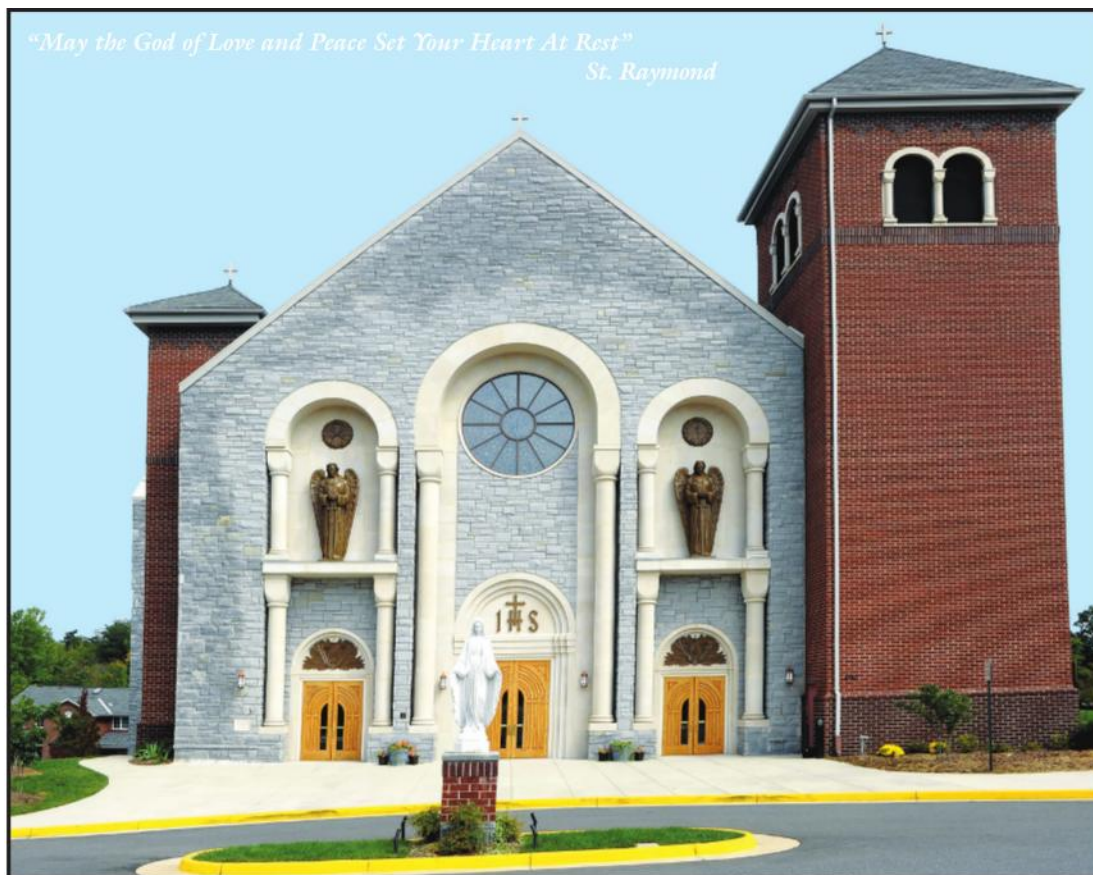


"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"
St. Raymond



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

Website

www.straymonds.org

Rev. John C. De Celles, Pastor
Rev. Joseph D. Bergida, Parochial Vicar
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

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

Welcome, Fr. Bergida! I hope you will all join me in welcoming Father Joseph Bergida, who begins his work as Parochial Vicar at St. Raymond's this weekend.

Fr. Bergida was born in 1983 in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn., the eldest of Michael and Theresa Bergida's 7 children. His family moved to Northern Virginia when he was 2 and eventually settled in Front Royal. He was home-schooled through high school, and then attended Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, and the Pontifical North American College in Rome. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Arlington on June 9, 2012. He earned his Licentiate in Sacred Theology in Liturgy at the Pontifical Atheneum of St. Anselm in Rome in 2013. He has served as Parochial Vicar at St. Mary's (Alexandria), St. Andrew's (Clifton), and St. Ambrose (Annandale). The last few months he has been on sabbatical to discern a religious vocation. Please keep him in your prayers as he now returns to parish ministry with us.

LENT. The Season of Lent begins this Wednesday, February 22, with **Ash Wednesday**. This is the most important time of year for us Catholics, as it calls us to reinvigorate our devotion and love for God by focusing on our moral and spiritual lives and our sins and virtues, as we reflect on the mystery of the immense love that would lead God the Son, Jesus, to suffer and die for our sins.

How well have we returned that love, and how badly have we failed, how badly have we sinned? And all this considered, then we rededicate ourselves to practical ways to overcome those sins, through our diligent efforts and cooperating with His grace. In short, it can be a time of intense growth in our personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Parish Schedule. Lent brings a much busier parish schedule, and this year with the addition of our new Vicar, it will be even busier than the last few years. We've laid this out in detail in this week's "Lenten Schedule" insert. Please keep this insert in a central place in your home to remind you of the many opportunities for spiritual growth this Lent.

Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses on Ash Wednesday: 6:30am, 8am, 12noon, **5pm** and 7pm. Since ashes are merely symbolic (a "sacramental" not a "Sacrament") they may be received by anyone who wishes to repent their sins, Catholic or not, in "good standing" or not. (Note: There are no confessions or adoration scheduled on Ash Wednesday).

Fasting and Abstinence. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both fasting and abstinence, and every Friday in Lent is a day of abstinence. Failure to "substantially" keep these penances is grave matter (e.g., potentially a mortal sin).

The law of abstinence requires that no meat may be eaten on these days, and binds all Catholics who are 14 years old or older. No other penance may be substituted.

The law of fasting binds those who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The Church defines "fasting," for these purposes, as having only one full meal a day, with two additional smaller meals permitted, but only as necessary to keep up strength and so small that if added together they would not equal a full meal. Snacking is forbidden, but that does not include drinks that are not of the nature of a meal.

Even though these rules do not bind all age groups, all are encouraged to follow them to the extent possible. Children

in particular learn the importance of penance from following the practice of their older family members. The sick, pregnant or nursing mothers, and other folks with special physical circumstances may be partially or totally exempt from these rules—use good judgment and take care of yourself.

Doing Penance. Of course, all Catholics are encouraged to do personal acts of penance throughout the season of Lent, traditionally of three types: **almsgiving** (including acts of charity), **sacrifice** (what you "give up"), and **prayer**. Please choose your penances carefully, considering your health and state in life. Challenge yourself, but pick things you can actually do, rather than things that are so difficult that you may easily give up on them. Offer all this in atonement for your sins and as acts of love for the God who, out of love, died on the Cross for your sins.

Advice. Let me give you some pastoral advice. 1) Pick at least one simple act of penance from each of the three types. 2) Pick one act of penance that may be more difficult or demanding. 3) And make one of these acts of penance a daily occurrence, enduring throughout Lent.

So, for example, for "1" you could commit to saying one extra Our Father ("prayer"), and you could do that every day to cover "3". Then you also give up drinking soda ("sacrifice"), and you give the money you save on soda to the poor box ("almsgiving"). And maybe for "2," you can commit to going to Mass one extra day of the week ("prayer" and "sacrifice").

And maybe pick penances that clearly relate to your sins. If you are guilty of the sin of pride, pick something that will help you grow in humility. If you are greedy, give money to charity. In all this, remember that prayer and the Mass help every sin.

Suggestion. Some folks struggle with figuring out a good penance. May I suggest that our parish schedule offers lots of opportunities for penance? For example, you can commit to going to an extra Mass every week—we have 2 new evening Masses to help with this. Or maybe you could commit to making a weekly holy hour during our Thursday/Friday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament—maybe from 10 to 11pm, or even 2 to 3am. So many opportunities in that schedule.

Sacrament of Penance. Confession is key to a fruitful Lent. I strongly encourage that you take advantage of our extended Lent confession schedule—**confessions are scheduled every single day in Lent**, except Ash Wednesday and Holy Thursday.

Please do not postpone your confession to the end of Lent. First of all, spiritually it's important to start the season on the right foot, repent early so that Christ's grace may flow freely and unimpeded throughout the season. But also, more practically, usually we have just a few people coming to confession at the beginning of Lent, but then in the last week the lines are much longer. So, beat the crowds and come early. But also consider coming more than once during Lent.

Also, I remind you that Sunday morning confession times are provided mainly to meet the *real needs* of **those who truly cannot confess on other days** or are *otherwise in need of the sacrament*. So, please, this is **not the time for "devotional" confessions**.

Lenten Series. This year I am not scheduling a "Lenten Series" as such, but instead will preach a homily/sermon every Thursday at the Holy Hour that begins All-Night Adoration.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, Feb. 20th**10:00 am Elie and Rosalino
Garcia +**Tuesday, Feb. 21st**6:30 am Jerold M. Brown +
8:30 am Jacob Berger**Wednesday, Feb. 22nd****Ash Wednesday**6:30 am Thomas Turner
8:30 am Mitchell Purcell +
Noon Family of Vicki Thorn
5:00 pm The Crisp Family
7:00 pm Family of Deirdre
McQuaide**Thursday, Feb. 23rd**6:30 am Eugene Tougas +
8:30 am Louise Ward +**Friday, Feb. 24th**6:30 am Peter Steele Blair, Jr.
8:30 am Noah Shealy**Saturday, Feb. 25th**

9:00 am Jaxon Perricone

Vigil Masses5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
Francisco & Virginia
Suniega +**Sunday, Feb. 26th**7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
Rev. John Beers +
9:00 am **Fr. Bergida**
Parishioners
11:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
Denise Anezin
1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
Stephens Woodrough +**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 BoarmanJohn Florio
Michael
Malachowski
Debra Henkel
Gaudencio Dizon
Paul Haynes
Dwayne Taylor
Ted Tolpa
Nena Brennan
Serrin Foster
Margaret O'NeillChristina
Cautero
Unborn Baby
Mutumanje
Fatima Mutumanje
Megan Bradley
Tom Swengros
Cecilia Ramos
Chris Portele
Mary Pentenburg**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

- Feb. 20** Federal Holiday
One Mass at 10am and parish offices closed
- Feb. 21** Bible Study
- Feb. 21** Legion of Mary (one time change)
- Feb. 22** **Ash Wednesday**
Masses at 6:30am, 8:30am, noon,
5:00 pm & 7:00 pm
- Feb. 23** Bridge Club
- Feb. 23** 6:30pm Family Rosary and Holy Hour
- Feb. 23-24** Adoration from 6:30 pm Thurs - 7pm Fri.
- Feb. 24** Soup Supper 5:30 – 7pm
- Feb. 24** Stations of the Cross 7pm
- Mar. 4** Men's Prayer Group
- Mar. 4** Luminaries of Holy Mary
- Mar. 5** Donut Sunday
- Mar. 11** K of C St. Patrick's & St. Joseph's Dinner

We will have confessions every day during Lent. Please see the Lenten Schedule, which is inserted in today's bulletin.**Gift Shop for Lent:** We have 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 this weekend, Feb 18/19. We are also available by appointment. Email us at giftshop@StRaymonds.org.**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.**JOIN the CHOIR at St. Raymond's:** Do you want to sing with the choir for Lent and Easter? Singers who have a pleasant voice and sing in pitch are welcome. We practice on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and sing at 11:00 am Mass on Sundays with a warm-up at 10. The repertoire of the choir contains masterpieces of classical liturgical choir music. Enjoy wonderful fellowship, music training and the joy of making uplifting music for the liturgy. Contact Elisabeth Turco at music@straymonds.org or call 703-506-4644.**View livestreaming of the Holy Mass at St. Raymond's!**straymonds.orgMonday - Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am
Saturday at 9:00 am
Sunday Mass at 9:00 am & 11:00 am**There is a Special Collection this weekend for the earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria. Please make checks payable to, "Catholic Diocese of Arlington" and drop donations in the boxes at one of the exits.****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!****Fasting and Abstinence**Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both fasting and abstinence, and every Friday in Lent is a day of abstinence. Failure to "substantially" keep these penances is grave matter (e.g., potentially a mortal sin). The law of abstinence requires that no meat may be eaten on these days, and binds all Catholics who are 14 years old or older. No other penance may be substituted. The law of fasting binds those who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The Church defines "fasting," for these purposes, as having only one full meal a day, with two additional smaller meals permitted, but only as necessary to keep up strength and so small that if added together they would not equal a full meal. Snacking is forbidden, but that does not include drinks that are not of the nature of a meal. Even though these rules do not bind all age groups, all are encouraged to follow them to the extent possible. Children in particular learn the importance of penance from following the practice of their older family members. The sick, pregnant or nursing mothers, and other folks with special physical circumstances may be partially or totally exempt from these rules—use good judgment and take care of yourself.



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!



Support Trail Life Troop 0683 - buy mulch and topsoil!

Trail Life Troop 0683, the troop sponsored by St. Raymond of Peñafort, is kicking off its annual mulch and topsoil sale to help parish families prepare for spring lawn and garden care. Your support will help our growing troop buy camping gear, advancement and recognition badges and instructional materials. You can mail in your order or order online. Ordering instructions can be found at this website, <https://straymonds.org/trail-life/>. We offer home delivery for an extra donation. Questions? Contact Jeff Stevens at 703-314-0976 or jeffstevens@verizon.net. *Thank you very much!*

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!

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 March 4.** 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.



Take your pro-life message on the road wherever you go. Consider supporting local Pregnancy Care Centers by purchasing a **CHOOSE LIFE License Plate**. Visit: www.dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles

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. 19th: 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 24th

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>

Steubenville Youth Conference Poll

A LOT of people have been asking when we are going to the Steubenville Youth Conference this summer. We would like to bring as many teens as possible with us to the Steubenville this year, so are asking for your help in identifying the best weekend to attend. If you are interested in joining us, please let us know which date(s) you are available by filling out the poll at ASAP <https://bit.ly/Steubenville23dates>



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

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.** 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. The parish covers the cost for our volunteers, so there is no charge for you at all!

Breakfast Donations. Please consider supporting our parish teens who start their Friday's off with Mass, breakfast, and fellowship by donating a baked good, fruit, etc. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/FriBfast>

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>.

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

NO Class THIS week February 19-21 in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

Parents of 8th Grade Confirmation candidates: please make note of the following documents due to the Religious Education office by **March 23rd:** Sponsor Eligibility Letter and Statement of Sponsor form.

Parents of 7th Grade Confirmation candidates: if you have not already done so, please turn in the **Confirmation Registry form with Baptism Certificate attached** (unless your child was baptized here at St. Raymond's) to the Religious Education office - it was due February 9th.

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

A lone Islamic terrorist attacked two Catholic churches in the southernmost county in Spain recently, killing a sacristan and injuring a priest. Carrying a machete, a 25-year old Moroccan was captured as he was about to enter a third Christian church.

The first attack was at St. Isidore of Algeciras parish, seriously injuring Fr. Antonio Rodriguez. The attacker then proceeded to the Church of Our Lady of La Palma and began vandalizing the interior yelling "Allah is great." There he chased the sacristan, Diego Valencia, outside when he was challenged and told to leave, repeatedly stabbing Mr. Valencia in the abdomen. He later succumbed to his wounds.

The Spanish bishops offered condolences to the families of the dead and injured and expressed "closeness and heartfelt sentiments and consolation of faith to the families of the victims." They also expressed there "strongest condemnation of all forms of violence."

Since retiring from his job as a florist, Mr. Valencia dedicated his time "to the practice of his faith and the service of his parish, with some friends saying he did much to rejuvenate the life of his church." One resident said, "He fixed the church."

Fr. Juan José Marina, the parish priest at The Church of Our Lady of La Palma, suggested that he might have been the intended target of the attack at that church. "Instead of me dying, it is he [Valencia] who has died," he said.

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/terrorist-stabs-sacristan-to-death-and-wounds-priest-in-rampage-through-spanish-churches/>

FORMED[®]

Get In-Formed!

Watch *Lectio: Peter*. Dr. Tim Gray presents a ten-part in-depth lecture series on St. Peter, the Church's first pope. (Feb. 22 – Feast of the Chair of St. Peter)

Watch *Keys of the Kingdom: Understanding the Papacy*. This documentary film explores the significance of the papacy from St. Peter to the present day. Presented by various expert priests and theologians.

For Kids! Listen to *Our Lady of Fatima*. This 30-minute audio drama from the "Truth to Inspire Series" based on the book written by Mary Fabyan Windeatt's book. (Feb 20 – Sts. Francisco and Jacinta Marto)

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

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

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



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): "My soul rejoices in the Lord." Each household is asked to make a BLA pledge or gift. 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	\$ 15,292.70
Family Assistance	\$ 650.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,846.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 1,229.00

The Second Collection on Ash Wednesday is for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

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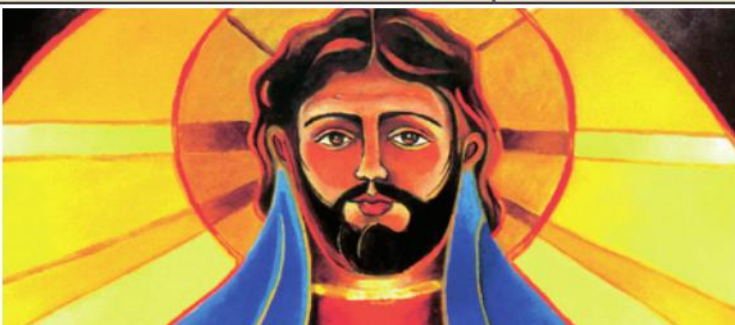
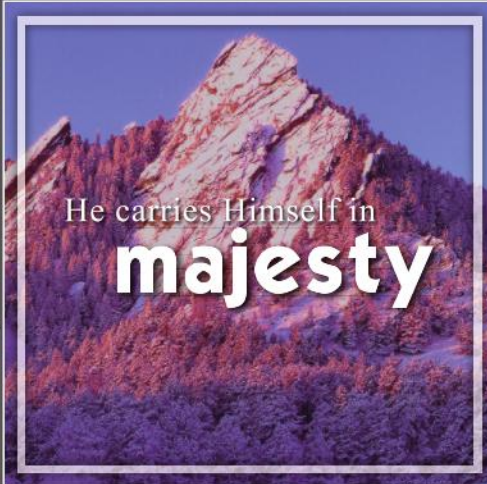
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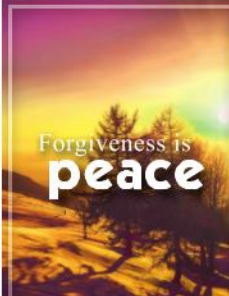
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