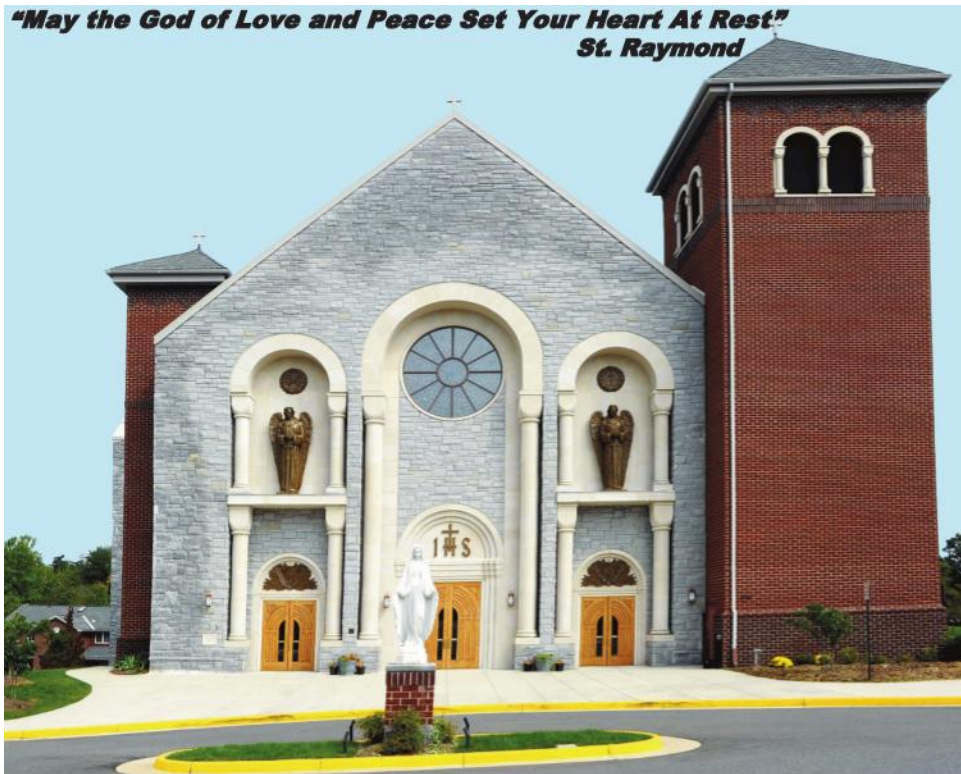


**"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"
St. Raymond**



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

May is Mary's Month. The entire month of May is "Mary's Month." To commemorate this, next Sunday, May 4, we will have our annual "**May Crowning**" immediately after the 9am Mass. Please join us for this short but beautiful ceremony.

IMPORTANT: England Bans "Puberty Blockers"! Did you see the news out of England that because of the newly published *Cass Review*, the National Health Services has banned the use of puberty blockers in children except in clinical studies. Here is the BBC's report (excerpts):

"The Cass Review, published on Wednesday [April 1] by paediatrician Dr Hilary Cass, ...look[ing] at gender identity services for under-18s, was commissioned by NHS England in 2020..."

"Dr Cass told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that clinicians were concerned about having 'no guidance, no evidence, no training'.

"She said 'we don't have good evidence' that puberty blockers are safe to use to 'arrest puberty'..."

"It is unusual for us to give a potentially life-changing treatment to young people and not know what happens to them in adulthood, and that's been a particular problem that we haven't had the follow-up into adulthood to know what the results of this are," she said.

"In the weeks leading up to the review's publication, NHS England announced puberty blockers ...would no longer be routinely prescribed, and should only be given to gender-distressed children as part of clinical trials.

"...Some private clinics will ...continue to do so, with Dr Cass warning families need to be 'made aware' of the risks of 'unregulated treatment'.

"The Cass Review's conclusions are documented in a 388-page report, which makes 32 recommendations on how gender services for children and young people should operate.

"It calls for better research into the characteristics of children seeking treatment and to look at outcomes for every young person.

"In essence, Dr Cass says children have been 'let down' by a failure to base gender care on evidence-based research.

"The reality is we have no good evidence on the long-term outcomes of interventions to manage gender-related distress," she writes.

"...The report recommends that clinicians should address issues patients may have, that are not necessarily related to their gender identity, when they are referred to the new clinics.

"Dr Cass says these 'holistic assessments' should include screening for neurodevelopmental conditions such as autism, and a mental health assessment.

"She said the assessments would address what she called 'diagnostic overshadowing' - when patients' other healthcare issues were overlooked in cases of patients questioning their gender.

"... 'What's unfortunately happened for these young people is that because of the toxicity of the debate...rather than doing the things that they would do for other young people with depression, or anxiety, or perhaps undiagnosed autistic spectrum disorder, they've tended to pass them straight on to the Gid service.'"

"There are few other areas of healthcare where professionals are so afraid to openly discuss their views, where people are vilified on social media, and where name-calling echoes the worst bullying behaviour," she said...

"...The report also warns that younger children should be treated with a 'more cautious approach' than adolescents when considering whether to allow them to change their names, pronouns or clothing - known as socially transitioning.

"...Dr Cass repeats previous warnings there was no clear evidence on whether social transitioning had positive or negative mental health outcomes.

"She says those who have done so at an earlier age...were

more likely to go down a medical pathway and that for most... 'will not be the best way to manage their gender-related distress'.

Who is Hilary Cass? Dr. Cass is Pediatrician (an MD) and former president of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. In 2015 the Queen made her an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to child health. She was subsequently appointed chair of the British Academy of Childhood Disability. Since issuing her report she has been under constant attack from the Leftist activists, and told the Times of London she "had been advised not to use public transport for security reasons."

Bill Maher Strikes Again! Last week I wrote about how media personality Bill Maher, a life-long 'liberal' called out the Left for its hypocrisy on abortion. This week he did it again, but this time for the double standard on child-abuse/pedophilia. As Catholic Vote reported:

"Comedian Bill Maher called out the entertainment industry for sexualizing children and hiring known pedophiles in a clip that has since gone viral over the past few days.

"As one of the few people in the public eye who has gone through life and never had kids, someone has to tell me why am I always having to defend them," Maher said on an episode of his HBO show Real Time with Bill Maher which aired Friday.

"I don't even like kids," he added. "But I also think it's every adult's job to protect them."

"Have you all been watching the Max documentary called 'Quiet on Set: The Dark Side of Kids TV?' he asked his viewer. 'It's just scene after scene, clip after clip of the child stars of their day being subjected to obviously inappropriate highly sexualized degradation...[I]t didn't just expose a dangerous workplace, it also exposed hypocrisy.'

"It must be pointed out that when the 'evil' governor of Florida [Republican Ron DeSantis] was saying the exact same thing about kids and creepy stuff at Disney - that liberals now find intolerable at Nickelodeon, he was dismissed as a 'hick' and a 'bigot,'" the host emphasized.

"Why would a kid's content factory at Disney be all that different from the one at Nickelodeon?" Maher asked.

"He went on to cite stats and testimony from former Disney child stars: A 2014 CNN report discovered that at least 35 Disney employees had been arrested for sex crimes against children ..."

"And get this," Maher added. "After Brian Peck who was one of the lead creeps at Nickelodeon served 16 months in prison for the molesting he did there, Disney hired him, naturally, to work on a children's series."

"For pedophiles in Hollywood, it's a small world after all," he stated.

"...The comedian went on to satirize the hypocrisy on surrounding child exploitation that is prevalent on the left:

"People who believe in social justice have agreed this is wrong and this is bad and exposing kids to an adult world of lurid costumes and garish makeup borders on abuse. Now hurry up and get in the car, we're late for Drag Queen Story Hour.

"... 'At a certain point inclusion becomes promotion,' he warned.

"He added that young impressionable children 'don't have any frame of reference so they normalize whatever's happening....That's why endlessly talking about gender to six-year-olds isn't just inappropriate,' Maher described. 'It's what the law would call 'entrapment' - which means enticing people into doing something they wouldn't ordinarily do.'"

Bishop's Visit. Bishop Burbidge was enthusiastic in expressing his appreciation to me for the welcome he received here last week at the Parish. My thanks to him for celebrating Mass for us and spending so much time at the reception afterwards. And thanks to all who did so much to make him feel at home.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

<p><u>Monday, April 29th</u> 6:30 am Meghan Anezin 8:30 am James Peter Butler</p> <p><u>Tuesday, April 30th</u> 6:30 am Patricia Holland + 8:30 am Linda & Jack Anezin</p> <p><u>Wednesday, May 1st</u> 6:30 am Erica & Chris Anezin 8:30 am Tony Cheng + 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intention</p> <p><u>Thursday, May 2nd</u> 6:30 am Josephine Finley 8:30 am Michael Malachowski +</p> <p><u>Friday, May 3rd</u> 6:30 am Mark Klein + 8:30 am Mike Malachowski +</p>	<p><u>Saturday, May 4th</u> 9:00 Barret Klehman +</p> <p><u>Vigil Mass</u> 5:00 pm Fr. De Celles Francisco & Kolbie Garcia +</p> <p><u>Sunday, May 5th</u> 7:00 am Fr. Rippy Sandra Vlcek + 9:00 am Fr. De Celles Parishioners 11:00 am Fr. Bergida Bruce Coons + 1:00 pm Fr. Horkan RE Catechists</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 May!** 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.

First Friday Nocturnal Adoration, May 3. On the first Friday of the month, we extend our regular hours of Friday adoration to continue through the evening until Saturday at 9am. Our regularly scheduled adorers will cover the daytime hours (9am – 3pm), and we will need extra volunteers to cover from 3pm on Friday through 9am on Saturday. Please visit our website to sign up! Two adorers are required per hour. We have 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.** you are interested in helping, please call the parish office at 703-440-0535. 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
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| April 29 | Family of Jesus Prayer Group |
| April 30 | Bible Study |
| May 1 | Adoration 9am - 7pm |
| May 1 | Legion of Mary 6:30 pm |
| May 3-4 | First Friday Nocturnal Adoration |
| May 4 | Men's Prayer Group |
| May 4 | Communal First Saturday Devotions |
| May 10 | Book Club Meeting |
| May 11 | Blood Drive in Parish Hall |

First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary: We invite you to join the Luminaries of Holy Mary for communal First Saturday Devotions **on May 4th.** After the 9am Mass, we meet in the Maurer Room until 10:45am to pray and meditate on the Holy Rosary with the intention of reparation for the sins committed against our Blessed Mother and for the conversion of poor sinners. Please join us!

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 or call 703-440-0535.

Gift Shop Narthex Sale: The gift shop will have a table in the Narthex on **May 3-4.** 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.

Book Club: The parish Book Club next meets on Friday, May 10th, at 10:00 AM in the St Raymond Library to discuss "**How the Reformation Happened**" by Hilaire Belloc. 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.

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.



CAR RAFFLE UPDATE: Thanks to all parishioners who supported the parish by purchasing car raffle tickets. The raffle was held this weekend and hopefully resulted in at least one (and hopefully more!) winners from St. Raymond's. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

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:

4/27-28: Blood Drive Sign-ups (After Mass)
5/9: Officers Meeting
5/11: Blood Drive (Parish Hall)
5/13: Membership Meeting (Parish Hall)

May 11 Blood Drive. The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a blood drive on behalf of Inova Blood Donor Services on Saturday, May 11th, in the St. Raymond's parish hall from 7:00 am to 12:00 pm. Please consider signing up for a 15-minute timeslot within that period and giving the Gift of Life. You may sign up either online at www.inovabloodsaves.org or in the Narthex after all masses this weekend and next. If you have any questions or difficulty signing up, please contact Mark Maslyn of our parish at (202) 679-3293 (m/text) or by email at mam7253@msn.com.

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 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. See their lovely thank you note in the narthex!

Summer Internship Available: For more info and to apply, visit: Defendlife.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.

Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) - 2271 - Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, direct abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law. "You shall not kill the embryo by abortion and shall not cause the newborn to perish." [Didache 2, 2]

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>

5:45pm-7pm Sunday, April 27th (Parish Hall)

Conversation Style Testimony about Prayer & Suffering

ALL high school students are invited to come hear an incredible conversation style testimony about Prayer & Suffering from a young woman in our parish whose story will surely inspire you.

Youth Group & CCD Sunday, April 28th

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

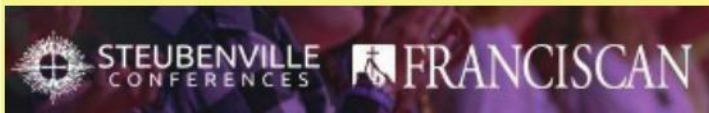
5:30-7pm CCD

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

Next Sunday, May 5th will be our LAST Sunday Youth Group this academic year.

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.



Steubenville Youth Conference (July 12-14 2024)

Registration NOW OPEN!

Current 8-12th graders are invited to join us for a weekend away with a few thousand Catholic teens to encounter God and experience His love through the power of the Sacraments, dynamic Catholic speakers, uplifting music and new friends! In our ever-changing world, Jesus is the answer to the longing of our hearts for meaning, fulfillment, security, and love. Join our group in road tripping to Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH to experience the peace of Jesus Christ, who is our refuge and never wearies of loving us to be illuminated in the light of Christ.

For more info and to register go to <https://bit.ly/steubenville2024>

*Open to current 8-12th graders

*Limited spots available, so act now!

*Cost (includes ticket, transportation & 2 t-shirts)

- Parishioners \$200

- Non-Parishioners \$315

*Compliant Adult Chaperones/Drivers needed-contact Jeanne if interested. youth@straymonds.org



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.

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 Season to you all!!

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 5, 13, and 14 : 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.

2024-2025 CCD Registration forms : Ivory colored registration forms can be found in the Narthex, outside the Religious Education Office and in the Parish Office. You may also register online.

Please complete and return the form as soon as possible; classes are filled on a first come, first served basis.

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 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.

Visit of the Fatima "Pilgrim Virgin Mary" statue to Parishioner Homes! The St. Raymond Legion of Mary is honored to bring the Fatima 'Pilgrim Virgin Mary' Statue to parishioner homes for a 1 or 2-week period! WHAT IS OUR BLESSED LADY'S GOAL FOR YOUR FAMILY? To pray together! To allow Our Blessed Lady to act as Mediatrix to bring Jesus Christ close to your family and household! To make prayer a continuing daily foundation toward peace and forgiveness within the family! Please contact Judy Mayer at 703-627-7320 or jmayer9014@aol.com to discuss the welcome and farewell ceremonies and schedule an appointment.

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.

"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." Are you being called to love the Lord and His people as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? Love demands truth and action. Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org or (703) 841-2514.

Church Persecuted

Are we praising communism...again? "We defeated socialism and communism in the war room but not in the classroom." So states Paul Kengor, Ronald Reagan's biographer and professor of Political Science at Grove City College in Pennsylvania, in his article "Soviet Union Rewind: Why Are We Praising Communism Again?" <https://staycatholic.com/catholics-and-socialism/>

A May 2019 Gallup Poll found that four in ten Americans generally prefer socialism, with 43% of them agreeing that socialism would be a "good thing for America." Perhaps even more disturbing is a November 2019 survey revealing that 36% of millennials approve of communism, "and 22% believe "society would be better if all private property was abolished."

Catholics are not immune to this. "The Catholic Case for Communism" by Dean Dettloff was previously published in *America* magazine, along with an article by the editor in chief, Jesuit Priest Matt Malone, "Why we published an essay sympathetic to communism." They even had the audacity to post this online with a photo of the 'Communist Crucifix' handed to Pope Francis by Bolivia's Marxist President Evo Morales. <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2019/07/23/catholic-case-communism>

And yet, unlike any other institution, the Catholic Church has consistently condemned socialism and communism for well over 170 years. Pope Pius IX issued *Qui Pluribus* in 1846, and *Nostis Et Nobiscum* in 1849. Pope Leo XIII issued *Quod apostolici Muneris* in 1878. Pope Pius XI issued *Quadragesimo Anno* in 1931, and *Divini Redemptoris* in 1937. Pope Pius XII issued a "Papal Decree *Against Communism* in 1949, declaring that affiliation with communism could even lead to excommunication.

Pope St. John Paul II broke the back of communism in Poland and around the world with his words and actions. Kengor describes it in his book, *A Pope and a President*, how Reagan and Pope John Paul took down communism. It would be a worthwhile read this summer.



Get In-Formed!

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

Listen to *Right Here, Right Now: Always Be Ready to Share Your Faith*. Well-known apologist, author, and speaker Patrick Madrid shares his experiences and encourages us to be prepared to effectively share the truth about Christ and His Church.

Family Movie Night! Watch *The War of the Vendée*. After the French Revolution, a group of peasants and nobles, relying on the spiritual influence of St. Louis de Montfort, undergo sacrifices and even martyrdom to gain religious freedom.

First Communicants! Watch *The Bread of Life: Celebrating the Eucharist*. In this *Brother Francis* video, children learn about the Eucharist, the Last Supper, Blessed Imelda Lambertini.

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



Angelus Academy

Where the truth of Catholic teaching takes flesh in the lives of Pre-K - 8th graders and their families.

There are limited spots available in some grades for the 2024-25 school year, but spaces are going fast!

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. 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.

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

FAITH DIRECT APRIL 2024

Offertory	\$ 50,507.00
Family Assistance	\$ 2,883.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 6,337.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 2,347.00
Easter Sunday	\$ 3,330.00

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Offertory	\$ 14,760.00
Family Assistance	\$ 540.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 6,240.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic	
School Scholarship Donations	\$ 1,462.00

The Second Collection this weekend is for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal



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