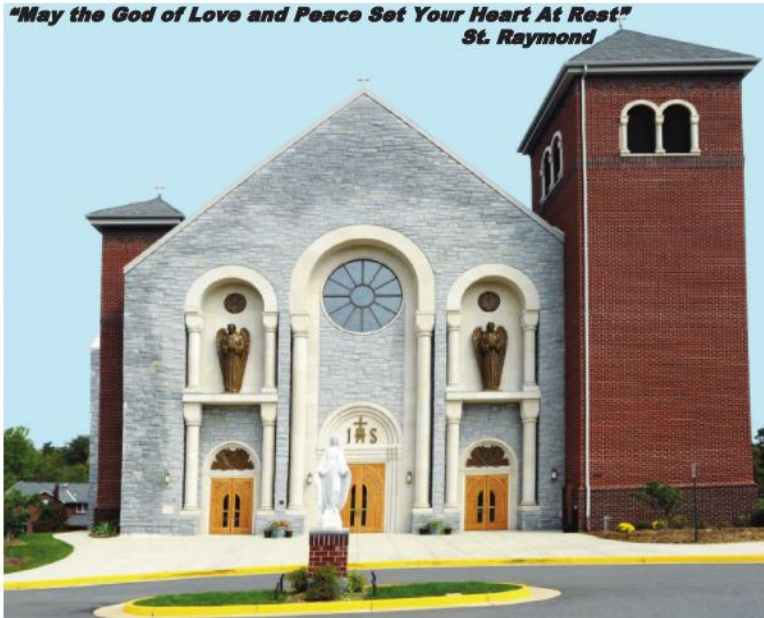


**"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"
St. Raymond**



**Welcome to
St. Raymond of
Peñafort Roman
Catholic Church**

**8750 Pohick Road
Springfield, VA 22153**

WEEKEND MASSES:
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:00 am, 9:00 am (Latin-English), 11:00 am and 1:00 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES:
Monday - Friday:
6:30 am & 8:30 am
Wednesday: 7:00 pm (Sept - May)
Saturday: 9:00 am

Website: www.straymonds.org

Rev. John C. De Celles, Pastor
Rev. Joseph D. Bergida, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Edward R. Horkan, In Residence
Elisabeth Turco, Director of Liturgical Music
Jeanne Sause, Director of Youth Apostolate
Mary Salmon, Director of Religious Education
Mary Hansen, Religious Education Secretary
Michael Thompson, Plant Manager
Maerose Naduvilekunnel, Business Manager
Virginia Osella, Parish Secretary
Dominique Murray, Office Assistant
Mary Butler, Secretary

PARISH OFFICE
Telephone Numbers:

Rectory: 703-440-0535
Rel. Education: 703-440-0537
Fax: 703-440-0538

Office Hours
Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Email

Church: Office@straymonds.org
Pastor: fdc@straymonds.org
Rel. Ed.: ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org

TUITION ASSISTANCE: Please inquire with our office about the availability of partial scholarships for the children of active St. Raymond parishioners attending local Catholic grade schools and high schools.

Angelus Academy
7644 Dynatech Ct, Springfield, VA 22153
703-924-3996

Angelus Academy is a fully-accredited pre-K through 8th grade Catholic School affiliated with the Diocese of Arlington. Although it has no official connection with St. Raymond's, the parish has a longstanding close relationship with Angelus Academy. Many of our parish children already happily attend school there.

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE
(Reconciliation/Confession)**

Wednesday Evening
6:15 - 7:00 pm (during Exposition)

Saturday Morning
8:00 - 9:00 am

Saturday Afternoon
3:30 - 5:00 pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

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

MARRIAGE: Couples wishing to marry must contact a parish priest at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Couples who are living together will be expected to live separately at least during the 3 months prior to the wedding.

RCIA: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which adults (and children who have reached the age of reason) are instructed in the Doctrine of the Church and are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. If you or someone you know, would like to inquire about becoming a Catholic, please call the Parish Office.

BAPTISM: Parents are requested to make arrangements with the Parish Office ONE MONTH in advance. Parents must participate in a one-session pre-Baptismal program and are encouraged to do so before the birth of their child. You must be REGISTERED in the Parish 3 MONTHS prior to the Baptism.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please submit announcements in writing 10 days prior to publication.

Pastor's Corner

Blessed and Happy Easter! I hope you all had a joyful Easter, and that your joy has continued throughout this Easter Week.

I give thanks to the Blessed Trinity for the outpouring of grace and beauty during the Triduum, and I want to thank all the folks who helped make the liturgies of those days so reverent and solemn.

Most especially **I have to thank the Altar Servers**, who served the three great liturgies of the Triduum. We always have a special rehearsal earlier in the day for each of these ceremonies, so that means double duty for the boys. I can't tell you how many people complimented me on their reverence and discipline. Many were also inspired to see the large numbers of boys and young men who served on Holy Thursday (32), Good Friday (34) and the Vigil (22). I was very proud of them all. Thanks also to Chet Bliss who served as Master of Ceremonies.

And the Choir! I can't remember them ever sounding so magnificent. You should all know that they work extra hard during Lent, with all sorts of extra hours of practice during the week. And while singing beautifully, they also pull it off without dominating; their music truly serves and compliments the liturgy.

In this regard I have to particularly give recognition and thanks to **our Music Director, Elisabeth Turco**. Not only is Elisabeth skilled in music and directing, her joyful kindness, even in discipline, is inspiring to anyone who watches her work. Her choir loves her, as does everyone who knows her, including her Pastor.

For those who don't know much about her background, she has been our Music Director since 2007, and before that served in the same position at St. John's in McLean for 20 years. Before that... She immigrated from her native Hungary, where she grew up in the region of Transylvania (yes, *that* Transylvania). She attended a classical music conservatory from age 6 through high school, and then received her Bachelor degree from Gheorghe Dima National Music Academy in Romania. She is THE BEST MUSIC DIRECTOR in our Diocese, and recently served as a member of the Bishop's Diocesan Liturgical Commission. She is the mother of one adult son, whom she is very proud of, and she lives in McLean with her "wonderful" husband. Let's pray that she stays for many years to come.

Thanks also to Julie Mullen and her flower committee; to Nena Brennan, our head sacristan, along with her family; to all the lectors, headed by Phil Bettwy and Patty Pacheco; to all the groups who ran the Soup Suppers; and to the ushers, headed by the omnipresent Patrick O'Brien. Special thanks also to the parish staff for all they did, especially Virginia Osella and Mike Thompson. And thanks to Fr. Bergida and Fr. Horkan for all their hard work, and to Fr. Rippy for all his help.

Finally, **congratulations to our RCIA folks**. We baptized and confirmed 2, and welcomed into full communion and confirmed 3 former Protestants. A warm and joyful welcome to them all. Please keep them in our prayers, and seek them out to help them to become part of our parish. Also, thanks to Bob and Bev Ward for their dedication to their formation.

Divine Mercy Sunday. This Second Sunday in the Octave of Easter is also known as "Divine Mercy Sunday," in recognition of the mercy that flows to all mankind from the Paschal Mystery of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. Pope St. John Paul II established this designation in 2000, inspired by the writings of St. Faustina Kowalska. The Church gives a plenary indulgence for this Sunday: "...granted under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff)

to the faithful who, on the Second Sunday of Easter...in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!)." You may go to confession "within several days (about 20) before or after the indulgenced act." For a brief explanation of indulgences, see the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1471ff.]

Easter Day or Transgender Day? Did you see that the President of the United States declared Easter Sunday to be "Transgender Day of Visibility"? I join the multitude of other voices calling this a blasphemy and a blatant vicious attack on Christianity, paring the central Mystery of our Faith, the Resurrection of Christ, with celebration of the perverse/insane degradation of sexuality which is "transgenderism."

But once again the anti-Christian/anti-Catholic mainstream press defended him. The Associated Press, in its so called "fact checking," once again erroneously called President Biden, "a devout Roman Catholic," a title he gives himself. *Fact Check*: only folks who don't understand or don't like Catholicism would call our brother Joseph "devout." In fact, his own Archbishop, Cardinal Wilton Gregory, on Face the Nation on Easter Sunday, said brother Joseph: "picks and chooses dimensions of the faith to highlight while ignoring or even contradicting other parts...a 'cafeteria Catholic,'..." That's quite an indictment from a man of Cardinal Gregory's very liberal political and theological perspective.

It is true, as the Biden-apologists chant, "Transgender Day of Visibility has been celebrated on March 31 since 2009.... Every year since becoming president, Biden has issued a proclamation around the observance on that date." However: there should be no such "day" in the first place. Moreover, the President is free to choose a different date, so that he could have moved it to April 1 (which would be entirely appropriate, no?). March 31 was arbitrarily set by a small interest group only 14 years ago, and almost no one knows about it; the date has no historic significance. Easter, however, was set as a date fixed in relation to the Spring Equinox, recalling the day Jesus Christ Himself chose to rise from the Dead 2000 years ago, and has been kept by Western Christianity, including Americans, ever since.

And think of this: the Resurrection of Christ is a testament to the dignity and integrity of the human body, as created for glorification in the Resurrection of the Dead. Diseases and other physical ailments can certainly be corrected if necessary for physical health, but the biologically unnecessary manipulation of a healthy body is always an attack on the person and immoral. Specifically, the drugs and surgeries involved in transgender "therapy" is nothing but mutilation, violence and desecration of the human body. Moreover, the Resurrection testifies to the fact that the body and soul are separate but one, making up the person, with the body being the outward manifestation of the person. Gender theory rejects this, and reduces the body to a mere machine, an outward shell, which has nothing to do with the person, and so can be manipulated and desecrated at will.

The devil is really enjoying this one: the day Celebrating his defeat, is a day now celebrating his work. God have mercy on our country. And change the heart of the president. Or give us a new one.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

<p><u>Monday, April 8th</u> 6:30 am Linwood Russel Turner 8:30 am Sharon Foust + 7:00 pm Trayer Family</p> <p><u>Tuesday, April 9th</u> 6:30 am Sandy Asesor + 8:30 am Juanita Boarman +</p> <p><u>Wednesday, April 10th</u> 6:30 am Linda Anezin 8:30 am Anna & Jean Anezin + 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intention</p> <p><u>Thursday, April 11th</u> 6:30 am Rose Heaney Baker + 8:30 am Sundberg Family +</p> <p><u>Friday, April 12th</u> 6:30 am Deacon Ron Korcher + 8:30 am Phyllis Sedgley +</p>	<p><u>Saturday, April 13th</u> 9:00 Lawrence Ehorn +</p> <p><u>Vigil Mass</u> 5:00 pm Cecilia & Francisco Ramos +</p> <p><u>Sunday, April 14th</u> 7:00 am Marvin Hansen + 9:00 am Parishioners 11:00 am Linda Pasternak + 1:00 pm Vicky Decker +</p>
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View livestreaming of the Holy Mass at St. Raymond's!

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

Daily Family Rosary leaders needed! St. Raymond's has a Daily Family Rosary in the church: Mon-Fri at 6:30pm and Saturday and Sunday after the 9am Mass. **Please visit our website to sign up to lead during April!** All are invited to attend. Father De Celles has requested that our Family Rosary be offered every night for "the unity of the Church throughout the world" (in addition to your own intentions). He also asks everyone to pray Cardinal Burke's 9-Month novena prayer after the recitation of the Rosary each day.

Cardinal Burke's 9 Month Novena. 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, beginning March 12 and culminating 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.

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!

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

Please pray for our parishioners serving in Combat Zones and their families. If you have a relative serving in harm's way and would like to have his/her name included in our prayer list, please contact the parish office.

Please pray for the sick of our parish

Glenn Bliss Tom Dietz Michael O'Neill Cindy Laird Patricia Lewis Mai Pham Jason Saenz Phyllis Zitnik Patricia Del Buono John Florio	Debra Henkel Gaudencio Dizon Paul Haynes Dwayne Taylor Ted Tolpa Nena Brennan Serrin Foster Margaret O'Neill Donald Trayer Ellen Trayer	Tom Swengros Arlene Pietraszko Virginia Cummings Helen Zogaib Margaret Carter Donna Foster Peggy Sundberg
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| April 7 | Donut Sunday |
| April 8 | Family of Jesus Prayer Group |
| April 8 | Solemnity of the Annunciation (transferred) |
| | Additional Mass at 7pm |
| April 9 | Bible Study |
| April 10 | Adoration 9am - 7pm |
| April 10 | Legion of Mary 6:30 pm |
| April 12 | Adoration Cancelled due to Funeral |
| April 27 | Spring Senior Luncheon |

Donut Sunday, this weekend, April 7th after the 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 am Masses. Stop by the Parish Hall after Mass to enjoy some treats and drinks and meet your fellow parishioners. We will also have **LOST & FOUND** items out for you to check.

Book Club: The parish Book Club next meets on Friday, April 12th, at 10:00 AM in the St Raymond Library to discuss "Scalia: Rise to Greatness, 1936-1986" by James Rosen. 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.

Gift Shop Narthex Sale: The gift shop will have a table in the Narthex on **April 13 & 14.** We carry First Communion items, crucifixes, bibles, rosaries, jewelry and more. Credit cards, checks, and cash are welcomed. We are also available by appointment. Submit your request at giftshop@StRaymonds.org or call 703-440-0535.

Welcome, New Catholics! St Raymond's Parish extends a warm welcome to the following persons who received the Sacraments of Initiation, enabling them to join the Catholic Church, at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 30, 2024: Ismatu K. Conteh, James I. Davis, Isabella F. Ferlazzo, Emily R. Snyder, Carissa K. Taylor. God bless each of you!

Annual Spring Senior Luncheon

WHO: All Seniors 55 years young and above
 WHERE: St. Raymond's Parish Hall
 DATE: April 27, 12:00 - 2:00 pm
 MENU: Honey Baked Ham and all the trimmings (Free!)
RSVP by April 22 by emailing office@straymonds.org
Or by calling the office at 703-440-0535



RESURREXIT, ALLELUIA! May Christ's victory bring renewed peace, hope and joy to you and your family. Happy Easter to all from your St. John Bosco Knights of Columbus Council of St. Raymond's parish! Speaking of the Knights, did you know that by joining the Knights of Columbus, you will become part of the largest Catholic fraternity in the world, grow in faith and be supported by a true brotherhood built on shared values? Don't wait ... join the Knights now! 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:

4/8 Membership Meeting (7:30 pm; 7pm Rosary – Library)
 4/12: Pints with Aquinas
 4/13 Spring 4th Degree Exemplification (Richmond, VA)
 4/13-14 KOVAR Collection (After Masses)
 4/20-21: Car Raffle Ticket Sales (After Masses)

Weekend Discernment Retreat for Women in June. Has God made your heart for religious life? Take a step to find out. The annual diocesan discernment retreat for single women who feel called to a religious vocation is Friday-Sunday, June 14-16. The Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles will lead the retreat this year. It will also include tools to aid your prayer and discernment, as well as opportunities for prayer, confession, spiritual direction, and Q&A with the sisters. Cost is \$150 (financial assistance is available). For more information or to register, contact Fr. Michael Isenberg at vocations@arlingtondiocese.org. Space is limited; deadline to register is Monday, June 3.

You are invited to join the Diocese of Arlington for the historic 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. For pricing and more information, check out our website at <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/national-eucharistic-revival/>.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends. Married Couples: Why not give yourselves a weekend away from it all. Time away from the pressures of work and everyday responsibilities. A chance to talk and listen to that special someone who loves you. If that sounds good to you, sign up now for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.

For more information or to register, go to WWME.org, click "Apply" and search for "Virginia" or your desired location. Feel free to contact Mark and Cathy Stangler at 703-378-4150 or mstang1987@aol.com with any questions. Here are a few upcoming experiences: April 12-14, 2024 - Herndon, VA; May 3-5, 2024 - Hickory, NC

"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." Are you considering to be a priest, sister or brother who proclaims the truth and peace of Jesus Christ? Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org or (703) 841-2514.

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 and burial. amomspeace.org.

Do you have a real-life (not simply academic) bioethical question? **The National Catholic Bioethics Center** offers explanations of Catholic moral teaching to help you form your conscience in fidelity to the magisterium. Free confidential person to person interaction. ncbcenter.org/consultation-form. An ethicist will respond within 5 business days. Urgent matter? Call 215-877-2660.

Tepeyac Pro Life OB/GYN: Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare. tepeyacobgyn.com 703-273-9440. The center strives to be an instrument of the healing power of God's mercy and love, in order that a deeper respect for all human life may be nurtured. 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.

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.

Have you taken or do you know someone who has taken an **abortion pill**? Call the abortion reversal helpline 855-209-4848. **It may not be too late.** abortionpillreversal.com.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy compel us to visit the imprisoned, but few are called to physically enter jails. However, we can and should pray for those who are imprisoned. In Alexandria, just 15 miles from here, 8 peaceful pro-life activists are imprisoned awaiting sentencing for entering an abortion clinic in DC in 2020 to try to convince mothers not to abort their babies. Now they face up to 11 years in jail. Please pray for Divine Mercy and justice for Lauren, Heather, Herb, John, Will, Jonathan, Joan, Jean and Paulette (house arrest, 75 years old in poor health) that they may not despair and that Our Lord will comfort and protect them. "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Jn 8:32

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>

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY.. for individuals or families: 120 DOZEN cookies needed for prisoners on retreat!!

One of our parishioners, Mr. Bob Keegan, has recently signed up to help with Kairos Prison Ministry, the prison ministry of our diocese. He will be helping with a multiday retreat for the prisoners AND has also been tasked with providing **120 DOZEN HOMEMADE COOKIES**. That is a LOT of cookies! If you are willing to make a dozen cookies, or more, sign up online at <https://bit.ly/cookies4prisoners>. Make sure to follow the instructions for baking and packaging. **Cookies should be dropped off at the parish by April 15th.**

Youth Group & CCD Sunday, April 7th

4-5:30pm Junior High Youth Group (pizza served)
5:30-7pm CCD
7-8:30pm High School Youth Group (snacks served)

Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group 5:30-7pm Monday, April 8th (Maurer Room)

High School Ladies! Deepen your faith, play fun games, and grow in sisterhood!

High School Swing Dance (last one for this academic year) 7-9pm on Saturday, April 13 at Angelus Academy!

Mark your Calendar...More Info Soon!

May 4: Jr. High Bash (2:30-9:30pm at O'Connell HS)

- Grades 6-8
- Mass with Bishop Burbidge
- Illusionist Danny Ray
- Speaker Mari Pablo
- Inflatables, gagaball tournament, ice cream & more
- \$15/youth

June 22-28: St. Raymond's Parish Service Week!

- Open to current 8-12th Graders
- Adults of all ages are encouraged to participate!
- There will also be various opportunities for families & people of all ages to participate throughout the week!
- Please keep this week in your prayers as we continue to plan

July 12-14:: Steubenville Youth Conference

- Open to current 8-12th graders
- Cost (includes ticket, transportation & 2 t-shirts)
 - Parishioners \$200
 - Non-Parishioners \$315
- Compliant Adult Chaperones/Drivers Needed!

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

BLESSED AND HAPPY EASTER
to you all!!

CCD classes resume this week
- beginning TONIGHT (April 7th)

Attention parents of 8th grade
students:

Confirmation Gown Order form is due April 18th. Please submit the form - by email or in person - ASAP if you have not already done so!



Attention parents of 2nd grade students: First Holy Communion Mini-Retreat will take place Saturday April 20th from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. here at St. Raymond's

Attention parents of 7th Grade students: Saint Report in the Interviewing a Saint format is due May 8th - check the Confirmation Supplement, which you received in September, for details.

Final Exams will be administered May 13, 14 and 19: Parents, please work with your children in learning the material in the Second Semester section of the Basic Study Questions booklet for their grade level.

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.

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.

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 3:00 pm. If you have any prayer requests, please let us know by emailing Elaine Perricone at jpebtp@verizon.net or by calling the parish office. You may also write down your prayer requests and drop them in the "Prayer Box" on the table in the narthex of the church.

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.

Church Persecuted

One of the most insightful recently published offerings, that reveals the current state of the Western world, is the three-volume set of the late George Cardinal Pell’s *Prison Journal* where he has a unique view of worldly events both past and present from a prison cell. Here is an excerpt from Volume 1, *The Cardinal Makes His Appeal* (pg. 310-311).

“We are entering a new world of ideas with the collapse of monotheism, especially in the middle and upper classes. The WASPs [White Anglo-Saxon Protestants] have morphed into the WASSs, the secularists. Human beings no longer have an innate dignity because they are made in God’s image; men and women are no longer made for one another, by any divine providence, because there is no such thing as human nature and therefore no moral laws to enhance human flourishing, despite the fact that many unbelievers adhere fiercely to the laws and truths that must be followed to enhance human physical health, personally and publicly, and to protect the environment.

“Western civilization has made us what we are, and one reason for its achievements is the creative tension between Athens and Jerusalem. Both cities are under attack. Jerusalem and Rome (her ally) bear the brunt of this assault, the frontal assaults, but her weakness makes it hard to defend Athens. When God is lost in the fog, whether it is the fog of lust or of possessions or of power, the defenses of reason and truth are breached. Only now, at least in the English-speaking world, are we coming to terms with the second reality, the changes to public life which follow from the dissolution of Christian convictions.”



Get In-Formed!

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

Watch *Living Easter as a Season*. Augustine Institute’s Drs. Tim Gray and Ben Akers discuss Eastertide, the 50-day season of Easter.

Watch *Divine Mercy*. In this 10-part series, Fr. Michael Gaitley focuses on the depth of God’s love and mercy, especially as revealed through St. Faustina, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and Pope St. John Paul II. Accompanying study guides available for purchase on the site.

Watch *The Face of Mercy*. Jim Caviezel narrates this film about the message of Divine Mercy while presenting multiple testimonies of God’s amazing mercy in people’s lives.

We need VOLUNTEERS for a committee to promote and spread enthusiasm for Formed.org to our parishioners. If interested, please contact Vanessa, formed@straymonds.org

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.

2024 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA): Behold, I make all things new. Don't forget to make a donation to the BLA to help us reach our parish goal. You can go online to www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA or scan the QR code to make a gift.



SCAN ME

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LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Easter Sunday Offertory	\$ 26,146.00
Family Assistance	\$ 357.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,414.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 2,524.00
Holy Land Shrines	\$ 4,000.00

Additional Easter Flower Donations made in memory of:

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