

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



Welcome to St. Raymond of Peñafort Roman Catholic Church

**8750 Pohick Road
Springfield, VA 22153**

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:00 am, 9:00 am,
11:00 am and 1:00 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday - 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

I've been out of town this last week, and I wrote this column before I left; so it may be a little dated. FDC

Candidate Forums. Remember that the Virginia General Election will take place on November 7, 2023. On September 21 we held a Candidate Forum for all candidates running for Fairfax County School Board. Seven candidates showed up: 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. It was a very informative evening for me and the crowd of over 100 parishioners and guests.

THIS COMING Thursday, October 5, 2023, 7 PM until 9 PM, we'll have **another Candidate Forum** in the Parish Hall. This time we've invited all the local area candidates running for **Virginia General Assembly**. The following candidates plan to participate: Senate District 33 - Mike Van Meter; Senate District 34 - Mark Springman; Senate District 35 - Mark Vafiades; Delegate District 15 - Marcus Evans and Delegate District 18 - Ed McGovern.

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. I hope to see you there at the Forum!

DAILY ROSARY. October is the **Month of the Rosary**. I encourage you all to pray the Rosary every day during the month and invite you join in 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.

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." This Wednesday, Oct. 4, the first session of the "Synod on Synodality" begins in Rome, and will continue through October 28. Pray, pray, pray.

Consider the concerns expressed by our friend Cardinal Burke. Here is an excerpt from an article in the National Catholic Register, discussing his comments in his forward to the new book, titled ***The Synodal Process Is a Pandora's Box***:

"Cardinal Raymond Burke, the prefect emeritus of the Apostolic Signatura, ... praised the publication for addressing 'clearly and comprehensively a most serious situation in the Church today' which 'rightly concerns every thoughtful Catholic and persons of good will who observe the evident and grave harm which it is inflicting upon the Mystical Body of Christ.'

"Synodality and its adjective, synodal, have become slogans behind which a revolution is at work to change radically the Church's self-understanding, in accord with a contemporary ideology which denies much of what the Church has always taught and practiced," Cardinal Burke wrote. 'It is not a purely theoretical matter, for the ideology has already, for some years, been put into practice in the

Church in Germany, spreading widely confusion and error and their fruit, division — indeed schism — to the grave harm of many souls.'

"He believes it is 'rightly to be feared that the same confusion and error and division will be visited upon the universal Church' and has 'already begun to happen through the preparation of the Synod at the local level.' Only the truth of Christ, unchangeable doctrine, and the discipline of the Church 'can address effectively the situation by uncovering the ideology at work,' he said, 'by correcting the deadly confusion and error and division it is propagating,' and by inspiring members to daily convert to Christ."

Strickland and Müller. A week or so ago **Cardinal Gerhard Müller**, Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, responded to a question from kath.net (a Catholic news magazine in Austria) about Bishop Joseph Strickland (Diocese of Tyler) troubles. Bishop Strickland is known for defending the traditional doctrine of the Church and has been critical of some of Pope Francis policies and statement. It is widely rumored that he may soon be forced to resign by Pope Francis. This is an excerpt of Cardinal Muller's very troubling/thought-provoking response:

"Yes, what is being done to Bishop Strickland is terrible, an abuse of authority against the divine right of the episcopate. If I could advise Bishop Strickland, he should definitely not resign because then they can wash their hands of innocence."

"According to the commandment of justice, a bishop can only be deposed by the Pope if he is guilty of something bad (heresy, schism, apostasy, a crime or totally unpriestly behavior), for example the pseudonym that insults God and cheats people of their salvation -Blessing of people of both or the same sex in extramarital relationships."

"Arbitrary removal as bishop of a diocese in which a bishop is appointed by Christ Himself as its own shepherd undermines the authority of the Pope, as has historically happened with the undignified office haggling under the Avignonese Papacy (This loss of trust was one of the main reasons for the separation of Reformation Christianity from the Catholic Church and its hatred of the Pope, who, with his arbitrary actions, had put himself in God's place)."

"According to Catholic teaching, the Pope is by no means the Lord of the Church, but only as Christ's representative for the universal Church, the first servant of his Lord, who had to say to Simon Peter, who had just been destined to become the rock of the Church: "Get behind me (Italian Indietro, the true indietrismo), because you have in mind not what God wants, but what people want" (Mt 16:23)."

"The Pope has no authority from Christ to bully and intimidate good bishops, modeled on Christ the Good Shepherd, who sanctify, teach and lead the flock of God in the name of Christ in accordance with the episcopal ideal of Vatican II, just because they are false friends denounce these good bishops to Francis as enemies of the Pope, while heretical and immoral bishops can do whatever they want or who harass the Church of Christ every day with some other stupidity."

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

<u>Monday, October 2nd</u> 6:30 am Lynn Kline 8:30 am James Drouillard	<u>Saturday, October 7th</u> 9:00 am Bernadette D'Agostino +
<u>Tuesday, October 3rd</u> 6:30 am James Connolly + 8:30 am Joey Wheeler +	<u>Vigil Mass</u> 5:00 pm Fr. Bergida Stacy Fleming +
<u>Wednesday, October 4th</u> 6:30 am Christopher Laird + 8:30 am Joseph and Laura Schweitzer 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intention	<u>Sunday, October 8th</u> 7:00 am Fr. Rippy RE Students & their Families 9:00 am Fr. Horkan Parishioners 11:00 am Fr. Bergida Doug Maines 1:00 pm Fr. De Celles Jonathan and Kara Perricone
<u>Thursday, October 5th</u> 6:30 am Cathy Hammerstrom 8:30 am Robert Dinh	
<u>Friday, October 6th</u> 6:30 am Kelly and Lynn LaFleur + 8:30 am Albert Go +	

**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

Additions to our Liturgical Calendar: There is now 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.

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 October!** All are invited to attend. **Fr. De Celles asks** 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 "Synod on Synodality".

First Friday Nocturnal Adoration, October 6. On the first Friday of the month, we extend our regular hours of Friday adoration to continue through the evening until Saturday at 9am. Our regularly scheduled adorers will cover the daytime hours (9am – 3pm), and **we need extra volunteers** to cover from 3pm on Friday through 9am on Saturday. **Please visit our website to sign up!** Two adorers are required per hour. Drop-ins are always welcome!

We are in need of weekly adorers, especially at **12:00 pm on Wednesdays** and **1:00 pm on Fridays**. Please call the parish office to volunteer.

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**.

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 Elaine Keating
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Oct. 1	Donut Sunday Returns!
Oct. 2	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Oct. 3	Adult Bible Study
Oct. 3	Choir Practice, 7pm
Oct. 4	Adoration 9am - 7pm
Oct. 4	Legion of Mary, 6:30pm
Oct. 5	Bridge Club
Oct. 5	State Legislature Candidate Forum, 7pm
Oct. 6	First Friday Nocturnal Adoration
Oct. 7	Men's Prayer Group
Oct. 7	Luminaries of Holy Mary
Oct. 9	Columbus Day Holiday –One Mass at 10 am Parish Offices are Closed.

Donut Sunday Returns TODAY (Oct. 1) after the 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 AM Masses. Stop by the Parish Hall after Mass to enjoy some treats and drinks and meet your fellow parishioners. October's Donut Sunday will be hosted by our Pro-Life Group & our Library Volunteers. **New this year: Gluten-free donuts will be available for those who need them.**

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. Remember it is your duty as a citizen to vote.

General Assembly Candidate Forum, October 5 at 7 pm. Come meet our local area VA Senate and House of Delegate candidates hear from them directly. They will address issues raised by our audience. Voting is a civic duty and Early Voting has already begun. Know which candidate you prefer before you vote!

Family Life Education in Fairfax County Public Schools: A Critique, October 12, 7 pm. Featuring Cathy Ruse, Family Research Council Senior Fellow, and John Murray, Founder and Director of ParentandChild.org. This is an important presentation on what is taught in FLE at each grade level and what is concerning or objectionable. Please get informed!

Book Club: The parish Book Club next meets on **Friday, October 13**, at 10:00 AM in the St Raymond Library to discuss **"Catechism of the Spiritual Life"** by Robert Cardinal Sarah. New members are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.



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!**



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 District Soccer Challenge will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023 on the field behind Holy Spirit School in Annandale. This event is for boys and girls aged 9-14 and will run from 9 am until 2 pm. Please contact Gopal Sharma with any questions at 571-451-5595 or at gopal.d.sharma@gmail.com.

The Knights of Columbus Annual Italian Dinner will take place on **Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 6:30pm** in the parish hall. Tickets for the event will be sold after all Masses this weekend and next. \$6.00 for children (ages 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 has RCIA classes on **Monday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 pm** in the Maurer Room **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 welcome. 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 Hall, from **Tuesday, through Tuesday, May 14, 2024**. For further information please call Bob Ward at (703) 644-5873 or via e-mail at biblestudy@straymonds.org.

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.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH. Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE



Early voting is underway!
Get informed and get in line to **Vote Pro-Life.**
VoteValuesVA.com

October is Respect Life Month!
How will you bear witness to the sanctity of life?

LIFE CHAIN – TODAY!!!

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 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 began on Sept 27th. See sign-up sheets in the narthex. Questions? Visit 40daysforlife.com or contact Liz at hildebrandseven@gmail.com.

Save the date: On Wednesday November 8 at 7 pm, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for our children who have predeceased us. Kara Palladino, founder of A Mom's Peace, will be with us to answer any questions you may have.

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**.

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.

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

Youth Group & CCD October 1st:

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 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>

Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group

5:30-7pm Monday, October 2nd (Maurer Room)

Attention all high school girls! "Little Girl, arise!" (Mt. 5:41) and come to Talitha Koum! Deepen your faith, play fun games, 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, October 3rd (Maurer Room)

High School Men: Our high school "Sons of Thunder" group has started up again! Come hungry (physically and intellectually) and ready to rumble. 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.

Friday, October 6th: 6:30am Fri. Morning Mass & Breakfast

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>



High School SWING DANCE!!

Saturday, Oct. 7th

10am-12pm (Parish Hall)

St. Raymond's High School Youth Apostolate is teaming with students from Christendom College's Swing Dance Club in hosting a late

morning swing dance!! Join us from 10am-12pm, Saturday October 7th! All high school teens are invited. No cost. **No experience necessary!** Lesson will be provided. 2023-2024 YA Info. Sheet is required to be on file in order to participate. Snacks will be provided. Come have a swingin' good time!!

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

THANK YOU to everyone who attended the parent meetings last week. If you did not attend, please be sure to read the Parent Handbook which was emailed to you on September 22nd and let us know if you have any questions.

Also, if you missed the meeting and you have a child preparing to receive a sacrament (grades 2 and 7) please come by the RE office to pick up a folder with important information and required forms. **If you have a child in 8th grade who was not registered with the RE office last year**, you will need to come and pick up a folder. If you are unsure of your status, please call the office for information.

NEW Diocesan policy: ALL PARENTS whose children are registered in the Religious Education program (including homeschool and Catholic school parents grades 2, 7 and 8): You need to provide the RE office with a copy of your child's **BIRTH certificate**. You may scan and email it to our office or bring a copy to the office.

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

REQUIRED Confirmation Retreat for 8th grade students is October 21st. Specific information will be emailed to parents.

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

Bridge Club: All levels of players are welcome. We play Bridge cards each week in the Church Hall. Contact Lois Kotlowski at 703-455-6567 dancertoo2@yahoo.com 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

In his 1980's book, *Double-Speak*, William Lutz argues that "doublespeak is not a slip of the tongue, or language used out of ignorance, but is instead a very conscious use of language as a weapon or tool by those in power to achieve their ends at our expense" (pg. xii). Forty years later, Lutz' prediction continues to be true.

Fairfax County Public Schools tell students that they can abandon their own sex and assume a different one, without telling their parents. Boys become girls; girls become boys. The previous administration in Richmond even codified such gibberish into Virginia law.

The Biden administration's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is preparing to file a regulatory proposal which will eliminate the words "mother," "father," "paternity," "his" and "her" from laws related to childcare. As with other changes that could never be authorized by Congress, "This proposed regulation aligns with President Biden's Executive orders" addressing "how the Federal Government should pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, including members of the LGBTQI+ communities," says the yet-to-be-published regulation.

"The document 'proposes to make changes to replace the gender-specific terms 'mother' and 'father' with the gender-neutral term 'parent' where such terms appear' in relevant law." The rule also proposes removing the terms "his" and "her" and replacing them with "their." Some woke individuals even show their own defiance of language by wearing nametags which say, "Hi, I'm Ryan using 'them' as a pronoun." It will be interesting to see how the school system will teach the tenses of pronouns. "His" and "her" are clearly singular; "their" is clearly plural. Doublespeak at its finest!

"HHS Moves to Erase 'Mothers' & 'Fathers' (Catholic Vote News Feed 9/25/23)

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

Watch *Divine Mercy 101 With Chris Alar, MIC.* Fr. Alar engagingly presents the message and devotion of Divine Mercy along with the role of St. Faustina (Oct 5) in spreading this message.

FOR YOUTH! Listen to *Thérèse: The Story of a Soul*. Learn about the "Little Flower and her Way of Spiritual Childhood" in this audio drama production.

FOR KIDS! Watch *St. Therese of the Child Jesus*. This episode from the *Lukas Storyteller* series learn how turn to God in prayer in imitation of St. Therese (Oct 1).

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/ **signup** and select our parish.

Questions? Need help?

Email us at: formed@straymonds.org



Angelus Academy

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

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

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 SEPTEMBER 2023

Offertory	\$ 50,674.00
Family Assistance	\$ 2,783.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 6,182.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 4,270.00
Religious Education	\$ 1,395.00
Catholuc University	\$ 665.00

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 14,703.00
Family Assistance	\$ 483.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,192.00
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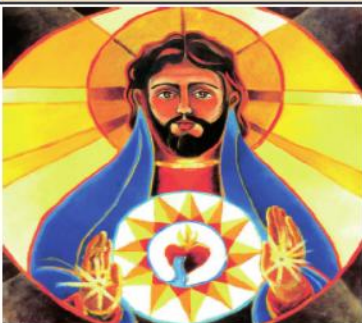
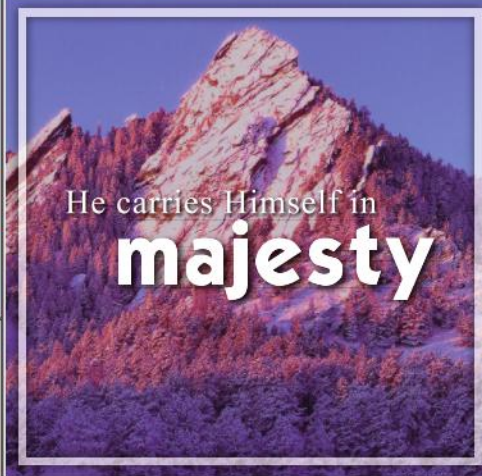
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