



## *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: 7:00 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  
Dominique Murray, Office Assistant

### **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

**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 the Fairfax County School Board THIS 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, and Ahmed Hussein.

I hope to see you at this important event!

**Voting.** As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us: "co-responsibility for the common good make[s] it morally obligatory...to exercise the right to vote..." [2240]. In my opinion, when someone is eligible to vote, failure to vote is usually grave matter (i.e., the stuff that mortal sins are made of) when the issues are as important as they are in this election.

With that in mind, if you have any questions about voting, I encourage you to go to the official election page of the Commonwealth of Virginia: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov>. There you will find all the information you need. It will tell you:

- how to register or change/update your registration to vote
- when to vote and where to vote
- how to vote **early IN-PERSON** (see below)
- how to vote early or absentee by mail

Also, we will have a **table set up in the narthex of the church** after all the Sunday Masses this month, beginning this weekend. **On Sept. 15/16 and Sept. 30/ Oct. 1**, it will be **manned by parishioners** knowledgeable in helping you to vote. There will also be all sorts of forms and informational handouts.

Many of you may decide to vote early/absentee, especially if you think you may not be able to get to the polls on Election Day, or if you have health concerns about voting on Election Day. If you decide to vote early/absentee I recommend you do so "in person," and not by mail.

Also, remember these important dates (note I offer these as an aid, but still encourage you to use the .gov website above):

- September 22: first day of absentee in-person/early voting at the Fairfax County Government Center.
- October 16: last day to register to vote.
- October 28 first day of absentee in-person/early voting at satellite locations.
- October 27: last day to apply for an absentee ballot by mail (received by 5:00 pm).
- November 4: last day for absentee in-person/early voting, 5:00 pm
- November 7: ELECTION DAY.
- November 7: Deadline for hand delivered absentee ballots, 7:00 pm.
- November 7: absentee mailed ballots must be postmarked no later than November 7.

**Why We Need to Vote.** A September 4 article in the Washington Examiner reminds us of one of the most important reasons to vote this year. (Excerpt):

*"A Virginia mother...Michele Blair, mother of Sage, filed a lawsuit against the Appomattox County School Board and district*

*staff, as well as Baltimore, Maryland, area public defender Aneesa Khan, who is accused in the lawsuit of conducting a 'series of acts aimed at depriving Mrs. Blair of custody of her daughter and keeping [Sage] in Maryland to be affirmed in a male identity.'*

*"'They stole my right to protect my daughter,' Blair told the Washington Examiner. 'I'm the parent, I am an expert on my child, there is nobody in the school or court system that knows my daughter better than me. They will never know my daughter better than I do.'*

*"Blair said her daughter was severely bullied in school, but alleges that the school district withheld information as to why that was happening: the fact that Sage was identifying as a boy in school...."*

*"Sage had a history of mental health issues including depression, eating disorders, self-harm, and hallucinations, and Blair informed the school of it prior to any of the incidents. However, the school pursued a social transition for Sage behind the back of her parents, the lawsuit filed by the Child & Parent Rights Campaign alleges."*

*"Withholding the information on Sage's stated gender identity in school 'deprived' Blair of being able to 'exercise her fundamental parental rights to direct the upbringing of her daughter, including making educational and mental health decisions,' according to the lawsuit."*

*"Vernadette Broyles, Blair's attorney from the CPRC, told the Washington Examiner that Sage ran away from home due to severe bullying and harassment at school."*

*"'The school officials were encouraging her to use the boys' bathroom, even though they knew she was being threatened with sexual assault, so she perceived herself that she wasn't safe and she runs away from home,' Broyles said. 'She runs into the arms of a waiting pedophile, who encounters her, rapes her, traffics her with two other men, and takes her across state lines into Washington, D.C., and then ultimately into Maryland.'*

*"Broyles explained that the 'nightmare should have ended' in Maryland, when Sage was eventually rescued by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, but the Baltimore juvenile court system took custody of the young girl at the behest of Khan. Khan concluded that the Blairs were not 'sufficiently affirming' of her new identity, and 'concocts a fabricated story of abuse and neglect by the parents and convinces a judge to keep this child in custody,' Broyles said."*

*"While in custody, Sage was put into a juvenile facility for adolescent males 'where she was again sexually assaulted, exposed to drugs, and denied medical and mental health care,' the lawsuit states...."*

*"Sage, again in fear for her safety, ran away from the facility and was again found by another pedophile who brought her to Texas 'where she was again raped, drugged, starved, and tortured until law enforcement in Texas rescued her and notified her mother who returned her to Virginia,' the lawsuit states...."*

*"'Sage's tragic story demonstrates the importance of parental involvement,' Youngkin spokeswoman Macaulay Porter told the Washington Examiner. 'For Sage and students, parents and teachers across the Commonwealth, the governor will continue to empower parents and ensure the privacy, dignity, and respect of all students with the model policies.'"*

**Note:** The Fairfax County School Board has announced that it will defy Virginia Law by disregarding the "model policies" issued by Governor Youngkin which protect parental rights over their children. In a statement dated August 15, 2023, the school district stated that students, "Will continue to be provided with access to facilities, activities, and/or trips consistent with their gender identity... Will continue to have their privacy respected regarding gender expansive or transgender status, legal name, or sex assigned at birth...." In other words, they will continue not to tell parents if their kids are confused about their gender, like Sage. **This is evil. We need to vote to change this.**

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



**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, September 18th**

6:30 am Erica Anezin  
 8:30 am Anne Mildred Mault+

**Tuesday, September 19th**

6:30 am Msgr. P. Dempsey  
 8:30 am Mary Tiso & Angie  
 DiClemente +

**Wednesday, September 20th**

6:30 am Matthew & Coleen  
 Hamilton & Family  
 8:30 am Blake Hoopes  
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intention

**Thursday, September 21st**

6:30 am John Spataro +  
 8:30 am Benjamin Shealy

**Friday, September 22nd**

6:30 am Trudie Preiss +  
 8:30 am Richard "Dick"  
 Connelly +

**Saturday, September 23rd**

9:00 am Phyllis D. Deeney

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm Fr. Bergida  
 Richard Whearty +

**Sunday, September 24th**

7:00 am Fr. Horkan  
 Joey Wheeler +  
 9:00 am Fr. De Celles  
 Parishioners  
 11:00 am Fr. Rippy  
 Michael Frankfurth +  
 1:00 pm Fr. Bergida  
 June Todas +

**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, which began on 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	Debra Henkel	Ellen Trayer
Tom Dietz	Gaudencio Dizon	Jacques Courtillet
Michael O'Neill	Paul Haynes	Virginia
Cindy Laird	Dwayne Taylor	Cummings
Patricia Lewis	Ted Tolpa	Joanne Griffith
Mai Pham	Nena Brennan	Arlene Pietraszko
Jason Saenz	Serrin Foster	Jean Seiberling
Phyllis Zitnik	Margaret O'Neill	Mariel Spiritosanto
Patricia Del Buono	Tom Swengros	Liz Haberkorn
John Florio	Donald Trayer	Plust

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

Sept. 17	Voter Information Table after Masses
Sept. 17	Religious Education Classes & Youth Group
Sept. 18	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Sept. 18	RCIA Class
Sept. 19	Adult Bible Study
Sept. 19	Choir Practice, 7pm in the choir loft
Sept. 20	Adoration 9am - 7pm
Sept. 20	Legion of Mary in Library
Sept. 21	FCPS School Board Candidate Forum, 7pm
Sept. 22	Adoration 9am - 3pm
Oct. 7	Luminaries and Men's Prayer Group

**VOTER INFO TABLE is available in the Narthex.** Stop by to fill out an absentee ballot request, update your address or name, register to vote, or learn who is running in your area. Volunteers will be available to help you after all Masses on Sept 17th and 30th. Remember it is your duty as a citizen to vote.

**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.

**School Board Candidate Forum:** St. Raymond's will host a candidate forum on **Thursday, September 21, 2023** in the parish hall at 7:00 pm. All at-large school board candidates as well as candidates for Braddock, Mount Vernon, and Springfield Districts, have been invited. No RSPV required.

**September 29th Christ House Meal** - Call for volunteers to provide a hot To-Go meal for those who are food insecure, at our Diocesan Christ House Dining Room in Alexandria. Volunteers are needed to donate food for 65 servings. This month our menu includes: Lemon Garlic Chicken, Pasta Salad, Chocolate Cupcakes, Bananas & Clementines, Fruit bar, and a water bottle. Or, if you prefer to donate time instead, great! We need help preparing food at St. Raymond's and distributing the meals at the Catholic Charities Dining Room in Alexandria on **Friday, September 29**. Check out the full menu and sign-up for your Corporal Act of Mercy opportunity at the Perfect Potluck link: <https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/YVZY3564>



**FINANCIAL OPEN HOUSE - OPEN TO ALL!!** All are invited to join us this **Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 7:00 - 8:30 pm** in the **St. Raymond Parish Hall** for an informative live presentation from The Abbate Agency, Knights of Columbus. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to learn about insurance and other financial products from an organization that is aligned with your Faith. Following the Financial Seminar, there will be a social sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, St. John Bosco Council #12846. Hope to see you there—all are invited! RSVP at: <http://Sept19Springfield.abbatekofc.com>.

As always, gentlemen of the Parish seeking to put **Faith into Action** are encouraged to join the Knights of Columbus. 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:**

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 October 7.**

**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 **this week** to reserve your free seat on our parish bus. [hildebrandseven@gmail.com](mailto:hildebrandseven@gmail.com).

**St. Michael Novena.** Join tens of thousands of fellow Catholics in prayer, invoking the intercession of St. Michael during CatholicVote's upcoming Novena to Defend Catholics in America, September 20 - 28. To participate, visit [catholicvote.org/novena](http://catholicvote.org/novena) and receive special access to all the prayers and a daily email during the Novena to remind you to pray. St. Michael the Archangel, defend us!

**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*



Early voting starts on September 22.  
**Get informed and get in line to Vote Pro-Life.**  
[VoteValuesVA.com](http://VoteValuesVA.com)

**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).



**Help save lives by praying for an end to abortion.**

Peaceful. Prayerful. Public Witness. Join us outside the Falls Church Women's 'Healthcare' Clinic. The fall campaign begins on Sept 27<sup>th</sup>. See sign up sheets in the narthex. Questions? Visit [40daysforlife.com](http://40daysforlife.com) or contact Liz Hildebrand at [hildebrandseven@gmail.com](mailto:hildebrandseven@gmail.com).

**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.

**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).

**IT STANDS TO REASON:** The discussion between an unborn baby's rights and a mother's rights is often a discussion between an unborn baby's right to **life** and a mother's right to **lifestyle**. One person's temporary inconvenience does not justify killing anyone. Remember that life always trumps lifestyle. [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

INCREDIBLE turn out for youth group last week! Thank you all for coming! This is going to be a GREAT year! It's not too late to sign up for CCD at <https://bit.ly/CCDforMe>. Our world is in need of Catholics who know, live out and can defend their faith, at all ages. Consider signing up for CCD to keep learning!! We have a TOP NOTCH high school program open to all 9-12th graders, whether public, private, or home schooled. No charge and no homework for HS CCD. Come check it out!

### Youth Group & CCD September 17th:

4-5:30pm Junior High Youth Group (pizza served)

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

7-8:30pm High School Youth Group (snacks served)

### Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group

5:30-7pm Monday, September 18th (Maurer Room)

Attention all high school girls! "Little Girl, arise!" (Mt. 5:41) and come to Talitha Koum! Come grow in your faith, play fun games, create closer bonds with friends, and grow in sisterhood! Talitha Koum meets 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month, 5:30-7pm in the Maurer Room.

### Sons of Thunder: High School Guys' Group

7-8:30pm Tuesday, September 19th (Maurer Room)

**High School Men:** The much anticipated day is almost upon us! Our high school "Sons of Thunder" group starts up again this Tuesday! Come hungry (physically and intellectually) and ready to rumble. *First night: eat, hang out, corn hole, and discussion.* Sons of Thunder meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7-8:30 pm in the Maurer Room with Phil, Nate, and Father Bergida.

### 6:30am Fri. Morning Mass & Breakfast Sept. 22nd!!

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 by 8am! ! <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVP> If not, you can show up for Mass and have your parent drive you to school after breakfast. Either way, RSVPs help ensure we have enough food.

**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 even 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!

<https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/youth-apostolate/>

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### HIGH SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Sunday evenings 5:30 - 7 pm

We have EXCEPTIONAL teachers who are dedicated to providing your high school student with advanced knowledge in areas such as science and Faith, bioethics, Church history and Sacred Scripture. There is no cost to enroll your child in these interactive classes and there are no homework assignments.

Please consider registering your high school student today using the bright green registration forms found in the Narthex, at the RE office or at the parish office

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**PARENT MEETINGS NEXT WEEK:** Sunday 9/24 at 5:50 p.m. OR Monday 9/25 at 5:05 p.m. - **whichever night works for you!** These meetings are for ALL CCD parents and also the parents of Catholic School and homeschool students **being prepared to receive sacraments** (grades 2, 7 and 8).

**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).

**Mothers' Group:** Do your young children need a bit more excitement? Are you looking for Catholic friendship with fellow mothers? Come to the moms' meet-up on Wednesday mornings! We alternate between meeting at our church and parks. Email Michelle for more information at [mlcastry@gmail.com](mailto:mlcastry@gmail.com).

**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).

**Endow Young Adult Women's Group.** Are you looking to grow in faith and community with other young adult women of the parish? The Endow group will soon be starting a new study! We will meet the first and third Thursdays from 7:00-9:00pm. Contact Theresa Tolpa at [ttolpa159@gmail.com](mailto:ttolpa159@gmail.com) for more information.

**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.

**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).



## Church Persecuted

Elections have consequences. Some people say that if you want to see what happens when the government controls all aspects of parents' rights to properly rear their children, just look at what the ruling party has done, and is doing, to Canada. But no need to look across the border any longer. A recent bill, which cleared the California legislature, is one that requires parents to "affirm" their child's gender - regardless of the age of the child. Failure to do so is punishable by fines and possible charges of child abuse and neglect if parents refuse to comply.

The bill was first introduced in February by assembly member Lori Wilson, D-Suisun City, whose child identifies as transgender. She amended the bill in June, making "gender affirmation" an essential need of a child in California, thus making it part of their health and welfare, with very serious consequences if parents do not comply.

The legislation is so outrageous that "in a California Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on June 13, state Sen. Scott Wilk, R-Santa Clarita, warned parents to leave California if such legislation were to pass. 'In recent years, we have put government bureaucrats between parents, children, and doctors when it comes to medical care—and now we have this where if a parent does not support the ideology of the government, [children] are going to be taken away from the home,' Wilk said, adding: 'If you love your children, you need to flee California.'"

[California Passes Bill That Would Require Parents to Affirm Kid's Gender \(dailysignal.com - September 8, 2023\)](http://dailysignal.com)

**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.

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Get In-Formed!

**For Kids.** Read *The Young People's Book of Saints*. Many saints, some popular and some lesser known, are introduced in this book. Chapter 30 focuses on St. Hildegard of Bingen (Feast Day, Sept. 17) *For ages 8+.* Downloadable on EPub.

**Watch One Step is Enough: Cardinal John Henry Newman** (Feast Day, Sept. 19). Known for his profound sermons, this saint converted from an Anglican priest to Catholicism after significant resistance to his reinterpretations of doctrine in his former church.

**Watch Bible Study: The Gospel of Matthew** (Feast Day, Sept. 21). This in-depth study by the Augustine Institute's Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Michael Barber explores Matthew's entire gospel over forty half-hour episodes.

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

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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.

**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).

**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

Sunday Offertory	\$ 13,796.00
Family Assistance	\$ 555.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,075.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 956.00
Catholic University	\$ 2,640.00

The Second Collection this weekend is for the Diocesan Bánica Mission in the Dominican Republic.  
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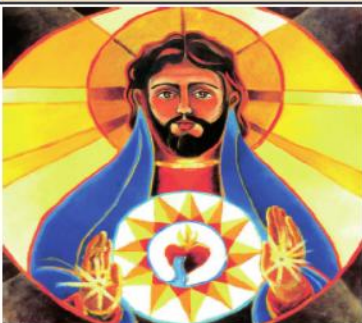
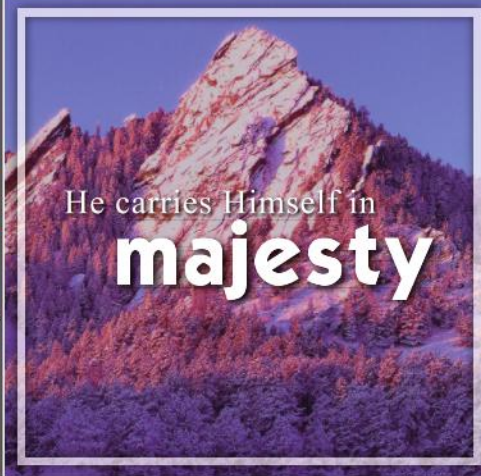
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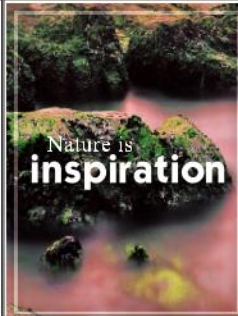
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