

ROSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!

MATTHEW 21:9

*"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.

PALM SUNDAY

Pastor's Corner

Holy Week begins Today. One of the keys to Lent is meditation on our Lord's Sacred Passion—his suffering and death. This week we do this in a particularly intense way, as we spiritually place ourselves with Our Lord as He suffers in His last hours: as He agonizes in the garden, is scourged, spat upon, mocked, and crowned with thorns; as He carries the cross, is nailed to it and hung upon it for three hours to die an excruciating death. We look upon Jesus enduring all this, and remember that He did this all out of love for His Father and, most amazingly, *out of love for us*: to pay for *our sins* (*our failures* to love God and our neighbor), to *save us* from eternal damnation, and to *enable us* to share in his own glorious life. He suffered all this not *in spite of* the fact that we don't love Him as we should, but *because of* that fact: He loves us and wants to save us from our lack of love.

Who can look at this and not be overwhelmed, not simply with grief for His suffering, but also with love for Him who has loved us so much? How can we not open our hearts to Him, and see that our sins are not worth causing Him this pain, not worth walking away from the One who loves us so incredibly? How can we not ask ourselves why *we love our sins* so much, when we should be loving Him instead? How can we see His love and not recognize that the way we love Him and each other falls so far short of this standard? How can we see all this and not open our hearts to the grace that flows from His sacred wounds to help us to love as we should?

For almost 40 days we've been trying to grow in love through Christ's grace and our Lenten penances. Most of us have met with mixed results. But we have one more week: let's resolve to make it a truly "holy" week centered on Jesus' suffering and ineffable love.

We can do this in many ways, beginning with redoubling our personal efforts of Lenten prayers, sacrifices and acts of charity. But we also do so in a wonderful way by joining in the works of the Church, especially by coming together for the **special liturgies** of this Holy Week.

We have begun this today, with this unique Mass of **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**, with the blessed Palms, the Solemn Entrance and reading of the Passion.

Then on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, **come to daily Mass**—let's fill the church with prayer! I know it can be inconvenient for you, but the scourging at the pillar was more than "inconvenient" for Our Lord. And don't forget **Adoration/Exposition** on Wednesday. And if you haven't been yet this Lent, **come to Confession**—our Lord awaits you there, to wash you clean with the grace pouring from his side on the Cross. We have confessions every day (except Holy Thursday and Easter Sunday) with extra priests all week. (Please see the schedule inserted in this bulletin for all the special events and liturgies of this week.)

On **Holy Thursday**, there is no Mass during the day, but in the evening join us here in the parish as Lent officially ends and the **Triduum** ("three days") begins as we celebrate **The Mass of The Lord's Supper**, commemorating the institution of the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Priesthood, and afterward walk with the Lord to the Garden of Gethsemane as we process with the Eucharist to an altar in the Parish Hall, where the Lord

invites you to "remain here, and watch with me...watch and pray," for at least a few minutes or until midnight.

Then comes **Good Friday**, the holiest day of the year. It is a **day of fasting and abstinence** as we share in the suffering of the Lord. We should keep the day with quiet, reflection, and charity—even at work—especially from noon to three. **There is no Mass**; instead, we gather in the church at **3:00 in the afternoon**, the hour of our Lord's death, for the solemn **Celebration of the Passion of the Lord**. Please don't miss it, even if it means leaving work early! This is the highpoint of Lent, the holiest hour of the year—come and be with the Church to worship Christ at the foot of His Cross, at the hour of His death; **what in the world could be more important than this?!**

We begin this Liturgy with the priest silently entering the bare sanctuary (all decoration is removed and the tabernacle is empty) and prostrates himself before the altar, and we all join him by kneeling. We then read the Passion in narrative/dialogue form, from the Gospel of John. After the readings, the priest prays ten ritual intercessions, calling down our Lord's mercy on the Church and the world.

Then the priest brings a large crucifix to the sanctuary, and the people come forward to personally **venerate the Cross**, by a genuflection, kiss, or some other gesture. While this ritual veneration can take some time to complete, I'm always amazed and moved how everyone seems to embrace this, as the beautiful strains of our choir and the solemn atmosphere of the church help us to place ourselves for a few minutes next to the Blessed Mother, St. John and St. Mary Magdalene who waited for three hours at the foot of the Cross. After veneration, the priests bring the Blessed Sacrament (consecrated at Mass the night before) from the sacristy and the faithful receive Holy Communion. Afterwards the Cross is left in the sanctuary for those who wish to venerate it later in the day. **Stations of the Cross are prayed at 7:00pm.**

On **Holy Saturday** the Church continues its somber reflective mood, as the She strongly encourages us to voluntarily continue to fast and abstain from meat as we do on Good Friday. Mass is never offered during the day on Holy Saturday, but at **8:15pm** (after sunset) the celebration of **Easter Sunday** begins with the **Easter Vigil Mass**. It is the "Mother" of all liturgies with all sorts of unique ceremonies: the blessing and presentation of the Easter Candle; the chanting of the *Exsultet*; a greatly extended Liturgy of the Word; and Baptism, reception into the Church, and Confirmation for adults and several older children. It is a glorious Mass, and I encourage all to attend. (However, lasting two hours, I must give fatherly caution that it can be tough for little ones).

This is a wondrous week, the holiest week of the year. Let's not squander this opportunity to change our lives so bereft of true love, to get caught up in the awesomeness of the Love of Christ Jesus.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 30th

6:30 am Robert Finan +
 8:30 am Judy Sapic
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Tuesday, March 31st

6:30 am Suzannen Peters +
 8:30 am Kenneth Wrona +
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Wednesday, April 1st

6:30 am Fr. Michael Taylor
 8:30 am Andrew Shealy
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, April 2nd

No morning Masses
 7:00 pm Margot Carter Blair

Friday, April 3rd

No Masses
 3:00 pm Communion Service &
 Veneration of the Cross

Saturday, April 4th

No Morning Masses

Vigil Mass

8:15 pm **Fr. De Celles**
 For Those Brought into
 The Church at the
 Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 5th

Easter Sunday

7:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
 Celebrant's Intentions

9:00 am **Fr. Bergida**
 Celebrant's Intentions

11:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
 Celebrant's Intentions

1:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**
 Celebrant's Intentions

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
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- 3/29 **No RE Classes and Youth Apostolate Events**
- 3/30 **No RE Classes**
- 3/30 **Adult Bible Study 9:30 am in Parish Hall**
- 3/30 **Family of Jesus prayer group 3 pm in Church**
- 3/31 **Adult Bible Study 7 pm in Parish Hall**
- 3/31 **Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-6:15 pm Maurer Room**
- 3/31 **Legion of Mary 6:30 pm Library**
- 4/1 **Adoration 9 am—7 pm**
- 4/2 **Holy Thursday— No Masses during the day**
- 4/2 **No Confessions**
- 4/2 **No Bridge Club**
- 4/2 **Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm and Night Watch**
- 4/2 **Good Friday-Celebration of the Lord's Passion and Veneration of the Cross at 3pm**
- 4/3 **Confessions 11 am – Noon, 4:45 pm—6 pm & 7:30 pm**
- 4/3 **No Nocturnal Adoration**
- 4/3 **Stations of the Cross 7 pm**
- 4/4 **Holy Saturday— No morning Masses**
- 4/4 **No Men's prayer group**
- 4/4 **No First Saturday Communal Devotions**
- 4/4 **Blessing of the Food at Noon in the Narthex**
- 4/4 **Confessions 1-3 pm (last opportunity until 4/8/26)**
- 4/4 **Easter Vigil Mass 8:15 pm**
- 4/5 **Resurrection of Our Lord (7 am, 9 am, 11 am & 1 pm)**
- 4/6 **8:30 am MASS ONLY—Parish Offices Closed**
- 4/11 **Senior Luncheon 12:30-2:30pm**
- 4/12 **Donut Sunday after morning Masses**
- 4/12 **Easter Egg Hunt 2:30pm**

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 info or to apply. Limited spaces remain for rising freshmen for the 2026-2027 school year.

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.

EXTRA WEEKDAY LENTEN MASSES

Monday-Wednesday (March 30– April 1): 6:30am, 8:30am & 7 pm

LENTE CONFESSION SCHEDULE

(Except Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday)
 Monday and Tuesday
 March 30-31: 6:00pm-7:00pm
 Wednesday: April 1: 6:00pm-8:00pm

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE, March 29-April 5

Palm Sunday, March 29

Blessing of the Palms at all Masses
 (Except the 7 am)

(Last year's palms may be left in the boxes in the church until Holy Week for proper disposal)

Holy Thursday, April 2

No Masses during the day at St. Raymond's

(*Chrism Mass at Cathedral of St. Thomas More, Tuesday, March 31*)

No Confessions on Holy Thursday

7:00pm: "Mass of the Lord's Supper"

After Mass, **Night Watch** is kept until Midnight in the Parish Hall

Good Friday, April 3

(A day of mandatory fasting and abstinence)

11:00am - 12:00pm: Confessions

3:00pm: "Celebration of the Lord's Passion"

(Veneration of the Cross & Reception of Holy Communion)

4:45pm - 6:00pm: Confessions (Confessions begin after the 3pm Liturgy)

7:00pm: Stations of the Cross

7:30pm: Confessions (until the line runs out)

Holy Saturday, April 4

(A day of recommended fasting and abstinence)

12:00pm: Blessing of the Easter Baskets

1:00pm - 3:00pm: Confessions (Last Opportunity until 4/8/26)

8:15 pm: Easter Vigil Mass

EASTER SUNDAY of the Resurrection of the Lord, April 5

Normal Sunday Mass Times

7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am and 1:00pm

Monday, April 6

Mass at 8:30am only
 Parish Offices are closed.

Other Post-Easter Events

Spring Senior Luncheon - April 11th 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Annual Easter Egg Hunt - April 12th 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm



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

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

APRIL

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)
25 Highway Cleanup (Pohick Road). Meet after 9am Mass in Groveland parking lot.

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 18th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327, email 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.**

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

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 Substitute. Visit www.sevensistersapostolate.org. Please contact Renee LeBoeuf for more information renee.leboeuf@gmail.com.

SAINT RAYMOND’S LOVES LIFE

Fear is at the heart of every decision against life.

There is no fear in love. Perfect love casts out fear.

1 John 4:18

“Pray ... for our [Virginia] 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.

“Praying publicly has irreplaceable power.”



This is our parish Witness Weekend! **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. Look for sign-up sheets in the narthex this week. marchforlife.org/virginia

MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center... WOW!!! Thank you for the tremendously generous outpouring of support! Donations welcome and so very much appreciated in the narthex collection box near the elevator. **Greatest needs:** size 5 and 6 diapers, clothes up to 2T, 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.

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.

NO Religious Education or Youth Group March 29 or April 5th
RE & High School Youth Group will resume on Sunday, April 12th

NO Friday 6:30am Mass & Breakfast "club" April 3rd or 10th.
6:30am Mass & Breakfast "club" will resume on Friday, April 17th

Sunday April 12th (12:30pm-4:00pm)

Help with Easter Egg Hunt & Games (High School help)

Compliant adults and High School helpers are needed to help hide over 1000 Easter eggs for our hunt and also to run the games for the kids! Please sign up if you can help. <https://bit.ly/EasterJOY>

4/19: High School Youth Group + Jr. High Youth Welcome!! Dinner, Adoration with reflection & Confession Available

This will be the last youth group Sunday Holy Hour for this year.
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.*

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. Recently Bob was asked if he could bring 200 dozen cookies rather than the original 120 dozen for this retreat. While that number seems like a lot, Bob has said that if we have folks willing to provide more than the 120 dozen, they would be most grateful and he promises that no cookie will go to waste. The prisoners and guards really appreciate them. **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

Important reminder!!!

No CCD classes THIS week: March 29 and 30 for Holy Week
No CCD classes April 5 and 6: Easter Break

Classes will resume April 12/ 13. Students need to begin studying for their final exams, scheduled for May 3/4!

Attention parents of 8th grade students:

All sponsor forms need to be turned in ASAP. Confirmation Gown Order form is due on April 16th. The form is in the red Confirmation folder, or use the Google Form link recently.

Parents of students preparing to receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist for the first time in May:

First Holy Communion mini-retreat is scheduled for Saturday, April 25. The children should be in the Parish Hall by 8:30 am. The Retreat will conclude at 12:30 pm.



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.

Book Club News: Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 9th at 9:30 AM, in the Parish Library. We will be discussing "**A Song for Nagasaki: The Story of Takashi Nagai, a Scientist, Convert, and Survivor of the Atomic Bomb**" by Paul Glynn. This book may also be found as a free audiobook on FORMED. 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 April, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.

Young Adult Women, ages 20-40, join the women of our parish in an Endow study of Saint Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Letter, Mulieris Dignitatem (Dignity of Women). They meet on first and third Thursdays from 7-9pm to read together, discuss our roles as women in Christ, and grow in Christian fellowship. For more information, please contact Dominique Bliss, domarch20@gmail.com, (470) 652-3411 or Elise Hamilton, 2EliseHamilton@gmail.com, (703) 300-4131

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.

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 Or calling the office at 703-440-0535

Name: _____

Number of Guests: _____ (Bring a friend!)

Hosted by Trail Life Troop

CHURCH PERSECUTED

In last week's column we reported about the persecution of Catholics in Cameroon. This week we bring the story home to the Diocese of Arlington, as we view the conflict in Cameroon firsthand and how a priest in our diocese was kidnapped as a seminarian.

In 2021 Bishop Burbridge at the bequest of Bishop Knkou of the diocese of Kumbo, Cameroon, invited several seminarians to study and be ordained in the Arlington Diocese. They were sent here to avoid the threat of being kidnapped or murdered. Two were ordained last year, Fathers Christian Njodzela, the parochial vicar at St. Veronica's in Chantilly, and John Fimmuchime, parochial vicar at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Lake Ridge. Both will serve in Arlington for four years before returning home.

The Kumbo diocese is the center of mass of the civil war in Cameroon, home of the predominantly French-speaking majority and English-speaking minority discussed last week. It is in a rural area of the country and conducive to rebel conflicts. The population is "caught in the middle between the two warring factions, the Cameroon military and the paramilitary rebels." If one cooperates with either side, they become the enemy of the other side.

Ministry is very difficult, said Father Fimmuchime in a 2022 interview with the Arlington Catholic Herald. "Many parishes are inaccessible because of the road blockages and the presence of many control posts both of the separatist fighters and the Cameroon military," he said. "Priests cover long distances, trekking from one mission church to another. One of the greatest aspects of pastoral ministry now is feeding the internally displaced. Most of these people who have been rendered homeless find refuge in the (diocesan) Pastoral Centre and the bishop works daily for their upkeep."

Political instability also has led to great danger. "Priests, seminarians, religious and even the lay faithful are frequently being kidnapped and huge sums of money are demanded by the separatist fighters before they are released. I was a one-time victim. My bishop was asked to pay a sum of 450,000 francs. I was fortunate to escape, and the money was not paid although my books and (clothes) remained with them," said Fimmuchime.

<https://www.catholicherald.com/article/local/cameroonian-seminarians-join-diocesan-ranks/>

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

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

Watch: "The Last Days: The Passion and Death of Jesus the Christ" is a filmed presentation of a live theatrical production that movingly recreates the final days of Jesus' earthly ministry. Produced by G.K. Chesterton Entertainment Starring Actors/Producers/Directors Jonathan Roumie (The Chosen) and Maria Vargo (Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy), along with a devoted cast of 19 others.



This filmed presentation of the theatrical production movingly recreates the final moments of Jesus' earthly ministry as a teacher through His crucifixion and death.

The play has been seen by thousands worldwide, not only as a live performance but also in live streams and televised broadcasts.

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



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 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 73 or older and need to make required minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA, your QCD counts toward your annual RMD for the year. QCDs can have a significant tax benefit for you. Eligible accounts for QCDs can be made from most IRAs, including Traditional IRAs, Rollover IRAs, Inherited IRAs, and Roth IRAs. Always consult your Tax professional regarding your specific situation. Use our parish address: St. Raymond of Penafort Catholic Church, 8750 Pohick Road, Springfield, VA 22153

Parking at St. Raymond: During the Lenten season, the church parking lot is not large enough to accommodate all parishioners and their guests. Limited street parking is available, but can cause concern for our neighbors. One option available to you involves parking in the commuter lot at Gambrell Road and Fairfax County Parkway, where you can take advantage of carpooling. Please consider this as an option during the Lenten season. The Fairfax County Police will be monitoring the yellow striped "No Parking" zones in the parking lot, and tickets will be issued if violations occur. Please be considerate of our neighbors, and do not park where you block their driveways. Infractions will be ticketed and may possibly mean towing as well.

The Next Collection will be on Good Friday- Holy Land

Collections 03/22/26

Offering	\$ 14,904.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,640.00
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OLOR	\$ 1,423.00



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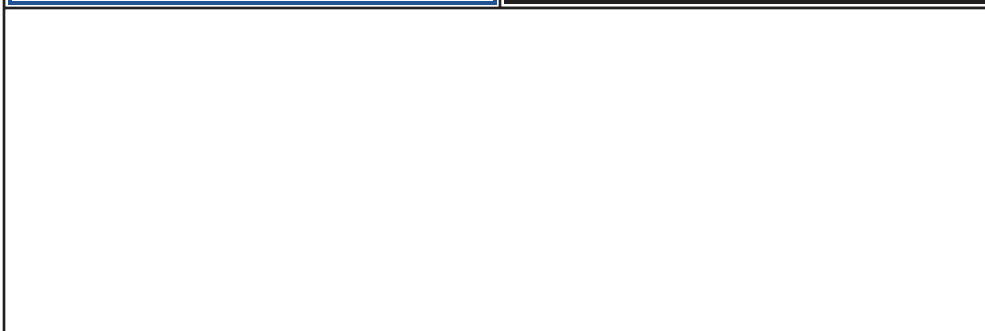
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