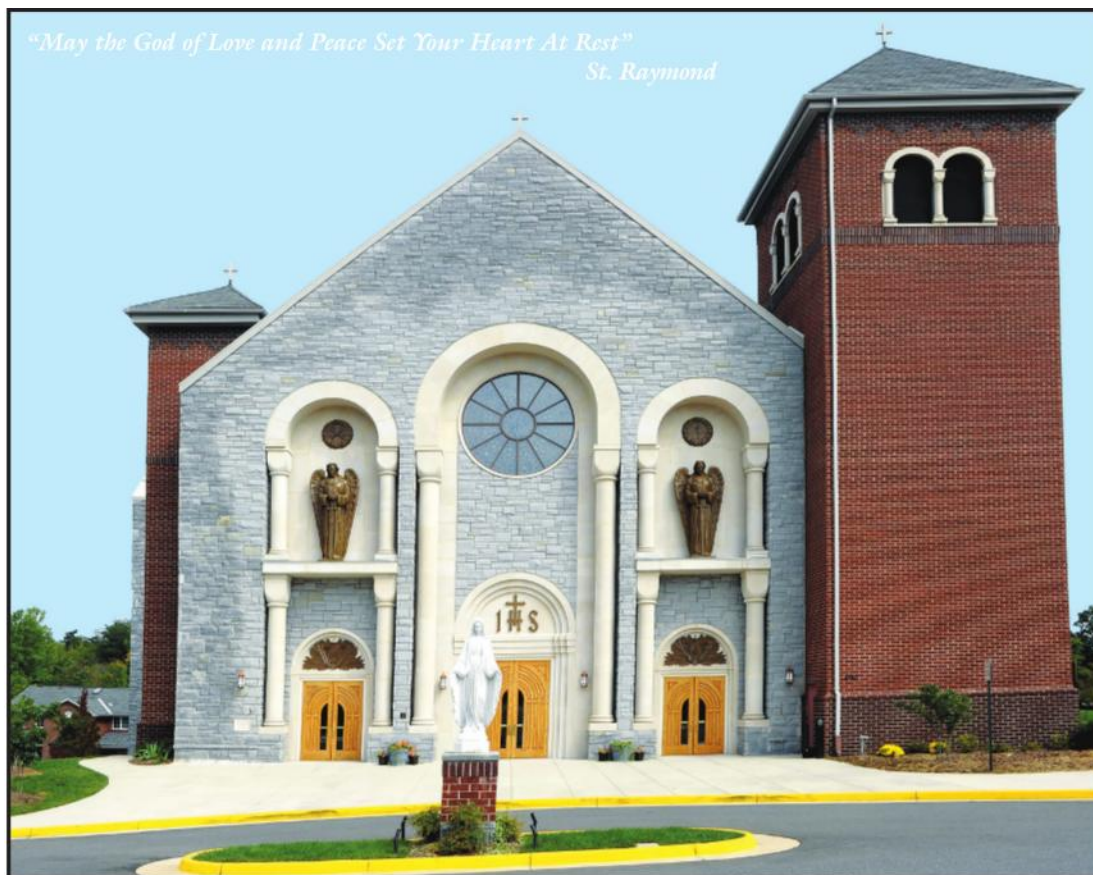


"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"
St. Raymond



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 Naduvilekunnel, 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

Christ the King. Today is the last Sunday of the Catholic liturgical year, which ends with the celebration of the feast of Christ the King of the Universe.

Jesus told us His “kingdom is not of this world.” He was not establishing a territorial nation with rules enforced by imprisonment or armies. But He did not say or mean that His kingdom would “have nothing to do with the world.” Rather His kingdom, and kingship, would reign above the world and in men’s hearts, minds and souls, and so transform the world.

Because of this, the Church has always recognized a legitimate understanding of the “separation of Church and state.” It is true that some nations have been, or still are, officially “Catholic” nations. Some say this blurs the lines of that separation. But it all depends on what you mean by “separation.” If you mean, on the one hand, that the Church should not dictate the particular laws of civil society, while still having a strong influence on those laws, especially in promoting true morality, justice, virtue and charity, and on the other hand, that civil leaders and laws should not interfere in the spiritual, moral life or conscience of the Church and its members, then you have something approaching the historic Catholic understanding of separation.

This understanding is entirely compatible (though not identical) with the type of “separation” the American founders established for our nation, enshrined in the first amendment to the Constitution: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” The principal effect of this clause is to guarantee that *the government can’t make laws that unnecessarily impinge on the rights of religions or churches, or interfere with people practicing their religion freely. There is nothing here, as some people claim, that denies the right of religion, Churches, and/or religious people to influence civil government and laws. In fact, the founding fathers believed that religion had an essential role in guiding the nation and its laws. As George Washington wrote: “Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports.... [R]eason and experience both forbid us to expect, that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”*

In the last few decades Islamic extremists have used despicable violence against the innocent to try to establish a world-wide theocracy in which the state and “church” (so to speak) are one, with no separation at all. We see something similar in Iran, where the Supreme Leader is the highest ranking Muslim cleric.

The Catholic Church does not seek this role. (Note: although Pope Urban II seemed to try to do this in the 13th century, his approach was strongly rejected by his brother bishops, Catholic princes and his immediate successor in the papacy). It simply believes that it has a critical role in influencing public policy, and that its individual members have a right to live according to their faith-formed consciences and, especially through the right of free speech and the right to vote, to enact laws consistent with their understanding of right and wrong, good and evil.

Today, on the feast of Christ the King, we remember this, and that while His Kingdom is not of this world, it reigns in the hearts and minds of all Christians. So that while Christ does not seek to establish His own worldly kingdom or nation, He does call all peoples living in the worldly kingdoms and nations to follow Him so as to live in true justice and virtue.

Does Christ the King reign in our hearts—or does something

else rule there? And do we allow our King to rule the way we live in the worldly kingdoms, in both our day to day life with family, friends and customers, as well as in the “public square” of public speech and civil laws?

Thanksgiving. This Thursday is, of course, Thanksgiving Day. This is not a religious holiday, but it does clearly illustrate how the sense of the importance of religion is deeply rooted in our national self-understanding. As President George Washington wrote in establishing the first Thanksgiving Day in 1789:

“Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be-- That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks--for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation--for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war--for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed--for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted--for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.”

This week, remember who you are giving thanks to. It’s fine to thank your family and friends for all their kindnesses, but in the end it is “Almighty God”—Christ the King—to whom we owe our unending thanks. May He continue to bless us and our beloved nation.

And what better way to begin Thanksgiving Day than by coming to our 10am Mass? After all, Eucharist comes from the Greek word *eukharistia*, which means *thanksgiving*. I hope to see you there.

New President of the US Bishops. Last week the U.S. Bishops elected Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services (USA) to a 3-year term as their president. Although this office has little official power, the president does have a lot of practical influence on the Church in the U.S. and serves as spokesman for the other bishops.

I think he was an excellent choice. Archbishop Broglio is well known for his outspoken defense of the Church’s teachings, especially on abortion, transgender ideology, and same-sex marriage. He has also been a strong defender of religious freedom, particularly speaking out against mandating military personnel to receive the COVID-19 vaccine against their conscience. He is also well known to our parish, not only because so many of our members serve or have served in the military, but also because he has been here many times to give the Sacrament of Confirmation to our children.

Please join me in praying for the success of his presidency.

Advent. Next week we start the season of Advent. So please take some time this week to plan ahead for Advent, so that it may be a season of spiritual and moral preparation for the celebration of the Birth of the King of the Universe.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, Nov. 21st**

6:30 am Sophie Keith +
8:30 am Molita Burrows +

Tuesday, Nov. 22nd

6:30 am Gary Lohman +
8:30 am Fr. Peter Okala, A.J.

Wednesday, Nov. 23rd

6:30 am Marie Anne Dinh
8:30 am Chris Shealy

Thursday, Nov. 24th

Thanksgiving Day
10:00 am Fr. Arthur Humphrey

Friday, Nov. 25th

8:30 am John & Theresa
Mattoi +

Saturday, Nov. 26th

9:00 am Fr. Edward Horkan

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
Dr. William A. Foster +

Sunday, Nov. 27th

7:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
Heather & Mark Puller
9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
Parishioners
11:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
Carol McNulty
1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
Flavia Tommasi

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

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Nov. 21	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Nov. 21-22	NO CCD Classes
Nov. 22	NO Bible Study
Nov. 23	Adoration 9am - 7pm
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Day
	One Mass at 10am, Parish Offices Closed
Nov. 25	One Mass at 8:30am, NO Adoration
	Parish Offices are closed
Nov. 27	NO CCD Classes or Youth Groups
Dec. 2	First Friday Nocturnal Adoration
Dec. 3	Breakfast with Santa
Dec. 3	Men's Prayer Group and Luminaries
Dec. 10	Advent Senior Luncheon
Dec. 11	Lessons and Carols 7pm

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.

Dec. 4th 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.

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.

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

Giving Trees are up! This year we have 32 families with a total of 200 people. All families are either parish families, referred by a parish family, or given to us by Our Lady of the Blue Ridge in Madison, VA. The requests for Gift Cards are on the Trees in the Narthex and Physical Gift Items are on a Signup Genius that you may access through our website. Instructions are on our website and next to the trees in the Narthex. Please share Christ's love this Christmas season by helping a needy family celebrate! **All gifts are due by December 11.** Please call the parish office with any questions.

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!**

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.

Free Advent Luncheon For All Seniors

WHO: All Seniors 55 years young and above

WHERE: St. Raymond's Parish Hall

DATE: Dec. 10, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

MENU: Turkey and all the trimmings

RSVP: by Dec. 5 by emailing office@straymonds.org

Or by calling the office at 703-440-0535



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.

Into the Breach Program. All Knights and all men of St. Raymond's Parish who are 18 or over are invited to attend the *Into the Breach* Program, inspired by the Apostolic Exhortation written by Bishop Olmsted of Phoenix. The Knights of Columbus produced a 12-part video series which seeks to answer the question of what it means to be a man in today's world. The goal of *Into the Breach* is to help men grow in their faith and become the men that God is calling them to be. Pre-registration is required and registration each month is limited to 20 attendees. **The next session, on Family, will be on December 10 from 10-12 in the Maurer Room.** Fellowship will follow the session. For more information please view the trailer at: <https://www.kofc.org/en/campaigns/into-the-breach.html>. For more information and to register, please contact Pat Franco at (703) 220-2403 or at popsfr8@aol.com.

The Knights of Columbus Christmas Trees & Wreaths Sale in the Church's parking lot starting next week, Friday, November 25 through Sunday December 11. Please support the Knights, who use the contributions to support St Raymond and various other local charities throughout the year. Points of Contact are: Mark Menotti, 401-644-7128; Phil Bettwy, 703.868.9411; and John Crennan, 339.223.0887.



PROJECT MANGER THANK YOU. A tremendous **THANK YOU** goes out to everyone in the parish for all your prayers and generous donations that supported **PROJECT MANGER** this year. In one weekend (September 24/25) the Parish, **YOU**, raised \$12,363.56! That is an increase of over 22% compared with last year. That money will go directly to the purchase of approximately 70 new cribs and mattresses for the many families in our local area in need of cribs for their new babies.

In the past 12 years, St Raymond's has collected over \$176,000 in support of **PROJECT MANGER**! So **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU** for your continued support of **PROJECT MANGER** AND **A Women's Choice** in Fairfax and for the support of all those new babies who will be sleeping on brand new mattresses in the safety of a their new cribs in the near future. God Bless you and your families, and praise to God for His goodness.

Novena for Couples to Our Lady of Guadalupe
You are invited to join Bishop Burbidge in a Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe, offered for the intentions of couples struggling with infertility, miscarriages or early infant death. **The novena starts on December 4 and ends on December 12**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A Mass will be offered by Bishop Michael Burbidge for this intention during the novena. Sign up here to receive the Novena and submit your intentions: OurFruitfulLove.com/Novena

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

When you gather with friends and family this Thanksgiving, give thanks to Almighty God for the momentous Dobb's Decision which freed our nation from the shackles of Roe. Stay involved! One way is by educating yourself. Visit hosea4you.org.

"My people perish for lack of knowledge." Hosea 4:6

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.

MARCH FOR LIFE: Join us for the **National March for Life**, scheduled for Friday, January 20th, 2023. The Theme is **"Next Steps: Marching in a Post-Roe America"**. We will be sending buses. Details to follow. **Mark your calendars! The Virginia March for Life and Defending Life Day** will take place in Richmond on Wednesday February 1st. We will be sending one bus. Details to follow.

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! Pies are in the narthex for pick-up today after Mass. Enjoy!

Sunday 11/20: 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)

*There is no CCD or Youth Group next Sunday 11/27

No 6:30am Friday Mass & Breakfast Club this week 11/25

We will resume Friday, December 2nd (First Friday!)

WorkCamp 2023: June 17-23

Registration is now open!!

Spend a week of your summer with 800+ teens from across our diocese helping folks in need within our diocese by building decks, replacing windows or doing other projects to make their homes warmer, safer and drier. This week of service and evening talks, music and activities is a great way to start your summer, make lots of new friends, learn new skills, make a difference in the world and grow deeper in your relationship with God! WorkCamp is open to current 9-12th graders. No experience necessary. Registrations forms are by the youth boards at church entrances and online. Adult Crew Leaders (Chaperones, age 25+) are also needed. See the website for more details. <https://bit.ly/workcamp2023>

Registration deadline: December 18

Saturday 12/3: Breakfast with Santa (Parish Hall)

High School Volunteers Needed 7:30am-noon

The Knights of Columbus are in need of HIGH SCHOOL volunteers to help make & serve breakfast and help Santa at their annual St. Raymond's Breakfast with Santa in the parish hall on **Saturday, December 3rd**. Arrive at 7:30am to help decorate the church hall, cook & serve breakfast, and clean up by 12pm. Sign up to help at <https://bit.ly/HELPSANTA22>

Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group

7-8:30pm Tuesday, December 13th (Maurer Room)

Join us for a fun, virtue-filled, no-homework, no-outside-reading, book study on *The Art of Living* by Dr. Edward Sri.

*We are NOT meeting this Tues. 11/22 due to Thanksgiving

VOLUNTEERS & FOOD NEEDED!

Volunteers Needed to Help with High School Youth Group

Our Youth Apostolate is in need of more volunteers/role models (*particularly women*) to help with our weekly high school youth group on Sunday nights from 6:45-9pm.. 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>

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.

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

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

Get on our weekly email list for the most updated info on Youth Apostolate news & upcoming events!

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.

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.

St. Raymond's has Adoration nearly 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!

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.

Church Persecuted

In his novel written in 1907, *Lord of the World*, Monsignor Robert Hugh Benson predicts a 21st century world filled with secular humanism and other endeavors void of God. A recently passed law in the state of Karnataka in India highlights one of the predictions in Msgr. Benson's novel – the lack of freedom for individuals to practice their own religion without government interference.

In September, the "Karnataka Right to Freedom of Religion Bill (anti-conversion bill) criminalizes unwarranted religious conversions in a state in India. While intending to prevent forced religious conversions, it make the process of converting a bureaucratic nightmare. The bill had already been administratively promulgated by the pro-Hindu government, but now it has become law after the legislature passed it.

Any person seeking to convert to another religion must submit a declaration in the prescribed form to the district magistrate (DM) at least thirty days before the conversion. The person sponsoring the conversion will also submit a form to the DM. The DM will notify the respective religions of the conversions and any person may file an objection within 30 days. The new law prescribes punishments of three to five years in prison and heavy fines for conversions due to "force, undue influence, coercion, allurement, or by any fraudulent means" or by a "promise of marriage." If a relative of a "victim" deems it to be a forced conversion, a complaint can be filed. This law criminalizes conversions amid a "growing intolerance against minority religions." Fortunately, the Catholic bishops in India are seeking a legal recourse against the practice.

<https://www.Vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2022-09/karnataka-passes-anti-conversion-law-despite-opposition.html>

FORMED
Get In-Formed!

"Eukharistia" means "thanksgiving." Be thankful for this gift of the Lord!

Watch Presence: The Mystery of The Eucharist. The Augustine Institute presents this beautiful 3-episode series exploring the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist. *Study guide available for purchase. Also available in Spanish.*

For TEENS and Adults -Watch Eucharistic Devotion and Reparation. Religious and laypeople explain the importance of Eucharistic adoration to enhance our understanding and reception of the Eucharist.

FOR KIDS! Watch The Eucharist for Little Children. This video explains the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the symbols of this sacrament, and how to pray at adoration.

Available for FREE at www.straymonds.formed.org

Questions? Need help? Email us at: formed@straymonds.org

"Jesus, remember me when you come into Your kingdom." Will you make Christ the King and His merciful love remembered as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Call Father Michael Isenberg (703) 841-2514, or write: michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.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	\$ 13,678.00
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Maintenance Fund	\$ 906.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 2,127.00

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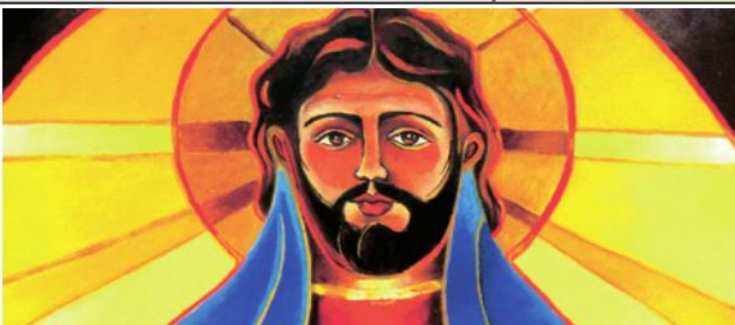
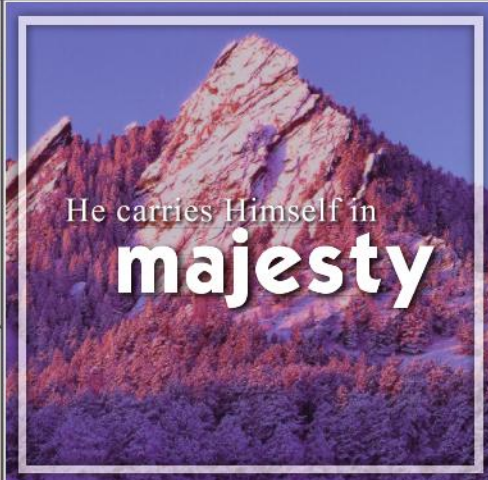
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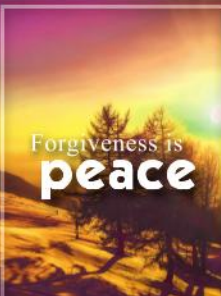
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