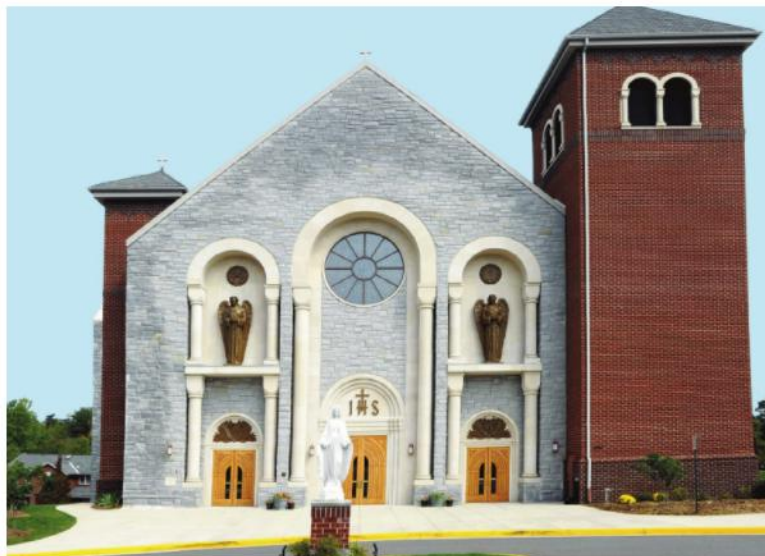


CHRIST THE KING

**"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
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

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

Christ the King. Today is the last Sunday of the Catholic liturgical year, which ends with the celebration of the feast of Christ the King of the Universe.

Jesus told us His “kingdom is not of this world.” He was not establishing a territorial nation with rules enforced by imprisonment or armies. But He did not say or mean that His kingdom would “have nothing to do with the world.” Rather His kingdom, and kingship, would reign above the world and in men’s hearts, minds and souls, and so transform the world.

Because of this, the Church has always recognized a legitimate understanding of the “separation of Church and state.” It is true that some nations have been, or still are, officially “Catholic” nations. Some say this blurs the lines of that separation. But it all depends on what you mean by “separation.” If you mean, on the one hand, that the Church should not dictate the particular laws of civil society, while still having a strong influence on those laws, especially in promoting true morality, justice, virtue and charity, and on the other hand, that civil leaders and laws should not interfere in the spiritual, moral life or conscience of the Church and its members, then you have something approaching the historic Catholic understanding of separation.

This understanding is entirely compatible (though not identical) with the type of “separation” the American founders established for our nation, enshrined in the first amendment to the Constitution: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” The principal effect of this clause is to guarantee that *the government* can’t make laws that unnecessarily impinge on the rights of religions or churches, or interfere with people practicing their religion freely. There is nothing here, as some people claim, that denies the right of religion, Churches, and/or religious people to influence civil government and laws. In fact, the founding fathers believed that religion had an essential role in guiding the nation and its laws. As George Washington wrote: “*Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports.... [R]eason and experience both forbid us to expect, that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.*”

In the last few decades Islamic extremists have used despicable violence against the innocent to try to establish a world-wide theocracy in which the state and “church” (so to speak) are one, with no separation at all. We see something similar in Iran, where the Supreme Leader is the highest ranking Muslim cleric.

The Catholic Church does not seek this role. (Although Pope Urban II tried to do something like this in the 13th century, his approach was strongly rejected by his brother bishops, Catholic princes and his immediate successor in the papacy). It simply believes that it has a critical role in influencing public policy, and that its individual members have a right to live according to their faith-formed consciences and, especially through the right of free speech and the right to vote, to enact laws consistent with their understanding of right and wrong, good and evil.

Today, on the feast of Christ the King, we remember this, and that while His Kingdom is not of this

world, it reigns in the hearts and minds of all Christians. So that while Christ does not seek to establish His own worldly kingdom or nation, He does call all peoples living in the worldly kingdoms and nations to follow Him so as to live in true justice and virtue.

Does Christ the King reign in our hearts—or does something else rule there? And do we allow our King to rule the way we live in the worldly kingdoms, in our both our day to day life with family, friends and customers, as well as in the “public square” of public speech and civil laws?

Thanksgiving. This Thursday is, of course, Thanksgiving Day. This is not a religious holiday, but it does clearly illustrate how the sense of the importance of religion is deeply rooted in our national self-understanding. As President George Washington wrote in establishing the first Thanksgiving Day in 1789:

“Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be-- That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks--for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation--for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war--for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed--for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted--for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.”

This week, remember who you are giving thanks too. It’s fine to thank your family and friends for all their kindnesses, but in the end it is “Almighty God”—Christ the King—to whom we owe our unending thanks. May He continue to bless us, and our beloved nation.

And **what better way to begin Thanksgiving Day than by coming to our 10am Mass?** After all, Eucharistic comes from the Greek word *eukharistia*, which means *thanksgiving*. I hope to see you there.

Advent. Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent, as we prepare spiritually for the celebration of the birth of our Savior at Christmas. Please take some time to plan ahead for the penitential season of Advent so that it will truly be a time of holiness, not merely the shopping time between Black Friday and the day Santa Claus comes.

Please see today’s insert with the full schedule of Advent events. Let me remind you to take particular advantage of the increased opportunities to go to confession and attend weekday Mass. Also, I invite you all to attend **the 7pm Mass on the 1st through 3rd Thursdays**, when I will give an **extended homily** (like a Sunday homily) on the topics of “**Hope, Peace, and Joy**.” We hear these all the time during the Advent Season, but they have a much deeper meaning than the secular world associates with them.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 25th

6:30 am John Spataro +
 8:30 am David Harvatin +

Tuesday, November 26th

6:30 am Haddon & Emma
 Estabrooks +
 8:30 am Dr. William A.
 Foster +

Wednesday, November 27th

6:30 am Pilar Daisy Brillantes+
 8:30 am Larry McKinley +
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, November 28th

10:00 am Bruce A. Brody +

Friday, November 29th

8:30 am Dolores Blanche
 Gigliotti +

Saturday, November 30th

9:00 Joseph & Irene
 Mannion +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm
 Christopher Riordan

Sunday, December 1st

7:00 am
 Molly Riordan

9:00 am
 Parishioners

11:00 am
 Goody Litorja +

1:00 pm
 John Crowley +

**View livestreaming of the Holy Mass
 at St. Raymond's!**

www.straymonds.org

Monday - Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am
 Saturday at 9:00 am

Sunday Mass at 9:00 am & 11:00 am
 (See the website for Holy Days)

Daily Family Rosary leaders needed! St. Raymond's has a Daily Family Rosary in the church: Mon-Fri at 6:30pm and Saturday and Sunday after the 9am Mass. **Please visit our website to sign up to lead during November!** All are invited to attend.

Christ House Meal – Nov. 29th. Cash Donations Only. This year our commitment to the Diocesan Christ House Dining Room in Alexandria falls on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Because of that, this quarter, we are requesting cash donations in lieu of food items. The committee will order 72 hot, prepared meals to be delivered to Christ House that can be easily distributed by Christ House volunteers. Please drop off your cash donations at the Rectory, slip an envelope under the Gift Shop door, or you can make a cash donation via Faith Direct at this link: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/VA64/54793>

Giving Tree Update! This year we are sponsoring 30 families. All families are either parish families, referred by a parish family, or given to us by Our Lady of the Blue Ridge in Madison, VA. The requests for Gift Cards are on the trees in the narthex and Physical Gift Items will be on a Signup Genius that you may access through our website. Instructions are on our website and next to the trees in the Narthex. Please share Christ's love this Christmas season by helping a needy family celebrate! **All gifts are due before December 15,** but the **earlier the better!** Please call the parish office with any questions. Giving trees are up Nov. 25.



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	Margaret Norton
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	Beth Fitzgibbons
Patricia Del Buono	Arlene Pietraszko	Tom Swengros
John Florio	Virginia Cummings	Jean Keegan

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Nov 24-25	Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales
Nov 24-25	CCD classes
Nov 25	RCIA class
Nov 25	Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Nov 25	Giving Trees are up in the Narthex
Nov 26	Adult Bible Study
Nov 26	Adult Choir
Nov 26	Junior Legion of Mary 4-5pm
Nov 26	Legion of Mary 6:30pm
Nov 27	Adoration 9am- 7pm
Nov 28	THANKSGIVING- MASS AT 10AM- PARISH OFFICES CLOSED
Nov 29	Christ House Meal
Nov 29	No Adoration today
Nov 29	Post Thanksgiving Social 6:30pm
Nov 29	K of C Christmas Tree Sales in the Parking Lot
Dec 1	First Sunday of Advent
Dec 1	Donut Sunday
Dec 8	Advent Lessons and Carols

Sponsor a Wreath & Support Our Troop!

Would you like to honor veterans AND souls this month? Get two-for-one by sponsoring a wreath that the American Heritage Girls of St. Raymond's will be personally laying at the US Soldiers' and Airmen's Home Cemetery next month! Many of the graves date back to the Civil War, so it's a beautiful way to remember those who served who have likely since been forgotten. <https://tinyurl.com/VA0683WAA>



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.

Advent Lessons and Carols. Please join us on **Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 7:00 pm** for a program of beautiful Advent music and Scripture readings, called "**Lessons and Carols.**" Weaving together prophetic readings from the Old Testament and pre-nativity readings from the Gospels, the readers lay out God's breathtaking plan for the birth of Our Savior. The choir adds to the atmosphere of joyful expectation by leading us in popular hymns and singing a few special choral pieces. Afterwards, everyone gathers downstairs for some seasonal refreshments and Christian fellowship.

Free Christmas Luncheon For All Seniors

WHO: All Seniors 55 years young and above

WHERE: St. Raymond's Parish Hall

DATE: Dec. 28, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

MENU: Turkey and all the trimmings

RSVP: by Dec. 20 at office@straymonds.org or call at 703-440-0535

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



KNIGHTS KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS. Check the Narthex after Mass for all the things Knights do this time of year—and don't forget your Christmas tree from the Knights! **Sales begin right after Thanksgiving.** While your at

it, why not **BECOME A KNIGHT?** First year is free of dues—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 John Larvie at cell (571) 356-4170 with any questions. **ANSWER THE CALL TO LIFE. BECOME A KNIGHT!**



UPCOMING EVENTS

11/2-3-Dec.14 "Keep Christ in Christmas" Christmas Cards Sales
11/23 Assemble Christmas Tree Stands
Nov. 29 Christmas Tree Sales in the Parking Lot

"Keep Christ in Christmas" Christmas Cards – Every weekend thru Dec. 14, the Knights of Columbus will be offering religious Christmas cards in the Narthex after all the Masses.

Christmas Tree Sales. The Knights of Columbus are selling Christmas Trees and Wreaths in the Church parking lot from Nov. 29 through Thursday, December 19 (or until sold out). Please support the Knights, who use the contributions to support St Raymond Parish and various other local charities throughout the year. Points of Contact are: Mark Menotti, 401-644-7128; Phil Bettwy, 703-868-9411; and John Crennan, 339-223-0887.

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.

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.

Snow Team Volunteers Needed: Saint Raymond's is looking for Snow Team Volunteers to help in potential snow removal and treating for all doorways and sidewalks for the church and rectory. For more information, please contact the office at 703-440-0535.

ADORERS NEEDED- Friday Adorers needed at 11am, 12pm and 1pm. Please consider spending an hour with Our Lord during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. If you are interested, please call the parish office at 703-440-0535.

St. Martin of Porres is looking for Volunteers! We are looking for volunteers to help collect items from the Narthex and deliver them to the Springfield Resource Center. If you are interested in helping, please contact the parish office at 703-440-0535.

The Gift Shop is Open this Weekend! The Gift Shop will be open Saturday and Sunday. Come by to do some Christmas shopping!

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 December 7th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryndavew7705@gmail.com.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

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

Give Thanks for the Gift of Life!

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.

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

Regret often follows when a woman ingests the 'abortion pill'. If you know someone in this situation, contact abortionpillreversal.com 24/7 helpline: 877-558-0333. **It may not be too late.**

A MOM'S Peace is a Lay Apostolate for Mothers of Miscarried and Stillborn Souls. Discreet support for mothers with burial, bereavement and remembrance programs, they lovingly guide families through difficult decisions in the immediate wake of loss. amomspeace.org

Her Plan (Pregnancy and Life Assistance Network) facilitates collaboration between assistance providers and their communities so that mothers and babies in need are empowered with the support they need to thrive. So much help available! For more info, visit: Herplan.org

Introducing Olivia!!! Olivia is the world's most realistic and medically accurate animation of a baby's development in her mother's womb. babyolivia.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 Please continue to pray for those who are imprisoned for peacefully standing up for the lives of the unborn. May Our Lord console them in their suffering.

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

The Power of Prayer. Abortionists trespass against us. Yet we are called to 'forgive those who trespass against us'. Through the Evangelist Matthew, the Lord also admonishes us to love and pray for those who persecute us. At St Raymond's Mass is offered every year for each of the known abortionists in our area. As we each strive to live the Gospel of Life, please continue to pray for the conversion of abortionists.

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>



Make sure to stop by the narthex after Mass this weekend to pick up your pies!

Thank you for supporting the Youth Apostolate!



Sun. 11/ 24: BOTH YOUTH GROUPS at 3:30pm!

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

Adoration Join us for a special holy hour for 7-12th graders! Exposition with a short talk on Forgiveness given by Fr. Bergida, followed time for silent prayer (bring a journal, pen, rosary, and Bible or spiritual reading) the opportunity for Confession and closing with Benediction. Chili will be served in the hall afterwards. *Parents/families are encouraged to stay for the holy hour as well.*



Fri. 11/29: NO High School "Bible Study" this week

We will resume 7-8pm Friday, December 6th (Parish Library)

Fri. 11/29: NO Youth Apostolate 6:30am Mass & Breakfast

We will meet December 6th, 13th and 20th next month. 7-12th graders are invited to join Fr. Bergida & Fr. Horkan for 6:30am Mass & breakfast in the hall after. **RSVP** to help us gauge how much food we need. And **RSVP by Wed. if you need a ride to school after.** <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVP>



Sat. 12/7: Breakfast with St. Nicholas (9:30-11am Parish Hall) High School Volunteers Needed 7:30am-12pm

The Knights of Columbus are in need of HIGH SCHOOL volunteers & compliant adults to help make & serve breakfast at their annual St. Raymond's Breakfast with St. Nicholas in the parish hall on **Saturday, December 7th**. Arrive at 7:30am to help decorate the church hall, cook & serve breakfast, and clean up by 12pm. Sign up to help at <https://bit.ly/stnick2024>

Sun. 12/1: NO Youth Group or CCD

Have a Happy Thanksgiving with your family!!

Sun. 12/8: NO Youth Group or CCD

Sun. 12/8: Lessons & Carols (7-8pm in the Church)

All families are encouraged to attend our parish Lessons and Carols, a peaceful evening of scripture readings and music meant to prepare our hearts for Christmas. Everyone is invited downstairs for refreshments afterwards. Note, **this event is a parish/family event**, NOT a Youth Apostolate event.

Sun. 12/15: Youth Group & CCD

This will be the ONLY Sunday Youth Group mtg. this month!

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 **Talent Show**— Grades 9-12

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

There WILL BE CCD classes tonight, 11/24 - there will be no classes on Sun. 12/1.

Enjoy a very blessed Thanksgiving, and safe travels to everyone going out of town for the holiday. Remember to give thanks to God for His countless blessings as the year draws to a close!



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.

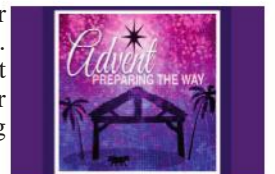
Shadow a Wolf for a Day!

September 2024 - May 2025-Shadow Days at John Paul are officially open for this year! Do you have an 8th-10th grader who is interested in seeing what it is like to be a JP student? Sign them up for a Shadow Day visit! For registration and more details, 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.

Post Thanksgiving Social! Gather together after Thanksgiving on Nov. 29 at 6:30pm for Family Rosary followed by board games and light refreshments in the Parish Hall. Please bring a game and a sweet or savory treat to share. Bring your out of town guests, college kids, young adults, and grandkids too! No RSVP needed.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVENTS—Be sure to take this weekend's bulletin insert & post it to your refrigerator or near the family calendar. There are many opportunities at Saint Raymond's to prepare yourself and your entire family for a Holy Advent beginning next Sunday, December 1st.



CHURCH PERSECUTED

We have six weeks left in the Biden Administration. Hopefully the new order in America will be to allow citizens to exercise their First Amendment rights by praying or protesting at abortion facilities. Currently, pro-life Americans are being treated as “dissenters who are destabilizing the current political order,” rather than “Americans exercising their right to free speech.” It all began with the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act which included fines and/or imprisonment for those who protested in front of these abortion mills. How ironic it is that the Biden administration arrests peaceful protestors, while taking little to no action against those who firebomb or damage pregnancy centers. Hopefully this injustice will soon end.

On the other hand, things are not so well in the United Kingdom. Their new “Safe Access law... made it a criminal offense to do anything within 200 meters of an abortion facility that could ‘influence’ someone’s decision to access, provide, or facilitate an abortion.” 200 meters is the more than the length of two football fields. Will the British police arrest a Christian walking 100 meters from an abortion facility while praying the rosary? Afterall, the rosary is the ultimate Catholic weapon!

Auguste Meyrat points out a few truths in *The Catholic Thing* (“England Rediscovered Christian Persecution,” *The Catholic Thing*, November 16, 2024).

“First, murdering and imprisoning Catholics will not make a non-Catholic government stronger, but weaker.

“Second, the systemic persecution of any community sets a dangerous precedent that inevitably results in more persecution, as happened in Ireland and most of the British colonies.

“And third, there is no valid reason, moral or political, that justifies the persecution of any Christian community. Nevertheless, the U.K. is currently in the process of reviving the persecution of Christians....”

As we approach Thanksgiving, we are reminded that the Pilgrims left England because of religious persecution. What would America be like today had England not persecuted them?

(<https://www.thecatholicthing.org/2024/11/16/england-rediscovered-christian-persecution/>)

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

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

Watch Sacred Art: Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Watch this episode of a multi-part series with Dr. Tim Gray and Taylor Kemp exploring theology through art. (Christ the King, Nov 24)

Watch Lectio: The Case for Jesus. This 9-part series by Bible scholar Dr. Brant Pitre presents historical evidence and documentation for the authenticity of the Gospels and what they tell us about Jesus.



For Teens! Watch “Who Is Jesus?” This episode in the *Symbolon for Teens* series explores who Jesus is and challenges teens to choose Him.

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.

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 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.

Breakfast with Saint Nicholas- SATURDAY December 7th! Saint Nicholas is coming to St. Raymond Church! He will be here on Saturday, December 7th, after the 9:00 am Mass. The Knights of Columbus, St. John Bosco Council, will host Saint Nicholas along with providing a pancake breakfast assisted by the St. Raymond Youth Apostolate. Saint Nicholas will speak with the children and share about his life and the origin of Santa Clause and a Catholic perspective of Santa and his amazing ability to celebrate Jesus’ birth every year through the giving of gifts to children throughout the world. This event is free and open to all. Please bring a canned good to share with our needy neighbors through the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC).

Last Week’s Collection

Offertory	\$ 12,636.00
Family Assistance	\$ 695.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,205.00
OLOR	\$ 1,045.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 2,018.00



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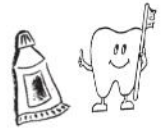
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