



©Diocesan - The Visitation - Philippe De Champaigne, 1643

V. And the Word
was made flesh.
R. And dwelt among us.
*Hail Mary, full of grace.
The Lord is with thee.*

"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.

ANGELUS

Pastor's Corner

Thanks to Bishop Burbidge. It was great to have Bishop Burbidge with us last weekend to help us celebrate the 25th anniversary of our parish's founding. I'm glad to say that he seemed to genuinely enjoy himself, and was highly complimentary of his visit, commenting especially on your reverence, prayerfulness—and "they sing!" He was also positively ebullient in his praise of our choir and music director, Elisabeth Turco, and of our altar servers as well. Thank you all for making his visit so positive, and thanks to His Excellency for joining us.

(I don't think I every mentioned to you that the Bishop recently honored Elisabeth Turco by appointing her to the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. Congratulations to her!)

3rd Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. Today is "Gaudete," or "Rejoice," Sunday, as we look forward to the joy of Christmas and heaven. Last week we celebrated the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and tomorrow (Monday) we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. These feasts remind us that as this holy season of preparation and expectant joy continues we follow the example of she who was first prepared for the birth of Jesus, and who has always found the most joy in it: His Blessed Mother, Mary.

Of course, in a certain sense Mary was prepared from all time for the coming of Jesus, as God promised in the Garden of Eden that he would send "the woman," free from sin, who would bear a son, also free from sin, who would crush the devil and free us from sin. In fulfillment of that promise Mary was then conceived in her mother's womb without the stain of original sin, and was filled with grace all her life, so that she never committed any actual sin herself. Thus prepared for Jesus' birth, she was the perfect Mother for the Divine Son. In imitation of Mary, we should be preparing for Christmas by ridding ourselves of sins and accepting the grace the Lord pours out on us in this holy season.

But besides preparing ourselves we must also help others prepare. When Mary had heard the news of the Incarnation she "departed in haste" to visit her cousin Elizabeth, and so truly brought the tiny Baby Jesus in her womb to Elizabeth, who responded with exuberant joy. Similarly, when the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531, she appeared to him as a pregnant young woman, again bringing Christ to all of Mexico, Latin America, and, in a sense, to all the "New World." Our Advent preparation must also include this: imitating Mary by bringing Christ to those around us. We do this first by, as I wrote above, eliminating sin from our lives, and so live in charity and justice with our neighbors. But we must also be more pro-active: we must proclaim to all who will hear, a clear invitation to receive the Lord who came to us first at Christmas.

There are a thousand ways we can do this: giving presents that effectively communicate the Christian message (Bibles, Hand Missals, Rosaries, Catholic spiritual classic books, etc.); putting up Manger scenes (crèches); praying and singing holy Christmas songs with our families; talking about Christ and sharing our belief in and love of him; and especially, bringing others (our children, fallen away family members, interested friends and co-workers) to church with us —to Mass, to Confession, to adoration, etc..

As Advent continues let us turn to our Blessed Mother to help us to prepare in joy for Christmas, by her example and through her intercession.

Giving. At the first Christmas God gave Himself to us by

stripping Himself of the glory of heaven, and becoming a baby born into poverty. So I encourage you to consider carefully what you will give to those in need this Advent, whether individuals you know or charitable organizations that continue Jesus' work on earth.

When you give to charitable groups, make sure the group is solidly in line with the teaching of Christ's Church so that your money isn't diverted to unworthy uses. Today's Second Collection is for Catholic Charities of Arlington (which is entirely separate from Catholic Charities USA). Please be generous in supporting this excellent charitable arm of our Diocese.

Let me also recommend just a few organizations that merit your generosity as well (there are many more organizations worthy of your help): the Little Sisters of the Poor, House of Mercy, Divine Mercy Care, Project Rachel, Gabriel Project, the Poor Clares, Angelus Academy, and St. Dominic Monastery in Linden, VA (the wonderful cloistered Dominican sisters who pray for our parish daily).

And of course, **St. Raymond's** itself is a charitable organization—special Christmas donations to the parish are greatly appreciated.

Confessions. As I noted above, one of the best tools to help us to overcome sin is the Sacrament of Confession. First, the confession/admission of our sins to the Church and to God (through the priest) helps us to identify the sins we must overcome, to take personal responsibility for them and to affirmatively reject them. Second, the grace of the sacrament repairs the rupture sin causes between us and God, especially if there are mortal sins, and strengthens us to resist those sins in the future. So... go to confession this week. Monday through Friday **this week we will have 2 priests hearing confessions every evening** at 6pm to 7pm.

Weekday Mass. Adding an extra Mass or two to your Advent can also be extremely spiritually helpful. So consider going to a weekday Mass during the next two weeks, either here or at a church near your work. Remember that in Advent, for your convenience, we've added a special **Thursday Evening Mass at 7pm**—please consider adding this to your schedule.

Lessons and Carols. Tonight (Sunday, December 11) at 7:00pm, on this Gaudete Sunday, we keep our Advent tradition of having "Lessons and Carols," a program of beautiful Advent music and Scripture readings. Please join us, and stay for a light reception afterwards!

I Really Love Dogs. Did you see this in news last week (from Foxnews.com)? Wow. If only more priests would better imitate Casper in protecting their sheep:

"A Georgia sheepdog is recovering from injuries after squaring off against a pack of coyotes, killing eight of them, while protecting his flock.

"Casper, a sheepdog who works on John Wierwiller's Georgia farm, fought off the more than half a dozen coyotes in a fight that lasted over half an hour, WAGA-TV reported. Wierwiller says that Casper disappeared for two days after the brutal fight.

"We knew he was hurt because we found parts of his tail and blood and other things, so we were worried," Wierwiller said. Casper eventually returned to the farm with visible injuries. 'He was kinda looking at me like, "Boss, stop looking at how bad I look, just take care of me,"' Wierwiller said... 'looked like a coyote grabbed his skin and peeled it right off.'"

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

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, Dec. 12th**

6:30 am Aidan & Samuel Bray
8:30 am Ashley Akers

Tuesday, Dec. 13th

6:30 am Paul Mai Ly +
8:30 am Bob Ferguson +

Wednesday, Dec. 14th

6:30 am Sandra Lee Taylor +
8:30 am Drs. Stephen &
Jennifer Christensen

Thursday, Dec. 15th

6:30 am Luis Perera +
8:30 am Nelly Drouillard
7:00 pm Priest's Intention

Friday, Dec. 16th

6:30 am Sophie Keith +
8:30 am Virginia McReynolds+

Saturday, Dec. 17th

9:00 am Pope Francis

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Fr. Horkan
Marcos Sanchez +

Sunday, Dec. 18th

7:00 am Fr. Horkan
Shue Wong
9:00 am Fr. De Celles
Parishioners
11:00 am Fr. Rippy
Virginia Osella
1:00 pm Fr. C Vaccaro
Katie Schweitzer

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 Diva Zabalaga Jean Sullivan Michael O'Neill
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Dec. 11	Giving Tree Gifts Due New: Family Gift Drop-off event 3:45-5pm
Dec. 11	Lessons and Carols 7pm
Dec. 12	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Dec. 13	Bible Study
Dec. 14	Adoration 9am - 7pm
Dec. 14	Legion of Mary
Dec. 15	Advent Thursday Evening Mass, 7pm
Dec. 16	Adoration 9am - 3pm
Dec. 17	Men's Prayer Group

Christmas Mass Schedule**Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve:**

4:00 pm Children's Mass

6:00 pm Children's Mass

8:00 pm

Midnight (12 am)

(with Carols/Christmas Music at 11:30 pm)

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day:

9:00 am, 11:00 am & 1:00 pm

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, December 31

5 pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 1

Midnight (12 am),

7 am (note correction), 9 am, 11 am, & 1 pm

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 Gifts are Due Back TODAY! If you forgot to bring them with you to Mass, please drop the gifts off at our family gift drop-off event Sunday afternoon (3:45-5 in the Maurer Room) or at the Parish Office on Monday morning. We will deliver gifts to Our Lady of the Blue Ridge in Madison, VA on Wednesday morning and have local families pick up shortly thereafter. **Please call the parish office with any questions.** God bless everyone for your generosity!

Additional Confession Times for Advent! We have 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, with at least two priests available.

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.

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. 17/18. We are also available by appointment: submit your date and time request at giftshop@StRaymonds.org.

Daily Family Rosary leaders needed! Thank you to everyone who has participated so far! Every evening, St. Raymond's has 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!** There are two changes to the schedule for Christmas: The **Dec. 24th Rosary** will be at **7:15 pm**, and the **Dec. 25th Rosary** will be at **12:15 pm**.



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!

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.

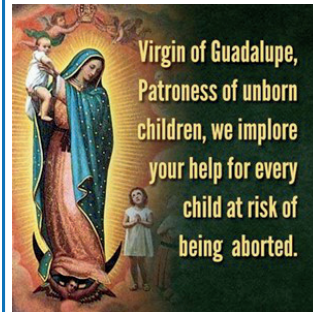
Join the Legion of Mary! The Legion of Mary makes its members better Catholics through prayer, service and evangelization. "Active" members meet weekly for prayer, planning and discussion. In pairs, we perform several hours of apostolic work each week. (At St. Raymond's works include working with/teaching 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 – 8:00 pm, 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.

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. **We will not meet on December 26th or January 2nd.**

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.

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 **January 7**. All are welcome.

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



MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center: Mary arose in haste to help Elizabeth when she was in need. MaRiH volunteers also arise in haste to help vulnerable expectant mothers in need. Knowing each child has an unrevealed holy purpose, MaRiH volunteers strive to see the face of God in 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 three 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.

Angel Wall: Have you suffered the loss of a child or grandchild? If you would like to honor the memory of your deceased child in church, please contact the Parish Office to have your child's name added to the Angel Wall in the narthex.

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 12/11: Youth Group & CCD (Parish Hall)

4-5:30pm Jr. High Youth Group (pizza served) -Maurer Room
5:30-7pm 7-12th Grade CCD
7-8:30pm High School Youth Group (pizza served)

Tuesday, 12/13: Jr. High Volunteers Needed—Service Hrs. 4-6pm Help sort/wrap Giving Tree Gifts (Maurer Room)

Six 7th /8th Graders are needed to help sort Giving Tree gifts. Space is limited. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/sortwrap>

Tuesday, 12/13: Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group 7-8:30pm (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.

Friday, 12/16: 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 deadline: December 18

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>



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

Please note: There WILL be CCD classes SUNDAY 12/18 and Monday 12/19.

There will be NO CCD classes 12/20, 12/25 - 27 and no classes on 1/1 - 1/2. We WILL have class on January 3rd.

Parents of students in preparation for First Holy Communion

2023: the First Holy Communion Registry Form with Certificate of Baptism attached is **due Dec. 15th**.

Parents of students preparing for Confirmation in May 2023:

Service Hours forms and Service Experience forms are **due** in the Religious Education Office by **February 9, 2023**.

Midterm Exams are scheduled for January 22-24. **Parents of students in grades 1-8 are asked to work with your children in preparing for the test** by studying the First Semester Section of the Basic Study Questions booklet for your child's grade level.

All students in Religious Education Program grades 3-12 are encouraged to take advantage of the **many opportunities for Confession during this penitential Season of Advent**. There are opportunities every day of the week - check the bulletin for the schedule.

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!

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.

Protecting Our Future: Child Protection & Safety: The Office of Child Protection & Safety was created to assist all parishes and schools in creating a safe environment where our children are free from sexual abuse, physical abuse and neglect. The office provides various services including child abuse prevention training for employees, volunteers, children and youth and criminal background history investigations for employees and volunteers who work with children. For more information about services provided by the Office of Child Protection & Safety as well as diocesan policy regarding the prevention of child abuse, please visit our website at www.arlingtondiocese.org.

Church Persecuted

Each Sunday we pray the Creed at Mass. Its formulation dates to the 4th century. Recall, in John's Gospel, "...there are many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written" (John 21:25). The Church took several centuries to repel the attacks on itself and to clarify in writing what had been known in spirit: that the Holy Spirit proceeds "from the Father and the Son," that Christ is both God and Man, and that the Blessed Virgin Mary was the Mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God (*Theotokos*). These developments came about as the Church was inspired by the Holy Spirit in union with the Rock of Peter (Matt 16:18).

It doesn't stop there. St. John writes that "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.... After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer walked with him" (John 6:53,66). Most Protestant religions consider this as hyperbole rather than literal because they cannot justify the literal interpretation of this passage. Today in the Eucharist, we truly consume the precious body and blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said it himself, at the Last Supper, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in memory of Me" (Luke 22:19). Why don't all Catholics believe this?

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!

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!

Watch *Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message*. Learn more about the appearance of Our Lady to St. Juan Diego (Feast Day, Dec. 9), the miracle that followed, and the reason for the continued devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe (Feast Day, Dec. 12).

Listen to *Advent: Rethinking the Season*. Stay focused on the purpose of Advent as Dr. Tim Gray utilizes Old Testament readings to help us prepare for the coming of our Lord and Savior.

Listen to *Mary Handmaid of the Lord*. St. Teresa of Kolkata encourages us to follow the example of our Blessed Mother by saying "yes" to all that God wills in our lives.

Available for **FREE!** To [set up an account](https://formed.org/signup), visit [Formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup) and select our parish.

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

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, 1qt. oil vs. 1 gal oil).

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

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 18,452.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,638.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,343.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 1,410.00

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

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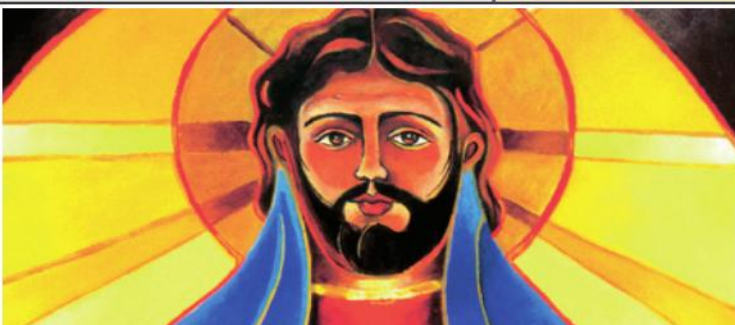
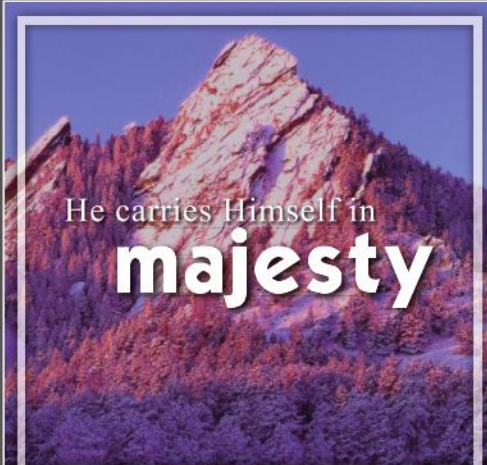
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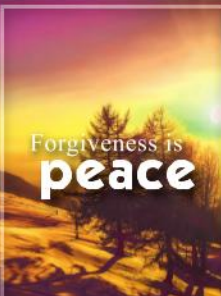
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