

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

This illness is not
to end in death,
but is for the glory of God,
that the Son of God may
be glorified through it.

John 11:4

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



**Welcome to
St. Raymond of
Peñafort Roman
Catholic Church**

**8750 Pohick Road
Springfield, VA 22153**

WEEKEND MASSES:
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:00 am, 9:00 am,
11:00 am and 1:00 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES:
Monday through Friday:
6:30 am & 8:30 am
Saturday: 9:00 am

Website
www.straymonds.org

Rev. John C. De Celles, Pastor
Rev. Joseph D. Bergida, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Edward R. Horkan, In Residence
Elisabeth Turco, Director of Liturgical Music
Jeanne Sause, Director of Youth Apostolate
Mary Salmon, Director of Religious Education
Mary Hansen, Religious Education Secretary
Joe Marquart, Plant Manager
Maerose Naduvilekunnel, Business Manager
Virginia Osella, Parish Secretary
Mary Butler, Secretary

PARISH OFFICE:

Telephone Numbers:

Rectory: 703-440-0535
Rel. Education: 703-440-0537
Fax: 703-440-0538

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

E-Mail

Church: Office@straymonds.org
Rel. Ed.: ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org
Choirs: Music@straymonds.org

TUITION ASSISTANCE: Please inquire with our office about the availability of partial scholarships for the children of active St. Raymond parishioners attending local Catholic grade schools and high schools.

Angelus Academy

**7644 Dynatech Ct, Springfield, VA 22153
703-924-3996**

Angelus Academy is a fully-accredited pre-K through 8th grade Catholic School affiliated with the Diocese of Arlington. Although it has no official connection with St. Raymond's, the parish has a longstanding close relationship with Angelus Academy. Many of our parish children already happily attend school there.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Reconciliation/Confession)

Wednesday Evening

6:15-6:55 p.m. (during Exposition)

Saturday Morning

8:15 - 8:45 a.m.

Saturday Afternoon

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

MARRIAGE: Couples wishing to marry must contact a parish priest at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Couples who are living together will be expected to live separately at least during the 3 months prior to the wedding.

RCIA: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which adults (and children who have reached the age of reason) are instructed in the Doctrine of the Church and are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. If you or someone you know, would like to inquire about becoming a Catholic, please call the Parish Office.

BAPTISM: Parents are requested to make arrangements with the Parish Office ONE MONTH in advance. Parents must participate in a one-session pre-Baptismal program and are encouraged to do so before the birth of their child. You must be REGISTERED in the Parish 3 MONTHS prior to the Baptism.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please submit announcements in writing 10 days prior to publication.

Pastor's Corner

Fifth Week of Lent: Passiontide. Today we see the statues and crosses covered in violet as we begin the last two weeks of Lent, called "Passiontide." In Passiontide the elevated intensity of our focus on the Cross is expressed in the dramatic sign of covering most of the sacred images in the church. In part, this is to encourage us to take our imaginations 2000 years back in time, to be with Jesus during those last two weeks before his Crucifixion and Resurrection: Good Friday has not yet happened, so there is no cross yet; Easter has not happened, so no saints are in heaven. Keep this in mind in the coming days: "I'm walking with Jesus, and Peter, John, Judas and Mary Magdalene. Toward Jerusalem, stopping in Bethany, the temple, the Upper Room, at the Last Supper... In the house of Caiaphas and the palace of Pilate... Standing with Blessed Mary as they scourge her sweet child..."

Let us beg our Crucified Lord to shower us with His grace in these holy days.

Beginning tomorrow, Monday, we will have at least 2 confessors available for evening confessions that run from 6pm until 7pm. If you have not been to confession this Lent, please try to go before Easter, remembering that during Holy Week the confession lines tend to be longer.

I also strongly encourage you to intensify your Lenten observance by taking greater advantage of opportunities offered in the parish. In particular, consider the daily Family Rosary, Thursday evening Holy Hour and Thursday/Friday Nocturnal Adoration, and Stations of the Cross on Friday. I also encourage you to attend at least one weekday Mass this week and next.

Holy Week. Next Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. Please **plan ahead today to participate** in the special and unique liturgies that mark these most solemn and sacred days of the Christian year, including Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday's Celebration of the Passion of the Lord (with Veneration of the Cross), and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening.

As always, as your spiritual father, I beg you to try to participate in all of these liturgies, especially the 3pm Good Friday Veneration of the Cross. It is inspiring to see a huge crowd patiently wait in line, many openly showing their sorrow, to venerate the cross of Christ. I know it's a workday, but more importantly it is the hour of the Lord's death, the most sacred hour of the year—skip work and join us. But if you absolutely can't, try your best to keep that hour sacred by remaining quiet, and trying to pray or read scripture, or at least have a recollective attitude.

Transgenderism: Scientifically "Utter Nonsense." Did you see this news report last week? As Fox News reported:

"During a recent interview with British journalist Piers Morgan, famed atheist and biologist Richard Dawkins declared that 'there are two sexes, and that's all there is to it.' He added that LGBTQ activists looking to discredit the reality of two biological sexes are pushing 'utter nonsense.'..."

"...The host prompted Hawkins by ...referring to a recent list of problematic words put out by the 'EBB Language Project,' a collection of academics looking to police words that could potentially be found to be politically incorrect. The proposed list contains gendered words such as 'male, female, man, woman, mother, father,'..."

"Dawkins had commented on the project last month..., 'The only possible response is contemptuous ridicule. I shall continue to use every one of the prohibited words. I am a professional user of the English language. It is my native language.'"

"Dawkins immediately discredited the entire movement

by saying, 'It's bullying.' ...[T]he renowned researcher added, 'And we've seen the way J.K. Rowling has been bullied...' But it's very upsetting the way this tiny minority of people has managed to capture the discourse and really talk errant nonsense.'

"Upon Morgan asking Dawkins how to combat the 'nonsense,' Dawkins replied, 'Science.' He then said, 'There are two sexes. You can talk about gender if you wish, and that's subjective.'..."

"He said bluntly, 'As a biologist, there are two sexes, and that's all there is to it.' Subsequently, the host mentioned how Dawkins has had his career and reputation dinged for simply asking questions about inconsistencies in the left's dogmas on gender and identity."

"Morgan said, 'You had a humanist award stripped in 2021 because of your comments about of this kind of thing....you were just espousing a biological fact.'"

"Dawkins shot back, 'I wasn't even doing that. I was asking people to discuss. Discuss. That's what I've done all my life in universities...There are people for whom the word 'discuss' doesn't mean 'discuss,' it means you've taken a position, which I hadn't. ... I thought it was a reasonable thing to discuss.'"

More on the German Bishops. You may have seen the excellent interview on EWTN. As *Catholic Vote* reported: "The recent gathering of the Synodal Way concluded with 176 out of 202 participants voting in favor of offering blessings for same-sex couples in Catholic dioceses."

"Cardinals [Raymond] Burke and [Gerhard] Müller reproved the German bishops in an interview on EWTN's 'The World Over with Raymond Arroyo.'

"It is absolutely blasphemous to make a blessing about those forms of life which is, according to the biblical and the ecclesial doctrine a sin because all forms of sexuality outside of a valid matrimony is sin and cannot be blessed," Müller said.

"Likewise, Burke said that, 'Whether it's a departure, heretical teaching and denial of one of the doctrines of the faith, or apostasy in the sense of simply walking away from Christ and from his teaching in the Church to embrace some other form of religion, these are crimes.'"

"...Of the 58 German bishops present at the synod assembly, 38 approved the motion."

"There must be a trial and they must be sentenced," Müller added, 'and they must be removed from their office if they are not converting themselves and they are not accepting the Catholic doctrine.'"

"Burke said that the German synod is using the Church to promote an agenda rather than to preach the Gospel: 'These are human inventions, human ideologies that are being pushed and the Church is being used. And what it does is it renders the Church then into some kind of a human agency, almost like a government agency that's being manipulated to foster certain programs and certain agenda. And so we need to wake up to what is happening.'"

Some Good News. Several of our young parishioners at **Angelus Academy** have won awards for their essay submissions to the annual Pro-Life Essay and Multimedia Contest, sponsored by the Youth Apostles. A total of 217 secondary-school students participated and awards went to: First Place: Patrick Kurrus, and Honorable Mentions: Evelyn Albanese and George Raines. Madison Sward also won an Honorable Mention for her poster submission. Additionally, Frances Mantooth (Kindergarten) won First Place in a St. Patrick coloring contest sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Congratulations, kids—your Pastor and fellow parishioners are very proud of you!

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, March 27th**

6:30 am Annie Gellas
8:30 am Irene Schoener

Tuesday, March 28th

6:30 am Ruben & Virginia Nanez
8:30 am Wilfredo Quiambao +
7:00 pm Fr. Jerome Daly +

Wednesday, March 29th

6:30 am Rita Sulit +
8:30 am Ed Ward +
7:00 pm Pope Benedict XVI +

Thursday, March 30th

6:30 am Matthew Gellas
8:30 am Tamara Souza

Friday, March 31st

6:30 am Paul & Marie Sundberg +
8:30 am Souls in Purgatory Most in Need +

Saturday, April 1st

9:00 am Andrew Shealy

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Fr. Bergida
Walter Junior Seiberling +

Sunday, April 2nd**Palm Sunday**

7:00 am Fr. Horkan
Marianne Zacherl
9:00 am Fr. De Celles
Parishioners
11:00 am Fr. Rippy
Rev. Michael Taylor
1:00 pm Fr. Bergida
RE Students & their families

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

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Mar. 27	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Mar. 28	Bible Study
Mar. 29	Adoration 9am - 7pm
Mar. 29	Legion of Mary
Mar. 30	Bridge Club
Mar. 30	6:30pm Holy Hour with Family Rosary
Mar. 30-31	Adoration from 6:30 pm Thurs - 7pm Fri.
Mar. 31	Final Soup Supper 5:30 - 7pm
Mar. 31	Stations of the Cross 7pm
Apr. 1	Men's Prayer Group and Luminaries
Apr. 2	Palm Sunday

Thursday Evening Lenten Holy Hour and Nocturnal Adoration: Father De Celles will lead one more holy hour on Thursday, March 30 at 6:30 pm. We will continue Adoration through the night until 7pm on Friday. **Please visit our website to sign up for an hour of Adoration!**

Donut Sunday, next weekend, April 2nd after the 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 AM Masses. Stop by the Parish Hall after Mass to enjoy some treats and drinks and meet your fellow parishioners.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 15th at 2:30 pm

behind the Parish Hall: Children ages 12 and under are invited, free of charge, no RSVP necessary! This year, we will be inviting all parishioners to sign up to donate eggs and candy by April 12th. Please watch for an email with the sign up! For more information, please contact the parish office.

Annual Spring Senior Luncheon

WHO: All Seniors 55 years young and above

WHERE: St. Raymond's Parish Hall

DATE: April 15, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

MENU: Honey Baked Ham and all the trimmings (Free!)

RSVP by April 10 by emailing office@straymonds.org

Or by calling the office at 703-440-0535

Last Year's Blessed Palms – There are boxes for blessed palms at each exit of the Church until the end of Lent. The parish will dispose of them properly. "Once a religious object is blessed... it must be treated with reverence and not be used in either an improper or profane way." (Code of Canon Law)

View livestreaming of the Holy Mass at St. Raymond's!

straymonds.org

Monday - Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am

Saturday at 9:00 am

Sunday Mass at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

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 and Saturday and Sunday after the 9am Mass. **Please visit our website to sign up to lead during April!** 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. Children in particular learn the importance of penance from following the practice of their older family members. The sick, pregnant or nursing mothers, and other folks with special physical circumstances may be partially or totally exempt from these rules—use good judgment and take care of yourself.



St. John Bosco Council #12846 Knights of Columbus Are you a man of 17½ years or more and a practicing Catholic? Then we invite you to join the Knights! Contact Deputy Grand Knight Mark Menotti at 401-644-7128 or go to <http://www.KofC.org/JoinUs> (or scan this QR code) to become a Knight today!



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.

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 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 Rev. 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) for the flyer/agenda and registration form.

THE SAMARITAN GROUP WANTS TO HELP YOU! Did you know that our parish has a group of volunteers just waiting to provide a ride, bring a meal, or help in some other way during your time of need? If you are experiencing a time of illness, recovery, or other difficulty, let our Samaritans bless you. If we can help or if you want to join the Samaritan volunteer roster, contact Vanessa Oswald, kandvoswald@gmail.com or (571) 271-5498. ****Learn more about the Samaritan Group at this week's soup supper!****

April Book Club: The parish Book Club will next meet next on **Friday, April 14, 2023**, at 10:00 AM in the St Raymond Library to discuss **"The Lord"** by Romano Guardini. The discussion in April will be on Parts 4 through 7 of this book. The initial half of the book was discussed at our meeting in March. New members are welcome, regardless of how much of the book they may (or may not) have read. A full list of books to be discussed during 2022-2023 is included in the Book Club section of the parish website. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.

"Did I not assure you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" Do you believe Christ may be calling you to see the glory of the Blessed Trinity through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life? Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, Vocations Director, at (703) 841-2514 or email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

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

"I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. Do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. The Father of Mercies is ready to give you His Forgiveness and His Peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation."

Evangelium Vitae Saint Pope John Paul II March 25, 1995

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.



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. **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.

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. 215-877-2660 **Consultations:** consults@ncbcenter.org

Tepeyac Pro Life OB/GYN: Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare. tepeyacobgyn.com 703-273-9440. Thank you for your referrals and your support.

Has the sorrow of miscarriage or still birth touched your life? ***A Mom's Peace***, offers discreet support to families with bereavement, burial and remembrance assistance. Visit amomspeace.org.

To those who have suffered an abortion: Project Rachel can help women and men who are carrying the grief and sorrow of a past abortion. (888)456-HOPE. Confidentiality always respected. www.helpafterabortion.org. Men: (703) 841-3833.

Give a Gift for Life! No woman should ever feel that she is alone or that abortion is her only choice. **Gabriel Project** helps pregnant moms welcome their babies. For more info, contact them at 1-866-444-3553 or GabrielProject@arlingtondiocese.org.

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate

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



NEXT WEEKEND 4/1-4/2

WorkCamp Raffle Fundraiser

Support our WorkCampers in raising money to serve those less fortunate in our area and earn a chance to win 1 of 3 beautiful planters they made!



Sunday March 25th: 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

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 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>



John Paul Von Arx



Oscar Rivera Jr.



Mary Bielecki



David Calavitta



Dan Harris



Don Bob Rice

Steubenville Youth Conference (July 7-9)

Registration Due TODAY, Sunday 3/26

Current 8-12th graders 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, OH 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 9-12th 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 or ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT.

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

youth@straymonds.org Call/Text: 571-334-9890

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Attention parents of 8th grade students:

Confirmation Gown Order form is due no later than April 12th. The form is in your red Confirmation folder which you received at the parent meeting in September. If you cannot find it, let us know and we will send one to you.

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. Specific information was sent by email in early March.

Parents, mark your calendars!!!

No CCD classes NEXT week: April 2, 3 and 4: Holy Week / FCPS Spring Break

No CCD classes April 9, 10 and 11: Religious Education Easter Break

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 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 or James Kolakoski at 703-455-3009 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 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/ Or email 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.

Courage Support Group for Those Experiencing Same-Sex Attraction. COURAGE is a group that meets regularly to offer fraternal, moral, and spiritual support for those who experience same-sex attraction and desire to live chaste lives according to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Meetings are for men and women and strict confidentiality is maintained. For more information, please contact Courage@arlingtondiocese.org or visit <http://couragec.net/index.htm>.

Church Persecuted

When one looks at the curriculum or reviews some of the educational materials available for public review for the Fairfax County Public Schools, the volume of material may appear overwhelming, but once one delves into the details, a different view surfaces. The Family Life Education (FLE) program has been in place for at least 30 years. In the early days, there was very little offensive materials in the primary grades, but over the years, the program crept into lower and lower grades with the following examples:

Kindergarten and first grade: Students are asked to examine different kinds of families to include two-parent (mother and father, two mothers, two fathers) and single-parent families, adoptive families, foster families, families with stepparents, and blended families.

Fifth grade: Students in the human growth and development course are introduced to the terms “sex assigned at birth” and “gender identity” contending that biological sex is subjective and subject to change. This is repeated during a class on the reproductive system

Seventh grade: Students are provided definitions of heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, and transgender. They are taught that their biological sex might not align with their personal perception of gender and that male or female sex “assigned at birth” is arbitrary and can change. Students are taught that not affirming another’s sexual orientation or perceived gender identity is to display a negative bias.

These and a complete review of the Family Life Education curriculum for 2022-23 can be found at parentandchild.org.

FORMED
Get In-Formed!

March 25 was the Solemnity of the Annunciation of our Lord.

*Watch **The Bible and the Virgin Mary**.* This 12-part study of our Blessed Mother relies on Scripture to provide a better understanding and closeness to Our Lady. Based on the work of Dr. Scott Hahn. (Episode 2 focuses on the Annunciation).

*Read **Mary: God’s Yes to Man (Redemptoris Mater)**.* This encyclical by St. Pope John Paul II provides his theological reflections on the Blessed Mother. *Available for you Kindle or as an eBook.*

*Listen to **7 Secrets of Confession**.* Speaker Vinny Flynn explains why we should look forward to Confession and the graces the Sacrament of Reconciliation provides.

*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 and select our parish.

Questions? Need help? Email us at: formed@straymonds.org

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



Angelus Academy

Where the truth of Catholic teaching takes flesh in the lives of Pre-K - 8th graders and their families.

We love having Saint Raymond parishioners at our school.

What a blessing it is to be learning together!

We are now accepting applications for 2023-24. Space is limited and we are filling up fast. Apply soon!

<https://angelusacademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/>.
Call or Email Julie Maimone, Director of Admissions, at Admissions@angelusacademy.org for more information or to schedule a tour.

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

www.AngelusAcademy.org 703-924-3996
7644 Dynatech Ct., Springfield, VA 22153

ANGELUS ACADEMY

Gala
2023

SHOUT JOYFULLY
TO THE LORD!

Saturday, May 6, 2023

Springfield Golf & Country Club
8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA
Silent Auction begins at 6:00 PM

RECIPIENT OF 2022-2023
ST. JOHN BOSCO AWARD

Sheila Bruen

To RSVP or Donate, visit AngelusAcademy.org

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 or using an in-pew envelope.

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. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 12,300.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,130.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 920.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 8,415.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 2,390.00



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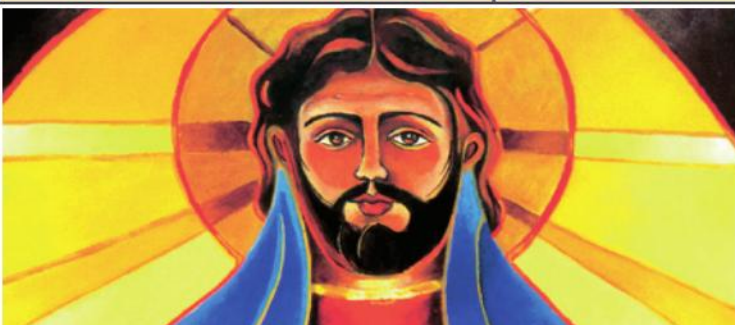
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