



7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Father, the hour has come

JOHN 17:1

**"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
Clare Raines, Receptionist

PARISH OFFICE

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

Office Hours

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

Email

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

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

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

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

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Reconciliation/Confession)

Wednesday Evening
6:15 - 7:00 pm (during Exposition)
First Fridays
3:00-4:00 pm and 6:00-7:00 pm
Saturday Morning
8:00 - 9:00 am
Saturday Afternoon
3:30 - 5:00 pm
Sunday Morning
8:30-9:00 am and 10:30-11:00 am

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

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

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

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

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please submit announcements to bulletin@straymonds.org 10 days prior to publication date.

Pastor's Corner

ASCENSION. Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, commemorating the true historical event when Jesus of Nazareth, after dying on the cross and rising from the dead, ascended by His own power in His glorified human body into heaven, where He is now present, bodily, in eternity. The importance of the mystery of the Ascension is often overlooked or forgotten by Christians, but it must not be, since it is critical to our understanding of Christ and ourselves.

PENTECOST. Next week we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. Immediately after the first Ascension Thursday the apostles and the other disciples, with the Blessed Mother, began to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised. For nine days they prayed, and on the tenth day, Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Spirit descended on them in a dramatic display of divine power. This is the origin of the pious Catholic custom praying **novenas** (from “novem,” Latin for “nine”).

The celebration of Ascension on Sunday complicates the idea of a “Pentecost Novena.” Even so, I invite you to join me in praying a slightly shortened and simplified novena to the Holy Spirit. First, form a particular intention for each day:

Sunday: *That St. Raymond's parishioners more actively exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit we have received.* **Monday:** *That the Holy Spirit may grant me an increase in His gift of wisdom.* **Tuesday:** *...His gift of understanding.* **Wednesday:** *...His gift of counsel.* **Thursday:** *...His gift of fortitude.* **Friday:** *...His gift of knowledge.* **Saturday:** *...His gift of piety.* **Sunday:** *...His gift of reverence, or fear of the Lord.*

And then, in union with the Blessed Mother say this prayer each day: *Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit that we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.*

Confirmation. Please pray for our 8th Graders (and a few other teens) who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Tuesday, May 19, from Bishop Burbidge. They have been actively preparing for this sacrament for the last 2 years, so I thank them for their hard work. Please pray that they may be open to and cooperate with all the graces they will receive in Confirmation. And let us also pray for ourselves that we may do the same.

WORLD PEACE. I wanted to share an excellent article I found on Edward Pentin's Substack, by renowned theologian **Fr. Nicola Bux**. Fr. Bux was a close collaborator of Pope Benedict XVI, specializing in Eastern Christian theology, sacramental theology, and liturgy. He served as a consultant to several dicasteries of the Holy See, including the Congregation for Divine Worship.

“Popes from John XXIII to Leo XIV have, in different ways, separated the question of peace from the concrete reality of the Church; as a result, their appeals for peace risk becoming utopian — aspirations that lack the means necessary for their fulfillment.”

“This separation appears when peace is framed primarily as a political or humanitarian goal: ending wars, encouraging dialogue, and fostering cooperation among nations. These aims are good, but when they are presented without reference to the Church's essential mission — the conversion of persons and peoples to Christ — they lose their foundation. Peace becomes an external arrangement rather

than the fruit of an interior transformation.

“The Gospel presents a different logic. After His Resurrection, Christ gives peace to His Apostles and immediately commands them to make disciples of all nations (Mt 28:19). The universality of this mission shows that peace is inseparable from the spread of the Gospel and the establishment of the Church. The Church is not merely a promoter of peace; she is its source in history, because she is the body of Christ, who is Himself our peace.”

“The early Christians understood this unity clearly. For them, peace and communion were inseparable realities. In the Church, divisions of language, ethnicity, and nation were overcome through a shared life in Christ. The inscriptions ‘pax’ and ‘irene’ on Christian tombs expressed the conviction that peace was fulfilled in communion with God and His people. Peace was not an abstract ideal but a lived experience grounded in faith.”

“When this connection is weakened, the pursuit of peace becomes superficial. Symbolic gestures and diplomatic efforts may express goodwill, but they cannot resolve the deeper disorder within the human person. As Isaiah teaches, ‘the work of justice will be peace’ (Is 32:17), and justice depends on right relationship with God. Without conversion, there is no lasting moral order, and without moral order, peace cannot endure.”

“For this reason, the Church's mission is indispensable. Faith comes from hearing the Gospel, and from faith comes conversion — a real change of life. Where this occurs, reconciliation, justice, and solidarity become possible. The spread of the Church is therefore not opposed to peacebuilding; it is its necessary condition. To speak of peace without proclaiming Christ is to propose an effect without its cause.”

“This helps explain why many modern appeals to peace appear ineffective. They call for universal fraternity without addressing how human beings can truly become brothers and sisters. Detached from the transformative power of the Gospel, such appeals remain aspirations rather than realities.”

“At the same time, charity requires recognizing that God can act through those outside the Church. Scripture shows this in figures who prophesy or act in God's name without belonging to the visible community of believers. Political leaders, too, can contribute to peace in partial ways. Yet their role cannot replace the Church's mission. When the Church adopts primarily political categories or is perceived as just another diplomatic actor, her identity is obscured and her message misunderstood.”

“This confusion is evident in contemporary tensions between political figures and the papacy. When the Pope is treated chiefly as a head of state, his evangelical mission is reduced to diplomacy. Conversely, when the Church does not speak clearly about conversion and moral truth, some believers seek clarity elsewhere, even in flawed political alternatives. This dynamic reveals a weakening in how the relationship between peace and the Church is understood.”

“The remedy is not to abandon calls for peace, but to ground them once more in their true source. The Pope and the bishops must place at the center the call that begins the Gospel itself: conversion to God. Peace will not come simply through negotiation or the balancing of interests, but through transformed hearts.”

“Only in this way can appeals for peace avoid becoming utopian. When peace is understood as the fruit of communion with Christ, and when the Church is recognized as the place where this communion is offered to all, it becomes a real — if never complete — possibility within history. The more the Church fulfils her mission, the more the conditions for peace take root in the world.”

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, May 18th

6:30 am Bishop John R. Keating+
 8:30 am Daniel H. De Celles Sr.+

Tuesday, May 19th

6:30 am Fr. Joseph Bergida
 8:30 am Donna Foster +

Wednesday, May 20th

6:30 am Theresa Robles
 8:30 am Elliana L. Wright +
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, May 21st

6:30 am Ann Myers +
 8:30pm Bill Roche +

Friday, May 22nd

6:30 am Kay Family
 8:30 am Patricia Crane

Saturday, May 23rd

9:00 am James P. Galvin +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles
 William Ehom +

Sunday, May 24th

7:00 am Fr. Bergida
 Bill Roche +
 9:00 am Fr. De Celles
 Parishioners
 11:00 am Fr. Bergida
 Tom Dietz +
 1:00 pm Fr. Horkan
 John Sherman

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 Ryan Higgins

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 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 Mary Grace Gottstein
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- 5/17 Ascension Sunday (transferred from Thursday, May 14)
- 5/18 Family of Jesus prayer group 3pm in Church
- 5/19 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-6:15pm Maurer Room
- 5/19 Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library
- 5/19 Confirmation Mass at 6 pm
- 5/20 Adoration 9 am—7 pm (Suspension from 3:30–5pm)
- 5/21 Bridge Club
- 5/22 Adoration 9 am– 3 pm
- 5/25 Memorial Day One Mass at 10 am—Offices Closed
- 5/25 No meeting for Family of Jesus Prayer Group
- 5/30 In Igne 7 pm
- 5/31 Baccalaureate Mass 5 pm
- 6/07 Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) Indoor Procession after 1 pm Mass in the church followed by an Ice Cream Social in the Parish Hall

View livestreaming of the Holy Mass at St. Raymond's
www.straymonds.org
www.straymonds.org
Monday - Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am
Saturday at 9:00 am
Sunday Mass at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

(See the website for Holy Days)



We are in urgent need of Adorers! Our Wednesday Adoration schedule is in need of Adorers especially for the 11am hour. 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 May!** All are invited to attend.

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

In Igne – The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a night of theology, food, and fellowship on Saturday, May 30th at 7pm for all men of the parish. Fr. Bergida will provide a talk on The Trinity and the Knights will host a good-ole American picnic dinner with hotdogs and hamburgers with all the fixin's. Please come and join this fun and informative night around the fire pit. Attendance is free.

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (CORPUS CHRISTI) Indoor Procession in the church after the 1 pm Mass Sunday, June 7 followed by Ice Cream Social in the Parish Hall. Bring the entire family!

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.

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

Parish Library. Calling all books! Have you finished reading a book from the Parish Library and forgotten to return it? Now's the time! And when you stop by the library, feel free to browse the collection and check out your next good read! There are so many - for all ages - to choose from! Come and see!

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 June 6th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryn-davew7705@gmail.com.



THE FULLNESS OF KNIGHTHOOD: Join the Knights! St. Raymond's St. John Bosco Council #12846 is made up of strong Catholic men who work tirelessly for our parish, community and nation. Many of you have experienced the fine efforts of our Council; parish-wide dinners, Project Manger, Coats for Kids, blood drives, pancake breakfasts, Christmas tree sales and car raffle sales just to name some of the good works we do. If you'd like to be a part of our state-wide award-winning Council rooted in Family, Faith, Life and Community, 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:

MAY 2026

- 16-17 KOVAR Donation Collection, Saratoga Giant
- 30 "In Igne" Fireside Chat/Social with Father Bergida. 7:00pm.
Open to all men.
- 30-31 KOVAR Donation Collection Huntsman Giant

JUNE 2026

- 6 Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30am, Parish Hall)
- 6 KofC Highway Clean (9:30 meet in Groveland Parking Lot)
- 8 Monthly Membership Meeting (7pm – Rosary, 7:30pm, Ceremony)
- 13-14 KOVAR Collections (Narthex, after Masses)
- 20 Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30am, Parish Hall)
- 27 Council Officer Installation Ceremony (FY26/27) (Parish Hall - 6:15pm)

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.

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!

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.

New Online Giving Platform! We are transitioning to Pushpay, our new online giving platform. Please visit our website and click on the blue button in the upper right corner titled "Online Giving" or click on the QR code provided here.



SAINT RAYMOND'S LOVES LIFE

Learn the TRUTH. Live the TRUTH. Spread the TRUTH... in LOVE

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.

ToughTopics.Life What comes to mind when you hear the word 'abortion'? Learn what it is and what it leaves behind. Abortion Basics equips you with straightforward knowledge and listening skills so you are ready to answer questions and guide others to life affirming choices.

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 amomspace.org. **Thank you to our Sons of Thunder high school boys' group** for once again constructing and donating small caskets to this ministry so that these young babies can be buried with dignity.



MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center... WOW!!! Thank you for the continued tremendously generous outpouring of material support! Diaper 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.**

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.

Consider this: Abortion says: You must die so that I can live. Christ says: I must die so you can live. Jesus entered human history in the womb to redeem mankind. In the words of Catholic Philosopher Peter Kreeft, abortion is the demonic parody of the Eucharist. It is not a coincidence that the culture of death perverts the words of our Savior - 'This is my body'.

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

1 SPOT LEFT!



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/STEBENVILLE> or on the Youth Apostolate bulletin boards by the church entrances.

May 22 & 29: Friday 6:30am Mass & Breakfast

All 7-12th Graders are invited to join us for Mass followed by a delicious breakfast with Fr. Bergida & Fr. Horkan before school! If possible, please RSVP at <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVPS> We can bring you to your school right from breakfast if you RSVP by Wednesday.

Associates of St. John Bosco SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES for high school seniors through college juniors who have demonstrated an intense desire to live out their faith on their college campus and who seek to serve the Church in some capacity after graduation. Check out their website for more information. <https://www.asjb.org/scholarship-program> Two of the four general scholarship winners last year were from our youth group! **DEADLINE: MAY 18**

5pm Sunday, May 31st: Baccalaureate Mass & Light Reception

All parishioners, family and friends are invited to attend St. Raymond's Baccalaureate Mass in celebration of all of our 2026 high school graduates! Come thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon our teens as they celebrate this great milestone, and support them with your prayers as they prepare for their next chapter in life. **Graduates & their families** are invited to a light reception in the parish hall after Mass. **Please RSVP by May 25th.** Contact Jeanne if you did not get an email invitation with the RSVP form.

Attention Class of 2026: The Associates of Saint John Bosco will host five free **College Nights** this summer for graduated seniors heading to college in the fall. The two nights closest to us are:

- ◆ June 30th at Holy Spirit in Annandale (7pm)
- ◆ July 21st at **Basilica of Saint Mary** in Alexandria (7pm)

These events help rising college freshmen network with other Catholics heading to college, and give them the tools to navigate the transition from high school to college, keeping their Catholic faith strong. Students walk away with a free bundle of Catholic books to take to college to help deepen their faith while away at school. The events come with a pizza dinner, too. Registration is FREE! For additional dates, locations and information, www.asjb.org/student-registration

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

Congratulations to our students, parents, and catechists for the excellent results on the final exam. All your hard work has paid off! The program test average was 93%. God bless you all!

Please pray for our parish teens who will be confirmed this week by Bishop Burbidge. May their hearts be open to all the graces Our Lord wishes to give them.

Confirmation REHEARSAL MONDAY (5/18) Candidates and their sponsors should be in the parish hall by 7pm.

Confirmation Ceremony TUESDAY (5/19) at 6 pm. Candidates and their sponsors should be in the parish hall by 5pm.

2026-27 CCD Registration: Current families have been provided with the link to register online. Please complete and return the form (with payment) as soon as possible. New and returning families: A parish-wide email will be sent out soon, but feel free to contact the RE office for information.

Volunteers needed for 2026-27 academic year. Please consider volunteering as a catechist, assistant, or substitute in September. Contact the RE office if you are interested in getting involved! Specific openings so far:

Sunday (5-6:30 pm):
2nd grade Teacher and Assistant
3rd grade Teacher
4th grade Teacher



OUR LADY OF RANSOM Scholarships to Catholic Schools. St. Raymond's will again offer a one-time \$2,000 scholarship for each parish child who is switching from public school (k-12) to Catholic school this year. For all parish families, each student in Catholic grade school can receive \$1,000 and Catholic high school students can receive \$2,000. This amount is renewable every year and is subject only to minimal qualification terms. You need to be a parishioner and send a request for the scholarship to Fr. De Celles. Also, additional financial aid is available if a family truly can't afford Catholic school, even with the above scholarships. These decisions are made on a case by case basis. There is also assistance available for homeschooling families. Contact the parish office for more information.

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.

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.

Junior Legion of Mary. Children between the ages of 7 - 12+ at St. Raymond's who have received their First Holy Communion and parents seeking an extracurricular activity that enriches a young person's spiritual life and engages them in age-appropriate spiritual works of mercy under the spiritual direction of Father Bergida, please consider joining the Junior Legion of Mary. Meetings will be every Tuesday, 4:15-5:15pm, in the rectory Maurer Room. Two adult members of the Legion (Virtus certified) lead the meetings. Parents are welcome to attend / participate. Please email Patty Miller, pamiller35@gmail.com, or call / text her at C - 703-663-0480.

Bridge Club: All levels of players are welcome. We play Bridge cards each week in the Church Hall. Contact Lois Kotlowski at 703-455-6567 or bridgeclub402@gmail.com if interested in joining us.

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.

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.

CHURCH PERSECUTED

President Trump issued an executive order last year creating a task force to “Eradicate Anti-Christian Bias.” Recently, the Task force published its report and the “findings are sobering.” Here are excerpts from the report’s conclusion:

“The Task Force found that...the Biden Administration engaged in anti-Christian bias, seeking to limit Christians’ ability to act in concert with their sincerely held beliefs in their homes, in the workplace, and in the public square. At times, it went still further, leading Christians to reportedly choose between their beliefs and compliance with federal law. And, most troublingly, the Biden Administration is alleged to have prosecuted and jailed peaceful Christian pro-life demonstrators, terminated or harassed Christian workers who did not comply with the vaccine mandates, targeted Christian organizations with IRS inquiries, and subjected Christian schools to excessive fines...[T]he findings presented by the Task Force raise serious concerns about whether certain Biden-era policies and practices were administered in a manner consistent with the Constitution and applicable federal law. These concerns implicate core American commitments—religious liberty, equal treatment, and the rule of law—that protect all Americans of faith and conscience.

“The Task Force’s findings are particularly troubling against the backdrop of apparent increases in threats, vandalism, and violence against Christians in the last few years. Christian schools and churches have faced unimaginable mass shootings in Tennessee and Minnesota, while Christian conservative activist Charlie Kirk was killed in broad daylight while dialoguing over matters of faith and policy. Political protests have moved off the streets into houses of worship, where protestors disrupted Christians’ participation in worship services. When confronted with this grim reality, the federal government’s response will set the tone: Even when our hearts are troubled, American freedoms must be strengthened, and our constitutional republic must steadfastly preserve them.

“...In 1776, the American Colonies declared their independence from British tyranny because of the simple but profound truth—that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. Annually throughout the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress proclaimed days of prayer, fasting, and thanksgiving, including designating May 17, 1776, as a “day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer” throughout the colonies. President George Washington issued the first presidential proclamation designating November 26, 1789, as “a day of public thanksgiving and prayer.”

Our Nation’s forefathers recognized that our most essential rights are given to us by God and are not bestowed by civil government.”

https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1438506/dl?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery




Get In-Formed!

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

Watch: Into the Breach: The Dignity of Work is a compelling new video series that explores the Catholic vision of man’s mission in the world. Following ‘Into the Breach: Mission of the Family,’ this series examines the nature of work and its role in a man’s life and his sanctification, as well as its role in ordering creation. To learn more about Into the Breach, visit <https://kofc.org/intothebreach>

Watch-Kids: The “God’s Knights” series tells the true stories of brave men and boys who followed God with courage and faith and are now honored as mighty knights in God’s Kingdom.

Formed Now features special guests and insider looks at unique topics. To see Formed Now content organized topically, click the drop-down menu!

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.

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).

Tuesday, May 26, Mass and Healing Prayer Service is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, 4401 Sano Street, Alexandria. Fr. John Melmer of St. John the Beloved Church of McLean will celebrate. Confessions will be available. This liturgy comes through the Arlington Healing Ministry. For more information, please contact Dick Schaad at 703-455-6131.

The Second Collection THIS Sunday, May 17 is for Diocesan Retired Priests. Please be generous!

5/10/2026 Collection

Offertory	\$ 15,090.00
Family Assistance	\$ 549.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 3,006.00
OLOR	\$ 3,084.00
Special Parish Needs	\$ 9,849.00



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