



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

**8750 Pohick Road  
Springfield, VA 22153**

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

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

**Website**  
[www.straymonds.org](http://www.straymonds.org)

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

### PARISH OFFICE:

Telephone Numbers:

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

### Office Hours

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

### E-Mail

Church: [Office@straymonds.org](mailto:Office@straymonds.org)  
Rel. Ed.: [ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org](mailto:ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org)  
Choirs: [Music@straymonds.org](mailto:Music@straymonds.org)

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

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

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

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Reconciliation/Confession)

#### Wednesday Evening

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

#### Saturday Morning

8:15 - 8:45 a.m.

#### Saturday Afternoon

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

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

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

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

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

## Pastor's Corner

**Operation “Lost Sheep.”** I've mentioned several times that our current attendance is only 67% of our pre-Covid attendance numbers. So as I've said before, we have to do something to bring back *our lost or missing sheep*.

But to identify the folks who are missing, we first need to identify who is coming to Mass. So, today and next week we are doing something extremely unusual: **we're taking attendance.**

I ask you sometime during Mass today or next week to PLEASE fill out the **survey cards in the pews** and **drop them into the collection basket** at Mass (either the first or the second collection). **Or if you forget to do that**, please do this on **our website** (go to [straymonds.org](http://straymonds.org) and click the link “Attendance Survey” on the pop-up menu).

I'm sorry for this sort of intrusion into your privacy, but we need to do something to help our brothers and sisters come back. So, **out of love for your pastor and your fellow parishioners**, I ask you to please cooperate.

**Month of May.** There are a lot of special activities in May in the parish. One very important “event” in May is always **First Holy Communion** for the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. As we've done in the last few years, we are allowing the children to receive FHC at any Mass in May their parents choose. The main reason we do this is to spread the FHC's around to various Masses so that all of you can share in this gift—and so not only pray for the children, but be reminded of your own First Communion, and maybe be renewed in that childlike faith and love for the Blessed Sacrament.

Please keep these little ones in your prayers, that they may prepare worthily and understand what they are doing and Who they are receiving. Pray that it will be a truly happy, holy and memorable day for them, and that it will lead them and their families to a long life of intimacy and fidelity with Jesus.

**Mary's Month.** The entire month of May is “Mary's Month,” dedicated to honoring and renewing our filial devotion to and love for the Mother of Jesus. So we will mark this month of Marian piety next Sunday, May 7, with the **“May Crowning”** after the 9am Mass. I also encourage all of you to pray the Rosary every day in May. Maybe you can join us for our **daily Family Rosary** in the church, Monday thru Friday at 6:30pm, Saturday and Sunday after 9am Mass. I especially encourage all families to pray the Rosary together at least once a week.

**Touching the Third Rail: Children at Mass.** Being a parent is incredibly challenging, especially these days, and especially at Mass. For example, sometimes you just can't stop a newborn or a two-year-old from doing what they so often naturally do —make noise. This problem is often compounded in larger families: parents try to deal with the crying newborn, while the 4 and 6-year-old talk to each other. I don't know how they manage; God bless them.

Many of these parents are torn between not wanting to disturb others and wanting to come to Mass as a family. And many understandably think: “Well, the Church and the priests encourage us to be pro-life and open to life—and we were!” Some people warn that if we're not careful we'll chase these families away from the parish or from Catholicism altogether.

But there are others we have to be very careful not to “chase away.” I can't tell you how many times I've heard young people tell me that as a teenager they stopped going to Mass because week after week they found themselves completely distracted by the little children around them. As one boy told me, “why bother?” Not a good excuse, but that's the way a lot of teenage (especially boys') minds work.

On the other hand, there's the story of the mother who was up all night with a colicky baby, and didn't notice her 3-year-old run up into the sanctuary. Or the father of an autistic little boy who suddenly laughed out loud at Mass, only to be scolded by the people in front of him, and he broke into tears.

Back and forth. What do we do? The only answer seems again to be a combination of Christ's grace, and practicing the virtues of patience and charity—by all parties. All of us who might be distracted should try our very best to charitably empathize and be patient, “offering up” the distraction, and/or if necessary (and possible) move to another seat. But in the same way, those parents with disruptive children should be charitable to those around them, and patient with their frustration—and try to take steps to ease the situation when possible.

*Now, let's be clear.* Babies and small children sometimes make noise—that's just part of what they do. A baby will start to fuss, and Mom whips out a bottle and the baby is happy again. Or a 5-year-old suddenly starts to talk out loud, and Dad gives him “the look,” and it's under control. All of us need to accept those largely uncontrollable situations — with patience and charity.

But where a child continues to make a prolonged disturbance that is genuinely distracting to others (crying, talking, noisemaking, etc.), out of charity, parents must consider what action they can take.

Again, I know it's hard for parents. One solution is to have Mom (or Dad) stay home with the fussy baby while Dad takes the other children to Mass, and then vice versa. It worked for my family. But *family dynamics today can be very different* than they used to be. *We have to understand this, and I leave it to the parents' good judgment.*

And there is another simple solution: at St. Raymond's, parents with fussy children can take them to the “Family Room” or the narthex (the vestibule at the main entrance). I know some parents don't like that option: they say these areas tend to become playrooms, not the setting to teach little ones how to behave at Mass. Understood. But sometimes...?

On a personal note, I really love little children. But at the same time I can be easily distracted by incongruous noise. It seems to be just something in my make up—call it a neurosis, a disorder, whatever. I work hard at dealing with this—I offer it up, pray, laugh at myself, etc. But sometimes it gets the better of me when I am “tested” too much. **I don't like it, I'm sorry for it.** Sometimes I'd like to take myself to the “Family Room” (or better, the sacristy)! But I'm told many people have this same difficulty. So I bring this to parents and ask for their consideration in this regard too.

With the grace of Jesus, let us all truly strive to love one another as He has loved us, especially by practicing the virtues of patience and charity. And thanks again for your patience and charity with me.

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*

**MASS INTENTIONS****Monday, May 1st**6:30 am Erica & Chris Anezin  
8:30 am Paul Rinn +**Tuesday, May 2nd**6:30 am Yvonne Speed +  
8:30 am Paul Rinn +**Wednesday, May 3rd**6:30 am Brad Hoopes  
8:30 am Eric Dinh**Thursday, May 4th**6:30 am Joyce Ann O'Connor +  
8:30 am Anna Frome +**Friday, May 5th**6:30 am Jerry Fager +  
8:30 am Angela Shook**Saturday, May 6th**

9:00 am Antoine Nguyen +

**Vigil Mass**5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**  
Walter Junior Seiberling+**Sunday, May 7th**7:00 am **Fr. Horkan**  
Catherine Hansen9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**  
Parishioners11:00 am **Fr. Rippy**  
Joseph Maines +1:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**  
RE Catechists

**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](http://straymonds.org)

Monday - Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am

Saturday at 9:00 am

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

**First Friday Nocturnal Adoration, May 5.** Now that our special Lent schedule is over, we will resume First Friday Nocturnal Adoration. **Special schedule for May 5 (due to a funeral and a wedding):** Exposition will be at 5pm on Friday and adoration will continue through the night until Saturday at 9am. **We will need volunteers** to cover from 5pm on Friday through 9am on Saturday. **Please visit our website to sign up!** Two adorers are required per hour.

**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 May!** All are invited to attend.

**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!

**Mother's Day Triduum-** Sunday, May 7th is Mother's Day. We will be honoring mothers with a Triduum of Masses on May 7-9. If you would like to include the special mothers in your life (ie. Mother, Grandmother, Godmother, etc.), cards are available in the narthex of the church or at the parish office.

**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.

**Plant Manager Vacancy.** We are seeking a Full Time Plant Manager. Experience Preferred. To ask questions or to apply, please contact Mary Butler at 703-440-0535 or [mary.butler@straymonds.org](mailto:mary.butler@straymonds.org).

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

<b>May 1</b>	<b>Family of Jesus Prayer Group</b>
<b>May 1</b>	<b>Spring/Summer RCIA Program</b>
<b>May 2</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
<b>May 3</b>	<b>Adoration 9am - 7pm</b>
<b>May 3</b>	<b>Legion of Mary</b>
<b>May 4</b>	<b>Bridge Club</b>
<b>May 5-6</b>	<b>First Friday Nocturnal Adoration</b>
	<b>Change due to funeral: 5pm Fri - 9am Sat</b>
<b>May 6</b>	<b>Men's Prayer Group</b>
<b>May 6</b>	<b>Luminaries of Mary</b>
<b>May 7</b>	<b>Donut Sunday</b>
<b>May 7</b>	<b>May Crowning after 9am Mass</b>
<b>May 22</b>	<b>Confirmation Mass</b>

**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](mailto:biblestudy@straymonds.org).

**St. Raymond's Young Adult Group.** Are you 21-40 years old? (Single or married, with or without kids) Contact [youngadults@straymonds.org](mailto:youngadults@straymonds.org) to be added to our email list and hear about upcoming events!

**Gift Shop Sale in May:** Looking for gifts for Mother's Day, First Holy Communion or Confirmation? We have crucifixes, bibles, rosaries, books, and more. Stop by the shop's table in the narthex the weekend of May 6-7, after the Saturday 5 pm Mass and the 9, 11, and 1 pm Sunday Masses. We are also available by appointment. Submit your request at [giftshop@StRaymonds.org](mailto:giftshop@StRaymonds.org).



**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!



**Shredding Event, May 20th!** The Knights of Columbus will have a bulk shredding truck in the Groveland parking lot on Saturday, May 7th, from 10 am to 12 pm. Bring your old files, receipts, and tax papers for quick secure disposal. Your donations will be used to support vocations and provide homes for the intellectually disabled. No hard drives, 3 ring or spiral notebooks or binder clips please. For more information call or text Dave Wilson at 703-966-5327.

**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.

**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](mailto:bookclub@straymonds.org).

**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](mailto:jmayer9014@aol.com), or 703-627-7320.

**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 or middle 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](mailto:straymondhsg@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

**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](mailto:kandvoswald@gmail.com) or (571) 271-5498.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://nbccenter.org) or call 215-877-2660 . **Consultations: [consults@nbccenter.org](mailto:consults@nbccenter.org)**

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

**Natural Family Planning.** A gift to your marriage. For more info visit: [ccli.org](http://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 [amonspeace.org](http://amonspeace.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](http://www.helpafterabortion.org). Men: (703) 841-3833.

**Give a Gift for Life!** No woman should ever feel that she is alone or that abortion is her only choice. **Gabriel Project** helps pregnant moms welcome their babies. For more info, call 866-444-3553 or contact [GabrielProject@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto: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 4/30 Youth Group & CCD (Parish Hall)

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

**Current 6th graders are invited** along with our 7th & 8th graders this week! This will be our final junior high youth group for this academic year even though there is still CCD next week.

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

7-8:30pm High School Youth Group (chicken dinner)

Next week, May 7th will be our final high school youth group meeting for this academic year. **Current 8th Graders are invited** to join us for high school youth group on May 7th.

### Fridays in May — 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 1st

5:30-7pm Talitha Koum: HS Girls' Group (Maurer Room)

All 8th-12th grade girls are invited to cultivate authentic community and friendships, as we chat, pray and have fun together! This will be our last regularly scheduled Talitha Koum meeting for this academic year. **Current 8th grade ladies are invited to join us this week! Come and see what Talitha Koum is all about!**

### Saturday, May 6th 7-8:30pm

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 required to be on file in order to participate. (You can bring it with you when you come.)

### Sunday May 7th— May Crowning after 9am Mass

Fr. De Celles has again given the Youth Apostolate the honor of leading our annual May Crowning of our Blessed Mother after the 9am Mass on Sunday, May 7th. Youth in grades 7-12 who would like to be a part of this procession, bringing a rose to Our Lady, please gather in the narthex after receiving Holy Communion.

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

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

[youth@straymonds.org](mailto:youth@straymonds.org) Call/Text: 571-334-9890

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

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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:** Neon green registration forms can be found in the Narthex, outside the Religious Education Office and in the Parish Office.

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 pm):** Grade 1 Assistant Teacher

**Monday (4:45-6:15 pm):**

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/](http://www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/) Or email [straymondhsg@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.cda.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](mailto:victimassistance@arlingtondiocese.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](mailto:dancertoo2@yahoo.com) or James Kolakoski at 703-455-3009 [bridgeclub402@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeclub402@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining us.

## Church Persecuted

President Biden's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has a difficult time understanding that a baby is born after nine months inside a woman (not a man).

Apparently, HHS administrators never took a biology class or their parents never told them where babies come from because they have just issued a "notice of proposed rulemaking" to redefine "person," "natural person," and "individual" to exclude the pre-born. Why are they doing this? Because they have a slight problem: 1 U.S. Code 8, signed into law by then-President George W. Bush in 2002 states that,

In determining the meaning of any Act of Congress, or of any ruling, regulation, or interpretation of the various administrative bureaus and agencies of the United States, the words "person", "human being", "child", and "individual", shall include every infant member of the species homo sapiens who is born alive at any state of development.

Ah, let's look carefully at the language of the law. If a baby is born alive due to a failed abortion, that baby is a person, and a person cannot be destroyed by abortion or any other means. That would be a crime. That presents a problem for a government that is dead set against basic science, logic and common sense.

As we contemplate this absurd redefinition, consider one biblical verse that would probably have to be changed, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary ... was found to be with child [fetus?] by the Holy Spirit..." (Matt 1:18). If we allow such evil nonsense to be promulgated, how long will it take for the term "with child" to become "hate speech"? (Catholic Vote Online 4/24/23)

**FORMED**

Get In-Formed!

May 1<sup>st</sup> is the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

Pray *The Litany of St. Joseph*. Incorporate this litany to the Patron of the Universal Church, families, workers, etc. into your regular prayer life.

Listen to *St. Joseph (Old and New)*. A 4-part series by the Augustine Institute that explores Joseph of the Old Testament and St. Joseph of the New Testament. Dr. Ben Akers also discusses various titles for St. Joseph.

Watch *St. Athanasius of Alexandria* (Feast Day May 2) In this episode of Catholic Saints on Formed, Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein discuss this embattled bishop and doctor of the church who is most known for his defense of the Nicene Creed.

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

Questions? Need help? Email us at: [formed@straymonds.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@straymonds.org) to verify your email address.



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**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.**

## FAITH DIRECT APRIL 2023

Offertory	\$ 58,197.50
Easter	\$ 3,047.00
Family Assistance	\$ 2,682.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 6,136.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 2,932.00
Holy Land Shrines	\$ 1,526.00

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 14,244.80
Family Assistance	\$ 543.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 886.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 1,071.00
Holy Land Shrines (Apr. 7)	\$ 4,306.00

The Second Collection this weekend is for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal



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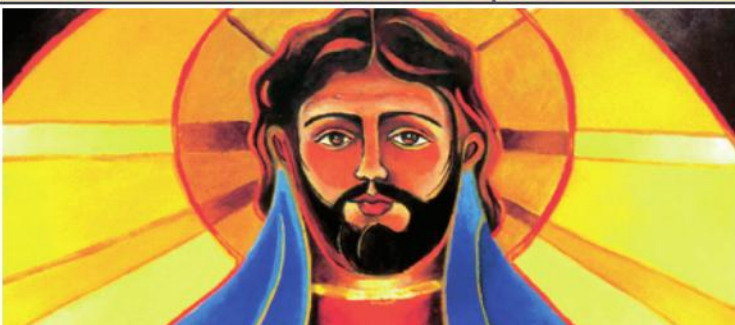
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