

"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
Catherine Hansen, Intern
Dominique Murray, Office Assistant
Mary Butler, Parish Secretary

PARISH OFFICE

Telephone Numbers:

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

Office Hours

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

Email

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

TUITION ASSISTANCE: Please inquire with our office about the availability of partial scholarships for the 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

Back from Retreat. I had another exceptional retreat at the priest retreat house kept by the Benedictine Sisters of Mary, Queen of Apostles in Gower, Mo., a joyful and faithful group of cloistered nuns who are dedicated to the Traditional Latin Liturgy and the Rule of St. Benedict. I prayed for you all, and offered Masses for the Parish, our staff, and our Altar Servers.

Scholarships to Catholic Schools. You all know my deep concerns about sending our children to the government-run, radical-leftist-controlled Fairfax County Public Schools, including my concern that it *might* be a mortal sin to send our children to these schools. But at the same time I recognize that many parents believe they simply can't afford, financially or otherwise, the alternatives. While many parents recognize the problem and dedicate themselves to offsetting the nonsense of the schools by aggressively countering these errors at home and in the parish, I'm afraid that doesn't work for most parents, for various reasons.

So, **the parish offers scholarships** to all qualified parishioners who attend Catholic schools: **\$1,000** for grade school and **\$2,000** for high school, renewable every year, and subject only to minimal qualification terms.

Also, additional financial aid is available to families that truly can't afford Catholic school, even with the above scholarships. These decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

Also, similar financial assistance to cover direct educational costs is also available to folks who homeschool.

Finally, we will **double the scholarship** for the first year for each child (a parishioner) who **switches from public school** (k-12) to Catholic school this year. That means, for Catholic grade school the scholarship will be **\$2,000** and for Catholic high school it will be **\$4,000**.

Just contact me or the parish office to apply.

Baptizing Babies ASAP! There is a growing tendency of parents to postpone the baptism of their babies for months after birth. This is a huge risk—and normally a mortal sin.

Baptism is not merely a nice symbolic rite of passage. Rather it is a necessary sacrament, which washes away original sin and gives a share in the Eternal Life of God to the baptized. The grace of Baptism is necessary for salvation, as Christ taught: "no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit" (John 3:5). And while the Church teaches that God sometimes gives the grace of Baptism in extraordinary ways, e.g., martyrdom, the Church has always maintained that *it does not know* if anything like that applies to *babies who die without baptism*.

Because of this, and with loving concern for the eternal souls of babies, the Church requires [Can. 867 §1]: "**Parents are obliged to see that their infants are baptized within the first few weeks**" after birth. Note, **not the first few months**.

Humanae Vitae. This last Friday, July 25, was the anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*, Pope St. Paul VI's 1968 encyclical reaffirming the ancient and apostolic teaching of the Church that **contraception is a grave sin**. In the years since, his words have been largely ignored by the world, even by Catholics. But they still remain as true today as ever. Moreover, his explanations of the reasons for and the consequences of disregarding this teaching have been proven out over the years. He warned that it would lead to increased sexual infidelity and "the general lowering of morality," especially among young men, and that eventually men would lose respect for women,

seeing them only as object of selfish enjoyment. Elsewhere he would specifically point to the immediate connection between contraception and abortion.

Over the last 57 years we have seen this all bear out as we've seen the dramatic and catastrophic increase in divorce, marital infidelity, pornography, abortion, prostitution, teenage pregnancy and promiscuity, child abuse, wife abuse, and acceptance of homosexuality and transgenderism.

But St. Pope Paul also recognized that it was morally acceptable, for a "just reason," to "regulate birth" using methods that take into account the "natural rhythms" of the fertility cycle of women. Today several highly scientific methods are available to couples in this regard, usually referred to as "Natural Family Planning" (NFP). These are very effective as a moral methods of both postponing and promoting conception.

Perverse Double Standard. Did you read about this story, here excerpted from The Pillar:

"A priest who was jailed in Vatican City for possession and distribution of child pornography has returned to work in the Holy See's diplomatic service."

"Father Carlo Alberto Capella, formerly a high ranking diplomat in the apostolic nunciature in Washington, D.C., was in 2018 sentenced to five years in prison by a Vatican City court for 'possession and distribution of child pornography with the aggravating circumstance of its large quantity.'"

"After serving his sentence in Vatican City, in a cell in the barracks of the Vatican gendarmerie, The Pillar has confirmed he has remained in Vatican City and was allowed to resume work in the second section of the Vatican's Secretariat of State, the diplomatic department..."

"Sources close to the Secretariat of State told The Pillar that Capella was permitted to return to work at the department in 2023, after the end of his prison sentence, and had been reintroduced to the office in 'an act of mercy.' ..."

"'It was clearly presented as an act of mercy,' the official said. 'The intention was that this man, who had not been laicized but clearly could not return to his diocese or serve in a parish, could collaborate in the office, and remain in the Vatican where he is effectively secluded, but without a formal office.'"

"Another official told The Pillar that after Capella's release from prison, the priest 'had to go somewhere, and has to do something' ..."

"Capella made international headlines in 2017, when the priest...was arrested by Vatican officials the next year on charges of child pornography possession...During a two-day trial, Capella admitted to possessing and viewing the imagesThe priest expressed regret for his actions during the trial, and called his crimes a 'bump in the road' not reflective of his priestly vocation."

"Vatican prosecutors found more than 40 criminal images and videos on devices belonging to the priest...with the most serious showing a minor engaged in a direct sexual act with an adult."

"But it is most likely the case that this is just another example of the Secretariat of State having its own rules,' [a Vatican] official speculated. Officials at the DDF have, for years, complained privately of attempted interference in reserved cases by the Secretariat of State, either through attempting to influence and pressure dicastery officials or, in some instances, by attempting to void the DDF's decisions outright...."

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, July 28th

6:30 am Allison Lalli
 8:30 am Barbara Karl +

Tuesday, July 29th

6:30 am Michael Malachowski +
 8:30 am Bradley Hoopes

Wednesday, July 30th

6:30 am Tracy Frelk
 8:30 am Lynn Tsukalas

Thursday, July 31st

6:30 am Sheila Bruen
 8:30 am Catherine Hoopes

Friday, August 1st

6:30 am Joe Ammirati
 8:30 am Claire & Camille
 Kayser

Saturday, August 2nd

9:00 am Jennifer Anezin

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Herman & Martha
 Rollandini

Sunday, August 3rd

7:00 am **Msgr. Rippy**
 RE Students and
 Their Families

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

Parishioners

11:00 am **Fr. Bergida**

Ed Ward +

1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**

Claire Kayser &
 Family

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
Peter Lawton

Kathleen McGovern

Please pray for the sick of our parish

Glenn Bliss
 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
 Joann Alba
 Denise Hunnell

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

July 28 Family of Jesus Prayer Group
July 29 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm Maurer Room
July 29 Legion of Mary 6:30pm—Maurer Room
July 30 Adoration 9am-7pm
July 21-31 Summer Floor Maintenance (Parish Hall Closed)
July 31 No Bridge Club
Aug 1 Adoration 9am—3pm (Adoration suspended 10am-Noon due to funeral)
Aug 2 Men's Prayer Group
Aug 2 Communal First Saturday Devotions

**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 August!** 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, 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.

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 August 2nd.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email 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 Dominique Murray 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.

Calling all High School Girls! You're invited to join us for Talitha Koum, a small group for high school girls, dedicated to authentic sisterhood in Christ, deepening our faith, sharing life learnings & growing in holiness -- especially during these formative high school years. We meet twice a month during the school year (dates TBD), for 90-120 minutes. It's a real special time of friendship together, immersing ourselves in the Good, True & Beautiful. **We are now opening up registration to invite ALL high school girls to join us** and encourage you to sign up. **If you are interested in learning more, please contact Katherine at fergusonkm@yahoo.com.**

First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary: We invite you to join us for Communal First Saturday Devotions on **August 2nd immediately following 9am Mass.** Come participate in this beautiful devotion given to us by Our Lady of Fatima in 1917, and learn more about her powerful promises for our each of us! Following 9am Mass, we pray the Daily Family Rosary in the Church; and then 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. All are invited!



MEN, DON'T GO IT ALONE. JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS! By joining the Knights of Columbus, you become part of the largest Catholic fraternity in the world, grow in your faith, and find mutual support from a true brotherhood built on shared Catholic values. Although Knights stand for their **FAITH**, their **FAMILIES**, and their **COUNTRY**, charity remains our cornerstone--it's what we do. With the Knights, you multiply your charitable work. Yes, the **KNIGHTS** need **YOU** because your **CHURCH** needs you! A new Fraternal Year for the St. John Bosco Council has weighed anchor and is underway, so now is the **perfect time** to come aboard. Take that next step **JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS!** Go to <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> to experience the Knights for one year free of dues. Leave the representative code blank but enter council #12846 for local information upon registration. Or simply use the QR code below. Please call our Deputy Grand Knight, Dave Hayes, at (703) 380-4550 or email at dave_hayes6@msn.com, if you have any questions or want to learn more about the many benefits of being a Knight! Don't stand on the sidelines ... answer the call ... join your brothers and **BECOME A KNIGHT!**



Upcoming Events:

AUGUST

- 2: Men's Prayer Breakfast (Parish Hall)
- 2-3: Sign-Ups for Nativity Blood Drive in Narthex
- 7: Officers' Meeting
- 9: Blood Drive, Nativity Catholic Church
- 11: MCM (7:00pm Rosary, Library, and 7:30pm General Meeting, Parish Hall)
- 16: Men's Prayer Breakfast (Parish Hall)
- 24: Parish Picnic

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.

Parish Registration Drive This Summer! Please check your registration status, if it needs an update or if you need to register, fill out a parish registration form located at all exits. This helps us to keep our database current and allows families to participate in parish groups and activities. Thank you!

2025-2026 OCIA (formerly RCIA) - St. Raymond's will offer OCIA classes on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:15 pm in the Rectory Classroom (Maurer Room) from September 8, 2025 until April 23, 2026 (except for Holidays). Those seeking information to understand and/or to enter the Catholic Church, and baptized Catholics seeking additional sacraments, are welcomed. For more information please call the religious education office at (703) 440-0537 or email mary.hansen@straymonds.org.

After Abortion Retreats: A Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be held on **Saturday, September 27, 2025**. These group healing events are held in a private and peaceful setting, in English and in Spanish, based on the Entering Canaan model (2 separate retreats, in 1 location). There will be an opportunity to hear from a past participant and others who have found healing. You are not alone. Take the first step. For confidential inquiries, please contact Project Rachel Ministry: (703) 841-2504 or info@helpafterabortion.org

Secretary Vacancy- We are seeking a Full Time Secretary for the parish office. Experience preferred. To ask questions or to apply, please contact Mary Butler at 703-440-0535 or mary.butler@straymonds.org

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

"Marriage and conjugal love are by their nature ordained toward the procreation and education of children. Children are really the supreme gift of marriage and contribute in the highest degree to their parents' welfare."

Saint Pope Paul VI, *Humanae Vitae*, 25 July 1968

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 cannot be vetoed by the governor and would eliminate parental consent, health protections for women and girls, force taxpayers to fund abortion and eliminate our current law limiting abortion at 27 weeks. **Speak Up!! 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.**

Create hope for the future! **NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING**, Supporting God's gifts of love and life in marriage. For more information visit ccli.org.

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**.

Healing after abortion can be a complex and deeply personal journey. If you have experienced abortion and are seeking confidential support and insight into the healing process, Project Rachel invites you to join our virtual 'zoom' drop-in sessions in a safe space with no commitments and no pressure. Upcoming dates @ 5 pm: July 24, Aug 14, Sept 11. Interested? Contact us: 703-841-2504 or info@helpafterabortion.org

THE ABORTION PILL now accounts for 65% 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! Every abortion 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.

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>



EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT: High School Bible Study (7-8pm Library)

All high school teens (rising 9th through rising college freshmen) are invited to our drop in Bible Study every Friday this summer! BYOB (Bring your own Bible).

Thursday, July 31: Hangout for College Students & High School Class of 2025:

The George Mason University Catholic Campus Ministry is hosting it's final Thursday Night Gathering from 7-9pm on July 31st for college students and high school class of 2025 at GMU's Robert Bellarmine Chapel.



Calling all High School Girls! You're invited to join us for Talitha Koum, a small group for high school girls, dedicated to authentic sisterhood in Christ, deepening our faith, sharing life learnings & growing in holiness -- especially during these formative high school years. We meet twice a month during the school year (dates TBD), for 90-120 minutes. It's a real special time of friendship together, immersing ourselves in the Good, True & Beautiful. **We are now opening up registration to invite ALL high school girls to join us** and encourage you to sign up. **If you are interested in learning more, please contact Katherine at fergusonkm@yahoo.com**

High School Youth Group for 2025-2026 Academic Year:

High School Youth Group will start up again on Sunday, September 7th immediately following Religious Education Classes. There is no charge for youth group or for high school religious education (RE). If you have not participated in RE classes in the past, I highly suggest you check it out! High school RE classes are open to everyone no matter where you go to school, Catholic school, public school, homeschool, or private school. Classes are Sundays from 5-6:30pm followed by youth group from 6:30-8pm. Because the two are back to back, and our hope is that most of the kids participating in youth group will be coming from RE, youth group begins with dinner!

Jr. High Youth Group for 2025-2026 Academic Year:

Jr. High Youth Group will NOT be on Sunday afternoons this year. Keep your eyes peeled for a parent meeting (date TBD) coming up in August to discuss a new plan/format. Commitment & parent involvement are needed to keep this youth group active.

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

Last week to register before the late fee goes into effect! Parents, please remember to register by July 31. CCD classes begin Sept. 7! You can register through the website or pick up a teal form at an exit. All high school students of the parish are particularly encouraged to take advantage of our fantastic teachers --and no tests!

All Catholic School and homeschool students intending to receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation at St. Raymond's must register with the RE office (grades 2, 7, 8) even if they will not attend classes. Please reach out with any questions.

Thank you to our volunteers for the 2025-2026 academic year!! Please call the RE office or stop by if you are interested in discussing these remaining openings:

Sunday (5-6:30 pm):

3rd grade Teacher

7th grade Teacher

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 to learn more or use the QR code to register to attend an upcoming information session July 28th at St. Raymond's Parish hall at 7:00pm.



For Rising 8th Graders- Pre-HSPT Testing at JP (Potomac Shores, VA)!

Do you have a rising 8th grader who is interested in John Paul? You are invited to a Practice High School Placement Test on Tuesday, August 5th! The official HSPT is a required piece of the John Paul Application. Taking a Pre-HSPT is a great way for students to feel confident and prepared for taking the official HSPT this fall! Use this link to Register: <https://saintjohnpaul.mypaysimple.com/s/8th-grade-test-prep>

Christ House Meal – Aug. 29th - Cash Donations Only. This quarter, we are requesting cash donations in lieu of food items. The committee will order 72 hot, prepared meals to be distributed at Christ House In Alexandria. Please drop off your cash or check donations at the Rectory or you can make a donation via Faith Direct at this link: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/VA64/54793>



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

In his book, *The Martyrs of the New Millennium – The Global Persecution of Christians in the Twenty-First Century*, Dr. Robert Royal comments that the most dangerous country for a priest to live in is Mexico. If asked the related question, “What U.S. state is the most dangerous place for a Catholic (or Christian) to set up a faith-based business?” – the answer would be Colorado.

Colorado legislative and judicial system seem to operate in direct contradiction to the legal system in the United States. Even though the Colorado Springs baker or the Christian tech designer both won at the U.S. Supreme Court over their deeply held religious beliefs preventing them from accommodating so-called “same-sex” weddings, the Colorado legislature carries on unabated. Their latest is known as House Bill 1312 which adds misgendering (calling a person by a different gender than the person indicates – regardless of his/her birth gender) and deadnaming (using pronouns different from the preferred pronouns of the individual) to the state’s Anti-Discrimination Act.

Hal Frampton of Alliance Defending Freedom notes that, “As the Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed, the government has no business trying to strip traditional views about sex and gender from the marketplace of ideas.” The latest suit was filed by a couple running a family-owned used bookstore in Colorado Springs. Any misgendering or deadnaming would result in state investigations, cease-and-desist orders, court hearings and fines. The couple believes that they cannot “speak contrary to their beliefs....So the store cannot use pronouns, titles, or other language contrary to a person’s biological sex. To do so would be to affirm the view that a person’s sex can and sometimes should be changed – A view that contradicts [their] Christian beliefs.”

The lawsuit references the 2023 U.S. Supreme Court decision of *303 Creative v. Elenis* holding that Colorado’s anti-discrimination law violates the free-speech rights of a Christian tech designer. This is the third lawsuit challenging HB 1312 since it was signed into law May 16, 2025.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2025/jul/17/colorado-law-mandating-preferred-pronouns-faces-lawsuit-christian/>

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: Life for Life: Maximilian Kolbe One of the Auschwitz prisoners, Jan, escapes from the German concentration camp while working at a gravel pit. Maximilian Kolbe volunteered to die in the place of the inmates sentenced to death to atone for the escapee.

For Kids: St. Maximilian Kolbe; Lukas Storyteller Our friends take a trip to a camp that Lukas has prepared. Inspired by the heroic life of St. Maximilian Kolbe, Lukas helps them understand that they should always be grateful for what they have.

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



Please consider signing up to Lead this most valuable ministry,
Call or stop by the Parish office if interested.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



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/

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 or 703.924.3996 x187644 Dynatech Ct. Springfield, VA 22153

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.

Back to School Sock & Underwear Drive: The St. Martin de Porres Committee is again sponsoring a “Back to School” drive for students in the Springfield area. We will be accepting donations of NEW Socks and Underwear for school aged children (age 5-17) from **August 3rd to August 10th**. For health code reasons we can only accept NEW items. A collection box will be in the Narthex. Items requested are:

Boys: Socks, Undershirts, Briefs & Boxers

Girls: Socks, Tights, Undershirts, Camisoles & Briefs

Thank you for your continued support!

Qualified Charitable Distributions

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 2215

**The Second Collection next weekend is for
Missions Appeal for the Archdiocese of Nyeri, Kenya.
Sunday Offertory 7/20/25**

Offertory	\$ 12,642.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,170.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,765.00
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