

***"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

ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS. This week we celebrate these important feasts that remind us that the Church of Jesus Christ is more than just the people we see at Mass, or even the 2 billion plus Christians on Earth. Because countless numbers of Christians have lived and died before us, and many of those are in Heaven, or on their way there.

This is what the Church means when it speaks of the **“Communion of Saints.”** Remember, the one Church has three states, or parts: first, all Christians on Earth (“The Pilgrim Church” or “The Church Militant”), second, all those in Heaven (“The Church in Glory” or “The Church Triumphant”), and third, all the souls in Purgatory (“The Church Being Purified” or “The Church Suffering”).

All Saints Day, Friday, November 1, is a **Holy Day of Obligation** (you must go to Mass, under pain of mortal sin) reminds us of our unity with the Church in Heaven. Throughout the year we celebrate the feasts of particular “saints” whom the Church officially considered “canonized saints.” But on *ALL Saints’ Day* we also remember *ALL* the other countless numbers of souls who have gone to Heaven, including many of our deceased parents and grandparents, and so many of our little children who have gone before us. This is their feast day! So, we honor them, and pray to them, asking the whole multitude in Heaven to assist us on our way to join them.

All Souls Day, Saturday, November 2, remembers our unity with the Church in Purgatory. Unfortunately, nowadays even the mention of Purgatory often triggers reactions of disbelief or even ridicule—even among Catholics. Yet this dogma goes back to the Old Testament (see 2 Maccabees 12:39-46. And as St. John tells us in Rev. 21:27 that “nothing imperfect shall enter into” Heaven. The thing is, almost all of us have at least some venial sins we cling to, or have some inordinate attachment to earthly things. We are not perfect. But in His great love and mercy, the Lord takes all of us who die with any imperfections (but having, before dying, properly repented of any *mortal*—“deadly”—sins) and He perfects, or purifies, us. This is what we call “Purgatory.”

And we must pray for the Souls in Purgatory—because even while they rejoice as they see themselves becoming more and more perfect, and drawing closer and closer to heaven, they do suffer the pains involved in change: much like an athlete rejoices as he becomes stronger and faster even as he endures the grueling pain of exercise and training. So even though it is not a day of obligation, the Church encourages us to go Mass on All Souls Day to offer that greatest prayer possible for the “Holy Souls.” With this in mind, I invite you to join us either at the **regular 9am Mass or the additional noon Mass next Saturday.**

All Hallow’s Eve. Of course, all this is proceeded on Thursday, October 31, by “Halloween.” As you know, I am not a fan of this day, since it not only tends to distract us from and trivialize the meaning of the important days that follow, but it is also used as a feast day by those that serve the devil (including Satanists, witches, etc.). Still, I understand the innocent fun, especially for kids, of dressing up in costumes and going trick-or-treating. So, parents can right choose to let the kids have some fun. But keep it balanced, and be careful not to let it, in any way, lead you or yours away from Christ, the Saints, or the Holy Souls.

PARISH FINANCES. Please find the Finance Report of the year ended June 30, 2024 (“2024”), inserted in this bulletin. I have included a side-by-side comparison with last year (“2023”), as well as “2019” (the year before Covid), and “2020” (the year

of Covid), since it is helpful to compare to these years as well.

For last year, 2024, Operating Income (mainly from offertory and long-term maintenance collections, and other donations) was \$ 2,491,738, **up \$182,584** (or 8%) from the prior year, while Operating Expenses were \$2,313,584, **up \$10,241** (or .4%) from the prior year, leaving us a **Net Operating Income of \$178,154**, up \$172,343 from the prior year.

It should be noted the increase in Operating Income is almost entirely due to two one-time windfalls: 1) a single bequest of \$99,191 (from a decedent’s Will) and 2) an increase (doubling) in the interest on our cash investments amounting to \$39,296 (See “DIAL” below). That leaves an increase from what we might call “regular” income from operations of **only \$44,096**, or a 2% increase. Not bad, but that does not keep up with the inflation rate, which was 3%.

We also had **Extraordinary Expenditures (capital improvements) of \$ 98,037:** \$53,000 to replace heating and air conditioning equipment and \$45,037 for our new sound system.

This left us with a Net Surplus (the bottom line) of \$80,117.14. However, without the two one-time income items discussed above, the bottom line would have been a net loss of \$58,370.

On the Balance Sheet side of things, we had Cash of \$180,564 in checking and **\$ 2,107,135.00 in savings.** Of the cash in savings, \$ 243,516.00 is restricted, i.e., funds dedicated to paying for Long-Term Maintenance and Capital Projects.

Our sole liabilities amount to only \$23,267 in Accounts Payable.

Please feel free to contact me or Maerose Naduvilekunnel in the parish office with any questions about the report.

DIAL. All Parishes in the Diocese are required invest our excess cash in a special Fund administered by the Diocesan. This Fund, called “DIAL” (Diocesan Investment and Loan”) then lends money to other parishes for things like building new churches. But it also has a large amount invested in a stock and bond portfolio.

This fund pays the parish interest, but most years this interest is well below the rate of return on DIALs investments. Recognizing this, in 2021 the Bishop had DIAL issue the parishes a one-time dividend (we received \$228,000). This year he decided to double our interest rate—for one year only—as discussed above.

ELECTION. I hope you all have registered to vote, and plan to vote on November 5, or sometime before then. Remember, we shouldn’t vote for someone because we like or don’t like the way they look or talk, but how they will govern. As Catholics, electing our representatives in this Republic, we must vote based on the most critical issues, especially what Pope Benedict XVI called the **“non-negotiables”:**

- (a) protection of human life (**pro-life**);
- (b) promotion of the natural structure of the **family** as a union between a man and a woman based on **marriage**;
- (c) the protection of the **right of parents** to educate their children.

I think you can also add to that defending **religious freedom** and **protecting children from the transgender** movement, especially bodily mutilation.

Of lesser but still important concern are freedom of speech, domestic safety, and enforcement of just immigration laws. And there are other issues, but these seem to be the most important to consider in this election.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, October 28th

6:30 am Barbara Ann Gresdo +
 8:30 am James & Brenna
 Hildebrand

Tuesday, October 29th

6:30 am James Leo Mault +
 8:30 am Antonia Cui +

Wednesday, October 30th

6:30 am Priscilla I. Fritts +
 8:30 am Samuel Berger
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, October 31st

6:30 am Harold J. Fritts +
 8:30 am Nancy Christman
 7:00 pm Elizabeth Fink
 Swallow

Friday, November 1st

6:30 am Deceased Members of
 the Legion of Mary +
 8:30 am Parishioners
 Noon Kirsti Tyson +
 7:00 pm Josephine Turk +

Saturday, November 2nd

9:00 All Souls Triduum +
 Noon All Souls +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm
 Obejera Family +

Sunday, November 3rd

7:00 am
 All Souls Triduum +

9:00 am
 Parishioners

11:00 am
 Ed Ward +

1:00 pm
 RE Catechists

**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 November!** All are invited to attend.

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 **November 2**. 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 PARISH HALL 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!

WAY Holy Hour and Mass. There is a monthly holy hour and Mass at St. Raymond's for the Women's Apostolate to Youth. This event, usually the last Wednesday of the month, is at 7:30 pm. Father celebrates benediction for parishioners at 7pm but leave the Eucharist exposed for Adoration by WAY. The event is intended for members of WAY and their (female) guests. The **next Holy Hour and Mass will be on October 30th**. If you would like information about how to join WAY, visit waywomen.com or email womenofway@gmail.com.

Wednesday Adorers Needed! Spend an hour in silent prayer and reflection with Our Lord during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. We are in need of Wednesday Adorers, please call Leslie Schratz at 703-569-1940 or email spoiledk9@verizon.net. God Bless 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.

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	Jose Lavina
Patricia Lewis	Nena Brennan	Stanley Ondrusek
Mai Pham	Serrin Foster	Helen Estabrooks
Jason Saenz	Donald Trayer	Annette Haynes
Phyllis Zitnik	Ellen Trayer	William McGowan
Patricia Del Buono	Arlene Pietraszko	Josephine Samudre
John Florio	Virginia Cummings	

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Oct 27-28	CCD classes
Oct 28	RCIA class
Oct 28	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Oct 29	Adult Bible Study
Oct 29	Adult Choir
Oct 29	Junior Legion of Mary 4-5pm
Oct 29	Legion of Mary 6:30pm
Oct 30	WAY Holy Hour and Mass
Oct 30	Adoration 9am- 7pm
Nov 1	All Saints Day-Holy Day of Obligation Vigil Mass 10/31 at 7pm Masses at 6:30am, 8:30am, noon, and 7pm
Nov 1	First Friday Nocturnal Adoration (suspended at noon and 7pm Masses)
Nov 2	Communal First Saturday Devotion
Nov 2	Men's Prayer Group and Luminaries
Nov 2-3	Project Manger/ Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales
Nov 2-3	40 Days for Life Witness Weekend
Nov 2-4	All Souls Triduum of Masses
Nov 3	REMINDER-TIME CHANGE!
Nov 3	Donut Sunday
Nov 5	Election Day Adoration 9am- 7pm
Nov 9	Way Men's Retreat
Nov 9	Wreaths Across America AHG Collection

WAY Men's 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 Nov. 3 to attend.** Donations gratefully accepted. To register go to www.waywomen.com/mensretreat For more information, contact Robin Maas at rmvlmaas@gmail.com.

ALL SOULS DAY TRIDUUM: St. Raymond's will again be offering a Triduum of Masses for All Souls. The Masses will be said on Nov. 2nd, Nov. 3rd and Nov. 4th at 8:30 am. To have your departed loved ones remembered in these Masses, please complete one of the All Souls envelopes in the narthex and place it in the collection basket today or bring it to the parish office by November 1.

Adoration for OUR COUNTRY on Election Day, November 5.

Please remember to vote and to pray for God's will in this year's elections. On Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024 we will have Exposition and Adoration after the 8:30 Mass and conclude with Benediction at 7 pm. Please join us! Visit our website to sign up for an hour or stop by anytime during the day.



REMINDER- Time Changes Nov. 3th: Daylight Savings Time ends next weekend! Please remember to set your clocks back one hour Saturday night.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



A KNIGHT TO REMEMBER: Christopher Columbus. Mediators of popular culture have arrogated to themselves new reductionist interpretations of history that deny important contexts that we must recall every September-October. This month we celebrate Christopher

Columbus, our namesake, with an **Italian dinner night**, but we also recall the October 7 victory of Lepanto, when the banner of Our Lady of Guadalupe flew over the arms of Europe and the first global rosary Crusade filled the sails of Christian galleys. Few have suffered as much at the hands of our cultural mediators as Columbus. In short, Christopher Columbus exercised heroic virtues in looking Westward in response to the persistent predatory advance of Islam. The fall of Constantinople in 1453 preceded Columbus' achievement by a mere 39 years. Indeed, Columbus's enterprise was primarily meant to open a new Crusade that would flank Islam westward. Nevertheless, Islam would continue to pester Christian progress in the east until Catholic arms, led by a young Don Juan of Austria, checked it definitively at Lepanto in 1571 and then again, led by Jan Sobieski of Poland, before the gates of Vienna on September 12, 1683. **JOIN THESE KNIGHTS and get the first year free--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 TO LIFE.**

BECOME A KNIGHT!

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/2-3 Project Manger
11/16 Blood Drive
11/16-17 Coats for Kids



November 16th Blood Drive. The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a blood drive on behalf of Inova Blood Donor Services on Saturday, November 16th here in the St. Raymond's parish hall from 7 am to noon. You may sign up online at www.inovabloodsaves.org or in the narthex after all Masses this weekend. If you have any questions or difficulty signing up, please contact Mark Maslyn of our parish at 202-679-3293 or by email at: mam7253@msn.com.

Coats for Kids! The Knights of Columbus will be collecting new Coats for Kids after all Masses Nov. 16-17. All new coats will be donated to local charities. Monetary donations will also be accepted and will be used to purchase new coats.

NEXT WEEK! The 13th Annual PROJECT MANGER Fundraiser is NEXT weekend, 02/03 November

Join St. Raymond's Knights of Columbus and the Pro-Life Committee in supporting **Project Manger!** After all the Masses next weekend, 02/03 November, St Raymond will once again have the opportunity to support **Project Manger** which purchases new cribs and mattresses for moms and their babies in need. The new cribs and mattresses are distributed through "A Woman's Choice" and other Pro-Life crisis pregnancy centers in the local area. "A Woman's Choice" is a pro-life organization whose mission statement is "to love pregnant women so much so that abortion becomes an unthinkable option." Please prayerfully consider donating to this wonderful Pro-Life effort which is changing hearts and minds one mom and her baby at a time. POC for this effort is John Crennan who can be reached at 339.223.0887. For additional information, here is Project Manger's website, <https://www.projectmanger.org/> This year's contributions can also be made throughout October and November by using the Knights QR Code.



"Keep Christ in Christmas" Christmas Cards – Next weekend, Nov. 2-3 the Knights of Columbus will be offering religious Christmas cards in the Narthex after all the Masses.

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.

OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH!



"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.



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

hildebrandseven@gmail.com.

Hosea Initiative **Raise Your Voice Gala** honoring Bishop Joseph Strickland, Friday December 6 at The Bellevue Center, Chantilly. For more info, visit hosea4you.org.

Please continue to pray for those who are imprisoned for peacefully standing up for the lives of the unborn. May Our Lord through the sorrowful heart of Mary console them in their suffering.

A MOM'S Peace is a Lay Apostolate for Mothers of Miscarried and Stillborn Souls. By discretely supporting mothers with burial, bereavement and remembrance programs, they lovingly guide families through difficult decisions in the immediate wake of loss. A Mom's Peace exists to fulfill the corporal and spiritual works of mercy "bury the dead" and "comfort the sorrowful." Kara Palladino will be available in the narthex after the 7pm Mass on Wednesday 13 November to visit with you and answer questions about this ministry.

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>**

Meatless Breakfast Dish Donations Needed

Would you be willing to provide a breakfast main dish for one or two of our Friday breakfasts this year? Details and can be found on the signup <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVP>

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.

Bake Cookies for Prison Ministry Retreat

Deliver Cookies to Parish Office between Oct. 27-29th

Prison ministry is **still in need of 36 dozen more cookies by Oct. 29th!** Would you be willing to sign up to bake a dozen or two? See details at <https://bit.ly/mercycookies> Youth may earn service hours for making and baking cookies.

Youth Group & CCD, Sunday October 27th

Youth Group meets in the Parish Hall. 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

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

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 even 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, please RSVP so we have enough food.

High School "Bible Study" & Optional 6:30pm Rosary 7-8pm Friday, October 25th (Library in parish hall)

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!

Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group

7-8:30pm Wednesdays, October 30th (Parish Library)

High School Ladies! "Little Girl, arise!" (Mt. 5:41) and come to Talitha Koum! Deepen your faith, play fun games, and grow in sisterhood! Bring a pen & journal if you have one. Make sure to check the bulletin, email or calendar for dates.

Saturday, Nov. 2: 40 Days for Life Prayer & Chick-Fil-A 10:15am-1:15pm (7-12th Grade Outing)

Join us in praying the rosary for an end to abortion and for the culture of life outside the abortion clinic in Falls Church, followed by milkshakes and fellowship at Chick-Fil-A. *Permission slips due 11/30.* <http://bit.ly/YAforms>

Saturday, Nov. 2: High School Swing Dance 7-9pm (Parish Hall)

All high school students are invited! **We have instructors** so please don't worry if you have never danced before. Most of the folks who have been attending had never swing danced before, but now are quite good! See flyer or email for more info. *Mark the date & tell your friends! No cost!*

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

Happy Solemnity of All Saints this week! Remember to go to **Mass on Nov. 1**, (Holy Day of Obligation) to celebrate the great gift of all the saints. Consider finding a saint movie on Formed to enjoy as a family!

Mass Attendance Cards: Parents of students in grades

2, 7 and 8 are reminded that your child **should be submitting a Mass attendance card** every time they attend **weekend Mass** (Saturday vigil / Sunday Masses) and **Holy Days of Obligation**. They should write their first and last name as well as the date and time of the Mass they attend and place it in the collection basket! If your child attends Mass at a parish other than St. Raymond's, please pick up a bulletin from that parish and ask a priest or deacon to sign the bulletin after Mass. Your child should write their name on the bulletin and then drop it off in the RE Office at your earliest convenience.

Looking ahead: There is **no class on Nov. 11** in observance of **Veterans Day**, but there **IS class on Sunday, Nov. 10.**

Wreaths Across America Sponsorship Drive. American Heritage Girls will be collecting cash donations after all of the Masses Veterans' Day weekend (Nov. 9-10) to sponsor wreaths to be laid at the US Soldiers & Airmen's Home National Cemetery in Washington, DC on December 16. If you would prefer to donate electronically, please visit our troop's sponsorship site at <https://tinyurl.com/VA0683WAA>. We thank you for your support!

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.

8th Grade Students Catholic Schools Placement Testing: For those interested in attending Catholic High Schools in the Diocese of Arlington. Test date: Sat. Dec. 7th, 2024. Students must register on-line on the high school's website by the registration deadline. The testing fee should accompany the registration.

Fall Open House Sunday, November 3, 2024
Join us for **Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School's** Fall Open House on Sunday, November 3rd from 1-4 pm! Learn what JP has to offer your child - robust academic programs including STEM, DE courses and Bioethics, vibrant student life and House System, competitive athletics, faith community steeped in Dominican tradition, and more! This Fall Open House is a great event for all ages, but especially students in 7th & 8th grade. To learn more and RSVP in advance, please visit: https://jpthegreat.schooladminonline.com/portal/new_inquiry

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.

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.

CHURCH PERSECUTED

This past week marked the fifth anniversary of the canonization of Pope Saint John Paul II, who reigned from 1978 to 2005. What was remarkable about his reign was that he was able to address the concerns of the day not only with clarity and logic, but also with a deep understanding of the human person and the underlying issues.

In 1995, for the United Nation's Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, he sent a delegation led by Harvard law professor Mary Ann Glendon and Msgr. Peter Elliott to counter the radical feminist agenda being forced upon the conference by the U.S. delegation. For example, they threatened to cut off aid to Central American nations if they didn't accept a U.S.-led resolution calling abortion a universal right.

The Vatican delegation (very small) was supported by unofficial non-voting delegates known as non-governmental officials (NGOs). The pro-Vatican NGOs provided logistic support to the Vatican delegation and gave pro-women presentations at a related forum near Beijing. One of the U.S. NGO's gave a presentation on natural family planning to a packed audience of women from every corner of the globe and was challenged as follows: "Everywhere we go, we hear about abortion and birth control from the American delegates and their allies. Are there other American women like you, and if so, where are they?" The NGO replied, "Yes, they are home raising their families!"

The saintly Pope John Paul II wrote in *The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World - Familiaris Consortio*,

24. Unfortunately, the Christian message about the dignity of women is contradicted by that persistent mentality which considers the human being not as a person but as a thing, as an object of trade, at the service of selfish interest and mere pleasure: the first victims of this mentality are women.

This mentality produces very bitter fruits, such as contempt for men and for women, slavery, oppression of the weak, pornography, prostitution – especially in an organized form....

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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.

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, visit www.setonschool.netadmissions or email admissionsassociate@setonschool.net.

We are Looking for Families for our **Christmas Giving Tree**. Each year, St. Raymond's "adopts" families who need help with Christmas. If your family, or someone you know could use help providing gifts for their children, please let the parish office know. The information is kept completely confidential! The office phone number is 703-440-0535. Please apply by October 29th.

Special Legion of Mary event for Auxiliary and Active members: The Legion of Mary – Arlington Senatus – extends a warm invitation to Legion of Mary members to commemorate and pray for the BEATIFICATION of Servant of God Frank Duff on Friday, November 8, 2024, 6:30pm, at St. Thomas More Cathedral, 3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington, VA. Event begins with 6:30pm Holy Rosary, followed by 7:00pm Holy Mass. Reception to follow; to RSVP for the reception or for inquiry, call Virginia Pierson (703) 915-1318 or Vivian Moran (703) 888-8196 (If carpool arrangement from St. Raymond's needed, please contact Judy Mayer, jmayer9014@aol.com)

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. Our next meeting will be **November 2nd**. For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryndavew7705@gmail.com

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Offertory	\$ 12,544.00
Family Assistance	\$ 597.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,106.00
OLOR-Scholarship	\$ 930.00
World Mission	\$ 2,569.62

FAITH DIRECT OCT. 2024

Offertory	\$ 56,832.18
Family Assistance	\$ 2,451.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,034.00
OLOR-Scholarship	\$ 2,852.00
World Mission	\$ 1,346.00

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