



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

[I've been on vacation all week, so I thought you'd be interested in this...]

"Papal Power and the Obedience of the Faithful" by Archbishop Charles Chaput, *First Things*, 10/9/23 (excerpt):

For Niccolò Machiavelli, Pope Julius II was the model Renaissance prince. He was highly intelligent...skilled at diplomacy, politics, and war [and]... a visionary patron of the arts. Julius was also... intensely vindictive... moody, humorless, and coarse, with a violent temper...

A year after his death in 1513, the tract *Julius Exclusus* ("Julius Excluded From Heaven") made its debut in Europe. It was...massively popular. In it, the deceased Julius shows up at the gates of heaven...St. Peter is unimpressed and turns him away...

Julius Exclusus was written anonymously, and for good reason...in an age when skewering popes and kings could lead to an unhappy "accident." We live in different times... Which is good news for John Rist and his new book, *Infallibility, Integrity and Obedience: The Papacy and the Roman Catholic Church*, 1848-2023.

Rist is a Catholic convert and, like Erasmus, a serious scholar.... Unlike Erasmus, alas, prudence is not Rist's strong suit...

The target of Rist's text is a set of "serious unresolved problems in the understanding and governance of the Church itself." These are rooted in a growth of "excessive papal power" that breeds subservience among the baptized. The result has been the reduction of morality in Western Christendom to mere obedience. And over time, argues Rist, this has damaged the mentality and the integrity of Catholic clergy and faithful alike. An inflated sense of papal infallibility, cemented into ecclesial life at Vatican I, "could not but produce (and was intended to produce) a relationship between pope and Church . . . very different from that which pertained hitherto."

Put simply, Rist claims that

"... especially since the First Vatican Council, Catholic teaching . . . has come to be seen as too dependent on the will and authority of the Roman bishop . . . [resulting in] an unwarranted respect for immediate utterances of the Supreme Pontiff even if these might appear contrary to both Scripture and Tradition intelligently understood. That in turn has encouraged an excessively autocratic—at times even domineering—attitude at the top and a self-deluding servility easily identifiable as plain bad faith among the 'lower ranks.'"

The story Rist tells does have merit... The nineteenth century was a time of revolution and strong anti-Church sentiment. Pius IX convened Vatican I in 1868 as a hostile kingdom of Italy encroached on the Papal States. The council disbanded in 1870 with the fall of Rome and the collapse of the papacy's temporal power. Many of the council bishops who supported some form of papal infallibility did so out of doctrinal conviction. Many others did so from "an intense sympathy with the predicament in which Pius had found himself." Still other[s]...acted more broadly in the interest of the Church, "particularly in its opposition to the modern world." The unintended result was "an episcopal servility that was to become a pattern."

For Rist, problems with papal infallibility...have dogged every papacy since Pius IX. ...Until now, the damage done by an exaggerated sense of infallibility has been masked by a line of adequate to outstanding popes, all of them committed to what Benedict XVI called a "hermeneutic of continuity." The trouble happens when a pope has very different ideas and a very different direction from his predecessors. It becomes "disloyal" to challenge the resulting rupture. Rist's judgment on the Francis

pontificate will thus surprise no one. His chapter on the Bergoglio papacy is titled "Perón Meets Ignatius: The Choice Against Tradition."

One of the key flaws in Rist's text is its polemical spirit. There's a caustic undercurrent throughout the book that weakens its narrative....

Having said all of the above, Rist's concern ... can't easily be dismissed. Whatever their flaws, Paul VI, John Paul II, and Benedict XVI ...each sought to pull a centrifugal Church back together after Vatican II. The Francis papacy has a different spirit. There's a unique kind of irony in a notion like "synodality," ... being championed by the most authoritarian pope in decades. Thus, Rist is probably right that

"a model must be constructed whereby the pope is clearly recognizable as the focus of doctrinal unity but which will simultaneously provide a structure for his activities [that] can inhibit the kind of abuse of office which—combined with and encouraging the passivity of too many Catholics—has threatened the Church since papal infallibility was defined at Vatican I and has now seriously infected it."

...The primacy and authority of the Petrine office are vital to the Church—so long as Peter remains faithful to the Word of God and consistent Catholic teaching. In ensuring Peter's faithfulness, diocesan bishops are more than simply franchise managers of "Catholicism Inc." They have the duty of obedience to the Holy See in all things true to the faith, yes. But they have no obligation of unthinking agreement. The obedience of bishops should be shaped by the candor of mature adults.

I know from experience the instinct to avoid such candor. Rist might describe it as episcopal servility or cowardice. Far more often it's a prudent fear of scandalizing the faithful and causing division. But ...at this point, we're well past worrying about such things. The papacy and the Vatican will look very different in the decades ahead whatever we do...The Holy See in its current form is unsustainable, and shoring up structures is not our greatest challenge. The overriding issue facing the Christian world today is ...anthropological, not structural, and it's summed up in Psalm 8, verse 4: Who and what is a human being?....

We need to acknowledge that too many critics of Francis speak from an anger that defeats itself and ends by being unjust. His commitment to the poor, ...mercy, ... the lost and alienated, and ...to the margins—all these things are gifts to the whole Church....So [is] his teaching on issues like gender, the sanctity of life, and bioethics....

It's also a fact that his overreliance on the Society of Jesus is unhealthy considering the Society's seeming surrender to the spirit of the age in too many instances. Francis is intolerant of even respectful disagreement. His manner can often seem mean-spirited. His complaints about the Church in the United States are insulting and uninformed, and they embarrass the dignity of his office. They also discourage many bishops, priests, religious, and lay faithful who heroically live the Gospel in an age of aggressive secularism and hostility to the Church. And...his ambiguity on matters of doctrine creates confusion and feeds division in the Church ...If saying these things is "disloyal," then so is the truth."

What we need now is for the papacy to return to its primary task of strengthening and uniting the faithful. This requires stability, clarity, and the embrace of spiritual fatherhood....The Petrine ministry ...should protect Scripture and Tradition and reject "paradigm shifts" that subtly but significantly change the nature of theology. Obviously, the papacy should also promote sanctity. The Pope and his close collaborators should reflect heroic virtue and holiness, and history tells of the harm done to the Church when they do not..."

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 29th

6:30 am Daniel & Emily Schickel
 8:30 am Janet Bergesen +

Tuesday, January 30th

6:30 am Rosario Obejera +
 8:30 am Marvin Hansen +

Wednesday, January 31st

6:30 am Bill Meng +
 8:30 am Caitlin Roche +
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intention

Thursday, February 1st

6:30 am Jose Tapia +
 8:30 am Col. (Ret.) Arthur D. Bills +

Friday, February 2nd

6:30 am Anthony Barchick +
 8:30 am William Ehorn +

Saturday, February 3rd

9:00 am In Reparation for sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Knights of the St. John Bosco Council and their families

Sunday, February 4th

7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
 Ruby Bumanglag +
 9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
 Parishioners
 11:00 am **Fr. Bergida**
 Rosemary Baclig +
 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)

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 February!**

First Saturday Devotions to the Immaculate Heart of Mary: We invite you to join the Luminaries of Holy Mary for communal First Saturday Devotions **on February 3rd**. After the 9am Mass, we meet in the Maurer Room until 10:30am to pray and meditate on the Holy Rosary with the intention of reparation for the sins committed against our Blessed Mother and for the conversion of poor sinners. Please join us!

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 | John Florio | Tom Swengros |
| Tom Dietz | Debra Henkel | Donald Trayer |
| Michael O'Neill | Gaudencio Dizon | Ellen Trayer |
| Cindy Laird | Paul Haynes | Virginia Cummings |
| Patricia Lewis | Dwayne Taylor | Arlene Pietraszko |
| Mai Pham | Ted Tolpa | Jean Seiberling |
| Jason Saenz | Nena Brennan | Fran Zograib |
| Phyllis Zitnik | Serrin Foster | Helen Zograib |
| Patricia Del Buono | Margaret O'Neill | Robert Petitti |

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Jan. 29 | Family of Jesus Prayer Group |
| Jan. 30 | Bible Study |
| Jan. 31 | Adoration 9am - 7pm |
| Jan. 31 | Legion of Mary |
| Feb. 2 | First Friday Nocturnal Adoration 9am - 3pm |
| Feb. 3 | Men's Prayer Group |
| Feb. 3 | Communal First Saturday Devotions |
| Feb. 10 | First Penance for RE students |
| Feb. 10 | Women's Pre-Lent Retreat |
| Feb. 14 | Ash Wednesday |
| | Masses at 6:30am, 8:30am, noon, 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm |

First Friday Nocturnal Adoration Feb. 2. On the first Friday of the month, we extend our regular hours of Friday adoration to continue through the evening until Saturday at 9am. There are also **Confessions from 3-4 pm and 6-7 pm on Jan. 2.** Our regularly scheduled adorers will cover the daytime hours (9am – 3pm), and **we will need extra volunteers** to cover from 3pm on Friday through 9am on Saturday. **Please visit our website to sign up!** Two adorers are required per hour so that Our Lord will not be left alone, but you can come at any time.

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, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm. This year's retreat is entitled, **"Soul of Christ, Sanctify Me: Reflections on the Anima Christi Prayer."** In recognition of the National Eucharistic Revival, this retreat will help us prepare for our personal and communal Lenten journey through the words of this beautiful prayer. The day begins with Mass, and continues with talks by members of WAY, Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, Confessions, and lunch. **Please visit the parish website to register by Feb. 5th.** No cost to attend. You may call the office with any questions.

February Book Club: The parish Book Club next meets on Friday, February 9th at 10:00 AM in the St Raymond Library to discuss **"From Slave to Priest: The Inspirational Story of Father Augustine Tolton"** by Caroline Hemesath. The schedule for the year is posted on the parish website at <https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/book-club/>. New members are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.



CAR RAFFLE TIME! The tickets for the annual Car Raffle have been mailed. This is the same raffle that we have participated in for the last number of years. This year 4 vehicles will be raffled as well as a \$20,000 cash drawing and additional cash drawings. You will notice that the ticket returns are being processed at All Saints again this year. This is required by the Department of Charitable Gaming. The raffle continues to benefit our parish and many other charitable causes throughout the diocese, as it has in the past. We hope that you will support our efforts by buying or selling your tickets. Please make your checks payable to All Saints. If you have any questions or would like to purchase additional tickets, please contact Mark Lawton at (703) 576-7693. Thank you for your support!

Upcoming Events:

2/3 Knights' Mass and Fellowship (5pm Mass and Reception)
 2/3 Polar Plunge
 2/3-4 Membership Recruitment Drive (after Masses)
 2/8 Officer Meeting (7pm – Library)
 2/12 Membership Meeting (7pm Rosary; 7:30pm mtg)
 2/18 Free Throw Challenge

February Blood Drive. The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a blood drive on behalf of Inova Blood Donor Services on Saturday, February 3rd at Nativity parish hall from 7:00 am to 12:00 pm. Please consider signing up for a 15 minute time slot within that period and giving the Gift of Life. You may sign up either on-line at www.inovabloodsaves.org or in the Narthex after all masses in the coming weekends. If you have any questions or difficulty signing up, please contact Mark Maslyn of our parish at (202) 679-3293 (m/text) or by email at: mam7253@msn.com.

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.

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.

The Parish HSG is offering a new RPM co-op for Catholic families with nonverbal or verbally limited children (severe autism/CP/Down Syndrome/etc.) RPM (Rapid Prompt Method) uses a letterboard and spelling to learn/ increase communication. The class will meet every Monday from noon to 2pm, beginning February 5th. Sessions will be led by a level 4 RPM practitioner either in person or through Zoom, and cost depends upon the number of families. For more information contact Sarah Castle, 978.995.6603, cscastlefreelance@gmail.com.

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

A Best Choice Mobile Ultrasound visits Saint Raymond's!!!

Come tour the unit after any of the morning Masses **Sunday 28 January!** 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!**

Thank you to all who stood up for the sanctity of life, especially for the unborn, at the National March for Life last week. Let it not be said of us that we were silent when the innocent needed us. "I came that they might have life!"

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. Saint Raymond's will be sending one bus to Richmond. Seats are free but reservations are required. Sign Up sheets are in the narthex. **Voice your prolife support in Virginia!** For more information: vaprolifeday.org.

The spring Campaign of **40 Days for Life** begins on Ash Wednesday – 14 February. Stay tuned for sign-up sheets 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.

The majority of Americans believe that abortion should be legal! Well.... that statement depends on what polls you believe. However, no matter what the polls show, let's not reduce morality to a popularity contest. Morality is not determined in the court of public opinion. Popular support for abortion makes it neither moral nor justifiable. **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>**

Youth Group & CCD Sunday, January 28th

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

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

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

Sons of Thunder: High School Guys' Group

7-8:30pm Tuesdays, February 6th & 20th (Maurer Room)

High School Men: Join the brotherhood! Our next 2 meetings (February 6th & 20th), we will be making caskets for miscarried and stillborn babies to donate to A Mom's Peace in Manassas. Mr. Hildebrand will be leading this project. Please bring your fathers to help. If you have been thinking about checking out the Sons of Thunder but haven't yet acted on it, this is a great opportunity to meet the guys and make a difference at the same time!

Friday 6:30am Mass & Breakfast Club this week 2/2

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 Thursday 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!



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.** We'll set up a planning meeting soon!

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

- * Scholarship opportunities are available. Check the website for details and deadlines. <https://bit.ly/StRayYAnews>
- * 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! (And one of St. Raymond's own has won this in the past!) **Deadline: February 20th.** See website for more information. <https://bit.ly/catholicCollege>

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!

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Parents of Second Grade and RCIC students:

First Penance is scheduled for Saturday, February 10th immediately following the 9 a.m. Mass. Please attend Mass with your child that morning to prepare for this wonderful sacrament of healing! Check your email (1/8/24) for more details.

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

Mothers' Group: 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 or bridgeclub402@gmail.com if you are interested in joining us.

Pilgrim Virgin Statue visitation to your home: The Legion of Mary's Fatima (Pilgrim Virgin) statue will be on display from Friday - Sunday, February 2-4, in the narthex. Please sign up to have the statue visit your home for a week. This is such a great way to pray with your family, friends and relatives! The Legion of Mary point of contact is Judy Mayer, 703-627-7320 or jmayer9014@aol.com.

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.

Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School Annual Mardi Gras Gala, February 10th at Sweeney Barn. Lead by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, John Paul is the only high school with a four year bioethics curriculum. For more information, please visit www.jpthegreat.org.

After Abortion Retreat: A Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be held on **Saturday, February 10, 2024.** These group healing events are held in a private and peaceful setting, in English and in Spanish, based on the Entering Canaan model (2 separate retreats, in 1 location). There will be an opportunity to hear from a past participant and others who have found healing. You are not alone. Take the first step. For confidential inquiries, please contact Project Rachel Ministry: (703) 841-2504 or info@helpafterabortion.org.

The 2024 BLA mailing was recently sent to parishioners. The theme this year is shared with the theme of our Diocesan Jubilee: "Behold, I make all things new." After reflecting upon the blessings God has given you, please prayerfully consider a pledge. As we look forward to the celebration of the 50-year Golden Anniversary of our diocese, let us renew our commitment to the Lord and be inspired to share what we have received from Him. Make a gift at: www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA.

Church Persecuted

State of Religious Liberty in the United States (Part 1)

On January 16, 2024, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop's Committee on Religious Liberty produced its annual State of Religious Liberty in the United States. This report summarizes the state of religious liberty at the federal level in 2023. Over the next months, this column will focus on several of the high points and the low points in the report.

Two high points include relatively little-known U.S. Supreme Court cases. In *Groff v. Dejoy*, the Court "ruled for broader protections for religious exercise in the workplace," and in *303 Creative v. Elenis*, the Court ruled "for free speech based on religious beliefs."

Low points included abortion and gender confusion leading to protests and vandalism. Abortion advocates staged widespread protests and vandalism against churches and pro-life centers. The Defense Department established rules allowing pregnant women to travel at taxpayer expense to procure an abortion. Gender identity activities included celebration of "Pride Month" and protests (and counter protests) "of the Los Angeles Dodger's decision to honor an anti-Catholic group as part of the baseball team's 'Pride Night' festivities." Interestingly, and not related to this discussion, the one team that did not have any planned "Pride Month" celebrations was the World Series champion Texas Rangers.

The new year brings on additional threats. Among them: the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will attempt to impose rules on physicians requiring them to perform gender transition procedures and abortions; suppression of speech on marriage; the use of pronouns not congruent to a person's birth sex; requiring employers to provide the same benefits to those seeking abortions as pregnant women after the birth of a child.

Over the next weeks, we will cover more details of this report. <https://www.usccb.org/committees/religious-liberty/2024-annual-report>

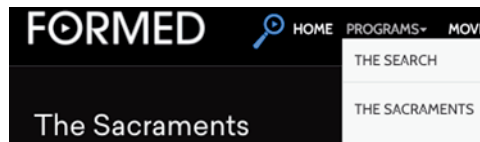
<https://apnews.com/article/rangers-pride-mlb-lgbtq-e3caa6ad3011bfae841b4fe9b4ce6c30>

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

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

New Year's Resolution: Dive deeper into the Sacraments



From the Formed home page, search the term "Bible" or select "Bible Studies" under the "Programs" menu for numerous Bible Study resources, videos, talks, and ebooks. Many have links to purchase a study guide and/or leader's guide. Study on your own, with family and friends, or start a group!

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

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



Angelus Academy

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

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

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

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

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

Scholarships to Catholic Schools. 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 21, 2024 COLLECTION

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Sunday Offertory | \$ 14,180.00 |
| Family Assistance | \$ 225.00 |
| Maintenance Fund | \$ 1,080.00 |
| Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations | \$ 1,221.00 |

JANUARY 14, 2024 COLLECTION

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Sunday Offertory | \$ 11,578.00 |
| Family Assistance | \$ 850.00 |
| Maintenance Fund | \$ 657.00 |
| Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations | \$ 1,345.00 |

Our Second Collection this weekend is for the Church in Latin America.



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