

**"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
Catherine Hansen, Intern
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 upcoming school year.

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

Memorial Day. This Monday America celebrates Memorial Day, a day of honoring those in our military who have given their lives not merely for our nation, but for the life, liberty and happiness of each and every individual American. At the Last Supper Christ told His apostles, "No greater love has a man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." That saying pertains directly to His Crucifixion, it is reflected in the death of every military man or woman who has laid down their lives for us. We owe them an incredible debt—one we must try to repay by living lives worthy of the sacrifice they've made for us—lives built on the idea of freedom to become the best we can be, not freedom to do as we please. And we can pray for them, that they might receive their heavenly reward.

Sacrament of Confirmation. Last week, Bishop Paul Loverde came to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to our 8th graders and a few others. Congratulations to them all! Reception of this sacrament is the beginning of a new stage in the Christian life, as these young people receive the strengthening of the fullness of the Holy Spirit, along with His seven-fold gifts, to participate more fully in the Church's mission to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. Please keep them in your prayers.

First Holy Communion. Congratulations to all the little children who received First Holy Communion at Masses during the last 3 weeks. What a beautiful thing to see them so devoutly receive Our Lord Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist, and to witness their evident joy afterwards. It reminds us of all of Jesus' call to "become like little children," especially in our complete faith and tender love for Him in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Please keep them in your prayers going forward.

Priest Transfers. Last week Bishop Burbidge announced a whole bunch of new priest assignments and transfers. Thanks be to God, St. Raymond's was not affected—Fr. Bergida, Fr. Horkan and I will remain for another year! I am blessed to serve with these 2 excellent priests as I begin my 16th year as your pastor.

(Remember, Fr. Horkan lives here, but has a full-time job at the Diocesan Chancery and Tribunal, so can help us only as his schedule permits).

Welcome Home Collegians! It's been wonderful to see all our college "kids" coming home for the summer, especially the new college graduates—congratulations! I hope you will all be active in the parish this summer, especially through receiving the sacrament of Penance and coming to Holy Mass. It's great to have you home.

Important Reminder: Sign of Peace. One lesson we learned from the Covid pandemic was that the exchanging of the Sign of Peace by the people in the pews with their neighbor is not always either practical or preferable. In fact, we found that many people feel pressured to participate in an act that makes them feel uncomfortable or even afraid. For that reason, **it is the policy at St. Raymond's** that after the priest says, "the peace of the Lord be with you always," and the people respond, "and with your spirit," **the priest will not invite the people to exchange the sign of peace** (handshakes, hugs etc.) with each other, and the Mass immediately moves on to the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God). Please remember that you **should not go ahead and do it** without him and the rest of the congregation. Even

with the best intention on your part it becomes a **sign of disunity**, not peace.

Leonine Popes. Last week I wrote about the two most famous popes named "Leo," Leo I and Leo XIII. This week let's look at 3 other important popes of that name.

Pope Leo III was elected in 795, and was the pope who crowned **Charlemagne** as the first Holy Roman emperor. Charlemagne had a huge impact on the conversion of many pagan areas of Europe, as he insisted on unity throughout the Empire. Many of his vassal kings and nobles sought his favor by converting, and when the king or duke etc. converted, so did most of their subjects. This in turn led to a more peaceful and stronger Empire, a thriving Church, and an impetus toward missionary work.

Pope Leo IX was another important figure in history. He came to the papacy in 1049, at a time with the relationship between the east and west, i.e., the Bishop of Rome and Patriarch of Constantinople was increasing stressed. Over the centuries Liturgical, cultural and theological differences had increased, and the question of the authority of the Pope over the Patriarch became more and more contentious. By the time Leo IX can to the chair of Peter the wester (Latin) and western (Greek) rites of the Church were deeply divided, so much so that the Patriarch forbade the use of the Latin liturgy in the east. To resolve this and other questions Leo sent Hubert, Cardinal-Bishop of Silva Candida, to Constantinople. But instead of resolving the issues he delivered a bull of **excommunication to Patriarch Michael Cerularius** on July 16, 1054, which began the **Great Schism** between the West and East the continues today (Catholic Church v. Eastern Orthodox Church).

And then there is **Pope Leo X**, whose pontificate lasted from 1513 to 21. He was born Giovanni **de' Medici**, the son of Lorenzo de' Medici, a.k.a., "Lorenzo the Magnificent," the "Pope's banker" and the ruler of Florence. Although publicly pious, Leo was a very worldly pope, often accused of living an immoral personal life and continuing the corruption of his predecessors during the so-called "Renaissance Papacy." He is famous for supposedly saying, "Let us enjoy the papacy since God has given it to us."

It was during his reign that **Martin Luther**, the German theologian and Augustinian friar (the same order as Cardinal Prevost), became well known for his accusations of corruption and error in the Church, especially through publication of his *Ninety-five Theses*. In 921 Pope Leo X **excommunicated Luther** and his followers, marking the formal beginning of the **Protestant Revolt** ("the Reformation").

Interesting. The main theme of these first days of our Pope Leo XIV pontificate has been "unity." It's interesting that including Leo I and XIII, the name "Leo" is strongly associated with "unity"—either by its increase (Leo I, III and XIII) or decrease (Leo IX and X).

Pastor's Giving Appeal. Thanks to all of you who have responded so generously to the PGA. It is always encouraging to me that all I have to do is remind you, and you come through for us. God bless you!

And thanks also to all who helped us reach 101% of our goal for the Bishop's Lenten Appeal.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

<p><u>Monday, May 26th</u> 10:00 For All those who laid down their lives in service of our country</p> <p><u>Tuesday, May 27th</u> 6:30 am Ann Kerrigan + 8:30 am James Major, Jr. +</p> <p><u>Wednesday, May 28th</u> 6:30 am Nick Laird + 8:30 am Nancy Christman + 7:00 pm Priest's Intentions</p> <p><u>Thursday, May 29th</u> 6:30 am Virginia & Francisco Suniega + 8:30 am Elane Klitzke</p> <p><u>Friday, May 30th</u> 6:30 am Michael & Rebecca Mugno 8:30 am J.J. Kelly +</p>	<p><u>Saturday, May 31st</u> 9:00 am Sara Imershein</p> <p><u>Vigil Mass</u> 5:00 pm Patricia McCormick +</p> <p><u>Sunday, June 1st</u> 7:00 am Fe Robles</p> <p>9:00 am Parishioners</p> <p>11:00 am Sean Michael Delaney +</p> <p>1:00 pm Jose & Isabel Calayag +</p>
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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 Elizabeth Archer

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 Nena Brennan Serrin Foster Donald Trayer Ellen Trayer Arlene Pietraszko Virginia Cummings Mary M. Dixon Edward J. Susank	Helen Zogaib Helen Estabrooks Annette Haynes Beth Fitzgibbons Jean Keegan Joann Alba Margaret M. Hill Bill Roche Florence Miller Robert Petitti Richard Buettner Elizabeth Mendelson
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- May 26 Memorial Day One Mass at 10 am
- May 26 Parish Offices Closed
- May 26 NO Family of Jesus Prayer Group
- May 27 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm Maurer Room
- May 27 Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library
- May 28 Adoration 9am-7pm
- May 29 RSVP deadline for Senior Luncheon
- May 30 Adoration Fri. 9am- Sat. 9am
- May 31 Annual Spring Senior Luncheon at Noon
- June 1 Last Donut Sunday after 7am, 9am and 11am Masses
- June 6 First Friday Nocturnal Adoration
- June 6 Book Club Meeting & Brunch, Parish Hall 9:30-12
- June 7 First Saturday Communal Devotions
- June 7 Men's Prayer Group 7 am

FRIDAY ADORERS URGENTLY NEEDED- 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 would like to sign up for Fridays, please call Elizabeth Frazee in the parish office at 703-440-0535. If you are interested to sign up for Wednesdays, please call Leslie Schratz at 703-569-1940.

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 June 7th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryn-davew7705@gmail.com.

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.

Last Donut Sunday, This weekend, June 1st 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. June's Donut Sunday will be hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

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.

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 June!** All are invited to attend.

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.



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

6/7 Shredding Event 10am-Noon

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 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!

MercyRide 2025 A mission-driven cycling event sponsored by the Order of Malta, dedicated to supporting the sick and the poor through acts of charity and service. Riders will embark on a meaningful journey, raising funds and awareness for Mother of Light Center in Alexandria, VA who seeks to provide medical aid, shelter, and hope to those in need. Whether participating as a cyclist, donor, or volunteer, every contribution fuels the Order's mission of defending the faith and serving the vulnerable. Join us in riding with purpose, compassion, and mercy! Scan the code below for more information or email Beth Shaw (candidate) at mercyrideinfo@gmail.com

Finding Jesus with St. Therese of Lisieux Women's Retreat

Join Fr. John Riley at the San Damiano Retreat Center in White Post, VA in silence and solitude to learn about this great Saint. This retreat begins at 6 pm Friday June 13th and concludes Sunday June 15th at noon. Retreat cost is \$285. For further information, please contact Father John Riley at: john.riley@arlingtondiocese.org For more information about San Damiano and retreats being offered in the months ahead, please visit www.arlingtondiocese.org/retreat

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

In 2024 abortion remained the top cause of death globally, surpassing the combined totals of fatalities from cancer, HIV/AIDS, traffic accidents and suicide. An estimated 45.1 million unborn children lost their lives to abortion that year. This figure represents 42% of all human deaths worldwide in 2024. *Society for the Protection of Unborn Children printed by NRL*

Be not complacent! Stay informed! Silence implies consent. 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 members of 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 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.

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

Tepeyac Pro Life OB/GYN: Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare. tepeyacobgyn.com 703-273-9440. The center strives to be an instrument of the healing power of God's mercy and love, to nurture a deeper respect for all human life. **Thank you for your referrals and your support.**

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 30th: 6:30am LAST Friday Mass & Breakfast

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. This will be our **last Friday morning gathering for this school year.**

May 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!

June 23-June 27

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

Rising 9th Graders through 2025 High School Graduates
are invited to participate!

Each day will have a mix of 1-3 events (faith, fun or service). Some of the events currently in the works include a talk by Fr. Gregory Pine, O.P. at the Dominican House of Studies, a visit to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, a service project for Mary's Shelter in Fredericksburg, a few other service projects around the area, White water rafting in Ohiopyle, PA, and the unique opportunity to participate in the FBI Experience Tour in DC! **Compliant adults will be needed for all events!**

You do **not** have to commit to the full week, but you must commit to attend for the duration of ALL events for whichever day(s) you choose to participate in.

Registration will be available soon!

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

Attention Class of 2025! The Associates of Saint John Bosco (ASJB), a Catholic nonprofit in Northern Virginia, will host five free **College Nights** this summer for graduated seniors heading to college in the fall. One of these nights will take place at the **Basilica of Saint Mary Lyceum** (313 Duke Street) at **7pm on July 22**. These events help rising college freshmen network with other Catholics heading to college, and give them the tools to navigate the transition from high school to college, keeping their Catholic faith strong. Students walk away with a free bundle of Catholic books called the "Bosco Bundle" to take to college to help deepen their faith while away at school. The events come with a pizza dinner, too. Registration is FREE! For additional dates, locations and information, go to: www.asjb.org/student-registration

College Students & Graduating High School Seniors:

The George Mason University Catholic Campus Ministry is hosting Thursday Night Gatherings from 7-9pm every Thursday in June and July for college students and graduating high school seniors in the area at St. Robert Bellarmine Chapel, 4515 Roberts Rd., Fairfax.

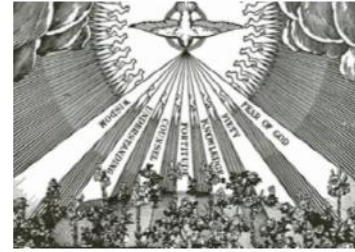
Jeanne Sause

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



CONGRATULATIONS to the 45 young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday May 19th!!! Energized by the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, go out into the world and bring love and TRUTH to everyone you meet!

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 (with payment) as soon as possible.

Volunteers needed for 2025-26 academic year. Please consider volunteering as a catechist, assistant, or substitute in September. Contact the RE office if you are interested in getting involved! Specific openings so far:

Sunday (5-6:30 pm):

2nd grade Teacher

3rd grade Teacher and Assistant

7th grade Assistant

Monday (4:45-6:15 pm):

3rd grade Assistant

7th grade Assistant

8th grade Assistant

Are you suffering after the loss of a child? Please join us for a Morning of Reflection for Parents and Grandparents who have lost children and grandchildren. The gathering will be held at St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church on Saturday May 31st beginning with 9:15 parish Mass. It will feature talks by Deacon Dave Maurer of St. Mary of Sorrows in Fairfax and Betsy Leon, national speaker and author. There will be time for sharing with others. Coffee and pastries will be provided. The event is free but to register and learn more visit: arlingtondiocese.org/parentsmass. For questions call the Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life at 703-841-2550



FOR SENIORS

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

In the May 2025 issue of *Columbia* magazine of the Knights of Columbus, there is a great humanitarian story about the Knights assisting catechists in Nigeria. This column has spoken about the persecution of Catholics in Nigeria by Boko Haram and other radical Islamists in recent years. The truth? Rather than steering the population away of the faith, the persecutions are bringing people closer to it. That is where the Knights step in.

In 2014, they established the Christian Refugee Relief Fund providing humanitarian aid through local churches after being targeted for genocide in the Mideast. In 2017, the Knights established the Nineveh Reconstruction Project, to help rebuild the Catholic community in Ninevah allowing hundreds of Iraqi Christian families to return to their homes after fleeing persecution. Now they are assisting the Church in Nigeria.

Stephen Rasche, a DC attorney who assists in coordinating the Order's aid to the Christians in Nigeria put it this way, "It's one thing to baptize and confirm. It's another thing to properly catechize the youngsters and [converts] so that they have a firm foundation in the Church." With his assistance, the Knights are establishing the Catechetical Institute of Nigeria, located in the capital city of Abuja. Its goal is "to form and educate catechists to minister in each of the country's 60 dioceses." The first phase of the goal is to fund six catechists to run the institute and pursue graduate studies at Franciscan University at Steubenville. Next year four more will arrive.

As one priest in Nigeria said, "The people are yearning to hear the Word of God. The faith is booming; the people are willing. And yet, we are still looking for people who are educated to know and disseminate the faith." The Knights are to be commended for directly supporting the persecuted Christians in Nigeria.

Next week, more about the work of the Knights in Nigeria.



Our Lady of Ransom Scholarships to Catholic Schools are Available.

Please send requests for 2025-26 tuition assistance to Fr. De Celles or contact the parish office for more information. We can also help cover homeschooling expenses.



Get In-Formed!

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

Formed.org continues to add NEW and engaging content for all ages to its library of multimedia resources. Check out some of the most recent additions:

Watch The Wisdom of C.S. Lewis. Ave Maria University theology professor Dr. Michael Dauphinais offers this 6-episode series exploring C.S. Lewis' pursuit of Truth and his subsequent conversion to Christianity as his quest for understanding persisted.



Watch The Boy from Milan: Stories of Carlo Acutis. Learn about this modern day, soon-to-be saint through stories of those who actually knew him and witnessed his choice to pursue holiness each day.

Available for FREE! To set up an account, visit Formed.org/signup and select our parish.



Angelus Academy

Where the truth of Catholic teaching takes flesh in the lives of Pre-K - 8th graders and their families.

There are limited spots available in some grades for the 2024-25 school year, but spaces are going fast!

Apply soon!

AngelusAcademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/

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

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

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

Angelus Academy is seeking a new **Head of School**. The Head of School, working closely with the Director of School Mission, will embody, manifest, and advocate the mission, vision, and culture of the school, as articulated in Angelus Academy's mission statement. The Head of School will be tasked with establishing a rapport with the community, strengthening faculty culture and professional development, and advancing the mission of Catholic classical education. For a full job description or to apply, please email Hannah Brink at board@angelusacademy.org.

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>



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.

**Next Week's Collection is for
The Catholic Communication Campaign
SUNDAY OFFERTORY 05/18/2025**

Offertory	\$ 15,113.50
Family Assistance	\$ 435.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,530.00
OLOR Scholarship	\$ 305.00
Diocesan Retired Priests	\$ 3,576.00



Diocesan is proud to be printing

St. Raymond of Peñafort's Sunday Bulletin

You are invited to help support our Parish!

For opportunities to advertise, please contact
Lisa Sparkman at 717-507-3766 or lsparkman@diocesan.com



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