



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

Very Confusing Times. Since my last column, two relatively small events have caused great consternation in the Church. Let's look at both of these.

DDF Statement. The DDF responded to 5 questions submitted by a Brazilian Bishop, the most publicized being, **"Can a transsexual be baptized?"**

The DDF responded at length, but the first paragraph provides the basic answer:

"A transsexual—who had also undergone hormone treatment and sex reassignment surgery—can receive baptism, under the same conditions as other believers, if there are no situations in which there is a risk of generating public scandal or disorientation among the faithful. In the case of children or adolescents with transgender issues, if well prepared and willing, they can receive Baptism."

Now, the secular press and much of the Catholic press flashed headlines interpreting this to mean, as the New York Times reported:

"Pope Francis, who has made reaching out to L.G.B.T.Q. Catholics a hallmark of his papacy, has made clear that transgender people can be baptized, serve as godparents and be witnesses at church weddings, furthering his vision of a more inclusive church...."

But the document makes no change at all in doctrine or practice if you read what is actually said. Focus on this: "can receive baptism, under the same conditions as other believers..." What are those "conditions"? Basically, they must accept the Catholic Faith and all it teaches, must repent all sins, and desire to live according to Catholic teachings. So if a person who is "transsexual" repents his (or her) sins of mutilating his body and denying his God-given sexual identity (God made them male and female) and resolves to live life according to that God-given sexual identity, then...yeah, like all repentant sinners who convert to Catholicism, they can be baptized.

So NOTHING NEW HERE! However, what is problematic is the DDF's willingness to confuse the faithful and the world by not being clearer in the text and using the language of the Left, so that the text lends itself to being wrongly interpreted. As Cardinal Gerhard Muller points out in his comments about the DDF statement:

"It is confusing and harmful when the Magisterium relies on the terminology of a nihilistic and atheistic anthropology and thus seems to lend its untruthful content the status of a legitimate theological opinion in the Church. ...Transhumanism in all its variations is a diabolical fiction and a sin against the personal dignity of human beings, even if in the form of transsexualism and terminologically spruced up as 'self-determined gender reassignment...'"

Bishop Strickland. Many are upset and even angry about this issue, which is being interpreted (in part) by many as a warning to priests and bishops who may be unhappy or confused with the current direction of the Vatican. So, excuse me for relying on what other people have said.

First, as The Pillar reported last week:

"In a canonically rare step, Pope Francis has removed Bishop Joseph Strickland as the Bishop of Tyler, Texas, the Vatican announced Saturday. The Holy See press office gave no reason for the decision..."

"Strickland, who at the age of 65 is 10 years below the customary retirement age for diocesan bishops, has been a vocal critic of the Church's direction under Pope Francis, often expressing criticisms of the pope on social media."

Interview. Catholic News Agency reported on an exclusive Nov. 11 interview with LifeSiteNews:

".... During the interview, Strickland also underscored that Pope Francis has the authority to remove him from diocesan governance and frequently encouraged those upset or confused by the development to pray for the pope and not to leave the Church."

".... Strickland shared that he had been asked to resign on Nov. 9 but that he 'couldn't, of my will, abandon the flock that I'd been given.'"

".... When asked what was behind Pope Francis' decision, Strickland said: 'The only answer I have to that is because forces in the Church right now don't want the truth of the Gospel.' He added: 'They want it changed. They want it ignored.'"

"Strickland did not accuse Pope Francis of being part of this push to undermine Church teaching, but he did say that 'many forces are working at him and influencing him to make these kinds of decisions.' For those 'forces,' the bishop said, 'I'm a problem,' and so they pushed for the 'removal of a bishop for standing with the Gospel.'"

"Strickland ...was likely alluding to his outspokenness and provocative statements on social media platforms and public speaking events."

"For instance, Strickland tweeted on May 12 that he rejected what he called Pope Francis' 'program of undermining the deposit of faith' ...He has also repeatedly criticized the pope for a 'dangerous' lack of clarity in his statements, especially related to sexuality, and has been a vocal critic of Pope Francis' Synod on Synodality."

Abuse of Authority? Recall that in August Cardinal Gerhard Müller, Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said the following, when Strickland's removal was still being discussed in Rome:

"Yes, what is being done to Bishop Strickland is terrible, an abuse of authority against the divine right of the episcopate..."

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

"Arbitrary removal as bishop of a diocese in which a bishop is appointed by Christ Himself as its own shepherd undermines the authority of the Pope..."

"The Pope has no authority from Christ to bully and intimidate good bishops, modeled on Christ the Good Shepherd, who sanctify, teach and lead the flock of God in the name of Christ in accordance with the episcopal ideal of Vatican II, just because they are false friends denounce these good bishops to Francis as enemies of the Pope..."

Other Bishops. The Pillar also had this to report from the meeting of all the US Bishops (USCCB) in Baltimore this week:

"...a lot of bishops are talking about Strickland. And few sound pleased with how his removal was effected... They've noted that back in 2016, Pope Francis explicitly established a judicial process for dealing with bishops accused of causing harm... to their people. They argue that if Strickland was negligent in office... he should have been afforded a transparent, clear way of proceeding which would ensure his right of defense...."

"Of course, the pope can remove Strickland by any process he wants ...But he established a process for removing bishops precisely to afford them justice — and there's a contingent of U.S. bishops very concerned about the fact that the pope didn't use that process for Strickland..."

"...Indeed, numerous bishops... say that... the Vatican should have been considerably more transparent about the reasons for their decision."

"...These bishops say that in the absence of information, Strickland's removal seems like an arbitrary and political decision, especially when bishops in other countries seem to go undisciplined even when they openly flout Catholic doctrine and discipline, or when the pope praises bishops accused of covering up abuse..."

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 20th

6:30 am Jack Anezin
 8:30 am Lucy Hong

Tuesday, November 21st

6:30 am Floyd Harrison
 8:30 am William Rodriguez,
 Jr. +

Wednesday, November 22nd

6:30 am Diana Araj +
 8:30 am Stanley Magiera +
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intention

Thursday, November 23rd

10:00 am Chris Shealy

Friday, November 24th

8:30 am Bernadette
 D'Agostino +

Saturday, November 25th

9:00 am John Spataro +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
 David Harvatin +

Sunday, November 26th

7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
 Dr. William A. Foster
 9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
 Parishioners
 11:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
 Elizabeth Swift +
 1:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 George Arendas +

**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.

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 November!** All are invited to attend. **The Rosary on Thanksgiving Day will be after the 10am Mass.**

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.

Save the Date: Advent Series! Mark your calendars for the three Fridays during Advent. Father Bergida will lead a special Holy Hour at **7 pm on December 8, 15, and 22** with a talk on the topic, "The Mystery of the Church in the Incarnation and Nativity," which will discuss the relationship of the Church to Mary and her Son. **Adoration will be extended until 8pm each Friday during Advent.**

Free Advent Luncheon For All Seniors

WHO: All Seniors 55 years young and above

WHERE: St. Raymond's Parish Hall

DATE: Dec. 9, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

MENU: Turkey and all the trimmings

**RSVP: by Dec. 4 by emailing office@straymonds.org
 Or by calling 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.

Neil McNulty

Please pray for the sick of our parish

Glenn Bliss	Debra Henkel	Ellen Trayer
Tom Dietz	Gaudencio Dizon	Jacques Courtillet
Michael O'Neill	Paul Haynes	Virginia
Cindy Laird	Dwayne Taylor	Cummings
Patricia Lewis	Ted Tolpa	Arlene Pietraszko
Mai Pham	Nena Brennan	Jean Seiberling
Jason Saenz	Serrin Foster	Mariel Spiritosanto
Phyllis Zitnik	Margaret O'Neill	Margaret Carter
Patricia Del Buono	Tom Swengros	Thomas Crean
John Florio	Donald Trayer	Bill Vitaletti
		Linda Barnes

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Nov. 20-21	No CCD Classes
Nov. 20	Family of Jesus Prayer Group at 3pm
Nov. 21	Adult Bible Study
Nov. 21	Legion of Mary (moved to Tues. this week)
Nov. 22	Adoration 9am - 7pm
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day
	One Mass at 10am, Parish Offices Closed
Nov. 24	One Mass at 8:30, No Adoration, Parish Offices Closed
Nov. 24	KofC Christmas Tree Sales Begin
Nov. 26	NO CCD Classes or Youth Groups
Dec. 1	First Friday Nocturnal Adoration
Dec. 2	Breakfast with Santa
Dec. 3	First Sunday of Advent
Dec. 9	Advent Senior Luncheon at Noon
Dec. 10	Lessons and Carols 7pm

Gift Shop Sale: Stop by our table in the narthex after Masses this weekend, November 18-19. 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.

JOIN the CHOIR at St. Raymond's: Do you want to sing with the choir for Advent and Christmas? Singers who have a pleasant voice and sing in pitch are welcome. 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 other Holy Days. Contact Elisabeth Turco at music@straymonds.org or call 703-506-4644.

Advent Lessons and Carols. Please join us on **Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 7:00 pm** for a program of beautiful Advent music and Scripture readings, called "**Lessons and Carols.**" Weaving together prophetic readings from the Old Testament and pre-nativity readings from the Gospels, the readers lay out God's breathtaking plan for the birth of Our Savior. The choir adds to the atmosphere of joyful expectation by leading us in popular hymns and singing a few special choral pieces. Afterwards, everyone gathers downstairs for some seasonal refreshments and Christian fellowship.



NOW ... MORE THAN EVER ... our communities, our Parish, and our families need strong Catholic men to answer the call to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend values in a busy, ever-changing and tumultuous world. For over 100 years, the Knights of Columbus have done exactly that, standing up for the Church, serving the least among us, and strengthening our parishes and our families. **Join the St. John Bosco Council of St. Raymond's parish today!** Simply go to <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> 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 being a Knight! Don't delay ... BECOME A KNIGHT!

Christmas Tree Sales. The Knights of Columbus will be selling Christmas Trees and Wreaths in the Church parking lot starting this week —Friday, November 24 through Thursday, December 14 (or until sold out). Pre-sales can be done using this QR code; if you do so, simply bring a copy of your sales receipt to the tree lot and show a Knight to demonstrate proof of purchase. Pre-sales can only be done the week prior to sales beginning (11/18-11/23). Points of Contact are: Mark Menotti, 401-644-7128; Phil Bettwy, 703-868-9411; and John Crennan, 339-223-0887.



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 December 2.**

Opening of the Golden Jubilee Celebration. Please join us on Sunday, November 26 at 5 pm, the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe, at St. Michael Catholic Church in Annandale for the opening of the Golden Jubilee celebration of the Diocese of Arlington. There will be Solemn Vespers with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington, will be the celebrant and homilist. A reception will follow in the school gym. Please RSVP to events@arlingtondiocese.org.

Breakfast with Santa, SATURDAY December 2nd! Santa is once again coming to St. Raymond's! He will be here on Saturday, December 2, after the 9:00 am Mass. The Knights of Columbus, St. John Bosco Council, will host Santa and provide a pancake breakfast, assisted by the Youth Apostolate. Santa will hear the Christmas wishes of all attending children. This event is free and open to all. Please bring a canned good so that Santa can deliver these to the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) on his way back to the North Pole.

Giving Trees go up this week! This year we are sponsoring 28 families with a total of 140 people. All families are either parish families, referred by a parish family, or given to us by Our Lady of the Blue Ridge in Madison, VA. The requests for Gift Cards will be on the trees in the narthex and Physical Gift Items are on a Signup Genius that you may access through our website. Instructions are on our website and next to the trees in the Narthex. Please share Christ's love this Christmas season by helping a needy family celebrate! **All gifts are due by December 17.** Please call the parish office with any questions. **Please note that all donations from the collection on Thanksgiving go directly to the Giving Tree program!**

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

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

MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center: We proudly partner with MaRiH as they serve local expectant mothers in need. Knowing each child has an unrevealed holy purpose, MaRiH volunteers strive to see the face of God in the mothers and families they help. **Thank you, dear friends at Saint Raymond's, for generously supporting us in this work of mercy.** Donations welcome in the narthex collection box near the elevator. marih.org.



The National March for Life will take place on Friday 21 January 2024. Stay tuned for details and parish bus reservations.

Please plan to attend the 2024 Pro-Life Day on February 21 in Richmond. In our Post-Roe world, the battle for the sanctity of life in the womb is closer to home. Voice your prolife support in Virginia! For more information, go to vaprolifeday.org.

Calling all Crochet-ers! Very small and simple, but meaningful, project needs attention. For more info, please contact Liz at hildebrandseven@gmail.com

Our **Wrapped In Love** program is up and stitching. Pray for the mothers and babies who will be wrapped in love by your efforts as you create baby blankets for distribution at Pregnancy Care Centers or for use by sidewalk counselors – wherever we find a need. Blankets may be delivered to the parish office or MaRiH collection box in the narthex.

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.

Help After Abortion: Project Rachel Helpline: (703) 841-2504 (888-456-HOPE) **For Men:** (703) 841-3833 or info@helpafterabortion.org

Give a Gift for Life! No woman should ever feel that she is alone or that abortion is her only choice. **Gabriel Project** helps pregnant moms welcome their babies. For more info, call 866-444-3553 or contact GabrielProject@arlingtondiocese.org.

Perhaps it's easier to justify killing an embryo or fetus as those terms sound scientific but not lovable. However, those terms refer only to two stages of human development – no different than toddler, adolescent, etc. An embryo or a fetus doesn't become a human being at birth. They are human beings who simply aren't born yet. **Thou shalt not kill applies.**

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>**

Pie Sale Fundraiser for Youth Apostolate

Thank you to all who ordered pies in support of our youth! Pies are in the narthex for pick-up today after Mass. Enjoy!

November 19: BOTH YOUTH GROUPS at 4pm!

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

Adoration Join us for a special holy hour for 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

There will be NO Youth Group & CCD November 26
Have a Happy Thanksgiving with your family!!

Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group

5:30-7pm Monday, November 20th (Maurer Room)

Attention all high school girls! "Little Girl, arise!" (Mt. 5:41) and come to Talitha Koum! Deepen your faith, play fun games, and grow in sisterhood! Talitha Koum meets 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month, 5:30-7pm in the Maurer Room.

Sons of Thunder: High School Guys' Group

7-8:30pm Tuesday, November 21 (Maurer Room)

High School Men: Our high school "Sons of Thunder" group has started up again! Come hungry (physically and intellectually) and ready to rumble. Sons of Thunder meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7-8:30 pm in the Maurer Room with Phil, Nate, and Father Bergida.

NO 6:30am Mass & Breakfast Club Friday 11/24

We will resume next Friday 12/1 (a First Friday!)

Saturday 12/2: Breakfast with Santa (Parish Hall)

High School Volunteers Needed 7:30am-12pm

The Knights of Columbus are in need of HIGH SCHOOL volunteers to help make & serve breakfast and help Santa at their annual St. Raymond's Breakfast with Santa in the parish hall on **Saturday, December 2nd**. Arrive at 7:30am to help decorate the church hall, cook & serve breakfast, and clean up by 12pm. Sign up to help at <https://bit.ly/PERMISSIONSLIPS>

WorkCamp Summer 2024 —June 22-28

Registration is now open!! Spend a week of your summer with 800+ teens from across our diocese helping folks in need by building decks, replacing windows or doing other projects to make their homes warmer, safer and drier. This week of service and evening talks, music and activities is a great way to start your summer, make lots of new friends, learn new skills, make a difference in the world and grow deeper in your relationship with God! WorkCamp is open to current 9-12th graders. No experience necessary. Registrations forms are by the youth boards at church entrances and online. Adult Crew Leaders (Chaperones, age 25+) are also needed. See website for details.

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

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 WILL BE CCD classes tonight 11/19 - there will be no classes on 11/20, 11/21, 11/26



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

Mothers' Group: Do your young children need a bit more excitement? Are you looking for Catholic friendship with fellow mothers? Come to the moms' meet-up on Wednesday mornings! We alternate between meeting at our church and parks. Email Michelle for more information at mlcastry@gmail.com.

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.

Family of Jesus Prayer Group: Weekly meetings are in the Church on Mondays, **now at 3:00 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.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of Weather or Emergency closings, St. Raymond's Parish NO LONGER follows Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) decisions.

In the event of Weather or other Emergency situations, notice of cancellations or closings of parish events and/or facilities will be posted to the parish website. If possible/practical the parish will also send out an email to all parishioners notifying them of the closing/cancellations.

There are only TWO exceptions to any closing decisions we make and issue:

- 1) Regularly scheduled Masses and Confession will NEVER be cancelled due to inclement Weather.**
- 2) Meetings of very small groups that receive the pastor's personal permission, in which case members will be notified of the exception personally by their group leader.

Church Persecuted

The November 2023 elections have come and gone. Once again, the progressives have succeeded in selling to Virginians the “fear of losing their ‘rights’” (such as abortion “rights,” trans “rights” etc.) as they continue to attack the unborn, parents, families, and true freedom. They attack what is morally right based on the laws of God (and nature), which is the ability to do what we ought. In its wake, the sexual revolution has left broken families due to pornography, divorce, fatherlessness, and drugs. When taken collectively, these continue to wreak havoc in VA (and elsewhere throughout the country).

These issues must be addressed head-on! By listening carefully to the rationale of those who defend abortion and transgenderism as “rights,” we can respond accordingly. Individuals born after *Roe v Wade* in 1973, were born into a culture in which abortion was legal. They see abortion as a “right” and banning abortion as the stripping away of a “right” given to them by the government. If the government can take away our “right” to abortion, then what about our “right” to identify as we wish? Our “right” to change from male to female and vice versa? Their frame of reference begins with *Roe v. Wade*.

Our frame of reference does not begin there, but with Genesis, where God created man in his own image (Gen: 1:27). More recently, our country’s Founders were very specific: “*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*” Ignoring the realities of life, we place ourselves above God.



Get In-Formed!

“Eucharisteo” is the Greek word for thanksgiving!

Watch *Spirituality of Thanksgiving*. Dr. Tim Gray gives a biblical scholar’s view on the spirituality of this holiday.

Watch *Lectio: Eucharist*. This 10-part series by Bible scholar Dr. Brant Pitre focuses on scripture as related to the sacrifice of Holy Mass.

Watch *Alive*. This 2022 film was a surprise box office success. It presents the testimonies of five men and women on the effect of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist in their lives.

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



Watch for our Constant Contact Updates! If you are not receiving emails from the parish, please contact the parish office at 703-440-0535 or office@straymonds.org to verify your email address.



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 are still available!

Please send requests for tuition assistance or homeschool reimbursement to Fr. De Celles, or 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.cdda.net/need-help/medical-and-counseling/counseling/>

FAITH DIRECT: eGiving helps you continue to support St. Raymond’s no matter where you are on Sunday. 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	\$ 14,276.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,235.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,167.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 8,837.00
Retired Religious	\$ 4,383.00

The Thanksgiving Collection is for our **Giving Tree** program that supports needy families for Christmas.
Please be generous!



FAIRFAX ELECTRIC CO.

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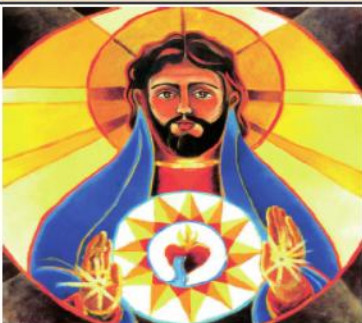
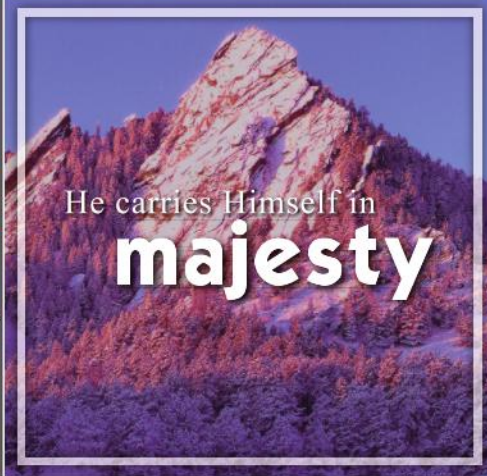
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