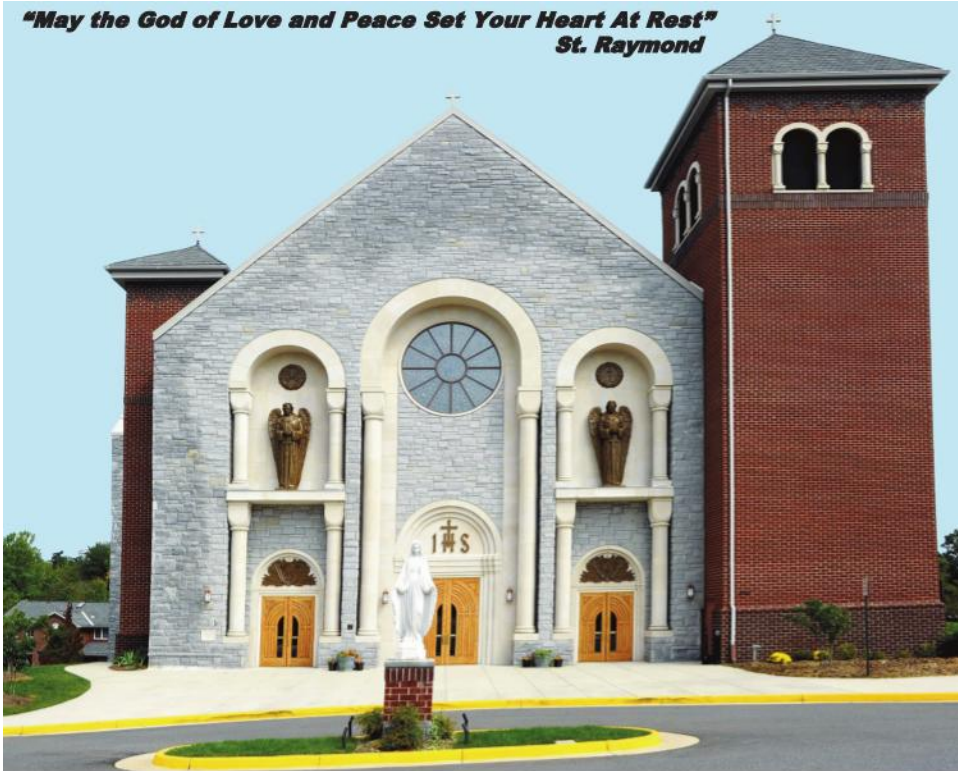


**"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"
St. Raymond**



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

FCPS Family Life Education Unmasked. Please join me this coming **Thursday, October 12, at 7pm** in the Parish Hall for a presentation by Cathy Ruse and John Murray entitled, **"Family Life Education in Fairfax County Public Schools, A Critique."**

This presentation is designed to inform parents about the serious problems in the FLE and reveal better alternatives. It will explain how FLE actually encourages sexual relationships outside of marriage, teaches students how to obtain contraceptives and abortion without parents finding out, and contains additional harmful and misguided teachings as well as serious omissions. Transgender identity is promoted, and maleness and femaleness erased.

Cathy Ruse is well known to St. Raymond's, not only as a nationally known figure, but also having spoken here several times in the past. She is currently Senior Fellow for Legal Studies at the Family Research Council and co-founder of Catholics Engaged for Fairfax. She also previously served as Pro-life spokesman for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

John Murray is a long-time pro-life activist and currently the founding director of Parentandchild.org, and Pro-Life Coordinator at Saint Mary of Sorrows. He has held a variety of staff and management positions at HUD, FEMA, and DHS, and is a Lt. Colonel, USAF ret.

I hope to see all the parents of Fairfax County School students in attendance.

Synod. Well, the Synod on Synodality has begun in Rome and will run for most of the next month. For a good understanding of what's happening daily I suggest you follow our own parishioner, the brilliant, inciteful and well-connected **Dr. Robert Royal at "TheCatholicThing.org,"** as he reports daily from Rome. [I also recommend following folks at The Pillar (pillarcatholic.com).]

Here is an excerpt from one of Dr. Royal's first reports (an excellent analysis):

"If you wanted two words to describe the Synod on Synodality, the event that begins today in Rome, it would have to be deep confusion. Unless you wanted to add a third, deliberate. Because it's been clear from a series of concrete measures that what's been said is not what's going to happen. And what's going to happen has not been said. Yet there's a method, of a sort, to this madness."

"To begin with, the very format of this Synod is already a kind of deliberate confusion – and for a reason."

"On the one hand, we have been told by the very highest synodal authorities – from the pope on down – that synodality is a recovery of an ancient dimension of the Church that was preserved in the East but had been lost in the West..."

"On the other hand, we have the words of the exarch (leader) of the Greek Catholic Church – part of that very Eastern tradition (though in communion with Rome) – warning:

"if the West understands synodality as a place or as a moment where everyone, laity and clergy, act together in order to arrive at some ecclesiastical, doctrinal, canonical, disciplinary decision, whatever it may be, it becomes clear that such synodality does not exist in the East."

"Historically, this is correct beyond question. That's why when synods began to be held after Vatican II, they were synods of bishops, in conversation with the pope, which is to say of those with the apostolic authority to govern, teach, and sanctify. That's the Eastern tradition that we're being told was lost in the West."

"The new configuration, which has been conjured out of thin air by people shaped by some unfortunate cultural currents in recent decades, suggests that the further claim by the Roman organizers – that the synod is not a democratizing of the Church – is not merely a historical mistake about tradition. That much is obvious. The only question is why?..."

More News From Rome. Did you see these widely covered stories last week?

Catholic World News: *"The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith has barred Cardinal Jean-Pierre Ricard from public ministry outside of his diocese of residence for five years as punishment for sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl in 1987, La Croix reports."*

"The dicastery's ruling...permits the 79-year-old retired archbishop of Bourdeaux (France) to vote in a conclave and to minister publicly in the diocese in which he currently resides, if the local bishop permits. Cardinal Ricard remains a member of the College of Cardinals and of the Dicastery for the Promotion of Christian Unity...."

"In November 2022, Cardinal Ricard admitted abusing a 14-year-old girl in the late 1980s, when he was a parish priest, Reuters reported...."

(Pastor's Comment: any priest similarly accused would be defrocked/ laicized).

National Catholic Register: *"Five cardinals have sent a set of questions to Pope Francis to express their concerns and seek clarification on points of doctrine and discipline ahead of this week's opening of the Synod on Synodality at the Vatican. The cardinals said they submitted five questions, called dubia, on Aug. 21 requesting clarity on topics relating to doctrinal development, the blessing of same-sex unions, the authority of the Synod on Synodality, women's ordination, and sacramental absolution...."*

"The dubia were signed by German Cardinal Walter Brandmüller, 94, president of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences; American Cardinal Raymond Burke, 75, prefect emeritus of the Apostolic Signatura; Chinese Cardinal Zen Ze-Kiun, 90, bishop emeritus of Hong Kong; Mexican Cardinal Juan Sandoval Íñiguez, 90, archbishop emeritus of Guadalajara; and Guinean Cardinal Robert Sarah, 78, prefect emeritus of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments."

"The same group of senior prelates say they submitted a previous version of the dubia on these topics on July 10 and received a reply from Pope Francis the following day... Pope Francis' responses 'have not resolved the doubts we had raised, but have, if anything, deepened them,' they said in a statement to the National Catholic Register...They therefore sent the reformulated dubia on Aug. 21, rephrasing them partly so they would elicit 'Yes' or 'No' replies.... They say they have not yet received a response to the reformulated dubia"

Catholic News Agency: *"The Vatican on Monday publicly released responses to 10 dubia submitted by Czech Cardinal Dominik Duka regarding 'the administration of the Eucharist to divorced couples living in a new union.'*

"....the DDF's response — signed both by Pope Francis and new prefect Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernández — had been issued to the Czech cardinal on Sept. 25...."

"On the question of admittance to the Eucharist for a Catholic divorced from his/her sacramentally married spouse but civilly remarried to another, Fernández wrote that while priests should provide pastoral accompaniment to the individual, 'it is each person, individually, who is called to put himself before God and expose his conscience to him, with both its possibilities and its limits,' and evaluate their disposition to receive."

"This conscience, accompanied by a priest and enlightened by the guidelines of the Church, is called to be formed to evaluate and give a sufficient judgment to discern the possibility of accessing the sacraments."

[Pastor's note: needless to say, this has only added to the confusion since it apparently contradicts constant Church teaching and ignores Church law, which still prohibits priests from giving these people Communion].

Oremus pro invicem, et pro Ecclesiam. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, October 9th 10:00 am Joseph + and Margaret Maines	Saturday, October 14th 9:00 am Sarah Pelczar
Tuesday, October 10th 6:30 am Joseph Healy Sr. + 8:30 am Christopher Anezin	Vigil Mass 5:00 pm Fr. De Celles Irene Krosnick +
Wednesday, October 11th 6:30 am Tom Mead 8:30 am Vince and Nelly Drouillard 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intention	Sunday, October 15th 7:00 am Fr. Rippy Ricky Medina + 9:00 am Fr. De Celles Parishioners 11:00 am Fr. Bergida Eduardo Cascarro + 1:00 pm Fr. Bergida Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Thursday, October 12th 6:30 am Anne Mead 8:30 am David Barton +	
Friday, October 13th 6:30 am Lawrence Ehorn + 8:30 am Fred Embuscado +	

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".

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 helping, please call 703-440-0535 or email virginia.osella@straymonds.org. Drop-ins are always welcome!

Family of Jesus Prayer Group: Weekly meetings are in the Church on Mondays at 4:00 pm. If you have any prayer requests, please let us know by emailing Elaine Perricone at jpebtp@verizon.net or by calling the parish office. You may also write down your prayer requests and drop them in the "Prayer Box" on the table in the narthex of the church. **We will not meet on Columbus Day, October 9.**

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. 8	Pet Blessing, 3pm
Oct. 9	Columbus Day Holiday –One Mass at 10 am Parish Offices are Closed.
Oct. 10	Adult Bible Study
Oct. 10	Choir Practice, 7pm
Oct. 11	Adoration 9am - 7pm
Oct. 11	Legion of Mary, 6:30pm
Oct. 12	Bridge Club
Oct. 12	Speaker Series, 7pm
Oct. 13	Adoration 9 am - 3 pm
Oct. 13	Book Club
Oct. 14	KofC Italian Dinner

Blessing of the Animals: In honor of the feast of St. Francis, we will have the annual Blessing of the Animals **Sunday, October 8th at 3pm** in front of the rectory.

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.

Men's Retreat, Oct. 28. BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD: Having the Mind of Christ in an Age of Error. How should a Catholic man respond to Christ's challenge to have his mind totally transformed? The 25th Annual Christ the King Men's Day of Recollection, directed by The Very Rev. Paul D. Scalia, will be held on Sat. Oct. 28 from 9:15am-1:15pm at St. Raymond's. There is no charge for this event, **but you must register before Oct. 22 to attend.** Donations gratefully accepted. To register, visit www.waywomen.com/mensretreat For more information, contact Robin Maas at rmv1maas@gmail.com.

The Parish Library will be closed on Saturday October 21 in support of the Parish Confirmation Retreat. Come see us on Sunday October 22nd instead!



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!**



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. \$6.00 for children (ages 5-12), \$17.00 for Adults and \$60.00 for Families. We will also sell tickets at the door.

12th Annual PROJECT MANGER Fundraiser is NEXT weekend, October 14/15. After all the Masses next weekend, St. Raymond's will once again have the opportunity to support **Project Manger**, which purchases new cribs and mattresses for moms and their babies in need. The new cribs and mattresses are distributed through "A Woman's Choice" and other Pro-Life pregnancy centers in the local area. Please prayerfully consider donating to this wonderful Pro-Life effort which is changing hearts and minds one mom and baby at a time. POC for this effort is John Crennan, who can be reached at 339-223-0887. For additional information, visit <https://www.projectmanger.org/>.

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.

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.

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?

Thank you to all who came to the Life Chain last Sunday. What a beautiful peaceful and prayerful way to stand up for life! If you missed it, plan on joining us next year on Respect Life Sunday!



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 has begun! 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.

Think About It! So many people seemingly celebrate abortion without ever being able to say the word 'abortion'. Instead, they proclaim, "I am Pro-Choice! A woman has a right to choose!" *Choose what?* Why are abortion advocates often afraid to use the word 'abortion'? Is it too repugnant to simply say what you stand for? "I want mothers to have the choice to kill their living babies. And I want abortionists to get paid well to do the killing." Is that really a right you want to defend? Yes, we can be pro-choice for abstinence, motherhood or adoption. Be willing to say it. Killing is not a healthcare choice. **Think about it.**

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>

October 8th: NO Youth Group or CCD

Enjoy the holiday weekend with your family!



October 15th: BOTH YOUTH GROUPS at 4pm!

4-5:30pm High School & Jr. High Youth Group:

Adoration Join us for a special holy hour for our 7-12th graders! Exposition with a reflection by Fr. Bergida, followed by time for silent prayer (bring a journal, pen, rosary & Bible or spiritual reading) and Benediction. Pizza will be served in the hall afterwards. *Parents/families are encouraged to stay for the holy hour as well.*

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

*High School Youth Group is at 4pm today (see above)

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>

Every Friday in October: 6:30am 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>

More info on all of the Youth Apostolate activities below can be found online at <https://bit.ly/PERMISSIONSLIPS>

Friday, Oct 27: Honor Flight 3:15-6:30pm (High School Service Outing)

All high school students are invited to join us in honoring a flight of WWII, Vietnam & Korean war veterans who are coming in to town. If interested, sign up ASAP as gate passes to greet them are limited.

Saturday, Oct. 28: Apple Picking & Dominican Monastery (HS Outing) 8:15am-1:15pm

All high school students are invited to come apple picking with us (our first step towards our big Youth Apostolate pie sale coming up!)...after picking our apples, we will spend some time in prayer on the grounds of the nearby Dominican Monastery in Linden, including praying sext prayer with the cloistered sisters.

Saturday, Nov 4: 40 Days for Life Prayer & Chick-Fil-A 10:15am-1:15pm (7-12th Grade Outing)

Monday, Nov. 13: St. Lucy's Food Pantry Warehouse 2-6pm (HS Service)

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

There are no CCD classes THIS WEEK October 8, 9 or 10 in observance of the Columbus Day holiday.

Please note: We will NOT be hosting our annual **Parish Holy Hour and Rosary** which was scheduled for this coming Thursday October 12th. **PLEASE participate in the Daily Family Rosary** in our church, Monday - Friday at 6:30 pm and/or Saturday after 9 am Mass during the month of October and beyond! See the second page of this week's bulletin for information on Adoration and Rosary recitation.

Virtus Seminar at St. Raymonds. St. Raymond's will host a Virtus Seminar in the parish hall, on Thursday October 19th, from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. Attending a Virtus Seminar is required (in addition to a background check) for anyone who has substantial contact with youth as part of their volunteer activities at St. Raymond. Attending a Virtus Seminar is required only once in a lifetime. You can register for the Seminar at virtusonline.org. Any questions, contact Mary Hansen at 703-440-0537.

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

Diocesan High School Placement Test, Dec. 2nd. 8th grade students attending public schools or non-Catholic private schools, who are interested in attending Catholic High Schools in the Diocese of Arlington, need to take the High School Placement Test (HSPT). The test will be on Saturday, December 2, 2023 8:30am-12pm (Snow Date - December 9, 2023) at each of the Diocesan High Schools. Students must register online on the high school's website.

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.

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.

Snow Team Leader Needed: Saint Raymond's is looking for a Snow Team Leader to organize potential snow removal and treating for all doorways and sidewalks for the church and rectory. This role would organize and manage paid team members. For more information, please contact the office at 703-440-0535.

Help your fellow parishioners in their time of need! Would you be willing to visit, provide a ride, pick up groceries, prepare/deliver a meal, etc. during a time of recovery or difficulty for a parishioner? Volunteer as available and as the Holy Spirit moves you. *No meetings!* Contact Vanessa Oswald, kandvoswald@gmail.com, for more information.

Church Persecuted

Once upon a time, the public library was a safe haven for parents and children, offering a quiet setting in which to explore both real and imaginary worlds. Those days are gone! No longer can parents drop off their children in an “age-appropriate” section as they explore their own literary works. Public libraries and school libraries have redefined “age-appropriate”; thus, parents must prescreen all the books in the children’s sections of the libraries prior to letting their young inquisitive readers loose – restricting them only to those books that have been carefully checked to ensure there is no illicit materials contained therein.

The American Library Association president, Emily Drabinski, revealed her true colors while attending the largest socialist conference in America over Labor Day weekend. She was invited as a speaker but canceled at the last minute due to public outcry.

But she still attended, and when given an opportunity to take a microphone, she said, “I think...that public education needs to be a site of socialist organizing, I think libraries really do too.” She continued by saying that “I think there’s a real opportunity here to both connect what’s happening in public education, what’s happening in libraries.... We need to be on the agenda of socialist organizing.” Wow!

Parents beware! Libraries are moving toward “social organizing” – having no fixed moral standards to accommodate every immoral and amoral fantasy that enters their buildings. On a positive note: Parents, as you fight back and bring this to the public’s attention, check out St. Raymond’s parish library where you will find an abundance of topics that will not only nourish your mind, but also nourish your soul.

<https://catholicvote.org/ala-president-public-libraries-leftist/>



Get In-Formed!

October is Respect Life month!

Listen to *There is Life in the Womb*. Venerable Fulton Sheen explains Church teaching on life from a historical and philosophical perspective.

Watch *Changing Sides*. This story tells how a consistent, peaceful pro-life presence changed the heart of former Planned Parenthood Director, Abby Johnson.

FOR KIDS! Watch *Angel in the Waters*. This is a sweet story about a child’s journey from conception to toddlerhood accompanied by his guardian angel.

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/](https://www.AngelusAcademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/)

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

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

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

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

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).

We are Looking for Families for our Christmas Giving Tree. Each year, St. Raymond's "adopts" families who need help with Christmas. If your family, or someone you know could use help providing gifts for their children, please let the parish office know. The information is kept completely confidential! The office phone number is 703-440-0535.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 13,222.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,282.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,270.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 1,994.00

The Second Collection this weekend is for Porto Charities: Special Kids, Special Needs. The funds from this collection support special education programs for God’s Special Children. Please be generous.



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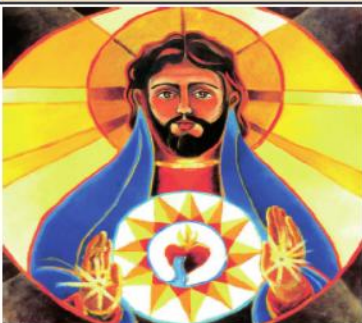
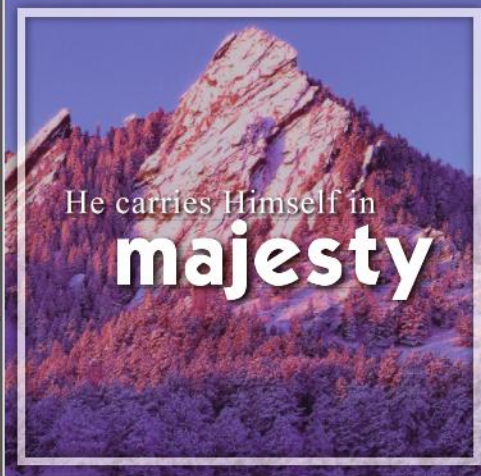
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