

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



Welcome to St. Raymond of Peñafort Roman Catholic Church

**8750 Pohick Road
Springfield, VA 22153**

WEEKEND MASSES:

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

WEEKDAY MASSES:

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

Website: www.straymonds.org

Rev. John C. De Celles, Pastor
Rev. Joseph D. Bergida, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Edward R. Horkan, In Residence
Elisabeth Turco, Director of Liturgical Music
Jeanne Sause, Director of Youth Apostolate
Virginia Osella, Director of Religious Education
Mary Hansen, Religious Education Secretary
Michael Thompson, Plant Manager
Maerose Naduvilekunnel, Business Manager
Mary Butler, Parish Secretary
Dominique Murray, Office Assistant

PARISH OFFICE

Telephone Numbers:

Rectory: 703-440-0535
Rel. Education: 703-440-0537
Fax: 703-440-0538

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Email

Church: Office@straymonds.org
Pastor: fdc@straymonds.org
Rel. Ed.: ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org

TUITION ASSISTANCE: Please inquire with our office about the availability of partial scholarships for the upcoming school year.

Angelus Academy
7644 Dynatech Ct, Springfield, VA 22153
703-924-3996

Angelus Academy is a fully-accredited pre-K through 8th grade Catholic School affiliated with the Diocese of Arlington. Although it has no official connection with St. Raymond's, the parish has a longstanding close relationship with Angelus Academy. Many of our parish children already happily attend school there.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Reconciliation/Confession)

Wednesday Evening

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

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.

OCIA: The Order 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

OCTOBER: THE ROSARY AND RESPECT LIFE. October is dedicated to both the Rosary and Pro-Life. So this month, pray the Rosary, especially for the Pro-Life cause.

Life Chain Today. Today, as in the past, over 100 St. Raymond parishioners will join other local pro-lifers lining up on the sidewalk of Franconia Road in front of Key Middle School from 2:30 to 3:30 PM to simply stand peacefully and quietly praying, maybe holding a sign, as a public witness to our respect for the dignity of human life. Please join in. Parking is available at the school, and Pro-Life signs will be available.

40 Days for Life. The Fall "40 Days for Life" Campaign, a similar but more prolonged public witness to the right to life, has already begun, and St. Raymond's will once again take part. Our witness weekend will be 1-2 November in front of the Falls Church 'Healthcare' Center. (900 S Washington Street). Please visit the display and sign-up sheet in the narthex this weekend and sign up.

MORE OCTOBER EVENTS. 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. In particular I invite you to join us for the **Daily Family Rosary** in our church, every 6:30pm Monday to Friday, and Sunday – Saturday a few minutes after the 9am Mass.

First Friday Adoration. Please take time to join us for our monthly "First Friday Adoration": 24 hours of straight of Exposition/Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, beginning this Friday after the 8:30am Mass, and continuing throughout the day and night until Saturday Morning before the 9am Mass.

"Parish/Town Hall Meetings." I hope you're thinking about our "Parish/Town Hall Meeting" and are planning to attend either on Saturday morning, **October 11** after the 9 am Mass, or on Thursday evening, **October 16** at 6:30 pm. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss your hopes and ideas for physical plant of the parish. Please let me know if you have any ideas about what we should address at the meetings. You can email me at fdc@straymonds.org.

Voting. Don't forget we have a Virginia statewide election on **November 4, 2025**, when we will vote for a new **Governor**, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Virginia House of Delegates. You can register to Vote/Update Registration and apply for an absentee ballot any time before October 24. And **early in-person** voting continues through November 1.

CUPICH'S FOLLY. Have you been following this issue, as laid out in The Pillar last week:

The recent decision by the Archdiocese of Chicago to grant a lifetime achievement award to U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, a long-time supporter of legal protection for abortion, has stirred up controversy within the U.S. episcopate.

The announcement of the award led Springfield Bishop Thomas Paprocki to voice his shock at the decision, and his concern that it "risks causing grave scandal." Paprocki noted that Durbin is banned from receiving Holy Communion in the Diocese of Springfield, where he resides, due to his support for legal abortion.

[Cardinal Blase] Cupich [Archbishop of Chicago] then responded in a statement defending the bestowal of the award as a type of dialogue.

Since then, a growing number of bishops have taken the rare step of speaking out publicly against a fellow bishop, asking Cupich to reconsider the decision to grant the award to Durbin:

...Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco: "Imagine this: a prominent member of the U.S. Senate has a very strong record on defending the human dignity of life in the womb but also advocates for funding for Border Patrol agents to shoot people trying to enter the country illegally. Would anyone think it reasonable to honor such a senator for the senator's pro-life record

on abortion? No one who advocates for the direct, intentional killing of innocent human life should be honored. Period."

Bishop James Conley of Lincoln: *"I too was shocked and bewildered to learn of this Lifetime Achievement Award to be presented to U.S. Senator Dick Durbin. ...That goes against the fundamental moral principles of the Catholic Church...."*

Bishop James Wall of Gallup: *Thank you [Bishop Paprocki] ... "*

Bishop David Ricken of Green Bay: *"The Archdiocese of Chicago's plan to give [Senator Durbin] a Catholic "Lifetime Achievement Award" is untenable. Works of justice & protecting life are not mutually exclusive but must be inclusive. ...I join [Bishop Paprocki] & Archbishop Cordileone in urging Cardinal Cupich to retract this award..."*

Bishop Carl Kemme of Wichita: *"...I support Bishop Thomas John Paprocki, in his objection to awarding Senator Richard Durbin, who is from Springfield, a lifetime achievement honor....his long-held views and consistent votes promoting abortion clearly disqualify him for this award As a brother bishop, I urge Cardinal Cupich to withdraw this honor, which will ultimately cause scandal and confusion among the faithful."*

Bishop Michael Olson of Fort Worth: *"...Cardinal Cupich could promote peace and unity by withdrawing the invitation to Senator Durbin"*

Bishop Joseph Strickland, emeritus bishop of Tyler, Texas: *"I join Archbishop Cordileone in supporting Bishop Paprocki and urging Cardinal Cupich to reverse his decision regarding Senator Durbin..."*

Archbishop Joseph Naumann, emeritus archbishop of Kansas City, Kansas: *"In a statement to the National Catholic Register, Archbishop Naumann called the Archdiocese of Chicago's decision a "source of scandal" and "pastoral neglect... Dialogue does not require giving awards to Catholic political leaders who disregard the most fundamental of human rights, the right to life of the unborn"..."*

Bishop James Johnston, Jr. of Kansas City-St. Joseph: *"The recent decision by the Archdiocese of Chicago ...cannot be reconciled with Catholic Social and Moral teaching. Indeed, to do so would give a confusing counter-witness about the dignity of the human person and the grave evil of destroying innocent human life."*

VICTORY. On Tuesday evening Cardinal Cupich finally issued a statement, saying in part: **"Senator Durbin today informed me that he has decided not to receive an award at our Keep Hope Alive celebration. While I am saddened by this news...I have seen the divisions within the Catholic community dangerously deepen. These divisions harm the unity of the church and undermine our witness to the Gospel...Total condemnation is not the way forward, for it shuts down discussion. But praise and encouragement can open it up...Indeed, the child in the womb, the sick and elderly, the migrant and refugee, the death row inmate, those already suffering from climate change and generational poverty will continue to be at risk if we, as Catholics, do not start talking to each other respectfully and work together."**

Note: Here the Cardinal embraces what is sometimes called the "seamless garment" approach, which treats "climate change" and abortion as morally equivalent. This approach is completely contrary to Church Tradition, as was definitely explained by Pope St. John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae*.

Also the Cardinal Cupich has been one the most powerful players in appointing American Bishops during the reign of Pope Francis. Let's pray this does not continue under Pope Leo.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, October 6th

6:30 am Luis Tapia
 8:30 am Casey Trageser +

Tuesday, October 7th

6:30 am Fr. James G. Knapp +
 8:30 am Larry McKinley +

Wednesday, October 8th

6:30 am Joyce Ann O'Connor +
 8:30 am Antonio Admana
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, October 9th

6:30 am Barbara Brady +
 8:30 am Joseph + & Margaret
 Maines

Friday, October 10th

6:30 am Christopher Anezin
 8:30 am Jonathan & Kara
 Perricone

Saturday, October 11th

9:00 am Vince & Nelly
 Drouillard

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm
 Joseph Healy, Sr. +

Sunday, October 12th

7:00 am
 Patricia Benoit +
 9:00 am
 Parishioners
 11:00 am
 Jorge Lievano +
 1:00 pm
 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	Paul Haynes	Annette Haynes
Michael O'Neill	Nena Brennan	Beth Fitzgibbons
Cindy Laird	Serrin Foster	Jean Keegan
Patricia Lewis	Donald Trayer	Bill Roche
Mai Pham	Ellen Trayer	Florence Miller
Jason Saenz	Arlene Pietraszko	Robert Petitti
Phyllis Zitnik	Virginia Cummings	Joann Alba
John Florio	Mary M. Dixon	Denise Hunnell
Carolina Baker	Edward J. Susank	Alicia Tocconi
Debra Henkel	Helen Estabrooks	
Gaudencio Dizon		

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

10/5 Donut Sunday is TODAY after the 7am, 9am and 11 am Masses in the Parish Hall
10/5-6 RE Classes
10/6 OCIA Classes
10/6 Bible Study morning class 9:30-11:00 am
10/7 Bible Study evening class 7:00-8:30 pm
10/7 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-6:15pm Maurer Rm.
10/7 Legion of Mary 6:30pm—Library
10/8 Adoration 9am-7pm
10/9 NO Bridge Club
10/9 Book Club Library 9am
10/10 Adoration 9am-3pm
10/13 NO Family of Jesus prayer group
10/13 Columbus Day— One Mass at 10am, Daily family rosary following Mass. Parish Offices Closed

**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>.

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 18th.** 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.

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. **NO BRIDGE CLUB ON 10/9**

November 4th is Election Day. On the ballot is the Virginia Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General and House of Delegates. Early voting is now open at the Fairfax County Government Center and the local Early Voting locations will open September 23rd from 1-7 pm. Please see the Voting Flyer on the Table in the Narthex.

REMEMBER: VOTING is a CIVIC duty!



BE A DOER. BE A KNIGHT! Do you ever wonder when God will lift you up to some great deed or when you'll finally get the chance to act on your faith? Or have you just resigned yourself to the old fib that, as long as you mean well, your works are of no consequence? Well, St.

James responds, "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" It's one thing to believe but quite another to believe and to act: "Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without works; and I will shew thee, by works, my faith." Many Knights are members of other parish commitments as well! Illuminate your faith through your deeds. By joining the Knights of Columbus, you join a corps of doers that multiplies your works. You will no longer wait to act on your faith, because every week presents a new opportunity to do something, however small, for your family, your parish, your diocese, your Church, and for your country. **The Knights of St. John Bosco thus invite all Catholic men to become doers with us, the Knights: ACT NOW** by going to <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> or use the QR code below to experience the Knights **free** for one year: click "Add" and complete the form. Leave the representative code blank but enter our council #12846 for local information upon registration. Please contact our Deputy Grand Knight, Dave Hayes, at (703) 380-4550 if you have any questions or want to learn more about the many benefits of being a Knight! **ANSWER THE CALL. 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

- 10/6 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)
- 10/30 In Igne Fireside Theological Discussion with Oktoberfest Food and Drink, open to All men. Parish Hall 6:30pm
- 11/12 Knights's of Columbus Recruitment Weekend, All Masses, Narthex

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 at 7pm in the Maurer rm. 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 8:30:am—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 rmvmaas@gmail.com.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

TODAY!!! 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. **Bring family and friends!**

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.

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 they have been led astray by greed, ignorance, a misguided sense of compassion or perhaps evil itself.

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate

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

No Youth Group on 10/13

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 up to date 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



October is the Month of the Holy Rosary!

Students will be praying a decade of the rosary together at the beginning of each class during October. We will keep all of your families' special intentions in mind!

PLEASE participate in the Daily Family Rosary in our church, Monday - Friday at 6:30 pm and/or Saturday and Sunday after 9 am Mass during the month of October and beyond! See information in this week's bulletin about Rosary recitation and other prayer opportunities for your family.

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

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.

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.fsenrollment.com/portal/new_inquiry

Do you desire a more meaningful prayer life? Perhaps God is inviting you to an intercessory prayer ministry that helps keep a sense of awe and gratitude for His presence through His priests. Please consider joining the Seven Sisters Apostolate who prays an hour specifically for our St. Raymond's priests (at the church during a time you choose). Each priest at St. Raymond's should have at least one sister praying for him each day of the week. Join one of the Seven Sisters teams, or join as a Substitute. Visit www.sevensistersapostolate.org. Please contact Renee LeBoeuf for more information renee.leboeuf@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 U.S. Supreme Court's fall session begins on Monday, and finally there are not one, but two transgender in sports cases before the court. West Virginia has a law protecting fairness in women's sports. The 4th Circuit ruled against it and the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case in *West Virginia v. B.P.J.* This and *Little v. Hecox* (see below) could settle the issue of men and boys playing in woman and girl sports and lead to the resolution of similar lawsuits by girls and women in other states. The International and U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committees has already ruled that men are not permitted to compete in woman Olympic sports. The same is true for the NCAA. University of Pennsylvania has already acknowledged that they wronged women by allow a man to participate on the woman's swim team. This along with *Little v. Hecox* are two of the most closely watched cases before the Court this term.

As a parallel case to *West Virginia v. B.P.J.* is *Little v. Hecox*, an Idaho case where a transgender female (born male) is questioning "the Equal Protection Clause which allows states to protect fairness and safety by reserving women's sports for females?" The 9th Circuit held that "Idaho's Fairness in Women's Sports Act unlawfully discriminates based on sex and transgender status."

Several organizations have filed *amici curiae* (friend of the court) briefs supporting the position that the traditional immutable biological distinction between the sexes must be sustained. Furthermore, 'gender' should maintain its traditional consistency with biological sex; that is, sex at birth. 'Sex' is not a synonym for and does not include the concept of 'gender identity'."

Parallel to these cases, in 2024 [five Circuit Courts of Appeal](#) ruled against a Biden administration proposal which would enforce portions of a new rule which would provide protection for transgender students under Title IX. The rule would have allowed men to use woman's locker, bathroom and dorm facilities and allow them to participate in women's sports.

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

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

Watch: The Story of Father Kapaun Servant of God Emil Kapaun is the most decorated Chaplain in the United States history. He served as an Army Chaplain both at the end of WWII, and most notably on the battlefields and in the prison camps of Korea, making a name for himself with his fearless attitude and undying commitment to his men.

Read: The Fire Within by Fr. Thomas Dubay Fr. Dubay synthesizes the teaching on prayer of the two great doctors of the Church on prayer-St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila-and the teaching of Sacred Scripture. Here is an outstanding book on prayer and the spiritual life written by one of the best spiritual directors and retreat masters of our time, and based on the writings of the Church's two greatest mystical doctors.

For Kids, Read: To Jesus through Mary by Peggy Olds This family Rosary manual will help you and your children to share the beauty of the Rosary and grow in love and appreciation of Jesus and Mary. Mary is our gift from God, the Rosary is our gift from Mary



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

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