

**"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  
7:00 pm (During Advent)  
Saturday: 9:00 am

**Website:** [www.straymonds.org](http://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](mailto:Office@straymonds.org)  
Pastor: [fdc@straymonds.org](mailto:fdc@straymonds.org)  
Rel. Ed.: [ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org](mailto: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](mailto:bulletin@straymonds.org) 10 days prior to publication date.

## Pastor's Corner

**Merry Christmas!** As the Octave and Season of Christmas continues, I want to wish all of you a Blessed and Holy and Merry Christmas. I hope that your Christmas Day was wonderful and filled with holiness and good cheer, and that you were all able to spend time with your family and friends. Most of all, I hope it was a day of recognizing and experiencing the love of the Omnipotent God the Son, born in human nature and flesh, the Baby Jesus.

**Thanks.** I'd like to say "thanks" to all who worked so hard to make Advent and Christmas so special this year. In particular, the choir, cantors, musicians (especially organist Joseph Mernagh) and Elisabeth Turco for all the beautiful music. The American Heritage Girls and Trail Life boys for running the Senior Lunch; the Knights of Columbus for all they did in so many ways, including selling Christmas cards and Christmas trees and sponsoring Breakfast with Saint Nicholas. The Brennan family, and all the other sacristans, for all their work in preparing the sanctuary. The Mullen Family and the rest of the flower committee, for decorating the church so beautifully. To all those who contributed so much in time and treasure to the Giving Tree, especially Sheri Burns. To all those who assisted in special ways at the Mass, especially the altar boys, lectors (led by Phil Bettwy), extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (led by Barbara Aldridge and Christine Spengler) and the ushers (led by Patrick O'Brien). Also thanks to our custodial workers Luis Tapia and Dania Ochoa, for keeping the church so clean and neat. A special thanks to our dedicated parish staff, Mike Thompson, Mary Butler, Virginia Osella, Mary Hansen, Elisabeth Frazee, Dominique Murray and Jeanne Sause, who all work very hard during Advent. And finally, to my brother priests, Fr. Joseph Bergida, Fr. Edward Horkan and Msgr. Robert Rippey, for their dedicated service to the parish. I know I've left out lots of groups and names; my apologies. Thank you all, and God bless you all.

**New Year's.** I look forward seeing all of you on New Year's Eve or Day, to celebrate the **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** (a holy day of obligation). Maybe I'll see some of you at **Midnight Mass**: we keep things simple at this Mass, but it's the perfect way to bring in the New Year. May the Christ Child bless you in the New Year, and may His Blessed Mother will keep you in her care. Blessed and Merry Christmas, and Holy and Happy New Year!

**Volunteer Dinner.** This coming Saturday, January 4, is our annual dinner in appreciation for all those who volunteer their time to support the activities of the parish. If that should include you, and you haven't RSVP'd yet, please contact the parish office or your committee chairman asap.

**Solemnity of St. Raymond.** Our patron saint's feast is normally celebrated on January 7, but canon law allows the pastor, with the permission of the Bishop, to move the patronal feast ("title of the church") to the following Sunday. So, with Bishop Burbidge's permission (thanks Bishop!), **I am transferring the liturgical observation of St. Raymond's to Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.** Note that this is the last Sunday of the Christmas Season, and so falls on the same Sunday we would normally celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. But since St. Raymond's feast (a "solemnity" to us) "outranks the "Feast" of the Baptism, the celebration of the "Baptism of the Lord" be transferred to the following Monday, January 13. **Please note that the originally scheduled 7pm Mass on January 7th is now cancelled.**

In conjunction with the celebration of our patronal Solemnity on Jan. 12, the Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a **free pancake breakfast after the Sunday morning Masses.** All are welcome!

**Year End Donations.** Every year at this time we all get inundated with requests for donations. Unfortunately, many so-called "charities" are not doing work consistent with God's will, and others may have good intentions, but are inefficient or ineffective in using their resources. So, we don't have to give to every group who asks for help, and I recommend you give mainly to those groups you know and have confidence in.

The groups I give to and would recommend for your consideration include: the Little Sisters of the Poor, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, House of Mercy, Project Rachel, Gabriel Project, Mary's Shelter (Fredericksburg), the Poor Clares, Angelus Academy and St. Dominic Monastery in Linden, VA.

A new charity you might consider giving to is the newly forming Christ the King Chesterton Academy, which I wrote about last week (contact me if you're interested).

And of course **my favorite charities are St. Raymond's parish and the Our Lady of Ransom Scholarship Fund.**

**The Holy Family. Pope Benedict XVI Angelus, December 31, 2006 (excerpt):**

*"...In the Gospel we do not find discourses on the family but an event which is worth more than any words: God wanted to be born and to grow up in a human family. In this way he consecrated the family as the first and ordinary means of his encounter with humanity.*

*"In his life spent at Nazareth, Jesus honored the Virgin Mary and the righteous Joseph, remaining under their authority throughout the period of his childhood and his adolescence (cf. Lk 2: 41-52). In this way he shed light on the primary value of the family in the education of the person.*

*"Jesus was introduced by Mary and Joseph into the religious community and frequented the synagogue of Nazareth. With them, he learned to make the pilgrimage to Jerusalem, as the Gospel passage offered for our meditation by today's liturgy tells us.*

*"When he was 12 years old, he stayed behind in the Temple and it took his parents all of three days to find him. With this act he made them understand that he 'had to see to his Father's affairs,' in other words, to the mission that God had entrusted to him (cf. Lk 2: 41-52).*

*"This Gospel episode reveals the most authentic and profound vocation of the family: that is, to accompany each of its members on the path of the discovery of God and of the plan that he has prepared for him or her.*

*"Mary and Joseph taught Jesus primarily by their example: in his parents he came to know the full beauty of faith, of love for God and for his Law, as well as the demands of justice, which is totally fulfilled in love (cf. Rom 13: 10).*

*"From them he learned that it is necessary first of all to do God's will, and that the spiritual bond is worth more than the bond of kinship.*

*"The Holy Family of Nazareth is truly the 'prototype' of every Christian family which, united in the Sacrament of Marriage and nourished by the Word and the Eucharist, is called to carry out the wonderful vocation and mission of being the living cell not only of society but also of the Church, a sign and instrument of unity for the entire human race..."*

**Oremus pro invicem, Fr. De Celles**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday December 30th**

6:30 am Martin Rusnak +  
 8:30 am Bob & Bev Ward

**Tuesday December 31st**

6:30 am Gerard Schratz +  
 8:30 am Parishioners  
 5:00 pm Pope Benedict XVI +

**Wednesday January 1st**

Midnight Krtista Paparo +  
 9:00 am Robert Rick +  
 11:00 am Gerard Schratz +  
 1:00 pm RE Catechists

**Thursday January 2nd**

8:30 am Teofilo & Filomenada  
 Tulayba +

**Friday January 3rd**

6:30 am Theresa Robles +  
 8:30 am Kirsti + Maerose,  
 Mary, Virginia and  
 Staff

**Saturday January 4th**

9:00 am Donna & Rick  
 Rhoads

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**  
 Teofilo & Filomenada  
 Tulayba +

**Sunday, January 5th**

7:00 am **Msgr. Rippy**  
 Corazon Garma +

9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**

Parishioners

11:00 am **Fr. Bergida**

Gerry Schratz +

1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**

Gerard Schratz +

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

[www.straymonds.org](http://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)

**Donut Sunday, next weekend, January 5th** after the 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 am Masses. Stop by the Parish Hall after Mass to enjoy some treats and drinks and meet your fellow parishioners. We will also have **LOST & FOUND** items out for you to check. January's Donut Sunday will be hosted by our Respect Life Committee.

**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 note: December 24th the Rosary will begin at 7:30 pm. Please visit our website to sign up to lead during January!** All are invited to attend.

**Family of Jesus Prayer Group:** Weekly meetings are in the Church on Mondays at 3:00 pm. We will not meet on December 30th. If you have any prayer requests, please us know by emailing Elaine Perricone at [jpebtp@verizon.net](mailto: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.

**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 January 4th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email [maryndavew7705@gmail.com](mailto:maryndavew7705@gmail.com).

**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 Tom Dietz Michael O'Neill Cindy Laird Patricia Lewis Mai Pham Jason Saenz Phyllis Zitnik John Florio Carolina Baker	Debra Henkel Gaudencio Dizon Paul Haynes Ted Tolpa Nena Brennan Serrin Foster Donald Trayer Ellen Trayer Arlene Pietraszko Virginia Cummings	Helen Zogaib Margaret Norton Effie Mutumanje Jose Lavina Helen Estabrooks Annette Haynes Beth Fitzgibbons Jean Keegan Daniel Packa Peggy Sundberg
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**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

- Dec 30 No RCIA class
- Dec 30 Family of Jesus Prayer Group
- Dec 30 Jr. Legion of Mary 4-5pm (Note: Different day of week)
- Dec 30 Legion of Mary 6:30pm (Note: Different day of week)
- Dec 30 Jr. Legion of Mary 4-5pm (Note: Different day of week)
- Dec 30 Legion of Mary 6:30pm (Note: Different day of week)
- Dec 30 No RCIA
- Dec 31 No Adult Bible Study
- Jan 3 First Friday Nocturnal Adoration
- Jan 4 Men's Prayer Group
- Jan 4 Annual Volunteer Dinner
- Jan 5 Donut Sunday
- Jan 7 7pm Mass CANCELLED
- Jan 9 Book Club, Parish Library 9:30 am
- Jan 12 Pancake Breakfast after 7am, 9am and 11am Masses (for St. Raymond's Feast Day)

**First Friday Nocturnal Adoration Jan. 3.** On the first Friday of the month, we extend our regular hours of Friday adoration to continue through the evening until Saturday at 9am. There are also **Confessions from 3-4 pm and 6-7 pm on Jan. 4.** Our regularly scheduled adorers will cover the daytime hours (9am – 3pm), and we will need **extra volunteers** to cover from 3pm on Friday through 9am on Saturday. **Please visit our website to sign up!** Two adorers are required per hour so that Our Lord will not be left alone, but you can come at any time.



**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

**Holy Day of Obligation**

**Tuesday, December 31**

**Masses at 7 pm and Midnight (12am)**

**Wednesday, January 1**

**Masses at 9 am, 11 am and 1 pm (No 7 am Mass)**



**OH, HOLY KNIGHT.** The seasons of Advent and then of Christmas remain the most active period of the year for the Knights of Columbus as a parish-level organization. All this reflects the foundational virtue of charity as our parish reflects on the mysteries that

follow from the Incarnation of God made man at the nativity of Jesus Christ. Hence, we keep Christ in Christmas, sell trees and wreathes to fund our charitable programs, and we collect coats, care for the less fortunate, and carol with St. Nick before the crèche (Nativity scene) the evening after Christmas, reminding our children that the very first Christmas gift was in fact the Son of God Himself. **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 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

1/12 Feast of St. Raymond (Jan. 7) parish pancake breakfast after morning Masses  
1/24 National March for Life

**Book Club News:** Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 9 at 9:30 am in the Parish Library. We will discuss **DIVES IN MISERICORDIA (Divine Mercy)** Encyclical of Pope John Paul II, 1980 (43 pages), and **MANE NOBISCUM DOMINE (Stay with Us Lord)** Apostolic Letter of Pope John Paul II, 2004 (15 pages). Both documents can be found on the Vatican website (<https://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>).

If you have difficulty finding these articles, please contact Jim Mault at the email below. The schedule for the year can be found at: <https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/book-club/>. New members welcome. If you have any questions or plan to join us for the first time in January, please contact Jim Mault at [bookclub@straymonds.org](mailto:bookclub@straymonds.org).

**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. Please note: The meetings for Tuesday, December 24th and 31st are moved to Tuesday, December 23rd and 30th. All auxiliary members and anyone interested in joining the Legion of Mary are welcome! Point of Contact: Judy Mayer, [jmayer9014@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:mlcastry@gmail.com).

**St. Raymond's 2024-25 Snow Team:** Your Parish needs your HELP! St. Raymond's is seeking industrious, cold weather loving, able-bodied people to join the 2022-23 Snow Removal Team. The Snow Team will work with the Plant Manager to clear the sidewalks and entryways in proximity of the Church during snow and/or ice events. Equipment is provided; sidewalks and aprons must be clear no less than 30 minutes before the first Mass of the day (and as needed thereafter). Snow Team members must have transportation that enables them to get to the church in inclement weather. Earn \$20.00 per hour. For more information or to apply, please contact the Parish Office, at 703-440-0535 during office hours.

View this bulletin online at [www.DiscoverMass.com](http://www.DiscoverMass.com)

**SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE**  
*Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH. Spread the TRUTH...  
in LOVE*

**We need you in Richmond!**

**Pro-Abortion Legislators Plan to Pass the Extreme Unlimited Abortion-until-Birth Amendment to our State Constitution on Opening Days of the 2025 General Assembly! This would be worse than Roe v Wade.**

Can you show-up in Richmond on January 8th, 9th or 10th to take a Stand for Life? Be present in Richmond at the Virginia General Assembly between 10 am and 1pm to help line the hallways of the Capital and fill the galleries of the House of Delegates & State Senate to make sure our elected representatives know we oppose this extreme Amendment.

More details will be available at [vaprolifeday.org](http://vaprolifeday.org)



**Join us for the National March for Life. Friday Jan 24. St. Raymond's will send three buses. Watch for sign-ups in the narthex.**

The work to build a Culture of Life is not finished. We work and pray to create a culture where abortion is unthinkable.

**Virginia Pro Life Day.** Wed Jan 29. Join us in Richmond. It is vitally important that we advocate for life with our State Legislators. Can't go? Write a letter! Samples in the narthex or on the parish website. [vaprolifeday.org](http://vaprolifeday.org)

**Restore Life Affirming Scriptural Language to your Vocabulary.**

*Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin will be WITH CHILD and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14*

**MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!** 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](http://marih.org).

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

**Tepeyac Pro Life OB/GYN: Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare.** [tepeyacobgyn.com](http://tepeyacobgyn.com) 703-273-9440. The center strives to be an instrument of the healing power of God's mercy and love, to nurture a deeper respect for all human life. **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, **Project Rachel Ministry:** (703) 841-2504 or [info@helpafterabortion.org](mailto: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](mailto: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/YAform>

# Merry Christmas!

### High School Christmas Caroling to Homebound

**Date/Time TBD** Any high school or college students/young adults who would like to participate in bringing some Christmas joy to a few of our homebound. Please email Jeanne and check your inbox for more details. Date will likely be January 4th.



### Steubenville Youth Conference : July 11-13, 2025 Registration is now open!!

Current 8-12th graders are invited to join us for a weekend away with a few thousand Catholic teens to encounter God and experience His love through the power of the Sacraments, dynamic Catholic speakers, uplifting music and new friends! In our ever-changing world, Jesus is the answer to the longing of our hearts for meaning, fulfillment, security, and love. Join our group in road tripping to Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH to experience the peace of Jesus Christ. Registration and more information can be found online at <https://bit.ly/steubenville2025> or on YA bulletin boards by the church entrances.

This year's speaker lineup



### Sunday youth group & CCD will resume on January 5th.

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

### Fri. Jan 10: Youth Apostolate 6:30am Mass & Breakfast

Youth Apostolate 6:30am Mass & Breakfast resumes January 10.

### Tues. Jan. 7: Sons of Thunder: 7-8:30pm (Maurer Room)

**High School Men:** Come hungry (physically and intellectually) and ready to rumble. Sons of Thunder meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30 pm in the Maurer Room with Phil, Nate, and Father Bergida.

### Sat. Jan. 18: Talitha Koum 9-11am (Mass & Parish Library)

**High School Ladies!** "Little Girl, arise!" (Mt. 5:41) and come to Talitha Koum! Deepen your faith, and grow in sisterhood! Bring a pen & journal if you have one. We will start with 9am Mass!

### Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

[youth@straymonds.org](mailto: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

Ms. Osella and Mrs. Hansen are praying for all of you during this holy time! Remember that the celebration of Christmas lasts 8 days and continues through the season of Christmas, which concludes with the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. Enjoy this joyful season.



**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](mailto:bridgeclub402@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining us. Please note:

**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. The next class will be January 21st, 2025.

**ADORERS NEEDED— Both Wednesday and Friday.** Wednesday adorers are needed for 12pm, 1 pm and 5 pm. Friday Adorers needed at 9am, 11am, 12pm and 1pm. Please consider spending an hour with Our Lord during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. If you are interested to sign up for Wednesdays, please call Leslie Schratz at 703-569-1940. If you would like to sign up for Fridays, please call Elizabeth Frazee in 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.

**Watch for our Constant Contact Updates!** If you are not receiving emails from the parish, please contact the parish office at 703-440-0535 or [office@straymonds.org](mailto:office@straymonds.org).

**Solemnity of Saint Raymond of Penafort –** Please see Father's column in this bulletin to read about our Patron Saint's Feast Day being moved from January 7th to January 12th. Join us for Mass and a pancake breakfast!



### CHURCH PERSECUTED

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family. Its importance is reflected by the inherent importance of the family in society. Pope Saint John Paul II saw firsthand in Poland as a young priest the importance of the family in society. He took a personal responsibility in preparing couples for marriage, often taking them into the mountains away from the distractions of the city to allow them to reflect on the importance of this sacrament.

In 1984, the United Nations (UN) declared it to be the "International Year of the Family." They unfolded the motto that "The family is the smallest democracy at the heart of society." On the contrary, the saintly pope in his *Letter to Families* published that year notes that, "The Fathers of the Church, in the Christian tradition, have spoken of the family as the 'domestic church,' a 'little church.'"

A church has a hierarchy, with father, mother, and children. They are equal in that all are made in the image and likeness of God, but each has different responsibilities. St. Paul tells the Ephesians that, "Wives should be submissive to their husbands," and he tells husbands to "love your wives as Christ loved the Church." (Eph 5:22,25) This is not a superior role but a protective role, for to mimic Christ, a husband must be willing to die for his wife.

The UN didn't think through its motto about a family as a democracy because if there are three or more children, they could outvote the parents and take over the family. The family as a little church can do so out of love..."the giving for the good of the other." If each member of the family defers to the other out of love in their roles as father, mother, and children, wouldn't our society be a much better place to live. Children honoring their father and their mother. Let us use this day to remember that our family is a little church and by doing so shines its light on others to return our country to its Christian roots, "endowed by our Creator!"



Get In-Formed!

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

Listen to "The World's First Love: Mary Mother of God". Bishop Fulton Sheen presents the major dogmas of Mary while encouraging us to love her as the Mother of God and our mother of each of us.

Watch *Lectio: Mary*. This 8-episode series explores the importance of Mary through the lens of Scripture. Study guides available for purchase. Form a group and learn together!



FOR KIDS. Watch *Brother Francis: The Story of Mary*. In this episode, the lovable title character teaches young ones about Mary's role in the Church and in our lives.

Available for FREE! To set up an account, visit [Formed.org/signup](http://Formed.org/signup) and select our parish. Questions? Need help? Email us at: [formed@straymonds.org](mailto: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/](http://AngelusAcademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/)

Call or Email Julie Maimone, Director of Admissions, at [Admissions@angelusacademy.org](mailto: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](http://www.AngelusAcademy.org) 703-924-3996  
7644 Dynatech Ct., Springfield, VA 22153



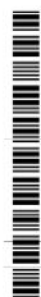
**ATTENTION All Adult Volunteers!** Our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be Saturday, January 4th. All adult volunteers and their spouses are invited to join Fr. De Celles for dinner. Please RSVP by December 31 with the parish office.

**Parish Celebration of our patron, St. Raymond of Peñafort, January 12.** Our Knights will be cooking up a pancake breakfast for parishioners! Please join us after the 7am, 9am, or 11am Masses for FREE breakfast and fellowship in honor of our patron saint.

**St. Raymond's Rosary Walk:** A Rosary Walk project on the church property will be under way soon, it is part of Jackie Hugo's Star & Stripes Award to be completed by St. Raymond's American Heritage Girls Troop VA0683. Donations for the construction can be dropped off at the parish office. Please make checks payable to "St. Raymond Catholic Church" and put "AHG Rosary Walk" on the memo line. Or use the QR code below. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact [paula@timhugo.com](mailto:paula@timhugo.com).



Due to early bulletin deadlines, the 12/22 and Christmas Collections will be in the next week's bulletin.





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