



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 Naduvilekunel, Business Manager
Elizabeth Frazee, Secretary
Dominique Murray, Office Assistant
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

Parish Picnic. Our annual Parish Picnic is next Sunday, August 25, from 2-5pm here on the Parish grounds, behind the church. There's lots of food, games, rides (the ponies are back!), music and fellowship for kids and adults alike—a great way to meet and get to know your fellow parishioners. For new parishioners (and visitors) this is a great opportunity to meet people and learn more about the parish; for the rest of us, this is one of the best chances we will have all year to welcome others into the life and fellowship of our parish—don't pass it up!

Back to School. Most of our college and grade/high school children are heading back to school this week. I hope you have all had a wonderful summer, and are rested and refreshed and ready to take on the new challenges of the coming academic year, and have a blessed year.

For those of you returning to the Fairfax County Public Schools, be on guard against the growing anti-Christian bigotry growing in the schools. Remember, Catholics don't hate or degrade others or themselves. We don't dwell on the offenses of the past, but believe in conversion, forgiveness and the dignity of every human being. Beware those who try to degrade your or other's bodies, either by encouraging sexual promiscuity or sexual/identity confusion.

Parents, you cannot simply let the government/public schools take charge of the education of your children. **YOU are the primary educators of your children,** so monitor and discuss with your children what they are being taught in school. And **opt your children out** of anything that attempts to teach them secular morals, especially sexual and family morals, i.e., especially relevant sections of **"Family Life Education."** And remember to be on guard against the Marxist-secularist-atheist ideologies that will be permeating almost every class, from social sciences to math.

But also keep an eye out for the **many good and dedicated teachers** and administrators in public schools (many of our parishioners). Seek them out and support them.

Religious Education. With school starting up again remember to enroll your kids in Religious Education, CCD. Virginia Osella and Mary Hansen have been hard at work for weeks preparing for the new CCD school year which begins on Sunday, September 8th.

Remember, parents are morally obliged to not only teach their children to love Jesus but also to teach them what Jesus and His Church teach, to teach them about Scripture and the Catechism. It's very difficult for most parents to do this on their own in any systematic and comprehensive way especially if they choose to send their kids to public schools, which not only do not teach them the faith but most often present an environment and culture that is in many ways antithetical to Christianity.

Which is why most of these parents must send their children to CCD/Religious education. And this obligation doesn't end after 8th grade: we have a great high school CCD program.

Ask yourself: am I doing everything I can to get my kids to heaven, and keep them out of hell? If you don't educate them in the faith then the answer is almost certainly "no," which means you are risking not only the salvation of your children's souls, but your own soul as well.

So: **SIGN YOUR KIDS UP FOR CCD NOW!!!** Please. You can call or email the office, or you can register online on our website.

A Note to Parishioners Going Off to College. I know

how great it is to go away and spread your wings in college. It is a good, necessary and natural experience to leave the nest and become an adult. Enjoy yourself, but remember it wasn't so long ago that people your age were expected to get a job and support themselves or their family, including their parents. Today your parents are allowing you this "time off" not to have fun, but to grow and learn. So make good use of this time to grow and to learn the skills, knowledge and wisdom you will need to function as responsible adults. Remember not to waste your time on foolish things, including ideologies or philosophies that lead you away from living as an adult Christian in a fallen world. Don't let anything lead you away from Christ and His Catholic Church. Whatever that "anything" is—greed, lust, alcohol, drugs, self-righteousness, pride, selfishness, friends, teachers, whatever. Keep your eyes fixed on Christ. When you are lonely, know that He is with you and loves you. When you are overwhelmed know that He fell under the weight of the Cross 3 times, and he will lift you up and help you carry your burden. When you are tempted, turn to Him in prayer. When you hear lies and half-truths remember, He is the Truth. Go to Mass, every Sunday. Go to confession at least once a month. Obey the Commandments at all times. And pray every day, throughout the day. (And let me know if I can do anything to help you out: fdc@straymonds.org).

In the News. Did you see this report from Leor Sapir at "City Journal"?

The main justification for "gender-affirming care" for minors in the United States has been that "all major U.S. medical associations" support it. Critics of this supposed consensus have argued that it is not grounded in high-quality research or decades of honest and robust deliberation among clinicians with different viewpoints and experiences. Instead, it is the result of a small number of ideologically driven doctor-association members in LGBT-focused committees, who exploit their colleagues' trust...

As the U.K.'s Cass Review pointed out, the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) and the U.S. Endocrine Society were especially important in forging this consensus, and they did so by citing each other's statements, rather than conducting a scientific appraisal of the evidence.

....But the U.S. consensus now appears to have its first big fracture. In July, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, a major medical association representing 11,000 members and over 90 percent of the field in the U.S. and Canada, told me that it "has not endorsed any organization's practice recommendations for the treatment of adolescents with gender dysphoria." ASPS acknowledged that there is "considerable uncertainty as to the long-term efficacy for the use of chest and genital surgical interventions" and that "the existing evidence base is viewed as low quality/low certainty." ...[L]ow quality "means there's uncertainty about whether the long-term benefits outweigh the harms."

As evidence for those harms—which include infertility, sexual dysfunction, and the agony of regret—continues to mount and ethical concerns get harder to ignore, European countries are increasingly prioritizing psychotherapy and reclassifying endocrine and surgical approaches as experimental.

....ASPS says that it "is reviewing and prioritizing several initiatives that best support evidence-based gender surgical care to provide guidance to plastic surgeons."

...The U.S. is one of the few Western countries where minors can receive gender surgeries...Teens under 18 cannot undergo double mastectomy in Belgium, Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, Sweden, the U.K., and three Canadian provinces. Countries that allow these procedures typically do so only in "rare cases," after age 16, and with parental consent...

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 19th

6:30 am Anthony Cordesman+
 8:30 am Barbara & Dan
 De Celles +

Tuesday, August 20th

6:30 am Robin Gruters +
 8:30 am Anne & John
 Crowley +

Wednesday, August 21st

6:30 am Christy Karako
 8:30 am Clare Fischer +

Thursday, August 22nd

6:30 am James Forestell +
 8:30 am Paul & Sarah Carter +

Friday, August 23rd

6:30 am David George +
 8:30 am Jay Kolakowski +

Saturday, August 24th

9:00 Fr. Charles Smith

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Fr. Bergida
 Rose Marie Tougas +

Sunday, August 25th

7:00 am Fr. Rippy
 James McAssey +

9:00 am Fr. Horkan

Parishioners

11:00 am Fr. De Celles

Elie Garcia +

1:00 pm Fr. Bergida

Angelo Saraceno +

**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!** All are invited to attend.

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 or use the QR code. Email it to office@straymonds.org. This helps us to keep our database current and allows families to participate in parish groups and activities. Thank you!



Natural Family Planning: St. Raymond's will be hosting a three session Main Series NFP class on August 18th, September 15th and October 5th from 1pm-3pm. This class will be taught by Joe and Jenny Sundy, Couple to Couple League volunteers and St. Raymond's parishioners. The class is intended for any married or engaged couple interested in learning the symptothermal method of NFP. For more information 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.

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.

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.

Brian Groth Peter Pacheco

Please pray for the sick of our parish

Glenn Bliss	John Florio	Arlene Pietraszko
Tom Dietz	Debra Henkel	Virginia Cummings
Michael O'Neill	Gaudencio Dizon	Helen Zogaib
Cindy Laird	Paul Haynes	Nancy Christman
Patricia Lewis	Ted Tolpa	Effie Mutumanje
Mai Pham	Nena Brennan	Celeste Hyde
Jason Saenz	Serrin Foster	Jose Lavina
Phyllis Zitnik	Donald Trayer	George Rouse
Patricia Del Buono	Ellen Trayer	Maria Josefa Silvay

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Aug 18	Natural Family Planning class
Aug 19	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Aug 20	Legion of Mary 6:30pm
Aug 21	Adoration 9am -7pm
Aug 23	Adoration 9am-3pm
Aug 25	Bethlehem Woodcarving Group
Aug 25	Parish Picnic 2-5pm
Sept 6	First Friday Adoration
Sept 7	Birthday Party for the Blessed Mother
Sept 7	Men's Prayer Breakfast
Sept 8-9	First Day of Religious Education
Sept 14	Father Tad Talk after 9 am Mass
Sept 21	WAY Mother-Daughter Retreat

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 Sept. 7.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327.

Bethlehem Woodcarving Group will be here on the weekend of August 25th! Please stop by their display of beautiful olivewood handmade carvings from the Holy Land. These carvings are made by the Christians of Bethlehem who use them as their source of income. These brothers and sisters of ours are enduring hardships at this moment because of the volatile situation in their home country. YOU can support them by purchasing some of these beautiful carvings after Mass.

Celebrating A Golden or Silver Wedding Anniversary This Year? If you were you married in 1974 or 1999, please join Bishop Michael Burbidge for the 2024 Mass for Jubilarians to be celebrated on Sunday, October 20th at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, VA. Contact your parish office to register no later than October 2, 2024. For more info, visit www.arlingtondiocese.org/MJM.

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.

**THE FULLNESS OF KNIGHTHOOD:**

"The knight is a man of blood and iron," observes C.S. Lewis in his famous article on chivalry, "a man familiar with the sight of smashed faces and the ragged stumps of logged-off limbs; he is also a demure, almost a maidenlike, guest in hall, a gentle, modest, unobtrusive man. **He is not a compromise or happy mean between ferocity and meekness; he is fierce to the nth and meek to the nth.**" Thus, to be just a warrior is not enough. Although Percival was, according to one Old French manuscript, an exemplary Knight in his exercise of arms, he remained flawed in having neglected his mother's admonition to charity. **To be a knight is thus to accept this "double demand [knighthood] makes on human nature."** While grounded in charity, Knights today thus stand intractably for their **FAITH**, their **FAMILIES**, and their **COUNTRY**. Don't compromise; **join the Knights!** Now is the **perfect time** to take your place with us. Just go to <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> or use the QR code below to experience the Knights **free** for one year: Enter our council #12846 for local information when you register. Please contact our Deputy Grand Knight, John Larvie, at cell (571) 356-4170 if you have any questions or want to learn more about the many benefits of being a Knight! Get in the game, answer the call, **LIVE FULLY; BECOME A KNIGHT!**

Upcoming Events:

8/25: Parish picnic
9/7 Mens Prayer Breakfast (7:30am, parish hall)
9/9 Members Council Meeting (7pm library – Rosary, 7:30pm parish hall)



Christ House Meal Aug. 30th - Call for volunteers to provide a hot To-Go meal for those who are food insecure, at our Diocesan Christ House Dining Room in Alexandria. Volunteers are needed to donate food for 72 servings. This month our menu includes: Breaded chicken sandwiches with condiments, French fries, bananas, apples, clementines, fruit cups, fruit bars, and bottled water. Drop off food items on Thursday evening, Aug. 29th between 5:30pm-7:30pm **Outside of Library** Or, if you prefer to donate time instead. Great! We need help preparing the meals at St. Raymond's and then packing and distributing the meals at the Catholic Charities Dining Room in Alexandria on Friday, Aug. 30th. Check out the full menu and sign-up for your Corporal Act of Mercy opportunity at the Perfect Potluck link: <https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/PLLF3221>

You can also make a cash donation via Faith Direct at this link:

<https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/VA64/54793>

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.

"Taste and see the goodness of the Lord." Could God be calling you to spread his goodness as a priest or religious sister or brother? Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org or (703) 841-2514.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

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

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

Natural Family Planning classes are available through the Couple to Couple League at St. Raymond's. Contact fellow parishioner Jenny at SundyNFP@gmail.com for more information.



Safe Haven
Baby Boxes

Northern Virginia Initiative.

shbb.org Questions? Contact Amy McInerney at respectlife@arlingtondiocese.org

**New Maternity Home in Springfield!**

Mary's Comfort of VA is a Christ centric program providing enriching, home-environment housing for women facing a crisis pregnancy, along with supportive help and guidance for mother and baby in all stages of care: conception through birth and beyond. **See how you can help.** Visit

MarysComfortVA.org



40 DAYS FOR LIFE
THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION.

Sept 25-Nov 3. **Our witness weekend 2-3 Nov.** More information 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>**



Friday High School "Bible Study" & Optional 6:30pm Rosary 7-8pm Every Friday in August! (Library in parish hall)

Awesome new opportunity at the request of our high school teens: Have you ever wanted to hear God speak? Looking to deepen your relationship with Christ? Get to know Jesus by digging into the Gospel together! All high school teens are invited to join us in the Maurer Room (next to the parish office) from 7-8pm this Friday to read and reflect on the life of Christ through His Word. Grow in faith and meet new people at the same time! BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible)...and a friend! Anyone interested/available is invited.

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! No charge for HS CCD.

Youth Group & CCD start up 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

Volunteer to Help with the Youth Apostolate!

Our Youth Apostolate is very busy, especially come September, between weekly youth group meetings on Sunday nights for junior high and for high school, our high school guys' and girls' groups, service projects, swing dances, Bible Study, Friday Mass & Breakfast before school, and more! Without volunteers, none of this can happen. Is God stirring your heart to help in some way? Maybe you have a knack for cooking and can help with meals? Perhaps you can help simply through the ministry of your presence? Give and you shall receive! Contact Jeanne if you are willing to help in any way.

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

PARENTS: It is time to register for 2024-25 CCD classes for children in grades K-12! Visit the parish website or pick up an ivory form in the narthex to register your family ASAP. Classes begin on September 8 and 9!

Attention High Schoolers! You are particularly encouraged to take advantage of our fantastic teachers –and no tests! Come give our Sunday evening classes a try.

We have religious education options for students with special needs! Please call us to learn more.

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!

Please consider volunteering! We are in need of two teachers for the 2024-2025 academic year:

Sunday 5:00-6:30pm

Grade 3 Teacher and Assistant

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 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.

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.

Legion of Mary invitation Do you want to develop a closer relationship with our Mother Mary and her Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ? The Legion of Mary meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm in the Maurer Room. All auxiliary members and anyone interested in joining the Legion of Mary are welcome! Point of Contact: Judy Mayer, jmayer9014@aol.com, or 703-627-7320.

Mother Daughter Retreat The Women's Apostolate to Youth invites you to a Mother-Daughter retreat (for girls in grades 7-9) entitled, "**Defend Us In Battle**" on **September 21, 2024**. Join us for this wonderful opportunity to forge a stronger bond with your daughter by sharing and deepening your devotion to the great Archangel St. Michael--chosen by God to protect us from evil influences. The retreat includes talks, activities (fun!), as well as opportunities for confession, adoration, and Mass and begins at 8:30 am and concludes at 3:30 pm at St. Raymond of Penafort Church, [8750 Pohick Rd.](https://www.st-raymond.org) Springfield. The \$60 fee includes materials, breakfast, and lunch for both mother and daughter and \$15 per additional daughter. **For more information and to register (by September 13), visit waywomen.com/daystar** Sorry, we cannot accept registrations at the door.



Saint Raymond of Penafort
Parish Picnic 8/25 2-5 pm
Volunteers Needed
Please Sign up @
[straymonds.org/parishpicnic/](https://www.st-raymond.org/parishpicnic/)



CHURCH PERSECUTED

Last week we wrote about a recent column in *The Catholic Thing*, "The Front Line is Everywhere Now," by Dr. Robert Royal, the president and founder of the Faith and Reason Institute (www.FRInstitute.org). We also honored the martyrdom of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe. One may say that during WWII, martyrdom could be expected in Nazi Germany for Christians, but as we enter the second quarter of the 21st century, we find "state-sponsored" terrorism rampant.

Dr. Royal wrote about Father Jacques Hamel, a retired priest who "just happened to be helping out in a small parish in Normandy." In July 2016, he was beheaded by two Muslim terrorists. They attacked him while saying Mass, kidnapped him (along with five others) and killed him.

Yes, Father Hamel was beheaded in Normandy, France. Terror has no bounds, "The Front Line is Everywhere Now." We have written here about attacks in Nigeria and other African nations as radicalized Muslim terrorists attack Christians. But it is broader than just a religious issue; Catholics and others are imprisoned and murdered in countries such as Nicaragua for protecting innocent people from international criminal networks.

In Europe, over 800 anti-Catholic attacks were reported between 2022 and 2023, while hundreds of attacks against Catholic institutions in the United States occurred over the same time period.

Royal concludes that, "It's always good to learn about the martyrs, confessors, and others who have suffered for the truth. It's one of the ways that we learn what the Christian life – human life lived to the full – means. But these examples from the past few decades don't only call for admiration and imitation. They call for action....[E]veryone talks about freedom of conscience and religious liberty. Far fewer are working to make those ideals real. And not just in faraway places where cultures and governments differ from ours. Even here, in our wealthy democratic 'tolerant' nation."



Get In-Formed!

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

NEW! Watch *Symbolon: The Faith of the Church*. This 16-episode series framed around the Creed explores history, teachings, and spiritual practices of the Catholic Church.

NEW! For Kids. Watch *Littlest Saints: The Confessions of St. Augustine*. Portrayed by child actors, this episode features the story of St. Augustine's conversion. (This series also includes episodes about Sts. Benedict, St. Scholastica, St. Therese, and Our Lady of Guadalupe.)



NEW! Watch *The Violinist: Stories of Solanus Casey*. The documentary on this modern day blessed includes interviews of those who knew him personally and testify to his humility, holiness, and passion for the violin.

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

**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 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.

Protecting Our Future: Child Protection & Safety: The Office of Child Protection & Safety was created to assist all parishes and schools in creating a safe environment where our children are free from sexual abuse, physical abuse and neglect. The office provides various services including child abuse prevention training for employees, volunteers, children and youth and criminal background history investigations for employees and volunteers who work with children. For more information about services provided by the Office of Child Protection & Safety as well as diocesan policy regarding the prevention of child abuse, please visit our website at www.arlingtondiocese.org.

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	\$ 15,371.00
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