

"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, Parish Secretary
Catherine Hansen, Parish Office Intern
Mary Butler, Parish Office Support

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

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

The 4th and Summer. I hope and pray you all had a wonderful and patriotic 4th of July. I know many of you attended one of the various fireworks displays that evening, even with the rain. I did not, but I did see the celebrations on the Mall via internet, and they were glorious. God bless America!

I love the summer, as you all know. But it is awful hot. Growing up in San Antonio I really enjoyed warm and even hot weather. Of course, I learned not to be foolish: when you work or play outside, wear a hat and light clothing, and stay hydrated and close to shade, if possible. And even I know to come indoors to air conditioning when it's too hot or when I need a break from the heat. So keep that in mind as you enjoy your summer.

Excommunications. I've gotten a lot of questions about my thoughts on the excommunications resulting from the SSPX ordination of new bishops without the required papal approval.

Recapping: the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Pius X (SSPX) is an society of priests which holds certain objections to the some of the decrees of Vatican II and to the implementation of the decrees, especially with regard to the liturgy so that they celebrate the Sacraments according to the Rite in effect prior to the Council (what some call the Traditional Latin Mass). On July 1, the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Pius X (SSPX) ordained 4 new bishops for their order without permission of the Pope, and against his objections. They did so citing a "state of emergency" in the church, due the confusion created after Vatican II.

In response, Cardinal Fernandez, prefect of the Dicastery for Doctrine of the Faith, issued a decree declaring the newly ordained bishops and the bishops who ordained them in schism and therefore excommunicated. In an accompanying explanatory note the Cardinal stated that *all the priests of the SSPX are in schism and excommunicated also, and that any lay people "who formally adhere to the [SSPX]...are to be considered schismatic and excommunicated."*

The SSPX responded by stating that this decree and excommunication are invalid, in as much as there was no intent to be in schism and since the ordinations took place for the good of souls, not out of disobedience. Various experts take different sides with regard to this validity.

My take? What a mess. I wish the SSPX hadn't gone forward with the ordinations. But I wish also the Pope would have met with them directly instead of relegating them to discussions with Fernandez, who the SSPX consider to be a heretic (as do many knowledgeable Catholics not in the SSPX). After all, the Pope frequently holds private meets with people like pro-gay Fr. James Martin, SJ and various obviously heretical German bishops, and even has had special audiences with Hollywood actors and pop musicians.

Not being a Canonical expert, I don't know if the excommunication is valid or not. But I do think it was way too harsh a response, especially when compared to the Pope's forbearance with regard to others who are disobedient to him and to Christ Himself, such as so many of the pro-gay, pro-women's ordination German bishops, not to mention his appointment of bishops who are, to say the least, "unorthodox."

All I can say is, trust in Jesus, don't worry, and pray for all concerned.

Speaking of the 4th and Pope Leo. On the 4th of July, Pope Leo XIV had dinner with Brian Burch, the U.S. ambassador to the Holy See. This is the National Catholic Register/EWTN's report (excerpts):

"Pope Leo XIV still has a Peruvian credit card, wakes in the middle of the night and checks soccer results, follows the Chicago White Sox, and uses a cellphone.

"He is also, according to...Burch...a Pope keenly aware of his role as pastor of the universal Church, careful not to give the impression of being merely an American pope and frustrated that his actions are sometimes interpreted as anti-Trump or anti-U.S. gestures.

"Burch offered that personal portrait of the Holy Father in a conversation with a small group of Italian journalists about the historic July 4 dinner he hosted for Leo at Villa Richardson, the U.S. ambassador's residence to the Holy See.

"The Pope came in person to the residence, prayed with Burch's family, and shared a meal that included American charcuterie, watermelon salad, Chicago-style hot dogs, apple pie, and gelato. According to Burch, Leo approved of the menu. The evening was informal rather than bilateral: The pope arrived without secretaries, accompanied only by two Vatican gendarmes....

"The dinner took place on the same day Leo made a brief visit to Lampedusa, a trip that some had interpreted as a symbolic gesture aimed against the Trump administration. Burch said the pope rejected that interpretation in their conversation....

"Burch stressed that the dinner at his residence should not be understood as an effort to resolve major political questions. Rather, he said, it was an extraordinary sign of the pope's affinity with and warm closeness to the United States.

"The Pope arrived at about 7:30 p.m., according to the ambassador. He posed for a photo with Burch's family, gave them his blessing, and joined them for an aperitif. Burch said he and Leo, both from Chicago, spoke about the city and the many friends they have in common.

"After dinner, Burch also had time to speak privately with the pope in the garden. The ambassador said they discussed a wide range of subjects. Before leaving the embassy at about 10 p.m., the Pope sang the patriotic song "God Bless America" and signed several baseballs, marking each one with the date.

"Burch said Leo was relaxed and that the two laughed about many things. ... Leo told him that he loves the United States, where he was born, and has great affection for the country, but he also wants to be careful not to appear too favorable or too close to the United States....

"The Church in the United States is vibrant and growing, Burch said, but it is not the only place where the Church is present, and Leo is aware of the need not to appear too American.

"Burch said there is also some hesitation regarding a possible papal trip to the United States. That hesitation, he said, is not because of hostility toward the president but because of the need to choose the right moment and to situate such a visit after a number of trips that demonstrate the pope's apostolic commitment.

"The ambassador said Leo also spoke about his frustration with the way every papal gesture can be attacked or interpreted through the lens of the United States. Burch said the pope's July 4 visit to Lampedusa was not intended as an attack on the United States...."

Retreat. I will be away on retreat this coming week. I will be at the monastery of Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles in Missouri. Please keep me in your prayers as I will be praying for you.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

<u>Monday, July 13th</u> 6:30 am Howard Hay 8:30 am Rick Sansalone +	<u>Saturday, July 18th</u> 9:00 am Jihye Boyer
<u>Tuesday, July 14th</u> 6:30 am Lee Smittendorf + 8:30 am Paul Bowen-Davies +	<u>Vigil Mass</u> 5:00 pm Fr. Bergida Ricardo Fernandez +
<u>Wednesday, July 15th</u> 6:30 am Jeffrey Petrino + 8:30 am For the Unborn + 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions	<u>Sunday, July 19th</u> 7:00 am Fr. Horkan Tom Dietz + 9:00 am Fr. Bergida Parishioners
<u>Thursday, July 16th</u> 6:30 am Josué Raimundo + 8:30 am Bill & Maria Daugherty	11:00 am Fr. Horkan Caleb Shealy
<u>Friday, July 17th</u> 6:30 am Grayce Long Hayden + 8:30 am Daniel Fogg +	1:00 pm Fr. Bergida Peter & Kristiana Lee

**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)**

WE ARE IN URGENT NEED OF ADORERS! Our Wednesday and Friday Adoration schedule is in need of Adorers. Please consider spending time with Our Lord. Contact the Parish office if interested, 703-440-0535.

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 July!** 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.

PARISH PICNIC COMMITTEE—Our annual parish picnic is Sunday, August 23rd. We are looking for volunteers interested in joining the committee to support the event. For more information or to sign up, please contact the parish office at office@straymonds.org or call 703-440-0535.

BROWN SCAPULAR ENROLLMENT. Thursday, July 16 is the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Next weekend, July 18 at the Vigil Mass and Sunday, July 19 after all Masses, we will be enrolling people in the Confraternity and investing them with the Brown Scapular. If you have not been enrolled previously and would like to, please stay after Mass to participate.



CHRIST HOUSE—We are hosting a Christ House dinner on the fifth Friday of July. If you would like to help, please contact Jackie Kruse at 703-232-6668 or email christhousecommittee@straymonds.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 Snaveley Annette Haynes Joann Alba	Beth Fitzgibbons Jean Keegan Robert Petitti Alicia Tocconi Jay & Linda Cabacar Rita Felkel
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- 7/13 **No in person Family of Jesus Prayer Group**
- 7/13 **Young Adults 7 pm**
- 7/14 **Junior Legion of Mary 4:15 pm Maurer Room**
- 7/14 **Legion of Mary 6:30 pm Maurer Room**
- 7/15 **Adoration 9 am—7 pm**
- 7/17 **Adoration 9 am—3 pm**
- 7/18 **Men's Prayer Group**
- 7/18-19 **Brown Scapular Enrollment after all Masses**
- 7/31 **Christ House Dinner Hosting**

CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF CHRIST THE KING is 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 July 18th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryndavew7705@gmail.com.

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS - Did you know we have an American Heritage Girls troop here at St. Raymond's? AHG is a fun Christian scouting group for girls from Kindergarten to 12th grade. Our troop, Troop VA0683, meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month beginning in September at St. Raymond's. Please contact our Troop Coordinator, Bea Frey, At ahgva0683@gmail.com or visit our website, <https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/american-heritage-girls-troop/>, for more information.





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 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—

JULY 2026

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

AUGUST 2026

9 Knights at Fred Nats 1:35pm
10 Exemplification/Membership Meeting (7:00pm Rosary, Library, 7:30pm Exemplification)

If you are a Knight, please come to the next Membership Meeting on **Monday, July 13 at 7:30 PM** and be a part of the next Fraternal Year from the very start. If you are not a Knight and want to learn more about our Council, please call the Grand Knight-Elect, Dave Hayes, at (703) 380-4550. Live Fully! Become a KNIGHT!

KOVAR is a Virginia Knights of Columbus Charity established in 1971 to provide financial assistance to people with intellectual disabilities. The Knights of Columbus are still collecting donations for KOVAR online. If you didn't get a chance to contribute previously, please consider donating using the QR Code please. Thank you for your support!



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.



SAINT RAYMOND'S LOVES LIFE

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

Are YOU registered to vote in the Virginia November election?
Life is on the line!

elections.virginia.gov/registration/how-to-register

Want to learn more about fertility? Dr. Joseph Davis, DO presents Cooperative Hormonal and Reproductive Medicine (CHARM) on Wednesday August 12th at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall. Hosted by Tepeyac OB/GYN and Divine Mercy Care.

Environment: Where you are has no bearing on the dignity of who you are. Does your intrinsic value change when you cross the street? If not, how can a journey of eight inches down the birth-canal suddenly change the essential nature of the unborn from non-human to human? If the unborn are not already human, merely changing their location can't make them human and vice versa. Since the preborn are human from the moment of conception, "Thou shalt not kill" applies. 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'!** whosmv.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... Thank you for the continued steady stream of overwhelming material support! May God bless you for your goodness. Diapers are always so very much appreciated. Collection box is 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

NEED: Laborers (age 21+) for the Vineyard
Are you willing to share the Gospel with Your life?

The Youth Apostolate is in need of SEVERAL more volunteers for the 2026-2027 academic year. Isaiah 6:8 *God has you here for a reason!* Pray and ask the Lord if He is calling you to help. No experience necessary. Training will be provided...so long as you respond soon!!

Specific Volunteer Needs/Time Commitments:

- ◆ 3-6pm most Sundays: Jr. High Youth Group
- ◆ 6-9pm most Sundays: High School Youth Group
- ◆ Talitha Koum High School Girls Group—day/time TBD
- ◆ 6-8am most Fridays: Help set up/serve Friday breakfast

“Proclaiming Christ means above all giving witness to Him with one's life. It is the simplest form of preaching the Gospel and, at the same time, the most effective way available to you. It consists in showing the visible presence of Christ in one's own life by a daily commitment and by making every concrete decision in conformity with the Gospel. Today the world especially needs believable witnesses.” - Pope Saint John Paul II

"Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses."

—Pope Saint Paul VI

“The two disciples were initially with Jesus only for a few hours, but that encounter changed their lives forever. The first thing Andrew did afterwards was go and tell his brother Simon, ‘We found the Messiah’ (cf. v. 41), in other words, ‘We have found the one we were looking for!’ After meeting Jesus, Andrew could not help but share with his brother what he had found. Indeed, missionary zeal is born from an encounter with Christ. We desire to share with others what we have received so that they, too, can come to know the fullness of love and truth found only in Him.

I pray that...you will be moved by this same missionary zeal to share with those around you the joy that you have received from a genuine encounter with the Lord.” - Pope Leo's Message to SEEK 2026

Contact Jeanne for more information about volunteering.

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 night closest to us is:

- ◆ June 30th at **Holy Spirit** in Annandale (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 through August 10th Young Adults (post high school-age 35ish) of the parish are organizing weekly gatherings 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. Email youngadults@straymonds.org to be added to the GroupMe for updates.

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 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!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Registration Drive **this weekend** after ALL MASSES. Please join us in the Narthex to ask any questions you might have and sign up your family for CCD classes for the fall. **CCD classes begin Aug. 30!** Parents, please remember to register by July 31 to avoid a \$25 late fee. You can pick up a yellow info sheet at an exit and register through the website.

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. Please reach out with any questions. All **high school students** of the parish are particularly encouraged to take advantage of our fantastic teachers—and no tests!

If you or someone you know is looking for a rewarding way to volunteer for the parish, please consider joining our wonderful team of teachers and substitutes. We are in need of volunteers for the 2026-2027 academic year. Please call the RE office or stop by Mon-Thurs.



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.

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 July 18th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryndavew7705@gmail.com.

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.

Young Adults (college age & older) of the parish are meeting this summer to build community and grow in faith with bible study. Join us on the back patio at St. Raymond's for gatherings Monday's 7 - 8:30 pm. In case of rain, meet in the Parish Hall. Bring your friends! Questions? Contact the Parish Office.



CHURCH PERSECUTED

The U.S. Supreme Court recently narrowly ruled that states can prohibit biological males from participating in women's sports. The two parallel cases, *Little v. Hecox* and *West Virginia v. B.P.J.* were definitely a "win" for those who believe that we are made in the image and likeness of God, but it is necessary to explain the rulings in more detail because there still is work to be done. There were two rulings; one a 9-0 ruling that the statutes of West Virginia and Utah prohibiting biological males from participating in women's sports did not violate Title IX (federal law banning sex discrimination in education). It also ruled 6-3 that the two states did not violate the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

This decision does allow those 27 states (Virginia is not one of them) who ban males from participating in women's sports to retain that ban. However, the ruling does not strike down the other 23 states and the District of Columbia. In the majority opinion written by Justice Kavanaugh, he indicated that "currently the subject of litigation in some lower courts" may ultimately reach the Court impacting on those states.

The ruling applies to sports. It does not address women playing in men's sports or men and women playing on co-ed sports teams. It only applies to biological males participating in women's sports. It does not address biological males using female bathrooms or locker rooms. It also does not pertain to schools which assign a biological male to room with a female. This sometimes occurs during high school overnight trips and secular college dormitories.

Another key element in the ruling is that for Title IX (remember that pertains to sex discrimination in education), Justice Kavanaugh was very clear that the law "understood 'sex' to mean the two biological sexes – male and female."

Regarding the 14th Amendment, the Court stated, "Sex-based classifications are permissible only when the classification is 'substantially related' to achieving an 'important' government objective." What that means moving forward remains to be seen. How will this play out regarding bathrooms, locker rooms, pronouns, etc.?

FORMED®

GET INFORMED

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

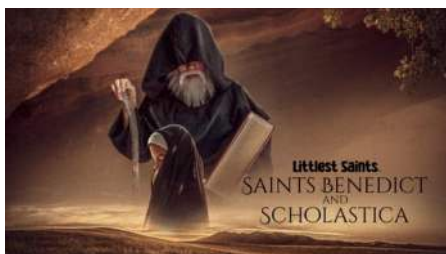
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Saints Benedict and Scholastica

A holy pair of twins, a cave of naughty monks, watch the story of Saints Benedict and Scholastica by signing into formed on the QR code above.



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 MorganHempfling@sohlmb@gmail.com for more information: sohlmb@gmail.com.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM— Youth are invited to participate in the Parish Library Summer Reading Program! Check out the Parish Library collection and spend hot summer afternoons reading about our Faith, our saints, our traditions, etc. Complete the participation form found in the narthex or the parish website and be eligible to win a prize! Questions, contact Liz Hildebrand: hildebrandseven@gmail.com.

Special Collection this weekend: Emergency humanitarian relief for the devastation wrought by the earthquake in Venezuela.

Last Weekend's Collection Totals Below:

Offertory	\$ 16,059.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,018.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 580.00
OLOR	\$ 835.00



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