

**"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

Rev. John C. De Celles, Pastor
Rev. Joseph D. Bergida, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Edward R. Horkan, In Residence
Elisabeth Turco, Director of Liturgical Music
Jeanne Sause, Director of Youth Apostolate
Virginia Osella, Director of Religious Education
Mary Hansen, Religious Education Secretary
Michael Thompson, Plant Manager
Maerose Naduvilekunnel, Business Manager
Elizabeth Frazee, Secretary
Mary Butler, Parish Secretary
Dominique Murray, Office Assistant

PARISH OFFICE Telephone Numbers:

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

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

Email

Church: Office@straymonds.org
Pastor: fdc@straymonds.org
Rel. Ed.: ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org

TUITION ASSISTANCE: Please inquire with our office about the availability of partial scholarships for the children of active St. Raymond parishioners attending local Catholic grade schools and high schools.

Angelus Academy
7644 Dynatech Ct, Springfield, VA 22153
703-924-3996

Angelus Academy is a fully-accredited pre-K through 8th grade Catholic School affiliated with the Diocese of Arlington. Although it has no official connection with St. Raymond's, the parish has a longstanding close relationship with Angelus Academy. Many of our parish children already happily attend school there.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE **(Reconciliation/Confession)**

Wednesday Evening
6:15 - 7:00 pm (during Exposition)
Saturday Morning
8:00 - 9:00 am
Saturday Afternoon
3:30 - 5:00 pm
Sunday Morning
8:30-9:00 am and 10:30-11:00 am

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
First Fridays 9:00 am Friday - 9:00 Saturday (Overnight)

MARRIAGE: Couples wishing to marry must contact a parish priest at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Couples who are living together will be expected to live separately at least during the 3 months prior to the wedding.

RCIA: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which adults (and children who have reached the age of reason) are instructed in the Doctrine of the Church and are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. If you or someone you know, would like to inquire about becoming a Catholic, please call the Parish Office.

BAPTISM: Parents are requested to make arrangements with the Parish Office ONE MONTH in advance. Parents must participate in a one-session pre-Baptismal program and are encouraged to do so before the birth of their child. You must be REGISTERED in the Parish 3 MONTHS prior to the Baptism.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please submit announcements to bulletin@straymonds.org 10 days prior to publication date.

Pastor's Corner

First Confessions. Yesterday (Saturday, February 8) about 35 of our Second Graders went to confession for the first time. What a great gift God gives us in this sacrament. And what a joy to be able, as a priest, to share this gift with these little ones. I'm confident that none of us thinks any one of them was in absolute need of the sacramental absolution (i.e., in the state of mortal sin), even so, we all know the joy of the grace this sacrament imparts to live more closely with Christ as well as the absolution of venial sins are gifts. Moreover, how great it is that they have received the gift of admission to the sacrament itself, that is, to be able from now on and throughout their life to come to Christ in the confessional and receive his forgiveness even for the most terrible thing they might do, especially as teens or adults—the promise that in His loving mercy, Jesus will never abandon them, no matter how they might fail Him.

Let's pray for these little ones, that they may regularly and always seek the Lord in the confessional throughout their lives (I pray their parents will bring them to the confessional at least once a month, as my parents did for me). And let us pray for one another that we may have a renewed appreciation and more frequent experience of this great sacrament in our own lives.

"Candlemas" Thanks. If you attended the 9am or 11am Mass last Sunday, I hope you enjoyed the unique opening to the Mass with the blessing of candles. We don't often get to celebrate the Presentation of the Lord/Candlemas on a Sunday. Thanks for all the folks who helped us organize this, especially Mary Butler.

Folks at those Masses also were given candles to take home with them. These candles had been used on the altar, but replaced when they were burned down. Since we can't just throw them away, last Sunday we gave them away.

But we still have a whole bunch left. So we're putting the rest **near the doors of the church today** and asking you to **take them home with you**, and burn them in your homes as a reminder of that Christ, the Light of the World, is with you always. **They are free**, take as many as you want. But I encourage you to consider making a **small donation** (There will be a box next to the candles).

Women's Retreat at St. Raymond's. Lent doesn't start till March 5, but it's time to do a little planning ahead. On Saturday, March 1, the Parish is sponsoring a "pre-Lent" half-day retreat for the woman of our parish—see below for details. Although the priests of the parish will be hearing confessions and I will be offering Mass (and preaching), once again I have asked the ladies of the **Women's Apostolate to Youth (WAY)** to give the talks and lead the discussions.

For those of you who are not familiar with WAY, it is an official Church lay association for Catholic women in the Diocese of Arlington whose mission is to promote the spiritual wellbeing of children/youth and provide spiritual formation and support for women who work with youth in a variety of Apostolates. Angelus Academy is an apostolate of WAY, as is the popular DAYSTAR Mother-Daughter Retreat Series and the "Saint Michael's Army of Intercessors." **I strongly encourage all women of the parish**—younger and older, married or single—to attend this retreat.

Immigration and VP Vance. Recently Vice President Vance responded to a question about the crack down on illegal immigration in a very unusual (for a politician) way. He stated,

"[A]s an American leader, but also just as an American citizen, your compassion belongs first to your fellow citizens. It doesn't mean you hate people from outside of

your own borders....But there's this old-school [concept] — and I think a very Christian concept, by the way — that you love your family, and then you love your neighbor, and then you love your community, and then you love your fellow citizens in your own country, and then after that you can focus and prioritize the rest of the world....A lot of the far left has completely inverted that. They seem to hate the citizens of their own country and care more about people outside their own borders. That is no way to run a society."

Excellent. This is a pitch perfect, if simplified, explanation of the Catholic Church's teaching on **"ordo amoris,"** sometimes translated as "rightly ordered love." If this sounds familiar, it should be. While it is a teaching often overlooked by many Catholics talking about immigration, it is one that is often preached here in our pulpit and in this column. As I wrote here last July (in part):

"St. Thomas Aquinas explains that our first neighbor is our parents (family), but after that our second neighbor, is our country...and our fellow countrymen. ...Of course, the people in other countries are also our neighbors. But it's a matter of priorities: it's a simple rule, "charity begins at home." So we should love people in other countries, but first we should love, honor and care for our country and our countrymen."

Bishop Burbidge on Immigration. Although he approaches the topic from a different perspective, this *ordo amoris* also undergirds the teaching of our good Bishop Burbidge in his recent "Pastoral Statement on American Immigration Law and the Catholic Imperative of Upholding Human Dignity and the Common Good." I sent it around in a parish email last week—I hope you will read it.

Trump and School Choice. Did you see the President's January 31 executive order, "Expanding Education Freedom and Opportunity for Families," that directs various government agencies and Congress to consider options for promoting School Choice? As his press release states:

"It recognizes that parents, not the government, play a fundamental role in choosing and directing the upbringing and education of their children....However, for generations, our government-assigned education system has failed millions of parents, students, and teachers. This Executive Order begins to rectify that wrong by opening up opportunities for students to attend the school that best fits their needs....[This] Administration....will provide every available opportunity for parents to enrich the education of their children through individual choice."

This is just a beginning, but an **outstanding** beginning. **As Vatican II taught:** *"Parents who have the primary and inalienable right and duty to educate their children must enjoy true liberty in their choice of schools. Consequently, the public power, ...must see to it...that public subsidies are paid out in such a way that parents are truly free to choose according to their conscience the schools they want for their children...."* (*Gravissimum Educationis*, 60).

Super Bowl. I apologize to all you Eagles fans, but being a life-long Cowboy fan and I just can't root for them. And Kansas City is the original hometown of my parents and siblings and still the home of most of my relatives, so I'm a natural Chiefs fan. Enjoy the game!

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 10th
 6:30 am Jocelyne LaBuy
 8:30 am Judith Raymond +

Tuesday, February 11th
 6:30 am Allan Foote +
 8:30 am Lawton T. Smith

Wednesday, February 12th
 6:30 am Ara Maranian
 8:30 am Ronald Baelig +
 7:00 pm Priest's Intentions

Thursday, February 13th
 6:30 am Deirdre Pennefather
 8:30 am Debra Henkel & Family

Friday, February 14th
 6:30 am Catherine Yelenoski +
 8:30 am Erin Burns

Saturday, February 15th
 9:00 am Lauren Handy

Vigil Mass
 5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Joshua Schweitzer

Sunday, February 16th
 7:00 am **Msr. Rippy**
 Joanne McDermott +
 9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
 Parishioners

11:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
 Ofelia Cruz +

1:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Family of Jesus
 Prayer Group

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 9-10 CCD Classes
- Feb 10 RCIA
- Feb 11 Adult Bible Study
- Feb 11 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm
- Feb 11 Legion of Mary 6:30pm
- Feb 12 Adoration 9am-7pm
- Feb 13 Book Club 9:30 am Parish Library
- Feb 14 Adoration 9am- 3pm
- Feb 15 Men's Prayer Group
- Feb 22-23 AHG Bake Sale Fundraiser
- Feb 28 Cursillo 7pm Parish Hall
- Mar 1 WAY Pre Lenten Women's Retreat

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

www.straymonds.org

Monday - Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am

Saturday at 9:00 am

Sunday Mass at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

(See the website for Holy Days)

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

St. Raymond's Pre-Lenten Women's Retreat invites women to a retreat led by the Women's Apostolate to Youth (WAY) on Saturday, **March 1st** - Topic: "**Obedient Unto Death: Evangelical Counsels for Women**". Time : 8:30am - 1:30 pm; Location: St. Raymond of Peñafort Parish Hall (8750 Pohick Rd, Springfield, VA 22153). Check in: 8:30am - 8:50am downstairs at the parish hall before going to 9:00am Mass, followed by continental breakfast, talks, confession/adoration, periods of silence, lunch, brief reflection and resolutions. Please rsvp on St. Raymond's parish website <https://straymonds.org/2025-way-pre-lenten-womens-retreat/> or contact St. Raymond's Parish Office (703) 440-0535 or email mary.butler@straymonds.org. **No cost to attend but please register early.**



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 ga-la@jpthegreat.org

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 13th 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.

AHG Bake Sale Fundraiser. Stop by the narthex after all masses on Feb 22 and 23 to enjoy a homemade sweet treat or snack item at the Bake Sale hosted by St Raymond's American Heritage Girls Troop VA0683.

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.



KNIGHTS PUT POINTS ON THE BOARD . . . because we sponsor the FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIPS! **Great for the family** (boys and girls compete ages U9 and 10-14): 7:00 p.m. **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16 AT HOLY SPIRIT GYM (8800 Braddock Rd,**

Annandale, VA 22003 registration begins at 7:00. Questions?--contact Sir Knight Gopal Sharma (gopal.d.dharma@gmail.com). Men, don't forget to **JOIN THE KNIGHTS:** 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

- 2/8 Asian Fusion Dinner (Parish Hall 6:30—10:30)
- 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, 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, or call / text her at: C - 703-455-9327.

DAY OF RECOLLECTION- February 15th, 9am -1pm at Holy Spirit Catholic Church hosted by the Secular Carmelite Community of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. Fee; \$20 To register and pay-Contact Jackie: theresetresurer@gmail.com. \$25 at the door. For more information call 202-365-9197 or email skoucheravy56@gmail.com

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

“The threats posed by **IVF** to human dignity and human rights are sometimes very obvious and at other times quite subtle, but nevertheless knowable to all and of particular concern for those of faith. I ask all people of goodwill to engage in greater thoughtful and rational reflection on the costs associated with the IVF industry, which are evident by human reason. Finally, I ask elected officials to come together to work toward the highest good possible to ensure that law is ordered to the good of all human persons and, particularly, the good of the family.”
Bishop Burbidge, Pastoral Letter, *The Christian Family, In Vitro Fertilization and Heroic Witness to True Love*

Full text: arlingtondiocese.org/2025/01/22/the-christian-family-in-vitro-fertilization-and-heroic-witness-to-true-love/



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. To stay up to date on life issues in Virginia, please visit <https://vacatholic.org/>. Stay informed. Stay engaged. Make phone calls. Write letters. Visit your Legislators. Lives are on the line.



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 in front of the Falls Church 'Healthcare' Center. 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. 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 24/7 helpline: 877-558-0333. **It may not be too late.**

Tepeyac Pro Life OB/GYN: Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare. tepeyacobgyn.com 703-273-9440. The center strives to be an instrument of the healing power of God's mercy and love, 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
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

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 2/9: Youth Group & CCD

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

3:30-5pm Jr. High Youth Group — Grades 7 & 8

5-6:30pm 7-12th Grade CCD

6:30-8pm HS Youth Group — 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>

7-8pm Friday 2/14: HS Drop-In Bible Study (Parish Library) We are working through **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!

Quo Vadis Days and FIAT Camps are great opportunities for current 9-12th graders 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 and runs from July 20-24. Both are held at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. **The registration lottery is open February 3-28.** See pics & videos from past years, get more info. & register for the lottery at ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis or ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT



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 DUE TODAY: 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! **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 Call/Text: 571-334-9890

Email Jeanne to be added to the weekly email list for the most updated

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CONGRATULATIONS to the students who received the Sacrament of Penance for the first time yesterday, Saturday February 8th!!

It was a blessing to be a part of such an important day. Thank you to all the parents and teachers who prepared the children for this sacrament of healing. God bless you all!

Looking ahead....There will be no CCD classes next week - February 16 and 17 in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

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.

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. 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.

2025 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL (BLA) BEGINS! The 2025 BLA mailing was recently sent to parishioners. This year's theme is: "Abounding in Hope." After reflecting upon the blessings God has given you, please prayerfully consider a pledge. Sharing your gifts with the 40+ ministries and programs funded by the BLA truly impacts the lives of thousands across our diocese. You can make a gift at: www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA or scan the QR code on the right:



SCAN ME

CHURCH PERSECUTED

President Trump signed several executive orders on the first day in office on January 20. This has become a routine for presidents to arrive in office and immediately negate the executive orders of their predecessor. In this case, for Catholics this is a good thing.

One such order made by the president dealt with the 2024 Title IX Rule dealing with gender which was published in July 2024 by the Biden administration. In a "Dear Colleague" letter dated January 1, 2025, the acting assistant secretary for civil rights in the U.S. Department of Education (ED) sent a letter to all colleges, universities, and schools that receive federal funding. The letter stated that the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) will enforce Title IX that clarifies "the interpretation of 'sex' to mean the objective, immutable characteristic of being born male or female as outlined in the previous Trump administration's 2020 Title IX Rule."

Prior to this, on January 9, 2025, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky issued a decision (*Tennessee v. Cardona*) also vacating the 2024 Title IX Rule. This prohibited the ED from enforcing the 2024 Title IX Rule in any jurisdiction.

Why is this important? What does this mean? Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) have been defying Governor Youngkin's order stating that individuals born of one sex cannot use the bathroom, locker rooms, showers, etc. of the other sex. FCPS have always felt that they were on firm ground because of the Federal Title IX Rule from the Biden administration. There is only one problem now though. Both a federal court and the Trump administration have changed the rule to one of common sense...biological sex is back!

This has impact broader than just Title IX as it applies to schools and colleges. President Trump's Executive Order (EO), "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government," "orders all agencies and departments within the Executive Branch to 'enforce all sex-protective laws that promote [the] reality' that there are 'two sexes, male and female,' and that '[t]hese sexes are not changeable and are grounded in fundamental and incontrovertible reality.'"

Read the EO cited above at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/defending-women-from-gender-ideology-extremism-and-restoring-biological-truth-to-the-federal-government/>. Read the Dear Colleague letter at <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-enforce-2020-title-ix-rule-protecting-women>.



Get In-Formed!

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

Watch Lourdes: Story of Faith, Science, and Miracles. This film presents the conversion of a journalist when he discovers a manuscript detailing the conversion of his nonbelieving ancestor whose wife was healed by the waters of Lourdes after he met St. Bernadette.

Watch Warriors to Lourdes. Produced by the Knights of Columbus, this documentary explores the healing powers of a Lourdes pilgrimage for spiritually wounded military veterans.



For Kids! Watch *The Faithful: Our Lady of Lourdes* (Feb 11) and *Bernadette: The Princess of Lourdes*. Youth will learn about this apparition of Our Lady to St. Bernadette.

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



Angelus Academy

Where the truth of Catholic teaching takes flesh in the lives of Pre-K - 8th graders and their families.

There are limited spots available in some grades for the 2024-25 school year, but spaces are going fast!

Apply soon!

AngelusAcademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/

Call or Email Julie Maimone, Director of Admissions, at Admissions@angelusacademy.org for more information or to schedule a tour.

Come visit us and see why our students love coming to school. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

www.AngelusAcademy.org 703-924-3996
7644 Dynatech Ct., Springfield, VA 22153

Scholarships to Catholic Schools are still available!

Please send requests for tuition assistance to Fr. De Celles or contact the parish office for more information. We can also help cover homeschooling expenses.

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 or ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT

The Parish Library is located outside the Parish Hall. Staffed

by Parish Volunteers, it is open on Saturdays from 1-5 and Sundays from 10-2. With over 5,000 Catholic items for adults and children in written and AV form, there's something for everyone! Come and see! "You will not find anyone who is truly striving after his spiritual advancement who is not given to spiritual reading." St Athanasius

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We are looking for volunteers to help with the upcoming Lenten Soup Suppers and for Donut Sundays. Please contact the parish office if interested, call 703-440-0535.

SUNDAY OFFERTORY 02/02/2025

Sunday Offertory	\$16,568.00
Family Assistance	\$1,487.00
Maintenance Fund	\$2,328.00
OLOR-Scholarship	\$3,210.00
Arlington Herald	\$2,245.00





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