

**"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

Happy Easter! The Octave of Easter is over, but the Season of Easter, or “**Eastertide**,” continues until the Feast of Pentecost on May 19. That means 50 days of Easter! This reminds us of the 40 days the Risen Jesus walked the Earth and taught his apostles and disciples, until he ascended bodily to heaven on the 40th day, and then the following days of preparing for the coming of the Holy Spirit. The length of the season reminds us that Christ is still risen, and is with us always, and that we share in the life of the Risen Christ through our baptism.

Bishop Burbidge Here Next Sunday. Our Bishop will be here next Sunday, April 21, to celebrate the 11am Mass. There will be a small reception afterwards in the parish hall. (No special occasion or reason for his visit, he just wants to visit his people and priests).

Dignitatis Infinita. This last Monday the Dicastery of the Doctrine of the Faith issued the declaration *Dignitatis Infinita (DI)*, applying the Church’s constant teaching on the dignity of human beings to many of the current moral issues facing Christians and all society. I have only begun to read the document, so I don’t have a lot to say about it. However, it addresses with particular clarity the issue of “transgenderism” or “gender theory”:

“...respect for both one’s own body and that of others is crucial in light of the proliferation of claims to new rights advanced by gender theory. This ideology ‘envisages a society without sexual differences, thereby eliminating the anthropological basis of the family.’ It thus becomes unacceptable that ‘some ideologies of this sort...manage to assert themselves as absolute and unquestionable, even dictating how children should be raised. It needs to be emphasized that ‘biological sex and the socio-cultural role of sex (gender) can be distinguished but not separated.’ **Therefore, all attempts to obscure reference to the ineliminable sexual difference between man and woman are to be rejected:** ‘We cannot separate the masculine and the feminine from God’s work of creation, which is prior to all our decisions and experiences, and where biological elements exist which are impossible to ignore.’ Only by acknowledging and accepting this difference in reciprocity can each person fully discover themselves, their dignity, and their identity.”

Abortion and Politics. This week presidential candidate and former-President Trump released his position on 2 important Pro-Life issues: “In vitro fertilization” and federal legislation to restrict abortion access. Here is an excerpt:

“We want to make it easier for mothers and families to have babies, not harder. That includes supporting the availability of fertility treatments like IVF in every state in America.

“...Many people have asked me what my position is on abortion and abortion rights, especially since I was proudly the person responsible for the ending*Roe v. Wade*....

“It must be remembered that the Democrats are the radical ones on this position because they support abortion up to and even beyond the ninth month...”

“My view is now that we have abortion where everybody wanted it from a legal standpoint. **The states will determine by vote or legislation** or perhaps both, and whatever they decide must be the law of the land. In this case, the law of the state....

“At the end of the day this is all about the will of the people. You must follow your heart, or in many cases your religion or your faith. Do what’s right for your family ...for

yourself, ...for your children, ...for our country, and vote...”

“Like Ronald Reagan, I am strongly in favor of exceptions for rape, incest and life of the mother....

“...but we must win. We have to win. We are a failing nation, but we can be a failing nation no longer. ...”

So, first, **he’s very wrong on IVF**, the Church clearly teaches this is always grossly immoral.

What about **leaving abortion laws to the states**. I think Trump is correct in claiming credit for ending the false national “right to abortion.” But now the question is how and where to legislate to stop abortion. Should it done by a federal law, or state law? Should it be an absolute total ban, from conception on and including rape or incest? Should restrictions be phased in gradually, or immediately?

First consider what **St. Thomas Aquinas** (ST I-II, q. 93, a. 3, ad 3) says about legislating against evil:

“Human law is said to permit certain things, not as approving them, but as being unable to direct them. And many things are directed by the Divine law, which human law is unable to direct, because more things are subject to a higher than to a lower cause. Hence the very fact that human law does not meddle with matters it cannot direct, comes under the ordination of the eternal law. It would be different, were human law to sanction what the eternal law condemns. Consequently it does not follow that human law is not derived from the eternal law, but that it is not on a perfect equality with it.”

So, the law cannot “sanction” or “approve” evil (i.e., the law cannot affirmatively support abortion, as did *Roe*) but it can permit evil, and not legislate against evil if it is “unable to.” The law may justly tolerate some moral evils, but cannot approve of them or establish a right to commit them.

Therefore, while all abortions are evil, in our society it might not be possible, and so not absolutely required, to outlaw all abortions.

Then consider what Pope **St. John Paul II** wrote in *Evangelium Vitae* (73):

“In the case of ...a law permitting abortion or euthanasia, it is therefore never licit to obey it, or to ‘take part in a propaganda campaign in favour of such a law, or vote for it.’ A particular problem of conscience can arise in cases where a legislative vote would be decisive for the passage of a more restrictive law, aimed at limiting the number of authorized abortions, in place of a more permissive law already passed or ready to be voted on.....In a case like the one just mentioned...an elected official, whose absolute personal opposition to procured abortion was well known, could licitly support proposals aimed at limiting the harm done by such a law and at lessening its negative consequences at the level of general opinion and public morality.”

Therefore, it would seem that Trumps position is not necessarily immoral, and one may agree with, actively support or merely tolerate it, as long as one continues to strive to move society to stand against the evil of abortion.

On the other hand, based on all this, **President Biden’s** continuing support for pro-abortion laws and the “fundamental right to abortion” clearly constitute what St. Thomas calls “sanctioning” or “approving” of evil, and falls under the condemnation of the Church stated in *Evangelium Vitae* (72):

“In the case of an intrinsically unjust law, such as a law permitting abortion it is therefore never licit to obey it, or to ‘take part in a propaganda campaign in favour of such a law, or vote for it’”

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

<p>Monday, April 15th 6:30 am Francisco & Kolbie Garcia 8:30 am Marvin Hansen +</p> <p>Tuesday, April 16th 6:30 am Vicky Decker + 8:30 am Pope Benedict XVI +</p> <p>Wednesday, April 17th 6:30 am Sandy Asesor + 8:30 am Sandra Vlcek + 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intention</p> <p>Thursday, April 18th 6:30 am Elizabeth Obejera + 8:30 am Sandra Vlcek +</p> <p>Friday, April 19th 6:30 am Patricia Holland + 8:30 am In Reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary</p>	<p>Saturday, April 20th 9:00 Sandy Asesor +</p> <p>Vigil Mass 5:00 pm Fr. De Celles James Miller +</p> <p>Sunday, April 21st 7:00 am Fr. Rippy Sandra Giglio + 9:00 am Fr. Bergida Parishioners 11:00 am Bishop Burbidge Laura Schweitzer 1:00 pm Fr. Horkan Jeanne Sause</p>
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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

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

- April 15** Family of Jesus Prayer Group
- April 16** Bible Study
- April 17** Adoration 9am - 7pm
- April 17** Legion of Mary 6:30 pm
- April 19** Adoration 9am - 3pm
- April 20** Men's Prayer Group
- April 27** Spring Senior Luncheon

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!

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.

The Men's Prayer Group welcomes you. All men of the parish are invited to gather on the first and third Saturdays of the month to share prayers, breakfast and learn our faith with one another. We meet in the parish hall at 7:30 am. Call Dave at 703 966 5327 for more information. **We will have our next gathering on April 20.**

Bishop Burbidge will join us next Sunday. Our Bishop will be here next Sunday, April 21, to celebrate the 11am Mass. There will be a small reception afterwards in the parish hall. (No special occasion or reason for his visit, he just wants to visit his people and priests).

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

Mass to Pray for Healing of Victims/Survivors of Abuse. All of the faithful are invited to attend a Mass to Pray for Healing of Victims/Survivors of Sexual Abuse celebrated by Bishop Burbidge at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Arlington on Thursday, June 20, at 6:30 pm. Reception to follow. Please join us as we gather to pray for the healing of victims/survivors, their loved ones, and for the Church. This event is hosted by the Diocese of Arlington's Office of Victim Assistance. For more information, please call (703) 841-2530.



SPRING IS HERE ... A TIME FOR NEW BEGINNINGS! NO BETTER TIME TO BECOME A KNIGHT! 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!**



Upcoming Events:

4/20-21: Car Raffle Ticket Sales (After Masses)
4/27-28: Car Raffle Ticket Sales (After Masses)
5/9: Officers Meeting
5/11: Blood Drive (Parish Hall)

LAST CHANCE FOR CAR RAFFLE TICKETS! Next weekend, the Knights of Columbus will be selling raffle tickets in the Narthex after all of the Masses. This will be the last chance to purchase raffle tickets, as the Car Raffle will be held the following weekend (April 27th). Four vehicles will be raffled off, along with a \$20,000 cash prize. If you haven't already done so, be sure to purchase your tickets! There are lots of chances to win, but only if you purchase a ticket! If you need more tickets or have questions, please call Mark Lawton at (703) 576-7693.

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.

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**? Abortion reversal helpline 855-209-4848. **It may not be too late.** abortionpillreversal.com.

"Fewer women would have abortions if wombs had windows." Bernard Nathanson (former abortionist)



Me...

Still Me!

Thank you for your support of **A Best Choice Mobile Ultrasound and Pregnancy Resource Center.** The only one in our diocese - Endorsed by Bishop Burbidge. Abestchoice.us

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate

<https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/youth-apostolate/>

*All are welcome to participate in Youth Apostolate events.
Make sure forms are signed and on file. <http://bit.ly/YAforms>

Youth Group & CCD Sunday, April 14th

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

5:30-7pm CCD

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

6:30am Mass & Breakfast every Friday through June 7th!

All 7-12th graders: Join us Friday mornings for Mass followed by breakfast with Fr. Horkan & Fr. Bergida in the parish hall. If you RSVP at <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVP> by Wed. we can coordinate our volunteers to drive you to school by 8am! If not, you can show up for Mass and have your parent drive you to school after breakfast Either way, RSVPs help!

Sons of Thunder: High School Guys' Group

7-8:30pm Tuesday, April 15th (Maurer Room)

High School Men: Fr. Bergida, Mr. Phil and Mr. Nate invite you to come join the brotherhood! Dive deeper into your faith and learn how to LIVE it out. Great food!

Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group

5:30-7pm Monday, April 22nd (Maurer Room)

High School Ladies! "Little Girl, arise!" (Mt. 5:41) and come to Talitha Koum! Deepen your faith, play fun games, and grow in sisterhood!

Mark your Calendar...check website for more info.

<https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/youth-apostolate/>

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

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 NEXT Saturday April 20th from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm 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.

We are in need of the following volunteers for the 2024-2025 academic year:

Sunday (5:30-7 pm):

Grade 4 Teacher

Grade 7 Teacher and Assistant Teacher

Monday (4:45-6:15 pm):

Grade 3 Teacher

Grade 5 Assistant Teacher

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 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

In 1995, the 4th United Nations (UN) sponsored World Women’s Conference took place in Beijing, China. While the Holy See (the Vatican’s diplomatic arm) was not a voting member of the UN, it was permitted to be an active participant (much like the delegates to the U.S. Congress representing territories and the District of Columbia). The Holy See delegation was headed by Mary Ann Glendon, an eminent professor of law on the Harvard University faculty. Supporting the Vatican delegation were non-government organizations (NGOs) that helped augment the very small Vatican delegation. A current St. Raymond parishioner was one of those NGOs.

One of the “jobs” of the Holy See NGO’s was to sit in on the many subcommittee and sub-subcommittee meetings where much of the actual “work” of the conference took place... work to create a consensus document on women. During one of these meetings, the U.S. delegation was pushing a strongly pro-life Latin American nation to sign on to the U.N. statement affirming abortion rights. And then came the “or else!” “The U.S. will withhold an aid grant earmarked for your country.”

Fast forward to 2024, another NGO reports that, “The Biden Administration is pressuring the government of Guatemala to withdraw its signature from the pro-life Geneva Consensus Declaration.” Guatemala is one of the strongest pro-life countries in Central America. This Declaration initiated by the Trump Administration “promotes life, women’s health, and family.” The declaration “acknowledges that no international right to abortion exists.” Thirty-six nations have signed the declaration.

How is this pressure being carried out? Last week the current president of Guatemala met with both the president and vice president of the U.S. and “Several measures were announced including an initial \$170 million in aid.” Money talks!

https://c-fam.org/friday_fax/biden-pressures-guatemala-to-withdraw-from-pro-life-document-senate-responds/



The parish has already purchased a FORMED subscription for you!

To set up your account, scan this QR code or visit [Formed.org/signup](https://www.formed.org/) and select our parish.



The best Catholic content for all ages in one place - movies, series, Bible studies, apologetics, catechesis, lectures, prayers, dramas, & ebooks—just one click away!

Watch anytime, anywhere on your electronic devices: computer, tablet, Smart phone, Smart TV, etc. See the bulletin board in the vestibule for instructions on getting the App for mobile devices and for content suggestions. Download content to enjoy offline when on the go!

We need VOLUNTEERS for a committee to promote and spread enthusiasm for [Formed.org](https://www.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](https://www.formed.org/) 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://www.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

FAITH DIRECT: eGiving helps you provide regular support to St. Raymond’s, even when you are out of town. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Sign up today by visiting [faith.direct/VA64](https://www.faith.direct/VA64). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Offertory	\$ 14,670.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,751.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,180.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 2,051.00

Watch for our Constant Contact Updates! If you are not receiving emails from the parish, please contact the parish office at 703-440-0535 or office@straymonds.org to verify your email address.



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