

"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
Dominique Murray, Office Assistant
Mary Butler, Parish Secretary

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

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.

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

Welcome to New Parishioners. Summer is always a time we lose and gain parishioners, especially those in the military. So I'd like to welcome all who have joined us in the last few months. I hope you find St. Raymond's to be a welcoming parish, and encourage you to get involved our many liturgies, committees, and activities.

Please **make sure you register with our parish office**, for many reasons, for example, so we can send you regular email updates on what's going on in the parish. You can register in person, by filling out a registration form in the church narthex and drop it in the mail or the Sunday offertory box, or by visiting our parish website and clicking the menu "Welcome," and then click to the page "New to St Raymond's" (the link to the form is near the bottom of that page).

One thing to know about our parish is that we place great importance on the Grace and Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Flowing from this you will find a pronounced emphasis on reverence, especially during Holy Mass, what I call "**emphatic reverence**." Nowadays reverence seems to be a lost virtue. The word "reverence" comes from the Latin for "fear," "revere," and Scripture tells us, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." But this kind of fear is not like being in terror or afraid, but rather of being in "awe": recognizing that God is the all-powerful creator and sustainer of the whole world, and I am just a little tiny speck in comparison—and yet, he loves me. So Christian reverence is fundamentally rooted in love.

So we go out of our way here in our liturgies to be reverent, to remind ourselves we are in presence of God, the God who loved us so much He became one of us and died for our sins on the Cross, and gave us the Eucharist to be with us always, even to enter into us, especially in the mystery of His Sacrifice.

To encourage this reverence we follow some ancient customs of the Church that set the liturgy apart as radically different from the mundane world we live in. For example: we sing traditional Catholic hymns; use Latin, the ancient language of the Church, Latin; at most Masses the priest faces the same direction as the people, leading them in prayer before the Most High God; and we also use an altar rail so folks have the option to kneel to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. From time to time in this column I will explain the significance of these practices, so I encourage you to return here often to read about this and important news.

Prayers Before and After Mass. It is an excellent and very helpful practice to arrive a little early before Mass to pray in preparation, and also to remain a while afterward to pray in thanksgiving. Of course, you can pray in whatever words you want, but to assist us, the Church has handed down various prayers we might want to say. In particular these two beautiful prayers of St. Thomas Aquinas are commended to us in the Roman Missal (feel free to cut these out and save them):

Before Mass. *Almighty eternal God, behold, I come to the Sacrament of your Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, as one sick to the physician of life, as one unclean to the fountain of mercy, as one blind to the light of eternal brightness, as one poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth.*

I ask, therefore, for the abundance of your immense generosity, that you may graciously cure my sickness, wash

away my defilement, give light to my blindness, enrich my poverty, clothe my nakedness, so that I may receive the bread of Angels, the King of kings and Lord of lords, with such reverence and humility, such contrition and devotion, such purity and faith, such purpose and intention as are conducive to the salvation of my soul.

Grant, I pray, that I may receive not only the Sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood, but also the reality and power of that Sacrament.

O most gentle God, grant that I may so receive the Body of your Only Begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ, which he took from the Virgin Mary, that I may be made worthy to be incorporated into his Mystical Body and to be counted among its members.

O most loving Father, grant that I may at last gaze forever upon the unveiled face of your beloved Son, whom I, a wayfarer, propose to receive now veiled under these species: Who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever. Amen.

After Mass. *I give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, who have been pleased to nourish me, a sinner and your unworthy servant, with the precious Body and Blood of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: this through no merits of mine, but due solely to the graciousness of your mercy.*

And I pray that this Holy Communion may not be for me an offense to be punished, but a saving plea for forgiveness. May it be for me the armor of faith, and the shield of good will. May it cancel my faults, destroy concupiscence and carnal passion, increase charity and patience, humility and obedience and all the virtues, may it be a firm defense against the snares of all my enemies, both visible and invisible, the complete calming of my impulses, both of the flesh and of the spirit, a firm adherence to you, the one true God, and the joyful completion of my life's course.

And I beseech you to lead me, a sinner, to that banquet beyond all telling, where with your Son and the Holy Spirit you are the true light of your Saints, fullness of satisfied desire, eternal gladness, consummate delight and perfect happiness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Congratulations Sister! Sister Marie Celine Laird, daughter of parishioners Bob and Gerri Laird, recently celebrated her Silver Jubilee (25 years) as Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia ("Nashville Dominican"). Sister Marie Celine is a graduate of St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School in Woodbridge and Seton School in Manassas. Her first profession of vows was Aug. 10, 2000. The Nashville Dominicans are a teaching order, and are in charge of John Paul the Great High School and St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School. Sister Marie Celine has served at schools in Hampton; Newport News; Birmingham, Ala.; Greenville, S.C.; Jackson, Tenn.; and Nashville. God bless you, Sister.

Altar Server Graduation. I want to say a big thank you to the young men who have recently graduated from high school and are now leaving our altar server ranks to go to college. I am proud of them all, and will miss each of them, even as I wish them well, and promise them my prayers and support going forward. Please join me in thanking them and praying for them: **John Branch, Daniel Barnett, Dominic Nguyen, Jacob Oswald, Adam Corley, Sam Berger and Peter Hatcher.**

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 11th

6:30 am Tryce Maffei
 8:30 am Claire Kayser

Tuesday, August 12th

6:30 am Anna Mildred Mault +
 8:30 am Teresa Hodges

Wednesday, August 13th

6:30 am Nora Weiss
 8:30 am Judy Mayer

Thursday, August 14th

6:30 am Matt Coleman
 8:30 am Bob + and Pauline
 Ferguson
 7:00 pm Paul Qui

Friday, August 15th

6:30 am Rosemary Coddling
 8:30 am Parishioners
 Noon Gregoire Ziggarr +
 7:00 pm Nancy Christman +

Saturday, August 16th

9:00 am Sheila Swenson

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm
 Gina Suarez

Sunday, August 17th

7:00 am
 Sophia Mugno

9:00 am

Parishioners

11:00 am

Lorraine H. Pribish+&
 Francis G. Hempfling+

1:00 pm

Joe Salas, III

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
 Alicia Tocconi

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Aug 11 Family of Jesus Prayer Group
 Aug 12 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm Maurer Room
 Aug 12 Legion of Mary 6:30pm—Maurer Room
 Aug 13 Adoration 9am-7pm
 Aug 14 NO Bridge Club and Aug. 28
 Aug 14 Vigil Mass 7pm
 Aug 15 Adoration 9am—3pm (Reposed during Masses)
 Aug 15 Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary-HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
 - Vigil Mass Aug 14-7pm, Aug. 15- 6:30am, 8:30 am, Noon and 7pm
 Aug 16 Men's Prayer Group
 Aug 24 Parish Picnic 2-5pm

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 15th—HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Vigil Mass Thursday, August 14th: 7 pm

Friday August 15th: 6:30 am, 8:30 am Noon and 7 pm

Adoration 9 am—3 pm except during Mass

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**

Book Club: The parish Book Club will have its first meeting of the 2025-2026 year on **Thursday, September 11, 2025** at 9:30 AM in the St Raymond Library to discuss "**The Next Pope --The Office of Peter and a Church in Mission**" by George Weigel. Also, there is an optional additional book "**Leo XIV: Portrait of the First American Pope**" by Matthew Bunson. The schedule for the full year is on the parish website at <https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/book-club/>. New members are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org. Alternatively, please stop by our table at the parish picnic on 24 August.

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.



MORE THAN EVER BEFORE ... NOW IS THE TIME! JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS! Knights are men who stand for many things ... most importantly, their FAITH, their FAMILIES, and their COUNTRY. The KNIGHTS need YOU! By joining the Knights of Columbus, you will become part of the largest Catholic fraternity in the world, grow in faith and be supported by a true brotherhood built on shared values! STEEL SHARPENS STEEL! The 2024-2025 Fraternal Year of the St. John Bosco Council began on July 1, so now is the perfect time to get onboard. 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. For more information or to learn more about the many benefits of 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

- 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.

Calling all Summer Reading Program Participants! Your seven weeks of summer reading fun have come to a close. Please return all completed forms to the Parish Library or Office by close of business on Monday 11 August. Thank you! *"You will not see anyone who is truly striving after spiritual advancement who is not given to spiritual reading." Saint Athanasius*

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.

Altar Server Training. St. Raymond's Parish has a very active Altar Server program. We invite all young men of the Parish to consider becoming an Altar Server. Young men between the ages of 9 and 18, who have received their First Communion are eligible. **Training sessions with Fr. Bergida will begin in the fall.** Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/SRPAltarServerTraining> or contact the Parish Office at 703-440-0535 to sign up.

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 enshrine abortion as a constitutional human right in our Commonwealth. If you are interested in participating in weekly ecumenical prayer to thwart this effort, please contact Liz at hildebrandseven@gmail.com.

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 they 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

CCD classes begin Sept. 7! Parents, some classes are filling up, and preparations for the new year are well under way. Please register your children ASAP 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**

Mary's Nativity Feast Day & Annual Birthday Party: To honor the Feast of our Blessed Mother's Nativity (Sept 8), all are cordially invited to take part in our annual birthday celebration on **Saturday, Sept 6 at 10 am** (following the 9 am Mass) in the Parish Hall. Father Bergida will offer a special meditation on the Fifth Glorious Mystery, and the program will also include Legion of Mary & First Saturday Devotion prayers to honor Our Lady. Followed by birthday cake, ice cream, refreshments & fellowship. All family & friends are invited - we hope you will join us for this joyous occasion!

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.

Celebrating A Golden or Silver Wedding Anniversary This Year? If you were married in 1975 or 2000, please join Bishop Michael Burbidge for the 2025 Mass for Jubilarians to be celebrated on Sunday, October 19th at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, VA. Contact your parish office to register no later than October 3 rd. For more info, visit <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/family-life/mass-for-marriage-jubilarians/>.

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

This week's column is taken from AciAfrica, a service of EWTN, as it reports a story of Islamist militants killing 30 at Catholic parish in the DR of Congo on July 26.

In a telegram, Pope Leo XIV has expressed his closeness with families that lost their loved ones in the islamist attack on Blessed Anuarite Komanda Catholic Parish in Ituri province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Pope Leo XVI "called for the urgent need to 'work for the integral human development' of the people affected by wars in the African country.

The ... Holy Father "joins in mourning with the families and the Christian community gravely affected, expressing to them his closeness and assuring them of his prayers.... This tragedy calls us ever more urgently to work for the integral human development of the suffering population in this region," the Holy Father says.

Media reports indicate that the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a rebel group in the Central African nation, is suspected of assaulting the Catholic Parish. The attack reportedly occurred while Parishioners were attending a prayer vigil at the church on July 26.

The ADF, a rebel group linked to ISIL (ISIS), operates along the Uganda-DR Congo border and has consistently targeted civilian populations in its attacks.

"Before our eyes, we have at least 31 dead, members of the Eucharistic Crusade movement, and six seriously injured... Some young people were abducted; we have no news of them," the Parish Priest, Fr. Aimé Lokana Dhego, has been quoted as telling AFP. He added that seven other bodies were discovered in Komanda, a locality about 75 kilometers south of Bunia, the provincial capital.

In the July 28 telegram, "His Holiness implores God that the blood of these martyrs may become a seed of peace, reconciliation, fraternity, and love for the entire Congolese people."

<https://www.aciafrica.org/index.php/news/16753/pope-leo-xiv-sends-message-of-deep-sorrow-after-islamist-militants-kill-over-30-at-catholic-parish-in-dr-congo>

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: Mary of Nazareth An epic motion picture on the life of Mary, Mother of Christ, from her childhood through the Resurrection of Jesus. Filmed in Europe in HD, it features outstanding cinematography, a strong cast and a majestic music score.

For Kids: Mary, Queen of Heaven -Brother Francis: Come along with Br. Francis as he explores the special role Mary plays in our lives!

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

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

WAY Mother Daughter Retreat- The Women's Apostolate to Youth invites you to a Mother-Daughter retreat (for girls in grades 7-9) entitled, "St. Raphael and the True Meaning of Friendship" on **September 20, 2025.** The retreat includes talks, activities (fun!), as well as opportunities for confession, adoration, and Mass and begins at 8:30 am and concludes at 3:30 pm at St. Raymond's. The \$60 fee includes materials, breakfast, and lunch for both mother and daughter and \$15 per additional daughter. **For more information and to register (by September 6), visit waywomen.com/daystar.** Sorry, we cannot accept registrations at the door.

Save the date!

Parish Picnic
Sunday, August 24
2-5 pm

Sunday Offertory 8/3/25

Offertory	15,322.00
Family Assistance	749.00
Maintenance Fund	897.00
OLOR Scholarship	3,502.00
Mission Diocese of Nyeri, Africa Collection	20,253.00



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