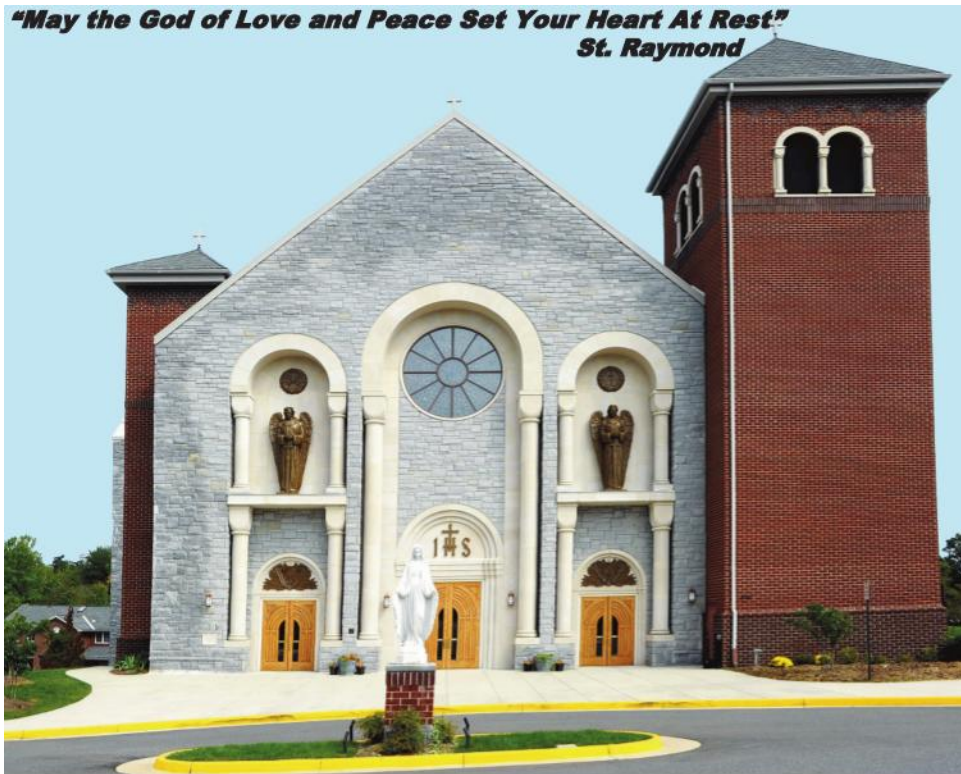


**"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"  
St. Raymond**



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

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

### **PARISH OFFICE**

Telephone Numbers:

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

### **Office Hours**

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

### **Email**

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

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

### **Angelus Academy**

**7644 Dynatech Ct, Springfield, VA 22153  
703-924-3996**

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

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

#### **Wednesday Evening**

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

#### **Saturday Morning**

8:00 - 9:00 am

#### **Saturday Afternoon**

3:30 - 5:00 pm

### **EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Wednesday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

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

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

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

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

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

## Pastor's Corner

**Welcome Bishop Michael F. Burbidge!** We are honored to have our Bishop visit our Parish today to offer the 11am Mass for us. All are invited to join us at Mass and at the reception immediately following.

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge was born June 16, 1957 in Philadelphia, PA, the second son of Francis and Shirley Burbidge and brother of Francis Burbidge, Jr. He attended Catholic grade schools and high school in Springfield, PA. After graduating from high school in 1975 he attended St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia by John Cardinal Krol in 1984.

Bishop Burbidge holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy and a master's in theology from St. Charles Borromeo, a master's in education administration from Villanova University, and a doctorate in education from Immaculata College.

His first priestly assignment was as parochial vicar of St. Bernard Church in Philadelphia, where he served for two years. From 1986-1992 he was on the faculties, successively, of Cardinal O'Hara High School, Archbishop Wood High School and St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, where he also served as Dean of Students.

In 1992 Fr. Burbidge was named administrative secretary to Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, Archbishop of Philadelphia. In 1998 he was made a Monsignor, and in 1999 he was appointed Rector of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

In 2002 he was ordained an auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia. As auxiliary bishop, he oversaw the Office of the Vicar for Clergy and the Office of Communications.

On June 8, 2006, Pope Benedict XVI named Bishop Burbidge the fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh, and on October 4, 2016, Pope Francis named him the fourth Bishop of Arlington.

Bishop Burbidge has served as USCCB chairman for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations (2013 to 2016) and was the chairman of the USCCB Committee on Communications (2018 to 2021). He was also a member of the USCCB Administrative Committee (2018 to 2021) and a member of the USCCB Religious Liberty Committee (2018 to 2021). Additionally, he serves as a member of The Catholic University of America's Board of Trustees, its Executive Committee and its Seminary Committee (2009 to present). He is a member of the Mount Saint Mary's Board of Trustees (2019 to present) and its Seminary Development Committee (2021 to present). He is also a current member of the Board of Trustees of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (2017 to present) and the current chair of its Finance Committee (2020 to present). He is a member of the Episcopal Advisory Board of Catholic Athletes for Christ (2007 to present), the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors Episcopal Advisory Board (2008 to present), the Virginia Catholic Conference Management Committee (2017 to present), the Catholic Distance University Board of Trustees (2018 to present), and member of the Board of Trustees of the Commissariat of the Holy Land (2019 to present). Bishop Burbidge currently serves as chairman of the USCCB Pro-Life Committee (2022 to present).

Bishop Burbidge has published pastoral letters titled, "In Tongues All Can Hear: Communicating the Hope of Christ in Times of Trial" and "A Catechesis on the Human Person and Gender Ideology."

**CatholicVote.org.** As you may know, I am very happy to be the Chaplain for Catholic Vote. CV, as their website says, "is a community of patriotic Americans who believe that the timeless truths of the Catholic faith are good for America," and so make

their mission to inspire every Catholic in America to live out the truths of our faith in public life. It is not affiliated with or funded by the Catholic Bishops, but is a layperson-led effort of Americans who fully support the teachings of the Catholic Church, and strives for a fruitful relationship with the shepherds of the Church. 100% of CV funding comes from its members. I am the only cleric "on staff," and my job is just to support them spiritually and sacramentally.

CV is not "owned" by any party or movement, in order to be better able to pursue the common good than a partisan organization could be. But it does "take sides" if one candidate or policy position is decidedly against the principles we hold dear.

It is managed by a core full-time staff that works in collaboration with a select group of allies, media and web agencies, and volunteers.

You may be familiar with some of CV's features, including various commercials, newsclips, videos, the Catholic Accountability Project, EDIFY Podcasts, and especially **The Loop**, its daily newsletter. If you are not receiving The Loop, I encourage you to sign up for free: <https://join.catholicvote.org/05197079/>.

**"Bill Maher says the quiet part out loud."** Did you see this story last week (quoting here from the Washington Times)?

*"Liberal comedian Bill Maher stoked the abortion battle by declaring the procedure is pretty much murder, but that he's 'OK with that.'*

*"The TV host took a jab at former President Donald Trump for his stance in favor of leaving abortion policy to the states, saying, 'You mean killing babies is OK in some states?'*

*"I can respect the absolutist position. I really can," he said on HBO's 'Real Time With Bill Maher.' 'I scold the left when they say, 'Oh, you know what? They just hate women, people who aren't pro-choice.'"*

*"Mr. Maher said that pro-lifers 'don't hate women' and that the opposition 'just made that up.'*

*"Anti-abortion people 'think it's murder, and it kind of is,' he said on the Friday show. 'I'm just OK with that. I am. I mean, there's 8 billion people in the world. I'm sorry, we won't miss you. That's my position on it.'"*

*"Pro-life advocates were horrified by the callousness of his statement — and gratified to hear a major pro-choice media figure declare that abortion is more than the discarding of an insignificant clump of cells.*

*"Bill Maher says the quiet part out loud," said March for Life on X.*

*"Christopher Reid, a radio host in Huntsville, Alabama, wrote on X that Mr. Maher's comment is 'the only honest pro-choice argument I have ever heard in my entire life!'"*

*"He added, 'It's remarkable that he is admitting what everyone who supports abortion realizes deep down, but so few will ever say it.'"*

*"Catholic League President Bill Donohue said in a statement, 'Maher's sincerity is appreciated, if not his promotion of violence. He knows, as every honest person who agrees with science knows, that abortion is the taking of innocent human life.'"*

*"....Mr. Maher's comment was met initially with silence, and then guest Piers Morgan responded, 'That's kind of harsh, Bill.'"*

*"Mr. Maher shot back: 'Is that not your position if you're pro-choice?'"*

**Priest Assignments.** Please pray for the Bishop and priests of the Diocese in the coming weeks as decisions are made about assignments and transfers that will be effective in July.

**Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles**



**MASS INTENTIONS**

<p><b>Monday, April 22nd</b>          6:30 am Richard Brown +          8:30 am Michael Malachowski+</p> <p><b>Tuesday, April 23rd</b>          6:30 am Zachary Hoopes          8:30 am Prohaska Family</p> <p><b>Wednesday, April 24th</b>          6:30 am Andy Doychak +          8:30 am In reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary          7:00 pm Celebrant's Intention</p> <p><b>Thursday, April 25th</b>          6:30 am Sally Christensen +          8:30 am Joseph Zadareky +</p> <p><b>Friday, April 26th</b>          6:30 am Liz Haberkorn Plust +          8:30 am Maureen Green +</p>	<p><b>Saturday, April 27th</b>          9:00 William "Bill" F. Delaney +</p> <p><b>Vigil Mass</b>          5:00 pm <b>Fr. Bergida</b>          Rogarciano Florido, Jr +</p> <p><b>Sunday, April 28th</b>          7:00 am <b>Fr. Rippy</b>          Anthony Potts +          9:00 am <b>Fr. De Celles</b>          Parishioners          11:00 am <b>Bergida</b>          Elizabeth Hurley +          1:00 pm <b>Fr. Horkan</b>          Liz Haberkorn Plust +</p>
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**View livestreaming of the Holy Mass at St. Raymond's!**

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

Monday - Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am

Saturday at 9:00 am

Sunday Mass at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

(See the website for Holy Days)

**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](http://novena.cardinalburke.com).

**St. Raymond's has Adoration Wednesdays and Fridays!** Would you like to spend an hour in silent prayer and reflection with our Lord during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament? We are in need of weekly adorers especially at **12:00 pm 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!

**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	Arlene Pietraszko Virginia Cummings Helen Zogaib Margaret Carter Donna Foster Roy Decker Larry Downs Claire Flores Joseph Portele
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**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

- April 22** Family of Jesus Prayer Group
- April 23** Bible Study
- April 24** Adoration 9am - 7pm
- April 24** Legion of Mary 6:30 pm
- April 26** Adoration 9am - 3pm
- April 27** Spring Senior Luncheon
- May 3-4** First Friday Nocturnal Adoration
- May 4** Men's Prayer Group and Luminaries
- May 11** Blood Drive in Parish Hall

**Bishop Burbidge will join us this Sunday.** Our Bishop will be here today, 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). Please join us in welcoming Bishop Burbidge!

**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](mailto:office@straymonds.org)**

**Or by calling the office at 703-440-0535**

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

**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: 27-28: Blood Drive Sign-ups (After Mass)  
5/9: Officers Meeting  
5/11: Blood Drive (Parish Hall)

**LAST CHANCE FOR CAR RAFFLE TICKETS!** This weekend is the last chance to buy raffle tickets as the Car Raffle will be held next Saturday (April 27th) at All Saints Parish. Four vehicles will be raffled off, along with a \$20,000 cash prize. Be sure to drop by the Narthex after Mass to purchase your tickets if you haven't already done so. There are lots of chances to win, but only if you purchase a ticket!

**Weekend Discernment Retreat for Women in June.** The annual diocesan discernment retreat for single women who feel called to a religious vocation is Friday-Sunday, June 14-16. 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](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org). Space is limited; deadline to register is Monday, June 3.

**Natural Family Planning Class:** St. Raymond's will be hosting a one day postpartum NFP class on Sunday, May 5th from 1-3pm offered by the Couple to Couple League (Sympto-Thermal Method) and taught by parishioners, Joe and Jenny Sundy. This postpartum class is intended for those who have already been trained in the sympto-thermal method. To sign up, please visit <https://ccli.powerappsportals.com/en-US/> and search "Postpartum" "English" and "Onsite" then enter your zip code. Please direct questions to Jenny Sundy at 719-649-4688. If you are interested in the 3 session initial NFP training offered by the Couple to Couple League, please also contact Jenny.

**Diocesan Jubilee Festival: Saturday, June 8, 2024.** Bishop Burbidge invites you to the Diocesan Jubilee Fest at Warren County Fairgrounds in Front Royal, Virginia on Saturday, June 8! Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Diocese of Arlington with your parish family and thousands of faithful from across northern Virginia. Kick off the festival giving thanks to God with the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, celebrated by Bishop Burbidge. Following Mass, enjoy live music by headliner Celtic rock band, Scythian. This is a free event for all ages! Registration is required to receive a complimentary meal. Visit [arlingtondiocese.org/jubilee-fest](http://arlingtondiocese.org/jubilee-fest) to learn more and register!

**SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE**  
*Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH. Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE*

**MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center:** We proudly partner with MaRiH (Mary Rose in Haste – to help Elizabeth) as they serve local expectant mothers in need. Knowing each child has an unrevealed holy purpose, MaRiH volunteers strive to see the face of God in the mothers and families they help. **Thank you for generously supporting this work of mercy.** Donations welcome in the narthex collection box near the elevator. [marih.org](http://marih.org). See their lovely thank you note in the narthex!

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](http://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](http://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](http://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 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration: November 8<sup>th</sup>!*

**Help After Abortion: Project Rachel Helpline:** (703) 841-2504 (888-456-HOPE) **For Men:** (703) 841-3833 or [info@helpafterabortion.org](mailto:info@helpafterabortion.org)

**Give a Gift for Life!** No woman should ever feel that she is alone or that abortion is her only choice. **Gabriel Project** helps pregnant moms welcome their babies. For more info, call 866-444-3553 or contact [GabrielProject@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:GabrielProject@arlingtondiocese.org).

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

On the issue of abortion, the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** (CCC) – in unambiguous language – fully condemns the act of abortion and the act of cooperating with, endorsing or supporting abortion in any manner: **2270** "Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person – among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life." [cf. CDF, *Donum Vitae* I, 1]

## 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>

### **Sunday 4/21: BOTH YOUTH GROUPS at 4pm TONIGHT**

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

### **Youth Group & CCD Sunday, April 28th**

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. Please RSVP at <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVP> if at all possible.

### **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
- **REGISTRATION DUE TODAY 4/21**

### **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](mailto:youth@straymonds.org) Call/Text: 571-334-9890

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

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**BLESSED AND HAPPY EASTER Season to you all!!**

### **Attention parents of 8th grade students:**

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

**Confirmation interviews** are taking place tomorrow 4/22. If you are not sure of the time for your child's interview, please contact the RE office.

### **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 p.m.):**

**Grade 4 Teacher**

**Grade 7 Teacher and Assistant Teacher**

### **Monday (4:45-6:15 p.m.):**

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**Fourth Sunday of Easter - World Day of Prayer for Vocations - April 21, 2024.** On this Good Shepherd Sunday we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, especially for our diocese. If you are considering such a vocation, contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, [michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org) or (703) 841-2514.



### Church Persecuted

Father De Celles' column of April 7 reporting that President Biden officially proclaimed Easter Sunday as Transgender Day of Visibility is worthy of a follow up. It doesn't take a theologian or a politician to realize the significance of disrupting the Christian world's most sacred day with this proclamation. Either the president and his staff are blatantly ignorant of the religious significance of Easter, or they did it intentionally to undermine Christian celebrations around the U.S. Interestingly, this proclamation, which was posted on the White House X (formerly Twitter) English-language account, was not posted on its Spanish-language X site. It appears that the administration did not want to upset the Spanish-speaking Christians, who are generally opposed to this lifestyle and whose votes are desperately needed in November.

This proclamation directly attacks religious liberty and defines those who oppose LGBTQI+ behaviors and surgeries as "extremists" who propose "hateful laws." This is a continuing attempt to create executive orders to normalize unhealthy and sinful behaviors. In doing so, the administration suppresses dissent to the point that in many states it is prohibited to counsel an individual who seeks to reverse negative effects sustained by living an LGBTQI+ lifestyle.

But what has history shown us about the human person? (1) There are two sexes, male and female (cf. Gen 1:27). (2) The human person is made with "an 'embodied soul,' the composite of the spiritual and physical." (3) Male and female differences are "ordered towards their complementary union in marriage." (See "A Catechesis on the Human Person and Gender Ideology," Most Rev. Michael Burbridge, Diocese of Arlington.) In truth, the "extremists" labeled by the proclamation are actually the ones with a clear understanding of the human person. As Bishop Burbridge delineates, "No one 'is' transgender."

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/>

www.msn.com, "White House Spanish X account doesn't mention 'Transgender Day of Visibility'"



Get In-Formed!

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

Watch *Metanoia: A Journey with Christ into Conversion*. In this 10-part series, Fr. Dave Pivonka's preaching and other personal testimonies encourage us to be drawn into a deeper conversion and encounter with the Lord.

Watch *What Does God Want? Rules for Discernment*. In this episode of the *Chris Stefanick Show*, guest Fr. Timothy Gallagher presents methods for discerning God's will in your life.

Read *Saint Gianna Molla: Wife, Doctor, Mother*. (Feast Day, April 28) Learn the story of this mother who chose her unborn child's life at the risk of her own. Co-authored by St. Gianna's husband. Available as an e-book.

Available for FREE! To set up an account, visit [Formed.org/signup](http://Formed.org/signup) and select our parish.



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**Scholarships to Catholic Schools.** St. Raymond's offers Catholic School tuition assistance for all parish families. The scholarship is renewable every year and is subject to minimal qualification terms. Additional financial aid is available if a family truly can't afford Catholic school, even with the above scholarships. These decisions are made on a case by case basis. There is also assistance available for homeschooling families. Contact the parish office for more information.

**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.



SCAN ME

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

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

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Offertory	\$ 14,336.00
Family Assistance	\$ 987.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,919.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 1,161.00

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




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