

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

PARISH OFFICE Telephone Numbers:

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

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

Email

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

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

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

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

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Reconciliation/Confession)

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

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

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

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

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

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

Pastor's Corner

I've been in bed the first part of this week with a bad cold (finally caught what's been going around), so I am using my column to reprint Bishop Burbidge's recent letter on illegal immigration. It may help you to put in perspective what other prelates are saying on the matter. More on that soon...

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, Diocese of Arlington A Pastoral Statement on American Immigration Law and the Catholic Imperative of Upholding Human Dignity and the Common Good January 31, 2025

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the United States government revises its immigration policies, and after prayerful discernment and consultation, I offer pastoral encouragement to President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance, Congressional leaders, elected officials, and all Catholics and people of goodwill to consider the common good of our country with the light of faith. The Church teaches, as does our Constitution, that a political community exists to protect the family and human dignity. We always defend and protect the most vulnerable, even as we defend the rights and duties of nations to govern themselves and to safeguard the common good.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), has rightly stated that “our Nation is blessed with many gifts,” and our great bounty comes with a duty to care for “our most vulnerable sisters and brothers, including the unborn, the poor, the elderly and infirm, and migrants and refugees.” Similarly, Bishop Mark J. Seitz, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Migration, has emphasized that we must insist on the dignity of every immigrant, regardless of his or her status. I join him in holding up the Church’s teaching that every country has the right and the responsibility “to promote public order, safety, and security through well-regulated borders and just limits on immigration.” All my brother bishops agree with this, and together with Pope Francis, we affirm that every migrant is “a child of God.”

This wise counsel from my brother bishops rests on a two-fold commitment: to uphold human dignity and the common good. As principles of Catholic social teaching, human dignity and the common good must not be brought into conflict. As Catholics, we understand the common good as inclusive of the individual good of each and every member of society. We also understand that the rule of law is to defend and promote the common good. For this reason, I have confidence that comprehensive immigration reform need not harm the dignity of any person. Even when immigration reform includes repatriation of those persons who have committed violent crimes, or who otherwise violate the terms of a right to remain, human dignity can be respected. We must not presume a conflict between human dignity and the rule of law.

As a bishop and pastor, I offer my gratitude for all those immigrants in the Diocese of Arlington who, through their goodness and faithfulness, contribute so much to our Church and to our country. Over the past generation, immigrants have settled within the Diocese of Arlington from

as many as 20 nations including Afghanistan, Cameroon, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Mexico, Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam, and Venezuela. Immigrant Catholics have enriched our diocese with their great faith, their devotion to our Lord, their families, and their service to Christ’s Church. Their presence is a gift to all of us, and we are grateful to God for them. We pray for their faithfulness, fortitude, and perseverance in the face of uncertainty.

Spiritually, we are all migrants on a holy pilgrimage to our heavenly home. The Church carries us through every flood of life, towards the eternal safety of the City of God. When addressing the topic of migration, the Church has historically emphasized two crucial points. First, the rights of persons to the integrity and unity of their families irrespective of where they settle. Second, the right of all to the spiritual care afforded by the sacraments. We are also obligated, as believers in Jesus Christ, to serve those who come to us for assistance—no matter who they are. No Church ministry should hesitate to provide that vital assistance our faith compels us to offer: celebrate the Mass and offer the sacraments, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, and welcome the stranger. For these reasons, I plead with those responsible for law enforcement to refrain from entering our sacred spaces unless absolutely and unequivocally necessary to ensure the safety of all persons.

Along with our greatest respect for human dignity, and as a consequence of our respect for the common good, the Church has always shown the greatest concern for all that is right and just. We implore all leaders to strive to keep our nation safe for the sake of thriving and healthy families, including migrant families. Sadly, some of those who have entered our country, legally or illegally, have committed serious crimes. There must be consequences for such behavior, as there is no place for violence, trafficking, or gang activity in our society. Our laws exist to safeguard the good of all, and they must be respected. We therefore also recognize all those law enforcement officers, including many immigrants and children of immigrants, who work diligently to uphold our laws and protect our communities, often at great risk to themselves. They deserve and receive our prayers. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church emphasizes, Catholic teaching does not support an open border policy, but rather emphasizes a common sense approach where the duty to care for the stranger is practiced in harmony with the duty to care for the nation.

Therefore, I encourage President Trump and Congressional leaders to develop a national immigration policy that reflects the Catholic commitment to human dignity and the common good. Americans earnestly look to our elected officials for a humane and peaceful immigration policy that is just, compassionate, and restores confidence in the rule of law. American law must always include pathways for legal entry and as citizens we should always celebrate the contributions of immigrants, ensure the protection of the vulnerable, and uphold the common good which is the condition for ordered liberty and public safety.

We pray for courage and wisdom among our leaders to enact reforms that reflect both the heart of the Gospel and the spirit of our laws. May God grant them wisdom, mercy, and charity as they undertake this task. We are a Church that stands for justice, not against the enforcement of law, but for its application with mercy and understanding for the good of all persons and our country.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 17th

10:00 am Ofelia Cruz +

Tuesday, February 18th

6:30 am World Leaders
8:30 am Tricia Cloos

Wednesday, February 19th

6:30 am Patricia Ann Kloos +
8:30 am Teofilo Tulayba +
7:00 pm Priest's Intentions

Thursday, February 20th

6:30 am Nicholas Reilly
8:30 am Gerard Schratz +

Friday, February 21st

6:30 am David & Rita Osella+
8:30 am Jerold M. Brown +

Saturday, February 22nd

9:00 am Jon Robles +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles
Francisco Ramas +

Sunday, February 23rd

7:00 am Msgr. Rippy
Father Bergida
9:00 am Fr. Bergida
Parishioners
11:00 am Fr. De Celles
Louise Ward +
1:00 pm Fr. Horkan
Eugene Tougas +

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 Bill Roche
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- Feb 16 Trail Life Mulch Sale Begins (see insert and website)
- Feb 16 Car Raffle Sign Up Begins
- Feb 16 BLA Begins
- Feb 16-17 No CCD Classes or Youth Group Activities
- Feb 17 HOLIDAY- Parish Offices Closed. One Mass at 10am.
- Feb 17 No RCIA
- Feb 18 Sons of Thunder 7 pm Maurer Room
- Feb 18 Adult Bible Study Parish Hall
- Feb 18 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm Maurer Room
- Feb 18 Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library
- Feb 19 Adoration 9am-7pm
- Feb 21 Adoration 9am- 3pm
- Feb 22 HSG Info Workshop Parish Hall
- 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 let 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.

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.**



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.

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.



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!

ADORERS URGENTLY NEEDED- Both Wednesday and Friday. Wednesday adorers are needed for 1 pm and 5 pm. Friday Adorers needed at all time slots between 9am and 2pm. 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.

"Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours." (Luke 6:20) A vocation to religious life calls for a life of simplicity and dedication to God's kingdom. Could God be calling you to this blessed path? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (703) 841-2514 or via email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.



HOW BEING A KNIGHT IMPROVES

FATHERHOOD: "Incredibly, a child's future church attendance was best in families where fathers attended church more than the mother" (Dean Smith, 2014, Opentheword.org). Thus, a 1994 Swiss

study validates the lasting impact of a father's faith on his children. What better legacy of fatherhood than to unite with like-minded men for the purposes of charity and continued growth in the Catholic faith? Knighthood isn't in conflict with your family, but rather it amplifies your example as a father. Why wait? **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

2/15 Blood drive, Nativity Parish 07:00 a.m.--12:00 p.m. (Sign-up in the Narthex)

2/16 Free-throw Championship (Boys & Girls U9-14, Sunday 7:00 p.m. HOLY SPIRIT GYM (8800 Braddock Rd, Annandale, VA 22003 registration begins at 7:00pm).

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 - 703-663-0480.

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

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

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

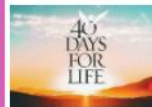
"The Church stands in solidarity with all those experiencing infertility and proclaims the dignity of all who come into existence as a result of IVF; however, she stands absolutely opposed to any federal or state governmental action that would involve every citizen with a grave moral injustice.

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. We will also be present for an hour every Friday afternoon throughout the campaign. 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

"Abortion suppresses the life of children and cuts off the source of hope for the whole of society." Pope Francis, Feb 3, 2025

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 2/16: NO Youth Group & CCD due to the holiday weekend. We will resume next Sunday with both youth groups meeting 3:30-5pm for Adoration and dinner before CCD.

Tuesday 2/18: 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. Bergida.

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>

Friday 2/21: HS Drop-In Bible Study CANCELED

Friday 2/21: HS Line Dance at Basilica of St. Mary's

St. Mary's has invited us to join them and other teens from our area for a deanery-wide High School Line Dance! Information was sent out via email. Contact Jeanne if you are interested in joining us. The dance will be from 7-9pm. We will meet at St. Raymond's at 6pm for those who would like to car pool with compliant adults. Please **RSVP by Feb. 16th if you would like to come** so we can arrange rides with compliant adults and make sure everyone has completed permission slips etc. **Compliant adults willing to drive, please contact Jeanne ASAP.**

Saturday 2/22: HS Swing Dance CANCELED

We are cancelling the Feb. 22nd Swing Dance at St. Raymond's as we will be Line Dancing at The Basilica of St. Mary's on 2/21. Our remaining Swing Dances for this year will be March 22 and April 3.

Sun. 2/23 BOTH YOUTH GROUPS 3:30-5pm

3:30-5pm High School & Jr. High Youth Group: Adoration (Confession available!) Join us for a special holy hour for 7-12th graders! Exposition with a short talk given by Fr. Bergida, followed time for silent prayer (bring a journal, pen, rosary, and Bible or spiritual reading) the opportunity for Confession and closing with Benediction. Dinner will be served in the hall afterwards. *Parents/families are encouraged to stay for the holy hour as well.*

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

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/ScholarshipsAndContests>

The Associates of St. John Bosco Scholarship applications are now open! These scholarships are open to **high school seniors through college juniors** who have demonstrated an intense desire to live out their faith on their college campus and who seek to serve the Church in some capacity after graduation. **Deadline: May 19.** See website for more information. <https://bit.ly/ScholarshipsAndContests>

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

youth@straymonds.org Call/Text: 571-334-9890

Email Jeanne to be added to the weekly email list for the most updated info on Youth Apostolate news & upcoming events!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

NO Class THIS week - February 16-17 in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

Parents of 7th Grade Confirmation candidates: if you have not already done so, please turn in the **Confirmation Registry form with Birth Certificate and Baptism Certificate attached** (unless your child was baptized here at St. Raymond's) to the Religious Education office - it was due February 6th.

Parents of 8th Grade Confirmation candidates: please make note of the following documents due to the Religious Education office by **March 20:** Sponsor Eligibility Letter and Statement of Sponsor form. Please contact us ASAP with any questions about sponsors. **Service Hour Forms were due in January.**

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.

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.

SUPPORTING THE CLOISTERED DOMINICAN NUNS OF ST. DOMINIC'S MONASTERY, LINDEN, VA ON SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025—The Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge and members of the Host Committee cordially invite you to attend a benefit for the Cloistered Nuns of St. Dominic's Monastery. **The Laetare Benefit** is our annual fundraising dinner for the cloistered nuns of St. Dominic's Monastery in Linden, VA in the Diocese of Arlington. As cloistered nuns, they depend on the charity of the people of God for their existence. They have needs for everyday items such as food and healthcare, and they are building a Chapel at the Monastery. Please show your support and join us for a reception, dinner, raffle, and auction which will be held on **Sunday, March 30, 2025 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm** at the **Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Avenue East, Vienna, Virginia**. Seating is limited. **RSVP by March 20, 2025.** Tickets are \$250 each and table sponsorships are available, starting at \$2,500 for 10. Cocktail attire. Please send a check payable to *Friends of St. Dominic's Monastery*, 508 N. Payne Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, or to **purchase tickets online through Faith Direct**, follow link to be taken to the registration page <https://forms.ministryforms.net/embed.aspx?formId=b2af3583-f195-4ee0-a7a9-b3167a9acce5> OR visit www.lindenopnuns.org/laetare-benefit. For more info, please contact: friendsofstdominicsmonastery@gmail.com

CHURCH PERSECUTED

Last week this column cited President Trump’s Executive Order (EO) of January 20, 2025 “Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government.” It may be instructive to cite some specific definitions embedded in the EO which is designed to “defend women’s rights and protect freedom of conscience by using clear and accurate language and policies that recognize women are biologically female, and men are biologically male.”

This EO “will enforce all sex-protective laws to promote this reality, and the following definitions shall govern all Executive interpretations of and application of Federal law and administrative policy:

- (a) ‘Sex’ shall refer to an individual’s immutable biological classification as either male or female. ‘Sex’ is not a synonym for and does not include the concept of ‘gender identity.’
- (b) ‘Women’ or ‘woman’ and ‘girls’ or ‘girl’ shall mean adult and juvenile human females, respectively.
- (c) ‘Men’ or ‘man’ and ‘boys’ or ‘boy’ shall mean adult and juvenile human males, respectively.
- (d) ‘Female’ means a person belonging, at conception, to the sex that produces the large reproductive cell.
- (e) ‘Male’ means a person belonging, at conception, to the sex that produces the small reproductive cell.
- (f) ‘Gender ideology’ replaces the biological category of sex with an ever-shifting concept of self-assessed gender identity, permitting the false claim that males can identify as and thus become women and vice versa, and requiring all institutions of society to regard this false claim as true. Gender ideology includes the idea that there is a vast spectrum of genders that are disconnected from one’s sex. Gender ideology is internally inconsistent, in that it diminishes sex to an identifiable or useful category but nevertheless maintains it is possible for a person to be born in the wrong sexed body.”<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/defending-women-from-gender-ideology-extremism-and-restoring-biological-truth-to-the-federal-government/>



Get In-Formed!

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

Study Lectio: Peter: Cornerstone of Catholicism. Corresponding study guides can be purchased for this 10-part in depth series on St. Peter by Dr. Tim Gray. Study alone or with a group!

Watch Footprints of God: Peter: Keeper of the Keys. Stephen Ray retraces the travels of St. Peter and speaks about the selection of this first Pope, papal succession, and related Catholic teachings.



Watch Keys of the Kingdom: Understanding the Papacy. Various priests and theologians speak on the gift of the papacy for God’s Church.

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 Donut Sundays on 4/6, 5/4 and 6/1. Please contact the parish office if interested, call 703-440-0535.

SUNDAY OFFERTORY 02/09/2025

Sunday Offertory	\$13,764.00
Family Assistance	\$1,749.00
Maintenance Fund	\$2,587.00
OLOR-Scholarship	\$3,185.00





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 and Beloved Sister and Aunt

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