

***"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](http://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](mailto:Office@straymonds.org)  
Pastor: [fdc@straymonds.org](mailto:fdc@straymonds.org)  
Rel. Ed.: [ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org](mailto: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](mailto:bulletin@straymonds.org) 10 days prior to publication date.

## Pastor's Corner

**VIRGINIA ELECTIONS: NOVEMBER 4.** Voting is the most fundamental building block of our nation, and the basic defense of all our freedoms. But so many of us don't bother to vote, or if we do vote we often vote based on very little knowledge of the candidates, and over secondary issues. Sometimes we even vote based on some irrelevant attribute of the candidate: e.g., their looks, color, education, and especially political party. All this instead of finding out what the candidates plan to do in office, and where they stand on the most important issues on the table.

And by "the most important issues," I don't mean our pet projects, but the issues that are most fundamental in maintaining a moral and free society.

Virginia State and local elections are now only 16 days away, Tuesday, November 4 (although you can still vote-early-in-person). Sadly, many Virginians will not vote in this so-called "off year election," even though it will decide who writes most of the laws and policies that govern our daily lives, especially the lives of our children, as we elect a **new Governor**, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Delegate.

**But where do the candidates stand on the most important issues facing us?** Two weeks ago we included inserts in the bulletin that summarized the candidates' positions on some of the most important issues. These inserts are also available on the Voter Information table in the narthex, and online at <https://vacatholic.org>.

**Here's a summary of the Gubernatorial Candidate's positions on the key Catholic issues.**

**Abortion.** Abigail Spanberger, Democrat, is strongly pro-abortion on demand, even supporting an amendment to the Constitution of Virginia that permanently enshrines the right to abortion. Winsome Earle-Sears, Republican, is strongly pro-life.

**Religious/Conscience Freedom.** Abigail Spanberger opposes the freedom of religious institutions, and supports, for example, forcing the Little Sisters of the Poor to pay for birth control for their employees, and Catholic hospitals to provide abortions to patients. She would also require Churches to follow laws contrary to their beliefs about homosexuality and transgenderism. Winsome Earle-Sears supports the rights of Churches, religious institutions, and healthcare professionals to follow their religious beliefs or conscience.

**School Choice.** Abigail Spanberger opposes any effort to assist parents in choosing their children's schools, particular voucher programs. Winsome Earle-Sears says, "whatever...the parent(s) want: public, private, parochial, home school, whatever it is, a hybrid — you make the choice."

**Parental Rights.** Abigail Spanberger opposes legislation that seeks to require schools to notify parents of their right to know what their children are being taught and the school's policy for things like biological males using girls' restrooms and showers or competing in girls' sports. She says that it is not the state's role to determine if girls can be forced to shower with boys. Winsome Earle-Sears supports parents' rights to know what their children is learning and any counselling their children are receiving, including on transgender issues and abortion. She says, "parents have the final say." She is strongly opposed to girls being forced to shower with boys or to compete against boys on girls' sports teams.

My limited space here doesn't allow me to go through all the candidates. But I can say that in the races for Lt. Governor, Attorney General and Delegate the Democrat candidates all basically align with their party's candidate for Governor. In other words, **the Democrats are pro-**

**abortion** like Spanberger, the **Republicans are pro-life** like Earle-Sears, etc.

Two things I should point out. First, I am appalled at the violent rhetoric that Attorney General Candidate Jay Jones has used in the past, calling for the murder of one of his opponents and his opponent's children. Second, I am appalled that the Republican Candidate for Lt. Governor, John Reid, is a practicing and proud homosexual, who supports "gay marriage."

**Summary, My Opinion.** Since Spanberger and all the other Democrats running on November 4<sup>th</sup> are pro-abortion, anti-parental rights and anti-religious freedom, and all their Republican opponents are all pro-life, pro-parental rights and pro-religious freedom, I don't see how any Catholic could vote for any of the Democrat Candidates.

**DEATH PENALTY.** A few days ago Pope Leo seemed to say that capital punishment, the death penalty, is against Catholic teaching and anyone who supports it is not "pro-life."

Setting aside the fact that in the U.S. last year over 1,000,000 babies were murdered in abortion and only 25 executions of criminals were carried out. And setting aside the fact that babies have no choice when it comes to being aborted, while executed criminals choose to commit crimes they know carry the death penalty and are afforded years and years of trials and appeals to fight execution.

Setting all that aside, the Church teaching has always been in support of the right of governments to carry out the death penalty, i.e., capital punishment is not immoral or not pro-life.

The teaching was not changed by Pope Francis and cannot be changed by any Pope because it has been infallibly taught by the constant teaching of the Church. While some claim the teaching has "developed" based on our understanding of the dignity of the human person, that employs a false notion of development, on based on the heresy of modernism, which has been repeated condemned by the Church. If the teaching has somehow "developed," there would have to be a clear record of that development, a clear logic and explanation of how the "new" teaching is consistent with and flows from the former teaching. There is none.

Moreover, such a development would have to be accepted not only the pope but somehow also by the bishops throughout the world, and, to some extent, outstanding theologians and the faithful in general. But none of this has happened. So sadly it seems our new Pope Leo made a mistake in an off the cuff remark to the press that has no binding or magisterial weight.

The death penalty is still moral, and you can be pro-death penalty and pro-life.

**Men's Day of Recollection.** I invite all the men of the parish, 18 years old and above to attend the 27th annual **Christ the King Men's Day of Recollection**, which will be held this Sat. October 25 from 8:30am--2:00pm here at St. Raymond's. This year's theme is: "Die Catholic and in the State Of Grace and You Win: How to make the last battle of your life a Victory." Once again, this year's speaker the inimitable Fr. Francis de Rosa, well known pro-life speaker, scholar and Pastor of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Colonial Beach, VA. Fr. de Rosa is a good friend of mine and I am excited to have him join us again this year. I encourage all the men of the parish to come and bring their friends from other parishes. There is no charge for this event, **but you must register before noon tomorrow, October 20, to attend.** Register at [www.wywomen.com/mensretreat](http://www.wywomen.com/mensretreat)

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, October 20th**

6:30 am Bob Randall +  
 8:30 am Rev. James G Knapp  
 S.J. +

**Tuesday, October 21st**

6:30 am Maria Ludwik Kazimir  
 Honisz +  
 8:30 am Luce Brousseau

**Wednesday, October 22nd**

6:30 am Maria Adolf Grauman +  
 8:30 am Lisa Beelle +  
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

**Thursday, October 23rd**

6:30 am Sebastian & Autumn  
 Buchman  
 8:30 am James Kerrigan +

**Friday, October 24th**

6:30 am Julian Jensen +  
 8:30 am Donald Basinger +

**Saturday, October 25th**

9:00 am Marie Corcoran +

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm **Fr. Horkan**  
 Rev. Robert Humenay +

**Sunday, October 26th**

7:00 am **Msr. Rippy**  
 Roberta Raffone +

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

11:00 am **Msr. Rippy**  
 Dennis Lacot +

1:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**

Nick Blaze Damon +

**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  
 Bill Roche  
 Florence Miller  
 Robert Petitti  
 Joann Alba  
 Denise Hunnell  
 Alicia Tocconi  
 Jay & Linda Cabacar

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

- 10/19-20 RE Classes
- 10/20 OCIA Classes
- 10/20 Bible Study morning class 9:30-11:00 am
- 10/20 Family of Jesus prayer group
- 10/21 Bible Study evening class 7:00-8:30 pm
- 10/21 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-6:15pm Maurer Rm.
- 10/21 Legion of Mary 6:30pm—Library
- 10/22 Adoration 9am-7pm
- 10/23 Bridge Club
- 10/24 Adoration 9am-3pm
- 10/25 WAY Annual Christ the King Men's Retreat
- 10/31 Christ House Meal
- 11/1 All Saints Day— Extra Mass at Noon-Not a Holy Day of Obligation
- 11/1 REMINDER-TIME CHANGE!
- 11/1-2 40 Days for Life Witness Weekend
- 11/2 All Souls Day— Regular Sunday Mass Times
- 11/2-4 All Souls Triduum of Masses
- 11/2 Donut Sunday— Hosted by K of C
- 11/4 Election Day

**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 November 1st.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email [maryn-davew7705@gmail.com](mailto:maryn-davew7705@gmail.com).

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

**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.

View this bulletin online at [www.DiscoverMass.com](http://www.DiscoverMass.com)

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

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

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

**Saturday at 9:00 am**

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

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

**Daily Family Rosary leaders needed!** St. Raymond's has a Daily Family Rosary in the church: Mon-Fri at 6:30pm and Saturday and Sunday after the 9am Mass. **Please visit our website to sign up to lead during October!** All are invited to attend. **Note:** October 25th, the Rosary will be at 6:30pm due to the Men's Retreat in the morning.

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

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

**ALL SOULS DAY TRIDUUM:** St. Raymond's will again be offering a Triduum of Masses for All Souls. The Masses will be celebrated on Nov. 2nd, Nov. 3rd and Nov. 4th. To have your departed loved ones remembered in these Masses, please complete one of the All Souls envelopes in the narthex and place it in the collection basket today or bring it to the parish office by October 31st.





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

most outstanding councils in the Commonwealth of Virginia. These noteworthy awards are only earned by strong Catholic men tirelessly working together to serve their parish, community and their nation. Why not become part of the most impactful Catholic fraternity in the world, grow in your faith, and discover mutual support from a true brotherhood built on shared Catholic values? 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! 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

- 18/19 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)
- 25/26 Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales
- 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)

**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](mailto:jamesbarryryan@aol.com) so we make sure to have enough food.

**The Knights of Columbus are co-sponsoring a blood drive** on behalf of Inova Blood Donor Services on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> in St. Raymond's parish hall from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Please consider signing up for a 15 minute time slot within that period and giving the Gift of Life. You may sign up either on-line at [www.inovabloodsaves.org](http://www.inovabloodsaves.org) or in the Narthex after all masses in the coming weekends. If you have any questions or difficulty signing up, please contact Mark Maslyn of our parish at (202) 679-3293 (m/text) or by email at: [mam7253@msn.com](mailto:mam7253@msn.com).

**Coats for Kids!** The Knights of Columbus will be collecting new Coats for Kids after all Masses Oct 25-26. All new coats will be donated to local charities. Monetary donations will also be accepted and will be used to purchase new coats.

**"Keep Christ in Christmas" Christmas Cards** – Oct 25-26 to Dec. 6-7, the Knights of Columbus will be selling religious Christmas cards in the Narthex after all the Masses.

### ST. RAYMOND'S RESPECT LIFE



The fall campaign of **40 Days for Life** is underway!! 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 are in the narthex. Join us in this peaceful prayerful 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!

**A MOM'S Peace is a Lay Apostolate for Mothers of Miscarried and Stillborn Souls.** By discretely supporting mothers with burial, bereavement and remembrance programs, they lovingly guide families through difficult decisions in the immediate wake of loss. A Mom's Peace exists to fulfill the corporal and spiritual works of mercy "bury the dead" and "comfort the sorrowful." Kara Palladino, founder of this ministry, will be available in the narthex after the 7pm Mass on Wednesday 5 November to visit with you and answer questions.

**MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center... is very grateful for our continued support!** Donations welcome in the narthex collection box near the elevator. Greatest needs: **winter coats up to 2T**, diapers, formula, wipes, winter clothes up to 2T. Please do not leave bouncy seats, walkers, gates or jogging strollers. Thank you for understanding.

### To those who have suffered an abortion:

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

**THE ABORTION PILL** now accounts for 65% of all abortions. Women often regret the desperate isolated decision to take the abortion pill. **Call the abortion reversal helpline 855-209-4848. It may not be too late. [abortionpillreversal.com](http://abortionpillreversal.com).**

**THE POWER OF PRAYER.** Abortionists and those who work in the abortion industry trespass against us. Yet how much more they offend Almighty God! Every abortion deforms the abortionist and desensitizes him or her to the humanity of both the mother and child violated through abortion. **Pray fervently for the conversion of abortionists.** Somehow, 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>

### 10/19: 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*

10/26: NO High School Youth Group Due to HS RALLY next Sunday, there will be no regular youth group.

### Tuesday 10/21: 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.

### 10/23: Jr. High Youth Group 6:45-8:15pm (Parish Hall)

All 7th & 8th Graders are invited! Dinner will be served, games will be played and Jesus will be the center of it all! Jr. High YG meets most 2nd & 4th Thursdays in the parish hall 6:45-8:15pm. Make sure you are on the email list to keep updated.

### 10/25: Jr. High Swing Dance 4-6pm (Parish Hall)

### 10/25: HS Swing Dance 7-9pm (Parish Hall)

**We have instructors** so please don't worry if you have never danced before. Doors open 15min before start time. No charge! Bring a completed YA Info Sheet if not yet on file this year. See email or flyer on YA bulletin boards for more info.

### 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>

### MOUNT2000 Eucharistic Retreat (Feb. 6-8)

**Open to all high school students!** Mount 2000 is a weekend Eucharistic retreat that includes Mass, Adoration, Confession, exciting speakers and musicians, and breakout sessions led by seminarians. The total cost for the retreat is \$130. For more information, including this year's speakers, visit [mount2000.com](http://mount2000.com). Information on how to register will be in next week's bulletin. \*We will leave after school, at 4pm on Friday.\*

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

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

**10/26** High School RALLY

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

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

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

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



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

**Mass Attendance Cards:** Parents of students in **grades 2, 7 and 8** are reminded that your child should be submitting a **Mass attendance card** every time they attend **weekend Mass** (Saturday vigil / Sunday Masses). If your child attends Mass at a parish other than St. Raymond's, please pick up a bulletin, ask a priest or deacon to sign it if possible, **write the child's name** on it, and then drop it off in the RE Office at your earliest convenience.

**October is the Month of the Holy Rosary!**  
**Please participate in the Daily Family Rosary** in our church, Monday - Friday at 6:30 pm and Saturday & Sunday after 9 am Mass -during the month of October and beyond! Give us a call if you have any questions about participating!

**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* 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](http://8750PohickRd.com). 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](http://www.waywomen.com/mensretreat) For more information, contact Robin Maas at [rmvlmaas@gmail.com](mailto:rmvlmaas@gmail.com).

**Made for More: A Healing Workshop for Women** Do you long for greater peace and joy? Do you ever feel stuck, wondering if God's promises are truly for you? Join us for *Made for More: A Healing Workshop for Women on the Journey of the Beloved* on **Saturday, November 15, from 1:00-4:30 PM** at St. Theresa Church in Ashburn, VA. Led by ministry founder **Elizabeth Leon**, this afternoon of **prayer, reflection, and restoration** draws from **Scripture and Catholic teaching** to help women find healing in brokenness, claim God's promises, and receive Christ's love more freely. **Cost:** \$40 (includes materials and refreshments)  
**Register:** visit [www.journeyofthebeloved.com](http://www.journeyofthebeloved.com) **Questions?** Contact Elizabeth Leon at [letyourselfbeloved1690@gmail.com](mailto:letyourselfbeloved1690@gmail.com)

We are Looking for Families for our **Christmas Giving Tree**. Each year, St. Raymond's "adopts" families who need help with Christmas. If your family, or someone you know could use help providing gifts for their children, please let the parish office know. The information is kept completely confidential! The office phone number is 703-440-0535. Please apply by October 31st.



### **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**

Recently we found anti-Catholic incidents at two of the most significant Catholic churches in the world – St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, DC and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Each year on the first Sunday in October, Red Masses are celebrated in dioceses around the U.S. in honor of the work of those working in the legal system. In Washington, the Red Mass is usually celebrated at either St. Matthew's Cathedral or the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. (Father Horkan celebrated a Red Mass at an abbey in the diocese of Greenville, PA, recently.)

On the morning of Sunday, October 5, as the local police were securing the Cathedral for the Red Mass, they confronted a man who was in the process of pitching his tent on the Cathedral steps. He had bomb-making material in the tent and area surrounding it and told the police that he would be happy to demonstrate one for them. He also mentioned animosity toward the Catholic church, Jewish people, ICE, and ICE facilities and the Supreme Court. They notified the local bomb-squad, distracted him, causing him to move away from the tent, and then arrested him on multiple felony charges, with the FBI and the bomb squad removing the tent and evidence from the site. The Mass, which is usually attended by several members of the Supreme Court and other federal and local judges and lawyers, went on as planned. Currently seven of the nine members of the Court are Catholic.

Later that week on October 10 at St. Peter's in the Vatican, a deranged man undressed and climbed onto the Altar of the Confession (main altar over St. Peter's tomb) displaying a sign, "Save children in Ukraine," on his back and then urinated on the altar. The man was arrested by the Vatican Gendarmerie and was led to a police station inside the Vatican.

The Code of Canon Law stipulates that when an altar, and/or other parts of a sacred place are desecrated violating the site's holiness, a penitential rite is performed to restore the sanctity of the church (Cannon 1211).

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