



## *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 - Friday:  
6:30 am & 8:30 am  
Wednesday: 7 pm (Sept. - May)  
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

**A Fascinating Talk by Father Tad Pacholczyk.** Next Saturday, September 16, I'm very excited to welcome back nationally renowned bio-ethicist, Father Tad Pacholczyk for the 13<sup>th</sup> straight year. This year his topic is: **The Ethics of Transhumanism, Human Genetic Modification, and Age-Extension Technologies.**

Now, that's a mouthful, and you might not recognize it as a "current hot issue"—but it is. **I think this is the next big thing in the world of morals and science: and it's happening NOW!**

Transhumanists believe that the human race can evolve beyond its current physical and mental limitations, especially by means of science and technology, into a post-human state or "superior species." In recent years, very wealthy individuals such as Google co-founder Larry Page and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos have invested heavily in anti-aging research and related gene-editing and age-extension technologies.

What would be the implications of suddenly finding ourselves freed from many of our current bodily constraints and greatly extending our lifetimes? Can humans become immortal? Should they try? The human desire for transcendence and immortality seems to be embedded in our human nature, but what about the prospect of a technologized human existence as envisioned in sci-fi movies and novels like *A Brave New World*, *Blade Runner*, and *The Matrix*?

Fr. Tad will delve into these emerging technologies which promise to enhance human capabilities, reverse chronic diseases and extend human lifespans. He will examine them from various ethical angles and reflect on the potential benefits and problems posed by the transhumanism project. Father Tad will look at what constitutes a healthy Christian attitude towards science, and whether we can be "saved" through the advances of technology.

There are tremendous positive aspects of this technology, but also huge problems. Think of the potential for the most grotesque abuses, affecting every aspect of your lives and the lives of your children and all their descendants. The potential for the quest for the super race, and its implication for racism, agism, and other forms of terrible discrimination. God created man: can we re-create man? Or some other gross distortion of man?

Father Tad Pacholczyk received his Ph.D. in neuroscience from Yale, and then went on for graduate study of theology in Rome, where he was ordained a priest. He is now an ethicist at the National Catholic Bioethics Center.

You won't want to miss this thought-provoking conversation on science, philosophy, and our faith! **HIGH SCHOOL and COLLEGE age kids are welcome!** Saturday, September 16, 10am, after 9am Mass and 9:30 Rosary.

**Schedule Additions.** Beginning Wednesday, September 13, the following Mass and Confession times are added to our schedule:

- Every Wednesday evening: Mass at 7pm (after Benediction);
- Every Sunday morning: Confessions ½ hour before 9 and 11am Masses, i.e., 8:30- 9am, 10:30-11am
- Every First Friday during Nocturnal Adoration: Confessions 3-4pm and 6-8pm.

**A note about Sunday Confessions.** Please remember that it may happen that on particular Sundays, these confessions may be cancelled when no priest is available. Also, confessions should normally end once Mass has begun (the priest may sometimes extend this, but that should not be taken for granted, and they should never go later than the start of the Gospel).

Also, while all are welcome, **these confession times are provided specifically to meet the genuine needs of those who truly cannot attend on other days**, especially for those who

have a specific need to go to confession before Sunday Mass. This means you should not plan to go to confession on Sunday merely because it is more convenient than some other day/time, or to make a merely devotional confession. Parents, in particular, if you follow the admirable practice of monthly family confessions, please do this on Saturdays or Wednesdays, but not on Sunday mornings. And little children, in particular, would probably not have a genuine need to go to confession at this time. Of course, if the line is short on Sunday, then certainly anyone should feel free to take advantage, but if the line is longer, be considerate of others with a genuine need.

**New Staff.** Over the years I have asked more and more from our office staff, and their hard work has helped us to be the ever-active parish we are. But they work too hard, so I'm delighted to welcome Dominique Murray to our parish staff, as a part-time Office Assistant. Dominique is a long-time parishioner who has been heavily involved as a volunteer since the Holy Fire Hall days (i.e., before the church was built). And she also worked professionally for us with the team of architects who designed our beautiful church. I particularly appreciate her work collaborating with Fr. Gould and other parishioners in designing the beautiful interior of the church. Originally from Quebec, Dominique also spent much of her youth in Texas, so she's got that going for her (I am also a Texan, with French Canadian/Quebecois ancestry). She is an architecture graduate of the University of Houston. Besides her substantial experience in architecture she has also worked as a Thermal Digital Imaging technician. She will be a great addition to our staff. Please keep her in your prayers.

**Choir and Schola.** Welcome back to our Choir at 11:00 Mass next week. You know summer's over when you hear the beautiful strains of choral singing showering down on us from the choir loft. I hope the choir members had a restful summer, and I look forward to their assistance at Mass.

Also, I know they are looking to increase their numbers. We've been struggling with this in a particular way ever since Covid, so anyone with any interest in joining them is welcome and encouraged to contact Elisabeth Turco at [music@straymonds.org](mailto:music@straymonds.org).

Also, welcome back to our Schola at 9:00 —they add so much to the solemnity and reverence of that Mass.

**Candidate Forum.** Remember that the Virginia General Election will take place on November 7, 2023. With this in mind, St. Raymond's will sponsor a Candidate Forum for **all candidates running for Fairfax County School Board on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 7 pm, in the Parish Hall.** This is a non-partisan event, giving each candidate an opportunity to introduce himself/herself to those present. It is open to the public, and questions will be allowed, but since time is short and there are so many candidates, Forum leaders will screen and summarize questions from the crowd.

We have invited **all candidates** running for either at-large seats or for districts in or near our parish boundaries. So far the following candidates have agreed to participate: Braddock District - Priscilla DeStefano; Mount Vernon District - Stori Zimmerman; Springfield District - Debra Tisler; At-large candidates: Sandra Davis, Cassandra Aucoin, Maureen Brody, Peter Bixby-Eberhardt, Linda Pelligrino, Ahmed Hussein.

I hope to see you there at this important event!

**September 11, 2001.** Lest we forget....Never forget. God bless America and all her warriors and others who protect our freedoms. May the Lord bless and protect us, and save us from our foes.

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*



**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b><u>Monday, September 11th</u></b> 6:30 am Priscilla Fritts Clouse + 8:30 am Filomenada Tulayba+	<b><u>Saturday, September 16th</u></b> 9:00 am Robert Ferguson + <b><u>Vigil Mass</u></b> 5:00 pm Priscilla Fritts Clouse +
<b><u>Tuesday, September 12th</u></b> 6:30 am Joseph & Joanna Schweitzer 8:30 am John P. Rowley, Jr. +	<b><u>Sunday, September 17th</u></b> 7:00 am Serrin Marie Foster 9:00 am Parishioners 11:00 am Anthony Hansen 1:00 pm Anna Anezin +
<b><u>Wednesday, September 13th</u></b> 6:30 am Kaitlin Coleman 8:30 am Paul Rinn +	
<b><u>Thursday, September 14th</u></b> 6:30 am Betty Jo Lash 8:30 am Souls Dying Today	
<b><u>Friday, September 15th</u></b> 6:30 am Rev. John De Celles 8:30 am Bobbi Tiso	

**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 September!** 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 12:00 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!

**Women of the Parish are invited to join The Women's Apostolate to Youth (WAY),** an inter-generational lay association for Catholic women, whose shared charism is the spiritual well-being of young people. Our chaplain, Fr. De Celles, has encouraged us to bring many of our apostolates to St. Raymond's, including Mother/Daughter retreats, the Men's Retreat, and the Pre-Lent Women's Retreat. **Women are invited to join us 3 Wednesdays a month at 7:30pm - all at St. Raymond's this year.** Our first study, beginning 9/13/23, features writings of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, aka Edith Stein, the Carmelite nun who was martyred at Auschwitz. Our second study, beginning 9/20/23, will be presentations on Women of the Bible. Each meeting is designed to stand alone - perfect for women interested in getting to know WAY. Our third monthly event is a Holy Hour and Mass to pray for troubled youth. Please visit [www.waywomen.com](http://www.waywomen.com) and email [womenofway@gmail.com](mailto:womenofway@gmail.com) for more information, or call the parish office.

**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 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 Steve Carley
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**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

Sept. 10	Altar Server Training Begins
Sept. 10	Religious Education Classes & YA Begin
Sept. 11	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Sept. 11	RCIA Class Begins
Sept. 12	Adult Bible Study Resumes
Sept. 12	Choir Practice, 7pm in the choir loft
Sept. 13	Adoration 9am - 7pm
Sept. 13	Legion of Mary in Library
Sept. 15	Adoration 9am - 3pm
Sept. 16	Men's Prayer Group
Sept. 16	Fr. Tad Talk at St. Raymond's
Sept. 16	KofC Shredding Event in parking lot
Sept. 21	FCPS School Board Candidate Forum, 7pm

**Father Tad Pacholczyk Returns** to St. Raymonds on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. He will speak after the 9:00 am Mass in the parish hall. His topic this year is **"The Ethics of Transhumanism, Human Genetic Modification, and Age Extension Technologies."** Some people believe that we can evolve beyond our current physical and mental limitations into a "superior species." Fr. Tad writes, "it's almost a competing system to what Christianity has to offer." Is this good? What does the Church say about that? Come and find out! No RSVP required.

**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 choir repertoire 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](mailto:music@straymonds.org) or call 703-506-4644.

**Annual National Rosary Rally sponsored by The Holy League.** Join fellow parishioners and Americans to pray for our nation's conversion on October 7th in Washington DC. For more information, visit [rosarycoasttocoast.com](http://rosarycoasttocoast.com). Contact Liz Hildebrand to reserve your free seat on our parish bus. [hildebrandseven@gmail.com](mailto:hildebrandseven@gmail.com).

**School Board Candidate Forum:** St. Raymond's will host a candidate forum on Thursday, September 21, 2023 in the parish hall at 7:30 pm. All at-large school board candidates as well as candidates for Braddock, Mount Vernon, and Springfield Districts, have been invited. No RSPV required.



**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 want to learn more about the many benefits of being a Knight! Answer the call...**BECOME A KNIGHT!**



#### September Upcoming events:

11 KofC Council Meeting  
16 Men's Prayer Breakfast  
19 Fraternal Benefits Night  
23 Grotto of Lourdes Rosary Pilgrimage (Emmitsburg, MD)  
23-24 Membership Drive  
29 "Pints w/ Aquinas"  
30 Italian Dinner Ticket Sales #1

**Men's Prayer Group.** All men of the parish are invited to gather on the first and third Saturdays of the month to share prayers & breakfast and learn our faith with one another. The Men's Prayer Group welcomes you. We meet in the parish hall at 7:30 am. Call Dave at 703 966 5327 for more info. **Our next meeting is on September 16.**

**Bulk Shredding:** The Knights of Columbus will have a bulk shredding truck at St Raymond's Catholic Church, 8750 Pohick Road on Saturday, September 16 from 10 am to 12 pm. Bring your old files, receipts, and tax papers for a quick and secure disposal. Donations gratefully received and used to provide homes for the intellectually disabled and other great causes. No hard drives, 3-ring notebooks or binder clips please. For more information call Dave Wilson at 703-966-5327.

**Endow Young Adult Women's Group.** Are you looking to grow in faith and community with other young adult women of the parish? On September 21, the young adult women's Endow group will be starting a new study! We meet the first and third Thursdays from 7:00-9:00pm. Contact Theresa Tolpa at [tctolpa159@gmail.com](mailto:tctolpa159@gmail.com) for more information.

#### **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](mailto: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](mailto:biblestudy@straymonds.org).

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



**Saint Teresa of Calcutta** (Aug 26, 1910 – Sept 5, 1997) *pray for us.*

"I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child - a direct killing of the innocent child... And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another? **Any country that accepts**

**abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion. "**

**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 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! Visit [ccli.org](http://ccli.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.

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

**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).



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

## 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>**

**50/50 Raffle Winners!** Thank you to all who participated in this year's 50/50 raffle at the parish picnic to support our Youth Apostolate. This year's winners were Robert and Veronica Royal! The Royal's graciously donated their \$174 winnings back to the Youth Apostolate, bringing out total money raised to \$349!

### **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

### **6:30am Fri. Morning Mass & Breakfast resumes Sept. 15th!!**

All 7-12th graders: Join us Friday mornings for Mass followed by breakfast with Fr. Horkan & Fr. Bergida in the parish hall. If you RSVP by Wed. we can coordinate our volunteers to drive you to school. If not, you can show up for Mass and have your parent drive you to school after breakfast! <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVP>

**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.

**Breakfast Donations** Please consider supporting our parish teens who start their Friday's off with Mass, breakfast, and fellowship by donating a baked good, fruit, etc. **Donations can be brought on Thursdays, so you don't have to get up early!** Sign up at <https://bit.ly/FriBfast>

### **Newman Guide Virtual College Fair: Wednesday, Sept. 27th**

Students will have the chance to visit virtual college "booths," learn about unique scholarship opportunities, attend "live" sessions on the difference between Catholic and secular education, and more! High school students, their parents, and school leaders can register <https://bit.ly/septcollege>

**Jeanne Sause**

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

[youth@straymonds.org](mailto:youth@straymonds.org) Call/Text: 571-334-9890

**Email Jeanne to be added to the weekly email list for the most updated info on Youth Apostolate news & upcoming events!**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Attention parents: Religious Education (CCD) classes begin TONIGHT - SUNDAY, September 10th!**

All CCD sessions begin **in the church** - **Sunday at 5:30 pm and Monday at 4:45 pm.** Parents may walk children into the church or may drop them off at the front of the church. Your child(ren) should be seated in the church by the start time of the session.

**Parents will pick children up in the Parish Hall** at the end of each class session - Sunday at 7 pm and Monday at 6:15 pm.

**ALL CCD PARENTS are expected to attend a "Back to CCD Night" meeting** scheduled for September 24th at 5:50 pm and September 25th at 5:05 pm in the Parish Hall. You may attend the meeting which is most convenient for you.

### **HOMESCHOOL PARENTS and CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

#### **PARENTS with children in sacrament preparation**

**years** (grades 2, 7 and 8), who will be receiving Sacraments here at St. Raymond's, **need to attend one of these parent 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).

**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](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.

**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).

**St. Martin de Porres Committee** - collects food on an ongoing basis for the Springfield Resource Center, which serves over 250 families in the Springfield area. A collection box is in the Narthex and donations are collected and distributed weekly. Suggested food items are listed, but all donations are welcome (no clothing). For equitable distribution, smaller packaging is requested (i.e. 1 lb bags of rice vs. 5 lb. bags, 1 qt. oil vs. 1 gal oil).



## Church Persecuted

St. Raymond's has a robust program to convince families to move their children out of the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and into Catholic schools. While the "hot button" topics include the family life education program, equity, diversity and inclusion, and critical race theory, the school system's focus on these topics sometimes requires other basic skills to slide by the wayside.

Cursive is no longer taught in the school system. Spelling is no longer important according to one FCPS teacher. One parent complained to the teacher when a child came home with misspelled words all over the page. The child said, "We don't get deductions on papers for misspelled words." The parent met with the teacher who said, "We are more concerned about content and context." The context of the comments was that this same parent saw the beautiful cursive writing of a Catholic school student and perfectly spelled words on a paper from a first grader in Catholic school. So there are students who are still learning to spell and use words correctly in sentences!

The FCPS parent, though, told the teacher that "My standards are that my children learn how to correctly spell and use words in sentences and I'll teach them cursive myself." After all, parents are responsible for the education of their children and not the state. The state (and the Church) has a responsibility to support the parents in that role. It's time that parents wrest the schools' leadership away from the teachers union and the school board and take control. One way to do that is to elect school board members (this November) who put the parents first and not the interests of teachers/administrators/unions.

**Parish Assisted Listening Devices.** We are considering requirements for an upgrade of our Hearing Assistance System. If you are currently using this service during Mass or have need of it, please contact Anthony Hansen at 703-440-0535.

# FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

Listen to *Church Fathers: From Clement of Rome to Augustine*. Audiobook. Pope Benedict XVI illuminates the vital impacts of the Church Fathers on the early Church in spreading Christianity. Includes a presentation on St. John Chrysostom (Feast Day, Sept. 12) and St. Cyprian of Carthage (Sept. 16).

Watch *Exaltation of the Holy Cross*. In this brief *FORMED* Now episode, Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Ben Akers discuss the history of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Sept. 14).

Listen to *Drawing Strength from Our Lady of Sorrows* (Sept. 15). Catholic convert Kimberly Hahn encourages us to allow Mary to lead us closer to Christ through the Blessed Mother's example in living her own joys and sorrows.

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/](http://Formed.org/) sign up and select our parish.  
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Please join us for a special performance by Michael Clem, singer/songwriter from musical group Eddie from Ohio

**Date/Time:** Friday, September 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM

**Location:** Angelus Academy

This is a free, adult-only event. Please RSVP using this link: [bit.ly/MichaelClem](http://bit.ly/MichaelClem)

Email [Admissions@angelusacademy.org](mailto: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](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.

**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.

## CORRECTED 8/27 COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 14,288.00
Family Assistance	\$ 252.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,202.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 591.00

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 14,332.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,056.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,896.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 2,036.00
Catholic University	\$ 1,716.00

The Second Collection this weekend is for our Religious Education Program. Please be generous!

We will have a collection next weekend for the Diocesan Bánica Mission in the Dominican Republic.



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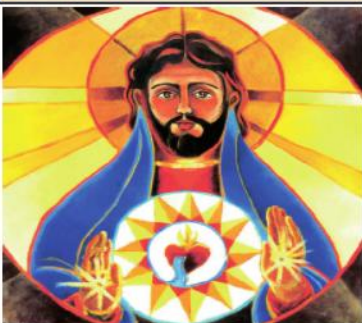
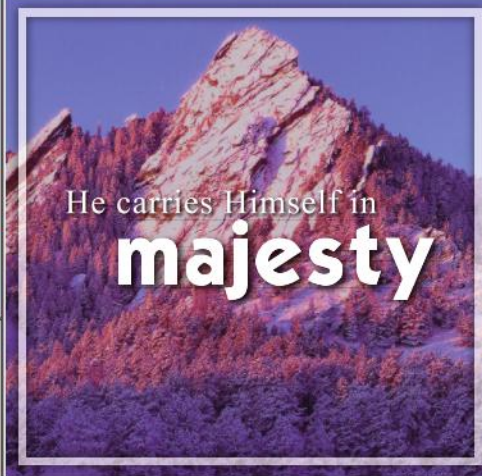
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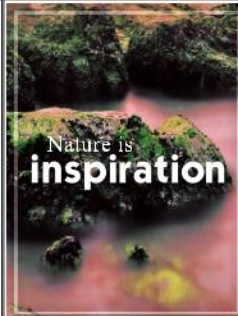
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