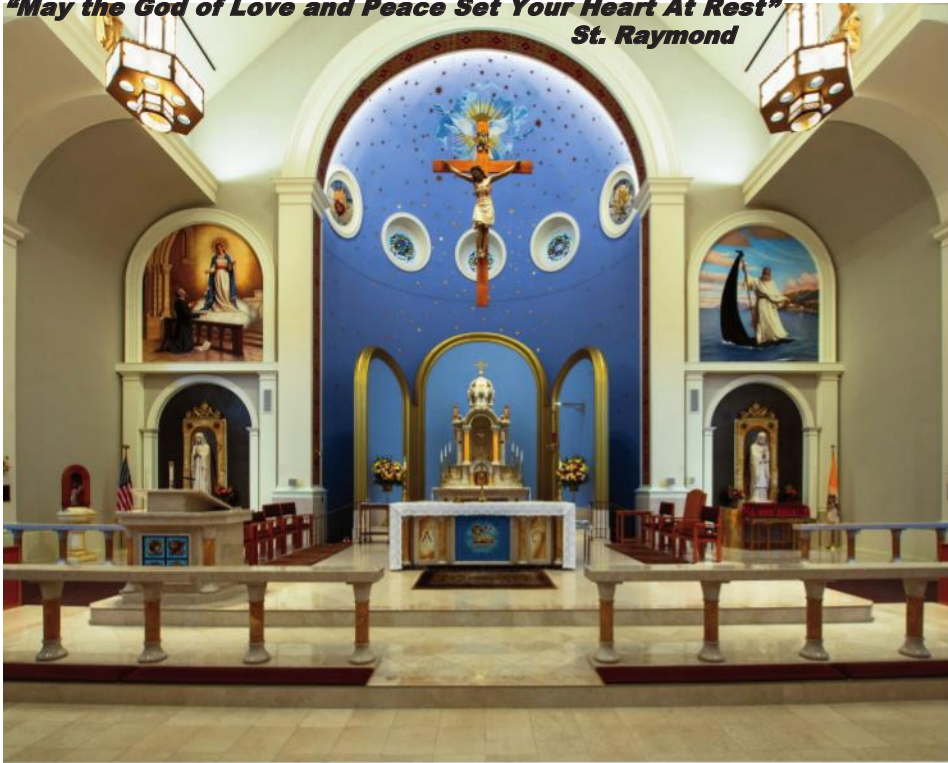


**"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"
St. Raymond**



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
Virginia Osella, Director of Religious Education
Mary Hansen, Religious Education Secretary
Michael Thompson, Plant Manager
Maerose Naduvilekunnel, Business Manager
Dominique Murray, Office Assistant
Elizabeth Frazee, Secretary
Mary Butler, Parish 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 to bulletin@straymonds.org 10 days prior to publication date.

Pastor's Corner

I'm writing this on Sunday, the 14th, before I go out of town for the week. I do this as we follow the news surrounding the attempted assassination of Former President Donald Trump on the 13th. I ask you to please keep all concerned in prayer, especially Pres. Trump and those killed and wounded in the tragedy. And pray for peace and tranquility in our Nation.

St. Mary Magdalene. Tomorrow, Monday, July 22, we celebrate the feast of this great saint. "The Magdalene" is a great example for our times, as a woman once mired in a life of debauchery and filled with all seven deadly sins, who was finally lifted up and transformed by the love of Christ and her faith in Him to be repentant, faithful and grace-filled servant of the Lord Jesus. We look to her example for hope in the power of Christ to "make all things new," and pray for her intercession for our culture and our families.

My devotion to this great saint began as I grew up in St. Mary Magdalene Parish in San Antonio—I was baptized, confirmed, received First Holy Communion and first discovered my priestly vocation while altar serving there. I remember as a boy praying in front of the stained-glass window of the Magdalene washing our Lord's feet with her tears. My devotion has only grown through the years as I have seen our society increasingly degrade women through false feminism and sexual exploitation—the redeemed sinner Magdalene is a sign to all of us of the true dignity of women and the hope all sinners have in Christ. Finally, my devotion was deepened 22 years ago when, by her intercession, I was miraculously cured on my death bed on her feast day.

And of course, she is patroness of the Dominicans (Order of Preachers) of which our own St. Raymond of Peñafort was the third Master General.

So, needless to say, I continue to commend her to your devotions, and you to her protection. St. Mary Magdalene, pray for us.

Humanae Vitae. This coming Thursday, July 25, is the anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*, Pope Paul VI's 1968 encyclical reaffirming the ancient and apostolic teaching of the Church that **contraception is a grave sin**. In the years since, his words have been largely ignored by the world, even by Catholics. But they still remain as true today as ever. Moreover, his explanations of the reasons for and the consequences of disregarding this teaching have been proven out over the years. He warned that it would lead to increased sexual infidelity and "the general lowering of morality," especially among young men, and that eventually men would lose respect for women, seeing them only as objects of selfish enjoyment. Elsewhere he would specifically point to the immediate connection between contraception and abortion.

Over the last 56 years we have seen this all bear out as we've seen the dramatic and catastrophic increase in divorce, marital infidelity, pornography, abortion, prostitution, teenage pregnancy and promiscuity, child abuse, wife abuse, and acceptance of homosexuality and transgenderism.

But Pope Paul also recognized that it was morally acceptable, for a "just reason," to "regulate birth" using methods that take into account the "natural rhythms" of the fertility cycle of women. Today several highly scientific methods are available to couples in this regard, usually referred to as "Natural Family Planning" (NFP). These are very effective in both postponing and promoting conception. They have the full approval of the Church.

Good News in the News. Did you see these stories in media?

Anti-Woman Nomination Rejected. As reported by Redstate: "Women in America were given a massive victory by the Senate Judiciary Committee after it torpedoed the nomination of Sarah Netburn and the Democrats' bid to have her sit on the U.S. District Court in New York's Southern District.

"To give you a reminder about how radical Netburn is, this was the judge who allowed a man named William McClain to transfer to a women's prison after he simply renamed himself July Justine Shelby and identified as a woman despite undergoing no real changes to his body. McClain had pleaded guilty to molesting a nine-year-old boy and raping a 17-year-old girl.

"Netburn reversed a decision by the Board of Prisons to deny McClain his request, stating McClain was hormonally a female and should be transferred to a women's prison as soon as possible...

"Fast-forward to Thursday, and the Judiciary Committee nuked any chances Netburn had, and not only that, Cruz gave one of the fieriest speeches I have ever seen from the man, not only bringing down the hammer on Netburn but daring any Democrat to defend her....

"This is an opportunity to every senator to demonstrate whether you'll stand up for the rights of women or not,' said Cruz, staring straight at his colleagues. 'I sadly expect a party-line vote on this, but I will say this; if we do have a party-line vote, Mr. Chairman, I'm going to make a request. I'm going to ask, Mr. Chairman, that you ask Majority Leader Schumer to expedite a floor vote on this judge on the floor.

"I want to see Senator Tester vote on whether a six-foot-two man should go to a women's prison,' continued Cruz. 'I want to see Senator Brown — I want to see every Democrat go on record. Do you give a damn about the women in your state, or not?'

"Sadly, Cruz was right. It was an 11-10 party-line vote with one exception. According to The Hill, Georgia Democrat Jon Ossoff split with his party to vote alongside Republicans to deny Netburn."

Knights in Shining Armor. As reported by The Pillar:

"The Knights of Columbus announced Thursday that mosaics by the disgraced religious artist Fr. Marko Rupnik will be covered at two prominent chapels under the Knights' care.

"The fraternal organization said the artwork could be permanently plastered over, after the conclusion of a Vatican penal process against the priest.

"In a July 11 statement, the Knights of Columbus said that installations by Rupnik at the at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C., and Holy Family Chapel at the organization's headquarters in New Haven will be covered, after a 'a careful and thorough process' to review of the future of the mosaics, which included consultation with clerical sexual abuse victims, art experts, and bishops.

"The Knights of Columbus has decided to cover these mosaics because our first concern must be for victims of sexual abuse, who have already suffered immensely, and who may be further injured by the ongoing display of the mosaics at the Shrine,' said Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly.

"This decision is rooted in a foundational purpose of the Knights of Columbus, which is to protect families, especially women and children, and those who are vulnerable and voiceless.'

"Rupnik has been accused of sexually abusing some 30 religious sisters. Some of the allegations involve claims of sexual abuse, which reportedly occurred directly in the context of designing and creating his works of art. Rupnik was previously convicted by the Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith of sexual crimes related to the sacrament of penance, and the priest was briefly excommunicated. ...

MASS INTENTIONS

<p><u>Monday, July 22nd</u> 6:30 am Sheila Bruen 8:30 am Clare Fischer +</p> <p><u>Tuesday, July 23rd</u> 6:30 am George & Ruth Brady + 8:30 am Agnes Aleksy +</p> <p><u>Wednesday, July 24th</u> 6:30 am Jim Mitchell 8:30 am Sean D. LaBuy +</p> <p><u>Thursday, July 25th</u> 6:30 am Alexandra Fogg & Dane Harrington 8:30 am Matt Coleman</p> <p><u>Friday, July 26th</u> 6:30 am Brad & Catherine Hoopes 8:30 am Leroy Carhart +</p>	<p><u>Saturday, July 27th</u> 9:00 Martha Riedel +</p> <p><u>Vigil Mass</u> 5:00 pm Fr. Bergida J. Patrick Craddock II +</p> <p><u>Sunday, July 28th</u> 7:00 am Fr. Rippy Thomas E. Silva +</p> <p>9:00 am Fr. Bergida Parishioners 11:00 am Fr. Horkan Margaret Mary O’Kane + 1:00 pm Fr. Bergida Mario Iannacone +</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)

Summer Schedule Changes (June-August) There will **not** be a 7pm Mass on Wednesdays. Wednesday Adoration and Confession schedules will be unaffected. There will be **no Confessions on Sunday.**

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 July!** All are invited to attend.

Parish Picnic Committee Saint Raymond's parish picnic is August 25. We are looking for volunteers interested in joining the committee to support the event. To sign up to volunteer please go to www.straymonds.org/ParishPicnic/. For more information or to sign up, please contact the parish office at office@straymonds.org or call 703-440-0535.

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 the office at 703-440-0535. Drop-ins are always welcome!

Parish Registration Drive This Summer! Please check your registration status, if it needs an update or if you need to register, fill out a parish registration form located at all exits. This helps us to keep our database current and allows families to participate in parish groups and activities. Thank you!



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.

Ryan Higgins Brian Groth Peter Pacheco

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 Ted Tolpa Nena Brennan Serrin Foster Margaret O’Neill Donald Trayer	Ellen Trayer Arlene Pietraszko Virginia Cummings Helen Zogaib Erich Whitt Carmen Schultz Effie Mutumanje Margaret Norton Loretta Golinowski
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- July-August Summer Reading Program Ongoing**
- July 22 Family of Jesus Prayer Group**
- July 23 Legion of Mary 6:30pm**
- July 24 Adoration 9am -7pm**
- July 26 Adoration 9am-3pm**
- Aug 3 Men’s Prayer Group**
- Aug 12 Altar Server Kings Dominion outing**
- Aug 25 Parish Picnic 2-5pm**
- Sept 14 Father Tad Talk after 9 am Mass**

Samaritan Group Lead Needed! This group provides rides or meals to our parishioners in their time of need. The lead role is to receive and disseminate requests from parishioners to your group (of a dozen plus) volunteers. If you think you can serve our parish community in this way, please contact the parish office. Also, please call if the Samaritan Group can help you!

Men’s Prayer Group: On the first and third Saturdays of each month a group of men meet in the parish hall to pray and read the Scriptures. They are neither theologians, philosophers, nor great scholars. Just some guys, coming together to pray, read, and share a simple breakfast. **Our next meeting will be Aug 7.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.

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.

Holy Hour Offering Cards-Have you made or are you making a Holy Hour for a loved one or a friend? There are now complimentary Holy Hour Offering Cards (with envelopes) available in the Narthex suitable for mailing. Please feel free to take one and let someone know that you are remembering them in prayer.

Back to School Sock & Underwear Drive: The St. Martin de Porres Committee is again sponsoring a “Back to School” drive for students in the Springfield area. We will be accepting donations of NEW Socks and Underwear for school aged children (age 5-17) from **August 1st to August 11th**. For health code reasons we can only accept NEW items. A collection box will be in the Narthex. Items requested are:

- Boys: Socks, Undershirts, Briefs & Boxers
 - Girls: Socks, Tights, Undershirts, Camisoles & Briefs
- Thank you for your continued support!



MEN, DON'T GO IT ALONE. JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS! By joining the Knights of Columbus, you become part of the largest Catholic fraternity in the world, grow in your faith, and find mutual support from a true

brotherhood built on shared Catholic values. Although Knights stand for their **FAITH**, their **FAMILIES**, and their **COUNTRY**, charity remains our cornerstone--it's what we do. With the Knights, you multiply your charitable work. Yes, the **KNIGHTS** need **YOU** because your **CHURCH** needs you!

A new Fraternal Year for the St. John Bosco Council has weighed anchor and is underway, so now is the **perfect time** to come aboard. It's easy: 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. Enter our council #12846 for local information when you register. Please call our 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 ... answer the call ... join your brothers and **BECOME A KNIGHT!**



Upcoming Events:

- 8/3 Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 8/3 Blood Drive (Nativity Parish)

Blood Drive. The Knights of Columbus are co-sponsoring a blood drive on behalf of Inova Blood Donor Services on Saturday, August 3rd at Nativity parish hall from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Please consider signing up for a 15 minute time slot within that period and giving the Gift of Life. You may sign up either on-line at www.inovabloodsaves.org or in the Narthex after all masses in the coming weekends. 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.

Our Trail Life USA Troop is actively seeking volunteers to join our team! We are reaching out to our parish community for dedicated individuals who are eager to contribute, whether or not you have children in the troop. We are looking to fill several key committee positions, including Secretary, Community Service Chair, Equipment Coordinator, Recruiting Chair, Activities Chair, Ceremonies Coordinator, and Youth Ministries Coordinator. Training and support will be provided. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Keith Oswald at TrailLifeUSA@straymonds.org.

Youth are invited to participate in the Parish Library Summer Reading Program! Check out the Parish Library collection and spend hot summer afternoons reading about our Faith, our saints, our traditions, etc. Complete the participation form found in the narthex or on the parish website and be eligible to win a prize! Questions? Contact Liz Hildebrand: hildebrandseven@gmail.com.

Altar Server Training. St Raymond's Parish has a very active Altar Server program. We invite all young men of the Parish to consider becoming an Altar Server. Young men between the ages of 9 and 18, who have received their First Communion are eligible. **Training sessions with Fr. Bergida will begin in September.** Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/SRPAltarServerTraining> or contact the Parish Office at 703-440-0535 to sign up.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH. Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE

July 25th marks the 58th anniversary of the papal encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*, in which Pope Paul VI affirmed the teaching of the Catholic Church regarding married love and the gift of life. In it the Holy Father prophesied that acceptance of contraception would lead to a *lowering of moral standards, an increase in marital infidelity and an overall disrespect for womanhood*. The document is clear and easy to read. Papalencyclicals.net

Natural Family Planning: St. Raymond's will be hosting a three session Main Series NFP class during the months of August, September, and October. This class will be taught by Joe and Jenny Sundy, Couple to Couple League volunteers and St. Raymond's parishioners. This class is intended for any married or engaged couple interested in learning the sympto-thermal method of NFP. For more information on the specific class times and dates or to sign up, please visit <https://ccli.powerappsportals.com/en-US/> and search "Main Series" "English" and "Onsite" then enter your zip code. Please direct questions to Jenny Sundy at 719-649-4688 or SundyNFP@gmail.com.

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!

Save the date! Life Chain 2024 will take place on Sunday October 6th 2:30-3:30.



Mark your calendars! The fall campaign will run from Sept 25-Nov 3. **Our witness weekend will be 2-3 Nov.** More info to follow. Plan to join us!

Do you know someone who works in the abortion industry and wants to get out? And Then There Were None can help. Visit Abortionworker.com. Call or text 888-570-5501

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.

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.

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

Healing After Abortion Retreat: Saturday September 28th. A day of prayer and healing in a private peaceful setting for women who have experienced abortion. Opportunity to hear from a past participant and others who have found healing. You are not alone; take the first step. The Father of Mercy is waiting to welcome you in reconciliation. For confidential inquiries, please contact Project Rachel Ministry: (703) 841-2504 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

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>**



Thank you for your prayers and support, the Steubenville Youth Conference last weekend was dynamite! Our teens left the conference on fire, desiring to receive the Lord's mercy and draw nearer to Him more often through more frequent reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist, as well as a deeper desire to spend more time with Scripture! Praised be Jesus Christ! *"The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it" -John 1:5.*

CCD & Youth Group for 7-8th Grade & 9-12th Grade

Learning about our Faith is a life-long process... and does not end after Confirmation. We should all continue to seek out opportunities to learn more about our Faith throughout our entire lives. AND at the same time, it is super important to have friends who share your values and beliefs, with whom you can form life-long friendships and grow in the Faith ... thus youth group! Don't forget to sign up for CCD at <https://bit.ly/CCDforMe>. We have a TOP NOTCH high school program open to all 9-12th graders, whether public, private, or home schooled. Come check it out! There is NO charge for HS CCD.

Youth Group & CCD start up again September 8th...

Note the TIME CHANGE for this year!

3:30-5pm Junior High Youth Group

5-6:30pm 7-12th Grade CCD

6:30-8pm High School Youth Group

College Age Thursday Night Gatherings

The Catholic Campus Ministry at George Mason University is hosting Thursday Night Gatherings (TNG) for all local college students and graduating high school seniors on Thursdays in July, 7-9pm at the St. Robert Bellarmine Chapel (4515 Roberts Road, Fairfax, VA). It's a great way to meet college students from different schools and stay connected to the Faith! Follow us [@catholic.patriot](https://www.instagram.com/catholic.patriot) on Instagram! Find out more at www.gmuccm.org or email jhernandez@ccmgmu.org

College Nights for rising College Freshmen:

This summer, the Associates of Saint John Bosco will be hosting four College Nights throughout the Diocese for graduated high schoolers headed to college in the fall. The purpose of these **free** events is to help teens keep their faith while transitioning into college. Free dinner with registration! Register at: <https://www.asjb.org/student-registration>. Contact associatesofst.johnbosco@gmail.com for more info.

This year's College Nights will be at 7pm:

July 23rd at the Basilica of St. Mary (Alexandria)

July 30th at St. Mary's (Fredericksburg)

Monday Gatherings for Ages 18-25 @ St. Ray's

Monday July 29th & August 12th from 6:30 /7pm until 8:30pm

Are you between the ages of 18-25? Home from college or just looking for fellowship and opportunities to grow in your faith? Join Fr. Bergida bi-weekly on Monday evenings through August 12th. The daily family rosary will be at 6:30 on those evenings, so if you want, you could come to the rosary and also have the chance to go to confession or receive spiritual advice from Fr. Bergida, as he'll be in the confession box. We will gather on the back patio (Maurer Room if it is raining), at 7pm for a social and discussion about Saints and/or Scripture. We will end the evening with Night prayer at 8:15pm in the Church. Come to all or any of the nights you can make!

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

Thank you for stopping by our registration table last weekend! It was wonderful to chat with you and to meet some new families. For those of you who were not at St. Raymond's last weekend, allow me to highlight what I shared about our program in my announcement at the end of Masses.

Please give us a call or stop by our office if we can assist you in any way.

God bless you,

Virginia Osella

Director of Religious Education

- **It is time to register for 2024-25 CCD classes!** Did you know that students who attend Catholic School or are homeschooling are more than welcome to attend CCD classes at St. Raymond's? Visit the parish website or pick up an ivory form in the narthex to register your family ASAP.
- All **high school students** of the parish are particularly encouraged to take advantage of our fantastic teachers –and no tests! Come learn how to defend your Faith and live it out in your daily life.
- We have religious education **options for students with special needs!** Please call us to learn more.
- All **Catholic School and homeschool students** intending to receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation at St. Raymond's must register with the RE office for grades 2, 7, & 8 even if they will not attend classes.
- If your child did not receive First Communion in 2nd grade or Confirmation in 8th, please contact our office for information about how he or she can receive these important sacraments. It's not too late!
- **We still need volunteers**, both behind the scenes and in the classroom, and we can use you for a short-term need if you are not available for weekly classes. Please contact our office if you'd like to find out how you could help with this important part of our parish.

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.

Family of Jesus Prayer Group: Weekly meetings are in the Church on Mondays at 3:00 pm. If you have any prayer requests, please let us know by emailing Elaine Perricone at jpebt@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.

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.

Catholic Charities Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinics -Help Needed! We are seeking obstetric professionals - Obstetricians, Nurses/Midwives, Radiologists and Ultrasound Technicians- to volunteer at our free clinics in Manassas and Woodbridge. To learn more about how you can answer God's call to serve others and help transform the lives of the poor and vulnerable, please email volunteer.clinic@ccda.net or call (703) 841-3838.

Church Persecuted

The following are excerpts from an article written by Dr. Dan Guernsey of The Cardinal Newman Society and published online at www.TheCatholicThing.org/2021/05/19/the-remedy-for-canceling-and-division-catholic-education/. It continues from last week the list of things that “Catholic educators should – and should not – do to address hot-button topics like race, gender, and equity.” Avoid compounding racial tension, promoting tribalism, and “if you’re not for us you’re against us” thinking.

- Teach the use of logic and reason to uncover objective truth, especially when emotion and relativism run hot.
- Promote dialogue not for its own sake, but as a means of pursuing truth and a means for promoting unity, which can only be found in the truth of things.
- Use faithfully Catholic materials on racism, gender, sexuality, etc., – and be very wary of speakers, materials, and programs that promote division, blame one particular group or culture for all the ills of humanity, seek vengeance, or stifle free speech and religious freedom.
- Avoid politically charged terms and symbols that lack nuance and seem to promote an “all in” approach to complex social flashpoints – e.g., “ally,” which speaks the language of conflict, utility, and political power; or the “rainbow” flag, which promotes allegiance to a cause that does not clearly and fully embrace Catholic teaching.
- Avoid replacing academic pursuits with activism, or allowing curricula to be driven by the current news cycle. Do not force students into specific activities or protests, compel them to identify themselves in certain categories, and then attach moral values or rank to those categories, or engage them in simulation activities that purport to “feel what it’s like” to be discriminated against.
- Carefully selected music, art, poetry, literature, movies, and personal testimonies are better suited to driving empathy, which is the ability to enter into another’s suffering without directly experiencing it, allowing suffering to fulfill its unifying capacity.
- Always lead with Jesus, who is “both model and means” for students and in whom they will find “the inexhaustible source of personal and communal perfection.”

Check out Angelus Academy and John Paul the Great High School as examples of schools which carry out these principles. Need help with tuition? See Father De Celles’ scholarship information for Catholic K-12 schools located elsewhere in this bulletin.



Get In-Formed!

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

Road Trip! Take Formed with you in the car (good for commutes, too!). Enjoy great Catholic programming for yourself and your family. Download audiobooks or audiodramas to your portable device using the FORMED App to use *without the internet*.



For Teens and Young Adults. Listen to *Know Your Story*. Sr. Mirian James Heidland engages listeners with elements of her own conversion story to encourage each of us to recognize how God can transform our own stories to best experience His love.

For Kids. Listen to *Max & Benedict: A Bird’s Eye View of the Pope’s Daily Life*. Children learn about the daily life and responsibilities of the pope through the eyes of a bird perched on St. Peter’s Basilica.

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

Questions? Need help? Email us at: formed@straymonds.org



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Call or Email Julie Maimone, Director of Admissions, at Admissions@angelusacademy.org for more information or to schedule a tour.

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Scholarships to Catholic Schools. St. Raymond’s will again offer a one-time \$2,000 scholarship for each parish child who is switching from public school (k-12) to Catholic school for the upcoming school year. **For all parish families**, each student in Catholic grade school can receive \$1,000 and Catholic high school students can receive \$2,000. This amount is renewable every year and is subject only to minimal qualification terms. You need to be a parishioner and send a request for the scholarship to Fr. De Celles. Also, 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. 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.

Home School Group: for more information visit our website www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/
Contact: Katherine Bogacki or Malia Cameron at straymondhsg@gmail.com.

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. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION

Offertory	\$ 13,582.00
Family Assistance	\$ 195.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 925.00
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School Scholarship Donations	\$ 11,346.00
Second Collection the Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa.	\$ 2,054.00



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