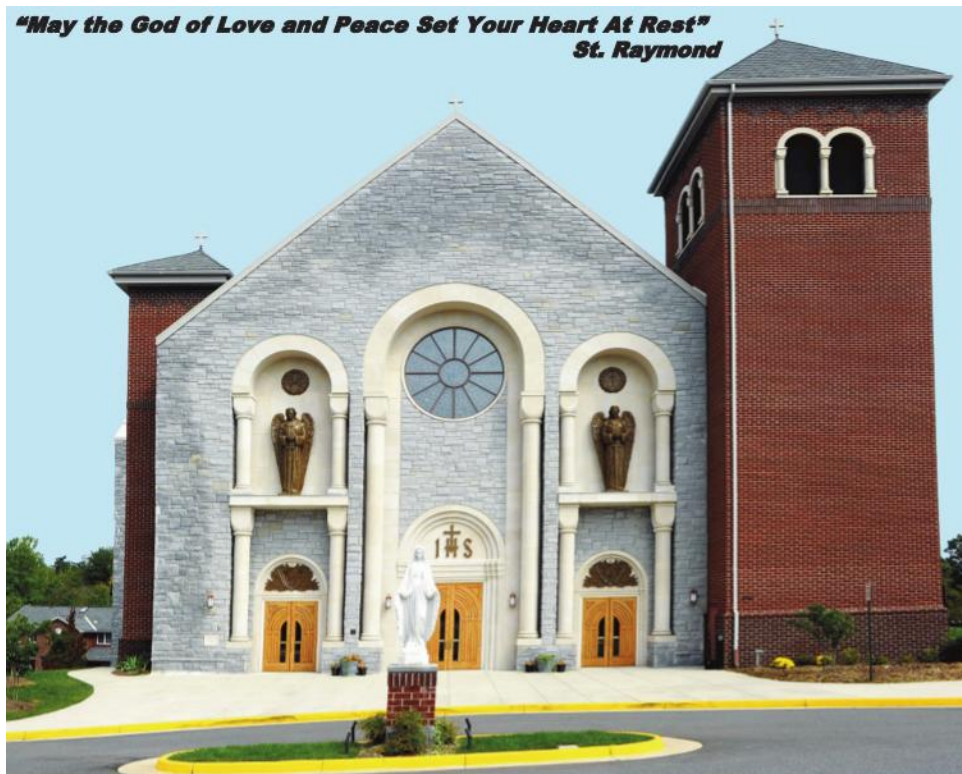


**"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"
St. Raymond**



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

Reminder to Our Youth.

*"It is Jesus you seek when you dream of happiness;
he is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you;
he is the beauty to which you are so attracted;
it is he who provokes you with that thirst for fullness
that will not let you settle for compromise;
it is he who urges you to shed the masks of a false life;
it is he who reads in your hearts your most genuine choices,
the choices that others try to stifle...
It is Jesus who stirs in you
the desire to do something great with your lives,
the will to follow an ideal,
the refusal to allow yourselves to be grounded down by
mediocrity,
the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently
to improving yourselves and society,
making the world more human and more fraternal."*
-Saint John Paul II, World Youth Day, 2005

Back to School. Most of our college and grade/high school children went back to school last week, and even many homeschoolers have started their new academic year. I hope you have all had a wonderful summer, and are rested and refreshed and ready to take on the new challenges of the coming academic year and have a blessed year.

For those of you returning to the Fairfax County Public Schools, I wish you wouldn't, but I respect your choices and will pray for a good year for you. I remind you to be on guard against the growing anti-Christian bigotry, ideology and culture growing in the schools. Watch for curriculum that tries to degrade any race — including "whites." Catholics don't hate or degrade others or themselves. We don't dwell on the offenses of the past, but believe in conversion, forgiveness and the dignity of every human being. Beware also of those who try to degrade your or other's bodies, either by encouraging sexual promiscuity or identity confusion.

Parents, you know better than I do that you cannot simply let the government/public schools take charge of the education of your children. **YOU are the primary educators of your children**, so remember to monitor and discuss with your children what they are being taught in school. Of course, remember to opt your children out of anything that attempts to teach them secular morals, especially sexual and family morals, i.e. especially any relevant sections of "Family Life Education." But also remember to be on guard against the Marxist-secularist-atheist ideologies that will be permeating almost every class, from social sciences to math. There are many good and dedicated teachers and administrators in public schools (many of our parishioners), so seek them out and support them. But don't assume that all teachers and administrators share your values or education goals.

CCD/Religious Education. And remember to register today (online or in person) for Religious Education classes here at St. Raymond's, which begin the week of September 10. Make sure your children attend class and do their homework every week, and work with them at home to help them understand what they've learned in class. An hour a week in CCD isn't enough, on its own, to teach your children the Faith—in fact, you should really consider it only as a supplement to what you continue to teach them at home.

And those of you with children in Catholic schools, don't forget your responsibilities either. Catholic schools are a great option when it comes to teaching morality and Christian

values, but no school or teacher is perfect. So, trust, but verify. And continue to teach them the Faith at home.

Parents are the First Teachers. Remember the words of Bishop Burbidge in his letter, "A Catechesis on the Human Person and Gender Ideology."

"Another strong source of misinformation ...is, regrettably, the public education system. [M]any...aggressively promote a false understanding of the human person in their advocacy of gender ideology....Parents with children in public school must thereforebe even more vigilant and vocal against this false and harmful ideology...."

Parish Picnic. Today (Sunday, August 27) is our annual Parish Picnic 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 a deeper participation in the life and fellowship of our parish—don't pass it up!

Requiescat in Pace. I was deeply saddened to learn last Friday that **Judge James Buckley**, a truly great American statesman, had died at the age of 100. This is a brief bio from a friendly website:

"James L. Buckley was born in New York City in 1923, grew up in rural Connecticut, and received his B.A. degree from Yale. Following service as a naval officer in World War II, he returned to New Haven to secure his law degree. After several years in private practice, he joined a group of small companies engaged in oil exploration abroad. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1970 as the candidate of New York's Conservative Party. He failed of re-election; but he has since served as an undersecretary of state in the Reagan administration, as president of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Munich, Germany, and, most recently, as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He retired in 2000."

That just doesn't say enough though. (Go to National Review Online and check out their Tribute). He was one of the most brilliant and clear thinking leaders of the last 100 years. He was a towering voice in the conservative and pro-life movement (as Senator he introduced the Human Life Amendment in 1973 to protect the unborn). He was a mentor to countless lawyers, judges, and politicians. He was one of a family of 10 children (including brother William F. and sister Priscilla). He was the father of 6 children, and the devoted husband of his incredible wife, Ann, whom he lovingly nursed for several years after she was paralyzed in an automobile accident. He was a gentleman, a kind man, a man of true charity.

And he was a holy man. He was a devout Catholic who loved Our Lord and the Catholic Faith as much as anyone I've ever known. And I'm deeply honored to say that over the last 10 years or so, by some kind gift of providence, I had gotten to know him rather well (you might have seen him at some of our Friday evening Extraordinary Form Masses). Even at 100 years old his memory was clear, his mind was sharp and his advice was profound. I will miss him. But I know he is on his way to heaven. Please pray for him.

Requiem æternam dona ei, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat ei: Requiescat in pace. Amen.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 28th

6:30 am Joe Ammirati
 8:30 am Donna & Ron Shickel

Tuesday, August 29th

6:30 am Karen Popp
 8:30 am Simon & Angela Guerrero +

Wednesday, August 30th

6:30 am John Christensen
 8:30 am Brad Hoopes

Thursday, August 31st

6:30 am Julie Maimone
 8:30 am Ricardo Fernandez +

Friday, September 1st

6:30 am Meredith Hoopes
 8:30 am Beverly Buczacki

Saturday, September 2nd

9:00 am Mason Shealy

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
 Breny Mantooth

Sunday, September 3rd

7:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
 Bishop Emeritus Paul S. Loverde

9:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
 Parishioners

11:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
 Stephen & Allie Schweitzer

1:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Tiffany Marie-Therese Nguyen

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 September!** All are invited to attend.

First Friday Nocturnal Adoration, September 1. On the first Friday of the month, we extend our regular hours of Friday adoration to continue through the evening until Saturday at 9am. Our regularly scheduled adorers will cover the daytime hours (9am – 3pm), and **we need extra volunteers** to cover from 3pm on Friday through 9am on Saturday. **Please visit our website to sign up!** Two adorers are required per hour.

Annual Mary's Nativity Feast Day (Birthday) Party: All parishioners and Legion of Mary members: To honor our Blessed Lady's feast day of September 8th, you are cordially invited to take part in our annual celebration on **Saturday, September 9 at 10 am** (following the 9 am Mass), in the parish hall. The Legion Tessera prayers will be said throughout the program. There will also be a short quiz contest! Only those present (children & adults) can take part in the contest. Prizes! Light refreshments will be served. Please **RSVP** to Judy Mayer, jmayer9014@aol.com, or text 703-627-7320.

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 or email 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	Gaudencio Dizon	Ellen Trayer
Tom Dietz	Michael	Jacques Courtillet
Michael O'Neill	Malachowski	Virginia
Cindy Laird	Paul Haynes	Cummings
Patricia Lewis	Dwayne Taylor	Peggy Sundberg
Mai Pham	Ted Tolpa	Joanne Griffith
Jason Saenz	Nena Brennan	Arlene Pietraszko
Phyllis Zitnik	Serrin Foster	Jean Seiberling
Patricia Del Buono	Margaret O'Neill	Bernard Beau
John Florio	Tom Swengros	Mutumanje
Debra Henkel	Donald Trayer	Anjane Balkissoon

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

August 27	Bethlehem Woodcarvers Sale in Narthex
August 27	Parish Picnic 2-5pm
August 28	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
August 30	Adoration 9am - 7pm
August 30	Legion of Mary
Sept. 1-2	First Friday Nocturnal Adoration
Sept. 2	Men's Prayer Group
Sept. 2	Luminaries of Mary
Sept. 10	Altar Server Training Begins
Sept. 10	Religious Education Classes Begin
Sept. 16	Fr. Tad Talk at St. Raymond's
Sept. 21	FCPS School Board Candidate Forum, 7pm

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!

Bethlehem Woodcarving Group is here this weekend!
 Please stop by their display of beautiful olivewood handmade carvings from the Holy Land. These carvings are made by the Christians of Bethlehem who use them as their source of income. These brothers and sisters of ours are enduring hardships at this moment because of the volatile situation in their home country. YOU can support them by purchasing some of these beautiful carvings after Mass.

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.

Book Club Resumes! The parish Book Club will have its first meeting of the 2023-2024 year on **Thursday, September 7, May 12, 2023**, at 10:00 AM in the St Raymond Library to discuss "Joan of Arc" by Mark Twain. Note that this meeting will be on a **Thursday**, not Friday. The schedule for the year is on the parish website at <https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/book-club/>. New members are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.



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 their table at the Parish Picnic this weekend and learn more about the many benefits of being a Knight! We look forward to seeing you there!



September Upcoming events:

2 Men's Prayer Breakfast
11 KofC Council Meeting
16 Men's Prayer Breakfast
23 Grotto of Lourdes Rosary Pilgrimage (Emmitsburg, MD)
30-1 Oct KofC Membership Drive

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.**

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.

JOIN the CHOIR at St. Raymond's: Rehearsals resume on Sept. 12th! We practice on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and sing at 11:00 am Mass on Sundays with a warm-up at 10. The choir also provides music for Easter, Christmas and Holy Days. The repertoire of the choir contains masterpieces of classical liturgical choir music. Singers who have a pleasant voice and sing in pitch are welcome. Enjoy wonderful fellowship, music training and the joy of making uplifting music for the liturgy. Contact Elisabeth Turco at music@straymonds.org or call 703-506-4644.

Adult Enrichment Opportunities:

2023-2024 RCIA/Catholic Update - St. Raymond's will offer RCIA classes on **Monday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 pm** in the Rectory Classroom (Maurer Room) from **September 11, 2023 until March 25, 2024 (except for Holidays)** *Those seeking information to understand and/or to enter the Catholic Church, and baptized Catholics seeking additional sacraments* are welcomed. No registration is required. If you have questions call Bob Ward, (703) 644-5873 or via email at biblestudy@straymonds.org.

2023-2024 Adult Bible Study - St. Raymond's will continue an overview of the **Synoptic Gospels on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 am and again on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 pm** (except for holidays) in the Parish Social Hall, from **Tuesday, September 12, 2023 through Tuesday, May 14, 2024**. For further information please call Bob Ward at (703) 644-5873 or via e-mail at biblestudy@straymonds.org.

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



Early voting starts on 22 September.
Get informed and get in line to Vote Pro Life.

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.

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. 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. 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.

Natural Family Planning. A gift to your marriage. The truth will set you free! Visit ccli.org

Tepeyac Pro Life OB/GYN: Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare. tepeyacobgyn.com 703-273-9440. Thank you for your referrals and your support.

Has the sorrow of miscarriage or still birth touched your life? **A Mom's Peace**, offers discreet support to families with bereavement, burial and remembrance assistance. Visit amomspeace.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.

IT STANDS TO REASON Degree of Dependency: It is ludicrous to think that autonomous viability makes us human. If it did, then all those who depend on dialysis or insulin or any other medication, etc. would not be intrinsically valuable, and it would be licit to kill them. Conjoined twins who share blood type and bodily systems would also have no right to life. In short, it's far more reasonable to argue that although humans differ immensely with respect to talents, degrees of development and dependency, we are all equal in dignity because we share a common **GOD GIVEN** (not man-made) human nature. It is our **HUMAN NATURE** which makes each person inherently and eternally valuable! "Thou shalt not kill" applies. 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>

Parish Picnic!! Sunday, August 27th from 2-5pm

Bring your family & meet your parish family!

Play GAGABALL and...



Jr. High Skee Ball Contest!



PARENT MEETING for parents of 7-12th graders MONDAY, August 28th at 7pm in the Maurer Room

Please come to hear about the upcoming events and opportunities for your child(ren) with St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate this year. The last time I had a parent meeting was 10yrs ago, when I first started here at St. Raymond's and the world has become such a different place in that time. Please, come share your wisdom, ideas and input as to what topics you would like to cover this year, what types of events and opportunities you would like to see available for your children within the Youth Apostolate. No one knows what a child needs better than his/her parents. Help us to know how we can best support you in your role as parents and primary educators of your child(ren). Come hear about ways you can use your gifts to help, whether it is creatively, administratively, making a phone call, decorating, sharing your faith, your story, your joy, your home, your prayers, your cooking/baking, or simply your presence. We need more parent helpers! The jobs may seem small, but it adds up to a lot when everyone pitches in!

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

Learning about our Faith is a life-long process! 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

Attention all high school girls! Talitha Koum, our high school girls group will re-start **September 18, 2023!** Join us on the **1st & 3rd Mondays of the month, 5:30-7pm in the Maurer Room!** Come prepared to grow in your faith, play fun games, create closer bonds with friends and more!

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.

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

2023-2024 Religious Education (CCD) classes for grades K-12 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 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.

ALL CCD PARENTS are expected to attend a "Back to CCD Night" meeting scheduled for September 24th at 5:45 and 25th at 5:00 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/ Or email straymondhsg@gmail.com.

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.

Family of Jesus Prayer Group: Weekly meetings are in the Church on Mondays at 4:00 pm. If you have any prayer requests, please let us know by emailing Elaine Perricone at jpebtp@verizon.net or by calling the parish office. You may also write down your prayer requests and drop them in the "Prayer Box" on the table in the narthex of the church. **We will not meet on Labor Day, September 4.**

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.

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

Bishop Michael Burbidge of Arlington issued "[A Catechesis on the Human Person and Gender Ideology](#)" two years ago. It was received with little fanfare as principals of the Catholic schools in the diocese either already were complying with the pastoral, or inserted policies to comply with it. In it, Burbidge stated that there no such thing as a transgender. A person is created by God as either male or female, and that all teachers will only use pronouns associated with the birth sex of the student.

This spring, Bishop Robert McManus of Springfield, Mass. Issued a [diocesan policy on gender ideology](#) and sexual confusion, making the same points as Burbidge. Earlier this month, two high schools located in the Springfield diocese, St. John's High School and Notre Dame Academy announced that their boards of trustees decided to not implement the bishop's policy. In a joint letter to McManus, Xaverian Brother Daniel Skala, and Sister Patty Chappell of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, representing St. John's and Notre Dame, respectively, cited "established practices" for not complying.

Susan Dennin, a spokeswoman for the Sisters of Notre Dame's U.S. East-West Province said that the Academy has "consistently followed both the legal guidance and recommendations of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) that schools should not have a policy on transgender students."

The NCEA pushed back through their spokeswoman saying that "We only refer schools back to their ordinary. We don't make policy. We don't advise policy. We're a membership association that is based on professional development and data." Interestingly, the NCEA website has a reference sheet which provides "resources regarding Catholic social teaching and gender identity."

A year ago, McManus revoked the Catholic status of a Jesuit-run school defying his order to stop flying the LGBT and Black Lives Matter flags.

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/255129/two-worcester-catholic-schools-say-they-wont-implement-bishop-s-new-gender-policy>



Get In-Formed!

For Parents, Youth Ministry, and Educators. *Watch Teenage Mental Health.* Licensed mental health counselor, Sister Josephine Garrett, discusses raising teenagers and issues surrounding their mental health in this 17-part series (~10 minute episodes).

Listen to Gender Dysphoria. The Doctor, Doctor Podcast presents health issues from a Catholic perspective. In this podcast, a pediatric endocrinologist discusses the harm of current widespread approaches to treating transgenderism and offers better faithful and scientific treatment options.

For Kids. *Listen to St. Dominic Savio: The Schoolboy Saint.* Part of the *Truth to Inspire* series, this audiobook of the young saint who attended St. John Bosco's school for boys will inspire faith and virtue in your students.

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/](https://www.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.

The St. Martin de Porres committee would like to thank all of you who donated items to the **Back to School Socks and Underwear Drive**. **375 pairs of socks and 300 undergarments were collected.** Your generosity assisted more than 200 families in the Springfield-Franconia area.

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.

FAITH DIRECT JULY 2023

Offertory	\$ 51,506.00
Family Assistance	\$ 2,803.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 6,167.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 4,880.00
Assumption	\$ 1,588.00

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 13,680.00
Family Assistance	\$ 954.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 960.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 788.00
Assumption	\$ 3,812.00
Maui Disaster Relief	\$ 6,121.00



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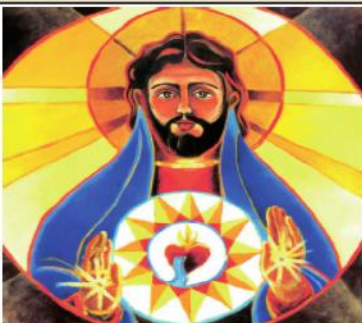
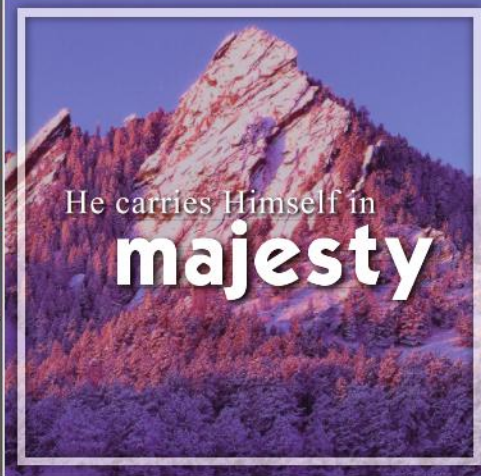
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