

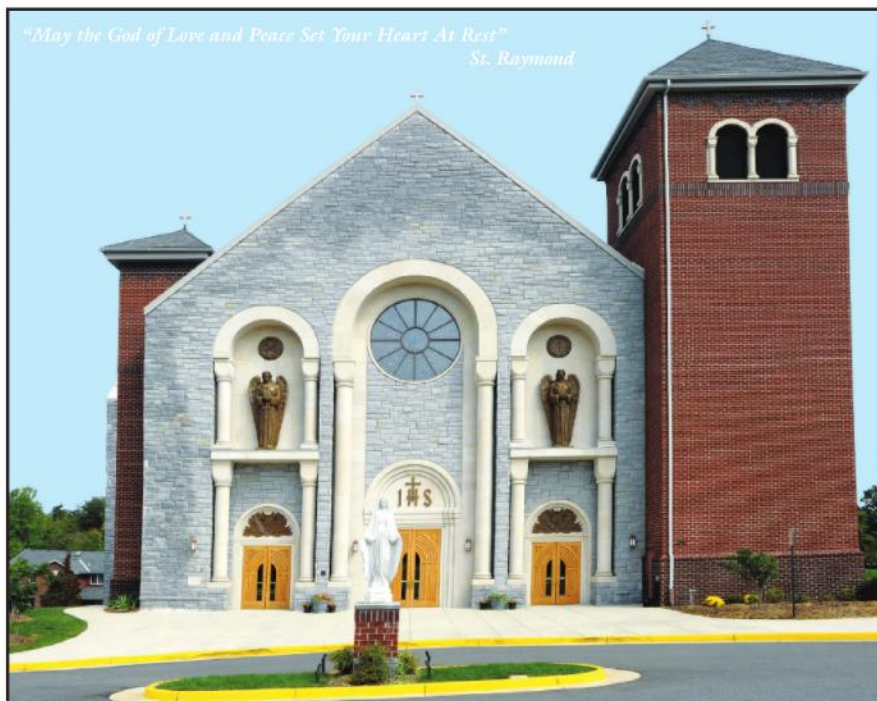


V. Behold
the handmaid
of the Lord.

R. Be it done
unto me according
to Thy word.

*Hail Mary, full of grace.
The Lord is with thee.*

©Diocesan - The Annunciation - Luca Giordano, 1672



"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:
Rector: 703-440-0535
Rel. Education: 703-440-0537
Fax: 703-440-0538

Office Hours

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

E-Mail

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

Website

www.straymonds.org

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

Angelus Academy

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

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

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE
(Reconciliation/Confession)**

Wednesday Evening
6:15-6:55 p.m. (during Exposition)
Saturday Morning
8:15 - 8:45 a.m.
Saturday Afternoon
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

MARRIAGE: Couples wishing to marry must contact a parish priest at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Couples who are living together will be expected to live separately at least during the 3 months prior to the wedding.

RCIA: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which adults (and children who have reached the age of reason) are instructed in the Doctrine of the Church and are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. If you or someone you know, would like to inquire about becoming a Catholic, please call the Parish Office.

BAPTISM: Parents are requested to make arrangements with the Parish Office ONE MONTH in advance. Parents must participate in a one-session pre-Baptismal program and are encouraged to do so before the birth of their child. You must be REGISTERED in the Parish 3 MONTHS prior to the Baptism.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please submit announcements in writing 10 days prior to publication.

Pastor's Corner

WELCOME, BISHOP MICHAEL BURBIDGE! We happily welcome our Bishop to the Parish today, to celebrate our 11am Mass in honor of the 25th anniversary of the founding of our parish on July 5, 1997. The good Bishop John R. Keating, a prominent Canon lawyer, gave us St. Raymond of Peñafort, patron of all lawyers, as our patron.

We've grown a lot from the 200 or so souls we started with under Fr. Salvator Ciullo, founding pastor, with daily Mass in a house on Triple Ridge Road and Sunday Mass first at Christ Methodist Church (then West Springfield High School, and eventually the Greater Springfield Volunteer Fire Department Hall i.e., "the Holy Fire Hall"). In June 2000, the inimitable Father James Gould became pastor, and on June 4, 2003, he broke ground on our beautiful church. On December 19, 2006, Bishop Paul S. Loverde celebrated the Mass of dedication, and the parish burgeoned in growth, both in people and activities. For the last 12 ½ years I have been proud to be the pastor of about 1800 families and 6,000 souls.

Let us pray that we may continue to grow in Christ's grace, love and holiness, as we make our way together to heaven. Thank you, Bishop Burbidge, for joining us in celebrating 25 years.

Immaculate Conception. This Thursday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Remember, this is a Holy Day of obligation, meaning you are required to go to Mass under pain of mortal sin (unless one of the dispensations for Sunday Masses applies to you). But why wouldn't you want to **come to Mass** on this great feast day, which celebrates the conception of Mary, free from original sin, in her mother's womb? In Advent it reminds us of Mary's perfect preparation to receive Christ into her life. In addition to the regularly scheduled 6:30am and 8:30am daily Masses we will also offer a 7pm Vigil on Wednesday, and a noon and 7pm Mass on Thursday.

Lessons and Carols. Remember to join the lectors, the choir and me on **Sunday, December 11th at 7pm** for "Lessons & Carols." This is a beautiful program of inspiring Advent music and Scripture readings (aka, "Lessons"). 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. And afterwards there will be an opportunity for joyful fellowship at a short reception.

This "tradition" is rather new, especially to Catholics, originally introduced by the Anglican Church at Cambridge's King's College in 1918, but it has recently become very popular in Catholic circles. I first experienced it 35 years ago as a layman at a Catholic parish of Anglican converts in San Antonio. Now I am happy to say it is one of the most cherished Advent traditions at St. Raymond. Please join us!

Other Advent Events this Week. Seniors don't forget our **Senior Luncheon** next Saturday noon. And all of you: **go to confession** during Advent—we have confessions **every single day of Advent**, except Christmas Eve.

Giving Tree. Please don't forget to visit the **"Giving Tree" sign up on the website** and help to make Christmas a little merrier for some folks who are having a rough time this year, by supplying Christmas presents for families in true need. There are many physical gift items left in need of sponsors. This year we are helping about 19 families from our parish and local area and 13 from Our Lady of the Blue Ridge parish in Madison.

The Christmas Tree. This time of year is filled with all sorts of traditions. Unfortunately, many of us have lost sight of the Catholic origins of many of the traditions that dominate the secular celebration of Christmas and Advent.

Consider the Christmas Tree. There are many different efforts to explain the origins of the Christmas tree, including many that try to separate it completely from Christianity. For example, some try to say that since many different ancient non-Christian cultures used evergreens as a sign of life or health that therefore evergreen "Christmas" trees are not "Christian," or that Christians "stole" the symbol from the pagans. But there is no conflict or stealing here. Since Christianity converted many ancient pagan cultures, it was natural for those new Christians to keep the symbols that had meaningfully expressed their long-held spiritual desires that were ultimately answered only in Christianity. So, if an evergreen tree expressed a pagan culture's desires for eternal life, it was natural for them to carry that symbol into to Christianity, which is fine with the Church.

The specific Christianization and "Christmas-ization" of the evergreen tree can be traced at least to the early 8th century in Germany. It seems one Christmas Eve the great missionary St. Boniface and his companions came upon a group of pagans gathered at around their sacred tree, the "Oak of Geismar" ("Donar's Oak") to worship their god, Thor, and to sacrifice a little child to please him. Horrified by what he had found, Boniface struck the Oak, which the people believed to be indestructible, and suddenly a great wind came and blew the tree over, tearing it out of the ground by its roots and into four pieces. When the tree fell, it revealed a small evergreen tree that had grown behind it. St. Boniface then told the people: "This little tree, a young child of the forest, shall be your holy tree tonight. It is the wood of peace, for your houses are built of the fir. It is the sign of an endless life, for its leaves are ever green. See how it points upward to heaven. Let this be called the tree of the Christ-child; gather about it, not in the wild wood, but in your own homes; there it will shelter no deeds of blood, but loving gifts and rites of kindness." The people then took the tree to the great hall of their village and decorated it with candles, as Boniface told the story of the Baby Jesus. The whole village, including the pagan priest, were converted that Christmas Eve. (For a beautiful retelling of this tale see *The First Christmas Tree*, by Henry van Dyke).

This seems to be the oldest story of the Christmas tree and stands as the inspiration for later developments in its use. It was popularized later in the middle ages through the German "Paradise Play" depicting the creation of man, with the evergreen decorated with apples to symbolize both Eden's Tree of Life (evergreen) and Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (apples). When the play was performed in churches, the *Paradeisbaum* (Paradise Tree) was surrounded by candles. Eventually the *Paradeisbaum* made its way into homes and the rest is history.

Oremus pro invicem, Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, Dec. 5th**

6:30 am Antonio Gentile +
8:30 am Catherine Hoopes

Tuesday, Dec. 6th

6:30 am Michael Britton
8:30 am Jean Anezin +

Wednesday, Dec. 7th

6:30 am Fr. Jerry Daly
8:30 am Joe Perricone +

Vigil

7:00 pm Paul Andruczyk +

Thursday, Dec. 8th**Immaculate Conception**

6:30 am Walt & Melinda Frey+
8:30 am Parishioners
Noon Robin LoBello
7:00 pm Tamorah Slease

Friday, Dec. 9th

6:30 am Hoang Tran +
8:30 am Elise Tougas +

Saturday, Dec. 10th

9:00 am Judy Kelley

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Fr. Horkan
Barbara Lucas +

Sunday, Dec. 11th

7:00 am Fr. Rippy
Philip Hansen
9:00 am Fr. De Celles
Parishioners
11:00 am Fr. De Celles
RE Catechists & their
Families
1:00 pm Fr. Horkan
Jean Anezin +

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

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Dec. 4	Donut Sunday
Dec. 4	11am Mass with Bishop Burbidge for the 25th Anniversary of the Parish
Dec. 5	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Dec. 6	Bible Study
Dec. 7	Adoration 9am - 7pm
Dec. 7	Legion of Mary
Dec. 8	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation Vigil 12/7 7 pm 12/8 6:30 am, 8:30 am, Noon & 7:00 pm
Dec. 9	Adoration 9am - 3pm
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
Dec. 17	Men's Prayer Group

Today, Dec. 4th, is Donut Sunday! After the 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 AM Masses, stop by the Parish Hall after Mass to enjoy some treats and drinks and meet your fellow parishioners. December's Donut Sunday will be hosted by Angelus Academy and Gabriel Project. **Bishop Burbidge will join us for Donut Sunday following the 11am Mass!**

Lessons and Carols is back! 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.

Book Club News: Our next meeting will be on Friday, December 9th at 9:30 AM (NOTE: special start time!) in the Parish Hall. This will be our annual Advent Brunch. Please bring a meal to share. We will be discussing *The Great Heresies* by Hilaire Belloc (161 pgs). The schedule for the full year can be found on the parish website: <https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/book-club/>. New members welcome. If you have questions or plan to join us for the first time in December, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.

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 Tree help needed! 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. **We are in great need of sponsors for physical gift items.** These are on a **Signup Genius** that you may access through our website. **We are also in need of volunteers!** 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.

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.

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 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.

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.**

St. Raymond's 2022-23 Snow Team: Your Parish needs your HELP! St. Raymond's is seeking industrious, cold weather loving, able-bodied people to join the 2022-23 Snow Removal Team. The Snow Team will work with the Plant Manager to clear the sidewalks and entryways in proximity of the Church during snow and/or ice events. Equipment is provided; sidewalks and aprons must be clear no less than 30 minutes before the first Mass of the day (and as needed thereafter). Snow Team members must have transportation that enables them to get to the church in inclement weather. Earn \$20.00 per hour and a hot beverage. For more information or to apply, please contact the Parish Office, at 703-440-0535 during office hours.

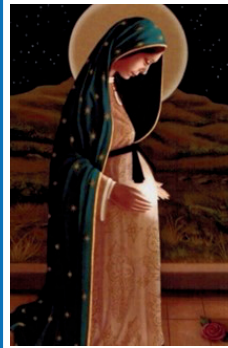
Join the Legion of Mary! The Legion of Mary makes its members better Catholics through prayer, service and evangelization. "Active" members meet weekly for prayer, planning and discussion. In pairs, we perform several hours of apostolic work each week. (At St. Raymond's works include working with/teaching youth, sponsoring the Pilgrim Virgin statue visits at parishioner homes, and taking the bulletin and sacramentals door-to-door.) "Auxiliary" members of the Legion of Mary offer their daily prayers to Our Lady so that she can apply them where they are needed. The Active Legion group meets on Wednesday nights, 6:30 – 8:00pm, in the Maurer Room. If you are interested in joining the Legion or have any questions, please contact Judy Mayer, jmayer9014@aol.com, or call / text 703-627-7320.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH. Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE

Our Lady of the Unborn, pray for us!

A word from MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center: "As we



reflect Christ's holiness and humanity this Christmas time, we also reflect on the vulnerability of a newborn child. We reflect on the work of the MaRiH Center and its mission. For nearly 50 years we, the volunteers of MaRiH, have embraced the vulnerability of mother and child. We strive daily to hold the preciousness of each child as a gift, knowing each one has an unrevealed holy purpose. We strive to see in the faces, and hold worthy of our love and service, the mothers and families we help." *Thank you, our friends at Saint Raymond's, for so*

generously partnering with us in this work of mercy. For ways to become involved, please 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.

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 raised a total of \$3,430! Thank you to all who supported our youth through this, our first ever pie sale! With the help of 25 teens and 8 adults, we managed to make 138 pies in just two nights! We sold 114 pies via our pre-sale and all 24 extra pies were sold before the last Mass, with folks wanting more! Special thanks to Alex Kayser whose homemade pies inspired this fundraiser and who directed this entire effort. Thank you for patiently and joyfully teaching our youth how to make such delicious pies, taking days off of work and putting in countless hours towards making this such a great success!

Sunday 12/4: 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, 12/9: 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

Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group

7-8:30pm Tuesday, 12/13 (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

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. **Contact the RE office if you need a Registry form.**

All students in the Religious Education Program grades three through twelve

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.

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. 17.** 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!

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

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 and 1:00 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!

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.ceda.net/need-help/medical-and-counseling/counseling/>

Church Persecuted

The attacks on the fundamental concept of marriage being a union between one man and one woman continue. The LGBT community has been in a “take no prisoners” mode for years, using the government courts or the court of public opinion to smear the reputations of anyone who dares to step in their way. We have previously written about the Colorado baker who refused to decorate a wedding cake for a “same-sex marriage” and continues to battle attacks even though the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled in his favor.

Now they are targeting former Hallmark Movie star Candace Cameron Bure as she leaves the network because it is now creating movies which promote the LGBT lifestyle. She now moves to the Great American Family network as its chief creative officer. This has brought more criticism to her for her refusal to meet the demand to make Christmas movies with LGBT couples and themes.

These outcries come at a time when the Senate is considering to advance a same-sex marriage bill (see last week’s column). The proponents say that it will simply codify the Supreme Court’s 2015 *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision into law, but as we have seen from past experience, it will give free license to attack charitable organizations, educational institutions, and nonprofits who believe that marriage is between one man and one woman. As Bure is experiencing, the LGBT community is out to destroy marriage and the family, and they vow to let nothing get in their way.

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2022/11/17/attacks-on-candace-cameron-bure-expose-ruthlessness-of-lgbt-activists-against-christians/>

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

For a list of Advent resources on Formed.org: <https://leaders.formed.org/advent-suggestions/>

Find Advent videos, audio talks, e-books and more for kids, teens, adults, and families! Sign up to receive e-mails for *Daily Advent Reflections with Dr. Tim Gray* on the Mass readings at DAILY.FORMED.ORG

Kids can watch the series *Brother Francis: The Days of Advent* for daily meditations, prayers, and activities that put the focus on Christ this season. (Also available in Spanish: *Los Días del Adviento*)

St. Nicholas’ Feast Day is December 6.

Watch *St. Nicholas: The Real Story*. This documentary looks at the historical evidence for the truth about this legendary saint.

FOR KIDS. Watch *Nicholas: The Boy Who Became Santa*.

Available for FREE at www.straymonds.formed.org

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

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.



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

FAITH DIRECT NOV. 2022

Offertory	\$ 45,387.00
Family Assistance	\$ 2,299.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,089.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 1,825.00
All Saints Day	\$ 1,189
Campaign for Human Develop.	\$ 466.00
Retired Religious	\$ 4,457.00
Thanksgiving Day (Giving Tree)	\$ 1,045.00

NOV. 20TH COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 13,539.00
Family Assistance	\$ 440.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 906.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 435.00
Campaign for Human Develop	\$ 1,387.00

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 12,846.00
Family Assistance	\$ 621.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 524.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 1,740.00
Thanksgiving Day (Giving Tree)	\$ 645.00

The second collection next weekend is the Catholic Charities Christmas Collection.

Please Consider a Christmas Gift to Those in Need. Your support helps maintain ministries that serve neighbors in need throughout the 21 counties and seven cities of our diocese. If donating with check, use the special bulletin insert/contribution envelope; make a check payable to our parish but please write Catholic Charities on the memo line. You may also make an online gift at ccda.net/ Christmas, or go to our parish electronic giving program.

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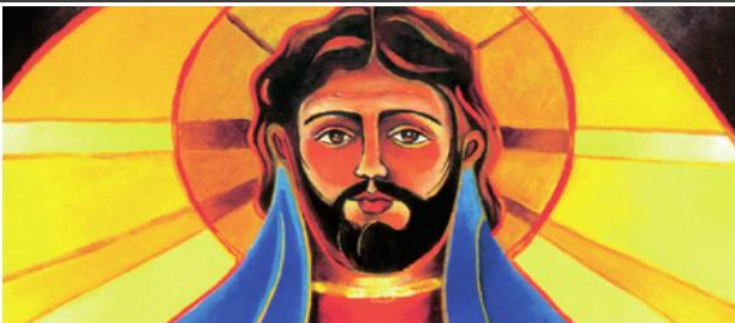
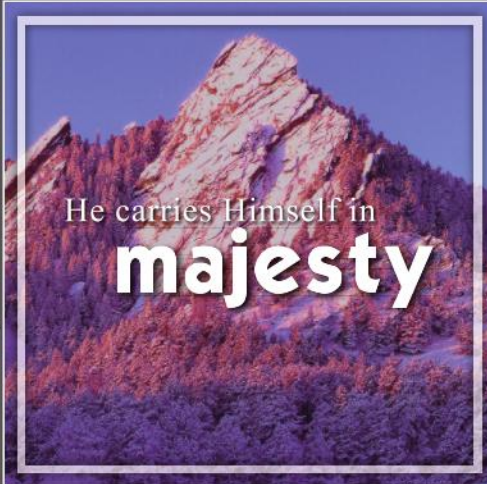
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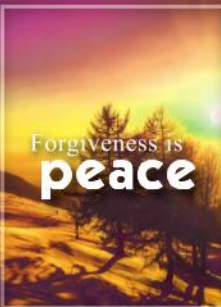
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