



## 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)

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](mailto:Office@straymonds.org)  
Pastor: [fdc@straymonds.org](mailto:fdc@straymonds.org)  
Rel. Ed.: [ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org](mailto: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.

Jesus said to  
Nicodemus:  
"Just as Moses  
lifted up the  
serpent in the  
desert, so must  
the Son of Man  
be lifted up, so  
that everyone  
who believes in  
him may have  
eternal life."

*John 3:14,15*

## Pastor's Corner

**Halfway Through Lent.** Today we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Lent, the traditional midpoint of the 40 days of the penitential season, and is called "**Laetare Sunday**," "laetare" meaning "rejoice." It is considered a sort of a slight lifting of the austerity and somberness of Lent as we remember to lift our gaze to see that beyond the Cross is the Resurrection; in the midst of our sorrow for our lives of sin we also rejoice in the forgiveness and new life won by the Paschal Mystery. The Rose Vestments symbolize this: the dark purple of repentance and sorrow mingled with the light of forgiveness and joy.

But today we also remember that there is still half of Lent remaining to rededicate or increase our efforts to keep Lent holy. To those who haven't chosen a penance yet, get with it! To those who are struggling to keep their penances: if your penance is too hard, it's okay to change your penance to something that is challenging but manageable in your situation. To those who just haven't been trying, no excuses—pick up your cross and follow Jesus! And to those who have found their penances manageable and doable, then perhaps you can add some more penances, or intensify the ones you are currently doing.

**More on the Sacrament of Penance.** In order to be forgiven our sins in the Sacrament of Penance three things are required of every sinner/penitent: 1) contrition, 2) confession of our sins, and 3) satisfaction. Most of us understand confessing our sins, but maybe not so much contrition and satisfaction.

**Contrition.** As the Catechism teaches, [1452-1460], Contrition is "*Sorrow of the soul and detestation for the sin committed, together with the resolution not to sin again... When it arises from a love by which God is loved above all else, contrition is called 'perfect'... Such contrition remits venial sins; it also obtains forgiveness of mortal sins if it includes the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible.*" Note, since it is practically impossible to be certain if we have such "perfect contrition," so we should not presume it, and are still required to receive the Sacrament of Penance before receiving Holy Communion if we are aware of an unconfessed mortal sin.

"*Most of the time contrition is usually not 'perfect,' so it is called 'imperfect' (or 'attrition'). Imperfect contrition is born not from pure love of God 'above all else' but 'of the consideration of sin's ugliness or the fear of eternal damnation and the other penalties threatening the sinner.... Such a stirring of conscience can initiate an interior process which, under the prompting of grace, will be brought to completion by sacramental absolution. By itself however, imperfect contrition cannot obtain the forgiveness of grave sins, but it disposes one to obtain forgiveness in the sacrament of Penance.*"

**Satisfaction.** "Satisfaction" refers to the real effort to make up for our sins, and comes in two ways: "reparation" and "expiation" Let's look a little closer at this. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches [1452-1460]:

"*Many sins wrong our neighbor. One must do what is possible in order to repair the harm (e.g., return stolen goods, restore the reputation of someone slandered, pay compensation for injuries). Simple justice requires as much.*" This is called 'making reparation.'

*"But sin also injures and weakens the sinner himself, as well as his relationships with God and neighbor. Absolution takes away sin, but it does not remedy all the disorders sin has caused. Raised up from sin, the sinner must still recover his full spiritual health by doing something more to make amends for the sin: he must 'make satisfaction for' or 'expiate' his sins. This satisfaction is also called 'penance.'"*

When a priest gives a "penance" in confession, many people wonder how something as small and simple as "saying three Hail Marys" can serve as an adequate penance/satisfaction. But remember, we could never do enough penance to pay for all our sins—only Jesus can do this, and does so, on the Cross. The penance after confession is an important personal effort at trying to make amends. Moreover a simple and clear penance, such as some short prayers, makes a good practical penance because: 1) if done devoutly they can be an important first step forward toward God, 2) they are more likely to be done immediately, so that the penance won't be forgotten and the penitent can immediately renew the life of grace, and 3) they avoid the confusion of more ambiguous or ambitious penances, so the penitent won't be wondering, "did I do enough?" "did I do too much?" "did I do it right?"

**Cell Phones.** Cell phones are a relatively new but ubiquitous reality in our culture, and so perhaps we haven't considered how their use in public can violate courtesy and good manners, i.e., charity.

This is especially the case in church, and most **especially at Mass**. So, I remind you: 1) **always mute or turn off your phone** (or leave it in the car) before you enter the church, and double check this before Mass begins; 2) never speak on or answer you phone inside the church—if you must make or receive a call, go into the narthex; and 3) try not to use your smart phone as a Mass aid, i.e. using apps with the prayers for Mass in them.

A phone going off during Mass is not only a violation of common courtesy—it can sometimes also be a form of sacrilegious interruption of the Sacred Liturgy.

Hey, we all make mistakes, and common courtesy demands patience and forgiveness for small mistakes and discourtesies of others. But Lent is a time for striving to improve our charity, especially in the easier, obvious and simple things.

**Cardinal Burke's 9 Month Novena.** Don't forget to sign up for Cardinal Raymond Burke's nine-month novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe, beginning on March 12. Visit [novena.cardinalburke.com](http://novena.cardinalburke.com).

**Cardinal Dolan: Small Correction.** After reading my column about the Cecilia Gentili funeral last week, a former parishioner pointed out that one of the quotations I used was actually something the Cardinal said a few years ago. ("... Don't yell at me! Look at yourselves!"). I apologize, I misread the article in The Pillar. Even so, there were several other quotes I could have used to make my point. I could have even used that same quote, as The Pillar did, to show a pattern of scandalous behavior. So, except for that correction, my point stands.

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*



**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, March 11th**

6:30 am Deacon Kenn Prien +  
 8:30 am Pasquale John Greco +  
 7:00 pm Fr. Jerome Daly +

**Tuesday, March 12th**

6:30 am Mike Britton  
 8:30 am Louise Ward +  
 7:00 pm Pope Benedict XVI +

**Wednesday, March 13th**

6:30 am Pope Francis  
 8:30 am Mary Benson +  
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

**Thursday, March 14th**

6:30 am Kathryn Ann Capets +  
 8:30 am Francisco & Kolbie Garcia  
 7:00 pm Pope Francis

**Friday, March 15th**

6:30 am Joseph Gigliotti +  
 8:30 am Keneally Family +

**Saturday, March 16th**

9:00 am Francisco Ramos  
 & Jose Calayag +

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**  
 George Thomas Casford +

**Sunday, March 17th**

7:00 am **Fr. Horkan**  
 Alice Zhang  
 9:00 am **Fr. Bergida**  
 Parishioners  
 11:00 am **Fr. Rippy**  
 Juanita Boarman +  
 1:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**  
 Marcaria Ramos +

**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

March 18 - March 26: 6pm - 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!**

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!

**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!

**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	Gaudencio Dizon	Virginia Cummings
Tom Dietz	Paul Haynes	Jean Seiberling
Michael O'Neill	Dwayne Taylor	Helen Zogaib
Cindy Laird	Ted Tolpa	Robert Petitti
Patricia Lewis	Nena Brennan	Margaret Carter
Mai Pham	Serrin Foster	Mark Gatanas
Jason Saenz	Margaret O'Neill	Donna Foster
Phyllis Zitnik	Donald Trayer	Erich Whitt
Patricia Del Buono	Ellen Trayer	Leonard J. Root, III
John Florio	Tom Swengros	Linda Drabek
Debra Henkel	Arlene Pietraszko	

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

<b>March 11</b>	<b>Family of Jesus Prayer Group</b>
<b>March 12</b>	<b>Bible Study at 9:30am and 6pm</b>
<b>March 12</b>	<b>Tues. 7pm Mass with Lenten Series Homily</b>
<b>March 13</b>	<b>Legion of Mary 6:30 pm</b>
<b>March 15</b>	<b>Soup Supper 5:30pm</b>
<b>March 15</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross 7pm</b>
<b>March 15-16</b>	<b>Nocturnal Adoration (Fri. 9am - Sat. 9am)</b>
<b>March 16</b>	<b>KofC St. Patrick's &amp; St. Joseph's Dinner</b>
<b>March 19</b>	<b>Solemnity of St. Joseph: Extra Mass at 7pm</b>

**Gift Shop for Lent:** Stop by the Shop's table in the narthex after the Saturday and Sunday Masses the weekend of March 9th and 10th. We are also available by appointment. Submit your request at [giftshop@StRaymonds.org](mailto:giftshop@StRaymonds.org).

**Cardinal Burke's 9 Month Novena.** Cardinal Raymond Burke recently stated: "We live in most troubled times, throughout the world and even within the Church... But Our Lady draws us to herself, in order that she, in turn, may lead us to our only source of hope, her Divine Son..." Cardinal Burke has issued an invitation, "calling on every Catholic in America to return to Our Lady and join in prayer." A nine-month novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of the Americas, **begins on March 12** and culminates with an act of consecration on her feast day, December 12. Every month participants will receive emails from the Cardinal with words of encouragement. As your Pastor, Fr. De Celles asks you to join in this Novena. You can sign up at [novena.cardinalburke.com](http://novena.cardinalburke.com).

**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 (no meat). 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 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.

**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](mailto:office@straymonds.org) to verify your email address.**



### ST. RAYMOND'S KNIGHTS EXEMPLIFICATION CEREMONY MONDAY EVENING!

Owing to the popularity in these challenging times of standing tall and being a Knight, the St. John Bosco Council of St. Raymond's Parish will be conducting one of the largest Exemplification Ceremonies in its illustrious history to induct new Knights into the Council on Monday, March 11. It is not too late to join the many men who have wisely decided to step forward with Faith in their hearts to become a Knight! You will no doubt see more of them in the near future ... leading with faith, defending values in a busy, changing world, and committed to serving others. 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! Don't stand on the sidelines ... enter the fray ... **BECOME A KNIGHT!** KofC/JoinUs



#### Upcoming Events:

3/11 Exemplification and Meeting (7:30 PM, Parish Hall)  
3/16 St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Day Dinner 6:30 PM)  
3/23 Pilgrimage to the Franciscan Monastery  
3/23 State Level Basketball Free Throw Competition

### ST. PATRICK'S AND ST. JOSEPH'S DINNER:

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a parish dinner on Saturday, March 16th in honor of St. Patrick (Feast day - March 17th) and St. Joseph (Feast day - March 19th). Knights are in the narthex with tickets or you can purchase on line using this QR Code. Please come and join in on the fun. Erin go Brah!



### 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 that can be easily distributed by Christ House volunteers. 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.

**This is our witness weekend!** Details, sign-up sheets and signs are in the narthex. Or just

stop by and join others praying in front of 900 S Washington Street. 12-4 on Saturday or 9-3 on Sunday. Bring your family, bring a friend. Bring your Rosary. This is a spiritual battle. 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 (not simply academic) 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).

**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).

Stay engaged in what's going on with life issues at the Virginia General Assembly. Subscribe (free) to the email Action Alerts from The Virginia Catholic Conference and The Family Foundation. **Make your voice count for those who have no voice!**

### Planned Parenthood (PP) is Pro Women's Healthcare!!

Well, that's what they would like you to think. Do you believe them? PP's core mission is abortion. That's where the money is. They are the most prolific killer of unborn children in America, particularly the children of minorities. Then they sell the babies' body parts for profit. And that's women's healthcare?! No, it's **EVIL**. 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>

Have fun. Make friends. Make a difference.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

More info. soon

### Youth Group & CCD Sunday, March 10

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

5:30-7pm CCD

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

### Next Week: March 17: BOTH YOUTH GROUPS at 4pm!

4-5:30pm High School & Jr. High Youth Group: Adoration  
Join us for a special holy hour for our 7-12th graders! Exposition with a reflection by Fr. Bergida, followed by time for silent prayer (bring a journal, pen, rosary & Bible or spiritual reading) and Benediction. Pizza will be served in the hall afterwards.

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

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

### Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group

5:30-7pm Monday, March 18th (Maurer Room)

High School Ladies! Deepen your faith, play fun games, and grow in sisterhood! Note: we are meeting the 3rd Monday this month.

### Sons of Thunder: High School Guys' Group

7-8:30pm Tuesday, March 19th (Maurer Room)

High School Men: Join the brotherhood! Come hungry (physically and intellectually) and ready to rumble.

### DEEPEN YOUR PRAYER LIFE THIS LENT

6:30AM MASS & BREAKFAST EVERY FRIDAY

Shout out to WSHS & homeschool students for your dedication!!

Where are you at SoCo Hayfield & LBSS? WSHS is wondering if you're up for the challenge?! All 7-12th graders: Join us Friday mornings for Mass followed by breakfast with Fr. Horkan & Fr. Bergida in the parish hall. RSVP's help make sure we have enough food! <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVP>

### HIGH SCHOOL & COMPLIANT ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Saturday, March 16 (various shifts from 1-8pm)

Help with St. Patrick's & St. Joseph's Day Dinner

The Knights of Columbus need are in need of High School compliant adult volunteers to decorate (1-3pm & 3-5pm) and/or to serve dinner (5-8pm). Sign up at <https://bit.ly/stpatandjoe>

Scholarship Opportunities. <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

**Attention parents of 8th grade Confirmation students, the following paperwork is due no later than March 21st:**

1. Sponsor Eligibility letter (from sponsor's home parish)
2. Statement of Sponsor form

**Please note:** Confirmation rehearsal is scheduled for May 19th at 2:30 pm.

Confirmation Mass will be celebrated May 20th at 7 pm.

**Attention parents of 7th Grade students** please check out Confirmation requirements as outlined in the *Supplement to Parent Handbook Sacrament of Confirmation 2025* which you received in your red folder at the beginning of the academic year.

**Confirmation Registry form, Birth Certificate and Certificate of Baptism** (unless baptized here at St. Raymond's) were due February 8th.

**\*\*Looking ahead:** In observance of Easter, CCD classes will **NOT** meet:

Holy Week March 24-26

Easter Week March 31-April 2

**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.

**St. John Paul the Great Catholic High School: Shadow a Wolf for a Day!** Ongoing Shadow Days available at John Paul! Do you have an 8th-10th grader who is interested in seeing what it is like to be a JP student? Sign them up for a Shadow Day visit! For registration and more details, please visit: [https://jpthegreat.schooladminonline.com/portal/new\\_inquiry](https://jpthegreat.schooladminonline.com/portal/new_inquiry)

**Parish Picnic Committee.** Saint Raymond's holds an Annual Parish Picnic at the end of August/beginning of September. We are looking for a committee lead to plan and execute the details of the picnic. We are also looking for volunteers interested in joining the committee to support the event. For more information or to sign up, please contact the parish office at [office@straymonds.org](mailto:office@straymonds.org) or call 703-440-0535.

**ART, DRAMA, MUSICAL THEATRE CAMPS for K-12 in a Catholic setting.** Celebrating 20 years, Spotlight on the Arts Summer Camps offers **Broadway Spotlight, Drama Bootcamp, Art Explorer, and Arts & Crafts Fun Camp** July 8 - 19. These camps are taught by professional Catholic educators very accomplished in their area of expertise. Each week concludes with either an Art Showcase or a Performance by the campers. Camps are designed to be both fun and challenging with a goal to aid campers in their growth in the arts within a safe environment. Through March, **all camps are \$35 off plus everyone gets a free t-shirt.** Learn more and register at [www.SpotlightSummerCamps.com](http://www.SpotlightSummerCamps.com)



## Church Persecuted

The Alabama Supreme Court got it right concerning *in vitro* fertilization (IVF)

In an 8-1 decision, Alabama's highest court ruled that an embryo is a human person whether it exists in a woman's uterus or in a freezer awaiting to be thawed and implanted in a woman's uterus. Thus, embryos that are discarded should be treated the same as the wrongful death of a child in the womb. The Alabama court's ruling noted that "unborn children are 'children' for purposes of Alabama's Wrongful Death of a Minor Act ... a statute that allows parents of a deceased child to recover punitive damages for their child's death."

Modern science has made "it possible to intervene not only in order to assist but also to dominate the processes of procreation. These techniques can enable man to 'take in hand his own destiny,' but they also expose him 'to the temptation to go beyond the limits of reasonable dominion over nature.'" (*Donum Vitae*, 1)

A human person is created from the moment of conception (the fertilizing of a female egg with a male sperm). There is no biomedical or scientific disagreement that at that point, all of the materials needed for a human person are present. This natural biological act of a man and woman in marriage respects the dignity of God's creation. All that is needed is nourishment and time for the human person to be delivered outside the womb around 9 months later.

As *Donum Vitae* cites from an encyclical by Pope John XXIII, *Mater et Magistra*, "The transmission of human life is entrusted by nature to a personal and conscious act and as such is subject to the all-holy laws of God: immutable and inviolable laws which must be recognized and observed. For this reason one cannot use means and follow methods which could be licit in the transmission of the life of plants and animals." (*DV* 4)

Next week we will show how IVF violates the dignity of God's creation.

# FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

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

Watch *Lent and New Life in Christ: The Gift of Grace & Almsgiving*. Fr. Michael Barber discusses the transformative power of grace in this Lenten pillar.

Watch *Episode 149: Into the Desert*. This episode of the Poco a Poco podcast focuses on seeing our sacrifices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as transformational opportunities for gains in holiness, using Fr. Mark Toupe's Lenten Companion.

Listen to *My Beloved Son: Meditations for Lent*. Bishop Robert Barron provides five sermons on Christ-centered spiritual discipline we should develop during Lent.

Available for FREE! To set up an account, visit [Formed.org/signup](http://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](http://www.AngelusAcademy.org) 703-924-3996  
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## 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.** Please consider making a pledge to the BLA. You may complete a pledge card at Mass, mail in your pledge, go online to [www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA) or scan the QR code to make a gift.



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## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 15,905.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,336.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,846.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 1,790.00

The Second Collection this weekend is for Catholic Relief Services




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