

Solemnity of Saint Raymond of Peñafort

"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

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Email

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

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

Angelus Academy

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

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

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.

Saint Raymond of Peñafort Prayer

Glorious Saint Raymond of Peñafort, wise and holy patron, come to the aid of those entrusted to your care, and all who flee to your protection. Intercede for us in our need, and help us through your prayers, example, and teaching, to proclaim the truth of the Gospel to all we meet. And when we have reached the fullness of our years, we beseech you to guide us home to heaven, to live in peace with you, Our Mother Mary, and Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen, Imprimatur: Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington, June 22, 2018

Pastor's Corner

Merry Christmas, and Happy Feast of St. Raymond! Today is the last day of the Christmas Season. The rule is that "Christmas Time runs from...the Nativity of the Lord up to and including the Sunday after Epiphany..." And normally, "The Sunday falling after [Epiphany] is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord."

Unless... a feast of "higher rank" falls on that same Sunday, the Sunday after Epiphany. And this year, it does, with the **Solemnity of St. Raymond**. Our patron saint's feast is normally celebrated on January 7, but in accordance with canon law I have moved our patronal feast to the following Sunday, January 11th. And since the feast of "title of the church" outranks the "Feast of the Baptism of the Lord," we transfer that lower feast to tomorrow, Monday, January 12.

So, today let's celebrate Christmas and our Patronal Solemnity, and after Mass join the Knights of Columbus for a **free pancake breakfast** after the Sunday morning Masses.

Saint Raymond. For those of you who don't know much about St. Raymond, I invite you to read the 32-page biography we published a few years ago. If you don't have one, they are available in the parish office.

As a brief reminder...Raymond was born of a noble family, near Barcelona, in 1175. At the age of 20 he became professor of canon law. In 1210 he left teaching to complete his studies in civil and canon law at the University of Bologna. He went on to hold a chair of canon law at that university for three years. (The date of his priestly ordination is uncertain, but it would seem to be around 1195).

On August 1, 1218, Raymond received a heavenly vision in which the Blessed Mother ("Our Lady of Ransom") instructed him to help St. Peter Nolasco found the Order of Mercedarians, which would be devoted to the ransom of Christians taken captive by the Moors (Spanish Muslims) (a scene depicted in our new mural). Raymond did not, however, join that order but rather entered the Order of Preachers ("Dominicans") in Barcelona in 1222. As a Dominican, Raymond continued to teach and preach, and devoted considerable effort working to convert Moors and Jews, coaxing St. Thomas Aquinas to write his *Summa Contra Gentiles* to help in his efforts.

At the request of his superiors Raymond published the *Summa Casuum*, a book on cases of conscience for the guidance of confessors and moralists, the first guide of its kind. This work eventually led to his appointment as confessor and theologian to Pope Gregory IX in 1230. The Pope soon directed Raymond to re-arrange and codify the canons (juridical laws) of the Church, which required him to rewrite and condense centuries of Church decrees. The Pope published Raymond's work in 1231, and commanded that it alone should be considered authoritative. From then on St. Raymond would be known as the "Father of canon law."

In 1238 he was elected Master General of the Dominican Order, the second successor to St. Dominic, but he resigned two years later, claiming that at 63 years old he was too old for the job. He continued his writing, preaching and pastoral work, as well many important responsibilities entrusted to him by various popes, for another 37 years until his death in Barcelona on January 6, 1275, at the age of 100.

But St. Raymond had one last great miracle to perform. Six years before his death, King James of Aragon invited him to come to Majorca with him to preach to the Muslim inhabitants. But when he arrived on the island the saint discovered that King James had brought his mistress along. Raymond demanded he send her away, and when the King refused, Raymond tried to sail

back to Spain, but the King forbade any ship to let him board, Raymond simply bowed his head in prayer, made the sign of the cross, and, by the grace of God, sailed 160 miles back to Spain using just his great cape as both a skiff and a sail.

He is the patron saint of lawyers, both canon and civil. And our patron as well! St. Raymond of Peñafort, pray for us!

Consistory. Last week Pope Leo met with all the Cardinals of the Church (the "College of Cardinals") in what is called a "consistory" to consult with them on the topics of Liturgy, Governance and Synodality. This is a very significant development, since, although the College of Cardinals exists to advise the Pope like this, Pope Francis never called such a meeting and, having a unique (some would say "autocratic") governing style he really didn't use the Cardinals in this way. I write this as the consistory is just beginning, so at this point I have no idea what will come of it. But let's pray it is all for the good of God's Holy Church.

Charlotte. The Bishop of Charlotte, SC, Bishop Michael Martin, has been in the news a lot lately as he has sort of declared a liturgical war against traditional liturgical practices in his Diocese.

Some bishops believe that they have an almost autocratic authority (there's that word again) over their dioceses, especially when it comes to liturgy. This is incorrect. A Bishop, for example, can't override the Universal norms and laws of the Church (i.e., laws coming from the Pope), or change Church teaching or doctrine. He also cannot violate the natural or canonical rights of his people, priests or Pastors.

In the last few months, Bishop Martin has issued several liturgical rules (or proposed issuing them) that seem to many, including myself, to violate universal Church norms and/or the rights of the faithful. This week **30 of the priests** (about ¼ of all the priests of the Diocese), 20 of whom are Pastors, responded by sending a set of "dubia" ("questions") to the Vatican's Dicastery for Legislative Texts, inquiring as to whether the most dubious of these norms are valid.

According the "The Pillar" website these include whether a diocesan bishop may prohibit:

-- *the erection of altar rails within churches in his diocese;*

-- *the use of an altar rail in parishes where the rails already exist and are used by parishioners to receive communion;*

-- *a pastor from placing kneelers to accommodate those who wish to receive Holy Communion while kneeling;*

-- *priests from wearing certain styles of vestments when those vestments are not elsewhere prohibited in Church law;*

-- *Communion by intinction;*

-- *liturgical elements, such as prayers, gestures, chants, or ornaments, on the grounds that such elements are commonly associated with the pre-Vatican II celebration of the Mass.*

God bless these 30 priests of Charlotte! It is not disobedient to exercise one's rights, including the right to appeal to Rome, especially in defense of universal law and the good of the faithful. May the Lord provide justice for His people.

March for Life. St Raymond's will send three buses to the National March for Life on **Friday, January 23**. Signups and the schedule are in the narthex. There is **no charge** for parishioners to ride the bus but you **must reserve your seat!**

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 12th

6:30 am Mohn Downing +
 8:30 am Michael Berger

Tuesday, January 13th

6:30 am Bart Downing Family
 8:30 am Samuel Berger

Wednesday, January 14th

6:30 am Tolpa Family
 8:30 am Tom Crean +
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, January 15th

9:00 am Hugel Family
 11:00am Dennis Lacot +

Friday, January 16th

6:30 am Dennis Paul O'Connor +
 8:30 am Margaret Norton +

Saturday, January 17th

9:00 am Linda Pasternak +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Msgr. Rippy**
 Barbara Brady +

Sunday, January 18th

7:00 am **Fr. Hoka**
 Peter Hansen

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

11:00 am **Msgr. Rippy**
 Nick Blaze Damon +

1:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
 Jerry Gonyea +

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 Ryan Higgins Peter Lawton

Please pray for the sick of our parish

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

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- 1/11 **St. Raymond's Feast Day Breakfast after the 7am, 9am and 11 am Masses**
- 1/11 **RE Classes**
- 1/12 **RE Classes**
- 1/12 **NO Bible Study**
- 1/12 **Family of Jesus prayer group**
- 1/13 **NO Bible Study**
- 1/13 **Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-6:15pm Maurer Rm**
- 1/13 **Legion of Mary 6:30pm—Library**
- 1/14 **Adoration 9am-7pm**
- 1/15 **Bridge Club**
- 1/15 **Book Club 9:30am- Parish Library**
- 1/16 **Adoration 9am-3pm**
- 1/17 **Men's Prayer Group**
- 1/18-19 **NO RE Classes**
- 1/19 **Martin Luther Jr. Holiday— Parish Offices Closed, One Mass at 10am**
- 1/23 **National March for Life— Soup supper following**

**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)

January 31, 2026— after the 9am Mass- Please join fellow parishioners for a presentation by The Distinguished Speaker Series on **The Heart of St. John Henry Newman by Robert Royal**. St. John Henry Newman, the newest Doctor of the Church, took as his motto *Cor ad cor loquitur*- "Heart speaks to heart". What he meant by that helps us better understand many things, among them: the true nature of conscience, the proper place of feelings in our lives, the primacy of truth, and the mission of the Church. Robert Royal is the founder and president of the Faith & Reason Institute in Washington, D.C., and is editor-in-chief of the Catholic Thing. He is a parishioner at St. Raymond's. The event is in the parish hall after the 9am Mass, light refreshments will be served. Open to the public.

CALLING ALL COOKS – March for Life Chili Dinner Support (1/23). We need a combination of 20+ crockpots of chili, soup, and mac & cheese to feed the 3 busloads/165 parishioners attending the March for Life. Rolls, cookies, fruit and veggies, as well as kitchen helpers are needed too. Please sign up to contribute your crockpot specialty. Then drop it off **before the 10:30 Mass or after 3:00 pm** on the date of the March to help welcome the hungry marchers home. You are welcome to enjoy the dinner too as **you don't have to march to be a part of the March for Life team!** If you cannot stay, please pick up your crockpot by 7:00 pm. Sign up via the parish website, or <https://tinyurl.com/2026M4LChili>



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 January 17.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email 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. Please contact Renee LeBoeuf for more information renee.leboeuf@gmail.com.

Mothers' Group: Do your young children need a bit more excitement? Are you looking for Catholic friendship with fellow mothers? Come to the moms' meet-up on Wednesday mornings! We alternate between meeting at our church and parks. Email Michelle for more information at mlcastry@gmail.com.



THE FULLNESS OF KNIGHTHOOD: Join the Knights! Your very own St. John Bosco Council #12846 has just been awarded the prestigious **STAR COUNCIL** and received the distinguished **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? Our Knights do everything from supporting life to staying informed on important topics, organizing parish dinners, sponsoring seminarians, recognizing outstanding youth, and supporting Special Olympics—you name it! Magnify your impact by joining us! Grab a Knight after Mass and ask him the benefits of becoming a Knight! Knights today stand intractably for their **FAITH**, their **FAMILIES**, and their **COUNTRY**. Don't compromise; **join the Knights!** Now is the **perfect time** to take your place with us. Just go to <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> or use the QR code below to experience the Knights **free** for one year. Enter our council #12846 for local information when you register. Please contact our Deputy Grand Knight, Dave Hayes, at cell (703) 380-4550 if you have any questions or want to learn more about the many benefits of being a Knight! Get in the game, answer the call, **LIVE FULLY; BECOME A KNIGHT!**



Upcoming Events:

JANUARY

- 11 St. Raymond Pancake Breakfast (After 7, 9 and 11 am Masses)
- 12 Membership Meeting (7:00pm Rosary-Library; 7:30pm Meeting Parish Hall)
- 17 Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30am, Parish Hall)
- 23 National March for Life (Washington, DC)
- 24-25 Italian Dinner ticket sales
- 31 Knights' Mass and Fellowship/Family Night Reception (5pm Mass and Dinner Parish Hall)

St. Raymond's 2026 Snow Team: Your Parish needs your HELP! St. Raymond's is seeking industrious, cold weather loving, able-bodied people to join the 2026 Snow Removal Team. The Snow Team will work with the Plant Manager to clear the sidewalks and entryways in proximity of the Church during snow and/or ice events. Equipment is provided; sidewalks and aprons must be clear no less than 30 minutes before the first Mass of the day (and as needed thereafter). Snow Team members must have transportation that enables them to get to the church in inclement weather. Earn \$20.00 per hour. For more information or to apply, please contact the Parish Office, at 703-440-0535 during office hours.

The Secular Carmelite Community of Thérèse of the Child Jesus offers a **Day of Recollection at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Annandale VA, February 28, 2026 from 8:30am - 1pm**. Br. Nathanael of Jesus, OCD will speak on "Your strength will lie in silence and hope"- Marian asceticism with **St John of the Cross**. \$20 per person (cash or check) will be collected at the door. Registration begins at 8:30am, 9am Mass followed by light refreshments, 10am first talk, 11am Holy Hour with Confession, 12pm second talk with Q&A. For more information contact Suzanne at skoucheravy56@gmail.com or Veronica at veronicaroyal@icloud.com.

2026 Annual K of C- Holy Spirit Free Throw Contest- Boys and Girls aged 9 and Under, 10-14 yrs. (12 age/gender categories). Located at the Holy Spirit School Gym on Sunday, January 18th, 2026. Registration begins at 7:30pm, Contest begins at 7:45pm Questions: knights@holyspiritchurch.us

SAINT RAYMOND RESPECT LIFE



Life is a Gift! Join us for the **National March for Life**. Friday 23 January. St Raymond's will send three buses. Sign-ups and the schedule are in the narthex.

There is no charge for parishioners to ride the bus but, you must reserve your seat! Come back to the parish for the best Chili Dinner and fellowship ever!

Virginia Pro Life Day. January 15th in Richmond! **Meet with your legislators to advocate for pro-life causes followed by Mass with Bishops Burbidge and Knestout or visit the chamber galleries.** vaprolifeday.org. The parish is not providing transportation. Carpools recommended.

Whether in person, by phone, email or regular mail, we are all urged to contact our representatives in Richmond to politely voice our opposition to any support of the proposed abortion amendment in Virginia. Otherwise, **'Silence implies consent'**! whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov.

The Virginia General Assembly will be in session from 14 Jan – 14 March. Please pray in reparation for anti-life legislation. Refer to the purple cards in the pews.

Wrapped In Love is up and stitching. Would you like to participate but need yarn? **We have yarn to share!** Contact Liz at hildebrandseven@gmail.com. Pray 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 MaRiH collection box in the narthex. Thank you!

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.**

Do you need counsel for a real life (not theoretical) beginning or end of life ethical issue? Contact the **National Catholic Bioethics Center** for a free consultation. www.ncbcenter.org/ask-a-question

Has the sorrow of miscarriage or still birth touched your life? **A Mom's Peace**, offers discreet support to families with bereavement, burial and remembrance assistance. Visit amomspeace.org.

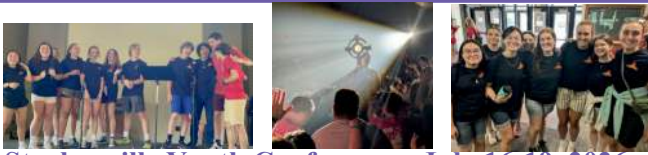
To those who have suffered an abortion:

"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.

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.

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate



Steubenville Youth Conference : July 16-19, 2026

Registration is now open!!

Current 8-12th graders are invited to join us for a week-end 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! In our ever-changing world, Jesus is the answer to the longing of our hearts for meaning, fulfillment, security, and love. Join our group in road tripping to Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH to experience the peace of Jesus Christ. Registration and more information can be found online at <https://bit.ly/STEUBENVILLE> or on YA bulletin boards by the church entrances.



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? Details 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>

1/11: High School Youth Group (Parish Hall)

5-6:30pm Religious Ed

6:30-8pm High School Youth Group (*this will be a regular youth group, NOT Adoration as previously mentioned*).

1/18/25 NO Youth Group or Religious Ed. due to MLK Holiday

Friday, January 16 & 30: 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 at <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVPS> if possible.

Tuesday January 13: Talitha Koum: HS Girls' Group

7-8:30pm (Maurer Room) ALL High School Ladies are invited to be part of our authentic sisterhood in Christ, deepening our faith, sharing life & growing in holiness & friendship together.

Tues. January 20: Sons of Thunder HS Guys' Group

7-8:30pm (Maurer Room) High School Men: Come hungry (physically and intellectually) and ready to rumble. Sons of Thunder meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30 pm in the Maurer Room with Phil, Nate, and Father Bergida.

Fri. Jan 23: March for Life St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate will be joining the parish for the annual March for Life on Friday, January 23. **Parents are encouraged to join us**, however, if any **7-12th graders** would like to go but do not have parents going, please come with the youth apostolate! We will march with the parish, helping to carry our banner. Permission slips are online at <http://bit.ly/YAforms>

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

Midterm exams will be administered this week - January 11 and 12 - for grades 1-8.

There are **NO CCD CLASSES NEXT WEEK** January 18, and 19 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

2026 Confirmation candidates (8th grade) the following paperwork was due **January 8th**: Service Hours Record form and Service Experience forms (2). Please email forms or drop off a hard copy ASAP.

Parents of Students who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Penance for the first time on **Saturday, February 7th**: be sure you have turned in the **First Holy Communion Registry form and Certificates of Birth and Baptism to the RE Office** - they were due in December!

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.

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.

Family of Jesus Prayer Group: Weekly meetings are in the Church on Mondays at 3:00 pm. If you have any prayer requests, please let us know by emailing Elaine Perricone at 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.

St. Martin de Porres Committee - collects food on an ongoing basis for the Springfield Resource Center, which serves over 250 families in the Springfield area. A collection box is in the Narthex and donations are collected and distributed weekly. Suggested food items are listed, but all donations are welcome (no clothing). For equitable distribution, smaller packaging is requested (i.e. 1 lb bags of rice vs. 5 lb. bags, 1 qt. oil vs. 1 gal oil).



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

What will the Church in Venezuela look like with Nicolás Maduro, its long-time dictator, now in U.S. custody? Twenty-five years ago, Venezuela was a prosperous oil-rich nation. That changed with the election of Hugo Chávez as president at the turn of the century, running the country until his death in 2013. Chávez was succeeded by Nicolás Maduro, who was reelected multiple times. The 2024 election was clearly viewed as fraudulent and has not been recognized by many nations around the world.

Maduro's nationalization of the banking and oil industry, and his socialistic policies, ran the poverty level up to nearly 90% today. Nearly 31 million Catholics comprise 98% of the population. Since the 2024 election, he began persecuting the Church and especially bishops for protesting that election result. High poverty led the nation's middle class to flee (one count estimates eight million individuals), many to the United States.

When asked if this tension between the Catholic Church and the state could lead to a similar situation as in Nicaragua where bishops and priests were imprisoned, exiled, and murdered, Archbishop Jesús González de Zárate, president of the Venezuelan Bishops' Conference, noted just days prior to the extraction of the Maduros last Saturday, "The bishops pray and work so that the Church does not go through a similar situation."

Martha Patricia Molina, author of the report "Nicaragua: A Persecuted Church," noted that when dictatorships like those of Maduro identify a de facto power of others, "they begin to attack it until it disappears." When, in Venezuela, as in Nicaragua, all resistance by civil society disappears, then the socialist regime "will focus its fury and punitive power against the prelates."

What can we expect? We hope and pray that a stable government is soon established and those Venezuelans who fled can return to their country, rebuild the infrastructure and industrial base, return to their churches, and return it to its glory days of the last 20th century. "The work of the Catholic Church goes on within the country's turbulent reality, a task that is far from easy due to 'the autocratic drift of national politics,'" as the bishops stated at the beginning of last year.

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/268789/Catholic-church-in-Venezuela-could-undergo-more-persecution>

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

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

The parish has already purchased a FORMED subscription for you! To set up your account, scan this QR code or visit [Formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup) and select our parish.



The best Catholic content for all ages in one place - movies, series, Bible studies, apologetics, catechesis, lectures, prayers, dramas, & ebooks—just one click away! Watch anytime, anywhere on your electronic devices: computer, tablet, Smart phone, Smart TV, etc. See the bulletin board in the vestibule for instructions on getting the App for mobile devices and for content suggestions. Download content to enjoy offline when on the go!

Has your spiritual life been enriched by Formed.org? We need VOLUNTEERS for a committee to promote and spread enthusiasm for this amazing resource to our parishioners. If you'd like to bless our community in this way, contact the parish office at 703-440-0535



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

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

AngelusAcademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/

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

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

Watch for our Constant Contact Updates! If you are not receiving emails from the parish, please contact the parish office at 703-440-0535 or office@straymonds.org to verify your email address.

Online Giving Donations Dec. 2025

Offertory	\$ 53,175.00
Fam. Assistance	\$ 1,944.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,381.00
OLOR	\$ 8,168.00
Christmas	\$ 7,391.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 7,391.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 0
Catholic Charities	\$ 4,186.00

Dec. 21st

Dec. 25th

Offertory	\$ 15,542.00	
Fam. Assistance	\$ 222.00	
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,571.00	
OLOR	\$ 2,975.00	\$ 4,246.00
Christmas		\$ 24,996.00

Dec. 28th

Jan. 4th, 2026

Offertory	\$ 10,501.00	\$ 14,164.00
Fam. Assistance	\$ 1,415.00	\$ 965.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 4,410.00	\$ 4,572.00
OLOR	\$ 5,590.00	\$ 1,192.00

Solemnity of Mary

Christmas Flowers (Grand Total) \$ 1,240.00
Catholic Charities 12/15 \$ 3,190.00



Diocesan is proud to be printing

St. Raymond of Peñafort's Sunday Bulletin

You are invited to help support our Parish!

*For opportunities to advertise, please contact
Lisa Sparkman at 717-507-3766 or lsarkman@diocesan.com*



**SUMMIT ROOFING
CONTRACTORS INC.**
Roofing • Gutters • Siding
703.368.7483
info@summitroofing.com | summitroofing.com
Free Estimates • Family Owned and Operated
Serving Northern Virginia for over 40 years
40 Year Diocesan Member

KINGSTOWNE ORTHODONTICS
John Wiger, D.D.S., M.S.D.
Specialist in Orthodontics
www.KingstowneOrthodontics.com
7574 Telegraph Road
Alexandria, VA 22315
703-971-2220

SENIOR AND MILITARY DISCOUNTS!
FINANCING AVAILABLE
ROOFING
GUTTERS • SIDING
TREE REMOVAL • DECKS
FREE wind & Hail Damage
Inspections for Roofs Insurance Claims Specialists
MidAtlantic
CONTRACTING INC.
Voted Best in Business
703-492-HOME (4663)
or 571-408-4349
www.MACContracting.com

NOW HIRING
**SALES
REPRESENTATIVE**
Join Our Family • Diocesan.com/Careers

DIOCESAN
Catholic Life Every Day
**PUT YOUR FAITH
TO WORK.**

**IN LOVING
MEMORY OF**
Judy Giannetto

*The Businesses listed above
make this bulletin possible.*

Please support them when you can.

Sign up to get our bulletin in your email each week.

Go to DiscoverMass.com/subscribe

<p>Aviation Consulting Expertise, LLC  Doug "Smash" Yurovich, PhD Colonel USMC (Ret) 571.643.6019 Certified Flight and Instrument Instructor Leadership & Mentoring for Aviation Organizations acellc918@gmail.com</p>	<p>MURPHY LAW GROUP, PLLC Wills, Trusts, Estates, & More 9300-B Old Keene Mill Road, Burke, VA 703-455-7177 www.MurphyLawVA.com</p>	<p>KELLIHER FAMILY DENTISTS Jeremiah J. Kelliher, D.D.S. Sean P. Kelliher, D.D.S. Karen Kelliher Wilson, R.D.H. Kathleen Kelliher Ketch, R.D.H. (703) 451-5030 6120 Brandon Ave. Suite 211, Springfield</p>	<p>VIRGINIA EYECARE CENTER MEMBER OF <i>VISION SOURCE</i> (703) 569-3131 Dr. Courtney Shay Dr. Tim LaFreniere Dr. Kathryn Huebner Dr. Mallory Cranmer Dr. Bryan Procopio Dr. Jen Weigel 9314-A Old Keene Mill Rd www.virginiaeyecare.com</p>	<p>Peter K. Cocolis Jr. DMD, MAGD Family & Cosmetic Dentistry  703-912-3800 smiles4va.com Quality Care Friendly Atmosphere Cutting-edge Technology 5803 Rolling Road Suite 211 Springfield, VA 22152</p>	
<p>Jefferson Funeral Chapel 703-971-7400 Family owned 5755 Castlewella Drive Alexandria, VA 22315 Just off S. VanDorn Street behind Edison High School (Kingstowne)</p>	<p>Milano's Family Restaurant Lunch & Dinner Served 7 Days a Week Breakfast served Saturday from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. & Sunday from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m.  703-569-7550 6230-G Rolling Rd • Springfield, VA www.milanofamilyrestaurant.com</p>	<p>GET YOUR FINANCIAL LIFE SQUARED AWAY  GARY SJURSET, FINANCIAL ADVISOR gasjurset@firstcommand.com 703.658.2943 <small>©2025 First Command Financial Services, Inc. parent of First Command Brokerage Services, Inc. (Member SIPC, FINRA)</small></p>	<p>FIRST COMMAND</p>	<p>EWTN.COM/RADIO  EWTN Global Catholic Radio TUNE IN</p>	
<p>catholicmatch® Virginia  CatholicMatch.com/goVA</p>	<p>Caffi SERVICES, INC PLUMBING HEATING HVAC REMODELING 1313 POWHATAN STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-1342 (703) 836-6775 www.caffiservices.com service@caffiservices.com <i>Serving the DC Metropolitan Area since 1967</i></p>	<p>AGE HAPPILY AT HOME NOW HIRING CAREGIVERS: We are seeking compassionate individuals to work as In-Home Caregivers, providing essential support and assistance to clients in their homes. For full job description visit bit.ly/ExecutiveHomecare or scan the QR code.  Apply Here Visit Us Online  Executive Home Care of Manassas Exercise/Walking • Companionship Medication Reminders Laundry • Meal Preparation • Transportation Shopping • Housekeeping Fall Prevention, Dementia Care • Health Care • And More! Call/Text Ryan McBroom 703-936-5545 executivehomecare.com/manassas-va</p>			
<p>IN LOVING MEMORY OF Catherine Kuzma</p>		<p>PJI LAW Wills, Trusts, & Probate for Catholic Families (703) 865-6100 Fairfax, VA www.pjilaw.com welcome@pjilaw.com</p>			
<p> Get this bulletin emailed to you every week. Simply go to www.DM.CHURCH/3309 ...or scan   DISCOVERMASS</p>		<p>LOCATED IN THE SARATOGA SHOPPING CTR. 8050 Rolling Rd. • Springfield, VA</p> <p>BREAKFAST: Saturday & Sunday 9am-2pm 703.455.0044</p> <p> SARATOGA PIZZERIA & GRILL EST. 1984</p> <p>LUNCH & DINNER: Daily 11am-9pm Like us on facebook SARATOGAPIZZERIA.COM</p>		<p>ADVERTISE HERE Promote your Business AND Support your Parish. Lisa Sparkman ~ 717-507-3766 lsparkman@diocesan.com</p>	

The Businesses listed above make this bulletin possible.
Please support them when you can.

Sign up to get our bulletin in your email each week.
Go to DiscoverMass.com/subscribe

