

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

I came into this world  
for judgment, so that those who do  
not see might see, and those who  
do see might become blind.

John 9:39



*"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

**Laetare Sunday.** Today is Laetare Sunday, or “Rejoice Sunday,” the halfway point in Lent, as the Church reminds us that in the midst of our sorrows for the suffering of Christ for our sins, we need to always keep in mind the glory and joy of the Resurrection and our redemption. The Rose Vestments symbolize this: the dark purple yields to the lighter shade of rose.

Many are struggling to keep their penances this Lent. Others still haven’t chosen a penance. Today we remember that there is still half of Lent remaining to rededicate or increase our efforts to keep Lent holy. To those who haven’t chosen a penance yet, get with it. To those who are struggling to keep their penances, if your penance is too hard, it’s okay to change it to something that is challenging but manageable in your situation; to those who just haven’t been trying, no excuses—pick up your cross. And to those who have found their penances manageable and doable, then perhaps you can add some more penances, or intensify the ones you are currently doing.

Let the rest of Lent really be a time of holiness for each of us, as we carry our crosses with Jesus.

**40 Days?** Have you noticed that there are actually 46 days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday (inclusive). This is because the counting of the 40 days has never included the 6 Sundays of Lent, because, historically, the 40 days were always days of modified fasting, and Sunday was never a day of fast since it is the Lord’s Day. Moreover, though Good Friday and Holy Saturday are not technically “Lent” but the “Triduum,” even so, the Triduum retains the penitential character of Lent, so there are still 40 penitential days.

**Calling all Candidates: Fairfax County School Board (FCSB).** For the last few decades, the county/government schools have gradually been becoming more and more indoctrination centers for the leftist ideology. Many parents and kids can testify to this, although some tell me that their particular school or teachers avoid the woke/leftist indoctrination. In fact, I know many Catholic teachers who tell me they are fighting the good fight to protect their students from this warped and anti-Catholic ideology. Thank God for this, and God bless them.

Even so, the corruption permeates our government-run schools, teaching our kids the exact opposite of what they learn at home and church. And even in the best of classrooms, principals and teachers feel the constant pressure, and leftist-influenced textbooks and library books imposed on them aggravate the issue.

This will remain the case **until we change the people making policy** for the schools—the members of the School Board. Currently, all 12 seats are held by leftist activists who repeatedly disregard and disrespect parents’ and teachers’ concerns and protests.

This must change. And the **only way to change that is through good candidates coming forward to contest those seats:** we need good, moral and common sense folks to run for these seats. That might mean you.

I have given a lot of thought to this, trying to think of particular parishioners who would be good candidates. But there are many of you who qualify for this job, and could probably get elected, with the right support. Honestly, look at the school board members now and you will see the bar is pretty low. We can do much better.

**I want you all to think and pray about this.** Is this something you would be good at? And more importantly, **is the Lord calling you to do this?**

This will, absolutely, involve sacrifice and not a little suffering. But this is Lent, when we remember that sacrifice is at

the center of a Christian life and love—Jesus’ sacrifice of the Cross. We all talk about how much we love Jesus and our children and our neighbor. But if He is calling you, are you willing to make sacrifices for Him and His little ones?

If you might be interested, contact me and we can talk about it. I’m not going to get involved in campaigning or endorsements, but I can try to give you some practical pastoral advice.

**Altar Rail.** As you can see, our broken altar rail is repaired and back in place. The artisan who works on this for us did an amazing job rebuilding and reinforcing the pillars. However, we’re not finished yet. For safety’s sake, we plan, in the next 2 weeks, to install marble supporting pillars, reinforced with rebar, behind the rails. These will support the rail as people lean into it, and should prevent any future accidents. In the meantime, I ask you to not lean on the altar rails until we’re done.

**German Bishops.** Last week the German Bishops voted to adopt a set of heretical practices and doctrines, despite the Pope’s outspoken warnings. Here is a summary of the most damaging votes (quotes are from an article in *The Pillar*)

“The final plenary meeting of Germany’s “synodal way” ended Saturday after the approval of resolutions supporting women deacons, a re-examination of priestly celibacy, lay preaching at Masses, same-sex blessings, and “gender diversity.”

The German bishops embraced heresy in three particular votes:

-- With 42 in favor, 10 against and 6 abstentions, to “advocate in Rome for the admission of women to the sacramental diaconate for all those particular Churches which desire this on the basis of their pastoral situation.”

-- With 38 in favor, 9 against, and 11 abstentions, to “officially allow blessing ceremonies...for couples who love each other but to whom sacramental marriage is not accessible or who do not see themselves at a point of entering into a sacramental marriage...” “This also applies to same-sex couples on the basis of a re-evaluation of homosexuality as a norm variant of human sexuality,” as well as “remarried divorcees...couples after civil marriage...”

-- With 38 in favor, 7 against, and 13 abstentions, to endorse changes in the Church to support “gender ideology,” and that “all ordained ministries and pastoral vocations in the Church should be open to the intersex and transgender baptized and confirmed who sense a calling for themselves.”

Response from the Vatican and Bishops outside of Germany has been slow in coming. But Bishop Strickland, of Tyler, Texas, stated: “The president of every Bishop’s Conference around the world should denounce the schismatic vote of the 38 German bishops.” God bless him.

Is this heresy? Clearly. Is the Church in Germany, at least those Bishops who voted “in favor,” in schism? I don’t know what else you would call it. Maybe there’s a legal subtlety here, but at best we can call it “de facto” schism.

In any case, this is a terrible and catastrophic event and wound to the life and unity of the Church. God forgive them.

**Our Response.** We should continue to pray for *unity of all professed Catholics with the constant and universal teachings of the Church*. In particular, **our Daily Family Rosary will henceforth include this as its primary intention.**

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*

**MASS INTENTIONS****Monday, March 20th****St. Joseph**

6:30 am Dick Coyne +  
 8:30 am Genevieve Waller +  
 7:00 pm The Church in Germany

**Tuesday, March 21st**

6:30 am Elizabeth Libby  
 8:30 am Evelyn Schoener +  
 7:00 pm Pope Benedict XVI +

**Wednesday, March 22nd**

6:30 am Joyce Ann O'Connor +  
 8:30 am Stephanie Bomar +  
 7:00 pm Fr. Jerome Daly +

**Thursday, March 23rd**

6:30 am Matthew Gellas  
 8:30 am Kathy Scully +

**Friday, March 24th**

6:30 am Craig Turner  
 8:30 am Vladimir Manasek +

**Saturday, March 25th**

9:00 am Linwood Russell  
 Turner

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**  
 Sara Giroux +

**Sunday, March 26th**

7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**  
 Robert Gellas  
 9:00 am **Fr. Horkan**  
 Parishioners  
 11:00 am **Fr. Bergida**  
 Mary Schaible +  
 1:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**  
 Marie Thomas +

**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	Mary Pentenburg
Juanita Boarman	Margaret O'Neill	

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

<b>Mar. 20</b>	<b>Solemnity of St. Joseph (Transferred)</b> <b>Extra Mass at 7pm</b>
<b>Mar. 20</b>	<b>Family of Jesus Prayer Group</b>
<b>Mar. 21</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
<b>Mar. 22</b>	<b>Adoration 9am - 7pm</b>
<b>Mar. 22</b>	<b>Legion of Mary</b>
<b>Mar. 23</b>	<b>Bridge Club</b>
<b>Mar. 23</b>	<b>6:30pm Holy Hour with Family Rosary</b>
<b>Mar. 23-24</b>	<b>Adoration from 6:30 pm Thurs - 7pm Fri.</b>
<b>Mar. 24</b>	<b>Soup Supper 5:30 - 7pm</b>
<b>Mar. 24</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross 7pm</b>
<b>April 2</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>

**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, and more. Stop by the Shop's table in the narthex after the Saturday 5pm Mass and the 9, 11, and 1pm Sunday Masses this 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.

**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:  
 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.



**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!



**CAR RAFFLE UPDATE:** Thanks to all those who have returned their car raffle tickets and special thanks to those who have requested extra tickets to sell to their relatives, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. Sales are off to a great start! Please note that raffle tickets must be processed at All Saints - mail them directly to All Saints in the envelope provided. If you need additional tickets, please contact Mark Lawton at [mark\\_cindy85@msn.com](mailto:mark_cindy85@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 April 1.** 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.

**Retreat Invitation to Legion of Mary Auxiliaries:** Auxiliaries, you are cordially invited to attend the Arlington Regia's annual retreat, April 14-16, 2023, (Fri, 5:00pm – Sun, 3:00pm) at the Loyola on the Potomac Retreat House, 9270 Loyola Retreat Road, Faulkner, MD. The Retreat Master will be the Reverend David Gunter, Marian of the Immaculate Conception. The theme of the retreat will be 'Heart Attuned to the Mercy of God.' The fee for overnight stay with all the meals for Friday-Sunday is \$250.00 per person. Please contact Judy Mayer ([jmayer9014@aol.com](mailto:jmayer9014@aol.com)) for the flyer/agenda and registration form.

**Lenten Service Opportunities:** Are you looking for a way to serve your community during Lent, and beyond? Join us in our mission to serve the needy in our diocese. We are seeking volunteers to help with feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for the sick and welcoming the newcomer. Visit <https://volunteer.cdda.net> for a current listing of opportunities to serve.

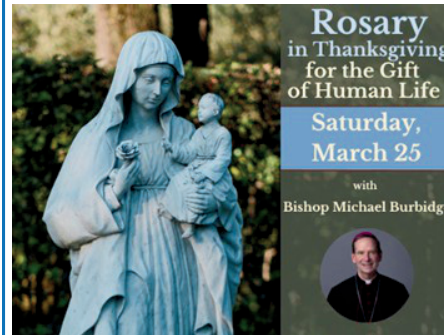
**After Abortion Retreat:** A Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be on Saturday, March 25, 2023. This group healing event is held in English and Spanish in a private and peaceful setting, based on the Entering Canaan model. There will be an opportunity to hear from a 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).

"...if someone is God-fearing and does His will, He listens to him." Are you being called to do the deeds of Christ as a priest or in the consecrated life, proclaiming the reign of the loving mercy of God our Father? Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, Vocations Director, at (703) 841-2514 or email: [vocations@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.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.

**Public Holy Hour.** Good Friday, April 7, 2023 12 noon. Alexandria Women's Health Clinic, Northern Virginia's busiest abortion mill, at 2616 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA. Come pray for one hour at this modern-day Calvary where innocents are brought to slaughter.

**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

\*Make sure forms are signed and on file. <http://bit.ly/YAforms>

### Sunday March 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)

### Monday, March 20th

#### 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! We meet 1st & 3rd Mondays!

#### Fridays in Lent:—6:30am Fri. Morning Mass & Breakfast

All 7-12th graders: Join us Friday mornings for Mass followed by breakfast with Fr. Horkan and Fr. Bergida in the parish hall. RSVP by Wed. and we can coordinate our volunteers to drive you to school. If not, you can show up for Mass and have your parent drive you to school after breakfast! <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVP>

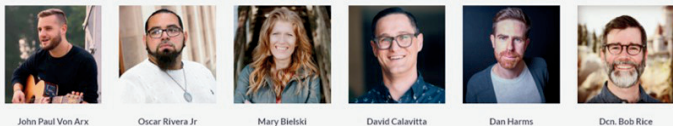
**Breakfast Donations** Please consider supporting our parish teens who start their Friday's off with Mass, breakfast, and fellowship by donating a baked good, fruit, etc. **Donations can be brought on Thursday, so you don't have to get up early!**

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 3/22. (Must also have a 2022-2023 YA Info Sheet on file.) Counts as 1 service hour.



### 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 if not parishioner of St. Raymond's)
2. Statement of Sponsor form

**Parents of students preparing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist for the first time in May:** First Holy

Communion mini-retreat is scheduled for Saturday, April 22nd. More information to follow.

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

The Confirmation Mass will be celebrated on May 22nd at 7 pm.

**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 [ipebtp@verizon.net](mailto:ipebtp@verizon.net) or by calling the parish office. You may also write down your prayer requests and drop them in the "Prayer Box" on the table in the narthex of the church.

**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

St. Raymond's has a robust program to convince families to move their children out of the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and into Catholic schools. While the "hot button" topics include the family life education program, equity, diversity and inclusion, and critical race theory, the school system's focus on these topics sometimes requires other basic skills to slide by the wayside.

*Cursive* is no longer taught in the school system. Spelling is no longer important according to one FCPS teacher. One parent complained to the teacher when a child came home with misspelled words all over the page. The child said, "We don't get deductions on papers for misspelled words." The parent met with the teacher who said, "We are more concerned about content and context." The context of the comments was that this same parent saw the beautiful *cursive* writing of a Catholic school student and perfectly spelled words on a paper from a first grader in Catholic school. So there are students who are still learning to spell and use words correctly in sentences!

The FCPS parent, though, told the teacher that "My standards are that my children learn how to correctly spell and use words in sentences and I'll teach them *cursive* myself." After all, parents are responsible for the education of their children and not the state. The state (and the Church) has a responsibility to support the parents in that role. It's time that parents wrest the schools' leadership away from the teachers union and the school board and take control. One way to do that is to elect school board members (this November) who put the parents first and not the interests of teachers/administrators/unions.

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**March 19 (celebrated on March 20 this year) is the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Watch *Joseph of Nazareth: The Story of the Man Closest to Christ*.** This full length feature film presents Joseph as the "just man" of Scripture who cooperates with God's plan for him to be the humble spouse to the Mother of God, the foster-father of Our Lord, and the protector of the Holy Family.

**Read *Love, Marriage, and the Catholic Conscience: Understanding the Church's Teachings on Birth Control*.** Dietrich von Hildebrand provides the full truth of the Church's teachings on contraception, providing explanations of what the teachings are and why. Get informed so you can practice and defend these beautiful truths. *Available for your Kindle or as an eBook.*

**For Parents. Watch *Living Lent as a Family (4-Part Series)*.** Hear from other families about how to incorporate the liturgical season of Lent into your home...the "Domestic Church."

*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/signup](https://formed.org/signup) and select our parish.

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



## Angelus Academy

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<https://angelusacademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/>.  
Call or Email Julie Maimone, Director of Admissions, at [Admissions@angelusacademy.org](mailto: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](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.

**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.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 13,716.00
Family Assistance	\$ 468.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,535.00
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School Scholarship Donations	\$ 3,992.49
Gift	\$ 1,240.00

**The Second Collection this weekend is for Catholic Relief Services.**





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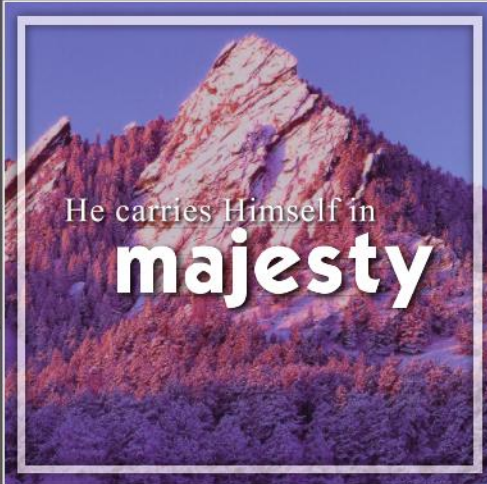
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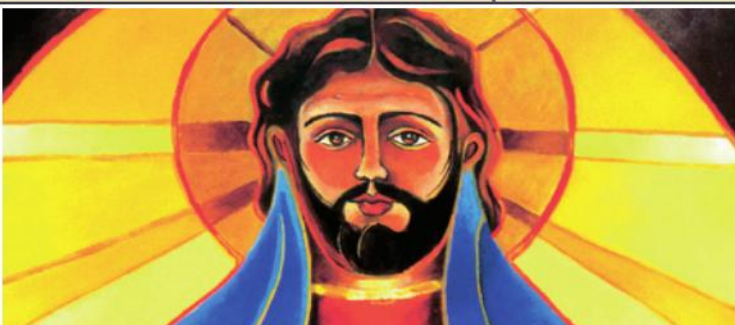
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