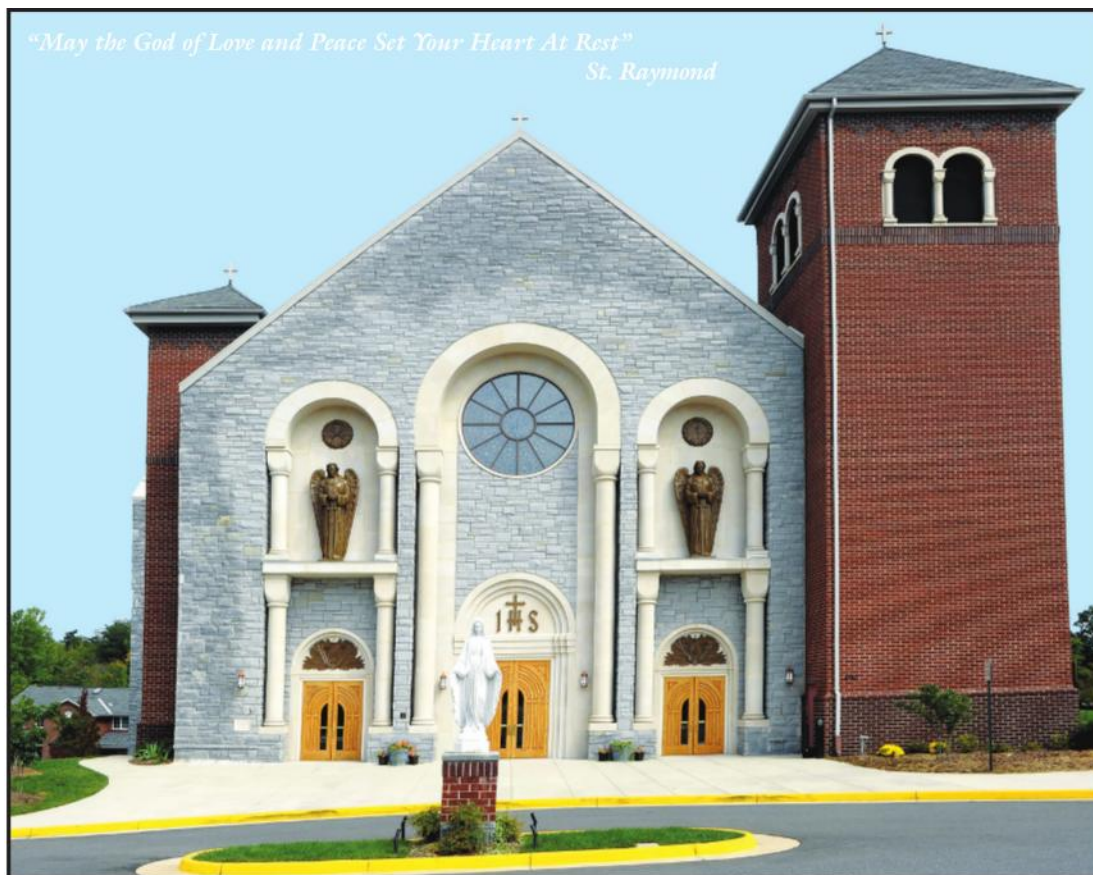


"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"
St. Raymond



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

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
Mary Hansen, Religious Education Secretary
Joe Marquart, Plant Manager
Maerose Naduvilekunel, Business Manager
Virginia Osella, Parish Secretary
Mary Butler, Secretary

PARISH OFFICE:

Telephone Numbers:

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

Office Hours

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

E-Mail

Church: Office@straymonds.org
Rel. Ed.: ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org
Choirs: Music@straymonds.org

Website

www.straymonds.org

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

Angelus Academy

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

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

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Reconciliation/Confession)

Wednesday Evening

6:15-6:55 p.m. (during Exposition)

Saturday Morning

8:15 - 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

NOVEMBER: PRAYING FOR THE DEAD. November is a month in which Catholics are called to particularly pray for all the souls in Purgatory.

Many Catholics nowadays wrongly think Purgatory is an outdated remnant from the Middle Ages, even though Christian belief in Purgatory is rooted in Jewish doctrine (2 Maccabees 12), and was well established in the early Church. Many other Catholics, in their grief, prefer to think of their departed loved ones as already being in Heaven, and can't bear the thought that they might be in Purgatory.

But the doctrine of Purgatory is not something to fear, because it is a doctrine of God's mercy and reflects the reality that none of us is perfect. All of us sin or cling to things of this world—however small or seemingly insignificant. But Scripture tells us “nothing imperfect shall enter” into Heaven (Rev. 21:27)—and rightly so, since Heaven is about perfect happiness, perfect love, etc... Given this, and confident in Our Lord's desire for all to be with Him in Heaven, Christians have always believed that between death and Heaven there is a purification, or *purgation*, where we're cleansed from all imperfections, i.e., made perfect. This state, or “place,” we call Purgatory.

Now, we must remember that Purgatory is NOT *anything* like Hell, and all the Souls in Purgatory are good and “worthy” of eternal joy in Heaven—we call them the “Holy Souls.” So thinking of them as in Purgatory is not an insult but praise. Moreover, these Souls are certain they are going to Heaven, so they are filled with a joy beyond anything experienced on earth.

But we must also remember that there is suffering in Purgatory. The simplest way for many of us to understand this is to think of the suffering related to change. All change is difficult. Consider the person who is trying to lose weight, or exercising for an athletic competition. The effort involved in change is painful, but as you see progress, you are also invigorated and happy, seeing your goal approach.

Even so, since 1) Purgatory involves pain, and 2) we want our beloved dead to swiftly enter the joys of Heaven, we should never neglect praying for them. And if they are already in Heaven, no prayer is wasted, since every prayer is an act of love, and they hear each prayer as telling them how much we love them.

So in love, let us pray for our beloved dead this month, and for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, especially the “most abandoned,” the souls who no one else remembers to pray for.

“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace.”

Offering Masses: “Mass Intentions.” The greatest prayer Christians can offer is the Sacrifice of the Mass. We remember that at each Mass the one and only Sacrifice of the Cross on Calvary is made present. This Sacrifice of Jesus was and is the greatest prayer ever offered: God the Son's great offering to the Father for the expiation of sins and salvation of the world. Because of this, the graces that flow from the Mass are infinite and that grace produces various “fruits,” or benefits: impetratory fruits (spiritual and temporal benefits), propitiatory fruits (forgiveness of sins), and satisfactory fruits (remission of temporal punishment).

Tradition teaches that these fruits flow to: 1) the whole Church (“general fruits”), 2) those participating in the particular Mass (“special fruits”), to the priest himself (“personal fruits”), and to those for whom the priest is offering the Mass (“ministerial fruits”).

This last type of fruit, ministerial, is what we usually mean when we speak of the priest “offering a Mass” for a particular intention, or when the Mass Intention is announced in the bulletin or at Mass. (Note: contrary to what some seem to think, when this “Mass Intention” is for a person(s), this is not meant to publicly honor that person, nor is the congregation required to pray for the person. The Mass honors God; it bears fruit in us, including the person it is offered for.)

These ministerial fruits have infinite power—they flow from the infinite perfect Sacrifice of the Cross. But they are limited by the disposition of the person who receives them. So, for example, when you receive the Sacrament of Penance, you receive all the grace you need to never sin again, but you benefit from that grace only to the extent you cooperate with it, or are “open to it.” Grace isn't magic that immediately turns a sinner into a saint. Grace is a gift, that if you chose to use, will help you become a saint.

So, when a priest offers the Mass for John, John receives infinite graces, but they are only beneficial to him if he is disposed to let them benefit him. So, if John has his heart set on sinning, but has a small opening in his heart to God, then he will benefit from the infinite fruits of the Mass only a small amount.

The same is true for **the Souls in Purgatory**. So, when a Mass is offered for a Jane in Purgatory, the Mass will benefit her only to the extent she is purified and is open to that fruit. Because we understand purgation as a process of purification and that some souls need more purification than others, the Soul in Purgatory benefits from ministerial fruits of the Mass in a powerful but limited way: they are not yet *perfectly* open to them, but they are more and more perfectly open to them. So that when multiple Masses are offered for a Soul he/she will benefit more and more as he/she becomes more and more perfectly disposed to the fruits.

So, “offering Masses” for the dead is absolutely the best way we can help them in their purification/perfection.

I'm Just Quoting Here... Don't blame me for reporting. Reacting to the working document for the “Synod on Synodality” released last month by the Vatican, Dutch Bishop Robert Mutsaerts responded (in part):

“The contours of the synodal process are becoming increasingly clear. It provides a megaphone for ...those who do not agree with the teachings of the Catholic Church. What the working document seems to suggest is that we compile a list of complaints and then debate them. The mission of the Church is a different one... Jesus commanded us something else: proclaim the truth; it is the truth that will set you free...”

“To date, the synodal process is more like a sociological experiment and has little to do with the Holy Spirit supposedly sounding through all. That could almost be called blasphemous.”

“...One thing is clear to me. God is out of the picture in this damned synodal process. The Holy Spirit has absolutely nothing to do with it... I have since dropped out of the synodal process.”

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, Nov. 14th**

6:30 am Chris Menotti +
8:30 am Sofi Rae Hills

Tuesday, Nov. 15th

6:30 am Gene Pearce +
8:30 am Emma Haddon
Estabrooks +

Wednesday, Nov. 16th

6:30 am Melvin (+) & Diane
Miller
8:30 am Sam Berger

Thursday, Nov. 17th

6:30 am Paul Lanzillotta +
8:30 am Joseph & Irene
Mannion +

Friday, Nov. 18th

6:30 am Bill Sencabaugh +
8:30 am Gene Pearce +

Saturday, Nov. 19th

9:00 am Stephen Donohue

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles
Raymond J. Schultz +

Sunday, Nov. 20th

7:00 am Fr. Horkan
Jacques Anezin
9:00 am Fr. De Celles
Parishioners
11:00 am Fr. Rippey
Robert Ferguson +
1:00 pm Fr. De Celles
Family of Jesus Prayer
Group

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.

Please pray for the sick of our parish

Glenn Bliss	John Florio	Serrin Foster
Tom Dietz	Michael	Fr. Jerry Daly
Michael O'Neill	Malachowski	Tom Swengros
Cindy Laird	Debra Henkel	Margaret O'Neill
Patricia Lewis	Daniel Moore	Christina
Mai Pham	Gaudencio Dizon	Cautero
Joan Opiela	Paul Haynes	Jim Kirsch
Jason Saenz	Dwayne Taylor	Robert Carter
Phyllis Zitnik	Ted Tolpa	Diva Zabalaga
Patricia Del Buono	Nena Brennan	Barbara Carlson
Juanita Boarman		

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Nov. 14	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Nov. 15	Bible Study
Nov. 16	Adoration 9am - 7pm
Nov. 16	Legion of Mary
Nov. 18	Adoration 9am - 3pm
Nov. 19	Men's Prayer Group
Nov. 21-22	No CCD Classes
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Day
	One Mass at 10am, Parish Offices Closed
Nov. 25	Parish Offices are closed
Nov. 27	NO CCD Classes or Youth Groups

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

straymonds.org

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

Holy Hour Offering Cards. Are you making a Holy Hour for a loved one or a friend? There are now complimentary Holy Hour Offering Cards (with envelopes) available in the Narthex suitable for mailing. Please feel free to take one and let someone know that you are remembering them in prayer.

Daily Family Rosary will continue! Thank you to everyone who participated so far! Continuing in the months ahead, every evening, St. Raymond's will have a Family Rosary in the church at 6:30pm. **All are invited to attend**, and we ask for one family to volunteer to lead the rosary each evening. **Please visit our website to sign up!**

Mothers' Group: Do your young children need a bit more excitement? Are you looking for Catholic friendship with fellow mothers? Come to the moms' meet-up on Wednesday mornings! We alternate between meeting at our church and parks. Email Michelle for more information at mlcastry@gmail.com.

JOIN the CHOIR at St. Raymond's: Do you want to sing with the choir for Advent and Christmas? Singers who have a pleasant voice and sing in pitch are welcome. We practice on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and sing at 11:00 am Mass on Sundays with a warm-up at 10. The choir also provides music for Easter, Christmas and other Holy Days. Contact Elisabeth Turco at music@straymonds.org or call 703-506-4644.

Watch for our Constant Contact Updates! If you are not receiving emails from the parish, please contact the parish office at 703-440-0535 or office@straymonds.org to verify your email address.

Save the Date! Mass with Bishop Burbidge for the 25th Anniversary of St. Raymond's. On December 4th, Bishop Michael Burbidge will join us for a special **11:00 am Mass** to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the parish. Our parish was established on July 5, 1997 and this church building was dedicated on December 19, 2006. The bishop will join us for Donut Sunday following the 11:00 Mass.

Save the Date! Lessons and Carols is back! After a two-year hiatus, we are pleased to invite you to join us on **Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 7:00 pm** for a program of beautiful Advent music and Scripture readings, called "**Lessons and Carols.**" Weaving together prophetic readings from the Old Testament and pre-nativity readings from the Gospels, the readers lay out God's breathtaking plan for the birth of Our Savior. The choir adds to the atmosphere of joyful expectation by leading us in popular hymns and singing a few special choral pieces. Afterwards, everyone gathers downstairs for some seasonal refreshments and Christian fellowship.

Wreaths Across America: REMEMBER OUR FALLEN U.S. VETERANS. The American Heritage Girls will be selling Wreath Sponsorships **after all Masses this weekend**, Nov. 12-13. On Dec. 17, 2022 a wreath will be placed on the grave of each soldier at the U.S. Soldiers' & Airmen's Home National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. by AHG Troop VA0683. THANK YOU for your support! For more information or questions, please contact Eileen Maturi, 703-598-2855 or eileen.maturi@gmail.com.

"I myself shall give you wisdom in speaking." Are you considering a call to proclaim the gospel as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? Call Father Michael Isenberg (703) 841-2514, or write: michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org



St. John Bosco Council #12846 Knights of Columbus Are you a man of 17½ 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! Our common bond is our devotion to the Catholic Faith and our brotherhood in Christ. We have joined together to help one another become better Catholics, better husbands, better fathers and better providers for the financial protection of our families.

The Knights of Columbus will be offering Religious Christmas Cards for sale in the Narthex after all Masses this weekend. Please stop by the Knights table and take a look at these beautiful cards. The point of contact is John Crennan, 339-223-0887.

Legion of Mary Annual December Reunion: The Potomac Comitium invites Active and Auxiliary members and their families to our annual Legion of Mary reunion, to be held on Saturday, December 3, 2022. The location is All Saints Parish Activity Center, 9300 Stonewall Rd, Manassas. We will celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary! The event will begin with at 9:45am with a short Comitium monthly meeting where we will pray the Rosary and Tesserat prayers, to be followed by a luncheon and entertainment. St. Raymond's Auxiliaries should contact Judy Mayer, jmayer9014@aol.com or call / text 703-627-7320, by Tuesday, November 29 if you plan to attend.

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 Nov. 19.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.

Golden Jubilee Holy Hour and Rosary with Bishop Burbidge. All are invited to join Bishop Michael F. Burbidge for a Solemn Eucharistic Holy Hour with the Recitation of the Holy Rosary to inaugurate Preparation Year II of our diocesan Golden Jubilee. The theme for Year II is "Rejoice: My soul rejoices in the Lord!" The Holy Hour will take place on **Sunday, November 20, at 4 pm** at the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More in Arlington.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of Weather or Emergency closings, St. Raymond's Parish NO LONGER follows Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) decisions.

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

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

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

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

Some may remember but others may not.... early on Sunday morning, November 14, 2010, a newborn baby girl was discovered in a gym bag in our church parking lot. By the grace of God, Sofi was in good health and adopted into a loving Christian family. Sofi is now a lovely young lady celebrating her 12th birthday. Please offer a prayer in thanksgiving for Sofi's life, for the well-being of the woman who knew enough to bravely entrust her baby to our parish and for Sofi's family. ***Life, what a beautiful gift!***

Pregnancy Care Centers remain on the frontline of helping mothers choose and sustain life. We proudly support The MaRiH Center in Alexandria. Donations of diapers and baby items up to 2T welcomed in the narthex. **Thank you for your continued generosity!** Join fellow parishioners who volunteer at the center. Visit marih.org Donations of *warm outerwear for newborns or 2T are particularly appreciated at this time.*

40 Days for Life. THANK YOU to all who participated in this awesome international effort. Hearts are changed, lives are saved through peaceful prayerful witness. Please continue to **pray to end abortion in our country.**

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.

Natural Family Planning (NFP) respects the **love-giving** (unitive) and **life-giving** (procreative) nature of the conjugal act, God's design for married love. Visit: www.arlingtondiocese.org/family-life/marriage/natural-family-planning/

Women often regret the desperate decision to take the abortion pill. Call the abortion reversal helpline 855-209-4848. **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. Visit **amomspeace.org.**

To those who have suffered an abortion: Project Rachel can help women and men who are carrying the grief and sorrow of a past abortion. (888)456-HOPE. Confidentiality always respected.
www.helpafterabortion.org. Men: (703) 841-3833.

Give a Gift for Life! No woman should ever feel that she is alone or that abortion is her only choice. **Gabriel Project** helps pregnant moms welcome their babies For more info, contact them at 1-866-444-3553 or **GabrielProject@arlingtondiocese.org.**

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate

Pie Sale Fundraiser for Youth Apostolate

Thank you to all who ordered pies in support of our youth!
We look forward to baking them for you!

Jr. High Bake Night: Thursday, Nov. 17 (6-8pm)

High School Bake Night: Friday, Nov. 18 (6:30-9pm)

We have a *huge* task ahead of us, making 120+ pies in two nights! We need **a minimum of 10 youth & 3 compliant adults each night** to help make pies for our pie sale. Please sign up ASAP <https://bit.ly/MAKEPIE>

Sat./Sun. November 19-20th After ALL Masses

A LOT of HELP is NEEDED!!

At the end of each Mass, our high school teens will be sharing short testimonies about their experiences at WorkCamp and Steubenville. **We need at least one 7-12th grader and a compliant adult and/or parent of the child at each door to hold a basket to collect donations as folks leave each Mass.** This is also the weekend folks will be picking up their pie orders in the narthex after each Mass, so **help is needed in the narthex to pass pies out as well.** Please sign up ASAP if you can help! <https://bit.ly/MAJORHELP>

Sunday 11/13: Youth Group & CCD (Parish Hall)

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

5:30-7pm 7-12th Grade CCD

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

Friday, November 18th

6:30am Friday Morning Mass & Breakfast Club

New: All 7-12th graders are invited to join us Friday mornings for 6:30am Mass followed by breakfast with Fr. Horkan in the parish hall. If you RSVP by Wednesday, we can coordinate our volunteers to drive you to school. If not, you are welcome to just show up for Mass and have your parent drive you to school after breakfast! RSVP to youth@straymonds.org. **We will not be meeting for Mass & Breakfast on 11/25.**

VOLUNTEERS & FOOD NEEDED!

Volunteers Needed to Help with High School Youth Group

Most Sundays 6:45-9pm Our Youth Apostolate is in need of more volunteers/role models (*particularly women*) to help with our weekly high school youth group. Is the Holy Spirit nudging you? Contact Jeanne for more information.

Breakfast Donations for High School Mass & Breakfast Club

Please consider supporting our parish teens who start their Friday's off with Mass, breakfast, & fellowship by donating a Baked Good, fruit, etc. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/FriBfast>

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

youth@straymonds.org Call/Text: 571-334-9890

Email Jeanne to get our weekly emails with important Youth Apostolate news & upcoming events!

Youth Apostolate Participation (Grades 7-12)

Info Sheet must be turned in annually for every child *prior* to participating in any Youth Apostolate function. Forms are by the YA bulletin boards or online at <http://bit.ly/YAforms>. Completed forms can be emailed to Jeanne or turned in to the main office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

November 20th: There **WILL** be CCD class

November 21, 22 and 27: Thanksgiving Holiday - there **WILL NOT** be CCD classes

ATTENTION Parents of home school or Catholic school students in grades 2, 7 or 8 who are preparing to receive sacraments at St. Raymond parish, **you must register your child with the Religious Education Office.** Please pick up a bright blue registration form from the Religious Education Office and return it to the RE Office as soon as possible. If you do not register, you will not receive important notices related to the reception of the sacraments

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 **December 3**. All are welcome.

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 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.

Home School Group: for more information visit our website www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/ Or email straymondhsg@gmail.com.

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

Bridge Club: All levels of players are welcome. We play Bridge cards each week in the Church Hall. Contact Lois Kotlowski at 703-455-6567 dancertoo2@yahoo.com or James Kolakoski at 703-455-3009 bridgeclub402@gmail.com if you are interested in joining us.

Two Patients: My Pro-Life Conversion Story. Dr. John Bruchalski, the Founder and President of Divine Mercy Care and the Founder of Tepeyac OB/GYN in Fairfax, VA, is a physician who practiced abortion, but then came to question the medical status quo and began to pioneer an approach to reproductive medicine that respects female fertility, honors the dignity of unborn children, and offers care to patients regardless of their financial situation. The **talk will be at the Basilica of Saint Mary's Lyceum Auditorium** (313 Duke Street) on **Tuesday, November 15, 2022**. The book signing/social time will be from 7-7:30 p.m. and Dr. Bruchalski's talk will begin at 7:30 p.m.

St. Raymond's has Adoration every Wednesday and Friday! 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 noon and 4:00 pm on Wednesdays and at noon, 1:00 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. If you are interested in Fridays, please call Virginia Osella at 703-440-0535 or email virginia.osella@straymonds.org. Drop-ins are always welcome!

Church Persecuted

Last week we introduced the Four Levels of Happiness from the book, *Healing the Culture* by Rev. Robert Spitzer, explaining how our ego-centered society is at conflict with the Christ-centered Church. Level 1 happiness is physical pleasure and material possessions. Level 2 happiness is ego-gratification. Both of these are self-centered.

We now move beyond ourselves and consider others in Level 3 happiness which focuses on our need to contribute to family, friends, and community. Helping others centers around the second greatest Commandment — love of neighbor. But, when Level 3 happiness becomes an end in itself, we can become cynical and frustrated by our own limitations and our imperfect world. Level 3 should always be subordinate to Level 4.

Level 4 happiness is faith in God's unconditional love and mercy. Level 4 comes when we surrender ourselves to God allowing him to act in our lives in the ways of love, truth, justice, and goodness. When this level becomes our focus, the other three levels are in balance.

Father De Celles recently addressed decrease in Mass attendance. The Mass is the "source and summit of the Christian life" (CCC 1324). Let us each move ourselves out of levels 2 or 3 happiness on to level 4, focusing on God's unconditional love. In doing so, others will join us as we move society toward level 4 happiness.

Healing Our Past: Victim Assistance Ministry: The Victim Assistance Ministry offers referrals to therapists with experience working with victims/survivors of sexual abuse as well as referrals for spiritual assistance. In addition the diocese offers Masses and prayer services for healing for victims/survivors of sexual abuse, as well as various other support services. If you or someone in your family has been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church, we encourage you to contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator at 703-841-2530. All calls are confidential. For more information about services provided by the Victim Assistance Ministry, please visit our website at www.arlingtondiocese.org.

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The best Catholic content for all ages in one place - movies, programs, talks, dramas, & ebooks—just one click away! Watch anytime, anywhere on your electronic devices: computer, tablet, Smart phone, Smart TV, etc. See the bulletin board in the vestibule for instructions on getting the App for mobile devices and for content suggestions. Download content to enjoy offline when on the go!

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.

Open Houses at Angelus Academy

Come see Catholic liberal arts education in the classical tradition! Join our open house session on Friday evening, January 27, 4:00-7:00pm and on Saturday, January 28, 10:00am-2:00pm.

Email Julie Maimone, Director of Admissions, at Admissions@angelusacademy.org for more information.

We are now accepting applications for 2023-24.

Visit angelusacademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/

www.AngelusAcademy.org

703-924-3996

7644 Dynatech Ct., Springfield, VA 22153

Scholarships to Catholic Schools are still available!

Please send requests for tuition assistance to Fr. De Celles or contact the parish office for more information.

St. Martin de Porres Committee - collects food on an ongoing basis for the Springfield Resource Center which serves over 250 families in the Springfield area. A collection box is in the Narthex and donations are collected and distributed weekly. Suggested food items are listed, but all donations are welcome (no clothing). For equitable distribution, smaller packaging is requested (i.e. 1 lb bags of rice vs. 5 lb. bags, 1 qt. oil vs. 1 gal oil).

Catholic Charities Family Services can help if you or someone you know is struggling with anxiety, depression, grief, and marital or parenting concerns. We offer transformational outpatient counseling services to individuals, couples, and families of all faiths and backgrounds. Call **703-447-9402**, and for more information, visit <https://www.cdda.net/need-help/medical-and-counseling/counseling/>

FAITH DIRECT: eGiving helps you continue to support St. Raymond's. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Recurring gifts sustain our parish throughout the year. You'll provide us with consistent support, even if you're away on a Sunday, so the programs, services, and ministries that mean so much to our community will never miss a beat. Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/VA64. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 18,086.00
Family Assistance	\$ 3,021.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 6,357.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 6,582.00

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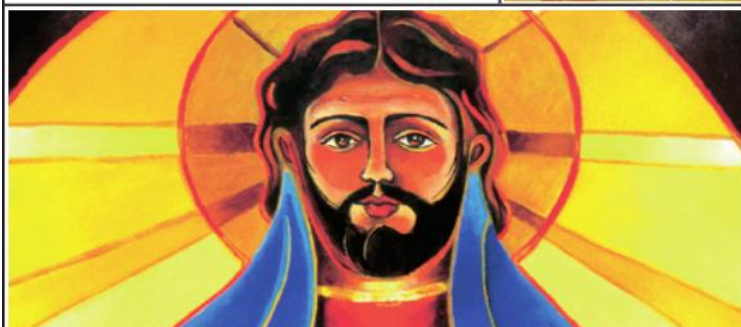
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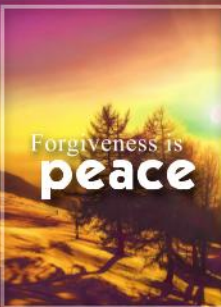
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