

"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
Mary Butler, Parish Secretary
Catherine Hansen, Intern
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

Good News on Parish Finances. In May I spoke at all the Masses about the possibility of the Parish facing a financial net deficit/loss for the year ending June 30, 2025, and asked that you help us avoid that by increasing your giving. I called it the "Pastor's Giving Appeal"—"PGA."

Well, thanks to your generous responses to my PGA, as well as two surprises from the Bishop, we were more than able to end the year with **net ordinary income (surplus) of \$137,357** (based on preliminary "unadjusted" numbers). This reflects **an increase of about 14% in weekly offertory, and about a \$20,000 increase in other donations.**

It also reflects a decision announced in June by Bishop Burbidge to double the interest paid to us on our "DIAL" account (all the savings of all the parishes are held and invested in this Diocese investment account, on which we are paid interest). **That "extra" interest amount was \$ 42,472.**

In addition to the extra interest, the Bishop also announced a **"Extraordinary Dividend" of \$100,000** on our DIAL account. This amount brings our **"Net Surplus" for the year to \$237,357.**

Needless to say, I was unaware of the extra interest and Dividend from the DIAL when I spoke to you in May. But these two amounts are extraordinary, and should not be counted on when we plan for future financial operations.

That's why I'm so grateful for the response to the PGA. If we keep that going for the coming year, we should be in great shape going forward into the new year.

Town Hall Meetings. Back in early 2020 I had decided to call a "Town Hall meeting" of the parish to discuss the fiscal future of the Parish—a "Parish Hall Meeting." But then Covid hit, and the idea of a grand meeting had to be put off for essentially 2 years. And then the Synod on Synodality struck, and I didn't want to confuse the Parish Hall Meeting with "synodality" (whatever that means).

But now, I think we can move forward, and I am planning to hold at least 2 Parish Hall Meetings **this coming Fall.** The purpose would be not to discuss so much the spiritual and formation aspects of the parish, but **to discuss your hopes and ideas for the physical plant of the parish.**

For example, I've often wondered if we need more space for meetings, classrooms, etc., i.e., should we build another building? Apparently a third building (in addition to the church and rectory) was part of the early construction plans for the physical plant, as "phase two." To be clear, I have no burning desire to build—it's my worst nightmare. But...maybe there's a need to...

We can also discuss beautifying the facilities by adding landscaping, flowers, and/or sculptures/shrines to the grounds. Or perhaps extend our efforts to beauty the interior church.

And perhaps I can get some ideas from you about how to pay for any improvements.

You will be hearing more from me about this, but in the meantime please **send me any suggestions for ideas that you would like to discuss at the meeting.** Of course we don't want the Meetings to be free-for-alls: those are usually a waste of time in a practical and constructive sense. So, send me your ideas (in very brief form) and I'll get back to you soon about meeting dates etc.. You can email me at fdc@straymonds.org.

Fairfax County Public School News. Did you see this story in the news? As reported by Foxnews.com:

"The Department of Education is giving five northern Virginia school districts ten days to fix their transgender

bathroom policies or face 'enforcement action,' the agency said Friday.

"Public school districts in Loudoun County, Fairfax County, Prince William County, Alexandria City and Arlington were all found to be in violation of Title IX after an investigation by the Education Department's Office of Civil Rights that began in February, according to a press release shared Friday.

"The release cited a June ruling by the Supreme Court, which the department said acknowledged that a person's identification as 'transgender' is distinct from a person's biological sex.

"The investigation was based on complaints alleging that the [school districts] have similar anti-discrimination policies pertaining to 'transgender-identifying' students, which violate the sex-based protections of Title IX," the release said....

"Craig Trainor, the Department of Education's acting assistant secretary for civil rights [stated],.... "The Education Department's non-compliance finding prompted the agency to issue a proposed resolution agreement whereby each school district can take corrective action to prevent any enforcement actions by the Trump administration.

"That action would require the districts to rescind any policies or regulations allowing students to access bathrooms, locker rooms or other intimate facilities on the basis of their preferred gender identity as opposed to their biological sex....

"The districts would also be compelled under the agreement to adopt 'biology-based definitions' of the words 'male' and 'female' to be used in all practices and policies.

"The Department of Education gave the school districts 10 days to voluntarily agree to these demands or risk 'imminent' consequences, including a potential referral to the Department of Justice..."

Pope Leo praises Cardinal Burke. Did you see this from the Catholic News Agency:

"Pope Leo XIV has written a warm and detailed letter to Cardinal Raymond Burke, thanking the American cardinal for 50 years of priestly ministry, in a gesture that marks a shift in tone following years of tension between Burke and Pope Francis....

"Leo's letter, written in Latin and signed by the pope on June 17, was posted Tuesday by Burke on his official X account. In it, the pope praised Burke 'for the prompt service he has zealously carried out and the earnest care he has demonstrated most especially for the law, which has also been of good service to the dicasteries of the Apostolic See.'

"The pope went on to commend Burke's pastoral witness, writing: 'He has preached the precepts of the Gospel according to the heart of Christ and has recounted His treasures, diligently offering his devoted service to the Church universal.'

"In his post accompanying the papal letter, Burke wrote that he was 'very humbled' by it and appealed to his followers to pray for the pope. 'May God bless Pope Leo and grant him many years. Viva il Papa!' Burke wrote..."

"Burke, 77, was ordained to the priesthood by Pope Paul VI on June 29, 1975...."

Thomas Dietz. This last Friday I offered the funeral Mass for founding parishioner Tom Dietz. Tom was a devout Catholic, a fine gentleman and a good friend and trusted advisor to me for the last 15 years. He served the parish in various capacities over the years, including as a trusted member of my Finance Council. For the last few years various ailments have slowed him down, but he was here at Mass every Sunday, giving us his prayerful support. Join me in praying for his soul, and for the consolation of his family.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis. Requiescant in pace. Amen.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 4th

6:30 am Karen Popp
 8:30 am Priscilla Fritts

Tuesday, August 5th

6:30 am Robert Sommerfeld +
 8:30 am Barbara De Celles +

Wednesday, August 6th

6:30 am Julie Maimone
 8:30 am Virginia "Ginny"
 Cummings

Thursday, August 7th

6:30 am Hannah Russo
 8:30 am William "Bill" &
 Louise McGowen

Friday, August 8th

6:30 am Elena Auclair
 8:30 am Jeanne Sause

Saturday, August 9th

9:00 am Doug & Lupe
 Bowling

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
 Donald & Ellen Trayer

Sunday, August 10th

7:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
 Gerald H. Crennan +

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

11:00 am **Msr. Rippy**
 Dr. Robert Stevens +

1:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
 Family of Jesus
 Prayer Group

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

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Aug 2-3 Back to School Sock and Underwear drive
Aug 4 Family of Jesus Prayer Group
Aug 5 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm Maurer Room
Aug 5 Legion of Mary 6:30pm—Maurer Room
Aug 6 Adoration 9am-7pm
Aug 7 Bridge Club
Aug 8 Adoration 9am—3pm
Aug 9 Deadline for Back to School Sock and Underwear Dr.
Aug 10 No Confessions
Aug 15 Solemnity of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary
 Holy Day of Obligation
Aug 16 Men's Prayer Group

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.

Healing Our Past: Victim Assistance Ministry: The Victim Assistance Ministry offers referrals to therapists with experience working with victims/survivors of sexual abuse as well as referrals for spiritual assistance. In addition the Diocese offers Masses and prayer services for healing for victims/survivors of sexual abuse, as well as various other support services. If you or someone in your family has been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church, we encourage you to contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator at 703-841-2530. All calls are confidential. For more information about services provided by the Victim Assistance Ministry, please visit our website at www.arlingtondiocese.org.

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.**

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 16th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryndavew7705@gmail.com.

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.



MEN, SUMMERTIME IS WANING— WHAT NOW?

Here's what: Join the Knights! Why not become part of the most impactful Catholic fraternity in the world, grow in your faith, and discover mutual support from a true brotherhood built on shared Catholic values? Our Knights do everything from supporting life to staying informed on important topics, organizing parish dinners, sponsoring seminarian, recognizing outstanding youth, to supporting Special Olympics—you name it! Magnify your impact by joining us! Charity remains our cornerstone, but Knights also stand for their **FAITH**, their **FAMILIES**, and their **COUNTRY**. We're now in a new fraternal year, so it's the **perfect time** to come aboard. Just go to <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> or use the QR code below and experience the Knights **free** for one year. Enter our council #12846 for local information when you register. Please call our Deputy Grand Knight, Dave Hayes, at (703) 380-4550 if you have any questions or want to learn more about the many benefits of being a Knight! Get in the game ... answer the call ... **BECOME A KNIGHT!**



Upcoming Events:

AUGUST

- 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

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.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

"Authentic love is always life giving ... ordered to the good of spouses...open to the gift of life." Bishop Burbidge, Diocese of Arlington, July 2025

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

PRAISE GOD. The once largest abortion facility in the western hemisphere (Planned Parenthood's Prevention Park facility in Houston) will be closing its doors on September 30. *"Let everything that breathes offer praise to the Lord. Alleluia." Psalm 150:6*

WARNING. 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.**

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: Aug 14, Sept 11. Interested? Call: 703-841-2504 or visit 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).



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.

Prayer Request: My (Jeanne) housing situation ended up not working out. Can you please pray that I find something soon? If you or someone you know is renting or looking for a clean and responsible renter, or if you know of any females looking for a roommate, please reach out. I am looking for something ASAP. Thank you!

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

Parents, please register your children ASAP. 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 this remaining opening or volunteering as a substitute:

Sunday (5-6:30 pm):
7th grade Teacher

Save the date!

Parish Picnic
Sunday, August 24
2-5 pm

Bethlehem Woodcarving Group will be here on the weekend of August 24th! Please stop by their display of beautiful olivewood handmade carvings from the Holy Land. These carvings are made by the Christians of Bethlehem who use them as their source of income. These brothers and sisters of ours are enduring hardships at this moment because of the volatile situation in their home country. YOU can support them by purchasing some of these beautiful carvings after Mass.

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

Over the years this column has featured the arrogance displayed by the Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) board by insisting its diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies are carried out regardless of the consequences to families, regardless of court rulings, and regardless of Virginia state policies. Recently, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) found five Virginia school districts with allegations of discrimination based on sex. The OCR found that the district policies, "which allow students to access intimate, sex-segregated facilities based on the students' subjective gender identity, violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972."

Fairfax County is one of those school districts.

"The investigation was based on complaints alleging that the [Districts] have similar anti-discrimination policies pertaining to 'transgender-identifying' students, which violate the sex-based protections of Title IX. The OCR has given the Fairfax County 10 days [until August 4] to comply or risk enforcement action which could be the withholding of federal education funds. The basis for the OCR ruling is a June 18, 2025, U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding "a Tennessee law banning certain medical care for minors related to treating 'gender dysphoria, gender identity disorder, or gender incongruence'." The Court further acknowledged that "a person's identification as 'transgender' is distinct from a person's 'biological sex'."

The FCPS Board met last week, knowing that such a ruling was inevitable, without changing its transgender policies and relying on the courts to protect their policy. At stake is \$13 million of federal funds which is a "drop in FCPS board's \$3.7 billion bucket." Some of the board members expressed concern over the \$6.4 million funding for their Equity Office's 52 full-time staff members and programs.

Hopefully the FCPS Board will wake up and see that major corporations around the country are dropping DEI programs as they realize that (1) they are expensive and (2) they realize as the Supreme Court did that "a person's identification as 'transgender' is distinct from a person's 'biological sex'."

<https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-finds-five-northern-virginia-school-districts-violation-of-title-ix>
https://www.fairfaxtimes.com/articles/pricetag-of-equity-in-fairfax-county-schools-6-4-million/article_6e14ee46-db8a-11ef-ba7b-4b737bdf938.html



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.

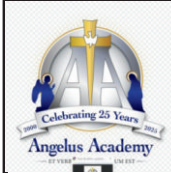
Watch: The Transfiguration: Sacred Art Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp sit down with Raffaello Sanzio's painting, "The Transfiguration", to discuss its theological meaning and how it can speak to us today.

For Kids: The Saints and Heroes Collection The Knight of Assisi: The remarkable story of the founder of the Order of Minor Friars and inspiration of three Franciscan orders.

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.**



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

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

This weekend, our second collection supports the annual Mission Cooperative Plan Appeal for our diocese. Our parish mission organization is **Archdiocese of Nyeri, Kenya.** This appeal helps our brothers and sisters who do not have access to basic pastoral services that support and grow their faith, like Mass, the sacraments, religious education as well as basic needs – like food, shelter, and healthcare. You can support these organizations through this week's 2nd Collection. If donating by check, please make your check payable to our parish and put "MCP" in the memo line. Through your support, the MCP Appeal helps these mission organizations form vibrant faith communities and strengthens the global Church. Please be generous.

The Second Collection this weekend is for Missions Appeal for the Archdiocese of Nyeri, Kenya.

Sunday Offertory 7/27/25

Faith Direct July 2025

Offertory	\$14,903.00	\$58,543.00
Family Assistance	\$ 457.00	\$ 2,649.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,492.00	\$ 6,093.00
OLOR Scholarship	\$ 1,184.00	\$ 4,318.00
Pastoral Solidarity Fund-Africa		\$ 764.00

Diocesan is proud to be printing

St. Raymond of Peñafort's Sunday Bulletin

You are invited to help support our Parish!

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



**SUMMIT ROOFING
CONTRACTORS INC.**
Roofing • Gutters • Siding
703.368.7483
info@summitroofing.com | summitroofing.com
Free Estimates • Family Owned and Operated
Serving Northern Virginia for over 40 years
40 Year Diocesan Member

KINGSTOWNE ORTHODONTICS
John Wiger, D.D.S., M.S.D.
Specialist in Orthodontics
www.KingstowneOrthodontics.com
7574 Telegraph Road
Alexandria, VA 22315
703-971-2220

SENIOR AND MILITARY DISCOUNTS!
FINANCING AVAILABLE
ROOFING
DECKS • SIDING
GUTTERS
FREE wind & Hail Damage
Inspections for Roofs Insurance Claims Specialists
MidAtlantic
CONTRACTING INC.
Voted Best in Business
703-492-HOME (4663)
or 571-408-4349
www.MACContracting.com



**#ThankYou
ForYour
Priesthood**

NOW HIRING
**SALES
REPRESENTATIVE**
Join Our Family • Diocesan.com/Careers
DIOCESAN
Catholic Life Every Day
PUT YOUR FAITH
TO WORK.
EWTN
Global Catholic
Radio
TUNE IN
EWTN.COM/RADIO

*The Businesses listed above
make this bulletin possible.*

Please support them when you can.

Sign up to get our bulletin in your email each week.

Go to DiscoverMass.com/subscribe

 <p>Aviation Consulting Expertise, LLC Doug "Smash" Yurovich, PhD Colonel USMC (Ret) 571.643.6019 Certified Flight and Instrument Instructor Leadership & Mentoring for Aviation Organizations acellc918@gmail.com</p>	<p>MURPHY LAW GROUP, PLLC Wills, Trusts, Estates, & More 9300-B Old Keene Mill Road, Burke, VA 703-455-7177 www.MurphyLawVA.com</p>	<p>KELLIHER FAMILY DENTISTS Jeremiah J. Kelliher, D.D.S. Sean P. Kelliher, D.D.S. Karen Kelliher Wilson, R.D.H. Kathleen Kelliher Ketch, R.D.H. (703) 451-5030 6120 Brandon Ave. Suite 211, Springfield</p>	<p>VIRGINIA EYECARE CENTER MEMBER OF VISION SOURCE (703) 569-3131 Dr. Courtney Shay Dr. Tim LaFreniere Dr. Kathryn Huebner Dr. Mallory Cranmer Dr. Bryan Procopio Dr. Jen Weigel 9314-A Old Keene Mill Rd www.virginiaeyecare.com</p>	<p>Peter K. Cocolis Jr. DMD, MAGD Family & Cosmetic Dentistry  703-912-3800 smiles4va.com Quality Care Friendly Atmosphere Cutting-edge Technology 5803 Rolling Road Suite 211 Springfield, VA 22152</p>
<p>Jefferson Funeral Chapel 703-971-7400 Family owned 5755 Castlewella Drive Alexandria, VA 22315 Just off S. VanDorn Street behind Edison High School (Kingstowne)</p> 	<p>Milano's Family Restaurant Lunch & Dinner Served 7 Days a Week Breakfast served Saturday from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. & Sunday from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m.  703-569-7550 6230-G Rolling Rd • Springfield, VA www.milanofamilyrestaurant.com</p>	<p>GET YOUR FINANCIAL LIFE SQUARED AWAY  GARY SJURSET, FINANCIAL ADVISOR gasjurset@firstcommand.com 703.658.2943 <small>©2025 First Command Financial Services, Inc. parent of First Command Brokerage Services, Inc. (Member SIPC, FINRA)</small></p>		
<p>† In Loving Memory of Patricia McCormick and Carol Carnes Beloved Mother, Grandmother, and Beloved Sister and Aunt</p>	<p>Caffi SERVICES, INC PLUMBING HEATING HVAC REMODELING 1313 POWHATAN STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-1342 (703) 836-6775 www.caffiservices.com service@caffiservices.com Serving the DC Metropolitan Area since 1967</p>			
<p> Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will For further information, please call the parish office.</p>	<p>ADVERTISE HERE Promote your Business AND support your Parish. Lisa Sparkman ~ 717-507-3766 ~ lsparkman@diocesan.com</p> <p>catholicmatch® Virginia CatholicMatch.com/goVA</p> 			
<p> Get this bulletin emailed to you every week. Simply go to www.DM.CHURCH/3309  ...or scan →</p>		<p>PJI LAW Wills, Trusts, & Probate for Catholic Families (703) 865-6100 Fairfax, VA www.pjilaw.com welcome@pjilaw.com</p>		
<p> DISCOVERMASS  IN LOVING MEMORY OF Reggie Denny</p>		<p>LOCATED IN THE SARATOGA SHOPPING CTR. 8050 Rolling Rd. • Springfield, VA</p> <p>BREAKFAST: Saturday & Sunday 9am-2pm 703.455.0044</p> <p> LUNCH & DINNER: Daily 11am-9pm Like us on facebook SARATOGAPIZZERIA.COM</p>		<p>EWTN.COM/RADIO  EWTN Global Catholic Radio TUNE IN</p>

The Businesses listed above make this bulletin possible.
Please support them when you can.

Sign up to get our bulletin in your email each week.
 Go to **DiscoverMass.com/subscribe**

