

**"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

THE COMING ELECTIONS. Voting is the most fundamental building block of our nation, and the foundation of all our freedoms. But so many of us don't bother to vote, and when we do vote, we often vote based on very little knowledge of the candidates, and over secondary issues. Sometimes we even vote based on some irrelevant attribute of the candidate: e.g., their looks, color, education, etc.. All this instead of finding out what the candidates plan to do in office, and where they stand on the most important issues on the table.

And by "the most important issues," I don't mean our pet projects, but the issues that are most fundamental in maintaining a moral and free society.

Virginia State and County elections are now only 16 days away, on Tuesday, November 7 (although you can still vote-early-in-person). Sadly, many Virginians will not vote in this so-called "off year election," even though it will decide who writes most of the laws and policies that govern our daily lives, especially the lives of our children as **we elect School Board members**, State Senators, State Delegates, and County Supervisors.

You must inform yourselves about the candidates and where they stand, especially, it seems to me, on abortion, parents' rights in educating and raising their own children, the "LGBTQ+ agenda" in schools, and school choice.

And you must vote! I am confident in saying, if you are eligible to vote, it is a **grave sin not to vote in this election**: we cannot let the radical leftists and secularists destroy our culture, society, and families. We must elect officials who will represent us and the principles that have made our state and nation great.

THE SYNOD AT THE VATICAN. It's hard to follow exactly what's happening inside the Synod since there is largely a "cone of silence" placed over most of the proceedings. But here are a few things that are surely affecting the discussions.

Laudate Deum. It seems deliberate that on the first day of the Synod Pope Francis issued a document entitled *Laudate Deum*. Here is an excerpt from Fr. Raymond de Souza's analysis (National Catholic Reporter).

"Pope Francis' new apostolic exhortation, *Laudate Deum* (Praise God), is a personal, impassioned public-policy plea for action on the "climate crisis."

"...On scientific matters, it has been 400 years — during the Galileo affair — since Roman authorities took such specific positions on scientific matters. *Laudate Deum* itself does not offer a rationale for magisterial pronouncement on climatological scientific research, but asserts that such scientific results are "indisputable."

"Some critics will dismiss *Laudate Deum* as a document more fitting to the U.N. secretary-general, an epistolary emission from the vicar of climate rather than the Vicar of Christ. ...It does read like a United Nations climate text. It could have been issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the main U.N. resource on climate change. About a third of the 44 footnotes are to IPCC and related studies; most of the remainder are citations from the Holy Father's previous encyclicals.

"...*Laudate Deum* is a different kind of papal document; Pope Francis lays out in detail scientific data, complete with predictions to establish the need for urgent action, writing that 'despite all attempts to deny, conceal, gloss over or relativize the issue, the signs of climate change are here and increasingly evident.'

"Magisterial documents refrain from committing the teaching authority of the papacy to scientific data or political processes. ...*Laudate Deum* ...contains a definitive declaration that there be a 'necessary transition towards clean energy sources, such as wind and solar energy, and the abandonment of fossil

fuels.'

"*Laudate Deum* is wide-ranging, commenting upon the disposal of nuclear waste, 'meritocracy' and privilege and the entire structure of the economy, including this passage: 'The mentality of maximum gain at minimal cost...makes impossible any sincere concern for our common home and any real preoccupation about assisting the poor and the needy.'

"*Laudate Deum* leaves aside questions about what kind of economic system...might be better at protecting the environment or lifting up the dignity of the poor.

"...The weakness of *Laudate Deum* is that human calculations have taken the place of the theology, the things of God."

Dubia and Blessing "Same-Sex Marriage." Two days before the Synod started, five highly respected retired cardinals asked the Pope to clarify their confusion about his answers to several questions (dubia) they had previously submitted to him. This is an excerpt from Fr. Gerald Murray analysis of one of the Pope's initial answers they found "confusing" (from "The Catholic Thing"):

"The responses include some very troubling assertions, especially about the blessing of same-sex unions. Pope Francis has, regrettably, authorized bishops and priests — after some undefined process of 'discernment' — to confer a priestly blessing upon same-sex couples. ...

"Pope Francis began his answer...stating that '[t]he Church has a very clear understanding of marriage: an exclusive, stable, and indissoluble union between a man and a woman, naturally open to procreation. Only this union can be called 'marriage.' ...For this reason, the Church avoids any type of rite or sacramental that might ...suggest that something that is not marriage is recognized as marriage.'

"So far, very good . . . but then, he veers into a justification of blessing same-sex unions. ...

"Therefore, pastoral prudence must adequately discern whether there are forms of blessing, requested by one or more persons, that do not convey a mistaken concept of marriage. ...For when a blessing is requested, it is expressing a plea to God for help, a supplication to live better...although there are situations that are not morally acceptable from an objective point of view, the same pastoral charity requires us not to simply treat as 'sinners' other people whose guilt or responsibility may be mitigated by various factors affecting subjective accountability.'

"Let's be frank here. The request for a blessing is not in order to live better in the sense of living according to God's unchangeable moral law. It's a request for reassurance that the Church agrees with them in considering that God's law forbidding sodomy no longer applies....

"Whatever is objectively morally unacceptable is also subjectively morally unacceptable. No one can exempt himself from God's law by claiming it does not apply to him...When someone wants to commit a sin, and denies that it is a sin, this does not make it suddenly no longer a sin.

"Why is the word 'sinners' in scare quotes in the passage above? That usage usually suggests that something is 'so-called' or 'alleged.' ...Are people who publicly promise to commit grave sin with each other not sinners, plain and simple?

"And why are factors mitigating subjective culpability introduced here? God alone knows the degree of culpability for any sin one commits. Christians who want to follow God's law examine their conscience to discover where they are conscious of having turned away from God....no matter what they may claim to justify their behavior. The claim that one is often unable to fulfill God's commandments may be true — due to weakness and bad habits. But it is false if it means that obedience to God's commandments, with the help of God's grace, is impossible."

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, October 23rd

6:30 am Susan Wills +
 8:30 am George Lane

Tuesday, October 24th

6:30 am Hugh Gardner +
 8:30 am Julian Jensen +

Wednesday, October 25th

6:30 am Matthew O'Brien +
 8:30 am Jon & Sarah Laird
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intention

Thursday, October 26th

6:30 am Arsenio Comas
 Urrutia +
 8:30 am Rob Laird

Friday, October 27th

6:30 am Allen Thomas
 Jones +
 8:30 am Joseph Perricone +

Saturday, October 28th

9:00 am Barbara Ann Gresdo +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
 James Leo Mault +

Sunday, October 29th

7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
 Family member of Erinio
 Etrata +
 9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
 Parishioners
 11:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
 Samuel Berger
 1:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Felicito Ireneo +

**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! 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!

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.

Parish Hall Kitchen Manager Needed. Volunteer needed to organize and maintain the Parish Hall Kitchen on a regular basis. Requirements include discarding any expired food from shelves, fridge and freezer; organization of pots, pans, bowls, serving dishes and drawers and coordinating with our current kitchen supply volunteer buyer. If you are interested in this role, please contact the Parish Office at 703-440-0535.

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.

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.

Michael Aldridge

Neil McNulty

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

Anjanee

Balkissoon

Fr. Stephen Schultz

Shireen Balkissoon

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Oct. 23 Family of Jesus Prayer Group

Oct. 24 Adult Bible Study

Oct. 24 Choir Practice, 7pm

Oct. 25 Adoration 9am - 7pm

Oct. 25 Legion of Mary, 6:30pm

Oct. 26 Bridge Club

Oct. 27 Adoration 9 am - 3 pm

Oct. 28 Men's Day of Recollection

Nov. 1 All Saints Day - Holy Day of Obligation

Nov. 2-4 All Souls' Triduum of Masses

Nov. 3-4 Adoration Cancelled

Nov. 4 KofC Blood Drive

Nov. 4 Men's Prayer Group and Luminaries

Nov. 4-5 KofC Coats for Kids

Nov. 7 Election Day Adoration 9am - 7pm

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".

Gift Shop Open October 21-22: Stop by our table in the narthex. We carry Advent items, crucifixes, bibles, rosaries, jewelry and more. Credit cards, checks, and cash are welcomed. We are also available by appointment. Submit your request at giftshop@StRaymonds.org or call 703-440-0535.

ALL SOULS DAY TRIDUUM: St. Raymond's will again be offering a Triduum of Masses for All Souls. The Masses will be said on Nov. 2nd, Nov. 3rd and Nov. 4th at 8:30 am. To have your departed loved ones remembered in these Masses, please complete one of the All Souls envelopes in the narthex and place it in the collection basket today or bring it to the parish office.

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. **Please apply by October 27th.**



NOW IS THE TIME -- PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION -- Join the Knights

and join like-minded Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend values in a busy, ever-changing and tumultuous 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! Don't delay ... **BECOME A KNIGHT!**



Upcoming Events:

11/4 Blood Drive – St. Raymond's Parish Hall
11/4-5 Coats for Kids donations/collections (after Masses)
11/9 Officer Meeting (7 PM- Library- St. Raymond's)
11/13 Exemplification and Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm

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 November 4.**

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 this weekend. If you have any questions or difficulty signing up, please contact Mark Maslyn of our parish at 202-679-3293 or by email at: mam7253@msn.com.

Coats for Kids! The Knights of Columbus will be collecting new Coats for Kids after all Masses Nov. 4-5. All new coats will be donated to local charities. Monetary donations will also be accepted and will be used to purchase new coats.

Adoration for Election Day, November 7. Please remember to vote and to pray for God's will in this year's elections. On Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023 we will have Exposition and Adoration after the 8:30 Mass and conclude with Benediction at 7 pm. Please join us! Visit our website to sign up for an hour or stop by anytime during the day.

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. **Please join us in the church at 7:30 on Oct. 25th for our next Holy Hour and Mass!** For the complete schedule and for more information, please visit www.waywomen.com and email womenofway@gmail.com or call the parish office.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

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



Early voting is underway!
Every seat in the Virginia Assembly is on the ballot!
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 supported 'Project Manger-Cribs for Life' this past weekend! There's still time to mail in your donation or drop it by the parish office!

Join Bishop Burbidge on Sunday 29 October at 11am at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Alexandria for the **Mass to celebrate Respect Life Month.** All are welcome.



Help save lives by praying for an end to abortion. Peaceful. Prayerful. Public

Witness. Join us outside the Falls Church Women's 'Healthcare' Clinic. Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired over a million volunteers and saved thousands of lives. The fall campaign has begun! Thank you to all who have already signed up 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.

Precisely because **all issues involving human life are interdependent**, a society which destroys human life by abortion under the mantle of law unavoidably undermines respect for life in all other contexts. Likewise, **protection in law and practice of unborn human life will benefit all life, not only the lives of the of the unborn.** (Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities: A Reaffirmation [1985], 5).

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 22nd:

NO Jr. High YG this week due to 10/21 Confirmation retreat
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>

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, and Korean war veterans who are coming into town. **Sign up ASAP as gate passes to greet them are limited.** *Permission slips due Wednesday 10/25!*

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 apple picking, 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. *Permission slips due Wed. 10/25!*

Saturday, Oct. 28: Youth Apostolate Pie Sale Pre-Orders Begin!!

Saturday, Nov 4: 40 Days for Life Prayer & Chick-Fil-A 10:15am-1:15pm (7-12th Grade Outing) Join us in praying the rosary for an end to abortion and for the culture of life outside the abortion clinic in Falls Church, followed by milkshakes and fellowship at Chick-Fil-A. *Permission slips due Wed. 11/1!*

Saturday, Nov. 11: High School Swing Dance (10am-12pm) at Angelus Academy *Mark the date & tell your friends!* Students from Christendom College's swing dance club will be back to teach us some moves! Young men are particularly encouraged to come!

Monday, Nov. 13: St. Lucy's Food Pantry Warehouse 2-6pm (HS Service) Looking for a great service opportunity? We will be driving out to St. Lucy's Food Pantry in Manassas to help organize new food donations onto the shelves in the warehouse to be shipped to food pantries across the county. *Permission slips due Wed. 11/1!*

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

ATTENTION Parents of CCD students: a new Diocesan policy requires that we have a copy of your child's BIRTH certificate in addition to the Baptism certificate. Please submit this document at your earliest convenience - you may scan and email the document to ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org or bring the document to the RE office. Thank you!

Protecting Our Future: Child Protection & Safety: The Office of Child Protection & Safety was created to assist all parishes and schools in creating a safe environment where our children are free from sexual abuse, physical abuse and neglect. The office provides various services including child abuse prevention training for employees, volunteers, children and youth and criminal background history investigations for employees and volunteers who work with children. For more information about services provided by the Office of Child Protection & Safety as well as diocesan policy regarding the prevention of child abuse, please visit our website at www.arlingtondiocese.org.

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.

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.

Church Persecuted

It is always a pleasure when Cathy Ruse, the former pro-life spokesperson for the USCCB, is able to speak at the parish. A week ago, she was part of a panel with John Murray on the Family Life Education program of the Fairfax County Public Schools. Ruse explained that those in the transgender movement were using Fairfax County and California public schools as laboratories for introducing far-reaching radical policies. Most recently, states such as Michigan were touting the fact that they have now embedded transgender ideas throughout the school curriculum. Fairfax County has had them for five years.

At a practical level, this means: (1) Parents cannot opt their child out of this content because it is embedded throughout the curriculum. (2) Children at all levels read stories about it being OK to reject their bodies because they can change from one sex to another. (3) Children are told that if they want to change their name, they can do so in school without their parents knowing. (4) Yes, our children are treated like laboratory rats, objects (not persons), fertile ground for experimentation. You can read more about what is occurring in Fairfax County public schools at (<https://straymonds.org/virtuous-education-or-sinful-indoctrination/>).

The transgender movement is something that has been in the works since the 1980s as an attempt to deconstruct capitalism and the fundamental tenets of creation. To find out more about the history of the transgender movement in the U.S., check out Christopher Rufo's lecture at Hillsdale College's Washington, D.C. campus on September 12, 2023.

<https://imprimis.hillsdale.edu/inside-the-transgender-empire/>



Get In-Formed!

We celebrate lots of great saints in October! All Saints Day is November 1.

Log into your Formed account and search "Saints" or search for a particular saint to find movies, documentaries, lectures, books, audio dramas, etc. There are resources for all ages!

St. Francis of Assisi (Oct 4), St. Faustina, (Oct 5), St. John Henry Newman (Oct 9), St. Pope John XXIII (Oct 11), St. Maria Soledad (Oct 11), St. Teresa of Avila (Oct 15), St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (Oct 16), St. Ignatius of Antioch (Oct 17), St. Pope John Paul II (Oct 22).

FOR KIDS! Watch *The Saints and Heroes Collection* Animated episodes include the stories of Fatima, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Nicholas, St. Bernadette, St. Juan Diego, and more.

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](https://formed.org/signup) and select our parish. Questions? Need help?

Email us at: formed@straymonds.org

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.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



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://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 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).

Catholic Charities Family Services can help if you or someone you know is struggling with anxiety, depression, grief, and marital or parenting concerns. We offer transformational outpatient counseling services to individuals, couples, and families of all faiths and backgrounds. Call 703-687-8987, and for more information, visit <https://www.ccda.net/need-help/medical-andcounseling/counseling/>

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	\$ 12,852.00
Family Assistance	\$ 350.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,010.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 921.00

Our Second Collection this weekend is for World Mission Sunday.



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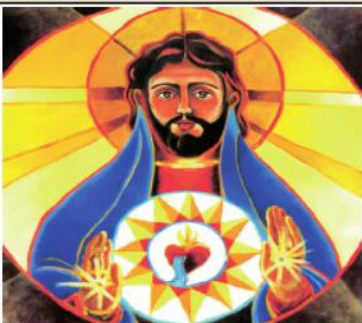
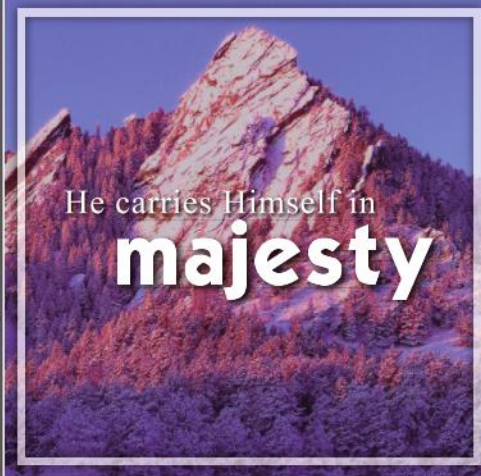
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