



JESUS WAS TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN

***"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
Macrose 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

The Ascension of the Lord. Although the feast of the Ascension is traditionally celebrated as a Holy Day of Obligation on Thursday, i.e., 40 days after Easter Sunday as the Gospels record, many Dioceses, including our own, move it to Sunday so that all Catholics are better able to easily to celebrate this very important feast.

And this *is* a very important feast, in as much as it celebrates the fact that **Jesus ascended, body and soul, into heaven, and now dwells in heaven as a bodily person.** This reminds us that God the Son came into the world “like us in all things but sin” --of the reality of His bodily incarnation, birth, death and resurrection--and redeemed us entirely, body and soul. Moreover, it is a pledge to us of the resurrection of our bodies on the last day, and the transformation of the physical world into a glorious, “new heavens and a new earth.”

This in turn leads us to remember the dignity of the human body: your body is part of who you are, it is “you” as much as your soul is “you.” Your body is you speaking and communicating yourself to other bodily persons. As such, the body itself has meaning and speaks to others of this meaning. This is an important truth to keep in mind these days, as many try to degrade the body and treat it as an accidental part of who we are. They say the body and bodily acts mean nothing but what you want them to mean, and so you can ignore the basic truths that a person’s body tells us about them. This has become a key argument for those who advocate and promote all sorts of mental/emotional/behavioral problems, including pornography, homosexuality, “transgenderism” and “transsexualism.”

But that is contrary to common sense, the natural law (the way things clearly are designed to be) and divine revelation. And it is totally opposed to the dignity of the human body, which is so beautifully revealed to us in the mystery of the Ascension of the Lord: that the body communicates who we are and is so wonderful—so meaningful—that it is created to live in glory forever in heaven.

Novena to the Holy Spirit. 2000 years ago the Lord ascended into heaven on a Thursday, so that immediately after that first Ascension Thursday the apostles and the other disciples, with the Blessed Mother, began to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised. For nine days they prayed, and on the tenth day, Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Spirit descend on them in a dramatic display of divine power. Those nine days of prayer are the origin of the pious Catholic custom praying of **novenas** (from “novem,” Latin for “nine”) for particular intentions.

The celebration of Ascension on Sunday complicates the idea of a “Pentecost Novena.” Even so, I invite you to join me in praying (privately, or with your families) a slightly shortened novena to the Holy Spirit. There are many different forms of praying Pentecost novenas, but a very simple one is to simply pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit every day:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and kindle in them the fire of Thy love. Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created. And Thou shall renew the face of the earth.

(Let us pray) Oh God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of Thy faithful. Grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise, and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen

CCD Summer Break. Religious Education (CCD) for our kids in grade school and high school is over for this year. Thanks be to God for another successful year!

And thanks to all the kids for coming and studying. I hope you learned more about your faith, and grew in your understanding of and love for Jesus and His Church. Thanks also to the parents for your cooperation with us, and allowing us to help you as primary educators of your children.

And thanks to the teachers and their assistants in CCD. What would we—the whole parish—do without you.

And finally, thanks to **Virginia Osella**, who concludes her first year as our Director of Religious Education. She has done a wonderful job, and I couldn’t be prouder of her. And to **Mary Hansen**, her Assistant, who helped her learn the ropes and made sure the trains ran on time. They both work extremely hard to make our program the best in the Diocese.

Graduating High School Seniors. Over the next few weeks many of our young men and women will be graduating from high school--congratulations. But this is not merely an ending, but a “commencement,” a new beginning of a new stage of life. So, as your spiritual father, may I pass on some words of wisdom?

“What will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life?” (Matthew 16:26).

“When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways” (1 Cor. 13:11).

“So Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink’ (John 6: 53-55).

“And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (Matthew 22: 37-40)

“Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate.” (Matthew 19: 4-6).

“Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life” (Luke 18: 29-30).

“One came up to him, saying, ‘Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?’ And he said to him, ‘If you would enter life, keep the commandments.’...” (Matthew 19: 16-19).

“With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.” (Mark 10:27)

And finally: *“...He said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son!’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother!’” (John 19: 26-27).*

FORMED.ORG Coordinator. Many thanks to Vanessa Oswald for promoting and coordinating the parish FORMED.ORG account and activities for the last few years. Unfortunately, she needs to step down now and I need a volunteer to take her place. If you are interested please contact me.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, June 2nd

6:30 am Nancy Christman +
 8:30 am Samuel Drouillard

Tuesday, June 3rd

6:30 am George & Suzanne
 Thebolt +
 8:30 am Fr. Larry Kutz +

Wednesday, June 4th

6:30 am Bill Laird Family
 8:30 am George & Suzanne
 Thebolt +

Thursday, June 5th

6:30 am George & Suzanne
 Thebolt +
 8:30 am Maria Guzman +

Friday, June 6th

6:30 am Joseph & Emily
 Knecht
 8:30 am Forgotten Souls +

Saturday, June 7th

9:00 am Maria Cecilia
 Cougher

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles
 Eduardo Visaya +

Sunday, June 8th

7:00 am Fr. Bergida
 Meredith Hoopes
 9:00 am Fr. De Celles
 Parishioners
 11:00 am Msgr. Rippy
 RE Students & Families

1:00 pm Fr. Horkan

Robert Calogero +

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 Margaret M. Hill Bill Roche Florence Miller Robert Petitti Richard Buettner
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- June 1 Donut Sunday Today! After 7am, 9am and 11am Masses Hosted by K of C**
- June 2 Family of Jesus Prayer Group**
- June 3 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm Maurer Room**
- June 3 Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library**
- June 4 Adoration 9am-7pm**
- June 5 Bridge Club**
- June 6 First Friday Nocturnal Adoration Fri. 9am- Sat. 9am**
- June 6 Book Club Meeting & Brunch, Parish Hall 9:30-noon**
- June 7 K of C Shredding Event 10am-Noon**
- June 7 First Saturday Communal Devotions after 9am Mass**
- June 7 Men's Prayer Group 7 am**

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.

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.

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.

First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary: We invite you to join for Communal First Saturday Devotions on **June 6th.** Immediately following 9am Mass, we pray the Holy Rosary in the Church; and then we proceed to the PARISH HALL for Fatima prayers & a special meditation on the mysteries, with the intention of consoling our Blessed Mother in reparation and conversion of poor sinners. Concludes by 10:30am. Please join us!

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.



10 of 12 FUN FACTS ABOUT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (Alyssa Murphy (Oct. 9, 2020) from the National Catholic Register).

More charity: "The Knights of Columbus offer several unique charities including the Christian Refugee Relief Fund, Disaster Relief, Ultrasound Initiative and Coats for Kids." The Knights' charitable work continued throughout the coronavirus pandemic. **MULTIPLY YOUR IMPACT BY JOINING 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 Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30am – Parish Hall)
- 6/7 Shredding for Vocations (9:30am - Parking Lot)
- 6/7-8 KOVAR Collections (Saratoga Giant)
- 6/9 Monthly Membership Meeting

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!

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

Following St. Joseph to Jesus – Men's Silent Retreat

He played an essential role in the greatest event in human history; husband to Mary, adopted Father of Jesus Christ, a quiet carpenter... and a righteous man. Aside from these things we don't know much about St. Joseph — but what we do know can help us to be better Men...husbands, and fathers. Join Fr. John Riley at our Arlington Diocese Retreat Center at the edge of the Shenandoah Mountains in White Post, VA to "rest and pray" with Christ. This retreat begins at 6 pm Friday July 11th and concludes Sunday July 13th with lunch 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

TRAGICALLY VIRGINIA IS BECOMING A DESTINATION FOR ABORTION.

Save the date. Saturday 12 JULY. A new abortion facility has opened near Tysons Corner - a location (close to Dulles and the metro) specifically chosen to 'serve' out-of-staters where abortion is restricted. The abortionist moved here from TX after they enacted pro-life legislation. Join Bishop Burbidge for 8:30 am Mass immediately followed by the Rosary on the public sidewalk in front of the new facility at 1949 Old Meadow Road, McLean. The facility will not be open for business that day.

Be not complacent! Stay informed!

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.

Silence implies consent. Make your voice heard!

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. Yet how much more they offend Almighty God! As June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we suffer anew the reality that every abortion stops a beating heart which was created to love Our Lord. Every abortion also deforms the abortionist and desensitizes him or her to the humanity of both the mother and child violated through abortion. **Pray fervently for the conversion of abortionists.** Somehow most have been led astray by greed, ignorance, a misguided sense of compassion or perhaps evil itself. Yet the Sacred Heart of Jesus beats for love of them too.

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>



Friday, June 6: 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! We will meet every Friday in June *except June 27th*.

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.

Take note of the following dates. More coming soon!

*Monday 6/23: Fr. Gregory Pine & a DC Pilgrimage

*Friday 6/27: White water rafting will be 7:45am-11pm

Compliant adult chaperones/drivers needed!

Contact Jeanne ASAP if you can help, especially rafting on 6/27!

Registration will be available soon!

Attention Class of 2025! The Associates of Saint John Bosco (ASJB), 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 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, 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 at 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

Don't forget to register for 2025-26 CCD classes! Did you know that students who attend Catholic School or are homeschooling are more than welcome to attend CCD classes at St. Raymond's? All high school students of the parish are particularly encouraged to take advantage of our fantastic teachers –and no tests! Give us a call for more information.

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

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://prometours.com/arlingtoncatechists/>

June 1, 2025 The Ascension of the Lord "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (REVELATIONS 22:13) This is a reminder of how we should live our lives 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – putting God first in all that we do. Not only when I am at Mass and parish activities, but when I am in the world, at work, or at school. Living gratefully and generously is an intentional lifestyle. Every decision you make either moves you closer to God or farther away. Choose wisely!



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.



all proceeds benefit
Mother of Light Center

Order of Malta sponsored
MercyRide 2025
September 13 7:00am

Mount Vernon Trail 6. 20. 30 mi
Beth Shaw: mercyrideinfo@gmail.com

CHURCH PERSECUTED

Last week we began highlighting the work of the Knights of Columbus (see *Columbia* magazine, May 2025) assisting the bishops of Nigeria by funding a program bringing catechists to Franciscan University of Steubenville. These catechists will now be able to bring the faith alive in a country where Christians are killed for their faith.

The catechists are trained in the United States because catechists, in particular, are being targeted by the Boko Haram and other radical Islamic groups. One of those studying at Franciscan University said, "...even though he and his conferees acknowledge that their catechetical training could ultimately lead to their deaths[,]... Christ is the only reason we need." "He was persecuted and he died, but he rose. We believe that whoever sacrifices his life could cause many to convert back to Christ. So, like St. Paul, if we die, we die in Christ."

The Knights did not stop there. They partnered with the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation to deliver and distribute nearly 100 wheelchairs to those in need at three locations in Nigeria. Most of the patients, being treated for leprosy and tuberculosis and victims of the Christian-directed violence, either could not afford a wheelchair or were unable to obtain the medical treatment. Most of the patients were from rural areas.

In the Acts of the Apostles (5:34-42), Gamaliel, a Pharisee teacher of the law in the Sanhedrin, warned his fellow Pharisees to beware of Peter and the Apostles. "Fellow children of Israel, be careful what you are about to do to these men....For if this endeavor or this activity is of human origin, it will destroy itself. But if it comes from God, you will not be able to destroy them; you may even find yourselves fighting against God."



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

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>

FORMED

Get In-Formed!

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

Summer with the Saints: Sign up for 12 weeks of faith-filled videos and family-friendly activities, delivered weekly to your inbox, starting June 1st.

Watch: Saint Boniface Known as the "Apostle to Germany" the bishop and martyr St. Boniface worked tirelessly to renew the Church in Germany. Although his efforts ultimately bore great fruit and helped to recenter the faith on the Germans, St. Boniface often felt like a failure in his missionary work.

For Kids: The Saints: Our Heavenly Friends Join Brother Francs as he introduces children to their heavenly friends, the saints! Learn about the wonderful comfort, encouragement, and help given through those who serve God in His Heavenly Kingdom.



Available for FREE! To set up an account, visit [Formed.org](https://www.Formed.org)/signup and select our parish.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO VANESSA OSWALD FOR LEADING THE FORMED INITIATIVE FOR THE LAST 2+ YEARS!
We are now actively accepting a leader/volunteer to take over this very important ministry, Contact the Parish office if interested 703-440-0535 or office@straymonds.org

Qualified Charitable Distributions

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