

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



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

PARISH OFFICE

Telephone Numbers:

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

Office Hours

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

Email

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

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

Angelus Academy
 7644 Dynatech Ct., Springfield, VA 22153
 703-924-3996

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

**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

**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
 Daily Adoration during Conclave—please see website**

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

NEW POPE? The deadline for the bulletin is Tuesday, May 6, the day before the Conclave begins. So by the time you read this we may have a new Pope. I kind of hope that's not the case, because I think the Cardinals need to take their time in this Conclave, since 1) they don't know each other very well, and 2) there are no clear favorites going in.

If there is already a new Pope when you read this, join me in praying for our New Holy Father. If the cardinals are still undecided when you read this, join me in praying for them, that the Lord will move the hearts of those open to his will, and soften the hardhearted who might be playing politics or seeking to impose their own will on the Church.

New Name. Why do Popes change their names when elected? The practice goes back to Pope John II in 533, whose name at birth was "Mercurio," after the Roman god Mercury. Since it didn't seem like a good thing for the Catholic Pope to have the name of a pagan god, he chose the name of one of his immediate successors, Pope John I, who died in 526. This precedent was not binding (and technically still isn't), and didn't become the norm until the 11th century, but even after that some popes still kept their given names. Pope Marcellus II in 1555 was the last pope to keep his given name, and every Pope since his successor, Pope Paul IV (born Gian Pietro Carafa) has taken a new name. This is called his "regnal name" (the name for his reign as pope).

I think one of the reasons it's become the "rule" is that it helps us distinguish between a man's actions, words and writings before and after his elevation to the papacy. This is important, especially when we see the vast amount of scholarly writing by someone like Joseph Ratzinger as priest, professor and cardinal versus as Supreme Pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI: the latter is authoritative, the former only instructive.

There really are no rules about this except one informal rule: no Pope has ever named himself "Peter II," for obvious reasons.

I wonder what the new Pope's regnal name is/will be. I'm guessing it might be one of these: Gelasius, Gregory, John or Leo. Personally, I'd like it be Athanasius I, or Augustine I. We'll see.

Parish Giving. I want to thank all of you for patiently listening to my pre-Mass sermon last weekend on parish giving, and for praying in preparation for this weekend when I am asking you to make a commitment to increase your giving. Thank you also for your generosity in this weekend's commitment. And remember that if you can't give or increase your giving, I understand. And if you need financial assistance, please contact the parish office.

I should note that there are several ways to give to the parish. The most common and easiest way is by dropping your envelope in the offertory basket at Mass on Sunday, or setting up a weekly online gift on Faith Direct.

Some have asked me how they can **make sure that 100% of their gift/donation stays in the parish.** You may or may not know that **10% of the Sunday offertory collection is paid to the Bishop/Diocese:** it's what we call the "diocesan assessment" or "cathedraticum."

So let me remind you that only donations made through the "Offertory Collection" (the first collection at Sunday or Holy Day Masses) are subject to the 10% diocesan assessment. All **other donations** to the parish (for example, to the Long-Term Maintenance Fund, or Family Assistance or Youth Apostolate) **go 100% to the parish.**

However, if you specifically identify your gift to be used for a particular activity (e.g., LT Maintenance, etc.) the parish can only spend it on that activity, i.e., we can't use it to cover any other operating expenses. So if you prefer to make a donation to the parish that will be used **100% to cover any of the parish operating expenses,** at the pastor's discretion, you can simply send, at

intervals of your choosing, **a check labeled "Donation" to the parish office** or go through Faith Direct and find the equivalent giving designation.

[To be clear: I am not in any way encouraging withholding donations subject to the 10% assessment; I'm just responding to questions in the interest of transparency].

Matching Program. Many businesses offer to match their employees' charitable donations. We can work with you to do this for the parish. For information, ask your employer or call Maerose in the parish office.

Did You See This in the News? From CatholicVote News Feed (excerpt):

"The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a sweeping 400-page report Thursday warning of serious long-term risks associated with subjecting children to so-called 'gender-affirming care,' including infertility and psychological harm.

"The report found 'very weak' scientific evidence supporting the use of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgical procedures on children suffering from gender dysphoria—concluding that these treatments carry significant and often irreversible consequences.

"Despite growing pressure to promote harmful medical interventions for minors, this review makes one thing clear: There is extremely weak evidence that puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, or surgeries have any benefits in children and adolescents with gender dysphoria,' HHS press secretary Vianca Rodriguez Feliciano told The Daily Signal.

"At the same time, the risks—particularly permanent harm like infertility—are becoming increasingly undeniable.'

"HHS stated that the report 'highlights a growing body of evidence pointing to significant risks—including irreversible harms such as infertility—while finding very weak evidence of benefit. That weakness has been a consistent finding of systematic reviews of evidence around the world.'

"The report's executive summary emphasized that most cases of gender dysphoria in minors resolve without medical intervention.

"Our duty is to protect our nation's children—not expose them to unproven and irreversible medical interventions,' said National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Dr. Jay Bhattacharya. 'We must follow the gold standard of science, not activist agendas'...

"Thursday's release follows a January executive order titled 'Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation,' which vowed to cut federal funding to institutions performing the harmful treatments on minors.

"Across the country today, medical professionals are maiming and sterilizing a growing number of impressionable children under the radical and false claim that adults can change a child's sex through a series of irreversible medical interventions,' President Donald Trump said in January. 'This dangerous trend will be a stain on our Nation's history, and it must end.'

"Since the order, several children's hospitals have suspended the use of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and trans-related surgeries.

"The new HHS report appears to encourage the directive, concluding: 'Despite increasing pressure to promote these drastic medical interventions for our nation's youth, the review makes clear: the science and evidence do not support their use, and the risks cannot be ignored.'

"...[President] Biden's Assistant Secretary for Health Rachel (born Richard) Levine reportedly urged the organization to revise its standards to align with the administration's pro-'transgender' agenda."

Oremus pro invicem, et pro novum Papam. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

<p><u>Monday, May 12th</u> 6:30 Sophia Perricone 8:30 Mother's Day Triduum</p> <p><u>Tuesday, May 13th</u> 6:30 am Mother's Day Triduum 8:30 am Gail Frances</p> <p><u>Wednesday, May 14th</u> 6:30 am Kirstie Tyson + 8:30 am Mary Berger 7:00 pm Priest's Intentions</p> <p><u>Thursday, May 15th</u> 6:30 am Anita Coombs + 8:30 am Fr. Michael Taylor</p> <p><u>Friday, May 16th</u> 6:30 am Taejung Welsh + 8:30 am Michael Berger</p>	<p><u>Saturday, May 17th</u> 9:00 am Anna Anezin +</p> <p><u>Vigil Mass</u> 5:00 pm Fr. Bergida Leanora Ramos +</p> <p><u>Sunday, May 18th</u> 7:00 am Msr. Rippy Corazon & Arsenio Cruz, Sr. + 9:00 am Fr. De Celles Parishioners 11:00 am Fr. Horkan Daniel H. De Celles, Sr. + 1:00 pm Fr. Bergida Bishop John R. Keating +</p>
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**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)

Please pray for our parishioners serving in Combat Zones and their families. If you have a relative serving in harm's way and would like to have his/her name included in our prayer list, please contact the parish office.

Brian Groth

Please pray for the sick of our parish

<p>Glenn Bliss Tom Dietz Michael O'Neill Cindy Laird Patricia Lewis Mai Pham Jason Saenz Phyllis Zitnik John Florio Carolina Baker</p>	<p>Debra Henkel Gaudencio Dizon Paul Haynes Ted Tolpa Nena Brennan Serrin Foster Donald Trayer Ellen Trayer Arlene Pietraszko Virginia Cummings</p>	<p>Helen Zogaib Helen Estabrooks Annette Haynes Beth Fitzgibbons Jean Keegan Joann Alba Margaret M. Hill Bill Roche Florence Miller Robert Petitti</p>
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- Ongoing Weekday Adoration 9am-9pm-Until Pope is elected
- May 11-13 Mother's Day Triduum
- May 12 Family of Jesus Prayer Group 3 pm
- May 13 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm Maurer Room
- May 13 Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library
- May 13 Adoration suspended for 10:30am Funeral Mass
- May 15 Bridge Club 11:30 am
- May 16 Adoration suspended for 11 am Funeral Mass
- May 17 Men's Prayer Group 7:30 am
- May 17 Conclave Adoration after 9am Mass until 9pm
- May 18 Conclave Adoration after the 1 pm Mass until 9 pm
- May 19 Confirmation with Bishop Loverde 7pm

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.

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.

Watch for our Constant Contact Updates! If you are not receiving emails from the parish, please contact the parish office at 703-440-0535 or office@straymonds.org.

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.

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.

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, or 703-627-7320.

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.



9 of 12 FUN FACTS ABOUT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (Alyssa Murphy (Oct. 9, 2020) from the National Catholic Register). Charity. The Knights were founded on charity: 2017, for

example, was a record year for Knights of Columbus charitable work with an unprecedented \$185.6 million in donations and 75.6 million hours of service provided worldwide." **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

5/17 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.

Urgent Need for Samaritan Group, 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 Frs. 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

Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH. Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE

Mother

The most important person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame. She need not. She built something more magnificent than any cathedral – a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body... The angels have not been blest with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to heaven. Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature; God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation. What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother? Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty

Be not complacent! Stay informed! Make your voice heard!

There is a fast-tracking move afoot in the Virginia Assembly to make abortion a constitutional human right in our Commonwealth.

In January both chambers of the Virginia Assembly 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 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. 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.

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 help-line 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>

THANK YOU PARISH FAMILIES & VOLUNTEERS!

As we come to the close of another academic year, I want to thank all the parishioners, families, and volunteers who have supported the events and ministries of the Youth Apostolate this past year. Thank you for your generosity in sharing your wealth, whether through the gifts of your time, talent, and/or treasure. This ministry would not exist without you. Special thanks to our "regular" Sunday Youth Group volunteers, Joshua Oswald, Patty Miller, Page McDermott, Dominique Arcobasso, Alex Kayser and Joe Adelman. Thank you to the men and women who once again faithfully led our Talitha Koum and Sons of Thunder groups this year, Maria Del Carmen Medina-Hernandez, Katherine Ferguson, Nate Smith, Phil Bettwy and Fr. Bergida. Thank you to the Friday morning breakfast crew, Bobbi Jones, Claire Ward, and Dominique Arcobasso, and special thanks to Court & Gretta Wheeler for all your support! And last but not least, thank you to our dedicated high school swing dance leadership team, led by Michelle Roberts and to our dance instructors, Virginia Jarvis and James Stakem. What a blessed year it has been! Please continue to keep the Youth Apostolate in your prayers, especially our graduates as they transition into the next chapter in their lives, that God may lead them and that they would always remain close to Him, and for our Confirmandi preparing to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church on May 19th, that as the Holy Spirit descends upon them in Confirmation, that they would know God's love in a particular way, and that their hearts be set on fire to know Him more, and to seek Him with ALL their heart, mind and soul.

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 16th & 30th: High School Bible Study (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.

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

Happy Mother's Day!

Thank you to all the teachers and students for a great year! Let's keep each other in prayer during our time apart.

2025-2026 CCD Registration forms: Teal registration forms can be found in the narthex, outside the Religious Education Office and in the Parish Office. You may also register online through the parish website. Please complete and return the form as soon as possible.

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 in May!

Confirmation with Bishop Loverde is on May 19 at 7pm.

Candidates and sponsors need to come to the parish hall between 6 and 6:30.

Confirmation Rehearsal required for candidates and sponsors: **Sunday, May 18 at 2:30 pm**

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!

A Jubilee Pilgrimage to Italy with Msgr. Saunders Sept 21-30, 2025-This Catholic journey features two nights in Assisi and six nights in Rome, with a day-trip to Orvieto built in as well. Daily Mass – the cornerstone of each day – will be complemented by a rich Catholic touring program designed to bring pilgrims face to face with the great saints, martyrs, Eucharistic Miracles and cultural heritage of Roman Catholicism. Highlights include St. Peter's Basilica, the Papal Basilicas, the Catacombs, the Colosseum and Roman Forum, the Pantheon, many incredible saints and holy sites, and finally our participation in the Jubilee of Catechists Events. For more information: <https://prorometours.com/arlingtoncatechists/>

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.

CHURCH PERSECUTED

Can a priest break the sacred seal of confession by being required by law to report child abuse. The question came up years ago in the Virginia legislature when a bill was introduced adding members of the clergy to the list of those individuals who are required by law to report any instances of child abuse. At the time there was a very weak exemption for clergy reporting what they heard in the confessional and the bill did not get out of committee. The next legislative session, the bill was resurrected with an explicit exception for what a priest heard under the seal of the sacramental confession and the bill passed. It passed because Catholic priests cannot violate their faith (in this case to violate the seal of confession) in order to comply with a law. Additionally, legislatures cannot require a priest to break the seal of confession. This protection is guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution in the priest's free exercise of religion.

Apparently, Washington state did not get the message or perhaps, more accurately, they intentionally decided to ignore the First Amendment of the Constitution when it passed SB 5378. Here is the language of the bill:

"Sec.2.(1)(a) When any member of the clergy...has reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect, he or she shall report such incident, or cause a report to be made, to the proper law enforcement agency...."

In the next paragraph, it explicitly removes clergy from not being required to report "privileged communication" which would include confession.

"(b) ...Except for members of the clergy, no one shall be required to report under this section when he or she obtains the information solely as a result of a privileged communication...."

While there are some states that have similar laws without an exemption for priests and the seal of confession, Washington became the "first state to explicitly eliminate legal protections for the sacred seal of confession in abuse-related cases."

Fortunately, the alert U.S. Department of Justice announced on May 6 that they are initiating a "First Amendment investigation into Washington State's anti-Catholic law. Senate Bill 5375." Expect to hear more about this in the days/weeks to come.

(Source: The Loop, May 6, 2025, "Anti-Catholic": DOJ probes Washington confession law)



Get In-Formed!

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

Listen to *The World's First Love: Mary Mother of God*. Audiobook. Fulton Sheen explains Marian dogmas and devotions. He encourages the faithful to receive and reciprocate her love.

Watch *Mom Strong: Battling Spiritual Warfare in Motherhood*. Catholic speaker Crystalina Evert presents as part of the *Catholic Mom's Summit* to encourage moms to draw strength from prayer and relationship with God in their motherhood.



For Kids. Watch *Totally Toddlers Bible Stories: Mary*. From the makers of the *Brother Francis* series, this animated episode teaches the younger members of the Church about Mary, Our Mother.

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

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.

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