



# THE RESURRECTION OF THE *Lord*

***"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](http://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](mailto:Office@straymonds.org)  
Pastor: [fdc@straymonds.org](mailto:fdc@straymonds.org)  
Rel. Ed.: [ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org](mailto: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.

***"Why do you  
seek the living  
one among  
the dead?  
He is not  
here, but  
he has  
been  
raised."***

Luke 24:5-6

Holy Women at Christ's Tomb  
by Annibale Carracci, 1590

© Diocesan

### **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](mailto:bulletin@straymonds.org) 10 days prior to publication date.

## Pastor's Corner

**Christus resurrexit! Resurrexit vere!  
Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!  
He is risen! He is risen indeed!**

Praised be the Risen Jesus Christ for this wondrous day! The Lord has risen from the dead, conquering sin and death, opening the gates of heaven and vanquishing the ancient enemy of man, the devil. Mankind is free from the chains of evil and given the promise of eternal life—if we will only use our freedom choose to accept the grace of Christ and live according to the Truth He proclaims through His Holy Catholic Church.

Thanks to all who worked so hard to help make this an especially Blessed Lent, Holy Week, Triduum and Easter Sunday (I'll write more about this next week). On behalf of myself, Fr. Bergida, Fr. Horkan and Msgr. Rippy, I wish you all a Blessed, Holy and Happy Easter and Easter Season! May the Risen Lord Jesus, Redeemer and Savior of the world, shower you with His grace and keep you close to Him in this Glorious Season!

And remember, today is this just the beginning of this new **Season of Easter**. We continue to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection for 50 days—until we celebrate the sending of the Holy Spirit on the Pentecost. We begin with the Octave of Easter, as for eight days through next Sunday we celebrate each day as if it were Easter Day. May the lessons of Lent and the joy of Easter make the coming season one of true holiness, as we go forth to live as Christ Jesus created and redeemed us to live and to love.

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*

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### **EASTER VIGIL HOMILY, JOHN PAUL II April 10, 2004 (his last)**

1. "This same night is a night of watching kept to the Lord . . . throughout every generation" (cf. Ex 12:42).

On this holy night we celebrate the Easter Vigil, the first - indeed the "mother" - of all vigils of the liturgical year. On this night, as is sung over and over again in the *Preconio* [Exsultet], we walk once more the path of humanity from creation to the culminating event of salvation, the death and resurrection of Christ.

The light of him who "has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor 15:20) makes this memorable night, which is rightly considered the "heart" of the liturgical year, "bright as the day" (Ps 139:12). On this night the entire Church keeps watch and recalls, in meditation, the significant stages of God's saving intervention in the universe.

2. "A night of watching kept to the Lord". There is a twofold significance to this solemn Easter Vigil, so rich with symbols accompanied by an extraordinary abundance

of biblical texts. On the one hand, it is the prayerful memory of the *mirabilia Dei*, in the re-presentation of key texts from the Sacred Scriptures, from creation to the sacrifice of Isaac, to the passage through the Red Sea, to the promise of the New Covenant.

On the other hand, this evocative vigil is the trusting expectation of the complete fulfilment of the ancient promises. The memory of God's work reaches its climax in the resurrection of Christ and is projected onto the eschatological event of the *parusia*. We thus catch a glimpse, on this night of Passover, of the dawning of that day that never ends, the day of the Risen Christ, which inaugurates the new life, the "new heavens and a new earth" (2 Pet 3:13; cf. Is 65:17; 66:22; Rev 21:1).

3. From its very beginnings, the Christian community placed the celebration of Baptism within the context of the Easter Vigil. Here too, on this night, some catechumens will be immersed with Jesus into his death to rise with him to immortal life. Thus the wonder of the mysterious spiritual rebirth, wrought by the Holy Spirit, is renewed; the rebirth that incorporates the newly baptized into the people of the new and final Covenant, sealed by the death and resurrection of Christ.

To each of you, dear Brothers and Sisters who will soon receive the sacraments of Christian initiation, I affectionately offer a special greeting. You come from Italy, Togo and Japan: your origins manifest the universality of the call to salvation and the gratuitousness of the gift of faith. Together with you I greet your relatives, friends and all who have seen to your preparation.

Thanks to the sacrament of Baptism you will come to be a part of the Church, which is an immense people on pilgrimage, without limits of race, language or culture; a people called to the faith starting with Abraham, and destined to become a blessing in the midst of all the nations of the earth (cf. Gen 12:1-3). Be faithful to him who has chosen you, and to him entrust your entire lives with generous commitment.

4. Together with those who will shortly receive Baptism, the liturgy invites all of us here present to renew the promises of our own Baptism. The Lord asks us to renew the expression of our full obedience to him and of our total dedication to the service of his Gospel.

Beloved Brothers and Sisters! If this mission may sometimes seem difficult, call to mind the words of the Risen Lord: "I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Mt 28:20). Certain of his presence, you shall fear no difficulty and no obstacle. His word will enlighten you; his Body and his Blood will nourish you and sustain you on your daily journey to eternity.

At the side of each of you there will always be Mary, as she was present among the Apostles, frightened and confused at the time of trial. And with her faith she will show you, beyond the night of the world, the glorious dawn of the resurrection. Amen.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, April 21st**

6:30 **No Mass**  
 8:30 Laura Schweitzer

**Tuesday, April 22nd**

6:30 am J.J. Kelly +  
 8:30 am Prohaska Family

**Wednesday, April 23rd**

6:30 am Ann F. Quinn +  
 8:30 am Zachary Hoopes  
 7:00 pm Priest's Intentions

**Thursday, April 24th**

6:30 am Victoria Taylor  
 8:30 am Spencer & Victoria Wright

**Friday, April 25th**

6:30 am Mary Fatiou +  
 8:30 am Sally Christensen +

**Saturday, April 26th**

9:00 am Noah, Leslie,  
 Nenuca Admana

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**  
 Carol Carnest +

**Sunday, April 27th**

7:00 am **Msr. Rippy**  
 Patricia Reinhardt +

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

11:00 am **Fr. Bergida**  
 Eileen Gladys  
 Matzinger +

1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**  
 Helen & Joseph  
 Estabrook

**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	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 21** Easter Monday– One Mass at 8:30am, Parish Offices are closed.
- Apr 20-21** NO CCD Classes
- Apr 21** NO RCIA
- Apr 21** Family of Jesus Prayer Group
- Apr 22** Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm Maurer Room
- Apr 22** Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library
- Apr 23** Adoration 9am-7pm
- Apr 25** Adoration 9am-3pm
- Apr 26** K of C Blood Drive
- Apr 26** Men's Prayer Group
- Apr 27** Easter Egg Hunt 2:30-3:30pm

**View livestreaming of the Holy Mass at St. Raymond's!**

[www.straymonds.org](http://www.straymonds.org)

**Monday - Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am**  
**Saturday at 9:00 am**

**Sunday Mass at 9:00 am & 11:00 am**  
 (See the website for Holy Days)

**Daily Family Rosary leaders needed!** St. Raymond's has a Daily Family Rosary in the church: Mon-Fri at 6:30pm and Saturday and Sunday after the 9am Mass. **Please visit our website to sign up to lead during April!** All are invited to attend.

**Family of Jesus Prayer Group:** Weekly meetings are in the Church on Mondays at 3:00 pm. If you have any prayer requests, please us know by emailing Elaine Perricone at [jpebtp@verizon.net](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:bridgeclub402@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining us.

**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](mailto:mlcastry@gmail.com).



**Reminder: All eggs, candy and sticker donations are due by April 22, drop them in the baskets at all entrances or at the rectory office. Thank you!**

**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, please check your email for the Sign up Genius sign up! For more information, please contact the parish office.**

**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.

**Cookies Needed for Prison Ministry** Looking for an alms-giving project you can work on together as a family? Bob Keegan is in need of 120 Dozen homemade cookies to bring to prison ministry on May 5th. Would you be willing to bake a dozen or two? If so, please sign up at <https://bit.ly/120cookies4prisoners>

**Junior Legion of Mary.** Children between the ages of 7 – 12+ at St. Raymond's who have received their First Holy Communion and parents seeking an extracurricular activity that enriches a young person's spiritual life and engages them in age-appropriate spiritual works of mercy under the spiritual direction of Father Bergida, please consider joining the Junior Legion of Mary. Meetings will be every Tuesday, 4:15-5:15pm, in the rectory Maurer Room. Two adult members of the Legion (Virtus certified) lead the meetings. Parents are welcome to attend / participate. Please email Patty Miller, [pamiller35@gmail.com](mailto:pamiller35@gmail.com), or call / text her at: C - 703-663-0480.

**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.



# 7 of 12 FUN FACTS ABOUT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ([Alyssa Murphy \(Oct. 9, 2020\) from the National Catholic Register](#)). The Knights are a large organization, so what other projects do the undertake? Well,

the cause of persecuted Christians, for example: starting with the Marxist revolution in Mexico during the time of the Cristeros to our own times and the cause of the “countless Christian men, women and children in the Middle East. In the Spring of 2016, a report detailing atrocities led by ISIS and militant factions within the area was sent to the U.S. State Department.” **WHAT’S HOLDING YOU BACK? JOIN THE KNIGHTS!** Go to <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> or use the QR code below to experience the Knights for one year free of dues. Click “Add” and complete the form. Leave the representative code blank, but enter our council # **12846** for local information upon registration. Please contact our Deputy Grand Knight, John Larvie at cell (571) 356-4170 if you have any questions or wish to learn more about the many benefits of being a Knight. KofC/JoinUS



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 4/26 Men’s 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](http://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](mailto:mam7253@msn.com).

**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.

**Bishop’s Lenten Appeal! Update: We are at 91% of our goal!** Don’t forget to make a donation to the BLA to help us reach our goal. You may mail a pledge, go online to [arlingtondiocese.org/BLA](http://arlingtondiocese.org/BLA) or scan the QR code to make a gift. Thank you for your generosity!



SCAN ME

**Urgent Need for Christ House and Gift Shop leaders!** Please consider volunteering your time for two very worthy causes. Those leadership seats are or will be vacant soon! Please call the parish office if interested at 703-440-0535. God bless you!

**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](http://faith.direct/VA64). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

**SAINT RAYMOND’S RESPECTS LIFE**  
*Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH. Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE*  
*I came that you might have life! John 10:10*

**Be not complacent!**

**Did you know that there is a fast-tracking move afoot in the Virginia Assembly to make abortion a constitutional human right in our Commonwealth?**

In January the Virginia Assembly (both chambers) approved 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 them 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

Bishop Burbidge recently authored a **Pastoral Letter** entitled *The Christian Family, In Vitro Fertilization and Heroic Witness to True Love*. Copies are available 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](http://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.

**Regret often follows when a woman ingests the ‘abortion pill’.** If you know someone in this situation, contact [abortionpillreversal.com](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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>

### **NO Youth Group April 20**

Enjoy celebrating Easter with your families!

### **April 27 (Sun): Youth Group & CCD**

\***2-4pm** Jr. High Youth Group—Grades 7 & 8 (Help with parish Easter Egg Hunt) \**Note: on 4/27 Jr. High Youth Group will meet EARLIER, from 2-4pm, to help with the Easter Egg Hunt*  
5-6:30pm 7-12th Grade CCD  
6:30-8pm HS Youth Group—Grades 9-12 (Guys/Gals Panel)

**Cookies Needed for Prison Ministry** Looking for an almsgiving project you can work on together as a family? **We are in need of 120 Dozen homemade cookies** to bring to prison ministry on May 5th. Would you be willing to bake a dozen or two? If so, please sign up at <https://bit.ly/120cookies4prisoners> This can also count for service hours if needed. **Deliver to the parish anytime before May 5th.**

**May 2 (Fri): 6:30am Friday Mass & Breakfast** No mtg. 4/25

### **6-8th Grade BASH Youth Rally (2:30-9:30pm May 10th)**

Attention 6-8th Graders! Join over 1,000 youth from across the diocese for inflatable games, a rock wall, Gaga Ball tournament, music, free throw competition, inspirational speakers, unlimited pizza, Rita's ice & ice cream, confession and Sunday Vigil Mass with the Bishop at BASH on Saturday, May 10th! Sign up at <https://bit.ly/JRHIGHBASH>  
**Registration due 4/27.**

**April 26th & May 3rd: High School Swing Dances (7-9pm)** These will be our last 2 dances for the year. Please arrive by 7am so we can start on time. **April 26** will be a regular swing dance but we will be practicing some new moves. **May 3rd will be an optional formal dance**—meaning, for the girls, if you would like to wear a fancy dress, please feel free to. You could wear a long formal dress or a dressier knee length or tea length dress. However, you can also wear your regular attire. *Guys*, feel free to wear nice slacks and a dressier shirt—no jacket or tie is necessary. *Girls*, please remember that dresses need to be at least knee length and please no low-cut V necks. We will have a Photo Booth, special fun dances and a great time to close out our swing dancing year. **If you are new to swing dancing**, please feel free to come to these last dances. We have many dancers who are happy to help new dancers.

### **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.

**Scholarship Opportunities!** The website has recently been updated with several scholarship opportunities for ages 16 through current juniors in college. <https://bit.ly/ScholarshipsAndContests>

**Can You Help 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 between now and the end of 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](mailto: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



### **Alleluia! He is Risen!**

Wishing our families a blessed and joyful Easter!  
Allow the love of the Risen Lord to pierce your heart  
and draw you ever closer to Himself.

**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.

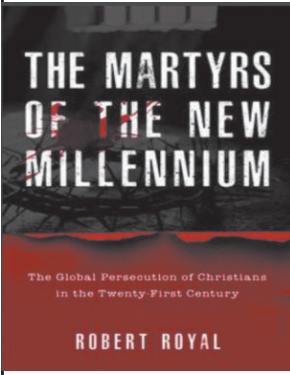
**Men's Prayer Group:** On the first and third Saturdays of each month a group of men meet in the parish hall to pray and read the Scriptures. **Our next meeting will be April 26th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email [maryndavew7705@gmail.com](mailto:maryndavew7705@gmail.com).

**Christendom College** will be hosting a Saturday open house this spring on April 26 where visitors will be able to tour campus, hear from the college President, attend a sample class, and get their questions answered on all topics including Christendom's outstanding alumni employment rates, financial aid, and even what students do with their free time. Christendom College is the only Catholic College in the Arlington Diocese on the *Newman Guide for Choosing a Catholic College*. To register, please visit [www.christendom.edu/openhouse](http://www.christendom.edu/openhouse).

**Legion of Mary invitation** Do you want to develop a closer relationship with our Mother Mary and her Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ? The Legion of Mary meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm in the Library. All auxiliary members and anyone interested in joining the Legion of Mary are welcome! Point of Contact: Judy Mayer, [jmayer9014@aol.com](mailto:jmayer9014@aol.com), or 703-627-7320.

**Join the Serra Club of Arlington for a Holy Hour** offered for the priesthood, consecrated life, and the perseverance of all vocations. Saturday, May 17, 2025, starting at 9:45 a.m. at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, VA 20124-1115. We invite you to come pray with us! The Serra Club of Arlington are lay Catholics of all ages and from all walks of life who promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, support priests in their sacred ministry, and assist fellow members to recognize and respond in their own lives, to God's call to holiness in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit. For more information, please visit [serraclubarlington.org](http://serraclubarlington.org).

**CHURCH PERSECUTED**



The persecution of Christians has taken place over the last two millennia and into this one beginning with the first Christian martyr, Jesus Christ. St. John wrote in his gospel (15:20), “If they persecuted me, they will persecute you.” And that they have done over time. In his new book, *The Martyrs of the New Millennium: The Global Persecution of Christians in the Twenty-First Century* (Sophia Institute Press), St. Raymond’s parishioner, Dr. Robert Royal, takes one on a tour of the world showing how Christians are persecuted in each of the populated continents.

He provides one example from Nigeria worth repeating.

In 2020, one of the most heroic twenty-first-century martyrdoms in all of Africa took place. A seminarian, Michael Nandi, who was only eighteen years old, was abducted by Muslim raiders, as were three fellow students from the Good Shepherd Seminary. The others were eventually released. Nandi was not because, according to his captors, he was adamant in telling them repeatedly that they must repent and turn from their evil ways. This embarrassed them because he implied that they were bringing disgrace on their own religion. He also urged them to convert to Catholicism. Mustapha Mohammed, the leader of the gang and the person who killed Nandi, was captured later and admitted that he admired the young seminarian’s ‘outstanding bravery.’

It didn’t end there. According to Open Doors, which tracks persecution and martyrdom of Christians around the world, “five African nations – Somalia, Libya, Eritrea, Nigeria, and Sudan – are among its two ten countries of concern for religious liberty; and it identifies twenty African countries among the fifty worst globally.” Open Doors reports that in Nigeria alone, “4,998 Christians perished...in 2023...more people killed because of their Christian faith than all other places in the globe combined.”

These murders are daily occurrences and have become so routine that they are no longer reported in the news or other sources. Let us pray for Christians around the world that they may live in peace. Pick up a copy of Royal’s book to learn more of these atrocities and the many unknown martyrs.

**FORMED®**

Get In-Formed!

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

*Watch Via Lucis: The Stations of the Resurrection.* Learn about and pray the “Stations of the Resurrection” to draw closer into the joy of Jesus’ triumph over death.

*Watch Easter in Art.* The Augustine Institute presents this 3-part series about sacred art on Jesus’ descent into hell, His Resurrection, and His encounter with Mary Magdalene after His Resurrection.



**For Kids.** *Watch He is Risen! The Power of the Resurrection.* This *Brother Francis* animated episode teaches kids about Jesus’ Resurrection and Ascension.

Questions? Need help? Email us at: [formed@straymonds.org](mailto:formed@straymonds.org)



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**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.

**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](https://jpthegreat.schooladminonline.com/portal/new_inquiry)

**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](mailto: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. We will meet Monday April 21st.

**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.

**The Second Collection this weekend is for Our Lady of Ransom Scholarship Fund, please be generous.**

SUNDAY OFFERTORY 04/13/2025

Sunday Offertory	\$ 14,448.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,604.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,065.00
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