



**"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's, the parish has a longstanding close relationship with Angelus Academy. Many of our parish children already happily attend school there.

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

May He Rest in Peace. As Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re reminded us in his homily at Pope Francis's funeral: "Pope Francis used to conclude his speeches and meetings by saying, 'Do not forget to pray for me.'" Let us do as he asked us, and continue to pray for the soul of Pope Francis.

Cardinal Re's homily also included the statement: "The outpouring of affection that we have witnessed in recent days following his passing from this earth into eternity tells us how much the profound pontificate of Pope Francis touched minds and hearts."

Catholic News Service estimated that 200,000 people attended the funeral in St. Peter's Square, and the Vatican newspaper estimated 250,000. Interesting that 4 million (some say up to 10 million) gathered in and around St. Peter's for Pope John Paul II's funeral in 2005, and an estimated two billion viewers saw it on television (perhaps a world record for any event).

THE CONCLAVE. The Conclave to elect the new Pope begins this Wednesday, May 7. First, all the cardinals will gather in St. Peter's Basilica to celebrate the "Mass for the Election of the Roman Pontiff." Then the 134 cardinals under 80 years old (who are eligible to vote and able to attend) will process into the famous Sistine Chapel and begin the process of voting for the new Supreme Pontiff. These "cardinal-electors" will take the following oath:

"We, the Cardinal electors present in this election of the Supreme Pontiff promise, pledge and swear, as individuals and as a group, to observe faithfully and scrupulously the prescriptions contained in the Apostolic Constitution of the Supreme Pontiff John Paul II, Universi Dominici Gregis, published on 22 February 1996. We likewise promise, pledge and swear that whichever of us by divine disposition is elected Roman Pontiff will commit himself faithfully to carrying out the munus Petrinum of Pastor of the Universal Church and will not fail to affirm and defend strenuously the spiritual and temporal rights and the liberty of the Holy See. In a particular way, we promise and swear to observe with the greatest fidelity and with all persons, clerical or lay, secrecy regarding everything that in any way relates to the election of the Roman Pontiff and regarding what occurs in the place of the election, directly or indirectly related to the results of the voting; we promise and swear not to break this secret in any way, either during or after the election of the new Pontiff, unless explicit authorization is granted by the same Pontiff; and never to lend support or favour to any interference, opposition or any other form of intervention, whereby secular authorities of whatever order and degree or any group of people or individuals might wish to intervene in the election of the Roman Pontiff.

"And I, N. Cardinal N., do so promise, pledge and swear. Placing his hand on the Gospels, he will add: So help me God and these Holy Gospels which I touch with my hand."

On the first day they will take the first ballot, or "scrutiny." If no one receives two-thirds of the total votes, they will then wait for the next day to vote again. For the following days they will hold 2 ballots in the morning and 2 in the afternoon. On the fourth day, if no one has been

elected, voting is suspended for a day of prayer, informal discussion among the voters, and a brief spiritual exhortation by one of the senior Cardinals. Voting then resumes in the same manner, and after seven ballots, if the election has not taken place, there is another pause for prayer, etc. Another series of seven ballots is then held and, if there has still been no election, this is followed by a further pause for prayer and then voting resumes. As I understand it, this routine is followed until a new pope is elected.

During this entire period the cardinals are completely sequestered from all outside contact or news. They will be driven in private buses back and forth between the Sistine Chapel and their rooms in the Domus Santa Marta (a residence inside the Vatican) where they will sleep and eat, with only a few workers (sworn to secrecy) present to prepare food etc.

I, personally, am hoping that the cardinals take their time. Most of these men don't know each other, since they come from all over the world and have full time jobs at home. I hope they take their time, pray, discern, and vote as God wills.

The Role of the Holy Spirit. Does the Holy Spirit choose the Pope? In 1997, then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (later Pope Benedict XVI) answered this question:

"I would not say so, in the sense that the Holy Spirit picks out the Pope...I would say that the Spirit does not exactly take control of the affair, but rather like a good educator, as it were, leaves us much space, much freedom, without entirely abandoning us. Thus the Spirit's role should be understood in a much more elastic sense, not that he dictates the candidate for whom one must vote. Probably the only assurance he offers is that the thing cannot be totally ruined...There are too many contrary instances of popes the Holy Spirit obviously would not have picked!"

AND SO WE MUST PRAY! We must pray for the cardinals and pray that the Lord make his will be known and/or bring forth the right man to be our new Holy Father. Not just "we" meaning all Catholics, but **you and I at St. Raymond of Peñafort in Springfield, Virginia, must pray.**

We thought the last few US Presidential elections were important. But this election is much bigger than those. And we have a vote, in a way: by our prayers. Not praying for our particular candidate so much, as praying for God's choice to be elected.

So, as your spiritual Father, I entreat you to cast your vote for the new Supreme Pontiff by praying. Pray the Rosary daily, and consider praying Cardinal Raymond Burke's "2025 Conclave Novena Prayer" which you will find on our website and in the pews. I also **beg you to join us in Adoration** of the Blessed Sacrament.

DAILY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. St. Raymond's will have **all day and evening** Exposition and Adoration to pray for the election **EVERY DAY beginning Monday, May 5,** continuing until the public announcement of the election of a new Pope. This is the schedule: **Monday-Saturday:** beginning at the end of the 8:30 or 9am Mass, and closing at 9:00pm. **Sunday:** beginning at the end of the 1pm Mass, and closing at 9:00pm. On the Day of the Announcement of the election of New Pope Exposition will close at 7pm with the Rite of Benediction, and celebration of Mass for the New Pope.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, May 5th

6:30 Gabriel Lalanne +
 8:30 James W. King +

Tuesday, May 6th

6:30 am Lucie Jeudy Lalanne +
 8:30 am Tim Boos +

Wednesday, May 7th

6:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Dubreus
 Jeudy +
 8:30 am Joseph Maines +
 7:00 pm Priest's Intentions

Thursday, May 8th

6:30 am Luke Deitchman
 8:30 am Emma Wright

Friday, May 9th

6:30 am Indigo Arcobasso
 8:30 am Rico Robles +

Saturday, May 10th

9:00 am James Kolakowski +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
 Angela & Simeon
 Guerrero +

Sunday, May 11th

7:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
 Mother's Day Triduum
 9:00 am **Fr. Bergida**
 Parishioners
 11:00 am **Msgr. Rippy**
 Jacob Berger
 1:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
 Gerard Schratz +

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	Debra Henkel Gaudencio Dizon Paul Haynes Ted Tolpa Nena Brennan Serrin Foster Donald Trayer Ellen Trayer Arlene Pietraszko Virginia Cummings	Helen Zogaib 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

- May 4 May Crowning after 11am Mass
- May 4 Legion of Mary Rosary Promotion
- May 4 Donut Sunday after 7, 9 and 11 am Masses
- May 4-5 Last CCD Classes
- May 5 Family of Jesus Prayer Group
- May 5 TBD Daily Adoration 9am-9pm
- May 6 Last Bible Study Class
- May 6 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm Maurer Room
- May 6 Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library
- May 7 Adoration 9am-7pm
- May 9 Adoration Fri. 9am- Sat. 9am
- May 11 Mother's Day Triduum

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

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 May!** All are invited to attend.

Donut Sunday, THIS weekend, May 4th 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. May's Donut Sunday will be hosted by our CYO and Altar Servers.

Book Club News: Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 8th at 9:30 AM, in the Parish Library. We will be discussing "Eight Popes and the Crisis of Modernity" by Russell Shaw. We will also discuss **Pascendi Dominici Gregis (On the Doctrines of the Modernists)** an Encyclical of Pope Pius X. This can be found on the Vatican website at https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-x/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-x_enc_19070908_pascendi-dominici-gregis.html. If you have difficulty finding this article, please contact Jim Mault at the email below. New members welcome. If you have questions or plan to join us for the first time in May, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.

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.

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.

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.

Mother's Day Triduum- Sunday, May 11th is Mother's Day. We will be honoring mothers with a Triduum of Masses on May 11-13. If you would like to include the special mothers in your life (ie. Mother, Grandmother, Godmother, etc.), cards are available in the narthex of the church or at the parish office.

May is the month of Mary! We will mark this month of Marian piety **THIS** weekend, Sunday, May 4th, with the "May Crowning" after the 11 am Mass. The Youth Apostolate will again help us with a brief ceremony paying homage to the Blessed Mother. Please join 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 May 17th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryn-davew7705@gmail.com.

The Parish Library is located outside the Parish Hall. Staffed by Parish Volunteers, it is open on Saturdays from 1-5 and Sundays from 10-2. With over 5,000 Catholic items for adults and children in written and AV form, there's something for everyone! Come and see! "You will not find anyone who is truly striving after his spiritual advancement who is not given to spiritual reading." St Athanasius.



8 of 12 FUN FACTS ABOUT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ([Alyssa Murphy \(Oct. 9, 2020\) from the National Catholic Register](#)). The Knights still defend Christians, even pushing for use of the term *genocide* to

describe the fate of Christians and others in the Middle East: "Christians in Iraq and Syria have suffered injustice after injustice by being kidnapped, killed, having their homes and churches confiscated or destroyed and being forced to flee for their lives," Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, said Feb. 25 **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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

5/12 Membership Council Meeting

5/17 Men's Prayer Group

6/7 Shredding Event

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 96% 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 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!

Legion of Mary-sponsored local 1-day retreat for Young Adults, Sat., May 31: The annual Young Adult 1-day retreat will be held on Sat., May 31, 11:00am - 5:00pm, sponsored by the Legion of Mary - Arlington Senatus. It will be held at Holy Trinity Jubilee Park, located at 4407 Aldie Road, Catharpin, VA 20143. The theme is "Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati - Young Man of the Beatitudes". It is open to all Catholic young adults from ages 18-39. Come and join us for an exciting day with Confession, Blessed Sacrament exposition, holy Mass, uplifting talks and group sharing, and obstacle course activities! The priests attending are Fr. John Melmer and Paul Berghout. The fee is \$35.00 per person which includes refreshments (pay by credit card or check). Register by May 16. Bring a bag lunch, water, and dress for outdoor activities. To obtain registration forms or to inquire about the retreat, call Dr. Seggy Acosta at (703)392-6420, or parishioner Judy Mayer (703) 627-7320, email: jmayer9014@aol.com. You may visit www.holytrinityjubileepark for location information (about 45 minute drive from St. Raymond's).

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.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

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 recent Thank You Note from MaRiH:

Dear Friends at St Raymond's,

Again and again, the MaRiH Center is grateful for your frequent, abundant donations. Your congregation is one of our most loyal benefactors, sharing our mission.

(For 50 years) Our Center has been at the forefront of meeting the needs of vulnerable Moms and Dads in crisis. We greet parents with unconditional love and listen to their stories with compassion and grace. However, as we frequently reflect, that support simply could not continue without generous contributions from parishes and organizations providing practical and tangible baby essentials as your congregation frequently does. Working together we can continue our pro-life mission. The MaRiH center is most appreciative of Saint Raymond's generosity. We never take it for granted. With gratitude, Beth Whitehead, Director

Be not complacent! Stay informed!

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 and health protections for women and girls, force taxpayers to fund abortion as well as eliminate our current law limiting abortion at 27 weeks.

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

To those who have suffered an abortion:

Do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. **The Father of Mercies** is ready to give you His Forgiveness and His Peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation." **Project Rachel** helps women and men who are carrying the grief and sorrow of a past abortion. (888)456-HOPE. Men: (703) 841-3833. Confidentiality always respected. www.helpafterabortion.org.

THE ABORTION PILL now accounts for up to 60% of all abortions. Women often regret the desperate isolated decision to take the abortion pill. Call the abortion reversal helpline 855-209-4848. **It may not be too late. abortionpillreversal.com.**

The Power of Prayer. Abortionists and those who work in the abortion industry trespass against us. Please continue to pray for their conversion.

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>

May 4 (Sun): **LAST Sunday Youth Group & CCD**

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

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

6:30-8pm HS Youth Group—Grades 9-12

Cookies Needed for Prison Ministry by May 5th! We are in need of several Dozen more homemade cookies to bring to prison ministry for their upcoming retreat. Would you be willing to bake a dozen or two? This can also count towards service hours if needed. Please sign up at <https://bit.ly/120cookies4prisoners>

6:30am Friday Mass & Breakfast EVERY Friday in May

All 7-12th graders: Join us Friday mornings for Mass followed by breakfast with Fr. Horkan & Fr. Bergida in the parish hall. Please RSVP at <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVP> to help us ensure we have enough food and seats set up for everyone. If you RSVP by Wed. we can coordinate our volunteers to drive you to school by 8am!

May 13 (Tues): **LAST Sons of Thunder HS Guys Group**

7-8:30pm (Maurer Room) High School Men ! Come hungry (physically and intellectually) and ready to rumble with Phil, Nate, and Father Bergida! This is our last meeting for the year. If you've been thinking about coming, this is your chance!!

May 9th, 16th, 30th: **High School Bible Study is Back!**

7-8pm (Library) Grow in faith and meet new people at the same time! BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible)...and a friend! Everyone is invited to join us for the parish family rosary at 6:30pm too!

May 23 (Fri): **6:30pm Baccalaureate Mass & Light Reception**

All parishioners, family and friends are invited to attend St. Raymond's Baccalaureate Mass in celebration of all of our high school graduates, Class of 2025! Come thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon our teens as they celebrate this great milestone, and support them with your prayers as they prepare for their next chapter in life. Mass will be followed by a light reception and the Knights of Columbus presentation of the Senior Man and Woman of the Year Awards!

Scholarship Opportunities! Check out the website as it has several scholarship opportunities for ages 16 through current juniors in college. <https://bit.ly/ScholarshipsAndContests>

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.

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. 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 so grateful for your assistance. I am hoping to move between now and the end of June. Please pray I find a place soon! Thank you!

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

CCD Final Exams will be administered May 3 and 4, and this is our last class until September!

Attention parents of 7th Grade students:

Saint Report was due May 1st - check the Confirmation Supplement, which you received in September, for details.

Congratulations to our 2nd grade students receiving their **First Holy Communion** here at St. Raymond's on May 4, 10, and 11!

Volunteers needed for 2025-26 academic year. Please consider volunteering as a catechist, assistant, or substitute in September. Stand by for specific needs, and contact the RE office if you are interested in getting involved!

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.

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, or call / text her at: C - 703-663-0480.

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.

Annual Spring Senior Luncheon



WHO: All Seniors 55 years young and above

WHERE: St. Raymond's Parish Hall

DATE: May 31st, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

MENU: Honey Baked Ham and all the trimmings (Free!) RSVP by May 29 by emailing office@straymonds.org Or calling the office at 703-440-0535

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.

CHURCH PERSECUTED

Last week we began the story of the appointment of Father Robert Sarah as the archbishop of Conakry, Guinea. Finally, Sékou Touré, the president of Guinea released the former Archbishop Raymond-Marie Tchidimbo from prison. Father Sarah, who lived with the secret that he would become the new archbishop for over a year, was finally formally installed as archbishop.

Sarah’s parents were saddened with the appointment for fear that their son would endure the same fate as his predecessor. [Sékou Touré](#) didn’t know how to deal with the new archbishop. Sarah decided to accept any invitation to attend any state function and thus became good friends with the dictator while openly preaching about the plight of Catholics in Guinea. Sarah was notified that he was being watched, and all his actions were being reported to the government. As the Communist state party was destroying the infrastructure of the country, Sarah was openly preaching the gospel in terms of the plight of the people. He organized youth which was contrary to the government’s policy that only the Party could do so. He established courses on the Bible which also brought about the ire of the Party. He saw the destructive nature of Communism on the family and spoke out against it.

In December 1984, a devastating earthquake struck the region. One of the army leaders who was assisting in the recovery fell and broke his leg causing him to be evacuated from the country. Archbishop Sarah later was told that the army leader was tasked to arrest Sarah shortly afterwards. Then president suffered a serious stroke and was evacuated to the U.S., dying shortly thereafter. Archbishop Sarah heard that they found a note in Sékou Touré’s desk containing a list of public figures to be assassinated. Archbishop Sarah was at the top of the list. The archbishop finishes the story in his book, *God or Nothing* (Ignatius Press, 2015), by saying, “God had been quicker than Sékou Touré! The Savior wanted me to stay a little longer on earth.” Cardinal Sarah is now one of the electors of the next Pope.



Get In-Formed!

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

Audio Book! Listen to *The Next Pope*. Written in 2020, papal biographer, historian, and theologian George Weigel draws from his conversations with the most recent three popes to propose what the Church might need from her next leader.

Listen to *Answering Common Objections: The Pope*. Respected biblical scholar Dr. Scott Hahn presents scriptural support for the papacy and other Catholic traditions and doctrines.



Watch *Gifts from God*. This documentary presents two of the great gifts to humanity: *Confession: Forgotten Sacrament* and *Keys of the Kingdom: Understanding the Papacy*.

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/](https://www.AngelusAcademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/)

Call or Email Julie Maimone, Director of Admissions, at Admissions@angelusacademy.org for more information or to schedule a tour.

Come visit us and see why our students love coming to school. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

www.AngelusAcademy.org 703-924-3996
7644 Dynatech Ct., Springfield, VA 22153

Scholarships to Catholic Schools are still available! Please send requests for tuition assistance to Fr. De Celles or contact the parish office for more information. We can also help cover homeschooling expenses.

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

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 04/27/2025

	Offertory 4/27	Faith Direct 4/2025
Offertory	\$12,887.00	\$55,865.00
Family Assistance	\$ 307.00	\$ 2,607.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 660.00	\$ 5,385.00
OLOR Scholarship	\$ 985.00	\$ 3,158.00
Holy Land Shrine		\$ 1,479.00
Easter		\$ 3,510.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$ 1,923.00	\$ 1,147.00



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