

**"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

Israel at War. Please pray for America's staunch ally, Israel, attacked by the Islamic terrorist group Hamas, which is controlled by one of America's greatest foes, Iran (of "death to America" fame). The barbaric attacks and atrocities against innocent civilians, including the grotesque torture and murder of children and infants, leave us speechless.

May the Good Lord send His Holy Angels to protect Israel and help them to defend themselves against these savages.

And may He also protect and keep safe all Americans who are or will be sent into the middle of this conflict, especially our military folks, particularly members of our parish and their families and friends.

And may He grant eternal rest to all those who died in his grace in these attacks.

And finally, may the Lord Jesus grant conversion and repentance to all who do such evil things.

Synod News. Did you read about these events at the Synod?

Cardinal Zen. From *The Pillar*, October 4, 2023: "In a letter dated Sept. 21... the 91-year old emeritus Bishop of Hong Kong told the bishops and cardinals that he is 'confounded' by what he sees as a reinvention of the Biblical concept of synodality by the event's organizers, in a bid to promote teaching contrary to the faith..."

"'Because of what I am going to say, I can easily be accused of 'conspiracy theory,' but I see clearly a whole plan of manipulation,' the cardinal said.

"'They [the synodal organizers] begin by saying we must listen to all. Little by little they make us understand that among the 'all' are those whom we have 'excluded.' Finally, we understand what they mean are people who opt for a sexual morality different from that of Catholic tradition."

"Often they claim not to have an agenda," Zen wrote. "This is truly an offense to our intelligence. Anybody can see which conclusions they are aiming at."

"In the six-page text, Zen also expressed his 'even greater confusion and worry' at what he perceives to be concerted effort to use the synod to establish democracy in place of the Church's sacramental hierarchy, as the means of establishing doctrine.

"The cardinal admitted a 'malicious suspicion' that the synodal process, originally announced to conclude after a single session in Rome this October, was extended by an extra year because 'organizers, not sure to be able to reach during this session their goals, are opting for more time to maneuver.'"

"...Zen wrote in his letter that synodal organizers 'speak of 'conversations in the spirit' as if it were a magic formula.'"

"He added that while participants have been invited to 'expect 'surprises' from the Spirit,' that language seems to be cover for a predetermined outcome in the synod.

"Evidently they are already informed which surprises to expect," Zen wrote.

"Zen argued that an emphasis on 'conversation' in small groups — as opposed to 'discussion' and debate among the synodal body as a whole — is a deliberate ploy to prevent open debate over controversial agendas to change Church teaching, which he believes will be operative among some synod organizers and participants.

"In a passage of the letter likely to spark controversy, Zen described the synodal secretariat staff as 'very efficient at the art of manipulation,' and urged participants 'not to obey them' when 'they tell you to go and pray, interrupting the sessions of the Synod.'"

"Tell them that it is ridiculous to think that the Holy Spirit is waiting for these your prayers offered at the last moment... Before the Synod, you and your faithful must have already

accumulated a mountain of prayers, as Pope John XXIII did before Vatican II.'

"Zen also strongly criticized Pope Francis' decision to invite lay attendees to the synod and to grant them the status of full voting members of the synodal body, a move which he argued **undermines the Synod of Bishops as it was conceived following Vatican Council II.**

"The decision radically changes the nature of the Synod, which Pope Paul VI had intended as an instrument of episcopal collegiality....To give the vote to lay people could appear to mean that respect is shown for the *sensus fidelium*, but **are they sure that these lay people who have been invited are fideles [faithful Catholics]?... 'As a matter of fact...these lay people have not been elected by the Christian people.'**

"...Accepting that the letter's eventual publication could expose him to criticism, Zen told the cardinals and bishops that 'old as I am, I have nothing to gain and to lose. I will be happy to have done what I feel is my duty.'"

Metropolitan Job. From *Catholic News Agency*, Rome Newsroom, Oct 9, 2023:

"Speaking to the Synod on Synodality on Monday, an Eastern Orthodox bishop said the definition of synodality of the October assembly 'differs greatly' from the Orthodox understanding.

"Metropolitan Job of Pisidia referenced the first ecumenical council, the Council of Nicea in 325, and quoted from the Apostolic Canons, a fourth-century Christian text on the government and discipline of the early Christian Church. Drawing from this text, he said, 'a synod is a deliberative meeting of bishops, not a consultative clergy-laity assembly.'

"In light of this, we could say that **the understanding of synodality in the Orthodox Church differs greatly from the definition of synodality given by your present assembly of the Synod of Bishops,**' he added. The current synod now underway at the Vatican is the first of its kind to include laypeople as full voting members.

"Metropolitan Job, the Eastern Orthodox bishop of Pisidia ...is attending the Synod on Synodality as a fraternal delegate... without the right to vote."

Remembering. This is an excerpt from an excellent article, "The Work of Remembering," by Francis X. Maier, from the *Catholic Thing*, October 11, 2023:

"We need a renewal of our faith, but how do we get it? A few years ago, I asked a friend, Rabbi Mark Gottlieb, how Jews had managed to survive so much persecution over the centuries. He answered me with one word: *zakhor*. That's the Hebrew word for 'remember.' Jewish memory is, and always has been, the guardian of Jewish identity, renewal, and community.

"And of course that makes perfect sense: A man with amnesia is a man without a memory. And a man without a memory is a man without identity, a man doomed to be defined and dominated by others. So it is for the individual human being; so it is for peoples, nations, and communities; and so it is for the Christian Church.

"We live in a time that encourages us to forget the past; to live only for ourselves; to swim in a permanent, present tense of distractions and appetites. But we're not powerless. We're never powerless, as Scripture teaches us again and again.

"So if we want to turn the world right side up; if we want a more humane and godly future, we need to start by recovering who we are and why we're here. That requires the work of remembering; going back to the Word of God and the arduously learned wisdom of our Catholic teachings and tradition...."

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, October 16th

6:30 am Diane Hattler
 8:30 am Kelly & Lynne
 LaFleur +

Tuesday, October 17th

6:30 am Dane Martin +
 8:30 am Patrick Reilly

Wednesday, October 18th

6:30 am David C. Barton +
 8:30 am Sr. Marie Celine
 Laird
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intention

Thursday, October 19th

6:30 am Tony Jamil Kas-
 Mikha +
 8:30 am Henrietta T.
 Cretelli +

Friday, October 20th

6:30 am Alex Kadar +
 8:30 am Mike & Maddy
 Laird

Saturday, October 21st

9:00 am Christian Maimone +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Thomas Hunt +

Sunday, October 22nd

7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
 Jim Gaston +
 9:00 am **Fr. Bergida**
 Parishioners
 11:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
 Rudy Fabricante +
 1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
 Maria Teordord Estrella
 Pama Tian +

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 Fr. Stephen Schultz
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Oct. 16 Family of Jesus Prayer Group
 Oct. 17 Adult Bible Study
 Oct. 17 Choir Practice, 7pm
 Oct. 18 Adoration 9am - 7pm
 Oct. 18 Legion of Mary, 6:30pm
 Oct. 19 Bridge Club
 Oct. 20 Adoration 9 am - 3 pm
 Oct. 28 Men's Day of Recollection
 Nov. 1 All Saints Day - Holy Day of Obligation
 Nov. 4 KofC Blood Drive

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:

Mass each Wednesday at 7pm

First Friday Confessions from 3-4 pm and 6-8 pm.

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.

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.

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.

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!

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 rmvmaas@gmail.com.

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".

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, to add your name to the parish's SAMARITAN GROUP roster or to request help.

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.



ST. RAYMOND'S KNIGHTS IN ACTION! In addition to leading with faith, protecting our families, and defending values in a busy, changing world, Knights of Columbus are committed to serving others. In fact, from July-September, your St. John Bosco Council of St. Raymond's Parish raised and donated \$20,000 to the Tepeyac Center for a new ultrasound machine, \$5,000 to the Our Lady of Ransom Scholarship Fund, and over \$3,200 to provide funeral support for a fellow parishioner. Additionally, your Knights supported a blood drive which resulted in the collection of 57 blood units and contributed countless hours of other services in support of the Parish. With all that they do, they need all the help they can get! 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:

10/14-15 Project Manger Collections
10/16 Council Rosary (Parish Library, 7pm)
10/16 Monthly Membership Meeting (Parish Hall, 7:30pm)

12th Annual PROJECT MANGER Fundraiser.

After all the Masses **THIS WEEKEND** St Raymond will again have the opportunity to support **PROJECT MANGER**, which purchases new cribs for moms and their babies in need. The cribs are distributed through "A Woman's Choice" and other Pro-Life crisis pregnancy centers in the local area. The cost of one crib is approximately \$175, so please prayerfully consider donating any amount 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/>. This year's contributions can also be made throughout October and November by using the Knights QR Code.



November 4 Blood Drive. The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a blood drive on behalf of Inova Blood Donor Services on Saturday, November 4th here in the St. Raymond's parish hall from 7 am to noon. Please consider signing up for a 15 minute time slot within that period and giving the Gift of Life. You may sign up online at www.inovabloodsaves.org or in the Narthex after all masses in the coming weekends. If you have any questions or difficulty signing up, please contact Mark Maslyn of our parish at (202) 679-3293 (m/text) or by email at: mam7253@msn.com.

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.

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.

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?

Support 'Project Manger-Cribs for Life' this weekend! Our District Knights of Columbus work with local Pregnancy Care Centers to help mothers in need continue to choose life. Nearly 3,000 cribs given away to date!



40 DAYS FOR LIFE
THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION.

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.

Planned Parenthood does more to help women than any pro-life organization! Well, that's what PP would like you to believe. However, PP President Leana Wen stated, "Our core mission is providing, protecting, and expanding access to abortion and reproductive health care." NR 1/8/2019. Also remember that in 2020 PP forfeited 60 million dollars in federal funding because it would have restricted their abortion industry. What PP does do is commit over 40% of abortions in the US (374,155 in FY 21 NRL 4/26/2021), particularly on minority babies, and sells their body parts – all for profit – and funded by your tax dollars. Who does PP endorse? **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 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, and 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>

Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group

5:30-7pm Monday, October 16th (Maurer Room)

Sons of Thunder: High School Guys' Group

7-8:30pm Tuesday, October 17th (Maurer Room)

6:30am Mass & Breakfast Every Friday in October!

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. If not, you can show up for Mass and have your parent drive you to school after breakfast Either way, RSVPs help!

Breakfast Donations Are you able to contribute a baked good or fruit for our Friday morning Mass & breakfast group? **You can drop it off on Thursday, 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

Reminder to parents of 2024 Confirmation

candidates: REQUIRED Confirmation Retreat is next Saturday, October 21st!

ATTENTION Parents of Homeschool or Catholic school

students in grades 2, 7 or 8 who are preparing to receive sacraments at St. Raymond's, **you must register your child with the Religious Education Office.** Please pick up a bright green registration form at the Religious Education Office or at the Parish Office and return it to the RE Office as soon as possible. If you do not register, you will not receive important information related to sacrament preparation and reception.

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.

Legion of Mary: Do you want to develop a closer relationship with our Mother Mary and her Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ? The Legion of Mary weekly meeting is held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Library. All auxiliary members and anyone interested in joining the Legion of Mary are welcome. Point of Contact: Judy Mayer, jmayer9014@aol.com, or 703-627-7320.

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 November 4**. All are 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.

Church Persecuted

This year's election of all board members of the Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) brings to light our Catholic Church's teachings that parents are the primary educators of their children and are tasked with the duty and privilege of overseeing what their children are learning, especially outside the home. The role of the government and the Church is to support them in this (*Familiaris Consortio* 36, 40). Yet, **parents** are conspicuously missing from the "FCPS Student's Rights and Responsibilities."

Two years ago, FCPS adopted draconian policies which took parents out of the picture of being responsible for their children. Children generally can't vote; most can't drive; yet, according to FCPS, they should have access to abortion, they can tell the school that they want to be called by a different name and that they want to be treated as a member of the opposite sex.

The following are a few excerpts from the Student Rights and Responsibilities handbook for elementary school students in FCPS: "You have a right to be treated with respect and called by **your chosen name** (not your "given" name). If you feel that this is not happening, talk to your teacher, **or another adult you trust.**" (No mention of parents.) "You have the right to use the **restroom** and **other facilities** that are **consistent with your gender identity.**" (What if the parents are unaware of this "identity?") "You have a right to **keep your gender identity to yourself** if you'd like." (What about the parents?) Regarding sexual or gender-based harassment, students are advised to "...tell a trusted adult..." such as "...school counselors, administrators, or teachers...if they don't do anything, then tell another grown up." (No mention of parents as "trusted adults.")

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

October is the Month of the Rosary!

Watch The Rosary: A Prayer of Miracles. This documentary presents stories of the power of the rosary and its miraculous impact on historical events around the world.

FOR FAMILIES! *Watch Struggle with the Rosary.* This episode of *Fatima Gems* encourages us to overcome the mental and sometimes practical obstacles to praying a daily rosary as individuals and families, noting even saints struggled with this at times.

FOR KIDS! *Watch Brother Francis – The Rosary: A Special Way to Pray.* This animated episode will introduce your children to the rosary and how to pray it.

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 offers Catholic School tuition assistance for all parish families. The scholarship 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.

FAITH DIRECT: eGiving helps you provide regular support to St. Raymond's, even when you are out of town. 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	\$ 18,151.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,330.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,835.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 7,395.00
Porto Charities	\$ 1,519.00



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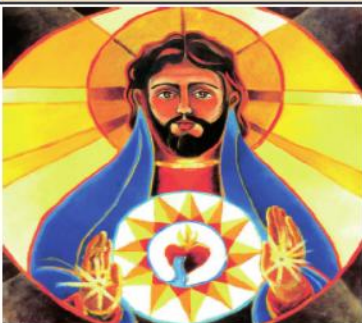
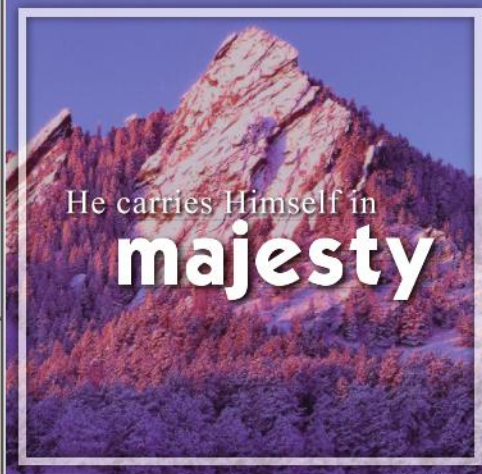
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