



ANGELUS

©Diocesan - The Annunciation - Luca Giordano, 1672



V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

*Hail Mary, full of grace.
The Lord is with thee.*

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

Advent. Today we begin the Season of Advent, 4 weeks preparing for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. Actually, this year we celebrate the shortest possible Advent: 3 weeks and 1 day, as the 4th Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve so there is only 1 day in the 4th week. Hmm.

This is a most wonderful time of the year, but I exhort you not to let yourself be overwhelmed by the hype of the world around us that ignores Advent and all its spiritual meaning and turns this season of preparation into a pre-mature and secularized Christmas celebration. Advent must remain for us a season of preparation for celebration. We need to spend time thinking and praying about the reason we celebrate Christmas with such joy: that we are sinners, but that God has not left us in our sins, loving us so much that He entered the world as a tiny baby so he could truly be one of us, and communicate that love so dramatically, person to person, and eventually to pay for our sins on the Cross. So that the preparation of Advent must be a time of remembering our sins and opening ourselves and our whole lives to the love of Christ. It is only with this sort of preparation that we can begin to understand and experience the true joy of this most magnificent gift.

Now, this joy should build in us throughout our preparation: as we become more prepared, we become more and more joyful. So that there is nothing wrong if even in the midst of the penance and prayer of Advent we also increasingly partake of the joy of Advent. But don't confuse the Advent joy of Christ with the merely sentimental feelings of the secular "yuletide" season.

So let this be a season rooted in preparation, first by **doing penance**, not with the severity of Lent, but doing some small penance every day to remind us that nothing is more important than Christ. Also, add **extra prayers** to your daily routine, for example **the Rosary**, especially meditating on the Joyful Mysteries. Or **reading Scripture**, (perhaps challenge yourself to choose one of the Gospels and read at least one chapter a day throughout Advent). And of course, **receiving the grace of the sacraments**, by going to **Mass, Adoration and Confession**.

Charitable giving is another great way to prepare for the gift of the Baby Jesus. Try to make generous charitable gifts, according to your means, either directly to those in need or to worthy charitable projects/institutions. **The parish Giving Tree** is one good way to do this, as are some of the special collections (e.g., for Catholic Charities and the Our Lady of Ransom Scholarship Fund).

Most importantly, make every day about **loving God with all your heart**, mind, soul, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself, especially by keeping the Commandments and the Beatitudes.

Parish Advent Schedule. To help you with all of this, the parish offers many special events and liturgies during Advent. Please find the **insert** of the **Schedule of "Advent & Christmas 2023 Events"** in this bulletin. Three parish "special events" I'd like to call your attention to in particular are:

--**Lessons and Carols.** I invite you to join me, the lectors and the choir on **Sunday, December 10th at 7pm** for "Lessons & Carols," our wonderful program of beautiful Advent music and Scripture readings. By 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 His Divine Son. The choir adds to the atmosphere of joyful expectation by leading us in popular hymns and spreading

their vocal wings in a few more complicated choral pieces. And afterwards there will be an opportunity for joyful fellowship at a brief reception (with delicious seasonal refreshments). Please join us.

--**Friday Adoration and Holy Hour.** Please join us each of the 3 Fridays of Advent from 7pm to 8pm, for our Advent Holy Hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. We'll begin with Exposition, then **Fr. Bergida will give a short(ish) talk**, followed by some quiet prayer time, and then Benediction. This year Fr. Bergida's topic is "*The Mystery of the Church in the Incarnation and Nativity*".

--**Extra Confessions.** We have confessions every day during Advent. You need to come.

Immaculate Conception. This Friday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Remember, this is a Holy Day of Obligation, meaning you are required to go to Mass just like a Sunday. But why wouldn't you want to **come to Mass** on this great feast day, which celebrates the conception of Mary, free from original sin, in her mother's womb?

We have a special schedule of Masses including noon and **6pm (this is different!!)**. Note: **unlike most evening Masses** this evening Mass is **NOT** at 7pm: we moved it so that immediately after the 6pm Mass we can begin our 7pm Friday Advent Holy Hour.

Parish Finances. Please find the Finance Report for the fiscal year ended (FYE) June 30, 2023 (6/23), inserted in this bulletin. We've included a 5-year comparison, to show the changes from pre-Covid (FYE-6/19) to now.

Operating Income was \$2,309,154.16, up \$83,036 (or 3.7%) from FYE-6/22 and, for the first time in 4 years, slightly above pre-Covid FYE-6/19 levels. Operating Expenses were \$2,303,342.96, up \$265,850 (or 13%) from FYE-6/22 and up \$433,705 (23.2%) from FYE-6/19.

That left us a **Net Operating Income of only \$5,811 down \$182,815** from FYE-6/21 and **down \$382,446** from FYE-6/19.

Although overall Operating Income is up since 6/19, Offertory and Donation (unrestricted) Income has declined since the COVID Shutdown, **down \$212,000 or 14%** since FYE-6/19. This has been offset by a large increase in scholarship donations, but these donations may not be used for general operations of the parish.

The increase in Operating Expenses over 6/22 is primarily due to a large increase in scholarships paid (due mainly to timing of payments between the 2 years, not to an overall increase in costs), increase in activities post-Covid, and large HVAC upgrading expenses (the HVAC system is 16 years old and we have expected and saved for this). The increase over 6/19 is due to inflation, HVAC, and the addition of the Our Lady of Scholarship expenses in 6/21.

In the last two years we have had two large sources of Extraordinary Income and this year we had none. This left us with a **Net Loss (the bottom line) of \$11,576.80**.

Bottom line on income: we need to get our offertory up, which is proving difficult with a 30% decline in post-Covid attendance.

On the Balance Sheet side of things, we had Cash of \$227,403 in checking and **\$1,976,580 in savings**, \$238,691 of which is "restricted," i.e., dedicated to paying for Long-Term Maintenance or "extraordinary objectives." This is excellent.

Please feel free to contact me or Maerose Naduvilekunnel in the parish office with any questions about the report.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 4th

6:30 am Emma Crennan +
 8:30 am Kathleen Ann Hurley
 O'Connor +

Tuesday, December 5th

6:30 am Antonia Conda +
 8:30 am John Spatarro +

Wednesday, December 6th

6:30 am Catherine Hoopes
 8:30 am Jean Anezin +
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intention

Thursday, December 7th

6:30 am Francisco Devera +
 8:30 am Leo Bonacci +

Vigil

7:00pm Family of Leo Bonacci

Friday, December 8th

6:30 am Joseph Crennan +
 8:30 am Michael Cannon +
 Noon Don Bain +
 6:00pm Fr. Jerome Daly +

Saturday, December 9th

9:00 am William Vitaletti Sr. +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
 Jim Gaston +

Sunday, December 10th

7:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
 Judy Kelley
 9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
 Parishioners
 11:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
 Philip Hansen
 1:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Family of Jesus
 Prayer Group

**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)

Additional Confession Times for Advent! Beginning on Dec. 4, Confession will be available Mon-Fri, from 6-7pm, except **Friday, Dec. 8th**, when Confessions will be from **5-6pm**.

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 December! The Rosary on December 8th will be recited during Fr. Bergida's 7pm Holy Hour.**

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.

Advent Series begins this week! Please join us 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. During the Dec. 8th Holy Hour, Father will lead the Family Rosary for the day.

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

Ryan Higgins

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 Virginia Cummings Arlene Pietraszko Jean Seiberling
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Dec. 3	Donut Sunday
Dec. 3	KofC Christmas Tree Sales ongoing
Dec. 4	Family of Jesus Prayer Group <u>at 3pm</u>
Dec. 5	Adult Bible Study
Dec. 6	Adoration 9am - 7pm
Dec. 6	Legion of Mary
Dec. 8	Adoration 9am - 8pm (paused for Masses)
Dec. 8	Immaculate Conception—Holy Day of Obligation (Offices Closed)
	Masses: Vigil 12/7 at 7pm; 12/8 at 6:30am, 8:30am, Noon, & <u>6pm (new time)</u>
Dec. 8	Holy Hour with Talk by Fr. Bergida, 7pm
Dec. 9	Advent Senior Luncheon at Noon
Dec. 10	Lessons and Carols 7pm

Donut Sunday, this weekend, December 3rd after the 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 am Masses. Stop by the Parish Hall after Mass to enjoy some treats and drinks and meet your fellow parishioners. We will also have **LOST & FOUND** items out for you to check. November's Donut Sunday will be hosted by our Trail Life Troop.

Giving Trees help needed! We are sponsoring 28 families, who 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 on 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.

The Gift Shop will be open after Masses Dec. 2/3 and 9/10. We are also available by appointment. Submit your request at giftshop@StRaymonds.org or call 703-440-0535.



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.



PINTS WITH AQUINAS - The Knights of St. John Bosco Council invite the men of the parish to participate in a night of theology and fellowship on Saturday, December 16th from 7pm to 9pm on the patio outside the parish hall. The night includes a discussion of the gospel accounts of the Nativity led by Fr. Horkan, fellowship around the fire pit, and a whiskey tasting (for participants over 21). Food and non-alcoholic drinks will be available for all. There is no cost for this event. Please RSVP by sending an email to jamesbarryryan@aol.com. In the case of inclement weather, we will move into the hall.

"Rorate Mass" Saturday, December 16, 6:30 am. The *Rorate* Mass is a votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary offered on the Saturdays of Advent. Traditionally the Mass is offered in the dark hour right before sunrise. Physical darkness in the church symbolizes a world darkened by sin and in need of the Savior. The liturgy illuminated (almost) solely by candles, reminds us of the prophets and John the Baptist, who gave witness to the true light coming into the world (see John 1:9). The Holy Sacrifice will be offered similarly to the 9am Sunday Mass. The Eucharistic Prayer will be said aloud in Latin, but without the microphone. The darkness and quieter tone facilitate a greater interior quietness and reflection on the mysteries of the Incarnation and upcoming Nativity. Come find out why this Mass is called *Rorate*. Experience why many since the middle ages have found this way of praying an amazing preparation for Christmas!

December Book Club News: Our next meeting will be on Thursday, December 7th at 9:30 am in the Parish Hall. **NOTE: special day (Thursday) and start time!** This will be our annual Advent Brunch. Please bring a meal to share. We will be discussing *Two Patients: My Conversion from Abortion to Life-Affirming Medicine* by Dr John Bruchalski. The schedule for the full year can be found on the parish website: <https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/book-club/>. New members welcome. If you have questions or plan to join us for the first time in December, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.

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 are welcome in the narthex collection box near the elevator. marih.org.



The National March for Life will take place on Friday, January 19, 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 raised a total of \$3,770! Thank you to all who supported our youth through our 2nd Annual Pie Sale! With the help of more than 50 teens & adults, we made over 175 pies in just two nights! We sold 111 pies via our pre-sale and all of the extra pies were sold before the last Mass, with folks wanting more! We made about 30 more pies and raised \$340 more than last year! Special thanks to Alex Kayser, whose homemade pies inspired this fundraiser and who directed this entire effort. Thank you for patiently and joyfully teaching us how to make such delicious pies and putting in countless hours towards making this such a great success just weeks after your own wedding!!

Youth Group & CCD 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)

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>



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6:30am Mass & Breakfast Friday 12/8

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception & Holy Day of Ob.

Consider coming not just this Friday but as a weekly spiritual offering as we prepare for the coming of Christ this Advent!

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!

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)

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

All students in the Religious Education Program grades three through twelve are encouraged to take advantage of the **many opportunities for Confession** during the penitential Season of Advent. Confessions will be heard every day during Advent as we prepare for the celebration of Our Savior's birth and in anticipation of His Second Coming. There will be no Confession opportunities during regular CCD class times.

For planning purposes:

There will be **NO CCD classes** 12/24 - 12/26 and 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.

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.

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.

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.

Christ House Meal December 29th - Volunteers needed to provide a hot To-Go meal for those who are food insecure, at our Diocesan Christ House Dining Room in Alexandria. Volunteers are needed to donate food for 72 servings. This month our menu includes: simple beef stroganoff made with ground beef, Caesar salad, Pillsbury biscuits, red velvet cupcakes w/cream cheese frosting, bananas, apples, clementines, fruit cups, and bottled water. Drop off food items on Thursday evening, Dec. 28 between 5:30-7:30pm. Or, if you prefer to donate time instead, great! We need help preparing and distributing the meals at the Catholic Charities Dining Room in Alexandria on Friday, Dec. 29th. Check out the full menu and sign-up for your Corporal Act of Mercy opportunity at the Perfect Potluck link: <https://www.perfectpotluck.com/VJVF3238>

Church Persecuted

The parish book club meets on December 7 to discuss the book, *Two Patients: My Conversion from Abortion to Life-Affirming Medicine*. It is the story of the founding of the Tepeyac Family Center, now Tepeyac OB-GYN, by Dr. John Bruchalski.

Bruchalski had a life-changing event as a resident physician in Southeast Virginia. As a new OB-GYN, he opted to step out in the deep, ultimately founding Tepeyac. He was different in his approach to medicine, in his approach to people, and in his approach to his faith. Unlike most other physicians, he often prayed with his patients before or after an exam. When necessary, he took extraordinary measures (not necessarily extraordinary risks) to fight for both mother and baby.

He built a team of like-minded doctors. By 2005 he had added three physicians. He needed more, but there were only a handful of countercultural OB-GYNs who did not prescribe the birth control pill for contraceptive purposes and did not perform abortions. As his reputation grew, so did the practice. In 2010, women were coming from four states to have a Tepeyac baby.

He later recruited more physicians who were willing to step out in the deep and follow Dr. B. He defied the culture and established a not-for-profit practice that serves both paying patients and those who have limited resources.

Dr. B's next book should be called, *Defying the Odds* -- a story about the Tepeyac doctors and their holistic work taking on patients who may not be expecting the best pregnancy outcomes...walking with them, with the Lord, and caring for both patients.



Get In-Formed!

See the Formed bulletin board by the central doors of the vestibule for ADVENT suggestions

For a list of Advent resources on Formed.org: <https://leaders.formed.org/advent-suggestions/>

Watch Rooted. New! Twenty-two short daily reflections for the Advent season focusing on the ancestors of Jesus Christ. Based on the idea of the Jesse Tree.

FOR KIDS. *Watch Nicholas: The Boy Who Became Santa.* (Dec. 6)

Watch What is the Immaculate Conception? In this *Formed Now* episode Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Schorn discuss the dogma of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8).

Available for FREE! To set up an account, visit Formed.org/signup and select our parish.

Questions? Need help?

Email us at: formed@straymonds.org



Angelus Academy

Where the truth of Catholic teaching takes flesh in the lives of Pre-K - 8th graders and their families.

There are still spots available for the 2023-24 school year in our Little Messengers faith formation program for preschoolers. Little Messengers enrollment includes Level I Atrium (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd) sessions each week. Apply soon! AngelusAcademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/

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

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

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

FAITH DIRECT NOV. 2023

Offertory	\$ 51,366.00
Family Assistance	\$ 2,750.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 6,369.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 12,392.00
All Saints Day	\$ 1,369.00
Campaign for Human Develop.	\$ 496.00
Retired Religious	\$ 4,893.00
Thanksgiving Day (Giving Tree)	\$ 1,274.00

NOV. 19TH COLLECTION








Sunday Offertory	\$ 14,295.00
Family Assistance	\$ 455.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 528.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 785.00
Campaign for Human Develop	\$ 1,569.00
Retired Religious	\$ 4,593.00

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 13,133.00
Family Assistance	\$ 911.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,564.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 430.00
Thanksgiving Day (Giving Tree)	\$ 1,160.00

The Second Collection next weekend is for Catholic Charities. 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 by envelope next weekend or at ccda.net/Christmas.



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