

# Solemnity of Saint Raymond of Peñafort

*"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"  
St. Raymond*



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.

## 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)

## 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.

## Saint Raymond of Peñafort Prayer

Glorious Saint Raymond of Peñafort, wise and holy patron, come to the aid of those entrusted to your care, and all who flee to your protection. Intercede for us in our need, and help us through your prayers, example, and teaching, to proclaim the truth of the Gospel to all we meet. And when we have reached the fullness of our years, we beseech you to guide us home to heaven, to live in peace with you, Our Mother Mary, and Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Imprimatur: Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington, June 22, 2018

## Pastor's Corner

**Merry Christmas, and Happy Feast of St. Raymond!** Today is the last day of the Christmas Season. The rule is that "Christmas Time runs from...the Nativity of the Lord up to and including the Sunday after Epiphany..." And normally, "The Sunday falling after [Epiphany] is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord."

UNLESS... a feast of "higher rank" falls on that same Sunday, the Sunday after Epiphany. And this year, it does, *because I said so*. (Just kidding, sort of).

**Solemnity of St. Raymond.** Our patron saint's feast is normally celebrated on January 7, but canon law allows the pastor to move the patronal feast ("title of the church") to the following Sunday. So, after consulting with Bishop Burbidge I have transferred the liturgical observation of St. Raymond's to Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. And since, according to the rules. The feast of "title of the church" outranks the "Feast of the Baptism of the Lord," we transfer that lower feast to tomorrow, Monday, January 13. So, this is one of the only times "The Baptism of the Lord" falls outside of Christmas Time. Interesting trivia.

So, let's celebrate our patronal Solemnity and join the Knights of Columbus for a **free pancake breakfast after the Sunday morning Masses**.

**St. Raymond.** For those of you who don't know much about St. Raymond, I invite you to read the 32-page biography we published a few years ago. If you don't have one, they are available in the parish office.

As a brief reminder...Raymond was born of a noble family, near Barcelona, in 1175. At the age of 20 he became professor of canon law. In 1210 he left teaching to complete his studies in civil and canon law at the University of Bologna. He went on to hold a chair of canon law at that university for three years. (The date of his priestly ordination is uncertain, but it would seem to be around 1195).

On August 1, 1218, Raymond received a heavenly vision in which the Blessed Mother ("Our Lady of Ransom") instructed him to help St. Peter Nolasco found the Order of Mercedarians, which would be devoted to the ransom of Christians taken captive by the Moors (Spanish Muslims) (a scene depicted in our new mural). Raymond did not, however, join that order but rather entered the Order of Preachers ("Dominicans") in Barcelona in 1222. As a Dominican, Raymond continued to teach and preach, and devoted considerable effort working to convert Moors and Jews, coaxing St. Thomas Aquinas to write his *Summa Contra Gentiles* to help in his efforts.

At the request of his superiors Raymond published the *Summa Casuum*, a book on cases of conscience for the guidance of confessors and moralists, the first guide of its kind. This work eventually led to his appointment as confessor and theologian to Pope Gregory IX in 1230. The Pope soon directed Raymond to re-arrange and codify the canons (juridical laws) of the Church, which required him to rewrite and condense centuries of Church decrees. The Pope published Raymond's work in 1231, and commanded that it alone should be considered authoritative. From then on St. Raymond would be known as the "Father of canon law."

In 1238 he was elected Master General of the Dominican Order, the second successor to St. Dominic, but he resigned two years later, claiming that at 63 years old he was too old for the job. He continued his writing, preaching and pastoral work, as well many important responsibilities entrusted to him by various popes, for another 37 years until his death in Barcelona on January 6, 1275, at the age of 100.

But St. Raymond had one last great miracle to perform. Six years before his death, King James of Aragon invited him to

come to Majorca with him to preach to the Muslim inhabitants. But when he arrived on the island the saint discovered that King James had brought his mistress along. Raymond demanded he send her away, and when the King refused, Raymond went searching for a ship to go back to Spain. When he discovered that the King had forbidden any ship to let him board, Raymond simply bowed his head in prayer, made the sign of the cross, and, by the grace of God, sailed 160 miles back to Spain using just his great cape as both a skiff and a sail.

He is the patron saint of lawyers, both canon and civil. And our patron as well! St. Raymond of Peñafort, pray for us!

**What About Vatican II?** Pope Francis talks a lot about implementing the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, and sometimes seems to criticize his predecessors for failing to do so. But it is interesting how often he actually seems to contradict those reforms.

For example, in *Christus Dominus*, the Council's "Decree Concerning the Pastoral Office of Bishops," the Council clarified that Bishops and priests govern the Church, and that laity can only assist them in governance. This was in part to clarify their role in relation to the Pope as successors of the Apostles, governing the Church in union with him. It was also clarified that a lay person can never govern a Bishop or priest.

But Pope Francis wants to give the laity (i.e., non-ordained Catholics), specifically lay women, more of a role in governing the Church. So last week, he appointed a **religious sister to be the Prefect for the Dicastery for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life**, which would put her in a place, in certain ways, of governing all the priests in all the religious orders in the Church. Which seems, to me, directly contradictory to Vatican II's specific decree. I just don't understand.

**Meanwhile, Just Across the River...** As reported in the National Catholic Register last week:

*"Pope Francis appointed Cardinal Robert McElroy, bishop of San Diego, to lead the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., the Vatican announced Monday....*

*"...He is considered by many to also be the U.S. cardinal whose thinking most aligns with Pope Francis.*

*"Outspokenly progressive, Cardinal McElroy is now poised to take over the ecclesiastical territory of the nation's capital just as Donald Trump is sworn in for a second term as president of the United States....*

*"Speaking at an interfaith prayer vigil in... 2021, Cardinal McElroy...[said]: 'We can't stand by anymore and watch our political processes ...destroy the dreams and the hopes of the refugees and the immigrants who have not only come here and lived here but have helped build our nation and make it better'...*

*"He ...has often criticized what he sees as, in the U.S., the prioritization of abortion over other social concerns, such as the death penalty and care for migrants and the environment.*

*"In recent years, Cardinal McElroy has also asserted that to deny Holy Communion to pro-abortion Catholic politicians is to weaponize the Eucharist for a political end....*

*"Cardinal McElroy also supports women deacons for the Church and is a vocal supporter of LGBT-identified Catholics."*

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



**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, January 13th**

6:30 am James Kolakowski +  
 8:30 am Lovelyn Santos +

**Tuesday, January 14th**

6:30 am Steve & Eileen Nagle  
 8:30 am Jack Menotti +

**Wednesday, January 15th**

6:30 am Betty Kuiper +  
 8:30 am Anthony Ciola  
 7:00 pm Priest's Intentions

**Thursday, January 16th**

6:30 am Agnieszka Dmitrukowski  
 8:30 am James Kolakowski +

**Friday, January 17th**

6:30 am Bette Burke Nash +  
 8:30 am Pam Oinos +

**Saturday, January 18th**

9:00 am Joe Riedel +

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**  
 Joanne Gemperline

**Sunday, January 19th**

7:00 am **Msgr. Rippy**  
 John & Ruth Popp +

9:00 am **Fr.**

Parishioners

11:00 am **Msgr. Rippy**  
 Gerry Schratz +

1:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**  
 James Maschoff +

**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	Helen Estabrooks
Mai Pham	Serrin Foster	Annette Haynes
Jason Saenz	Donald Trayer	Beth Fitzgibbons
Phyllis Zitnik	Ellen Trayer	Jean Keegan
John Florio	Arlene Pietraszko	Daniel Packa
Carolina Baker	Virginia Cummings	Mariel Spiritosanto

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

Jan 13 Family of Jesus Prayer Group  
 Jan 13 RCIA  
 Jan 14 No Adult Bible Study  
 Jan 14 Junior Legion of Mary 4-5pm  
 Jan 15 Adoration 9am-7pm  
 Jan 14 Legion of Mary 6:30pm  
 Jan 17 Adoration 9am-3pm  
 Jan 18 Men's Prayer Group  
 Jan 24 March For Life- Chili Dinner  
 Jan 30 Virtus Seminar 6pm-10pm  
 Feb 1 WAY Mother-Daughter Retreat  
 Feb 8 Asian Fusion Dinner 6:30 pm

**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)



**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.

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

**Family of Jesus Prayer Group:** Weekly meetings are in the Church on Mondays at 3:00 pm. If you have any prayer requests, please let 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 18th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email [maryndavew7705@gmail.com](mailto:maryndavew7705@gmail.com).

**Christ House Meal** – Jan 31<sup>st</sup> Cash Donations Only. This quarter, we are requesting cash donations in lieu of food items. The committee will order 72 hot, prepared meals to be 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> Thank you for your support of Christ House!

**Save the Date!** Women's Retreat on March 1, 2025: The Women's Apostolate to Youth (WAY) will once again host a retreat for the women of the parish, this year on the Saturday before Lent begins. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details.

**March for Life Chili Dinner!** Join us in the parish hall on Friday, Jan. 24th for the annual post March for Life Chili Dinner. Please see the Signup Genius for more information and opportunities to help: <https://tinyurl.com/Chili-Dinner>. Questions? Please contact Sheri Burns at [burnsfamily92@gmail.com](mailto:burnsfamily92@gmail.com).

**The Knights of Columbus Asian Fusion Dinner** will take place on Saturday, February 8th, 2025 at 6:30pm in the parish hall. Come enjoy delicious lumpia, kimba, sweet & sour pork, and much more! Tickets for the event will be sold after all Masses on the weekends of January 13th-14th and January 20th-21st. Ticket Prices are \$6.00 for children (5-12), \$17.00 for Adults and \$60.00 max for Families. We will also sell tickets at the door. You can use the QR Code here for tickets as well.



**52nd Annual National March for Life**  
**January 24th, 2025**

"Life: Why We March"  
 Please see the Respect Life Column and website for more information.





**OH, HOLY KNIGHT.** The season of Christmas remains 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. **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

**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](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).

**Quo Vadis Days and FIAT Camps** are great opportunities for Catholic high school students (current freshmen through seniors) to have fun while deepening their faith and exploring their vocations. Quo Vadis (for boys) is staffed by Arlington seminarians, priests and religious, and runs July 13-17. FIAT (for girls) is staffed by religious sisters runs July 20-24. Both are held at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. The registration lottery will be open February 3-28; only one entry per person is needed, and it can be done anytime between Feb. 3-28. See the videos and photos from past years, get more information and register for the lottery at [ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis](http://ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis) or [ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT](http://ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT).

**St. Raymond's 2025 Snow Team:** Your Parish needs your HELP! St. Raymond's is seeking industrious, cold weather loving, able-bodied people to join the 2025 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.

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



**Join us for the National March for Life. Friday Jan 24.**  
St. Raymond's will send three buses. Sign-Up 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. **Questions?** Contact Liz at [hildebrandseven@gmail.com](mailto:hildebrandseven@gmail.com) Can't go to the March? Consider spending some time in adoration. This is a spiritual battle. **All are welcome after the March at 4:30 in the Parish Hall for the annual Chili Dinner.** For more information, contact Sheri at [burnsfamily92@gmail.com](mailto:burnsfamily92@gmail.com).

**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*



**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) No parish transportation provided. **Carpools encouraged.** Whom should you write to? Find out here: [whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov](http://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov)

**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 and strengthen 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/YAforms>

#### Sunday 1/12: Youth group & CCD

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

**Friday, January 17 & 31: Youth Apostolate 6:30am Mass & Breakfast** All 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. **RSVP by Wed. if you need a ride to school after.** <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVP>

**7-8pm Friday, January 17 & 31: High School Drop-In Bible Study (Parish Library)** Grow in faith and meet new people at the same time! BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible)...and a friend!

**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!

**Fri. Jan 24: March for Life** St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate will be joining the parish for the annual March for Life on Friday, January 24. Parents are encouraged to join us, however, if any 7-12th graders would like to go but do not have parents going, please come with the youth apostolate! We will march with the parish, helping to carry our banner. Permission slips are online at <http://bit.ly/YAforms>



#### Steubenville

#### High School Youth Conference

July 11-13, 2025

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 are online at <https://bit.ly/steubenville2025> or on YA bulletin boards by the church entrances.

**Registration DUE January 29th**

This year's speaker lineup:



Jeremy Mitchell



Heather Davis-McHugh



John Paul MacAree



Christopher Schneck



Father Rick Marquardt, OFM

**Cardinal Newman Society Essay Scholarship Contest** for High School Juniors & Seniors. Compete for a scholarship of \$5,000 with the chance for up to \$20,000! (And one of St. Raymond's own has won this in the past!) **Deadline: February 18th.** See website for more information. <https://bit.ly/catholicCollege>

#### 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

**Midterm exams will be administered this week - January 12 and 13 - for grades 1-8.**

There are **NO CCD CLASSES NEXT WEEK** January 19, and 20 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

**2025 Confirmation candidates (8th grade)** the following paperwork is due **January 14th**: Service Hours Record form and Service Experience forms. Please email forms or drop off a hard copy ASAP.

**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.

**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 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 Committee—** collects food on an ongoing basis for the Springfield Resource Center which services over 250 families in the Springfield area. A collection box is in the narthex and donations are collected and distributed weekly. Suggested food items are listed, but all donations are welcome (no clothing). For equitable distribution, smaller packaging is requested (i.e. 1lb bag of rice vs. 5 lb. bag of rice, 1 qt. oil vs. 1 gal. oil).

**Virtus Seminar at St. Raymond's:** There is a Virtus Seminar scheduled at St. Raymond in the parish hall on Thursday, January 30th from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Attending a Virtus Seminar is required (in addition to a background check) for anyone who has substantial contact with youth as part of their volunteer activities at St. Raymond. Attending a Virtus Seminar is required only once in a lifetime. You can register for the Virtus Seminar at [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org). Any questions, contact Mary Hansen at 703-440-0537.

**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).

**CHURCH PERSECUTED**

Continuing our discussing The Cardinal Newman Society's recent paper on the "U.S. Policy Priorities for Catholic Education," this week we will focus on **protecting religious freedom and civil rights**. Here is the link to the entire paper: <https://cardinalnewmansociety.org/wp-content/uploads/Cardinal-Newman-Society-Policy-Priorities-for-Catholic-Education-in-New-Trump-Administration.pdf>.

1. **Fight to preserve the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (1993)** and oppose any attempt by Congress to restrict, repeal, or exempt any law from RFRA's protections of religious believers and organizations, including Catholic education.
2. **Rescind the Biden administration's Title IX final rule (2024; 89 FR 3347)**, which defines sex discrimination in education to include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" under Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
3. **Revoke Executive Order 13988 ("Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation")**, and any other "dear colleague" letter, administrative rule, executive order, or regulation that instructs agencies to include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" in the definition of sex discrimination when interpreting federal civil rights laws.
4. Issue a new executive order to **prohibit the interpretation of "sex" or "gender" to include sexual orientation or gender identity** under federal civil rights laws, especially Title IX (regarding education) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and define the term "sex," "male," and "female" according to biological reality. The only exception should be Title VII with regard to hiring and firing, as mandated by the Supreme Court's *Bostock* (2020) ruling – however, interpretations of *Bostock* that apply to employment decisions beyond hiring and firing are not warranted by the Court's opinion and should be rejected.
5. ...
6. Issue an executive order and support legislation to **prevent discriminatory action by the government against religious believers and religious organizations** – including Catholic families and Catholic education – on the basis of a religious belief or moral conviction about abortion, contraception, gender, *in vitro* fertilization, marriage, sexual orientation, or sexual relations.

See the remainder of the recommendations dealing with protecting religious freedom and civil rights in the reference above. Next week we will review **ending mandates that violate Catholic beliefs**.

**Get In-Formed!**

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

**Watch *The Bible and Baptism*.** This 6-episode series uses scripture to explore baptism in the Old Testament, Jesus' baptism, the Resurrection, and the gift of our own baptism.

**Listen to "Changed Forever".** Fr. Mike Schmitz teaches about the salvific necessity of baptism, how it makes us sons and daughters of God, and the reasons for infant baptism.



**Watch *Our Story: A Basic Introduction to the Bible For Catholics*.** These eight 5-minute videos give a brief overview to the different sections of the Bible. The companion participant and leader guides are available for download.

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

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**Mother Daughter Retreat** The Women's Apostolate to Youth invites you to a Mother-Daughter retreat (for girls in grades 7-9) entitled, "God's Plan for My Life: The Vocation of Woman" on February 1, 2025. Join us for this wonderful opportunity to forge a stronger bond with your daughter as we reflect on the great Archangel St. Gabriel and St. Gianna Molla who help us understand our true vocation and intercede for us to develop an obedient spirit and a love for our Eucharistic Lord. The retreat includes talks, activities (fun!), and opportunities for confession, adoration, and Mass. The day begins at 8:30 am and concludes at 3:30 pm at St. Raymond of Peñafort Church, 8750 Pohick Rd. Springfield. The \$60 fee includes materials, breakfast, and lunch for both mother and daughter and \$15 per additional daughter. For more information and to register by January 22, 2025 visit <https://www.waywomen.com/daystar> Sorry, we cannot accept registrations at the door.

**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](mailto:pamiller35@gmail.com), or call / text her at: C - 703-455-9327.

**SUNDAYS AND HOLY DAYS OFFERTORY 2024**

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Maintenance fund	3,962.00		3,860.00	5,620.00
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