

***"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

**ALL SOULS.** Today, November 2, is the **Commemoration of All Souls**. The purpose of this feast is mainly to pray for the dead. This prayer is directed not for those who are in Heaven already, as they do not need prayers; and certainly not for those who are in Hell, since prayers would be useless. Rather, **we pray for those in Purgatory** who are being prepared for their entrance into Heaven.

Many Catholics nowadays wrongly think Purgatory is an outdated remnant from the Middle Ages, even though Christian belief in Purgatory is rooted in Jewish doctrine (2 Maccabees 12), and was well established in the early Church. Many other Catholics, in their grief, prefer to think of their departed loved ones as already being in Heaven, and can't bear the thought that they might be in Purgatory.

But the doctrine of Purgatory is not something to fear or avoid, because it is a doctrine of God's love and mercy, and reflects the reality that none of us is perfect. All of us sin or cling to things of this world—however small or seemingly insignificant. But Scripture tells us “nothing imperfect [or “impure”] shall enter” into Heaven (Rev. 21:27)—and rightly so, since Heaven is about perfect happiness, perfect love, etc... Given this, and confident in Our Lord's mercy and His desire for all to be with Him in Heaven, Christians have always believed that between death and Heaven we pass through a state of purification, or *purgation*, where we're cleansed from all imperfections, i.e., made perfect. This state, or “place,” we call Purgatory.

Now, we must remember that Purgatory is NOT *anything* like Hell, and all the Souls in Purgatory are good and “worthy” of eternal joy in Heaven—we call them the “Holy Souls.” So thinking of them as in Purgatory is not an insult but praise. Moreover, these Souls are certain they are going to Heaven, so they are filled with a joy beyond anything experienced on earth.

But we must also remember that there is suffering in Purgatory. One way to understand this is to think of the suffering related to change. All change is difficult. Consider the person who is trying to lose weight, or exercising for an athletic competition. The effort involved in change is painful, sometimes very painful, but as you see progress you are also invigorated and happy, seeing your goal approach.

Even so, since 1) Purgatory involves pain, and 2) we want our beloved dead to swiftly enter the joys of Heaven, we should never neglect praying for them. Yes, in our grief we may be inclined to deny their imperfections, but in our love for them we remember that they deserve our prayers. And if they are already in Heaven, no prayer is wasted, since every prayer is an act of love, and they hear each prayer as telling how much we love them.

So in love, let us pray for our beloved dead today. And let us also remember all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for they are our brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us pray especially for those “most abandoned,” the individual souls for whom no one else remembers to pray.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

**ELECTION.** Virginia State Elections are **this TUESDAY, November 4**. If you are eligible and have not voted early, I remind you that it is moral obligation to vote, and since it's a great responsibility it is usually a grave matter and so a mortal

sin not to vote in most cases.

So, I ask you to vote and to vote like Catholics. Do not be swayed by the mere political opinions of politicians, pundits, priests or prelates. But choose in accord the truth of Jesus Christ constantly taught by His Catholic Church.

And I ask that all of St. Raymond's parishioners commend the elections to the Lord Jesus' care. Specifically, I ask that all parishioners join in praying our “**election novena**” which could include one or more of the following each day until Tuesday: 1) the **Rosary**; 2) the **Novena to St. Thomas More**; and/or 3) the **Prayer for Religious Freedom**. I also propose that we each offer up some small **sacrifices**. Finally, **at end of all Masses**, before the customary Hail Mary and Prayer to St. Michael, we will pray together the **Prayer for Religious Freedom**.

**PARISH/TOWN HALL MEETINGS.** I want to thank everyone who attended the Parish/Town Hall Meetings on October 11 and 16, and to everyone who emailed me their comments. About 90 people attended, which, although a good turnout, was not as large as I was hoping for, so I'm still not sure I have a good sense of what most parishioners want. But these are some things I took away from the meetings:

Most attendees were in favor of building a third building on the property. In particular, a 2-story 6,000 sq. ft. building with 5 classrooms, a meeting hall for 150 people, a dedicated youth room, 2 offices and storage. It would be located between the church and the “Groveland Parking lot,” with one floor on the same level as the church and the other below it opening on the same level as the current parish hall. We discussed a cost to build of between \$4-6 million which would be raised through a capital campaign. (Note: square footage, cost, and size are all very rough estimates I've made and they could be way off.)

Most attendees were also in favor of upgrading the current parish hall kitchen, and expanding it if we build the new building above.

Most were also in favor of continuing our decoration of the interior of the church, with more statues, murals, and painting.

Most were also in favor of increasing the statuary outside the church, with a few more small shrines like our current Angel Shrine.

Although the discussion was very amiable and positive, not everyone was in agreement with these possible projects. Some were concerned about the cost, the need, the increased annual costs to the parish (i.e., utilities, insurance, maintenance, etc...). And some thought this it would take away from the more pastoral work of their Pastor. And others were content with things as they are.

These meetings have led me to conclude I should take the next/first steps in considering feasibility, especially of building. I don't even know if the County will let us build—they were very difficult to work with when we built the church 19 years ago; in fact, preliminary discussions with the County before construction led us to decide not to build the building we are now considering. And I don't know if the Bishop will approve the project either. But in any case, I will begin making inquiries etc., and then report back to you.

What do you think? I'm still interested in your feedback and input. Let me know.

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, November 3rd**

6:30 am All Souls' Triduum  
 8:30 am Ed Ward +

**Tuesday, November 4th**

6:30 am Eugene & Pauline  
 Tougas +  
 8:30 am All Souls' Triduum

**Wednesday, November 5th**

6:30 am Wian Croetzer +  
 8:30 am Sherwood Suter +  
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

**Thursday, November 6th**

6:30 am David P. Wilson +  
 8:30 am Thomas Stalzer +

**Friday, November 7th**

6:30 am Buchman Family living and deceased  
 8:30 am Vernon Butler

**Saturday, November 8th**

9:00 am Deceased  
 Members of the  
 Alivio Family +

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**  
 Thomas Stalzer +

**Sunday, November 9th**

7:00 am **Fr. Horkan**  
 Joseph Matty +

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

11:00 am **Msgr. Rippy**  
 Mary Butler

1:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**  
 Pamela Nelson +-

**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 Kathleen McGovern Peter Lawton**  
**Elizabeth Archer is home safely!**

**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	Alicia Tocconi
Carolina Baker	Edward J. Susank	Jay & Linda Cabacar
Debra Henkel	Helen Estabrooks	Rita Felkel
Gaudencio Dizon		

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

11/1 **REMINDER-TIME CHANGE THIS WEEKEND**  
 11/1-2 **40 Days for Life Witness Weekend**  
 11/2 **All Souls' Day-- Masses at 7 am, 9 am, 11 am and 1 pm**  
 11/2-4 **All Souls Day Triduum of Masses**  
 11/2 **Donut Sunday after the 7am, 9am and 11am Masses-- Hosted by K of C**  
 11/4 **Election Day**  
 11/2-3 **RE Classes**  
 11/3 **OCIA Classes**  
 11/3 **Bible Study morning class 9:30-11:00 am**  
 11/3 **Family of Jesus prayer group 3pm in the Church**  
 11/4 **Election Day**  
 11/4 **Bible Study evening class 7:00-8:30 pm**  
 11/4 **Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-6:15pm Maurer Rm.**  
 11/4 **Legion of Mary 6:30pm--Library**  
 11/5 **Adoration 9am-7pm**  
 11/5 **A Mom's Peace Mass 7pm (Miscarried-Stillborn babies and their Mothers)**  
 11/6 **Bridge Club**  
 11/7-8 **First Friday Nocturnal Adoration**  
 11/11 **Veteran's Day-Only one Mass at 10am-- Parish Offices Closed**  
 11/13 **Book Club-- 9:30am Parish Library**  
 11/9-16 **Diocesan Week of Service**

**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 November!** All are invited to attend.

**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.

**DONUT SUNDAY-- THIS SUNDAY!** The Knights of Columbus are hosting this weekend's Donut Sunday after the 7am, 9am and 11am Masses. Come and meet your fellow parishioners. We will have lost and found articles on a table. Items not claimed will be donated to charity.

**REMINDER-- Time Changes Nov. 1st:** Daylight Savings Time ends **THIS** weekend! Please remember to set your clocks back one hour this Saturday night.



**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 15th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email [maryn-davev7705@gmail.com](mailto:maryn-davev7705@gmail.com).

**November 4th is Election Day. If you have not yet done your civic duty and voted, you have one last chance.**

Vote on Election Day, this Tuesday, Nov. 4th from 6 AM to 7pm at your neighborhood poll. If you are not registered, you still have a last chance to do a Same Day Registration at your local poll. You must vote provisionally and once your information is verified your vote will be counted. Please Vote your Catholic Values.





**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. Knights of Columbus informational materials are in the Narthex, please have a look. Please contact our Deputy Grand Knight, Dave Hayes, at cell (703) 380-4550 if you have any questions or want to learn more about the many benefits of being a Knight! Get in the game, answer the call, **LIVE FULLY; BECOME A KNIGHT!**



### Upcoming Events:

#### NOVEMBER

- 2 Donut Sunday (After 7am, 9am and 11am)
- 6 Monthly Officers Meeting (Library, 7pm)
- 10 MCM Exemplification (Parish Hall 7pm Rosary, 7:30pm General Meeting, 8:30pm Refreshments)
- 15 Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am Parish Hall)

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

**2025-2026 OCIA (formerly RCIA)** - St. Raymond's is offering OCIA classes on Monday evenings from early September to late April. Those seeking information to understand and/or to enter the Catholic Church, and baptized Catholics seeking additional sacraments, are welcomed. For more information please call the religious education office at (703) 440-0537 or email [mary.hansen@straymonds.org](mailto: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.

**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.

**Book Club News:** Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM, in the Parish Library. We will be discussing **"The Martyrs of the New Millennium: The Global Persecution of Christians in the Twenty-first Century"** by Robert Royal. 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 November, please contact Jim Mault at [bookclub@straymonds.org](mailto:bookclub@straymonds.org).



*St Thomas More Novena*

Please read Father De Celles' column in this bulletin and go to our website at [www.straymonds.org](http://www.straymonds.org) for Novena Prayer to Saint Thomas More for the election.

### SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS 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 **THIS WEEKEND** 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. This is a spiritual battle. Bring a friend – and – bring your Rosary!

**PROJECT MANGER is this weekend!** Join our Knights of Columbus as we collect monetary donations for cribs for families in need. Look for a Knight after all the Masses. God bless you for providing a 'manger' for a baby in need.

**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>

### 11/2: High School Youth Group

**6:30-7pm** Dinner will be served in the parish hall after RE

**7-8pm** HS Youth Group— Guest Speakers tonight for college night! Parents are invited/encouraged to stay for this one!

### 7-8pm Sunday 11/2: College Night Returns (Parish Hall)

Calling all college-bound high schools - yes, even if you are in 9th or 10th grade. **Parents are also welcome and encouraged to attend.** Parishioner, Bob Laird, and recent Christendom Grad, Nick Reilly, will walk you through the do's and do not's. Bob has led a college admissions working group at The Cardinal Newman Society where both of them are currently employed.

### Tuesday 11/4: Sons of Thunder: High School Guys' Group

**7-8:30pm 1st & 3rd Tuesdays (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.

### 11/13: 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.

### 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). \*We will leave after school, at 4pm on Friday.\* More details and registration information are on YA bulletin boards and website.

**3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Pro-Life Essay Contest** for students in grades 3-12, regardless of where he or she goes to school, can enter the contest. Visit [prolifeessay.com](http://prolifeessay.com) for the prompts, prizes, and submission guidelines! **Due November 7.**



### **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

**Parents:** There IS class on Nov. 2 and 3 even though FCPS is closed for the election.

Remember to pray for the Poor Souls in Purgatory today, and throughout the month of November. During our Holy 10 Minutes this month, we are using a beautiful prayer of St. Gertrude the Great. I will share it with you here in case you would like to pray it at home. We believe that our prayers can help "release" souls in purgatory to be with God in heaven! Praying for the dead is a spiritual work of mercy.

*Eternal Father, I offer You the most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the Universal Church, those in my own home, and within my family. Amen.*

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

**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:** Scan the QR code or visit [www.journeyofthebeloved.com](http://www.journeyofthebeloved.com) **Questions?** Contact Elizabeth Leon at [letyourselfbeloved1690@gmail.com](mailto:letyourselfbeloved1690@gmail.com)

"Your American Heritage Girls troop will honor our fallen veterans by laying wreaths upon their graves at the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery. Please consider sponsoring a wreath today helping them cover the cemetery on December 13th. Wreaths Across America donates back to our troop for each wreath sponsorship the girls obtain helping us run the troop and build women of integrity. <https://tinyurl.com/VA0683WAA>"

**CHRIST HOUSE-WE NEED A CO-LEADER IN 2026!** Please consider co-leading this most important ministry, so many are in need of a good meal and fellowship. For more information, call the Parish office at 703-440-0535.



### **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

Yesterday was a great day for the Church as St. John Henry Newman was formally declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIV. Newman came at a very critical time in English history. Pope Gregory I sent missionaries to the British Isles in the sixth century. The Church grew until the English Reformation, when King Henry VIII decided to make his own rules about marriage and started the Church of England. Thomas Fisher and Thomas More were two of the more prominent Church leaders who were martyred (June and July, 1535, respectively) at that time. Henry dissolved most of the monasteries, abbeys, and convents at this time selling their treasures and buildings. (For those avid readers, there is a seven-part series of historical murder mysteries by C. J. Sansom's (*Shardlake Series*), which fairly accurately describes this period. They were among Australian Cardinal George Pell's reading while serving time in solitary confinement on charges that were subsequently overturned.)

Under Henry and those who followed, the Church went underground for the next 250 years until the early 1800s when a young John Henry Newman showed up at Oxford and became a leader of the Oxford Movement. This group of intellectuals began questioning the historicity of the Church of England only to find its source being the Church of Rome. During this time (1833-41), a publication, "The Tracts of the Times," primarily authored by Newman, began circulating forming the basis for the teachings of the Anglican Church. Newman, now an Anglican priest, was somewhat of a Charlie Kirk, debating others about the origins of Anglicanism and in doing so found himself turning to Rome. He became Catholic in 1845.

As a basis of comparison, a poor one at best, it would be sort of equivalent to Rev. Billy Graham converting to Catholicism. It did not go well. Newman was sued, slandered, and lost many friends, some of whom reconnected decades later. His episcopal motto, which he took when he was made a cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in 1879 was "Cor ad cor loquitur," "Heart speaks to heart," reflecting his one-on-one influence in passing on the faith.

Let us pray to St. John Henry Newman, now a doctor of the Church, for guidance in how to use his motto to pass on the faith, one heart speaking to another heart.

# FORMED®

## Get In-Formed!

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

**Watch: *Dysconnected: The real story behind the Transgender explosion.*** Over the past few years, a transgender tsunami has swept the nation, completely overtaking the medical, educational, and counseling industries, and forever altering hundreds of thousands of young girls' lives. What is going on? How did it come to this? And who is behind it? Filmmaker and father Don Johnson traveled the country to find out.

**eBook: *God or Nothing: A Conversion of Faith* by Robert Cardinal Sarah & Nicolas Diat** In this fascinating autobiographical interview, one of the most prominent and outspoken Catholic Cardinals gives witness to his Christian faith and comments on many current controversial issues. The mission of the Church, the joy of the gospel, the "heresy of activism", and the definition of marriage are among the topics he discusses with wisdom and eloquence.

**Watch Kids: *Our Lady Of Knock - Brother Francis and Friends*** Join Brother Francis and Sister Imelda, as they tell the inspiring story of Our Lady of Knock. With a moving story, a new song, fun and laughter, this new "Brother Francis and Friends" episode is sure to delight the entire family!

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**Chesterton Academy of Christ the King**, a small co-ed classical high school that is part of the international Chesterton Schools Network, will be opening at St. Lawrence Catholic Church next fall. Chesterton Academies are known for their strong Catholic identity anchored in daily school Mass, rigorous classical curriculum, screen-free socratic seminar format, and affordable tuition. A parent information session will be held November 3 at St. Raymond of Penafort Catholic Church, and a prospective student bonfire will be held at St. Lawrence on November 15. Visit [Chesterton-ChristTheKing.org](http://Chesterton-ChristTheKing.org) to learn more, to join our mailing list, or to apply. The priority application deadline for rising freshmen is Friday, December 19, 2025.

**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.

**Next Sunday's Second Collection is Nov. 9– Archdiocese for Military Services USA**

**Sunday Offertory 10/26/25**

Offertory	\$ 14,171.00
Family Assistance	\$ 418.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 3,892.00
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# St. Raymond of Peñafort's Sunday Bulletin

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