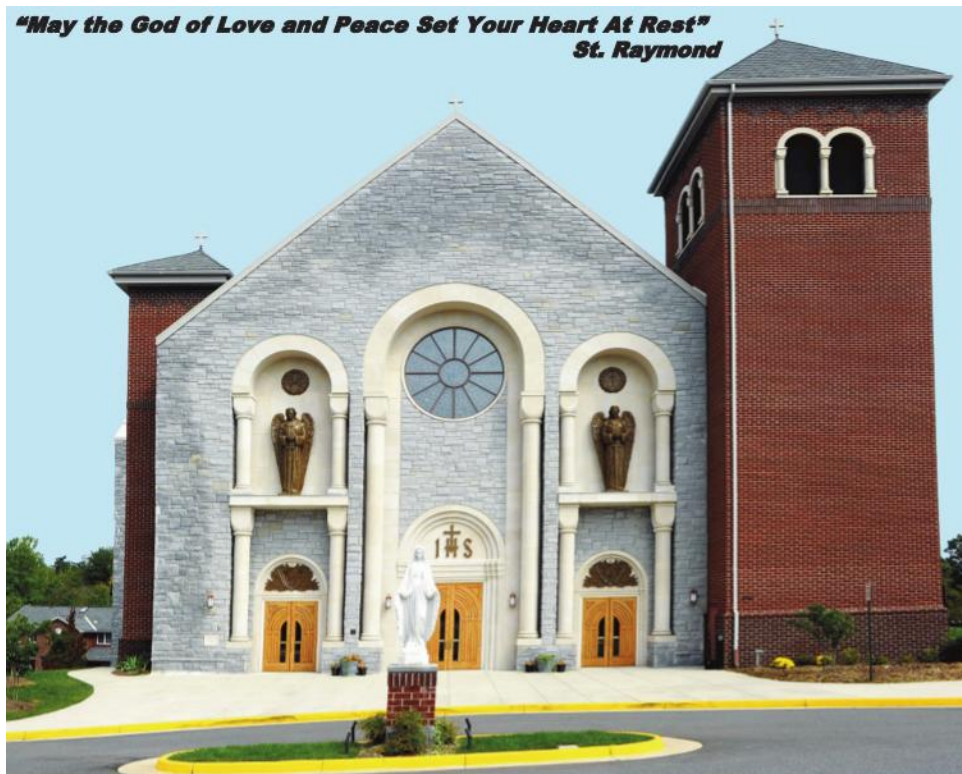


**"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"  
St. Raymond**



## **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 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](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

**Parish Picnic.** Our annual Parish Picnic is next Sunday, August 27, from 2-5pm here on the Parish grounds, behind the church. There's lots of food, fun and music for kids and adults alike — a great way to meet and get to know your fellow parishioners. For new parishioners (and visitors) this is a great opportunity to meet people and learn more about the parish; for the rest of us, this is one of the best chances we will have all year to welcome others into the life and fellowship of our parish—don't pass it up!

### Parish Updates.

**"Operation Lost Sheep."** I'm sure you remember that back in May I announced "Operation Lost Sheep" to try to address the lower Mass attendance since our return from Covid. At that time you were extremely cooperative in helping me take attendance for two weeks of Sunday Masses by completing in-pew surveys—**about 650 households responded, which is phenomenal!**

Over the summer we used that information to try to identify who might be missing Mass, so we could then invite, encourage and help them come back. The secretaries personally **called almost 350 families** to see what we could do for them in this regard. We found that many of these families were attending Mass at St. Raymond's but either were elsewhere on the Sundays we took the surveys or had not participated. We also found that some had moved out of the parish without letting us know.

As for the rest, we discovered some folks we were unaware of who are unable to attend Mass because of illness or infirmity—now we can help them with that in various ways. We also found that a few families are still hesitant to attend Mass because of fears of Covid, especially due to family members with compromised immune systems. And a few households never answered our calls or returned our voice messages.

But the best news is that our calls encouraged a lot of folks to come back to Mass. Which makes all of our efforts worthwhile.

Thanks to all of you for your cooperation, and thanks to our parish staff for their diligent (and kind) work. And thanks be to God for his grace in all of this. Please pray for all those who are unable to attend, for those who are otherwise struggling to attend, and those who are returning to Mass.

**Sound System Upgrade.** Last Sunday we ran another quick in-pew survey to get input on the problems with our sound system, and we received many very helpful responses. In compiling the results, we came up a map of the church consolidating and summarizing all the indicated problem spots (echoes, low sound, unclear sound), and were definitely able to see some "trends." The next day I met with our sound specialist, who proved very knowledgeable and helpful, and we discussed various ways to address the problems.

As I had hoped, I think we can address the problems with a combination of improved technology (which has markedly advanced since our current system was installed 15 years ago) and some relocation of speakers. He will propose various solutions for me to choose from in the next few weeks, including ways for folks to directly pick up the sound in their hearing aids. I will report back with details.

This will be expensive: over \$25,000, I'm sure. But I am very hopeful that we will see a big improvement. Let us pray.

**Some Small Liturgical Changes.** Over the summer Fr. Bergida was able to work with the Altar Servers to work on serving practices and skills, and to introduce some small changes in their serving that I've been intending for a long while. Small changes,

but we think they add to the sense of reverence in the Mass.

One change that many have asked about is why, at some Masses, do the Servers **raise the priest's chasuble slightly** as the celebrant elevates the Sacred Host and then the Chalice during the Consecration? (NB: the "chasuble" is the large colored vestment the priest wears over all the other vestments).

This practice is an ancient practice required in the Extraordinary Form Mass, but largely forgotten, though still permitted, in the New Mass. The practice is ancient and originates in that period when chasubles were voluminous and made it difficult for the priest to raise his arms above his head: lifting the lower corners of the chasuble gives the priest greater freedom of movement. That is the practical purpose.

But there are also symbolic meanings imputed over the centuries.

The Chasuble traditionally symbolized the yoke of Christ, and so is the symbol of Christ's charity (which is why it goes over all the other vestments). As the Server touches the garment it symbolizes that the Love/Charity of Christ flows out from the Eucharist, the Sacrament of Christ's Love/Charity.

Similarly, touching the Chasuble recalls the Scripture passage: "a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.'" And Jesus' reaction: "Jesus said, 'someone touched me: for I perceived that power had gone forth from me.'"

Finally, I have also always associated this with a sort of symbolic levitation of the priest, as he holds and elevates the sacred species, symbolically raising all of us into heaven.

So, a subtle change, but, I think, a beautiful and meaningful one.

**Gender Crazy News.** Did you see this reported by Fox News:

*"A California hospital executive and professor claimed children can identify as a mythology-inspired creature and claimed that this category of children love mermaids, according to a presentation reviewed by Fox News Digital."*

*Diane Ehrensaft, a self-identified "feminist" who supports a "gender revolution," is the director of mental health and chief psychologist at the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital gender development center. She is also a professor at UCSF School of Medicine. The developmental and clinical psychologist specializes in pediatric "gender-affirmative care for transgender and gender-expansive patients."*

*Her biography paged reflected that Ehrensaft focuses her research on how genders before puberty develop as well as the mental health effects of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones, which are part of chemical sex changes, on children.*

*Ehrensaft made what some may consider fringe claims about gender ideology, including that kids can identify as "gender hybrids" which include a mythology-inspired creature called a "gender Minotaur," and that kids can change their genders by season and can have different identities depending on their location.*

*According to Britannica, a "Minotaur" is derived from Greek mythology and was a creature which had the body of a man and the head of a bull.*

*"I totally agree we are in the midst of a gender revolution and the children are leading it. And it's a wonderful thing to see. And it's also humbling to know [children] know more than we do about this topic of being gender expansive," she said during a 2018 talk at the San Francisco Public Library.*

God save us from these "mental health experts." They're nuts!

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



**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b><u>Monday, August 21st</u></b> 6:30 am Heather Ruffner 8:30 am O'Halloran Family	<b><u>Saturday, August 26th</u></b> 9:00 am Marie Gemperline
<b><u>Tuesday, August 22nd</u></b> 6:30 am Lisa Rickards 8:30 am Tso Family	<b><u>Vigil Mass</u></b> 5:00 pm <b>Fr. Bergida</b> Elie "Mama" Garcia +
<b><u>Wednesday, August 23rd</u></b> 6:30 am Christy Karako 8:30 am Mark Crum +	<b><u>Sunday, August 27th</u></b> 7:00 am <b>Fr. Rippy</b> Sheila Bruen 9:00 am <b>Fr. De Celles</b> Parishioners 11:00 am <b>Fr. Bergida</b> Bob Boyle + 1:00 pm <b>Fr. Horkan</b> Carlos Rosado +
<b><u>Thursday, August 24th</u></b> 6:30 am Elie "Mama" Garcia + 8:30 am Rose Marie Tougas +	
<b><u>Friday, August 25th</u></b> 6:30 am Lourdes Ortega Vidal + 8:30 am Lynne LaFleur +	

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

[www.straymonds.org](http://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!

**Mass for Marriage Jubilarians.** Celebrating A Golden or Silver Wedding Anniversary This Year? Were you married in 1973 or 1998? You are invited to join Bishop Michael Burbidge for the 2023 Mass for Jubilarians to be celebrated on Sunday, October 15, 2023, at 3 pm at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Arlington, VA. Contact your parish office to register no later than Monday, October 2, 2023. For more info, visit [www.arlingtondiocese.org/MJM](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/MJM).

**WAY Holy Hour and Mass.** There is a monthly holy hour and Mass at St. Raymond's for the Women's Apostolate to Youth. This event, usually the last Wednesday of the month, is at 7:30 pm. Father celebrates benediction for parishioners at 7pm but leave the Eucharist exposed for Adoration by WAY. The event is intended for members of WAY and their (female) guests. The **next Holy Hour and Mass will be on August 30th**. If you would like information about how to join WAY, visit [waywomen.com](http://waywomen.com) or email [womenofway@gmail.com](mailto:womenofway@gmail.com). Please stay tuned for a schedule of monthly meetings to be held at the parish beginning in September.

**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 Jean Seiberling Alayne Adams Bernard Beau Mutumanje
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**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

<b>August 21</b>	<b>Family of Jesus Prayer Group</b>
<b>August 23</b>	<b>Adoration 9am - 7pm</b>
<b>August 23</b>	<b>Legion of Mary</b>
<b>August 25</b>	<b>Adoration 9am - 3pm</b>
<b>August 27</b>	<b>Parish Picnic 2-5pm</b>
<b>August 28</b>	<b>RCIA Mass at 7pm</b>
<b>Sept. 2</b>	<b>Men's Prayer Group</b>
<b>Sept. 2</b>	<b>Luminaries of Mary</b>
<b>Sept. 10</b>	<b>Altar Server Training Begins</b>
<b>Sept. 10</b>	<b>Religious Education Classes Begin</b>
<b>Sept. 16</b>	<b>Fr. Tad Talk at St. Raymond's</b>
<b>Sept. 21</b>	<b>FCPS School Board Candidate Forum, 7pm</b>

**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!

**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.

**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](mailto:tctolpa159@gmail.com) for more information.

**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.



**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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 September 2.**

**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>

**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!

**Mother Daughter Retreat:** The Women's Apostolate to Youth invites you to a Mother-Daughter retreat (for girls in grades 7-9) entitled, "To Light and Guard, To Rule and Guide: Your Guardian Angel's Mission to Form You into a Woman of Integrity" on **September 23, 2023**. The retreat includes talks, activities (fun!), as well as opportunities for confession, adoration, and Mass. The retreat begins at 8:30 am and concludes at 3:30 pm at St. Raymond of Penafort. The \$60 fee includes materials, breakfast, and lunch for both mother and daughter (\$15 per additional daughter). For more information and to register by September 15 visit <https://www.waywomen.com/daystar>. Sorry, we cannot accept registrations at the door.

**Virtus Seminar at St. Raymonds.** St. Raymond's will host a Virtus Seminar in the parish hall, on Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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*

**MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center:** We proudly partner with MaRiH as they serve local expectant mothers in need. Donation Box for baby items up to 2T is in the narthex. **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).

**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](mailto:info@helpafterabortion.org).

**A Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion** will be on Sat, Sept 30. Private and peaceful setting. English and Spanish. All are welcome so please bring a friend. Take the first step. (888)456-HOPE. For confidential inquiries, please contact [info@helpafterabortion.org](mailto:info@helpafterabortion.org). Men: 703-841-3833.

**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).

**Natural Family Planning.** A gift to your marriage. The truth will set you free! [cdi.org](http://cdi.org)

**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.

**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. Our local session sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Family Life is free but requires 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 [amomspace.org](http://amomspace.org).

**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** *Where* you are has no bearing on the dignity of *who* you are. Does your intrinsic value change when you cross the street? If not, how can a journey of a few inches down the birth-canal suddenly change the essential nature of the preborn from non-human to human? If the preborn are not already human, merely changing their location can't make them human and vice versa. "Thou shalt not kill" applies. [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>

### 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](mailto: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](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 Religious Education (CCD) classes begin

**September 10th** - If you have not registered your child(ren), please do so now either online or in person.

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

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

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.

**REMINDER to catechists and assistants: Catechist Kick-Off meeting is August 26th immediately following 9 am Mass!!!**

**ALL CCD PARENTS are expected to attend a "Back to CCD Night" meeting** scheduled for September 24th and 25th at 5:15 pm in the parish hall. You may attend the meeting which is most convenient for you.

**Parents of Homeschool and Catholic school students** who are in sacrament preparation years (grades 2, 7 and 8) and are receiving their Sacraments here at St. Raymond's, should attend one of these meetings.

**Home School Group:** for more information visit our website [www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/](http://www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/) Or email [straymondhsg@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:dancertoo2@yahoo.com) or James Kolakoski at 703-455-3009 [bridgeclub402@gmail.com](mailto: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](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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:mary.butler@straymonds.org).

**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.**



## Church Persecuted

The misnamed “pro-choice” industry took another step defining itself as the “pro-abortion” industry earlier this month when Pennsylvania’s Democratic governor signed the state budget and stated that he would terminate the contract with Life-Affirming Pregnancy Support Service, which had operated for 30 years in the state as a support center for those who “choose childbirth rather than abortion.”

“Real Alternatives exists to provide life-affirming pregnancy and parenting support services at 77 locations” to include 35 social service agencies, 27 pregnancy support centers, 3 adoption agencies, and 12 maternity homes located throughout Pennsylvania. “These compassionate support services empower women to protect their reproductive health, avoid crisis pregnancies, choose childbirth rather than abortion, receive adoption education, and improve parenting skills.” According to their 2021-2022 annual report, they have served over 348,000 clients in the past 27 years. The state House and Senate approved the budget line for \$8.2 million for women’s health services. The governor said that none of that money will be earmarked for Real Alternatives.

All of these sound like reasonable approaches to help women, especially in those inner-city and rural areas where positive pregnancy-support services are not readily available. But, no, they conflict with the Planned Parenthood agenda of the governor and his minions who “will ensure women... receive the reproductive health care they desire.” This was a huge win for Planned Parenthood, which has been lobbying for years to end this funding and gain control of the contract with the state because it cuts into their bottom line of not being “pro-choice” but clearly being “pro-abortion.”

Source: [www.realalternatives.org](http://www.realalternatives.org) and various news feeds.



Get In-Formed!

**Parents, these suggestions are for you, your children’s primary educators.** (CCC 2223)

**Watch *Reborn-The Mission to Love: 7 Keys to Catholic Parenting*.** Dr. Edward Sri presents proactive and practical Catholic parenting advice.

**Listen to *How to Keep Your Kids Catholic*.** Converted Baptist minister, Ken Hensley, gives practical and tested advice on how to successfully raise children in the Catholic Church.

**Listen to *Protecting Innocence: Parenting, Your Kids, & the Internet*.** Popular Catholic speaker and author Matt Fradd explains how parents can effectively address the dangers of pornography with their children.

**See the Formed bulletin board by the central doors of the narthex for additional suggestions**

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## Angelus Academy

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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/](http://AngelusAcademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/)

Call or Email Julie Maimone, Director of Admissions, at [Admissions@angelusacademy.org](mailto:Admissions@angelusacademy.org) for more information or to schedule a tour.

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[www.AngelusAcademy.org](http://www.AngelusAcademy.org) 703-924-3996  
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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 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.

**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](mailto:lodestar@cox.net).

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

## LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION

<b>Sunday Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 13,208.00</b>
<b>Family Assistance</b>	<b>\$ 892.00</b>
<b>Maintenance Fund</b>	<b>\$ 832.00</b>
<b>Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations</b>	<b>\$ 1,980.00</b>

**There is a special collection this weekend for Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief.** In response to the devastation wrought by the wildfires on the island of Maui, Bishop Burbidge has asked us to do a special collection this weekend. These resources will be utilized to support the relief efforts for those affected by the wildfires. **Please use the boxes at each exit or drop a donation off at the office.**



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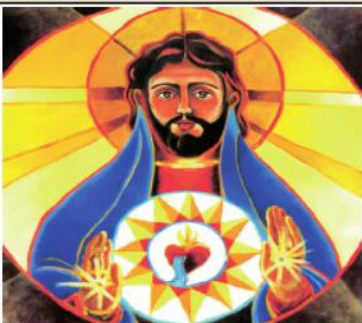
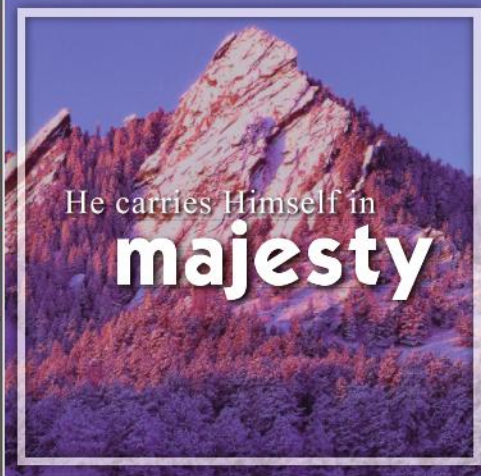
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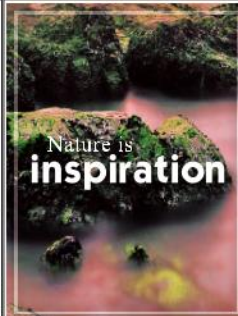
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