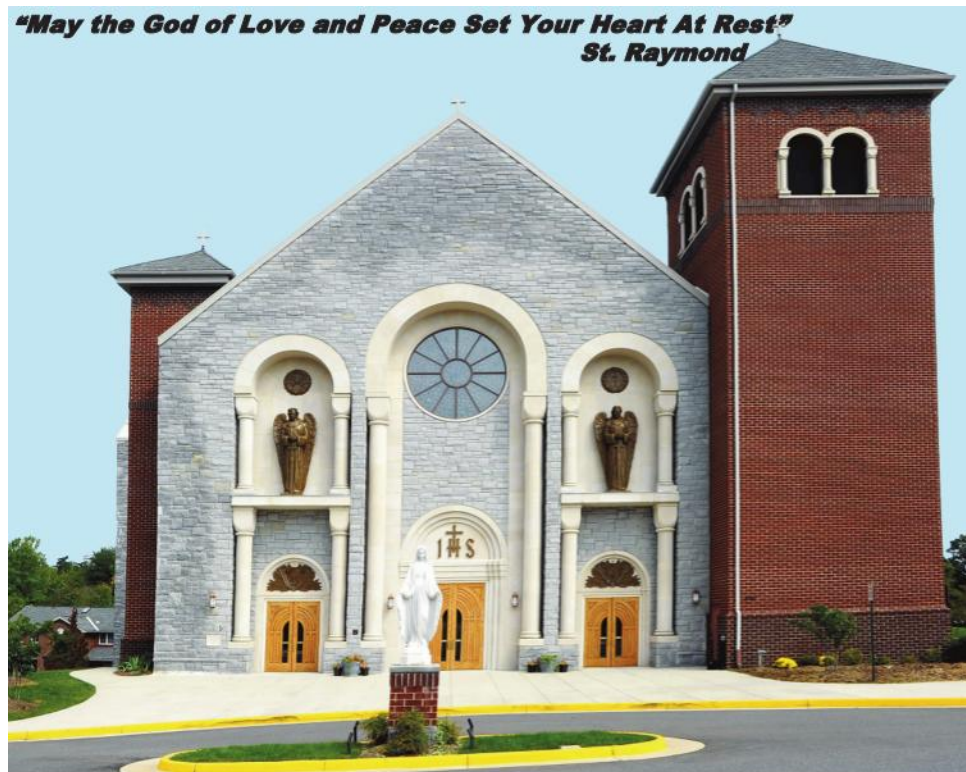


**"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"
St. Raymond**



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 (Latin-
English), 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 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

Email

Church: Office@straymonds.org
Pastor: fdc@straymonds.org
Rel. Ed.: ReligiousEducation@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 - 7:00 pm (during Exposition)

Saturday Morning

8:00 - 9:00 am

Saturday Afternoon

3:30 - 5:00 pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

First Fridays 9:00 am Friday - 9:00 Saturday (Overnight)

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

THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT.

Lent begins this Wednesday, February 14, Ash Wednesday. This is true gift given to us from Holy Mother Church, a 40 day period to renew our souls and our lives in the mystery of the Mystery of the Cross and Resurrection. A time to ask, do I truly believe in Christ's amazing salvific sacrifice of love on the Cross? Do I love Him in return and pick up my crosses to follow Him, making my whole life a true sacrifice of love to Him? Do I believe Him when He said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments"?

Doing Penance. Lent is a time to do personal acts of penance, traditionally of three types: **almsgiving** (including acts of charity), **sacrifice** (what you "give up" or "endure"), and **prayer**. Please choose your penances carefully, considering your health and state in life. Challenge yourself, but pick things you can actually do, rather than things that are so difficult that you may easily give up on them. Offer all this in atonement for your sins and as acts of love for the God who, out of love, died on the Cross for your sins.

Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses on Ash Wednesday: 6:30am, 8am, 12noon, **5pm** and 7pm. Since ashes are merely symbolic (a "sacramental" not a "Sacrament") they may be received by anyone who wishes to repent their sins, Catholic or not, in "good standing" or not. (Note: There are no confessions scheduled on Ash Wednesday).

Remember, Ash Wednesday is never a holy day of obligation, but we are highly recommended to attend Mass to begin Lent. Also, even though ashes are not a sacrament, or a blessing in itself, the ashes are an important sign of and public witness to our faith in Christ Crucified, his Gospel of repentance, and His grace of forgiveness.

Nota bene: If you see me wearing a face mask for the distribution/imposition of ashes, it will not be because of germs, but because it helps shield my sinuses from the ashes, which tend to drive them crazy.

Fasting and Abstinence. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both fasting and abstinence, and every Friday in Lent is a day of abstinence. Failure to "substantially" keep these penances is grave matter (e.g., potentially a mortal sin). Please see the explanation of these rules elsewhere in this bulletin. Even though these rules do not bind all age groups, all are encouraged to follow them to the extent possible. Children in particular learn the importance of penance from following the practice of their older family members. The sick, pregnant or nursing mothers, and other folks with special physical circumstances may be partially or totally exempt from these rules—use good judgment and take care of yourself.

Ash Wednesday and "Valentine's Day." Lent is a season of love. Not "love" as the world talks about it, but true and profound love that Jesus shows us on the Cross, and invites us to share.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on the Feast of St. Valentine, which the secular world has corrupted into a day celebrating exaggerated sentimentality, selfishness and lust. But when we remember that the actual St. Valentine was a Christian martyr who died because of his love for Christ, we see through this secular charade. The gospel tells us that Jesus is a "sign of Contradiction"—His love contradicts the false notion of love embraced by the world.

This year, **I beg you, do not let that secular celebration take precedence, even in the tiniest way**, over faithfully keeping Ash Wednesday. Rather, let the day be a sign of contradiction to the secular world, showing your true love for God, a day of sacrifice in love, and a day of penance for the times you have failed to love.

If you want to keep St. Valentine's Day in this context, perhaps instead of roses, candies and cards, you can offer your beloved a gift of penance for the times you have failed to truly love him or her as Jesus teaches us. Maybe you could offer your beloved a bouquet of *prayers*, like the Rosary; you can give a gift of *alms*, by doing some great kindness for them; you can make the *sacrifice* of giving up something he/she has asked you to change in your life. Maybe you can make this even more special by promising you will do this for them *and Jesus* all during Lent.

Lenten Schedule. Lent, of course, brings a much busier parish schedule, which we've laid out in detail in this week's **"Lenten Schedule" insert**. Please keep this insert in a central place in your home to remind you of the many opportunities for spiritual growth the parish offers this Lent.

Sacrament of Penance. Confession is absolutely the key to a fruitful Lent. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of our extended Lent confession schedule. The **times vary** throughout the week, and from week to week, so double check the "Lenten Schedule" insert.

Please do not postpone your confession to the end of Lent. Spiritually it's important to start the season on the right foot, so repent early that Christ's grace may flow freely and unimpeded throughout the season. And practically, in the last week the lines are much longer.

Evening Mass. In addition to our regular Wednesday evening, we will add a 7pm Mass on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during Lent.

Lenten Series/Holy Hour. Our traditional "Lent Series" continues, though this year it will be a little different: it will be in the form of an "extended homily" which I will give at the Tuesday evening (7pm) Mass (about a 15-20-minute homily). This year my topic will be, **"The Seven Last Words of Christ."**

All Night Adoration Of The Blessed Sacrament. This year we will repeat last year's practice of All-Night Adoration, but we will move it to **every Friday/Saturday** in Lent, so that we begin Exposition/Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after the Friday 8:30am Mass, and continue throughout the day and through the night until Saturday Morning before the 9am Mass. (Basically, this is what we now do every first Friday of the month). During this time I encourage you to reflect on the Mystery of the Crucifixion and Death of Jesus on Good Friday.

I think this is potentially a **great form of penance you can adopt for yourself during Lent**—both sacrifice and prayer. And **I encourage all of you to take at least one hour during Lent**, if not every week, to spend with our Lord during this exposition, especially during the early morning hours, between midnight and 6am.

Friday Evenings. Every Friday evening we will have our **Soup-Suppers** at 5pm and **Stations of the Cross** at 7pm. Note, the Exposed Blessed Sacrament will be temporarily reposed during the Stations (as the law requires), and exposed again immediately afterward.

Have a blessed and holy Lent!

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 12th
 6:30 am Patrick E. Ryan +
 8:30 am Don & Louise
 Sundberg +

Tuesday, February 13th
 6:30 am Meng Family
 8:30 am Bill Aldridge

Wednesday, February 14th
Ash Wednesday
 6:30 am Peter S. Blair +
 8:30 am Thomas Turner
 Noon Juanita Boarman +
 5:00 pm James Kolakowski +
 7:00 pm Caitlin Roche +

Thursday, February 15th
 6:30 am Carol Hattler +
 8:30 am Ofelia Cruz

Friday, February 16th
 6:30 am John Heavy +
 8:30 am Joshua Schweitzer

Saturday, February 17th
 9:00 am Dale Hamilton +

Vigil Mass
 5:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
 Dale Hamilton +

Sunday, February 18th
 7:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
 Hansen Family
 9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
 Parishioners
 11:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
 World Leaders
 1:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Boarman Family

**View livestreaming of the Holy Mass
 at St. Raymond's!**

www.straymonds.org

Monday - Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am
 Saturday at 9:00 am
 Sunday Mass at 9:00 am & 11:00 am
 (See the website for Holy Days)

Additional Masses and Confessions for Lent:

There will be a 7pm Mass Monday-Thursday during Lent.
 The Tuesday evening Masses will include a series of
 extended homilies on the theme, "The Seven Last Words of
 Christ"

We will have confessions every day during Lent. Please
 see the Lenten Schedule, which is inserted in today's
 bulletin.

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!**

**St. Raymond's has Adoration most Wednesdays and
 Fridays!** Would you like to spend an hour in silent prayer and
 reflection with our Lord during Exposition of the Blessed
 Sacrament? 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
 Wednesdays, please call Leslie Schratz at 703-569-1940 or email
 spoiledk9s@verizon.net. If you are interested in Fridays, please
 call Virginia Osella at 703-440-0535 or email
 virginia.osella@straymonds.org. Drop-ins are always welcome!

Director of Religious Education Vacancy - Reporting to
 the Pastor, the Director of Religious Education (DRE) assists the
 Pastor in the Faith Formation programs for the parish. For more
 information, questions about the position or to apply, contact
 Mary Butler at 703-440-0535 or mary.butler@straymonds.org.

**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.

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 Donald Trayer Ellen Trayer Virginia Cummings	Tom Swengros Arlene Pietraszko Jean Seiberling Fran Zograib Helen Zograib Robert Petitti Margaret Carter Dr. Joel Gelman Nancy Christman
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Feb. 10-11 American Heritage Girls Bake Sale
Feb. 12 Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Feb. 13 Bible Study
Feb. 13 Legion of Mary (Moved to Tues. this week)
Feb. 14 **Ash Wednesday**
 Masses at 6:30am, 8:30am, noon,
 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm
 (No Adoration or Confessions)
Feb. 16 Soup Supper and Stations of the Cross
Feb. 16-17 Nocturnal Adoration (Fri. 9am - Sat. 9am)
Feb. 17 Men's Prayer Group

Bake Sale Feb. 10-11. Join St. Raymond's American Heritage
 Girls troop VA0683 for a St. Valentine's Day / Super Bowl
 Sunday Bake and Snack Sale on the weekend of February 10-11
 after all masses. We will be in the Narthex with sweets and
 snacks. Please come support our troop!

Lenten Soup Suppers begin on February 16th! Please join
 your fellow parishioners for a delicious but simple meal **each
 Friday during Lent, 5:30-7pm**. Bring your family or a friend
 and either a pot of homemade meatless soup, macaroni & cheese,
 fruit, salad or bread to share.

Fasting and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both fasting and
 abstinence, and every Friday in Lent is a day of abstinence.
 Failure to "substantially" keep these penances is grave matter
 (e.g., potentially a mortal sin). The law of abstinence requires that
 no meat may be eaten on these days, and binds all Catholics who
 are 14 years old or older. No other penance may be substituted.
 The law of fasting binds those who are between the ages of 18 and
 59. The Church defines "fasting," for these purposes, as having
only one full meal a day, with two additional smaller meals
 permitted, but only as necessary to keep up strength and so small
 that if added together they would not equal a full meal. Snacking
 is forbidden, but that does not include drinks that are not of the
 nature of a meal. Even though these rules do not bind all age
 groups, all are encouraged to follow them to the extent possible.
 Children in particular learn the importance of penance from
 following the practice of their older family members. The sick,
 pregnant or nursing mothers, and other folks with special physical
 circumstances may be partially or totally exempt from these
 rules—use good judgment and take care of yourself.



THE EVENT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! FRATERNAL BENEFITS NIGHT -- OPEN TO ALL!!

All are invited to join us Tuesday evening, February 20, 2024, 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the St. Raymond Parish Hall for an informative live presentation from renowned The Abbate Agency, Knights of Columbus. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to learn about not only insurance, but other financial products from a premier organization that is aligned with your Faith. Following the Financial Seminar, there will be a social sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, St. John Bosco Council #12846. Hope to see you there—all are invited! For more information or to RSVP for this amazing opportunity, contact Grand Knight Mark Menotti at mark.menotti@yahoo.com.

BASKETBALL FREE THROW CONTEST! Boys and Girls, ages 9 and under, and 10-14 (12 competitive categories, based on age and gender), are invited to participate in a basketball Free Throw Contest on Sunday, February 18, 2024, in the gym at Holy Spirit School in Annandale. Registration is at 7:30 pm and the contest will begin at 7:45 pm. Basketballs will be provided. For more information, contact Gopal Sharma at gopal.d.sharma@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events:

2/12 Membership Meeting (7pm Rosary; 7:30pm mtg)
2/18 Free Throw Challenge
2/20 Fraternal Benefits Night (7 pm, Parish Hall)
2/24-25 Car Raffle Ticket Sales #1 (After Masses)

CAR RAFFLE TIME! Car raffle tickets have been mailed to each family registered in the Parish. Through ticket sales, charitable causes and parishes (including our own) throughout the area are able to provide for many needs, including our building maintenance fund and Our Lady of Ransom Scholarship Fund! In addition, each purchaser has a chance to win four cars plus cash prizes! This makes "selling" at work or to family and friends more like an opportunity – just show them the ticket – it will sell itself! Please note that raffle tickets must be processed at All Saints, as they have in years past. Please mail to All Saints in the envelope provided and 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!

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.

JOIN the CHOIR at St. Raymond's: Do you want to sing with the choir for Lent and Easter? Singers who have a pleasant voice and sing in pitch are welcome. We practice on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and sing at 11:00 am Mass on Sundays with a warm-up at 10. The repertoire of the choir contains masterpieces of classical liturgical choir music. Enjoy wonderful fellowship, music training and the joy of making uplifting music for the liturgy. Contact Elisabeth Turco at music@straymonds.org or call 703-506-4644.

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 (Mary Rose in Haste – to help Elizabeth) 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.

Please plan to attend the 2024 VA Pro-Life Day/VA March for Life on Wed 21 Feb 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. Our witness weekend will be 9 – 10 March. Thank you for peacefully and prayerfully standing up for life!

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.

A Best Choice Mobile Ultrasound and Pregnancy Resource Center. abestchoice.org
Abortionists trespass against us. Yet we are called to "forgive those who trespass against us." Every year at St. Raymond's, Mass is offered for each local abortionist whom we know by name. May they come to know the mercy of Almighty God and have the courage to walk away from the darkness of death into the light of life. Please pray for the conversion of all those who are in the bondage of the abortion industry – that they may be delivered from this evil. Lord, have mercy.

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, February 11th

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)

Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group

5:30-7pm Monday, February 12th & 26th Maurer Room)

High School Ladies! "Little Girl, arise!" (Mt. 5:41) and come to Talitha Koum! Deepen your faith, play fun games, and grow in sisterhood! Make sure to check the bulletin, email or calendar for dates.

DEEPEN YOUR PRAYER LIFE THIS LENT

Start your Fridays with Mass & discussion afterwards

Friday 6:30am Mass & Breakfast every Lenten Friday

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!

Parents & families are welcome to stay for breakfast & your own discussion afterwards as well! Food contributions appreciated.

Sons of Thunder: High School Guys' Group

7-8:30pm Tuesday, February 20th (Maurer Room)

High School Men: Join the brotherhood! We will be making caskets for the miscarried and still born 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, this is a great opportunity to meet the guys and make a difference at the same time!

WorkCamp/Summer Service Week ADULTS Needed

***Calling volunteers of all ages, 21-100!**

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 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!

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CONGRATULATIONS to the students who received the **Sacrament of Penance for the first time yesterday, Saturday February 10th!!**

It was a blessing to share that special time with you. Thank you to all the parents and teachers who prepared the children for this sacrament of healing. God bless you all!

Looking ahead.....There will be no CCD classes next week - February 18, 19, and 20 in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

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

Bridge Club: All levels of players are welcome. We play Bridge cards each week in the Church Hall. Contact Lois Kotlowski at 703-455-6567 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.

Support Trail Life Troop 0683 - buy mulch and topsoil! Trail Life Troop 0683, the troop sponsored by St. Raymond of Peñafort, is kicking off its annual mulch and topsoil sale to help parish families prepare for spring lawn and garden care. Your support will help our growing troop buy camping gear, advancement and recognition badges and instructional material. You can mail in your order or order online. Ordering instructions can be found at this website, <https://straymonds.org/trail-life/>.

SUPPORT THE CLOISTERED NUNS OF ST. DOMINIC'S MONASTERY: LAETARE BENEFIT, SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024. Bishop Burbidge and members of the Host Committee cordially invite you to attend the **Laetare Benefit**, our annual fundraising dinner for the nuns of St. Dominic's Monastery in Linden, VA. As cloistered nuns, they depend on the charity of the people of God for their existence. They have needs for everyday items such as food and healthcare and are building a Chapel at the Monastery. Please show your support and join us for a reception, dinner, raffle, and auction, which will be held on **Sunday, March 10, 2024 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm** at the **Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Avenue East, Vienna, Virginia**. Seating is limited. **RSVP by February 23, 2024.** Tickets are \$200 each and table sponsorships are available, starting at \$2,000 for 10. Cocktail attire. For more info, please contact: friendsofstdominicsmonastery@gmail.com



Church Persecuted

Self-proclaimed “devout Catholic” President Joe Biden recently announced his replacement for fellow Catholic John Kerry, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate – John Podesta, yet another Catholic moving into a position of power within the White House.

But Catholics should beware! Podesta is an enemy within (the Catholic Church), and his work is not yet finished. As with his new boss, he “embraces abortion-on-demand, same-sex marriage, and transgender ideology.” But perhaps what is most concerning for Catholics is that “Podesta ‘created’ left-wing organizations to redefine doctrine and ‘plant the seeds of revolution’ inside the Roman Catholic Church.”

A chain of emails released by WikiLeaks indicates that Podesta had hoped that the Obama administration’s HHS Mandate (forcing employers to go against their consciences and provide contraceptives, abortifacients, and sterilization to their employees) “might be the ‘opening for a Catholic Spring’ analogous to the Arab Spring, which toppled governments and unleashed chaos throughout the Middle East.” But that didn’t seem to topple the Church, so Podesta is busy creating organizations to work from the bottom up, such as Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good and Catholics United. Both organizations are designed to instill “left-wing orthodoxy” into the Catholic Church.

Catholic League President Bill Donohue put it bluntly: “In the case of Podesta, not only is his fidelity misplaced, he has actively sought to subvert the Catholic Church. ... If a non-Catholic president chose Podesta for a senior post in his administration, we would brand it as anti-Catholic. When a president who identifies as a Catholic does it, it is aiding and abetting sabotage within the Catholic Church.”

“Biden’s New Appointment ‘Aiding and Abetting Sabotage within the Catholic Church.’” <https://washingtonstand.com>

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

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

Read Meditations for Lent. Spend each day this Lent meditating on these selected sermons by Bishop Jacques-Bénigne Bossuet (1627-1704) which compliment the daily readings.

Watch Lectio: Salvation. In this 10-part series, Dr. Michael Barber dives deep into the Catholic understanding of salvation.

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.



Angelus Academy

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

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

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

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

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

Scholarships to Catholic Schools are still available!

Please send requests for tuition assistance to Fr. De Celles or contact the parish office for more information. We can also help cover homeschooling expenses.

2024 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA): Behold, I make all things new.

This weekend each household is asked to make a BLA pledge or gift. This appeal provides an opportunity to support programs, ministries and services helping tens of thousands of people. After reflecting upon God's blessings to you, please consider a pledge to the BLA. You may complete a pledge card at Mass, mail in your pledge, go online to www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA or scan the QR code to make a gift.



SCAN ME

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FEBRUARY 4, 2024 COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 15,306.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,207.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,772.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 2,895.00
Diocesan Newspaper	\$ 1,917.00

The Second Collection on Ash Wednesday is for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

The Second Collection next weekend is for Black and Indian Missions.

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.

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