

FIRST SORROWFUL MYSTERY

The Agony in the Garden

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

"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:
6:30 am & 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

8:15 - 8:45 a.m.

Saturday Afternoon

3:30 - 5:00 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

THIS THURSDAY WE BEGIN:

Lenten Series/Holy Hour. This Thursday, **March 10, at 7pm**, we begin our Lenten Thursday Holy Hours. We'll start with **Exposition** of the Blessed Sacrament, and then before the Blessed Sacrament I'll give a short **sermon**, then we'll pray the **Rosary**, and then close with **Benediction**.

My talks will be short this year—15 minutes, I hope. My general topic will be: **"The Lifelong Suffering of Our Savior."** Jesus was born to be like us in all things but sin. This means He entered into our joys and especially into our suffering. And that suffering didn't just begin on Good Friday. It began as soon as He could feel physical pain or discomfort, and grew as He could feel emotional sorrow and fear. So He suffered as a baby, a child, a young man... all through His life on earth. So my talks will focus on the various sufferings He might have endured, like us.

This Thursday we'll consider, "The Suffering of the Child Jesus." How do our children suffer, and how did Jesus suffer like they do? And what does that mean for us, and for our children?

Then in the following weeks, in like manner, we will consider, "The Suffering of the Young Man Jesus" (how do young people suffer?), "The Suffering of Jesus in His Public Ministry" (how do working people suffer?), and "The Suffering of Jesus in His Passion (how do people suffer great affliction?). And then finally, we will consider, "The Suffering of the Mother of Jesus."

Thursday Night Continuous Adoration. At the end of the Thursday evening Holy Hours, we will continue Exposition/Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, **continuously throughout the night** until 3pm Friday afternoon. I'm really excited about this, and I offer it to you as a great form of Lenten Penance and Prayer. Think about this: 2000 years ago the Passion of our Lord lasted from the Agony in the Garden on Holy Thursday evening through His death on the Cross at 3pm on Good Friday. So **I encourage all of you to take at least one hour during Lent**, if not every week, to spend with our Lord during this exposition. Maybe it could change your life.

Making a Good Confession. A few years ago I published a small purple pamphlet called "Making a Good Confession: A Brief Examination of Conscience and Guide to Going to Confession." Copies of this pamphlet can be found by all the doors of the church and near the confessionals. I hope you will find it helpful in preparing for and making a good confession. Below is the introduction to that pamphlet. Maybe it will lead you to grab the pamphlet and read the rest of it....

MAKING A GOOD CONFESSION: A Brief Examination of Conscience and Guide to Going to Confession

(Parents: consider if this is inappropriate for your children)

How do we make a "good Confession"? We begin by prayerfully, and with honesty and humility, looking at our lives to recognize the sins we've committed since our last Confession, i.e., we make "an examination of conscience." In particular, we need to look for **mortal sins**, i.e., sins that involve *all three of the following criteria*: 1) *grave matter*, 2) *full knowledge* of the sinful character of the act, and 3) *complete consent*. If any one of these is lacking it is not a "mortal sin," but may be a "venial sin."

"Grave matter" means the act involves some very serious moral evil, found either in 1) the act itself or 2) the intention behind the act. Grave matter can be difficult to identify, but not always.

Note that some sinful acts are grave matter when they involve circumstances that are serious or very important, but are *not* grave matter if they involve only small or trivial things. These acts that can be either grave or not are said to "admit of parvity" (smallness). Many of the sins listed below would "admit of parvity," unless the word "serious" accurately describes them. For example, a lie is always a sin, but lying under oath is grave matter while lying about whether you like someone's outfit is not grave matter.

Also, in Confession **you must distinguish the "kind" of mortal sin committed**: be clear about what the sin was, but avoid graphic or long explanations. So it is not enough to merely say "I had bad thoughts" or "I acted inappropriately," rather one should more specific, e.g. "I had lustful thoughts," etc.

You must also give the number of times you committed particular mortal sins. Sometimes this is very difficult or even impossible to remember, in which case, try your best give the priest some idea of the frequency or number; e.g., "at least once a month for several years," etc.

Besides mortal sins, we should also consider confessing (but are not required to confess) vices (sinful habits) or other venial sins that are particularly problematic.

A BRIEF EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

This brief examination of conscience is not all inclusive or exhaustive, but is a useful tool to help you prepare for Confession. Remember, as you go through your examination consider if any of your sins are mortal. Also, remember to confess how many times you committed particular mortal sins.

Note, to help you identify mortal sins, sins that *always* involve *grave matter* are marked with an "A," and sins that *very often* or *usually* involve *grave matter* (so should be considered very carefully) are marked with an "O/U". This does *not* mean that sins *not marked* never involve grave matter, as discussed above.

[The pamphlet then continues with a detail review of each of the 10 Commandments, and a detailed "how-to" of what to say and do in the confessional. Happy reading!]

Where's Our Choir???? Thank you to all the folks who have joined our re-constituted choir after Covid. But apparently a lot of our regular "pre-Covid" choir members have decided not to come back to us yet. I wish and pray they would. But what about the rest of you? I know a lot of you can sing well and like to sing. And I know you don't have to be an Andrea Bocelli or Katherine Jenkins (or our own Sara Sheffield, GySgt, USMC) to sing in the choir—Elisabeth Turco is great with taking different voices and working them together to produce a beautiful sound. So.... former choir members, come back. And new choir members join up! Contact Elisabeth at: music@straymonds.org.

Bye-Bye Buz & Bev Buczacki. After 100 years or so as St. Raymond's most active parishioners and volunteers, Buz and Bev are leaving us and moving full-time to their beach house in South Carolina. I can't say enough about these two wonderful people, nor can I thank them enough. They did everything around here at one time or another. I owe a particular appreciation to Buz for being my go-to-guy for setting up early Mass every morning for years. I'm sure you will all join me in praying for many years of happy retirement living, and when they have reached the fullness of years, a very special place in heaven.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, March 7th**

6:30 am Linwood Russell
Turner
8:30 am Johanna Healy

Tuesday, March 8th

6:30 am Malia Cameron
8:30 am Bernie Calligan +

Wednesday, March 9th

6:30 am Katherine Bogacki
8:30 am Bart Perricone

Thursday, March 10th

6:30 am Sarah Boyer +
8:30 am Ruth Walsh +

Friday, March 11th

6:30 am Bill Sencabaugh +
8:30 am Manuel Datiles +

Saturday, March 12th

9:00 am Louise Ward +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles
Kathleen Cobb +

Sunday, March 13th

7:00 am Fr. Rippy
Josephine Abbott +
9:00 am Fr. De Celles
Parishioners
11:00 am Fr. De Celles
Pope Francis
1:00 pm Fr. Horkan
RE Students and 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.**

Peter Collins

Please pray for the sick of our parish

Glenn Bliss
Tom Dietz
Michael O'Neill
Cindy Laird
Patricia Lewis
Barbara McGinn
Mai Pham
Joan Opiele
Leonora Ramos
Jason Saenz
Phyllis Zitnik
Patricia Del Buono
Juanita Boarman

John Florio
Michael
Malachowski
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
Tom Swengros
Ellie Garcia
Margaret O'Neill
John Patrick
Rowley, Jr.
Donna Crean
Rachel Valdez
Cy Alba

**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

Lenten CONFESSION Times

(Except Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday)

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday:

March 3 - March 24 6:30pm - 7:00pm

March 28 - April 13 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Wednesday 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Friday: 6:00pm - 6:30pm

Saturday: Morning: 8:00am - 8:45am

Afternoon: 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am - 9:00am

Book Club: Our next meeting will be on Friday, March 11th at 10 am in the Parish Library. We will be discussing *Under Siege: No Finer Time to be a Faithful Catholic* by Austin Ruse (190 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 or plan to join us for the first time, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.

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 March 19th. For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.

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 ipebtp@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.

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Mar. 6 Donut Sunday
Mar. 10 Lenten Series & Holy Hour 7:00 pm
Mar. 10-11 Adoration from 7 pm Thurs—3:00 pm Fri.
Mar. 11 Book Club 10:00 am
Mar. 11 Lenten Soup Supper 5:00pm-6:30pm
Mar. 11 Stations of the Cross 6:30 pm
Mar. 12/13 Youth Apostolate's Bake Sale
Mar. 18 EFM (Latin) 7:00 pm
Mar. 19 Men's Prayer Group
Mar. 19 K of C St. Patrick's & St. Joseph's Dinner

Lenten Soup Supper this Friday, 5:00 - 6:30 pm. Please join your fellow parishioners for a delicious but simple meal each Friday during Lent. The cost is either a pot of homemade meatless soup or a salad & bread to share. This week's soup supper is being hosted by our American Heritage Girls Troop.

The Knights of Columbus annual St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Day Dinner will take place on Saturday, March 19, 2022 at 6:30pm in the parish hall. Tickets for the event will be sold after all Masses on the weekends of March 5-6 and March 12-13. Ticket Prices are \$5.00 for children (5-12), \$15.00 for Adults and \$50.00 for Families.

Holy Hour Lenten Series and Overnight Adoration.
Thursday evening Holy Hours begin on March 10 at 7pm in the Church, which will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary, and Benediction. Father De Celles will give a brief talk on **"The Lifelong Suffering of Our Savior."** We will continue Exposition/Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, continuously **through the night until 3pm Friday afternoon. Please visit our website to sign up for an hour!**

Reminder:

Daylight Savings Time begins Next Weekend!

Do not forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour next Saturday night (March 12th)



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 Knights! Contact Deputy Grand Knight Larry Saenz (703-832-1042) or go to www.KofC.org/JoinUs to become a Knight today!

The 2022 Car Raffle is off to a great start. Thank you for all those who have purchased tickets. If you need more tickets, contact Larry Saenz lsaenz1@verizon.net or at 703-832-1042.

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.

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 April 2nd. All are welcome.

Support Trail Life Troop 0683 - buy mulch and topsoil! Trail Life Troop 0683, the troop sponsored by St. Raymond of Peñafort, is kicking off its annual mulch and topsoil sale to help parish families prepare for spring lawn and garden care. Your support will help our growing troop buy camping gear, advancement and recognition badges and instructional materials. You can mail in your order or order online. You will find details about pricing, sizes and instructions for ordering at this website, straymonds.org/trail-life. We offer home delivery to Springfield, Lorton or Burke for an extra donation. If you live outside those delivery areas, you can still order for pick-up at St. Raymond's. Questions? Contact Eric Michael at 703-372-1240. *Thank you very much!*

Fasting and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both fasting and abstinence, and every Friday in Lent is a day of abstinence. Failure to "substantially" keep these penances is grave matter (e.g., potentially a mortal sin). The law of abstinence requires that no meat may be eaten on these days, and binds all Catholics who are 14 years old or older. No other penance may be substituted. The law of fasting binds those who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The Church defines "fasting," for these purposes, as having only one full meal a day, with two additional smaller meals permitted, but only as necessary to keep up strength and so small that if added together they would not equal a full meal. Snacking is forbidden, but that does not include drinks that are not of the nature of a meal. Even though these rules do not bind all age groups, all are encouraged to follow them to the extent possible. Children in particular learn the importance of penance from following the practice of their older family members. The sick, pregnant or nursing mothers, and other folks with special physical circumstances may be partially or totally exempt from these rules—use good judgment and take care of yourself.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH. Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE

The MaRiH Center is a Pro Life Pregnancy Support Center operating on Duke Street in Alexandria since 1974. **Material donations of diapers and baby items up to 2T welcomed in the narthex.** Next Weekend is our **Support Weekend**.

Thank you for your continued generosity!
Donation collection spot is near the elevator in the narthex.

40 Days for Life The spring campaign is on! **Our parish commitment weekend is April 2-3.** Mark your calendar now and plan to join us in witnessing outside the Falls Church Healthcare Center 900 S. Washington St. in Falls Church. Whether abortion is legal or not, we must continue to **PRAY TO END ABORTION**. Sign up sheets 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.

Delegate Kathy Tran (D42) has represented our Parish area in the Virginia Assembly since 2018. Having introduced the Repeal Act in 2019, she remains a staunch supporter and voice for abortion. Particularly during this Lenten Season, please pray for her conversion – and perhaps respectfully let her know of your concerns. *Her politics make a difference in our lives. Maybe you can make a positive prayerful difference in hers.* kathyfordeldelegate.com/legislation-1
DelKTran@house.virginia.gov or P.O. Box 2731, Springfield, VA 22152.

According to a new report by the Guttmacher Institute, 54% of US abortions in 2020 were committed by the **abortion pill**. Women often regret that decision. If you know of someone who needs help reversing that decision, please call the abortion reversal helpline 877-558-0333. It may not be too late. abortionpillreversal.com

Tepeyac Pro Life OB/GYN: Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare. tepeyacobgyn.com 703-273-9440. Thank you for your referrals and your support.

A Day of Prayer and Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be held on **Saturday, March 26, 2022**. These group healing events are held in a private and peaceful setting, in English and Spanish. You are not alone. Take the first step. For confidential inquiries, please contact Project Rachel Ministry: 703-841-2504 or info@helpafterabortion.org.

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

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>

Youth Group & CCD this Sunday, March 6

4-5:30pm Jr. High Youth Group (pizza 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, March 7 (Parish Hall)

High School Girls are invited to join us 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.

Sons of Thunder: High School Guys' Group

7-8:30pm Tuesday, March 8 (Maurer Room)

Come join the brotherhood! All high school guys are invited who want to learn more about their faith, deepen their relationship with Christ, and hang out with other guys in a chill atmosphere.

High School Fri. Morning Mass & Breakfast 3/11

Looking for a great Lenten Sacrifice & addition to your spiritual life?? Join us Friday mornings for Mass followed by breakfast with Fr. Horkan in the parish hall. If you RSVP a week ahead, we can drive you to school. If not, just show up for Mass & have your parent drive you to school after breakfast!

Steubenville Youth Conference (July 8-10, 2022)

Current 8-12th graders are invited to join us for a weekend away with a few thousand Catholic teens to encounter God & experience His love through the power of the Sacraments, dynamic Catholic speakers, uplifting music & friends! For more info. & to register go to <https://bit.ly/steubenville2022>

High School Bake Night: 7-9pm Fri. March 11 (Parish Hall)

Come bake with us! Help us make some goodies for the bake sale! And make some new friends while you're at it! Sign up at <https://bit.ly/BakeNightSignup>



Bake Sale NEXT Weekend

CAN YOU HELP / DONATE BAKED GOODS?

1. **Man The Table After Mass: Compliant adults & teens** are needed to "man the table" for our Bake Sale after each Mass March 12-13. If you can commit to helping, please sign up at <https://bit.ly/ManTheTable> ASAP.

2. **Donations of individually wrapped, unpriced, baked goods** are greatly needed & appreciated. Drop off in parish hall on Friday from 7-9pm, or in the Narthex on Saturday from 4-4:45pm on Saturday. Please sign up so we don't have too much of the same thing. <https://bit.ly/bakeforsale>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Food Contributions Needed & Appreciated!

Are you able to support our youth by picking a few items from the links below to contribute towards our Friday breakfast or Sunday dinners for our teens? Their hungry bodies thank you!

<https://bit.ly/FridayBfast> & <https://bit.ly/DinnerDonations>

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/youthapostolate>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Attention parents of 8th grade students:

1. Sponsor Eligibility letter (from sponsor's home parish) is due no later than March 18th
2. Statement of Sponsor form due no later than March 18th.

Attention parents of 7th Grade students please check out Confirmation requirements as outlined in the *Supplement to Parent/Student Handbook Sacrament of Confirmation 2023* which you received in your red folder at the beginning of the academic year.

Confirmation Registry form with Certificate of Baptism attached (unless baptized here at St. Raymond's) is due no later than March 31st.

Legion of Mary: Do you want to develop a closer relationship with our Mother Mary and her Son, Jesus? The Legion of Mary weekly meeting is held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Maurer Room. All auxiliary members and anyone interested in joining the Legion of Mary are welcome. Point of Contact: Judy Mayer, jmayer9014@aol.com, or phone 703-627-7320.

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!

"MARY MAGDALENE – At the Feet of Jesus," the one-woman play about St. Mary Magdalene, comes to St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church on Sunday, March 20. Biblically based, the story highlights her faith in Jesus, her journey of repentance, and her devotion to Jesus' teachings. She was one of the few disciples remaining at the foot of the cross at the crucifixion, and at the request of Jesus, the first to herald His Resurrection. The story also highlights belief in the true Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and Mary Magdalene's friendship with the Blessed Mother. Catholic performing artist Nancy Scimone portrays St. Mary Magdalene; directed by Rob Tessier. Suggested for ages 10 and older. No tickets needed; free-will offering accepted; 3:00-4:30 pm, St. Joseph Hall-Parish Center, 5222 Sideburn Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032. For more information, please call 703-978-4141 or visit www.MaryMagdaleneDrama.com.

2022 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA)

Do this in remembrance of me

Thank you to everyone who has already pledged to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA)! If you have yet to make your gift, please prayerfully reflect on your blessings and consider making a gift today! The Bishop's Lenten Appeal provides a unique opportunity to unite as a Catholic family to support programs, ministries and services which help tens of thousands of people. Every donation, large or small, is vital to the success of the BLA. You may mail in your pledge or go online to www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA or scan the QR code below to make a gift. Thank you for your generosity!



Church Persecuted

Destruction of Catholic Church property continues. St. Anthony of Padua Elementary School in Parma, OH, was the latest site of arson and destruction of Catholic Church property. The parish's statue of St. Anthony of Padua was vandalized a few weeks ago and then on February 19th, an arsonist torched the school, causing upwards of \$1 million in damages to the basement and several of the classrooms on the first floor. While there is no indication that the two crimes are connected, it is apparent that this is a continued display of criminal acts targeting Catholic churches, shrines, and schools.

Classes were canceled for at least a week and a cash reward is set up for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the arsonist(s).

Additionally, in San Antonio, Texas, a 300-pound concrete statue of the Holy Family turned up missing from the parish grounds on February 17th. This had to have been the work of several individuals since the statue was so heavy.

These attacks are added to the ever expanding list of attacks on Catholic institutions that have been outlined in this column over the past several weeks.

<https://catholicvote.org/ohio-catholic-school-set-ablaze/>

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!

Watch with Kids! Catholic Heroes: The Story of Saint Perpetua — A young woman willingly takes a stand of faith and challenges the Roman Empire. Born to a noble Roman family, Perpetua converts to Christianity when she is irresistibly drawn to the example of unselfish love and service that she witnesses in the local believers. Along with slaves Felicity and Revocutus, she makes her way to a secret gathering of the Church, unaware that the Emperor Septimius Severus has issued a decree prohibiting new conversions to Christianity. Arrested and tried, Perpetua, Felicity, and their companions take a valiant stand that echoes down through the centuries.

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



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

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 (jmault1@cox.net).

THE LAETARE BENEFIT SUPPORTING THE CLOISTERED NUNS OF ST. DOMINIC'S MONASTERY ON SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022.

The Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge and members of the Host Committee invite you to attend a benefit for the Cloistered Nuns of St. Dominic's Monastery. **The Laetare Benefit** is our annual fundraising dinner for the cloistered nuns of St. Dominic's Monastery in Linden, VA. Please show your support & join us for a reception, dinner, raffle, and auction, on **Sunday, March 27, 2022 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm** at the **Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Avenue East, Vienna, Virginia**. Seating is limited. **RSVP by March 21, 2022**. Tickets are \$175 each and table sponsorships are available, starting at \$1,750 for 10. Please send a check payable to *Friends of St. Dominic's Monastery*, 524 N. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. For more info, please contact:

friendsofstdominicsmonastery@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. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Offertory	\$ 13,087.40
Family Assistance	\$ 1,408.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 855.00
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School Scholarship Donations	\$ 1,566.00

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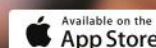
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