

# JESUS Wept.

JOHN 11:35

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

## Welcome to St. Raymond of Peñafort Roman Catholic Church

8750 Pohick Road  
Springfield, VA 22153

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

**WEEKDAY MASSES:**  
Monday - Friday:  
6:30 am & 8:30 am  
7:00 pm on Wednesdays  
Saturday: 9:00 am  
Website: [www.straymonds.org](http://www.straymonds.org)

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Reconciliation/Confession)

**Wednesday Evening**  
6:15 - 7:00 pm (during Exposition)

**First Fridays**  
3:00-4:00 pm and 6:00-7:00 pm

**Saturday Morning**  
8:00 - 9:00 am

**Saturday Afternoon**  
3:30 - 5:00 pm

**Sunday Morning**  
8:30-9:00 am and 10:30-11:00 am

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm  
Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
First Fridays 9:00 am Friday - 9:00 Saturday (Overnight)

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

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

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

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Please submit announcements to [bulletin@straymonds.org](mailto:bulletin@straymonds.org) 10 days prior to publication date.



Rev. John C. De Celles, Pastor  
Rev. Joseph D. Bergida, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Edward R. Horkan, In Residence  
Elisabeth Turco, Director of Liturgical Music  
Jeanne Sause, Director of Youth Apostolate  
Virginia Osella, Director of Religious Education  
Mary Hansen, Religious Education Secretary  
Michael Thompson, Plant Manager  
Maerose Naduvilekunnel, Business Manager  
Mary Butler, Parish Secretary  
Dominique Murray, Office Assistant

### PARISH OFFICE

Telephone Numbers:  
Rectory: 703-440-0535  
Rel. Education: 703-440-0537  
Fax: 703-440-0538

### Office Hours

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

### Email

Church: [Office@straymonds.org](mailto:Office@straymonds.org)  
Pastor: [fdc@straymonds.org](mailto:fdc@straymonds.org)  
Rel. Ed.: [ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org](mailto:ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org)

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

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

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

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

## Pastor's Corner

**PASSIONTIDE.** Today we cover the statues and crosses as we begin the last two weeks of Lent, called "Passiontide." At this point in Lent some people often start to slip in keeping their Lenten penances, while others haven't yet begun their penances at all. Passiontide reminds us to refocus or deepen our attention on the season and its purposes of repentance of sin, conversion of heart, and appreciation of Christ's love manifested in His Passion and Cross. If you've been slacking in your observance of Lent, let's get going. If you've neglected the season entirely, it's not too late. Let us beg our Crucified Lord to shower us with His grace in these last two weeks of Lent, and that we may be open to His grace and love Him in return.

During Lent, our focus on our sins and God's redeeming suffering and death for our sins are called to mind by the many outward signs of Lent. The bodily/physical reminders of these days are so important to our experiencing the meaning of the season—Jesus suffered and died for us in His human body. And so it is important to experience the mysteries of this season "in the flesh."

In our daily lives this is seen in our penances, including fasting and abstaining from meat. In the Mass we see it in the suppression of the Alleluia every day, and the Gloria on Sundays, as these joyful prayers are set aside during the sober and somber season. In Passiontide the elevated intensity of our focus is expressed in the outward and dramatic sign of **covering most of the crucifixes, statues, and other holy images in our churches.** In part, this is to encourage us to sort of place ourselves 2000 years back in time with Jesus during those last two weeks before his Crucifixion and Resurrection: Good Friday has not yet happened, so there is no cross yet; Easter has not happened, so no saints are in heaven. Keep this in mind in the coming days: "I'm walking with Jesus, and Peter and John and the apostles...With Judas. With Mary Magdalene and Salome and the other holy women. Walking toward Jerusalem, stopping in Bethany, going to the temple... In the Upper Room, at the Last Supper...In the house of Caiaphas...In the palace of Pilate...Standing with Blessed Mary as they scourge her sweet child..."

This focus "in the flesh" can be experienced most especially in our liturgical and prayer practices. So, please, come to the church and physically take part in the various sacraments, liturgies and other pious activities of the Church and parish in the next few weeks.

I strongly encourage all of you to take advantage of **the extra and longer confession times** (we'll have at least **2 priests hearing at most times**). I also encourage you to **go to one or more weekday Masses** and spend **time in Adoration** of the Blessed Sacrament, especially during Exposition on **Wednesday** from 9am to 7pm and on **Friday** from 9am throughout the evening and **throughout the night** ("Nocturnal") until just before Saturday morning 9am Mass. And don't forget praying the **Stations of the Cross**, especially in the church on Friday evening at 7:00pm with other parishioners led by a priest.

**Holy Week.** Next Sunday is *Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*, the beginning of Holy Week. Next week we will

distribute a schedule for Holy Week, but I ask you now to **plan ahead today.** These are the most solemn and sacred days of the Christian year, marked by special and unique liturgies, including Holy Thursday's evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, with the solemn procession and silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight—"can you not watch one hour with me?" Then there's Good Friday's Celebration of the Passion of the Lord, with the Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion, which begins at 3pm—the hour of the Lord's death. And finally, the Easter Vigil at the end of Holy Saturday evening.

Please, please try to participate in all of these liturgies that are so important to experiencing the fullness of Catholic prayer in Holy Week. I especially recommend that you attend the 3pm Good Friday service, with the Veneration of the Cross. I am always overwhelmed, edified and inspired as I see my good people humbly and happily coming to venerate the Holy Cross of Jesus and to receive His Most Holy Body in Communion. It is a powerful liturgy—stark, dramatic, somber, mournful, and transformative.

**Lenten Series.** I invite you to join me this **Thursday at 7pm** in the Parish Hall as I conclude my Lenten Series entitled, "**The Mass Explained.**" This week I will be concluding my discussion of "**The Rituals, Prayers and Symbols**" of the Mass, and then, finish off with focus on the **Roman Canon**, that is, Eucharistic Prayer I. I hope to see you there.

**Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.** This coming Wednesday, March 25, is the Solemnity of the Annunciation, remembering the Archangel Gabriel apparition to the Virgin Mary to announce, and receive her consent to, the miraculous conception of Jesus. Thus, it is traditionally understood to be a memorial of the event of Conception of Jesus, so that exactly nine months later, on December 25, we celebrate His birth. I encourage you all to celebrate by attending Mass at 6:30am, 8:30am or 7pm.

**Fellowship.** It was good to see so many of you at last Saturday's St. Patrick and St. Joseph Day Dinner enjoying good food, music, and fellowship. These kinds of social events are so important to the life of a vibrant Catholic parish, as opportunities to share the love and joy of Christ together, and to get to know each other better so as to live and work together as the Body of Christ in Springfield. Thanks for all who worked so hard to make the evening a success, especially the Knights of Columbus.

I remind you all that we also gather **every Friday** of Lent at 5pm in the Parish Hall for a **Soup Supper** before the Rosary and Stations. Please join your fellow parishioners for a delicious but simple meal. It's Potluck, so bring a pot of *meatless* soup, macaroni & cheese, fruit, salad or bread to share. And if you can't bring food, come anyway and just bring your appetite!

*Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, March 23rd**

6:30 am Chris Menotti +  
8:30 am Family of Edward Christy  
7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

**Tuesday, March 24th**

6:30 am Gina Suarez  
8:30 am Morgan Petro  
7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

**Wednesday, March 25th**

6:30 am Linwood Russell Turner  
8:30 am Michael Cokenour +  
7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

**Thursday, March 26th**

6:30 am William R. Clements+  
8:30 am Mike Frankfurth +

**Friday, March 27th**

6:30 am Trayer Family  
8:30 am Ted Tolpa +

**Saturday, March 28th**

9:00 am Edward Christy +

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**  
Matthew Sedgley+

**Sunday, March 29th**

7:00 am **Fr. De Celles**  
Margaret Conboy+

9:00 am **Fr. Horkan**

Parishioners

11:00 am **Fr. De Celles**

Peter Redpath Sr. +

1:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**

Macaria Ramos +

**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.

**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 Colleen O'Connor
--	--	---

**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

- 3/22 RE Classes and Youth Apostolate Events
- 3/23 RE Classes
- 3/23 Adult Bible Study 9:30 am in Parish Hall
- 3/23 Family of Jesus prayer group 3pm in Church
- 3/24 Adult Bible Study 7 pm in Parish Hall
- 3/24 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-6:15pm Maurer Room
- 3/24 Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library
- 3/25 Adoration 9 am—7 pm
- 3/25 Annunciation, Masses at 6:30, 8:30 am and 7 pm
- 3/26 Bridge Club in Parish Hall (RSVP Required)
- 3/26 Lenten Series 7 pm Parish Hall
- 3/27 Nocturnal Lenten Adoration Fri. 9am– Sat. 9am
- 3/27 Lenten Soup Supper, 5-6:30pm Parish Hall
- 3/27 Stations of the Cross 7pm
- 4/4 Men's prayer group
- 4/9 Book Club 9:30 Parish Library
- 4/11 Senior Luncheon 12:20-2:30pm
- 4/12 Easter Egg Hunt 2:30pm

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

[www.straymonds.org](http://www.straymonds.org)

**EXTRA WEEKDAY LENTEN MASSES**

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

**Upcoming Special Feast Day**

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

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

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.

**Last Year's Blessed Palms** – There are boxes for blessed palms at each exit of the Church until the end of Lent. The parish will dispose of them properly. "Once a religious object is blessed... it must be treated with reverence and not be used in either an improper or profane way." (Code of Canon Law)

**WEEKLY LENTEN FRIDAY NOCTURNAL ADORATION!**

On Friday March 27th is the Last Lenten Nocturnal Adoration. Please see the sign up genius on our website to sign up!

**LENTE SERIES-** Fr. De Celles has been offering a five week series of talks on "The Mass Explained". The last talk is on "The Roman Canon: A Meditation on the Ancient Prayer of Consecration" this Thursday, March 26th at 7pm in the Parish Hall.

**Last Lenten Soup Supper on March 27th** Please join your fellow parishioners for a delicious but simple meal **Friday March 27th, 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!

**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](http://Chesterton-ChristTheKing.org) to learn more or to apply. Limited spaces remain for rising freshmen for the 2026-2027 school year.



**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**

21-22 2026 Multi-Car Raffle Ticket sales in Narthex after all Masses

30 Blood Drive (7:00 am-1:00 pm, Nativity Parish)

**APRIL**

4 Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30am, Parish Hall)

11-12 KofC Recruitment Drive (After all Masses, Narthex)

13 Membership Meeting (7pm Library – Rosary; 7:30pm, Parish Hall)

18 Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30am, Parish Hall)

**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!

**Annual Easter Egg Hunt**, Sunday, April 12th at 2:30 pm behind the Parish Hall: Children ages 12 and under are invited, free of charge, no RSVP necessary! This year, we are inviting all parishioners to sign up to donate wrapped candy and stickers by April 8th. Please check your email and our website for the sign up! For more information, please contact the parish office.



**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 April 4th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email [maryndavew7705@gmail.com](mailto:maryndavew7705@gmail.com).

**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>** Cookies can be dropped off at the parish office any time, but **no later than Tuesday, April 14th.**



**Help us make our church even more beautiful as we celebrate Christ's Resurrection!** Flowers are a wonderful way to symbolize the new life we receive through Jesus' death and resurrection. If you would like to honor your loved ones this Easter, we invite you to send in your envelopes soon. Thank you so much for your support!

**SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE**

The Virginia General Assembly concluded its 2026 session on **March 14.** Please continue to pray in reparation for anti-life legislation. *"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.virginiageneralassembly.gov](http://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov).



Spring campaign is underway! Thank you to those who have already participated. Our witness weekend is **28-29 March.** Sign-up sheets are in the narthex. **There's a terrific video on our parish website.** [straymonds.org/40-days-for-life-4/](http://straymonds.org/40-days-for-life-4/) Check it out! Questions? Contact Liz at [hildebrandseven@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://abortionpillreversal.com).

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

## 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.

### 3/22: High School Youth Group + Jr. High Youth Welcome!! Dinner, Adoration with reflection & Confession Available

**6:30-6:50pm** Dinner will be served in the parish hall after RE  
**6:50-8pm** Join Fr. Bergida for a special holy hour for 7-12th graders! *Parents/families are encouraged to stay for the holy hour as well. There will be Exposition with time for silent prayer.*

### NO Youth Group March 29 or April 5th

**Tuesday March 24: 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.

### Saturday, March 28 (10:15am-1pm) 40 Days for Life Prayerful Pro-Life Witness

**7-12th Graders**, please join us in praying outside the abortion clinic in Falls Church to change hearts and save lives. Bring your rosary and a friend. We will pray for an hour then come back for a slice of pizza in the parish hall. We will car pool from St. Raymond's. **Chaperones needed.** *Permission slips (available on bulletin boards & online <http://bit.ly/YAforms>) due Tuesday, 3/24.*

### 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.

**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](mailto:youth@straymonds.org) Call/Text: 571-334-9890

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

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

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Attention parents of 8th grade students:

Sponsor Paperwork was due on March 12!  
Confirmation Gown Order form is due no later than April 16th. A Google Form was emailed to you, or there is a paper form in the red Confirmation folder.

**Parents of students preparing to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time in May:** First Holy Communion Mini-Retreat will take place Saturday, April 25 from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm here at St. Raymond's. Also, don't forget to **sign up for a First Communion Mass.**

**Please Note:** There will be no CCD classes on March 29/30 and April 5/6 for Holy Week and Easter.



**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.

**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](http://www.SpotlightSummerCamps.com)

**Girls Volleyball Clinic at John Paul - March 28<sup>th</sup>** Join us at Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School for our Girls Volleyball Clinic on Saturday, March 28th from 9-11am! Open to 4th - 8th grade girls! Participants will have the opportunity to work on fundamentals while receiving guidance from JP coaches and JP student athletes! We hope to see you there! Click here to start your registration: <https://saintjohnpaul.mypaysimple.com/s/middle-school-event-registration>

## Annual Spring Senior Luncheon

**WHO:** All Seniors 55 years young and above

**WHERE:** St. Raymond's Parish Hall

**DATE:** April 11th, 12:30 - 2:30 pm

**MENU:** Honey Baked Ham and all the trimmings (Free!)  
**RSVP by April 6th by emailing [office@straymonds.org](mailto:office@straymonds.org) Or calling the office at 703-440-0535**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_ (Bring a friend!)

Hosted by Trail Life Troop

**CHURCH PERSECUTED**

The Holy Father is planning a four-day trip to Cameroon from April 15 – 18. Cameroon is located at the “throat” of Africa, on the west coast where the coastline goes from horizontal (with respect to the equator) to vertical. Its capital is Yaoundé. The Holy Father plans to visit Bamenda, in the war-torn Northwest region – a region where at least 6,500 have been killed and more than one million others have been displaced over the past 10 years. What is unique about this violence is that it is not associated with the radical Islamists moving south in Africa from the arid north to the more fertile central portion of the country.

In 1961, the British Southern Cameroons (today’s Northwest and Southwest regions of the country) unified with the French-speaking Republic of Cameroon. The former saw their distinct legal and educational system inherited from the colonial British being eroded by the French-based central government. In 2016, the Southern Cameroonians began to protest the erosion of the values and the government’s strong response, which included mass arrests and lethal force, ended any hope of dialogue and reconciliation and instead radicalized a large segment of the population.

Bishop Goerge Nkou, of the Kumbo Diocese, said, that his diocese has “endured ten painful years of conflict, fear, displacement, uncertainty, and deep sorrow.” He continued, “In all parts of the diocese, our communities have suffered deeply. Young and old, Christians and non-Christians, Catholics and non-Catholics. Farmers, teachers, Catechists, traders, pupils, mothers and fathers. We have witnessed killings, kidnappings, disappearances, burning of homes, looting, sexual violations, extortion, and constant fear. Entire villages have lived in anxiety. Schools have closed, farms have been abandoned. Youth have fled.” What is strange is that Kumbo is a modern city high in the mountains (5200 ft elevation); clearly not a third-world city.

Pope Leo’s impending visit raises hope for a solution to the problem. “The Pope... will deliver a clear message of peace, consolation, and truth,” said Bishop Nkou. “He will not miss that opportunity. But the Pope cannot walk into people’s hearts. We must ask the people to listen to what he says, take it to heart, and be ready to repent and believe the Good News.”

<https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2026/03/14/our-diocese-is-not-a-slaughter-slab-where-human-beings-are-butchered/>

**FORMED®**

**Get In-Formed!**

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

*Watch:* The Mysteries of the Rosary-The Mysteries of the Rosary is a four-part film series hosted by Mark Hartfiel, Vice President of Paradisus Dei and current developer of That Man is You! men’s program The series began out of Mark Hartfiel’s desire to deepen his spiritual life as a father and husband, which included taking steps to protect his family from evil. Saint Padre Pio said, “The Rosary is the ‘weapon’ for these times,” and Hartfiel took that to heart, ultimately becoming convicted to pray the ancient prayers of the Rosary daily.



*Watch:* The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary- The Seven Sorrows of Mary (aka the Servite Rosary) is a traditional Catholic devotion featuring meditations on sorrowful episodes in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The prayers and meditations are accompanied by images of sacred art from many of the great masters as well as a lush, yet subtle, orchestral soundtrack.

**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**

View this bulletin online at [www.DiscoverMass.com](http://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.*

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](mailto: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](mailto: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. You can also give a one-time gift or pledge. Give today at [arlingtondiocese.org/bla](http://arlingtondiocese.org/bla) or scan the QR code.



**Scan Me**

**We are in urgent need of Adorers!** Our Wednesday Adoration schedule is in need of Adorers especially for the 11am and 6pm hours. Please consider spending time with Our Lord. Contact the Parish office if interested, 703-44-0535

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

**The Next Collection will be on Good Friday- Holy Land**

**Collections 03/15/26**

Offering	\$ 16,319.00
Family Assistance	\$ 160.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,955.00
OLOR	\$ 1,530.00
CRS	\$ 2,269.00



Diocesan is proud to be printing

# St. Raymond of Peñafort's Sunday Bulletin

You are invited to help support our Parish!

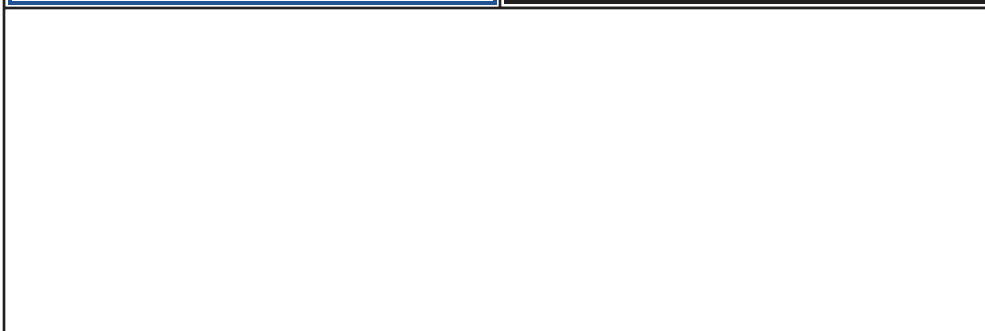
For opportunities to advertise, please contact  
Lisa Sparkman at 717-507-3766 or [lsparkman@diocesan.com](mailto:lsparkman@diocesan.com)



**SUMMIT ROOFING CONTRACTORS INC.**  
Roofing • Gutters • Siding  
**703.368.7483**  
[info@summitroofing.com](mailto:info@summitroofing.com) | [summitroofing.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.MACContracting.com)



**NOW HIRING** **DIOCESAN**  
Catholic Life Every Day  
**SALES REPRESENTATIVE** PUT YOUR FAITH TO WORK.  
Join Our Family - [Diocesan.com/Careers](http://Diocesan.com/Careers)  
**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](http://DiscoverMass.com/subscribe)**

**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

**MURPHY LAW GROUP, PLLC**  
 Wills, Trusts, Estates, & More  
 9300-B Old Keene Mill Road, Burke, VA  
 703-455-7177  
 www.MurphyLawVA.com

**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

**VIRGINIA EYECARE CENTER**  
 MEMBER OF Vision Source  
 (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

**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

**Jefferson Funeral Chapel**  
 703-971-7400  
 Family owned  
 5755 Castlewellan Drive  
 Alexandria, VA 22315  
 Just off S. VanDorn Street  
 behind Edison High School (Kingstowne)

**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

**GET YOUR FINANCIAL LIFE SQUARED AWAY**  
  
**GARY SJURSET, FINANCIAL ADVISOR**  
 gasjurset@firstcommand.com  
 703.658.2943  
©2025 First Command Financial Services, Inc. parent of First Command Brokerage Services, Inc. (Member SIPC, FINRA)

**Caffi SERVICES, INC**  
 PLUMBING HEATING HVAC REMODELING  
 1313 POWHATAN STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-1342  
 (703) 836-6775  
 www.caffiservices.com  
 service@caffiservices.com  
 Serving the DC Metropolitan Area since 1967

**LOCATED IN THE SARATOGA SHOPPING CTR.**  
 8050 Rolling Rd. • Springfield, VA

**BREAKFAST:**  
 Saturday & Sunday  
 9am-2pm

**LUNCH & DINNER:**  
 Daily  
 11am-9pm

**SARATOGA PIZZERIA & GRILL**  
 PIZZERIA & GRILL  
 202-1-044  
 Like us on [facebook](#)  
 703.455.0044  
 SARATOGAPIZZERIA.COM

**ADVERTISE HERE**  
 Promote your Business AND Support your Parish.  
 Lisa Sparkman ~ 717-507-3766  
 lsparkman@diocesan.com

**PJI LAW**  
**Wills, Trusts, & Probate for Catholic Families**  
 (703) 865-6100  
 Fairfax, VA  
 www.pjilaw.com | welcome@pjilaw.com  


Call (703) 255-9599  
  
**DOUGLAS ROOFING**  
 Family-owned since 1985

**Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.**  
 Simply go to [www.DM.CHURCH/3309](http://www.DM.CHURCH/3309)  
  
 ...or scan →  


**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](http://bit.ly/ExecutiveHomecare) or scan the QR code.  
  
 Call/Text **Ryan McBroom**  
**703-936-5545**  
 Exercise/Walking • Companionship Medication Reminders  
 Laundry • Meal Preparation • Transportation Shopping • Housekeeping  
 Fall Prevention, Dementia Care • Health Care • And More!  
[executivehomecare.com/manassas-va](http://executivehomecare.com/manassas-va)  
  
 Apply Here  
  
 Visit Us Online  


**EWTN.COM/RADIO**  
  
**EWTN**  
 Global Catholic Radio  
**TUNE IN**

**catholicmatch®**  
 Virginia  
[CatholicMatch.com/goVA](http://CatholicMatch.com/goVA)  


*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](http://DiscoverMass.com/subscribe)

