



EASTER SUNDAY
*He has been raised
from the dead.*

MATTHEW 28:7

"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.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

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.

(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

Christus resurrexit! Resurrexit vere! Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti! He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Praised be Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, conquering sin and death, and crushing the head of the ancient serpent! Alleluia! The world has been redeemed; salvation has been one for all mankind—if only we will accept this infinitely generous gift.

I hope you all had a holy Lent, and have drawn closer to God through your penances and God's grace. I thank you all for participating so eagerly in the various extra liturgies, sacraments, devotions and fellowship. Now let us strive to keep the devotion of Lent going throughout the coming year, cooperating with the grace of the Pascal Mystery to proclaim the joy of the Resurrection with all our lives.

Thanks to all who worked so hard to help make this such a blessed Lent, Holy Week, Triduum and Easter Sunday. I thank our staff most especially those who work so hard this time of year. And all the volunteers who we depend on to bring it all together.

And remember, today is just the beginning of this new Season of Easter, as we continue to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection for 50 days—until Pentecost. We begin with the 8 days of the Octave of Easter, celebrating each day as if it were Easter Day.

On behalf of myself, Fr. Bergida, Fr. Horkan and Msgr. Rippy, may I wish you all a Blessed, Holy and Happy Easter and Easter Season! May the Risen Lord Jesus shower you with His grace in this Glorious Season!

Oremus pro invicem! Fr. De Celles

**Pope Benedict XVI, Easter Vigil Homily
Holy Saturday, April 7, 2012**

Easter is the feast of the new creation. Jesus is risen and dies no more. He has opened the door to a new life, one that no longer knows illness and death. He has taken mankind up into God himself. "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God," as Saint Paul says in the First Letter to the Corinthians (15:50). On the subject of Christ's resurrection and our resurrection, the Church writer Tertullian in the third century was bold enough to write: "Rest assured, flesh and blood, through Christ you have gained your place in heaven and in the Kingdom of God" (CCL II, 994). A new dimension has opened up for mankind. Creation has become greater and broader. Easter Day ushers in a new creation, but that is precisely why the Church starts the liturgy on this day with the old creation, so that we can learn to understand the new one aright. At the beginning of the Liturgy of the Word on Easter night, then, comes the account of the creation of the world.... On the one hand, creation is presented as a whole that includes the phenomenon of time. The seven days are an image of completeness, unfolding in time. They are ordered towards the seventh day, the day of the freedom of all creatures for God and for one another. Creation is therefore directed towards the coming together of God and his creatures; it exists so as to open up a space for the response to God's great glory, an encounter between love and freedom. On the other hand, what the Church hears on Easter night is above all the first element of the creation account: "God said, 'let there be light!'" (Gen 1:3). The creation account begins symbolically

with the creation of light. The sun and the moon are created only on the fourth day. The creation account calls them lights, set by God in the firmament of heaven...No, they are not gods. They are shining bodies created by the one God. But they are preceded by the light through which God's glory is reflected in the essence of the created being.

What is the creation account saying here? Light makes life possible. It makes encounter possible. It makes communication possible. It makes knowledge, access to reality and to truth, possible. And insofar as it makes knowledge possible, it makes freedom and progress possible. Evil hides. Light, then, is also an expression of the good that both is and creates brightness. It is daylight, which makes it possible for us to act. To say that God created light means that God created the world as a space for knowledge and truth, as a space for encounter and freedom, as a space for good and for love. ...And evil does not come from God-made being, rather, it comes into existence only through denial. It is a "no."

At Easter, on the morning of the first day of the week, God said once again: "Let there be light." The night on the Mount of Olives, the solar eclipse of Jesus' passion and death, the night of the grave had all passed. Now it is the first day once again – creation is beginning anew. "Let there be light," says God, "and there was light": Jesus rises from the grave. Life is stronger than death. Good is stronger than evil. Love is stronger than hate. Truth is stronger than lies. The darkness of the previous days is driven away the moment Jesus rises from the grave and himself becomes God's pure light....With the resurrection of Jesus, light itself is created anew. He draws all of us after him into the new light of the resurrection and he conquers all darkness...

But how is this to come about? ...Through the sacrament of baptism and the profession of faith, the Lord has built a bridge across to us, through which the new day reaches us. The Lord says to the newly-baptized: Fiat lux – let there be light. God's new day – the day of indestructible life, comes also to us. Christ takes you by the hand. From now on you are held by him and walk with him into the light, into real life. For this reason, the early Church called baptism photismos – illumination.

Why was this? The darkness that poses a real threat to mankind, after all, is the fact that he can see and investigate tangible material things, but cannot see where the world is going or whence it comes, where our own life is going, what is good and what is evil. The darkness enshrouding God and obscuring values is the real threat to our existence and to the world in general. If God and moral values, the difference between good and evil, remain in darkness, then all other "lights," that put such incredible technical feats within our reach, are not only progress but also dangers that put us and the world at risk. ...Faith, then, which reveals God's light to us, is the true enlightenment, enabling God's light to break into our world, opening our eyes to the true light.

...Let us pray to the Lord at this time that he may grant us to experience the joy of his light; let us pray that we ourselves may become bearers of his light, and that through the Church, Christ's radiant face may enter our world (cf. LG 1). Amen.

<u>MASS INTENTIONS</u>	
<p>Monday, April 6th 6:30 am No Mass 8:30 am Helen Zogaib +</p> <p>Tuesday, April 7th 6:30 am Ted Fisher + 8:30 am Nancy Coleman +</p> <p>Wednesday, April 8th 6:30 am Thomas Cronin + 8:30 am Margaret Gilsenan + 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions</p> <p>Thursday, April 9th 6:30 am Robert Fera + 8:30pm Bill Roche +</p> <p>Friday, April 10th 6:30 am Anna & Jean Anezin + 8:30 am Linda Anezin</p>	<p>Saturday, April 11th 9:00 am Bob & Gerri Laird</p> <p>Vigil Mass 5:00 pm Fr. De Celles Lievano, Casabianca & Silvay Families +</p> <p>Sunday, April 12th 7:00 am Fr. Bergida RE Students & Families</p> <p>9:00 am Fr. De Celles Parishioners</p> <p>11:00 am Fr. Bergida Linda Pasternak+</p> <p>1:00 pm Fr. Horkan Ofelia Cruz +</p>

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

- 4/5 No RE Classes and Youth Apostolate Events
- 4/6 No RE Classes
- 4/6 No Adult Bible Study
- 4/6 Family of Jesus prayer group 3pm in Church
- 4/7 No Adult Bible Study
- 4/7 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-6:15pm Maurer Room
- 4/7 Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library
- 4/8 Adoration 9 am—7 pm
- 4/9 Bridge Club
- 4/9 Book Club 9:30 Parish Library
- 4/10 Adoration 9 am-3pm
- 4/11 Senior Luncheon 12:30-2:30pm
- 4/12 Donut Sunday after all morning Masses
- 4/12 Easter Egg Hunt 2:30pm

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

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 April!** All are invited to attend.

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.

Tuesday, April 21 is an Election on a proposed Constitutional Amendment to establish new Legislative and Congressional District maps. Early voting at the main Government Center has already started and will open at West Springfield Government Center and Burke Center Library on April 11. Our current maps are very balanced with a 6 - 5 Democrat advantage in the US House of Delegates, which closely matched the 2024 Presidential vote. The new proposal could tilt the balance to 10 Democrat and 1 Republican seat.

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

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.

Calling all moms of young children or expectant mothers! Our moms' group aims to build community through faith, meaningful conversations, and shared experiences. Each Wednesday we meet from 9:30am to 11:30am either at a local playground or at St. Raymond's. To join the group, email Morgan Hempfling for more information: sohlmb@gmail.com.

Home School Group: for more information visit our website www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/ Or email straymondhsg@gmail.com

Donut Sunday Next Weekend April 12th after the 7am, 9am and 11am Masses. Stop by the Parish Hall after Mass to enjoy some treats and drinks and meet your fellow parishioners. We will also have **LOST & FOUND** items out for you to check. April's Donut Sunday is hosted by American Heritage Girls.



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:

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 Oursman 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. 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.

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 jpebt@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.

The 2026 Diocesan Festival will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 3:45 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. at the Clark County Fairgrounds in Berryville. The theme of the Festival is “Celebrating Faith + Freedom.” Registration will open on Tuesday, April 7, at www.arlingtondiocese.org/festival.

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.”

Join us in Richmond on Wednesday April 22! St Raymond’s is sending one bus. More information and sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

marchforlife.org/virginia

Note the new schedule for the day at the information table!

Thank you to those who participated in the spring campaign of **40 Days for Life!** Your public witness and peaceful prayerful presence was more powerful than you may know. God knows.

MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center... WOW!!! Thank you for the continued tremendously generous outpouring of material support! Donations welcome and so very much appreciated. Collection box near the elevator in the narthex. **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. In fact it diminishes their understanding of the inherent value of every human being. **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 OPEN!!

Current 8-12th graders are invited to join us for a weekend away with a few thousand Catholic teens to encounter God and experience His love through the power of the Sacraments, dynamic Catholic speakers, uplifting music and new friends! 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 Friday 6:30am Mass & Breakfast "Club" April 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>

4/12: Religious Ed. & High School Youth Group (Karaoke!)

5-6:30pm RE

6:30-8pm High School Youth Group: Karaoke Night!

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. **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.

6-8th Grade BASH Youth Rally (2:30-9:30pm Saturday, April 25th)

Attention 6-8th Graders! Join over 1,000 youth from across the diocese for inflatable games, a rock wall, Gaga Ball tournament, music, free throw competition, inspirational speakers, unlimited pizza, Rita's ice & ice cream, confession and Sunday Vigil Mass with the Bishop at BASH on Saturday, April 25th Sign up at <https://bit.ly/JRHIGHBASH>
Registration due 4/19, unless they hit capacity before that! Act now!



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



Alleluia! He is Risen!

Wishing our families a blessed and joyful Easter!
Allow the love of the Risen Lord to pierce your heart
and draw you ever closer to Himself.



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.

JP Summer Camps - Register Today! Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School's summer camp registration is now open! Check out this year's camp offerings and sign up today! For rising 2nd to 9th graders, JP summer camps are a great way to spend your summer! John Paul offers both Athletic and Enrichment Camps and its premier day camp, Camp Quintessential. Go to jpthegreat.org/summercamp to learn more about what JP is offering!

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

Tuesday, April 21 is an Election on a proposed Constitutional Amendment to establish new Legislative and Congressional District maps. Early voting at the main Government Center has already started and will open at West Springfield Government Center and Burke Center Library on April 11. Our current maps are very balanced with a 6 - 5 Democrat advantage in the US House of Delegates, which closely matched the 2024 Presidential vote. The new proposal could tilt the balance to 10 Democrat and 1 Republican seat.

There is an election on April 21 to vote on a "temporary" redistricting of the Virginia Congressional map. As you know from your high school Civics class, the Constitution requires a census taken every 10 years. The law established that it be taken each year where the last digit of that year is "0" - 2000, 2010, 2020, etc. The 2020 census created the current map which basically proportioned the eleven Congressional districts in the Commonwealth with six being predominantly Democrat and five being predominantly Republican. This is a fair representation of the Virginia electorate.

Last November, the Virginia legislature approved a Constitutional Amendment which would create a redistricting for the 2026 Congressional elections. The redrawn map would change the 6 - 5 current split to a 10 - 1 Democrat/Republican split. This was done by carving up the predominantly Democrat Northern Virginia (NVA) boundaries, adding NVA precincts to predominantly Republican Southern and Western districts ("gerrymandering"). The Constitutional Amendment must be ratified by the voters after passing two legislative sessions (one in 2025 and the second in 2026). (See 3/8/26 bulletin, page 6, for details) (<https://straymonds.org/wp-content/uploads/2026-03-08.pdf>).

The validity of the gerrymandering is currently before the Virginia Supreme Court, but they won't rule until after the election. What is at stake is that Fairfax County will be carved up into five sections that are then spread down the state in order to overwhelm Republican districts downstate. The 6th district is now represented by prolife Congressman Ben Cline. Other prolife incumbents whose districts have been completely redrawn include Rob Wittman (VA-1), Jen Kiggans (VA-2) and John McGuire (VA-5). Thus, if passed, Virginia will most likely lose four sure prolife votes in the next Congress in Washington.

Here is a link to the proposed map, <https://www.vpap.org/redistricting/2026/>, which now divides Fairfax County into five Congressional districts. Much of the parish will be in the 1st Congressional District extending south past Richmond, along I64 to near West Point, VA.

Voting YES to the ballot question will allow the 10-1 disproportionate redistricting to occur pending the final ruling from the Virginia Supreme Court, most likely removing four prolife votes in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A NO vote will maintain the existing Congressional districts until the next reapportioning after the 2030 census.

So, please either vote early at sites around Fairfax County or at your regular polling location on **April 21, 2026**. See last week's bulletin insert for early voting locations.

FORMED®

Get In-Formed!

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

Audio Book-The Art of Living- In this new book by bestselling author, Edward Sri, we discover the close connection between growing in the virtues and growing in friendship and community with others. A consummate teacher, Dr. Sri leads us through the virtues with engaging examples and an uncanny ability to anticipate and answer our most pressing questions. Dr. Sri shows us in his inimitable, easy-to-read style, that the virtues are the basic life skills we need to give the best of ourselves to God and to the people in our lives. In short, the practice of the virtues give us the freedom to love.



Watch-A new series from the Dominican Friars! Discover the incredible true stories, and the forgotten vocation, of the Dominican cooperator brothers in this first season of St. Dominic's Holy Family. Produced in partnership with the Province of St. Albert the Great, each episode is bite-sized, beautifully animated, and deeply inspiring for children and adults alike..

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 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 or scan the QR code.



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

The Next Second Collection will be on April 26

For Catholic Home Missions Appeal

Collections 03/29/26

	3/29/2026	Mar 2026 EFT
Offering	\$14,688.00	\$58,033.00
Family Assistance	\$ 291.00	\$ 6,868.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,695.00	\$14,000.00
OLOR	\$ 405.00	\$18,750.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 2,789.00	\$ 2,828.00



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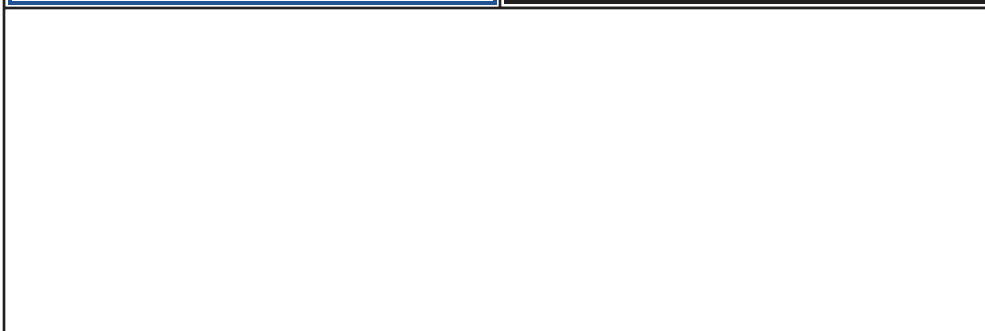
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