



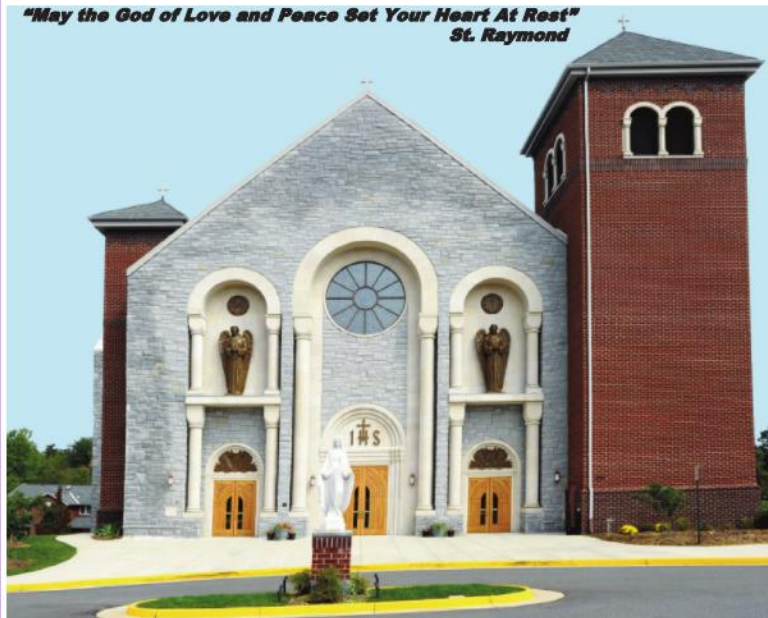
ANGELUS



V: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

©Diocesan - The Nativity - Noel Nicolas Coypel, 1715

"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"
St. Raymond



Welcome to St. Raymond of Peñafort Roman Catholic Church

8750 Pohick Road
Springfield, VA 22153

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:00 am, 9:00 am,
11:00 am and 1:00 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday - Friday:
6:30 am & 8:30 am
Wednesday: 7:00 pm (Sept - May)
Saturday: 9:00 am

Website: www.straymonds.org

Rev. John C. De Celles, Pastor
Rev. Joseph D. Bergida, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Edward R. Horkan, In Residence
Elisabeth Turco, Director of Liturgical Music
Jeanne Sause, Director of Youth Apostolate
Mary Salmon, Director of Religious Education
Mary Hansen, Religious Education Secretary
Maerose Naduvilekunnel, Business Manager
Virginia Osella, Parish Secretary
Dominique Murray, Office Assistant
Mary Butler, Secretary

PARISH OFFICE:

Telephone Numbers:

Rectory: 703-440-0535
Rel. Education: 703-440-0537
Fax: 703-440-0538

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

E-Mail

Church: Office@straymonds.org
Rel. Ed.: ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org
Choirs: Music@straymonds.org

TUITION ASSISTANCE: Please inquire with our office about the availability of partial scholarships for the children of active St. Raymond parishioners attending local Catholic grade schools and high schools.

Angelus Academy
7644 Dynatech Ct, Springfield, VA 22153
703-924-3996

Angelus Academy is a fully-accredited pre-K through 8th grade Catholic School affiliated with the Diocese of Arlington. Although it has no official connection with St. Raymond's, the parish has a longstanding close relationship with Angelus Academy. Many of our parish children already happily attend school there.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Reconciliation/Confession)

Wednesday Evening

6:15-6:55 p.m. (during Exposition)

Saturday Morning

8:15 - 8:45 a.m.

Saturday Afternoon

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

MARRIAGE: Couples wishing to marry must contact a parish priest at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Couples who are living together will be expected to live separately at least during the 3 months prior to the wedding.

RCIA: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which adults (and children who have reached the age of reason) are instructed in the Doctrine of the Church and are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. If you or someone you know, would like to inquire about becoming a Catholic, please call the Parish Office.

BAPTISM: Parents are requested to make arrangements with the Parish Office ONE MONTH in advance. Parents must participate in a one-session pre-Baptismal program and are encouraged to do so before the birth of their child. You must be REGISTERED in the Parish 3 MONTHS prior to the Baptism.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please submit announcements in writing 10 days prior to publication.

Pastor's Corner**"I See Him, But Not Now...."****My dear sons and daughters in Christ,**

On this last Sunday and last day of Advent, Christmas Eve, I pray that as we do our final preparations and begin to celebrate the birth of the Baby Jesus this evening, Our Blessed Savior may draw you close to Himself and shower you with every divine grace and heavenly blessing. May you share in the inexpressible joy of His Holy Mother, Mary, and may she bring you to Him, and teach you how to love Him with all your heart. May St. Joseph keep you in his strong and tender care, and teach us all how to serve Our Lord with the total devotion and self-sacrifice he had, always seeking to find a true home for Jesus in our hearts. And may the Holy Family bring faith, hope, charity, and abiding peace to your families as you contemplate the day that changed all of history: when God the Son stripped Himself of the glory of Heaven to become one of us to save us from sin and all evil, and open to us the gates of Paradise. And beginning all this so dramatically and sublimely as an innocent, lovable little babe.

On behalf of myself, Fr. Bergida, Fr. Horkan, and Fr. Rippy, I wish you all a very blessed and merry Christmas!

I also want to thank all those who have worked so hard to make Advent and Christmas such a special time for our parish. In particular, Elisabeth Turco (our Music Director), the choir, cantors, and musicians (especially our organist, Joseph Mernagh) for all the beautiful music. All those who assisted in special ways at the Mass, especially our great altar boys, lectors (led by Phil Bettwy and Patty Pacheco), and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (led by Barbara Aldridge and Christine Spengler). The folks on our flower committee, especially Julie Mullen and her family, for so beautifully decorating the church and grounds. The ushers, especially Patrick O'Brien, who helped everything run so smoothly. The Knights of Columbus, especially Mark Menotti, for all they did in so many ways. The various sacristans for all their work in preparing the sanctuary for Masses. The Youth Group, American Heritage Girls and Trail Life, for all the odd jobs they did around the parish. All those who volunteered in our Gift Shop, especially Melissa Escalante and Jackie Kruse. All those who contributed so much in time and treasure to the Giving Tree.

A special thanks to our dedicated staff, Anthony Hansen, Virginia Osella, Mary Butler, Maerose Naduvilekunel, Dominique Murray, Jeanne Sause, Mary Salmon, Mary Hansen, and Ann Marie Riordan, as well as our maintenance workers Luis Tapia and Dania Ochoa-Mendez, who worked so hard to serve us all. And finally, to Fr. Horkan and Fr. Rippy, and most especially to Fr. Bergida for their dedicated service to Our Lord and our parish. I know I've left out lots of folks that deserve special thanks; my apologies. Thank you all, and a blessed and merry Christmas to you.

And a Friendly Reminder. Remember, this weekend we are obliged to go to Mass for both Sunday (the 4th Sunday of Advent) and Christmas: that means *two Masses*.

Beati Adventus, et sancti et felicem Nativitatis!

Oremus pro invicem, Fr. De Celles

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*Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Address,
Fourth Sunday of Advent, 24 December 2006*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The celebration of the Holy Birth is at hand.

Today's vigil prepares us to live intensely the mystery that tonight's Liturgy will invite us to contemplate with the eyes of faith.

In the Divine Newborn, whom we will place in the manger, our Salvation is made manifest. In the God who makes himself man for us, we all feel loved and welcomed, we discover that we are precious and unique in the eyes of the Creator.

The birth of Christ helps us to become aware of the value of human life, the life of every human being, from the first instant to natural death.

To those who open their heart to this "baby wrapped in swaddling clothes" and lying "in a manger" (cf. Lk 2: 12), he offers the possibility of seeing with new eyes the realities of every day. He can taste the power of the interior fascination of God's love and is able to transform even sorrow into joy.

Let us prepare ourselves, dear friends, to meet Jesus, the Emmanuel, God with us. Born in the poverty of Bethlehem, he wants to be the travelling companion of each one of us on our life's journey. In this world, from the very moment when he decided to pitch his "tent", no one is a stranger.

It is true, we are all here in passing, but it is precisely Jesus who makes us feel at home on this earth, sanctified by his presence. He asks us, however, to make it a home in which all are welcome.

The surprising gift of Christmas is exactly this: Jesus came for each one of us and in him we have become brothers.

The corresponding duty is to increasingly overcome preconceptions and prejudices, to break down barriers and eliminate the differences that divide us, or worse, that set individuals and peoples against one another, in order to build together a world of justice and peace.

With these sentiments, dear brothers and sisters, let us live the last hours that separate us from Christmas, preparing ourselves spiritually to welcome the Child Jesus. In the heart of the night he will come for us. It is his desire, however, also to come in us, to dwell in the heart of every one of us.

So that this may occur, it is indispensable that we are open and that we prepare ourselves to receive him, ready to make room for him within ourselves, in our families, in our cities.

May his birth not find us unprepared to celebrate Christmas, forgetting that the protagonist of the celebration is precisely him!

May Mary help us to maintain the interior recollection so necessary to taste the profound joy that the Redeemer's birth brings. To her we address our prayer, thinking particularly of those who are prepared to celebrate Christmas in sadness and solitude, in sickness and in suffering: to all may the Virgin bring comfort and consolation.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Masses

All Masses are for the
 Celebrant's Intention
 4:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
 6:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 8:00 pm **Fr. Rippy**
 Midnight **Fr. De Celles**

Monday, December 25th

Christmas Day Masses

All Masses are for the
 Celebrant's Intention
 9:00 am **Fr. Bergida**
 11:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
 1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**

Tuesday, December 26th

8:30 am Charles Simmons +

Wednesday, December 27th

6:30 am Reparation for sins
 against the Heart of Mary
 8:30 am Matt and Catherine
 Severin +
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intention

Thursday, December 28th

6:30 am Michael Kevin Susank +
 8:30 am Vince Drouillard

Friday, December 29th

6:30 am Nola Thole +
 8:30 am Mary Healy +

Saturday, December 30th

9:00 am James Lane

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Dale Hamilton +

Sunday, December 31st

7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
 Colleen and Yasser
 Lakhifi

9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
 Parishioners

11:00 am **Fr. Bergida**
 Dale Hamilton +

1:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Incarnacion Munoz +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Marc and Lucette Brousseau
 Midnight **Fr. De Celles**
 Juanita Boarman +

Monday, January 1st

Sol. of Mary, Mother of God

9:00 am **Fr. Bergida**
 Bernadette D'Agostino +
 11:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
 Jacob Berger
 1:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
 Dennis Klitzke +

**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 December!**

ATTENTION all Adult Volunteers! Our *Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner* will be on Saturday, January 6th. All adult volunteers and their spouses are invited to join Fr. De Celles, Fr. Bergida, and Fr. Horkan for dinner at 6:30pm. Please RSVP by January 2nd. We hope you can join us!

Save the Date: Parish Celebration of our patron, St. Raymond of Peñafort, January 14. Because St. Raymond's feast day falls on the celebration of Epiphany this year, we have permission to transfer it to the following Sunday. Our Knights will be cooking up a pancake breakfast for parishioners! **Please join us after the 7am, 9am, or 11am Masses for breakfast and fellowship in honor of our patron saint.**

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.

Ryan Higgins-safely returned home!

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 Erik Maramba Judy Ann Opiela Barbara Sherry
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Dec. 24- Jan. 2 No CCD or Youth Groups
Dec. 26 One Mass at 8:30 am, Offices Closed
Dec. 26 NO Bible Study
Dec. 26 Family Caroling at the Crèche, 7pm
Dec. 27 Adoration 9am - 7pm
Dec. 27 Legion of Mary
Dec. 29 Adoration 9am - 3pm
Jan. 2 One Mass at 8:30 am

Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve:

4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 8:00 pm,
 Midnight (12 am) (Carols/Christmas Music at 11:30 pm)

Monday, December 25, Christmas Day:

9:00 am, 11:00 am & 1:00 pm

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

(No obligation this year)

Sunday, December 31

5 pm Vigil Mass

Monday, January 1

Midnight (12 am), 9 am, 11 am, & 1 pm

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, Caesar salad, Pillsbury biscuits, red velvet cupcakes, fruit, and bottled water. Drop off food items on Thursday evening, Dec. 28 between 5:30-7:30pm. We also 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>

CAN YOU HELP YOUR FELLOW PARISHIONERS? Our parish has a group of volunteers just waiting to provide a ride, bring a meal, or help in some other way during parishioners' times of need? **We need more volunteers!** If you can serve our parish community in this way, contact the parish office to be added to the Samaritan volunteer roster. Also, please call if the Samaritan Group can help you!



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!

Upcoming Events:

12/26 Caroling with St. Nicholas @ the Crèche (7 PM)
1/4 Officer Meeting (7 PM – Library)
1/8 Membership Meeting – (7PM Rosary; 7:30PM mtg)
14 KofC Pancake Breakfast for St. Raymond's Feast Day

Caroling at the Crèche – The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring our fourth annual family event to sing carols to the baby Jesus at the Crèche outside the Church on **Tuesday, December 26th at 7pm**. We will have lyric books for everyone to follow along and some light refreshments to keep us warm while we sing in celebration to the King of Kings. This is an event for all ages and all voices and St. Nicholas will be there to provide something for the kids. In case of inclement weather, we will meet in the Parish Hall. Please join us.

Parking at St. Raymond: During the Christmas Season, the church parking lot has extra traffic and may fill up. Limited street parking is available but can cause concern for our neighbors. One option available to you involves parking in the commuter lot at Gambrell Road and Fairfax County Parkway, where you can take advantage of carpooling. Please consider this as an option during the Advent & Christmas seasons. The Fairfax County Police will be monitoring the yellow striped "No Parking" zones in the parking lot, and tickets will be issued if violations occur. Please be considerate of our neighbors, and do not park where you block their driveways. Infractions will be ticketed and may possibly mean towing as well. Thank you!

Inclement Weather Policy

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

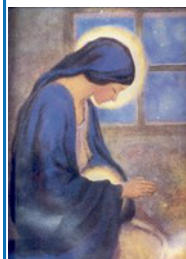
In the event of Weather or other Emergency situations, notice of cancellations or closings of parish events and/or facilities will be posted to the parish website. If possible/practical the parish will also send out an email to all parishioners notifying them of the closing/cancellations.

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 for generously supporting this work of mercy.** Donations welcome in the narthex collection box near the elevator. marih.org.

The National March for Life - Friday 19 January 2024. Stay tuned for details and parish bus reservations.

Please plan to attend the 2024 Pro-Life Day 21 February 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: vaprolifeday.org.

A Best Choice. The only direct service mobile ultrasound resource center in Northern Virginia. 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

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.

When discussing abortion, have you ever heard anyone proclaim, "Who are you to impose your moral code on others?!" Consider that on critical moral issues societies impose morality every day. You may like to run red lights and ignore stop signs, but the law imposes restrictions stating that thou shalt stop at stop signs and red lights because the safety of others is at stake. Civilized societies protect the innocent and vulnerable, therefore thou shalt not assault women, children or anyone else or you will go to jail. Human beings in the womb are 100% innocent and 100% vulnerable. Abortion stops a beating heart. Are we a civilized society? **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>



Merry Christmas!



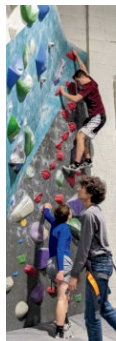
Wednesday, December 27th
6:45-11pm Mass & Rock Climbing

Attention High School Youth: Are you looking for something fun to do over Christmas break? Join us for 7pm Mass on Wednesday, 12/27, then ride with our chaperones over to Sportrock Alexandria for a night of indoor climbing! Come one, come all! Bring your friends! Explore bouldering or wall climbing. **No prior experience is needed.** There are walls for all skill levels. Cost is \$24/person & includes equipment.

* Permission Slip is online at <http://bit.ly/YAforms>

* Make sure liability form is complete <https://bit.ly/liability4me>

* Pay online at <https://bit.ly/SPORTROCK>



2/24 & 12/31 No CCD or Youth Group

Enjoy Christmas, New Year's & the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God with your family! We look forward to seeing you in the new year! Youth Group will resume Sunday, January 7th

6:30am Mass & Breakfast Fridays before school resumes 1/5

Enjoy the Christmas break! Challenge: try to get to an extra daily Mass or two to celebrate the Incarnation this Christmas season!

Scholarship Contests/Opportunities for youth in grades 7-12.

* National Right to Life Essay Contests for grades 7-9 & 10-12 with cash prizes. **Essays are due January 21st.** See website for more information. <https://www.nrlc.org/students/essaycontest/>

* Youth Apostles Pro-Life Multimedia Contest for grades 7-9 & 10-12 with amazon gift cards for winners. Choose between working on a poster, essay, meme, and/or spoken word. You may enter more than one category, but may make only one entry per category. **Entries due January 8th.** See website for more information. <https://www.youthapostles.org/prolife>

* Cardinal Newman Society Essay Scholarship Contest for High School Seniors. Compete for a scholarship of \$5,000 with the chance for up to \$20,000! (One of St. Raymond's own has won this in the past!) **Deadline: February 20th.** See website for more information. <https://bit.ly/catholicCollege>

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



"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..."
John 1:14

May your Christmas Season be filled with God's richest blessings!!!

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.

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. **We will not meet on Christmas Day.**

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

"Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God." Consider following Christ more closely as a priest, deacon, brother or sister. Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, (703) 841-2514. or michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org

Church Persecuted

In the fifth episode of the first season of *The Chosen* (the recent American television series based on the life of Jesus), Jesus meets an Egyptian woman and begins to speak her language. After she departs, one of the apostles asked Jesus where He learned to speak Egyptian. His reply was that he lived there when he was a boy, explaining that he had to leave Bethlehem when he was two years old. One of his companions finishes the story by noting that was during the massacre of the innocents, when Herod set out to kill all males two years old and under in an attempt to eradicate the “king of the Jews.” Jesus just nods.

On December 28 we honor the first martyrs — the Holy Innocents. These boys from Bethlehem were murdered by Herod after he was outwitted by the wise men who did not return to tell him where Jesus was located. We can read the story in the second chapter of Matthew’s Gospel.

As one reflects on the significance of this feast, celebrated during the octave of Christmas, one cannot fail to understand the pain and agony that Jesus suffered knowing that while he was still on earth, many children died because of him.

It doesn’t end there. On December 26, we commemorate the martyrdom of St. Stephen, the first martyr after Jesus established his Church. His demise is documented in Chapter 7 of the Acts of the Apostles.

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, let us reflect on those who died so that He may live and those who died because they refused to deny Jesus Christ, the Messiah, Our Lord and Savior.



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 *The Story of the Nativity: The Truth of Christmas*. This film presents a scholarly look at the true story of the Immaculate Conception, the births of John the Baptist and Jesus, and the Star of Bethlehem. Watch and share!

FOR KIDS. Watch *Lukas Storyteller: The True Meaning of Christmas*. Join the familiar characters in this series as they discover what Christmas is really about.

Has your spiritual life been enriched by Formed.org? **We need VOLUNTEERS** for a committee to promote and spread enthusiasm for this amazing resource to our parishioners. If you’d like to bless our community in this way, contact Vanessa at formed@straymonds.org

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. St. Raymond’s offers **Catholic School tuition assistance for all parish families.** The scholarship is renewable every year and is subject to minimal qualification terms. Additional financial aid is available on a case by case basis. There is also **assistance available for homeschooling families.** Contact the parish office for more information.

St. Martin de Porres Committee - collects food on an ongoing basis for the Springfield Resource Center, which serves over 250 families in the Springfield area. A collection box is in the Narthex and donations are collected and distributed weekly. Suggested food items are listed, but all donations are welcome (no clothing). For equitable distribution, smaller packaging is requested (i.e. 1 lb bags of rice vs. 5 lb. bags, 1 qt. oil vs. 1 gal oil).

FAITH DIRECT: eGiving helps you provide regular support to St. Raymond’s, even when you are out of town. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/VA64. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION

Due to early bulletin deadlines, the 12/17 collections will be in next week’s bulletin.

The Second Collection on Christmas is for the Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Fund. Fr. De Celles asks that you please be generous.

You can use your Christmas Flower Offering envelopes any time during December, and all names submitted by 12/22 will be included on our annual bulletin insert.



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