



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

Long live Christ the King! Some of you may be familiar with a movie that came out a few years back, called *For Greater Glory*. It's a true story about 1920's post-revolutionary Mexico. The former rebels, after defeating the ruling aristocratic government, and firmly establishing a new government, believed they had one enemy left to defeat: the Catholic Church.

They understood that the Church, so much a part of Mexican life, had a separate type of authority --it was truly a separate kingdom of Christ that, although it was not **of** the world, it was definitely **in** the world, especially in the world of Mexico. And so was a direct threat to their absolute authority to reshape Mexico as they saw fit.

So they began to persecute the Church, especially by making laws aimed at restricting her freedom and cultural influence. Of course, the Church—both clerics and laity—could not comply with these restrictions and so there was public disobedience and protests.

Eventually the revolutionary government, which had come to power by brutal violence, responded to the Church with brutal violence: executing disobedient Catholics, especially priests (for example, the parish priest St. Christopher Magallanes, the inspiration for the character played by Peter O'Toole in the film). This in turn led to many Catholics taking up arms against the government, and for three years they fought and died for their Church and freedom. They called themselves "Cristeros," and fought under the banner and the cry: "**Viva Cristo Rey!**" "**Long live Christ the King!**"

Some say that we are beginning to live through a similar time of persecution of the Church in our own country. I am one of those who say that. But as terrible as that might be, before we address that threat, we have to face an even more basic, and more terrible, threat. And that is the threat that comes from us—Catholics and all Christians.

The truth is that most of us have rejected, in whole or in part, the kingship of Christ for ourselves. Even those of us who go to Mass, how many of us really embrace the Kingship of Christ? How many of us live our lives obedient to His laws? How many allow Him to serve us, by accepting His grace that give us the strength to rule over ourselves, and so to live in freedom from sin? To think and choose for ourselves, and to live as we were created: in true love for God and neighbor.

I think of the young Cristero, named Jose Luis Sanchez del Rio (portrayed in the film). A young boy of only 13 when he joined the Catholic army, who became a hero to all the Cristeros. But not for his fighting prowess, nor for the number of enemies he had defeated. In fact, the Cristero general wouldn't even let him carry a gun in battle. No, what he became beloved for was his unwavering faith in Christ as his king. The way he truly accepted the kingship of Christ, not as a dictator, but as a beloved father. And not out of cowering fear, but out of joyful love. The way he lived his life in the freedom and grace of Christ, rejecting all sin and living an exemplary life of holiness in the midst of so much depravation and violence. And finally, bleeding to death at the feet of the government soldiers who had tortured him with their machetes, and then offered him his freedom if only he would renounce the kingship of Christ, Jose would only smile, look

to heaven and say: "que Vivo Cristo Rey."

Young Jose died a martyr for Christ the King, and so today Holy Mother Church calls him "*Saint José Luis Sánchez del Río*."

And yet how many of us deny the kingship of Christ every single day? And not after being tortured, or even at the point of a bayonet. But only because we'd simply rather do things our own way than Christ's. Or because we'd rather be slaves to the opinion of our peers or family or even political party. We'd rather be slaves to sin or to other people, than follow the one who created us and sustains us, Jesus Christ the King.

Thanksgiving. I hope all of you had a great Thanksgiving. Although it's a *secular* "holiday" and not a *Catholic* "holy day," it's a wonderful day of celebration. In fact, instead of "secular," meaning "worldly, or "of the world," which has all sorts of very negative connotations in the Christian context, let's call it a "cultural holiday." In that context, it reveals how deeply our culture is influenced by Christianity and how firmly it is rooted in Christian values.

In particular, the Christian virtues of fortitude and diligence (reflected in working hard to provide for oneself and one's family), and charity (reflected in being willing to share the fruits of one's labor or good fortune with others), and, of course most importantly and above all, gratitude or thankfulness to God for the gifts He's given us.

In the end, everything we have is God's gift. As St. Paul says, "What do you have that you did not receive?" This, of course, is not at all to discount individual hard work and ingenuity, but rather to realize that whether it's the skills and talents we have or develop, or the opportunities we make or stumble upon, or the free will we exercise to choose to use and develop all of that, in the end all of it comes to us from God's generosity and our response thereto. Whether it's our salvation and grace, or material goods, health, family, love, faith, or human dignity, rights, and liberty, God is the giver of all good things. And for that He deserves our constant thanks and praise.

Advent. Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent, as we prepare spiritually for the celebration of the birth of our Savior at Christmas. Please take some time to plan ahead for the penitential season of Advent so that it will truly be a time of holiness, not merely the shopping time between Black Friday and the day Santa Claus comes.

Next weekend we will have an insert with the full schedule of Advent events. But for now let me remind you to take particular advantage of the increased Confession opportunities as well as the many existing opportunities for weekday Mass. Also, I invite you all to attend our three Friday night **Advent Holy Hours**, which will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (continued from earlier in the day), a short **talk by Fr. Bergida**, followed by silent prayer and Benediction. This year Father's topic is "*The Mystery of the Church in the Incarnation and Nativity: The Relationship of the Church to Mary and Her Son*."

Please also plan ahead to attend "Lessons & Carols" on Sunday, December 10, at 7:00pm.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 27th

6:30 am Raymond & Barbara Sherry
 8:30 am Kendall & Wendy Peters

Tuesday, November 28th

6:30 am Harold Swift +
 8:30 am Rev. Jerome Daly +

Wednesday, November 29th

6:30 am Hien Pham +
 8:30 am Dolores Blanche Gigliotti +
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intention

Thursday, November 30th

6:30 am Joey Wheeler +
 8:30 am Kimberly Ann Brooks+

Friday, December 1st

6:30 am Fr. Jerry Daly +
 8:30 am Mary A. Nwernberger+

Saturday, December 2nd

9:00 am Jim & Marge (+) O'Kane

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 John McGlasson +

Sunday, December 3rd

7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
 Melo Villaroman +
 9:00 am **Fr. Bergida**
 Parishioners
 11:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
 Normand Bedard +
 1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
 RE Students & their Families

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

(See the website for Holy Days)

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.

First Friday Nocturnal Adoration Dec. 1. On the first Friday of the month, we extend our regular hours of Friday adoration to continue through the evening until Saturday at 9am. There are also **Confessions from 3-4 pm and 6-7 pm on Dec. 1.** Our regularly scheduled adorers will cover the daytime hours (9am – 3pm), and **we will need extra volunteers** to cover from 3pm on Friday through 9am on Saturday. **Please visit our website to sign up!** Two adorers are required per hour so that Our Lord will not be left alone, but you can come at any time. **Adoration will be extended until 8pm each Friday during Advent. 12/8, 12/15, and 12/22.**

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 Cummings
Cindy Laird	Dwayne Taylor	Arlene Pietraszko
Patricia Lewis	Ted Tolpa	Jean Seiberling
Mai Pham	Nena Brennan	Mariel Spiritosanto
Jason Saenz	Serrin Foster	Thomas Crean
Phyllis Zitnik	Margaret O'Neill	Bill Vitaletti
Patricia Del Buono	Tom Swengros	Linda Barnes
John Florio	Donald Trayer	

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Nov. 24	KofC Christmas Tree Sales Begin
Nov. 26	NO CCD Classes or Youth Groups
Nov. 27	Family of Jesus Prayer Group at 3pm
Nov. 28	Adult Bible Study
Nov. 29	Adoration 9am - 7pm
Nov. 29	Legion of Mary
Dec. 1	First Friday Nocturnal Adoration
Dec. 2	Breakfast with Santa
Dec. 3	First Sunday of Advent
Dec. 8	Immaculate Conception—Holy Day of Obligation (Offices Closed)
Dec. 9	Advent Senior Luncheon at Noon
Dec. 10	Lessons and Carols 7pm

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.

Giving Trees are up! 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 are 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,** but the **earlier the better!** Please call the parish office with any questions.

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 are selling Christmas Trees and Wreaths in the Church parking lot through Thursday, December 14 (or until sold out). Please support the Knights, who use the contributions to support St Raymond Parish and various other local charities throughout the year. 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.**

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.

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.

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.

A Best Choice. The only direct service mobile ultrasound resource center in northern Virginia. Ultrasounds allow a window into the womb, moving more women to **choose** life. Statistics show that 90% of mothers who see their child on ultrasound and hear a heartbeat bond with their child and continue their pregnancy. Do you know someone who needs an ultrasound? Contact abestchoice.us

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.

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 everyone who participated in and supported the Youth Apostolate in our 2nd Annual Pie Sale Fundraiser! Check here next week for the total amount raised.

There will be NO Youth Group or CCD November 26

Enjoy Thanksgiving with your family!!

Youth Group will resume Sunday, December 3rd.

4-5:30pm Junior High Youth Group (pizza served)

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

7-8:30pm High School Youth Group (snacks served)



+



6:30am Mass & Breakfast FIRST FRIDAY 12/1

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!.



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

7:30am-12pm Saturday, December 2nd

High School & Adult Volunteers Needed

Come be a part of putting smiles on the faces of the little children with this fun and festive event! **High School volunteers as well as compliant** adults are needed to help decorate the hall, make & serve breakfast and help Santa!

Signup: <https://bit.ly/PERMISSIONSLIPS>

Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group

5:30-7pm Monday, December 4 (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, December 5 (Maurer Room)

High School Men: Join the brotherhood! Sons of Thunder meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7-8:30 pm in the Maurer Room with Phil, Nate, and Father Bergida. Come hungry (physically and intellectually) and ready to rumble.

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

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

jeanne@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 **NO CCD classes** this evening, Sunday 11/26.
There **WILL** be CCD classes this Monday and Tuesday 11/27 and 11/28.

Parents of students in preparation for First Holy

Communion (CCD, Catholic school and homeschool): the First Holy Communion Registry Form with BIRTH Certificate AND Baptism Certificate attached is due in the Religious Education Office **December 14th**. If your child was baptized at St. Raymond's, you do not need to attach the Baptism Certificate.

For planning purposes:

- There will be **NO CCD classes** 12/24 - 12/26, 12/31-1/2.
- **Midterm Exams** will be administered the week of January 21st for Grades 1-8. Please work with your children in learning the material for the First Semester presented in the Basic Study Questions booklet for their grade level.

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.

Serve Those in Need with Your Gift to Catholic Charities. The theme for the 2023 Catholic Charities Parish Christmas Collection is "Behold, I Make All Things New." We can renew our Catholic Faith by sharing it with others in word and deed, through evangelization and spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Please prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift to this Collection, which allows Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington to serve the poor, protect the vulnerable, and welcome the newcomer. Donate via the special insert in the bulletin at Mass next weekend; or at ccda.net/Christmas; or add this second collection to your parish e-giving account.

2023 Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe led by Bishop Burbidge You are invited to join Bishop Burbidge in a Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe, offered for the intentions of couples struggling with infertility, miscarriage or early infant death. The Novena starts on Monday, December 4 and concludes on Tuesday, December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A private Mass will be offered by Bishop Michael Burbidge for this intention during the Novena. Sign up here to receive the Novena and submit your intentions: OurFruitfulLove.com/Novena.

Church Persecuted

Mary Eberstadt, a senior research fellow at the Faith and Reason Institute, in her recent book, *Adam and Eve after the Pill: Revised*, presents a step-by-step outline of the history of the sexual revolution and its impact on American society. As anthropologist Lionel Tiger wrote in *The Decline of Males*, "realities ignored are realities corrupted." Today, many realities being ignored are significantly affecting religious freedom and freedom, in general. Along with abortion, birth control is among the many casualties of the sexual revolution. Why marry when fornication and adultery are now acceptable and commonplace in our American culture?

Consider the ripple effects: smaller families, divorce leading to fatherlessness, just to name a few. The family is one's first exposure to what it means to be male/female and to virtues such as charity, generosity, loyalty, etc. as well as learning about God. Note that "The vast majority of incarcerated juveniles have grown up in fatherless homes.... *The Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* reports that the most reliable indicator of violent crime in a community is the proportion of fatherless families." This is supported by six decades of social science that concluded: "The most efficient way to increase dysfunction is to increase fatherlessness." (Eberstadt, p. 107-108)

"In Portland, OR the link between dysfunctional kids and absent authority figures has been clear for generations now..." This dysfunction is far-reaching. "'Street families' are like other gangs: poor and desperate substitutes for the real thing, called into being by the absence of the real thing." (Eberstadt, p. 112-113)

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

Advent begins on December 3. Get ready!

See the Formed bulletin board in the vestibule for LOTS OF ADVENT SUGGESTIONS.

Listen to Advent: Rethinking the Season. Augustine Institute founder Dr. Tim Gray invites us to focus on preparing our hearts for our Lord's birth during the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Watch How to Choose an Advent Tradition for Your Family. This segment from "Catholic Moms Summit" encourages families to choose the "right" Advent tradition for your family. You can also search for several other Advent-themed segments from this summit.

Read Advent of the Heart via ePub or your Kindle. Fr. Alfred Delp, a Jesuit priest martyred by the Nazis, writes down his Advent reflections for his Munich parish including those written while imprisoned during WWII.



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.

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/

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

Due to an early bulletin deadline, last week's Collection will be in next week's bulletin.

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



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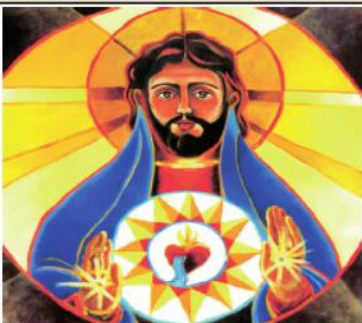
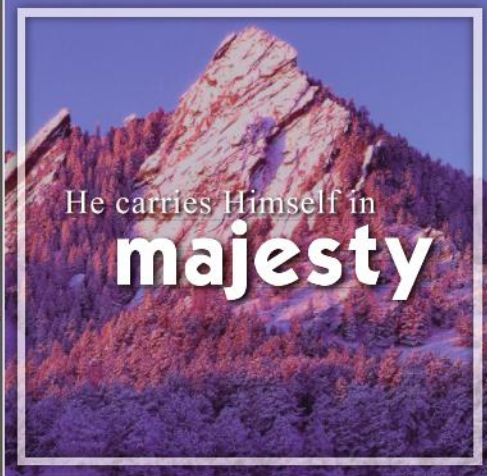
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