



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

THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT.

This Wednesday, March 5, Ash Wednesday, we begin the Holy season of Lent, a gift of 40 days to renew our souls and our lives in the mystery of the Mystery of the Cross and Resurrection. A time to ask, do I truly believe in Christ's amazing salvific sacrifice of love on the Cross? Do I love Him in return and pick up my crosses to follow Him? Do I believe Him when He said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments"?

Doing Penance. Lent is a time to do personal acts of penance, traditionally of three types: **1) almsgiving** (including acts of charity), **2) sacrifice** (what you "give up" or "endure"), and **3) prayer**. Please choose your penances carefully, considering your health and state in life. Challenge yourself, but pick things you can actually do, rather than things that are so difficult that you may easily give up on them. Offer all this in atonement for your sins and as acts of love for the God who, out of love, died on the Cross for your sins.

Consider doing something like this: 1) pick a **small penance** from **one** of the "types" above and do it **every day** (e.g., for sacrifice, give up sodas), 2) pick 2 other small penances from the other two types and do them once a week (e.g. give a little extra to the "poor box" or offertory collection on Sunday, and 3) pick one big penance from one of the types and do it once a week (e.g., see "**TWO BIG WEEKDAYS**" below for some possibilities, e.g., go to the 7pm Mass every Wednesday, spend time at Exposition/adoration every Friday).

Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses on Ash Wednesday: 6:30am, 8am, 12noon, **5pm** and 7pm. Since ashes are merely symbolic (a "sacramental" not a "Sacrament") they may be received by anyone who wishes to repent their sins, Catholic or not, in "good standing" or not. Ashes are an important and powerful public witness to our faith in Christ Crucified, His Gospel of repentance, and His grace of forgiveness. (Note: There are no confessions scheduled on Ash Wednesday).

Fasting and Abstinence. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both fasting and abstinence, and every Friday in Lent is a day of abstinence. Failure to "substantially" keep these penances is a grave matter (e.g., potentially a mortal sin). Please see the explanation of these rules elsewhere in this bulletin.

Lenten Schedule. Lent brings a much busier parish schedule, which we've laid out in detail in this week's "**Lenten Schedule**" **insert**. Please keep this insert in a central place in your home to remind you of the many opportunities for spiritual growth the parish offers this Lent.

Sacrament of Penance. Confession is absolutely the key to a fruitful Lent, so we have confessions almost **every day**. The **times vary** throughout the week, and from week to week, so double check the "Lenten Schedule" insert.

Evening Mass. In addition to our regular Wednesday evening, we will add a 7pm Mass on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** during Lent.

TWO BIG WEEKDAYS. Other than Sunday we offer 2 days that present extra opportunities for Lenten penance.

First, **WEDNESDAYS:** we have **Exposition** of the Blessed Sacrament from 9am to 7pm, with confessions from 6-8pm. At 6:30 we have the **Family Rosary** (all are invited). Then at 7pm we have **Mass**, I will give a five-part series of "extended homilies" (about a 15-to-20-minute homily) as our "**Lenten Series**." This year we will meditate on, "**The Wounds of Our Lord's Passion**":

March 12: The Wounds of the Scourging
 March 19: The Wounds of the Crown of Thorns
 March 26: The Wounds of Carrying the Cross
 April 2: The Wounds of the Nails
 April 9: The Wound Piercing the Sacred Heart

Second, **FRIDAYS:** Once again we will have **All-Night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** every Friday/Saturday in Lent, from after the Friday 8:30am Mass, continuing **throughout the day and night** until Saturday Morning before the 9am Mass. (Like we do every first Friday of the month). Experience a little bit of Good Friday every week.

This is an especially **great form of penance** you can adopt for yourself during Lent: both sacrifice and prayer, and even an act of charity if you pray for others. It's **especially powerful if you do it in the middle of the night! So I encourage all of you to take at least one hour during Lent**, if not every week, to spend with our Lord during this Exposition.

Also, every Friday evening we have **Stations of the Cross** at 7pm. Note the Exposed Blessed Sacrament will be temporarily reposed during the Stations (as the law requires), and exposed again immediately afterward.

And don't forget the great opportunity for Lenten fellowship at our pot-luck **Soup-Suppers** at 5:30pm (if you bring something to eat that can be your penance of "almsgiving").

CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE POPE. Here's an excellent commentary (experts) about speculation etc., by Phil Lawler at *Catholic Culture*.

"The Vatican...always has been...stingy with details about a Pontiff's health. Two factors are at work there, I think. First, there is a very reasonable respect for the Pope's privacy; no one wants to broadcast the intimate details about his bodily functions. Second, there is a ...longstanding tendency among Vatican officials to insist that the Pope is healthy, notwithstanding clear evidence to the contrary.

"Still any announcement that the Pope is failing can excite the very excitable rumor mills around Rome, and so I can understand why Vatican officials do their best to tamp down speculation. ...In short the bulletins didn't tell us much.

"...After a few days of those anodyne Vatican bulletins, reports in the mainstream media began to say that the Pope's condition was worsening. Actually I think...the few details leaking out of the Gemelli [hospital] complex were revealing that his illness had been, from the outset, more serious than the Vatican wanted to admit.

"Double pneumonia is a serious matter, particularly for an 88-year-old man with a record of uncertain physical health. And when doctors announced that the Pope was suffering from a "polymicrobial" infection—that is, multiple different simultaneous infections—it should have been no surprise that he would remain in the hospital longer than the 3-4 days the earliest Vatican estimates had suggested. Still, each day the hospital reported that the Pope's condition was not deteriorating.

"Why, then, did media reports jump to the conclusion that Pope Francis was rapidly failing? Perhaps because journalists are always hoping to break a big story. ...That, and the fact that if Pope Francis is nearing the end of his life, journalists have an opportunity to speculate about the papal succession....

"...The Pope's life is not in immediate danger, the doctors assure us, but he is not out of danger, either....it could deteriorate quickly, and gravely...Everything depends on the doctors' success in finding the right medications to defeat the infections.

"Will they succeed? We don't know. Journalists will always be tempted to speculate. Catholics should be more productively inclined to pray."

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 3rd

6:30 Julia Galvin
 8:30 Gordon Wilson +

Tuesday, March 4th

6:30 am Ruth Ann Gutt +
 8:30 am Katherine Smith +

Ash Wednesday, March 5th

6:30 am Thomas Turner
 8:30 am Colleen Kollar-Kotelly
 Noon Joseph Rogate +
 5:00 pm William J. McShea +
 7:00 pm Priest's Intentions

Thursday, March 6th

6:30 am Connor Arcobasso
 8:30 am Lucia & Tomas Lopez+

Friday, March 7th

6:30 am Carol Cronin +
 8:30 am Johanna Healy

Saturday, March 8th

9:00 am Francisco Nicoloso

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Cecilia Ramos +

Sunday, March 9th

7:00 am **Msr. Rippy**
 RE Catesists

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

Parishioners

11:00 am **Fr. Bergida**

Anne V. Bucchianeri +

1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**

Bart Perricone

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 Erich Whitt
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- Mar 2 Donut Sunday**
- Mar 2-3 CCD Classes**
- Mar 3 RCIA**
- Mar 4 Adult Bible Study Parish Hall**
- Mar 4 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm Maurer Room**
- Mar 4 Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library**
- Mar 5 Ash Wednesday– Masses at 6:30am, 8:30am, Noon, 5:00pm and 7:00pm**
- Mar 7 First Friday Nocturnal Adoration**
- Mar 7 Soup Supper (5:30) & Stations of the Cross (7pm)**
- Mar 15 K of C St. Patrick and St. Joseph Dinner, Parish Hall**

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.

Lenten Soup Suppers: Please join your fellow parishioners for a delicious but simple meal each Friday during Lent, 5:30. Bring your family or a friend and either a pot of homemade meatless soup, macaroni & cheese, fruit, salad or bread to share. **Stations of the Cross** takes place in the church at 7pm each Friday. Please join us!

Bridge Club: All levels of players are welcome. We play Bridge cards each week in the Church Hall. Contact Lois Kotlowski at 703-455-6567 or bridgeclub402@gmail.com if you are interested in joining us.

Join the Legion of Mary! The Legion of Mary makes its members better Catholics through prayer, service and evangelization. "Active" members meet weekly for prayer, planning and discussion. In pairs, we perform several hours of apostolic work each week. (At St. Raymond's works include working with/teaching youth, sponsoring the Pilgrim Virgin statue visits at parishioner homes, and taking the bulletin and sacramentals door-to-door.) "Auxiliary" members of the Legion of Mary offer their daily prayers to Our Lady so that she can apply them where they are needed. The Active Legion group meets on Wednesday nights, 6:30 – 8:00pm, in the Maurer Room. If you are interested in joining the Legion or have any questions, please contact Judy Mayer, jmayer9014@aol.com, or call / text 703-627-7320.

EXTRA WEEKDAY LENTEN MASSES

Monday–Friday: 6:30am & 8:30am

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 7:00pm

Wednesday Lenten Series are extended Homilies during 7pm Mass

Special Feast Days

St. Joseph, March 19: Masses- 6:30am, 8:30am & 7:00pm

Annunciation, March 25: Masses-6:30am, 8:30am & 7:00pm

LENTEN CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (not Weds.):

March 6-April 4: 6:30pm-7:00pm

April 7-April 15: 6:00pm-7:00pm

Wednesday: March 12-April 16: 6:00pm-8:00pm

First Fridays: March 7 and April 4: "Extra Confessions" from 3-4pm and 6-7pm

Saturday: 8:00am-9:00am; 3:30pm-5:00pm

Sunday: After the 7:00 and 9:00am Masses, until the start of the next Mass.

Fasting and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both fasting and abstinence, and every Friday in Lent is a day of abstinence. Failure to "substantially" keep these penances is grave matter (e.g., potentially a mortal sin). The law of abstinence requires that no meat may be eaten on these days, and binds all Catholics who are 14 years old or older. No other penance may be substituted. The law of fasting binds those who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The Church defines "fasting," for these purposes, as having only one full meal a day, with two additional smaller meals permitted, but only as necessary to keep up strength and so small that if added together they would not equal a full meal. Snacking is forbidden, but that does not include drinks that are not of the nature of a meal. Even though these rules do not bind all age groups, all are encouraged to follow them to the extent possible. Children in particular learn the importance of penance from following the practice of their older family members. The sick, pregnant or nursing mothers, and other folks with special physical circumstances may be partially or totally exempt from these rules—use good judgment and take care of yourself.



12 FUN FACTS ABOUT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #1 (Alyssa Murphy (Oct. 9, 2020) *The National Catholic Register*). Fr. Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in response to the needs of a community

that was losing fathers due to dangerous factory work conditions. With a desire to help mothers and children struggling to make ends meet and survive amidst an anti-Catholic climate, Fr. McGivney, age 29, was assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut when on Oct. 2, 1881, he began inviting men of his parish to meet, foremost "to prevent Catholic men from entering secret societies whose membership was antithetical to Church teaching, to unite men of Catholic faith, and to provide for the families of deceased members." **JOIN US.** 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

- 3/5--Ash Wednesday
- 3/10--Exemplification in the Parish Hall
- 3/15--St. Patrick & St. Joseph Dinner (doors open at 6:30 pm)
- 3/21--Knights serve at the Lenten soup Dinner

ST. PATRICK'S AND ST JOSEPH'S DINNER:

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a parish dinner on Saturday, March 15th in honor of St. Patrick (Feast day - March 17th) and St. Joseph (Feast day - March 19th). Knights will be selling tickets in the narthex on the weekends of March 1-2 and 8-9. Or use the QR code to the right. Please come and join in on the fun. Erin go Brah!



Support Trail Life Troop 0683 - buy mulch and topsoil! Trail Life Troop 0683, the troop sponsored by St. Raymond of Peñafort, is kicking off its annual mulch and topsoil sale to help parish families prepare for spring lawn and garden care. Your support will help our growing troop buy camping gear, advancement and recognition badges and instructional materials. You can mail in your order or order online. Ordering instructions can be found at this website, <https://straymonds.org/trail-life/>. We offer home delivery for an extra donation. Questions? Contact Keith Oswald at traillifeusa@straymonds.org. Thank you very much!

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

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.

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. March's Donut Sunday will be hosted by our Lectors.

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

"President Trump's executive order "["Expanding Access to In Vitro Fertilization"](#)" is a disappointing and unnecessary action. While the Church proclaims the dignity of all persons and affirms the truth that every child is a gift from God, regardless of the circumstances of their conception, the Church also observes that IVF involves serious moral injustices...

The Christian vision of human love and procreation affirms the good of marital love, the centrality of husband and wife, and the goodness of a variety of life-affirming fertility treatments for those experiencing fertility challenges... The Church encourages fertility treatment approaches like NaProTechnology, which hold the promise of restoring fertility and respect human life... In practice and principle, IVF is incompatible with the president's evident support for the good of human life and his desire to encourage family formation... We must work for building up families in ways which do not entail the destruction of human life." Bishop Burbidge Feb 19, 2025



Save the date! The Virginia March for Life will take place on **Wednesday April 2** in Richmond. St Raymond's is sending one bus. Sign up in the narthex. 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. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

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

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 3/2: Youth Group & CCD

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

3:30-5pm Jr. High Youth Group—Grades 7 & 8 (Paint Night!)

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

6:30-8pm HS Youth Group—Grades 9-12 (Paint Night!)

Sunday 3/9: High School Q & A with Fr. De Celles

5-6:30pm (Maurer Room) Father De Celles invites ALL high schools students to a night of Q & A. This is a great time to ask questions about the faith, or write them to ask anonymously, and get them answered. Bring your questions & invite a friend! Regular youth group to follow!

High School Youth Group families - please consider sharing your time and talent by providing one "dinner item" or dessert this semester for the approximately 30 youth that attend YG each week. The details are in the sign-up genius which can be found at <https://bit.ly/HSYGsnacks>. Thank you for supporting the Youth Apostolate! If you have any questions, please contact Mary Hansen mary.hansen@straymonds.org

DEEPEN YOUR PRAYER LIFE THIS LENT

Start your Fridays with Mass & discussion afterwards

6:30AM MASS & BREAKFAST EVERY FRIDAY

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. <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVP> RSVP by Wed. if you need a ride to school.

Saturday, March 15: High School Volunteer Opportunity St. Patrick/St. Joseph (various shifts from 1-8pm)

Calling all high school youth! Your time and talent is needed to help with the Feast of St. Joseph and St. Patrick dinner in the Parish Hall on Saturday, March 15th. Help is needed with set-up, decorating, serving food and clean up. Faith, family, food, and fun...can't beat that! Sign up at <https://bit.ly/PatJoeDinner>

Saturday, March 22 High School Swing Dance

7-9pm (Parish Hall) All high school students are invited! We have instructors so please don't worry if you have never danced before. Most of the folks who have been attending had never swing danced before, but now are quite good! See flyer or email for more info. Please bring a completed 2024-2025 YA Info. Sheet if you do not yet have one on file for this school year and ask any friends you invite to do so as well.

Associates of St. John Bosco Scholarship applications are 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. Website for more information. <https://bit.ly/ScholarshipsAndContests>
Deadline: May 19

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

Priest with High School CCD on March 9! Our 9-12th grade CCD students will have Q&A with Fr. De Celles during class next week. All high school parishioners are invited to join! Meet in the church at 5:00, and pick up is in the parish hall at 6:30 if not staying for Youth Group.

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.**

* Please mark your calendars:

Confirmation rehearsal is scheduled for May 18th at 2:30 pm

Confirmation is scheduled to be celebrated May 19th at 7 pm

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.

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

JOIN the CHOIR at St. Raymond's: Do you want to sing with the choir for Lent and Easter? Singers who have a pleasant voice and sing in pitch are welcome. We practice on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and sing at 11:00 am Mass on Sundays with a warm-up at 10. The repertoire of the choir contains masterpieces of classical liturgical choir music. Enjoy wonderful fellowship, music training and the joy of making uplifting music for the liturgy. Contact Elisabeth Turco at music@straymonds.org or call 703-506-4644.

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.

Book Club News: Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 13th at 9:30 AM, in the Parish Library. We will be discussing "A Biblical Walk through the Mass" by Edward Sri. 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 March, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.

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 March 15th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryndavew7705@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed to help straighten the pews on the Groveland side of the church. Please contact the parish office 703-440-0535 if interested.

CHURCH PERSECUTED

The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an extremist group of Islamist militants linked to the Islamic State (ISIS), originally from Uganda, have recently massacred 70 Christians inside a Protestant church in village of Maiba, a city in the North Kivu province in the Republic of the Congo. The event was reported by the occurred between February 12 and 15. Initially the ADF rounded up Christians from their homes and told them to quietly move to a Protestant Church. Once other members of the community realized what was happening, they attempted to rescue the hostages but were also seized by the militants. In all, there were about 100 hostages, 70 of them were then brutally murdered inside the Church some beheaded.

The information from the incident is sketchy and reported anonymously for fear of reprisals. The *modus operandi* for the Islamists is to capture a group of hostages, march them to another location and then negotiate a ransom. In this case, it appears that those murdered were either too young, too old, or too infirm to endure the march. The captors then looted the villages making the captors carry the loot. Those who could not make it were slaughtered.

The ADF, which operates out of Uganda, located adjacent to The Republic of the Congo to their east, has been terrorizing the local population for over a decade. Reports indicate that they have killed thousands of Congolese over this time as they move around striking different regions. It appears that ADF have local collaborators who are assisting in the operations.

Armed groups are prevalent throughout the region reported supported by members of the armed forces of both Rwanda and Congo, the latter being a small land-locked country adjacent to Congo and south of Uganda.

Let us pray for our fellow Christians in the war-torn regions of Africa.

<https://www.ncregister.com/cna/cna-20250223-congo-church-attack>



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/](https://www.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.

Holy Hour Offering Cards. Are you making a Holy Hour for a loved one or a friend? There are complimentary Holy Hour Offering Cards (with envelopes) available in the narthex suitable for mailing. Please feel free to take one and let someone know that you are remembering them in prayer.

FAITH DIRECT: eGiving helps you provide regular support to St. Raymond's, even when you are out of town. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/VA64. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

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



Get In-Formed!

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

Watch Foretold. Brand new! Daily Lenten videos that interweave OT prophecies with NT fulfillment to remind us of God's providence and His plan for each of us. Sign up to receive the emails: <https://daily.formed.org/lent>

For Families. Watch *Living Lent as a Family*. Four-part series on liturgical living during this season in your Domestic Church.



For Kids. Watch *Lent with Brother Francis*. Children can watch brief (2-3 minutes) daily Lenten reflections from this engaging, animated character. Also check out *Brother Francis: Let's Learn about Lent*.

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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We are looking for volunteers to help with the upcoming Donut Sunday on 5/4. Please contact the parish office if interested, call 703-440-0535

SUNDAY OFFERTORY 02/23/2025 FAITH DIR. FEB. 2025

Sunday Offertory	\$13,030.00	\$56,905.00
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