

Welcome to St. Raymond of Peñafort Roman Catholic Church

**8750 Pohick Road
Springfield, VA 22153**

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

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

Website
www.straymonds.org

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

PARISH OFFICE: Telephone Numbers:

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

Office Hours

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

E-Mail

Church: Office@straymonds.org
Rel. Ed.: ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org
Choirs: Music@straymonds.org

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

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

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

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Reconciliation/Confession)

Wednesday Evening

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

Saturday Morning

8:15 - 8:45 a.m.

Saturday Afternoon

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

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

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

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

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

Pastor's Corner

Rome Has Been Busy. In the last few weeks the Vatican has been busy doing some things that warrant our special attention.

Synod on Synodality. On June 20, the Vatican issued its "Working Document" for the October 2023 "Synod on Synodality" (its "Instrumentum Laboris", or IL). This is the document that lays out what will be done at the Synod, and how it will be done. Rather than comment on it myself, let me quote a few well known Catholic commentators.

George Weigel: *"It would not be quite accurate to describe the Working Document for the October 2023 Synod...as 'disappointing'...The better description of the IL, it seems to me, is that it's vacuous: a great deal of clotted, trendy sociologese with a thin veneer of Christian language and imagery."*

"The IL is Christologically vacuous. ... IL reads as if it were prepared for an international non-governmental organization seeking to increase members and donors for its program of good works. ..."

"The IL is pneumatologically vacuous. The IL speaks at length of 'conversation in the Spirit' ...But the IL says nothing about how the Church differentiates between the authentic voice of the Holy Spirit and the spirit of the age, which St. Paul warned the Romans to avoid...Nor does the IL affirm that the 'voice of the Holy Spirit' can never be self-contradictory, teaching the Church one thing at a particular historical moment and its opposite at another. ..."

*"The IL is ecclesologically vacuous. Over and over, the IL explores what a 'listening' Church... does... Very little is said about a teaching Church fulfilling the Master's command in the Great Commission: 'Go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you' (Matthew 28:19-20). ...Moreover, ...how can a process in which (at best) 1% of the Church has participated be considered an expression of the *sensus fidelium*, the 'sense of the faithful'?"*

Fr. Raymond de Souza: *"...An early criticism of the synodal process on synodality for a synodal Church was that it was a meeting about meetings. Now it is clear that, if not exactly a meeting about meetings, it will be a discussion about how to have discussions in the Church. Who should participate? Who should listen? Who should speak? How should all the listening and speaking be organized? What should be discussed is not the concern of the IL. ...'We have no agenda,' said Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich of Luxembourg....'There was not a conspiratorial meeting with some people to come up with how we could add some progressive points of the Church,' he snapped. 'That is a very bad imagination of some people.'"*

"...What is the real agenda? Is it a bad imagination, or a well-founded suspicion that there is a real agenda afoot somewhere? As the previous eighteen months of discussions unfolded, people quickly tired of talking about talking, so at some point they began to talk about something... America magazine, wrote that the IL called for 'discussion of women, LGBT Catholics, church authority and more.' Where did he get the idea that some discussions about discussions would get more attention than other discussions about discussions?"

Fr. Gerald E. Murray: *"The motto for this new Synodal approach could easily be 'People, not Doctrines, A Us.' This emotion-centered focus is the template for the hoped-for 'soft' revolution in the Church in which Catholic doctrines that contradict decadent Western sexual mores and radical feminist claims of oppression in the Church are framed as obsolete, regrettable, and needless sources of discord and alienation, as holdovers from a cruel past. These doctrines, of course, need to be jettisoned, lest anyone feel unwelcome...."*

"In the new synodal Church it is the people who instruct the bishops on the meaning of the Faith: 'Since consulting the local Churches is an effective way to listen to the People of God, the Pastors' discernment takes on the character of a collegial act that can authoritatively confirm what the Spirit has spoken to the Church through the People of God's sense of faith.'"

"...What if a bishop does not go along with a supposed ...voice of the people? The IL responds with these revealing questions: 'How can we deal constructively with cases in which those in authority feel they cannot confirm the conclusions reached by a community discernment process...? ..."

"...The Church of 'Me, Myself and I,' where each person recognizes himself in his personally curated set of beliefs, may promise satisfaction. In fact, it's a make-believe, delusional religion of self-worship in which God is relegated to the role of the Divine Affirmer of whatever each one decides to believe. God spare us from such an outcome."

New Prefect. Pope Francis has appointed his longtime personal theologian, Víctor Manuel Fernández to head the Dicastery (formerly "Congregation") of the Doctrine of the Faith (DDF). Although his appointment is no surprise, considering his close relationship with the Pope, it was a huge disappointment to many. Some critics say Fernández lacks the scholarly theological gravitas or broad ecclesial experience of most of his predecessors: Cardinal Ratzinger, Muller and Ladaria were all well-respected "world renowned" scholars. They also note Archbishop Fernández's most famous book is called "Heal Me With Your Mouth: The Art of Kissing." Groups advocating against clergy sexual abuse have strongly criticized his handling of abuse cases as an archbishop in Argentina, something he will be in charge of at the DDF; (Fernández denies wrongdoing, but acknowledges he is not well versed in the "disciplines" involved in this issue). Moreover, many question his orthodoxy, something he did little to dissuade this week when he seemed to contradict Church teaching recently reiterated by the DDF ("God...does not and cannot bless sin"), saying that some "same-sex marriages" might be the subject of a Church blessing.

New Cardinals. The Pope also appointed 21 new cardinals, 19 of whom will be electors of the next pope. That makes a total of 83 cardinal-electors Pope Francis has appointed, or over 2/3 of the cardinal-electors. Many have noted that to be elected pope, a candidate must receive 2/3 of the total votes.

Among the new cardinals were several appointments that have caused much discussion, including Archbishop Fernandez (above). Also the auxiliary bishop of Lisbon, Bishop Américo Aguiar, who was widely quoted as saying recently, "We don't want to convert the young people to Christ or to the Catholic Church or anything like that at all." And of course, French Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the current apostolic nuncio to the United States. Archbishop Pierre has been seen by some as often at odds with many U.S. Bishops who have not adequately responded to movements and decisions coming from Rome.

Bishop's Lenten Appeal. Thanks to all of you who helped us reach our goal for the BLA this year. Got that done.

Summertime. You know I love summer; I hope you are having a relaxing and recreating season. But don't forget Jesus, praying, confession and Mass! With the slower pace of summer, it should be a time of refocusing our lives on Christ. Be safe, have fun, but be holy.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

<u>Monday, July 17th</u> 6:30 am Grayce Long Hayden 8:30 am Barry O'Hare +	<u>Saturday, July 22nd</u> 9:00 am Tien Pham +
<u>Tuesday, July 18th</u> 6:30 am Kelly & Lynne La Fleur + 8:30 am Leonard & Bobbi Tiso	<u>Vigil Mass</u> 5:00 pm Fr. Bergida Gregory Kuzniewski Jr. +
<u>Wednesday, July 19th</u> 6:30 am Joseph Nguyen 8:30 am Caleb Shealy	<u>Sunday, July 23rd</u> 7:00 am Fr. Rippy Larry Woods + 9:00 am Fr. Bergida Parishioners 11:00 am Fr. De Celles Barbara McGinn + 1:00 pm Fr. Horkan Barbara McGinn +
<u>Thursday, July 20th</u> 6:30 am Joseph Krupp + 8:30 am Irene Starrs +	
<u>Friday, July 21st</u> 6:30 am Glen Small + 8:30 am Henrietta T. Critelli +	

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

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 5:00 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. 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!

Altar Server Training: St Raymond's Parish has a very active Altar Server program. We invite all young men of the Parish to consider becoming an Altar Server. Young men between the ages of 9 and 18, who have received their First Communion are eligible. This is your opportunity to help assist the priest at Mass. **Training sessions with Fr. Bergida will begin on September 10, 2023.**

Please visit <https://forms.gle/Qo37z75z3hekKDdWA> or contact the Parish Office at 703-440-0535 to sign up.

Bridge Club: All levels of players are welcome. We play Bridge cards each week in the Church 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. **Please note, the bridge club will not meet on July 20th. We will resume on July 27th.**

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	Gaudencio Dizon Michael Malachowski Paul Haynes Dwayne Taylor Ted Tolpa Nena Brennan Serrin Foster Margaret O'Neill Tom Swengros Meghan Bradley	Donald Trayer Ellen Trayer Jacques Courtillet Virginia Cummings Linda Barnes Peggy Sundberg Joanne Griffith William Lemelin
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

July 15-16	Brown Scapular Enrollment & Investment
July 16-21	Parish Hall closed for Summer Maintenance
July 17	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
July 17	RCIA Class in the church at 7:30pm
July 19	Adoration 9am - 7pm
July 19	Legion of Mary
July 21	Adoration 9am - 3pm
July 22	Men's Prayer Group
August 5	Luminaries of Holy Mary
August 27	Parish Picnic 2-5pm

Brown Scapular Enrollment. Sunday, July 16, is the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and the priests will enroll people in the Confraternity and invest them with the Brown Scapular after all Sunday Masses (including vigil Mass) this weekend. If you have not been enrolled previously and would like to, please stay after Mass to participate.

SAVE the DATE: PARISH PICNIC! Sunday, August 27th (2:00pm - 5:00pm) Come enjoy the Annual Parish Picnic with your fellow parishioners. Food and fun for all ages! We are need of volunteers to help with set up, cooking, games, clean up and more. Call the parish office 703-440-0535 for more information or to volunteer.

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.

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 next meeting is on July 22.**



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 Lawton at 703-576-7693 or go to <http://www.KofC.org/JoinUs> to become a Knight today!

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.

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, or call / text 703-627-7320.

The Seven Sisters Apostolate is a call to women to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of our parish priests. We have Seven Sisters groups for the three priests at St. Raymond's with someone praying for each before our Lord in the Tabernacle, every day of the week! We are in need of a few more women to step into some openings. It is a beautiful apostolate, that will exponentially change YOUR prayer life for the better. For more information, contact Suzy McCready at keiffer61@verizon.net or 703-380-4303.

A Jubilee Journey with Mary. Did you know there are 11 churches in the Diocese of Arlington which are named for Our Lady? During this second year of preparation for the Golden Jubilee of the Diocese in 2024, we are all encouraged to focus upon Mary and her role in pointing us to Jesus. To this end, Bishop Burbidge has invited all of us to visit as many of those 11 churches as possible and spend time in prayer at each! Visit www.arlingtondiocese.org/jubileejourney/ for more information about this Jubilee Journey with Mary! We hope that this initiative encourages you to grow in your understanding of Mary and your devotion to her!

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.

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.

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.

DEFENDING HUMAN DIGNITY IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE: EDUCATE and ENGAGE for LIFE

The 2023 election cycle is critical for Virginia. Every seat in the state House and Senate is up for election. Engage in the electoral process to elect future lawmakers who will respect human life, dignity, and religious liberty. Sessions sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Family Life are free but require registration.

Wednesday, August 23: St. Leo the Great **after the 9am morning Mass** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/649163815447>

OR at 7pm <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/649172862507>

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; 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.

Join Bishop Burbidge for Holy Mass in Thanksgiving for the gift of human life. Sat, Aug. 19, at 9 am at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Alexandria. Holy Mass will be followed by a rosary at the abortion facility at 2616 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria.

IT STANDS TO REASON... Level of development: True, embryos and 'fetuses' are less developed than toddlers, teens and the adults they'll one day become. But why is this relevant? Four-year-olds are less developed than 14-year-olds. Do older children have a greater right to life than their younger siblings? Some people say that self-awareness makes one human. But if that were true, infants would not qualify as valuable human beings since they lack the immediate capacity for performing human mental functions, as do the comatose, the sleeping, and those with Alzheimer's disease, etc. 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 all for your many prayers over the past few weeks! Between WorkCamp in June and Steubenville last weekend... all I can say is WOW!! Our WorkCampers had an incredible week meeting youth and adults from all over our diocese, serving our neighbors in need in the Winchester/Front Royal area, and experiencing Christ's love for us through the sacraments and in one another. The Steubenville Youth Conference this past weekend was quite a powerful experience for our group, many of whom came home ardently desiring a deeper relationship with Christ through more frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist, Confession and a desire to encounter Him through establishing a habit of daily personal prayer. God is so good!! Thank you to ALL who helped in so many ways, big and small, to make these experiences possible or our teens. (and the adults who accompanied them). Please continue to keep them and the rest of our Youth Apostolate in your prayers! It has been a very busy month for me, but I wouldn't trade it for the world! I need a little time to catch my breath and catch up on some admin stuff, but once I do, I will be putting a calendar together for the remainder of the summer and next year. **Please pray about helping out with the Youth Apostolate and keep your eyes peeled for an upcoming meeting for parents and volunteers!** I cannot do this without your help!

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:**

Last one: 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

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

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

PARENTS: It is time to register your children for the 2023-2024 Religious Education (CCD) academic year!!!!

We are in need of the following **volunteers** for the upcoming CCD year:

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

Grade 5 Assistant Teacher

Grade 7 Assistant Teacher

Grade 8 Assistant Teacher

RCIC (grades 6-8) Assistant Teacher

Please contact the Religious Education Office if you are interested in any of the positions listed above.

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.

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!

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.

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).

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.

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 **703-687-8987**, and for more information, visit <https://www.ceda.net/need-help/medical-and-counseling/counseling/>

Church Persecuted

We all recall the horror of not being able to attend Mass or other religious services during the COVID-19 crisis while stores were allowed to remain open. Furthermore, as the COVID-19 crisis began to ease, limits were placed on places of worship such as initially only 10 individuals being allowed in a church regardless of size, then only 50% of the capacity of the church could be used for any service, etc.

These mandates were imposed on churches in many states based on emergency powers given to the governor at that time. Then-Gov. Ralph Northam issued broad regulations governing worship rules and the capacity limits of churches throughout the state. While willing to do its fair share regarding the protection of the population from the spread of COVID-19, church leaders were appalled that the "governor's rules for churches were too burdensome while rules covering institutions such as liquor stores were significantly more permissive."

That changed with the passage of a bill earlier this year in the Virginia legislature and signed by Gov. Glenn Youngkin. It changes the state's code of law governing disaster regulations and stipulates that "no rule, regulation, or order issued by the governor or other governmental entity pursuant to this chapter [of the state code] shall impose restrictions on the operation of a place of worship that are more restrictive than the restrictions imposed on any other business, organization, or activity."

The bill's sponsor, Del. Wren Williams, said that this bill represented, "a spectacular win for the millions of churchgoing Christians and people of every faith all across Virginia."

<https://www.ncregister.com/cna/new-virginia-law-offers-churches-additional-protections-against-being-shut-down>



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For more specific suggestions that align with the liturgical calendar, see the bulletin board to the left of the center vestibule doors as you exit the church.

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.

There are still spots available for the 2023-24 school year in our Little Messengers faith formation program for preschoolers. Little Messengers enrollment includes Level I Atrium (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd) sessions each week. Apply soon! 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 to minimal qualification terms. 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.

As you are traveling this summer, you can find a Mass near your destination by going to 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. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

JULY 2, 2023 COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 15,261.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,155.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,245.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 10,041.00
Peter's Pence	\$ 2,299.00

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 12,779.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,024.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,661.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 7,844.00
Sol. For the Church in Africa	\$ 2,207.00



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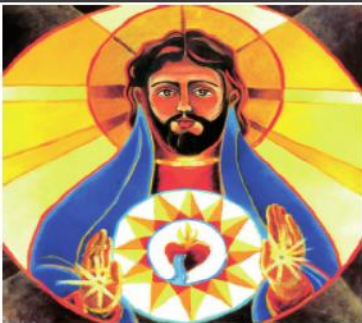
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