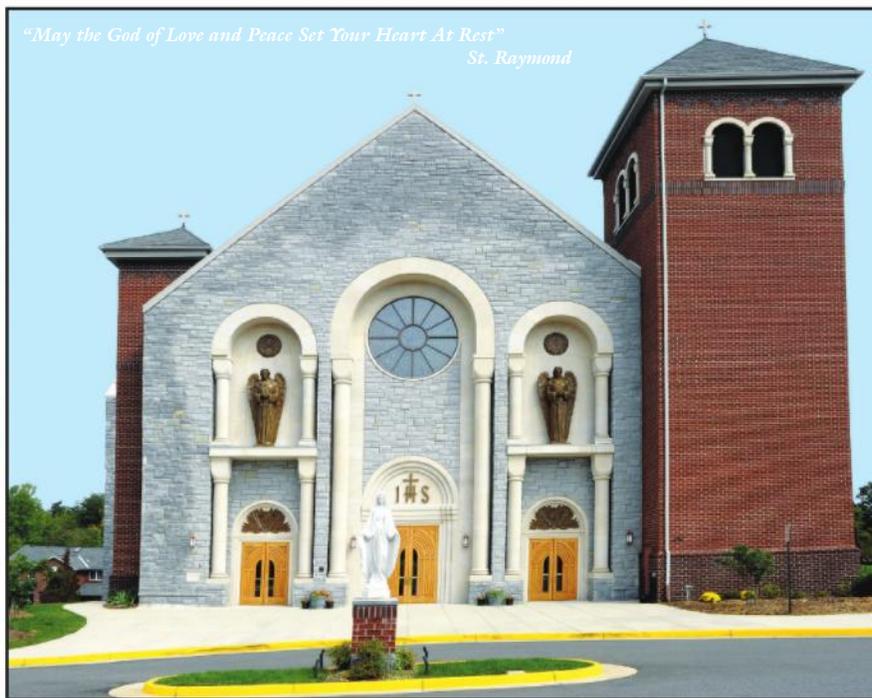


# THIRD SORROWFUL MYSTERY

## *The Crowning with Thorns*

THIRD 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)**  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays 7:00 pm

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

#### **PARISH OFFICE:**

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

#### **Office Hours**

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

#### **E-Mail**

Church: [Office@straymonds.org](mailto:Office@straymonds.org)  
Rel. Ed.: [ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org](mailto:ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org)  
Choirs: [Music@straymonds.org](mailto:Music@straymonds.org)

#### **Website**

[www.straymonds.org](http://www.straymonds.org)

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

#### **Angelus Academy**

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

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

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

**Wednesday Evening**  
6:15-6:55 p.m. (during Exposition)  
**Saturday Morning**  
8:15 - 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

**Are you Keeping Lent Well?** This holy season is a great time to renew our appreciation for Jesus' love for us, and our failure to love Him. So I urge you to pause every night before you go to bed and briefly examine your consciences, thinking both of your sins and of God's blessings of the day. Also, take a moment to consider how well you "kept Lent" that day: have you been faithful to the penances you have chosen for yourself, and are your penances both challenging enough and not so challenging as to be discouraging? And then make a sincere and devout act of contrition.

I also encourage you to carefully review the Lenten Schedule we distributed two weeks ago (go to [straymonds.org](http://straymonds.org) and click "2022 Lenten Schedule" on the pop-up menu) and think about which of the various Lenten liturgies and activities you should take part in—and resolve to make it happen.

We have daily confessions—have you been yet this Lent? And Friday Stations of the Cross—such a simple but powerful devotion. Or maybe you can come to Exposition and Adoration on Wednesday or Friday. Or how about waking up early once a week to come to morning Mass, or at another church near your work during lunch. Or maybe on Wednesday evening you could go to confession and spend time in Adoration. Or you can attend the Thursday Holy Hour, or the Thursday all-night Adoration. So much you can do.

Don't let this Lenten opportunity to grow in holiness pass you by!

**RCIA and RCIC.** Please keep in prayer those adults and children who are preparing to enter the Catholic Church and/or be baptized, confirmed and receive First Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil. Let us pray that they persevere in faith and be open to all the graces God has in store for them. And may they be an example to the rest of us, reminding each of us of our own continuing need for personal conversion in the love of Christ.

**Consecrations of Russia and Ukraine to Mary.** Last week the Vatican announced that Pope Francis will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Friday, March 25. That day is, of course, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.

You will recall that when Our Lady appeared to the children in Fatima on July 13, 1917, she asked for the consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart, saying that if it were not, Russia would spread "its errors throughout the world, promoting wars and persecution of the Church."

Several popes have made attempted to fulfill this request: Pope Pius XII in 1942, Pope Paul VI in 1964, and Pope St. John Paul II in 1981. However, the careful diplomatic formulation of these efforts led many to question whether they had met the required clarity of the request of Our Lady of Fatima. So John Paul II asked all the bishops of the world to unite with him, and on March 25, 1984, standing before the statute of Our Lady of Fátima (sent to Rome from Fatima) made the Consecration again. When asked if this Consecration had fulfilled Our Lady's request, Sister Lucia, the only surviving Fatima visionaries, wrote, "Yes, it was done, just as Our Lady had asked, on 25 March 1984."

Then two weeks ago Ukraine's Catholic bishops wrote Pope Francis asking him to consecrate Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Please join the Pope in consecrating and praying for Ukraine against the vile and unjust attack of the Russian Army. In the words of the Ukrainian Bishops: "May the Mother of God, Queen of Peace, accept our prayer: Regina pacis, ora pro nobis."

**Strange Treatment of Successors to the Apostles.** Last week I wrote about how Bishop Gustavo Oscar Zanchetta, former Bishop of Oran, Argentina, had been found guilty and sentenced to four and a half years in prison for the sexual abuse of two former seminarians. Zanchetta is a close friend of Pope Francis and one of his first appointments as Bishop. In 2017, despite various credible accusations of abuse, he was moved to the Vatican to work in a special post created just for him by Pope Francis.

This week, however, another Bishop was treated very differently by Pope Francis. Bishop Daniel Fernández Torres of the Diocese of Arecibo was removed from office by the Pope without explanation at all. As The Pillar reported on March 9 ("Can the pope just fire a bishop?"):

*"It was a highly unusual announcement — bishops tend to only ever leave office by resignation, or by death...The announcement did not specify the reasons for Torres' removal; he is 57 years old and in good health. But in a statement published on the diocesan website, the bishop gave his version of events, and branded the pope's action 'totally unjust.'*

*"A successor of the apostles is now being replaced without even undertaking what would be a due canonical process to remove a parish priest,' Torres said in his March 9 statement.*

*'I want you to know that it is not for me to explain a decision that I cannot explain myself, even if I accept it... I have not been prosecuted, nor have I been formally accused of anything,' he said, 'simply one day the apostolic delegate verbally communicated to me that Rome was asking me to resign,' he added.*

*"The bishop said he was told that, while he had not committed any canonical offense, he, allegedly, 'had not been obedient to the pope, nor had [he] had sufficient communion with [his] brother bishops of Puerto Rico.'*

*"Torres said he had refused to offer his resignation..."*

*"Neither Torres nor the Holy See have offered an explanation of the bishop's alleged disobedience of the pope. But various media reports have noted that the bishop resisted sending his diocesan seminarians to attend a new interdiocesan seminary, which was approved by the Vatican just under two years ago.*

*"Torres also refused to sign a 2021 joint statement issued by the Puerto Rican bishops, which said Catholics have a 'duty to be vaccinated' against the coronavirus and '[did] not see how a conscientious objection can be invoked from Catholic morality.'... Torres had previously issued his own letter, observing that the choice to receive a vaccination is a matter of personal conscience — in line with the Vatican's own statements on the subject."*

**Fr. Daly Update.** Fr. Daly is doing well, though still moving slow and tiring easily. But he is able to say daily Mass in his apartment, and live on his own with some assistance. He is very aware of and grateful for your prayers. Keep them up!

**Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles**

<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<p><b>Monday, March 21st</b> 6:30 am CDR James Kirsh 8:30 am Tuan Pham +</p> <p><b>Tuesday, March 22nd</b> 6:30 am Ellie Viglass + 8:30 am Rading Hedron +</p> <p><b>Wednesday, March 23rd</b> 6:30 am Barbara McMullen + 8:30 am Lorraine McGroarty +</p> <p><b>Thursday, March 24th</b> 6:30 am Jeff Scruggs + 8:30 am Andrew Burns</p> <p><b>Friday, March 25th</b> <b>The Annunciation of the Lord</b> 6:30 am Kathleen Rowzie + 8:30 am Joseph Hildebrand 7:00 pm Zenaida Pineda +</p>	<p><b>Saturday, March 26th</b> 9:00 am Roberto Yam +</p> <p><b>Vigil Mass</b> 5:00 pm <b>Fr. De Celles</b> Kathleen Cobb +</p> <p><b>Sunday, March 27th</b> 7:00 am <b>Fr. Rippy</b> Joyce Ann O'Connor + 9:00 am <b>Fr. De Celles</b> Parishioners 11:00 am <b>Fr. De Celles</b> Miriam F. Watanabe + 1:00 pm <b>Fr. Horkan</b> Family of Jesus Prayer Group</p>

**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**

<b>Please pray for the sick of our parish</b>		
<p>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 John Florio</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Serrin Foster Fr. Jerry Daly Tom Swengros Ellie Garcia Margaret O'Neill Cy Alba Christina Cautero Joan Rowe Erick Reeder Peter Munley, III Ada Prabhavat Fr. C. M. Trinkle</p>

**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

**Holy Hour Lenten Series and Overnight Adoration.**

Thursday evening Holy Hours began on March 10 and continue every Thursday through April 7 at 7pm in the Church. Holy Hours 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 **through the night until 3pm Friday afternoon. Please come pray any time!**

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

"I AM sent me to you." Could the Lord be calling you to proclaim His name as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Call Father Michael Isenberg 703-841-2514, or write: [michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org)

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

- Mar. 21 Family of Jesus Prayer Group 4:00pm
- Mar. 23 Legion of Mary 6:30 pm
- Mar. 24 Lenten Series & Holy Hour 7:00 pm
- Mar. 24-25 Adoration from 7 pm Thurs—3:00 pm Fri.
- Mar. 25 Lenten Soup Supper 5:00pm-6:30pm
- Mar. 25 Stations of the Cross 6:30 pm
- Mar. 25 The Annunciation of the Lord  
Extra Mass at 7:00 pm

**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 Altar Server families.

**Gift Shop Lenten Sales** – Garden Items available Mar. 25, 4pm-7pm outside near mulch pickup spot. Narthex Sale after all Masses – Mar. 26 & 27.

**Trail Life Mulch and Topsoil Pickup:** Mulch and topsoil will be available for pickup from the St. Raymond's parking lot Friday, March 25th from 4:00 to 7:00 PM and Saturday, March 26th from 8:00 AM to noon. Deliveries will occur Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. The St. Raymond's Trail Life troop thanks you for supporting them through your purchase of mulch and topsoil. The donations associated with your purchase will help buy equipment and advancement material, among other things. Again, thank you for your support.



**Angelus Academy 2022 Gala**  
Sunday, May 1st  
Springfield Golf and Country Club  
Register by April 14th at [AngelusAcademy.org](http://AngelusAcademy.org)



**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](http://www.KofC.org/JoinUs) to become a Knight today!

**The 2022 Car Raffle** Thanks to all those who have purchased and returned their car raffle tickets. Ask your neighbors and family— the ticket will sell itself! Don't forget to request extra tickets by emailing Larry Saenz at [lsaenz1@verizon.net](mailto:lsaenz1@verizon.net).

Additional tickets will be mailed to you, upon request. In addition, the Knights will be selling Car Raffle tickets after all Masses March 19/20.

**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. Donations are collected & 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.

**Book Club:** Our next meeting will be on Friday, April 8th at 10 am in the Parish Library. We will be discussing *It is Right and Just: Why the Future of Civilization Depends on True Religion* by Scott Hahn & Brandon McGinley (185 pgs). The schedule for the full year can be found at <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](mailto:bookclub@straymonds.org).

**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 [jpebtp@verizon.net](mailto:jpebtp@verizon.net) or by calling the parish office. You may also write down your prayer requests and drop them in the "Prayer Box" on the table in the narthex of the church.

### 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 on Duke Street in Alexandria. **Material donations of diapers and baby items up to 2T welcomed in the narthex. Thank you for your continued generosity!**  
*Donation collection location is now near the elevator in the narthex.*

**40 Days for Life** 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 at 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. **The MIDPOINT RALLY will take place on Sunday, March 20th at 3:00pm at the vigil site. Come stand up FOR LIFE.**

**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@helpfterabortion.org](mailto:info@helpfterabortion.org).



Join fellow parishioners for the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia March for Life in Richmond on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**. Transportation details to follow. For

more info, visit: <https://marchforlife.org/virginia-march-for-life/>

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... and a fatal difference for so many unborn. Maybe you can make a positive prayerful difference in hers.** [kathyfordelegate.com/legislation-1](http://kathyfordelegate.com/legislation-1) or [DelKTran@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelKTran@house.virginia.gov) or P.O. Box 2731, Springfield, VA 22152.

**Abortion reversal helpline** 877-558-0333. It may not be too late. [abortionpillreversal.com](http://abortionpillreversal.com).

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

**Has the sorrow of miscarriage or still birth touched your life?** *A Mom's Peace*, offers discreet support to families with bereavement, burial and remembrance assistance. For more information visit [amomspeace.org](http://amomspeace.org).

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

## St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate

\*All are welcome to participate in Youth Apostolate events.  
Make sure forms are signed and on file. <http://bit.ly/YAforms>

### Our March Bake Sale brought in \$878!

Thank you to all who baked goodies, ran the table after Mass, and to all who bought the delicious baked goods and/or donated to support our youth! Special thanks to Court Wheeler!

**Next bake sale: April 9-10**

### Youth Group & CCD this Sunday, March 20

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

**5:30-7pm** Religious Education/CCD

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

### High School Fri. Morning Mass & Breakfast 3/25

**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.

**Talitha Koum: HS Girl's Group meets 7-8:30pm Mon 3/21**

**Sons of Thunder: HS Guy's Group meets 7-:30pm Tues 3/22**



**FEAR—  
LESS**  
Jn 16:33



### Steubenville Youth Conference (July 8-10, 2022)

**Registration due March 27**

**Current 8-12th graders** are invited to join us for a weekend away with a few thousand Catholic teens to encounter God and experience His love through the power of the Sacraments, youthful dynamic Catholic speakers, uplifting music, and new friends! Throughout the Bible, the Lord tells us over and over again, "Be not afraid," and he continues to speak these words to us today. Join our group in road tripping to Steubenville, Ohio from July 8-10, 2022 to experience the peace of Jesus Christ, who is always faithful and will never abandon us. For more info and to register go to <https://bit.ly/steubenville2022>.

### Quo Vadis and FIAT Camps Registration Lottery Open July 10-14 (Quo Vadis) and July 17-21 (FIAT), 2022

Quo Vadis and FIAT Camps are great opportunities for Catholic high school students (current 9-12th graders) to have fun while deepening their faith and exploring their vocations. Quo Vadis (for boys) is staffed by Arlington seminarians, priests & religious, and runs Sun -Thurs, July 10-14. FIAT (for girls) is staffed by religious sisters and runs Sun -Thurs, July 17-21. Both are held at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. The registration lottery is open through 3/31. See videos & photos from past years, get more info & register at [ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis](http://ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis) or [ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT](http://ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT).

### 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](mailto:youth@straymonds.org) Call/Text: 571-334-9890

<http://bit.ly/youthapostolate>

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Attention parents of 7th Grade students:

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

### Attention parents of 8th grade students:

1. Sponsor Eligibility letter (from sponsor's home parish) was due March 18th.
2. Statement of Sponsor form was due March 18th.
3. Confirmation Gown Order form is due by April 15th.

### Parents of students preparing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist for the first time in May:

First Holy Communion mini-retreat is scheduled for Saturday April 23rd. More information to follow.

### Parents, mark your calendars!!!

**No CCD classes April 3, 4 and 5:** Fairfax County Schools Spring Break

**No CCD classes April 17, 18 and 19:** Religious Education Easter Break.

**Administrative Assistant position** opening up in the Religious Education Office in mid-July, with training beginning in June. If you are interested in this position or have questions, please submit a resume and/or questions to Mary Salmon, Director of Religious Education at [religiouseducation@straymonds.org](mailto:religiouseducation@straymonds.org).

**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](mailto:jmayer9014@aol.com), or phone 703-627-7320.

**Parking at St. Raymond:** During the Lenten Season, the church parking lot is not large enough to accommodate all parishioners and their guests. Limited street parking is available, but can cause concern for our neighbors. One option available to you involves parking in the commuter lot at Gambrill Road and Fairfax County Parkway, where you can take advantage of carpooling. Please consider this as an option during the Lenten season. The Fairfax County Police will be monitoring the yellow striped "No Parking" zones in the parking lot, and tickets will be issued if violations occur. Please be considerate of our neighbors, and do not park where you block their driveways. Infractions will be ticketed and may possibly mean towing as well.

### **2022 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA)**

#### **Do this in remembrance of me**

Thank you to those who have 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! The BLA unites as a diocesan family to support programs, ministries and services which help tens of thousands of people. Every donation, large or small, is essential. You may mail a pledge, go online to [www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA) or scan the QR code to make a gift. Thank you for your generosity!



## Church Persecuted

Religion is not taking a back seat in the Russian invasion of Ukraine. History has already told us (by their previous land grabs in Ukraine), that Russia will impose one and only one religion on the Ukrainian people—The Russian Orthodox Church. Its leader, Patriarch Kirill, has long been an ally of President Putin and recently expressed his support of their invasion.

Since Russian-backed separatists took control of the Donbas region of Ukraine in 2014, “adherents of faiths that are not affiliated with the Russian Orthodox Church remain subject to persecution.” In Luhansk, certain hymnals and bibles were banned. Throughout the region, believers could be punished for gathering to worship without permission, and churches were raided without cause. After Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, properties of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine (not affiliated with Moscow) were either confiscated, damaged, or destroyed. Jehovah Witnesses were targeted. The only churches that were permitted were those affiliated with the Russian Orthodox Church.

The Family Research Council reports that Russian president Putin sees religion as part of his foreign policy. In a speech as the Russian invasion began, he said that Ukraine was “an inalienable part of our own history, culture, and spiritual space.” To define Ukraine as belonging to Russia’s ‘spiritual space’...signals the extent to which Putin is eager to reassert the Russian Orthodox Church’s influence in Ukraine, and by extension, the Kremlin’s influence.” This is the price of Ukraine’s freedom of religion.

See “Russian Victory Would Mark End of Religious Freedom in Ukraine” March 7, 2022 ([www.frc.org](http://www.frc.org))

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

**ENCOURAGE** - a Catholic support group for parents, family and friends of loved ones experiencing same-sex attraction. Meetings involve prayer, discussion, and fellowship. Meets monthly at St. Michael's Parish in Annandale, VA. Call Jim at (703) 765-2751.

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**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://faith.direct/VA64). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

<b>Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 12,063.00</b>
<b>Family Assistance</b>	<b>\$ 901.00</b>
<b>Maintenance Fund</b>	<b>\$ 1,821.00</b>
<b>Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations</b>	<b>\$ 765.00</b>

The second collection next week (Mar. 27) is for Catholic Relief Services. Catholics giving to this collection will be aiding people most in need of material and pastoral support both overseas and here at home. Each year, this national collection provides assistance to victims of war and natural disaster, migrants seeking safety from economic hardship and persecution, and to Catholics with special pastoral needs.

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