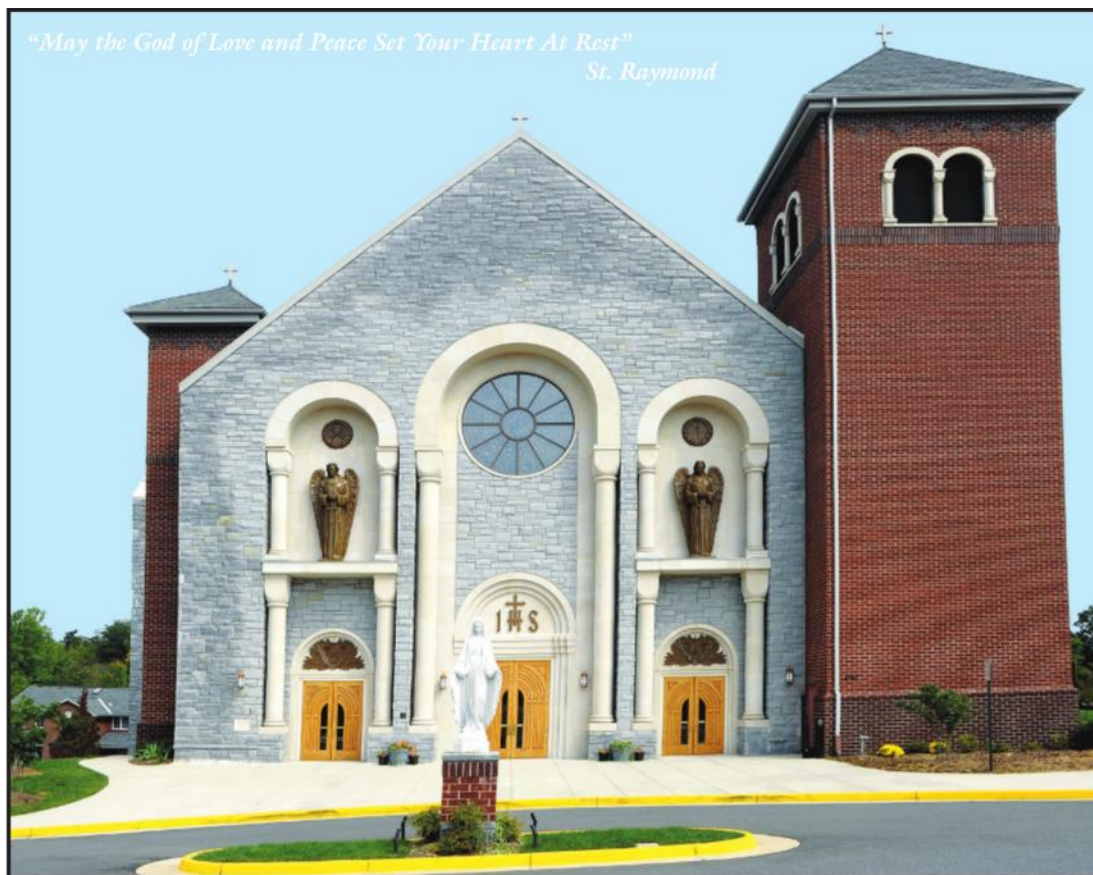


"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"
St. Raymond



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

Joyful, Blessed and Happy Easter! I hope you all had a truly joyful Easter day, and I pray that this joy has been sustained in you throughout this week and will continue through the rest of the Easter Season.

I also hope you had a good and holy Lent, preparing you for Easter. I know I did (although I'm not sure how holy it made me). I was very encouraged to see so many folks come to the various extra Liturgies during Lent, and also the number of folks going to confession. This is probably my favorite thing about Lent: seeing so many of you striving to grow in holiness. Thank you for giving me such a good Lent, and Easter.

In that regard I'd like to thank so many of you who worked so hard to give our parish such a special Lent and Triduum this year. Allow me to recognize a few who made special contributions.

First of all, I give thanks to Our Lord Jesus and His Father and Holy Spirit, for their great love for us, poured out on the Cross and made glorious in the Resurrection. I also give thanks to all of you joining in all the Lenten events of the Triduum.

In particular **I want to single out the Altar Servers**, especially those who served the weekday Masses of Lent and the three great liturgies of the Triduum. Many have told me how inspired they were to see the dozens of boys and young men serving so reverently, especially the large numbers on Holy Thursday (30) Good Friday and the Vigil. I was very proud of them all. I sincerely hope, and believe, that we will have several priestly vocations from this group of servers; but I also believe that their devout service of Jesus will contribute greatly to making many good Catholic husbands and fathers in the future. Thanks also to Christophe Sanchez-O'Brien and Lewis Bliss who acted as MCs.

And I can't say enough about the stunning contribution of **our choir and cantors**, and especially **Elisabeth Turco**, our Music Director, and **Joseph Memagh**, our organist. We all heard how beautifully they sang, etc., but few of us were there at their extra hours of practice. In some parishes music is an afterthought, and in others music dominates the liturgy. But we are truly blessed to have a music program that strives and succeeds at truly serving and complementing the liturgy.

Thanks also to the folks who decorated the church, especially Julie Mullen and her flower committee. Also, a special thanks to Nena Brennen, our head sacristan, along with her family. Thanks to all the lectors, headed by Phil Bettwy and Patty Pacheco, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, headed by Barbara Aldridge. Thanks to all the groups who ran the Soup Suppers. Also, thanks to the ushers, who did an extraordinary job this year. Particular thanks to Patrick O'Brien, head usher, who worked hard in so many ways. Thanks also to the parish staff for all their good work, especially to Virginia Osella, for all the extra hours they put in.

And **congratulations to our RCIA folks**. We baptized and confirmed 4, welcomed into full communion and confirmed 6 former Protestants, and confirmed 2 adult Catholics. Welcome to them all and let us commit to keeping them in our prayers. Also, thanks to Bob and Bev Ward for their dedication in teaching them so thoroughly and faithfully week after week for the last months.

Finally, thanks to Fr. Bergida and Fr. Horkan for all their hard work, and to Fr. Rippey for all his help.

Divine Mercy Sunday. This Second Sunday in the Octave of Easter is also known as "Divine Mercy Sunday," established as such in 2000 by Pope St. John Paul II, in recognition of the mercy that flows to all mankind from the Paschal Mystery of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. The Pope was inspired by the claims of St. Faustina Kowalska that Jesus Himself had requested this during His private apparitions to her during the 1930s. The Lord reportedly also told St. Faustina: "I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened."

Although private apparitions/revelations such as this need not be believed by Catholics, this one, as with many others, has been recognized by the Church as "worthy of belief" (i.e., it is consistent with the Catholic faith). Moreover, the Church has established a plenary indulgence for this Sunday: "...granted under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of Supreme Pontiff) to the faithful who, on the Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday, in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!)." You may go to confession "within several days (about 20) before or after the indulgenced act." For a brief explanation of indulgences, see the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1471ff.]

Spies Among Us? I have always, and continue to, respect the men and women of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I am very pleased to have so many great FBI agents/employees in our parish. But something is rotten in the Bureau today. According to the Catholic News Agency:

"A new document revealed that the Richmond Federal Bureau of Investigation used at least one undercover agent to obtain information about traditionalist Catholics, said Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, who chairs the House Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government."

"In response to its inquiry, the committee announced it received from the FBI a heavily redacted 18-page document that uncovered limited information about the agency's efforts to investigate a supposed link between traditionalist Catholics and 'the far-right white nationalist movement.'"

"The committee had requested information following the leak of an internal memo dated Jan. 23 that originated from the FBI's Richmond division. The memo, which the FBI later retracted, called for such investigations within traditionalist Catholic communities."

"Titled 'Interest of Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists in Radical-Traditionalist Catholic Ideology Almost Certainly Presents New Mitigation Opportunities,' the memo singles out Catholics who are interested in the Traditional Latin Mass as potentially linked to violent extremist groups...."

"Jordan included this excerpt from the redacted FBI document: 'In addition to [redaction], engage in outreach to the leadership of other [Society of St. Pius X] chapels in the FBI Richmond [area of responsibility] to sensitize these congregations to the warning signs of radicalization and to enlist their assistance to serve as suspicious activity tripwires.'"

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, April 17th**6:30 am Annie Gellas
8:30 am John C. Cobb +**Tuesday, April 18th**6:30 am Paul Tulley +
8:30 am Stephen Paul Shook**Wednesday, April 19th**6:30 am Don & Louise
Sundberg +
8:30 am Paul Rinn +**Thursday, April 20th**6:30 am Matthew Gellas
8:30 am Irene Dohn +**Friday, April 21st**6:30 am Susan Sundberg +
8:30 am Laura Schweitzer**Saturday, April 22nd**9:00 am Brady & Lily
Prohaska**Vigil Mass**5:00 pm
Alejandro Flores +**Sunday, April 23rd**7:00 am
Matthew Noelke +
9:00 am
Parishioners
11:00 am
Jefferson Nguyen
1:00 pm
Zachary Hoopes**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

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.

"Mary Went in Haste": A Marian Symposium: Please join as a diocesan family as we honor the Blessed Virgin in Year Two of our Golden Jubilee, "My Soul Rejoices in the Lord." The Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop for the Military Services USA, and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), will be the guest speaker at "Mary Went in Haste": A Marian Symposium on **Saturday, April 29, at St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Springfield.** The day will start with Mass at 9 a.m., followed by a coffee break, a talk and Q and A session at 10:30 a.m. and conclude with the recitation of the Rosary. We look forward to seeing you there!

Welcome, New Members of the Catholic Church! St. Raymond's Parish extends a warm welcome to the following people, who received the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 8, 2023, enabling them to join the Catholic Church (or complete their initiation): Chelsey K. Baldwin, Beau R. Bernardo, Joseph E. Hempfling, Morgan B. Hempfling, Addisen G. Madden, Elizabeth N. Morrison, Garold W. Sherlock, John M. Teschner, Fernando Torrico Olivera, Jennifer Tran, Sarah R. Wadsworth, Alice Zhang. Please keep them all in your prayers!

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.

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 -safely returned home!

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 John Florio Debra Henkel	Michael Malachowski Gaudencio Dizon Paul Haynes Dwayne Taylor Ted Tolpa Nena Brennan Serrin Foster Margaret O'Neill Christina Cautero	Bernard Beau Mutumanje Megan Bradley Tom Swengros Leonora Ramos Lynn Tsukalas Ken Keller Donald Trayer Ellen Trayer Patty Pacheco Vickie Decker
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

April 17	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
April 17	Summer RCIA Program Begins
April 18	Bible Study
April 19	Adoration 9am - 7pm
April 19	Legion of Mary
April 20	Bridge Club resumes
April 21	Adoration 9am - 3pm
April 22	First Holy Communion Mini-Retreat
May 6	Men's Prayer Group
May 6	Luminaries of Mary
May 22	Confirmation Mass

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 21, 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.

Annual Parish Rosary Promotion and Legion of Mary Recruitment Weekend: Please visit the Legion of Mary table in the narthex on April 15-16 to get a Rosary, holy card or other religious items. Additionally, take the opportunity to speak with a Legion member to have the Pilgrim Virgin (Fatima) Statue scheduled to be brought to your home for a week during the year. Legion Auxiliary members – please drop by to visit and update your contact information, plus gain some insights on Legion activities.

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. 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: Less than 2 WEEKS until the Raffle Drawing on Sat., April 29! Have you purchased or sold your tickets? Did you realize that each ticket has a chance to win cash drawings (including one for \$20,000!) and four vehicles? When a winner is drawn, their name goes back into the drum for subsequent drawings. What a deal! And, the money helps to pay for important St. Raymond parish initiatives! A special "thanks" to all who continue to pick up extra tickets. Keep up the great work! Additionally, tickets will be offered for sale after all Masses next weekend (Apr. 22-23) and by emailing Mark Lawton at mark_cindy85@msn.com. Good luck!

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 May 6.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.

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.

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. Learn more and register at www.SpotlightSummerCamps.com.

St. Paul VI Catholic High School is hosting a variety of camps and clinics this summer, including theatre, band, basketball, football, volleyball, and much more. All will take place on our new campus at 42341 Braddock Rd. Chantilly, VA. Visit www.paulvi.net/student-life/summer-camps for details.

JP Business Network Speaker Series Night at St. John Paul the Great Catholic High School. Join us on Tuesday, April 25th from 5:30 - 7 P.M. in Aquinas Hall for our first Speaker Series Night! The evening will include wine and light hors d'oeuvres followed by a talk on Saint John Paul II's *Theology of Work* by Head of School Sister Mary Veronica, O.P. Bring a friend and introduce them to the JP Business Network, a professional network of business owners and representatives supporting JP.

RSVP at this link: <https://www.jpthegreat.org/apps/form/form.SAIJPTGCH.tvWpvVx.SI>. We hope to see you there!

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE
Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH. Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE

May all who fear confessing involvement in abortion be assured of Christ's Mercy.

"Lay your head on my shoulder, rest and regain your strength. I am always with you." Diary of St. Faustina

Please visit: www.usccb.org/prolife/pray-life-divine-mercy

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.

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. For more information, visit: nbccenter.org or call 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.

Natural Family Planning. A gift to your marriage. For more info visit: ccli.org

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: 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." **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, call 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>

Thank you to all who supported our WorkCampers in our planter raffle! We brought in a grand total of \$3,437! This was shy of our \$5,500 goal, but \$406 more than last year! **Congratulations to the winners: Mr. Dominic Savini, Mr. John Crennan, and Ms. Savannah Conley!** To all who supported us by buying tickets and to those who so generously donated to support our 12 WorkCampers and 3 Adult Crew Leaders...**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!** Because of you we are able to serve. Thank you for being a part of our mission!!

Sunday 4/16: Youth Group & CCD (Parish Hall)

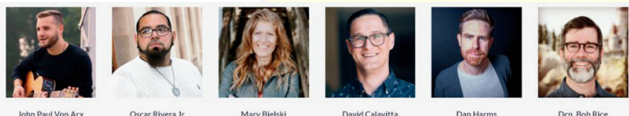
4-5:30pm Junior High Youth Group (pizza served)

5:30-7pm 7-12th Grade CCD

7-8:30pm High School Youth Group (pizza served)

6-8th Grade BASH Youth Rally (2:30-9:30pm April 22nd)

Attention 6-8th Graders! Do inflatable games, a rock wall, a Gaga Ball tournament, music, a free throw competition, inspirational speakers, the opportunity for confession and Sunday Vigil Mass with the Bishop sound like a good time to you? If so, join us for the Diocese of Arlington's Middle School BASH on Saturday, April 22 at Bishop O'Connell High School. You won't regret it! The cost to attend is only \$15 per person, which also includes pizza, Rita's ice cream, all the fun you can imagine and a free t-shirt! Go to <https://bit.ly/PERMISSIONSLIPS> for more info. or to register. **Registration due TODAY 4/16!**



Steubenville Youth Conference (July 7-9)

Registration deadline = TODAY, April 16th

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>

Monday, April 17th

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 from 5:30-7pm in the Maurer Room 1st & 3rd Mondays. Newcomers always welcome!

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. and we can coordinate our volunteers to drive you to school, or show up for Mass and have your parent drive you to school after breakfast! <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVP>

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

BLESSED AND HAPPY EASTER to you all!!

CCD classes resume this week - beginning TONIGHT (April 16th)

Attention parents of 8th grade students:

Confirmation Gown Order form was due April 12th. Order will be placed later this week - please submit the form - by email or in person - ASAP if you have not already done so!



Attention parents of 2nd grade students: First Holy Communion Mini-Retreat will take place NEXT Saturday April 22nd from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. here at St. Raymond's.

Attention parents of 7th Grade students:

Saint Report in the *Interviewing a Saint* format is **due May 4th** - check the Confirmation Supplement, which you received in September, for details.

Final Exams will be administered May 7, 8 and 9: Parents, please work with your children in learning the material in the Second Semester section of the Basic Study Questions booklet for their grade level.

2023-2024 CCD Registration forms are going home THIS WEEK with the oldest or only child from each family. Please complete the form and return as soon as possible; classes are filled on a first come, first served basis. **PLEASE NOTE: there will be no regular CCD classes on Tuesdays** for the 2023-2024 academic year!

Home School Group: for more information visit our website www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/ Or email straymondhsg@gmail.com.

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!

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.

Catholic Charities Family Services can help if you or someone you know is struggling with anxiety, depression, grief, and marital or parenting concerns. We offer transformational outpatient counseling services to individuals, couples, and families of all faiths and backgrounds. Call **703-447-9402**, and for more information, visit <https://www.cdda.net/need-help/medical-and-counseling/counseling/>

Church Persecuted

The powers that be at The Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, ended a contract with a community of Franciscan friars to provide spiritual care to Catholics at the hospital days before Holy Week. In doing so, the hospital awarded a contract to a for-profit company to provide care to Catholics.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, of the Archdioceses for Military Services called the move ending the nearly two-decade relationship with the friars “incomprehensible.”

“This is a classic case where the adage ‘if it is not broken, don’t fix it’ applies,” he said. “It is incomprehensible that essential pastoral care is taken away from the sick and the aged when it was so readily available,” reported Broglio in a statement released on Good Friday.

“The refusal to provide adequate pastoral care while awarding a contract for Catholic ministry to a for-profit company that has no way of providing Catholic priests to the medical center is a glaring violation of service members’ and veterans’ right to the Free Exercise of Religion” [found in the First Amendment of the Constitution].

“Especially during Holy Week, the lack of adequate Catholic pastoral care causes untold and irreparable harm to Catholics who are hospitalized and therefore a captive population whose religious rights the government has a constitutional duty to provide for and protect,” the archdiocesan statement said.

The archdiocesan general counsel had tried to contact officials at Walter Reed without success. In a statement to Catholic News Agency, Walter Reed sidestepped the issue by stating that the pastoral care contract “is under review to ensure it adequately supports the religious needs of our patients and beneficiaries.”

CatholicNewsAgency.com “Broglio blasts military hospital for putting for-profit firm in charge of Catholic pastoral care,” 4/8/23

FORMED[®] Get In-Formed!

Today (the 2nd Sunday of Easter) is Divine Mercy Sunday.

Watch *Divine Mercy: In the Second Greatest Story Ever Told*. In this 10-part series (30 mins each), Fr. Michael Gaitley explores historical examples of God’s amazing mercy, incorporating stories and witness by St. Faustina, the children at Fatima, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and St. Pope John Paul II.

Listen to *Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues*. Bishop Robert Barron uses Dante’s Divine Comedy to explore the seven deadly sins and the opposing virtues necessary to overcome them to grow closer to our Lord.

See the Formed bulletin board by the central doors of the vestibule for additional suggestions.

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



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

Scholarships to Catholic Schools. St. Raymond’s will again offer a one-time \$2,000 scholarship for each parish child who is switching from public school (k-12) to Catholic school for the upcoming school year. **For all parish families, each student in Catholic grade school can receive \$1,000 and Catholic high school students can receive \$2,000. This amount is renewable every year and is subject only to minimal qualification terms. You need to be a parishioner and send a request for the scholarship to Fr. De Celles. Also, additional financial aid is available if a family truly can’t afford Catholic school, even with the above scholarships. These decisions are made on a case by case basis. There is also **assistance available for homeschooling families**. Contact the parish office for more information.**

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, 1 qt. oil vs. 1 gal oil).

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

Easter Sunday Offertory	\$ 23,011.00
Family Assistance	\$ 634.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 565.00
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School Scholarship Donations	\$ 2,710.00



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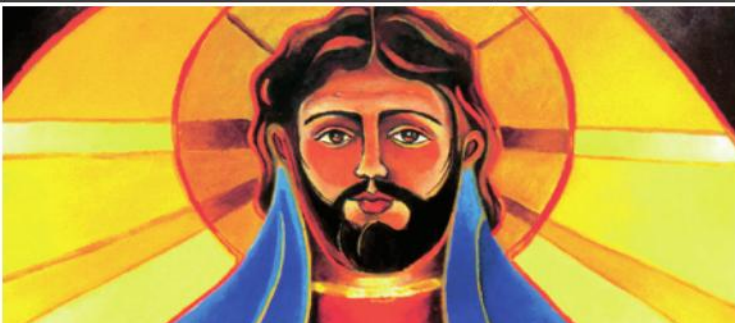
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