



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 Naduvilekunel, 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

Sexagesima Sunday. In the “old days” (50 or so years ago) the three Sundays before Ash Wednesday were called Septuagesima (“seventieth”), Sexagesima (“sixtieth”) and Quinquagesima (“fiftieth”) Sundays, respectively, referring to the days left before Easter (approximately). This was done to remind us that Lent “Quadragesima,” (“forty”) was approaching, in order that we might begin to prepare for Lent.

There was a lot of wisdom of this practice in the “old calendar.” Preparing for Lent doesn’t involve beginning to do extra penances, etc. of Lent, but it can involve thinking about what those penances should be. Considering what sins I really need to work on, whether particular mortal sins, or even particular venial sins that are habitual, i.e., a “vice.” And then figuring out what sacrifices, prayers and acts of charity I should adopt as Lenten penances to help me to overcome them, with Christ’s grace. Or maybe I want to grow in a particular virtue. Maybe you want to be kinder to your spouse, or more honoring of your parents. What penance(s) would help you to do this?

Last Sunday was Septuagesima Sunday and today is Sexagesima Sunday, and Ash Wednesday is 10 days away. So start to think and pray about what you can do for Lent that it may be truly fruitful.

Altar Rail. By now all of you are aware that on Thursday, February 2, at the 8:30 Mass, one of the 4 altar rails collapsed and broke into parts. If you haven’t seen it, you should watch the video of the collapse—it is surreal (we sent you this in an email). I was standing at the rail at the time, distributing Communion, and suddenly saw the rail and people at the rail start to move toward me. I remember thinking, “What the heck? This can’t happen.” But it did happen. Thanks be to God, no one was hurt. The heavy top block of marble fell literally right at my feet, even hit the toe of my shoe—fortunately, my toe was actually a few millimeters to the left of where it fell. Thanks, Guardian Angel!

We’ve since had a chance to meet with the folks who designed and installed the rail, with whom I have worked for many years. Their assessment is that the collapse was due to a combination of factors, which I will try to briefly summarize.

First, the columns were composed of 3 parts—the capital (top), the base and the pillar itself (the orange marble). These three parts should have been joined together using both an adhesive (a very strong epoxy) and an iron rebar. But no rebar was used. Second, the veins we see in marble can sometimes create structural weaknesses, and the particular type of marble we used has a somewhat higher tendency toward this weakness (which made it particularly important to reinforce with rebar). And third, the heavy weight of the flat stone forming the top surface of the rail also necessitated some sort of reinforcement in the columns, i.e., again, the rebar. All these factors combined to create a problem, which continues to exist in the 3 standing altar rails.

The good news is we can fix the problem pretty straightforwardly. First, the collapsed altar rail can be repaired by our very skilled artisan. And second, since remanufacturing and reinstalling all 4 rails is not practical (remember all the problems we had getting them made and shipped from Italy), we will instead install new rebar reinforced marble covered columns (embedded in the concrete floor beneath the marble

floor) at the ends of all four rails that will provide the support that is currently lacking. I am currently awaiting the drawings and specs of the proposed reinforcing columns, and they will be reviewed by our diocesan engineers. But all parties seem confident in this solution. And I am told that the project should be complete within four weeks. Please God.

In the meantime, the potential weakness still exists in the currently standing altar rails. So even though the danger seems remote, nevertheless I **strongly remind you:** until the repairs/reinforcements are made, when you stand or kneel at the altar rails, **DO NOT LEAN, PUSH OR OTHERWISE PUT WEIGHT ON THE RAILS.** And pray that through the intercession and intervention of St. Joseph the Carpenter, St. Raymond and our Guardian Angel, the repairs may be completed swiftly and successfully.

Giving. Last Sunday I spoke and wrote about giving to the BLA, as well as increased giving to the parish. I don’t know yet how folks have responded or will respond to the BLA, but I do know that many of you have already increased your giving commitment to the parish either by adjusting your Faith Direct accounts or informing me directly. Thanks.

Still others have asked me to clarify the different ways to give to the parish. **In general, you have two options:** you can make direct monetary donations to the parish by check or cash, or you can use the online payment method of Faith Direct.

Given that, more specifically there are several different “funds” you can donate to (“funds” is not a technical or legal term, but I use it here for convenience). First, **the offertory “fund.”** Typically this includes any amounts you drop in the basket for the first collection on Sundays or Holy Days, or otherwise specifically designate as an offertory gift, i.e., on your envelope, check or on Faith Direct.

Alternatively, you can designate even the amount you contribute on Sundays as going toward one of two other “funds”: either the **“Maintenance Fund”** or the **“Our Lady of Ransom Scholarship Fund”** (OLRS Fund). To do this 1) use the special envelope designated for those funds, or 2) write the name of the fund on your check, or 3) select one of those funds on Faith Direct. Amounts donated to these two funds are “restricted” and must be used for those stated purposes (maintenance or scholarships).

And the **fourth alternative**, you can simply send or deliver a check to the rectory at any time other than Sunday or a Holy Day (some folks just mail a check to the rectory once or few times a year) and either specify that it is 1) not for the Offertory, or 2) for the Maintenance Fund or OLRS Fund, or 3) simply a **“donation.”**

So in summary, there are four basic funds you can give to when giving to the parish: 1) Offertory, 2) Maintenance, 3) OLR Scholarship, or 4) other Donations. Note that 10% of the contributions to the Offertory Fund must be paid to the Diocese, while all other donations (2, 3 and 4) stay 100% with the parish.

Super Bowl. I apologize to all you Eagles fans, but being a life-long Cowboy fan I just can’t bring myself to root for them. And since Kansas City is the original hometown of my parents and siblings and still the home of most of my relatives, I’m a natural, if not avid, Chiefs fan. Enjoy the game!

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, Feb. 13th**

6:30 am Encarnacion Sy +
8:30 am Vladamir Manasek +

Tuesday, Feb. 14th

6:30 am Peter Steele Blair +
8:30 am Jim Carlin +

Wednesday, Feb. 15th

6:30 am Larry Don Payne +
8:30 am Samantha Jennings

Thursday, Feb. 16th

6:30 am Ofelia Cruz
8:30 am Joshua Schweitzer

Friday, Feb. 17th

6:30 am Jim (+) & Georgiann
Keller
8:30 am Vicki Thorn +

Saturday, Feb. 18th

9:00 am Larry & Marlene
Miller

Vigil Masses

5:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
Phyllis & Charles
Schoener +

Sunday, Feb. 19th

7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
Deirdre McQuaide +
9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
Parishioners
11:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
Teofilo Tulayba +
1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
Francisco Ramos +

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 Tom Swengros Mary Perimbaraja
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Feb. 13	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Feb. 14	Bible Study
Feb. 15	Adoration 9am - 7pm
Feb. 15	Legion of Mary
Feb. 16	Bridge Club
Feb. 17	Adoration 9am - 3pm
Feb. 18	Men's Prayer Group
Feb. 18	Women's Retreat, 8:30 - 1:30
Feb. 20	Federal Holiday One Mass at 10am and parish offices closed
Feb. 22	Ash Wednesday Masses at 6:30am, 8:30am, noon, 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Feb. 24	Soup Supper and Stations of the Cross

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.

Gift Shop for Lent: Just in time for Lent. Crucifixes, Lenten candles, crown of thorns wreaths, and more. Stop by the Shop's table in the narthex after the Saturday 5 pm Mass and the 9, 11, and 1 pm Sunday Masses the weekend of Feb 18/19. We are also available by appointment. Submit your request at giftshop@StRaymonds.org.

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

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

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!**

Lenten Soup Suppers will begin on February 24th!

Please join your fellow parishioners for a delicious but simple meal **each Friday during Lent, 5:30-7pm.** Bring your family or a friend and either a pot of homemade meatless soup, macaroni & cheese, fruit, salad or bread to share.

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! **On Saturday, Feb. 18th we will have an evening outing to a rock climbing gym!**

St. Raymond's has Adoration nearly every Wednesday and Friday!

Would you like to spend an hour in silent prayer and reflection with our Lord during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament? We are in need of weekly adorers especially noon and 4:00 pm on Wednesdays and at noon and 1:00 pm on Fridays. We also need volunteers to be on our substitute list. If you are interested in Wednesdays, please call Leslie Schratz at 703-569-1940 or email spoiledk9s@verizon.net. If you are interested in Fridays, please call Virginia Osella at 703-440-0535 or email virginia.osella@straymonds.org. Drop-ins are always welcome!

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 ipebtp@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.



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!



Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw Tournament, Sunday, February 19, 2023 in the Gym at Holy Spirit Parish School, 5121 Woodland Way, Annandale, VA 2200 for youth ages 9-14. Registration and check-in begins at 4:30pm, and all contestants must be present at 5pm. The contest will conclude around 6 pm. The top score (out of 25 shots) in each age/gender category will be the council champ and will be considered for the district championship. Basketballs are provided. Winners of this competition will be eligible to compete in a Virginia State Contest on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at Benedictine College Prep in Richmond. For more information, contact Barry Ryan (jamesbarryryan@aol.com).

Diocesan Men's Conference: "My Soul Rejoices in the Lord" -Saturday, March 4, 2023 from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 750 Peachtree Street, Herndon. Join Catholic men from around the Diocese for a day of prayer, fellowship and reflection. Keynotes include: Fr. Thomas Petri, OP, President of the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception and prolific writer; and Tim Staples, Convert Apologist at Catholic Answers and author of Behold Your Mother. Sign-in begins at 7:30 a.m. with confessions, coffee and pastries. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Michael Burbidge at 11:15 a.m. \$65 until February 1; \$80 after. Register at familylife@arlingtondiocese.org/men.

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.

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 March 4.** All are welcome.

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, or call / text 703-627-7320.

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.

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



The Virginia General Assembly remains in session through February. There are several Life Issues up for vote. Stay informed. Stay engaged. Voice your opinion.

Visit <https://vacatholic.org/action-center/>

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, as 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.**



The Spring campaign begins on February 22. Watch for sign up sheets in the narthex. Questions? Please contact Liz Hildebrand at 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.

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

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

Sunday Feb. 12th: 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)

Friday, February 17th

6:30am Fri. Morning Mass & Breakfast Club

All 7-12th grade youth are encouraged 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>



WorkCamp 2023: June 17-23

Registration deadline: February 12

Spend a week of your summer with 800+ teens from across our diocese, helping folks in need within our diocese by building decks, replacing windows or doing other projects to make their homes warmer, safer and drier. This week of service and evening talks, music and activities is a great way to start your summer, make lots of new friends, learn new skills, make a difference in the world and grow deeper in your relationship with God! WorkCamp is open to current 9-12th graders. No experience necessary. Registrations forms are by the youth boards at church entrances & online. **Two Male Adult Volunteers needed as Crew Leaders (Chaperones, age 25+).** See website for details. <https://bit.ly/workcamp2023>



2 males (age 25+) NEEDED FOR WORKCAMP or our high school boys will not be able to attend.

DIRE NEED! 2 males (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 the full week of June 17-23rd is required.** If we do not have these volunteers, our boys 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. ASAP.

Breakfast Donations 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 Call/Text: 571-334-9890

Get on our weekly email list for the most updated info on Youth Apostolate news & upcoming events!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CONGRATULATIONS to the students who received the Sacrament of Penance for the first time yesterday, Saturday February 11th!!

It was a blessing to share that special time with you. Thank you to all the parents and teachers who prepared the children for this sacrament of healing. God bless you all!

Looking ahead..... There will be no CCD classes next week - February 19, 20, and 21 in observance of Presidents' Day

SUPPORT THE CLOISTERED NUNS OF ST. DOMINIC'S MONASTERY: LAETARE BENEFIT, SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023.

The Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge and members of the Host Committee cordially invite you to attend the **Laetare Benefit**, our annual fundraising dinner for the cloistered nuns of St. Dominic's Monastery in Linden, VA. As cloistered nuns, they depend on the charity of the people of God for their existence. They have needs for everyday items such as food and healthcare and are building a Chapel at the Monastery. Please show your support and join us for a reception, dinner, raffle, and auction, which will be held on **Sunday, March 19, 2023 from 5 pm to 8 pm** at the **Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Avenue East, Vienna, Virginia**. Seating is limited. **RSVP by March 1, 2023.** Tickets are \$200 each and table sponsorships are available, starting at \$2,000 for 10. Please send a check payable to *Friends of St. Dominic's Monastery*, 524 N. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, or to purchase tickets online through Faith Direct, please visit <https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx?formId=6b435666-9d01-45a3-a805-101015e8e5f6>

For more info, please contact:

friendsofstdominicsmonastery@gmail.com

John Paul the Great Preview Open House, Thursday, March 9, 2023. Join us for Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School's Preview Open House on Thursday March 9 from 4-5:30pm! Learn what JP has to offer your child - robust academic programs including STEM, DE courses and Bioethics, vibrant student life and House System, competitive athletics, faith community steeped in the Dominican tradition, and more! Preview Open House is a great event for all ages, but especially students in grades 4-7. To learn more and RSVP in advance, please visit: https://jpthegreat.schooladminonline.com/portal/new_inquiry.

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).

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.

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

The HHS Contraceptive Mandate as part of the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) is back in the news. The Little Sisters of the Poor won at the U.S. Supreme Court, guaranteeing that religious employers objecting to the contraceptive mandate on religious grounds would not be forced to provide birth control contrary to their religious beliefs. The Trump administration expanded the exemptions in 2020 to include a conscience exemption. Now the Biden administration proposes that while retaining the religious exemption, it will do away with the conscience exemption and create a new way for employees of religious organizations to receive contraceptives at no cost to the employee. (A clear example of government overreach!)

According to the proposal, "an insurance provider providing free birth control services would be reimbursed for its costs by entering into an arrangement with an issuer on a Federally-facilitated Exchange or State Exchange on the Federal platform." The 60-day public comment period began on Feb. 2. The plan's authors also say that it will provide free contraception to students at universities that have religious objections. Are they mere commodities whose reproductive systems can be regulated by the government?

The Catholic Church has always condemned the use of contraceptive birth control in its moral teachings because it alters a major, healthy, functioning part of the body, causing the reproductive system to malfunction, temporarily or permanently; it treats the human person as a thing to be used, rather than as a person to be loved.

FORMED[™] Get In-Formed!

For Teens and Young Adults! Listen to *How to Save Your Marriage Before Meeting Your Spouse*. Well known Catholic speaker, Jason Evert, talks about how to build a solid foundation in a relationship to promote life-long love.

Listen to *What Every Couple Should Know About Marriage and Prayer* by Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

Watch *Beloved*. This 12-episode series focuses on the sacrament of Catholic marriage. Appropriate for married couples at any stage, the series is divided into two parts: 6 sessions on the Mystery and Meaning of Marriage followed by 6 sessions on Living Marriage. Accompanying study guides are available for purchase.

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

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** or contact us at applications@renewmarriage-vanorth.org or 703-646-1521.

Catholics believe marriage to be a sacrament. By this we mean that the faithful love of husband and wife is a sign of Christ's lasting love for us. **On this World Marriage Day**, let us pray that those who are married seek to bring each other closer to heaven each day.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



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/>.
Call or Email Julie Maimone, Director of Admissions, at Admissions@angelusacademy.org for more information or to schedule a tour.

Come visit us and see why our students love coming to school. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

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. We can also help cover homeschooling expenses.

2023 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) Commitment Weekend:

"My soul rejoices in the Lord." This weekend each household is asked to make a BLA pledge or gift. This appeal provides an opportunity to unite as a Catholic family to support programs, ministries and services helping tens of thousands of people. After reflecting upon God's blessings to you, please consider a BLA pledge. You may complete a pledge card at Mass, mail in your pledge, go online to www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA or scan the QR code below to make a gift.



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	\$ 15,066.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,442.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,137.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 1,108.00
Diocesan Newspaper	\$ 2,258.00

Fairfax Electric Co.

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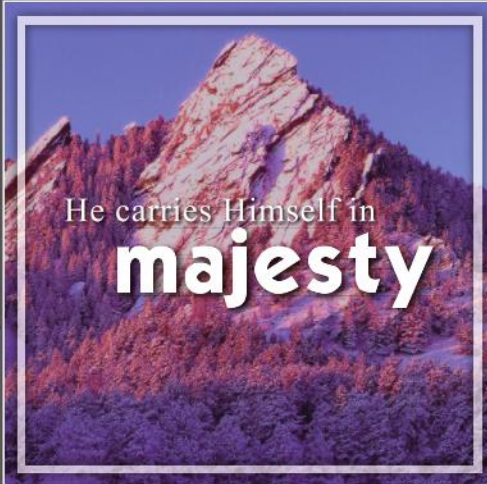
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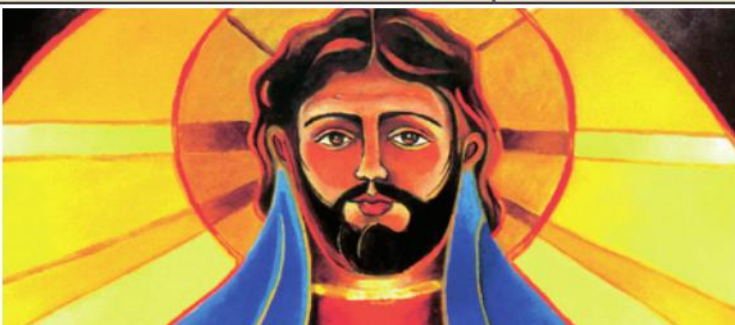
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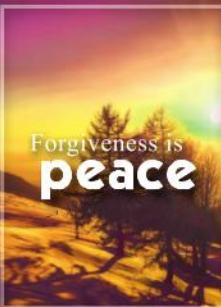
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