



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
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

Easter Continues. The Easter Season continues through Pentecost, May 28, reminding us that the power of the Resurrection of Christ extends throughout the year, i.e., to every day of our lives. The Resurrection is real, and has enduring effects: "by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free." So, let this be a time of remembering with great joy the Lord's power revealed in His death and resurrection, and that His grace makes that power effective in our own lives.

Update on Altar-Rail Repair. Well, the Altar Rail repair is complete now. In the past few weeks you've noticed the iron reinforcements placed at the ends of each rail. This last week the project was completed by encasing those ironworks in columns of marble which have dual purpose of additional structural reinforcement and aesthetic appeal. Thanks be to God, back to normal—only better.

Synod Developments. In continuing preparation for the **Synod on Synodality** in Rome in October, the "Continental phase" has been completed for North America, resulting in a 40 page document called, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission." According to the document, it is summary of the work of, "twelve virtual assemblies (sessions)" involving "931 delegates ...from a variety of vocations, with 391 lay women, 235 lay men, 76 deacons, 148 priests (diocesan and religious), 77 women religious, and 4 non-ordained men religious. There also were 146 bishops who participated in one or more of the virtual assemblies."

I am not impressed. Let me quote from an article by Robert Royal on "The Catholic Thing" last week:

"A good editor might have condensed the material to 5 pages. And the words 'redemption,' 'repentance,' 'mercy,' 'forgiveness,' let alone eternal matters like Heaven Hell, never appear. And there's only one allusion to how we're all 'broken and sinful.' So what are we listening to the Spirit for, other than a better social life in the Church? Doesn't eternity deserve some consideration?"

"...The bishops themselves actually make some sharp observations, beginning with, 'People don't know what the Synod on Synodality is for. They don't understand the purpose, couldn't grasp what was trying to be achieved.' And: 'Some polarizations arise within the Church, whereas others originate in the wider society and are transposed into the Church.'"

I'm not only not impressed with the document, but I also honestly disagree with this whole project. Among other reasons, as I wrote over a year ago:

"The input/listening is summarized/edited. The ultimate users—the bishops in synod, the bishops in charge of the synod ("Redactors") or even the Pope—are free to pick, choose and ignore, and then come up with final conclusions based on their own preferences, while at the same time claiming a "popular approval." After all, "they listened to the people."

"...Most importantly, it is not so much important to listen to the people, especially those who are dissenters, outside or even in opposition to the Church, as it is to listen to orthodox, wise, holy members of the faithful. And above all, it is much more important, absolutely so, to listen and obey Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture, i.e., the Deposit of the Faith. The Holy Spirit moves, but the evil spirit is also ever-present, "looking for someone to devour."

And allow me a new but small pet peeve: the 931 delegates mentioned above were all from Canada and the U.S. Note to the powers that be (I know you know this, but apparently you think we don't): the "Continent" of "North America" is not

just the United States and Canada, but includes Mexico and Greenland and all of Central America down to Panama—23 countries.

Senator Kaine Defends Spying on Catholics. Did you see this widely reported news story last week (quoting here from Catholic World News):

"Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA), a Catholic who was Sen. Hilary Clinton's running mate in the 2016 presidential election, defended an FBI investigation into 'radical traditionalist' Catholics that was brought to light by a leaked memo.

"The memo, distributed by the FBI's Richmond office, linked the traditional Latin Mass to hate groups. The memo, subsequently retracted by the FBI and condemned by Bishop Barry Knestout of Richmond, received criticism from 20 state attorneys-general and from former FBI leaders.

"Sen. Kaine said the purpose of the investigation was actually to look into violent extremists who were targeting 'radical traditionalist Catholics' in an effort to recruit them, according to WSET-TV, a television station based in Lynchburg, VA.

"We've done the same thing for years working in tandem with mosques because there have been groups that have tried to target or radicalize, especially young people," added the senator, who 'said he helped connect bishops with the FBI so they can further discuss these concerns with transparency.'"

What? Just to name a few problems with Kaine's logic:

1) Do law abiding Catholics, whose leaders are constantly calling them to "turn the other cheek" and "love your enemy," pose the same risk as law abiding Muslims who have so many of their leaders, and even their holy book, teaching them the opposite?

2) How many Catholic bishops or priests could be called advocates of "violent extremism," versus how many Muslim Imams or Mullahs? (Before you write me, yes, there are many peaceful and law-abiding Imams/Mullahs).

3) Is it at all reasonable to compare the reaction to "violent extremists" who gave us the death and destruction of "9/11" and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, to the work of so called "violent extremists who were targeting 'radical traditionalist Catholics'?"

4) Is the FBI investigating "extremist" public school teachers who are trying to recruit students into lifestyles and political views contrary to the laws and founding values of our nation, some of them even promoting the "violent extremism" of groups like Antifa?

5) Last but not least (and really not "last"): are "traditional Catholics," LIKE ME AND MANY OF YOU, really so stupid that they need Kaine and the FBI to tell them what to believe and that violent extremism is a bad thing?

Post-Lent: Time to Catch Up, and More. Thanks to the good work of Fr. Bergida and Fr. Horkan, this Lent was probably the least stressful for me in years. Even so, with the extra attention paid to the special activities of Lent and the Triduum, I found myself postponing or overlooking some of the ordinary "business" of the parish. Because of this, I am now playing catch up, going back and discovering all the things I didn't do during Lent. This includes emails I might not have responded to. In this regard, if I have neglected an email or other request from you, I apologize, and if I owe you a phone call or email, please remind me: I consider that an act of kindness. And thanks for your continuing patient charity.

New Plant Manager. Many thanks to Joe Marquart for his hard work and dedication as Plant Manager over the last two years. Joe is leaving that post, and we are looking for his replacement. More details on the job description next week.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, April 24th**6:30 am Barnett Klehman +
8:30 am Lily & Brady Prohaska**Tuesday, April 25th**6:30 am Sally Christensen +
8:30 am Colleen Boozer**Wednesday, April 26th**6:30 am Jean Perry Soule
Gamble +
8:30 am Christine Petitti +**Thursday, April 27th**6:30 am Henrietta T. Critelli +
8:30 am Robert Dinh**Friday, April 28th**6:30 am Townsend Family
8:30 am Annie Gellas**Saturday, April 29th**

9:00 am Meghan Anezin

Vigil Mass5:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
James Peter Butler**Sunday, April 30th**7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
Elizabeth Hurley +9:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
Parishioners11:00 am **Fr. Bergida**
Linda & Jack Anezin1:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
Stephanie Bomar +

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
Deborah Buzas

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!

May is the month of Mary! We will mark this month of Marian piety on Sunday, May 7, with the "May Crowning" after the 9am Mass. The Youth Apostolate will again help us with a brief ceremony paying homage to the Blessed Mother. Please join us!

American Flag Retirement. St. Raymond's American Heritage Girls Troop 0683 is hosting a US Flag retirement ceremony on Friday, May 12th at 7pm, on the patio area behind the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend! There is a **box in the narthex to collect flags** parishioners would like to retire.

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.

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

April 24	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
April 24	Spring/Summer RCIA Program
April 25	Bible Study
April 26	Adoration 9am - 7pm
April 26	Legion of Mary
April 27	Bridge Club
April 28	Adoration 9am - 3pm
May 5-6	First Friday Nocturnal Adoration
May 6	Men's Prayer Group
May 6	Luminaries of Mary
May 7	May Crowning after 9am Mass
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.

Teaching Opportunities: Looking for a rewarding opportunity to share your knowledge and passion for teaching? Consider joining our home school group as a teacher for high school classes! Our group is made up of motivated and engaged students who are eager to learn. We welcome teachers from all disciplines. Teachers will have flexibility to set schedule and fees. If you are interested, please contact Katherine or Malia today at straymondhsg@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

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!



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: Could you use a new vehicle or \$20,000? Would you like to give additional financial support to the church? The car raffle gives you a chance to do both! Purchase tickets for a chance to win various vehicles, \$20,000 and additional cash prizes, and your purchase supports St. Raymond's Parish -- a win-win! Time is getting short -- the drawing is next weekend, Sat., Apr. 29. Tickets will be offered for sale after all Masses April 22-23. This will be the last opportunity to buy tickets, so don't miss it! If you have any questions or need more tickets, contact 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.

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 May 6.** All are welcome.

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!

May Book Club: The parish Book Club will next meet on **Friday, May 12, 2023**, at 10:00 AM in the St Raymond Library to discuss "**Behold, It Is I: "Scripture, Tradition and Science on the Real Presence"**" by Stacy Trasancos & Fr George Elliot. New members are welcome, regardless of how much of the book they may (or may not) have read. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.

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.

Legion of Mary: Do you want to develop a closer relationship with our Mother Mary and her Son, Jesus? The Legion of Mary weekly meeting is held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Maurer Room. All auxiliary members and anyone interested in joining the Legion of Mary are welcome. Point of Contact: Judy Mayer, jmayer9014@aol.com, or 703-627-7320.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

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

The Easter Season is a season of life. May Christ's Victory over death encourage us to continue to pray daily for an end to abortion.

"Society as a whole must defend the conceived child's right to life and the true good of the woman who can never, in any circumstance, find fulfillment in the decision to abort." Pope Benedict XVI

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: ncbcenter.org or call 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.

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 contact GabrielProject@arlingtondiocese.org.

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate

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

Sunday 4/23 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 (lasagna dinner)

Friday, April 28th 6:30am Morning Mass & Breakfast

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>

Monday, May 2nd

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!

7-8:30pm Saturday, May 6th

High School Swing Dance (Parish Hall)

Looking for something fun to do? St. Raymond's High School Youth Apostolate is hosting a night of swing dancing from 7-8:30pm on May 6th and the first Saturday in June. All high school teens are invited. No cost. A 2022-2023 YA Info. Sheet is required to be on file in order to participate. (You can bring it with you when you come.)

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>

ART, DRAMA, MUSICAL THEATRE CAMPS for K-12 in

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. Camps are designed to be both fun and challenging with a goal to aid campers in their growth in the arts within a safe environment. **Register by May 31st to receive an early bird discount and get a free t-shirt.** 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 and to register.

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 Season to you all!!

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 went home last week with the oldest or only child from each family currently enrolled in the CCD program.

- Neon green registration forms can be found in the Narthex for those families not currently enrolled in the program. Please complete and return the form as soon as possible; classes are filled on a first come, first served basis. **PLEASE NOTE: there are no regular CCD classes on Tuesdays!**

We are in need of the following volunteers for the 2023-2024 academic year:

Sunday (5:30-7 p.m.): Grade 1 Assistant Teacher

Monday (4:45-6:15 p.m.):

Grade 1 Assistant Teacher

Grade 4 Assistant Teacher

Grade 5 Assistant Teacher

Grade 7 Assistant Teacher

RCIC (upper elementary) Assistant Teacher

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.

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/>

Office for Healing of Victims/Survivors of Sexual Abuse: The Office of Victim Assistance offers outreach and support. For more information, please contact their office at 703-841-2530 or victimassistance@arlingtondiocese.org.

Church Persecuted

For years, Catholics have been fighting the draconian state and federal governments for bringing death to unborn children. After the Dobbs decision of last June, states have gone out of their way to solidify abortion on demand.

On Friday, April 14, 2023, Colorado Governor Jared Polis signed into law three bills that solidify several policies directly opposed to upholding the dignity of life. As a result, Bella Health and Wellness – “a Colorado-based Catholic healthcare provider offering obstetrics-gynecology care as well as family medicine, pediatrics, and functional medicine” – and the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty have taken legal action. Most notably, the bills ban the abortion pill reversal procedure in Colorado and require “insurance providers to cover the full cost of abortion and [expand] access to ‘gender-affirming’ care.”

This is a medically outrageous bill since the abortion pills are taken in two phases and the patient could change her mind after taking the first one, perhaps saving the life of her child if proper medical care is received.

Cofounder and CEO at Bella Health and Wellness, Dede Chism, NP, stated: “When a woman seeks our help to reverse the effects of the abortion pill, we have a religious obligation to offer every available option for her and her child.” In a joint letter, the bishops of Colorado emphasized, “They remove ‘choice’ for women to choose life and violate the First Amendment rights of all Coloradans, healthcare providers, employers, and pregnancy centers... It causes us profound sadness and distress to know that some Catholic legislators voted for this.” (*Denver Catholic*, April 14, 2023)

<https://denvercatholic.org/colorado-governor-signs-pro-abortion-bills-becket-fund-and-bella-file-lawsuit/>

FORMED

Get In-Formed!

Watch *Lectio: Saint Mark the Evangelist*. (Feast Day April 25) Augustine Institute President Dr. Tim Gray explores this gospel writer and his connection to the early Christians using scripture and other outside sources.

Watch *Who is Catherine of Siena?* (Feast Day April 29) In this episode of Catholic Saints on Formed, Augustine Institute President Dr. Tim Gray discusses this mystic and doctor of the church with Dr. Elizabeth Klein.

Watch *The Chris Stefanick Show: Fear is Normal, but Does it Control You?* Navy Seal Dom Raso teaches how to effectively redirect fear into a mindset of faith in God rather than trying to avoid it.

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 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. **Deadline extended to Apr. 28!**

You can contact parishioner Heather Ruffner at hruffner@angelusacademy.org to make arrangements for pickup/drop-off. Your help in reaching our goal is greatly appreciated, as 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

Sunday Offertory	\$ 14,544.00
Easter	\$ 1,538.00
Family Assistance	\$ 630.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 885.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 1,085.00

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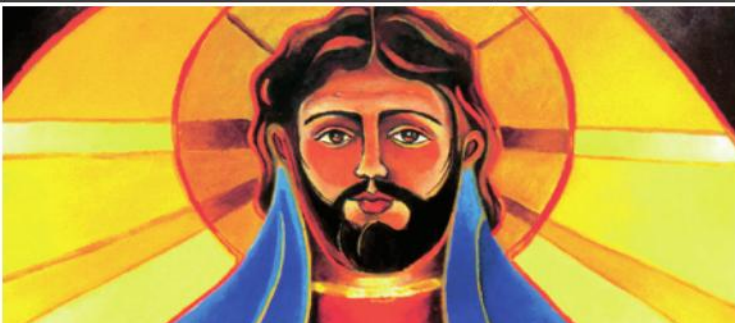
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