

**"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](http://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](mailto:Office@straymonds.org)  
Pastor: [fdc@straymonds.org](mailto:fdc@straymonds.org)  
Rel. Ed.: [ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org](mailto: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](mailto:bulletin@straymonds.org) 10 days prior to publication date.

## Pastor's Corner

**SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST.** Today is “Corpus Christi Sunday,” a feast established to remind us that, even as Lent and Easter are over, the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection and his continued presence on Earth remains with us in a most sublime way in the Eucharist. In particular, we remember that the bread and wine really become the very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ himself—His Real Presence among us.

So let’s consider how we react to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

-- *Do we show reverence toward the Blessed Sacrament?* Do we genuflect before Our Lord present in the tabernacle whenever we enter the church (usually before sitting in our pew) or whenever we pass in front of the tabernacle? Do we chat loudly in church as if the Lord of Heaven were not present?

-- *How do we dress at Mass, especially on Sunday?* Like we are going to the Wedding Feast of Our King, or going to the beach? Do we remember that skimpy clothing can be a near occasion of sin for others, and so dress modestly at Mass?

-- *How do we act during Mass?* Do we focus prayerfully on the miracle transpiring on the altar, especially during and after the consecration? Do we chat and laugh with each other, ignoring the solemnity of the Mass? Do you pray in preparation before receiving (e.g., see the “Prayer of Saint Thomas Aquinas” below)?

-- *How do we receive Holy Communion?* Do we observe the Eucharist fast for one hour before Communion? Do we examine our consciences, so we don’t receive unworthily (i.e., in the state of mortal sins)? Do we approach prayerfully, or distracted? Do we carefully show some sign of reverence immediately before receiving Holy Communion: bowing, genuflecting, or even kneeling? Do we prayerfully receive as a profound act of faith and love?

If we receive on the tongue: To avoid any chance of the Host being dropped, do we stand close enough to the priest, open our mouths and extend our tongues? Do we *hold still* our heads, tongues and mouths (not lurching, licking or biting) until we receive and the priest removes his hand?

If we receive in our hand: Do we wash our hands before Mass? Do we extend *both* hands, one on top of the other, forming a throne for Our King? Do we examine our hands to make sure no particles remain?

And though I recognize and respect your right to receive in the hand, I will continue to lovingly ask you to consider switching to receiving on the tongue. **As Pope St. Paul VI wrote** about receiving on the tongue: *“This method of distributing holy communion ...expresses the faithful's reverence for the Eucharist... it is part of that preparation that is needed for the most fruitful reception of the Body of the Lord. This reverence shows that it is not a sharing in ‘ordinary bread and wine’ that is involved, but in the Body and Blood of the Lord...”*

-- *Do you make good use of the altar rail?* One of the beautiful things about the altar rail is that you have a few moments before and after Communion to calmly and peacefully prepare and then rejoice at receiving Our Lord. Do you take the time?

-- *Do we remember that Jesus remains in the tabernacle after Mass?* Do we stay a few minutes after Mass is

over to give thanks, or do we rush out of church as soon as possible? Do we drop by the church during the week to visit Our Lord in the tabernacle? Do we spend time with Our Lord during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament? Do we share our faith in the Eucharist with others? Do we actively teach our children to do all these things?

### Prayer of Saint Thomas Aquinas (before Communion)

*Almighty and everlasting God, behold I come to the Sacrament of Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: I come as one infirm to the physician of life, as one unclean to the fountain of mercy, as one blind to the light of everlasting brightness, as one poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. Therefore I implore the abundance of Thy measureless bounty that Thou wouldst vouchsafe to heal my infirmity, wash my uncleanness, enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty and clothe my nakedness, that I may receive the Bread of Angels, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, with such reverence and humility, with such sorrow and devotion, with such purity and faith, with such purpose and intention as may be profitable to my soul's salvation. Grant unto me, I pray, the grace of receiving not only the Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood, but also the grace and power of the Sacrament. O most gracious God, grant me so to receive the Body of Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, which He took from the Virgin Mary, as to merit to be incorporated into His mystical Body, and to be numbered amongst His members. O most loving Father, give me grace to behold forever Thy beloved Son with His face at last unveiled, whom I now purpose to receive under the sacramental veil here below. Amen.*

**CHOIR TAKES THE SUMMER OFF.** With Corpus Christi Sunday behind us, the choir will take the rest of the summer off. I’m sure you join me in appreciation for all the beautiful music they have provided us with this last year. The Mass is not about the music, but the music our choir provides is definitely about the Mass, and helps us to more deeply enter into the solemnity and reverence of the Holy Sacrifice. Thank you, choir members, and especially Elisabeth Turco (director) and Joseph Mernagh (organist), and have a great and restful summer.

**OFFICE STAFF CHANGES.** As you may be aware we have been shorthanded in the office for a while, as I’ve been for just the right person as an additional permanent full-time Secretary. So now I am delighted to announce that **Eva Radel is returning to our parish office staff.** Eva was our Secretary from November of 2016 to June of 2020, when she left to work at Holy Family Academy. Before that she ran the office at St. Patrick’s in Chancellorsville for over 7 years. In addition to her great administrative skills she has a joyful and warm disposition that everyone loves. We’re so happy she’s back with us now. Please join me in welcoming Eva back home!

(I can’t write this without thanking the **indefatigable Mary Butler** for her dedication and hard work keeping things going so well. Thanks be to God she’s not going anywhere (yay!) and she’s looking forward to working with Eva.)

I also want to say thanks to **Dominique Murray** who is leaving our staff after almost 3 years part-time in the office. She and husband David are long-time parishioners and now, as “empty nesters,” they will be spending more time travelling to visit their grown kids and grandkids, and seeing the world.

**Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, June 8th**

6:30 am Bill Roche +  
 8:30 am Meredith Hoopes

**Tuesday, June 9th**

6:30 am Natalia Nitro +  
 8:30 am Joseph + & Elaine  
 Perricone

**Wednesday, June 10th**

6:30 am Fedelis & Shanti Masih  
 Roze +/-  
 8:30 am The Berger Family  
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

**Thursday, June 11th**

6:30 am The Jensen Family  
 8:30 am Cleo Caroline  
 Harrington

**Friday, June 12th**

6:30 am Magdalena Benson +  
 8:30 am David & Dominique  
 Murray

**Saturday, June 13th**

9:00 am John Timothy  
 Boos +

**Vigil Mass**

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**  
 Gary Swenson +

**Sunday, June 14th**

7:00 am **Fr. Horkan**  
 Eliot Benson +  
 9:00 am **Fr. Bergida**  
 Parishioners  
 11:00 am **Fr. De Celles**  
 Joe & Barbara Brady +  
 1:00 pm **Fr. De Celles**  
 Gregorio & Joselito  
 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 Alicia Tocconi Jay & Linda Cabacar Rita Felkel Colleen O'Connor Mary Grace Gottstein Pat Ravenelle George Watson
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**Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church**

- 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**
- 6/8 Family of Jesus prayer group NO in-person meetings from June 29th– July 20th.**
- 6/8 Young Adults Gathering 7 pm**
- 6/9 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-6:15pm Maurer Room**
- 6/9 Legion of Mary 6:30pm Maurer Room**
- 6/10 Adoration 9 am—7 pm**
- 6/11 Bridge Club**
- 6/12 Adoration 9 am– 3 pm**
- 6/17 Adoration 9 am—7 pm**
- 6/19 Story Time 11 am—12 pm Noon**
- 6/19 Juneteenth One Mass at 10 am Parish Offices Closed**
- 6/19 Adoration begins after the 10 am Mass to 3 pm**
- 6/21-23 Father's Day Triduum of Masses**

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

**[www.straymonds.org](http://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 12 pm Noon 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](mailto:domarch20@gmail.com), (470) 652-3411 or Elise Hamilton, [2EliseHamilton@gmail.com](mailto: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 **THIS** Sunday, June 7 followed by Ice Cream Social in the Parish Hall. Bring the entire family!

**Donut Sunday is THIS 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](http://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/](http://www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/) Or email [straymondhsg@gmail.com](mailto: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 20th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email [maryn-davew7705@gmail.com](mailto:maryn-davew7705@gmail.com).

**Father's Day Triduum:** Sunday, June 21st is Father's Day. We will be honoring fathers with a Triduum of Masses on June 21-23. If you would like to include the special fathers in your life (i.e. Father, Grandfather, Godfather, etc.), cards are available in the narthex after all Masses this weekend.



**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:

#### JUNE 2026

- 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](http://www.sevensistersapostolate.org). Please contact Renee LeBoeuf for more information [renee.leboeuf@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:bridgeclub402@gmail.com) if interested in joining us.

**It's Story Time!** For children 2-5 with their 'grown up'. Come when you can on Friday 19 June in the parish hall between 11 am –12 pm. Feel free to bring a picnic to enjoy outside afterwards and then visit Our Lord in Adoration after that! Sponsored by the Parish Librarians. Questions? Contact Liz Hildebrand at [hildebrandseven@gmail.com](mailto:hildebrandseven@gmail.com).



## SAINT RAYMOND'S LOVES LIFE

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

**WHEN DOES HUMAN LIFE BEGIN?** Scientifically, we know that from the **initial** stage of development, the unborn are distinct, living, and whole human beings with unique DNA. The study of embryology confirms this. "The zygote, a highly specialized, totipotent cell, marks the beginning of each of us as a unique individual." Prior to his abortion advocacy, former Planned Parenthood President Dr. Alan Guttmacher was perplexed that anyone, much less a medical doctor, would question this. And since a zygote is a member of the human race, "Thou shalt not kill" applies. [Prolifetraining.com](http://Prolifetraining.com)

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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

*As we wrap up another school year, I want to thank all of the many folks who made this year so fruitful. It takes many hands and lots of prayer support to be able to do what we do. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us! Whether making meals and donating snacks (both essential elements of Youth events!) or sharing encouraging words, donating money to help provide the resources needed to do all that we do and to help everyone to be able to afford the retreats and various activities we offer, to managing your schedule and making it a priority to get your child(ren) and their friends to events...all of your sacrifices are seen by the Father and we have certainly been blessed by them!*

*I want to specifically thank all of our regular committed volunteers who have given so generously of their time throughout the year, whether helping with youth group on Sundays, Talitha Koum or Sons of Thunder, helping with Friday Morning breakfasts, and our swing dances. There are too many of you to name here, but you know who you are. The Youth Apostolate would simply cease to exist were it not for your dedication to our young people, and to me. We are so thankful!*

*Unfortunately many of our volunteers are unable to return next year. This means we need YOU (yes, you reading this) to pray, to ask the Holy Spirit if He is calling you to step up and fill this great need. Our teens need good Catholic role models, folks who see their value and who are willing to invest time in them because you care and believe in them. St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "One of the greatest gifts you can give is your time". To give your time is to give your life, for "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13. "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" ~Isaiah 6:8 God has you here for a reason. Contact Jeanne for more info. if/when you feel the call!*

**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 get 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](http://www.asjb.org/student-registration)

### COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULT GATHERINGS (INCLUDING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026)

**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.

#### **High School Class of 2026 & Current College Students:**

The George Mason University Catholic Campus Ministry is hosting Thursday Night Gatherings from 7-9pm every Thursday in June and July for college students and graduating high school seniors at Robert Bellarmine Chapel, 4515 Roberts Rd., Fairfax.

#### **Jeanne Sause**

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

[youth@straymonds.org](mailto:youth@straymonds.org) Call/Text: 571-334-9890

Email Jeanne to be added to the 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**

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 Maurer Room. All auxiliary members and anyone interested in joining the Legion of Mary are welcome! Point of Contact: Judy Mayer, [jmayer9014@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jpebtp@verizon.net) or by calling the parish office. We will not be meeting in person from June 29-July 20.

**CHURCH PERSECUTED**

On September 3, 2025, Mr. Riley Barnes testified at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations after being nominated by President Trump to be the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. Later, Secretary of State Marco Rubio also named him Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom.


In his opening statement, Mr. Barnes cited the basis of our freedom, noting that, "Secretary Rubio emphasized that we are a nation founded on a powerful principle, and that powerful principle is that all men are created equal because our rights come from God, our Creator, not from our laws, not from our governments."

One of the Foreign Relations committee members, Senator Tim Kaine, from Virginia, questioned Mr. Barnes' comments about our rights coming from God and not from our laws or governments. "[T]he statement that our rights do not come from our laws or our governments is extremely troubling," said Kaine.

Kaine continued later in his comments to Barnes that, "...the notion that our rights do not come from our laws or our government should make people very, very nervous because people of any religious tradition, or none, are entitled to the equal protection of the laws under the Fourteenth Amendment. It should not matter what their religious background is, what they think about God or the Creator, what their church affiliation is."

Kaine missed the point! Our rights come from God, but these God-given rights apply to everyone, no matter what their religious beliefs may be. At the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in 2020, Bishop Robert Barron reiterated that individuals may be equal in intellect, skills, or other abilities, "but all are equally children of God." As children of God, all men are created equally endowed with those inalienable rights. Governments suppress those rights by approving laws allowing abortion, euthanasia, and other actions against the citizens.

Let us pray that Catholic politicians such as Senator Kaine, may understand this distinction that we are all equal in the eyes of God who enlightened our founders to pursue this American experiment 250 years ago.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sohlmb@gmail.com).

**The Second Collection THIS Sunday, June 7th, is for Catholic Communication Campaign.**

	<b>5/31/2026</b>	
	Collections	Online May
<b>Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 12,824.00</b>	<b>\$ 63,932.00</b>
<b>Family Assistance</b>	<b>\$ 199.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,665.00</b>
<b>Maintenance Fund</b>	<b>\$ 3,713.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,312.00</b>
<b>OLOR</b>	<b>\$ 1,744.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,480.00</b>
<b>Diocesan Retired Priests</b>		<b>\$ 3,149.00</b>

# FORMED®



**GET INFORMED**

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

**Watch: ST. Philip Neri: I Prefer Heaven** An epic feature film on the famous "Apostle of Rome" and great friend of youth in the 16th century. One of the most popular saints of all time, St. Philip Neri was widely known for his great charity, deep prayer life, and tremendous humor. Hoping to join St. Ignatius of Loyola's new order of Jesuits and be a missionary to India, Providence instead guided Philip to seek out the poor and abandoned youth of Rome to catechize them in the faith and help them find a better life. He became the founder of the religious congregation, the Oratory, that worked with the youth and also labored to re-evangelize a decadent Rome. Parental guidance suggested.

**Watch- Kids: Adventure Catechism** Join Brother Francis and his friends as they embark on an adventure to explore the many rich aspects of our faith through Adventure Catechism! **Formed Now** features special guests & insider looks at unique topics. To see Formed Now content organized topically, click the drop-down menu!



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