

"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

“Parish/Town Hall Meetings.” Last month I announced that we would have a parish-wide meeting to discuss the future of the Parish—a “Parish/Town Hall Meeting.” So I’ve scheduled **two of these meetings, one on Saturday morning, October 11 after the 9 am Mass, and the other on Thursday evening, October 16 at 6:30 pm**, both in the Parish Hall. The meetings are alternatives to each other, covering the same ground, so **choose one or the other**, whichever is most convenient.

The purpose of these meetings would be not to discuss so much the spiritual and formation aspects of the parish, but **to discuss your hopes and ideas for physical plant of the parish**. For example, I’ve often wondered if we need more space for meetings, classrooms, etc., i.e., **should we build** another building? Did you know that a third building (in addition to the church and rectory) was part of the early construction plans for the physical plant, as “phase two.” Let’s be clear, building construction would be a cross for me, but...maybe there’s a need to build...I can carry that cross, with your help.

We can also discuss beautifying the facilities by **adding landscaping**, flowers, and/or **sculptures/shrines** to the grounds. Or perhaps extend our efforts to **beautify the interior church**. And perhaps I can get some ideas from you about how to pay for any improvements.

The format will be largely informal, and I will invite you to actively participate in discussions. There is **no need to RSVP**, but I would truly appreciate you **sending me any suggestions for the meeting**. You can email me at fdc@straymonds.org.

DAILY ROSARY. This Wednesday we begin the month of October which the Church keeps as the **“Month of the Rosary.”** In her various apparitions, the Blessed Mother has repeatedly begged us to pray the Rosary, an exhortation echoed by Popes and Saints for centuries. And one of the best ways to pray the Rosary is as a family—it can be a tremendous blessing.

With this in mind, three years ago we started the practice of having a public **Daily Family Rosary** in our church, every Monday to Friday at 6:30pm and Sunday – Saturday a few minutes after the 9am Mass.

Of course, **everyone is invited** to pray, but I call it the “FAMILY ROSARY” because I want it to be led by one family praying together, and leading others. Lately we’ve been struggling to find families who will volunteer to do this, and resort to having the same few families lead week after week.

So, I ask every father or mother of a young family to volunteer his/her family to lead this Rosary one evening a month. This is a great way to teach your children to pray and to not be afraid to pray publicly. It’s very easy to sign up your family: just go to the parish website (straymonds.org) and on the pop-up menu (“Important Announcements”) click on the link for the “OCTOBER DAILY FAMILY ROSARY,” which leads to **SignUpGenius**.

Memorial Service. Some of you have mentioned to me that you saw and were inspired by the “Memorial Service” held on for Charlie Kirk last Saturday. It was something else. So I wasn’t surprised when someone asked me, “why aren’t Catholic Funerals more like that?” An excellent question.

What we saw on Saturday was not a Funeral, but a Memorial Service. Simply put, the two fundamental differences between the two are that 1) a Funeral takes place in the presence of the body of the deceased and 2) focuses on ritual prayer,

while a memorial service 1) takes place without the body present and 2) emphasizes remembering and honoring the deceased. A Catholic Funeral is particularly about prayer for the deceased, that they may be purified quickly in Purgatory and gain their place in glory in heaven.

Catholics are free to have Memorial Services, and often do. Sometimes that becomes the function of the Wake or Viewing the night before or the Reception after the Funeral Mass and Burial. At these gatherings folks can share stories and honor the deceased in a relaxed way, and not be concerned about decorum or the reverence due at Mass.

It is true that the priest can permit “words of remembrance” (sometimes called a “eulogy”) by a family member or friend at a Funeral Mass. When I was a young priest I used to allow this practice, but over the years I experienced too many speakers, even very good Catholics, get caught up in the moment and say things that, while perhaps okay at a Memorial Service, were not at all appropriate at a Mass. How many times did I give a Funeral homily about praying for the dead, only to have a family member disagree with me in their eulogy: “I know he’s in Heaven,” or even, “there is no Purgatory.” At one Mass, decades ago, I heard one priest eulogize another priest saying, “he was kinda guy who would bail his brother priest out of jail in the middle of the night.” Scandalous anywhere, but especially at Mass.

So I haven’t allowed eulogies at Funeral Masses for years, but I DO encourage families to have some opportunity for family and friends to honor the deceased, e.g. at the Wake, Reception or Memorial Service. A Memorial Service might be something to consider as a follow up to the Funeral Mass, especially if there are a lot of non-Catholics who might not feel the need to pray for the deceased at Mass, but would like to come to the Memorial Service (or wake or reception) to simply honor the deceased. Just an idea.

Cardinal Müller Interview. Recently Cardinal Gerhard Müller gave a very interesting interview to Diane Montagna covering a wide range of interesting topics (the link is too long to put here, but easy to find on the internet). Consider one of his answers:

Question: “[W]ould [you] put wokeism on the same level as communism? Answer: “Yes, I view it as a continuation of the Marxist understanding of man. According to Marx, we are not persons with an immortal soul capable, through grace, of living in a personal relationship with God, our Creator. Rather, we are seen as dependent on a political party or ideological group—or on the determinations of organizations such as the World Economic Forum—to define the nature of man. An elite few decide what human dignity is, and the masses are expected to obey and conform to everything they dictate. This is completely destructive.

“Wokeism is part of an ideological wave that opposes personal identity, the body—male and female—, stable family relationships, distinct cultures and languages, history, and the normal stable relationships that are part of being human.

“It is, in essence, a continuation of the old Marxism. While it does not operate as an official political party, it has well-organized pressure groups everywhere—in the European Union, in the United States through the Deep State, in mass media, social media, and universities. These groups are highly oppressive, militant, and aggressive toward anyone who does not conform to their thought.”

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 29th

6:30 am Kevin Crennan +
 8:30 am Herman & Nelida
 Brouillette +

Tuesday, September 30th

6:30 am Theresa Mullin
 8:30 am Casmir Kliszak +

Wednesday, October 1st

6:30 am Lynn Kline
 8:30 am In Thanksgiving
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, October 2nd

6:30 am Brian Chun Nin Ng +
 8:30 am James Drouillard

Friday, October 3rd

6:30 am Marty Biskup
 8:30 am Mike Thompson

Saturday, October 4th

9:00 am Joseph & Madeline
 Hatcher

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
 Salvador Ramos +

Sunday, October 5th

7:00 am **Msr. Rippey**
 RE Students & Families

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

11:00 am **Fr. Bergida**
 Adam Murray

1:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**
 Claire Hildebrand

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 Estabrooks

Annette Haynes
 Beth Fitzgibbons
 Jean Keegan
 Margaret M. Hill
 Bill Roche
 Florence Miller
 Robert Petitti
 Joann Alba
 Denise Hunnell
 Alicia Tocconi

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

9/28-29 RE Classes
 9/29 Family of Jesus prayer group
 9/29 OCIA Classes
 9/29 Bible Study morning class 9:30-11:00 am
 9/30 Bible Study evening class 7:00-8:30 pm
 9/30 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-5:15pm Maurer Rm.
 9/30 Legion of Mary 6:30pm—Library
 10/1 Adoration 9am-7pm
 10/2 Bridge Club
 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 10:30 Rectory
 10/5 Donut Sunday Hosted by our Youth Group
 10/5 Life Chain

Blessing of the Animals: In honor of the feast of St. Francis, we will have the annual Blessing of the Animals Saturday, October 4th at 10:30 am in front of the rectory.

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-davev7705@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.

First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary: We invite you to join us for Communal First Saturday Devotions on **October 4 immediately following 9am Mass.** Come participate in this beautiful & important devotion given to us by Our Lady of Fatima, and learn more about her powerful promises for our current times! Following 9am Mass, we pray the Daily Family Rosary in the Church; and then proceed to the PARISH HALL for Fatima prayers & a special meditation on the mysteries, with the intention of consoling our Blessed Mother in reparation of poor sinners. Concludes by 10:30am. All are invited!

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.

**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 October!** 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!**



SOCCER CHALLENGE: The annual Knights of Columbus District Soccer Challenge takes place **Saturday, October 25, 2025** on the field behind Holy Spirit School located at **8800 Braddock Rd. Annandale, VA 22003**. This event is for boys and girls aged 9-14 and will run from **12 pm until 4 pm** so arrive during that time and shoot to win!

Upcoming Events:

OCTOBER

- 10/2 Officer Planning Meeting (7pm, Library)
- 10/4 Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30am, Parish Hall)
- 10/4 Shredding Event 10-12
- 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)

2025-26 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.

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.

27th ANNUAL CHRIST THE KING MEN'S RETREAT-DIE CATHOLIC AND IN THE STATE OF GRACE AND YOU WIN: *How to make the last battle of your life a victory* Arm yourself for the war being waged against God by the evil one's unrelenting assault on human life. The **27th Annual Christ the King Men's Day of Recollection**, directed by Father Francis de Rosa, will be held on Sat. Oct. 25 from 8:30am—12:15pm at St. Raymond of Peñafort Catholic Church, **8750 Pohick Rd., Springfield VA 22153**. There is no charge for this event, but you must register before Oct. 22 to attend. Donations gratefully accepted. To register go to www.waywomen.com/mensretreat For more information, contact Robin Maas at rmvlmaas@gmail.com.

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

9/28 & 10/5 : High School Youth Group (Parish Hall)

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>

Every Friday in October : 6:30am 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>

Every Friday in October: 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 10/7: 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>

Tuesday 10/14: 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."

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. <https://bit.ly/YAforms>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THANK YOU to everyone who attended the parent meetings **last week**. If you did not attend, please be sure to read the Parent Handbook, which was emailed to you, and let us know if you have any questions. Also, **if you are not getting group emails** from Virginia Osella, please let us know ASAP.

If you missed the meeting and you have a child preparing to receive a sacrament (grades 2, 7 and 8) please come by the RE office to pick up a folder with important information, Mass attendance cards, and required forms.

At the parent meeting, we reminded FCPS parents about the importance of opting out of problematic Family Life Education lessons, and had some printouts available with more information. We subsequently received the updated reviews for this year's lessons and emailed them out to all CCD parents. Please take a look and let us know if you need help opting out.

Planning ahead: There will be no CCD classes October 12 or 13 in observance of the Columbus Day holiday.

Confirmation 2026 Candidates: The Sponsor Interview was due on 9/25. Please submit to the RE office ASAP.

REQUIRED Confirmation Retreat for 8th grade students is October 18th. Specific information will be emailed to parents.

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/>

Book Club News: Our next meeting will be on Thursday, October 9th at 9:30 AM, in the Parish Library. We will be discussing "Sister, Soldier, Surgeon: The Life and Courage of Deirdre Byrne, MD" by Dr Leisa Marie Carzon. The schedule for the full year can be found on the parish website: <https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/book-club/>. New members welcome. If you have questions or plan to join us for the first time in October, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.

Thank you so much for your contributions to the American Heritage Girls' National Day of Service Feed My Lambs project. We were able to create about 450 weekend food kits for school children. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

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.fs enrollment.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

Attacks on Catholic Church property continues. Tommy Valentine, a former parishioner and now on the staff of CatholicVote, writes, "Since May 28, 2020 (the death of George Floyd), there have been at least 524 attacks against Catholic churches in the United States. These include "acts of arson, spray-painting and graffiti...rocks and bricks thrown through windows; statues destroyed ...illegal disruptions of Mass."

Broken down further,
 2020 (May 28 and later): 60 attacks on Catholic churches;
 2021: 83 attacks on Catholic churches;
 2022: 143 attacks on Catholic churches;
 2023: 108 attacks on Catholic churches;
 2024: 86 attacks on Catholic churches; and
 2025: 44 attacks on Catholic churches.

The major uptick in Catholic church violence came in 2022 with the leaking of the U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* which allowed abortion unabated in the United States. Why attack Catholic churches? Because regardless of whether it is preached from the pulpit or taught in the schools, the Catholic Church has always been the leader in defending human life from conception to natural death precisely. It does so because it has the complete understanding of the human person – one made in the image and likeness of God, and one present in the mother's womb at the earliest point of conception. While some leaders try to minimize the importance of these facts with what had been known as the "seamless garment" politics (which considers all life-related issues of equal importance), the fact remains that LIFE is the most fundamental of human rights. In the U.S. experience, without life, there would be no liberty, or no pursuit of happiness.

Let us pray that our Catholic educational institutions not only teach us that human life is so important because we are made in the image and likeness of God, but also teach us why that is so.

<https://catholicvote.org/tracker-church-attacks/>

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

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

Watch: God's Doorkeeper: St. André of Montréal. On January 6, 1937, the death of a humble doorkeeper for a boy's college drew over a million people to Montréal for his funeral. For forty years, Brother André Bessette of the Congregation of the Holy Cross welcomed people at the door and became known as a miraculous healer. The movie looks at the heart and legacy of Brother André-as a man of prayer, of hospitality, and of compassion, a man who draws people in to experience a God who is love.

eBook: The Spiritual Exercises: These Spiritual Exercises were written by Ignatius of Loyola, a theologian, priest, and founder of the Society of Jesus, in the sixteenth century. They are Catholic prayers, reflections, meditations, mental exercises and directions designed to be read and carried out over a 28 to 30 day time period.

For Kids, Watch: God's Princesses: St. Therese of Lisieux: A story of Humble Love. From the time she's a little girl, Therese knows she is destined to give her life to God: the challenge is when and how? You'll be inspired as Sr. Imelda tells the story of this little flower who learned to follow God wholeheartedly and as a result blessed the whole world.



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Christendom College invites you to attend her Crusader Afternoon on Columbus Day, October 13, from 1-4 PM. Visitors will get a chance to learn more about an education for Wisdom steeped in the Catholic intellectual tradition by hearing from Christendom's leadership, touring campus, and meeting personally with Admissions Staff. This afternoon event is perfect for anyone with the day off of school who's interested in learning about the Diocese of Arlington's only Catholic School recommended by the Cardinal Newman Society's Guide for Choosing a Catholic College.

National Rosary Rally, National Eucharistic Procession and Rosary Coast to Coast on Oct. 5th in DC, live-streamed at 2 pm EDT on RosaryCoasttoCoast.com.

Next Week's second collection is for the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

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