



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:

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#### **Email**

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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.

## **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)

#### **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 Swings Left.** Well the forces arrayed against the unborn, parental rights and religious liberty were victorious in Tuesday Virginia elections. Not only will they control all the Statewide offices of Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General, but they also increased their majority in the Virginia House of Delegates, moving from 51 to 64 seats. This will mean, I'm afraid, that our schools will be encouraged to continue to abuse children and parental rights, and that the Right to Abortion Amendment to the state Constitution will be on next year's ballot. This is also a return to power of the Party that closed our churches during the Covid panic.

**More bad news.** The Party of the Left, i.e., the Democrats, have elected an antisemitic **Communist** with apparent pro-Jihadist sympathies to be the mayor of New York. What does this tell us about the extreme and deep Leftist foundations of the modern Democrat Party, especially when so many of the Party's leadership endorsed and campaigned for him—including the Democrats Leader in the U.S. House of Representatives and former President Obama.

Of course, **the Church condemns Communism**. Recall that Pope Pius XI, in his 1937 Encyclical *Divini Redemptoris* which he wrote “to contrast with its [Communism's] false principles the clear doctrine of the Church.” He concluded that Communism is “**the satanic scourge**.”

**What Now?** “Jesus gives as the way forward, as we read in last Sunday's Gospel: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.” So, we do not despair, but lift our heads up and continue to trust in Jesus, and pray for those who govern us, for their conversion and the conversion of our Commonwealth and Republic.

**Offering Masses: “Mass Intentions.”** The greatest prayer Christians can offer is the Sacrifice of the Mass. We remember that at each Mass the one and only Sacrifice of the Cross on Calvary is made present. This Sacrifice of Jesus was and is the greatest prayer ever offered: God the Son's great offering to the Father for the expiation of sins and salvation of the world. Because of this, the graces that flow from the Mass are infinite and that grace produces various “fruits,” or benefits: imprecatory fruits (spiritual and temporal benefits), propitiatory fruits (forgiveness of sins), and satisfactory fruits (remission of temporal punishment).

The Tradition teaches that these fruits flow to: 1) the whole Church (“general fruits”), 2) those participating in the particular Mass (“special fruits”), to the priest himself (“personal fruits”), and to those for whom the priest is offering the Mass (“ministerial fruits”).

This last type of fruit, ministerial, is what we usually mean when we speak of the priest “offering a Mass” for a particular intention, or when the Mass Intention” is announced in the bulletin or at Mass. (Note: contrary to what some seem to think, when this “Mass Intention” is for a person(s), this is not meant to publicly honor that person, nor is the congregation required to pray for the person. The Mass honors God; it bears fruit in us, including the person for whom it is offered.)

These ministerial fruits have infinite power—they flow from the infinite perfect Sacrifice of the Cross. But they are limited by the disposition of the person who receives them. So, for example, when you receive the Sacrament of Penance, you receive all the grace you need to never sin again, but you benefit from that grace only to the extent that you cooperate with it, or are “open to it.” Grace isn't magic, that immediately turns a sinner into a saint. Grace is a gift, that if you choose to use will

help you become a saint.

So, when a priest offers the Mass for “John,” John receives infinite graces, but they are only beneficial to him if he is disposed to let them benefit him. So, if John has his heart set on sinning, but has a small opening in his heart to God, then he will benefit from the infinite fruits of the Mass only a small amount.

The same is true for **the Souls in Purgatory**. So, when a Mass is offered for “Jane” in Purgatory, the Mass will benefit her only to the extent she is purified and is open to that fruit. Because we understand Purgation as sort of a process of purifying and that some souls need more purification than others, the Soul in Purgatory benefits from ministerial fruits of the Mass in a powerful but limited way: they are not yet *perfectly* open to them, but they are more and more perfectly open to them. So that when multiple Masses are offered for a Soul, he/she will benefit more and more as he/she becomes more and more perfectly disposed to the fruits.

So, “offering Masses” for the dead is absolutely the best way we can help them in their purification/perfection. If you would like to offer a Mass for someone, you can contact the parish office for more information.

**Mass Attendance.** As you know, during the month of October the Bishop requires us to do a manual/visual attendance count at all the Sunday Masses (including the Saturday Vigils and excluding Columbus Day weekend). This year's Count showed that our average total Sunday attendance total was **1585 people**. This number is up 5% from last year, but still represents a **33% decline** from attendance in the 2019/pre-Covid Count. I have not seen the results of other parishes, but anecdotally it seems other parishes are experiencing the same decline.

I will say, however, my own unscientific observation was that the 3 Masses counted in October seemed to my own eyes to be noticeably lower in attendance than the Masses in September and even last Sunday, November 2. I have no explanation for that at all, and maybe I'm crazy, but others have told me the same thing. I think I'm going to do another count in a few weeks or months just to test my theory that for whatever reason October is an outlier month in attendance.

Even so, we need to pray for all those Catholics who are not coming to Mass, and encourage any of them that we know to return to Mass.

**PARISH/TOWN HALL MEETINGS.** I continue to receive input on the subject of a new building and other facility improvements. I encourage this, and hope you will give me your two or three cents worth. I want to do what the parish wants, not what I want, and I've not made any decisions yet. So, email me at [fdc@straymonds.org](mailto:fdc@straymonds.org).

**Online Giving to the Parish.** I understand that many are unhappy with our new direct giving online service after Faith Direct was purchased by ParishSOFT. So am I and our parish staff. We are working on this, and will have solution shortly.

Also, some have complained that we have given their credit card information to ParishSOFT without their consent. That is not the case: please understand that when ParishSOFT acquired Faith Direct it simply took over everything they did and had, including your account information (our staff has no access to your banking information).

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*

MASS INTENTIONS	
<b>Monday, November 10th</b>	<b>Saturday, November 15th</b>
6:30 am Renate Blocker + 8:30 am Victoria & Alan Fogg Family	9:00 am John Timothy "Tim" Boos +
<b>Tuesday, November 11th</b>	<b>Vigil Mass</b>
10:00 am Walter Seiberling	5:00 pm Fr. De Celles Joseph Healy Jr.
<b>Wednesday, November 12th</b>	<b>Sunday, November 16th</b>
6:30 am Robert W. Randall + 8:30 am Fred Wilson + 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions	7:00 am Msgr. Rippy Florine Renee Guy +
<b>Thursday, November 13th</b>	9:00 am Fr. De Celles Parishioners
6:30 am Laurette Nassetta + 8:30 am Freddie L. Kemp +	11:00 am Fr. Horkan RE Catechists
<b>Friday, November 14th</b>	1:00 pm Fr. Bergida Family of Jesus Prayer Group
6:30 am Sofi Rae Hills 8:30 am Michael Albin	

**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.

**Breakfast with Saint Nicholas- SATURDAY**

**December 6th!** Saint Nicholas is coming to St. Raymond Church! He will be here on Saturday, December 6th, after the 9:00 am Mass. The Knights of Columbus, St. John Bosco Council, will host Saint Nicholas along with providing a pancake breakfast (until 11:00AM) assisted by the St. Raymond Youth Apostolate. Saint Nicholas will speak with the children and share about his life and the origin of Santa Clause. This event is free and open to all. Please bring a canned good to share with our needy neighbors through the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC).

**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**

11/9-10	RE Classes
11/10	OCIA Classes
11/10	NO Bible Study morning class 9:30-11:00 am
11/10	Family of Jesus prayer group 3pm in the Church
11/11	<b>Veteran's Day-Only one Mass at 10am- Parish Offices Closed</b>
11/11	No Bible Study evening class 7:00-8:30 pm
11/11	Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-6:15pm Maurer Rm.
11/11	Legion of Mary 6:30pm—Library
11/12	Adoration 9am-7pm
11/13	Bridge Club
11/13	Book Club— 9:30am Parish Library
11/14	Adoration 9am-3pm
11/15	Men's Prayer Group
11/15	Tom Vander Woude Talk
12/6	Breakfast with St. Nicholas

**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-davew7705@gmail.com](mailto:maryn-davew7705@gmail.com).

**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](http://www.sevensistersapostolate.org). Please contact Renee LeBoeuf for more information [renee.leboeuf@gmail.com](mailto:renee.leboeuf@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.



**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

- 10 MCM Exemplification (Parish Hall 7pm Rosary, 7:30pm General Meeting, 8:30pm Refreshments)
- 15 Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 28 Knight's Christmas Tree Delivery/Commencement of Sales 11/28-12/21

**"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).

**Diocesan Week of Service benefiting Mother of Light Center-November 9-16<sup>th</sup>**, 3 Ways to Serve: Spiritually-Prayer for a Spiritual Bouquet, Time-Volunteer for on-site help during week, Give- Donate size 4,5,or 6 diapers and baby wipes. Donation boxes will be available at all exits all week. Contact: Claire Tilton at [weekofservice@icloud.com](mailto:weekofservice@icloud.com) or scan the QR code for more information. View this bulletin online at [www.DiscoverMass.com](http://www.DiscoverMass.com)



#### ST. RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE



**Thank you** to all who witnessed for life during the Fall 40 Days for Life Campaign. You peacefully and prayerfully brought Christ's light to a dark place and made a difference – for life!

**MaRh 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.

**Do you know someone who works in the abortion industry and wants to get out?** [And Then There Were None](https://www.abortionworker.com) can help. Visit [Abortionworker.com](https://www.abortionworker.com). Call or text 888-570-5501. Has the sorrow of miscarriage or still birth touched your life? [A Mom's Peace](https://www.amomspeace.org), offers discreet support to families with bereavement, burial and remembrance assistance. Visit [amomspeace.org](https://www.amomspeace.org).

**Angel Wall:** Have you suffered the loss of a child or grandchild? If you would like to honor the memory of your deceased child, please contact the Parish Office to have your child's name added to the Angel Wall in the narthex.

#### 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](https://www.projectrachel.org) 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](https://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](https://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.

Our **Wrapped In Love** program is up and stitching. Pray for the mothers and babies who will be wrapped in love by your efforts as you create baby blankets for distribution at Pregnancy Care Centers or for use by sidewalk counselors – wherever we find a need. Blankets may be delivered to the parish office or MaRh collection box in the narthex.

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

## St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate



Actual photos of pies entirely made from scratch by our teens!

### Pie Sale Fundraiser for Youth Apostolate

Would you, your family, friends, and/or neighbors enjoy a fresh, delicious homemade (by our teens!) pie this Thanksgiving? Back by popular demand, our youth apostolate will be hand making about 70 apple pies & 70 pumpkin pies ready for pick-up Nov. 22-23 just in time for Thanksgiving! All proceeds support our Youth Apostolate—from our weekly meeting supplies & snacks to trips like Mount 2000 and Steubenville.. Pre-Orders are due Sunday, November 16th, unless we sell out sooner! Forms for pre-order can be found on youth bulletin boards & in this week's bulletin insert. Thank you, in advance, for supporting our parish youth!

#### Sun. 11/9: High School Youth Group

6:30-7pm Dinner will be served in the parish hall after RE  
7-8pm HS Youth Group

#### Tues. 11/11: 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. NO Mtg. 11/25.

#### Thurs. 11/13: Jr. High Youth Group 6:45-8:15pm (Parish Hall)

All 7th & 8th Graders are invited! This will be a fun meeting as we will be making pie crusts for our upcoming pie sale! Dinner will be served. Jr. High YG will also meet 6-9pm 11/20 to make the pies!

#### Friday 6:30am Mass & Breakfast (Nov. 14 & 21)

**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.

#### 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>

**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

Remember to pray for the Poor Souls in Purgatory throughout the month of November. During our Holy 10 Minutes this month, we are using a beautiful prayer of St. Gertrude the Great, which I share below 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.*

**Looking ahead:** For the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no class on Mon. Nov. 24 and Sun. Nov. 30. Please check your CCD calendar carefully.

**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)

**Our 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

Last Sunday, College Night returned to the Parish Hall. Two representatives from the Cardinal Newman Society discussed the decision-making process involved in selecting a college – a Catholic college – a faithfully Catholic college. At a time when the Church honors St. John Henry Newman as the latest doctor of the Church, the words of the new co-patron of Catholic education, Newman writes that a university education void of theology, is incomplete.

Many scholars today note that St. John Henry Newman was years, if not decades, ahead of his time. His writings point out the very problem of our secular colleges and universities of today, even many Catholic; they are void of any reference to the study of God – theology.

From *The Idea of a University* as reprinted in The Cardinal Newman Society's "Our Catholic Mission" p. 13 (<https://cardinalnewmansociety.org/wp-content/uploads/OCM-Fall-2025.pdf>)

"A University...by its very name professes to teach universal knowledge: Theology [the study of God] is surely a branch of knowledge, and yet to exclude from the subjects of its teaching [other subjects taught at the university] one which, to say the least, is as important and as large as any of them?"

Newman continues:

...Theology is a science, and an important one: so, I will throw my argument into a more exact form. I say, then, that if a University be, from the nature of the case, a place of instruction, where *universal knowledge is professed*, and if in a certain University, so called, the *subject of Religion is excluded*, one of two conclusions is inevitable,—either, on the one hand, that the province of Religion is very barren of real knowledge, or, on the other hand, that in such University one special and important branch of knowledge is omitted.

As our teens and their parents are discerning colleges, let them recall that a university of today, void of God, cannot "by its very name profess to teach universal knowledge."



Get In-Formed!

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

*Audio Drama: The Victory of Joan of Arc:*

Imagine it's 15th-century France. A 17-year-old peasant girl enters the royal courts during one of the longest and bloodiest wars in history. She claims she's been sent by God to fulfill a mission: drive out the English enemy and place the true king of France on the throne. Meet Joan of Arc.

*eBook kids: The Blood-Red Crescent:* It's the year 1570. Fourteen-year-old Guido Callatta, son of a wealthy Venetian merchant, spends his free time roaming the docks, listening to the tales of gnarled old sailors, and dreaming of adventures at sea. When Pope Pius V calls for the creation of a Holy League of men and ships to face down the Moslem armada, Guido vows to join the fight: for his family, for his city, for his Faith.

*Watch Kids: St. Elizabeth of Hungary-Littlest Saints* A group of kids stages a play about St. Elizabeth of Hungary, focusing on her love for the poor and her devotion to serving others.



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

**Please consider leading this important ministry, call the Parish office at 703-440-0535**



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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 prospective student bonfire will be held at St. Lawrence on November 15. Visit [Chesterton-ChristTheKing.org](https://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.

**THIS Sunday's Second Collection – Archdiocese for Military Services USA**

**Next Sunday's Second Collection-Retirement Fund for Religious**

**Sunday Offertory 11/02/25      October E-giving**

Offertory	\$14,673.00	\$64,848.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,332.00	\$ 2,654.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 825.00	\$ 6,231.00
OLOR Scholarship	\$ 655.00	\$ 3,393.00
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# *St. Raymond of Peñafort's Sunday Bulletin*

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