



## 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.

## Pastor's Corner

### PARISH FINANCES (continued from last week)

#### "President Biden to end COVID-19 emergencies."

That's what the headline last week said. I hate to break it to the President, but most of us thought the Covid emergency ended over a year ago. That's not to say we shouldn't be concerned about the virus, but not in the "panic mode" emergencies bring with them.

Some people may feel the need to wear masks and take extra precautions. But most of the fear and anxiety should be behind us now. And almost everyone has adjusted back to more or less "normal," that is to say "pre-covid," behavior.

**One noticeable exception to this is found in parish life.** The recent October Mass attendance count showed that Mass attendance throughout the Diocese is **down 21% from 2019**, or pre-Covid. Our own parish count showed **our attendance still down 41%**--twice the average of the Diocese.

Now, since Advent I've sensed the numbers increasing, but it's hard to say. I'll probably do another count one Sunday in the near future. But in any case, the numbers are way down.

There are many reasons for this. Some are still afraid to come to Mass because of Covid (some of this may be legitimate considering individual or family health issues; I don't question this); some have just found it "easier" to watch Mass from home; some have just found it hard to get back into the habit; some have just become lazy; some have discovered that going to Mass isn't as important to them anymore; and some have simply lost their faith.

Well, it's well past time to put all that behind us. Americans need to get back to living and working, and Catholics—especially Peñafortans (I just coined that)—have to get back to participating in parish life and coming to Mass.

So, no more excuses, my children. Unless you have a strong medical reason you need to come back to Mass. And you need to remind your friends and family to do the same.

In imitation of Christ, the Good Shepherd, I go searching for my lost sheep. And as Scripture tells us, "the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."

**Side Effects of Covid.** Besides a drop in attendance, another side effect of Covid on parish life is a **large drop in total regular contributions/donations** (e.g., Sunday Offertory, Long Term Maintenance, other unrestricted donations). For the first six months of the current year, **through December 31, 2022, this amount is down \$72,555, or 7.6%**, from the same six months ended December 31, 2019 (last period before Covid).

Now, there's some good news in that. Consider that attendance is down 41% or so, but regular contributions/donations are only down 7.6%. This tells us one of two things, or a combination of both: 1) some people are not coming to Mass but are still giving (Great! Thanks!), and/or 2) most of our regular givers are the folks who are more dedicated to coming the Mass every Sunday.

But there's another problem: since December 2019 **inflation has risen by 15.5%**. And when you apply that factor to regular contributions/donations for the six months ended December 2019, and compare that number to the 2022 number, we find that in **"real economic terms" the 7.6% decline is really 20%**.

But again, 41% decline in attendance versus 20% decline in regular contributions/donations isn't bad.

Unless parish expenses return to pre-Covid levels, or

increase from pre-Covid levels by 15.5% inflation! And they have: we're 100% open to pre-Covid levels, and whether we have 500 or 300 people at a Mass, 300 or 200 kids in CCD, costs (e.g., utilities, salaries, maintenance) remain relatively fixed, except for that nasty 15.5% inflation!

So, with giving down and expenses up, we are on track to run the first deficit in years—and a large one. And there are only two conclusions I can reach: either I just spend from our savings, or **parishioners must increase their giving.**

Now, I know that many of you are giving the best you can. And I know that the same inflation that has hit the parish budget has hit your personal budget. And I know that some of you have redirected donations from the parish to pay for Catholic school or Homeschooling (with my approval). And I know that some of you have had huge financial/economic setbacks due to Covid. And I know that some of our loss in revenue is due to the 41% who aren't coming.

I appreciate all that, and you know I hate asking for money, it really pains me. **It's your money and you worked hard for it** and you need a lot to keep your family going, safe, fed, housed, and educated.

**But here are some things I'm going to ask you to consider and pray about:**

1. **Have you kept your donation what it was before Covid to the extent honestly possible (maybe you temporarily reduced it during Covid)?**
2. **Have you increased your donation since 2019 to account for inflation? —all your other costs are up, is your contribution to St. Raymond's up?**
3. **Were you really giving what you should or could even before Covid?**

Actually, there is a third conclusion I could reach: I can cut back on expenses. But I think that would be cutting meat, not fat. I mean, which expenses do you think I should cut back on? Which of the staff should I lay off (salaries and benefits compose about 40% of our total expenses)? Should I ask the Bishop not to send me a Vicar (that will be an additional \$40,000 in salary and benefits we don't have right now!)? Should I not repair the HVAC this year (I can save \$60,000 if I hold back on one major project right now!), or cut back on cleaning expenditures, or Youth Group activities, or emergency family assistance?

Although these questions are a bit tongue-in-cheek, they are real worse-case possibilities, and I'm open to suggestions, charitably and thoughtfully presented.

**Please take some time to think and pray about this. And then please be as generous as you can—beginning as soon as you can. I trust you will make the right and charitable decision.**

**Bishop's Lenten Appeal.** And then there's that. The Bishop still needs to send future priests to seminary, fund the priests' retirement, and purchase land for new parishes, etc. etc. Last year we missed the goal set for us—we tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in lowest ("worst") percentage of our goal among all 70 parishes. I wasn't worried about that because the Diocesan Office of Development set an unreasonably high goal: our parish offertory sharply declined in 2021, but they increased our goal in 2022 even over our 2020 (pre-Covid) goal! This year, after discussion with the Bishop, our goal has decreased by 8.1% from last year and even 5.4% less than 2020 to a more reasonable \$280,000.

**I know, I know: all I talk about is money.** Not true, and you know it. Please be as generous as you can. And God bless you.

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*

**MASS INTENTIONS****Monday, Feb. 6th**

6:30 am Laura Ann Valentine  
8:30 am Pauline Ferguson

**Tuesday, Feb. 7th**

6:30 am Sundberg Family +  
8:30 am Maria Hill

**Wednesday, Feb. 8th**

6:30 am Russell Gooding +  
8:30 am Martha Fye +

**Thursday, Feb. 9th**

6:30 am John Blair  
8:30 am John Maschoff +

**Friday, Feb. 10th**

6:30 am Keneally Family +  
8:30 am Judy Raymond +

**Saturday, Feb. 11th**

9:00 am Elise Lane

**Vigil Masses**

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles  
Bob Ferguson +

**Sunday, Feb. 12th**

7:00 am Fr. Horkan  
Vincent Toa Truong +  
9:00 am Fr. De Celles  
Parishioners  
11:00 am Fr. Rippey  
Ronald Baclig +  
1:00 pm Fr. De Celles  
In Thanksgiving

**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.

**Ryan Higgins**

**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 Margaret O'Neill Christina Cautero Unborn Baby Mutumanje Fatima Mutumanje Megan Bradley Leonora Ramos Tom Swengros Mary Perimbaraja
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**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; **Saturday and Sunday 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!**

**All Saints Church (Manassas, VA) has invited our parishioners to participate in their Multi Car Raffle.** Prizes include four 2023 vehicles from Ourisman Ford of Manassas (Ford Escape, Mustang, Ranger Truck and Bronco Sport). One \$5.00 ticket offers the purchaser a chance to win all four vehicles plus \$40,000 (including one for \$20,000) in cash prizes. By now, you should have received tickets in the mail. Please consider selling/purchasing the tickets mailed to you. We pray we have a few St. Raymond winners this year. Proceeds from the raffle fund many of St. Raymond's charitable efforts.

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

**February Book Club:** The parish Book Club will next meet on **Friday, February 10, 2023**, at 10:00 AM in the St Raymond Library to discuss "**Priest and Beggar, the Heroic Life of Venerable Aloysius Schwartz**" by Kevin Wells. 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 at [bookclub@straymonds.org](mailto:bookclub@straymonds.org).

**Gabriel Project:** Thank you to the generous parishioners who were able to donate items and money for items to help the young mom in our parish boundaries and the two Afghan refugee moms with new babies. They are all so grateful to you! Beth Berger, Gabriel Project, [kmb43@verizon.net](mailto:kmb43@verizon.net)

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

Feb. 5	<b>Donut Sunday</b>
Feb. 6	<b>Family of Jesus Prayer Group</b>
Feb. 7	<b>Bible Study</b>
Feb. 8	<b>Adoration 9am - 7pm</b>
Feb. 8	<b>Legion of Mary</b>
Feb. 9	<b>Bridge Club</b>
Feb. 10	<b>Adoration 9am - 3pm</b>
Feb. 10	<b>Book Club</b>
Feb. 18	<b>Men's Prayer Group</b>
Feb. 18	<b>Women's Retreat</b>
Feb. 20	<b>Federal Holiday</b>
	<b>One Mass at 10am and parish offices closed</b>
Feb. 22	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
	<b>Masses at 6:30am, 8:30am, noon, 5:00 pm &amp; 7:00 pm</b>

**Donut Sunday, February 5th** 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. This month's Donut Sunday will be hosted by our American Heritage Girls.

**Lost and Found Items** will be displayed in the Parish Hall during Donut Sunday. If you are missing something and may have of left it in the church, please be sure to check the table! Items not claimed by Jan. 8th will be donated or disposed of, as appropriate.

**Women's Retreat on February 18, 2023:** The Women's Apostolate to Youth (WAY) will once again host a retreat for the women of the parish on the Saturday before Lent begins, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm. This year's retreat is entitled, "**Laborare Mecum: Christ's Call to Restore Lost Innocence**," and will feature talks and prayers about making reparation for sins against children and youth in our current culture, particularly through Eucharistic Adoration. **Please visit our website to register by Feb. 13th.** No cost to attend. You may call the parish office with any questions.

**AHG Valentine's Day Fundraiser.** The American Heritage Girls (AHG) Troop VA 0638 will be selling Chocolate & Roses for Valentine's Day after all Masses February 11 and 12. Please stop in the narthex at St. Raymond's after Mass and purchase some delicious chocolate and beautiful roses.



**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, Feb. 11.** All Knights and men of St. Raymond's Parish are invited to attend the next session of the Into the Breach Program sponsored by the Knights of Columbus on **Saturday, February 11, 10 am - noon in the Maurer Room for a session on Prayer.** 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 is limited to 20 attendees. For more information and to register, please contact Pat Franco at (703) 220-2403 or at [popsfr8@aol.com](mailto:popsfr8@aol.com).

**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 February 18.** 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.

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

**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.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter** puts the spark back in your marriage. Sign up today to attend one of the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends on Mar 31-Apr 2, 2023 in Herndon, VA and Sep 22-24, 2023 in Herndon, VA. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: [RenewMarriage-VANorth.org](http://RenewMarriage-VANorth.org) or contact us at [applications@renewmarriage-vanorth.org](mailto:applications@renewmarriage-vanorth.org) or 703-646-1521.

**Holy Hour Offering Cards.** Are you making a Holy Hour for a loved one or a friend? There are complimentary Holy Hour Offering Cards (with envelopes) available in the narthex suitable for mailing. Please feel free to take one and let someone know that you are remembering them in prayer.

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

*"The care of human life and not its destruction is the first and only legitimate object of good government."*  
President Thomas Jefferson



**In Post Roe America, the people of each state must stand up for life.** Thank you to all who attended the recent **Virginia March for Life and Defending Life Day** in Richmond.

**PLEASE** stay informed on life issues in our Commonwealth. Visit: [www.usccb.org/take-action](http://www.usccb.org/take-action) to receive periodic updates

**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.**



The Spring campaign begins on February 22. Watch for sign up sheets in the narthex. Questions? Please contact Liz Hildebrand at [hildebrandseven@gmail.com](mailto:hildebrandseven@gmail.com)

**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.

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

\*All are welcome to participate in Youth Apostolate events.  
Make sure forms are signed and on file. <http://bit.ly/YAforms>

### Sunday Feb. 5th: 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)

### Monday, Feb. 6th

5:30-7pm Talitha Koum: HS Girls' Group (Maurer Room)

**NEW MEETING DAY/TIME!** All 9-12th grade girls are invited to cultivate authentic community and friendships, as we chat, pray and have fun together! Going forward we will meet from 5:30-7pm in the Maurer Room 1st & 3rd Mondays (this month's second meeting will be on 2/27 instead of 2/20 due to the holiday). Newcomers always welcome!

### Friday, February 10th

6:30am Fri. Morning Mass & Breakfast Club

All 7-12th grade youth are invited to join us Friday mornings for Mass followed by breakfast with Fr. Horkan in the parish hall. If you RSVP a week ahead, we can coordinate our volunteers to drive you to school. If not, you are welcome to just show up for Mass and have your parent drive you to school after breakfast!

<https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVP>

### Saturday, March 25: Boys Basketball Clinic

Join JP's varsity boys basketball head coach on Saturday, March 25 from 9 - 11:30am for a skill-building clinic. This event is open to 5-8th grade boys of all skill levels. For registration and more details, please visit: <https://saintjohnpaul.mypaysimple.com/s/middle-school-event-registration>.

## ADULTS NEEDED FOR WORKCAMP

**DIRE NEED! 2 male and 1 female (age 25+) to be WorkCamp Crew Leaders/chaperones** in order for our teens to be able to attend WorkCamp this summer.

**Commitment to remain present and sleep at the school for the full week of June 17-23rd is required. If we do not have these volunteers, 7 of our teens will not be able to attend.**

PLEASE pray about this opportunity. Absolutely no experience is required. Your role will be to experience WorkCamp alongside our youth while leading by example and ensuring that teens are following directions. Email Jeanne for more info. **We still have room for up to 4 more boys and 4 more girls to join us (IF we get enough crew leaders!)**

**Breakfast Donations 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>

**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

**SO VERY PROUD** of our students, parents, and catechists for the excellent results on the midterm exam. All your hard work has paid off - together we have achieved great success!

The program test average was 87%

God bless you all!

**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).

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

**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, 703-440-0535.

### 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

Last Monday, Mark Houck, the pro-life leader who prayed and counseled women in front of an abortion clinic in Pennsylvania, was found innocent of charges filed by the Federal Government in its aggressive prosecution of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrance (FACE) Act. The facts of the case can be found in the cited source below, but here are some of the more important observations:

1. The local government declined to press charges on Mr. Houck in this case, even though it could have.
2. The FBI executed a SWAT raid at gun point on the Houck home on Sept. 23, 2022, and arrested him for violation of the FACE Act. And yet, in far more serious cases, there are numerous examples whereby the Feds “invited” an individual to a courthouse to be arrested rather than engaging a more excessive use of force.
3. The FACE Act also affords places of worship and crisis pregnancy centers the same protection as abortion facilities. Since the Act was signed into law under the Obama Administration, there have been hundreds of attacks on crisis pregnancy centers and places of worship. As of this writing, the Department of Justice has evoked it only twice in a case of this nature (in a Jan. 25, 2023 incident), while it has evoked it numerous times against peaceful protesters at abortion facilities.
4. Just before the case went to the jury, the presiding judge in the case indicated that the case should never have been brought to trial. He asked whether the FACE Act “seem[ed] to be stretched a little thin here.”

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/253477/breaking-mark-houck-cleared-of-face-act-charges-in-rebuke-to-justice-department>

## FORMED

Get In-Formed!

**Become a Formed “regular” with these daily or weekly series...watch live or recorded.**

**Watch** *The Chris Stefanick Show*. This long-time Catholic speaker brings his enthusiastic, but laid-back style to his weekly 30-minute show (live on Mondays at 7pm ET) where he chats with diverse guests or presents alone on current topics, various evangelization efforts, and living out our Faith.

**Watch** *The Augustine Institute Show with Dr. Tim Gray*. The founder of the Augustine Institute invites guests to discuss different topics relating to the Catholic lifestyle in this weekly 30-60 minute show (live on Tuesdays at 7pm ET).

**Watch** *Daily Reflections*. Start off each day in Scripture! Sign up at Formed Daily to receive links to daily reflections (3-4 minutes) by Dr. Tim Gray on the readings from daily Mass.

**Available for FREE!** To set up an account, visit **Formed.org/signup** and select our parish.

Questions? Need help? Email us at: [formed@straymonds.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.*

We love having Saint Raymond parishioners at our school.

What a blessing it is to be learning together!

We are now accepting applications for 2023-24. Space is limited and we are filling up fast. Apply soon!

<https://angelusacademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/>.  
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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.

## The 2023 BLA Commitment Sunday is next weekend!

Once a year we are asked to make a pledge to support our diocesan programs and ministries which provide services that assist thousands of people in our diocese. By participating in the BLA, we remember the joy with which Mary responded to God the Father and gave of herself in truth and purity. We likewise are asked to respond to God's call to serve our brothers and sisters. You may go online to make a donation at:

[www.arlingtondiocese.org/bla](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/bla).

**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. Sign up today by visiting [faith.direct/VA64](http://faith.direct/VA64). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

<b>Sunday Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 17,546.00</b>
<b>Family Assistance</b>	<b>\$ 340.00</b>
<b>Maintenance Fund</b>	<b>\$ 3,190.00</b>
<b>Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations</b>	<b>\$ 1,211.00</b>

**Our Second Collection this weekend is for the Diocesan Newspaper, *The Arlington Catholic Herald*.**

The *Arlington Catholic Herald* is the official newspaper of the Diocese of Arlington. This award-winning, biweekly newspaper delivers Catholic news and information about our diocese, U.S. bishops and the Vatican to more than 108,000 homes across Virginia and beyond -- and 24-7 at [catholicaherald.com](http://catholicaherald.com). Please donate to the annual second collection, which helps our parish support the Catholic Herald in spreading the Good News. You may make a check payable to St. Raymond's and write "ACH Second Collection" on the memo line. Thank you!

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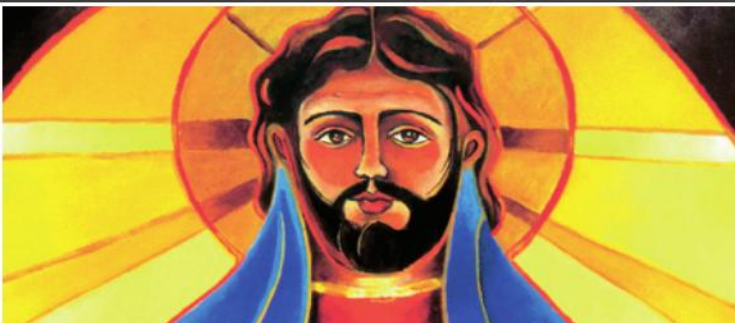
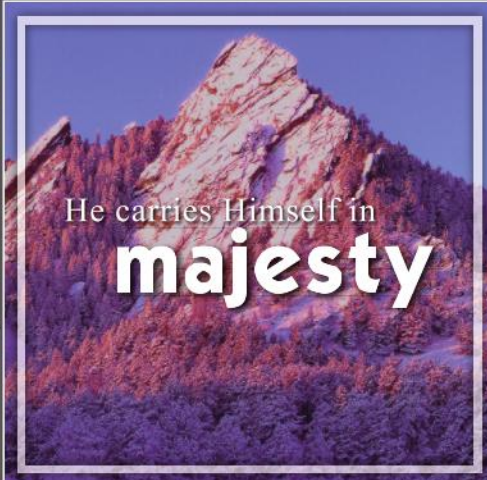
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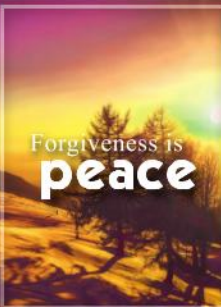
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