

**"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 on Wednesdays  
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  
Mary Butler, Parish Secretary  
Dominique Murray, Office Assistant

### **PARISH OFFICE** Telephone Numbers:

Rectory: 703-440-0535  
Rel. Education: 703-440-0537  
Fax: 703-440-0538

**Office Hours**  
Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

**Email**  
Church: [Office@straymonds.org](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

**Presentation of the Lord: "Candlemas."** Today, February 2, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord Jesus, recalling the presentation of the Baby Jesus in the Temple 40 days after his birth, as prescribed by the Law of Moses. It also recalls the prophetic prayer of Simeon, the *Nunc Dimittis*, said every night in the Liturgy of the Hours of the Church, and the prophetic proclamations of the prophetess Anna.

This feast is also called "**Candlemas**," because historically it is the day priests bless the beeswax and candles for use in the Church, symbolizing the line from the *Nunc Dimittis*, that Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles." Keeping with that tradition, we will bless the altar candles that will be used during the coming year at the beginning of the 9am and 11am Masses. We will also be using the "used" (or partially burned down) candles from the last few years during the procession at the beginning of those Masses. Folks at those Masses are asked to take those used candles home and use them in their homes to remind them of the light of Christ shining in their families.

Traditionally, this is considered the last of the Christmas feasts, for obvious reasons (i.e., the date is determined by Christmas and it is a feast of the Baby Jesus). So, perhaps one last time we can say, "Merry Christmas."

**Blessing of Throats.** Tomorrow, Monday, February 3, is the Feast of St. Blaise—the day we bless throats. St. Blaise was Bishop of Sebaste (Turkey) and was martyred about A.D. 316. Legend has it that when Bishop was imprisoned for his Catholic faith, a poor woman brought him candles to light his dark cell. In that same prison, he miraculously cured a boy who was choking to death from a fishbone lodged in his throat. Thus, the custom arose of using candles and invoking the Saint to bless throats against all sorts of ailments.

The blessing will be given at the end of the 6:30am and 8:30am Masses, and then the blessing will be given in the church without Mass at noon and 6:00pm.

**First Confessions.** Please keep our second graders in your prayers this week as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Penance for the first time next Saturday morning, February 8. Pray that the little ones are not too nervous, make good confessions, accept God's grace and develop a true love for this sacrament.

**Commanders (a.k.a. Redskins).** Hats off to the Washington Commanders/Redskins, for going from a 4-13 season last year to a 12-5 season this year, capped off by playing for the Conference Championship. As a die-hard Cowboy fan, it's not easy for me to root for Washington, but I was rooting for them in the playoffs this year.

Of course, the turn-around happened only after hiring Head Coach Dan Quinn away from the Cowboys. Then again, how stupid of the Cowboys not to have made Quinn their Head Coach before their disastrous season? But I digress...

Congratulations to the Commanders and all their fans, especially in our parish. Now, let's all root for Kansas City to beat Philly.

**Bishop's Pastoral Letter on IVF.** As reported by Catholic News Agency (CNA):

"Arlington Bishop Michael Burbidge on Wednesday (Jan. 22) urged Catholic families to offer a 'heroic witness' to love by rejecting the practice of in vitro fertilization (IVF), which the prelate called 'contrary to justice [and] replete with moral difficulties.'

"In a pastoral letter ...Burbidge acknowledged the 'natural desire for family' as well as the challenges faced by couples who are struggling with infertility.... He acknowledged that the Catholic Church is supportive of numerous licit means of addressing infertility, including NaPro technology.

"IVF ...nevertheless presents serious moral problems, Burbidge argued. Chief among them...is how the procedure 'both creates life and destroys life,' insofar as it often kills many human embryos even as it may produce one that goes on to grow through a full pregnancy.

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

"For every one of the more than 12 million children born by means of IVF since 1978, there are many tens of millions more ...who have been either deliberately destroyed, experimented upon, or frozen...and denied their natural right to the fullness of their development,' the bishop said....

"IVF, he said, 'subverts human dignity by reducing human persons — man, woman, and child alike — into objects of a technical process.'

"IVF technology...is further morally fraught [by its connection to]...the practice of surrogacy. Italy has banned surrogacy since 2004 .... the practice is illegal in Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, and Spain as well. ...Burbidge ...argued that it constitutes 'a grave injustice to produce children who, from the start, are forcibly separated from their natural parents.'

"...Burbidge further called on "all people of faith and goodwill to pray for those married couples experiencing infertility...."

**Pro-Lifers Pardoned.** Did you read, as *The Daily Wire* reported:

"President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Thursday pardoning 23 of the pro-life activists targeted by President Joe Biden's Justice Department.

"They should not have been prosecuted,' Trump said as he signed the order. 'Many of them are elderly people. They should not have been prosecuted. This is a great honor to sign this.'

"The pardons are for 23 'peaceful pro-life protesters who were prosecuted by the Biden administration for exercising their First Amendment rights.' They were prosecuted under the FACE Act and a Reconstruction-era felony conspiracy charge first used for the first time against pro-life activists by the Biden administration....

"When passed in 1994, the FACE Act was supposed to protect both churches and clinics, but the law has almost exclusively been used to prosecute pro-lifers. Data obtained by Roy shows that 97% of FACE Act cases brought by the Justice Department have been against pro-life Americans."

Those pardoned included: Lauren Handy, who has served 57 months in prison; Joan Bell, a 76-year-old woman who has served 27 months in prison; and

Eva Edl, an 89-year-old survivor of a World War II concentration camp, who was awaiting sentencing. Thanks be to God and to President Trump!

**Ironic, "Confusing," or....?** I was utterly amazed at this story in CNA a few days ago. That's all I'm going to say:

"The Vatican City State has toughened sanctions for those who try to illegally enter its territory in areas where free access is not allowed.

"In a [decree](#) issued last month by the Holy See, the monetary sanctions and prison sentences for those who violate the strict security regulations of Vatican City have been considerably increased.

"The document...provides for monetary fines ranging from 10,000 to 25,000 euros...and prison sentences ranging from one to four years.

"These fines will apply especially to those who enter by means of ...deception, bypassing border controls or security systems...

"The decree emphasizes that the penalties can be increased if the crime is committed with firearms...or by several people together...."

**Pastor's Prerogative.** Finally, today is the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of the best sister a priest ever had: a devout and holy Catholic, a true saint, a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother, my sister, Barbette. Please join me in praying for her on this day which I like to remind her is also "Groundhog Day."

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

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, February 3rd**

6:30 am William Goodman  
8:30 am Lou Abbott +

**Tuesday, February 4th**

6:30 am Rosemary Baclig +  
8:30 am Mary Brogi +

**Wednesday, February 5th**

6:30 am Priests of the Parish  
8:30 am Norm & Kim Schweizer  
7:00 pm Priest's Intentions

**Thursday, February 6th**

6:30 am Laura Ann  
Valentine +  
8:30 am Pauline Ferguson

**Friday, February 7th**

6:30 am Alexa Rapiere  
8:30 am Geraldine Pittenger +

**Saturday, February 8th**

9:00 am Tresa Hruby

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles  
Vito Gaglio +

**Sunday, February 9th**

7:00 am Fr. Horkan  
RE Students and their  
families

9:00 am Fr. Bergida  
Parishioners

11:00 am Msgr. Rippey  
Ponciano Villaflores +

1:00 pm Fr. De Celles  
John 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 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 Joann Alba Margaret M. Hill
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**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

- Feb 2 Candlemas 9 am and 11 am Masses
- Feb 2 Donut Sunday Hosted by AHG
- Feb 2-3 CCD Classes
- Feb 3 RCIA
- Feb 4 Adult Bible Study
- Feb 4 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm
- Feb 4 Legion of Mary 6:30pm
- Feb 5 Adoration 9am-7pm
- Feb 7-8 First Friday Nocturnal Adoration
- Feb 8 Asian Fusion Dinner 6:30 pm
- Mar 1 WAY Pre Lenten Women's Retreat

**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)

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

**Family of Jesus Prayer Group:** Weekly meetings are in the Church on Mondays at 3:00 pm. If you have any prayer requests, please us know by emailing Elaine Perricone at [jpebtp@verizon.net](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 February 15th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email [maryndavew7705@gmail.com](mailto:maryndavew7705@gmail.com).

**First Friday Nocturnal Adoration Feb. 7.** 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 Feb. 7.** 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.

**END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTION LETTERS:** The end of year contribution letters have been mailed. Please note that contributions made to Faith Direct will be sent in a separate statement directly from Faith Direct.

**Pre Lenten Women's Retreat** on March 1, 2025- Registration now open! 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 see this week's bulletin insert for details.

**Mardi Gras Gala and Auction** Saint John Paul the Great High School is hosting a Mardi Gras Gala and Auction on March 1, 2025. Located at the Sweeney Barn, there will be dinner, dancing, silent and live auction. To buy tickets use the QR code or email [gala@jpthegreat.org](mailto:gala@jpthegreat.org)



This Sunday, February 2nd is the Feast of the **Presentation of Our Lord**. Please join us at the 9 am and 11 am Masses as we will celebrate "Candlemas" which includes the blessing of candles. **There will also be used church candles to bring home.** Donations are welcome. For more information, please see our website or the parish-wide email sent out this weekend entitled "Upcoming Special Liturgical Events".

**CURSILLO** Meeting February 28 at 7pm in the Parish Hall. All are invited. Cursillo is a lay movement in the Church which aims to help Catholics grow in their faith through Community, Piety, Study, and Action. Come find out more February 28!

**Book Club News:** Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM, in the Parish Library. We will be discussing *St Pius V: The Legendary Pope Who Excommunicated Queen Elizabeth I, Standardized the Mass, and Defeated the Ottoman Empire* by Roberto DeMattei. The schedule for the full year can be found on the parish website: <https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/book-club/>. New members welcome. If you have questions or plan to join us for the first time in February, please contact Jim Mault at [bookclub@straymonds.org](mailto:bookclub@straymonds.org).



## THAT'S CORRECT; THERE'S NO TIME COMMITMENT REQUIRED TO BE A KNIGHT!

As a group grounded in faith, we understand the ebb and flow of life, of vocations, professions, and of families. Just to join the Knights conveys the message that you are bound for a life of charity, faith, and prayer. With the Knights you can expect to add unity and fraternity to these purposes. In fact, these latter magnify all your spiritual and corporal works, such that one hour you might have spent alone in charity will increase tenfold through your membership. We think that, just by joining, you will discover, as God allows, that time will come more easily than you expect. With this confidence, we seek to make the right thing for faithful Catholic men easy to do: **Go to <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> or use the QR code below** to experience the Knights for one year free of dues. 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 wish to learn more about the many benefits of being a Knight.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

2/2 FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (BLESSED MARY'S PURIFICATION—CANDLEMAS)

2/8 Asian Fusion dinner (Parish Hall, 6:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.)

2/8 Special Olympics Polar Plunge - Virginia Beach, VA

2/10 Saint Scholastica, Virgin (Sister of St. Benedict)

2/15 Men's prayer breakfast (7:30am, parish hall)

**2025 CAR RAFFLE:** IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN! Once again, All Saints Church in Manassas has invited our parishioners to participate in their Multi-Car Raffle. Prizes include four 2025 vehicles from Ourisman Ford of Manassas (Ford Escape, Mustang, Maverick Truck (Hybrid) and Bronco Sport). One \$5.00 ticket offers the purchaser a chance to win all four vehicles plus \$40,000 (including one for \$20,000) in cash prizes. You will be receiving tickets in the mail within the next week or so. Please consider selling/purchasing the tickets mailed to you. The raffle benefits our parish and many other charitable causes throughout the diocese, as it has in the past.

**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.

**Junior Legion of Mary.** Children between the ages of 7 – 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, 4:15-5:15pm, 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.

## SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

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



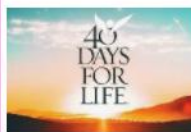
**Thank you to all who supported the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual National March for Life.**

"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

### 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*

**Save the date!** The Virginia March for Life will take place on Wednesday April 2 in Richmond. St Raymond's will be sending one bus.



The spring campaign of **40 Days for Life** will take place from 5 March – 13 April. St Raymond's witness weekend will be 5-6 April. Stay tuned for more information.

**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](http://marih.org). Please do not leave bouncy seats, walkers, gates or jogging strollers. Thank you for your understanding.

**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.**



**Congratulations to Ruby Jarvis** for winning 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Poster Division of the Youth Apostles Pro Life Multi Media Contest (Senior Division). Such talent put to such a beautiful message! Congratulations also to Anastasia Jarvis, Sam Cautero, Taylor Doar and Jack Krako of Angelus Academy for their award-winning work!

**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 offer a prayer of thanksgiving that those who were imprisoned for peacefully standing up for the lives of the unborn have been released.**

**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 2/2: Youth Group (ESCAPE ROOM!) & CCD

Youth Group meets in the Parish Hall. All are invited!

**3:30-5pm** Jr. High Youth Group ESCAPE ROOM!— Grades 7 & 8  
**5-6:30pm** 7-12th Grade CCD

**6:30-8pm** HS Youth Group ESCAPE ROOM!— Grades 9-12

**EVERY Friday in February 6:30am Mass & Breakfast** All 7-12th graders are invited to join us for 6:30am Mass & breakfast with Fr. Bergida & Fr. Horkan in the hall after. **RSVP** so we have enough food. **RSVP** by Wed. if you need a ride to school. <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVP>

**Tuesday 2/4: 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, & Fr. B.

**Wednesday 2/5: Talitha Koum 7-8:30pm (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!

**7-8pm Friday 2/7: HS Drop-In Bible Study (Parish Library)** We just started **FOCUS' Bible Study on Salvation History**. This is a drop in study, come when you can! You don't have to come every week as each meeting is entirely new material. Grow in faith and meet new people at the same time! BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible)...and a friend! Come at 6:30pm to pray the rosary in Church!



### Steubenville

### High School Youth Conference

at Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH

**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.

**Cost:** \$205/parishioner; \$320/non-parishioner (includes conference, travel, most meals, room & board and two t-shirts). Scholarships available on need basis. Contact Jeanne.

#### Registration Deadline Extended to February 9th



**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

**WE ARE SO VERY PROUD** of our students, parents, and catechists for the excellent results on the midterm exam. All your hard work has paid off - The program test average was 88%. God bless you all!

#### Parents of Second Grade and RCIC students:

First Penance is scheduled for Saturday, February 8th immediately following the 9 am Mass. Please attend Mass with your child that morning to prepare for this wonderful sacrament of healing! Check your email (1/27) for more details.

**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.

#### 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.

**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).

**March 7-9 -- Weekend Lenten Retreat**-Start your Lent off learning from St. John the Baptist and spending some quiet time with the Lord. Fr. Peter St. George will preach this silent retreat which is sponsored by the Office of Vocations for men ages 18-35. Cost is \$150 and includes overnights and all meals. Retreat starts Friday at 6:30 p.m. and concludes Sunday after lunch. For more information or to register, contact Fr. Michael Isenberg at 703-841-2514 or [vocations@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org). Deadline to register is Monday February 17. (There is a similar retreat for women June 20-22.)

**Christendom College** will be hosting two Saturday open houses this spring on February 22 and April 26 where visitors will be able to tour campus, hear from the college President, attend a sample class, and get their questions answered on all topics including Christendom's outstanding alumni employment rates, financial aid, and even what students do with their free time. Christendom College is the only Catholic College in the Arlington Diocese on the *Newman Guide for Choosing a Catholic College*. To register, please visit [www.christendom.edu/openhouse](http://www.christendom.edu/openhouse).

**2025 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) Begins!** The 2025 BLA mailing was recently sent to parishioners. The theme is "Abounding in Hope" which celebrates the 2025 Diocesan Jubilee. The BLA funds programs and ministries that serve thousands of people in our diocese. Through the inspiration of the [BLA](https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA) theme, let us joyfully make a pledge to support God's Kingdom in our diocese! You may make a gift at: [www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA)

**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).**

**CHURCH PERSECUTED**

Last Sunday, Harrison Butker kicked the winning field goal to propel the Kansas City Chiefs into the Super Bowl against the Philadelphia Eagles. His name is only an afterthought behind Chief’s quarterback, Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce, who both seems to amp up to a higher level in the playoffs. One day last May, he was also an afterthought as a graduation speaker at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.

Speaking at the same time at The Catholic University of America was Jonathan Roumie, who plays Jesus Christ in *The Chosen*. At Franciscan University of Steubenville on the same day, Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr., addressed the graduates. A week earlier, at Ave Maria University, arguably the most popular priest in America, Father Mike Schmitz, spoke.

Not much reaction came from Roumie’s, or Justice Alito’s, or Father Schmitz’s addresses, but that was not the case for the placekicker for the Chiefs. Attacks were leveled at him from all sides. The National Football League issued a statement denouncing it. It easily was the most talked about graduation address during this cycle. Why so?

Butker did the unspeakable thing at a commencement address at a faithfully Catholic college. He spoke like a Catholic. He encouraged women graduates to see their fulfillment in marriage and starting a family. He urged men to be “unapologetic in their masculinity” and to be on the lookout for “dangerous gender ideologies” in America today. He spoke about bad leaders and chided Catholics, in particular then-President Biden, who “fear speaking the truth,” and “bishops and priests misleading their flocks.”

He acted like a Catholic; spoke like a Catholic; and apparently lives like a Catholic. Whether you are an Eagles fan or a Chiefs fan next Sunday at the Super Bowl. Whether he will nail field goals and extra points as if he were a robot or occasionally miss one. Remember Harrison Butker is proud to be a Catholic and on that day last May was proud to tell that to the world.



**Get In-Formed!**

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

*Watch Mysteries of the Rosary: The Presentation.* This episode in the Joyful Mysteries segment of the Paradisus Dei-produced series continues a virtual pilgrimage through the Holy Land to the sites where the mysteries occurred.

*Watch “Candlemas.”* This brief excerpt from *Catholic All Year with Kendra Tierney* explains Candlemas and a few practical ways and traditions for celebrating the Presentation of Our Lord (Feb 2).



**For Kids!** *Watch God’s Princesses: St. Josephine Bakhita* (Feb 8). This episode is from a new animated series that introduces kids to courageous female saints.

**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)

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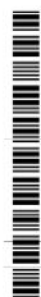
**Donut Sunday**, This weekend, February 2nd after the 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 am Masses. Stop by the Parish Hall after Mass to enjoy some treats and drinks and meet your fellow parishioners. We will also have LOST & FOUND items out for you to check. February’s Donut Sunday will be hosted by American Heritage Girls.

**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)

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