



Jesus took Peter,  
James, and John  
and led them up  
a high mountain  
apart by  
themselves. And  
he was  
transfigured  
before them,  
and his clothes  
became dazzling  
white.

*Mark 9:2,3*

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



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

#### 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.

## 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](http://www.straymonds.org)

#### 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

**Don't be Afraid to Go to Confession!** Our daily confessions have started out well, as we've had a steady flow every day. But there's still room for you! Please remember to come during Lent, and to come early to avoid the long lines during Holy Week—if for no other reason, out of charity to your priests.

I know some people are afraid to go to Confession and so haven't been in years. Some are afraid because they are embarrassed by their sins. But remember, you can confess behind the screen, so the priest won't even know who you are (and we almost never recognize a voice).

Others are afraid because they think their sins can't be forgiven. But remember, Jesus says: "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man..." As long as you are truly sorry for your sins and want to stop sinning, the priest, with the power of Jesus, will forgive you.

Some are afraid because they think the priest will be angry with them. But that's just not true. In all my 57 years of going to Confession I've only had one truly unpleasant experience. Okay, priests have bad days like all of us, but even on a bad day priests won't get upset with you. Priests love forgiving sins—the bigger the better. And just because a priest seems stern in the pulpit doesn't mean he's that way in the confessional. A father may sometimes be stern when he teaches his children to behave, but when an apologetic child comes to him in tears, that same father opens his arms with tenderness. "A lion in the pulpit, a lamb in the confessional."

Some think they will shock the priest by what they've done. As Ecclesiastes tells us: "What has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun." I've heard over 30,000 Confessions in the last 28 years, and I have heard almost every sin imaginable—really. Nothing shocks me anymore.

And finally, some are afraid the priest will tell someone about their sin. This just doesn't happen. In all my life I have never heard a priest reveal the sins of anyone in Confession. Priests are forbidden, under pain of automatic excommunication (that can only be lifted by the pope himself), from ever directly or indirectly revealing the particular sins of a particular penitent. This is called the "seal of Confession," and extends even to revealing things that are not sinful that are discussed in the Confession.

So don't be afraid. Come to Confession! Soon!

**Praying During Lent.** One of the three traditional forms of "penance" we do during Lent is prayer. I recommend that everyone do this form of Lenten penance by adding some extra form of prayer or time for praying to their daily or weekly routine, at least in a small way. Maybe a more time-consuming form of prayer weekly, such as the Stations of the Cross, and an extra short prayer daily, or several times a day.

**Stations of the Cross.** One excellent form of prayer during Lent is the **Stations of the Cross** (or Way of the Cross), which can be prayed at home, but is most beneficially prayed in a place where "Stations" are physically erected, as they are in our church, and also along the perimeter of the woods behind our church. There are many different booklets and apps available to guide you in praying the Stations. The one we use here on Friday evenings is found in a small violet covered paperback entitled, "The Way of the Cross: According to the

Method of St. Alphonsus Liguori," which is available for purchase in our gift shop or on Amazon, and a few are kept on the tables by the entrances for use during private prayer. And hundreds of copies are available for use on Friday evenings if you join the parish praying the Stations every Friday in Lent at 7pm. Last week we had about 250 people attend—you should join us this Friday!

**Morning Offering.** Another excellent prayer to pray during Lent, and throughout the year, is the "Morning Offering." Offer this prayer first thing every morning, as soon as you wake up, or before you start your daily routine, consecrating your whole day, everything you do, to Jesus. There are lots of different versions of this prayer, but they point to the same thing: offering Jesus "all my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day." And when you begin the day with this, even the insignificant moments of the day can open up as opportunities to give back to God the great love He has given us.

This is the version of the prayer I pray: "*O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You all my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart, for the forgiveness of sins, in reparation for my sins, and for the intentions of all my relatives, friends and parishioners, and all who have asked me to pray for them. Amen.*"

**Prayer Before the Crucifix.** One of my favorite prayers, especially during Lent, is the "Prayer Before the Crucifix" (or "...before Christ Crucified"). I learned this as a small child, and still love it: "*Look down upon me, good and gentle Jesus // while before Your face I humbly kneel and, // with burning soul, // pray and beseech You // to fix deep in my heart lively sentiments // of faith, hope, and charity; // true contrition for my sins, // and a firm purpose of amendment. // While I contemplate, // with great love and tender pity, // Your five most precious wounds, // pondering over them within me // and calling to mind the words which David, // Your prophet, said of You, my Jesus: // "They have pierced My hands and My feet, // they have numbered all My bones." // Amen.*"

**Two More.** And here are two very beautiful short prayers you can pray throughout the day (taken from St. Alphonsus' "Stations").

The first is a very short but powerful prayer composed by St. Francis of Assisi: "*We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee, because by Thy Holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.*"

The second is what I call the "Prayer of St. Alphonsus," which is repeated in slightly different forms at each station: "*I love Thee, Jesus, with all my heart; I repent of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always, and then do with me what Thou wilt.*"

Consider praying these every day during Lent.

**The Eucharist.** Then there is also the greatest prayer, the Mass. So why not come to Mass sometime during the week? And also Adoration during Exposition. Join us on Wednesday from 9am to 7pm, and on Fridays/Saturdays from 9am Friday, thru the night, to 9am Saturday.

*Oremus pro Invicem. Fr. De Celles*



**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, February 26th**

6:30 am Ramon Anatalil +  
 8:30 am Denise Anezin +  
 7:00 pm Fr. Jerome Daly +

**Tuesday, February 27th**

6:30 am Dolores Cornish +  
 8:30 am Mary Helen Shields +  
 7:00 pm Pope Benedict XVI +

**Wednesday, February 28th**

6:30 am Linda Custis +  
 8:30 am Rosalino, Elie & Cezar Garcia +  
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

**Thursday, February 29th**

6:30 am Virginia Mae Butler +  
 8:30 am Marvin Hansen +  
 7:00 pm Pope Francis

**Friday, March 1st**

6:30 am Alli Schweitzer  
 8:30 am In Reparation for Sins  
 Committed against the  
 Immaculate Heart of  
 Mary

**Saturday, March 2nd**

9:00 am Enrique & Rosita Borja +

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**  
 Vickie Decker +

**Sunday, March 3rd**

7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**  
 Marvin Hansen +  
 9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**  
 Parishioners  
 11:00 am **Fr. Bergida**  
 Raphael Datiles Nield +  
 1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**  
 Caitlin Roche +

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

[www.straymonds.org](http://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)

**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"

**Lenten Confession Times**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:  
 Feb. 15 – March 15: 6:30 - 7pm  
 Wednesday: 6 - 8pm  
 Saturday: 8 - 9am; 3:30 - 5pm  
 Sunday: 8:30 - 9am, 10:30 - 11am

**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 March!**

**St. Raymond's has Adoration 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! **During Lent**, there will be **nocturnal adoration every Friday - Saturday**. Please visit our website to sign up!

**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 Tom Swengros Arlene Pietraszko	Virginia Cummings Jean Seiberling Fran Zograib Helen Zograib Robert Petitti Margaret Carter Mark Gatanas Donna Foster Sonia Myers
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**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

<b>Feb. 26</b>	<b>Family of Jesus Prayer Group</b>
<b>Feb. 27</b>	<b>Bible Study at 9:30am and 6pm</b>
<b>Feb. 27</b>	<b>Tues. 7pm Mass with Lenten Series Homily</b>
<b>Feb. 28</b>	<b>Legion of Mary</b>
<b>March 1</b>	<b>Soup Supper 5:30pm</b>
<b>March 1</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross 7pm</b>
<b>March 1-2</b>	<b>Nocturnal Adoration (Fri. 9am - Sat. 9am)</b>
<b>March 2</b>	<b>Communal First Saturday Devotions</b>
<b>March 2</b>	<b>Men's Prayer Group</b>
<b>March 3</b>	<b>Donut Sunday</b>
<b>March 16</b>	<b>KofC St. Patrick's &amp; St. Joseph's Dinner</b>

**Lenten Soup Suppers continue!** 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. **Stations of the Cross** takes place in the church at 7pm each Friday. Please join us!

**Gift Shop for Lent:** Stop by the Shop's table in the narthex after the Sunday Masses this weekend, Feb 24/25. We are also available by appointment. Email us at [giftshop@straymonds.org](mailto:giftshop@straymonds.org).

**Book Club:** The parish Book Club next meets on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM in the St Raymond Library to discuss "**The Pain of Christ and the Sorrow of God: Lenten Meditations**" by Fr Gerald Vann. 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](mailto:bookclub@straymonds.org).

**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 March 2nd**. 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!

**Holy Hour Offering Cards.** Are you making a Holy Hour for a loved one or a friend? There are complimentary Holy Hour Offering Cards (with envelopes) available in the narthex suitable for mailing. Please feel free to take one and let someone know that you are remembering them in prayer.



**ST. RAYMOND'S KNIGHTS IN ACTION!** In addition to leading with faith, protecting our families, and defending values in a busy, changing world, Knights of Columbus are committed to serving others. You've seen them at church dinners, pancake breakfasts, and serving as lectors and ushers. With all that they do, they need all the help they can get! 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! Answer the call ... **BECOME A KNIGHT! KofC/JoinUs**



**CAR RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE!** The Knights of Columbus will be selling Car Raffle tickets in the Narthex after every Mass this weekend. Don't miss the opportunity to participate in this Multi-Car Raffle. Prizes include four 2024 vehicles from Ourisman Ford of Manassas (Ford Escape, Mustang, Ranger Truck and Bronco Sport). One \$5.00 ticket offers the purchaser a chance to win all four vehicles plus \$40,000 (including one for \$20,000) in cash prizes. **Support our Parish and buy your tickets now!**

#### Upcoming Events:

2/24-25 Car Raffle Ticket Sales #1 (After Masses)  
3/2-3 St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Day Dinner Ticket Sales #1  
3/7 Officer Meeting (7 PM – Library)  
3/9-10 St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Day Dinner Ticket Sales #2  
3/11 Exemplification and Meeting (7:30 PM, Parish Hall)  
3/16 St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Day Dinner 6:30 PM)  
23 Pilgrimage to the Franciscan Monastery

**The Men's Prayer Group welcomes you.** 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. We meet in the parish hall at 7:30 am. Call Dave at 703 966 5327 for more info.

**Christ House Meal – March 29th. Monetary Donations Only.** This year our commitment to the Diocesan Christ House Dining Room in Alexandria falls on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. Because of that, this quarter, we are requesting cash donations in lieu of food items. The committee will order 72 hot, prepared meals to be delivered to Christ House. Please drop off your cash (or check) donations at the office or place it in the collection basket clearly marked for Christ House!



**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](mailto:music@straymonds.org) or call 703-506-4644.

**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](mailto:mary.butler@straymonds.org).

## SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

*Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH. Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE*

**MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center:** We proudly partner with MaRiH (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](http://marih.org).



**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**  
THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION.

The spring Campaign of **40 Days for Life** is underway! Sign-up sheets are 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](http://amomspeace.org).

Do you have a real-life bioethical decision to make? **The National Catholic Bioethics Center** offers explanations of Catholic moral teaching to help you form your conscience in fidelity to the magisterium with trustworthy resources and free confidential person to person interaction. Visit [ncbcenter.org/consultation-form](http://ncbcenter.org/consultation-form). An ethicist will respond within 5 business days. For urgent matters, call 215-877-2660.

**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](http://abortionpillreversal.com).

**Tepeyac Pro Life OB/GYN: Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare.** [tepeyacobgyn.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:GabrielProject@arlingtondiocese.org).

**The evil of abortion is a spiritual battle.** It cannot be reduced to secular arguments. On one side springing from lies of the Enlightenment clamors the battle cry of women's rights and liberation. On the other side the light of God's love, majesty and mercy shines revealing the Truth of the sanctity of life, right reason and ordered liberty. **Abortion offends God.** It violates the Sacred Heart of Jesus which beats out of love for every human being, including those in the womb. Speak the Truth in love about the evil of abortion. Put on the armor of God. With confidence implore the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Confront the spiritual battle with your Lenten prayers and sacrifices. Consider 2 Chronicles 7:14.

## 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>

Have fun. Make friends. Make a difference.

## ST. RAYMOND'S SERVICE WEEK



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

More info. soon

Are you looking for community? Consider helping out with our summer service week at the parish!

### Youth Group & CCD Sunday, February 25th

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

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

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

### Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group

5:30-7pm Monday, February 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 or email for dates.

### GUEST SPEAKERS for HS next Sunday, March 3rd

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

5:30-7pm ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS are invited to a Q&A session with **Fr. De Celles** in the parish hall. Bring your questions! Bring your friends!

7-8:30pm **Bob & Bev Ward**, back by popular demand, share the story of how they met and fell in love with one another, and with the Church! This is a story you won't want to miss!

## DEEPEN YOUR PRAYER LIFE THIS LENT

Start your Fridays with Mass & discussion afterwards

### 6:30AM MASS & BREAKFAST EVERY 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 drive you to school by 8am! 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.

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

\* Check the website for more info. <https://bit.ly/StRayYAnews>

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

[youth@straymonds.org](mailto: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

**Parents of 8th Grade Confirmation candidates:** please make note of the following documents due to the Religious Education office by **March 21st:** Sponsor Eligibility Letter and Statement of Sponsor form.

**Parents of 7th Grade Confirmation candidates:** if you have not already done so, please turn in the **Confirmation Registry form with Birth Certificate and Baptism Certificate attached** (unless your child was baptized here at St. Raymond's) to the Religious Education office - it was due February 8th.

**Home School Group:** for more information visit our website [www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/](http://www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/)  
Or email [straymondhsg@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jmayer9014@aol.com), or 703-627-7320.

**10th National Eucharistic Congress.** You are invited to join the Diocese of Arlington for the 10th National Eucharistic Congress to be held at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 17-21, 2024. Tour packages including accommodations and a ticket to the Congress are available through Corporate Travel Services. For pricing and more information, check out our website at <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/national-eucharistic-revival/>.

### **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/>.

**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. **February's Holy Hour and Mass is on Feb. 28th at 7:30 pm in the church.** For the complete schedule and for more information, please visit [www.waywomen.com](http://www.waywomen.com) and email [womenofway@gmail.com](mailto:womenofway@gmail.com), or call the parish office.



## Church Persecuted

This is part 4 of a continuing series on the USCCB's annual report on The State of Religious Liberty in the U.S. Continuing from last week's list on National Trends in Politics, Culture, and Law.

(3) Pride Month in June has "become an annual flashpoint for conflicts over issues of 'sexual orientation and gender identity'." Target Department stores featured clothing for children with pro-LGBT slogans and designs. Bud Light ran an advertisement from an activist who publicly identified as being transgender. Both businesses suffered the consequences from their actions with a dramatic boycott of their products (keep it up). We reported here previously that the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team used pride month to honor the anti-Catholic group, Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence ("a group of men dressed as nuns and displaying blasphemous and deeply offensive displays mocking Jesus, Mary, and the Catholic Church"). By the way, the only major league baseball team that organizationally did not celebrate pride month, the Texas Rangers, also happened to win the World Series.

(4) State bills violating the seal of confession have been making their way back in the limelight. As an aside, years ago, Virginia legislature had proposed a bill that would have required priests to report a case of abuse in which he had first-hand knowledge. At the time there was no exception for confession. Fortunately, the bill never got out of committee. A few years later, the bill was passed with an explicit exception for confession. This is known as the clergy-penitent privilege which is "a legal recognition of the obligation of confidentiality, not just in the context of Catholic practice, but in similar practices of other faiths as well." At least three states – Washington, Vermont, and Delaware – are trying to legislatively eliminate this privilege.

To be continued next week. Here is the link to the entire report <https://www.usccb.org/committees/religious-liberty/2024-annual-report>

# FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

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

*Listen to Love-Sacrifice-Trust: He Showed Us the Way.* Fr. Mike Schmitz encourages us to embrace our own crosses in imitation of Jesus's sacrificial love. Also includes a bonus feature of reflections on the Stations of the Cross.

*Listen to Glimpses Along the Way of the Cross.* Monsignor James P. Shea brings listeners more deeply into the sufferings of our Lord in His Passion and what His sacrifice accomplished.

**For Kids.** Watch and draw! Kids will enjoy *Drawing Closer to God: Lent*, a 10-episode art show teaching kids to draw Lenten artwork while learning about turning from sin back to God.

**Available for FREE!** To set up an account, visit [Formed.org/signup](https://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/](https://AngelusAcademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/)

Call or Email Julie Maimone, Director of Admissions, at [Admissions@angelusacademy.org](mailto: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](https://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.

**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, 1qt. oil vs. 1 gal oil).

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

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](https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA) or scan the QR code to make a gift.



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**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](https://faith.direct/VA64). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 11,273.00
Family Assistance	\$ 163.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,167.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 720.00
Aid to Central & Eastern Europe	\$ 3,539.00
Black & Indian Missions	\$ 1,976.00




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