



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 Naduvilekunel, 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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION. Congratulations to all the children who received First Holy Communion at Mass today and over the last two days! We'll continue to have children doing this over the next two weeks.

Having them receive FHC at the various Masses instead of one Saturday morning Mass gives the whole parish a chance to share in the happy occasion. It also helps unite the children more closely to the parish and reminds all of us how important our children are to the parish. Beyond all that, seeing the little ones receive so reverently reminds us of all of Jesus' call to "become like little children," especially in our complete faith and tender love for Him in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Please watch them carefully, and learn/remember. And keep them in your prayers going forward.

MONTH OF MARY. The Church sets aside May as a month of particular devotion to the Blessed Mother. So let's review what are called the "**Marian Dogmas.**" Remember, a "dogma" is a doctrine (teaching) that is revealed by God, either in Sacred Scripture or Sacred Tradition. There are four dogmas about Mary that have been formally declared as infallibly held as such by the Church. There are many other Marian doctrines that are also infallibly held by the Church, even if not formally declared as such.

Mother of God. The first Marian Dogma to be formally declared by the Church was the declaration by the Council of Ephesus, in 431, that Mary is "*Theotokos*" (in Greek), or "Mother of God. This was part of the Council's condemnation of the Nestorian heresy which denied the full divinity of Jesus: in declaring that Jesus was truly always fully God, they also declared that, therefore, Mary was truly the Mother of God. Directly related to this dogma is the doctrine of the "Queenhip of Mary," that she is "Queen of Heaven and Earth" (and Queen of Apostles, Saints, Peace, Priests, etc....). After all, if she is the Mother of God/Jesus, she is the surely the mother of the King/Jesus, which makes her the Queen.

Perpetual Virginity. The second Marian Dogma to be formally declared is her perpetual virginity (Second Council of Constantinople, 553). The Church teaches that Mary was a *perpetual* virgin, the "ever-virgin Mary." This means she was a virgin all her life: "ante-partu, in-partu, et post-partu." So, she was a virgin *before* the birth of Jesus ("ante-partu") so that Jesus was conceived by the singularly miraculous act of the Holy Spirit and no act of man. Moreover, she remained a virgin *after* His birth ("post-partu") until the end of her life on earth. Finally, Mary was a virgin *during* the birth of Jesus ("in-partu"). The Church has always used the term "virginity" to mean that the "bodily integrity" of the female remains intact. Thus, Mary's "virginity in-partu" means that the actual physical act of giving birth to Jesus occurred in some miraculous way: He did not pass from Mary's womb physically in the same way all other babies

pass from their mothers' wombs, so that Mary's body was not damaged or altered in any way, and she incurred no birthing pains whatsoever. We do not know the details of how this happened, and the Church strongly discourages too much speculation on this. Even so, St. Thomas Aquinas (ST III, 28, 2) quotes St. Augustine (Sup. Joan. Tract. 121): "To the substance of a body in which was the Godhead closed doors were no obstacle. For truly He had power to enter in by doors not open, in Whose Birth His Mother's virginity remained inviolate."

Immaculate Conception. In 1854 Pope Pius IX, in *Ineffabilis Deus*, solemnly declared the Dogma that Mary from the moment of her conception in the womb of her mother (Ann), Mary had never been tainted by the stain or effects of the original sin of Adam and Eve, as all other human beings have been (except, of course, for Jesus). Although in centuries past some had questioned whether and how this was possible, nevertheless, this doctrine was taught consistently in the Church back to antiquity. The reason God gave this singular gift to Mary was to prepare her to be the Mother of Jesus, i.e., so that no sin would touch Baby Jesus and so that Mary might be the very best and holiest mother to Jesus possible. All this in fulfillment of God's ancient promise to the devil (Genesis 3): "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall crush your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Part of this Dogma is the belief that Mary never committed even the slightest act of personal sin: her **perpetual sinlessness**.

Assumption. The Dogma of the Assumption of Mary was formally proclaimed in 1950 by Pope Pius X (*Munificentissimus Deus*). Rather than formally ending any historical theological debate or question, this formal declaration was more of an act of honoring the Blessed Mother by declaring something that had always been held by the whole Church without debate. The only question that had ever been raised was whether Mary actually died or if she just sort of fell asleep ("the Dormition"). Pope Pius deftly refused to settle that debate, as he taught: "the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory." Thus, Mary is the first, after her Son, to receive the fullness of the "Resurrection of the Body," that we all hope for one day.

Vacation. I will be out of town on vacation this coming week, but should be back next Sunday. Thank the good Lord for sending Fr. Bergida to be in charge in my absence. But let me know if he tries to make any changes—I don't want to come back and find dancers in the sanctuary at the 9am Mass!

Oremus pro invicem. Ad Jesum, per Mariam, cum Raymundus.

Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, May 8th**

6:30 am Vincent Toa Truong +
8:30 am Maria Barrows +

Tuesday, May 9th

6:30 am Matthew Gellas
8:30 am Pam Rinn & Family

Wednesday, May 10th

6:30 am Dennis Sievers +
8:30 am Angela & Simeon
Guerrero

Thursday, May 11th

6:30 am Annie Gellas
8:30 am Therese Hart

Friday, May 12th

6:30 am Don Leahy +
8:30 am Sophia Perricone

Saturday, May 13th

9:00 am Gail Frances

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
Russell Gooding +

Sunday, May 14th

7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
Paul Rinn +
9:00 am **Fr. Bergida**
Parishioners
11:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
Mothers Day Triduum
1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
Kevin Roberts, Kendall
Jr., & Owen Peters

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.

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 Tom Swengros	Bernard Beau Mutumanje Megan Bradley Leonora Ramos Ken Keller Donald Trayer Ellen Trayer Patty Pacheco Joan Opiela Joseph Portele Virginia Cummings
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

May 7	Donut Sunday
May 7	May Crowning after 9am Mass
May 8	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
May 8	Spring/Summer RCIA Program
May 9	Bible Study
May 10	Adoration 9am - 7pm
May 10	Legion of Mary
May 11	Bridge Club
May 12	Adoration 9am - 3pm
May 14-16	Mother's Day Triduum of Masses
May 20	Men's Prayer Group
May 22	Confirmation Mass

Donut Sunday Today, May 7th after the 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 am Masses. Stop by the Parish Hall after Mass and enjoy some treats and drinks, and meet your fellow parishioners. This month's Donut Sunday is being hosted by our Legion of Mary.

Lost and Found Items will be displayed in the Parish Hall during Donut Sunday. If you are missing something & may have left it in the church, please be sure to check the table! Items not claimed by May 8th will be donated or disposed of, as appropriate.

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 this weekend, 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.

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.

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.

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

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

May is the month of Mary! We will mark this month of Marian piety this weekend, 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 14th is Mother's Day. We will be honoring mothers with a Triduum of Masses on May 14-16. 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.

Shredding Event, May 20th! The Knights of Columbus will have a bulk shredding truck in the Groveland parking lot on Saturday, May 20th, 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.



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



Into the Breach, May 13. All Knights and men of St. Raymond's Parish are invited to attend the next session of the Into the Breach Program sponsored by the Knights of Columbus on **Saturday, May 13, 10 am - 12 pm in the Maurer Room.** This session is on **Evangelization.** The goal of Into the Breach is to help men grow in their faith and become the men that God is calling them to be. Pre-registration is required and is limited to 20 attendees. For more information and to register, please contact Pat Franco at (703) 220-2403 or at popfr8@aol.com.

Men's Prayer Group: On the first and third Saturdays of each month a group of men meet in the parish hall to pray and read the Scriptures. They are neither theologians, philosophers, nor great scholars. Just some guys, coming together to pray, read, and share a simple breakfast. **Our next meeting will be May 20.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.

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.

THE SAMARITAN GROUP WANTS TO HELP YOU! 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.

New Parish Representative Needed for ECHO. For those who may not know, ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others) is an all-volunteer charity that helps families in need in the Springfield/Burke area. St. Raymond's is one of 26 religious congregations that support ECHO and have a representative on its Board of Directors. These congregations support ECHO with donations, food drives, and more than 400 volunteers. Volunteers are always needed, as well as donations of food, clothing, housewares, and financial aid. Please consider helping our parish help ECHO. For more information, go to the website at echo-inc.org. If you are interested in becoming our parish board member, please call the parish office or email office@straymonds.org. We can put you in touch with our retiring board member to learn more about the responsibilities.

Our Lady of Fatima and the Fall of Communism. Steve Hemler and Craig Turner of the Catholic Apologetics Institute of North America (CAINA) will discuss the events that led to the fall of communism in Russia and Eastern Europe and their links to Our Lady of Fatima, including the key role of Pope St. John Paul II. This Golden Jubilee presentation will be on **Tuesday, May 23 at 7:30 pm at St. Mary of Sorrows in Fairfax.** Visit www.arlingtondiocese.org/golden-jubilee-all-events/ for more information!

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

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

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 Hosea Initiative is a powerful pro-life organization dedicated to educating Americans about the deception in the abortion industry. Founder & President, Terry Beatley, will offer an update of their work and future plans on **Wednesday 10 May at 7pm.** If you would like to be part of this zoom call, please contact Liz at hildebrandseven@gmail.com. Visit Hosea4you.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 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 5/7 HS Youth Group & CCD (Parish Hall)

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

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

This Sunday, May 7th will be our final high school youth group meeting for this academic year. **Current 8th Graders are invited!**

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>

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/FriBfas>

Handyman "Contractors" Needed for WorkCamp!

Sunday, June 18-Thursday, June 22

A WorkCamp Contractor is not necessarily a licensed contractor; these are **men and women who are skilled at basic home repair and maintenance and act as a project leader during WorkCamp.** These skills can be anything from interior or exterior painting to building wheelchair ramps or decks and many projects in between. Your project will be selected based upon your experience as well as safety and time constraint considerations. When you register for WorkCamp, you will input your experience level for different areas of construction, which will allow them to assign a suitable project. In certain circumstance, you will be assigned an assistant or co-contractor. You will be working with an adult leader and a crew to complete your work project as scheduled. As the skilled member of the team, you will be responsible for teaching your crew of 5-6 teens how to do the repairs correctly. It is the crew's job to perform the work under your guidance!

Please contact Jeanne if you are willing to help, even if you can only help a few days! In order for our teens to attend WorkCamp, we need **at least 2** adult volunteer "contractors" to come with us. **Contractors do not have to be Catholic.**

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

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

This is the final week (May 7, 8 and 9) of Religious Education classes for the 2022-2023 academic year. It is also the week of final exams for grades 1-8.

We are profoundly grateful to the parents, students and volunteers for all your hard work and dedication this year! May God bless you abundantly for your efforts!

We are so blessed to partner with you in bringing the Catholic faith to the children of St. Raymond's.

2023-2024 CCD Registration forms : Neon green registration forms can be found in the Narthex, outside the Religious Education Office, in the Parish Office, and on our website: 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 5 Assistant Teacher

Grade 7 Assistant Teacher

RCIC (upper elementary) Assistant Teacher

The Ritual Mass of the Sacrament of Confirmation will be held here at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 22nd. Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington, will be the principal celebrant of this Mass.

For parents of students preparing for Confirmation in 2024: your child's Saint report was due May 4th. Please check the Confirmation Supplement which you received in September for details.

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

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. We look forward to hearing from you!

Family of Jesus Prayer Group: Weekly meetings are in the Church on Mondays at 4:00 pm. If you have any prayer requests, please let us know by emailing Elaine Perricone at jpebtp@verizon.net or by calling the parish office. You may also write down your prayer requests and drop them in the "Prayer Box" on the table in the narthex of the church.

Bridge Club: All levels of players are welcome. We play Bridge cards each week in the Parish Hall. Contact Lois Kotlowski at 703-455-6567 dancertoo2@yahoo.com or James Kolakoski at 703-455-3009 bridgeclub402@gmail.com if you are interested in joining us.

Church Persecuted

You may be aware of Father Robert Spitzer from EWTN's "Father Spitzer's Universe." On the April 26th telecast, Father was asked to comment on a story about Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, head of the Vatican Pontifical Academy for Life.

In a recent debate discussing a proposed euthanasia law in Italy, the Archbishop said: "Personally, I would not practice suicide assistance, but I understand that legal mediation may be the greatest common good concretely possible under the conditions we find ourselves in." The remarks were part of a discussion concerning a potential Italian law permitting assisted suicide — a procedure currently outlawed in Italy.

There was some backtracking from the Academy in the days that followed, insisting that Archbishop Paglia "personally" believes the teaching of the Catholic Church that assisted suicide (euthanasia) is always wrong. Herein lies the conflict that Catholic politicians find themselves in when they are personally opposed to abortion, but publicly vigorously defend the right to obtain one.

One's moral compass cannot stop at the doors of the Catholic Church. As Father Spitzer put it: "personally opposed...is a really problematic position."

With great joy, we celebrate with our young second-graders as they receive the Eucharist for the first time at Masses this month. Their parents and teachers have instilled in them that carrying Jesus with them in the Eucharist does not stop at the entrance of the Church. He remains with them. When they confront a moral question, hopefully their young minds will consider, "What would Jesus do?"

Archbishop Paglia would also do well to follow that thought process.

FORMED
Get In-Formed!

Watch Mary and the Month of May. In this *Formed Now* episode, Dr. Tim Gray and Ben Akers discuss various Marian devotions.

Watch Angels: Bishop Fulton Sheen. These three episodes of Fulton Sheen's television show present teachings on angels, our neighbors' and our worthiness of God's love, and our need to love our neighbor through our love of Christ.

Read Life is Worth Living. This book compiles transcripts from forty-four of Fulton Sheen's episodes of his show by the same title, in which he offers insights and advice on a wide range of topics. Downloadable on EPUB or Kindle.

See the Formed bulletin board by the central doors of the narthex 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

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



Angelus Academy

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

We love having Saint Raymond parishioners at our school.

What a blessing it is to be learning together!

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

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

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

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	\$ 16,263.00
Family Assistance	\$ 440.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 765.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 404.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$ 1,942.00

The Second Collection next weekend, "Parish Special Needs," will be for the Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Fund. Please be generous!



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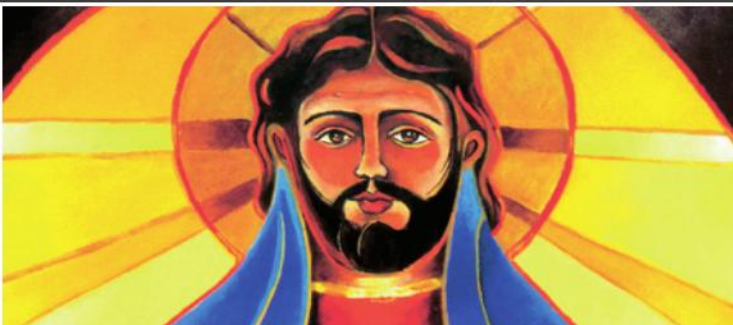
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