

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Receive the Holy Spirit

JOHN 20:22

"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
Catherine Hansen, Office Intern

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

PENTECOST! Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost, remembering the day, fifty days after Easter, when God the Father and God the Son, Jesus, sent their Holy Spirit to the first Christians—the apostles, Mary and other disciples totaling “in all about a hundred and twenty.” As the Acts of the Apostles records (Ch. 2):

“And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...”

No longer did the disciples hide behind the closed doors, or go to the temple to pray quietly. Suddenly, filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit, the disciples threw open the doors and began to preach to passersby. And as a great crowd gathered Peter, the first Pope, “lifted up his voice and addressed them ...” telling them all about Jesus and His salvific death, resurrection and ascension. So powerful were his words, inspired by the Holy Spirit, that: “those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”

What an amazing day—what an amazing gift! The Holy Spirit of God dwelling inside the Church and individual Christians, manifesting in such powerful ways, most especially in the bold preaching that “cut to the heart.”

That same Holy Spirit lives and acts in all the Baptized, and in even more powerful way in all the confirmed. And he lives and acts in the whole Church, guiding her in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ for these 2000 years.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray. O God, Who instructed the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise, and ever to rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Congratulations to the Newly Confirmed. Sincere congratulations to all our teens who received the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation last Tuesday evening. Let's keep them in our prayers as they go forward with these graces and become the good men and women God created them to be. Thanks to Bishop Burbidge for visiting and conferring the sacrament, and thanks also to parents, sponsors, and catechists for helping the kids prepare for the sacrament and for life as true followers of Jesus. Thanks especially to Virginia Osella for all her good work as our Religious Education Director, and to Mary Hansen as her indefatigable assistant.

Priest Assignments. The annual priest (re)assignments have been announced and, Praise be Jesus Christ, they do not affect St. Raymond's at all. Please pray, however, for the parishes and priests who are affected by the changes. And please pray that your parish priests will successfully strive to make the coming year the holiest year ever in our parish.

Memorial Day. This Monday America celebrates Memorial Day, a day of honoring those in our military who have given their lives not merely for our nation, but for the life, liberty and happiness of each and every individual American. We owe them

an incredible debt, one we must try to repay by living lives worthy of the sacrifice they've made for us, lives built on the idea of freedom to become the best we can be, not freedom to do as we please. And we can pray for them, that they might receive the heavenly reward.

Ordination Anniversary. Last Monday, May 18, I celebrated the 30th anniversary of my ordination to the Holy Priesthood, the best day of my life. It was a memorable day not only for me and my classmates, but for the Diocese of Arlington as well, as the 13 men ordained that day is still the largest ordination class in the history of our Diocese (and that year it was the largest in the whole country). Of the 13, 9 are still serving in the Diocese, 2 have preceded us to judgment, 1 has retired and 1, sadly, left the priesthood.

I thank God every day for the gift of the priesthood he has given me, because although it is a gift of service to you, it is a gift of joy to me.

I want to share a little something I remember every May 18. That date is the Feast of Pope St. John I and the birthday of Pope St. John Paul II (who was pope in 1996, and, along with Pope Benedict XVI, my theological and priestly exemplar). On that day, I was ordained by Bishop John Keating, whom I deeply respected. Laugh if you like, but I've always thought all these “Johns” coming together on this date to be a little miracle of Jesus, and my patron saints in heaven, to encourage me in my priestly perseverance, confidence and zeal. (I once asked my Mom, which “St. John” I was named after; she replied “all of them,” so I claim all the of the 120-plus canonized “St. Johns,” as well as all the “St. Joans,” “St. Jeans,” and “St. Janes” derived from the name “John,” as my patrons).

Then, 20 years later my devout Catholic father, Dan De Celles died on May 18. Now some might think that would cast a shadow of grief on my anniversary day, but quite the contrary. My father was so proud to have a priest for a son I went from being the “youngest child” to being the “favorite child” overnight. Moreover, my priesthood has to be in large part rooted in the heroic example of Catholic fatherhood he gave me: although he often struggles with his weaknesses he always strove for perfection in Christ, always with incredible faith and zeal (especially for the Eucharist). So remembering his death on my anniversary is another gift to remind me of the ineffable gift I have received.

I love being a priest. I don't always enjoy all the responsibilities or the nonsense one encounters being inside the hierarchy of the Church, but I love my priesthood. And I give thanks to the Most Blessed and Divine Trinity for their munificent gift. And to the Blessed Mother, my patron saints (including St. Mary Magdalene) for their unfailing help.

Vacation. I was away on vacation during the week of May 10 to 17, playing golf in Williamsburg. Unlike my last golfing vacation in Florida in January, I managed not to get sick! Instead I enjoyed playing 4 days of golf, including 3 of the most beautiful and challenging courses in the state, and managed not to embarrass myself in the process. Plus, the weather was great every day. It was a very needed rest and refreshment. Thanks be to Jesus.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, May 25th

10:00 am For those who laid down their lives in service to our country

Tuesday, May 26th

6:30 am Salvador Suarez Jr.+
 8:30 am Mike & Maddy Laird

Wednesday, May 27th

6:30 am Patty Kramer +
 8:30 am John & Sarah Laird
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, May 28th

6:30 am Nanak Chand +
 8:30 am Mo Campbell

Friday, May 29th

6:30 am Elaine Klitzke
 8:30 am Anthony & Mary Hansen

Saturday, May 30th

9:00 am Cathy Corolla

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm
 Jessica Lewis +

Sunday, May 31st

7:00 am
 Sara Imershein
 9:00 am
 Parishioners
 11:00 am
 Lourdes Cascarro +
 1:00 pm
 Madelyn "Ruth"
 Macsisak +

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.

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

- 5/23-24 LOM Rosary promotion in narthex after all Masses
- 5/25 Memorial Day One Mass at 10 am—Offices Closed
- 5/25 NO Family of Jesus prayer group, NO in-person meetings from June 29th– July 20th.
- 5/26 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-6:15pm Maurer Room
- 5/26 Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library
- 5/27 Adoration 9 am—7 pm
- 5/28 Bridge Club
- 5/29 Adoration 9 am– 3 pm
- 5/30 In Igne 7 pm
- 5/31 Baccalaureate Mass 5 pm
- 6/06 Men's Prayer Group
- 6/07 Donut Sunday after all morning Masses.
- 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

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

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.

Our next Christ House Dinner will be Friday May 29, 2026. We will need help with driving the meals to Christ House, a few people to help serve at Christ house, and some help preparing the bags at the St. Raymond's kitchen. The food as usual will be provided by the American Legion, and the rest purchased by the committee. Besides the physical help, monetary contributions are greatly appreciated, and can be made through the parish office. As always, thank you for your generous help.

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



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

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.



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.

SAINT RAYMOND'S LOVES LIFE

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

Is the preborn a member of the human family? If not, there really need be no further discussion. But, *if so*, then killing him or her to supposedly benefit another is a serious moral wrong. It treats the distinct human being, with his or her own inherent moral worth, as nothing more than a disposable instrument. Arguments based on 'choice' or 'privacy' miss the point entirely. Society prohibits a mother from killing her toddler or teen in the name of choice, privacy, expense, etc. If a preborn is human, neither a mother nor anyone else has the right to kill him or her any more than we would have the right to kill any older member of humanity. **Age neither brings nor diminishes inherent value.** Some may object that such a comparison is not fair—that killing a fetus is morally different than killing a human being. Ah, but that's the issue, isn't it? *A preborn human being (fetus) is a human being. Thou shalt not kill applies!*

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.

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.

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

Friday, 5/29: LAST Friday 6:30am Mass & Breakfast for this year

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.

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

COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

7pm Tues. 5/26: YOUNG ADULT Bon-Fire, Pizza, & Fellowship

Young Adults (college age & older) of the parish are organizing regular gatherings this summer to build community and grow in faith. Join us on the back patio at St. Raymond's for our first gathering this Tuesday 5/26. In the case of rain, meet in the hall for pizza & games. Bring your friends!

Jeanne Sause

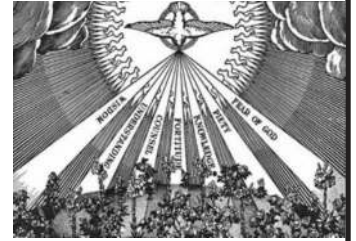
Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)
youth@straymonds.org Call/Text: 571-334-9890

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 the 38 young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 19th!!! Energized by the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, go out into the world and bring love, joy and TRUTH to everyone you meet!



2026-2027 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 celebrates Mary Help of Christians Feast day 24 May 2026: The active members of the Legion of Mary (LOM) will have a table in the Narthex after Masses on 23 and 24 May to celebrate the Month of Mary, the rosary, and the feast day of Mary, Help of Christians. Come by to learn about the LOM, Mary Help of Christians and get a free rosary!

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.

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: sohlmh@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. We will not be meeting in person from June 29-July 20.

CHURCH PERSECUTED

We are truly a remarkable nation surviving for 250 years with the same government in spite of attacks on the freedom of religion over long history. Last Sunday on the National Mall in Washington, DC, Americans from around the nation came together to pray for our nation as we move closer to the climax of the year celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. "Rededicate 250: A National Day of Prayer, Praise & Thanksgiving" featured many speakers, but Bishop Robert Barron's short prayer stood out as he tied the founding of our nation to God.

"As we reflect on our history, from the founding through the trials of the Civil War to the struggle for civil rights, we can see this consistent thread, the conviction that human dignity, equality, rights, freedom, and the rule of law are all grounded in God."

Barron cited those two words, which Abraham Lincoln inserted in the Gettysburg address, "under God," saying that Lincoln knew "that God is essential to any coherent account of democracy, freedom, and equality."

He also repeated a comment that he made at the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in 2020, that the sense of freedom which is found in the Declaration of Independence phrase, that "all men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Bishop Barron explained, "What the founders knew from their Christian formation is that all people, despite their enormous inequalities, are equally children of God and therefore equal in dignity."

The key words in the Declaration are "endowed by their Creator." Neither parents nor states give those inalienable rights to individuals. They are given by God. And as George Washington notes in his First Inaugural Address, "the propitious smiles from Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and rights which Heaven itself has ordained...."

Let us continue to follow those "eternal rules of order and rights which Heaven itself has ordained."



Get In-Formed!

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

Watch: The 13th Day- In a world torn apart by persecution, war, and oppression, three children in Fatima, Portugal, were chosen by God to offer an urgent message of hope to the world. Based on the memoirs of the oldest seer, Lucia Santos, and many thousands of independent eye-witness accounts, The 13th Day dramatizes the true story of three young shepherds who experienced six apparitions of Our Lady between May and October 1917, which culminated in the final prophesied Miracle of the Sun on October 13. Abducted from their homes, thrown into prison, and interrogated under the threat of death in the government's attempt to silence them, the children remained true to their story about the crucial messages from Mary of prayer, repentance, and conversion for the world.

Watch- Kids: The Day the Sun Danced- In 1917, three children named Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta experienced a great miracle. While herding a flock of sheep outside the tiny village of Fatima, Portugal, the Blessed Mother visited them, not once, but many times, telling the children great and wondrous secrets that would affect all of creation. The Day the Sun Danced is the inspiring true story of Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta, whose great faith and courage brought the message of Our Lady of Fatima to the entire world.



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 Next Second Collection is Sunday, June 7th for Catholic Communication Campaign. Please be generous!

5/17/2026 Collection

Offertory	\$ 10,398.00
Family Assistance	\$ 530.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 897.00
OLOR	\$ 1,460.00
Diocesan Retired Priests	\$ 1,359.00
Catholic Com. Campaign	\$ 1,387.00



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