of Nazareth is an epic motion picture on the life of Mary, Mother of Christ, from her childhood through the Resurrection of Jesus. The film vividly captures the essence of Mary's profound faith and trust in God amidst the great mysteries that she lived with as the Mother of the Messiah, as well as her compassionate humanity and concern for others, and the deep love that she and Jesus shared for one another. The movie underscores her special role in God's plan for our redemption, her unique relationship with Christ, and the tremendous suffering that she endured in union with his Passion and Death, as well as her serene joy at his Resurrection.

This movie is not rated, but was created with an adult audience in mind. We would recommend Parental Guidance and that parents preview it before watching with children.

Watch now at www.straymondsformed.org

The best Catholic content in one place - movies, programs, talks, dramas, & ebooks—just one click away!

Questions? Need help? Email us at: formed@straymonds.org

Church Persecuted

The onslaught of persecution against Christians continues with the Biden administration's directive intending to remove any distinctions between the sexes. So much for "follow the science!" The directive issued by the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) targets religious schools, organizations, and **churches** who believe that the difference between males and females is to be **respected** – especially in bathrooms, locker rooms, and (yes, even) dorm rooms.

The College of the Ozarks, a small Christian college in Missouri, is challenging the administration's directive in court because "Christian students and families choose faith-based higher education opportunities superficially to deepen their religious values and to live in community with others who share those principles."

We saw this with the Obama administration. The scenario goes this way. Someone files a complaint to HUD (or another federal agency) and the administration begins to investigate. The case has little or no merit, but the investigation is brought about as a means of harassment in hope that over time, the college will submit to the rules. The penalties for non-submission are six-figure fines, extensive investigations, unlimited damages, and even criminal penalties.

Let us pray that Christian schools are able to withstand the withering pressure placed on them by the Biden administration to **submit** to these draconian rules.

<https://adflegal.org/press-release/adf-tells-court-president-biden-cannot-order-religious-schools-house-men-womens-dorms>

Book Club News: Our next meeting will be on Friday, December 10th at 9:30 AM (**NOTE new start time!**) in the Parish Hall. This will be our annual Advent Brunch. Please bring a dish to share. 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 welcome. If you have questions or plan to join us for the first time in December, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@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.
Questions? Call the Parish Office 703-440-0535.



Angelus Academy

Where the Truth of Catholic teaching takes flesh in the lives of Pre-K - 8th graders and their families.

What a blessing it is to be learning together!
Come visit us and see why our students love coming to school.
Call or email us to arrange a personal tour.
We are now accepting applications for 2022-23.
<https://angelusacademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/>.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

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

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 to be added to our email list and hear about upcoming events!

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

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.

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. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God Bless You.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION
Due to early bulletin deadline. Last week's Collection will be in next week's bulletin

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