

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



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

Email

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

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

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

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

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

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Reconciliation/Confession)

Wednesday Evening

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

First Fridays

3:00-4:00 pm and 6:00-7:00 pm

Saturday Morning

8:00 - 9:00 am

Saturday Afternoon

3:30 - 5:00 pm

Sunday Morning

8:30-9:00 am and 10:30-11:00 am

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

First Fridays 9:00 am Friday - 9:00 Saturday (Overnight)

MARRIAGE: Couples wishing to marry must contact a parish priest at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Couples who are living together will be expected to live separately at least during the 3 months prior to the wedding.

OCIA: The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which adults (and children who have reached the age of reason) are instructed in the Doctrine of the Church and are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. If you or someone you know, would like to inquire about becoming a Catholic, please call the Parish Office.

BAPTISM: Parents are requested to make arrangements with the Parish Office ONE MONTH in advance. Parents must participate in a one-session pre-Baptismal program and are encouraged to do so before the birth of their child. You must be REGISTERED in the Parish 3 MONTHS prior to the Baptism.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please submit announcements to bulletin@straymonds.org 10 days prior to publication date.

Pastor's Corner

Christ the King. Today is the last Sunday of the Catholic liturgical year, which ends with the celebration of the feast of Christ the King of the Universe. Jesus told us His “kingdom is not of this world.” Rather His kingdom, and kingship, is established to reign in men’s hearts, minds and souls, and so transform the world. May Christ the King truly reign in our lives at all times.

Thanksgiving. This Thursday is, of course, Thanksgiving Day. This week, remember who you are giving thanks too: “Almighty God”—Christ the King—to whom we owe our unending thanks. May He continue to bless us, and our beloved nation. And what better way to begin Thanksgiving Day than by coming to our **10am Mass?** After all, Eucharistic comes from the Greek word *eukharistia*, which means *thanksgiving*. I hope to see you there.

Advent. Next week we start the season of Advent. So please take some time this week to plan ahead for Advent, so that it may be season of spiritual and moral preparation for the celebration of the Birth of the King of the Universe. And remember to save Thursday evenings in Advent to attend **Fr. Bergida's Advent series on the Eucharist**. Please see this weekend’s bulletin insert for Advent/Christmas scheduled events.

Bishops on Immigration. At their semi-annual meeting last week the American Bishops’ (USCCB) issued a “Special Pastoral Message” on the current state of “immigration enforcement” by the U.S. Government. A Reuters headline captured most people’s assessment of this document: “US Catholic bishops condemn Trump administration’s immigration enforcement.” Let me share what I think are some of the fundamental flaws in the document.

First, the document fails to draw any distinction at all between **legal and illegal** immigrants. Of course **we should love everyone, including all immigrants**, but “loving” and “welcoming” are not the same.

Most Catholic Americans welcome legal immigrants—I know our parish does. But they don’t welcome those who defy our laws and cause incalculable costs to taxpayers. We love them, but not their lawbreaking.

Many bishops seem to think that illegal immigration is no big deal. Archbishop Wenski of Miami once wrote: “When we look at illegal entry into the U.S. from a Catholic perspective, we understand that it doesn’t carry a moral judgment on that person...It is not a felony to be in this country illegally — it’s a misdemeanor, which is what you do when you jaywalk You don’t become a criminal because you...don’t use the crosswalk.”

Actually, illegal immigration is, by definition, a crime. Which makes illegal immigrants “criminals.” It is a criminal misdemeanor on the first offense, punishable by up to six months in prison, but it is a criminal felony for subsequent offenses, punishable by up to two years in prison.

And I don’t understand why so the Bishops think it’s not a sin, that “it doesn’t carry a moral judgment.” Jesus commands us, “Render to Caesar what is Caesar’s,” and St. Paul tells us, “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God...Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment...Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval” (Rom. 3:1-3). So it seems pretty clear to me that breaking immigration law is a sin. That’s the case even if it’s done for a good reason, e.g., to provide for their families, just as it’s a sin to rob a bank to feed your family.

And finally, breaking the law to enter our country seems a terrible way to begin one’s life in America. Our second

President John Adams famously wrote that America is founded on a “government of laws and not of men,” and that the rule of law is “a principle of governance” central to the survival of our Republic. A 2024 study by the World found that over 96% of Americans agree with this position.

Second, the document ignores the fact that the U.S. Government program **“Project Homecoming”** offers illegal aliens what seems a very compassionate opportunity to “self-deport,” with incentives including a \$1,000 “exit bonus,” a free flight, and dismissal of all fines. So that when illegal immigrants choose to reject this clemency, they also choose to subject themselves to enforcement and incarceration, and to subject their neighbors to the “climate of fear and anxiety” the Bishops are concerned about.

Third, it treats illegal aliens as victims, not criminals, but says nothing about the actual victims of their crimes. These include American taxpayers who, if nothing else, pay taxes to enforce the laws they are breaking. But these also include *legal* immigrants who make great sacrifices to patiently obey the law and then unjustly get lumped into the same group as the criminal illegal aliens by people like the U.S. Bishops. And then there are the victims of crimes, especially violent crimes, committed by illegal immigrants in the U.S.. Granted, such crimes are committed by only a small percentage of these illegal immigrants, but a percentage perhaps comparable to the illegal immigrants who the Bishops refer to as victims of abusive behavior of law enforcement.

Fourth, the Bishops’ document uses some very incendiary language when it says, “some immigrants in the United States have arbitrarily lost their legal status,” and speaks of “indiscriminate mass deportation.” Those are very serious charges to make, deserving of denunciation. But the Bishops do not give any specific examples to clarify what they mean. Perhaps some of this occurs—it is a human system after all—but this would not seem to be the rule. Many of the more well-publicized accusations in the media often prove to be a matter of perspective or media bias.

Fifth, while the Bishops condemn the “dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement,” they neither acknowledge nor apologize for their own such rhetoric. For example, Bishop Mark Brennan of Wheeling-Charleston once wrote that ICE agents: “cannot escape personal responsibility for an unjust action with the excuse that it was ordered by their superiors. ...That defense was not allowed during the Nuremberg trials of Nazi war criminals at the end of World War II.”

Sixth, the Bishops make no effort to admonish the illegal immigrants to correct their wrongdoing. Isn’t it their moral obligation as pastors to lovingly and respectfully encourage these lawbreakers to repent from their crimes and cooperate with lawful authority, even to return to their home countries, at least when they are not true refugees or asylum seekers under the law?

Finally, the tone of the document leaves many Catholics feeling that there is no option for Catholics except to accept the USCCB’s perspective on the issue of illegal immigration. That is incorrect. The Catholic understanding of this issue is much more nuanced and much less emotionally driven.

Let me conclude by saying, I mean no malice toward illegal immigrants, and exhort you to treat them with charity. And I mean no disrespect for our Bishops, even as I find flaws in their opinions. God bless all immigrants, legal and illegal, and all the Bishops as well.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

| MASS INTENTIONS | |
|--|---|
| Monday, November 24th 6:30 am Sandi Draude + 8:30 am Gerard McCabe + | Saturday, November 29th 9:00 am Dolores Blanche Gigliotti + |
| Tuesday, November 25th 6:30 am David Harvatin + 8:30 am Alayne Adams | Vigil Mass 5:00 pm Fr. Bergida John Francis Keating + |
| Wednesday, November 26th 6:30 am Charles Outtier + 8:30 am Dr. William Foster + 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions | Sunday, November 30th 7:00 am Fr. De Celles Jude Carter + |
| Thursday, November 27th 10:00 Spencer Wright | 9:00 am Fr. Horkan Parishioners |
| Friday, November 28th 8:30 am Steven Pelissier + | 11:00 am Msgr. Rippy Norma Kemp |
| | 1:00 pm Fr. Bergida Florence Miro + |

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

Monday - Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am
Saturday at 9:00 am
Sunday Mass at 9:00 am & 11:00 am
(See the website for Holy Days)

Daily Family Rosary leaders needed! St. Raymond's has a Daily Family Rosary in the church: Mon-Fri at 6:30pm and Saturday and Sunday after the 9am Mass. **Please visit our website to sign up to lead during 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, or call / text her at: C - 703-663-0480.

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

Advent Lessons and Carols. Please join us on **Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 7:00 pm** for a program of beautiful Advent music and Scripture readings, called "Lessons and Carols." Weaving together prophetic readings from the Old Testament and pre-nativity readings from the Gospels, the readers lay out God's breathtaking plan for the birth of Our Savior. The choir adds to the atmosphere of joyful expectation by leading us in popular hymns and singing a few special choral pieces. Afterwards, everyone gathers downstairs for some seasonal refreshments and Christian fellowship.

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.

Kathleen McGovern

Peter Lawton

Please pray for the sick of our parish

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Glenn Bliss | Paul Haynes | Annette Haynes |
| Michael O'Neill | Nena Brennan | Beth Fitzgibbons |
| Cindy Laird | Serrin Foster | Jean Keegan |
| Patricia Lewis | Donald Trayer | Florence Miller |
| Mai Pham | Ellen Trayer | Robert Petitti |
| Jason Saenz | Arlene Pietraszko | Joann Alba |
| Phyllis Zitnik | Virginia Cummings | Alicia Tocconi |
| John Florio | Mary M. Dixon | Jay & Linda Cabacar |
| Carolina Baker | Edward J. Susank | Rita Felkel |
| Debra Henkel | Helen Estabrooks | |
| Gaudencio Dizon | | |

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

| | |
|----------|---|
| 11/21 | Giving Trees up in the Narthex |
| 11/22-23 | YA Pre-ordered Pie Pick up in Narthex |
| 11/23 | RE Classes (Sunday Evening) |
| 11/24 | NO RE Classes Monday evening |
| 11/24 | OCIA Classes |
| 11/24 | NO Bible Study morning class 9:30-11:00 am |
| 11/24 | Family of Jesus prayer group 3pm in the Church |
| 11/25 | NO Bible Study evening class 7:00-8:30 pm |
| 11/25 | Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-6:15pm Maurer Rm. |
| 11/25 | Legion of Mary 6:30pm—Library |
| 11/26 | Adoration 9am-7pm |
| 11/27 | Thanksgiving Holiday-One Mass at 10 am. On 11/28— Mass at 8:30 am only. Parish Offices Closed 11/27 & 28 |
| 11/27 | NO Bridge Club |
| 11/28 | NO Adoration 9am-3pm |
| 11/28 | K of C Christmas Tree Sales begin-until Dec. 21 |
| 11/30 | NO RE Classes on Sunday evening |
| 12/1 | RE Classes (Monday evening) |
| 12/6 | Men's Prayer Group, Parish Hall |
| 12/6 | Breakfast with St. Nicholas, Parish Hall |
| 12/7 | Donut Sunday hosted by Trail Life |
| 12/7 | Lessons and Carols Church at 7pm, reception following in parish hall |
| 12/8 | The Immaculate Conception of the BVM-Holy Day of Obligation-Parish Offices Closed |

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 December 6th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryn-davew7705@gmail.com.

The Knights of Columbus will be selling Christmas Trees & Wreaths in the church's south parking lot starting next week-Friday, Nov. 28— Thursday Dec. 21 (or until sold out). Pre-sales can be done using this QR code; if you do so, simply bring a copy of your sales receipt to the tree lot and show a Knight as proof of purchase. Pre-sales can only be done the week prior to sales beginning (11/23– 11/28). Points of contact are: Jim Hildebrand— 571-585-5475; Phil Bettwy— 703-868-9411; and John Crennan— 339-223-0887.





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

28 Knight's Christmas Tree Delivery/Commencement of Sales 11/28-12/21

DECEMBER

1-21 Christmas Tree Sales (Church Parking Lot)
 6 Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am, Parish Hall)
 6 Breakfast with St. Nicholas (Parish Hall, 9:30-11:00 am)
 6 Richmond Polar Plunge (Pocahontas State Park)
 8 Monthly Council Meeting (7pm Library—Rosary, 7:30 pm Parish Hall)
 13 Wreaths Across America (Arlington National Cemetery, 4th Degree starts at 6am)
 20 Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am, Parish Hall)
 26 Caroling with St. Nicholas, a la Creche (7pm, Friday)

"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.

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.

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).

ST. RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well." – Psalms 139:14

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](http://AndThenThereWereNone.com) can help. Visit Abortionworker.com. Call or text 888-570-5501. Has the sorrow of miscarriage or still birth touched your life? [A Mom's Peace](http://AMomsPeace.org), offers discreet support to families with bereavement, burial and remembrance assistance. Visit [amomspeace.org](http://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** helps women and men who are carrying the grief and sorrow of a past abortion. (888)456-HOPE. Men: (703) 841-3833. Confidentiality always respected. www.helpafterabortion.org.

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

THE POWER OF PRAYER. Abortionists and those who work in the abortion industry trespass against us. Yet how much more they offend Almighty God! Every abortion deforms the abortionist and desensitizes him or her to the humanity of both the mother and child violated through abortion. **Pray fervently for the conversion of abortionists.** Somehow, they have been led astray by greed, ignorance, a misguided sense of compassion or perhaps evil itself.

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.

Something to think about: Perhaps it's easier to justify killing an embryo or fetus as those terms sound scientific but neither familial nor lovable. However, those terms simply refer to two stages of human development – no different than baby, toddler, adolescent, etc. An embryo or a fetus doesn't become a human being at birth. They are human beings beginning at conception, members of the human family, who simply aren't born yet. **Thou shalt not kill applies.**

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

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate



Make sure to stop by the narthex after Mass this weekend to pick up your pies!

Thank you for supporting the Youth Apostolate!



11/23: High School Youth Group + Jr. High Youth

Dinner, Adoration with reflection & Confession Available

6:30-6:50pm Dinner will be served in parish hall after RE
6:50-8pm Holy hour for 7-12th graders. Reflection by Father Bergida. Confessions available. Parents/families are encouraged to stay for the holy hour.



NO Youth group Next week 11/30.



MOUNT 2000 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. *We will leave after school, at 4pm on Friday & return 3pm Sunday. For more details and/or to register, go to <https://bit.ly/MOUNT2000>

Registration DUE December 10th!!



Sat. 12/6: Breakfast with St. Nicholas (9:30-11am Parish Hall)

High School Volunteers Needed 7:30am-12pm

The Knights of Columbus are in need of HIGH SCHOOL volunteers & compliant adults to help make & serve breakfast at their annual St. Raymond's Breakfast with St. Nicholas in the parish hall on **Saturday, December 6th**. Arrive at 7:30am to help decorate the church hall, cook & serve breakfast, and clean up by 12pm. Sign up to help at <https://bit.ly/stnick25>

Sun. 12/7: Lessons & Carols (7-8pm in the Church)

All families are encouraged to attend our parish Lessons and Carols, a peaceful evening of scripture readings and music meant to prepare our hearts for Christmas. Everyone is invited downstairs for refreshments afterwards. Note, **this event is a parish/family event, NOT a Youth Apostolate event.**

Steubenville Youth Conference : July 17-19, 2026

Current 8-12th graders are invited to join us for a weekend away with a few thousand Catholic teens to encounter God and experience His love through the power of the Sacraments, dynamic Catholic speakers, uplifting music and new friends. More info. coming soon!



Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)
youth@straymonds.org Call/Text: 571-334-9890



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

A new **YA Info. Sheet** is REQUIRED to be turned in once **each school year** for every child *prior* to participating in any Youth Apostolate event on or off site. <http://bit.ly/YAforms>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There **WILL BE CCD classes tonight, 11/23** - there will be no classes on Mon. 11/24 or Sun. 11/30.

Enjoy a very blessed Thanksgiving, and safe travels to everyone going out of town for the holiday. Remember to give thanks to God for His countless blessings as the year draws to a close!



Advent Book Group for Women ages 22-40. Are you looking to go deeper this Advent? Come join us for a women's Advent devotional book group, journeying with *In Time: A Catholic Advent Devotional for Women about Time and Waiting* by Claire Dwyer. (available for purchase at <https://blessedisshe.net/>). Meet in the Maurer Room by the parish office on Friday Dec. 5th, 12th, and 19th, 6:30-8:30pm. Optional fourth meeting TBD on Dec. 22 or 23. Contact Elise Hamilton to sign up or with any questions: 2EliseHamilton@gmail.com, (703) 300-4131.

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>

New and Improved Giving Tree (arriving Nov. 21) "Some give freely, yet grow all the richer" Prov. 11:24 Once again, we are sponsoring over 30 families from both our parish community and Our Lady of the Blue Ridge in Madison, VA. This year



there will be tangible gifts on the trees as well as gift cards to choose from, plus additional gifts on the parish website's Sign-Up Genius. A working QR code will help you access that list. Instructions can be found on signs near the trees in the narthex or on the Giving Tree page on the parish website. Contact the parish office with any questions. All gifts are due on or before December 14. Please share Christ's love this Christmas season by helping a family in need; both receiver and giver will be blessed!



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 month, Pope Leo XIV canonized Saint José Gregorio Hernández and Saint Carmen Rendiles, the first canonized saints from Venezuela. The Marxist government of Nicolas Maduro sent a delegation led by the mayor of Caracas to Rome for the canonization.

At an event at the Lateran University, *The Pillar* reporter, Edgar Beltrán, asked Archbishop Edgar Peña Parra, a Venezuelan who is a senior Vatican diplomat, about religious liberty abuses in Venezuela. Here is a slightly edited transcript from Edgar Beltrán.

As Peña Parra tried to answer the question, an unidentified Venezuelan man rushed over to interrupt the conversation.

He told me – in Venezuelan Spanish – that I couldn't ask questions about the government. As Peña Parra tried to continue, the man took my phone from my hands and threw it on a desk.

He grabbed me by the shirt, asking me who I worked for.... I started to respond, and the man screamed "NO!" at me. He said my question was "too delicate," and he tried to push me away. [Beltrán] stood his ground.... [T]he man tried to grab [the] phone again...grabbed his shirt collar, [and] he began to shove him.

I realized that we were not in Venezuela, and that a man like him can do me no harm here. I told him: "We're in a free country. We're not in Venezuela anymore." He continued yelling at me, but someone I don't know physically restrained him, and took him away....

I went back to Archbishop Peña Parra, and said I was sorry for the whole situation....

He told me: "Don't worry about that, ask the questions you need to ask."

What happened to me today...made me painfully aware that Venezuelans aren't safe once we leave our country, even when we're asking questions about a soon-to-be saint.

Read additional details https://www.pillarcatholic.com/p/amid-concerns-of-politicization-venezuelan?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

<https://www.pillarcatholic.com/p/cardinal-parolin-to-venezuela-open>

<https://www.pillarcatholic.com/p/pillar-journalist-assaulted>

FORMED[®]

Get In-Formed!

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

Podcast/Audio The Truth to Inspire Series- St. Frances Cabrini

The Truth to Inspire Series seeks to bring to life stories of the saints in audiobook format. These narrated stories with voices and sound effects bring to life the books of Mary Fabyan Windeatt. Learn how these normal people struggled and sought God's will in their choices.

Watch: The War of the Vendee

This inspiring and unique new film from Navis Pictures, producers of St. Bernadette of Lourdes, tells the moving story of France's little known religious civil war in the years following the French Revolution. Featuring an exuberant and gifted cast of over 250 young Catholics (playing all the roles), it is a powerful story of sacrifice and martyrdom. It is told with a careful sense of reserve and is an outstanding movie for the whole family.

For Kids: The Saints, Our Heavenly Friends

Join Brother Francis as he introduces children to their heavenly friends, the saints! Learn about the wonderful comfort, encouragement, and help given through those who serve God in His Heavenly Kingdom.

Available for FREE! To set up an account, visit [Formed.org/signup](https://www.formed.org/signup) and select our parish. Please consider leading this important ministry, call the Parish office at 703-440-0535

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



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

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

[AngelusAcademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/](https://www.angelusacademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/)

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

Come visit us and see why our students love coming to school. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

www.angelusacademy.org 703-924-3996
7644 Dynatech Ct., Springfield, VA 22153

Qualified Charitable Distributions

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD) If you are 70-1/2 or more, please consider making an IRA Charitable gift to the parish before December 31. If you are 73 or older and need to make required minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA, your QCD counts toward your annual RMD for the year. **QCDs can have a significant tax benefit for you.** Eligible accounts for QCDs can be made from most IRAs, including Traditional IRAs, Rollover IRAs, Inherited IRAs, and Roth IRAs. **Always consult your Tax professional regarding your specific situation.** Use our parish address: St. Raymond of Peñafort Catholic Church, 8750 Pohick Road, Springfield, VA 22153

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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.

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| Maintenance Fund | \$ 1,335.00 |
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