



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

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
Dominique Murray, Office Assistant
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

DAILY ROSARY. October is the **Month of the Rosary**. The Blessed Mother has repeatedly begged us to pray the Rosary, an exhortation echoed by Popes and Saints for centuries. And one of the best ways to pray the Rosary is as a family—it can be a tremendous blessing.

Last year we started to pray the **Daily Family Rosary** in our church every day, Monday to Friday at 6:30pm, and Weekends after the 9am Mass. All are invited to attend, but we ask for **one family volunteer to lead** the rosary every day.

I have been very happy that we've been able to keep this going every day for the last year, without exception (except, I believe, during the Triduum). And I would like to thank all the families who have participated in leading.

But I'd also like to **increase the number of families who participate in leading**. It's easy and the kids can join in. A "family" can be as few as 2 members of a family, or as many as you like. A family may volunteer for more than one evening if they want to. Please, prayerfully consider signing up to "lead" on our parish website (the pop-up will have the link).

But we invite everyone to attend and join in praying: we usually have between 10 and 20 people attend these rosaries.

October Rosary Intention. I ask that we all offer our daily Rosaries this month, including the Family Rosary in the church, for the intention that Mary intercede for and guide and protect the Church during the upcoming "Synod on Synodality."

"Synod on Synodality." The week after next, Oct. 4–28, the first session of the "Synod on Synodality" begins in Rome. Many have asked me, "Exactly what is the Synod on Synodality?" That's really hard to say, because all official explanations have been ambiguous at best. But here a pretty good effort to explain it, from the Catholic News Agency (by Courtney Mares, Jun 20, 2023, excerpts):

"What is the Synod on Synodality? The Synod on Synodality...is a multiyear, worldwide undertaking during which Catholics were asked to submit feedback to their local dioceses on the question 'What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our 'journeying together?'"

".... It will culminate in two global assemblies at the Vatican. The first will take place Oct. 4–28 and the second in October 2024 to advise the pope on the topic: 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission.'"

"What does synodality mean? Synodality was defined by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's International Theological Commission in 2018 as 'the action of the Spirit in the communion of the Body of Christ and in the missionary journey of the people of God.'"

"The 2021 synod preparatory document described synodality as 'the form, the style, and the structure of the Church.'"

"The latest document published by the Vatican adds that synodality can also be understood as something that 'does not derive from the enunciation of a principle, a theory, or a formula but develops from a readiness to enter into a dynamic of constructive, respectful, and prayerful speaking, listening, and dialogue.'"

"At the root of this process is the acceptance, both personal and communal, of something that is both a gift and a challenge: to be a Church of sisters and brothers in Christ who listen to one another and who, in so doing, are gradually transformed by the Spirit," it says."

[Pastor's comment: if all this strikes you as either confusing, ambiguous, over exaggerated, ludicrous or doublespeak, I agree. And I think this is intended].

"What are the main questions that the Synod on Synodality will try to answer? Here are the three overarching questions defined by the 2023 Instrumentum Laboris:

How can we be more fully a sign and instrument of union with God and of the unity of all humanity?

How can we better share gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel?

'What processes, structures, and institutions in a missionary synodal Church?'

"The main objective of the first session in October...will be to design a plan of study in a 'synodal style' and to indicate who will be involved in those discussions. Discernment will be 'completed' in the 2024 session of the synod."

"What are some of the topics that could be addressed in the synod assembly? The...document guiding the discussions at the October synod assembly suggests discernment on questions regarding some hot-button topics, including women deacons, priestly celibacy, and LGBTQ outreach. The document highlights a desire for new institutional bodies to allow for greater participation in decision-making by the 'people of God.' One of the proposed questions for discernment for the synod of bishops asks: 'What can we learn about the exercise of authority and responsibility from other Churches and ecclesial communities?'"

"How does the Synod on Synodality differ from past synods of bishops? "A synod is a meeting of bishops gathered to discuss a topic of theological or pastoral significance in order to prepare a document of advice or counsel to the pope."

"For the first time, about 21% of the voting delegates in the 2023 Synod of Bishops on Synodality will not be bishops, and 70 delegates will be chosen directly by the pope from among a list of 140 laypeople, priests, consecrated women, and deacons selected by the leadership of this year's continental synod meetings... [Pastor's Comment: This means that it will not be a true 'Synod' in the Catholic understanding, and can't be compared to other important True Synods of the Church]."

"How is the participation in the Synod on Synodality? The General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops has reported that the initial diocesan listening phase concluded with the participation of 112 out of 114 of the world's Catholic bishops' conferences."

"...[A]ccording about 700,000 people participated in the diocesan phase of the synod in the U.S. out of 66.8 million Catholics in the country, or about 1%." [Pastor's Note: This 1% seems to be on the high end of participation, with countries like France and Venezuela reporting .35% and .29%, and African nations reporting even lower numbers. It seems clear that the 'Synod' addresses the concerns of only less than 1% of the 'People of God']."

"Who are the key organizers of the Synod on Synodality? Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, ...is ...the relator general. The Jesuit ...said in an interview in March that he believes that a future pope could allow women priests and that he finds 'the part of the teaching calling homosexuality 'intrinsically disordered' a bit dubious.'"

"Cardinal Mario Grech, the secretary general for the Synod of Bishops, ...was one of two authors of the Maltese bishops' controversial pastoral guidelines ...which stated that divorced and remarried Catholics, in certain cases and after 'honest discernment,' could receive Communion. Last year, Grech decried the public criticism of the German 'Synodal Way' as 'denunciation.'"

[Pastor's comment: so, 2 Cardinals who seem to espouse heresy are in charge.]

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 25th

6:30 am Joey Wheeler +
 8:30 am Souls Dying Today

Tuesday, September 26th

6:30 am Frank & Irene
 Dohn +
 8:30 am Blake Hoopes

Wednesday, September 27th

6:30 am Gina Suarez
 8:30 am Elaine Perricone
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intention

Thursday, September 28th

6:30 am Stephen Schweitzer
 8:30 am Souls Dying Today

Friday, September 29th

6:30 am Kevin Crennan +
 8:30 am Herman & Nelida
 Brouillette +

Saturday, September 30th

9:00 am Mark Crum +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
 Rosemary Crennan +

Sunday, October 1st

7:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
 Joey Wheeler +
 9:00 am **Fr. Bergida**
 Parishioners
 11:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
 Cecilia Therese Pham
 1:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 In Thanksgiving

**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.

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. **Women are invited to join us 3 Wednesdays a month at 7:30pm -all at St. Raymond's this year.** We are discussing writings of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross and 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. For the complete schedule and for more information, please visit www.waywomen.com and email womenofway@gmail.com, or call the parish office.

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.

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 Joanne Griffith Arlene Pietraszko Jean Seiberling Mariel Spiritosanto Anjane Balkissoon Eddie Balsamo
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Sept. 25	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Sept. 25	RCIA Class
Sept. 26	Adult Bible Study
Sept. 26	Choir Practice, 7pm
Sept. 27	Adoration 9am - 7pm
Sept. 27	Legion of Mary, 6:30pm in Library
Sept. 28	Bridge Club
Sept. 29	Adoration 9am - 3pm
Oct. 1	Donut Sunday Returns
Oct. 4	State Legislature Candidate Forum, 7pm
Oct. 7	Men's Prayer Group
Oct. 7	Luminaries of Holy Mary

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 29/30. Remember it is your duty as a citizen to vote.

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>

Luminaries of Holy Mary: Come join us to honor the Blessed Mother's request for making the 5 First Saturdays: Mass at 9am, then meet in the **Maurer Room** for Rosary, meditation and Gospel reflection. Our **next meeting is on October 7**. All are welcome.

Additions to our Liturgical Calendar: Effective Sept. 13, there will be an **additional Mass each Wednesday at 7pm**. The priests have also expanded opportunities for Confession. On **First Friday**, there will be **Confessions from 3-4 pm and 6-8 pm**. Every **Sunday morning: Confessions** ½ hour before 9 and 11am Masses, i.e., **8:30- 9am, 10:30-11am**. Please remember that on particular Sundays, these confessions may be cancelled when no priest is available.



GENTLEMEN OF THE PARISH -- 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!**



Upcoming events:

Sept. 23-24 Membership Drive

Sept. 29 "Pints w/ Aquinas"

Oct. 9 Natl. Columbus Day Ceremony (Union Station, 10:45am)

14 District Soccer Challenge @ Holy Spirit

14 Italian Dinner (Parish Hall @ 6:30pm)

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.**

The Knights of Columbus annual Italian Dinner will take place on **Saturday, October 14th, 2023 at 6:30pm** in the parish hall. Tickets for the event will be sold after all Masses on the weekends of September 30th - October 1st and October 7-8th. Ticket Prices are \$6.00 for children (5-12), \$17.00 for Adults and \$60.00 for Families. We will also sell tickets at the door.

JOIN the CHOIR at St. Raymond's: 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. 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 September 22.
Get informed and get in line to Vote Pro-Life.
VoteValuesVA.com

YOU are invited to Stand and Pray! Join fellow parishioners for **LIFE CHAIN, Sunday 1 October from 2:30-3:30** in front of Key Middle School 6402 Franconia Road, Alexandria. (free parking available behind the school) **LIFE CHAINS** have been held on the first Sunday in Oct. since 1987. Our local Alexandria effort began in 1996. This year in over 1500 towns and cities across the US and Canada over 1 million Christians will gather to make a public prayerful stand for life as they quietly line both sides of major thoroughfares for 1 hour holding signs that carry one of the following messages:

**Abortion Kills Children – El Aborto Mata Ninos*

**Abortion Hurts Women*

**Adoption: The Loving Option *Lord, Forgive Us and Our Nation*

**Jesus Forgives and Heals*

The simple truth of these messages reproduced by hundreds of people peacefully standing along Franconia Road is very effective. Life Chains are legal and non-confrontational. Our Chain is coordinated with the FCPD who are very supportive. All are welcome. Signs will be provided in front of the school. Bring your own chair if you will need one. Looking forward to seeing you there!



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 27th. See sign-up sheets in the narthex. Questions? Visit 40daysforlife.com or contact Liz at 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. Men: 703-841-3833.

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 amonspeace.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.

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate

<https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/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

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 High School CCD!

Youth Group & CCD September 24th:

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)

Snack Donations

Are you able to contribute some snacks or hors d'oeuvres for our high school youth group to enjoy on Sunday evenings? It can be as simple as a few bags of chips or cookies. If you are able to help, please sign up here: <https://bit.ly/feedtheteens>

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>



6:30am Fri. Morning Mass & Breakfast Sept. 29th!!

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 at <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVP> by Wed. we can coordinate our volunteers to drive you to school by 8am! We may also be able to pick you up for Mass if you give us enough notice and you are on the way for someone who is already coming. 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>

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)
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

ALL CCD PARENTS are expected to attend a "Back to CCD Night" meeting THIS WEEK - The meetings will begin in the Parish Hall once we return from our *Holy Ten Minutes* in the church: September 24th (5:50 p.m.) and 25th (5:05 p.m.) **Attend the meeting which is most convenient for you.**

Parents of homeschool students who are in sacramental preparation (grades 2, 7 and 8) need to attend one of these meetings.

Parents of Catholic school students in grades 2, 7 and 8 who will be receiving their sacraments here at St. Raymond's also need to attend one of these meetings.

Planning ahead: There will be no CCD classes on October 8, 9 or 10 in observance of the Columbus Day holiday.

MANDATORY Confirmation Retreat will take place here on October 21st. Anyone who is preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Spring **must be present the entire day in order to meet the Diocesan requirement.**

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

Bridge Club: All levels of players are welcome. We play Bridge cards each week in the Church Hall. Contact Lois Kotlowski at 703-455-6567 dancertoo2@yahoo.com or James Kolakoski at 703-455-3009 bridgeclub402@gmail.com if you are interested in joining us.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Emmitsburg. Join Bishop Burbidge and our diocesan family on a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, Emmitsburg, MD, on Saturday, October 7 (Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary), from 9am - 3pm. For more information please visit: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/pilgrimage-emmitsburg/>.

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.

Heart of Italy Pilgrimage with Father James Gould November 26- December 5, 2023. Please join Father James Gould, Pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish as he leads this **Heart of Italy Catholic Pilgrimage** through the revered sites of **Rome, Orvieto, Assisi, Siena, Florence**, and the picturesque landscapes of **Tuscany** in a spiritual journey that weaves together history, faith, and art. Pilgrimage will also feature wine tasting in the **Chianti / Tuscany** region. For more details visit: www.JMJtours.com/Italy or call Dan Callahan at MJM Tours 703-425-5400.

Church Persecuted

There are almost daily news reports that Christians are under attack both abroad and at home in America. In many cases, "Lady Justice" is anything but "blind;" rather, she is often under the influence of government (and sometimes church) leaders whose policies blatantly undermine the teachings of the Catholic Church.

What do we do about it? We pray and fast to the best of our ability...and then what? Some of us might be able to convince others to promote true religious freedom and push back against those who persecute. But for others, at the very least, if we are voting-age Americans, WE CAN AND MUST VOTE! This means taking the time to become a registered voter, educating ourselves on each candidate's ability to protect and defend human life and religious freedom (among other things), and then voting, no matter how "insignificant" an election may seem to be.

It is time to start right now! This November, a new Fairfax County School Board will be elected. It is a well-known fact that the current Board promotes immoral behaviors with regard to the handling of students who claim to be LGBTQ+ and/or transgender, allowing students to decide whether or not parents should be notified and involved regarding their child's attraction/desire to be categorized as such.

In addition, we need to become familiar with the candidates running for the General Assembly. They will be at a Candidate Forum at the parish on October 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Check our parish website (<https://straymonds.org/virtuous-education-or-sinful-indoctrination/>) a one-stop information center for information about the Fairfax school issues. Seek out the information at the Voter Information table in the rear of the Church to make sure that your voting location has not changed. Your Catholic values are at stake in this election. Vote your values.

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

Watch **Who are the Archangels?** Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein discuss archangels (Feast Day, Sept. 29) and their role in our lives in this *FORMED* Now episode

Listen to **Angels Explained: What You Should Know About the Nine Choirs.** Franciscan University Professor Dr. Mark Miravalle explains the nine choirs of angelic creatures and the role they can play in our lives.

For Parents and Kids. Read *My Path to Heaven: A Young Person's Guide to the Faith.* This at-home retreat, adapted from St. Ignatius' method, will lead children to holiness through a greater understanding of the truths of the Catholic Faith. *For ages 9-12. Downloadable on EPub or Kindle.*

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/ sign up and select our parish.

Questions? Need help?

Email us at: formed@straymonds.org



Angelus Academy

Where the truth of Catholic teaching takes flesh in the lives of Pre-K - 8th graders and their families.

There are still spots available for the 2023-24 school year in our Little Messengers faith formation program for preschoolers. Little Messengers enrollment includes Level I Atrium (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd) sessions each week. Apply soon! AngelusAcademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/

Call or Email Julie Maimone, Director of Admissions, at Admissions@angelusacademy.org for more information or to schedule a tour.

Come visit us and see why our students love coming to school. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

www.AngelusAcademy.org 703-924-3996
7644 Dynatech Ct., Springfield, VA 22153

Scholarships to Catholic Schools. St. Raymond's will again offer a one-time \$2,000 scholarship for each parish child who is switching from public school (k-12) to Catholic school for the upcoming school year. **For all parish families**, each student in Catholic grade school can receive \$1,000 and Catholic high school students can receive \$2,000. This amount is renewable every year and is subject to minimal qualification terms. Additional financial aid is available if a family truly can't afford Catholic school, even with the above scholarships. These decisions are made on a case by case basis. There is also **assistance available for homeschooling families.** Contact the parish office for more information.

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. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 11,607.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,342.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,277.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 6,702.00
Religious Education (Total)	\$ 2,732.00
Bánica Mission	\$ 7,241.00

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.



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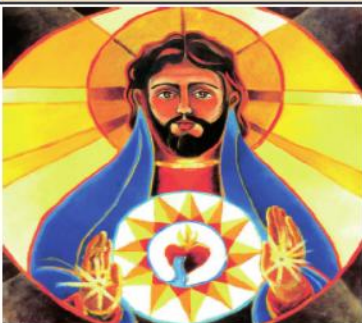
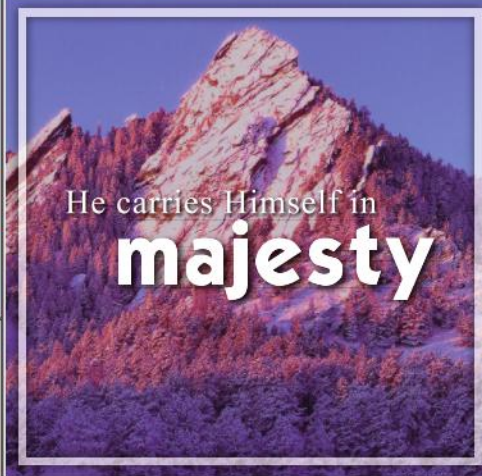
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