



St. Raymond of Peñafort

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

St. Raymond

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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
Michael Thompson, Plant Manager
Maerose Naduvilekunel, 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

Fiducia Supplicans. A lot of people are confused, upset and angry about the new Vatican document, *Fiducia Supplicans*, about priests giving blessings to same-sex couples. For the record, I believe that the document, in both its theology and its conclusions, is profoundly flawed and therefore not at all binding. **Therefore I cannot follow it.** With this I follow the lead of many distinguished prelates and Bishop's Conferences. Consider the following:

Archbishop Charles Chaput, the Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia:

...“God is not the author of confusion but of peace” (1 Cor. 14:33). So it was for Paul. So it is now...**Deliberate or persistent ambiguity...is not of God...**

...*Fiducia Supplicans* ...is a **doubleminded exercise in simultaneously affirming and undercutting Catholic teaching** on the nature of blessings and their application to “irregular” relationships. ...

...First, a key role of the pope is to unify the Church, not divide her, especially on matters of faith and morals....Second, an essential task of a loving pastor is to correct as well as accompany....Pope Francis often seems to separate these roles while Jesus [said]...“Your sins are forgiven” but also “Go and sin no more.”

...Finally, while the document does not in fact change Church teaching on marriage, it does seem to change Church teaching on the sinfulness of same-sex activity.... **and this is a crucial distinction....**

...Over the past decade **ambiguity** on certain matters of Catholic doctrine and practice has become a pattern for the current pontificate...

Saying these things, of course, will invite claims of “disloyalty.” But the real disloyalty is not speaking the truth with love....

Cardinal Robert Sarah, Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation for Divine Worship:

...Precisely, confusion, lack of clarity and truth and division have troubled and darkened the Christmas celebration this year. Some media claim that the Catholic Church encourages the blessing of same-sex unions. They lie. They do the work of the divider. Some bishops go in the same direction... **A recent statement from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith**, published with the approval of Pope Francis, failed to correct these errors... **Moreover, through its lack of clarity, it has only amplified the confusion...**and some have even seized on it to support their attempt at manipulation.

What can we do in the face of the confusion that the divider has sown within the Church? : “We don’t argue with the devil!” -said Pope Francis. ... Let us not enter into discussion with the Declaration “*Fiducia supplicans*”...Let us simply respond with the Word of God and with the Magisterium and the traditional teaching of the Church.

...The Declaration “*Fiducia supplicans*” writes that the blessing is ...intended for people who “ask that all that is true, good and humanly valuable in their lives and in their relationships be invested, healed and elevated by the presence of the Spirit Holy” (n. 31). But what is good, true and humanly valid in a homosexual relationship, defined by the Holy Scriptures and Tradition as a serious and “intrinsically disordered” depravity?

...As Benedict XVI recalled, “as human beings, homosexual people deserve respect (...)....But that doesn't mean homosexuality is right. It remains something that is radically opposed to the very essence of what God originally wanted.”

...I must thank the Episcopal Conferences ...in particular those of Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria, etc., whose decisions and **firm**

opposition to the Declaration “*Fiducia supplicans*” I share and endorse....In doing so, we do not oppose Pope Francis, but we firmly and radically oppose a heresy which seriously undermines the Church....

...So, let me not fall into vain quibbles about the meaning of the word blessing. ...The prayer of the Church is not refused to anyone. But it can never be misused to become a legitimization of sin, of the structure of sin, or even of the imminent occasion of sin....

...**It is up to us as bishops, as priests, as baptized persons to bear witness in our turn to the truth.** If we do not dare to be faithful to God's word, we not only betray Him, but we also betray those to whom we speak.

Cardinal Gerhard Ludwig Müller, Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith (now the DDF):

With the Declaration *Fiducia supplicans* (FS) the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith (DDF) has made an affirmation that has **no precedent in the teaching of the Catholic Church**. In fact, this document affirms that it is possible for a priest to bless (not liturgically, but privately)....same-sex couples....In point of fact ...less than three years ago, and it categorically rejected the possibility of blessing these unions....[It] proposes ...to broaden the concept of a blessing...

The reason is that blessings contemplated by the Roman Ritual are **only possible over “things, places, or circumstances that do not contradict the law or the spirit of the Gospel”** (FS 10, quoting the Roman Ritual). And this is the point that the DDF wants to overcome, since it wants to bless couples in ...same-sex relationships, that contradict the law and the spirit of the Gospel. The new blessings ...would be pastoral blessings, not liturgical or ritual blessings...no longer have the limitation of “ritual” ... blessings. They could be applied not only to persons in sin...but also to things, places, or circumstances that are contrary to the Gospel.

...The Roman Ritual [already]...allows a priest to bless someone who lives in sin. ...The innovative “pastoral” blessing....goes beyond [this]....because one could give such a blessing to a reality that is contrary to God's law.... In fact, according to the criterion of this type of blessings, one could even bless an abortion clinic or a mafia group.

...Notice that not only sinful persons are blessed here, but that **by blessing the couple, it is the sinful relationship itself that is blessed**. Now, God cannot send his grace upon a relationship that is directly opposed to him ...Therefore, ...its only effect would be to confuse the people... Cardinal Fernandez...said that it is not the union that is blessed, but the couple. However, this is emptying a word of its meaning, since what defines a couple as couple is precisely their being a union....

...It is also said that... asking for a blessing already constitute[s] an opening to God and to conversion. ...[B]ut ...those who ask for a blessing as a couple...implicitly or explicitly seek to justify their relationship itself before God...Finally, it is claimed that there are positive elements in the relationship and that these can be blessed, but these...are secondary to the relationship itself—whose defining characteristic is the sharing of sexual activity...

...In light of this, can a faithful Catholic accept the teaching of FS? Given the unity of deeds and words in the Christian faith, one can only accept [this]... if one believes that such unions are not objectively contrary to the law of God....The teaching of **FS is therefore self-contradictory and thus requires further clarification....**

.... **[A] priest who blesses these unions ...commits a sacrilegious and blasphemous act** ... The diocesan bishop is concerned as well...he is obliged to prevent these sacrilegious acts...

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 15th
 10:00 am Teresa Minko +

Tuesday, January 16th
 6:30 am Michael Kelliher +
 8:30 am Hayden Smith +

Wednesday, January 17th
 6:30 am Ludwik, Maria &
 Kasimer Monisz +
 8:30 am Hayden Smith +
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intention

Thursday, January 18th
 6:30 am Peter Leone +
 8:30 am Joe Riedel +

Friday, January 19th
 6:30 am Jose Tapia +
 8:30 am Peter Hansen
 10:30 am For the Unborn

Saturday, January 20th
 9:00 am Jerold M. Brown +

Vigil Mass
 5:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
 Ansenio, Sr. & Corazon
 Cruz +

Sunday, January 21st
 7:00 am **Fr. Bergida**
 Elizabeth Harward +
 9:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
 Parishioners
 11:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
 Juanita Boorman +
 1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
 Hayden Smith +

**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 January!**

St. Raymond's has Adoration most Wednesdays and Fridays! We are in need of weekly adorers especially at **12:00 pm on Wednesdays** and **1:00 pm on Fridays**. We also need volunteers to be on our substitute list. If you are interested in helping, please call 703-440-0535 or email virginia.osella@straymonds.org. Drop-ins are always welcome!

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.

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

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 Jim Gribshaw
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Jan. 14	Pancake Breakfast after 7am, 9am, & 11am Masses (for St. Raymond's feast day)
Jan. 15	Federal Holiday
Jan. 15	One Mass at 10am, Offices Closed
Jan. 16	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Jan. 16	Bible Study
Jan. 17	Adoration 9am - 7pm
Jan. 17	Legion of Mary
Jan. 19	Adoration 11:30am - 4:30pm
Jan. 19	March for Life and Chili Dinner
Jan. 20	Men's Prayer Group
Jan. 27	KofC Asian Fusion Dinner

Parish Celebration of our patron, St. Raymond of Peñafort, January 14. Because St. Raymond's feast day fell on the celebration of Epiphany this year, we have permission to transfer it to the following Sunday. **All Sunday Masses this weekend will celebrate St. Raymond.** Our Knights will be cooking up a pancake breakfast with eggs, bacon, sausage, fruit, coffee, and juice! **Please join us after the 7am, 9am, or 11am Masses for FREE breakfast and fellowship in honor of our patron saint.**

Support those that March for Life: Your prayers, mass attendance, adoration time, and, yes! crock pot specialties are all needed to support those who will visibly stand for life in D.C. on Friday, January 19th. We need at least 20 crock pots to feed the 3 busloads of parishioners attending the event. Please sign up to drop off a labeled pot of chili, soup, or pan of mac & cheese to the parish hall before the 10:30 Mass or at 3:00 pm on the 19th. Then join them for dinner at 4:30 and hear about their experiences witnessing for life. If you cannot stay, please pick up your crock pot by 7:00 pm. Rolls, cookies, and fruit are also needed. Remember, you don't have to march to support the March for Life! Kitchen helpers are needed too! Please sign up with your specialty via Signup Genius link on the parish website, or <http://tinyurl.com/March4LifeChiliDinner> or contact Sheri Burns at burnsfamily92@gmail.com to let her know how you can help.

Save the Date! Women's Retreat on February 10, 2024: The Women's Apostolate to Youth (WAY) will once again host a retreat for the women of the parish on the Saturday before Lent begins. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details.



MEN! MAKE THAT NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION COME TRUE! NOW'S THE TIME ... Join the St. John Bosco Council of St.

Raymond's Parish today! Simply go to <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> or use the QR code below and experience the Knights free for one year: Enter the Agent Code "CPEREZ", click "Add" and complete the form. Be sure to enter our council #12846 for local information when you register. Please call our Deputy Grand Knight, Mark Lawton, at (703) 576-7693 if you have any questions or want to learn more about the many benefits of being a Knight! Don't delay ... start 2024 with a bold and consequential step ... **BECOME A KNIGHT!**



Upcoming Events:

1/13-14 Asian Fusion Dinner Ticket Sales #1 (after Masses)
1/14 KofC Pancake Breakfast for St. Raymond's Feast Day
1/19 MARCH FOR LIFE in Washington DC
1/20-21 Asian Fusion Dinner Ticket Sales #2 (after Masses)
1/27 Asian Fusion Dinner (Parish Hall)

The Knights of Columbus Asian Fusion Dinner will take place on **Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 6:30pm** in the parish hall. Come enjoy delicious lumpia, kimbap, sweet & sour pork, and much more! Tickets for the event will be sold after all Masses on the weekends of January 13th-14th and January 20th-21st. Ticket Prices are \$6.00 for children (5-12), \$17.00 for Adults and \$60.00 max for Families. We will also sell tickets at the door. You can use the QR Code here for tickets as well.



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 January 20.**

THE SAMARITAN GROUP WANTS TO HELP YOU! Did you know that our parish has a group of volunteers just waiting to provide a ride, bring a meal, or help in some other way during your time of need? If you are experiencing a time of illness, recovery, or other difficulty, let our Samaritans bless you. If we can help or if you want to join the Samaritan volunteer roster, contact the parish office.

Luminaries of Holy Mary: Come join us to honor the Blessed Mother's request for making the 5 First Saturdays: Mass at 9am, then meet in the **Maurer Room** for Rosary, meditation and Gospel reflection. Our **next meeting is on February 3**. All are welcome.

Women of the Parish are invited to join The Women's Apostolate to Youth (WAY), an inter-generational lay association for Catholic women, whose shared charism is the spiritual well-being of young people. **Women are invited to join us 3 Wednesdays a month at 7:30pm -all at St. Raymond's this year.** We are discussing writings of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross and Women of the Bible. Each meeting is designed to stand alone -perfect for women interested in getting to know WAY. Our third monthly event is a Holy Hour and Mass to pray for troubled youth. **January's Holy Hour and Mass is on Jan. 31st at 7:30 pm in the church.** For the complete schedule and for more information, please visit www.waywomen.com and email womenofway@gmail.com, or call the parish office.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE
Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH. Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE

The National March for Life – This coming Friday January 19, 2024. Take a stand for life! Bus Sign ups and information regarding the annual Post March Chili Dinner are in the Narthex.

A Best Choice Mobile Ultrasound is coming to Saint Raymond's Parking lot!!!

Come tour the unit after any of the morning Masses on **Sunday, January 28!** -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. **Come and See!**

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: vaprolifeday.org.

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.

Every baby should be wanted. Better to be aborted than to be unloved. Such statements highlight excruciating conflict. What a terrible choice some women think they have to make. In such a vulnerable state, these moms may be duped into believing that the real maternal love they have for their child could justify abortion. Dismembering or poisoning a child in the womb is never for the child's benefit. An unwanted pregnancy does not equate to an unwanted child. Adoption is a loving parenting plan for a mom not able to care for her child beyond birth. *Every baby is wanted. 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>**

NO Youth Group or CCD this Sunday, January 13th

Enjoy the holiday weekend with your family!

Next Week: January 21: BOTH YOUTH GROUPS at 4pm!

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

Join us for a special holy hour for our 7-12th graders! Exposition with a reflection by Fr. Bergida, followed by time for silent prayer (bring a journal, pen, rosary & Bible or spiritual reading) and Benediction. Pizza will be served in the hall afterwards.

Parents/families are encouraged to stay for the holy hour as well.

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

Sons of Thunder: High School Guys' Group

7-8:30pm Tuesday, January 16th (Maurer Room)

High School Men: Join the brotherhood! Sons of Thunder meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7-8:30 pm. Our next 2 meetings (January 16th & February 6th), we will be making caskets for the miscarried and still born babies to donate to A Mom's Peace in Manassas. Come hungry and ready to make a difference!

NO Friday 6:30am Mass & Breakfast Club this week 1/19

We will not be meeting this week due to March for Life this Friday. Join us next Friday 1/26 <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVP>

March for Life & Life Fest (Grades 9-12)

5:30am-4pm-ish Friday, January 19th

The Youth Apostolate is going to try a NEW event this year prior to the March for Life. The Life Fest, sponsored by the Sisters of Life, is at the DC Armory. It includes Mass, testimonies, music & talks www.lifefestrally.com. Cost: \$10 plus metro fees.

*5:30am Meet at Springfield Metro (to go to DC Armory)

*7:30-11am Life Fest Event (includes Mass with Cardinal)

*11-12pm Metro to National Mall to meet up with parish

*3-4pm Ride back to St. Raymond's on bus (possibly metro)

Go to <https://bit.ly/life2024> for more details & to sign up.

WorkCamp/Summer Service Week ADULTS Needed

St. Raymond's will not be participating in the diocesan WorkCamp this year as there has been a lot of interest in holding our own "WorkCamp" type week at the parish level again. Plans are in the works for a week of service here at the parish after school is out in June or July. **Please email Jeanne if you are interested in being on the committee of volunteers to help organize/execute this event for our high school youth.**

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

* Scholarship opportunities are available. Check the website for details and deadlines. <https://bit.ly/StRayYAnews>

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

youth@straymonds.org Call/Text: 571-334-9890

Email Jeanne to be added to the weekly email list for the most updated info on Youth Apostolate news & upcoming events!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There are **NO CCD CLASSES THIS WEEK** January 14, 15 and 16 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

Midterm exams will be administered NEXT week - January 21, 22 and 23 - for grades 1-8

2024 Confirmation candidates (8th grade) the following paperwork was due January 11th: Service Hours Record form and Service Experience form

Parents of Students who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Penance for the first time on **Saturday, February 10th:** be sure you have turned in the **First Holy Communion Registry form and Certificates of Birth and Baptism** to the RE Office - they were due December 14th!!

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.

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-andcounseling/counseling/>

Saint Ambrose Catholic School OPEN HOUSE January 28th, 11:00-1:30pm. A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in Annandale, featuring the only Dual Language Program in the Diocese of Arlington. www.stambroseschool.org, (703) 698-7171.

Samuel learns to hear the voice of the Lord, responding, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." Are you wondering how to respond to God's call? Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org or (703) 841-2514.

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

Church Persecuted

One of the most fundamental principles of philosophy is the law of non-contradiction which, simply put, states that something cannot be and not be at the same time; a child cannot be a human being and not a human being at the same time.

Public Law 108-212, The Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004 is designed to protect “unborn children.” It amends Title 18, United States Code, by inserting after Chapter 90, Chapter 90a – Protection of Unborn Children.

Sec. 1841 states “If the person...intentionally kills or attempts to kill the unborn child, that person shall ...be punished...for intentionally killing or attempting to kill a human being.” The various definitions associated with law define an unborn child (or child in utero) as a human being.

That seems clear, the law defines an ‘unborn child’ as a ‘human being.’

But wait, there is a catch! A later part of the same section of the law states that, “Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the prosecution (1) of any person for conduct relating to an abortion for which the consent of the pregnant woman, or a person authorized by law to act on her behalf, has been obtained....”

So, let’s think about this logically. An unborn child is a human being protected under the law from an intentional violent act until the pregnant mother desires to abort the child, at which time the child is no longer a human being. No logic here! That is a clear example of the violation of the law of non-contradiction.

Source: Public Law 108, Title 18, U.S. Code, Chapter 90a Section 1841

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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

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

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 if a family truly can’t afford Catholic school, even with the above scholarships. These decisions are made 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.

JANUARY 7, 2024 COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 15,708.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,860.00
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