

"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

This week has been very busy, and I'm afraid I ran out of time to write to you. So I turn my column over to my favorite writer. Oremus pro invicem, Fr. De Celles

John Paul II, "Rosarium Virginis Mariae," October 16, 2002 (excerpt).

"Blessed Rosary of Mary, sweet chain linking us to God." 39...The Church has always attributed particular efficacy to this prayer, entrusting to the Rosary, to its choral recitation and to its constant practice, the most difficult problems. At times when Christianity itself seemed under threat, its deliverance was attributed to the power of this prayer, and Our Lady of the Rosary was acclaimed as the one whose intercession brought salvation....

Peace. 40....The Rosary is by its nature a prayer for peace, since it consists in the contemplation of Christ, the Prince of Peace, the one who is "our peace" (Eph 2:14). Anyone who assimilates the mystery of Christ – and this is clearly the goal of the Rosary – learns the secret of peace and makes it his life's project. Moreover, by virtue of its meditative character, with the tranquil succession of Hail Marys, the Rosary has a peaceful effect on those who pray it, disposing them to receive and experience in their innermost depths, and to spread around them, that true peace which is the special gift of the Risen Lord (cf. Jn 14:27; 20:21).

The Rosary is also a prayer for peace because of the fruits of charity which it produces. When prayed well in a truly meditative way, the Rosary leads to an encounter with Christ in his mysteries and so cannot fail to draw attention to the face of Christ in others, especially in the most afflicted. How could one possibly contemplate the mystery of the Child of Bethlehem, in the joyful mysteries, without experiencing the desire to welcome, defend and promote life, and to shoulder the burdens of suffering children all over the world? How could one possibly follow in the footsteps of Christ the Revealer, in the mysteries of light, without resolving to bear witness to his "Beatitudes" in daily life? And how could one contemplate Christ carrying the Cross and Christ Crucified, without feeling the need to act as a "Simon of Cyrene" for our brothers and sisters weighed down by grief or crushed by despair? Finally, how could one possibly gaze upon the glory of the Risen Christ or of Mary Queen of Heaven, without yearning to make this world more beautiful, more just, more closely conformed to God's plan?

In a word, by focusing our eyes on Christ, the Rosary also makes us peacemakers in the world. By its nature as an insistent choral petition in harmony with Christ's invitation to "pray ceaselessly" (Lk 18:1), the Rosary allows us to hope that, even today, the difficult "battle" for peace can be won. Far from offering an escape from the problems of the world, the Rosary obliges us to see them with responsible and generous eyes, and obtains for us the strength to face them with the certainty of God's help and the firm intention of bearing witness in every situation to "love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Col 3:14).

The family: parents... 41. As a prayer for peace, the Rosary is also, and always has been, a prayer of and for the family. At one time this prayer was particularly dear to Christian families, and it certainly brought them closer together. It is important not to lose this precious inheritance. We need to return to the practice of family prayer and prayer for families, continuing to use the Rosary...

The family that prays together stays together. The Holy

Rosary, by age-old tradition, has shown itself particularly effective as a prayer which brings the family together. Individual family members, in turning their eyes towards Jesus, also regain the ability to look one another in the eye, to communicate, to show solidarity, to forgive one another and to see their covenant of love renewed in the Spirit of God.

Many of the problems facing contemporary families, especially in economically developed societies, result from their increasing difficulty in communicating. Families seldom manage to come together, and the rare occasions when they do are often taken up with watching television. To return to the recitation of the family Rosary means filling daily life with very different images, images of the mystery of salvation: the image of the Redeemer, the image of his most Blessed Mother. The family that recites the Rosary together reproduces something of the atmosphere of the household of Nazareth: its members place Jesus at the centre, they share his joys and sorrows, they place their needs and their plans in his hands, they draw from him the hope and the strength to go on.

... and children. 42. It is also beautiful and fruitful to entrust to this prayer the growth and development of children. Does the Rosary not follow the life of Christ, from his conception to his death, and then to his Resurrection and his glory? Parents are finding it ever more difficult to follow the lives of their children as they grow to maturity. In a society of advanced technology, of mass communications and globalization, everything has become hurried, and the cultural distance between generations is growing ever greater. The most diverse messages and the most unpredictable experiences rapidly make their way into the lives of children and adolescents, and parents can become quite anxious about the dangers their children face. At times parents suffer acute disappointment at the failure of their children to resist the seductions of the drug culture, the lure of an unbridled hedonism, the temptation to violence, and the manifold expressions of meaninglessness and despair.

To pray the Rosary for children, and even more, with children, training them from their earliest years to experience this daily "pause for prayer" with the family, is admittedly not the solution to every problem, but it is a spiritual aid which should not be underestimated. It could be objected that the Rosary seems hardly suited to the taste of children and young people of today. But perhaps the objection is directed to an impoverished method of praying it. Furthermore, without prejudice to the Rosary's basic structure, there is nothing to stop children and young people from praying it – either within the family or in groups – with appropriate symbolic and practical aids to understanding and appreciation. Why not try it? With God's help, a pastoral approach to youth which is positive, impassioned and creative – as shown by the World Youth Days! – is capable of achieving quite remarkable results. If the Rosary is well presented, I am sure that young people will once more surprise adults by the way they make this prayer their own and recite it with the enthusiasm typical of their age group.

The Rosary, a treasure to be rediscovered. 43. Dear brothers and sisters! A prayer so easy and yet so rich truly deserves to be rediscovered by the Christian community....I look to all of you, brothers and sisters of every state of life.... confidently take up the Rosary once again.

MASS INTENTIONS

<u>Monday, October 13th</u> 10:00 am Lawrence Ehorn +	<u>Saturday, October 18th</u> 9:00 am Rev. James G. Knapp S.J. +
<u>Tuesday, October 14th</u> 6:30 am Rev. James G. Knapp S.J. + 8:30 am Colin & Amy Jackson	<u>Vigil Mass</u> 5:00 pm Fr. De Celles Karen Sours + and Family
<u>Wednesday, October 15th</u> 6:30 am Sr. Mary Janelle Pintor 8:30 am Chris Menotti 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions	<u>Sunday, October 19th</u> 7:00 am Mmgr. Rippy Salvador Suarez, III
<u>Thursday, October 16th</u> 6:30 am Rev. James G. Knapp S.J. + 8:30 am Marjorie Anderson +	9:00 am Fr. De Celles Parishioners 11:00 am Fr. Horkan Eduardo Cascarro +
<u>Friday, October 17th</u> 6:30 am Rev. James G. Knapp S.J. + 8:30 am Bob Preston	1:00 pm Fr. Bergida Devin Ichikawa

**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>.

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 Estabrooks	Annette Haynes Beth Fitzgibbons Jean Keegan Bill Roche Florence Miller Robert Petitti Joann Alba Denise Hunnell Alicia Tocconi Jay & Linda Cabacar
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

10/13	Columbus Day– One Mass at 10am, Daily family rosary following Mass. Parish Offices Closed
10/12-13	NO RE Classes
10/13	NO OCIA Classes
10/13	NO Bible Study morning class 9:30-11:00 am
10/13	NO Family of Jesus prayer group
10/14	NO Bible Study evening class 7:00-8:30 pm
10/14	Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-6:15pm Maurer Rm.
10/14	Legion of Mary 6:30pm—Library
10/15	Adoration 9am-7pm
10/16	Bridge Club
10/17	Adoration 9am-3pm
10/18	Men's Prayer Group
10/25	WAY Annual Christ the King Men's Retreat

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 Master-Card 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.

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!**

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. There will be NO Bible class next week.



Knights of Columbus St. John Bosco Council #12846 Recruiting Weekend: Men of the Parish! This weekend after all Masses is our Knights of Columbus recruiting weekend. You always see the wonderful enriching events and services the Knights of Columbus perform for St. Raymond's parish and

parishioners. We know you've asked yourselves on many occasions: Is this something I should become a part of? **A quick and clear answer is, YES.** Your St. Raymond's Knights of Columbus Council wants you to become a part of our special fraternity where we form a bond with one another, our church and Lord. If you have questions there's no better time than to ask a Knight after all Masses this weekend. Knights will be in the Narthex to meet with you and have materials that give insight on our wonderful organization. Short on time? You can always join 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! The district contest will have 3 practice and 25 kicks for record + 3 tie-breakers (since contestants do not have to wait for scores)

Upcoming Events:

OCTOBER

- 18 Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30am, Parish Hall)
- 18/19 Inova Blood Drive Signup (Narthex after all Masses)
- 25/26 Annual Coats for Kids Drive (Narthex after all Masses)
- 25/26 Inova Blood Drive Signup (Narthex after all Masses)
- 25 Knights of Columbus District Soccer Challenge (Holy Spirit School, 12- 4pm)
- 30 In Igne Fireside Theological Discussion with Oktoberfest Food and Drink, open to All men. Parish Hall 6:30pm

NOVEMBER

- 1 Blood Drive, Parish Hall 7am- 1pm
- 2 Donut Sunday (After 7am, 9am and 11am)
- 3

IN IGNE (On Fire): The Knights of St. John Bosco Council invite all men of the parish to a night of theology and fraternity around the fire pit behind the Parish Hall on Thursday, October 30th at 7pm. Fr. Horkan will lead a theology discussion about Fraternity. In addition, we will have a mini Oktoberfest celebration with German Pretzels, Brats, Potato Salad, and German drinks. You don't have to be a knight to join in and **admission is FREE**. Please RSVP to Barry Ryan at jamesbarryryan@aol.com so we make sure to have enough food.

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.

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. 20 to attend. Donations gratefully accepted. To register go to www.waywomen.com/mensretreat For more information, contact Robin Maas at rmvlmaas@gmail.com.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE



THANK YOU! to the dozens of parishioners who joined thousands nationwide to participate in the annual Life Chain last Sunday. It was a beautiful day to witness for life! Now it's time for the fall campaign of **40 Days for Life**. **Join us to help change hearts and minds.** **St Raymond's witness weekend will be 1-2 Nov** 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. Bring a friend – and – bring your Rosary!

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 and fast 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.

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 de-forms 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.

Save the date: **National March for Life Friday 23 January 2026!** Stay tuned for details.

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate



Meal Contributions Needed:
Are you able to contribute some snacks or heavy hors d'oeuvres one Sunday evening for our high school youth group to enjoy? More details can be found online at <https://bit.ly/feedthehungryteens>. We are also looking for folks who would be willing to contribute a breakfast casserole or other meatless dish one Friday this semester. More details at <https://bit.ly/breakfastfriday>

10/13: NO High School Youth Group

Enjoy the holiday weekend with your family!

10/19: 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.*

Sunday, 10/ 26: High School RALLY (11am-9pm)

Last chance to sign up for the Diocese of Arlington's High School RALLY. Join hundreds of high school students from across the diocese for Mass with Bishop Burbidge, Eucharistic Adoration, inspirational speakers and entertainers, breakout sessions, inflatable games, music, food and more! Cost \$25/person, includes pizza, Rita's Ice, snacks, t-shirt and admission!

Permission Slips & Payment due this Monday 10/13

<https://bit.ly/PERMISSIONSLIPS>

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."

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>

Every Friday in October: Cor Jesu (7-8pm Library)

For **High School** students who desire to go DEEPER. This is an opportunity to dive more deeply into the Heart (Cor) of Jesus (Jesu) by dedicating an hour to allow Him the opportunity to speak to you. Bring a Bible, pen, journal and a friend!

Mark Your Calendars for these upcoming HS events:

10/ 25 Apple Picking & Dominican Monastery *Sign up by 10/21*

10/26 High School RALLY *Sign up due this Monday, 10/13!!*

11/2 College Night Talk by Guests from Cardinal Newman Society
More info. & permission slips for both Apple Picking/Monastery & HS RALLY can be found at <https://bit.ly/PERMISSIONSLIPS>

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

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

Reminder to parents of 2026 Confirmation candidates: **REQUIRED Confirmation Retreat** is this Saturday, October 18th! You should have received more details by email.

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 & Sunday after 9 am Mass during the month of October and beyond!

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

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

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

Working in the background, off the radar of most Christians who have deeply held beliefs whose rights are often trampled by local, state, and in the past, federal governments, are several legal organizations working diligently, holding these organizations accountable. Last Monday, before the U.S. Supreme Court, was a young lawyer from Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), one of these law firms. He was defending Kaley Chiles, a licensed counselor in Colorado, against the State of Colorado which had a law prohibiting her from working with children who were confused about their biological sex.

In the case, *Chiles v. Salazar*, a young, but seasoned attorney, answered a wide range of questions from nine justices who were listening attentively and some asking very pertinent legal, medical, and counseling questions for nearly an hour. Since the Supreme Court proceedings are now recorded, you can listen here. (<https://www.youtube.com/live/Q72KuLvE7nk>) (arguments begin at 36:25)

Jim Campbell, the chief legal counsel at ADF, argued the case. Put it simply, if parents in Colorado feel that they have a child who is confused about his/her biological sex and they seek professional help, they are out of luck, because Colorado bans what is known as "conversion therapy." Colorado isn't alone. There are 22 other states and the District of Columbia, who have similar bans. If Kaley loses before the court, she will lose her professional license.

So how did Mr. Campbell do? We probably won't know until the Court renders a decision sometime before June 2026. But we do know that the *Washington Post*, in an article posted online shortly after the oral arguments, ran the headline: "Supreme Court appears deeply skeptical of Colorado law that bans conversion therapy for gay and transgender minors." They noted that "the state ban infringes on the therapist's free-speech rights to counsel religious teens...in ways...consistent with biblical teachings."

What are the odds of ADF winning the case for their client (and Christian counselors throughout America)? Mr. Campbell is one for one before the Court before this case. ADF has 16 victories before the Court since 2011 representing pastors, churches, religious organizations, college students, family-owned businesses, pro-life pregnancy centers, town councils, and others. They have two more cases before the Court this term. Let us pray for these young lawyers who turn down opportunities to work for large prestigious law firms but help all of us protect our cherished religious freedoms.

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

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

Watch: St. Teresa of Avila- Series A powerful epic mini-series shot on location in Spain that tells the story of one of the most amazing women in history, St. Teresa of Avila. She was called by God to reform and renew the Carmelite order, a daunting task. She was joined in this work by her great fellow Carmelite and spiritual director, St. John of the Cross. This film reveals the conversion that Teresa herself had to go through to deepen her own union with Christ as she endeavored to bring about that same deeper spiritual reform of her Carmelite order.

For Kids, Read: Golden Legend of Young Saints by Henri Daniel –Rops For 2000 years now, young Christians have lived-and often died-for Christ, and with a courage that many adults find hard to muster. Christ is calling you to be like them, to cultivate in yourself what you now is best: kindness, courage, perseverance, faith, charity, and absolute trust in God.

Watch Kids: Columbus: Adventures to the Edge of the World On October 12, 1492, it's now or never for Christopher Columbus and his lifelong dream of discovery. After 37 days of sailing west across the unknown seas, he must find land or else return to Spain at dawn, as he has promised his tired crew. He's not afraid to stand up for his dreams, just as he's not afraid of sea monsters or falling off the edge of the world.



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

Please consider signing up to Lead this most valuable ministry, Call or stop by the Parish office if interested.



Angelus Academy, Where the Truth of Catholic teaching takes flesh in the lives of 3 year-old to 8th grade children and their families.

There are limited spots available in some grades for the 2025-26 school year, but spaces are going fast! Apply soon!

AngelusAcademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/

Call or Email Julie Maimone, Director of Admissions, at Admissions@angelusacademy.org for more information or to schedule a tour.

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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

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.

PARISHSOFT- FORMERLY FAITH DIRECT: Faith Direct has now changed to ParishSoft. The New login URL is ParishSOFT Giving-Login. To donate or sign up, please visit our website: <https://straymonds.org> and choose the Faith Direct button on the upper right of the front page of the website. eGiving helps you provide regular support to St. Raymond's, even when you are out of town. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you.

THIS week's collection is for Porto Charities

Next Week's Collection- World Mission Sunday 10/19

Sunday Offertory 10/05/25

Offertory	\$ 17,765.28
Family Assistance	\$ 904.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 6,945.00
OLOR Scholarship	\$ 1,530.00
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