

TRULY THIS WAS THE SON OF GOD

Matthew 27:54

"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

Holy Week begins Today. One of the keys to Lent is meditation on our Lord's Sacred Passion—His suffering and death. This week we do this in a particularly intense way, as we spiritually place ourselves with Our Lord as He suffers in His last hours: as He agonizes in the garden, is scourged, spat upon, mocked, and crowned with thorns; as He carries the cross, is nailed to it and hung upon it for three hours to die an excruciating death. We look upon Jesus enduring all this, and remember that He did this all out of love for His Father and, most amazingly, *out of love for us*: to pay for *our sins* (*our failures* to love God and our neighbor), to *save us* from eternal damnation, and to *enable us* to share in His own glorious life. He suffered all this not *in spite of* the fact that we don't love Him as we should, but *because of* that fact: He loves us and wants to save us from our lack of love.

Who can look at this and not be overwhelmed, not simply with grief for His suffering, but also with love for Him who has loved us so much? How can we not open our hearts to Him, and see that our sins are not worth causing Him this pain, not worth walking away from the One who loves us so incredibly? How can we not ask ourselves why *we love our sins* so much, when we should be loving Him instead? How can we see His love and not recognize that the way we love Him and each other falls so far short of this standard? How can we see all this and not open our hearts to the grace that flows from His sacred wounds to help us to love as we should?

For almost 40 days we've been trying to grow in love through Christ's grace and our Lenten penances. Most of us have met with mixed results. But we have one more week: let's resolve to make it a truly "holy" week centered on Jesus' suffering and ineffable love.

We can do this in many ways, beginning with redoubling our personal efforts of Lenten prayers, sacrifices and acts of charity. But we also do so in a wonderful way by joining in the works of the Church, especially by coming together for the **special liturgies** of this Holy Week.

We have begun this today, with this unique Mass of **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**, with the blessed Palms, the Solemn Entrance and reading of the Passion.

Then on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, **come to daily Mass**—let's fill the church with prayer! I know it can be inconvenient for you, but the scourging at the pillar was more than "inconvenient" for Our Lord. And don't forget **Adoration/Exposition** on Wednesday. And if you haven't been yet this Lent, **come to Confession**—our Lord awaits you there, to wash you clean with the grace pouring from His side on the Cross. We have confessions every day (except Holy Thursday and Easter Sunday) with extra priests all week. (Please see the schedule inserted in this bulletin for all the special events and liturgies of this week.)

On **Holy Thursday**, there is no Mass during the day, but in the evening join us here in the parish as Lent officially ends and the **Triduum** ("three days") begins as we celebrate **The Mass of The Lord's Supper**, commemorating the institution of the Sacraments of the

Eucharist and Priesthood. Afterwards, we walk with the Lord to the Garden of Gethsemane as we process with the Eucharist to an altar in the Parish Hall, where the Lord invites you to "remain here, and watch with me...watch and pray," for at least a few minutes or until midnight.

Then comes **Good Friday**, the holiest day of the year. It is a **day of fasting and abstinence** as we share in the suffering of the Lord. We should keep the day with quiet, reflection, and charity—even at work—especially from noon to three. **There is no Mass**; instead, we gather in the church at **3:00 in the afternoon**, the hour of our Lord's death, for the solemn **Celebration of the Passion of the Lord**. I beg you not to miss it, even if it means leaving work early! This is the highpoint of Lent, the holiest hour of the year—come and be with the Church to worship Christ at the foot of His Cross, at the hour of His death; **what in the world could be more important than this?!**

We begin this Liturgy with the priest silently entering the bare sanctuary (all decoration is removed and the tabernacle is empty) and prostrating himself before the altar, and we all join him by kneeling. We then read the Passion in narrative/dialogue form, from the Gospel of John. After the readings, the priest prays ten ritual intercessions, calling down our Lord's mercy on the Church and the world.

Then the priest brings a large crucifix to the sanctuary, and the people come forward to personally **venerate the Cross**, by a genuflection, kiss, or some other gesture. While this ritual veneration can take some time to complete, I'm always amazed and moved how everyone seems to embrace this, as the beautiful strains of our choir and the solemn atmosphere of the church help us to place ourselves for a few minutes next to the Blessed Mother, St. John and St. Mary Magdalene who waited for three hours at the foot of the Cross. After veneration, the priests bring the Blessed Sacrament (consecrated at Mass the night before) from the sacristy and the faithful receive Holy Communion. Afterwards the Cross is left in the sanctuary for those who wish to venerate it later in the day. **Stations of the Cross are prayed at 7:00pm.**

On **Holy Saturday** the Church continues its somber reflective mood, as She strongly encourages us to voluntarily continue to fast and abstain from meat as we do on Good Friday. Mass is never offered during the day on Holy Saturday, but at **8:30pm** (after sunset) the celebration of **Easter Sunday** begins with the **Easter Vigil Mass**. It is the "Mother" of all liturgies with all sorts of unique ceremonies: the blessing and presentation of the Easter Candle; the chanting of the *Exsultet*; a greatly extended Liturgy of the Word; and Baptism, reception into the Church, and Confirmation for adults and several older children. It is a glorious Mass, and I encourage all to attend. (However, lasting two hours, I must give fatherly caution that it can be tough for little ones).

This is a wondrous week, the holiest week of the year. Let's not squander this opportunity to change our lives so bereft of true love, to get caught up in the awesomeness of the Love of Christ Jesus.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

<u>MASS INTENTIONS</u>	
<p>Monday, April 3rd 6:30 am Annie Gellas 8:30 am Souls Dying Today</p> <p>Tuesday, April 4th 6:30 am Matthew Gellas 8:30 am Richard Matthews 7:00 pm Pope Benedict XVI +</p> <p>Wednesday, April 5th 6:30 am Nancy and Sunshine Osella 8:30 am Mary Berger 7:00 pm Fr. Jerome Daly +</p> <p>Thursday, April 6th Holy Thursday No Morning Mass 7:00 pm am Martha Riedel +</p> <p>Friday, April 7th Good Friday No Masses 3:00 pm Communion Service & Veneration of the Cross</p>	<p>Saturday, April 8th Holy Saturday No Morning Mass</p> <p>Easter Vigil Mass 8:30 pm Fr. De Celles For those brought into the Church at the Vigil</p> <p>Sunday, April 9th Easter Sunday 7:00 am Fr. Rippy Celebrant's Intentions 9:00 am Fr. Bergida Celebrant's Intentions 11:00 am Fr. Horkan Celebrant's Intentions 1:00 pm Fr. De Celles Celebrant's Intentions</p>

Please pray for our parishioners serving in Combat Zones and their families. If you have a relative serving in harm's way and would like to have his/her name included in our prayer list, please contact the parish office.

Ryan Higgins

Please pray for the sick of our parish

Glenn Bliss Tom Dietz Michael O'Neill Cindy Laird Patricia Lewis Mai Pham Joan Opiela Jason Saenz Phyllis Zitnik Patricia Del Buono Juanita Boarman John Florio Debra Henkel	Michael Malachowski Gaudencio Dizon Paul Haynes Dwayne Taylor Ted Tolpa Nena Brennan Serrin Foster Margaret O'Neill Christina Cautero Unborn Baby Mutumanje	Fatima Mutumanje Megan Bradley Tom Swengros Leonora Ramos Jose Tapia Michael Reeder Chand Samudre Josephine Samudre Sandy Reeder Lynn Tsukalas Ken Keller Carl Spataro
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- April 2-9** **HOLY WEEK & EASTER:** see schedule in the adjacent column
- April 3** **Family of Jesus Prayer Group**
- April 5** **Adoration 9am - 7pm**
- April 6-8** **NO Daily Family Rosary**
- April 10** **Easter Monday: One Mass at 8:30am**
Parish Offices are closed
- April 14** **Book Club, 10am**
- April 15** **Spring Senior Luncheon**
- April 15** **Easter Egg Hunt**

Donut Sunday, this 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. This month's Donut Sunday is hosted by our Young Adult Group.

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 are inviting all parishioners to sign up to donate eggs and candy by April 12th. Please check your email and our website for the sign up! For more information, please contact the parish office.

Fasting and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both fasting and abstinence, and every Friday in Lent is a day of abstinence. Failure to "substantially" keep these penances is grave matter (e.g., potentially a mortal sin). The law of abstinence requires that no meat may be eaten on these days, and binds all Catholics who are 14 years old or older. No other penance may be substituted. The law of fasting binds those who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The Church defines "fasting," for these purposes, as having only one full meal a day, with two additional smaller meals permitted, but only as necessary to keep up strength and so small that if added together they would not equal a full meal. Snacking is forbidden, but that does not include drinks that are not of the nature of a meal. Even though these rules do not bind all age groups, all are encouraged to follow them to the extent possible. The sick, pregnant or nursing mothers, and other folks with special physical circumstances may be partially or totally exempt from these rules—use good judgment and take care of yourself.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE April 2 -9

Palm Sunday, April 2

Blessing of the Palms at all Masses

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, April 3-5

Masses: 6:30am & 8:30am; 7pm on Tue. & Wed.

Confessions: Monday & Tuesday 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

Wednesday 6:00 pm—8:00 pm

Holy Thursday, April 6

No Masses during the day at St. Raymond's

No Confessions

7:00pm: "Mass of the Lord's Supper"

After Mass, **Night Watch** until Midnight in the Parish Hall

Good Friday, April 7

(a day of mandatory fasting and abstinence)

11:00am - 12:00pm: Confessions

3:00pm: "Celebration of the Lord's Passion"

(Veneration of the Cross & Reception of Holy Communion)

4:45pm - 6:00pm: Confessions

7:00pm: Stations of the Cross

7:30pm: Confessions (until the line runs out)

Holy Saturday, April 8

(a day of voluntary fasting and abstinence)

12:00pm: Blessing of the Easter Baskets

1:00pm - 3:00pm: Confessions

8:30pm: Easter Vigil Mass

EASTER SUNDAY, April 9

7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am and 1:00pm

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. **Please note: There will be no parish rosary during the Triduum, April 6-8.**



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!



Into the Breach, April 15. All Knights and men of St. Raymond's Parish are invited to attend the next session of the Into the Breach Program sponsored by the Knights of Columbus on **Saturday, April 15, 10 am - 12 pm in the Maurer Room.** This session is on **Spiritual Warfare.** The goal of Into the Breach is to help men grow in their faith and become the men that God is calling them to be. Pre-registration is required and is limited to 20 attendees. For more information and to register, please contact Pat Franco at (703) 220-2403 or at popsfr8@aol.com.

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 15.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.

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.

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.

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 11 by emailing office@straymonds.org

Or by calling the office at 703-440-0535

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. For more ways to become involved, please visit: marih.org.

THANK YOU to all who peacefully prayed and stood witness to the sanctity of life during the 40 Days for Life Campaign. Only God knows the full impact of our presence. However, we all know that life is sacred and we are all called to defend it. **Thou shalt not kill.**

Public Holy Hour. Good Friday, April 7, 2023 at Noon. Alexandria Women's Health Clinic, Northern Virginia's busiest abortion mill, at 2616 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Come pray for one hour 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.

The Power of Prayer. Abortionists trespass against us. Yet we are called to 'forgive those who trespass against us'. The Lord also admonishes us to love and pray for those who persecute us. At St Raymond's we have Mass offered every year for each of the known abortionists in our area. As we each strive to live the Gospel of Life, please continue to pray for the conversion of abortionists.

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: nbccenter.org. 215-877-2660
Consultations: consults@nbccenter.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

*All are welcome to participate in Youth Apostolate events.
*Make sure forms are signed and on file. <http://bit.ly/YAforms>

PLANTER RAFFLE

HAND-CRAFTED BY OUR WORKCAMP TEENS

WorkCamp Fundraiser

Tickets on sale after ALL Masses

April 1st & 2nd



Win 1 of 3

We hope to raise \$5,500 towards WorkCamp 2023.

Tickets can also be purchased online at

<https://bit.ly/RAFFLE2023> now through April 1st



3 WINNERS WILL BE DRAWN APRIL 2ND AFTER THE 1PM MASS.
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

Monday, April 3rd

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 5:30-7pm on 1st & 3rd Mondays

Holy Thursday 7 Church Pilgrimage (7pm Mass until 12am)

The 7 Church Pilgrimage is a beautiful way to keep watch, adoring our Lord in the Holy Eucharist before He is taken from us at midnight. A few compliant adults will drive any high school teens who want to join us. Permission slips required and are available on youth boards, in email that was sent out, or at <https://bit.ly/PERMISSIONSLIPS>. Families are also invited to participate. Reflections & route will be available on table in foyer of parish hall after Mass on Holy Thursday.

April 2nd & April 9th: NO Youth Group or CCD

We will resume our usual schedule Sunday 4/16.

6:30am Fri. Morning Mass & Breakfast resumes 4/21

All 7-12th graders: Join us Friday mornings for Mass followed by breakfast with Fr. Horkan & Fr. Bergida in the parish hall. RSVP by Wed. 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 Thursdays, so you don't have to get up early!** Sign up at <https://bit.ly/FriBfast>

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

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

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

No CCD classes THIS week: April 2, 3 and 4: Holy Week / FFX Co. Spring Break

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

Attention Confirmation candidates: Confirmation Gown Order Form is due in the Religious Education office no later than April 12th.

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. You should have received an email in early March with specific information.

** If you have not already done so, please notify the Religious Education office with the date and Mass time you have chosen for your child to receive their First Holy Communion.

ART, DRAMA, MUSICAL THEATRE CAMPS for K-12 in a Catholic setting: Returning July 10-21, **Broadway Spotlight** and **Drama Bootcamp** trains campers in Acting, Improv, Song & Dance and concludes their week with a show for families! **Art Camps** incorporate many special projects in different mediums that all go on display in an end of week Art Show. Most of the professional instructors teach in our Diocesan Schools and bring a myriad of experience in their specialties. **Through April 15th, all camps are \$25 off** plus everyone gets a free t-shirt. Learn more and register at www.SpotlightSummerCamps.com.

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.

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!

Spring/Summer 2023 Class to enter the Catholic Church (RCIA) will be offered at St Raymond's Parish on **Monday evenings 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Classes will run from April 17, 2023 until August 25, 2023** (except for Memorial Day, May 29). This program is based on the teachings of the Catholic Church and designed to prepare 1) baptized adult non-Catholics to enter the Catholic Church, and 2) baptized adult Catholics seeking First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation. Also, **anyone who desires a better understanding of Catholic teachings and practices is welcome.** No advanced registration is required. The standard RCIA program will be offered beginning in September 2023. If you have questions, call Bob or Bev Ward at 703-644-5873 or email biblestudy@straymonds.org.

Church Persecuted

Last week we presented some portions of the Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) Family Life education (FLE) program. This program has been in place for at least 30 years and is very aggressive in presenting information in the classroom which should be reserved for discussions between the child and parent. FCPS makes it very difficult for parents to review the program materials.

Fortunately, <https://parentandchild.org/> was formed in 2017 by some Fairfax County parents whose children attend or graduated from FCPS. They believe that parents need to know what's being taught in the FLE lessons and decide for themselves if these lessons are appropriate for their children. They have produced the Family Life Education Lesson Reviews (2022-2023).

The parent group reviewed each individual lesson of the FLE program and provided the results at the website listed above using a red, yellow, green scoring system. Moreover, it appears to be an honest review, in that if there are some good things being taught, the reviewers noted that with a green light. For example,

First grade: GREEN "Students are taught to identify responsibilities of different family members and that if each family member takes care of his or her responsibilities, it makes it easier for the family to function."

On the other hand...

Tenth grade: RED "Students discuss three options available in the event of an unplanned pregnancy: Keep and parent the baby, adoption, abortion. Teacher's notes state that young women can obtain abortion without parental consent using free legal services."

FORMED
Get In-Formed!

Watch Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage. This contemplative documentary by the Augustine Institute takes us to the location of our Lord's final days, providing accompanying meditations to draw us deeper into these holiest three days of our Lord's Passion and Resurrection.

Listen to Three Days That Changed the World. Fr. Hector Perez leads us through our Savior's final hours and the great sufferings of our Lord in His Passion, all done out of love for us.

Listen to Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues. Bishop Robert Baron relies on Dante's *Divine Comedy* as he lays out the largest obstacles (sins) to our relationship with God and others and the solutions (virtues) to surmounting them.

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.

Bishop's Lenten Appeal 2023: Don't forget to make a donation to the BLA to help us reach our parish goal. You may make a gift at: www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA



Angelus Academy

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

Do you have any shoes you no longer love, but that are still in good condition? Angelus Academy is holding a "Shoe Drive" fundraiser to collect new and gently used shoes, boots, and cleats. We are paid by the pound and need help reaching our goal of 2,500 pairs of footwear before April 20th. Please consider donating; it supports our school, and it helps clean out your closet! You can contact parishioner Heather Ruffner at hruffner@angelusacademy.org to make arrangements for pickup/drop-off. All money raised by this event goes directly to school operations. God Bless!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.
www.AngelusAcademy.org 703-924-3996
7644 Dynatech Ct., Springfield, VA 22153
Admissions@angelusacademy.org

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

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.

FAITH DIRECT MARCH 2023

Offertory	\$ 49,045.00
Family Assistance	\$ 2,555.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 6,515.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 1,905.00
Aid to Central & Eastern Europe	\$ 1,540.00
Black & Indian Missions	\$ 1,070.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 2,488.00

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 15,438.30
Family Assistance	\$ 620.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,752.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 957.00

The Second Collection on Easter will be for the Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Fund.



Fairfax Electric Co.

Licensed, Bonded & Insured

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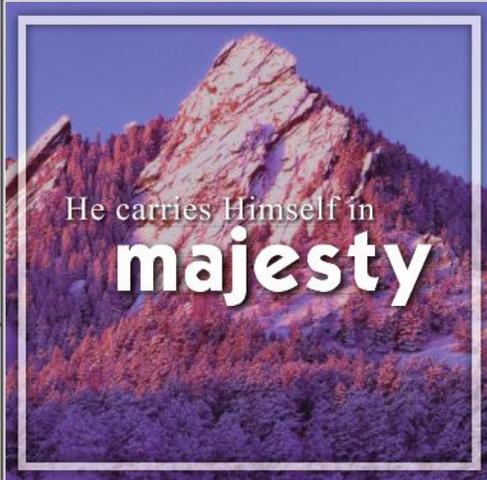
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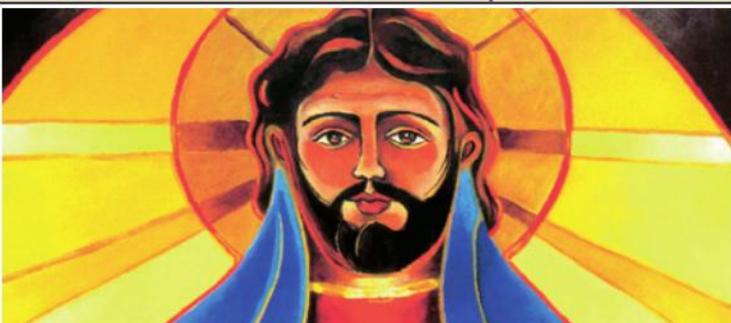
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