

# THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

The water I shall give will  
become in him a spring of water  
welling up to eternal life.

John 4:14



*"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

**Lent Continues.** This holy season is a great time to renew our appreciation for Jesus' profound love for us, and our failure to love Him in return.

So I urge you to pause every night before you go to bed and briefly examine your conscience, thinking both of your sins and of God's blessings of the day. Also, **take a moment to consider how well you "kept Lent" that day:** have you been faithful to the penances you have chosen for yourself, and are your penances both challenging enough and not so challenging as to be discouraging? And then make a sincere and devout act of contrition.

I also encourage you to carefully review the Lenten Schedule we distributed two weeks ago (go to [straymonds.org](http://straymonds.org) and on the pop-up click "2023 Lent and Easter Schedule"). Look it over and think about which of the various Lenten liturgies and activities you should take part in—and resolve to make it happen.

Looking over the schedule, I see the daily confessions—have you been yet? And the Friday Stations of the Cross—such a simple but powerful devotion. Or maybe you can come to Exposition and Adoration on Wednesday and the Holy Hour and overnight ("Nocturnal") Exposition/Adoration on Thursday evening through Friday. Or make the effort once a week to come to morning Mass, or evening Mass on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Don't let this Lenten opportunity to grow in holiness pass you by!

**Where Are My Sheep?** A few weeks ago I told you about the results of our October attendance count: in October our total Sunday Mass attendance was only **59% of what it was before Covid.** Two weeks ago we took another attendance count, and the results show that **we are now up to 67%.** That's great, but it's also terrible—where is everyone?

There are lots of reasons for the decline. For example, I know many folks just fell out of the habit, or rather got into the bad habit of missing Sundays. But with all the talk about Evangelization, we first have to Evangelize ourselves and our own. To be clear: I'm not angry with anyone, or condemning anyone. *I just want my lost or missing sheep back.* So we have to do something to help these folks return.

But first, it seems, we have to identify the folks who are missing. So in the next few weeks we're going to try some things to help figure this out, so we can then proactively contact them and invite/encourage/help them.

First of all, **I ask you all to make the effort to encourage your parishioner-friends and family who may be neglecting Sundays to return.** This might even involve some prudent and kind inquiry on your part—you may want to ask them if they are going to Mass, being careful not to unnecessarily offend or judge. And then it may involve you offering them assistance in some way—maybe inviting them to come with you, and/or a ride to church. Or it might be that you simply send me a note to inform me of folks I should contact. This is not being a "snitch" or "telling on them," but more akin to calling 911 when you see your neighbors house afire.

But it will also require a **more organized parish-wide approach.** For example, I might send a survey around to all our parishioners trying to identify who needs assistance. If it comes to you, I ask you to please take a moment to complete it, even if you are (most likely) already attending Sundays.

Or I might actually take attendance a few Sundays. I

hate doing this, since it smacks of "Big Brother" or the "Attendance Police." But it's not about finding out who's here, but who's *not here*. If I do this I will try to make it as painless as possible.

I've got some other ideas in mind, **and out of love for your pastor and your fellow parishioners, I ask you, implore you, to please cooperate** in whatever way you can.

**St. Patrick's Day on Friday.** As you know, all Fridays in Lent are days of mandatory abstinence from meat, under pain of mortal sin. However, the Bishop of every diocese has the authority to dispense his subjects from this rule if that would serve the genuine good of the faithful. This Friday, March 17, is St. Patrick's Day, a day that many observe with parties and other celebrations. Considering this, Bishop Burbidge has, "granted to the faithful of the Diocese of Arlington, as well as to any visitors or travelers who may be physically present within the territory of this diocese, a **dispensation** from the obligation of abstinence from meat on March 17, 2023."

However, the Bishop exhorts, "Those taking advantage of this dispensation....to undertake a work of charity, an exercise of piety, or an act of comparable penance on some other occasion during the Third Week of Lent."

I would also remind you that the dispensation does not mean you *must* eat meat, and that you are still free to keep the observance of Friday abstinence if you choose. Probably like St. Patrick himself would do.

**"Imagining a Heretical Cardinal" Revisited.** Last week I wrote about Bishop Thomas Paprocki's excellent essay entitled, "Imagining a Heretical Cardinal." In that article he wrote, "what if a cardinal ...were to state publicly that homosexual acts are not sinful ...?" And he said such a statement would be "heresy," and result in excommunication and "can be punished with ... removing "a power, office... However... [o]nly the pope can remove a cardinal from office...."

But this week I read, as *The Pillar* reported on March 7, 2023:

*"Pope Francis named new members to his Council of Cardinals Tuesday, including the Jesuit Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich.... Hollerich... [t]he Archbishop of Luxembourg, who was named a cardinal in 2019, will serve as the general rapporteur of this October's synod on synodality. He generated headlines last year when he said he believed that the 'sociological-scientific foundation' of the Church's teaching on homosexuality was 'no longer correct.'...."*

*"Pope Francis established the Council of Cardinals months after his election in 2013, to assist him 'in the governance of the universal Church'...."*

To clarify *The Pillar's* report, in an interview with the German Catholic news agency KNA in February 2022, when asked, "How do you get around the Church's teaching that homosexuality is sin?" Cardinal Hollerich responded:

*"I believe that this is false....I believe that the sociological-scientific foundation of this teaching is no longer correct. What one formerly condemned was sodomy... 'But there is no homosexuality at all in the New Testament. There is only discussion of homosexual acts, which were to some extent pagan cultic acts. That was naturally forbidden. I believe it is time for us to make a revision in the foundation of the teaching.'"*

I am sorry, I'm just a lowly parish priest, but this is very confusing to me.

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*

**MASS INTENTIONS****Monday, March 13th**

6:30 am Pope Francis  
8:30 am Henderson Family

**Tuesday, March 14th**

6:30 am Kathleen Fox +  
8:30 am Janis Bieging +  
7:00 pm Fr. Jerome Daly +

**Wednesday, March 15th**

6:30 am Loretta Howard +  
8:30 am Joseph Gigliotti +  
7:00 pm Pope Benedict XVI +

**Thursday, March 16th**

6:30 am Kevin Crennan +  
8:30 am Kara Waldrup

**Friday, March 17th**

6:30 am George Barry Moore +  
8:30 am Philip Bettwy

**Saturday, March 18th**

9:00 am Anthony Pomilla

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles  
Paula Skrable

**Sunday, March 19th**

7:00 am Fr. Bergida  
Mary & Vernon Butler  
9:00 am Fr. De Celles  
Parishioners  
11:00 am Fr. Rippy  
Tim Costello  
1:00 pm Fr. Horkan  
Joseph Perricone +

**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	Leonora Ramos
Phyllis Zitnik	Nena Brennan	Jose Tapia
Patricia Del Buono	Serrin Foster	Shirley Tapia
Juanita Boarman	Margaret O'Neill	

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

Mar. 13	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Mar. 14	Bible Study
Mar. 15	Adoration 9am - 7pm
Mar. 15	Legion of Mary
Mar. 16	Bridge Club
Mar. 16	6:30pm Family Rosary and Holy Hour
Mar. 16-17	Adoration from 6:30 pm Thurs - 7pm Fri.
Mar. 17	Soup Supper 5:30 - 7pm
Mar. 17	Stations of the Cross 7pm
Mar. 18	Men's Prayer Group
Mar. 20	Solemnity of St. Joseph (Transferred) Extra Mass at 7pm

**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.

**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!

**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. 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.

**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!**

**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 18/19. We are also available by appointment. Email us at [giftshop@StRaymonds.org](mailto:giftshop@StRaymonds.org).

**March 31st Christ House Meal** - Call for volunteers to serve To-Go meals to folks who are homeless and/or food insecure. The dinner takes place at our Diocesan Christ House Dining Room in Alexandria. Volunteers are needed to donate food for 72 servings. This month our menu includes: fish sandwiches, pasta salad, apples, bananas, clementines, snack bars, chips, and chocolate cupcakes. Or, if you prefer to donate time instead, great! We need help preparing and distributing the meals on Friday, March 31st. Please sign-up for your Corporal Act of Mercy opportunity at <https://www.perfectpotluck.com/meals.php?t=OPHL4156>

**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.





**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 Knights of Columbus Blood Drive.** The Knights are cosponsoring a blood drive on behalf of Inova Blood Donor Services on Saturday, March 18, at Nativity parish from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm. Please consider signing up for a 15-minute time slot within that period and giving the gift of life. You may sign up either online at [www.inovabloodsaves.org](http://www.inovabloodsaves.org) or in the narthex after all masses this weekend. If you have any questions or difficulty signing up, please contact Mark Maslyn of our parish at (703) 690-7285 or by email at: [mam7253@msn.com](mailto:mam7253@msn.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 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 April 1**. 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.

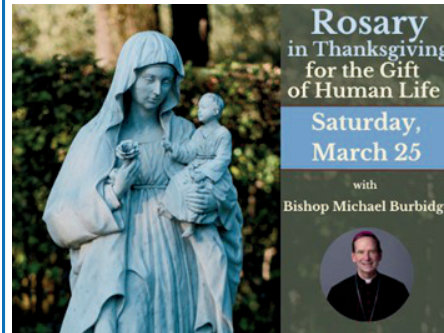
**Called and Chosen 8th Grade Event with Bishop Burbidge:** All 8th graders of the diocese are invited to the Go Forth: Called and Chosen event on Tuesday March 28 at All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas. The program begins at 10 am and includes a vocations rally, Mass, and lunch, and concludes by 1:30 pm. All 8th graders must be accompanied by an adult; space is limited to 8th graders and their chaperones. Please arrive early so all can be seated before 10 am. For more information or to RSVP, contact the Office of Vocations, [vocations@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org) or 703-841-2514 by March 20. (8th graders in Catholic schools will be coming with their classes.)

**After Abortion Retreat:** A Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be on Saturday, March 25, 2023. This group healing event is held in English and Spanish in a private and peaceful setting, based on the Entering Canaan model. There will be an opportunity to hear from a past participant and others who have found healing. You are not alone. Take the first step. For confidential inquiries, please contact Project Rachel Ministry: (703) 841-2504 or [info@helpafterabortion.org](mailto:info@helpafterabortion.org).

## SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

*Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH. Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE*

**MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center:** We proudly partner with MaRiH as they serve local expectant mothers in need. Knowing each child has an unrevealed holy purpose, MaRiH volunteers strive to see the face of God in the mothers and families they help. ***Thank you, dear friends at Saint Raymond's, for so generously supporting us in this work of mercy.*** For more ways to become involved, please visit: [marih.org](http://marih.org).



**Join Bishop Burbidge at our 40 Days for Life site, Falls Church Healthcare Clinic, 900 S Washington Street, Falls Church at 8:00 am on Saturday March 25th.**

**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! Sign-up sheets in the narthex. Questions? contact Liz: [hildebrandseven@gmail.com](mailto:hildebrandseven@gmail.com). **PLEASE**, come and see.

**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 up to 60% of all abortions. Women often regret the desperate isolated 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).

Are you involved in an ethically complicated medical situation? Beginning or end of life situations? Please know that you can contact the **National Catholic Bioethics Center** for free consultation. More info at: [ncbcenter.org](http://ncbcenter.org). 215-877-2660  
**Consultations:** [consults@ncbcenter.org](mailto:consults@ncbcenter.org)

**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 March 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)

### Fridays in Lent:—6:30am Fri. 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 & Fr. Bergida 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>

**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. **Donations can be brought on Thursdays, so you don't have to get up early!**

Sign up at <https://bit.ly/FriBfast>

### Saturday, March 25th (10:15am-1:15pm)

### 40 Days for Life Witness & Chick-Fil-A Outing

All 7-12th graders are invited to join us in praying outside the abortion clinic in Falls Church. This is our time; this is our battle. Bring your Rosary and bring a friend. You'll be glad you did. You may just save a life. We will car pool & the Youth Apostolate will pay for milkshakes at Chick-Fil-A afterwards. Permission slips due Wednesday, March 22nd. (Must also have a 2022-2023 YA Info Sheet on file.) Counts as 1 service hour.



John Paul Von Arx

Oscar Rivera Jr.

Mary Bleiski

David Calavitta

Dan Harms

Don Bob Rice

### Steubenville Youth Conference (July 7-9, 2023)

Teens currently in 8-12th grade are invited to join us for a weekend away with a few thousand Catholic teens to encounter God and experience His love through the power of the Sacraments, dynamic Catholic speakers, uplifting music and new friends! In our ever-changing world, Jesus is the answer to the longing of our hearts for meaning, fulfillment, security, and love. Join our group in road tripping to Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio from July 7-9, 2023 to experience the peace of Jesus Christ, who is our refuge and never wearies of loving us. For more info and to register go to <https://bit.ly/steubenville2023>

**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 Confirmation students, the following paperwork is due no later than March 23rd:**

1. Sponsor Eligibility letter (from sponsor's home parish)
2. Statement of Sponsor form

**Please note:** Confirmation rehearsal is scheduled for May 21st at 7 p.m.

Confirmation Mass will be celebrated Mon. May 22nd at 7 p.m.

**Looking ahead:** In observance of Easter, CCD classes will **NOT** meet:

Holy Week April 2-4

Easter Week April 9-11

**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.

**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.

**Bridge Club:** All levels of players are welcome. We play Bridge cards each week in the Parish 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.

**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!

**Home School Group:** for more information visit our website [www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/](http://www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/) Or email [straymondhsg@gmail.com](mailto:straymondhsg@gmail.com).

**Mothers' Group:** Do your young children need a bit more excitement? Are you looking for Catholic friendship with fellow mothers? Come to the moms' meet-up on Wednesday mornings! We alternate between meeting at our church and parks. Email Michelle for more information at [mlcastry@gmail.com](mailto:mlcastry@gmail.com).

**Watch for our Constant Contact Updates! If you are not receiving emails from the parish, please contact the parish office at 703-440-0535 or [office@straymonds.org](mailto:office@straymonds.org) to verify your email address.**

## Church Persecuted

The misguided policies of the Biden Administration continue to make the news with the recent barring of Catholic students from visiting the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum during their participation in the March for Life. What was their crime, you may ask? The group of students from Greenville, SC wore hats that said, "Rosary Pro-Life" as they entered the building. It is reported that the hats were an identification item so that the students and chaperones could find each other in the crowd.

The students are from Our Lady of the Rosary, a classical-curriculum school, under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the spiritual guidance of Father Dwight Longnecker, a well-known Catholic author and blogger.

After the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) filed a federal lawsuit against the museum on behalf of the nine students and three parents who were subjected to harassment by the staff for their hats, the museum issued an apology.

In a statement on the ACLJ website, "The museum mocked the students, called them expletives, and made comments that the museum was a 'neutral zone' where they could not express such statements. The employee who ultimately forced the students to leave...was rubbing his hands together with glee as they exited..."

What we see here is the Biden administration's extreme pro-abortion policies trickling down even to federally owned museums. As saner minds prevailed, the Smithsonian spokesperson said, "We provided immediate retraining to prevent a re-occurrence of this kind of error." In the end, the employee was fired.

Source: <https://aclj.org/pro-life/outrageous-in-profanity-laced-tirade-smithsonian-national-air-space-museum-berates-and-kicks-out-students-for-wearing-hats-with-pro-life-and-chr>

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**For Older Kids.** Listen to *The Trials of Saint Patrick*. Enjoy listening to this radio theater production of beloved St. Patrick's life of challenges, conversion, and evangelization. (Feast Day, March 17) Parental guidance is suggested due to the intense nature of the story.

*See the Formed bulletin board by the central doors of the vestibule for specific Lent resources.*

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

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## Scholarships to Catholic Schools are still available!

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**The 2023 Bishop's Lenten Appeal is underway!** 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 may make a gift at: [www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA) or scan the QR code below:



**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. 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.

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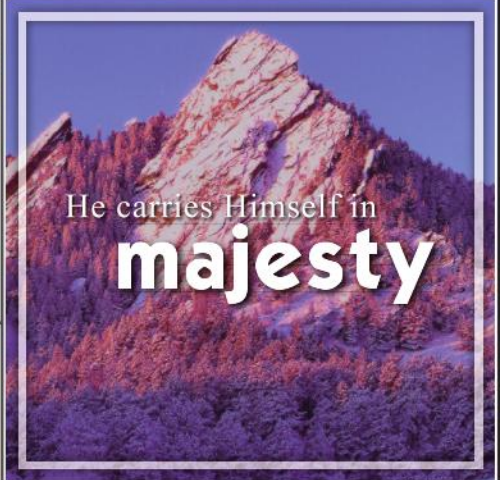
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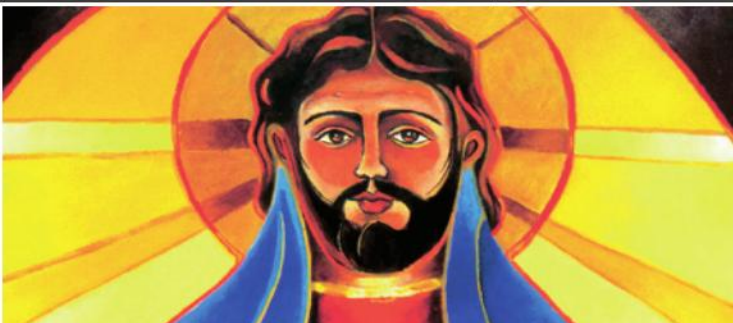
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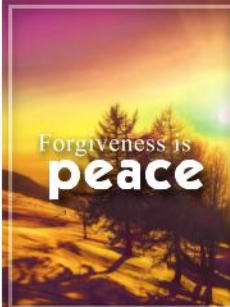
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