



5TH SUNDAY OF *Lent*



"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.

"The hour has come
for the Son of Man
to be glorified.
Amen, amen,
I say to you,
unless a grain of
wheat falls to the
ground and dies, it
remains just a grain
of wheat; but if it
dies, it produces
much fruit."

John 12: 23,24

Pastor's Corner

Fifth Week of Lent: Passiontide. Today we cover the statues and crosses as we begin the last two weeks of Lent, called "Passiontide." At this point in Lent some people often start to slip in keeping their Lenten penances, while others haven't yet begun their penances at all. Passiontide reminds us to refocus or deepen our attention on the season and its purposes of repentance of sin, conversion of heart, and appreciation of Christ's love manifested in His Passion and Cross. If you've been slacking in your observance of Lent, now's the time to turn that around. If you've neglected the season entirely, it's not too late. And if you've been having a good Lent, then consider how you might take it up a notch these last days.

Let us beg our Crucified Lord to shower us with His grace in these last two weeks of Lent, and that we may be open to His grace and love Him in return.

Beginning tomorrow, Monday, evening confessions will go from 6pm until 7pm with 2 confessors available. So, if you haven't yet been to confession this Lent, PLEASE COME THIS WEEK.

I also strongly encourage you to intensify your Lenten observance by taking greater advantage of opportunities offered in the parish. In particular, consider attending Stations of the Cross on Friday at 7pm (and don't forget Friday Soup Supper at 5:30pm), and Adoration, especially our all-day-and-night Adoration of Fridays. I also encourage you to attend at least one weekday Mass this week and next, maybe one of our 7pm Masses (Monday - Thursday).

Solemnity of St. Joseph. This Tuesday, March 19, is the Solemnity of St. Joseph. Please **consider attending Mass** and/or spending time praying to Our Lord's adopted father and Patron of the Universal Church, and reflecting on his life as father, spouse, worker and man. Fathers and all men should especially make the effort to venerate and pray to this uniquely holy exemplar of fatherhood and manhood. Note: the homily at this week's Tuesday 7pm Mass will be on St. Joseph and NOT part of my Lenten Series on "The Seven Last Words."

40 Days for Life. Thanks to all those who represented the parish by participating in the 40 Days for Life campaign last weekend. I know the weather made it particularly difficult this year, but I'm told that everyone who signed up showed up, young and old. God bless all these volunteers. We may never know the effect of your witness and prayers, but we are confident that they were, in God's plan, efficacious in this spiritual battle.

Samaritan Group. I hope this Holy Season has reminded you of the importance of doing works of charity ("almsgiving"). If this is something you want to keep up or expand in your life, consider joining our parish "Samaritan Group" which lends a hand to parish families in times of crisis by cooking dinners and running errands. If you are able to help out, please join our dedicated team. If you are interested, please contact the parish office.

Cardinal Burke's 9 Month Novena. It's not too late to sign up for Cardinal Raymond Burke's nine-month novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe, which began last Tuesday. you can find the novena prayer card in the pews and by the exits of the church, but please also visit novena.cardinalburke.com to sign up and receive weekly reflections from the good Cardinal.

Why Does Father Do That at Mass? This is a question some of you ask when St. Raymond priests (or servers) do something at Mass that seems out of step with what most parishes do. Some wonder if we are doing things that come from our personal whim, or that we are inventing, or using customs from in the "Old Mass" (before the changes of Vatican II). Because of that, some may wonder if we are doing things that are not permitted.

But I assure you that everything we do here is permitted under liturgical law. Rather, most of the "differences" result from that fact that the current instructions governing the Mass, often called "rubrics," are often silent or ambiguous in explaining exactly what the priest must/should/may do.

The reasons for this silence and ambiguity are several and complex, and go back to the composition of the New Mass (or "Novus Ordo," the form we say now) introduced after Vatican II in 1969. But one basic reason was that it was the product of a committee of experts who disagreed a lot, often strongly, and one way to resolve conflicts on a committee is to leave ambiguity.

But ambiguity lends itself to individual interpretation, which is not what Catholic Liturgy is about. So then, how does a responsible, faithful priest interpret these kinds of norms, answer ambiguity and fill in the silence or gaps (or "lacunae")?

Following the principle of the "hermeneutic of continuity" explained by the great liturgical theologian, Pope Benedict XVI, I try to look to what the tradition tells us to do, and try to work within that in an "organic" way. "What was sacred then is sacred now," as he once wrote. And I go back to the documents of Vatican II itself, and ask, what guidance did that give us? This is what I find in *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy), and this is the rule I follow:

"...there must be no innovations unless the good of the Church genuinely and certainly requires them, and care must be taken that any new forms adopted should in some way grow organically from forms already existing."

So when there is ambiguity or silence, first I look to the "forms already existing" (i.e., in the "Old Mass") and avoid anything not in those forms, anything that would be an "innovation." Some might call this "following precedent."

Let me give you an example. The "rubrics" in the "New Mass" tell us repeatedly that the priest should normally stand with "hands joined." But what does that mean? Can he join his hands hanging down below his waist? Can he join his hands with fingers interlocked, or clasped like a prizefighter after a knockout?

So I've always followed the traditional practice in the Old Mass. And then years into my priesthood, I found a much-ignored footnote in the 1984 "Ceremonial of Bishops" (no. 107, ft. 11) (part of the official Roman Ritual), published 15 years after the New Mass was promulgated. And that indicates I was absolutely correct in my practice: *"Hands joined" means: "Holding the palms sideward and together before the breast, with the right thumb crossed over the left."* And that footnote quotes the 1886 "Ceremonial of Bishops," in other words, it looks to the Old Mass to fill the silence in the New Mass.

That's just one example, but I promise you that any "differences" you see at St. Raymond's are permitted under Church law, and most are, in my opinion, clearly what Vatican II had in mind. And I believe they help us in our effort to emphasize and promote reverence in the Mass.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 18th

6:30 am Francisco & Kolbie Garcia
 8:30 am Keara & Mark Rhines
 7:00 pm Fr. Jerome Daly +

Tuesday, March 19th

6:30 am Vernon & Mary Butler
 8:30 am Joseph Perricone +
 7:00 pm Thomas Osella

Wednesday, March 20th

6:30 am Francisco & Kolbie Garcia
 8:30 am Marc Sanidad +
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, March 21st

6:30 am Kevin Malone +
 8:30 am Elizabeth Obejera +
 7:00 pm Pope Francis

Friday, March 22nd

6:30 am Helen Peck +
 8:30 am John & Linda Matty

Saturday, March 23rd

9:00 am Rosario Obejera +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Joseph Folz +

Sunday, March 24th

Palm Sunday

7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
 Janet Berriman +
 9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
 Parishioners
 11:00 am **Fr. Bergida**
 Morgan Petro
 1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
 Hayden Smith +

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	Linda Drabek
Patricia Del Buono	Ellen Trayer	Liliana Cano
John Florio	Tom Swengros	Josephine Turk
Debra Henkel	Arlene Pietraszko	

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

March 18	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
March 19	Bible Study at 9:30am and 6pm
March 19	Solemnity of St. Joseph: Extra Mass at 7pm
March 20	Legion of Mary 6:30 pm
March 22	Soup Supper 5:30pm
March 22	Stations of the Cross 7pm
March 22-23	Nocturnal Adoration (Fri. 9am - Sat. 9am)
March 24	Palm Sunday
March 26	Final 7pm Mass with Lenten Series Homily
March 31	Easter Sunday
April 6	Easter Egg Hunt, 2:30pm
April 27	Spring Senior Luncheon, 12-2pm

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)

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:
 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 and 1:00 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!

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.

Gift Shop for Lent: Stop by the Shop's table in the narthex after the Saturday and Sunday Masses the weekend of March 16th and 17th. We are also available by appointment. Submit your request at giftshop@StRaymonds.org.

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!

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.



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S AND ST. JOSEPH'S DAYS FROM YOUR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS!

We hope you were able to enjoy last evening's dinner on the occasion of St. Patrick's Day (today) and St. Joseph's Day (Tuesday) as much as we, your Knights, enjoyed hosting it. Thanks to all who attended and helped to make the event yet another wonderful opportunity to grow even closer together as a Parish family. Speaking of wonderful opportunities, men, it is never too late to join your brothers in faith and don the spiritual armor of a Knight! 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:

3/23 Pilgrimage to the Franciscan Monastery
4/4 Officer Meeting (7 pm—Library)
4/8 Membership Meeting (7:30 pm; 7pm Rosary – Library)
4/13 Spring 4th Degree Exemplification (Richmond, VA)
TBD: Pints with Aquinas

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!



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.



Tickets available at Donut Sunday on April 7, or online at www.charityauction.bid/angelusacademy

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.

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.

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. 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.

Tepeyac Pro Life OB/GYN: Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare. tepeyacobgyn.com 703-273-9440. Thank you for your referrals and your support. *Save the date for their 30th Anniversary celebration: November 8th!*

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.

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!**

Angel Wall: Have you suffered the loss of a child or grandchild? If you would like to honor the memory of your deceased child, please contact the Parish Office to have your child's name added to the Angel Wall in the narthex.

Take your pro-life message on the road – wherever you go. Consider supporting local Pregnancy Care Centers by having a **CHOOSE LIFE License Plate** on your vehicle. Visit: www.dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles

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

March 17: BOTH YOUTH GROUPS 4-5:30pm!

Talk, Adoration & Confession with Fr. Bergida

4-5:30pm High School & Jr. High Youth Group: Adoration Fr. Bergida for a special youth holy hour for 7-12th graders! *Parents/families are encouraged to stay for the holy hour as well.* There will be Exposition with time for silent prayer (bring a journal, pen, rosary, and Bible or spiritual reading) and Benediction. Pizza will be served in the hall afterwards.

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

Spring Break: NO Youth Group March 24 or March 31st

Next Youth Group after this weekend 3/17 will be April 7th. Have a blessed Holy Week and Easter with your families!

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>

Quo Vadis Days and FIAT Camps are great opportunities for current 9-12th graders to have fun while deepening their faith and exploring their vocations. Quo Vadis (for boys) is staffed by Arlington seminarians, priests and religious, and runs July 7-11. FIAT (for girls) is staffed by religious sisters and runs July 14-18. Both are held at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. The registration lottery is open March 1-31. See pics & videos from past years, get more info. & register for the lottery at ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis or ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT

Scholarship Opportunities. <https://bit.ly/StRayYAnews>

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

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

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

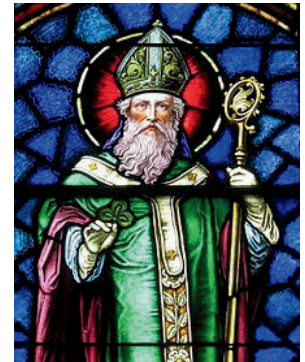
Attention parents of 8th grade Confirmation students, the following paperwork is due no later than March 21st:

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

****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 if you are interested in joining us.

Legion of Mary: Do you want to develop a closer relationship with our Mother Mary and her Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ? The Legion of Mary weekly meeting is held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Library. All auxiliary members and anyone interested in joining the Legion of Mary are welcome. Point of Contact: Judy Mayer, jmayer9014@aol.com, or 703-627-7320.

Family of Jesus Prayer Group: Weekly meetings are in the Church on Mondays at 4:00 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.

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 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

Church Persecuted

Last week we discussed the moral teachings behind the procedure known as *in vitro fertilization* (IVF) and the Alabama Supreme Court's decision that IVF is prohibited in Wrongful Death of a Minor Act.

The pro-abortion community is using the ruling as an "I told you so" extension of what happened with the repeal of *Roe v. Wade*. It is a contradiction to say that the law protects the unborn child in the womb but not stored in a refrigerator or freezer. If a human life is created at conception, it must be protected at all stages of life, even outside the womb (which is part of the IVF procedure). Yet many pro-life proponents who are against abortion see nothing wrong with IVF.

David Bonagura, writes in *The Catholic World Report*, that "Human beings are... more inclined to compromise than cling steadfastly to principles." Recall the lines from *A Man for All Seasons*, where the Duke of Norfolk asks Sir Thomas More to sign the oath of allegiance to King Henry VIII. "Can't you do as I did and come along with us for fellowship?" says Norfolk. Thomas More replies, "And when we stand before God, and you are sent to Paradise for doing according to your conscience, and I am damned for not doing according to mine, will you come with me, for fellowship?"

The Alabama legislature quickly introduced a bill which "makes the mother's womb seem as arbitrary as the Missouri Compromise line: 'any fertilized human egg or human embryo exists outside of a human uterus is not considered an unborn child'" but is an unborn child if inside the womb. The U.S. Bishops responded by noting that "we cannot condone a practice and an industry that is built on millions of children who are created to be destroyed or abandoned."

<https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2024/03/06/ivf-and-the-inconsistent-ethic-of-life/>

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

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

Watch Augustine Institute Bible Conference – Lent 2022. Revisit or view for the first time these five presentations by various theologians on Lenten reflections and themes in Sacred Scripture.

Audio Book. Listen to *Tears of Christ*. This book of St. John Henry Newman's Lenten meditations is divided into forty-two chapters (7-8 mins each). Grow from this saint's insights.

For Teens. Listen to *The Ultimate Goal: Why I Left Pro Soccer to Answer God's Call*. Sr. Raffaella Cavallin shares her story of finding true joy in finding and following God's plan.

Available for FREE! To set up an account, visit Formed.org/ signup and select our parish.

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.



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.

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 or scan the QR code to make a gift.



SCAN ME

Last Year's Blessed Palms – There are boxes for blessed palms at each exit of the Church until the end of Lent. The parish will dispose of them properly. "Once a religious object is blessed... it must be treated with reverence and not be used in either an improper or profane way." (Code of Canon Law)

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