



ANGELUS

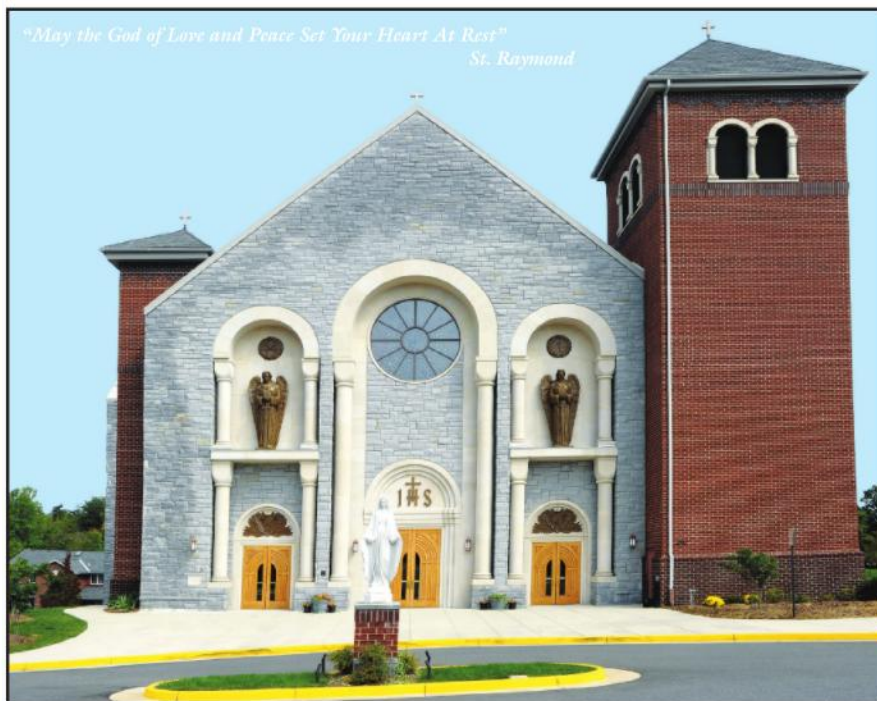


V: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

©Diocesan - The Nativity - Noel Nicolas Coypel, 1715

"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

"I See Him, But Not Now...." We are now in the last days of Advent, the final time to prepare for Christmas. I know there's an awful lot going on in the next week: last minute shopping, wrapping and mailing presents, travelling. But don't let all that busyness distract you from what's most important: we are preparing to celebrate the day awaited from almost the beginning of the creation of man, when God first promised that "the woman" would bring forth a son who would crush the serpent's head. The day when God the Son, Creator of the Universe, to whom all angels bowed in worship, having been conceived in the womb of His mother Mary, entered the world as a poor, defenseless, vulnerable baby, to save mankind from sin and to offer us a share in His eternal life and love.

So rather than allowing all the busyness to distract you in the next few days, try to make real time to prepare yourself for this celebration. Avoid all sin. Try to show charity and compassion to your neighbor, especially your family members, at every moment—be helpful, not harmful, to family peace. And love God above everything and with everything. Take time to pray, and in your prayer place yourself in the company and care of Mary and Joseph. It's about an 8-day journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, so this week walk with them on that road. Imagine them travelling on the rocky roads of Galilee and Judea, walking all that way or, perhaps, aided by a donkey. Imagine the cold and even freezing weather over the several days' journey. Imagine how every day as they were a little closer, they were also a little colder and more tired. Think of their struggle, but also their joy. For they were not traveling alone: their Savior was with them in Mary's womb! And they knew they would see Him and hold Him so soon.

Travel with them these next few days in prayer. Stop from time to time at work, and wonder, "where are you now, Mary and Joseph, and Baby Jesus?" Come to church for a quiet visit, and think, "perhaps you are stopping to rest now—let me rest with you." Accompany them on their journey—and do not get too distracted by the busyness of the season.

Giving Tree. Thanks to all of you who gave so generously to the "Giving Tree." Because of your kindness over 30 families and 200 people will have a little merrier Christmas this year.

Christmas Schedule: Please take time today to revisit our schedule for next weekend, found below in this bulletin. Because Christmas falls on Sunday this year, this weekend's schedule is very different than usual.

Let me extend a particular invitation to Christmas Midnight Mass. There is something very special about that Mass, which begins with the placing of the "Baby Jesus" in the Manger, as we remember that Christ was born in the "Holy Night." The choir sings so beautifully, all the altar servers are so reverent, and we usually get a large (not too large, though) and devout crowd. Think about joining us this year. (Just a fatherly word of caution: it can be a little tough on the very little ones, that late; so parents, please be prudent).

Lessons and Carols. After a 2 year covid-inflicted hiatus, last Sunday the tradition of Lessons and Carols returned to St. Raymond's, with a crowd of over 200, with most of them staying to celebrate at the reception afterwards. So many people came to me at the reception saying something like: "Father, thank you for this; this is our first time, and it was amazing—

the choir was incredible!" I hate to say, "I told so," but...

I mean, how can watching "It's a Wonderful Life" compare to the reading of the Archangel Gabriel's annunciation to Mary and Joseph? How can listening to "Jingle Bells" and "All I Want For Christmas Is You" compare to feasting on Biebl's "Ave Maria"? What a way to bring us back and lift us up to what Advent is all about! I'm so glad so many of you came—and next year I look forward to the rest of you joining us! Thanks again to all, especially our great choir and musicians, who did so much to help us bring back this very special St. Raymond of Peñafort Advent tradition.

Music at St. Raymond's. I really don't talk enough about our wonderful music at St. Raymond's, and I am especially negligent in recognizing the particular contributions of Elisabeth Turco, our music director. Elisabeth is a brilliant musician, director and teacher, with strong classical training from her youth through graduate school. And she's incredibly easy to work with—working with her pastor, other musicians, singers and parishioners in general. Since day one I have been able to go to her with my almost complete lack of musical training and knowledge and say, "this is my vision, this is the kind of thing I want and don't want, this is the direction we will go," and she has been able to implement it beautifully. Her achievements have recently been recognized by our Bishop, as he appointed her to the elite committee in charge of finding a new Diocesan/Cathedral Music Director, and after her outstanding work there he appointed her as the only parish music director on the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. I'm very proud of her and can't imagine what we would do without her.

And she would want me to put in a **plug for the choir:** I'm sure you agree with me that it's excellent, **but we need more members.** If you like to sing and have a decent singing voice, send her an email at music@straymonds.org. Or stop by the choir loft after Mass.

"Respect for Marriage Act." In case you haven't seen this excellent statement from our Bishop:

Statement by Bishop Michael Burbidge on the House passage of the misnamed "Respect for Marriage Act"

Today the United States House of Representatives voted 258 to 169 to pass a bill that would create a federal statute that attempts to redefine marriage to include same-sex couples.

We believe that all people have inherent God-given dignity and are worthy of our love and respect. That belief is inextricably linked to another foundational understanding: that marriage, as the lifelong, exclusive union of one man and one woman, is also given by God and cannot be redefined. This deeply held belief is also held by millions of well-meaning and sincere people - both people of faith and people who ascribe to no faith - throughout the country.

While the act was named the Respect for Marriage Act, it in fact shows grave disrespect for the institution of marriage as written in natural law. Marriage between a man and a woman is an institution understood throughout history as the foundational building block of society.

I urge people of faith and those of goodwill to continue to pray that marriage, as it was intended by our Creator, will continue to be honored and supported throughout our country.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, Dec. 19th**

6:30 am Janet Whatley +
8:30 am Bonnie D. Stiles +

Tuesday, Dec. 20th

6:30 am Helena Metzger +
8:30 am Frances Spataro +

Wednesday, Dec. 21st

6:30 am Samuel & Aiden Bray
8:30 am Barbara DeCelles +

Thursday, Dec. 22nd

6:30 am Helena Metzger +
8:30 am Jacob Berger
7:00 pm Priest's Intention

Friday, Dec. 23rd

6:30 am Pham Quang Thai +
8:30 am Mary Berger

Saturday, Dec. 24th

9:00 am Bryan & Emily
Donohue

Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
Celebrant's Intention
6:00 pm **Fr. C. Vaccaro**
Celebrant's Intention
8:00 pm **Fr. Rippy**
Celebrant's Intention
Midnight **Fr. De Celles**
Celebrant's Intention

Sunday, Dec. 25th**Christmas Day**

9:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
Celebrant's Intention
11:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
Celebrant's Intention
1:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
Celebrant's Intention

**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

Additional Confession Times for Advent! Please come for Confession! Sun. 12/18 from 8am – 9am, Monday -Friday from 6pm – 7pm, and Sat. 12/24 from 8:00 am– 8:45 am, **with at least two priests available.**

Caroling at the Crèche – The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring our third annual family event to sing carols to the baby Jesus at the Creche outside the Church on **Monday, December 26th at 7pm.** We will have lyric books for everyone to follow along and some light refreshments to keep us warm while we sing in celebration to the King of Kings. This is an event for all ages and all voices, and St. Nicholas will be there to provide something for the kids. In case of inclement weather, we will meet in the Parish Hall. Please join us.

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.**

ATTENTION All Adult Volunteers! Our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be Saturday, January 7th. All adult volunteers and their spouses are invited to join Fr. De Celles for dinner. Please RSVP to the parish office at 703-440-0535 by January 3rd. We hope you can join us!

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!

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	Jean Sullivan
Joan Opiela	Paul Haynes	Michael O'Neill
Jason Saenz	Dwayne Taylor	Bernadette
Phyllis Zitnik	Ted Tolpa	D'Agostino
Patricia Del Buono	Nena Brennan	

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Dec. 19	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Dec. 20	NO Bible Study
Dec. 21	Adoration 9am - 7pm
Dec. 21	Legion of Mary
Dec. 22	Advent Thursday Evening Mass, 7pm
Dec. 23	NO Adoration
Dec. 24	8am Confessions & 9am Daily Mass
Dec. 26	1 Mass at 10am, Parish Offices Closed
Jan. 2	1 Mass at 10am, Parish Offices Closed

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

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.

St. Raymond's will be hosting NFP classes offered by the Couple to Couple League (Sympto-Thermal Method) and taught by parishioners Joe and Jenny Sundry. The NFP Main Series three-session class will be offered January 22, February 26, and March 26 from 2pm-4pm. In addition, a Postpartum class will be offered April 23 from 2pm-4pm. To sign up, please visit <https://ccli.powerappsportals.com/en-US/> and search for the class you are interested in. Please direct questions to Jenny Sundry at 719-649-4688.



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! The St. John Bosco Council would like to thank all the parishioners who purchased Christmas Trees this year. Proceeds, after expenses, go to charitable causes and to Father De Celles' parish needs.

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.

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 January 7.** 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.

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).

"When Joseph awoke he did as the angel of the Lord directed him." Are you prayerfully vigilant about discovering your vocation in Christ? Might He be inviting you to the priesthood or consecrated life? Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, Vocations Director, at (703) 841-2514 or email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.

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, dear 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 and coming back to a parish Chili Dinner. Details to follow.

Mark your calendars! The Virginia March for Life and Defending Life Day will take place in Richmond on Wed. **February 1st**. We will be sending one bus. Details to follow. Watch this message from Bishop Burbidge. <https://youtu.be/mTXasGcwZHs>

Angel Wall: Have you suffered the loss of a child or grandchild? If you would like to honor the memory of your deceased child, please contact the Parish Office to have your child's name added to the Angel Wall in the narthex. *Are you aware of the Safe Haven Laws in Virginia? Please become informed.* nationalsafehavenalliance.org *You never know who may turn to you for help.*

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 12/18: 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)

*Dress warmly as we will be walking outside to sing Christmas carols around the parish neighborhood! Hot chocolate after!



WorkCamp 2023: June 17-23 Registration Due Today: 12/18

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, 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 Fridays 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 **was due Dec. 15th.**

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.

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.

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 jpebt@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.**

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.

Church Persecuted

We are down to the last week prior to the celebration of the day when Jesus was brought into the world. Let us recommit to keeping Christ in Christmas.

When folks wish us happy holidays, we respond with "Merry Christmas."

When our neighbors decorate their lawns with blow-up snowmen, Santas, or reindeer; let us decorate ours with manger settings, or at least a star or candle in a window to remind others of the real meaning of the season.

As cars drive with reindeer antenna sticking out of windows, let us add a magnetic decal saying, "Keep Christ in Christmas."

As others have a full schedule of parties leading up to the "big day," let us use this week for spiritual preparation with perhaps a daily Mass or two and definitely Confession.

Finally, let us commit to making Mass on Christmas Day (or Eve) the highlight of the Christmas celebration, not forgetting the full Octave (8 days) of Christmas.

Then, when the stores have moved out all of the Christmas decorations and brought out displays for the next holiday (Valentine's Day), let us keep Christ in Christmas during the entire Christmas season, lasting beyond Epiphany to the Presentation of Christ in the Temple celebrated on February 2nd.

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

FORMED[®]

Get In-Formed!

Listen to *The Mystery of Christmas*. Fr. Larry Richards encourages us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas, recognizing the greatest gift ever, our Lord and Savior, and His love for us.

Read *The Blessings of Christmas* via ePub or your Kindle. This book by then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (now Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI) is a compilation of sermons and writings to provide rich meditations for the Advent and Christmas season.

FOR KIDS. Watch *Lukas Storyteller: The True Meaning of Christmas*. Join the familiar characters in this series as they discover what Christmas is really about.

Available for **FREE!** To set up an account, 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.

Parking at St. Raymond: During the Christmas Season, the church parking lot has extra traffic and may fill up. Limited street parking is available but can cause concern for our neighbors. One option available to you involves parking in the commuter lot at Gambrell Road and Fairfax County Parkway, where you can take advantage of carpooling. Please consider this as an option during the Advent & Christmas seasons. The Fairfax County Police will be monitoring the yellow striped "No Parking" zones in the parking lot, and tickets will be issued if violations occur. Please be considerate of our neighbors, and do not park where you block their driveways. Infractions will be ticketed and may possibly mean towing as well. Thank you!

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	\$ 24,496.00
Family Assistance	\$ 430.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,718.51
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 1,384.00

Thank you for your generous support of Catholic Charities in last weekend's Parish Christmas Collection. With your support, you are helping to serve the poor, protect the vulnerable, and welcome the newcomer in our diocese. If you have not made a gift yet, you may do so by contributing to this week's collection by making your check payable to the parish and noting Catholic Charities on the memo line. You may also make an online gift at ccda.net/Christmas, or on Faith Direct.

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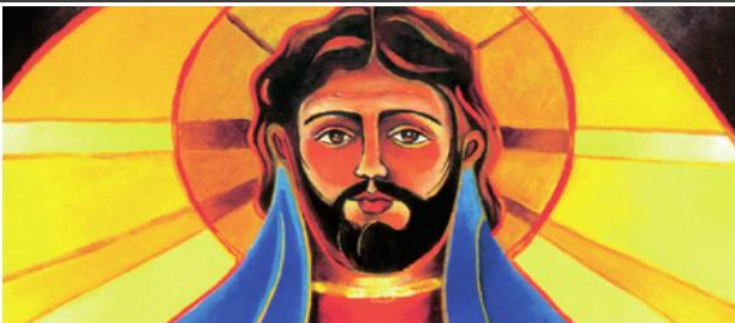
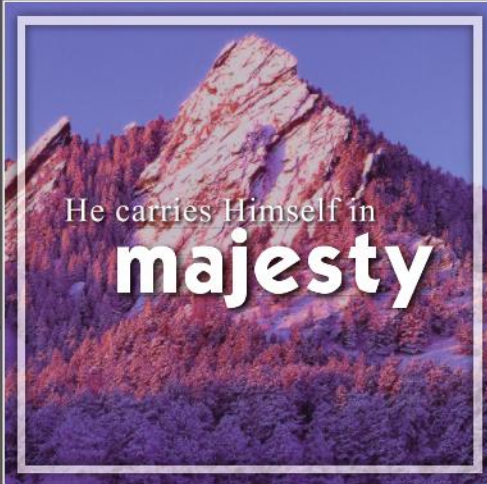
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