



"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"
St. Raymond

Welcome to St. Raymond of Peñafort Roman Catholic Church

**8750 Pohick Road
 Springfield, VA 22153**

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
 Sunday: 7:00 am, 9:00 am (Latin-
 English), 11:00 am and 1:00 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday - Friday:
 6:30 am & 8:30 am
 7:00 pm on Wednesdays
 Saturday: 9:00 am

Website: www.straymonds.org



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

PARISH OFFICE

Telephone Numbers:

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

Office Hours

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

Email

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

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

Angelus Academy

**7644 Dynatech Ct, Springfield, VA 22153
 703-924-3996**

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

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Reconciliation/Confession)

Wednesday Evening

6:15 - 7:00 pm (during Exposition)

Saturday Morning

8:00 - 9:00 am

Saturday Afternoon

3:30 - 5:00 pm

Sunday Morning

8:30-9:00 am and 10:30-11:00 am

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

First Fridays 9:00 am Friday - 9:00 Saturday (Overnight)

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

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

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

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

Then Jesus
 straightened up
 and said to her,
 "Woman, where are
 they? Has no one
 condemned you?"

She replied,
 "No one sir."

Then Jesus said,
 "Neither do I
 condemn you.
 Go, and from
 now on do not
 sin any more."

John 8:10, 11

Pastor's Corner

Passiontide. Today we cover the statues and crosses as we begin the last two weeks of Lent, called "Passiontide." At this point in Lent some people often start to slip in keeping their Lenten penances, while others haven't yet begun their penances at all. Passiontide reminds us to refocus or deepen our attention on the season and its purposes of repentance of sin, conversion of heart, and appreciation of Christ's love manifested in His Passion and Cross. If you've been slacking in your observance of Lent, let's get going. If you've neglected the season entirely, it's not too late. Let us beg our Crucified Lord to shower us with His grace in these last two weeks of Lent, and that we may be open to His grace and love Him in return.

During Lent, our focus on our sins and God's redeeming suffering and death for our sins are called to mind by the many outward signs of Lent. The bodily/physical reminders of these days are so important to our experiencing the meaning of the season—Jesus suffered and died for us in His human body. And so it is important to experience the mysteries of this season "in the flesh."

In our daily lives this is seen in our penances, including fasting and abstaining from meat. In the Mass we see it in the suppression of the Alleluia every day, and the Gloria on Sundays, as these joyful prayers are set aside during the sober and somber season. In Passiontide the elevated intensity of our focus is expressed in the outward and dramatic sign of **covering most of the crucifixes, statues, and other holy images in our churches.** In part, this is to encourage us to sort of place ourselves 2000 years back in time with Jesus during those last two weeks before his Crucifixion and Resurrection: Good Friday has not yet happened, so there is no cross yet; Easter has not happened, so no saints are in heaven. Keep this in mind in the coming days: "I'm walking with Jesus, and Peter and John and the apostles...With Judas. With Mary Magdalene and Salome and the other holy women. Walking toward Jerusalem, stopping in Bethany, going to the temple.... In the Upper Room, at the Last Supper...In the house of Caiaphas...In the palace of Pilate...Standing with Blessed Mary as they scourge her sweet child...."

This focus "in the flesh" can be experienced especially in our liturgical and prayer practices. So, please, come to the church and physically take part in the various sacraments, liturgies and other pious activities of the Church and parish in the next few weeks.

I strongly encourage all of you to take advantage of **the extra and longer confession times** (we'll have at least 2 priests hearing at most times, and sometimes 2 or 3). I also encourage you to **go to one or more weekday Masses** and spend **time in Adoration** of the Blessed Sacrament, especially during Exposition on Wednesday from 9am to 7pm and Friday from 9am through the night to Saturday 9am. Please participate in praying the **Stations of the Cross**, especially in the church on Friday evening at 7:00 with other parishioners led by a priest.

Holy Week. Next Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. Please **plan ahead today to participate** in the special and unique liturgies that mark these most solemn and sacred days of the Christian year, including Holy Thursday's Mass

of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday's Celebration of the Passion of the Lord (with Veneration of the Cross), and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening.

As always, *as your spiritual father, I beg you* to try to participate in all of these liturgies, especially the 3pm Good Friday Veneration of the Cross. It is inspiring to see a huge crowd patiently wait in line, many openly showing their sorrow, to venerate the cross of Christ. I know it's a workday, but more importantly it is the hour of the Lord's death, the most sacred hour of the year—skip work and join us. But if you absolutely can't, try your best to keep that hour sacred by remaining quiet, and trying to pray or read scripture, or at least have a recollective attitude.

Near Occasion of Sin. In most "Acts of Contrition" we pray that to avoid "the near occasion of sin." What does that mean?

Servant of God Fr. John Hardon defined this as: *"Any person, place, or thing that of its nature or because of human frailty can lead one to do wrong, thereby committing sin. If the danger is certain and probable, the occasion is proximate; if the danger is slight, the occasion becomes remote. It is voluntary if it can easily be avoided. There is no obligation to avoid a remote occasion unless there is probable danger of its becoming proximate. There is a positive obligation to avoid a voluntary proximate occasion of sin even though the occasion of evil-doing is due only to human weakness."* In short, it's an occasion (situation, person, etc.) that may lead you to sin.

So, for example, it's an occasion of sin to watch a movie that stimulates you to feel hatred. If before you watch it you know the movie will do that to you, then that is a "proximate" or "near" occasion of sin, and you have a moral obligation to try to avoid the movie if you can.

"News Media" as the NOS. One near occasion of sin I hear a lot of people talking about nowadays, especially in the confessional, is watching and reading the News. We see and hear reporters or pundits getting angry and saying foul things about their opponents, and it stirs up that same kind of anger and name-calling in us, which can be sins. So that if you know every time you watch a certain news or talk-shows or podcasts you will be prone to sin like this, that show is a "near occasion of sin" for you, and you should try to avoid it if possible.

Now, we need to follow the news, and we need to listen to various sources for information. But when they become the near occasion of sin either turn them off, or turn them off when rhetoric gets too much, or limit your intake to what is necessary or unharmed. Think about it.

Bishop's Lenten Appeal. We're currently at about 85% of our goals for the BLA, about usual for this stage of the appeal. But it's fascinating to me that every year (except one) that I've been here we meet our goal, but it takes us almost to the very last official week of the appeal (sometime well after Easter) to get to 100%. I guess I understand this, but I can't help but think, "if you're going to pledge, why don't you just do it up front." I mean, it's not like you have to pay it up front—you have a year to do it. Just a little lighthearted observation.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, April 7th

6:30 The Mugno Family
 8:30 Fr. Jerome McKenna,
 C.P.

Tuesday, April 8th

6:30 am Heather Idoni
 8:30 am Deceased Members of
 the Sundberg Family +
 7:00 pm Priest's Intentions

Wednesday, April 9th

6:30 am Clare Mugno
 8:30 am Cesar Lucila +
 7:00 pm Priest's Intentions

Thursday, April 10th

6:30 am Anna & Jean Anezin +
 8:30 am Linda Anezin
 7:00 pm Priest's Intentions

Friday, April 11th

6:30 am Deceased Members of
 The Kenneally Family +
 8:30 am Iluminada Ledesma +

Saturday, April 12th

9:00 am William Victor +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles
 Ofelia Cruz +

Sunday, April 13th

7:00 am Fr. Horkan
 Lawrence Ehorn +

9:00 am Fr. Bergida
 Parishioners

11:00 am Msgr. Rippy
 Claudio Joaquin Loria
 Montenegro +

1:00 pm Fr. De Celles
 Family of Jesus
 Prayer Group

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.

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

Glenn Bliss Tom Dietz Michael O'Neill Cindy Laird Patricia Lewis Mai Pham Jason Saenz Phyllis Zitnik John Florio Carolina Baker Sharon Falat	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 Helen Estabrooks Annette Haynes Beth Fitzgibbons Jean Keegan Joann Alba Margaret M. Hill Bill Roche Florence Miller
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- Apr 6 Donut Sunday after the 7, 9 and 11 am Masses**
- Apr 6-7 CCD Classes**
- Apr 7 RCIA**
- Apr 8 Adult Bible Study Parish Hall**
- Apr 8 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm Maurer Room**
- Apr 8 Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library**
- Apr 9 7 pm Mass with Lenten Series Extended Homily**
- Apr 10 Book Club Parish Library 9:30 am**
- Apr 10 Bridge Club Parish Hall 11:30am**
- Apr 11 Weekly Lenten Friday Nocturnal Adoration**
- Apr 11 Soup Supper (5:30) & Stations of the Cross (7pm)**
- Apr 13-14 No CCD Classes**

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!

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.

Donut Sunday, This weekend, April 6th 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. April's Donut Sunday is be hosted by the Legion of Mary.

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



5 of 12 FUN FACTS ABOUT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ([Alyssa Murphy \(Oct. 9, 2020\) from the National Catholic Register](#)).

"The Vatican's first acknowledgement of the Knights of Columbus" came in 1895 as "Archbishop Francesco Satolli, apostolic delegate to the United States, mentions the 'merits of this splendid Catholic organization,' giving the order his apostolic blessing." **BECOME A KNIGHT!** 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

- 4/14 Membership Council Meeting (7pm library – Rosary, 7:30pm parish hall)
- 4/19 Mens Prayer Breakfast (7:30am, parish hall)
- 4/26 Blood Drive 7am Parish Hall

The Knights of Columbus are co-sponsoring a Blood Drive on behalf of Inova Blood Donor Services on Saturday, April 26 in St. Raymond's parish hall from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Please consider signing up for a 15 minute time slot within that period and giving the Gift of Life. You may sign up either on-line at www.inovabloodsaves.org or in the Narthex after all masses in the coming weekends. If you have any questions or difficulty signing up, please contact Mark Maslyn of our parish at (202) 679-3293 (m/text) or by email at: mam7253@msn.com.



Help us make our church even more beautiful as we celebrate Christ's Resurrection! Flowers are a wonderful way to symbolize the new life we receive through Jesus' death and resurrection. If you would like to honor your loved ones this Easter, we invite you to send in your envelopes soon. Thank you so much for your support.

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 April!** All are invited to attend.

Thank you to those who have pledged to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal! If you have yet to make your gift, please prayerfully reflect on your blessings and consider making a commitment. The BLA unites as a diocesan family to support programs, ministries and services which help tens of thousands of people. Every donation, large or small, is essential. You may mail a pledge, go online to arlingtondiocese.org/BLA or scan the QR code to make a gift. Thank you for your generosity!



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.

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 that 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. Stay informed!

Sample letters to your Representatives in the General Assembly are in the narthex.

Feel free to use it or to write your own! Find your representative here: <https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov>

"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."
2 Chronicles 7:14

THANK YOU to all who participated in the spring 40 Days for Life campaign or who attended the Virginia March for Life. Your witness is lifesaving!

[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. ma-rih.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.

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

Give a Gift for Life! No woman should ever feel that she is alone or that abortion is her only choice. **Gabriel Project** helps pregnant moms welcome their babies. For more info, call 866-444-3553 or contact GabrielProject@arlingtondiocese.org

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate

<https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/youth-apostolate/>

*All are welcome to participate in Youth Apostolate events.
Make sure forms are signed and on file. <http://bit.ly/YAforms>

Sunday 4/6: Fr. Horkan will give a talk about Suffering during high school youth group 6:30-8pm after dinner and activity. Have you ever wondered why God, who is all good, allows so much suffering? Come learn more about the meaning, value and mystery of suffering, a timely topic as we head into these final weeks of Lent. There will be time after the talk for Q & A.

Sunday 4/6: 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 CCD

6:30-8pm HS Youth Group—Grades 9-12

Spring Break: NO Youth Group April 13 or April 20

Next Youth Group after this weekend 4/1 will be April 27th. Have a blessed Holy Week and Easter with your families!

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.

June 23-June 29 (ish)

St. Raymond's Week of Faith, Fun & Service!

Details currently being worked out, but the plan is to have a mix of 1-3 events (faith, fun or service) each day. Exact days TBD but they will be within June 23-29 time frame. Examples of things currently in the works include a visit to the Dominican House of Studies in DC with a talk by Fr. Gregory Pine, O.P., pilgrimages to local Catholic sites, serving with various local apostolates such as the Little Sisters of the Poor, and fun outings such as white water rafting in Ohiopyle, PA, and rock climbing.

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. More info. At <https://bit.ly/ScholarshipsAndContests> **Deadline: May 19**

High School Bible Study is on hiatus during Lent.

Can You Help Ms. Jeanne find a place to live? I am currently living in Rockville, MD, quite a commute, and looking to move closer to St. Raymond's. Father De Celles has generously offered for me to use the bulletin to ask for your assistance. If you know of an affordable place in a safe area and/or if you know of any clean, wholesome, ideally Catholic, female(s) looking for someone to room with I would be ever so grateful for your assistance. I am hoping to move no later than June. Thank you for your help! Please pray I find a place soon!

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

Parents: There will be **no CCD classes** on April 13-14 and April 20-21 during Holy Week and Easter. Please take part in extra prayer opportunities and special liturgies at the parish during this holiest time of the year.

Attention parents of 8th grade students:

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; **Please RSVP ASAP.** Also, don't forget to **sign up for a First Communion Mass.**

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.

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.

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 19th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryndavew7705@gmail.com.

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.

Spring Musical Friday, April 11, 2025 - Sunday, April 13, 2025
The JP Fine Arts department will debut its spring musical, *Peter Pan*, on Friday, April 11th with shows running through Sunday, April 13th! Tickets are available for purchase here: <https://jpthegreat.booktix.com/>

CHURCH PERSECUTED

Last Monday, the Supreme Court seemed to side with a Wisconsin Catholic charity group in their bid for tax relief in Wisconsin. This is another case in which it appears that the Court will side with church-related entities in lawsuits filed by state and federal governments.

The case involves the Wisconsin Supreme Court's decision to side with Wisconsin in disallowing several Catholic charity organizations to receive a religious tax exemption because their work was not primarily religious. The plaintiffs appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court which heard the oral arguments.

The Diocese of Superior's Catholic Charities Bureau was denied an exemption from the state unemployment tax because it "serves and employs non-Catholics, completes work that could be administered by nonreligious groups and does not proselytize, or sway those it serves to become Catholic."

It seemed most of the justices stood behind Catholic Charities. Justice Clarence Thomas asked Wisconsin's lawyer if Catholic Charities said the Lord's Prayer before serving the meal, then would they qualify as a religious organization. Justice Samuel Alito chimed in with, "You don't get the soup unless you pray first." Justice Sonia Sotomayor retorted by asking what if the diner's religion prohibited praying the Our Father. You can see that each of these justices poked fun at the Wisconsin argument with Sotomayor adding that it would be "problematic" if the reciting of the Our Father was a condition for dinner and a condition to receive the tax exemption.

The *Wall Street Journal* (in an editorial on the same day) questioned if the Pope would be ineligible to receive the exemption because some of his activities as the head of the state are secular.

Speaking for the U.S. government, the Deputy Solicitor General, Curtis Gannon, argued that to: "[s]econd-guess what counts as inherently religious is just something that courts shouldn't be in the business of doing." The ruling is expected by the end of June.

Source: The Hill "Supreme Court appears swayed by Catholic charity group's tax exemption bid," 03/31/25 by Ellis Lee.

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

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

Audio Book! Listen to *Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week*. Pope Benedict XVI presents on the meaning of Jesus' life, teachings, death, and resurrection. He encourages us to know and love our Savior more deeply.

Watch presentations from *Augustine Institute Bible Conference – Preparing for Holy Week*. Some topics include "The Last Supper", "The Agony in the Garden", "The Passion of the Christ", and "Holy Saturday".



Listen to *The Christmas and Easter Story*. Be drawn into this dramatized audio excerpt of the Easter story from the *Truth & Life Audio Bible*.

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

John Paul the Great Summer Camps June-August 2025

JP Summer Camps registration is now open! Sign your elementary and middle school-age children up for a variety of athletic and enrichment camps during the summer months. For registration and more details, please visit: <https://www.jpthegreat.org/apps/pages/summeractivities>

Shadow a Wolf for a Day! Shadow Days available at John Paul!

Do you have an 8th-10th grader who is interested in seeing what it is like to be a JP student? Sign them up for a Shadow Day visit! For registration and more details, please visit: https://jpthegreat.schooladminonline.com/portal/new_inquiry

Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday, 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 for the Sign up Genius sign up! For more information, please contact the parish office.

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.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD)

- If you are 70-1/2 or more, please consider making an IRA Charitable gift to the parish before December 31.

- If you are 73 or older and need to make required minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA, your QCD counts toward your annual RMD for the year.

QCDs can have a significant tax benefit for you. Eligible accounts for QCDs can be made from most

IRAs, including Traditional IRAs, Rollover IRAs, Inherited IRAs, and Roth IRAs. **Always consult your**

Tax professional regarding your specific situation. Use our parish address: St. Raymond of Penafort Catholic Church, 8750 Pohick Road, Springfield, VA 22153.

SUNDAY OFFERTORY 03/30/2025

Sunday Offertory	\$15,869.00
Family Assistance	\$ 572.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 800.00
OLOR Scholarship	\$ 2,879.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 1,678.00



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