

FOURTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY

The Carrying of the Cross

FOURTH 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

Halfway Through Lent. Today we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Lent, the traditional midpoint of the 40 days of the penitential season. It is called "**Laetare Sunday**," "laetare" meaning "rejoice," which is considered a sort of a slight lifting of the austerity and somberness of Lent as we remember to lift our gaze to see that beyond the Cross is the Resurrection; in the midst of our sorrow for our lives of sin, we also rejoice in the forgiveness and new life won by the Paschal Mystery. The Rose Vestments symbolize this: the dark purple of repentance and sorrow mingled with the light of forgiveness and joy.

But today we also remember that there is still half of Lent remaining to rededicate or increase our efforts to keep Lent holy. To those who haven't chosen a penance yet, get with it! To those who are struggling to keep their penances, if your penance is too hard, it's okay to change your penance to something that is challenging but manageable in your situation. To those who just haven't been trying, no excuses—pick up your cross and follow Jesus! And to those who have found their penances manageable and doable, then perhaps you can add some more penances, or intensify the one's you are currently doing.

"For Your Penance, Say One Hail Mary." In order to be forgiven our sins in the Sacrament of Penance three things are required of every sinner/penitent: 1) contrition, 2) confession of our sins, and 3) satisfaction. Most of us understand contrition (being sorry) and confessing our sins, but you may not be familiar with the term "satisfaction" in this context. "Satisfaction" here refers to the real effort to make up for our sins and comes in two ways: "reparation" and "expiation." Let's look a little closer at this. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches [1452-1460]:

"Many sins wrong our neighbor. One must do what is possible in order to repair the harm (e.g., return stolen goods, restore the reputation of someone slandered, pay compensation for injuries). Simple justice requires as much." This is called 'making reparation.'

"But sin also injures and weakens the sinner himself, as well as his relationships with God and neighbor. Absolution takes away sin, but it does not remedy all the disorders sin has caused. Raised up from sin, the sinner must still recover his full spiritual health by doing something more to make amends for the sin: he must 'make satisfaction for' or 'expiate' his sins. This satisfaction is also called 'penance.'"

When a priest gives a "penance" in confession, many people wonder how something as small and simple as "saying three Hail Marys" can serve as an adequate penance/satisfaction. But remember, we could never do enough penance to pay for all our sins—only Jesus can do this, and does so, on the Cross. The penance after confession is an important personal effort at trying to make amends. Moreover a simple and clear penance, such as some short prayers, makes a good practical penance because: 1) if done devoutly they can be an important first step forward toward God, 2) they are more likely to be done immediately, so that the penance won't be forgotten and the penitent can immediately renew the life of grace, and 3) they avoid the confusion of more ambiguous or ambitious penances, so the penitent won't be wondering, "did I do enough?" "did I do too much?" "did I do it right?"

Common Courtesy. As we examine our consciences this Lent, I propose we all consider whether we are guilty of offending charity by a lack of what is sometimes called "common

courtesy," or "good manners." Good manners show respect for the people around us; common courtesy extends charity and compassion toward even strangers. Yet we are guilty of rudeness and crudeness every day, in the small things we do to unnecessarily offend each other. Husbands speak to wives as if they're servants, children talk back to their parents or other adults, co-workers fail to greet each other in the hallways, younger folks don't give their seats to the elderly, people use foul language in public, we don't let other drivers merge in traffic, and on and on.

These are sins—usually very small, but they certainly have the potential to pave the way to worse and even mortal sins.

We see it especially in the use of cell phones. This is a relatively new but ubiquitous reality in our culture, and so perhaps we haven't considered how their use in public can violate courtesy and good manners, i.e., charity.

This is especially the case in church, and most **especially at Mass**. So, I remind you: 1) never speak on or answer your phone inside the church—if you must make or receive a call, go into the narthex; 2) **always mute or turn off your phone** (or leave it in the car) before you enter the church, and double check this before Mass begins; and 3) try not to use your smart phone as a Mass aid, i.e. using apps with the prayers for Mass in them.

A phone going off during Mass is not only a violation of common courtesy—it can sometimes also be a form of sacrilegious interruption of the Sacred Liturgy.

Hey, we all make mistakes, and common courtesy demands patience and forgiveness for small discourtesies of others. But Lent is a time for striving to improve our charity, especially in the easier, obvious and simple things.

"Synod on Synodality." As I have discussed previously in this column, the 2023 Synod of Bishops in Rome will be on the subject of "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission"—i.e., the "Synod on Synodality." "Synodality" concerns "the People of God journeying together and reflecting together on the journey, so as to live communion, to achieve participation, and to be open to mission." In preparation for this 2023 Roman Synod, Pope Francis has asked every Diocese to undertake their own synodal phase of "prayerful listening, dialogue, and discernment." Bishop Burbidge has required that all parishes host synodal Listening Sessions, and every person may participate.

We invite you to come to our Listening Session, next Saturday, April 2, 2022, from 10-11:30 am in the parish hall.

Please note: this will be a structured opportunity for participants to express their views on 6 particular questions the Pope proposes. I will synthesize your comments, then the Bishop's delegate will summarize all the diocesan listening sessions into a 10 page report to the USCCB, which will further summarize the comments from all the diocese of the U.S. and send a report to the Vatican. There, a Vatican committee will summarize all the reports from around the world for a report to be used at the 2023 Bishops' Synod.

Religious Education Administrative Assistant. This summer Vince Drouillard will be retiring from his post in the parish CCD office, and we are currently looking for someone to fill this position, which opens 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.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, March 28th**6:30 am Erika Cadran +
8:30 am Ed Ward +**Tuesday, March 29th**6:30 am Karl Meyer +
8:30 am Dennis Klitzke**Wednesday, March 30th**6:30 am John & Sarah Laird
8:30 am Lewis Bliss**Thursday, March 31st**6:30 am Edward Howanec +
8:30 am Rev. Michael Taylor**Friday, April 1st**6:30 am Gail Francis
8:30 am Andrew Shealy
7:00 pm EFM (Latin)**Saturday, April 2nd**

9:00 am Hetty Ofori

Vigil Mass5:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
Irene Krosnick +**Sunday, April 3rd**7:00 am **Fr. De Celles**

Catherine Hansen

9:00 am **Fr. Horkan**

Parishioners

11:00 am **Fr. Rippy**

Elizabeth Olson +

1:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**

Albert Blandin +

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 Opiela
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
Cy Alba
Christina
Cautero
Joan Rowe
Peter Munley, III
Ada Prabhavat
Fr. C. M. Trinkle
Daniel Trayer
Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Mar. 28 Family of Jesus Prayer Group 4:00pm
Mar. 29 Legion of Mary 6:30 pm
Mar. 31 Lenten Series & Holy Hour 7:00 pm
Mar. 31-Apr. 1 Adoration from 7 pm Thurs—3:00 pm Fri.
April 1 Lenten Soup Supper 5:00 pm-6:30 pm
April 1 Stations of the Cross 6:30 pm
April 1 EFM (Latin) 7:00 pm
April 2 Men's Prayer Group
April 2 Luminaries of Mary
April 2 Synodal Listening Session 10:00 am
April 3 Donut Sunday
April 8 Book Club 10:00 am

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 Home School Group.

Synodal Listening Session In preparation for the 2023 Synod of Bishops in Rome, Pope Francis has asked every local Church to undertake their own synodal phase of prayerful listening, dialogue, and discernment, on how the Church is journeying together and fulfilling Her mission in the world. Bishop Burbidge has asked all our parishes and other local institutions to host synodal Listening Sessions, and every person may participate. We invite you to come to our Listening Session, which will take place on **April 2, 2022 from 10:00 am -11:30 am in the parish hall.** We also encourage you to invite anyone you may know who has fallen away from the practice of the faith, and anyone who is spiritually or materially marginalized. For more information, check out the diocesan synod webpage: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/synod/>

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.

Extraordinary Form / Traditional Latin Mass at St. Raymond Church. 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

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 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!**

Donut Sunday, April 3rd after the 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 AM Masses. Stop by the Parish Hall after Mass and enjoy some treats and drinks, and meet your fellow parishioners.

Lost and Found Items will be displayed in the Parish Hall during Donut Sunday. If you are missing something & may have left it in the church, please be sure to check the table! Items not claimed by April 5th will be donated or disposed of, as appropriate.



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 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. Additional tickets will be mailed to you, upon request.

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.

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.

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.

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 spot 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 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. Come and stand up FOR LIFE.



Join fellow parishioners for the 4th Annual Virginia March for Life. Wed. April 27th. Transportation details to follow.

<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 or 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

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? *A Mom's Peace*, 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.

Looking for something worthwhile to do this summer or next? Check out crossroadswalk.org or bikingforbabies.com/national-ride

Are you a seamstress in search of a special project? Forever Angels turns donated wedding gowns into funeral gowns for infants. For more info, visit Foreverangelsofvirginia.com or contact Kim at kimviolet@gmail.com.

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>



Paul Kim Katie Preban McGandy Katie Harthel John Paul Van Aex Jason Evert Fr. Jonathan McElrone, TOR

Steubenville Youth Conference (July 8-10, 2022)

Registration due TODAY March 27

Current 8-12th graders are invited to join us for a week-end 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. Go to <https://bit.ly/steubenville2022> to register and/or more info.

Youth Group & CCD this Sunday, March 27

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

5:30-7pm Religious Education/CCD

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

*Fr. Horkan will be giving a talk on Catholic Spiritualities

High School Fri. 6:30am Mass & Breakfast 4/1

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 by Wednesday we can drive you to school. If not, just show up for Mass & have your parent drive you to school after breakfast.

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 or 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 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:

Confirmation Gown Order form is due no later than 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. Specific information will be sent by email in early April.

Parents, mark your calendars!!!

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

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

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.

Courage Support Group for Those Experiencing Same-Sex Attraction. COURAGE is a group that meets regularly to offer fraternal, moral, and spiritual support for those who experience same-sex attraction and desire to live chaste lives according to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Meetings are for men and women and strict confidentiality is maintained. For more information, please contact Courage@arlingtondiocese.org or visit <http://couragec.net/index.htm>.

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 or scan the QR code to make a gift. Thank you for your generosity!



Church Persecuted

Polish Catholics have sprung into action in a massive way to assist the flood of persecuted Ukrainian refugees who have entered their country due to the Russian invasion of the Ukrainian homeland. Catholic News Agency reports ("Poland's Catholics dig deep to help Ukrainian refugees," Mar 22, 2022) that Caritas Poland, the country's largest charity, has raised at least \$20 million as of March 21st and have sent 500 aid trucks into Ukraine, and have organized thousands of meals each day for the refugees.

Poland, primarily Roman Catholic, shares a 332-mile border with Ukraine, which is primarily Eastern Orthodox. As of March 21, over 2.1 million refugees have entered Poland, the largest number to enter any of the countries surrounding Ukraine.

Catholic Churches in Poland raised \$7.5 million in parish collections on Feb 27 and March 2. Almost all of the 10,000 Catholic parishes in the country are supporting refugees in Church buildings, monasteries and convents, seminaries, and Caritas centers.

Ukrainian families have found shelter even in the Bishop's Palace in Kraków, the home of Pope Saint John Paul II when he resided there as bishop. More than 100 people, including 50 children, are staying at the houses associated with the shrine of the "Black Madonna" at Jasna Góra, Poland's largest and most venerated shrine.

The trucks and buses sent to Ukraine are carrying aid in and bringing refugees out. In the largest humanitarian crisis in Europe since World War II, the Catholic Church is again at the forefront, "engaged in the work that we uphold."

Last year's Blessed Palms – There are boxes for blessed palms at each exit of the Church until the end of Lent. The parish will dispose of them properly. "Once a religious object is blessed and dedicated for divine worship or veneration, it must be treated with reverence and not be used in either an improper or profane way." (cf. Code of Canon Law, no. 1171).

FORMED[®] Get In-Formed!

The Wild Goose with Fr. Dave Pivonka: The Spirit and Our Lady – "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you." - Luke 1:35 Our Lady, from the moment of her conception, was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. As the Spouse of the Holy Spirit she models for us what our lives can look like when we say "yes" to God's will and fully give ourselves over to the actions of the Spirit of God. Mary's fiat led her to the cross, the empty tomb, and ultimately the upper room where she was once again overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. If we have the courage, as Mary did, to say yes to God's Spirit and to surrender our will to his, we too will experience the power of the Most High overshadowing us.

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



Angelus Academy 2022 Gala

Sunday, May 1st

Springfield Golf and Country Club

Register by April 14th at AngelusAcademy.org

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.

FAITH DIRECT—MARCH 2022

Offertory	\$ 46,054.00
Family Assistance	\$ 2,407.34
Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,807.34
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 1,105.00
Church in Eastern Europe	\$ 1,634.00
Black & Indian Missions	\$ 1,214.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 4,162.00

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Offertory	\$ 14,483.00
Family Assistance	\$ 971.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,229.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 3,727.00

The second collection this 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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