



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

LENT. Fundamental to a fruitful observance of Lent is the reception of the Sacrament of Penance (also called "Confession" or "Reconciliation"). A while back I published a small pamphlet called "Making a Good Confession: A Brief Examination of Conscience and Guide to Going to Confession." Copies of these purple pamphlets can be found by all the doors of the church and near the confessionals. I hope you will find it helpful in preparing for and making a good confession.

But what is the Sacrament of Penance itself all about? What follows are some short excerpts from the "**CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**" to provide a brief refresher:

The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. 1440 *Sin is before all else an offense against God, a rupture of communion with him. At the same time it damages communion with the Church. For this reason conversion entails both God's forgiveness and reconciliation with the Church, which are expressed and accomplished liturgically by the sacrament of Penance...*

Reconciliation with the Church. 1444 *In imparting to his apostles his own power to forgive sins the Lord also gives them the authority to reconcile sinners with the Church. This ecclesial dimension of their task is expressed most notably in Christ's solemn words to Simon Peter: "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." "The office of binding and loosing which was given to Peter was also assigned to the college of the apostles united to its head."*

1445 *The words bind and loose mean: whomever you exclude from your communion, will be excluded from communion with God; whomever you receive anew into your communion, God will welcome back into his. Reconciliation with the Church is inseparable from reconciliation with God....*

The sacrament of forgiveness. 1446 *Christ instituted the sacrament of Penance for all sinful members of his Church: above all for those who, since Baptism, have fallen into grave sin, and have thus lost their baptismal grace and wounded ecclesial communion. It is to them that the sacrament of Penance offers a new possibility to convert and to recover the grace of justification....*

1447 *Over the centuries the concrete form in which the Church has exercised this power received from the Lord has varied considerably. During the first centuries the reconciliation of Christians who had committed particularly grave sins after their Baptism...was tied to a very rigorous discipline, according to which penitents had to do public penance for their sins, often for years, before receiving reconciliation...During the seventh century Irish missionaries...took to continental Europe the "private" practice of penance, which does not require public and prolonged completion of penitential works before reconciliation with the Church. From that time on, the sacrament has been performed in secret between penitent and priest...*

1448 *Beneath the changes in discipline...that this sacrament has undergone over the centuries, the same fundamental structure is to be discerned. It comprises two equally essential elements: on the one hand, the acts of the man who undergoes conversion through the action of the Holy Spirit: namely, contrition, confession, and satisfaction; on the other, God's action through the intervention of the Church. The Church, who through the bishop and his priests forgives sins in the name of Jesus Christ and determines the manner of satisfaction, also prays for the sinner and does penance with him...*

Lenten Adoration. As always, we have Exposition and Adoration on Wednesdays from 9am to 7pm. But during Lent our Fridays Exposition and Adoration will be extended throughout the evening and throughout the night ("Nocturnal") **until just before the Saturday morning 9am Mass.** Basically what we do now on First Fridays.

Doing a holy hour every week before the Blessed Sacrament is a powerful penance for Lent: it's a form of prayer, and it's a sacrifice (of time—and sleep, especially during the late-night/early-morning hours), and it can be a form of almsgiving if you use it to pray for people.

"What do I do in Adoration?" This is a question a lot of folks ask me. There really aren't many rules for what you do at Adoration. Basically you come, sit or kneel quietly, and pray. You can just sit there and talk to Jesus, and listen to Him. And you can pray your Rosary or other prayers you know, or from a good Catholic prayer book (they'll be some prayer books in the church if you want to use those). Or bring your Bible or some other good spiritual book (even and interesting biography of a saint) to read between prayers. But mainly come and be with Jesus.

An hour sounds like a long time, but it's not really, if you split it up between praying the Rosary, reading, and just talking and listening to Jesus. As St. John Vianney once said, "Him looking at you, and you looking at Him." It'll do you a lot of good, and joined with all the prayers of your fellow parishioners adoring over the 24 hours it will be great for our parish and the whole Church.

Please Sign Up. We need at least 2 adorers to volunteer to commit to be present for each hour of scheduled adoration, so please visit our website to sign up and take 1 hour. **But even if you don't sign up, please come** to adore at any time.

Lenten Series. The last few years we've presented our Lenten Series as "extended homilies" at an evening Mass. This year we'll do this at the Wednesday 7pm **Mass**, where I will give a five-part series of talks (homilies) meditating on the theme, "**The Wounds of Our Lord's Passion.**" This coming Wednesday, March 12, I'll be talking about "**The Wounds of the Scourging.**" Why Jesus was scourged, and why so viciously? Does the Scourging have a particular spiritual meaning? How can I learn something particular about Jesus, suffering and myself in these wounds? Please join us.

FORMED.ORG. Another great tool in Lent is the website FORMED.ORG. There's something helpful for any Catholic. Go to the site and see for yourself. This is FREE for St. Raymond's parishioners who are registered with FORMED.ORG. If you have not registered, just go online to www.straymonds.formed.org. You can also sign up at daily.formed.org/lent to receive helpful emails throughout Lent.

Federal Workers. This is a very trying time for some of your fellow parishioners and friends, given the President's actions to change the personnel in the Executive Branch of the government. Many folks in the metropolitan area have lost or fear losing their jobs. Staying out of the politics, the reality is that some good people will be out of work. And while others might deserve to lose their jobs, we still have to treat everyone with Christian charity: we have to love even our enemies. So I ask you to be aware of those around you who are caught up in this, and to do what you can to help them. Most of all, pray for them, especially those who are your fellow parishioners.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

<p><u>Monday, March 10th</u> 6:30 Richard Salomon + 8:30 Daniel Murray</p> <p><u>Tuesday, March 11th</u> 6:30 am James Fuller + 8:30 am Don Cunningham +</p> <p><u>Ash Wednesday, March 12th</u> 6:30 am Louise Ward + 8:30 am Pope Francis 7:00 pm Priest's Intentions</p> <p><u>Thursday, March 13th</u> 6:30 am Debra Longmire 8:30 am Pope Francis</p> <p><u>Friday, March 14th</u> 6:30 am Ruth Ann Gutt + 8:30 am Gina Suarez</p>	<p><u>Saturday, March 15th</u> 9:00 am Joseph Gigliotti +</p> <p><u>Vigil Mass</u> 5:00 pm Fr. De Celles Lilia Relyosa +</p> <p><u>Sunday, March 16th</u> 7:00 am Msgr. Rippy David Gresdo +</p> <p>9:00 am Fr. De Celles Parishioners</p> <p>11:00 am Fr. Horkan Patricia Tripold-Cloos+</p> <p>1:00 pm Fr. Bergida Family of Jesus Prayer Group</p>
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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.

Gift Shop for Lent: Stop by the Shop's table in the narthex after the Sunday Masses on the weekend of March 29-30. We are also available by appointment. Email us at giftshop@straymonds.org.

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 returned home safely!

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 9-10 CCD Classes
- Mar 10 RCIA
- Mar 11 Adult Bible Study Parish Hall
- Mar 11 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm Maurer Room
- Mar 11 Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library
- Mar 12 7 pm Mass with Lenten Series Extended Homily
- Mar 13 Book Club- 9:30am Parish Library
- Mar 14 Weekly Lenten Friday Nocturnal Adoration
- Mar 14 Soup Supper (5:30) & Stations of the Cross (7pm)
- Mar 15 Men's Prayer Group– Parish Hall
- 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. **The Daily Family Rosary** will take place at 6:30pm followed by **Stations of the Cross** in the church at 7pm each Friday. Please join us!

Legion of Mary annual Acies Ceremony: The Potomac Comitium of The Legion of Mary cordially invites all Legion of Mary members, active and auxiliary, and family members, to participate at the Annual Acies Ceremony to be held on Saturday, March 22, 2025 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 12807 Valleywood Dr., Lake Ridge, VA. The regular Saturday Mass is at 9:00am, and the Acies ceremony will directly follow the Mass. A Potluck reception follows in Fellowship Hall, located in the church basement. Donated food items provided by any family may be dropped off prior to the Mass in the hall; please bring your serving utensil. (luncheon ends around 1:00pm.) St. Raymond's point of contact for information: Judy Mayer, text: 703-627-7320 or email jmayer9014@aol.com

We have copies of THE WORD AMONG US Lenten booklets available for pick up by the Angel wall in the Narthex, please take one home for Lent.



12 FUN FACTS ABOUT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ([Alyssa Murphy \(Oct. 9, 2020\)](#) from the [National Catholic Register](#)). #2. Columbus was foremost a

Crusader knight. In 1492, Mohammedan armies had closed the Silk Road, and depredations against Christians continued eastward. Sailing westward offered the possibility of opening a new offensive. Potential discovery of gold could finance that offensive. Thus, Columbus was nothing short of a model of Christian fidelity to his *patria*. Hence, to make it known that ‘allegiance to their country did not conflict with allegiance to their faith,’ the Knights took Christopher Columbus as the fraternal organization’s patron. **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

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

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 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:



Legion of Mary - Auxiliary Contact and Recruitment Drive:

On March 15-16, the Legion of Mary (Adults and now Juniors!) will host an Auxiliary contact and Recruitment drive. Auxiliaries -- please come to the table in the narthex to check your membership contact information. Additionally, information about the adults and juniors meetings and events will be available. Come join us do light apostolic works for the parish, primarily within our parish boundaries.

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

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 3/9: 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 7-8th Grade CCD

9-12th Grade Q & A with Fr. De Celles (Maurer Rm)

6:30-8pm HS Youth Group—Grades 9-12

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, and 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.

Attention parents of 8th grade Confirmation students, the following paperwork is due no later than March 20:

1. Sponsor Eligibility letter (from sponsor's home parish)
2. Statement of Sponsor form

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

Confirmation ceremony will be celebrated May 19th at 7 pm

Attention parents of 7th Grade students please check out Confirmation requirements as outlined in the *Supplement to Parent Handbook Sacrament of Confirmation 2026* and the *Personal Checklist*, which you received in your red folder at the beginning of the academic year. Students should be making ongoing progress on the three types of service hours.

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 6, 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).

25th Anniversary of Theology on Tap in the Diocese of Arlington: We want to celebrate with you! Since the beginning, this ministry has helped young adults grow in their faith and build Christ-like community. Join us on March 19, 2025 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Columbus Club, Arlington, VA to celebrate. All are invited! Our shepherd, Bishop Michael Burbidge as well as the first Theology on Tap speaker 25 years ago, Fr. James Gould, and Director of Youth and Young Adult Apostolates and current organizer of Theology on Tap in Alexandria, Mariane Staron, will give brief remarks about this ministry over the years. There will also be complimentary hot hors d'oeuvres, a draft beer and wine cash bar, and a custom 25th Anniversary Theology on Tap memento for every guest! Reserve your spot for \$15 purchase today at <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/event/25tot/>

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.

CHURCH PERSECUTED

Recently, The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear *Oklahoma Statewide Charter School Board v. Drummond*, an appeal of an Oklahoma Supreme Court ruling that said the charter school board could not authorize a charter contract with St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School solely because the school is religious.

Charter Schools are springing up around the country as an alternative to public (government) schools. In Oklahoma, the Charter Schools Act permitted private entities to contract with a third party to operate charter schools in the state. The act requires the schools to be non-religious, but it does not prohibit religious organizations from creating a charter school that is non-religious. The Free Exercise clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution simply worded prohibits the government from treating individuals or organizations differently just because of their religion.

With this background, in June 2023, Oklahoma’s Statewide Charter School Board approved the application from the Catholic Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Catholic Diocese of Tulsa, to create the St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School.

A lawsuit was filed in July 2023 by the Oklahoma Parent Legislative Action Committee (OKPLAC) and others against the board’s action. This group traditionally in the past fought hard against any action that would reduce the size of the public school system in Oklahoma. Of course, St. Isidore’s would receive public funds from the state to operate the school. The board, citing the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. Supreme Court (*Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia v. Corner*) indicated that religious groups cannot be excluded from this government program just because they are a religious organization.

In September 2023, lawyers from Alliance Defending Freedom filed a motion to dismiss the case and in June 2024, the state district court partially granted ADF’s motion, but the Oklahoma State Supreme Court ruled against St. Isidore’s. The appeal is now before the Supreme Court. This will be an important case again to address the question of what is meant by the Free Exercise of Religion Clause in the Constitution.

<https://adflegal.org/press-release/us-supreme-court-hear-oklahoma-religious-liberty-case/>



Get In-Formed!

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

Listen to My Beloved Son: Meditations for Lent. Bishop Robert Barron provides five sermons on Christ-centered spiritual discipline we should develop during Lent.

Read Meditations for Lent. Spend each day this Lent meditating on these selected sermons by Bishop Jacques-Bénigne Bossuet (1627-1704) which complement the daily readings.



For Kids. Watch and draw! Kids will enjoy *Drawing Closer to God: Lent*, a 10-episode art show teaching kids to draw Lenten artwork while learning about turning from sin back to God.

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!

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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.

For high school girls What do sisters do all day? Sometimes they garden! In the spirit of St. Francis, spend a day working in God's creation with the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist and gets some good insights to prepare for Holy Week. It's Saturday April 12 from 9am – 3pm at their convent in Falls Church. Day will include Mass, talk, lunch and gardening. Bring gardening gloves and tools if you have them. Cost is \$15. For more information and to register visit ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT, or contact vocations@arlingtondiocese.org. Deadline to register and submit permission form is April 6.

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.

2 MINUTES- 2 VIRTUE: Get your Sunday Gospel reflection and challenge delivered straight to your email inbox by subscribing to 2m2v. Scan the QR code or text "2m2v" to 84576.



This Week's Second Collection is for Black and Indian Missions, please be generous.

SUNDAY OFFERTORY 03/02/2025

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Family Assistance	\$3,654.00
Maintenance Fund	\$2,325.00
OLOR Scholarship	\$6,185.00



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