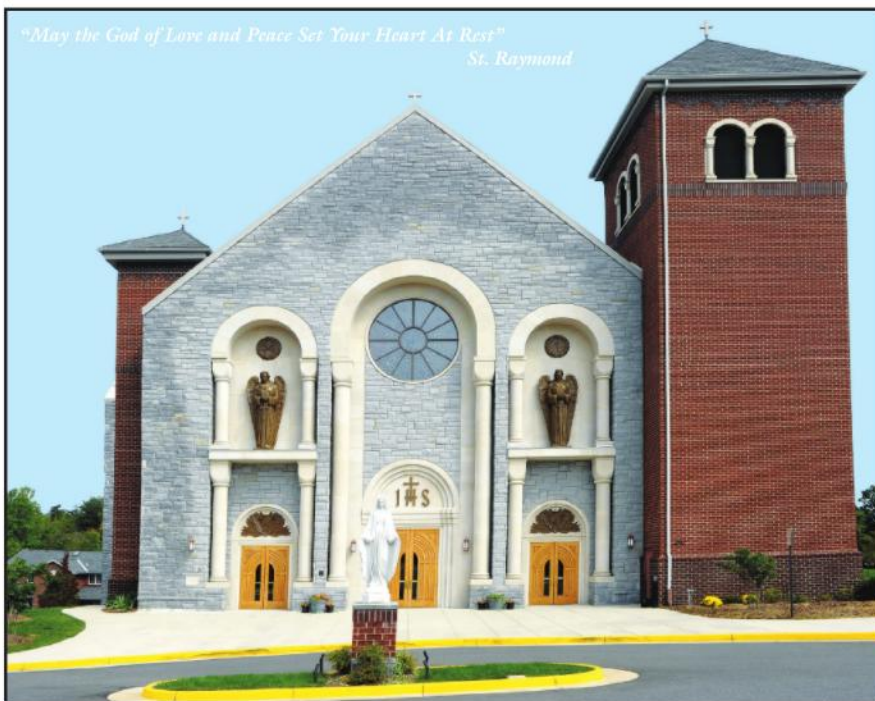


Christmas

"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

Merry Christmas! On behalf of myself, Fr. Horkan and Fr. Rippy, I want to wish you all a blessed, holy, joyful and merry Christmas. May Baby Jesus, His Blessed Mother Mary, and St. Joseph, keep you in their care this Holy Day and throughout the Season. May it be filled with joy in the love of the Lord Jesus and the happiness of the love of your family and friends. May the Peace of the Infant reign in your hearts and homes.

Thanks. Thank you to all those who worked so hard to give us a beautiful Advent and Christmas. In particular: the choir, the cantors, the musicians, the American Heritage Girls, the Trail Life boys, the Knights of Columbus, our sacristans, the flower/decorating committee, the ushers, the Giving Tree donors and volunteers, the altar boys, the lectors, and the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. A few specific names I need to mention: Sheri Burns, Patrick O'Brien, Julie Mullen, Marty and Nena Brennan, Phil Bettwy, Patty Pacheco, Barbara Aldridge and Christine Spengler. A particular thanks to our parish staff: Elisabeth Turco, Joseph Mernagh (new organist), Jeanne Sause, Joe Marquart, Maerose Naduvilekunel, Mary Butler, Mary Salmon, Mary Hansen and Virginia Osella; and to our custodial workers Luis Tapia and Dania Ochoa. And to my brother priests, Fr. Horkan, Fr. Rippy, and Msgr. Dempsey. **I'm sorry, I know I'm leaving out a lot of folks** from this list. Thank you and God bless you all.

**Homily of Pope St. John Paul II, Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve
Sunday, 24 December 1978 (the first of his pontificate)**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

1. *We are in Saint Peter's Basilica at this unusual hour. Around us is the architecture in which whole generations have for centuries expressed their faith in God Incarnate...: All our surroundings speak with the voice of the two millennia that separate us from the birth of Christ. ...In these circumstances, in this context of time and place, let me go with you to the cave near the little town of Bethlehem, south of Jerusalem. Let us all be there rather than here—there where "in the silence of the night" was heard the wail of the newborn infant, that eternal expression of the children of the earth. At the same moment was heard the voice of Heaven, that "world" of God dwelling in the inaccessible tabernacle of Glory. The majesty of the eternal God and mother earth making herself known by the wail of the newborn Infant enable us to glimpse the prospect of a new Peace, Reconciliation, and Covenant: "To us is born the Savior of the world," "all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God."*

2. *Nevertheless at this moment, at this strange hour, the ends of the earth are still afar off. They are pervaded by a period of waiting, far from peace. The hearts of people are filled rather with weariness; people have fallen asleep, as have the shepherds in the Bethlehem valleys close by. What is happening in the stable, in the rock cave, has a dimension of profound intimacy: it is something between the Mother and the Babe to be born. No outside person has access. Even Joseph, the Nazareth carpenter, is but a silent witness. She alone is fully aware of her Motherhood. She alone perceives the special*

expression of the infant's wailing. The birth of Christ is pre-eminently her mystery, her great day. It is the feast of the Mother.

It is a strange feast: there is no trace of the synagogue liturgy, no reading of the prophets or singing of the psalms. "Sacrifices and offerings thou hast not desired, but a body has thou prepared for me" (Heb 10:5) seems to be what is said by the wailing of the one who, although he is the Eternal Son, the Word who is of one being with the Father, "God from God, Light from Light," has become flesh (Jn 1: 14). He reveals himself in that body as one of us, a little infant, in all his frailty and vulnerability. Dependent upon people's care, entrusted to their love, undefended. He wails, and the world does not hear him, cannot hear him. The newborn infant's wail can only just be heard a few steps away.

3. *And so, Brothers and Sisters crowding this Basilica, I beg you: let us try to be more present there than here. ... The liturgy of Christmas Night is rich with a special realism: the realism of the moment that we are renewing, and also the realism of the hearts that are reliving that moment. All of us in fact are deeply moved, although what we are celebrating happened some two thousand years ago.*

In order to have a complete picture of the reality of that event, in order to penetrate more deeply still into the realism of that moment and the realism of human hearts, let us remember that the event occurred precisely in the way it did: in abandonment and extreme poverty, in the cave stable outside the town, because people in the town refused to receive the Mother and Joseph into any of their homes. Nowhere was there room. From the beginning, the world showed itself inhospitable towards the God who was to be born as Man.

4. *Now let us reflect briefly on the lasting meaning of this lack of hospitality on man's part towards God. All of us here wish it were different. We wish that everything within us men should be open to God born as a man. It is with this desire that we have come here!*

On this night let us therefore think of all the human beings that fall victim to man's inhumanity, to cruelty, to the lack of any respect, to contempt for the objective rights of every human being. Let us think of those who are lonely, old, or sick; of the homeless, those suffering from hunger, and those whose misery is the result of the exploitation and injustice of economic systems. Let us also think of those who on this night are not allowed to take part in the liturgy of God's Birth and who have no priest to celebrate Mass. And let us give a thought also to those whose souls and consciences are tormented no less than their faith.

The stable at Bethlehem is the first place for solidarity with man: for one man's solidarity with another and for all men's with all men, especially with those for whom there is "no room at the inn" (cf. Lk 2:7), whose personal rights are refused recognition.

5. *The newborn Infant is wailing. Who hears the baby's wail? But Heaven speaks for him, and it is Heaven that explains it with these words: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favor" (Lk 2:14). Touched by the fact of the birth of Jesus, we must hear this cry from Heaven. That cry must reach all the ends of the earth, all men must hear it anew.*

A Son is given to us. Christ is born to us. Amen.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

| | |
|--|--|
| Monday, Dec. 26th 10:00 am Enrique Borja + | Saturday, Dec. 31st 9:00 am Robert & Maureen Donohue |
| Tuesday, Dec. 27th 6:30 am Edilberto Butron Valencia + 8:30 am Tina Nerring + | Vigil Masses 5:00 pm Fr. Horkan Elizabeth Tramel Midnight Fr. De Celles Celebrant's Intention |
| Wednesday, Dec. 28th 6:30 am Adolfo & Margi Paglinawan 8:30 am Vince Drouillard | Sunday, Jan. 1st Sol. of Mary, Mother of God 7:00 am Fr. Rippy C. M. Oliver Soule + 9:00 am Fr. De Celles Parishioners 11:00 am Fr. De Celles Norberto Rillo 1:00 pm Fr. C. Vaccaro RE Catechists |
| Thursday, Dec. 29th 6:30 am Michael Allman + 8:30 am Michael Allman + | |
| Friday, Dec. 30th 6:30 am James Lane 8:30 am Mary Healy + | |

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

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! 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!** Schedule for Christmas: **Dec. 24th Rosary at 7:15 pm**, and **Dec. 25th Rosary at 12:15 pm**. **Starting in January, the Rosary on Saturday and Sunday will take place after the 9am Mass.**

Altar Server Movie on Wednesday, Dec. 28. A big thank you to each of our St. Raymond's altar servers for all the help at Masses this year -especially during the busy Advent and Christmas season. Father De Celles invites you to join him for a movie outing on Wed. Dec. 28th, followed by a pizza lunch back at the church. Please check your email for more information, and call the parish office with any questions.

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 Sundy. 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 Sundy at 719-649-4688.

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 Jean Sullivan Michael O'Neill Eugene Kardohely |
|--|---|--|

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Dec. 26 | 1 Mass at 10am, Parish Offices Closed |
| Dec. 27 | NO Bible Study |
| Dec. 28 | Adoration 9am - 7pm |
| Dec. 28 | Altar Server Movie and Lunch |
| Dec. 28 | Legion of Mary |
| Dec. 30 | Adoration 9am - 3pm |
| Jan. 2 | 1 Mass at 10am, Parish Offices Closed |
| Jan. 7 | Annual Adult Volunteer Dinner |

Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve:
4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 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, 9 am, 11 am, & 1 pm

December 30th Christ House Meal - Calling volunteers to serve to-go meals to folks who are homeless and/or food insecure at our Diocesan Christ House Dining Room in Alexandria. Volunteers are needed to donate food for 72 servings. This month our menu includes Shepherd's Pie, Caesar salad, apples, bananas, dinner rolls, and Christmas cookies. Or, if you prefer to donate time instead, great! We need help preparing and distributing the meals on Friday, December 30. Check out the full menu and sign-up for your Corporal Act of Mercy opportunity at the Perfect Potluck link: <https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/LAHT1734>

ATTENTION All Adult Volunteers! Our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be Saturday, January 7th after the 5pm Vigil Mass. 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. 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> (or scan this QR code) to become a Knight today!



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.

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.**

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).

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

**For unto us a Child is Born!
And He came that we might have life and have it to the full.**

Infant Jesus, grant us the compassion, wisdom and courage to defend human life, which is a reflection of your Divine Love.

MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center: We proudly partner with MaRiH as they serve local 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 they help. *Thank you, dear friends at Saint Raymond's, for so generously supporting 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 Merry Christmas!

12/25 & 1/1 No CCD or Youth Group

Enjoy Christmas, New Year's & the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God with your family! We look forward to seeing you in the new year! Youth Group will resume Sunday, January 8th

VOLUNTEERS & FOOD NEEDED!



WorkCamp 2023: June 17-23 **ADULT Crew Leaders Needed**

Adult volunteers are essential to making WorkCamp a success. **Adult Crew Leaders (Chaperones, age 25+)** play an active role in leading by example throughout the week. A commitment to stay at the school, sleep on the floors and be present for the duration of camp is required. If we do not have enough adult crew leaders, we have to tell our youth they are unable to go. St. Raymond's covers the charge for all of our adult volunteers! No experience or ability to work with tools necessary! Learn more about WorkCamp at our website <https://bit.ly/workcamp2023> Contact Jeanne (info below) with any questions.



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



"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..."

Jn 1:14

May your Christmas Season be filled with God's richest blessings!!!

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

St. Raymond's Young Adult Group. Are you 21-40 years old? (Single or married, with or without kids) Contact youngadults@straymonds.org to be added to our email list and hear about upcoming events!

Vocational Discernment Retreat for Men. Could Christ be calling you to the priesthood? Take a step to find out. Attend the weekend discernment retreat for men (ages 18-50) Friday-Sunday, February 24-26, 2023. This is a great opportunity for prayer and discernment, confession, and talking with priests and seminarians. Cost is \$100 and includes overnights and all meals. Retreat starts Friday at 6:30 p.m. and concludes Sunday after lunch. For more information or to register, contact Fr. Michael Isenberg at 703-841-2514 or vocations@arlingtondiocese.org. Deadline to register is Monday, February 13. There is a similar retreat for women June 16 -18.

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.

Watch for our Constant Contact Updates! If you are not receiving emails from the parish, please contact the parish office at 703-440-0535 or office@straymonds.org to verify your email address.

Church Persecuted

“Happy Holidays,” “Seasons Greetings,” or “Winter Holiday” shows how the culture has taken “Christ out of Christmas.” Yet, it continues to use the traditional Christian symbols of Christmas. Let’s look at the Christian origins of some of these traditions.

The **Christmas Tree** is and has always been a symbol of Jesus. It’s evergreen nature is a sign of life and “reminds Christians of the ‘tree of life,’ an image of Christ on the Cross.”

Wreaths which adorn homes, shopping centers and businesses are “circular in shape — without beginning or end — representing God, and the evergreens represent eternal life.” **Holly** and the holly tree are Christian symbols. The sharp edges of the leaves represent the crown of thorns worn by Jesus, and the berry’s from the tree signify Christ’s shedding His blood for us. **Lights and candles**, which are found everywhere during this season, represent Jesus, “source of all light. Jesus is the Light of the world.”

The **star** atop the “tree represents that star which led the Wise Men to Jesus. It directs us to follow the light of the Savior just as the Wise Men found him by following the star.” The **poinsettia** has multiple meanings. Like the evergreen tree, it “thrives during the winter and symbolizes everlasting life. The red poinsettias remind us of Jesus shedding His blood for us. White poinsettias signify purity.” **Christmas bells** remind us of the choirs of angels in Heaven announcing the birth of Jesus. The **giving of gifts** originates from the Wise Men bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the Child-King. Finally, **Santa Claus** is none other than St. Nicholas, a fourth-century Catholic saint known for bringing gifts to children. Even when the culture tries to escape using the words, Christmas cannot be reduced to a “winter holiday.”

Merry Christmas!

<https://www.thecatholicthing.org/2021/12/04/appropriating-the-christmas-appropriators/print>

FORMED

Get In-Formed!

The Christmas Season starts today!

Watch *The Story of the Nativity: The Truth of Christmas*. This film presents a scholarly look at the true story of the Immaculate Conception, the births of John the Baptist and Jesus, and the Star of Bethlehem. Watch and share!

Listen to *The True Meaning of Christmas*. A compilation of Venerable Fulton Sheen’s reflections on the Incarnation of Jesus mixed with Gregorian Chant and seasonal music.

PARENTS: Watch the Twelve Books of Christmas. This brief presentation encourages families to start a new tradition of “Twelve Books of Christmas” to teach children about the true, the good, and the beautiful through literature while concretely demonstrating that Christmas is a season, not just a day.

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



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 | \$ 14,565.49 |
| Family Assistance | \$ 6,725.00 |
| Maintenance Fund | \$ 1,825.00 |
| Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations | \$ 595.00 |
| Catholic Charities Christmas Collection (12/11- 12/18) | \$ 9,869 |

The Second Collection on Christmas is for the Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Fund. Fr. De Celles asks that you please be generous.

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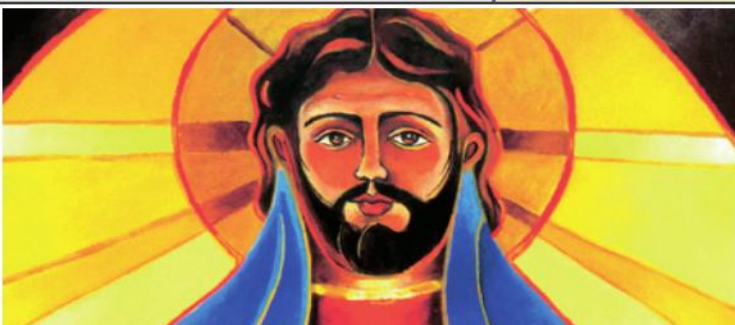
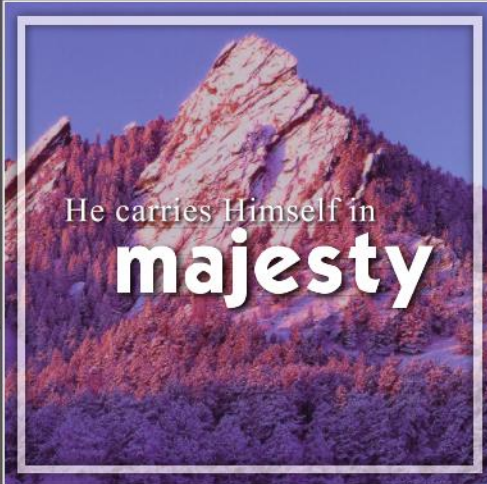
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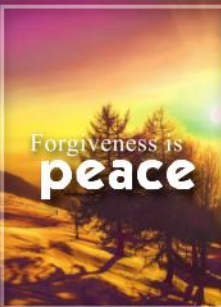
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