

*"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  
Rel. Ed.: ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org  
Choirs: 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

**Blessed and Happy Easter!** I pray that you all had a holy, blessed and happy Easter Day and Easter Octave. And that the joy of Easter will continue in your lives through the rest of the Easter Season through Pentecost.

I was completely blown away by the turnout last weekend, especially at the Liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. As I was walking up the aisle on Holy Thursday, looking down the individual rows, seeing all so filled with people, I was literally moved to tears. It's so wonderful to see all of you back home. You could feel the, what? the sense of well-being? contentment? peace? that exuded from the congregation throughout that Mass and the subsequent liturgies of the Triduum. After 2 years of first, no open liturgies, and then last year, limited-capacity liturgies, it was so good to see the church filled with the faithful—many of whom had not been to church regularly in months if not (2) years. A warm "welcome back," my dear spiritual sons and daughters!

I want to thank God and all of those who made Lent and the Liturgies of the Triduum so successful this year. First, after Our Lord Jesus and His Father and Spirit, I want to thank the **Altar Servers** who volunteered to serve Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. I can't tell you how many people have told me what a splendid job you did.

In particular: the **25 boys who served Holy Thursday**, including: Jean-Luc Murray, Joe Hildebrand, David Hatcher, Michael Hildebrand, Myles Carley, Brendan Mullen, Joseph Oswald, Nathan Kurrus, Andrew Kurrus, Paul Raines, Peter Hatcher, Paul Mullen, Patrick Kurrus, Paul Russo, Declan Kapp, Jacob Oswald, Matthew Hatcher, Rocco Russo, and George Raines.

And the **14 boys who served Good Friday**, including: Chesterton Bliss, Jean-Luc Murray, Joseph Hildebrand, Brendan Mullen, Paul Mullen, Michael Hildebrand, George Raines, and Paul Raines.

And the **9 boys who served the complex Easter Vigil** including: Chesterton Bliss, Xavier Chmielewski, and Aron Joson.

And especially the **6 who served all 3**: Andrew Burns, Sam Berger, John Branch, Adam Wells, William Pereira, and Thomas Branch.

Finally, thanks to Christophe Sanchez-O'Brien for being such an excellent Master of Ceremonies for these Liturgies.

I also want to thank Elisabeth Turco, our Music Director, and our parish cantors and choirs. Though, still trying to rebuild after Covid disbanded the choir, they were able to come together to provide another glorious effort repeatedly praised by all.

Thanks also to the folks who decorated the church, especially Julie Mullen and her flower committee. And to Marty and Nena Brennen and their (adult) children, for taking care of the sanctuary and sacristy. And to all the lectors, headed by Phil Bettwy and Patty Pacheco, and to the ushers, headed by Patrick O'Brien.

And Special thanks to Fr. Horkan, Fr. Rippy and Msgr. Dempsey, for all their help, especially with confessions, and to the parish staff for all their good work, especially supporting me in these challenging seasons.

And **congratulations to our RCIA folks**. We baptized and confirmed 4 catechumens, welcomed into full communion and confirmed three former Protestants, and confirmed 11 formerly uncatechized Catholics. Congratulations and welcome to them all. I commend all 18 of them to your continuing prayers.

Also, thanks to Bob and Bev Ward for their dedication in teaching them so thoroughly and faithfully week after week for the last months.

**Divine Mercy Sunday.** This Second Sunday in the Octave of Easter is also known as "Divine Mercy Sunday," established as such in 2000 by Pope St. John Paul II, in recognition of the mercy that flows to all mankind from the Paschal Mystery of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. The Pope was inspired by the claims of St. Faustina Kowalska that Jesus Himself had requested this during His private apparitions to her during the 1930s. The Lord reportedly also told St. Faustina: "I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened."

Although private apparitions/revelations such as this need not be believed by Catholics, this one, as with many others, has been recognized by the Church as "worthy of belief" (i.e., it is consistent with the Catholic faith). Moreover, the Church has established a plenary indulgence for this Sunday: "...granted under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of Supreme Pontiff) to the faithful who, on the Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday, in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!)." You may go to confession "within several days (about 20) before or after the indulgenced act." For a brief explanation of indulgences, see the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1471ff.]

**Easter Continues.** The Season of Easter continues until Pentecost Sunday, June 5. This extended liturgical season reminds us of the ongoing importance of the Resurrection to all of us throughout the year: Christ has truly risen, and lives today in our midst, may we always live as if we believe that!

**Update on Father Jerry Daly.** Fr. Daly is doing well, although still greatly limited in his activities. He continues to suffer with his back problems, and from fatigue, and though he spends most of the day in his chair, he is able to stand and offer private Mass, and walk around his rooms with a walker. In fact, he is doing so well that he had planned to join us and concelebrate Mass with me on Easter morning. Unfortunately, due to some last minute minor and temporary issues, he was not able to. But he sends his best to you, and asks me to relate that he prays for us all the time, and asks (and thanks us) for our continuing prayers for him.

**Vacation.** I am on vacation this week. Just so you are aware, I plan to take another vacation in June (to fish for Salmon in Alaska), and probably another vacation (or maybe a retreat, or both) later in the summer. It's been a long 2 years for me, with Covid and then working without a Vicar (although Fr. Horkan has been a big help since August). I feel like I need to take time this summer to rest a bit. I'm fine, just a little worn out. But you can always pray for me, and pray that the Bishop assigns us a Vicar in July.

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



**MASS INTENTIONS****Monday, April 25th**

6:30 am Jeanne Sause  
8:30 am Sally Christensen +

**Tuesday, April 26th**

6:30 am Cecilia Laird  
8:30 am Ey Masangkay

**Wednesday, April 27th**

6:30 am Cathy Carrolla  
8:30 am Matthew Pacheco

**Thursday, April 28th**

6:30 am Cathy Hammerstrom  
8:30 am Elizabeth Hurley +

**Friday, April 29th**

6:30 am Sally Allman  
8:30 am James Peter Butler

**Saturday, April 30th**

9:00 am Meghan Anezin

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm Fr. Horkan  
Linda & Jack Anezin

**Sunday, May 1st**

7:00 am Fr. Rippey  
Erica & Chris Anezin  
9:00 am Fr. De Celles  
Parishioners  
11:00 am Fr. De Celles  
Vincent Tiso  
1:00 pm Fr. Horkan  
Julian & Isabel Santos +

**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  
Mai Pham  
Joan Opiela  
Jason Saenz  
Phyllis Zitnik  
Patricia Del Buono  
Juanita Boarman  
John Florio

Michael Malachowski  
Debra Henkel  
Daniel Moore  
Lauren Hornsby  
Gaudencio Dizon  
Paul Haynes  
Dwayne Taylor  
Christopher Quan  
Ted Tolpa  
Nena Brennan  
Serrin Foster

Fr. Jerry Daly  
Tom Swengros  
Ellie Garcia  
Margaret O'Neill  
Christina Cautero  
Christine Rawls  
Donnie Hale  
Daniel Trayer  
Weldon Walker  
Marianne Kelly

**View livestreaming of the Holy Mass at St. Raymond's!**

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

Monday - Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am  
Saturday at 9:00 am  
Sunday Mass at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

**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.

**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 May 7th. 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 May 7th. All are welcome.

**Christ House Dinner:** There will be a Christ House Dinner on April 29, 2022. We are in need of your help. Please go on to the Perfect Potluck April Meal for St Raymond's to volunteer to help or to donate items. [www.PerfectPotluck.com/HYNI8608](http://www.PerfectPotluck.com/HYNI8608)

**Welcome New Members**

St Raymond's Parish extends a warm welcome to the following persons who received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 17 after completing the 2021-2022 RCIA or RCIC programs: Marccelo E. Alvarez, Michelle V. Barrientos, James T. Callender, Gloria E. Castillo, Matthew A. Crossley, Molly E. Dedham, Tiana L. Escalante, David R. Fuller, Ashley N. Garcia, Kathryn E. Johnson, Marshall Mutumanje, Guissela V. Noneman, Joshua J. Stolarz, Chelsey M. Toney, Heather L. Frazee, and Ryan Janampa.

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

**April 25** Family of Jesus Prayer Group  
**April 25** Summer RCIA Program Begins  
**April 27** Legion of Mary  
**May 1** Donut Sunday  
**May 2 - 6** Modified Weekday Mass Schedule  
No 6:30 am Mass this week  
**May 6** EFM Mass (Latin) 7:00 pm  
**May 7** Men's Prayer Group  
**May 7** Luminaries of Mary  
**May 7** K of C Shredding Event  
**May 13** Book Club  
**May 14** Senior Spring Luncheon

**Gift Shop Sale** - April 23rd and 24th, in the Narthex.

**Donut Sunday, May 1st** 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. This month's Donut Sunday is being hosted by our Legion of Mary & our Lectors.

**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 May 3rd will be donated or disposed of, as appropriate.

**Spring/Summer 2022 Class to enter the Catholic Church (RCIA)** will be offered at St Raymond's Parish on **Monday evenings 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Classes will run from April 25, 2022 until August 29, 2022 (except for Memorial Day, May 30, and July 4, 2022).** This program is based on the teachings of the Catholic Church and designed to prepare 1) *baptized adult non-Catholics* to enter the Catholic Church, and 2) *baptized adult Catholics* seeking First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation. **Also, anyone who desires a better understanding of Catholic teachings and practices is welcomed.** No advanced registration is required. The standard RCIA program will be offered beginning in September 2022. If you have questions call Bob or Bev Ward 703-644-5873 or via email at [rew6710@gmail.com](mailto:rew6710@gmail.com).



**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 Last Call:** The final ticket return to the parish office was Friday 4-22. If by chance, you have tickets left, please mail them to All Saints Catholic Church 9300 Stonewall Road, Manassas, Virginia 20110 attention: Veronica Rollins. All tickets need to be accounted for according to Virginia gaming regulations. If you have purchased tickets and want to participate in the drawing, All Saints will receive them by mail until April 29th at noon. The drawing can be viewed virtually by going to the All Saints website on April 30th. Larry Saenz 703-832-1042.

**The Knights of Columbus will have a bulk shredding truck** in the south parking lot on Saturday, May 7th, from 10 AM to 1 PM. Bring your old files, receipts, and tax papers for quick secure disposal. Your donations will be used to support vocations and provide homes for the intellectually disabled. No hard drives, 3 ring or spiral notebooks or binder clips please. For more information call or text Dave Wilson at 703-966-5327.

**St. Raymond's has Adoration most Wednesdays and Fridays!** Would you like to spend an hour in silent prayer and reflection with our Lord during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament? We are **in need of weekly adorers especially at 4:00 pm on Wednesdays and 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm on Fridays.** We also need volunteers to be on our substitute list. If you are interested in Wednesdays, please call Leslie Schratz at 703-569-1940 or email [spoiledk9s@verizon.net](mailto:spoiledk9s@verizon.net). If you are interested in Fridays, please call Virginia Osella at 703-440-0535 or email [virginia.osella@straymonds.org](mailto:virginia.osella@straymonds.org). **Drop-ins are always welcome!**

**Bridge Club:** All levels of players are welcome. We play Bridge cards each week in the Church Hall. Contact Lois Kotlowski at 703-455-3637 [dancertoo2@yahoo.com](mailto:dancertoo2@yahoo.com) or James Kolakoski at 703-455-3009 [bridgeclub402@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeclub402@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining us.

**Annual Spring Senior Luncheon  
For Seniors 55+**

**Where: Church Parish Hall**

**When: May 14th**

**Time: 12:00 - 2:00 pm**

**Cost: Free**

**R.S.V.P. to Parish Office 703-440-0535**

**Or complete below & drop in the collection basket.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests \_\_\_\_\_ (Bring a Friend!)

Hosted by our American Heritage Girls and Trail Life Troops

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

April is known nationally as **Safe Haven Month**, a time to recognize safe alternatives to infant abandonment by promoting **Safe Haven laws.**

See fliers in the narthex or visit: [nationalsafehavenalliance.org](http://nationalsafehavenalliance.org)



Join fellow parishioners for the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia March for Life.** This week! Wed. April 27<sup>th</sup>. The parish will be sending a bus. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

[marchforlife.org/virginia-march-for-life/](http://marchforlife.org/virginia-march-for-life/)

**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! This is our support weekend!!!

**Donation collection spot is near the elevator 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.

**Abortion reversal helpline** 855-209-4848. *It may not be too late.* [reverseabortionpill.com](http://reverseabortionpill.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).

**To those who have suffered an abortion:** **Project Rachel** can help someone who is carrying the grief and sorrow of a past abortion. (888)456-HOPE. Confidentiality always respected.

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

For Men: (703) 841-3833.

Email: [info@helpafterabortion.org](mailto:info@helpafterabortion.org) or [info@ayudadespuesdelaborto.org](mailto:info@ayudadespuesdelaborto.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).

**Looking for something worthwhile to do this summer or next?** Check out [crossroadswalk.org](http://crossroadswalk.org) or [bikingforbabies.com/national-ride](http://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 [foreverangelsforvirginia.com](http://foreverangelsforvirginia.com) or contact Kim at 540-664-2601 or [kimviolet@gmail.com](mailto: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>

**ALLELUIA!! CHRIST IS RISEN!! HAPPY EASTER!!**

### Youth Group & CCD this Sunday, April 24

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

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

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

### Sons of Thunder: High School Guys' Group

**7-8:30pm Tuesday, April 26 (Maurer Room)**

Come join the brotherhood! All 9-12th grade 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. Sons of Thunder meets 7-8:30pm on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month in the Maurer Room.

### Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group!

**7-8:30pm TUESDAY, April 26 (MAURER ROOM)**

Talitha Koum will NOT be meeting Easter Monday 4/18. Our next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Sons of Thunder in the Maurer room on Tuesday, April 26th.

### High School Fri. 6:30am Mass & Breakfast 4/29

Jesus Christ is Risen!! Join us Friday mornings for Mass followed by breakfast with Fr. Horkan in the parish hall. RSVP by Wednesday if you need a ride to school. If not, just show up for Mass & have your parent drive you to school after breakfast.

### 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!*

ST. RAYMOND'S YOUTH APOSTOLATE

**CORNHOLE  
RAFFLE**

HAND-CRAFTED BY OUR WORKCAMP TEENS

**WorkCamp Fundraiser**

Tickets on sale after ALL Masses

**April 23-24<sup>th</sup>**



Tickets can also be purchased online at

<https://bit.ly/WCRAFFLE> now through April 23<sup>rd</sup>



2 WINNERS WILL BE DRAWN APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup> AFTER THE 1PM MASS.

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

**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

**BLESSED AND HAPPY EASTER to you all!!**

**CCD classes resume this week - beginning TONIGHT (April 24th)**

**2022-2023 CCD Registration forms** are going home THIS WEEK with the oldest or only child from each family. Please complete the form and return as soon as possible; classes are filled on a first come, first served basis. **PLEASE NOTE: there will be no CCD classes on Tuesday** for the 2022-2023 academic year!

**Parents of 8th grade Confirmation candidates 2022:** The Confirmation Pledge and Promise form - emailed to you last week - is to be signed by you and your child and returned to their CCD teacher this week!!

**For parents of students preparing for Confirmation in 2023:** your child's Saint report is due April 28th. Please check the Confirmation Supplement which you received in September for due dates of other paperwork.

**Final Exams will be administered May 9, 10 and 15:** Parents, please work with your children in learning the material in the Second Semester section of the Basic Study Questions booklet for their grade level.

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

**American Heritage Girls:** Did you know we have an American Heritage Girls troop here at St. Raymond's? AHG is a fun Christian scouting group for girls from Kindergarten to 12th grade. Our troop, Troop VA0683, meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at St. Raymond's. Coming up soon for our troop is our campout in May, which will be at Pohick Bay Regional Park and take place over three days. We are also looking forward to our World Heritage Day, which will help us earn the World Heritage badge. We will be learning about and enjoying food from different countries on this day. We would love for you to join us at a meeting with your daughter(s)! Please contact our troop coordinator, Bea Frey, at [ahgva0683@gmail.com](mailto:ahgva0683@gmail.com) or visit our website, <https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/american-heritage-girls-troop/>, for more information. We hope to see you soon!!

**Book Club:** Our next meeting will be on Friday, May 13th at 10 am in the Parish Library. We will be discussing *The Secret of the Rosary* by Louis De Montfort and Mary Barbour (152 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).

**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).



## Church Persecuted

"A human being must always obey the certain judgment of his conscience." (CCC 1790). Yet *Politico* is reporting that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is about to issue new rules requiring medical personnel to participate in activities such as abortions, sterilizations, "gender-affirming care," even if the medical personnel involved deem that such actions violate their well-informed consciences, and the procedures violate their religious and moral beliefs. ("Biden admin to rescind Trump 'conscience' rule for health workers" 4/19/2022)

This has been a political football being bounced back and forth depending upon which political party is in the White House. In the latest actions, the Trump administration promulgated rules protecting the conscious decisions of medical personnel performing such procedures. Immediately after taking office, President Biden announced that he intended to rescind the rules. Now, the long-anticipated rules concerning the removal of the conscience protection are due out in the coming days.

Here is an example: if a patient entered a pro-life OB-GYN facility and demanded an abortion, which at this time is still not against the law, the physicians could refuse to perform it because the procedure violates their well-informed consciences. Same applies to a pharmacist who refused to distribute birth control or abortion-causing medication, physicians being required to perform gender-altering surgery, or provide assisted suicide medication. If the Biden administration has its way, these protections will end.

**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.

## FORMED

### Get In-Formed!

The War of the Vendée – This inspiring and unique new film from Navis Pictures, producers of St. Bernadette of Lourdes, tells the moving story of France's little known religious civil war in the years following the French Revolution. Featuring an exuberant and gifted cast of over 250 young Catholics (playing all the roles), it is a powerful story of sacrifice and martyrdom. It is told with a careful sense of reserve and is an outstanding movie for the whole family. In 1793, after enduring three and a half years of Church persecution under the architects of the French Revolution, a small band of faithful peasants and nobles from the Vendee region of France began a Catholic "counter-revolution." This is the unknown, heroic story of the valiant, six year struggle of the people of that small section of western France to restore their Holy Religion and their King. Steeped in the spiritual influence of St. Louis de Montfort, and wearing their rosaries and emblems of the Sacred Heart, their sacrifices resulted in countless martyrdoms, and ultimately won the restoration of religious freedom for all of France. This beautiful film is a love-letter to the Vendean people, and was produced to honor the memory of these brave men and women who willingly sacrificed their lives, "for God and King."

Watch now at [www.straymonds.formed.org](http://www.straymonds.formed.org)

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Questions? Need help? Email us at: [formed@straymonds.org](mailto:formed@straymonds.org)



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**St. Martin de Porres Committee** - collects food on an ongoing basis for the Springfield Resource Center which services 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).

**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](http://echo-inc.org) or call Kathy Siner at 703-405-8164. Thank you for your generosity.

**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

Easter	\$ 28,274.00
Family Assistance	\$ 597.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,017.00
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School Scholarship Donations	\$ 3,987.00
Holy Land Shrines	\$ 4,261.00

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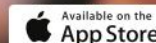
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