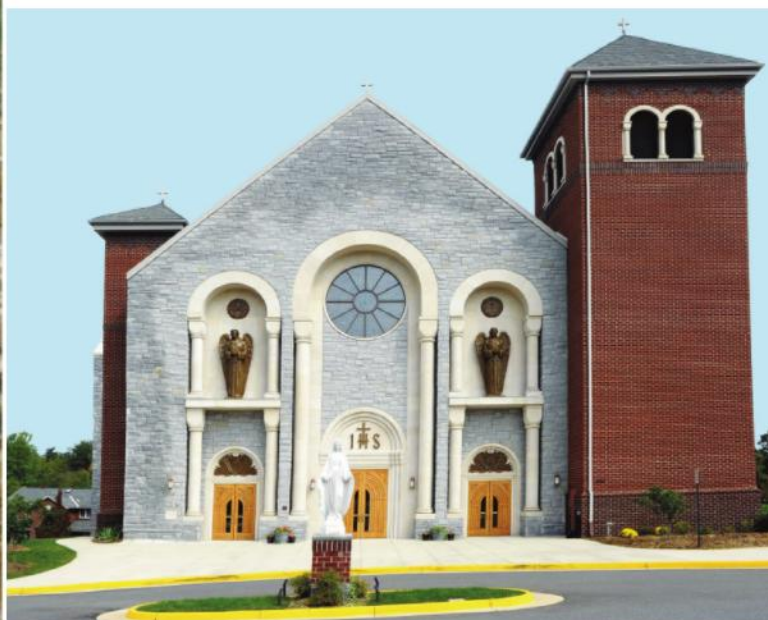


3RD SUNDAY OF LENT



“Sir, leave it for
this year also,
and I shall
cultivate the
grounds around
it and fertilize
it; it may bear
fruit in the
future. If not
you can cut
it down.”

Luke 13:8, 9



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

Third Sunday of Lent. As Lent continues please make sure you're taking full advantage of this holy season. Some of you may not have really turned your full attention to the penitence of the season yet, and some of you may be starting to wane in your sincere efforts. All that is understandable, but we must not let this terrific opportunity to draw closer to Christ slip away.

In this regard I urge you to pause every night before you go to bed and briefly examine your consciences, thinking both of your sins and of God's blessings of the day. Also take a moment to consider how you well you "kept Lent" that day.

I also encourage you to carefully review the Lenten Schedule we distributed two weeks ago (go to [straymonds.org](http://www.straymonds.org) and click "**LENTEN AND EASTER SCHEDULE**" on the pop-up) and think about which of the various Lenten liturgies and activities you should take part in—and resolve to make it happen.

The schedule shows daily confession opportunities—have you been yet? And the Friday Stations of the Cross—such a simple but profound devotion. Or maybe you can come to Exposition and Adoration on Wednesday or Friday, or during **the early hours of Saturday—that would be a powerful penance.** Or how about waking up early once a week to come to morning Mass before work or school, or come to evening Mass, maybe on Wednesday and hear my homily series on "The Wounds of Jesus' Passion."

Don't let this opportunity to grow in holiness, pass you by. Keep the love of Christ Crucified before your eyes at all times, so that your hearts maybe transformed every day in Lent.

RCIA and RCIC. Please keep in prayer those adults and children who are preparing to enter the Catholic Church and/or be baptized, confirmed and receive First Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil. Let us pray that they persevere in faith, and be open to all the graces God has in store for them. And may they be an example to the rest of us, reminding each of us of our own continuing need for personal conversion in the love of Christ.

Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Next Tuesday, March 25, is the feast of the Annunciation, remembering the Archangel Gabriel apparition to the Virgin Mary to announce, and receive her consent to, the miraculous conception of Jesus. Thus, it is traditionally understood to be a memorial of the event of Conception of Jesus. A great day to go to Mass to honor Our Blessed Mother.

Virginia State March for Life. Just a note to remind you to sign up for the Parish Bus to the Virginia State March for Life coming up on Wednesday April 2 in Richmond. The sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

Receiving Communion. A while back retired Cardinal Robert Sarah, formerly the Vatican's Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship, wrote a book in which he discussed receiving Holy Communion on the tongue and kneeling. What follows is an extract from that book that I ask you to read prayerfully. I do not seek to impose, just propose.

"The liturgy is made up of many small rituals and gestures — each of them is capable of expressing...attitudes filled with love, filial respect and adoration toward God. That is precisely why it is appropriate to promote the beauty, fittingness and pastoral value of a practice which developed during the long life and tradition of the Church, that is, the act of receiving Holy Communion on the tongue and kneeling. The greatness and nobility of man, as well as the highest expression of his love for

his Creator, consists in kneeling before God. Jesus himself prayed on his knees in the presence of the Father....

"In this regard I would like to propose the example of two great saints of our time... St. John Paul II['s] ...entire life was marked by a profound respect for the Holy Eucharist... Despite being exhausted and without strength... he always knelt before the Blessed Sacrament. He was unable to kneel and stand up alone. ...Until his last days, he wanted to offer us a great witness of reverence for the Blessed Sacrament. Why are we so proud and insensitive to the signs that God himself offers us for our spiritual growth and our intimate relationship with Him? Why do not we kneel down to receive Holy Communion after the example of the saints? Is it really so humiliating to bow down and remain kneeling before the Lord Jesus Christ? And yet, "He, though being in the form of God,... humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2: 6-8).

"St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta... had a respect and absolute worship of the divine Body of Jesus Christ...[F]illed with wonder and respectful veneration, Mother Teresa refrained from touching the transubstantiated Body of Christ. Instead, she adored him and contemplated him silently, she remained at length on her knees and prostrated herself before Jesus in the Eucharist. Moreover, she received Holy Communion in her mouth, like a little child who has humbly allowed herself to be fed by her God... The saint was saddened and pained when she saw Christians receiving Holy Communion in their hands...

"...Let us come as children and humbly receive the Body of Christ on our knees and on our tongue. The saints give us the example....!"

Public School News. Did you see that Fairfax County School Board has dissolved the Sex Ed drafting committee (Family Life Education Curriculum Advisory Committee or FLECAC) and the Superintendent Michelle Reid has said there will be no action on curriculum for the rest of the school year. This is good news, so we take the win.

And did you see that the administration at West Springfield High School celebrated Women's History Month by hanging posters in the hallways illustrating the "**ABCs**" of **women's interests**, including the following:

*"A Is for **Abortion**" (with a picture of a coat hanger); "H Is for **Hope**" (photo of Kamala Harris); "J Is for **Justice**" (Statue of Liberty with raised fist, **Palestinian flag**); "M is for **Mansplain**" (image of overbearing man with woman); "N is for **NOW: the National Organization for Women**"; "P is for **Patriarchy**"; "Q Is for **Queer**"; "T Is for **Transgender Women**"; "Y is for **Your Body: My Body, My Choice**"*

You paid for these posters with your tax dollars. Did you mean to do that? The principal is Betsy Fawcett (EWfawsett@fcps.edu), and the FCPS Superintendent is Dr. Michelle Reid (superintendent@fcps.edu). Thanks to Catholic Engaged for their heads up.

St. Patrick's Dinner. It was good to see so many of you at last Saturday's St. Patrick's and St. Joseph Day Dinner enjoying good food, music, and fellowship. These kinds of social events are so important to the life of a vibrant Catholic parish, as opportunities to share the love and joy of Christ together, and to get to know each other better so as to live and work together as the Body of Christ in Springfield. Thanks for all who worked so hard to make the evening a success, especially the Knights of Columbus.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

<p>Monday, March 24th 6:30 Lawrence Chmielewski+ 8:30 Morgan Petro</p> <p>Tuesday, March 25th 6:30 am Linwood Russell Turner 8:30 am Elizabeth Paul + 7:00 pm Lorraine H. Pribish + & Francis G. Hempfling +</p> <p>Wednesday, March 26th 6:30 am Harold Fritts + 8:30 am James J. Bradbury + 7:00 pm Priest's Intentions</p> <p>Thursday, March 27th 6:30 am Priscilla Fritts + 8:30 am Kirsti Tyson + 7:00 pm Priest's Intentions</p> <p>Friday, March 28th 6:30 am Nery Almanza + 8:30 am Kenneth Keller +</p>	<p>Saturday, March 29th 9:00 am Ed Ward +</p> <p>Vigil Mass 5:00 pm Fr. De Celles Jimmy Maramba +</p> <p>Sunday, March 30th 7:00 am Fr. De Celles Benjamin Payne +</p> <p>9:00 am Fr. Horkan Parishioners</p> <p>11:00 am Msgr. Rippy Nelson Kanthula +</p> <p>1:00 pm Fr. Bergida George Haymond</p>
--	---

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

Please pray for the sick of our parish

<p>Glenn Bliss Tom Dietz Michael O'Neill Cindy Laird Patricia Lewis Mai Pham Jason Saenz Phyllis Zitnik John Florio Carolina Baker Sharon Falat</p>	<p>Debra Henkel Gaudencio Dizon Paul Haynes Ted Tolpa Nena Brennan Serrin Foster Donald Trayer Ellen Trayer Arlene Pietraszko Virginia Cummings Helen Zogaib</p>	<p>Margaret Norton Effie Mutumanje Jose Lavina Helen Estabrooks Annette Haynes Beth Fitzgibbons Jean Keegan Joann Alba Margaret M. Hill Bill Roche Florance Miller</p>
---	--	--

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- Mar 22-23 Car Raffle Ticket Sales (Narthex)
- Mar 23-24 CCD Classes and Youth Apostolate Activities
- Mar 24 Family of Jesus Prayer Group 3 pm
- Mar 24 RCIA
- Mar 25 No Adult Bible Study due to Feast Day
- Mar 25 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm Maurer Room
- Mar 25 Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library
- Mar 25 Feast of the Annunciation of Our Most Holy Lord
- Mar 26 Adoration 9am-7 pm Mass with Lenten Series
Extended Homily
- Mar 28 Weekly Lenten Friday Nocturnal Adoration
- Mar 28 Soup Supper (5:30) & Stations of the Cross (7pm)
- Mar 29-30 Gift Shop Open in Narthex
- Apr 2 Virginia March for Life, Richmond
- Apr 5 Men's Prayer Group
- Apr 6 Donut Sunday

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; 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!

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.

Family of Jesus Prayer Group: Weekly meetings are in the Church on Mondays at 3:00 pm. If you have any prayer requests, please us know by emailing Elaine Perricone at jpebtp@verizon.net or by calling the parish office. You may also write down your prayer requests and drop them in the "Prayer Box" on the table in the narthex of the church.

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.



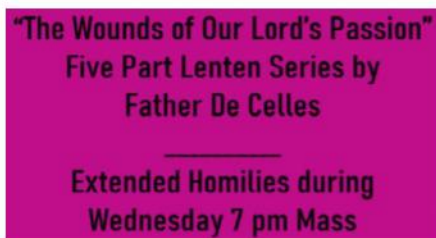
2 FUN FACTS ABOUT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ([Alyssa Murphy \(Oct. 9, 2020\) from the National Catholic Register](#)). #3. Overall, the draw of the Knights of Columbus to Catholic men has been their

call to service: “Men were drawn to the organization since the order also took great care and concern for service — service to one’s Church, community and family — with virtue.” Every Knight learns upon induction that charity is the organization’s foundation. This dedication to service echoes the framework of chivalry. **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

3/22-23 Car Raffle Ticket Sales (Narthex)



HELP NEEDED-USHERS AND LECTORS: Please consider volunteering to be an Usher or a Lector at Mass. Contact the parish office if interested, call 703-440-0535.

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 March!** All are invited to attend.

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.

2025 BISHOP’S LENTEN APPEAL (BLA) -

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

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.

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

May the laws of our land be made to reflect your natural law which You have written on every human heart – those already born and those which beat in their mother’s womb.

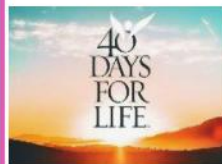
Be not complacent! Did you know that there is a fast-tracking move afoot in the Virginia Assembly to make abortion a constitutional right in our Commonwealth?

In January the Virginia Assembly (both chambers) passed a constitutional amendment which would allow abortion at any point in pregnancy. The amendment which cannot be vetoed by the governor would also eliminate parental consent, end health protections for women and girls, and force taxpayers to fund abortion. It would also eliminate Virginia’s current law limiting abortion at 27 weeks. November 2025 election of the House of Delegates must occur before the amendment is taken up again. Stay informed!

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** is underway! **Our 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. Come with a friend. Bring your Rosary. There are hours when the facility is open or closed. This is a spiritual battle. 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. There is a great need for diapers, formula, wipes, clothes up to 2T. Please do not leave bouncy seats, walkers, gates or jogging strollers. Thank you for your understanding. A

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, March 23: Junior High (Grades 7-8) Swing Dance 3:30-5pm (Parish Hall)

Last semester, our first ever Jr. High Swing Dance was such a huge hit that we decided to do another one this semester!! NO experience necessary! We will have plenty of teachers.. Invite your friends! All participants must bring a completed 2024-2025 YA Info. Sheet if not yet on file.

Sunday 3/23: Youth Group & CCD

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

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

5-6:30pm CCD

6:30-8pm HS Youth Group—Grades 9-12

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.

9-11:30am Saturday, March 22 (Parish Hall)

Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group

High School Ladies! "Little Girl, arise!" (Mt. 5:41) *and come to Talitha Koum!* Deepen your faith, play fun games, and grow in sisterhood! Bring a pen & journal if you have one. Make sure to check the bulletin, email or calendar for dates.



Saturday, April 5 (10:15am-1pm)

40 Days for Life Prayerful Pro-Life Witness

7-12th Graders, please join us in praying outside the abortion clinic in Falls Church to change hearts and save lives. Bring your rosary and a friend. We will pray for an hour then come back for a slice of pizza in the parish hall. We will car pool from St. Raymond's. Chaperones needed. *Permission slips (available on the bulletin boards or online at <http://bit.ly/YAforms>) due Tuesday, 4/1.*

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

High School Bible Study is on hiatus during Lent.

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

Attention parents of 8th grade students:

Sponsor Paperwork was due on March 20!

Confirmation Gown Order form is due no later than April 10th. The form is in the red Confirmation folder. If you cannot find it, please refer to the Google Drive folder.

Parents of students preparing to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time in May: First Holy Communion Mini-Retreat will take place Saturday, May 3 from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm here at St. Raymond's. Also, don't forget to **sign up for a First Communion Mass.**

Looking Ahead: There will be no CCD classes on April 13/14 and 20/21 for Holy Week and Easter.

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.

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.

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 April 5th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryndavew7705@gmail.com.

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.

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.

Book Club News: Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 10th at 9:30 AM, in the Parish Library. We will be discussing "**He Leadeth Me**" by Fr Walter Ciszek. 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 April, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.

Third Sunday of Lent - March 23, 2025

"I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future." (Luke 13:7-9) We are invited to consider how God may be cultivating our hearts, preparing us for a vocation of service. Is God calling you to priesthood or consecrated life, and patiently waiting for you to respond? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (703) 841-2514 or via email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.

CHURCH PERSECUTED

Imagine living in a country where the Catholic churches were surrounded by tall fences and had but one entrance guarded by volunteer security guards. “Just as there are lectors, acolytes, and a choir, [the bishop] wanted to form a formal group of security guards.” Imagine as a young man, you sign up because it was an important position since the area was prone to terrorist attacks and even suicide bombers. The duties of the security guards were to be on the alert, know who was entering the courtyard in front of the church, and question anyone that they did not know.

The security guards were formally organized praying together, having formation and prayer meetings, and studying the Bible. Akash Bashir was the youngest guard and needed special permission from the pastor to belong to this ministry.

It was Laetare Sunday ten years ago. The date was March 10, 2015. Recognizing the significance of the half-way point in Lent, Akashi wore a white shirt that day as he left home to take up his position at the front gate of the Catholic church in Lahore, Pakistan – a country known for its Muslim extremism. Akash told his Mom that it was a special day.

And so Akash took up his post. The church was packed, as is every Catholic church in Pakistan every Sunday. Akash accosted a person running toward the church “because he saw something strange.” The strangeness was the fact that the person was a suicide bomber and Akash attacked him with the words, “If I have to die, I’ll die, but I won’t let you in,” as he hugged the bomber.

The bomb exploded, Akash was killed immediately, several others were wounded, but other than the terrorist, only three Catholics died. Akash had prevented a mass casualty event.”

There is more to the story that will be continued next week. The cause for canonization has opened for Akash, only the second one to open for a person in Pakistan.

<https://www.pillaratholic.com/p/i-prefer-to-die-than-let-evil-in>



Get In-Formed!

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

Watch Wilderness Within. Sr. Josephine Garrett, speaker and mental health counselor, provides a video for each week of Lent to explore the wilderness of your heart and the path to healing with Jesus.

Listen to Glimpses Along the Way of the Cross. Monsignor James Shea’s talks on the Stations of the Cross help us meditate deeply on Christ’s purposeful and redemptive suffering for us.



Watch Return. Fr. Josh Burns guides us through a transformation over the 40 days in the Lenten desert to better appreciate the Paschal Mystery.

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.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 27th at 2:30 pm behind the Parish Hall: Children ages 12 and under are invited, free of charge, no RSVP necessary! This year, we are inviting all parishioners to sign up to donate eggs and candy by April 22nd. Please check your email and our website for the sign up! For more information, please contact the parish office.

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.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD).

- If you are 70 ½ or more, please consider making an IRA charitable gift to the parish before December 31.
- If you're age 73 or older and need to take RMDs, your QCD counts toward your annual required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.

QCDs can have significant tax benefits for you. Eligible accounts for QCDs can be made from most IRAs, including Traditional IRAs, Rollover IRAs, Inherited IRAs, Roth IRAs. Always consult your tax professional regarding your specific situation.

SUNDAY OFFERTORY 03/16/2025

Sunday Offertory	\$ 11,487.00
Family Assistance	\$ 410.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 733.00
OLOR Scholarship	\$ 12,749.00



SUMMIT ROOFING CONTRACTORS INC.
 Roofing • Gutters • Siding
703.368.7483
info@summitroofing.com | summitroofing.com
 Free Estimates • Family Owned and Operated
 Serving Northern Virginia for over 40 years
40 Year Diocesan Member

KINGSTOWNE ORTHODONTICS
 John Wiger, D.D.S., M.S.D.
 Specialist in Orthodontics
www.KingstowneOrthodontics.com
 7574 Telegraph Road
 Alexandria, VA 22315
703-971-2220

SENIOR AND MILITARY DISCOUNTS!
FINANCING AVAILABLE
ROOFING
 DECKS • SIDING
 GUTTERS
 FREE wind & Hail Damage Inspections for Roofs
 Insurance Claims Specialists
MidAtlantic CONTRACTING INC.
 Voted Best in Business
703-492-HOME (4663)
 or **571-408-4349**
www.MACContracting.com



NOW HIRING
SALES REPRESENTATIVE
PUT YOUR FAITH TO WORK.
 Join Our Family • Diocesan.com/Careers

myParish
 The App for Catholic Life Every Day
www.myParishApp.com
 Available on the App Store | ANDROID APP ON Google play

#ThankYou ForYour Priesthood

EWTN.COM/RADIO
EWTN | Global Catholic Radio
TUNE IN

*The Businesses listed above
 make this bulletin possible.*

Please support them when you can.

Sign up to get our bulletin in your email each week.

Go to DiscoverMass.com/subscribe

Aviation Consulting Expertise, LLC
 Doug "Smash" Yurovich, PhD
 Colonel USMC (Ret)
 571.643.6019
 Certified Flight and Instrument Instructor
 Leadership & Mentoring for Aviation Organizations
 acell918@gmail.com

MURPHY LAW GROUP, PLLC
 Wills, Trusts, Estates, & More
 9300-B Old Keene Mill Road, Burke, VA
 703-455-7177
 www.MurphyLawVA.com

KELLIHER FAMILY DENTISTS
 Jeremiah J. Kelliher, D.D.S.
 Sean P. Kelliher, D.D.S.
 Karen Kelliher Wilson, R.D.H.
 Kathleen Kelliher Ketch, R.D.H.
 (703) 451-5030
 6120 Brandon Ave.
 Suite 211, Springfield

VIRGINIA EYECARE CENTER
 MEMBER OF *VISION SOURCE*
 (703) 569-3131
 Dr. Courtney Shay
 Dr. Tim LaFreniere
 Dr. Kathryn Huebner
 Dr. Mallory Cranmer
 Dr. Bryan Procopio
 Dr. Jen Weigel
 9314-A Old Keene Mill Rd
 www.virginiaeyecare.com

Peter K. Cocolis Jr.
 DMD, MAGD
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

 703-912-3800
 smiles4va.com
 Quality Care
 Friendly Atmosphere
 Cutting-edge Technology
 5803 Rolling Road
 Suite 211
 Springfield, VA 22152

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
 703-971-7400
 Family owned
 5755 Castlewellan Drive
 Alexandria, VA 22315
 Just off S. VanDorn Street
 behind Edison High School (Kingstowne)

Milano's Family Restaurant
 Lunch & Dinner Served 7 Days a Week
 Breakfast served Saturday from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. & Sunday from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m.

703-569-7550
 6230-G Rolling Rd • Springfield, VA
 www.milanofamilyrestaurant.com

GET YOUR FINANCIAL LIFE SQUARED AWAY

GARY SJURSET, FINANCIAL ADVISOR
 gasjurset@firstcommand.com
703.658.2943

©2024 First Command and Financial Services, Inc. is the parent company of First Command Brokerage Services, Inc. (Member SIPC, FINRA).

In Loving Memory of
 Patricia McCormick and Carol Carnes
 Beloved Mother, Grandmother,
 and Beloved Sister and Aunt

Caffi SERVICES, INC
 PLUMBING HEATING HVAC REMODELING
 1313 POWHATAN STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-1342
(703) 836-6775
 www.caffiservices.com
 service@caffiservices.com
 Serving the DC Metropolitan Area since 1967

EDDIE GREENAN JEWELERS, INC.

 Eddie Greenan
 6310A Springfield Plaza
 Springfield, VA 22150
703.644.3933
 St. Patrick Parishioners
 Family Owned and Operated

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
 Reggie Denny

Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.

 Simply go to
www.DM.CHURCH/3309

 ...or scan →

PJI LAW
Wills, Trusts, & Probate for Catholic Families
 (703) 865-6100
 Fairfax, VA

www.pjilaw.com | welcome@pjilaw.com

DISCOVERMASS

ADVERTISE HERE
 Promote your Business AND Support your Parish.
 Lisa Sparkman
 717-507-3766
 lsparkman@diocesan.com

LOCATED IN THE SARATOGA SHOPPING CTR.
 8050 Rolling Rd. • Springfield, VA

BREAKFAST:
 Saturday & Sunday
 9am-2pm
703.455.0044


LUNCH & DINNER:
 Daily
 11am-9pm
 Like us on **facebook**

SARATOGAPIZZERIA.COM

BOGACKI & BOGACKI DDS, PC
 Family and Cosmetic Dentistry
 Friendly and Courteous Staff
 You've probably seen us, we're regulars of St. Raymond
 8344 Traford Lane
 Springfield, VA 22152
 (703) 451-2867
 www.BogackiDental.com



catholicmatch® Virginia

CatholicMatch.com/goVA

(703) 716-ROOF (7663) | www.sjroof.com

ST JOSEPH'S ROOFING

 Roofing | Siding | Gutters | Windows/Doors
 Insurance Claims | Storm Damage | Repairs

