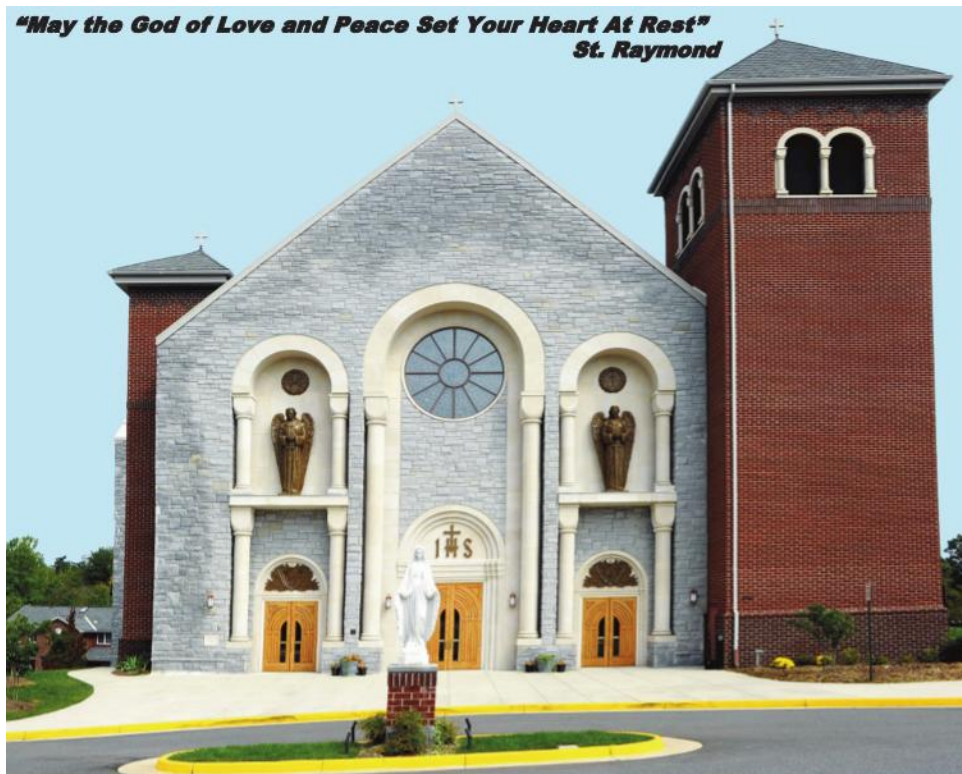


**"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"
St. Raymond**



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

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

Assumption of Mary. Tuesday, August 15, is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a **Holy Day of Obligation this year, which means it's treated like a Sunday and all Catholics must attend Mass.**

It recalls the day in history when, as Pope Pius XII infallibly declared in his 1950 Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*: “the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.” This, of course, is a great day in the life of our Blessed Mother so we rightly celebrate it as such. But it is also a great day for the life of the Church and for each Christian. Because, as we pray, “where she has gone, we hope to follow.” Our Lord Jesus has given to His Mother the heavenly rewards of her faith and love on earth, rewards that we hope to share in when we die.

But it's important to remember that this feast is not just about Mary going to heaven: it is about her having her body with her in heaven, just as Jesus has His Body in heaven. This reminds us that at the end of time all the souls who go to heaven after death (including by way of the cleansing of Purgatory) will be reunited with their glorified bodies in the Resurrection of the Dead.

This, in turn, reminds us that all of us are created to live bodily in heaven, that we are not souls imprisoned in bodies, nor are we souls using an outward shell (the body) that we can manipulate or abuse as we choose without affecting or damaging our souls. Our body is part of us, that part that communicates to others. And so what we do with our bodies expresses us and who we are. This is important in these days when so many people seem to think the body means nothing—you can abuse it with drugs or deviant sex, or you can even mutilate it with senseless surgeries. The Assumption reminds us, no! The human body—ours and everyone else's—has a fundamental dignity and is destined for the glory of heaven.

Veritatis Splendor. After the Second Vatican Council, many theologians, priests and bishops tried to argue for changes in the Church's fundamental moral teachings—and preached and taught publicly as if those changes had already taken place. As a result, many ordinary Catholics were misled into discarding fundamental moral truths, and so embraced sinful attitudes and behaviors, thinking that they were okay in God's eyes. A perfect example of this was contraception, but also extra-marital sex, divorce and remarriage, and even abortion.

But nothing had changed. Catholic fundamental moral principles were the same as always. And so God gave us a great moral philosopher and theologian as Pope, St. John Paul II. And on August 6, 1993, working closely with many talented theologians, including perhaps the greatest theologian of the last 100 years, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the Great Pope issued his monumental magisterial encyclical, *Veritatis Splendor*—the Splendor of Truth—in which he systematically discredited the prevalent errors and clarified that Catholic fundamental moral teaching had not only not changed, but was unchangeable because it was the beautiful Truth given to us by Truth Incarnate, Jesus.

Veritatis Splendor (VS) was thus a game-changing moment in moral theology. At the time, I was studying moral theology at Mt. St. Mary's Seminary-Emmitsburg (where I was a seminarian) and the John Paul II Institute for Studies in

Marriage and Family in Washington. I was incredibly blessed to study under some of the truly great moral theologians and philosophers of the time, including several who were actively close collaborators with the Pope. To a man, all were exuberant that, at last, the stake had been driven through the heart of modern moral heresies, and the course of Catholic moral thinking had been set straight again.

But my favorite response was from the great Monsignor Lorenzo Albacete. One day shortly after VS was published, he arrived 2 hours late to our 3 hour class—but the whole class had waited because he was an amazing theologian and professor. He told us that he had just come from the USCCB semiannual meeting, where he had gotten into a heated argument with a Bishop who denied Monsignor's statement that VS put an end to the “seamless garment” heresy (which played down the moral gravity of abortion). Finally, he said, slamming the desk, “I told him, ‘Damnit, I know what it says, I helped write the damn thing.’” (An exasperated and colorful way of saying he had worked with the Pope to draft VS.)

I bring this up because it is prime example of how so many have tried to reinterpret the teachings of Vatican II and subsequent papal teachings in such a way as to say the exact opposite of what they actually meant.

Recall that both Pope St. John Paul II and Cardinal Ratzinger/Pope Benedict XVI, were actually at the Council as active participants and contributors to the documents, John Paul as an Archbishop and Ratzinger as the wunderkind theologian “peritus,” active in working on every aspect of the Council. They knew what was said and what was meant, and what was not meant: they “helped write the ...thing.” So when these two great theologians came to the papal throne, their interpretation and application of the Council was authentic.

But for the last 10 years bishops and cardinals have tried to discredit or reinterpret John Paul II and Benedict XVI and their implementation of Vatican II. **Yet none of the men were even at the Council, or even priests or theologians during the council.**

A good example of this is Archbishop Victor Manuel Fernandez, who will become the new Prefect of Dicastery of the Doctrine of the Faith next month. He was only 3 years old at the close of the Council in 1965. And yet he recently stated: “*Veritatis Splendor* is a great document, powerfully solid. Obviously, it denotes a particular concern — to set certain limits. For this reason it is not the most adequate text to encourage the development of theology.... Today perhaps a [new] text will be needed ...”

I'm sorry, but it seems he misunderstands VS. VS is the key to true and organic development of theology, in continuity with the actual Tradition of the Church, and the true meaning of Vatican II. It was not about “setting limits” but correcting errors and clarifying the way forward to better and more authentic “theologizing.” Thanks be to God, a byproduct of this was to end the confusion of so many Catholics. But now so many in the hierarchy and academy clearly wish to return to that confusion.

There is no need to reinterpret or clarify the formidable and authentic magisterium of John Paul II and Benedict XVI, only a need to follow on the path they set out to a true renewal of the Church, faithful to Christ and His teaching handed down over the ages in the Church. A need to reembrace the Splendor of the Truth.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 14th

6:30 am Bob (+) & Pauline
 Ferguson
 8:30 am Paul Qui

Vigil

7:00 pm Antonio Go +

Tuesday, August 15th

**The Assumption of the
 Blessed Virgin Mary**

6:30 am Mary Salmon
 8:30 am Parishioners
 Noon Marlene Greve +
 7:00 pm Milagros Ang +

Wednesday, August 16th

6:30 am Joey Wheeler +
 8:30 am Cherie Barnett +

Thursday, August 17th

6:30 am Raymond St. Pierre
 8:30 am Barbara Machado

Friday, August 18th

6:30 am Tracy Frelk
 8:30 am Anthony & Kendra
 Pomilla

Saturday, August 19th

9:00 am Barbara DeCelles +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. Rippy**
 Ricardo Fernandez +

Sunday, August 20th

7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
 Madeline Runyan
 9:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
 Parishioners
 11:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
 Elie Garcia +
 1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
 Joey Wheeler +

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 Donald Trayer Ellen Trayer	Jacques Courtillet Virginia Cummings Peggy Sundberg Joanne Griffith Arlene Pietraszko Kevin Jackson Jean Seiberling Chris Thomason Imelda Jacob
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

August 14	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
August 15	Assumption of Mary, Holy Day of Obligation; Parish Offices are Closed
August 16	Adoration 9am - 7pm
August 16	Legion of Mary
August 18	Adoration 9am - 3pm
August 19	Men's Prayer Group
August 27	Parish Picnic 2-5pm
Sept. 2	Men's Prayer Group & Luminaries of Mary
Sept. 10	Altar Server Training Begins
Sept. 10	Religious Education Classes Begin
Sept. 16	Fr. Tad Talk at St. Raymond's

August 15th, The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Mass Times: Vigil Mass on Mon. 8/14 at 7pm
 Masses on Tues. 8/15 at 6:30am, 8:30am, Noon, & 7pm
 Parish Offices will be closed

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 in need of volunteers** to help with set up, cooking, games, clean up and more. Visit our website or call the parish office, 703-440-0535 for more information or to volunteer!

Back to School New Sock and Underwear Drive: The St. Martin de Porres Committee is sponsoring a "Back to School" drive for needy students in the Springfield area. We will be accepting donations of NEW socks and underwear for school aged children (age 5-17). A collection box will be in the narthex August 4 - 14. For health code reasons we can only accept new items. Requested items are:

Boys: socks, undershirts, briefs and boxers
 Girls: socks, tights, undershirts, camisoles and briefs
 Thank you for supporting a good community cause!

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.

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 August!** 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 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. 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. **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.

Watch for our Constant Contact Updates! If you are not receiving emails from the parish, please contact the parish office to verify your email address.



PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION -- Join the Knights! The Knights of Columbus is an International Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend values in a busy, changing world. Join the St. John Bosco Council of St. Raymond's parish today! Simply go to <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> or use the QR code below and experience the Knights free for one year: Enter the Agent Code "CPEREZ", click "Add" and complete the form. Be sure to enter our council #12846 for local information when you register. Please call our Deputy Grand Knight, Mark Lawton, at (703) 576-7693 if you have any questions. Or, better yet, visit with the Knights at our upcoming Parish Picnic on Sunday, August 27th and learn more about the many benefits of being a Knight! We look forward to your responding to the call and stepping up to become a Knight of Columbus!



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. **Our next meeting is on August 19.**

CALLED: A Conference for Young Adults. Bishop Burbidge invites all young adults (ages 19 to 35, single and married) from parishes across the Diocese of Arlington to join him at CALLED: A Conference for Young Adults. Join him on **Saturday, September 23, 2023**, for the annual Mass for Young Adults, an inspirational keynote from Mr. Sam Goodwin, who was trapped in Syria's notoriously brutal prison system, breakout sessions, dinner, prayer, live music, vendors, ministry booths, and plenty of social time! We are excited to offer complimentary childcare for this conference! Invite your friends! The Mass and Conference will run from 2-9:15 pm. Register now to take advantage of Early Bird Pricing! To register: <https://secure4.arlingtondiocese.org/Young Adult Conference/Register.aspx>

Endow Young Adult Women's Group. Are you looking to grow in faith and community with other young adult women (ages 21-40ish) of the parish? In September, the young adult women's Endow group will be starting a new study! We meet twice a month in the evening. Contact Theresa Tolpa by Sept. 1st at tctolpa159@gmail.com for more information.

The Arlington Diocese invites you to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in July 2024. The Congress is scheduled to take place in Indianapolis, Indiana from July 17 – July 21, 2024. Information can be found here: <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/>. The diocese has secured tickets for the Congress and is working with Corporate Travel Service (CTS) to arrange a "tour package" for members of our diocese to participate. If you are interested in being a part of our Diocesan tour, please respond via this link: <https://bit.ly/Catholic2024>

Virtus Seminar at St. Raymonds. St. Raymond's will host a Virtus Seminar in the parish hall, on Thursday October 19th, from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. Attending a Virtus Seminar is required (in addition to a background check) for anyone who has substantial contact with youth as part of their volunteer activities at St. Raymond. Attending a Virtus Seminar is required only once in a lifetime. You can register for the Virtus Seminar at virtusonline.org. Any questions, contact Mary Hansen at 703-440-0537.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

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

Join Bishop Burbidge for Holy Mass in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Human Life, Sat, Aug. 19, 2023, at 9 a.m., at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Alexandria. Mass will be followed by a rosary at the abortion facility at 2616 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria

A new virtual group for abortion after care for women is starting on Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00 - 8:00 pm for six weeks on Zoom. For confidential inquiries and to learn more, please contact Sarah at info@helpafterabortion.org.

A Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be on Sat, Sept 30. English and Spanish. You are not alone. Take the first step. (888) 456-HOPE. Confidentiality always respected. helpafterabortion.org. Men: 703-841-3833.

Ways to Support Project Rachel. The diocesan after abortion care ministry has new prayer support and outreach opportunities, for both women and men. Helping professionals (i.e. licensed counselor, social worker, nurse) and/or a part of a service agency (i.e. healthcare, education, addiction recovery, sex trafficking or abuse, homeless shelters, prison system), please contact director Sarah LaPierre to discover more about integrated community grassroots efforts. info@helpafterabortion.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. **Natural Family Planning.** A gift to your marriage. The truth will set you free! cdi.org

The Saint Paul VI Institute is a medical center for the study of human reproduction completely in union with the Church's teaching. Internationally recognized for its outstanding achievements in natural fertility regulation and building a culture of life in women's healthcare through the Creighton Model FertilityCare and NaPro technology. Professional, caring and morally acceptable patient services. Visit popepaulvi.com.

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.

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>

CCD & Youth Group for 7-8th Grade & 9-12th Grade

Learning about our Faith is a life-long process... and does not end after Confirmation. We should all continue to seek out opportunities to learn more about our Faith throughout our entire lives. AND at the same time, it is super important to have friends who share your values and beliefs, with whom you can form life-long friendships and grow in the Faith ... thus youth group! Don't forget to sign up for CCD at <https://bit.ly/CCDforMe> We have a TOP NOTCH high school program open to all 9-12th graders, whether public, private, or home schooled. Come check it out! No charge for HS CCD.

Youth Group & CCD start up again September 10th:

4-5:30pm Junior High Youth Group

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

7-8:30pm High School Youth Group

Parish Picnic!!

Sunday, August 27th from 2-5pm

Bring your family & meet your parish family!

Fun for everyone! Scrumptious Food!

**GAGABALL
&**



Jr. High Skee Ball Contest!



High School Men: Our high school "Sons of Thunder" group will re-start **September 19, 2023**. Mark your calendars, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7-8:30 pm in the Maurer Room. Come hungry (physically and intellectually) and ready to rumble. More details to follow.

Volunteers Needed to help with Youth Group on Sundays

We are in need of folks to help lead our teens to Christ via your example, witness, time and relational ministry. Is your faith important to you? Might you have a gift in working with teens? Maybe you do and you don't even know it yet! Take it to prayer. Ask God if He is calling you... and if He says yes, or maybe... or if you ask and can't hear His answer... contact Jeanne for more info. youth@straymonds.org **It is essential that more folks step up to volunteer in order to keep our thriving Sunday youth groups going. The time commitment to help with Jr. High is from 3:30-5:30pm and for High School it is 6:45-8:30pm.** We can be flexible if you are out of town for a week here and there!

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 enroll your children (grades K-12) in the 2023-2024 Religious Education (CCD) program!! You can find the bright green registration form in the Narthex of the church, outside the Religious Education office, in the parish office or online.

We offer the following sessions:

Sunday 5:30 - 7 p.m. for grades 1-12

Monday 4:45 - 6:15 p.m. for grades K-8 and RCIC class for children in grades 6-8 who have not received their sacraments at the traditional time

Tuesday 4:45 - 6:15 p.m. RCIC class for children in grades 3-5 who have not received their sacraments at the traditional time

Attention HOME SCHOOL and CATHOLIC 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 upcoming CCD year:

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

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.

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

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.

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.

Legion of Mary: Do you want to develop a closer relationship with our Mother Mary and her Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ? 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.

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.

Church Persecuted

Faithful Catholics are not welcomed to adopt or foster children in Massachusetts! Mike and Kitty Burke have sued the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in Massachusetts District Court for not allowing them to adopt a child because of their Catholic religious beliefs. Massachusetts currently has over 1500 children who need a foster home or adoption. The state of Massachusetts is currently housing them in hospitals for weeks at a time. The Burkes applied to become foster parents, hoping to adopt children. They passed all the training until the subject of dealing with LGBTQ children came up during the home interviews. The home study concluded that, "Their faith is not supportive."

Massachusetts and federal law protect the religious liberty of foster parents, but that didn't seem to matter to the Department of Children & Families, whose staff conducted the interviews. The Massachusetts Foster Parent Bill of Rights prohibits discrimination against potential foster parents. In 2020, a federal district court in Washington State held, "if the only factor weighing against an otherwise qualified applicant has to do with their sincerely held religious beliefs, the Department must not discriminate against a foster care applicant based on their creed." The U.S. Supreme Court in *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia* in 2021 unanimously ruled that Philadelphia's foster care system cannot exclude Catholics. *Kennedy v. Bremerton* (the case of the football coach praying after each football game) stated that "The Constitution neither mandates nor tolerates that kind of discrimination."

Fortunately, law firms such as Becket, Alliance Defending Freedom, Thomas More Society, and others are performing yeoman's work in protecting the religious liberty of Americans.

Source: *Michael and Catherine Burke v. Kate Walsh*, U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, filed 8/8/2023.



Get In-Formed!

The Solemnity of the Assumption is August 15.

Watch *The Bible and the Virgin Mary*. Episode 11 in this 12-part scripture-focused series based on work by Dr. Scott Hahn focuses on the Assumption. PDF study guide also available.

Watch *The Woman*. This hour long film presents several Marian devotions and dogmas, including the Assumption. Various priests and religious contribute to the commentary.

Watch *33 Days to Morning Glory*. This filmed group retreat accompanies participants in the 33-day consecration to Mary as outlined in the book of the same title by Fr. Michael Gaitley. Books are available for order from Catholic Market, Amazon, etc.

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.

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.

Diocesan Scholarship Fund. Virginia offers a state tax credit for donations to the Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation, which provides scholarships for low-income students. Call Jeanne Combos at 703-841-2764, or email DASF@arlingtondiocese.org, for more details.

Free Hospital Bed: A parishioner has offered an electric Hill-Rom CareAssist hospital bed, complete with its inflatable mattress and pump. He purchased them a couple of years ago, but by the grace of God, he never really needed them. He would like to give them to somebody who could make better use of them - completely free, no charge. If you need or could use such a hospital bed, please contact Mike Kelly at (703) 440-9383 or by email at lodestar@cox.net.

As you are traveling this summer, you can find a Mass near your destination by going to Masstimes.org.

FAITH DIRECT: eGiving helps you continue to support St. Raymond's. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/VA64. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 16,796.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,260.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,430.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 1,737.00



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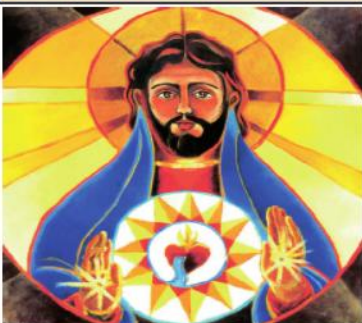
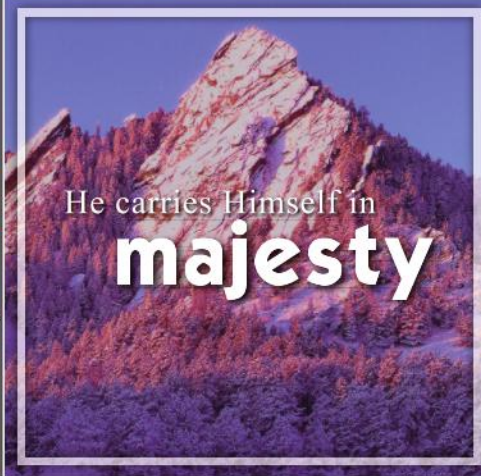
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