

# Epiphany of the LORD

*"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](http://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.

**We saw his  
star at its  
rising and  
have come  
to do him  
homage.**

*Matthew 2:2*



## Pastor's Corner

**Pope Benedict XVI, Requiescat in Pace.** I first met Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger in 2001, after a Mass he celebrated in the Vatican. Fr. Jerry Pokorsky and I were waiting outside, hoping to greet him as he left, but when he came out, he was instantly surrounded by a group of German students with the same goal. But when he bid goodbye to the students, instead of walking away toward his office, he turned and said to us, in English, "Were you waiting for me?" He spoke to us for about five minutes about mutual friends and his work and ours. He couldn't have been kinder or humbler. Not quite what some presented as the mean "German Rottweiler."

But I had actually come to know Ratzinger about 15 years before when I read his book-length interview, "The Ratzinger Report," in which he very clearly and honestly discussed the terrible problems in the Church. That began a 35-year friendship, albeit unknown to him, as I became his student and he my mentor as I read everything I could of his writings (translated into English). Eventually I was privileged to study under professors and befriend others who were close personal collaborators and even former actual University students of Professor Ratzinger. To this day, if you hear any perceptive insight in one of my homilies, it most likely comes from him.

You can imagine my delight when he was elected Pope in 2005, and my disappointment when he resigned the Papacy in 2013. And now my sadness at his death, last Saturday, December 31. But on the other hand, I also rejoice, because I believe, personally, that I now have a powerful friend-intercessor-patron-saint in heaven.

What else could await such a great and holy man, a truly "humble servant in the vineyard of the Lord." Think of all he's given of himself for Christ and the Church over the last 70+ years. First as a brilliant young theologian, one of the leading "experts" at the Second Vatican Council; then as the famous professor/theologian helping to implement the Council; and then as the 49 year old Archbishop of Munich. Then in 1981 he was called to Rome to begin his 24-year long collaboration with Pope John Paul II as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith: in my humble opinion, as wonderful as John Paul II was, no one would be calling him "the Great" today if Ratzinger hadn't been there as his strong right arm. So much so that when the other cardinals looked around the Sistine Chapel on April 19, 2005, they recognized that there was no one comparably equipped to succeed John Paul—and they elected him Pope Benedict XVI.

From the beginning of his Papacy, he brought his keen intellect to bear and challenged the world to reason with him, and to come to know, love and believe in Jesus Christ. Among his concrete historical accomplishments: his many encyclicals, exhortations and homilies; his trilogy of books on *Jesus of Nazareth*; his 20+ pastoral visits around the globe (including his memorable visit to Washington in 2008); his courageous handling of child abuse scandals; his restoration of the Traditional Latin Mass; the new English translation of the Roman Missal; the establishment of the Ordinariate for Anglicans coming into the Catholic Church; his with dialogue the Orthodox; and the appointment of so many strong bishops throughout the world, especially in America. But more than that, he was recognized as a brilliant thinker and gentle pastor, a voice consistently proclaiming the truth to a world confused

by secularism, false ideologies, Islamism, and "the dictatorship of relativism."

Then on February 11, 2013, he announced his intent to step down—the first pope in 598 years to resign. Some have since speculated about conspiracies or hidden reasons for the resignation. Some were even angry with him, calling him a "coward" for "abandoning his flock." I don't agree even a little bit with those voices. Rather I take the smartest Pope in centuries, a truly holy and humble priest, at his word: "*I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry....[B]oth strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months, has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfill the ministry entrusted to me.*" At almost 86 years old he was working full-time at a job the burdens of which would crush most men. And now, he humbled himself and decided to let the cardinals pick a stronger man to take up the burden.

Now, after 10 years of prayer and solitude, he has gone to his reward. We owe it to him to pray for his soul; to help him, if necessary, in his final purification. But even as we pray for him, as I wrote above, I am confident that he is already with the Lord in heaven—so I will pray to him as well. And I invite you to join me in giving thanks to God for the tremendous gift he has given us in the life and ministry of his humble servant, Joseph Aloysius Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI.

*Requiem aeternam dona ei, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat ei. Requiescat in pace. Amen.*

**Feast of St. Raymond of Peñafort.** Yesterday, January 7, was the feast of our parish Patron. For those of you who don't know much about St. Raymond, I invite you to read the 32-page biography we published a while back. If you don't have one, come by the parish gift shop or the office and pick one up.

Raymond was born in 1175, and at a young age he was named a professor of civil and canon law and at the University of Bologna. On August 1, 1218, Raymond received a heavenly vision from our Blessed Mother ("Our Lady of Ransom"). In 1222 he entered the Order of Preachers ("Dominicans"), and published the *Summa Casuum*, a book guiding confessors and moralists. In 1230 he was appointed confessor and theologian to Pope Gregory IX, who also assigned him the daunting task of codifying the entirety of the juridical laws of the Church. In 1238 he was elected Master General of the Dominican Order. He resigned after 3 years, but continued his writing, preaching and pastoral work for another 37 years until his death on January 6, 1275, at the age of 100. He is the patron saint of lawyers, both canon and civil.

St. Raymond of Peñafort, pray for us!

**Epiphany and the End of the Christmas Season.** Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, commemorating the visit and adoration of the magi to Christ in Bethlehem. In the Orthodox Church and many of the Eastern Rite Catholic Churches it also, effectively, celebrates the birth of Our Lord, i.e., Christmas. This year it also represents the last Sunday of the Christmas season, which ends tomorrow, Monday, with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. **So, Merry Christmas!**

*Et, oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*

**MASS INTENTIONS****Monday, Jan. 9th**

6:30 am Tanya Hoy +  
8:30 am Daniel H. DeCelles +

**Tuesday, Jan. 10th**

6:30 am Anna & Clare  
Pecknold  
8:30 am Richard Whearty +

**Wednesday, Jan. 11th**

6:30 am Emmett Michael  
Brouillard +  
8:30 am Therese Nguyen

**Thursday, Jan. 12th**

6:30 am Raymond Paul  
Bosworth +  
8:30 am Christ Menotti +

**Friday, Jan. 13th**

6:30 am Arthur Byrons +  
8:30 am Robert Cahill +

**Saturday, Jan. 14th**

9:00 am Linda Pasternak +

**Vigil Masses**

5:00 pm Fr. Rippy  
Jack Menotti +

**Sunday, Jan. 15th**

7:00 am Fr. Rippy  
Richard Bernard +  
9:00 am Fr. Rippy  
Parishioners  
11:00 am Fr. Horkan  
Deborah Shnek +  
1:00 pm Fr. Horkan  
Lovelyn Santos +

**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

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Jan 8   | Donut Sunday                                |
| Jan. 10 | Bible Study                                 |
| Jan. 11 | Adoration 9am - 7pm                         |
| Jan. 11 | Legion of Mary                              |
| Jan. 13 | Adoration 9am - 3pm                         |
| Jan. 13 | Parish Book Club Meeting                    |
| Jan. 16 | Federal Holiday                             |
|         | One Mass at 10 am, Offices Closed           |
| Jan. 20 | March for Life, Adoration, and Chili Dinner |
| Jan. 21 | Men's Prayer Group                          |
| Jan. 28 | K of C Italian Dinner                       |

**View livestreaming of the Holy Mass at St. Raymond's!**

[straymonds.org](http://straymonds.org)

Monday - Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am  
Saturday at 9:00 am  
Sunday Mass at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

**Daily Family Rosary leaders needed!** St. Raymond's has a Daily Family Rosary in the church Mon-Fri at 6:30pm; **starting in January, the Rosary on Saturday and Sunday will take place after the 9am Mass. 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!**

**March for Life Chili Dinner!** Join us in the parish hall on Friday, Jan. 20th for the annual post March for Life Chili Dinner. Please see the Signup Genius for more information and opportunities to help: <https://bit.ly/2023MFLChili>. Questions? Please contact Sheri Burns at [burnsfamily92@gmail.com](mailto:burnsfamily92@gmail.com).

**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.

**The Knights of Columbus Annual Italian Dinner** will take place on Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the parish hall. Tickets for the event will be sold after all Masses on the weekends of January 14-15 and 21-22. Ticket Prices are \$6.00 for children (5-12), \$16.00 for Adults and \$55.00 for Families.



**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](mailto:office@straymonds.org) to verify your email address.**

**Donut Sunday, January 8th** after the 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 am Masses. Stop by the Parish Hall after Mass to enjoy some treats and drinks and meet your fellow parishioners. January's Donut Sunday is hosted by our Homeschool Group. **LOST AND FOUND** items will be on display. Please come by the parish hall to check for items you may have left at church!

**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.

**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](mailto:spoiledk9s@verizon.net). If you are interested in Fridays, please call Virginia Osella at 703-440-0535 or email [virginia.osella@straymonds.org](mailto:virginia.osella@straymonds.org). Drop-ins are always welcome!



**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!



**Into the Breach Program.** All Knights and all men of St. Raymond's Parish who are 18 or over are invited to attend the *Into the Breach* Program, inspired by the Apostolic Exhortation for Catholic men written by Bishop Olmsted of Phoenix. The Knights of Columbus produced a 12-part video series, and the goal of *Into the Breach* is to help men grow in their faith and become the men that God is calling them to be. Pre-registration is required and registration each month is limited to 20 attendees. **The next session, on "Life," will be on January 14 from 10-12 in the Maurer Room.** Fellowship will follow the session. For more information and to register, please contact Pat Franco at (703) 220-2403 or at [popsfr8@aol.com](mailto:popsfr8@aol.com).

**Sundays with the Sisters Rejoice Tour 2023.** Witness the joy of our religious sisters during the Sundays with the Sisters Rejoice Tour 2023! An initiative for the year of preparation for our diocesan jubilee in 2024, the tour will showcase the religious women of our diocese who, like Mary, rejoice in the Lord by their daily surrender. The tour features an event at a different convent each month, bringing together sisters and lay women for prayer and community. For single women ages 18-50. Upcoming: January 22, The Dominicans, Congregation of St. Cecilia; February 5: Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. RSVP by the Monday before each event to [vocations@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org). More info at [ArlingtonDiocese.org/RejoiceTour](http://ArlingtonDiocese.org/RejoiceTour).

**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 21.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.

**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](mailto: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.

**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/>

**Book Club: Friday, January 13, 2023 at 10:00 am** in the Library to discuss "Calming the Storm: Navigating the Crises Facing the Catholic Church and Society" by Fr. Gerald Murray and Diane Montagna. A full list of books to be discussed during 2022-2023 is included in the Book Club section of the parish website. **New members are welcome.** If you have any questions, please contact Jim Mault, [bookclub@straymonds.org](mailto:bookclub@straymonds.org).

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

**MARCH FOR LIFE:** Join your fellow parishioners and fellow Americans for the **National March for Life** on Friday, **January 20th.** Sign up in the narthex or online. Seats are free but require a reservation. Our three buses will be departing immediately following a 10:30 Mass. We will return by 5pm to a parish sponsored Chili Dinner. Stand up for life!



**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>

**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](http://marih.org). Donations of *warm outerwear for newborns or 2T* are particularly appreciated at this time.

**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](http://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](http://abortionpillreversal.com).

**Tepeyac Pro Life OB/GYN: Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare.** [tepeyacobgyn.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:GabrielProject@arlingtondiocese.org).



## St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate

### Sunday 1/8: 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)



## WorkCamp 2023: June 17-23 ADULT Crew Leaders Urgently 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 & 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](mailto: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

Midterm exams will be administered **January 22, 23 and 24** for grades 1-8.

Mark your calendars: There will be **NO CCD CLASSES** next week **January 15, 16 and 17** in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

2023 Confirmation candidates (8th grade) the following paperwork is **due February 9th:**  
Service Hours Record form and Service Experience form

Parents of Students who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Penance for the first time on **Saturday, February 11th:** be sure you have turned in the **First Holy Communion Registry form and Certificate of Baptism to the RE Office** - they were due **December 15th!!**

**Vocational Discernment Retreat for Men.** Could Christ be calling you to the priesthood? Take a step to find out at a weekend discernment retreat for men (ages 18-50) Friday-Sunday, Feb. 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](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org). Deadline to register is Monday, February 13. There is a similar retreat for women June 16-18.

**FIAT Day of Recollection for High School Girls.** Can prayer be a joy? Join the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy for some prayer tips and tricks along with fellowship and fun. This event will be held Saturday, January 28, 2023, at the St. John Paul II National Shrine and will also include Mass and adoration. For girls currently in high school. Deadline to register is January 20. Sponsored by the Office of Vocations. For more information visit [ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT](http://ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT).

**Pilgrim Virgin Statue Visitation of Our Blessed Lady.** The Legion of Mary organizes one-week visits of the Pilgrim Virgin (Our Lady of Fatima) Statue. Those who have welcomed this traveling statue in their homes have reported many graces. The rosary or Divine Mercy chaplet is said when bringing and picking up the statue. Additionally, the family may request the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which is another joy. Please contact Judy Mayer, [jmayer9014@aol.com](mailto:jmayer9014@aol.com), or call / text at 703-627-7320 to arrange a visit.

**Home School Group:** for more information visit our website [www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/](http://www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/) Or email [straymondhsg@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dancertoo2@yahoo.com) or James Kolakoski at 703-455-3009 [bridgeclub402@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeclub402@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining us.

## Church Persecuted

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish and Academy in Grand Rapids, MI has filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court against Michigan's new interpretation of an anti-discrimination law, which requires schools to impose strict policies and practices enforcing non-Catholic views of sexual orientation and gender identity. The new interpretation also bans any catechesis related to the Catholic teaching on marriage and sexuality. The state has determined such instruction and policies to be discriminatory. The interpretation was part of a recent review of a 1976 Michigan anti-discrimination law, the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act, by the Michigan Supreme Court. The 1976 law does not include the "routine religious exemptions that allow Sacred Heart to operate consistent with Catholic faith and its doctrine," the lawsuit said.

Parents are also represented in the lawsuit because they specifically chose to opt their children out of public schools and enroll them in Sacred Heart Academy so that they could "grow academically and spiritually in their Catholic faith," said Kate Anderson, a senior counsel with Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) and one of the attorneys involved in the case.

"Michigan officials are forcing Sacred Heart to make an unconstitutional and unconscionable choice: either cease teaching and practicing the Catholic faith or close the doors forever," said Ryan Tucker, another senior counsel with ADF.

Additionally, St. Joseph's Parish in St. Johns, MI has filed a separate lawsuit against the Michigan Supreme Court ruling. They are concerned about male students using female locker rooms, a male visitor to the church trying to use a female restroom, or a same-sex couple seeking marriage in the Church.

(Catholic News Agency online, "After Michigan Supreme Court redefines 'sex,' Catholic school lawsuit warns of broad impact" 12/30/22)

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 Get In-Formed!

**Remember and celebrate the life and contributions of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.** Visit [Formed.org](http://Formed.org) to access videos about this recent pope as well as many of his writings and books for free.

**On January 9, we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of The Lord!**

**Watch** *Reborn: You, Your Child, and the Heart of Baptism*. This first episode in a series focuses on the sacrament of baptism and its significance for the one being baptized as well as the role of parents and godparents. It also provides a detailed explanation of the rite based in Scripture and Tradition.

**Listen** to *Changed Forever: The Sacrament of Baptism* by Fr. Mike Schmitz. Grow in understanding of our adoption as sons and daughters of God through this sacrament of initiation. Includes a bonus explanation on infant baptism.

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

Questions? Need help? Email us at: [formed@straymonds.org](mailto: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](mailto:Admissions@angelusacademy.org) for more information.

We are now accepting applications for 2023-24.

Visit [angelusacademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/](http://angelusacademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/)

[www.AngelusAcademy.org](http://www.AngelusAcademy.org)

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### 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. We can also help cover homeschooling expenses.

**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).

### DECEMBER 25, 2022 COLLECTION

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Sunday Offertory             | \$ 18,395.00 |
| Christmas                    | \$ 16,195.00 |
| Family Assistance            | \$ 742.00    |
| Maintenance Fund             | \$ 2,205.00  |
| Our Lady of Ransom Catholic  |              |
| School Scholarship Donations | \$ 10,278.00 |
| Gift                         | \$ 6,000     |

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Sunday Offertory               | \$ 14,556.00 |
| Sol. Of Mary                   | \$ 3,893.00  |
| Family Assistance              | \$ 895.00    |
| Maintenance Fund               | \$ 1,978.00  |
| Our Lady of Ransom Catholic    |              |
| School Scholarship Donations   | \$ 5,904.00  |
| Additional Christmas Donations | \$ 3,620.00  |

### ADD'L FAITH DIRECT DEC. 31, 2022

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Offertory                    | \$ 4,640.00 |
| Our Lady of Ransom Catholic  |             |
| School Scholarship Donations | \$ 5,581.00 |
| Gift                         | \$ 2,000.00 |



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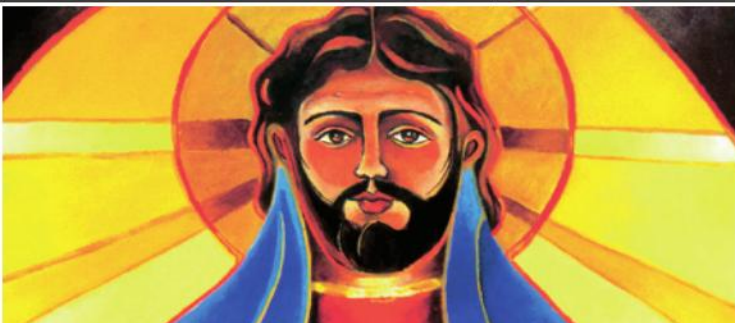
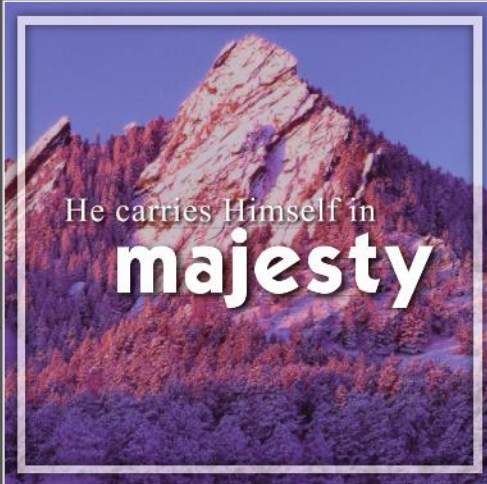
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