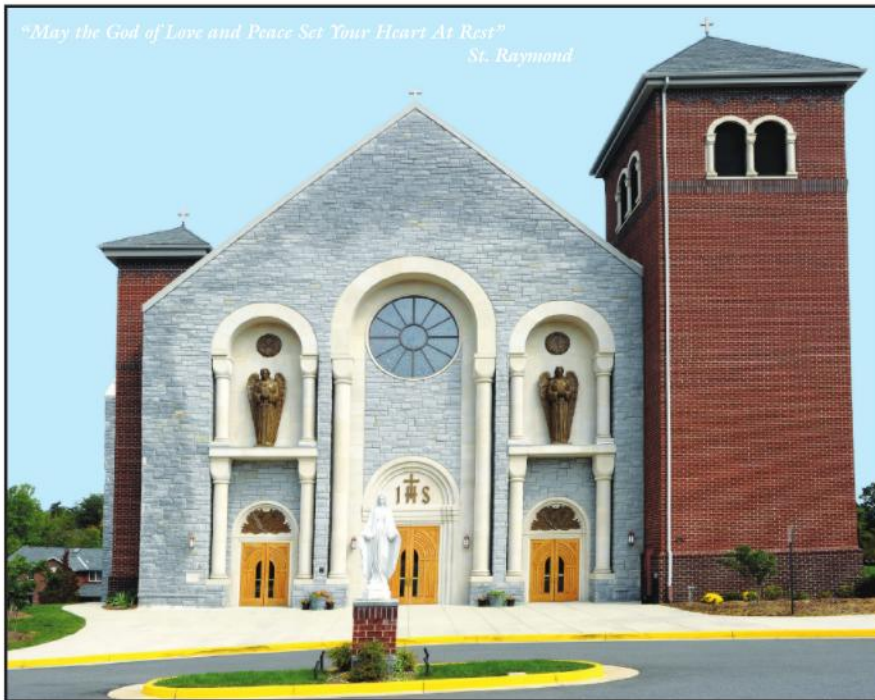


# YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST

## MATTHEW 4:7

*"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](http://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](mailto:Office@straymonds.org)  
Rel. Ed.: [ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org](mailto:ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org)  
Choirs: [Music@straymonds.org](mailto: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

**And So We Begin Lent.** Lent is a wonderful season of growing closer to Jesus, turning toward Him, and turning away from sin and temptation. Here are some words from my favorite theologian, Pope Benedict XVI, in one of his last sermons as Pope. Let them guide you as you enter into the spiritual combat of Lent with Our Lord.

**Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, Feb. 17, 2013.** *"With the traditional Rite of Ashes last Wednesday we entered Lent, a season of conversion and penance in preparation for Easter... This always means a struggle, a spiritual combat, because the spirit of evil is naturally opposed to our sanctification and seeks to make us stray from God's path. For this reason the Gospel of Jesus' temptations in the wilderness is proclaimed every year on the First Sunday of Lent.*

*"...At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus had to unmask himself and reject the false images of the Messiah which the tempter was suggesting to him. Yet these temptations are also false images of man that threaten to ensnare our conscience, in the guise of suitable, effective and even good proposals. ...Their essential core is ...the exploitation of God for our own interests, giving preference to success or to material possessions. The tempter is cunning. He does not directly impel us towards evil but rather towards a false good, making us believe that the true realities are power and everything that satisfies our primary needs. In this way God becomes secondary, he is reduced to a means; in short, he becomes unreal, he no longer counts, he disappears. Ultimately, in temptation faith is at stake because God is at stake. At the crucial moments in life but also, as can be seen at every moment, we stand at a crossroads: do we want to follow our own ego or God? Our individual interests or the true Good, to follow what is really good?..."*

*"Therefore let us not be afraid either of facing the battle against the spirit of evil: the important thing is to fight it with him, with Christ, the Conqueror. And to be with him let us turn to his Mother, Mary; let us call on her with filial trust in the hour of trial and she will make us feel the powerful presence of her divine Son, so that we can reject temptations with Christ's word and thus put God back at the centre of our life."*

**Daily Mass.** Attending at least one extra Mass during the week is one of the best penances we can do for Lent. We might not think of Mass as a "penance", but it is, of course, the greatest prayer of the Church and puts us at the foot of the Cross, uniting our prayers to the great prayer of Jesus on the first Good Friday—what could be a better penance, especially during Lent?

Going to Mass during the week, especially daily, strengthens us with the grace of the Blessed Sacrament so that we can draw closer to Christ. Moreover, it also can change our whole perspective on daily life, reminding us in a dramatic way that our faith isn't just for Sundays, but for every day and every moment of the week. Remember we've added two daily Masses every week during Lent: Tuesday and Wednesday at 7pm.

**The Sacrament of Confession.** Lent also involves a different type of "penance"—that is, the *Sacrament* of Penance (also called "Confession" or "Reconciliation"). A few years ago I published a small pamphlet called "Making a Good Confession:

A Brief Examination of Conscience and Guide to Going to Confession." Copies of this purple pamphlet can be found by all the doors of the church and near the confessionals.

**Confessing Mortal Sins.** The following is an adapted excerpt from that pamphlet.

Before making a "good Confession" we need to examine our consciences for mortal sins we've committed, i.e., sins that involve *all three of the following criteria*: 1) *grave matter*, 2) *full knowledge* of the sinful character of the act, and 3) *complete consent*. If any one of these is lacking it is not a "mortal sin," but may be a "venial sin."

"Grave matter" means the act involves some very serious moral evil, found either in 1) the act itself or 2) the intention behind the act. Grave matter can be difficult to identify, but not always.

Note that some sinful acts are grave matter when they involve circumstances that are serious or very important, but are *not* grave matter if they involve only small or trivial things. These acts that can be either grave or not are said to "admit of parvity" (smallness). For example, a lie is always a sin, but lying under oath is grave matter, while lying about whether you like someone's outfit is not grave matter.

Also, in Confession *you must distinguish the "kind" of mortal sin committed*: be clear about what the sin was, but avoid graphic or long explanations. So it is not enough to merely say "I had bad thoughts" or "I acted inappropriately," rather one should more specific, e.g. "I had lustful thoughts," etc.

*You must also give the number of times you committed particular mortal sins.* Sometimes this is very difficult or even impossible to remember, in which case, try your best to give the priest some idea of the frequency or number; e.g., "at least once a month for several years," etc.

**Parish News.** We have a very vibrant parish, with many activities going on all the time. It's very important that everyone is made aware of what's going on, and so we make use of several means of disseminating information to parishioners.

Of course, information is posted to the **parish website**, and we also send **Constant Contact emails** to all parishioners (if we have their email address) for particularly important or time sensitive notices. We try to limit these to the most important notices, so I hope you read them when you receive them. If you're not getting these emails, please let the office know; maybe we don't have the right email address for you.

We also use two less high-tech means of communication: **The Bulletin** and the pulpit announcements. The Bulletin is kind of like our parish newspaper, and as such is **the primary means of publicizing all parish events**, activities and liturgies, and other important information. It is available in hardcopy in the church and online at our parish website. **So please read the Bulletin every week.**

The Pulpit Announcements read before Mass, or by the priest informally at the end of Mass, are also an important way to get out important parish news. But while these announcements can be very helpful and effective, of necessity they are kept short and to the point, and few in number. Otherwise they become a distraction from the Mass.

If you have something you need to promote, please plan this in advance and coordinate it with the parish office. And if you want to know what's going on, please consult the many available sources, especially this Bulletin.

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*



**MASS INTENTIONS****Monday, Feb. 27th**

6:30 am Joyce Ann O'Connor +  
8:30 am Gerard Crennan, Sr. +

**Tuesday, Feb. 28th**

6:30 am Jechun Jong +  
8:30 am Jeanne Sause  
7:00 pm Fr. Jerome Daly +

**Wednesday, Mar. 1st**

6:30 am Allie Schweitzer  
8:30 am Sungchu Kang  
7:00 pm Pope Benedict XVI +

**Thursday, Mar. 2nd**

6:30 am Elizabeth Staley  
Wright +  
8:30 am Richard Whearty +

**Friday, Mar. 3rd**

6:30 am Theo Kang  
8:30 am Mary Kapp and Family

**Saturday, Mar. 4th**

9:00 am Barbara Blair

**Vigil Masses**

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles  
Russell Gooding +

**Sunday, Mar. 5th**

7:00 am Fr. Horkan  
RE Catechists  
9:00 am Fr. De Celles  
Parishioners  
11:00 am Fr. Rippey  
Maria Barrows +  
1:00 pm Fr. Bergida  
Family of Jesus Prayer  
Group

**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	John Florio	Christina
Tom Dietz	Michael	Cautero
Michael O'Neill	Malachowski	Unborn Baby
Cindy Laird	Debra Henkel	Mutumanje
Patricia Lewis	Gaudencio Dizon	Fatima Mutumanje
Mai Pham	Paul Haynes	Megan Bradley
Joan Opiela	Dwayne Taylor	Tom Swengros
Jason Saenz	Ted Tolpa	Cecilia Ramos
Phyllis Zitnik	Nena Brennan	Chris Portele
Patricia Del Buono	Serrin Foster	Mary Pentenburg
Juanita Boarman	Margaret O'Neill	

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

Feb. 27	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Feb. 28	Bible Study
Mar. 1	Adoration 9am - 7pm
Mar. 1	Legion of Mary
Mar. 2	Bridge Club
Mar. 2	6:30pm Family Rosary and Holy Hour
Mar. 2-3	Adoration from 6:30 pm Thurs - 7pm Fri.
Mar. 3	Soup Supper 5:30 - 7pm
Mar. 3	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

**Thursday Evening Lenten Holy Hours:** This year Father De Celles will lead a holy hour each Thursday at 6:30 pm, which will begin with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Family Rosary led by a parish family. Fr. De Celles will give a brief reflection on the Gospel of the day. We will continue Adoration through the night until 7pm on Friday. **Please visit our website to sign up for an hour of adoration!**

**Lenten Soup Suppers:** 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. **Stations of the Cross** takes place in the church at 7pm each Friday. Please join us!

**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](mailto:music@straymonds.org) or call 703-506-4644.

**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 5pm Mass and the 9, 11, and 1pm Sunday Masses next weekend, March 4/5. We are also available by appointment. Email us at [giftshop@StRaymonds.org](mailto:giftshop@StRaymonds.org).

**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

**Lenten Confession Times**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:  
Feb. 27- March 17: 6:30 - 7pm  
March 20 - April 4: 6 - 7pm  
Wednesday: 6 - 8pm  
Saturday: 8 - 8:45am; 3:30 - 5pm  
Sunday: 8:15 - 9am, 10:15 - 11am

**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. Please visit our website to sign up to lead!** All are invited to attend.

**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. 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!



**The 2023 Car Raffle is off to a great start.** Thank you to all those who have purchased tickets! If you need more, contact the office.

**The Knights of Columbus annual St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Day Dinner** will take place on Saturday, March 11th at 6:30pm in the parish hall. Tickets for the event will be sold after all Masses on the weekends of Feb 25-26 and March 4-5. Ticket Prices are \$6 for children (5-12), \$16 for Adults and \$55 for Families.

**Into the Breach, March 4.** 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, March 4, 10 am - 1 pm in classroom 2 off the parish hall.** This is a double session on **Suffering and Sacramental Life**, great topics to discuss during Lent. 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 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.

**Annual Acies Ceremony for Legion of Mary members.** For both Active and Auxiliary LoM members, you are cordially invited to attend the Potomac Comitium's annual Acies ceremony, this year held at Holy Family Catholic Church, 14160 Ferndale Rd in Woodbridge on Saturday, March 25. You are welcome to attend the parish Mass at 9am, with the ceremony beginning 10:30am. Following the ceremony, refreshments will be served. Two alternative ceremonies you may consider are 1) hosted by the Alexandria Curia - Saturday, March 25, 10:30am, at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Alexandria, (includes Mass) and 2) hosted by the Arlington Regia - Sunday, March 26, 1:30pm, at St. Mary of Sorrows Church in Fairfax (includes Mass). Receptions also follow these ceremonies.

**Book Club:** The parish Book Club will next meet on **Friday, March 10, 2023**, at 10:00 AM in the St Raymond Library to discuss **"The Lord"** by Romano Guardini. Because the book is rather long, discussion in March will be only on Parts 1 through 3. The remainder of the book will be discussed at our meeting on April 14. 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).

**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

**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](http://marih.org).



**Peacefully changing hearts and minds!** Help save lives by praying for an end to abortion in front of an abortion clinic. The

Spring Campaign is underway! See the sign-up sheets in the narthex. Questions? Contact Liz: [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.

The abortion pill now accounts for 54% of all abortions. 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).



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](http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles)

**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. 26th: 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. 27th

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

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 is on 2/27 instead of 2/20 due to the holiday). Newcomers always welcome!

### March 3rd 6:30am Friday Morning Mass & Breakfast

#### Looking for a great Lenten Sacrifice & addition to your spiritual life??

All 7-12th grade youth are encouraged to join us Friday mornings for Mass followed by breakfast with Fr. Horkan in the parish hall. RSVP if possible, so we know how much food we need. Also, if you RSVP by Wed. 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>

## 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.

**Breakfast Donations** Please consider supporting our parish teens, who start their Friday off with Mass, breakfast, and fellowship, by donating a baked good, fruit, etc. **Donations can be brought on Thursdays so you don't have to get up early!** Sign up at <https://bit.ly/FriBfast>

**Quo Vadis Days and FIAT Camps** are great opportunities for current 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders to have fun while deepening their faith and exploring their vocations. Quo Vadis (for boys) is staffed by Arlington seminarians, priests and religious, and runs July 9-13. FIAT (for girls) is staffed by religious sisters and runs from July 16-20. Both are held at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. The registration lottery is open March 1-31. See pics & videos from past years, get more info. & register for the lottery at [ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis](http://ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis) or [ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT](http://ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT).

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

### Attention parents of 8th grade students:

1. Sponsor Eligibility letter (from sponsor's home parish) is due no later than March 23rd.
2. Statement of Sponsor form due no later than March 23rd.

**Attention parents of 7th Grade students:** Please check out Confirmation requirements as outlined in the *Supplement to Parent/Student Handbook Sacrament of Confirmation 2024* which you received in your red folder at the beginning of the academic year.

**Confirmation Registry form with Certificate of Baptism attached** (unless baptized here at St. Raymond's) was due February 9th.

**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](https://jpthegreat.schooladminonline.com/portal/new_inquiry).

### 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](mailto:jeffstevens@verizon.net). **Thank you very much!**

**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).

**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.

**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.

**Bridge Club:** All levels of players are welcome. We play Bridge cards each week in the Church Hall. Contact Lois Kotlowski at 703-455-6567 [dancertoo2@yahoo.com](mailto:dancertoo2@yahoo.com) or James Kolakoski at 703-455-3009 [bridgeclub402@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeclub402@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining us.

## Church Persecuted

This column is taken from Father De Celles' homily of January 24, 2021 on *the sin of scandal* and is worth highlighting. See <https://straymonds.org/third-sunday-in-ordinary-time-9>.

Our current president Joe Biden continues to proclaim himself a "devout Catholic" although he is a very vocal proponent of abortion on demand; traditional marriage, family, and sexuality, and he and his administration want to curtail freedom in speech and religion.

We Americans are overwhelmed with corruption of our laws and culture due to the Biden administration. But, as Our Lord says many times, "we must trust in Jesus and the great gifts He gives us through His Church." Here His "Church" means Sacred Scripture, Tradition, Sacraments, and the life of grace handed down to us through the authentic magisterium. And we should never confuse that "Church" we trust in, with the men and women who belong to, or even lead the Church."

President Biden continues to receive Communion at Mass and even has been given "permission" to do so by the Cardinal-Archbishop of Washington.

"But no matter what anyone says, Mr. Biden is *forbidden* by the Church – through Canon Law and Holy Scripture – to receive Communion, because of his well-known positions on issues like abortion, homosexuality and transgenderism, not to mention his intention to restrict religious freedom, for example, his promise to force the Little Sisters of the Poor to pay for employee contraception. "All this makes him what the Church calls, a person who '*obstinately persevere[s] in manifest grave sin*'.... This is the sin called *scandal* – confusing people about what is right and wrong."

**FORMED**  
Get In-Formed!

Enrich your Lenten journey using the resources on [Formed.org](https://formed.org)

**Kids:** Watch *Lent with Brother Francis*. Let Brother Francis, the likeable animated character, engage your children during Lent through daily reflections. Also check out *Brother Francis: Stations of the Cross*.

**Teens:** Listen to talks geared towards teens. Search for titles by Fr. Mike Schmitz, Jason Evert, or Crystalina Evert. For other suggestions, see the bulletin board to the left of the center vestibule doors as you exit the church. \*\*Many of these talks are suggested for older teens 16+\*\*

**Adults:** Watch *Eternal Rest: The Art of Dying Well*. This series presents the Catholic teaching on death and preparation for our eternal resting place.

**Families:** Watch *The Chosen*. This wildly popular series walks viewers through Jesus' life.

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

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



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Call or Email Julie Maimone, Director of Admissions, at [Admissions@angelusacademy.org](mailto:Admissions@angelusacademy.org) for more information or to schedule a tour.

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[www.AngelusAcademy.org](http://www.AngelusAcademy.org) 703-924-3996  
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## Scholarships to Catholic Schools are still available!

Please send requests for tuition assistance to Fr. De Celles or contact the parish office for more information. We can also help cover homeschooling expenses.

**St. 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!

**2023 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA):** The BLA theme this year is "My soul rejoices in the Lord," which is shared with the second preparatory year of the Diocesan Jubilee. After reflecting upon the blessings God has given you, please prayerfully consider a pledge. The BLA funds programs and ministries that serve thousands of people in our diocese. Through the inspiration of the BLA theme, let us joyfully make a pledge to support God's Kingdom in our diocese! You make a gift 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. 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](https://faith.direct/VA64). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 15,234.00
Family Assistance	\$ 673.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 7,317.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 3,533.00
Bishop's Earthquake Emergency Assistance Collection	\$ 3,711.00

The Second Collection this weekend is for Black and Indian Missions.





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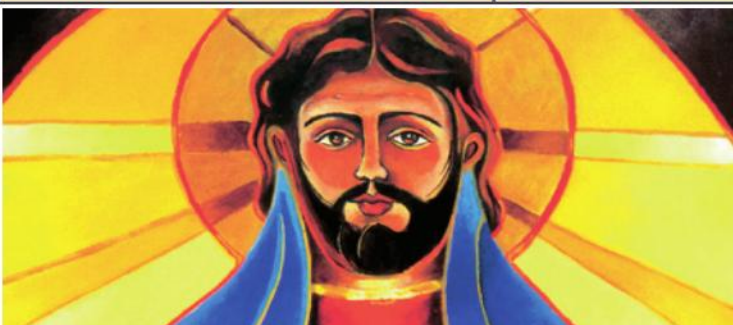
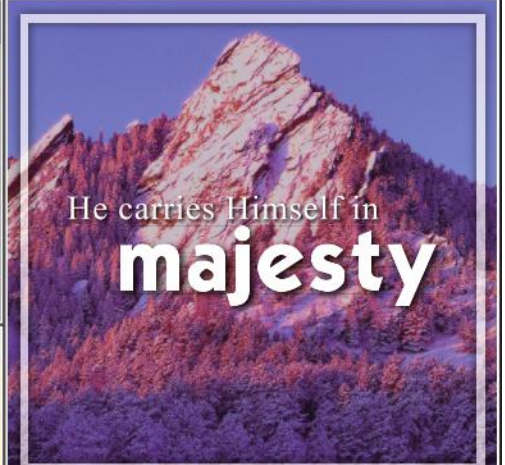
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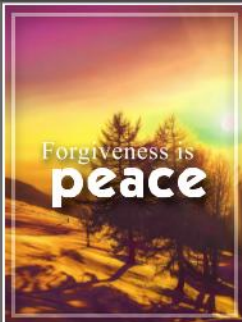
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