

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



## ***Welcome to St. Raymond of Peñafort Roman Catholic Church***

**8750 Pohick Road  
Springfield, VA 22153**

**WEEKEND MASSES:**  
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm  
Sunday: 7:00 am, 9:00 am (Latin-  
English), 11:00 am and 1:00 pm

**WEEKDAY MASSES:**  
Monday - Friday:  
6:30 am & 8:30 am  
7:00 pm on Wednesdays  
Saturday: 9:00 am

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

Rev. John C. De Celles, Pastor  
Rev. Joseph D. Bergida, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Edward R. Horkan, In Residence  
Elisabeth Turco, Director of Liturgical Music  
Jeanne Sause, Director of Youth Apostolate  
Virginia Osella, Director of Religious Education  
Mary Hansen, Religious Education Secretary  
Michael Thompson, Plant Manager  
Maerose Naduvilekunnel, Business Manager  
Elizabeth Frazee, Secretary  
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](mailto:Office@straymonds.org)  
Pastor: [fdc@straymonds.org](mailto:fdc@straymonds.org)  
Rel. Ed.: [ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org](mailto:ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org)

**TUITION ASSISTANCE:** Please inquire with our office about the availability of partial scholarships for the 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](mailto:bulletin@straymonds.org) 10 days prior to publication date.

## Pastor's Corner

**PRUDENTIAL JUDGMENT.** The Lord Jesus Christ has blessed His Catholic Church with the fullness of His Divine Revelation, coming to us in both Sacred Scriptures and Sacred Tradition, and handed down to us especially through the ministry of his apostles and their successors, the popes and bishops, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, under that same guidance over the last 2000 years the Church has gained an ever-deepening understanding of that Revelation, so that today we possess a vast treasury of Catholic doctrine(s) teaching us how to follow Christ.

Even so, applying that treasury of doctrine to the choices of everyday life is not so easy. For example, there is no specific doctrine that tells you what particular clothes you should wear today, or the name of the person you should marry.

But Catholic doctrine does give us basic criteria for making those choices. And the same Holy Spirit who guides the whole Church also guides the life of every Christian. And on top of that, every human being has the gift of reason, the ability to rationally figure things out.

So when we face the choices of life—big and small—as Catholics we take all that treasury of doctrine(s) and compare those to the facts at hand, and then use reason and the grace of the Holy Spirit to make the very best judgment, or choice, we can. This process is called “following our conscience,” and this choice we make is called a “prudential judgment.”

But the problem is, there are a lot of variables here: Do we know what the Church teaches on a particular issue? Do we know all the facts, and see them clearly? Are we reasoning well? Sometimes we're less logical or more emotional than we should be. And then sometimes we fail to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us.

Because of that, different people—even truly good Catholics—can often reach different conclusions about the same particular choices. Let's consider 2 different situations that came up last week that involve prudential judgments where good Catholics are free to disagree with each other.

**Bombing Iran.** The first situation is President Trump's decision to bomb the nuclear development sites in Iran last Sunday.

Most in the West seem to approve of the bombing, even many of Trump's harshest critics from both political parties. But many also disapprove, for various reasons: some are concerned about getting into another “never ending war;” some are (quasi) isolationists; some think there were still diplomatic possibilities; some deny Iran was developing a bomb, some are radical Islamists, and some have other reasons.

But some, particularly some Catholics, argue that this attack does not meet the requirements of a “just war.” Over the centuries the Church has developed some practical criteria for judging whether particular wars are just, i.e., moral or immoral. Perhaps I will present a lengthier discussion of these requirements in column someday, but the main criteria that critics are citing in this case in Iran is the requirement that all peaceful alternatives must be exhausted before going to war: i.e., the “last resort” criteria. The thing about this is that this criterion, as with most of the just war criteria, is subject to the *prudential judgment* of the “legitimate authority,” in this case, President Trump. (That's another of the criteria: only the “legitimate authority” can make the decision).

In my humble prudential judgment, taking into account the facts I know, the teaching of the Church and right reason, this bombing does meet the criteria of a just war, at least to the

extent that I can defer to the President, since he is the only one who, besides knowing more facts than I do, is responsible for making the decision. Of course, we can disagree, but unless the facts are objectively clearly in our favor, we cannot condemn the decision of the “legitimate authority.”

**Illegal Immigration Enforcement.** Last week two stories were in the news in which Catholic clergy expressed opposition to President Trump's efforts to enforce the laws against illegal immigration, specifically his “mass deportation” of illegal aliens.

The first was the case in San Diego where two bishops and a dozen priests showed up at a deportation court hearing to support the illegal immigrants. Our Sunday Visitor reported that the priest leading the group said, “So the good news is while we were there, no one got detained or deported.”

The other case was a letter issued by Archbishop Timothy Broglio, the President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), in which he stated, in part:

*“Law enforcement actions aimed at preserving order and ensuring community security are necessary for the common good. However, the current efforts go well beyond those with criminal histories. In the context of a gravely deficient immigration system, the mass arrest and removal of our neighbors, friends and family members on the basis of immigration status alone, particularly in ways that are arbitrary or without due process, represent a profound social crisis before which no person of good will can remain silent....”*

*“The chronic lack of opportunities for legal status for our immigrant brothers and sisters, together with the growing denial of due process to them, is injurious to human dignity and is a considerable factor in the breakdown of the rule of law. Likewise, unfounded accusations against Catholic service providers, who every day endeavor to provide critical support and care to the most vulnerable, contribute to societal tensions and a growing climate of fear.”*

*“On behalf of my brother bishops, I want to assure all of those affected by actions which tear at the fabric of our communities of the solidarity of your pastors. As your shepherds, your fear echoes in our hearts and we make your pain our own. Count on the commitment of all of us to stand with you in this challenging hour.”*

Now, in both of these cases Bishops and priests seem to be siding with illegal immigrants, and against law enforcement. But we can readily see the prudential judgment is involved here; for example, the Archbishop seems not to give much importance to the negative effect of illegal immigration on the rest of the “community,” specifically legal immigrants and citizens. So that these Bishops and priests, even the President of the USCCB, are merely expressing their prudential judgment.

They may be right, but you can make a different prudential judgment. You might judge that the current law enforcement efforts seem just and necessary, or at least that you are willing to defer to the “legitimate authority,” i.e., the President and federal officials.

The point is we have freedom here to disagree. But, we must always take all that treasury of doctrine(s) and compare those to the facts at hand, and then use reason and the grace of the Holy Spirit to make the very best judgment, or choice, we can.

**CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION.** Thanks to all who attended and helped make last week's Procession and “social” a blessed event. Most especially, thanks to the choir, the servers, and all those who arranged for the ice-cream.

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*



**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, June 30th**

6:30 am Catherine Scully +  
 8:30 am Bob Ferguson +

**Tuesday, July 1st**

6:30 am Marc & Luce  
 Brousseau  
 8:30 am Archbishop Salvatore  
 Cordileone

**Wednesday, July 2nd**

6:30 am Michael & Tess  
 Troup  
 8:30 am Rico Robles +

**Thursday, July 3rd**

6:30 am Anna Avvenire +  
 8:30 am Bill Pence +

**Friday, July 4th**

10:00 am For Our Beloved  
 Country

**Saturday, July 5th**

9:00 am Nancy Christman +

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**  
 Jean & Joe + Keegan

**Sunday, July 6th**

7:00 am **Msgr. Rippy**  
 Andrew Troup

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

11:00 am **Fr. Horkan**  
 RE Catechists

1:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**  
 Gregorio & Joselito  
 Calayag +

**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 Kathleen McGovern  
 Peter Lawton**

**Please pray for the sick of our parish**

Glenn Bliss	Gaudencio Dizon	Helen Estabrooks
Tom Dietz	Paul Haynes	Annette Haynes
Michael O'Neill	Nena Brennan	Beth Fitzgibbons
Cindy Laird	Serrin Foster	Jean Keegan
Patricia Lewis	Donald Trayer	Margaret M. Hill
Mai Pham	Ellen Trayer	Bill Roche
Jason Saenz	Arlene Pietraszko	Florence Miller
Phyllis Zitnik	Virginia Cummings	Robert Petitti
John Florio	Mary M. Dixon	Richard Buettner
Carolina Baker	Edward J. Susank	Joann Alba
Debra Henkel	Helen Zogaib	Denise Hunnell

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

<b>June 30</b>	<b>Family of Jesus Prayer Group</b>
<b>July 1</b>	<b>Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm Maurer Room</b>
<b>July 1</b>	<b>Legion of Mary 6:30pm—Maurer Room</b>
<b>July 2</b>	<b>Adoration 9am-7pm</b>
<b>July 3</b>	<b>Bridge Club</b>
<b>July 4</b>	<b>Independence Day—One Mass at 10 am</b>
	<b>No Adoration</b>
	<b>Daily Family Rosary at 10:45 am</b>
	<b>Parish Offices Closed</b>
<b>July 5</b>	<b>Communal First Saturday Devotions</b>
<b>July 5</b>	<b>Men's Prayer Group</b>

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

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

**Monday - Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am**

**Saturday at 9:00 am**

**Sunday Mass at 9:00 am & 11:00 am**

**(See the website for Holy Days)**

**Daily Family Rosary leaders needed!** St. Raymond's has a Daily Family Rosary in the church: Mon-Fri at 6:30pm and Saturday and Sunday after the 9am Mass. **Please visit our website to sign up to lead during June and July!** 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 Maurer Room. All auxiliary members and anyone interested in joining the Legion of Mary are welcome! Point of Contact: Judy Mayer, [jmayer9014@aol.com](mailto:jmayer9014@aol.com), or 703-627-7320.

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

**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 July 5th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email [maryndavew7705@gmail.com](mailto:maryndavew7705@gmail.com).

***PARISH PICNIC—please mark your calendars!***

***Sunday, August 24th from 2pm-5pm***

**FRIDAY ADORERS URGENTLY NEEDED—** Friday Adorers needed at all time slots between 9am and 12pm. 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.

**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY! ONE MASS AT 10AM. HAVE A SAFE AND BLESSED 4TH OF JULY!**



**First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary:** We invite you to join for Communal First Saturday Devotions on **July 5th**. 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!

**Summer Library Extended Hours and Reading Program.** Come visit the parish Library! There's something for everyone! Saturdays 1-5. Sundays 10-2. Thursday 3 July 9:30-11:30. Fridays June 13, July 11, 25 and August 1 from 9:30-11:30. Sign Up Sheets for the **15th Annual Pre-K - Grade 8 Summer Reading Program** are available in the narthex, library, parish office and website! *"You will not find anyone who is truly striving after his spiritual advancement who is not given to spiritual reading."* St Athanasius



Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the St. John Bosco Council #12846 for Fraternal Year 2025-2026 (1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026). The Installation Ceremony will occur on Saturday, 28 June in the Parish Hall following the 5:00 PM Mass (approximately 6:15 pm):

Grand Knight: Mark Lawton  
Deputy Grand Knight: Dave Hayes  
Chancellor: Gopal Sharma  
Financial Secretary: Mark Menotti  
Warden: Vince Drouillard  
Asst Warden: Sam Drouillard  
Recorder: Ron Fauquet  
Backup Recorder: Kenny Lawhorn  
Treasurer: Bill Vitaletti  
Trustee: Steve Delaney  
Trustee: Barry Ryan

Advocate: Mike Miller  
Inside Guard: Mike Avis  
Outside Guard: Don Hale  
Life Program Lead: John Crennan  
Faith Program Lead: Larry Saenz  
Community Program Lead: Kenny Lawhorn  
Family Program Lead: Barry Ryan

If you are a Knight, please come to the next Membership Meeting on Monday, 14 July at 7:30 PM and be a part of the next Fraternal Year from the very start. If you are not a Knight and want to learn more about our Council, please call the Grand Knight, Mark Lawton, at (703) 576-7693.



**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!

#### 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](mailto:john.riley@arlingtondiocese.org) For more information about San Damiano and retreats being offered in the months ahead, please visit [www.arlingtondiocese.org/retreat](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/retreat).

**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/>

**FAITH DIRECT:** eGiving helps you provide regular support to St. Raymond's, even when you are out of town. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Sign up today by visiting [faith.direct/VA64](http://faith.direct/VA64). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

### **SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE TRAGICALLY, VIRGINIA IS BECOMING AN ABORTION DESTINATION.**

**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 at St John the Beloved in McLean immediately followed by the Rosary on the public sidewalk in front of 'Meadow Reproductive Health and Wellness' at 1749 Old Meadow Road, McLean. The facility will not be open for business that day, but the spiritual battle rages on every day.

#### **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.**

Both chambers of the VA 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](http://marih.org). There is a great need for diapers, formula, wipes, clothes up to 2T. **Please do not leave bouncy seats, walkers, gates or jogging strollers. Thank you for your understanding.**

#### **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](http://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](http://abortionpillreversal.com).**

Do you need a personal consultation on real-life (not hypothetical) medical or legal decisions? The **National Catholic Bioethics Center** has the training, expertise, and magisterial fidelity to help you form your conscience with trustworthy resources and confidential, person-to-person interaction. Please visit to [www.ncbcenter.org/consultation-form](http://www.ncbcenter.org/consultation-form) An ethicist will generally respond within 5 business days. Need an answer sooner? Please call us (24/7) at 215-877-2660.

**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>



### Wednesday, July 2: Steubenville Mtg. (6-7:30pm Parish Hall)

All teens & chaperones attending the Steubenville Youth Conference are meeting in the parish hall to discuss expectations, what to pack, and have a chance to meet everyone else going. Please plan on attending.

### Friday, July 18: High School Bible Study (7-8pm Library)

High School is on a small break due to Faith Fun & Service week on 6/27, Independence Day on 7/4 and Steubenville on 7/11. Our weekly Friday night Bible Study will resume July 18.

**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](http://www.asjb.org/student-registration)

### Thursday Night Hangouts for 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.

*Due to the bulletin deadline I am writing this just prior to the start of our week of Faith, Fun & Service...but already I want to thank all those who have helped out with all of the planning and logistics ahead of time. As it turns out, the week ended up being a lot trickier to plan than I had anticipated, (in a large part due to the unexpected heat wave that complicated things quite a bit). There is no way I could have pulled it off without your help. A special thank you to the Hansen Family who went above and beyond in giving of your time. Thank you all!*

### Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

I found a place to live! Thank you for all who have been praying for me, looking out for me, and given me leads. I am so blessed and am very much looking forward to living *much* closer to work again!

**Jeanne Sause**

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

[youth@straymonds.org](mailto:youth@straymonds.org) Call/Text: 571-334-9890

Email Jeanne to be added to the weekly email list for the most updated info on Youth Apostolate news & upcoming events!

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Parents: Please register for 2025-26 CCD classes! Registrations received after July 31 will be subject to a \$25 late fee. **All Catholic School and homeschool students intending to receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation at St. Raymond's must register with the RE office for 2nd, 7th, and 8th grade, even if they will not attend classes.** All high school students of the parish are particularly encouraged to take advantage of our fantastic teachers –and no tests! Please reach out with any questions.

Please consider joining our wonderful team of teachers. We are in need of the following volunteers for the 2025-2026 academic year:

### Sunday (5-6:30 pm):

**3rd grade Teacher**  
**7th grade Teacher**

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

**1st grade Assistant**  
**3rd grade Assistant**  
**7th grade Assistant**  
**8th grade Assistant**

**Chesterton Academy of Christ the King** will be opening in the Fall of 2026, hopefully at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Alexandria. The more than 70 Chesterton Academies nationwide are known for their strong spiritual formation anchored in daily Mass as well as their rigorous, integrated classical curriculum oriented toward the good, the true, and the beautiful. Chesterton high schools form joyful, faithful, curious, articulate, and resilient young men and women prepared for college and for life. Parent information sessions will be held throughout the summer. Visit [Chesterton-ChristTheKing.org](http://Chesterton-ChristTheKing.org) to learn more, [connect with us here](#), or [register to attend an upcoming information session](#) (July 16).

**Saint Raymond's Art Camp 2025** Join us for the first Saint Raymond's Art Camp 2025 held in the parish hall from nine to noon July 14-17. To find out more information scan this QR code. This camp is for rising 1st through 12th grade students.



The Office of Victim Assistance has scheduled **Pilgrimage of Hope Masses** throughout the Diocese for those who are suffering. All are welcome to join in prayer for those in need at St. Paul Mission, Hague on Friday, June 27th at 8:30 am and at the Basilica of St. Mary, Alexandria on Saturday, July 19th, at 8:30 am. Reception to follow/fellowship and refreshments following Mass. See the flyer in the Narthex for the complete list of Masses scheduled through late October.

**Mothers' Group:** Are you looking for Catholic friendship with fellow mothers? Come to the moms' meet-up on Wednesday mornings! We alternate between meeting at our church and parks. Email Michelle for more information at [mlcastry@gmail.com](mailto:mlcastry@gmail.com).



### **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.

**CHURCH PERSECUTED**

Earlier this year, President Trump created the Religious Liberty Commission which held its first hearing recently. One of the more eloquent speakers was commission member Bishop Robert Barron, bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Minn. and founder of Word on Fire.

Bishop Barron's comments focused on a famous homily given by the then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger in April 2005 prior to his being elected pope. In this homily Ratzinger warned against the "dictatorship of relativism."

"The small boat of the thought of many Christians has often been tossed about... flung from one extreme to another: from Marxism to liberalism...; from collectivism to radical individualism; from atheism to a vague religious mysticism; from agnosticism to syncretism and so forth....

"Today, having a clear faith based on the Creed of the Church is often labeled as fundamentalism. Whereas relativism, that is, letting oneself be 'tossed here and there, carried about by every wind of doctrine', seems the only attitude that can cope with modern times. We are building a dictatorship of relativism that does not recognize anything as definitive and whose ultimate goal consists solely of one's own ego and desires.

"We, however, have a different goal: the Son of God, the true man."

Barron warned that this "dictatorship of relativism" is "the culture of self-invention: the complete prioritization given to individual autonomy; that we decide value, that we decide meaning, that we decide purpose." He warns that this philosophy, "rightly appreciates the classical religious as the chief opponent." This in turn causes these tensions that "arise from religious views that stand for objective moral values grounded on God and a stable human nature." This dictatorship of relativism seeks "to push faith out of sectors of public life, such as in education and health care."

Barron continues, "[T]his is something that's obviously opposed to religion, but also opposed to the best instincts of our own First Amendment."

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/264811/bishop-robert-barron-at-religious-liberty-hearing-warns-of-dictatorship-of-relativism>  
<https://catholicvote.org/trumps-religious-liberty-commission-tackles-silencing-faith-in-public-square-first-hearing/>

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**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: St. Peter** Tells the epic story about the key event in European and world history: the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire, focusing on the leader of that new religion.

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**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://AngelusAcademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/)

Call or Email Julie Maimone, Director of Admissions, at [Admissions@angelusacademy.org](mailto: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](https://www.AngelusAcademy.org) 703-924-3996  
7644 Dynatech Ct., Springfield, VA 22153

**Angelus Academy, Where the Truth of Catholic teaching takes flesh in the lives of 3 year-old to 8th grade children and their families.**

We love having St. Raymond parishioners at our school. What a blessing it is to be learning together! We are continuing to accept applications for the 2025-26 school year as space permits. Spots are filling up fast--apply soon! [angelusacademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/](https://angelusacademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/). Angelus Academy is celebrating its 25th anniversary this fall. We'd love to have you be a part of our celebrations! Call or email Julie Maimone, Director of Admissions, for more information or to schedule a tour this summer: [admissions@angelusacademy.org](mailto:admissions@angelusacademy.org) or 703.924.3996 x187644 Dynatech Ct. Springfield, VA 22153

**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>

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**QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD)** If you are 70-1/2 or more, please consider making an IRA Charitable gift to the parish before December 31. If you are 73 or older and need to make required minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA, your QCD counts toward your annual RMD for the year. **QCDs can have a significant tax benefit for you.** Eligible accounts for QCDs can be made from most IRAs, including Traditional IRAs, Rollover IRAs, Inherited IRAs, and Roth IRAs. **Always consult your Tax professional regarding your specific situation.** Use our parish address: St. Raymond of Penafort Catholic Church, 8750 Pohick Road, Springfield, VA 22153.

**The second collection this week is for  
Peter's Pence  
SUNDAY OFFERTORY 6/22/2025**

Offertory	\$14,532.00
Family Assistance	\$ 55.00
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