

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



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  
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.

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

**8750 Pohick Road**  
**Springfield, VA 22153**

#### **WEEKEND MASSES:**

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

#### **WEEKDAY MASSES:**

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

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

#### **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

**Shooting at Minneapolis Catholic School.** We all mourn with the parents, families and friends of the children killed and wounded in the shooting at Annunciation Catholic School on August 27. We pray for them all: the dead, the injured and the bereaved. And we pray also for the soul of the deceased shooter, as Christ commands us to love our enemies, and pray for those who persecute us.

But in the wake of the shooting some folks on the Left made statements like “prayer not enough,” some seeming to imply that prayer is not very effective in these cases. As California Governor Newsom wrote: “These children were literally praying as they got shot at.”

Prayer is never ineffective. And to initially respond to an attack on praying children by seeming to criticize prayer seems amazingly cold-hearted, not to mention tone-deaf. Moreover it at least seems to reflect, even unwittingly, something of the shooters anti-Catholicism.

But there is some truth in saying that more must be done besides praying. But probably not what the left is thinking. We have lots of gun laws, especially in leftist-dominated Minnesota. What we don't have, especially on the left, is an awareness of mental illness when it stares us in the face.

I'm sure at this point no one would dispute that the shooter was mentally ill. But everyone close to him seemed to ignore the obvious signs that something was wrong with him for a long time before the shooting.

Primarily, those close to him, including his mother, ignored or even supported his lack of rational, reality-based thinking when he claimed to have changed his gender. His mom signed off on his legal name change! Even the shooter seems to have discovered his error (“I am tired of being trans, I wish I never brain-washed myself”) but only after years immersed in unreality, an unreality encouraged by his mother and the dominant culture he lived in.

We can do something besides pray—and we must. We must help anyone who suffers from confusion about reality, especially those entrusted to our care. One absolutely necessary way to do this is to reject claims of transgender ideology, and to oppose those who try to “brainwash” our kids into this nonsensical irrational mode of thinking.

I'm not saying that transgenderism was the cause of this shooting. But in my opinion it was a clear symptom of this man's radical mental instability. And that instability (or insanity, or whatever it should be called) led to the murder of the 8- and 10-year-old children, and wounding of 19 others.

And that could have been prevented, if someone had seen the warning signs in the shooter, instead of encouraging him in his delusions.

Pray, and do something to stop this insanity.

**Election This Tuesday.** As you know this Tuesday, September 9, is a special election to fill the Congressional seat vacated by the death of Gerry Connelly—the Representative of 11<sup>th</sup> District, which **includes most of our parishioners**.

Connolly was a Democrat and a strong proponent of some of the major evils plaguing our society today, including **abortion** and **transgender** ideology. He also opposed and fought against parental rights and school choice. The Democrat candidate in Tuesday's election is **James Walkinshaw**, Connolly's former chief of staff, who Connolly endorsed before his death. Walkinshaw promises to follow in Connolly's footsteps, supporting abortion, transgender, etc.. Of course all these are things a **Catholic cannot support**.

The Republican candidate, **Stewart Whitson**, is a former FBI agent and Army combat veteran. He is solidly **against** abortion and transgender ideology and **supports** parent's rights and school choice.

I encourage you all to get to know more about these candidates, and to vote like a Catholic on Tuesday.

**Mary's Birthday.** Tomorrow, Monday, September 8, is the Feast of the Nativity of Mary, Mary's birthday. So tomorrow, spend time with your Blessed Mom, Mary. Of course by praying to her and with her (a family Rosary would be a great idea!), but also by recognizing her presence with you, and thinking, “what should I be doing in this particular situation, knowing the Blessed Mother is here with me. How should I be acting?” And give her a birthday present: a prayer, a Rosary, an act of kindness to someone, going out of your way to avoid temptation and sin... Make this a beautiful day for our Blessed Mother.

**Religious Education (CCD).** CCD begins this evening, September 7. Parents, don't forget to bring your kids this evening, or on Monday, whichever day you've signed up for. If you haven't registered yet, it's not too late, but time is running out. Please see the registration forms in the narthex, go to the parish website or call the RE office ASAP.

And Parents, remember CCD is meant to *supplement* the work you do with them at home. Parents are the primary educators of their children—especially in the Faith. CCD is just here to help you do that. But do not use CCD as an excuse to neglect your part. Instead take this as a time to renew your own personal commitment to teach your kids the Faith. Life is hard, but it's a lot harder without Jesus and His Church. And in the end, the odds are they will not retain their faith when they grow up if you and we don't do our very best to teach them the Faith when they are young.

**OCIA (“RCIA”/“Convert Class”).** Another program set to restart is the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA, formerly called “RCIA”). Classes begin this Monday (tomorrow), September 8, at 7pm in the Rectory classroom (the “Maurer Room”).

If any adult you know is interested in becoming a Catholic, or is a Catholic in need of the sacrament of Confirmation (or First Communion and Confession) this is the course for them. Fr. Bergida teaches most of the classes, taking participants through the basics (and more) of the Catholic faith. Contact the parish office with any questions.

But the class is also designed to be a refresher course for all adult Catholics. So please consider joining this class—even on a week-to-week/topic-to-topic basis.

**Choir and Schola.** Welcome back to our Choir at 11am Mass. You know summer's over when you hear the beautiful strains of choral singing showering down on us from the choir loft. I hope the choir members had a restful summer and look forward to their assistance at Mass. Also, I know they are looking to increase their numbers. Anyone with any interest in joining them is welcome and encouraged to contact Elisabeth Turco at [music@straymonds.org](mailto:music@straymonds.org).

Also, welcome back to our Schola at 9am!

**September 11, 2001.** Lest we forget....Never forget. God bless America, and all her warriors and others who protect our freedoms. May the Lord bless and protect us, and save us from our foes.

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, September 8th**

6:30 am Edward Flynn +  
 8:30 am Anthony Denunzio +

**Tuesday, September 9th**

6:30 am Catherine Flynn +  
 8:30 am Marcialito Narvaez +

**Wednesday, September 10th**

6:30 am Sharon Kirchoff  
 8:30 am Elizabeth Joseph +  
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

**Thursday, September 11th**

6:30 am William Heaney +  
 8:30 am Filomena Tulayba +

**Friday, September 12th**

6:30 am Richard Mugno  
 8:30 am James William King,  
 Jr. +

**Saturday, September 13th**

9:00 am Marilyn Mugno +

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**  
 Marion Heaney +

**Sunday, September 14th**

7:00 am **Fr. Horkan**  
 Eunice M. Brown +

9:00 am **Fr. Bergida**  
 Parishioners

11:00 am **Msr. Rippy**  
 Victoria Murray  
 Wright

1:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**  
 Matthew Dalke

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

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

8/30-9/14 AHG Feed My Lambs food collection  
 9/7 Asian Fusion Ticket Sales  
 9/7-8 RE Classes begin  
 9/7 Angelus Academy 25th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving at 1pm and reception to follow in Parish Hall  
 9/7, 9/14, 9/21 Altar server training-Registration required  
 9/8 Family of Jesus prayer group  
 9/8 OCIA Classes begin  
 9/9 Special Election  
 9/9 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm Maurer Room  
 9/9 Legion of Mary 6:30pm—Library  
 9/10 Adoration 9am-7pm-TBD-Suspended or delayed for 10am funeral  
 9/11 Bridge Club  
 9/12 Adoration 9am—3pm  
 9/13 Asian Fusion Dinner-Parish Hall 6:30pm

**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](mailto: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.

**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 September 20th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email [maryndavew7705@gmail.com](mailto:maryndavew7705@gmail.com).

**The Gift Shop is Open!** After the 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 am Masses. No appointment necessary, we accept Visa and MasterCard charges.

**FATHER TAD COMING AGAIN TO ST. RAYMOND'S-** September 27, 2025. Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk will be discussing **The Bioethics of the Abortion Pill and the "Morning After" Pill.** No Reservations required, 9am Mass, 10am Talk in Parish Hall, 11:30am Questions/Answers. Light breakfast available.

**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.

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

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

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

**Saturday at 9:00 am**

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

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

**Daily Family Rosary leaders needed!** St. Raymond's has a Daily Family Rosary in the church: Mon-Fri at 6:30pm and Saturday and Sunday after the 9am Mass. **Please visit our website to sign up to lead during September!** All are invited to attend.

**Legion of Mary invitation** Do you want to develop a closer relationship with our Mother Mary and her Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ? The Legion of Mary meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm in the Library. All auxiliary members and anyone interested in joining the Legion of Mary are welcome! Point of Contact: Judy Mayer, [jmayer9014@aol.com](mailto:jmayer9014@aol.com), or 703-627-7320.

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

**The American Heritage Girls Troop VA0683** is participating in a service project called Feed My Lambs, which creates food kits for public school children with food insecurity. We would greatly appreciate any contributions to our food collection. The items needed for this collection are: Shelf-stable Milk, Tuna Packets/cans (pull tops), Canned/cup of pasta, Cheese/peanut butter crackers, Granola Bars, Fruit snacks, Apple Sauces or Fruit Cups, Oatmeal Packets, Mac & Cheese cup/box. A collection box will be placed in the Narthex from Aug. 30 to Sept. 14. If you have any questions, contact Kate at [ahgfm125@gmail.com](mailto:ahgfm125@gmail.com)





**THE FULLNESS OF KNIGHTHOOD:** Join the Knights! Your very own St. John Bosco Council #12846 has just been awarded **STAR COUNCIL** and received the **STATE DEPUTY AWARD** as one of the

most outstanding councils in the Commonwealth of Virginia. These noteworthy awards are only earned by strong Catholic men tirelessly working together to serve their parish, community and their nation. 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 seminarians, recognizing outstanding youth, and supporting Special Olympics—you name it! Magnify your impact by joining us! Knights today stand intractably for their **FAITH**, their **FAMILIES**, and their **COUNTRY**. Don't compromise; **join the Knights!** Now is the **perfect time** to take your place with us. Just go to <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> or use the QR code below to experience the Knights **free** for one year. Enter our council #12846 for local information when you register. Please contact our Deputy Grand Knight, Dave Hayes, at cell (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, **LIVE FULLY; BECOME A KNIGHT!**



### Upcoming Events:

#### SEPTEMBER

6/7 Asian Fusion Ticket Sales

8 Members Council Meeting (7pm library – Rosary, 7:30pm parish hall)

13 Asian Fusion Dinner. Parish Hall

20 Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30am, parish hall)

20 Mini Pilgrimage to Grotto of Lourdes (Emmitsburg, MD)

#### The Knights of Columbus Asian Fusion

**Dinner** will take place on Saturday, September 13, 2025 at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall. Come enjoy delicious Filipino lumpia and barbeque skewers, Kimchi Rice, Pancit, Bho Kho Vietnamese Beef Stew, exotic deserts and much more! Tickets for the event will be sold after all Masses on the weekends of August 30/31 and September 6/7. Ticket Prices are \$6.00 for children (5-12), \$18.00 for Adults and \$60.00 max for families. We will also sell tickets at the door. You can use the QR Code here for tickets as well. **THIS EVENT SELLS OUT EVERY YEAR SO BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!**



**2025-2026 OCIA (formerly RCIA)** - St. Raymond's will offer OCIA classes on Monday evenings from early September to late April. 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](mailto:mary.hansen@straymonds.org).

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

### SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECT LIFE



Early voting is now open for the special election to fill the US Congressional seat for District 11.

**STEWART WHITSON** is the Pro-Life candidate.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2273), *"the inalienable right to life of every innocent human being is a constitutive element of a civil society and its legislation."*

Create hope for the future! **NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING**, Supporting God's gifts of love and life in marriage. For more information visit [ccli.org](http://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 secure abortion as 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**... is very grateful for our continued support. Donations welcome in the narthex collection box near the elevator. Greatest needs: **winter coats up to 2T**, diapers, formula, wipes, winter clothes up to 2T. Please do not leave bouncy seats, walkers, gates or jogging strollers. Thank you for understanding.

*To those who have suffered an abortion:*

"Do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. The Father of Mercies is ready to give you His Forgiveness and His Peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation." **Project Rachel** helps women and men who are carrying the grief and sorrow of a past abortion. (888)456-HOPE. Men: (703) 841-3833. Confidentiality always

respected. [www.helpafterabortion.org](http://www.helpafterabortion.org).

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 session @ 5 pm: Sept 11. Interested? Call:

703-841-2504 or visit [info@helpafterabortion.org](mailto: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](http://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

### High School Youth Group TODAY!!

5-6:30pm Religious Ed

6:30-8pm High School Youth Group

*Are you able to contribute some snacks or heavy hors d'oeuvres one Sunday evening* for our high school youth group to enjoy? For more details go to <https://bit.ly/feedthehungryteens>

### Friday 9/12: 6:30am Friday Morning Mass & Breakfast with the Priests before school starts up again this week!

**Calling all 7-12th Graders:** Add Mass before class as a part of your Friday sacrifice, then come downstairs for breakfast with Fr. Bergida & Fr. Horkan before school! Please RSVP if you can, at <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVP> If you RSVP by Wednesday we can coordinate our volunteers to drive you to your school by 8am! *Would you be willing to contribute a breakfast casserole or other meatless dish one Friday this semester to help keep these Friday breakfasts going?* More details at <https://bit.ly/breakfastfriday>

### Friday 9/12 : Cor Jesu (7-8pm Library)

For those who want MORE! This is a drop-in group open to all **High School** students who desire to go DEEPER. It is an opportunity to dive more deeply into the Heart (Cor) of Jesus (Jesu) by dedicating an hour on a Friday evening to allow Him the opportunity to speak to you. The format will change as the Holy Spirit leads, but will include Scripture and faith discussions on various topics. Bring a Bible, pen, journal and a friend! We meet most Fridays 7-8pm in the Library. *"The world offers you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness."* - Pope Benedict XVI

### Tuesday 9/9: Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group

7-8:30pm 2nd & 4th Tuesday's beginning 9/9 (Maurer Rm)

**ALL High School Ladies** are invited to become part of our authentic sisterhood in Christ, deepening our faith, sharing life & growing in holiness. It's a real special time of friendship together, immersing ourselves in the Good, True & Beautiful. This year's theme is "our identity in Christ + chaste, modest & virtuous living."

### Tuesday 9/16: Sons of Thunder: High School Guys' Group

7-8:30pm 1st & 3rd Tuesdays beginning 9/16 (Maurer Room)

**Attention High School Men:** Come hungry (physically and intellectually) and ready to rumble. Sons of Thunder meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30 pm in the Maurer Room with Phil, Nate, and Father Bergida.

### Saturday 9/20: High School Swing Dance (7-9pm Parish Hall)

All high school students are invited! **We have instructors** so please don't worry if you have never danced before. Most of the folks who have been attending had never swing danced before, but now are quite good! See flyer or email for more info. *Mark the date & tell your friends! No cost!*

### Mark Your Calendars for these upcoming HS events:

10/5 Donut Sunday (Youth Apostolate hosting, need your help)

10/25 Apple Picking & Dominican Monastery (8am-1:15pm)

10/26 High School RALLY

More info. can also be found at <https://bit.ly/PERMISSIONSLIPS>

### Thursday 10/9: Newman Guide Virtual College Fair

**Offered 1-3pm and 7-9pm** Students will have the chance to visit virtual college "booths," learn about unique scholarship opportunities, attend "live" sessions on the difference between Catholic and secular education, and more! High school students, their parents, and school leaders can register <https://bit.ly/septcollege>

A new **YA Info. Sheet** is REQUIRED to be turned in once **each school year** for every child *prior* to participating in any Youth Apostolate event on or off site. <http://bit.ly/YAforms>

<https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/youth-apostolate/>

All are welcome to participate in Youth Apostolate events.

**Jeanne Sause**

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

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

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

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Welcome back!!! Classes begin this week, Sept. 7th and 8th.

All CCD sessions begin in the church - Sunday at 5:00 pm and Monday at 4:45 pm. Parents may walk children into the church or drop them off at the front of the church. Your child(ren) should be seated in the church by the start time of the session, **so please drop off about 10 minutes early**. Parents will pick children up from **their classrooms** at the end of each class session - Sunday at 6:30 pm and Monday at 6:15 pm.

**ALL CCD PARENTS and families with students in sacramental preparation are expected to attend a "Back to CCD Night" meeting on Sept. 21 at 5:20 pm or Sept. 22 at 5 pm in the parish hall.** You may attend the meeting which is most convenient for you. **Parents of Homeschool and Catholic School students** who are in sacrament preparation years (grades 2, 7 and 8) and are receiving their Sacraments here at St. Raymond's, should attend one of these meetings. **And don't forget to register your students with the RE office!**

**Attention High Schoolers!** You are particularly encouraged to take advantage of our fantastic teachers –and no tests! Come give our Sunday evening classes a try. Contact the RE office for more information.

**VOTE IN THE SPECIAL ELECTION SEPT. 9** to fill the open 11th Congressional District seat. Most of Fairfax County and portions of Prince William County are in the 11th Congressional District. Local Early Voting locations opened Friday, August 29th from 1-7 pm. See the Voting Flyer on the Voting Table in the Narthex or at side exits of Church to determine if you are in the 11th District and get details on voting. **REMEMBER: IT IS YOUR DUTY TO VOTE.**

**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/>

**JOIN the CHOIR at St. Raymond's:** Rehearsals resume on Sept. 9th! We practice on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and sing at 11:00 am Mass on Sundays with a warm-up at 10. The choir also provides music for Easter, Christmas and Holy Days. The repertoire of the choir contains masterpieces of classical liturgical choir music. Singers who have a pleasant voice and sing in pitch are welcome. Enjoy wonderful fellowship, music training and the joy of making uplifting music for the liturgy. Contact Elisabeth Turco at [music@straymonds.org](mailto:music@straymonds.org) or call 703-506-4644.

**Bridge Club:** All levels of players are welcome. We play Bridge cards each week in the Church Hall. Contact Lois Kotlowski at 703-455-6567 or [bridgeclub402@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeclub402@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining us.

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



### Our Lady of Ransom Scholarships to Catholic Schools are Available.

Please send requests for 2025-26 tuition assistance to Fr. De Celles or contact the parish office for more information. We can also help cover homeschooling expenses.



## CHURCH PERSECUTED

The first Monday of October is traditionally the beginning of the U.S. Supreme Court's (SCOTUS) fall session. While it has been unusually busy during the summer, activity will pick up in the fall. There are a few cases which are important to the freedoms that we Americans cherish. Let's run down some of the key cases from the previous term, which may help decide some similar cases this term.

1. *Mahmoud v. Taylor* – was the Montgomery County (MD) case where the school system would not let the parents opt their children out of radical gender identity lessons that conflict with their religious beliefs. In this case the Court ruled that such actions were discriminatory and overturned the policy.

2. *Catholic Charities Bureau Inc. v. Wisconsin* established that a religious non-profit organizations were discriminated against and entitled to a tax exemption because they were religious organizations. Interestingly, the Court, in a 9-0 decision, overturned a Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling that Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Superior (and other plaintiffs) were not religious enough in its ministry to the poor because it was not trying to convert their clients.

3. *Ames v. Ohio Dept. of Youth Services* was settled in a 9-0 decision against Ohio because a heterosexual employee was not selected for a position because she was not a lesbian and ultimately demoted.

4. *United States v. Skrametti* affirmed Tennessee's law banning gender-affirming care for so-called "transgender" minors. This also implicitly affirmed those other states which had similar laws on the books as the court refused to hear similar cases favoring so-called "transgender" persons from North Carolina, West Virginia, Idaho, and Oklahoma. In each of the latter cases, the court asked the appeals court to relook at the cases based on the *Skrametti* decision.

5. Based on the above rulings, some Court scholars say that the present Court could in the next several years, relook at two important cases:

a. *Bostock v. Clayton County*, a 2020 Court decision which ruled that discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity constitutes discrimination "because of sex" and thus prohibited under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

b. *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the 2015 case which allowed for so-called "same-sex marriage."

Next week, we will review the 2025-2026 religious liberty-related cases on the Court docket.

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