

God So Loved THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE His Only Son

JOHN 3:16

**"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
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

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY. The most fundamental dogma of our Christian faith is the Trinity. It is reflected in the first prayer every Catholic child learns ("In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit") and in the way we are baptized ("I baptize you in the name of the Father..."). And is it expressed in our most important summaries of our faith: the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed which we pray at every Sunday Mass. As the Catechism (CCC 253-255) teaches:

"The Trinity is One. We do not confess three Gods, but one God in three persons, the "consubstantial Trinity". The divine persons do not share the one divinity among themselves but each of them is God whole and entire...."

"The divine persons are really distinct from one another. ..."Father", "Son", "Holy Spirit" are not simply names designating modalities of the divine being, for they are really distinct from one another: "He is not the Father who is the Son, nor is the Son he who is the Father, nor is the Holy Spirit he who is the Father or the Son" ..."

"The divine persons are relative to one another. Because it does not divide the divine unity, the real distinction of the persons from one another resides solely in the relationships which relate them to one another: "In the relational names of the persons the Father is related to the Son, the Son to the Father, and the Holy Spirit to both. While they are called three persons in view of their relations, we believe in one nature or substance." Indeed "everything (in them) is one where there is no opposition of relationship"..."

It is extremely hard to fathom this mystery, and yet the Church has insisted on it since the earliest days as the *sine qua non* of being a Christian. And what would we expect of something that essentially reveals the inner life of the infinite and eternal God? How could we ever understand it completely, but isn't it wonderful that God has revealed this to us so that we can understand something of the great mystery of His Life? A life of perfect love and absolute unity of the three divine persons. And in this mystery we begin to understand what it means to be a Christian: to be invited to live life in unity and love with them, sharing in their unity, or communion, and love.

Corpus Christi Procession Next Sunday. Next week we will celebrate the *Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ*, and we will **once again have our** indoor procession and Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament. **All are invited to join us**, as a few minutes after the 1pm Mass (allowing time for some to leave and some to arrive) we will process throughout the interior of the church with the Blessed Sacrament, and then have a short period of Adoration, followed by Benediction. Afterwards we gather in the Parish Hall to celebrate with ice cream.

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS. Pope Leo XIV has released his first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, subtitled, "On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence," and it has received generally excellent reviews from Catholic, Protestant and secular sources. Unfortunately I have not been able to read it yet, as my "free time" is currently dedicated to preparing talks for the Women's Apostolate to Youth annual retreat this weekend. But in the next few weeks I will attempt to carefully study it, and I hope to share some of my thoughts with you soon.

End of the School Year and Graduations. Well, the school year is finally coming to an end. Congratulations to all those who are graduating from High School or University. This is a great accomplishment and the beginning of exciting new stage in life for all of you.

As summer begins, I hope you have some time to relax a bit. In that regard, let me remind you of three things. First, school is over, not your faith. So keep coming to Mass on Sundays and praying every day. And don't forget to go to Confession. Second, enjoy yourself, but don't squander your time sitting around doing nothing or playing on the computer. Play sports, and games with your friends, especially outdoors; for those graduating from High School, get a summer job and earn some money and good experience; take part in our activities at the parish; visit relatives and friends. Enjoy, but don't waste or abuse. Third, be safe. Don't do stupid things or take foolish risks. Have fun, but don't hurt yourself or others. We love you and want to watch you grow and fulfill your potential for years to come.

For those of you continuing in school next year (moving on to college, trade school or graduate studies) always remember to keep Jesus at the center of everything you do. Remember to work hard, and not squander the gift you are given in education. But don't work *too* hard, pray and rest also.

For those of you moving on to careers I remind you that work is a gift, a sharing in divine creativity. So work hard, and give a full day's work for a full day's pay; treat co-workers, bosses and customers/clients/patients/etc. with respect and charity. And always remember that your work is part of your life with Christ. Never forget you are a Catholic. Keep the commandments, love your neighbor, and never compromise your Faith. Be a person of integrity: integrate your Christian beliefs and values into everything you do. You don't have to beat people over the head with your Catholicism, but they should recognize that it is important to you.

God bless you all!

Our Lady of Ransom Scholarships. You all know my deep concerns about sending our children to the government-run, radical leftist-controlled Fairfax County Schools. Which is why **the parish offers scholarships to all qualified parishioners** who attend Catholic schools (k-12): **\$1,000** for grade school and **\$2000** for high school, subject only to minimal qualification terms.

We also **offer to double those amounts** for each child (a parishioner) who **switches from public school to Catholic school** (this is a one-time first-year amount). Additional scholarships are also available to families in particular need.

And for this coming year we are offering a **\$4000** for qualified parishioners who attend **Chesterton Academy of Christ the King**, located at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Alexandria, just 14 minutes away from St. Raymond's. Tuition is \$13,900, so our scholarship brings that down to just a little more than you would pay at a Catholic grade school. Visit chesterton-christtheking.org or contact me to learn more.

Funding Scholarships. To fund the above scholarships, which usually amount to about \$200,000 annually, I am once again asking all parishioners to consider donating whatever they can to the cause. You can do this by using the **monthly envelope provided** to you with your other offertory envelopes. Or by **mailing a check to the parish**, and writing on the "memo" line something like "Scholarship Fund Donation." Or you can also give online **through PushPay**.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, June 1st

6:30 am Fe “Nena” Robles +
8:30 am Grace Ebako

Tuesday, June 2nd

6:30 am Sheila Swenson
8:30 am Samuel Drouillard

Wednesday, June 3rd

6:30 am Natalia Nitro +
8:30 am Joey Santos
7:00 pm Celebrant’s Intentions

Thursday, June 4th

6:30 am Judy Mayer
8:30 am Barbara Brady +

Friday, June 5th

6:30 am Ruth Spielbauer +
8:30 am Frances Cecelia

Saturday, June 6th

9:00 am Russ Corolla +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles
Robert Preston +

Sunday, June 7th

7:00 am Fr. Horkan
RE Students and their
Families
9:00 am Fr. De Celles
Parishioners
11:00 am Fr. Bergida
Eduardo Visaya +
1:00 pm Fr. De Celles
Jose & Isabel
Calayag +/+

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

- 5/31 **Baccalaureate Mass 5pm**
- 6/1 **Family of Jesus prayer group, NO in-person meetings from June 29th– July 20th.**
- 6/2 **Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-6:15pm Maurer Room**
- 6/2 **Legion of Mary 6:30pm Library**
- 6/3 **Adoration 9 am—7 pm**
- 6/4 **No Bridge Club.**
- 6/5 **Adoration 9 am– 3 pm**
- 6/06 **Men’s Prayer Group**
- 6/06 **Communal First Saturday Devotions**
- 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**

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 June!** 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

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!

Donut Sunday is Next Weekend! Hosted by House of Mercy/Book Club. After all morning Masses in the parish hall. Lost and found items will be displayed in the parish hall. If you are missing an item, do stop by and take a look!

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.

First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary: We invite you to join us for Communal First Saturday Devotions on June 6, 2026 immediately following 9am Mass to console our Mother in reparation to her Immaculate Heart. Following 9am Mass, we pray the Daily Family Rosary in the Church; and then proceed to the Maurer Room for Fatima prayers & meditation. Concludes by 10:45am. All are invited!



THE FULLNESS OF KNIGHTHOOD: Join the Knights! Your very own St. John Bosco Council #12846 has just been awarded the prestigious and distinguished **STATE DEPUTY AWARD** for a **THIRD YEAR** in a row as one of the most outstanding councils in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This noteworthy award is 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:

MAY 2026

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. No meeting on June 4th.

SAINT RAYMOND'S LOVES LIFE

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

SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE!

Pro-abortion advocates may clamor (politely or otherwise): "My body! My choice!" Well, the calm and charitable response is that we certainly support a woman's right to choose many moral goods in her life ... her own doctor, husband, job, place of residence, religion- to name a few. But some choices are wrong for anyone to make, like killing innocent human beings simply because they are somehow in the way. The fact that human beings before birth cannot in any way defend themselves should cement our will to protect not destroy them. No, we shouldn't be allowed to choose to kill innocent and defenseless members of the human family. 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!

SIGN-UP DEADLINE IS JUNE 1ST



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.

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. 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

MONDAY NIGHT COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULT GATHERINGS

7pm-8:30pm Every MONDAY beginning June 1st YOUNG ADULT Bon-Fire Bible Study Young Adults (college age & older) of the parish are organizing weekly gatherings this summer to build community and grow in faith. Join us on the back patio at St. Raymond's. In the case of rain, meet in the hall for pizza & games. Bring your friends! Email Jeanne to be added to the GroupMe.

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

2026-2027 CCD Registration: Current families have been provided with the link to register online. Please complete the form (with payment) as soon as possible. New and returning families: Please look for a yellow handout at one of the exits for registration information!

Did you know that students who attend Catholic School or are homeschooling are more than welcome to attend CCD classes at St. Raymond's? All high school students of the parish are particularly encouraged to take advantage of our fantastic teachers—and no tests! Give us a call for more information.

Volunteers needed for 2026-27 academic year. Please consider volunteering as a catechist, assistant, or substitute in the fall. 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.

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

Pentecost, the Church’s birthday, celebrates the Holy Spirit’s descension upon the apostles. It is significant because the apostles, uneducated tradesmen from Galilee, were now “filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim,” to Jews from around the region, some coming from Rome. Later in the same chapter we read that three thousand were baptized that day. (Acts 2) These newly baptized Christians, filled with the Holy Spirit, returned to their homelands proclaiming their faith and inviting individuals such as the converted Roman Saul, now Paul, into their communities. Later, Peter settled in Rome with its extensive network of roads leading to most of today’s Europe, the Middle East, and into Northern Africa. Rome became the center of the Church.

Most Roman emperors, with their pagan deities, were averse to this “new God,” especially One who was in the form of three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and perceived this as a threat to their gods. Thus, the persecution of Christians began. The Roman Canon of the Mass provides us a glimpse of some of their names: all of the Apostles (less John), John the Baptist, Stephen, Matthias, Barnabas, Ignatius, Alexander, Marcellinus, Peter, Felicity, Perpetua, Agatha, Lucy, Agnes, Cecilia, and Anastasia.

The burial grounds of these martyrs became secret gathering places for those early Christians, where the Eucharistic sacrifice could take place. We know them today as the catacombs, which are revered today as they were in the early centuries. These events fulfilled the "prophecy" of the Jewish counselor, Gamaliel, spoken in the early days of the Church, "...keep away from these men [Peter and the apostles] and let them alone; for if this plan or this undertaking is of men, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God." (Acts 5: 38-39)



Get In-Formed!

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

Watch: Saint Rita of Cascia: The True Story A compelling docu-drama that tells the whole story of the amazing life of St. Rita of Cascia, the very popular saint who lived in Italy in the 14th century. Famous as the patroness of hopeless situations, St. Rita dealt with many very difficult and tragic events in her life. Through it all she developed a profound faith in God that was the source of her great strength, and why she is such a popular saint for all those dealing with difficult events in their own lives. Her story combines high drama, great love, deep betrayal, profound forgiveness, and strong faith.

Watch- Kids: Little Liturgies are a gentle and joyful introduction to faith, designed to help younger children (2-8) take their first steps into friendship with Jesus. Each episode shares the Sunday Gospel in a simple and engaging way, followed by moments of wonder that invite children to reflect and enter into prayer using rich symbols and guided contemplation. Every liturgy ends in song, helping children respond with joy and show Jesus how much they love Him.



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 seeking joyful, faithful, and dedicated candidates who are drawn to the daily work of forming young children in a Catholic classical school environment. Our early childhood classrooms are places where children are invited into wonder, prayer, rich language, beautiful stories, meaningful habits, early academic skills, and the joyful discovery of God’s love and His plan for each child.

Currently, we have employment opportunities in Full-time Kindergarten and 1st grade teaching positions as well as part-time music and Little Messengers aide positions, all beginning in August.

Interested candidates may send a cover letter and resume to Mr. Joseph Ammirati, Interim Head of School, at employment@angelusacademy.org.

We invite you to help us spread the word in your family and our parish community!

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).

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.

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

5/24/2026 Collection

Offertory	\$ 16,587.00
Family Assistance	\$ 225.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 865.00
OLOR	\$ 470.00
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