

"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
Eva Radel, Secretary
Catherine Hansen, Office Intern
Mary Butler, Secretary

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

Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School and Home School Scholarship Fund: 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

MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART. Although some sectors of our society dedicate June to celebrating the evil of “gay pride,” for almost 200 years Catholics have celebrated June as the Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

This last Friday, June 12, was the Feast of the Sacred Heart. This feast was established by Pope Pius IX in 1856, reflecting the request Our Lord made in an apparition to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, when He showed her His heart and told her,

"Behold the Heart which has so loved men that it has spared nothing, even to exhausting and consuming Itself, in order to testify Its love; and in return, I receive from the greater part only ingratitude, by their irreverence and sacrilege, and by the coldness and contempt they have for Me in this Sacrament of Love. ...Therefore, I ask of you that the Friday after the Octave of Corpus Christi be set apart for a special Feast to honor My Heart..."

Consecration to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. In preparation for the celebration of the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding on July 4, the U.S. Bishops solemnly consecrated America to the Sacred Heart last Thursday, June 11. Our diocese and parish joined in this consecration, and **I invite your families to do the same at home** by praying together this Prayer of Consecration:

"O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: You know the longings of our hearts, and you desire that we enjoy friendship with you. From your pierced side, you have poured out the wellspring of life, for which we thirst. Your heart burns with a love for all people to return to a right relationship with you. We celebrate the abundant gifts you have given this nation, founded on the self-evident truths that our Creator has endowed all people with the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We make reparation for the offenses against you and against human dignity that have taken place in this nation. May our hearts be united to yours, so that our families and communities enjoy peace and happiness; may broken relationships be reconciled, injustices repaired, and the wounds of our land be healed. May your holy Catholic Church serve as a sign, pointing all people to your infinite love. O Desire of Nations and Center of History, we ask you to bless these United States of America. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen."

PATRIOTISM. Jesus commands us “to love your neighbor as yourself,” and St. Thomas Aquinas explains that our first neighbor is our parents (family), but after that our second neighbor, is our country, or our “patria” in Latin, and our fellow countrymen. We see this specified, if you will, in the 4th commandment: “Honor your father and mother.” In the same way that God gives you parents and family to love and care for you, and in return calls you to love and care for them—to “honor” them—He also gives us our country and fellow countrymen to love and care for us, and for us to love and care for them. This is the **Catholic virtue of Patriotism.**

Flag Day. Patriotism also includes honoring the symbols of our country. As we prepare to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday we remember **today is “flag day,”** commemorating the 249th anniversary of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress: “the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.” So today, let's fly the flag with legitimate pride in our great nation. To this end, a parishioner donated 900 small USA flags for us to distribute at Mass. **Please take one** as you leave the church today.

TRADITIONS: CHAPEL VEILS/MANTILLAS. You may have noticed, or been part of, the growing trend of women wearing veils (“chapel veil” or “mantilla”) on their heads at Mass. Where does this come from, what does it mean, and is it appropriate?

The origins of the veil go back to the modesty standards of the time of Christ, both for the Jews and pagans. St. Paul reflects this when he writes: “*a woman brings shame upon her head if she uncovers it to pray or prophesy ...*” (1 Corinthians 11). While this passage has been interpreted in different ways since it was written, it does remind us of the importance of modesty and humility in dress at Mass, especially for women (men are weak in this regard, and are more distracted by a woman's beauty than vice versa).

Veiling is also a reminder of the spousal relationship between Christ and the Church, like a bridal veil. In this context it also reflects the Catholic custom of covering things we consider sacred: a wife/bride is to be protected, cherished, respected, and adored. For example, we veil the altar, the chalice and also sometimes tabernacle. And, of course, consecrated nuns wear the veil.

Today it is no longer the ordinary custom for the modest woman to wear in society. Even so, the Mass is a different “animal”: it is filled with all sorts of “uncommon” but traditionally meaningful signs and symbols that express interior attitudes and virtues. So, for a woman to wear a veil at Mass to express humility, modesty and the bridal sacredness of the Church is very fitting.

After the changes in the Mass in the 1960s and 1970s the *requirement* for women to veil was dropped, and they largely disappeared from Mass. But now they are returning, among the young and old alike. Some wear it as a sign of their desire for modesty and bridal openness and service. Others see it as a way of emulating the Virgin Mary, who most certainly wore a veil most of the time in public. And some say that it shows their desire to express their Catholic identity and/or love for the traditions of the Church.

I find all these reasons very edifying and admirable. So, ladies, wear them if you like or don't. And remember we never judge each other for exercising legitimate individual choices.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, June 15th

6:30 am Patricia Troup +
 8:30 am Russ Corolla +

Tuesday, June 16th

6:30 am Natalie Marie Butler
 8:30 am Bishop Michael
 Burbidge

Wednesday, June 17th

6:30 am Esther Benson +
 8:30 am Isabel Santos +
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, June 18th

6:30 am Raymond Troup
 8:30 am PFC Benjamin Park +

Friday, June 19th

10:00 am Julian Santos +

Saturday, June 20th

9:00 am
 Emily Severn

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm
 Denis Michelin +

Sunday, June 21st

7:00 am
 Ted Tolpa +

9:00 am

Parishioners

11:00 am

Anne Hansen

1:00 pm

Father's Day Triduum

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

Monday - Friday Daily Mass at 8:30 am

Wednesday at 7 pm

Saturday at 9:00 am

**Sunday Mass at 9:00 am & 11:00 am
 (See the website for Holy Days)**



FATHER'S DAY TRIDUUM - Sunday, June 21st is Father's Day. We will be honoring fathers with a Triduum of Masses 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 and at all exits after all Masses this and next weekend. Please give Ushers or Parish Office your completed envelope.

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: Monday-Friday 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.



Saint Thomas More, pray for us!

CELEBRATE ST. THOMAS MORE'S FEAST DAY! Join the St. Thomas More Guild for Catholic Legal Professionals for Mass on Monday, June 22, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Raymond's. A reception will follow, with a keynote address by Nicolas McAfee, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Economics, Christendom College. He will be giving an address on the background of the protection of religious liberty in the American Constitution. Please RSVP to guild@tmglaw.org.

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
 Joann Alba

Beth Fitzgibbons
 Jean Keegan
 Robert Petitti
 Alicia Tocconi
 Jay & Linda Cabacar
 Rita Felkel
 Colleen O'Connor
 Mary Grace Gottstein
 Pat Ravenelle
 George Watson
 Flavia Tommasi

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- 6/15 Family of Jesus prayer group. NO in-person meetings from June 29th- July 20th.**
- 6/15 Young Adults 7 pm**
- 6/16 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15-6:15pm Maurer Room**
- 6/16 Legion of Mary 6:30pm Maurer Room**
- 6/17 Adoration 9 am—7 pm**
- 6/18 Bridge Club**
- 6/19 Federal Holiday 1 Mass at 10 am**
- 6/19 Daily Family Rosary at 10:45 am**
- 6/19 Adoration begins after the 10 am Mass until 3 pm**
- 6/19 Parish Offices Closed**
- 6/19 Story Time 11 am—12 pm Noon in Parish Hall**
- 6/20 Men's Prayer Group**
- 6/21-23 Father's Day Triduum of Masses**
- 6/22 No Young Adults Meeting**
- 6/22 St. Thomas More Mass 6:30pm with Talk & Reception to follow in Parish Hall**
- 6/23-26 Summer Floor Maintenance in Parish Hall**
- 6/24 No Mother's Group**
- 6/24 Adoration 9 am—7 pm**
- 6/25 No Bridge Club**
- 6/26 Adoration 9 am—3 pm**
- 6/29 Young Adults 7 pm**
- 6/29 No in person Family of Jesus Prayer Group**
- 6/30-7/2 Summer Floor Maintenance in Parish Hall**
- 7/1 Adoration 9 am—7 pm**
- 7/2 No Bridge Club**
- 7/3 Parish Offices Closed for Fourth of July Holiday**
- 7/3 Adoration TBD**
- 7/3-4 No First Friday Nocturnal Adoration July or Aug**

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 20th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryndavew7705@gmail.com.



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

- 13 Marian Assembly Flag Retirement Ceremony, (St. Lawrence Catholic Church, 9:00am)
- 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)

JULY 2026

- 13 Membership Meeting (7:00pm Rosary, Library, 7:30pm General Meeting)

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.

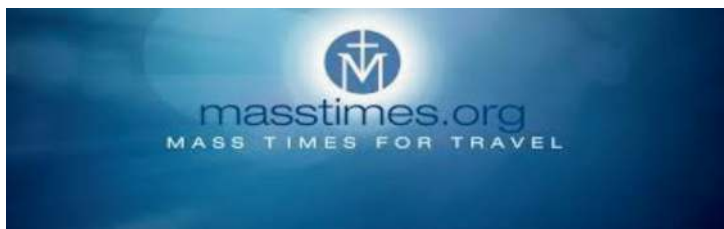
JP SUMMER CAMPS – REGISTER TODAY! Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School's summer camp registration is now open! Check out this year's camp offerings and sign up today! For rising 2nd to 9th graders, JP summer camps are a great way to spend your summer! John Paul offers both Athletic and Enrichment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

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 scan 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.

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.



SAINT RAYMOND'S LOVES LIFE

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

Are embryos human beings? We can say that embryos are less physically developed than newborns (or, for that matter, toddlers or adults), but this difference is not morally significant in the way abortion advocates need it to be. Consider the claim that the 'immediate capacity for self-awareness bestows value on human beings'. Notice that this is not an argument, but an arbitrary assertion. Why does an arbitrary degree of development define humanity? And why is one particular degree of development (i.e., higher brain function) held superior to another? We are '*human beings*' not '*human doings*'. We are immeasurably valuable because we are human not because we have a particular capacity to achieve something for someone else's approval. Humanity starts at conception. Thou shalt not kill.

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! WOW!! 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! As we call on Our Father to forgive us, we are called to forgive those who trespass against us. 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, go to www.asjb.org/student-registration.

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

7pm-8:30pm Every MONDAY beginning June 1st (except June 22nd) 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. 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 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! **All Catholic School and homeschool students intending to receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation at St. Raymond's must register with the RE office** even if they will not attend classes.

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::

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 Maurer Room. 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.

IN COMMEMORATION OF FLAG DAY - JUNE 14, 1777



CHURCH PERSECUTED

Bishop Robert Barron's recent book, *What Do Their Deaths Demand – Christian Persecution Today*, (Word on Fire Press, 2026) presents a different approach to the question of why Christianity is the most persecuted religion today. This is a brief overview (70 pages) of this question as compared to the extensive research in Dr. Robert Royal's book, *The Martyrs of the New Millennium: The Global persecution of Christians in the Twenty-First Century*, (Sophia Institute Press, 2025), which Barron cites as a key source. One of Bishop Barron's key themes is the answer to the question, "Why?" Why is Christianity the most persecuted religion today? His chapter two addresses this question by noting that there is a key difference in the manner in which the founders of the great religions of the world died. "Confucius peacefully died of old age in his bed...Moses expired...at a ripe old age of 120...Mohammad died in bed...And then there was Jesus...[who] died at the age of approximately thirty-three, nailed to a terrible instrument of torture." That may answer the question, "How," but what about, "Why?"

"Jesus consistently spoke and acted in the person of the God of Israel. Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, and Jeremiah all felt called to follow God's will or to speak his word. But Jesus claimed divinity for himself." The Jews considered the temple "as the dwelling place of the God of Israel." But how could God be in the temple and Jesus also claim that he is God? This paradox we know as the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

Jesus and his Church were persecuted from the very beginning. "This antagonism is a function of the very nature of Christianity." As he told his disciples, "If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you."

Barron cites snippets from the martyrology of the church particularly Peter, the first pope; and as Barron puts it, "the successor of Nero is nowhere to be found, and his empire has crumbled to dust. But the 266th successor of Peter is alive and well...."

He concludes with a call to action: pray and provide aid to the persecuted, stay informed, persuade the government to take action, respect religious liberty at home, and resist "soft" religious persecution.

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!



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.

SAINT 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.

ANNUAL SUMMER FLOOR MAINTENANCE -The Parish Hall will be closed from **June 23-26 and June 30-July 2** to outside activities. Thank you for your patience and support.

SISTERS, HANDMAIDS OF REPARATION: June 20-21, our parish will participate in the Missionary Cooperative Plan through the Diocesan Office of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. We are honored to welcome the Sisters of the Handmaids of Reparation, an international religious order founded in Italy in 1918, serving in the United States, Africa, and South America. The Sisters will speak at all Masses about their mission of education, parish ministry, and service to families around the world. A special collection will be taken to support their important work.

Next Weekend's Second Collection: Sisters, Handmaids of Reparation – Propagation of Faith (please read above for more information.)

Last Week's Collections—June 6-7, 2026

Offertory	\$ 16,736.00
Family Assistance	\$ 607.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,697.00
OLOR	\$ 4,101.00
Catholic Communications	\$ 886.00

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For opportunities to advertise, please contact
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