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ANGELUS



"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

Advent. Today we begin the Season of Advent, four weeks of preparing for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. Sadly, the culture around us has turned the days from Thanksgiving to December 25 into a time of nonstop sales, shopping, television specials, radio carols, and, of course, “Christmas parties.” All this can tend to turn the Advent season of preparation into a pre-mature and secularized Christmas celebration, virtually making the actual season of Christmas that begins on December 25 and runs for 3 weeks superfluous.

We have to be careful of getting caught up in that secular celebration, especially to the extent that it omits Christ himself from the celebration. Advent must remain for us, first and foremost, a season of preparation for celebration. And by that I mean we need to spend time thinking and praying about the reason we celebrate Christmas with such joy: that we are sinners, but that God has not left us in our sins. That in spite of all the bad and stupid things we do to offend God and our neighbor, God so loves us that He entered the world as a tiny baby so he could truly be one of us and communicate that love so dramatically: person to person, offering each of us a personal relationship with Him. So that the preparation of Advent must be a time of remembering our sins and opening ourselves and our whole lives to the love of Christ. It is only with this sort of preparation that we can begin to understand and experience the true joy of this most magnificent gift.

But note, this joy should build in us throughout our preparation—as we become more prepared, we become more and more joyful. So there is nothing wrong if, in the midst of the penance and prayer of Advent, we also increasingly partake of the joy of Advent. But we must not confuse the Advent joy of Christ with the merely sentimental feelings of the secular “yuletide” season. Rather, we should transform the *secular fun* by our *Advent Christian joy*.

Remember, before you share true Advent joy you must first [re]discover it yourself through preparation:

-- Christians always prepare for Holy Days by **doing penance**. In Advent this shouldn't take on anything near the severity of Lent, but we should do some small penance every day to remind us that nothing is more important than Christ, and that everything we do is for Him.

-- Add **extra prayers** to your daily routine. **The Rosary** is an excellent addition to our prayers, especially meditating on the Joyful Mysteries, or at least praying one decade every day, meditating on one of the Joyful Mysteries. Perhaps you can attend (or even lead) our **daily “Family Rosary” at 6:30 pm** in the Church.

-- **Reading Scripture** is an excellent way to renew your faith in Christ. Perhaps challenge yourself to choose one of the Gospels and read at least one chapter a day throughout Advent.

-- Of course, **charitable giving** is a great way to prepare for the gift of the Baby Jesus. While it is a fine practice to give presents to people we love, it is an even better practice to give to those who do not know us and cannot give anything back to us. So make sure you make generous charitable gifts—either directly to those in need or to worthy charitable projects/institutions. **The parish Giving Tree** is one good way to do this, as are some of the special collections (e.g., Catholic Charities and the Our Lady of Ransom

Scholarship Fund). And remember, it seems to me that St. Raymond's is the most important charitable organization in most of our lives, helping you, your family and your neighbor—so don't forget us in your Advent and Christmas giving.

-- **Receiving the grace of the sacraments** is one of the most important things you can do in Advent. Consider coming to **Mass and Adoration** during the week (including all-day-and-night Adoration on First Friday, December 2-3). And make sure you go to Confession: we will have **Confessions every single day during Advent**, including Sunday mornings from 8 to 9am.

-- Most importantly, **live the life that Christ came to give us**: make every day about loving God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself. Remember, Jesus said, “if you love me you will keep my commandments,” so follow the 10 Commandments and live out the Beatitudes. Forgive others and be kind, patient, generous, and encouraging.

--Also: take part in the many **special events and liturgies** scheduled in the parish this Advent. Please find the **insert** of the “**Advent & Christmas 2022 Events**” in this bulletin, look it over carefully and keep it somewhere central in your house (on the fridge door?). Two parish “special events” I'd like to call your attention to in particular are:

--**Lessons and Carols**. I invite you to join me, the lectors and the choir on **Sunday, December 11th at 7pm** for “Lessons & Carols.” Coming back from a 2-year Covid-induced hiatus, this is a wonderful program of beautiful Advent music and Scripture readings. Remember, “Lessons” doesn't mean I'm going to give a lecture or something: “**Lessons**” is simply an old English term for readings from Scripture. By 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 His Divine Son. The choir adds to the atmosphere of joyful expectation by leading us in popular carols and spreading their vocal wings in a few more complicated choral pieces—they are AMAZING. And afterwards there will be an opportunity for joyful fellowship at a short reception (with delicious seasonal refreshments). Trust me, this is a really wonderful evening—you'll have a **great time**. In 2019 (the last time we did this) we had about 300 folks attend. Please join us.

--**Thursday Evening Mass**. This year we will not have an “Advent Series” as we have had in the past, but instead we will offer an extra opportunity for Mass, with a **7pm Mass on each of the 4 Thursdays of Advent** (one of these will be the Holy Day of Obligation, Immaculate Conception). I know a lot of you would like to attend Mass during the week, but morning Mass does not fit well into your schedules. Take this opportunity to add Mass to your “work week” or “school week.” A great way to prepare for Christmas.

Thanksgiving. I hope you all had a happy Thanksgiving. For those of you who are travelling today or tomorrow, may God send His angels to guide you on your way.

Oremus pro invicem.

Fr. De Celles

<u>MASS INTENTIONS</u>	
<p>Monday, Nov. 28th 6:30 am David McCaffrey + 8:30 am Mary & Brad Salmon</p> <p>Tuesday, Nov. 29th 6:30 am Manuel Butron Valencia + 8:30 am Ronald Heinlein +</p> <p>Wednesday, Nov. 30th 6:30 am Margaret D. Smith + 8:30 am Ana Borja +</p> <p>Thursday, Dec. 1st 6:30 am Connor Wills + 8:30 am Eligio Litorja + 7:00 pm Priest's Intention</p> <p>Friday, Dec. 2nd 6:30 am Deceased Legionaries+ 8:30 am Luis Borja</p>	<p>Saturday, Dec. 3rd 9:00 am Norman J. Bedard +</p> <p>Vigil Mass 5:00 pm Fr. De Celles Walter Junior Seiberling +</p> <p>Sunday, Dec. 4th 7:00 am Fr. Rippy Antonio Borja 9:00 am Fr. De Celles Parishioners 11:00 am Bishop Burbidge Pauline & Walter Rizzardi 1:00 pm Fr. Horkan Family of Jesus Prayer Group</p>

Please pray for our parishioners serving in Combat Zones and their families. If you have a relative serving in harm's way and would like to have his/her name included in our prayer list, please contact the parish office.

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 Gaudencio Dizon Paul Haynes Dwayne Taylor Ted Tolpa Nena Brennan	Serrin Foster Fr. Jerry Daly Margaret O'Neill Christina Cautero Robert Carter Diva Zabalaga Katherine Williams Wayne Boarman Joann Boarman
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- Nov. 27 **KofC Christmas Tree Sale through Dec. 11**
- Nov. 27 **NO CCD Classes or Youth Groups**
- Nov. 28 **Family of Jesus Prayer Group**
- Nov. 29 **Bible Study**
- Nov. 30 **Adoration 9am - 7pm**
- Dec. 1 **Extra Advent Mass at 7pm**
- Dec. 2 **First Friday Nocturnal Adoration**
- Dec. 3 **Breakfast with Santa**
- Dec. 3 **Men's Prayer Group**
- Dec. 3 **Luminaries of Holy Mary**
- Dec. 8 **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**
- Dec. 10 **Advent Senior Luncheon**
- Dec. 11 **Giving Tree Gifts Due**
New: Family Gift Drop-off event 3:45-5pm
- Dec. 11 **Lessons and Carols 7pm**

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

First Friday Nocturnal Adoration Dec. 2. On the first Friday of the month, we will extend our regular hours of Friday adoration to continue through the evening until Saturday at 9am. Our regularly scheduled adorers will cover the daytime hours (9am – 3pm), and **we will need extra volunteers** to cover from 3pm on Friday through 9am on Saturday. **Please visit our website to sign up!** Two adorers are required per hour so that Our Lord will not be left alone, but you can come at any time.

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.

Additional Confession Times for Advent! Starting on the First Sunday of Advent, we will add additional Confession times each week of Advent. We will have confessions on Sunday from 8:00 am – 9:00 am, Monday—Friday from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm, and Saturday from 8:00 am– 8:45 am & 3:30 pm –5:00 pm.

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**

Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" cards. The Knights will be offering religious Christmas cards for sale in the Narthex after all the Masses this weekend

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.

The Gift Shop is open in December: Looking for Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers? We have fresh new inventory that will appeal to all ages! Please stop by our Narthex table on Dec. 3/4 and Dec. 17/18. We are also available by appointment: submit your date and time request at giftshop@StRaymonds.org.



St. John Bosco Council #12846 Knights of Columbus

Congratulations to the following newly exemplified Knights who have joined St. John Bosco Council #12846 and now "Stand in the Breach" to witness to the world about our Catholic Faith through Charity, Unity, and Fraternity:

- 1) Chesterton Bliss
- 2) Mauricio Campillay
- 3) Dale Johnson
- 4) Mike Schultz
- 5) Joseph Hildebrand
- 6) Sebastian Villanueva
- 7) Rick Lawton
- 8) Daniel Rocha

Are you a man of 17½ years or more and a practicing Catholic? Then we invite you to join the Knights! Contact Deputy Grand Knight Mark Menotti at 401-644-7128 or go to <http://www.KofC.org/JoinUs> to become a Knight today!

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 for Catholic men written by Bishop Olmsted of Phoenix. The Knights of Columbus produced a 12-part video series, and 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 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 this week 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, 339-22-0887.



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

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.

Could Christ be calling you to the priesthood or religious life? Take a step to find out and enjoy some quiet prayer time this Advent. Men's Day of Recollection is Saturday, December 17 with diocesan seminarians and priests; the Women's Day of Recollection is Sunday, December 18 with the Daughters of St. Paul. These events are for those 18-35 years old who are interested in deepening their prayer life and exploring their vocation. For more information and to register, contact the Office of Vocations, 703-841-2514 or vocations@arlingtondiocese.org. **Deadline to register is Monday, December 12.**

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



Our Lady of the Unborn, pray for us!

May we build a culture that welcomes Him
by welcoming every child, born and unborn.

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

Sunday 11/27: NO Youth Group & CCD (Parish Hall)

***Sunday CCD & Youth Group will resume on 12/4

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, December 2: Mass & Breakfast Club

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. RSVP to <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVP>



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 & online. Adult Crew Leaders (Chaperones, age 25+) are also needed. See website for details.

<https://bit.ly/workcamp2023>

Registration deadline: December 18



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

High School Volunteers Needed 7:30am-12pm

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.

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

There will be **NO CCD classes this evening Sunday 11/27**. There **WILL** be CCD classes this Monday and Tuesday 11/28 and 11/29.

Parents of students in preparation for First Holy Communion (CCD, Catholic school and homeschool):

the First Holy Communion Registry Form with Certificate of Baptism attached is due in the Religious Education Office **December 15th**. If your child was baptized at St. Raymond's, you do not need to attach the Baptism Certificate.

All Religious Education Program students in grades 3-12 are encouraged to take advantage of the **many opportunities for Confession** during the penitential Season of Advent. Confessions will be heard every day during Advent as we prepare for the celebration of Our Savior's birth and in anticipation of His Second Coming. There will be no Confession opportunities during regular CCD class times.

For planning purposes: There will be **NO CCD classes 12/20, 12/25-27, 1/1-2**.

Midterm Exams will be administered the week of January 22nd for Grades 1-8. Please work with your children in learning the material for the First Semester presented in the Basic Study Questions booklet for their grade level.

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.

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. **Our next meeting will be Dec. 3**. For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.

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!

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

This is being written on November 16th due to Thanksgiving bulletin deadline. Today, all U.S. Senate Democrats and 12 Republicans voted to open debate on the “Respect for Marriage Act” (RMA) passed by the House of Representatives on July 19, 2022. They needed 60 votes to do so. While additional votes are needed to approve the bill, the 60-vote threshold had been insurmountable reach for passing controversial bills in the past. While the title sounds like a wholesome endeavor, it is laced with an extraordinary extension of power of government far beyond its constitutional roles by infringing in the fundamental freedoms of all Americans. Here is a list of some problems with the legislation.

RMA would repeal the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) signed by President Clinton in 1996 which affirmed that marriage is a union between one male and one female.

Elements, but not all of DOMA, were struck down as unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling *United States v. Windsor* (2013) and then *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) which required all states to recognize “same-sex marriage.”

RMA goes beyond *Windsor* and *Obergefell* by requiring a single definition of marriage without limitations, inviting lawsuits for any individuals, organizations, and businesses that profess the natural definition of marriage — between one male and one female.

RMA could imperil the 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status of religious and non-profit organizations that hold that marriage is between one man and one woman, and open opportunities for litigation against these organizations.

Catholic Virginia Senator Tim Kaine and Senator Mark Warner both voted to move this legislation forward.

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/>

FORMED
Get In-Formed!

Advent begins November 27.

Listen to *Advent: Rethinking the Season*. Augustine Institute founder Dr. Tim Gray invites us to focus on preparing our hearts for our Lord’s birth during the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Watch *Making Advent Great for Kids*. Dr. Tim Gray and his guest discuss how to make Advent a joyful season for children in this FORMEDNow episode.

Read *Advent of the Heart* via ePub or your Kindle. Fr. Alfred Delp, a Jesuit priest martyred by the Nazis, writes down his Advent reflections for his Munich parish including those written while imprisoned during WWII.

Available for FREE at www.straymonds.formed.org

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

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).

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.

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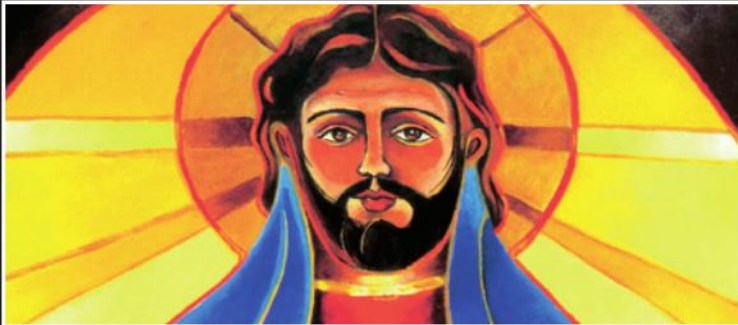
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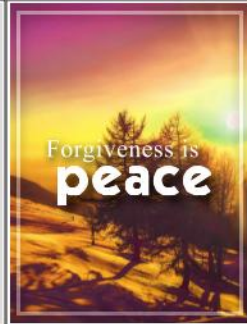
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