

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

*Whoever drinks
the water I shall give
will never thirst*

JOHN 4:14

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



Welcome to St. Raymond of Peñafort Roman Catholic Church

**8750 Pohick Road
Springfield, VA 22153**

WEEKEND MASSES:
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:00 am, 9:00 am (Latin-
English), 11:00 am and 1:00 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES:
Monday - Friday:
6:30 am & 8:30 am
7:00 pm on Wednesdays
Saturday: 9:00 am
Website: www.straymonds.org

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.

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

LENT. Our daily confessions have started out very well, as we've had a steady flow every day. But there's still room for you! Please remember to come during Lent, and to come early avoiding the long lines during Holy Week—if for no other reason, out of charity to your priests.

Don't be Afraid to Go to Confession! I know some people are afraid to go to Confession and so haven't been in years. Some are afraid because they are embarrassed by their sins. But remember, you can confess behind the screen, so the priest won't even know who you are (and we almost never recognize a voice).

Others are afraid because they think their sins can't be forgiven. But remember, Jesus says: "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man..." As long as you are truly sorry for your sins and want to stop sinning, the priest, with the power of Jesus, will forgive you.

Some are afraid because they think the priest will be angry with them. But that's just not true. In all my 59 years of going to Confession I've only had one truly unpleasant experience. Okay, priests have bad days like all of us, but even on a bad day priests won't get upset with you. Priests love forgiving sins—the bigger the better. And just because a priest seems stern in the pulpit doesn't mean he's that way in the confessional. A father may sometimes be stern when he teaches his children to behave, but when an apologetic child comes to him in tears, that same father opens his arms tenderness. "A lion in the pulpit, a lamb in the confessional."

Some think they will shock the priest by what they've done. As Ecclesiastes tells us: "what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun." I've heard over 25,000 Confessions in the last 23 years, and I have heard almost every sin imaginable—really. Nothing shocks me anymore.

And finally, some are afraid the priest will tell someone about their sin. This just doesn't happen. In all my life I have never heard a priest reveal the sins of anyone in Confession. Priests are forbidden, under pain of automatic excommunication (that can only be lifted by the pope himself), from ever directly or indirectly revealing the particular sins of a particular penitent. This is called the "seal of Confession," and extends even to revealing things that are not sinful that are discussed in the Confession. A lot of priests, including myself, pray and try to forget what they hear in Confession and avoid even admitting that a particular person came to Confession. (A great movie dramatizing this is Alfred Hitchcock's "I Confess.")

So don't be afraid. Come to Confession! Soon!

Lenten Schedule. Make sure you take full advantage of all the special events in the parish during Lent, especially the opportunities for prayer and receiving the sacraments. I hope you have our parish Lenten Schedule posted prominently in your home. If not, there's a link to it on the pop-up menu on our website: under "Important Announcements"...**2026 LENTEN AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE.**"

In particular, I invite you to join me **this Thursday, March 12, at 7pm** in the Parish Hall as I continue my **Lenten Series** entitled, "**The Mass Explained.**"

This week my topic is: "**The Rituals, Prayers and Symbols.**" I hope to see you there.

OCIA and OCIC. Please keep in prayer those **adults and children who are preparing to enter the Catholic Church** and/or be baptized, confirmed and receive First Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil. Let us pray that they persevere in faith, and be open to all the graces God has in store for them.

And may they be an example to the rest of us, reminding each of us of our own continuing need for personal conversion in the love of Christ.

IRAN. What should our reaction be to America's attacks against the Iranian regime? **Pope Leo** stated last Sunday:

"I am following with deep concern what is happening in the Middle East and in Iran.... Stability and peace are not achieved through mutual threats, nor through the use of weapons, which sow destruction, suffering, and death, but only through reasonable, sincere, and responsible dialogue.

"Faced with the possibility of a tragedy of immense proportions, I make a heartfelt appeal to all the parties involved to assume the moral responsibility of halting the spiral of violence before it becomes an unbridgeable chasm. May diplomacy regain its proper role, and may the well-being of peoples, who yearn for peaceful existence founded on justice, be upheld. And let us continue to pray for peace."

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued a statement saying: *"My brother bishops and I unite our voice with our Holy Father and make the heartfelt appeal to all parties involved for diplomacy to regain its proper role. We ask for a halt to the spiral of violence, and a return to multilateral diplomatic engagement...and pursue the common good over the tragedy of war."*

These statements are largely what you would expect and hope for from the Pope and Bishops: calling for an end to violence and return to negotiation. In general, I agree: we should avoid war and violence, and try to reach diplomatic agreements, as far as possible.

But if these comments are to be interpreted as a condemnation of the attacks on Iran, that would be a different thing, since in general it is not up to prelates to judge when war and violence are necessary. Moreover, and I can't agree with the blanket statement that "Stability and peace are not achieved through...the use of weapons." The Allied Forces' use of weapons on the Axis Powers in World War II definitively established "stability and peace" in most of Europe for the last 81 years.

There can be no doubt that the Iran theocracy is an evil regime, and deserves to be replaced by a more benign government. And there is such a thing as a just war, and sometimes violence is the only recourse when discussion fails or is futile, or when one side ceases to dialogue in a truly "*reasonable, sincere, and responsible*" manner, as Iran apparently has. Sometimes to "pursue the common good" we must engage in "the tragedy of war." And in America it is the President who knows the most about the situation, and who is made responsible by the people and by God himself to make this call, not Popes, bishops or priests.

So I join in the Holy Father's call for prayers for peace and the people of Iran, and Archbishop Coakley's invitation to offer "ardent prayers for peace in the Middle East, for the safety of our troops and the innocent." I would add that we pray for President Trump, that he be granted the wisdom and courage necessary for making just decisions. Then, whether you pray for an immediate end of hostilities, or for an American/Israeli victory (whatever that may mean) I leave up to you and your conscience.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 9th

6:30 am Bart Perricone
8:30 am Barbara Brady +
7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Tuesday, March 10th

6:30 am Jack Menotti +
8:30 am Daniel Murray
7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Wednesday, March 11th

6:30 am Chris Menotti +
8:30 am Michael Chellis
7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, March 12th

6:30 am Steven Black +
8:30 am Maria-Elena Chellis

Friday, March 13th

6:30 am Ted Tolpa +
8:30 am Pope Francis +

Saturday, March 14th

9:00 am Tom Dietz +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
Consuelo & Virgilio
Inacay +/+

Sunday, March 15th

7:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
Milagros Dela Cruz +

9:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
Parishioners

11:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
Joseph L. Gigliotti +

1:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**

Family of Jesus Prayer
Group

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.

Ryan Higgins Peter Lawton Brandon Skiba

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 Robert Petitti Joann Alba Alicia Tocconi Jay & Linda Cabacar Rita Felkel Maria Calayag Colleen O'Connor Pat Kolakoski Charles McAdams
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- 3/8 RE Classes and Youth Apostolate Events
- 3/9 RE Classes
- 3/9 Adult Bible Study 9:30 am in Parish Hall
- 3/9 Family of Jesus prayer group 3pm in Church
- 3/10 Adult Bible Study 7 pm in Parish Hall
- 3/10 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-6:15pm Maurer Room
- 3/10 Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library
- 3/11 Adoration 9 am—7 pm
- 3/12 Bridge Club in Parish Hall (RSVP Required)
- 3/12 Book Club— 9:30 am Library
- 3/12 Lenten Series 7 pm Parish Hall
- 3/13 Nocturnal Lenten Adoration Fri. 9am— Sat. 9am
- 3/13 Lenten Soup Supper, 5-6:30pm Parish Hall
- 3/13 Stations of the Cross 7pm
- 3/14 Ss. Patrick & Joseph Feast Day Dinner Parish Hall
- 3/19 Feast Day of St. Joseph additional Mass at 6 pm

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

www.straymonds.org

EXTRA WEEKDAY LENTEN MASSES

Monday-Friday: 6:30am & 8:30am
Monday-Wednesday: 7:00pm

Special Feast Days

St. Joseph, March 19: Masses- 6:30am, 8:30am & 6:00pm
Annunciation, March 25: Masses-6:30am, 8:30am & 7:00pm

LENTE CONFESSION SCHEDULE

(Except Ash Wednesday,, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (not Weds.):

Feb. 19-March 20: 6:30pm-7:00pm

March 23-31: 6:00pm-7:00pm

Wednesday: February 25-April 1: 6:00pm-8:00pm

First Friday: March 6 : "Extra Confessions" from 3-4pm and 6-7pm

Saturday: 8:00am-9:00am; 3:30pm-5:00pm

Sunday: 8:30am-9:00am; 10:30am-11:00am

See the Lenten schedule poster at all entrances and our website.

Fasting and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both fasting and abstinence, and every Friday in Lent is a day of abstinence. Failure to "substantially" keep these penances is grave matter (e.g., potentially a mortal sin). The law of abstinence requires that no meat may be eaten on these days, and binds all Catholics who are 14 years old or older. No other penance may be substituted. The law of fasting binds those who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The sick, pregnant or nursing mothers, and other folks with special physical circumstances may be partially or totally exempt from these rules—use good judgment and take care of yourself.

LENTE SERIES- Fr. De Celles is offering a five week series of talks on "The Mass Explained". The next talk is on "The Rituals, Prayers and Symbols" this Thursday, March 12th at 7pm in the Parish Hall.

Lenten Soup Supper on March 13th. Please join your fellow parishioners for a delicious but simple meal **each Friday during Lent, 5-6:30pm**. Bring your family or a friend and either a pot of homemade meatless soup, macaroni & cheese, fruit, salad or bread to share. **Stations of the Cross** takes place in the church at 7pm each Friday. Please join us!

WEEKLY LENTEN FRIDAY NOCTURNAL ADORATION!

On Friday March 13th and every Friday during Lent through March 27th. Please see the sign up genius on our website to sign up!

Book Club News: Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 12th at 9:30 AM, in the Parish Library. We will be discussing "Go to Heaven - A Spiritual Road Map to Eternity" by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen. 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 March, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.

JOIN the CHOIR at St. Raymond's: Do you want to sing with the choir for Lent and Easter? Singers who have a pleasant voice and sing in pitch are welcome. We practice on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and sing at 11:00 am Mass on Sundays with a warm-up at 10. The repertoire of the choir contains masterpieces of classical liturgical choir music. Enjoy wonderful fellowship, music training and the joy of making uplifting music for the liturgy. Contact Elisabeth Turco at music@straymonds.org or call 703-506-4644.



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. Now is the **perfect time** to take your place with us. Just go to <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> 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:

MARCH

- 9 Monthly Council Meeting (7 pm library Rosary, 7:30 pm Parish Hall)
- 14 Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am Parish Hall)
- 14 Ss. Patrick & Joseph Feast Day Dinner (6:30 pm in Parish Hall)



ST. PATRICK'S AND ST JOSEPH'S DINNER:

The Knights of Columbus Annual St. Patrick/St. Joseph's Dinner will take place on Saturday, March 14th, 2026 at 6:30pm in the parish hall. Tickets for the event will be sold at all Masses on the weekends of: February 28th and March 1st, 2026; and also, March 7th and 8th, 2026. Ticket Prices are \$6.00 for children (5-12), \$18.00 for Adults and \$65.00 for Families. We will also sell tickets at the door (unless "sold out"). You can use the QR Code below for tickets also.

2026 Multi-Car Raffle: All Saints Church (Manassas, VA) has once again invited our parishioners to participate in their Multi Car Raffle. Prizes include four 2026 vehicles from Ourisman Ford of Manassas (Ford Escape, Mustang, Maverick Truck (Hybrid) and Bronco Sport). One \$5.00 ticket offers the purchaser a chance to win all four vehicles plus \$42,000 (including one for \$20,000) in cash prizes. You will be receiving tickets in the mail within the next week or so. Please consider selling/purchasing the tickets mailed to you. Thank you for your support!

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.

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 March 21st.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryndavew7705@gmail.com.

Cursillo Dinner & Faith Sharing - All Are Welcome! Are you looking for a community and friendship? To share your faith with friends (new and old)? Join the Arlington Diocese Cursillo community and fellow parishioners at St. Bernadette's on Saturday, March 14th at 6:15pm (after the 5:00pm Mass) in the Bradican Room. Together we will pray, eat, and share personal stories of God's Grace. Dinner is potluck. As always and in Cursillo style, please bring food and drinks to share. Hosted by St Bernadette's, St Raymond of Penafort, Nativity, and St Mary of Sorrows Cursillo communities. Questions – please contact Paula Shipe at pshipe@cox.net or 703-455-5401.

Reminder: Daylight Savings Time Begins This Weekend!

Do not forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour this Saturday night (March 7th).



SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

The Virginia General Assembly is in session until March 14. Please continue to pray in reparation for anti-life legislation. Refer to the purple cards in the pews. *"Pray ... for our leaders, and for all those in power, even for those who persecute you and hate you, and for those who are enemies of the cross."* St Polycarp, bishop and martyr (69-155AD)

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.viriniageneralassembly.gov.



Spring campaign is underway! Thank you to those who have already participated. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex. **There's a terrific video on our parish website.**

straymonds.org/40-days-for-life-4/ Check it out! Questions? Contact Liz at hildebrandseven@gmail.com

Virginia March for Life. Richmond on Wed. April 22. St Raymond's is sending one bus. Details to follow. marchforlife.org/virginia

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... WOW!!! Did you see the mountain of boxes of diapers in the narthex last week?! Thank you for the tremendously generous outpouring of support! Philippians 1:3 says it best. Donations welcome and so very much appreciated in the narthex collection box near the elevator. **Greatest needs:** winter coats and clothes up to 2T, diapers, formula, wipes. Please do not leave bouncy seats, walkers, gates or jogging strollers.

Has the sorrow of a 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 the YA bulletin boards by the church entrances.

3/8: High School Youth Group (Parish Hall)

5-6:30pm Religious Ed
6:30-8pm High School Youth Group

Sunday, March 8th: High School Q&A with Fr. De Celles 5:15-6:30pm (Parish Hall)

Open to ALL high school students! Bring your questions!

Tuesday March 10: 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.

High School Volunteers Needed

Saturday, March 14th St. Patrick/St. Joseph Dinner

Help is needed: 12pm-2pm, 2pm-4pm & 5:30-7:30pm

The Knights of Columbus are in need of several HIGH SCHOOL youth to help with **decorating and serving** during their St. Patrick/St. Joseph Dinner on Saturday, March 14th. **This is a great almsgiving opportunity...giving of your time!** Sign up for a shift (or more!) if you are able to help ASAP <https://bit.ly/SAINTPATRICKJOSEPH>

Every Friday in Lent: 6:30am Mass & Breakfast

7-12th Graders: Add Mass before class as a part of your Lenten sacrifice, then come downstairs for breakfast with Fr. Bergida & Fr. Horkan before school! RSVP at <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVPS> if possible. We can bring you to your school right from breakfast if you RSVP by Wednesday. Just let us know what time you need to be there!

Calling all BAKERS! One of our parishioners, Mr. Bob Keegan, is begging for your help in providing the **120 DOZEN COOKIES** he has been asked to bring with him for the upcoming Kairos Prison Ministry Retreat **If you are willing to help by baking a dozen cookies (or more!) by Tuesday, April 14th, please sign up at <https://bit.ly/120cookies4prisoners>** *You may earn service hours **Cookies can be dropped off** at the parish office any time, but **no later than Tuesday, April 14th.**

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

Priest with High School CCD on March 8! Our 9-12th grade CCD students will have Q&A with Fr. De Celles during class, and all high school parishioners are invited to join! Meet in the church at 5:00, and pick up is in the parish hall at 6:30 if not staying for Youth Group.

Attention parents of 8th grade Confirmation students, the following paperwork is due no later than March 12:

1. Sponsor Eligibility letter (from sponsor's home parish)
2. Statement of Sponsor form (from red folder or online)

Please note: Confirmation rehearsal is scheduled for May 18th at 7 pm
Confirmation Mass is scheduled for May 19th at 6 pm (candidates and sponsors required to arrive by 5!)

Attention parents of 7th grade students please check out Confirmation requirements as outlined in the *Supplement to Parent Handbook Sacrament of Confirmation 2027* and the *Personal Checklist*, which you received in your red folder at the beginning of the academic year. Students should be making ongoing progress on the three types of service hours.

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.

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 if interested in joining us.



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.

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 this 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. Visit Chesterton-ChristTheKing.org to learn more or to apply. Limited spaces remain for rising freshmen for the 2026-2027 school year.

PURPLE PRAYER CARDS IN THE PEWS- Please take a prayer card located on the ends of each pew to pray during of the Virginia General Assembly session from Jan 14-March 14. Thank you!

ART, DRAMA, MUSICAL THEATRE CAMPS for K-12 in a Catholic setting! Spotlight on the Arts Summer Camps offers **Broadway Spotlight, Drama Bootcamp, Art Explorer, and Arts & Crafts Fun Camp** this July to students across the Diocese. This July 13th - 24th young people are invited to experience top level instruction as they engage in creative fun through Acting, Visual Art, Music, and more! Taught by professional Catholic educators very accomplished in their area of expertise, each week concludes with either an Art Showcase or a Theatrical Performance by the campers. Through March 31st, **all camps are \$35 off plus everyone gets a free t-shirt.** Additionally, there are extra discounts for families that enroll 3 or more kids! Learn more and register at www.SpotlightSummerCamps.com

CHURCH PERSECUTED

There are three Virginia Constitutional Amendments ballot issues in 2026 due to the change in the nature of the House of Delegates and the Senate from Republican-led to Democratic-led after the 2023 and 2025 state elections.

Article XII, Section 1 of the Virginia Constitution provides the details for amendments:

1. Both the Senate and the House of Delegates must pass a proposed amendment by a simple majority vote,
2. After the next general election (last held November 2025), both houses must again approve the proposed amendment by a simple majority vote,
3. The Virginia electorate then vote on the amendment no sooner than ninety days after final passage by the General Assembly, and
4. If a majority of voters approve the amendment it becomes part of the Constitution.

Note: nowhere in the above process does the governor have a say in the matter. The Virginia General Assembly proposed three amendments for the state constitution:

1. Approval of a redistricting measure which would realign the U.S. House of Representative districts creating one Republican-heavy district and ten Democrat-heavy districts. The current ratio is six to five Democrat majority which aligns with the ratio of Democrat to Republican voters in the state. It would redistribute the voters in the Democrat-heavy counties of Northern Virginia in U.S. House districts throughout the state in a process called gerrymandering. That will be up for vote at a special election scheduled for April 21, 2025, ahead of the November 2026 U.S. House and Senate elections.
2. Enshrining the legalization of abortion as part of the Virginia Constitution. The Virginia General Assembly (House of Delegates and Senate) passed this measure twice in two separate legislative sessions and will be on the ballot at the regularly scheduled general elections on November 3, 2026.
3. Enshrining the legalization of so-called "same-sex marriage" as part of the Virginia Constitution. The Virginia General Assembly passed this measure twice in two separate legislative sessions and will be on the ballot at the regularly scheduled general elections on November 3, 2026.

See Virginia Family Foundation for more details. <https://www.familyfoundationaction.org/resources>

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

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

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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



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As we begin planning for the 2026-2027 school year, we are preparing to fill several teaching and staff positions. We are excited about the opportunity to welcome new faculty members who are passionate about serving Jesus in His little ones as part of our Catholic liberal arts school in the classical tradition. Currently, we have employment opportunities in a variety of roles, including the Head of School, a few teaching positions in grades K-5, and the Fundraising-Events Manager.

We invite you to help us spread the word in your family and our parish community! If you know anyone who may be an excellent fit for our school, please encourage them to reach out to us at employment@angelusacademy.org for more information.

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.

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 75 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 Penafort Catholic Church, 8750 Pohick Road, Springfield, VA 22153

“The 2026 Bishop’s Lenten Appeal, In Christ, We Are One”, Thank you to everyone who already participated in the BLA! If you haven’t yet had a chance to make your gift, we still need your help. Every family matters in helping our parish reach its goal. No gift is too small. Your participation supports vital ministries our parish depends on: seminarian formation, religious education, youth ministry, Catholic Charities, and more. You can also give a one-time gift or pledge. Give today at arlingtondiocese.org/bla or scan the QR code.



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