

### 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:

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

"Pilgrim to the Heavenly City." As I announced last week, I encourage you all to attend a very special event at St. Raymond's this Friday, February 4 at 7pm. "Pilgrim to the Heavenly City: Walking with Saint Raymond to God through Sacraments, Music, and Sacred Art."

Catholic artist **Henry Wingate** will begin our evening with a presentation on our two murals, which he painted, of Saint Raymond and Our Lady of Ransom, also addressing the role that Sacred Art plays in the life and worship of the Church in general. After that, there will be a short **concert** by local Catholic professional musicians performing selections from the *Llibre Vermell de Montserrat*, a book of pilgrimage songs used during St. Raymond's life in his native Catalan in southwestern Spain. The event is open to the public, and I encourage you to bring your family and friends.

Much thanks to Fr. Rich Miserendino, chairman of the culture and arts subcommittee of the Diocesan 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Committee, for coordinating and bringing this to us.

Reverence in the Church. I don't usually allow "talks" to be given in the church, much less "concerts, because the church is a place of worship and reverence should be maintained as much as possible. But I make an exception in certain exceptional cases (e.g., Cardinal Burke's talk a few years ago). In this case, I have made one of these exceptions, since this event is so directly related to the interior of the church and worship. But as I have done in the past, during the event I will transfer the Blessed Sacrament from the tabernacle to a temporary altar and tabernacle set up in the "Family Room," which will be otherwise closed except for prayer. Even so, I am sure that everyone will respect the sacredness of the church itself and conduct themselves with proper reverence at all times.

Extraordinary Form Mass Moved to Thursday. Considering various options, this Friday was the best time to schedule "Pilgrim to the Heavenly City." Unfortunately, this time/date conflicts with our regular First Friday Extraordinary Form Mass. I apologize for any inconvenience this creates, and I don't want this to be understood as a sign of my lack of commitment to the EFM—it's just the way things worked out best. But, I have decided, for this one time, to transfer the EFM to this Thursday, February 3, at 7pm. If you know anyone who regularly plans to attend the First Friday EFM, especially the non-parishioners, please let them know of the change.

**Kudos to the Bishop.** Following up on the Governor's Executive Order 2, allowing parents to make decisions on whether their child wears a mask in school, Bishop Burbidge has agreed that this will apply to our Catholic schools as well. While I generally try to stay out of the arguments over Covid policies, I do believe that, all things considered, the liberty interests of individuals should generally be respected. I especially believe the parental rights in this matter must be respected, especially considering the negative effects of masking children.

**Presentation of the Lord: Candlemas.** This Wednesday, February 2, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord Jesus, recalling the presentation of the Baby Jesus in the Temple 40 days after his birth, as prescribed by the Law of Moses. The feast is also called "**Candlemas**," because historically it was the day priests would bless the beeswax and candles for use in the Church, symbolizing the prayer of Simeon (the *Nunc Dimittis*) that Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles." If

you wish your own candles to be blessed bring them with you to the 8:30 Mass and I will bless them at the beginning of Mass, along with the candles we will be using in the church.

Traditionally, this is considered the last of the Christmas feasts, for obvious reasons. So, perhaps one last time we can say, "Merry Christmas."

Blessing of Throats. This Thursday, February 3, is the Feast of St. Blaise—the day we bless throats. St. Blaise was Bishop of Sebaste (Turkey) and was martyred about A.D. 316. Legend has it that when the Bishop was imprisoned for his Catholic faith, a poor woman brought him candles to light his dark cell. In that same prison, he miraculously cured a boy who was choking to death from a fishbone lodged in his throat. Thus, the custom arose of using candles and invoking the Saint to bless throats against all sorts of ailments.

The blessing will be given at the end of the 6:30am and 8:30am Masses, and then the blessing will be given without Mass at 5:00pm and 6:30pm. Because of fears of COVID the priest will give the blessing in two ways: first to all the people present at once (so you need not approach him) and then individually using the candles at your throat(s).

**First Confessions.** Please keep our second graders in your prayers this week as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Penance for the first time next Saturday morning, February 5. Pray that the little ones are not too nervous, make good confessions, accept God's grace and develop a true love for this sacrament.

Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture. Last week was "Word of God" Sunday and in my homily I quoted from the Second Vatican Council's ("Vatican II") *Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation*, commonly called "*Dei Verbum*" ("The Word of God."). To be a true Catholic is to believe that Divine Revelation comes to us through two co-equal fonts: Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture. This is a critical excerpt from *Dei Verbum*, 10:

"Sacred tradition and Sacred Scripture form one sacred deposit of the word of God, committed to the Church. Holding fast to this deposit the entire holy people united with their shepherds remain always steadfast in the teaching of the Apostles, in the common life, in the breaking of the bread and in prayers (see Acts 2, 42, Greek text), so that holding to, practicing and professing the heritage of the faith, it becomes on the part of the bishops and faithful a single common effort. (7)

But the task of authentically interpreting the word of God, whether written or handed on, (8) has been entrusted exclusively to the living teaching office of the Church, (9) whose authority is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ. This teaching office is not above the word of God, but serves it, teaching only what has been handed on, listening to it devoutly, guarding it scrupulously and explaining it faithfully in accord with a divine commission and with the help of the Holy Spirit, it draws from this one deposit of faith everything which it presents for belief as divinely revealed.

It is clear, therefore, that Sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture and the teaching authority of the Church, in accord with God's most wise design, are so linked and joined together that one cannot stand without the others, and that all together and each in its own way under the action of the one Holy Spirit contribute effectively to the salvation of souls."

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

### **MASS INTENTIONS**

### Monday, Jan. 31st

6:30 am Bradley Reyes + 8:30 am Sally Allman

### Tuesday, Feb. 1st

6:30 am Phil & Kit Kapp + 8:30 am Susie Galloway +

### Wednesday, Feb. 2nd

6:30 am John & Mary Coyne + 8:30 am William Ehorn +

Thursday, Feb. 3rd

6:30 am Donald Leo Racette+ 8:30 am Joseph Trusina + 7:00 pm EFM (Latin)

### Friday, Feb. 4th

6:30 am John Paul Fruiterman 8:30 am Ofelia Vitek +

### Saturday, Feb. 5th

9:00 am Joseph Gervasio +

#### Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. Horkan** Mike Krosnick +

### Sunday, Feb. 6th

7:00 am Fr. Rippy Margaret Kadar + 9:00 am Fr. De Celles Parishioners 11:00 am Fr. De Celles Laura Ann Valentine 1:00 pm Fr. Horkan

John Maschoff +

Extraordinary Form / Traditional Latin Mass at St.

Raymond Church will be available Thursday, Feb. 3rd. St. Raymond's normally offers the Mass according to the Roman Missal of 1962, also known as the "extraordinary form of the Roman Rite" (EFM), at 7:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month (Moved to Thursday this time only).

## 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

Evening with Henry Wingate, our St. Raymond mural artist, Friday, February 4 at 7-8 pm. Pilgrim to the Heavenly City: Walking with Saint Raymond to God through Sacraments, Music, and Sacred Art. Our lives are a pilgrimage to heaven, a journey to the City of God. Join us for an evening of art, music and faith as we reflect on that pilgrimage. Local Catholic artist Henry Wingate will present his new murals of the life of Saint Raymond. Through his art, learn about Saint Raymond as a pilgrim guide in Christ, as well as the role that Sacred Art and the Sacraments play in nourishing along the us Then, enjoy a small concert meant to inspire and draw us into the world of Saint Raymond. Local Catholic professional musicians will perform selections from the Llibre Vermell de Montserrat, a book of pilgrimage songs from Saint Raymond's very own time in his native Catalonian Spain. No RSVP required. Please bring family and friends.

**2022 Car Raffle is Here!** The tickets for the annual Car Raffle have been mailed to you. This is the same raffle that we have participated in for the last number of years. This year four vehicles will be raffled and a \$20,000 cash drawing has been added, due to vehicle availability. You will notice that the ticket returns are being processed at All Saints again this year. This is required by the Department of Charitable Gaming. The raffle continues to benefit our parish and many of St. Raymond's charitable causes.

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-Returned Home Safely\*\*

### Please pray for the sick of our parish

Glenn Bliss	Michael	Serrin Foster
Tom Dietz	Malachowski	Fr. Jerry Daly
Michael O'Neill	Debra Henkel	Tom Swengros
Cindy Laird	Daniel Moore	Ellie Garcia
Patricia Lewis	Lauren Hornsby	Margaret O'Neill
Barbara McGinn	Gaudencio Dizon	Pat Kolakoski
Mai Pham	Antoinette Baptist	Andy Fuller
Joan Opiela	Paul Haynes	John Patrick
Leonora Ramos	Dwayne Taylor	Rowley, Jr.
Jason Saenz	Bernadette	Mariel
Phyllis Zitnik	D'Agostino	Spiritosanto
Patricia Del Buono	Christopher Quan	Brennan
Juanita Boarman	Ted Tolpa	Wheatley
John Florio	Nena Brennan	Helen Estabrooks

### **Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

Jan. 29	<b>Knights of Columbus Italian Dinner</b>	
Feb. 2	Adoration	
Feb. 2	Legion of Mary 6:30 pm in Library	
Feb. 3	Feast of St. Blaise	
	Blessing of the Throats at	
	6:30 am & 8:30 am Masses and	
	Without Mass at 5:00 pm & 6:30 pm	
Feb. 3	EFM (Latin Mass) -one time change in day	
Feb. 4	Adoration	
Feb. 4	Lecture and Music in Church with	
	Artist Henry Wingate at 7:00 pm	
Feb. 5	Men's Prayer Group	
Feb. 5	Luminaries of Mary	
Feb. 5	First Penance for Second Grade	
Feb. 5-6	Youth Apostolate Bake Sale	
Feb. 11	Book Club	
Feb. 12	WAY Mother/Daughter Retreat	
Feb. 26	Women's Pre-Lenten Retreat	

**Knights of Columbus Blood Drive:** The St. John Bosco Council Knights of Columbus are co-sponsoring a blood drive on Saturday, February 5, at the Church of the Nativity parish hall from 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Please consider signing up for a 15-minute time slot within that period and giving the gift of life. You may sign up either online at www.inovabloodsaves.org or in the Narthex after Masses this weekend.

### Save the Date! Women's Retreat on February 26, 2022:

The Women's Apostolate to Youth (WAY) will once again host a retreat for the women of the parish, this year on the Saturday before Lent begins. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details.

**Valentine's Day Fundraiser.** The American Heritage Girls (AHG) Troop VA 0638 will be selling Chocolate & Roses for Valentine's Day February 12 and 13, 2022. Please stop in the narthex of St. Raymond's after Mass and purchase some delicious Ghirardelli chocolate and beautiful roses.



St. John Bosco Council #12846 Knights of Columbus: Are you a man of 17 ½ years or more? Are you a practicing Catholic? Then we invite you to join the Knight! Contact Deputy Grand Knight

Larry Saenz (703-832-1042) or go to <a href="www.KofC.org/JoinUs">www.KofC.org/JoinUs</a> 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). The ongoing need for food is greater than ever. Please be generous. **The St. Martin Porres Committee is in need of an additional volunteer to deliver food donations** one to two times per month. For information, call the office.

Family of Jesus Prayer Group: Weekly meetings are in the Church on Mondays at 4:00 pm. If you have any prayer requests, please let us know by emailing Elaine Perricone at <a href="mailto:jpebtp@verizon.net">jpebtp@verizon.net</a> 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. 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 (imault1@cox.net).

St. Raymond's has Adoration most Wednesdays and Fridays! 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 6:00 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 <a href="mailto:spoiledk9s@verizon.net">spoiledk9s@verizon.net</a>. If you are interested in Fridays, please call Virginia Osella at 703-440-0535 or email <a href="mailto:virginia.osella@straymonds.org">virginia.osella@straymonds.org</a>. Drop-ins are always welcome!

### **NEW Inclement Weather Policy**

In the event of weather or emergency closings, St. Raymond's Parish will NO LONGER follow Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) decisions.

In the event of weather or other emergency situations, notice of cancellations or closings of parish events and/or facilities will be posted to the parish website. If possible/practical the parish will also send out an email to all parishioners notifying them of the closing/cancellations.

There are only TWO exceptions to any closing decisions we make and issue:

- Regularly scheduled Masses and Confession will NEVER be cancelled due to inclement Weather.
- Meetings of very small groups that receive the pastor's personal permission, in which case members will be notified of the exception personally by their group leader.

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

I came that they might have life. John 10:10



Join fellow constituents in Richmond for the first ever Defending Life Day. February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Register at <u>VAPROLIFEDAY.ORG</u> Advocate for a Pro-Life Virginia. *If interested, you will need to organize your own private transportation.* 

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 <a href="marihcenter@gmail.com">marihcenter@gmail.com</a> or visit <a href="marih.org">marih.org</a> for more info. You'll be glad you did! To help from home... <a href="Material donations">Material donations of diapers and baby items up to 2T welcomed in the narthex. Our next support weekend is February 12-13. Thank you for your continued generosity! Donation collection spot is now near the elevator in the narthex.

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 24/7 helpline: 877-558-0333. It may not be too late.

**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 <a href="https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife">www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife</a>. For more info, contact them at 1-866-444-3553 or <a href="mailto:GabrielProject@arlingtondiocese.org">GabrielProject@arlingtondiocese.org</a>.

# **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







### WorkCamp Registration STILL OPEN

Are you a current 9-12th grader who would like to give a week of your summer to make a difference while having fun and growing in faith and fellowship? Check out WorkCamp and consider joining us! For more info. go to https://bit.ly/workcamp2022.

### Youth Group & CCD this Sunday 1/30

4-5:30pm Jr. High Youth Group (pizza served)

5:30-7pm Religious Education/CCD

**7-8:30pm** High School Youth Group (dinner served) Friday, February 4th

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

All high school teens are invited to join us Friday mornings for Mass followed by breakfast with Fr. Horkan in the parish hall. If you RSVP a week ahead, we can coordinate our volunteers to drive you to school. If not, you are welcome to just show up for Mass & have your parent drive you to school after breakfast!

### **BAKE SALE NEXT WEEKEND!**







### **BAKED GOOD DONATIONS especially**

**needed this month**, as we are unable to have our usual teen bake night this month. Items the teens bake typically account for about 80% of the items we have for sale, which means we are really counting on your baking to help ensure a successful sale this month! Families, teens, bakers of all ages...brownies, breads, cakes, muffins, rice krispie treats, ten cookies or one hundred cookies...anything you can bake, we are happy to take! Sign up at https://bit.ly/bakeforsale

\*Items can be dropped off at the parish office on Friday 9am-4:30pm or in the Narthex on Saturday starting at 4pm.

\*Please mark what your item is. \*Please do not price items\*Please mark if your item has nuts & what kind. Thank you for supporting St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate!

### **Food Contributions Needed & Appreciated!**

I hope everyone's spring semester is off to a great start. As you build your calendars for the remainder of the academic year, would you mind taking a moment to pick a couple of items over the next few months to contribute towards our Friday Youth Breakfast or Sunday Youth Dinner? To view the sign-up lists, go to https://bit.ly/FridayBfast & https://bit.ly/

<u>DinnerDonations</u> Thank you for supporting our youth!

### Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12) youth@straymonds.org Call/Text: 571-334-9890 http://bit.ly/vouthapostolate

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

First Penance is scheduled for NEXT Saturday, February 5th at 10 a.m.

Please consider bringing the entire family to the 9:00 a.m. Mass that day to prepare for this wonderful Sacrament of Healing. All second grade students - whether they attend Mass or not - are to gather in the Narthex no later than 9:45 a.m. and should check in with their CCD teacher. Angelus students should check in with their teacher. Home school students and those from other Catholic schools should check in with Mr. Drouillard or Mrs. Salmon. At least one parent should remain at the church; your child may leave after reception of the Sacrament and completion of their penance.

**Looking ahead....** There will be no CCD classes February 20, 21, and 22 in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

**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.

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. Our next meeting will be on Feb. 5th. For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.

**Luminaries of Holy Mary:** Come join us 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. Our next meeting is on February 5. All are welcome.

Legion of Mary Auxiliary Contact and Recruitment **Drive.** After all Masses this weekend, January 29-30, the Legion of Mary will host a table in the narthex. Our Legion wants to meet current Auxiliaries to update their contact information as well as meet with parishioners who are interested in joining the Legion. Did you know the Legion of Mary just achieved its 100 year centennial this past September? Come and be part of the worldwide group! The Legion of Mary weekly meeting is held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. Point of contact: Judy Mayer, email: jmayer9014@aol.com and phone 703-627-7320.

Virtus Seminar at St. Raymond's: a Virtus Seminar scheduled at St. Raymond parish hall on Thursday February 24th from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. Attending a Virtus Seminar is required (in addition to a background check) for anyone who has substantial contact with youth as part of their volunteer activities at St. Raymond. Attending a Virtus Seminar is required only once in a lifetime. You can register for the Virtus Seminar at virtusonline.org. Any questions, contact Vince Drouillard at 703-440-0537.

### **Church Persecuted**

In his book, *Under Siege, No Finer Time to be a Faithful Catholic*, Austin Ruse offers three steps to act as Catholics in the face of persecution of the Church: "quiet and privately," "flying the flag," and "charging the sniper's nest."

"Quietly and privately:" find a local lobby group which is fighting for the causes of the Church, pro-life organizations, antipornography organizations, organizations working to improve public education. Volunteer for them, send them a check each month, thank them for what they are doing. For pro-life work -pray at an abortion facility, support 40 Days for Life, attend the March for Life. Attend the lecture series on current issues at the parish. These require little effort on your part but make a difference.

"Flying the flag:" Speak up. Put bumper stickers on your car. Don't submit to the Left's linguistic tricks. If a friend or relative is promoting unacceptable behavior, let them know that you respectfully disagree with them. Put others on the defensive. Take back the debate.

"Charging the sniper's nest:" As Ruse points out, this is not for the faint of heart. It consists of speaking out at school board meetings, writing letters to the editor, getting on the boards of groups fighting LGBT agendas and for the rights of unborn children. "It means coming out in the open and understand that the sniper will be firing at you. And you might get hit."

Arm yourself spiritually with a rosary a day, daily Mass when possible, spiritual readings, etc. There is no better time to be a Catholic than right now!

**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.

**ECHO** — Since reopening in early fall, ECHO has experienced a great demand for the basic needs of food, clothing, housewares, and financial assistance. Families could not come in during the past year except for food and financial help. As the families come in for clothing and housewares, the supplies are getting low. Please consider helping. **ECHO** is located at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road in Springfield. The hours for donations are M-F 9:30am-12:30pm, Tuesday and Thursday 7pm-9pm, and the first Saturday of the month 9:30am - noon. If you have questions, check the website at **echo-inc.org** or call Kathy Siner at 703-405-8164. Thank you for your generosity.

### **FORMED**°

#### **Get In-Formed!**

Feminism Misunderstood: One Woman's Journey to Peace by Jane Brennan – Jane Brennan, a former member of NOW and former Planned Parenthood volunteer, shares her heart-wrenching story of abortion and subsequent years of depression, resulting in her eventual conversion to the Catholic Church.

### Watch now at www.straymonds.formed.org

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

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



### Angelus Academy

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

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

**Book Club**: Our next meeting will be on Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in the Parish Library. We will be discussing *True Friendship: Where Virtue Becomes Happiness* by John Cudderback (150 pgs.). The schedule for the full year can be found on the parish website: <a href="https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/book-club/">https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/book-club/</a>. New members are welcome. If you have questions or plan to join us for the first time, please contact Jim Mault at <a href="mailto:bookclub@straymonds.org">bookclub@straymonds.org</a>.

**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 <a href="maiting-faith.direct/VA64">faith.direct/VA64</a>. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

### FAITH DIRECT JANUARY 2022

Offertory	\$ 51,995.50		
Family Assistance	\$ 2,437.34		
Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,018.34		
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic			
<b>School Scholarship Donations</b>	\$ 2,400.00		
Church in Latin America	\$ 1,274.00		
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 1,537.00		
LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION			
Offertory	\$ 11,857.00		
Family Assistance	\$ 300.00		
Maintenance Fund	\$ 467.00		
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic			
<b>School Scholarship Donations</b>	\$ 1,365.00		
Church in Latin America	\$ 2,184.00		

The second collection next week is for The Diocesan Newspaper, The Arlington Catholic Herald.



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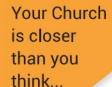


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