

"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
Elizabeth Frazee, Secretary
Mary Butler, Parish Secretary
Dominique Murray, Office Assistant

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

Sunday Morning

8:30-9:00 am and 10:30-11:00 am

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

DAILY ROSARY. This Tuesday we begin the month of October which the Church keeps as the **"Month of the Rosary."** In her various apparitions, the Blessed Mother has repeatedly begged us to pray the Rosary, an exhortation echoed by Popes and Saints for centuries. And one of the best ways to pray the Rosary is as a family—it can be a tremendous blessing.

With this in mind, two years ago we started the practice of having a public **Daily Family Rosary in our church, every Monday to Friday-6:30pm, and Sunday – Saturday a few minutes after the 9am Mass.**

I've been very pleased with the results: from what I've seen and heard at least 10 people attend and pray this Rosary every day. But we can do better: we have almost 6000 parishioners....

All are invited to attend, but **I ask for ONE FAMILY TO VOLUNTEER TO LEAD the rosary each evening.** By "family" I mean members of the same legal or blood related family. It can be as few as 2 members of a family (husband and wife, mom and son, etc.), or as many as you like. And a family may volunteer for more than one evening if they want to: e.g., you could volunteer your family to lead every Monday night.

The Rosary is informal: we will just pray the Rosary out loud and together. No fuss or ceremony, just prayer.

Please, prayerfully consider participating, especially by signing up to "lead." It's very easy to sign up: just go to the parish website (straymonds.org) and on the pop-up menu ("Important Announcements") click on the link for the "Daily Rosary," which leads to **SignUpGenius**.

Invitation to Women: WAY. As you may know, I am the Chaplain for "The Women's Apostolate to Youth" (usually called "WAY"). As their website states:

"WAY is an inter-generational lay Association of Christ's Faithful for Catholic women in the Diocese of Arlington. We take as our heavenly patroness and model of spiritual maternity the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Incarnate Love. Our spiritual mentors are Saints Teresa of Avila, Catherine of Siena, Elizabeth Ann Seton, Therese of Lisieux, and Teresa Benedicta of the Cross -- holy women whose lives and works offer perennially valid inspiration and guidance to women seeking an authentically Catholic and feminine form of spiritual practice.

"[Their Mission is] To promote the spiritual well being of children and youth and to provide spiritual formation and moral support for women who are called to work in a variety of ministries dedicated to this end, whether as mothers, teachers and catechists, youth ministers, social workers or as relatives, godparents and friends. WAY recognizes that such women have their own particular spiritual needs and therefore seek to foster a helpful pattern of personal and communal spiritual practice as well as a philosophy of Christian formation that will be especially helpful in work with children and youth."

WAY has several very active apostolates. Most people don't realize it but these apostolates play a very important role in our parish. Besides operating **Angelus Academy** (50% of AA students are St. Raymond parishioners), WAY also leads/organizes 4 retreats here at the parish every year: 2 retreats for girls and their moms ("**Daystar**"), our **Women's Lenten Retreat**, and the **Christ the King Men's Retreat** in November (formerly led by Fr. Paul Scalia, this year led by Fr. Francis de Rosa).

Way also holds their meetings here every week, and on the **last Wednesday of the Month**, they have a guided holy hour with adoration and confession beginning at 7:30pm, followed by Mass. This Holy Hour and Mass **is open to all women** who might be interested in simply joining in their prayers and reflections.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

I encourage all women of the parish to consider attending this sometime. You don't have to be a member to pray with them on these nights, but you might find the Lord calling you to become a member.

For more information about WAY you can go to their website, www.waywomen.com, or call or email the parish office and we'll put you in touch with a member to talk to.

Early Voting. Election Day is November 5, but this year both political parties are urging us to vote early. This way you make sure you vote, in case something prevents you from voting on November 5. For example, you could get sick or have a family or work emergency or, or there could be technical problems at the polls, or long lines might prevent you from casting your ballot.

There are **two principal ways to vote early**: 1) **"In-Person"** at certain official early vote locations, or 2) **"Absentee."** But there are **two ways to vote "Absentee"**: you can **mail in** your completed ballot or **drop off** your completed ballot in an approved "absentee Ballot Dropbox" at one of the early voting locations.

Early Voting has already begun—you can do it any time between now and November 2. Personally, I'd vote "In-Person" or use the "absentee ballot drop box," since I'm always concerned about the potential problems of sending a ballot through the mail.

Currently there are 3 voting locations open: Fairfax County Government Center, Mt. Vernon Governmental Center, and the North County Governmental Center. But on October 17 more locations will be opened.

Also: for **college students**, the **"Permanent Absentee Ballot"** is yet another good option. They use their (parents') home address rather than the school address, send it back to the parents (in a sealed envelope), and then the parent drops it off at their early vote drop box.

Remember: **you must be registered to vote.** For more information see the table in our narthex or go to <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov>. **The deadline to register to vote is October 15th.**

Bishop's Lenten Appeal. A few weeks ago I mentioned that we had not reached our BLA goal for the year, and asked you to try to make that happen. Well, thanks to those who made last minute contributions so that the final totals showed we raised \$287,305, or **101%** of our goal.

On the Lighter Side. My personal wardrobe is pretty small, mostly a lot of black stuff, and a few things for golf. But one aspect of my wardrobe that is more diversified and attracts some comments are my hats. Hats are important to me: in the summer they protect my bald head from burning, and in the winter they help keep me from catching the colds and sinus maladies I am so prone to.

While some of you like the Stetsons I sometimes wear, the hats that provoke the most comments are my "clerical hats" (Fr. Bergida wears these too). And the most common comment is the question, "what's that?" So...

The **"biretta"** is the black square cap with three peaks, and a tuft on top, which can be worn both during Mass and outside of Mass with a cassock. I also sometimes wear a "cappello romano" ("Roman hat"), more commonly called a **"saturno"** because its wide, circular brim and rounded crown it looks a bit like the ringed planet Saturn. Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI used to wear theirs pretty frequently.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 30th

6:30 am Mariano Dalloga +
 8:30 am Maria Bauza +

Tuesday, October 1st

6:30 am Anthony Richard
 Herrmann +
 8:30 am In Thanksgiving

Wednesday, October 2nd

6:30 am Lynn Kline
 8:30 am James Drouillard
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, October 3rd

6:30 am Lisa Rickards
 8:30 am Brian Chun Nin Ng +

Friday, October 4th

6:30 am Kelley & Lynne
 LaFleur +/-
 8:30 am Clare Fischer +

Saturday, October 5th

9:00 Adam Murray

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Salvador Ramos +

Sunday, October 6th

7:00 am **Fr. Rippy**
 Albert Go +

9:00 am **Fr. Bergida**

Parishioners

11:00 am **Fr. De Celles**

RE Students and their
 Families

1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**

Family of Jesus prayer
 Group

**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)

Additional Mass Time and Sunday Confession Times!

from September 2024 to May 2025

Mass-Wednesdays 7:00pm

Extra Sunday Confessions 8:30 am and 10:30 am

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 September!** All are invited to attend.

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.

Book Club: The parish Book Club next meets on Thursday, October 10th, at 9:30 AM, in the St Raymond Library to discuss "**Citizens Yet Strangers: Living Authentically Catholic in a Divided America**" by Kenneth Craycraft. 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.

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.

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

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Sept 28-29	Voter Information Table in Narthex
Sept 29-30	Religious Education Classes
Sept 30	RCIA Classes
Sept 30	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Oct 1	Adult Bible Study
Oct 1	Adult Choir
Oct 1	Legion of Mary 6:30pm
Oct 2	Adoration 9am- 7pm, Suspended 10 am-12:30 pm
Oct 4	First Friday Nocturnal Adoration
Oct 5	First Saturday Communal Devotions
Oct 5	Blessing of the Animals 10:30 am
Oct 6	Donut Sunday returns!



Apply to serve as an election officer for the November 5 election.

Please note:

To work this election, new election officers need to have volunteered before 15 October.

JOIN the CHOIR at St. Raymond's: We practice on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and sing at 11:00 am Mass on Sundays with a warm-up at 10. The choir also provides music for Easter, Christmas and Holy Days. The repertoire of the choir contains masterpieces of classical liturgical choir music. Singers who have a pleasant voice and sing in pitch are welcome. Enjoy wonderful fellowship, music training and the joy of making uplifting music for the liturgy. Contact Elisabeth Turco at music@straymonds.org or call 703-506-4644.

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 Library. All auxiliary members and anyone interested in joining the Legion of Mary are welcome! Point of Contact: Judy Mayer, jmayer9014@aol.com, or 703-627-7320.

WAY MENS RETREAT -Arm yourself for the war being waged against God's desire and design for the human race. **The 26th Annual Christ the King Men's Day of Recollection, directed by Father Francis de Rosa**, will be held on Sat. Nov. 9 from 9:15am-1:15pm at St. Raymond's. There is no charge for this event, **but you must register before Oct. 22 to attend.** Donations gratefully accepted. To register go to www.waywomen.com/mensretreat For more information, contact Robin Maas at rmvlmaas@gmail.com.

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 **October 5**. Immediately following 9am Mass, we will pray the Holy Rosary in the Church as a part of the Daily Family Rosary; and then we will proceed to the Maurer Room for Fatima prayers & a special meditation on the mysteries, with the intention of consoling our Blessed Mother in reparation for sins and conversion of poor sinners. Will conclude by 10:45am. Please join us!

**BAD KNIGHTS, GOOD**

KNIGHTS. Knighthood was not always the fine flower of Christian culture. For every Bertrand Du Guesclin, Godfrey de Bouillon, or Louis IX, there were scores of petty feudal rivals and just as many armed rogues posing as knights. The four murderers of St. Thomas Becket illustrate this truth. William de Tracy, Reginald FitzUrse, Richard Brito and Hugh de Morville took up the King Henry II's argument with the bishop literally, in answer to the king's infamous entreaty, "will no one rid me of this meddlesome priest?" The knights' twisted sense of loyalty led them to Canterbury Cathedral in 1172, where they hacked the saint to death. The king did nothing, but Pope Alexander III constrained the murderers to penitential service in the Holy Land, where all four are thought to have died within two years. Thus the Crusades served not only as a just correction to the abuses of the Mohammedan occupiers but also as a purgative for the institution of knighthood. **NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO JOIN THE GOOD KNIGHTS: just go to <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> or use the QR code below to experience the Knights free for one year: click "Add" and complete the form. Leave the representative code blank, but enter our council #12846 for local information upon registration. 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! ANSWER THE CALL. BECOME A KNIGHT!**

**Upcoming Events:**

9/28 **In Ignis Fireside Theology Chat** (7:00pm patio outside parish hall) **OPEN TO ALL MEN OF THE PARISH!**
 10/14 Columbus Day
 10/20 District Soccer Challenge (at Holy Spirit)
 10/26 Italian dinner (parish Hall)

IN IGNES (On Fire): The Knights of St. John Bosco Council invite all men of the parish to a night of Theology and Fraternity around the fire pit behind the Parish Hall on Saturday, September 28th at 7pm. Fr. Bergida will lead a discussion about the origins of the Bible and how it came to be what we read today. In addition, we will have a little fun doing a taste test of different hot sauces to go along with our "On Fire" theme. Food and beverages will be provided. You don't have to be a knight to join in and **admission is FREE.** Please RSVP to Barry Ryan at jamesbarryryan@aol.com so we make sure to have enough food.

2024-25 Adult Bible Study: St. Raymond's will study the Gospel of John on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 A.M. and again on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. (except for holidays) in the Parish Hall, from Tuesday, September 10, 2024 through Tuesday, May 13, 2025.

2024-2025 RCIA/Catholic Update - St. Raymond's offers RCIA classes on Monday evenings (except for Holidays) from 7:00 to 8:15 pm in the Parish Office Classroom (Maurer Room) Those seeking information to understand and/or to enter the Catholic Church, and baptized Catholics seeking additional sacraments are welcomed. Please let us know if you plan to attend, call (703) 440-0535 or email : office@straymonds.org.

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 Joshua Raines at TrailLifeUSA@straymonds.org.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

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



"the threat of abortion" remains the "preeminent priority"... for Catholic voters. USCCB

"Most importantly, we must rededicate ourselves to fervent prayer on behalf of life." Bishop Burbidge urged.

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.



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



Join us for our peaceful prayerful witness weekend 2-3 Nov. Sign up sheets are in the narthex. Bring a friend! Questions? Contact Liz at hildebrandseven@gmail.com.

LIFE CHAIN! Join us and many others of good will from the community for one hour of silent peaceful prayer on Sunday October 6 from 2:30-3:30 along the sidewalk on Franconia Road across from Key Middle School. Park in the school parking lot.

SADLY, there's a new abortion facility in our diocese. 'Meadow Reproductive Health and Wellness' recently opened McLean boasting proximity to public transportation and accessibility to Dulles. **Pray Virginia does not become an abortion destination.**

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.**

Have you had an abortion? The Father of Mercy is waiting to welcome you in reconciliation. For confidential inquiries, 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>**

TONIGHT Sept. 29: BOTH YOUTH GROUPS at 3:30pm!

3:30-5pm HS & Jr. High Youth Group: Adoration

Join us for a special holy hour for our 7-12th graders! Exposition with a reflection on the angels by Fr. Bergida, followed by time for silent prayer (bring a journal, pen, rosary & Bible or spiritual reading) and Benediction. Snacks and a light dinner will be served in the hall afterwards. *Parents/families are encouraged to stay for the holy hour as well.*

***Young Adult Ladies:** we need one more young woman to help with high school youth group on Sunday evenings from 6:30-8pm. Please, pray and ask God if this might be something He is calling you to do. Contact Jeanne for more information.

6:30am Fri. Morning Mass & Breakfast every Friday!

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

**Sons of Thunder: High School Guys' Group
7-8:30pm Tuesday, October 1st (Maurer Room)**

High School Men: Our high school "Sons of Thunder" group has started up again! Come hungry (physically and intellectually) and ready to rumble. Sons of Thunder meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7-8:30 pm in the Maurer Room with Phil, Nate, and Father Bergida.

**High School "Bible Study" & Optional 6:30pm Rosary
7-8pm Friday, October 4th (Library in parish hall)**

Join us every (or ANY) Friday in October! 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 library 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! Everyone is invited to join us for the parish family rosary at 6:30pm too!

Youth Group & CCD next week, Sunday Oct. 6th

Youth Group meets in the Parish Hall or outside (if the weather is nice). All are invited!

3:30-5pm Junior High Youth Group — Grades 7 & 8

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

6:30-8pm High School Youth Group — Grades 9-12

**Newman Guide Virtual College Fair
Wednesday, Oct. 9th from 1-3pm and 7-9pm**

Students will have the chance to visit virtual college "booths," learn about unique scholarship opportunities, attend "live" sessions on the difference between Catholic and secular education, and more! High school students, their parents, and school leaders can register <https://bit.ly/septcollege>

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 to everyone who attended the parent meetings last week. If you did not attend, please be sure to read the Parent Handbook, which was emailed to you, and let us know if you have any questions.

If you missed the meeting and you have a child preparing to receive a sacrament (grades 2, 7 and 8) please come by the RE office to pick up a folder with important information, Mass attendance cards, and required forms.

At the parent meeting, I reminded FCPS parents about the importance of opting out of problematic Family Life Education lessons, and I had some printouts available with more information. If you were not there or did not get the printouts, please give me a call.

Planning ahead: There will be no CCD classes October 13 or 14 in observance of the Columbus Day holiday.

REQUIRED Confirmation Retreat for 8th grade students is October 19th. Specific information will be emailed to parents.



Next weekend, October 5-6, we'll have a second collection for Special Kids/Special Needs that will benefit Porto Charities, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing access to diocesan Catholic schools for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. All proceeds will go directly to establish and advance inclusive education programs in Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese of Arlington for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Please consider donating to this important collection at Mass or online at: <https://www.portocharities.org/2ndcollection>

OCDS Silent Retreat - Friday October 25-Sunday, October, 27, 2024-Topic: "St. John of the Cross: Transformation of the Spiritual Life". The OCDS Community of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, in Annandale, VA is pleased to invite you to a weekend retreat at the beautiful Priest Field Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, WV. We are extremely fortunate to have the Rev. Steven Payne, OCD, Chair of Carmelite Studies at Catholic University, as our Retreat Director. For more information please contact: Veronica Royal at veronicaroyal@icloud.com or Suzanne Koucheravy at skoucheravy56@gmail.com.

Celebrating A Golden or Silver Wedding Anniversary This Year? If you were 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.

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.

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.

CHURCH PERSECUTED

Did you know that those of us who drive around in "Choose Life" license plates, participate in 40 Days for Life, Life Chain, and the March for Life have been considered by the U.S. Army to be part of a "terrorist organization"? At least that is what the Army had been teaching the soldiers at Fort Liberty (previously Fort Bragg), North Carolina.

In a September 19, 2024, House committee hearing on "Oversight of Extreme Policies in the Army," a slide from a briefing given to soldiers at the base showed logos from Operation Rescue, The National Right to Life Committee, and Choose Life license plates as examples of "terrorist groups" along with ISIS. It also included "sidewalk" counseling, "crisis center" counseling, and "opposition to Roe v. Wade" as examples of such terrorist groups.

LTG Patrick Matlock, Deputy Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, testified that since 2017, over 10,000 Army personnel have undergone anti-terrorism and extremism training at Fort Liberty. The hearing also revealed that slides "were not reviewed or approved by Fort Liberty leadership because local policies were not in place for reviewing and approving such training slides." The training program has since been discontinued.

Matlock testified that the Secretary of the Army responded on July 19, 2024 to a Congressional Inquiry on the matter stating that "Secretary of the Army stated unequivocally that nonprofit groups such as National Right to Life...are not terrorist groups and should not be described as such in Army documents or training materials; the slides do not represent the official policy or views of the U.S. Army." But who is going to tell that to the 10,000 soldiers that received the briefing?

Is this a local policy or a broader view of the Army's treatment of these organizations? In July 2024, according to Banks, U.S. Army Directive titled, "Handling Protest, Extremist, and Criminal Gang Activities" is being used to "to police the speech of conservative service members, quiet dissent, and require service members who believe in conservative ideals to hide their identities for fear of retaliation from their commands."

"See <https://catholicvote.org/u-s-armys-fort-liberty-has-branded-pro-life-groups-as-terrorists-for-7-years-officer-reveals-at-hearing/>



Get In-Formed!

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

Watch "Who are the Archangels?" In this FORMEDNow episode, Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein discuss the role of the archangels in our lives.



Listen to *Angels Explained: What You Should Know About the Nine Choirs*. Franciscan University Prof. Dr. Mark Miravalle speaks on the role, hierarchy, and importance of angels.

Watch "Choirs of Angels, Archangels, & Guardian Angels". This fourth episode of *Angels & Saints* explores the different types of angels, what we know about them, and our relationship to them.

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

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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.

Junior Legion of Mary. Children between the ages of 8 – 12+ at St. Raymond's who have received their First Holy Communion and parents seeking an extracurricular activity that enriches a young person's spiritual life and engages them in age-appropriate spiritual works of mercy under the spiritual direction of Father Bergida, please consider joining the Junior Legion of Mary.

Meetings will commence once five children have signed up. Meetings will be every Tuesday, 4:00-5:00pm, in the rectory Maurer Room. Two adult members of the Legion (Virtus certified) lead the meetings. Parents are welcome to attend / participate. Please email Patty Miller, pamiller35@gmail.com, or call / text her at: C - 703-455-9327.

VOTER INFORMATION TABLE in NARTHEX St Raymond's is hosting a non-partisan Catholic Voter Information Table after all Masses this weekend and 9-28/29. This will include: **Voter Registration** forms (deadline is October 15), **Absentee Ballot** applications (deadline October 25), and **change of address or name** forms to update your current information. We can answer any of your questions. Please remember to make sure your college students have the forms or link to vote absentee. **Voting is a civic duty for all citizens, so please do vote!**

Seton Jr.-Sr. High School in Manassas, VA, located at 9314 Maple St., will hold its annual Open House on **Sunday, November 3 from 2-4 pm**. Formal presentations begin at 2 p.m. followed by mini-classes, tours, and a reception. For additional information, please visit www.setonschool.net/admissions or email admissionsassociate@setonschool.net.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION / FAITH DIRECT SEPT.

Offertory	\$ 16,719.00	\$ 60,696.00
Family Assistance	\$ 345.00	\$ 2,571.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 797.00	\$ 5,797.00
OLOR	\$ 2,682.00	\$ 2,987.00



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