



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

The Ascension of the Lord. Although the feast of the Ascension is traditionally celebrated as a Holy Day of Obligation on Thursday, i.e., 40 days after Easter Sunday as the Gospels record, many Dioceses, including our own, move it to Sunday so that all Catholics are better able to easily celebrate this very important feast.

And this is a very important feast, in as much as it celebrates the fact that **Jesus ascended, body and soul, into heaven, and now dwells in heaven as a bodily person.** This reminds us that God the Son came into the world “like us in all things but sin” --of the reality of His bodily incarnation, birth, death and resurrection--and redeemed us entirely, body and soul. Moreover, it is a pledge to us of the resurrection of our bodies on the last day, and the transformation of the physical world into a glorious, “new heavens and a new earth.”

This in turn leads us to remember the dignity of the human body: your body is part of who you are, it is “you” as much as your soul is “you.” Your body is you speaking and communicating yourself to other bodily persons. As such, the body itself has meaning and speaks to others of this meaning. This is an important truth to keep in mind these days, as many try to degrade the body and treat it as an accidental part of who we are. They say the body and bodily acts mean nothing but what you want them to mean, and so you can use or abuse your body and other people’s bodies any way you like, or you can ignore the basic truths that a person’s body tells us about them. This has become a key argument for those who advocate and promote all sorts of mental/emotional/behavioral problems, including pornography, homosexuality, “transgenderism” and “transsexualism.”

But that is contrary to common sense, the natural law (the way things clearly are designed to be) and divine revelation. And it is totally opposed to the dignity of the human body, which is so beautifully revealed to us in the mystery of the Ascension of the Lord: that the body communicates who we are and is so wonderful—so meaningful—that it is created to live in glory forever in heaven.

Novena to the Holy Spirit. 2000 years ago the Lord ascended into heaven on a Thursday, so that immediately after that first Ascension Thursday the apostles and the other disciples, with the Blessed Mother, began to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised. For nine days they prayed, and on the tenth day, Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Spirit descended on them in a dramatic display of divine power. Those nine days of prayer are the origin of the pious Catholic custom praying of **novenas** (from “novem,” Latin for “nine”) for particular intentions.

The celebration of Ascension on Sunday complicates the idea of a “Pentecost Novena.” Even so, I invite you to join me in praying (privately, or with your families) a slightly shortened novena to the Holy Spirit. There are many different forms of praying Pentecost novenas, so to keep it simple, I propose the following. First, form a particular intention for each day:

Sun.: That St. Raymond's priests and parishioners may more actively exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit we have received.

Mon.: That the Holy Spirit may grant me an increase in His gift of wisdom.

Tues.: ...His gift of understanding.

Weds.: ...His gift of counsel.

Thurs.: ...His gift of fortitude.

Fri.: ...His gift of knowledge.

Sat.: ...His gift of piety.

Sun.: ...His gift of reverence, or fear of the Lord.

And then, in union with the Blessed Mother say this prayer each day:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit that we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Confirmation. This Monday Bishop Burbidge will be here to give the Sacrament of Confirmation to our teenagers. What an important night for these young men and women receiving the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Consider the effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation as outlined in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1303-5).

Fundamentally Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace. Specifically this means it:

-- roots us more deeply in the divine filiation (sonship);

-- unites us more firmly to Christ;

-- increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us (specifically the “Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, right judgment (counsel), courage (fortitude), knowledge, reverence, and piety);

-- renders our bond with the Church more perfect;

-- gives us a special strength to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ.

Let’s pray for our newly confirmed that they may be open to and cooperate with the graces they will receive in Confirmation. But let us also pray for ourselves that we may do the same.

CCD Summer Break. Religious Education (CCD) for our kids in grade school and high school is over for this year. Thanks be to God for allowing us to share and learn our Faith this year.

And thanks also to all the kids for coming, participating and studying; to their parents for passing on the Faith to your children and allowing us to help you do this; to our wonderful and dedicated teachers and teaching assistants; and especially to **Mary Salmon**, our Director of Religious Education, and **Mary Hansen**, her Assistant, for giving us the best CCD program in the Diocese.

Welcome. Welcome home to **Fr. Paul Dominic Marich, O.P.**, former parishioner and High School CCD teacher, who celebrated the one year anniversary of his ordination this week and returns to our parish to offer 7am Mass for us today.

We also welcome **Bishop Burbidge** this afternoon for the Diocesan Mass for Adult Confirmation (the Cathedral is closed for renovations), and again tomorrow for our parish Confirmations.

Vacation. I had a great vacation the week before last, playing golf down in Williamsburg with a couple of my priest-friends, staying at a condo owned by one of my friend’s family. I needed the break, and the rest and relaxation did me a lot of good. The weather was just about perfect (no rain, mid-70s, sunshine) and the golfing was fun with decent scores—including one round at Brickshire Golf Club when I set a new “personal best ever” score of 87. And then I get to come back to the parish to the best job ever! Praised be Jesus Christ!

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

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| Monday, May 22nd 6:30 am Ashley & Jeremy Rephlo 8:30 am Patricia Crane | Saturday, May 27th 9:00 am Grace Ulrich + |
| Tuesday, May 23rd 6:30 am Sylvia Cook 8:30 am James Shook | Vigil Mass 5:00 pm Paul Rinn + |
| Wednesday, May 24th 6:30 am Mairin Walsh + 8:30 am Pacheco Family | Sunday, May 28th 7:00 am Wes Price + 9:00 am Parishioners 11:00 am Virginia & Francisco Suniega + 1:00 pm Elaine Klitzke |
| Thursday, May 25th 6:30 am Walter Landry + 8:30 am Tony & Sonia Esteve | |
| Friday, May 26th 6:30 am Robert & Ann Burnell + 8:30 am Andrea & Leslie Frome | |

**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.

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 the parish office, 703-440-0535.

St. Raymond's has Adoration most Wednesdays and Fridays! Would you like to spend an hour in silent prayer and reflection with our Lord during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament? We are in need of weekly adorers especially at 4:00 pm on Wednesdays and 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm on Fridays. **We also need volunteers to be on our substitute list.** If you are interested in Wednesdays, please call Leslie Schratz at 703-569-1940 or email spoiledk9s@verizon.net. If you are interested in Fridays, please call Virginia Osella at 703-440- 0535 or email virginia.osella@straymonds.org. Drop-ins are always welcome!

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!

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

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

Please pray for the sick of our parish

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| Glenn Bliss Tom Dietz Michael O'Neill Cindy Laird Patricia Lewis Mai Pham Joan Opie 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 Tom Swengros Bernard Beau Mutumanje | Megan Bradley Leonora Ramos Donald Trayer Ellen Trayer Patty Pacheco Virginia Cummings Margaret Carter Jeanne Seiberling Carl Spataro Jacques Courtillet |
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

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|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 21 | Diocesan Adult Confirmation Mass, 3pm |
| May 22 | Family of Jesus Prayer Group at 3pm |
| May 22 | Parish Confirmation Mass, 7pm |
| May 23 | Spring/Summer RCIA Program (<i>Tuesday</i>) |
| May 24 | Adoration 9am - 7pm |
| May 24 | Legion of Mary |
| May 25 | Bridge Club |
| May 26 | Adoration 9am - 3pm |
| May 29 | Memorial Day Holiday One Mass at 10:00am Parish Offices are closed |
| June 2-3 | First Friday Nocturnal Adoration |
| June 3 | Men's Prayer Group |
| June 3 | Luminaries of Holy Mary |

Gift Shop. Would you like to shop for special gifts during the week for that special person receiving a Sacrament? Email the Shop to make an appointment. The shop carries gift items for First Holy Communicants, Confirmation and RCIA candidates, including cards, gift bags, wooden crucifixes (cherry & walnut) made in Italy and Jerusalem, and holy water fonts made in Italy. We also carry rosaries, Bibles, missals, and devotional bracelets and books. To set up your appointment, email us at giftshop@straymonds.org and we'll get back to you. We accept credit cards/cash/checks. **Next Narthex Sale: June 3/4.**

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. **We will meet at 3pm on May 22nd due to the parish Confirmation.**

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 June 3.** All are welcome.

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.



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> to become a Knight today!

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 June 3.** 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.

Weekend Discernment Retreat for Women. Could Christ be calling you to the religious life? Take a step to find out. The annual diocesan discernment retreat for single women who feel called to a religious vocation is Friday-Sunday, June 16-18. The Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus will lead the retreat this year. It will also include tools to aid your prayer and discernment, as well as opportunities for prayer, confession, spiritual direction, and Q&A with the sisters. Cost is \$100 (financial assistance is available). For more information or to register, contact Fr. Michael Isenberg at vocations@arlingtondiocese.org. Space is limited; deadline to register is Monday June 5.

Diocesan Family Festival. Celebrate family at our *Diocesan Family Festival: Rejoicing in One God, One Family* with the Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington! **When: June 10, 2023.** Holy Mass at 4 p.m. - and Scythian rock band from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Games, rides and vendors! **Where: Warren County Fairgrounds,** 26 Fairground Road, Front Royal, VA 22630. **Register at** arlingtondiocese.org/familyfestival.

Nine Seminarians to be Ordained Priests. On June 3, 2023, Bishop Burbidge will ordain the seminarian deacons to the priesthood of Jesus Christ: Deacons Jonathan Bennett, Andrew Clark, Timothy Courtney, Zinjin Iglesia, Michael Nugent, Luke Poczatek, Charles Wilton and David Witherow. The Mass will be held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church at 11:00 a.m. and will also be livestreamed. Bishop Burbidge will ordain Deacon Elder Maldonado on May 27 in Rome. Visit www.ArlingtonDiocese.org/Ordinations to learn more about these men, what led them to seminary, and about the ordination events. Pray for our future priests!

Catholic Charities Volunteer Teachers Urgently Needed! Help teach adult refugees and immigrants in your community! Catholic Charities, Diocese of Arlington, is seeking teachers and co-teachers for ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages), Citizenship, GED, Computer Literacy and ESOL for Childcare. We are accepting volunteers for in-person classes and online! In person classes are in Manassas, Sterling, Springfield, and Falls Church. Online classes also available. We provide training, curriculum, and resources. No second language necessary! If interested, call the Education and Workforce Development office at 571-208-1572, email us at [cwg@ccda.net](mailto:cwd@ccda.net).

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



Hail, Mary, most holy and loving Mother of God. Pray for us, your children.

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. 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: 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.

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 amomspcace.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>

Fridays through June 9: 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 Thursdays, so you don't have to get up early!** Sign up at <https://bit.ly/FriBfast>.

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.** 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 campus in Chantilly. Go to 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!

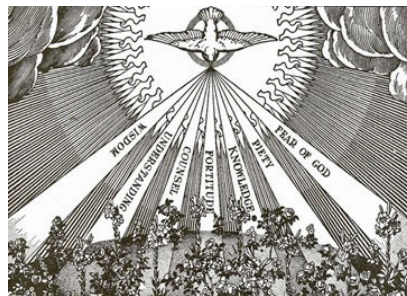
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Confirmation REHEARSAL for candidates and their sponsors is THIS Sunday May 21st: meet in the Parish Hall at 7 p.m.

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

Candidates and their sponsors are to meet in the Parish Hall no later than 6 p.m.

Please pray for our 43 young people who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at this Mass!



2023-2024 bright green Religious Education Registration Forms are available in the Narthex, the Parish Office, outside the Religious Education Office and on the Parish website. Class assignment is made on a first come, first served basis. Register early to get your first choice!!

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

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

Grade 5 Assistant Teacher

Grade 7 Assistant Teacher

RCIC (upper elementary) Assistant Teacher

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!

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

Mothers' Group: Do your young children need a bit more excitement? Are you looking for Catholic friendship with fellow moms? Come to the moms' meet-up on Wednesday mornings! We alternate between meeting at our church and parks. Email Michelle for more information at mlcastry@gmail.com.

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

Church Persecuted

St. Francis Health System (SFHS) is a Catholic Hospital in Oklahoma and the 12th largest hospital in the nation. As in every Catholic Church, it has a red sanctuary candle that is lit continuously to point out the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Earlier this year, the federal government notified the hospital that its sanctuary candle in the hospital chapel was a safety threat, even though the candle has been repeatedly approved by the government and local fire marshal. The federal government said either they extinguish the sanctuary light (and violate Catholic religious requirements), or stop serving thousands of Oklahoma patients, threatening to strip the hospital of its ability to accept Medicare, Medicaid, or the Children's Health Insurance Program if it did not extinguish the flame.

The hospital opened its doors in 1960 and has had a sanctuary candle with a living flame since then. The SFHS is a premier health system with five hospitals in Eastern Oklahoma. Its staff cares for nearly 400,000 patients each year and has donated more than \$650 million in free medical care in the past five years. The SFHS lives out its religious mission by maintaining several chapels throughout its hospitals, each of which was blessed by the local bishop.

With the help of The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, the hospital took legal action. As a result, the US Department of Health and Human Services has ceased efforts to snuff out the sanctuary light.

Edmund Burke once wrote, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." The leadership at SFHS did something to prevent the triumph of evil.

Italy Pilgrimage, July 15-25, 2024. You are invited to join Delores Nelson, Rachel Macasieb, and spiritual director, Fr. Nicholas Barnes for an 11-Day Italian pilgrimage! Stops will include Assisi, Loreto, San Giovanni Rotondo, Rome, and more! For more information, please contact Mrs. Nelson at 703-861-2738 or by email at bakhita3@me.com.

FORMED

Get In-Formed!

Listen to Mary: Handmaid of the Lord. St. Teresa of Kolkata speaks on the docility of the Blessed Mother to God's Will and invites us to follow her example.

Watch Saint Philip Neri: The Apostle of Joy. This episode of *True Reformers* series focuses on the great Reformation saint known as the "Apostle of Rome" (Feast Day, May 26).

Watch Saint Philip Neri: I Prefer Heaven. This mature (for violence of the time period) full length film depicts the life and times of this prayerful, charitable, mystic. Parents: Please preview for younger children.

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



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.

www.AngelusAcademy.org 703-924-3996
7644 Dynatech Ct., Springfield, VA 22153

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 | \$ 14,548.00 |
| Family Assistance | \$ 747.00 |
| Maintenance Fund | \$ 1,523.00 |
| Our Lady of Ransom Catholic | |
| School Scholarship Donations | \$ 1,197.00 |
| Parish Special Needs | \$ 3,954.00 |

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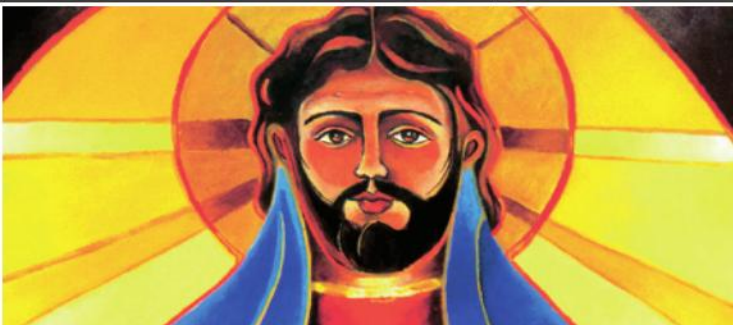
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