

"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

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Reconciliation/Confession)

Wednesday Evening

6:15 - 7:00 pm (during Exposition)

First Fridays

3:00-4:00 pm and 6:00-7:00 pm

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

Congratulations to Sister Transfiguration. On Monday, September 17, I was honored to be present at the **Profession of Final Vows** of Sister Mary of the Transfiguration Rivera in the religious order “Servants of the Lord and Our Lady of Matara,” which you might recognize as the “nuns in the blue habits.” Baptized as “Anilia,” Sister is the daughter of long-time Parishoners Ben and Ileana Rivera (congratulations to them too!).

Sister grew up at St. Raymond’s and was active in our Homeschool Group before she attended Ave Maria University. After graduating from Ave in 2018 she immediately entered the Servants as a Postulant. What a blessing to have this vocation flower in our parish. Please keep Sister Transfiguration in your prayers, and pray for vocations to consecrated life from our parish.

New Home for New Chesterton Academy. I am very excited to tell you that last week it was officially announced that the new Chesterton Academy of Christ the King will be **located at St. Lawrence Catholic Church** on Franconia Road in Alexandria. This is just 14 minutes away from St. Raymond’s.

You may remember that I am on the Board of Advisors to Christ the King. This new classical Catholic school will open in the Fall of 2026.

Charlie Kirk. The last week has been filled with news about the assassination of Charlie Kirk, the 31-year-old devout Christian, husband and father of 2, and founder of Turning Point USA. Since a teenager Charlie was active in politics, but more importantly he actively promoting a dialogue of ideas, approaching them from a common sense, conservative and Christian perspective but always striving for a respectful exchange even with his opponents. He was famous for his very popular podcasts and his touring of College campuses to debate all comers. He was not only a huge support to conserve young people, but also an instrument of conversion, clarification and deprogramming of many young people confused by the leftist academia and news/social/entertainment media.

Above all he was a devout and unapologetic Christian. Although he professed an Evangelical Protestantism, his wife was a practicing Catholic, and he often expressed respect for Catholicism. As an advanced autodidact and a devout seeker of the truth, I was convinced he was “not far from” becoming a Catholic.

His assassination is a dark, and important, event in our national history. Millions of young people feel a deep personal loss as well as an attack on an icon of their beliefs, and millions of older folks, like me, see it as the latest bloody attack on true American ideals, including free speech, true tolerance, and religious freedom.

Some on the left have been blaming Kirk for his own murder (“he deserved it,” “Hateful thoughts ...lead to hateful actions”) and many have even celebrated it. Still others are blaming conservative rhetoric for the assassination. This is despite the fact that the assassin was clearly motivated by his leftist ideals and his romance with a male identifying as a woman.

Moreover, it seems pretty clear that violence is more an instrument of the Left than the Right in our country. A recent poll found that 42 percent of self-identified “Liberals” think that “violence can sometimes be justified...to achieve political goals,” whereas only 6 percent of conservatives agreed with that.

This tracks with the ideological foundations of today’s “mainstream” Left, which is rooted in Marxism. Historically Marxism foments hate between economic classes, the rich and the poor. But the Marxist model has easily been adapted to pit women against men, racial minorities against whites (and Asians), “lgbtq” people against normal heterosexuals. Moreover, it specifically embraces violence as a necessary tool of change, as well as lying and authoritarianism.

Mainstream conservative movements, on the other hand, are founded either on Christian or Enlightenment principles (or a combination of both), which reject violence in favor of free and respectful debate. That is not to say that some conservatives are not violent or disrespectful—we are all sinners. But violence, lies and authoritarianism are not principles of “the Right.”

So how do we respond to Charlie’s assignation and the continuing violence and lies of the Left? Excuse me if I quote myself in last Sunday’s homily:

“We turn to the Most Holy Cross of Jesus. And we remember, “father, forgive them.” “Love your enemies.” And we remember that from the Cross comes the Resurrection, from suffering, glory.

“And we remember that the message of real love and peace and truth

that is at the heart of the gospel of Jesus Christ is still the answer for the troubles and sufferings in this world, and a pledge of glorious happiness in the next.

“We do not pick up the sword, we do not subjugate, we do not stigmatize our enemies. Yes, we can fight them, but not with bloody violence, but with words of reason and truth, and always with the forbearance and mercy of charity. We fight like St. Paul fought the good fight. And like Christ himself, and with Christ,

we fight and conquer sin, and death itself.

“And we don’t fall for the lie that words of disagreement are violence.

Words are not violent. No, violence is violence.

“And yes, sometimes violence must be met with the violence of self-defense, but we do not need to resort to that when we’ve only begun to fight back like Charlie did—with straightforward debate and courageous and charitable truth-telling.

“...We are not alone...We are Christians. We embrace the Cross, and place our faith, hope and love in Jesus Christ.”

Our Lady of Ransom. This Wednesday, September 24th, is the Feast of Our Lady of Ransom. Many of the newcomers to our parish don’t know much about this devotion, so...

During the 13th century Muslim pirates from northern Africa would regularly raid and capture ships from Christian countries and then hold the captured Christians for ransom, forced conversion, and/or for the slave trade.

So on the evening August 1, 1218, the Blessed Mother appeared separately to three very different men in Barcelona, Spain: to St. Peter Nolasco, the son of a wealthy Spanish merchant and veteran of various battles against the “Moors” (Muslims) occupying southern Spain; to King James I of Aragon; and to our own beloved patron St. Raymond of Peñafort, who was Peter’s confessor. Our Lady told each of them that St. Peter was to found a religious order that would dedicate itself to the ransom of Christian captives of Muslims. The members of this new order would take a vow to offer themselves personally/bodily, when necessary, as ransom or as security for the freedom their fellow Christians. St. Peter obeyed the Our Lady, and with the political and financial support of the King and under the wise guidance of St. Raymond, the order was founded and proceeded in its mission. The order is officially named the “Order of the Virgin Mary of Mercy of the Redemption of Captives,” so that Our Lady of Ransom is also sometimes called “Our Lady of Mercy,” and the order is commonly called “the Mercedarians.”

The apparition of Our Lady of Ransom to St. Raymond of Peñafort is pictured in the beautiful mural located in our sanctuary above our statue of Blessed Mother.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 22nd

6:30 am Patricia Urso +
 8:30 am Robert Ponton

Tuesday, September 23rd

6:30 am Phyllis D. Deeney
 8:30 am Mike Frankfurth +

Wednesday, September 24th

6:30 am Eileen Flannagan +
 8:30 am George+ & Alice Rouse
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, September 25th

6:30 am Bobbi Jones
 8:30 am Judy Opiela +

Friday, September 26th

6:30 am Dominique Arcobasso
 8:30 am Joan Opeila +

Saturday, September 27th

9:00 am Stephen John
 Fernandez +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Caroline Fogg &
 Robert Jarvis

Sunday, September 28th

7:00 am **Msr. Rippy**
 Salvador Suarez III

9:00 am **Fr. Bergida**

Parishioners

11:00 am **Fr. De Celles**

Steve Schweitzer

1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**

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
 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
 Joann Alba
 Denise Hunnell
 Alicia Tocconi
 Susan Adcock

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- 9/21-22 RE Classes
- 9/21 Last Altar server training
- 9/22 Family of Jesus prayer group
- 9/22 OCIA Classes
- 9/22 Bible Study morning class 9:30-11:00 am
- 9/23 Bible Study evening class 7:00-8:30 pm
- 9/23 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm Maurer Rm.
- 9/23 Legion of Mary 6:30pm—Library
- 9/24 Forty Days for Life Begins
- 9/24 Adoration 9am-7pm
- 9/25 Bridge Club
- 9/26 Adoration 9am—3pm
- 9/27 Father Tad Presentation after 9am Mass
- 10/3 Nocturnal Adoration
- 10/4 First Saturday Communal Devotions
- 10/4 K of C Shredding event— 10am-noon
- 10/4 Men's Prayer Group
- 10/4 Blessing of the animals
- 10/5 Donut Sunday Hosted by our Youth Group
- 10/5 Life Chain

Family of Jesus Prayer Group: Weekly meetings are in the Church on Mondays at 3:00 pm. If you have any prayer requests, please us know by emailing Elaine Perricone at jpebtp@verizon.net or by calling the parish office. You may also write down your prayer requests and drop them in the "Prayer Box" on the table in the narthex of the church.

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 October 4th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryn-davew7705@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.

**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 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, 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.

Christ House Meal – Oct 31st - 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 Parish Office or you can make a donation via Faith Direct at this link: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/VA64/54793>.



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

distinguished **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! Grab a Knight after Mass and ask him the benefits of becoming a Knight! 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:

OCTOBER

- 10/2 Officer Planning Meeting (7pm, Library)
- 10/4 Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30am, Parish Hall)
- 10/6 Membership Meeting (7pm-Rosary, 7:30pm Parish Hall)
- 10/11 Fourth Degree Exemplification (All Saints Church, Manassas)
- 10/18 Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30am, Parish Hall)

2024-25 Adult Bible Study: St. Raymond's will study the topic of "Hearing the Voice of the Lord in the Major Prophets" on Monday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 A.M. and again on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. (except for holidays) in the Parish Hall, from Monday, September 15, 2025 through May, 2026.

JP's Middle School Band Night - Friday, Sept. 26, 2025

Calling all middle schoolers interested in band and colorguard! Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School is hosting a Middle School Band Night on Friday, September 26, 2025 from 4-9pm! Students will practice with JP Marching Band members, enjoy a free dinner, and perform with the JP Marching Band in the stands during the football game! Use the following link to register: <https://forms.gle/7FjvLTjinuLCFduS7>

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.

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.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

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. **Storm heaven!!** Pray that this evil effort be thwarted. **Speak Up!!** Sample letters to members of the General Assembly are available in the narthex. Call your representatives!

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.



Join us to help change hearts and minds! The fall campaign of **40 Days for Life** will take place from 24 Sept – 2 Nov. **St Raymond's witness weekend will be 1-2 November** in front of the Falls Church 'Healthcare' Center. (900 S Washington Street) Sign-up sheets for witness opportunities throughout the campaign are in the narthex. Join us in this peaceful prayer presence as we witness to the sanctity of human life.

LIFE CHAIN Sunday October 5th from 2:30-3:30 on the sidewalk across from Key Elementary School 6402 Franconia Road, Springfield. Join us for this peaceful, prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals standing all across America in remembrance of the lives lost to abortion, praying for our nation and for a permanent end to abortion. Since 1987 Life Chain continues to be a peaceful visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children, hurts women and men, and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death. Non graphic signs provided.

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

To those who have suffered an abortion:

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

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

9/21: High School Youth Group Jr. High Youth Welcome!!
Dinner, Adoration with reflection & Confession Available

6:30-6:50pm Dinner will be served in the parish hall after RE
6:50-8pm Join Fr. Bergida for a special holy hour for 7-12th graders! *Parents/families are encouraged to stay for the holy hour as well.* There will be Exposition with time for silent prayer.

Friday 9/26: 6:30am Friday Morning Mass & Breakfast

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/FRIDAYRSVPS> *Would you be willing to contribute a breakfast casserole or other meatless dish one Friday this semester?* More details at <https://bit.ly/breakfastfriday>

Friday 9/26 : 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.

Tuesday 9/23: Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group
7-8:30pm 2nd & 4th Tuesday's (Maurer Room)

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 9/30: 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.

Sunday 10/5: Donut Sunday hosted by the Youth Apostolate

The Youth Apostolate is hosting our first Donut Sunday this year! Help is needed before and after each Mass to set up, put donuts and juice out before Masses, make/refill coffee and to welcome people. **Can you help? Sign up at** <https://bit.ly/DONUTSUNDAY>

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
11/2 College Night Talk by Guests from Cardinal Newman Society
More info. can also be found at <https://bit.ly/PERMISSIONSLIPS>

Thursday 10/9: Newman Guide Virtual College Fair

1-3pm & 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>

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!



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>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Welcome to all our new families! We are very happy to have you join us this year.

ALL CCD PARENTS are expected to attend a "Back to CCD Night" meeting THIS WEEK -The meetings will begin in the Parish Hall once we return from our Holy Ten Minutes in the church: **Sunday, Sept. 21st at 5:20 pm or Monday, Sept. 22nd at 5 pm** You may attend the meeting which is most convenient for you.

Parents of homeschool students who are in sacramental preparation (grades 2, 7 and 8) need to attend one of these meetings.

Parents of Catholic school students in grades 2, 7 and 8 who will be receiving their Sacraments here at St. Raymond's also need to attend one of these meetings.

MANDATORY 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat will take place here on October 18. Anyone who is preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Spring **must be present the entire day in order to meet the Diocesan requirement.**

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/event/marriagejubilee/>

JOIN the CHOIR at St. Raymond's: Rehearsals have resumed. 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 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 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

Shadow a Wolf at JP - Sign Up Today!

A shadow day is a great opportunity for a prospective student to see life at JP firsthand! Shadow guests are paired with current JP students for an entire school day, attending classes, meeting teachers, and even enjoying a complimentary lunch from the cafeteria. Sign up today! Use the following link to sign up: https://jpthegreat.fsenrollment.com/portal/new_inquiry



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

So much has been written and spoken about the assassination of Charlie Kirk that it is difficult to add more than has already been said. Earlier this month, Bishop Robert Barron, the founder of Word on Fire and a member of the Presidential Religious Freedom Commission, attended a commission hearing at the Museum of the Bible. There President Trump spoke about religious freedom and the need to protect it in a democratic society. Here is a commentary that Bishop Barron posted on his X account after Mr. Kirk's death.

"I first met Charlie Kirk about four years ago when I was in Phoenix for a speaking engagement. He reached out and invited me to breakfast. I was deeply impressed by him that day. He was a man of great intelligence, considerable charm, and real goodness of heart.

"I reconnected with him just last year, after I saw him debate twenty-five young people who were, to put it mildly, hostile to his views. I texted him that I was so struck by how he kept his cool and his charitable attitude in the face of some pretty obnoxious opposition. I then asked him to appear as a guest on my interview program, 'Bishop Barron Presents,' and he eagerly accepted my invitation. He was scheduled to come to Rochester, Minnesota, in about ten days.

"The last contact we had was two nights ago. After I appeared on one of the evening news shows to talk about the Religious Liberty Commission, he texted me and told me how much he appreciated what I said and then added, 'I'm excited to join you on your show soon. God bless you.' That last sentence shows what was most important to Charlie. He was indeed a great debater and also one of the best advocates in our country for civil discourse, but he was, first and last, a passionate Christian. In fact, when we had that breakfast in Phoenix, we didn't talk much about politics. We talked about theology, in which he had a deep interest, and about Christ. I know I'm joining millions of people around the world in praying that he rests now in the peace of the Lord."

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

See the Formed bulletin board by the central doors of the vestibule for additional suggestions.

Watch: Pier Giorgio Frassati: If I didn't have Love A classic Italian movie re-mastered and re-released to celebrate the canonization in 2025 of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901-1925). Frassati was a handsome, athletic and fun-loving young man from a rich, aristocratic Italian family who turned from a life of privilege to one devoted to working with the poor, suffering and homeless, and was a courageous witness of Christian faith and charity to many others. He died of the polio virus at the age of 24.

eBook: A Landscape with Dragons: The Battle for your Child's Mind by Michael O'Brien. The author examines contemporary children's literature and finds it spiritually and morally wanting. The book is a controversial, yet thoughtful study of what millions of young people are reading and the possible impact such reading may have on them.

For Kids, Watch: Carlo Acutis: God's Influencer is a beautifully animated film that brings to life the inspiring story of Carlo Acutis, a modern teenager who used his passion for technology to share the Catholic faith with the world.

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

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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 22153

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

John Paul the Great's Fall Open House - Sunday November 2, 2025 Save-the-date! John Paul the Great's Fall Open House will be held on Sunday November 2, 2025 from 1-4pm. This year's Open House will be fun for the whole family! Learn more about our rigorous college-preparatory curriculum, competitive athletics, inspiring visual and performing arts, and abundant extracurricular opportunities! We look forward to introducing you to our unique Bioethics program as well as our beloved House System and robust Special Services! Meet students, faculty, and coaches to learn more about the programs you love. RSVP Today! Use the following link to RSVP: https://jpthegreat.fs enrollment.com/portal/new_inquiry

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