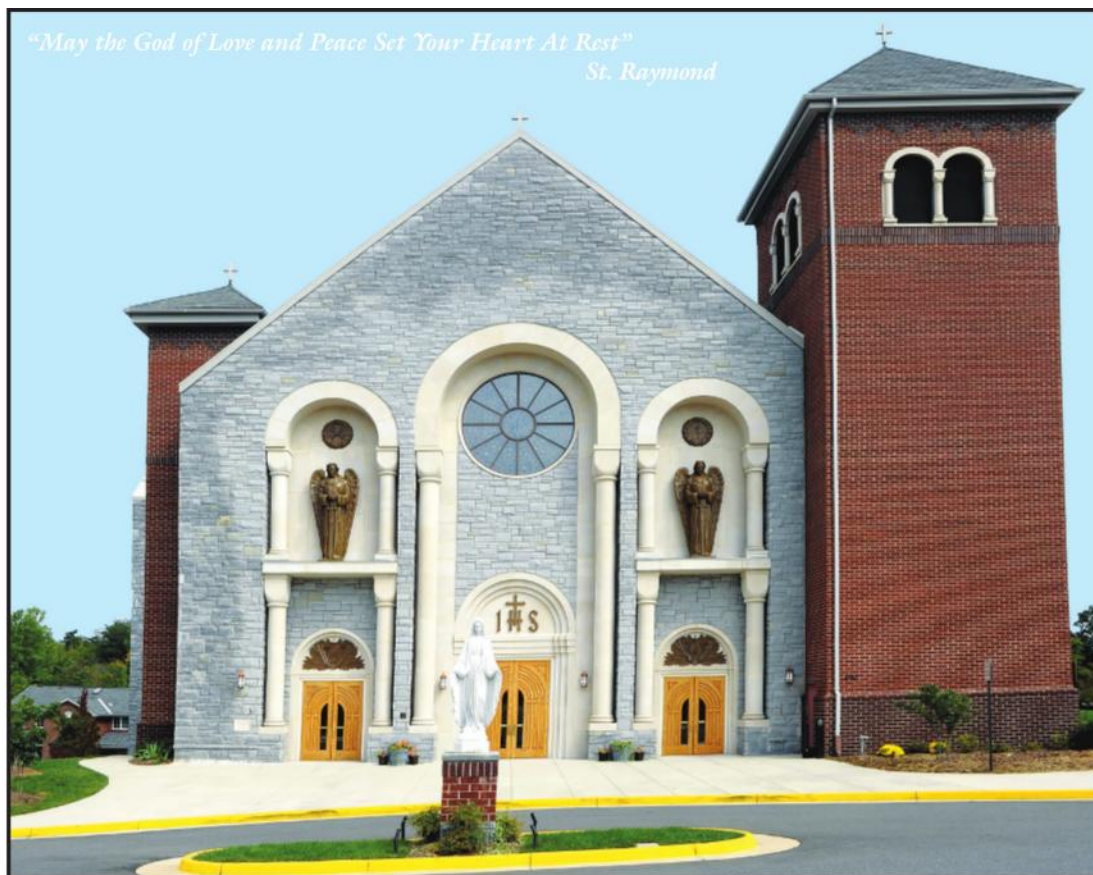


*"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"*  
*St. Raymond*



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

**8750 Pohick Road  
Springfield, VA 22153**

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

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

**Website**  
[www.straymonds.org](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 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](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

**Reparation.** Last week in writing about the recent blasphemous acts of the Los Angeles Dodgers, and, in fact all the blasphemy surrounding "Pride Month," I talked about the need for "acts of reparations to the Sacred Heart."

For many, the idea of "reparation" is unfamiliar. By way of context, recall that in a private revelation on June 16, 1675, Our Lord Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, and revealed to her His Sacred Heart, asking that a feast be established honoring His Heart and calling for acts of "reparation," saying:

*"Behold the Heart which has so loved men that it has spared nothing, even to exhausting and consuming Itself, in order to testify Its love; and in return, I receive from the greater part only ingratitude, by their irreverence and sacrilege, and by the coldness and contempt they have for Me in this Sacrament of Love. ...Therefore, I ask of you that the Friday after the Octave of Corpus Christi be set apart for a special Feast to honor My Heart, by communicating on that day, and making reparation to It by a solemn act, in order to make amends for the indignities which It has received during the time It has been exposed on the altars ...."*

["Private revelations" need not be accepted by the Faithful, but this one is so well established and reflective of Catholic Doctrine that it has great prominence in Catholic life.]

This Feast of the Sacred Heart was established in France in 1765, and for the Universal Church in 1856, celebrated 8 days after the Feast of Corpus Christi. We just celebrated it on Friday, June 16.

In 1928 Pope Pius XI, an extremely learned man with a great devotion to the Sacred Heart, raised the Feast to the highest of Solemnity, e.g. the same liturgical rank as Sunday or a holy day of obligation. In that context he issued *Miserentissimus Redemptor* in which he explained the teaching on "reparation." Here follows a lengthy excerpt thereof. It's a little difficult to wade through, perhaps. But well worth the read:

### ***Miserentissimus Redemptor, Pope Pius XI:***

*"6. ....honorable satisfaction or reparation ....must be rendered to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. ....namely that to the same uncreated Love, if so be it has been neglected by forgetfulness or violated by offense, some sort of compensation must be rendered for the injury, and this debt is commonly called by the name of reparation.*

*"7. ....we are holden to the duty of reparation and expiation by a certain more valid title of justice and of love, of justice indeed, in order that the offense offered to God by our sins may be expiated and that the violated order may be repaired by penance: and of love too so that we may suffer together with Christ suffering and "filled with reproaches" (Lam. iii, 30), and for all our poverty may offer Him some little solace. For since we are all sinners and laden with many faults, our God must be honored by us not only by that worship wherewith we adore His infinite Majesty with due homage....but besides this we must need make satisfaction to God the just avenger, "for our numberless sins and offenses and negligences." [Therefore we must offer] expiation, whereby sins are wholly blotted out, lest the holiness of the supreme justice may punish our shameless unworthiness, and reject our offering as hateful rather than accept it as pleasing...."*

*"9. But no created power was sufficient to expiate the sins of men, if the Son of God had not assumed man's nature in order to redeem it. ....Yet, though the copious redemption of Christ has abundantly forgiven us all offenses (Cf. Colossians ii, 13), nevertheless, because of that wondrous divine dispensation whereby those things that are wanting of the sufferings of Christ are to be filled up in our flesh for His body which is the Church (Cf. Colossians i, 24), to the praises and satisfactions, "which Christ in the name of sinners rendered unto God" we can also add our praises and satisfactions, and indeed it behooves us so to do. But we must ever remember that the whole virtue of the expiation depends on the one bloody sacrifice of Christ, which without intermission of time is renewed on our altars in an unbloody manner...Wherefore with this most august Eucharistic Sacrifice there ought to be joined an oblation both of the ministers and of all the faithful, so that they also may "present themselves living sacrifices, holy, pleasing unto God" (Romans xii, 1).*

*"Nay more, St. Cyprian does not hesitate to affirm that "the Lord's sacrifice is not celebrated with legitimate sanctification, unless our oblation and sacrifice correspond to His passion" (Ephesians 63). For this reason, the Apostle admonishes us that "bearing about in our body the mortification of Jesus" (2 Corinthians iv, 10), and buried together with Christ, and planted together in the likeness of His death (Cf. Romans vi, 4-5), we must not only crucify our flesh with the vices and concupiscences (Cf. Galatians v, 24), ...but "that the life also of Jesus may be made manifest in our bodies" (2 Corinthians iv, 10) and being made partakers of His eternal priesthood we are to offer up "gifts and sacrifices for sins" (Hebrews v, 1). ..."*

*"13. But how can these rites of expiation bring solace now, when Christ is already reigning in the beatitude of Heaven? ....[A]ny one who has great love of God, if he will ....dwell in meditation on Christ, and see Him laboring for man, sorrowing, suffering the greatest hardships, "for us men and for our salvation," well-nigh worn out with sadness, with anguish, nay "bruised for our sins" (Isaiah liii, 5), and healing us by His bruises. ...Now if, because of our sins also which were as yet in the future, but were foreseen, the soul of Christ became sorrowful unto death, it cannot be doubted that then, too, already He derived somewhat of solace from our reparation, which was likewise foreseen, when "there appeared to Him an angel from heaven" (Luke xxii, 43), in order that His Heart, oppressed with weariness and anguish, might find consolation. And so even now, in a wondrous yet true manner, we can and ought to console that Most Sacred Heart which is continually wounded by the sins of thankless men, since - as we also read in the sacred liturgy - Christ Himself, by the mouth of the Psalmist complains that He is forsaken by His friends: "My Heart hath expected reproach and misery, and I looked for one that would grieve together with me, but there was none: and for one that would comfort me, and I found none" (Psalm lxxviii, 21)."*

**Choir.** The choir is on "summer vacation" until September. We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to our choir members, as well as our cantors. I know we all agree that they add so much to our ability to worship reverently on Sundays and other important Masses. Thank you, choir members for your magnificent work this year. Enjoy the summer, and see you soon. God bless you.

**Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles**

**MASS INTENTIONS****Monday, June 26th**

6:30 am Chuck (+) & Caterina Tiso  
8:30 am Christian Hoopes

**Tuesday, June 27th**

6:30 am Thomas Michael Murphy +  
8:30 am Allen Thomas Jones +

**Wednesday, June 28th**

6:30 am Arthur Milne Jr. +  
8:30 am Priscilla Fritts Clouse +

**Thursday, June 29th**

6:30 am Lucian Spataro +  
8:30 am Tina & Eduardo (+) Visaya

**Friday, June 30th**

6:30 am Robert Ferguson +  
8:30 am James Leo Mault +

**Saturday, July 1st**

9:00 am Erick Reeder +

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**  
Mike Krosnick +

**Sunday, July 2nd**

7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**  
Erick Reeder +  
9:00 am **Fr. Horkan**  
Parishioners  
11:00 am **Fr. Bergida**  
RE Catechists  
1:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**  
Vincent Pizzurro +

**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 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 Megan Bradley	Donald Trayer Ellen Trayer Virginia Cummings Jacques Courtillet Weldon Walker Minerva Barnhart Linda Barnes Peggy Sundberg
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**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

June 22-29	Religious Freedom Week
June 26	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
June 28	Adoration 9am - 7pm
June 28	Legion of Mary
June 29	Bridge Club
June 30	Adoration 9am - 3pm
July 1	Luminaries of Holy Mary
July 7	First Friday Nocturnal Adoration
July 8	Men's Prayer Group
July 10-21	Parish Hall closed for Summer Maintenance

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

**Annual Summer Maintenance in Parish Hall:** Please note that during July 10-21, the Parish Hall will be closed, and access to the basement restrooms will be very limited. Please follow the directions on signage in the narthex and vestibules regarding access to the restrooms. The Religious Education offices will be open during their regular hours (M-Th 9:30-4:30), but please follow the signage to determine whether or not there is public access to the offices. Thank you for your cooperation as we strip and re-wax the floors.

**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!

**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 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](mailto:spoiledk9s@verizon.net). If you are interested in Fridays, please call Virginia Osella at 703-440-0535 or email [virginia.osella@straymonds.org](mailto:virginia.osella@straymonds.org). Drop-ins are always welcome!

**Save the Date!** Our Parish Picnic will be on Sunday, August 27 from 2-5 pm. More details to follow.

**June 30 Christ House Meal** - Sign up to help prepare and serve To-Go meals to folks who are food insecure. Friday, June 30 is our parish's next meal date. The dinner takes place at the Diocesan Christ House Dining Room in Alexandria. Volunteers are needed to donate food and time. This month's menu includes: Sloppy Joe sandwiches, mac & cheese, fruit cups, chips, brownies, and water bottles. Please sign up to donate food items and/or time. We need help preparing and distributing the meals on Friday. We also accept monetary donations at the parish office. Check out the full menu and sign-up for a Corporal Act of Mercy opportunity at the Perfect Potluck link: <https://www.perfectpotluck.com/meals.php?t=GIPJ1030>

**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. For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327. **Please note schedule change: Our July meetings will be on July 8 and July 20.**

**Sewing Volunteer needed for Baptism Bibs.** St. Raymond's provides a special bib for each child baptized at the parish. We had a loyal volunteer making these for many years, and she recently moved away. Do you have a sewing machine and a little spare time to help with this important project? Please contact the parish office for more information at 703-440-0535 or [office@straymonds.org](mailto:office@straymonds.org).

**Religious Freedom Week 2023** began on June 22, the feast of St. Thomas More and runs until June 29, the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul. Please join us in praying the "Prayer for Religious Freedom" after Mass or at home. Visit our website for more information.



**St. John Bosco Council #12846 Knights of Columbus** Congratulations to the newly elected officers of St. John Bosco Council #12846 for

Fraternal Year 2023-2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024). Installation Ceremony will occur on Saturday, 24 June 2023 in the Parish Hall following the 5pm Mass:  
Grand Knight: Mark Menotti  
Deputy Grand Knight: Mark Lawton  
Chancellor: John Larvie  
Financial Secretary: Phil Bettwy  
Chaplain: Fr. Joseph Bergida  
Warden: Dave Hayes  
Recorder: Ron Fauquet  
Treasurer: Bill Vitaletti  
Lecturer: Mike Birlin  
Trustee 3 Year: Larry Saenz  
Trustee 2 Year: Steve Delaney  
Trustee 1 Year: Barry Ryan  
Advocate: Mike Miller  
Inside Guard: Sam Drouillard  
Outside Guard: Vince Drouillard

If you are a Knight of Columbus, come to the next meeting on Monday, July 10th at 7:30pm and be a part of the next fraternal year (FY 23/24). If you want to learn more about our Council, call the Grand Knight, Mark Menotti, at 401-644-7128 or email [mark.menotti@yahoo.com](mailto:mark.menotti@yahoo.com).

**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 July 1**. All are welcome.

**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.

**Volunteers Needed: St. Margaret of Cortona Transitional & Maternity Housing,** a pro-life ministry for pregnant and single mothers in the Diocese, is seeking childcare volunteers on Wednesday nights from 6-7 pm so that the mothers can attend Life Skills classes. Please consider giving an hour of your time to help families grow in mind, body, and spirit! Please call 703-910-4845 or email [smc@ccda.net](mailto:smc@ccda.net) for more information. St. Margaret of Cortona is also in need of household supplies and baby/toddler supplies for our families. Each donation goes directly to mothers in need. For a list of most-needed items, please visit <https://www.ccda.net/give-help/donate-goods-and-transportation/help-individuals-and-families/>.

**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.

**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).

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



*"The Constitution makes no express reference to a right to obtain an abortion". (2)*  
*Dobbs*



**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. 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.** Please continue to pray for their conversion.

**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: [cdi.org](http://cdi.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](http://amomspeace.org).

**To those who have suffered an abortion:** Do not give in to discouragement; 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).

**IT STANDS TO REASON... Are embryos human beings?** We can say that embryos are less developed than newborns (or toddlers or teens...), but this difference is not morally significant in the way abortion advocates need it to be. Consider the claim that the immediate capacity for self-awareness bestows value on human beings. Notice that this is not an argument, but an arbitrary assertion. Why is some development needed? And why is this particular degree of development (i.e., higher brain function) decisive rather than another? We are human beings, not human doings. We are valuable because we are human, not because we have a particular capacity to achieve something for someone else's approval... [prolifetraining.com](http://prolifetraining.com)

## St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate

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

*thank you*

*What a year!! There is absolutely no way this year would have been as fruitful without the help of ALL of the many folks who have stepped up to share their time, talent, and treasure! It would take a whole bulletin to thank everyone by name, but you all know who you are and I pray that your reward will be great in Heaven! I would like to specifically thank a few folks who have gone FAR above and beyond all year long...Alex Kayser, Maricarmen Medina, Jonathan Sipple, Joe Adelman, Sheri Burns, Bobbi Jones, Court & Gretta Wheeler, Michelle Roberts, Katherine Ferguson, Michele O'Kane and Patty Miller. These folks have truly been the backbone of our Youth Apostolate this year, and only three of them have kids in the program! Alex, Maricarmen & Jonathan in particular came to nearly every Junior High and High School youth group all year and were always willing to volunteer in any capacity at any time! Maricarmen & Alex even graciously accepted my plea to take a week off of work to join us for WorkCamp in order to allow our teens to participate this year when no one else stepped up. And Mrs. Sheri Burns, with an empty nest at home, organized and served our Friday morning Mass group all year once again! It's time to start thinking about next year...so if you love the Catholic faith and want to make a difference in the lives of teens, pray about how you can help! Email Jeanne if you are interested in learning more.*

**Class of 2023 College Night!** The Associates of St. John Bosco invites rising college freshmen to attend a College Night at one of the following parishes **beginning at 7pm:**

**June 28** (St. Mark in Vienna)

**July 5** (St. Michael in Annandale)

**July 12 (Holy Trinity) -Fr. Bergida & Jeanne plan to go to this one!**

**July 19** (Basilica of St. Mary in Old Town Alexandria)

**July 26** (Holy Cross Academy in Stafford)

College Nights help rising college freshmen and transfer students to network with other Catholics heading to college, and give students the tools to navigate the often difficult transition of faith life in college. Students hear from upperclassmen who give their **personal testimonies** about how they transitioned to college and maintained a strong faith life. There are **small groups divided by students' universities** and students walk away with a free bundle of **Catholic books** called the "Bosco Bundle" that will help them deepen their faith while away at school. The events come with a free pizza dinner, too. Please encourage your senior to sign up! For more information, please visit [www.asjb.org](http://www.asjb.org). Fr. Bergida & Jeanne plan on attending the one on July 12.

**Thursday Gatherings for College Students (including rising freshmen):** George Mason University's Catholic Campus Ministry is hosting weekly summer events for college students and graduating high school seniors every Thursday night in June and July at the St. Robert Bellarmine Chapel (4515 Roberts Road, Fairfax). It's a great way to meet college students from different schools who are home for break and/or meet future classmates before school starts! Like us on Facebook: College Summers with GMU CCM. Find out more at [www.gmuccm.org](http://www.gmuccm.org)

**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

**2023-2024 bright green CCD Registration forms for grades K-12** are in the Narthex and outside the Parish Office and the Religious Education Office, as well as on the parish website.  
**Please be sure to register your children!!**

**Parents:** In case you are not aware, **we have high school CCD classes in addition to our K-8 program.** The classes meet on Sunday evenings 5:30-7 p.m. and there is no cost to register your high school student. **Be sure to register for the 2023-2024 CCD year!**

**Attention HOME SCHOOL parents:** If you have a child in a sacramental preparation year (grades 2, 7-8) it is necessary to **register your child** with the Religious Education office.

**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

## ART, DRAMA, MUSICAL THEATRE CAMPS for K-12 in Catholic setting - a few spaces left!

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 Explorer and Art Fun Camps incorporate many special projects in different mediums that all go on display in an end of week Art Show. Camps, taught primarily by Diocesan Educators, are designed to be both fun and rewarding. Some camps have filled, but several still have room. Register at [www.SpotlightSummerCamps.com](http://www.SpotlightSummerCamps.com).

**Join the Legion of Mary!** The Legion of Mary makes its members better Catholics through prayer, service and evangelization. "Active" members meet weekly for prayer, planning and discussion. In pairs, we perform several hours of apostolic work each week. (At St. Raymond's works include working with/teaching youth, sponsoring the Pilgrim Virgin statue visits at parishioner homes, and taking the bulletin and sacramentals door-to-door.) "Auxiliary" members of the Legion of Mary offer their daily prayers to Our Lady so that she can apply them where they are needed. The Active Legion group meets on Wednesday nights, 6:30 – 8:00pm, in the Maurer Room. If you are interested in joining the Legion or have any questions, please contact Judy Mayer, [jmayer9014@aol.com](mailto:jmayer9014@aol.com), or call / text 703-627-7320.

**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](mailto:bakhita3@me.com).

**Open Positions at St. Paul VI High School.** Are you a lifelong learner who is passionate about Catholic education and works to inspire others to be extraordinary? St. Paul VI Catholic High School in Chantilly is busy making plans for next school year. God might be calling you to visit [www.paulvi.net/about/employment](http://www.paulvi.net/about/employment) to see positions that are available.

## Church Persecuted

The Acts of the Apostles describe an exchange in the Sanhedrin with a Pharisee named Gamaliel. Peter and the apostles had just proclaimed, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). Gamaliel, a man of reason, said to the Sanhedrin, "...take care what you do with these men....I tell you...let them alone; for if this plan or this undertaking is of men, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" (Acts 5:35, 38-39). They were released.

The Jews and Romans tried to destroy the early Christians, but the Church did not destroy itself. Christians were willing to die for Christ and the Church.

In 64 A.D., the Roman emperor, Nero wanted to build a large palace for himself and needed some land for it. He started the fire and then blamed a small group of the Christians living in Rome. Over the next days, an incredible persecution occurred under Nero's hand. These Christians who refused to deny their baptism were set aflame, beheaded, and sometimes crucified. Included in the round up were their two leaders Peter and Paul whose feast we celebrated on June 29th. Most significant about Peter's crucifixion, is that afterwards, Christians removed his body and buried it at a place called Vatican Hill. The first St. Peter's Basilica was built over St. Peter's tomb. Today, the main altar of the current basilica resides above the same tomb.

The early Church Father, Tertullian, wrote, "The blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church." The Church lives today in part because of those early Church martyrs whose feast we celebrate on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## FORMED

Get In-Formed!

*Feast of Saints Peter and Paul is June 29.*

**Watch Saint Peter.** This full-length film depicts the evangelization work of our first pope and the spread of Christianity amid severe persecution of the early Church. Parental guidance is recommended due to historically relevant violence.

**Watch Paul: Contending for the Faith.** This film explores the travels and evangelization efforts of St. Paul while taking viewers "on location".

**For Kids. Read Lost in Peter's Tomb.** Part of the Adventures with Sister Philomena series. Two children learn about St. Peter's life while helping their aunt, a secret agent for the pope, solve a mystery in the Vatican. *For ages 5-11. Downloadable on EPub.*

*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/](https://www.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.

**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).

**As you are traveling this summer, you can find a Mass near your destination by going to [Masstimes.org](https://www.Masstimes.org). Also, please remember that our parish expenses continue while you are away.**

**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](https://faith.direct/VA64). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

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School Scholarship Donations	\$ 7,987.00



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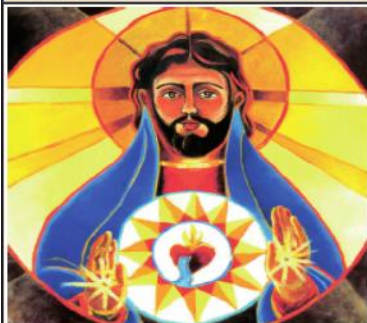
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