

"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

Catholic piety has established devotions for each month of the year. These are often tied to a liturgical feast occurring that month. As an example, on June 12, we celebrated the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart and the whole month was dedicated to His Loving Heart.

Here is a listing of the devotions associated with the twelve months:

January—The Holy Name of Jesus
 February—The Holy Family
 March—St. Joseph
 April—The Holy Eucharist
 May—The Blessed Virgin Mary
 June—The Sacred Heart
July—The Precious Blood
 August—The Immaculate Heart of Mary
 September—Our Lady of Sorrows
 October—The Holy Rosary
 November—The Poor Souls in Purgatory
 December—The Immaculate Conception of Mary

Devotions abound in Catholic piety. The ones listed above are key. Devotion or piety is necessary. As to particular *devotions* much freedom exists. Many are good and holy, but optional, such as devotion to Saints Jude, Anthony, or Thérèse, or the wearing of a particular scapular or medal. Other devotions are dubious, misguided and sometimes arising from spurious sources and “revelations”. They can even border on the superstitious. These must be rejected.

Devotional prayers such as the rosary and *Angelus* have demonstrated universal value. Generally, it would be silly or foolish for a Roman Catholic not to take advantage of their proven worth in the spiritual life. A few devotions are so closely tied to the Incarnation and our Redemption, that to ignore them would be to disregard the doctrinal truths themselves. Devotion to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Sacred Heart and His Passion are central. Also, some form of devotion to the Blessed Virgin is necessary because of her intimate role in the events of our Salvation.

July presents us with another core devotion, that to the Precious Blood of Jesus. Devotion to His Blood is as old as the Passion itself. Jesus shed His blood at seven key moments:

1. Circumcision as a baby (a prefigurement of His Passion)
2. The Agony in the Garden (where He sweat blood)
3. The Scourging at the Pillar
4. The Crowning of Thorns
5. The Carrying of the Cross
6. The Crucifixion
7. The Piercing of His Sacred Heart

Although Jesus copiously shed His blood, one drop would have been enough to save us. Saint Thomas Aquinas put it powerfully and poetically “one drop” (*una stilla*) is enough to save the whole world from every crime. Here is the verse from the *Adoro te Devote*:

*Pie Pelicane, Jesu Domine,
 Me immundum munda tuo Sanguine:
 Cujus una stilla saluum facere
 Totum mundum quit ab omni scelere.*

*O loving Pelican! O Jesus, Lord!
 Unclean I am, but cleanse me in Thy blood;
 of which a single drop, for sinners spilt,
 is ransom for a world's entire guilt.*

But why is *a single* drop of blood sufficient to redeem the whole world of all its sins? The answer lies not in the quantity of blood shed, nor even in the fact that it is that of an innocent person. Rather the value lies in *whose* blood it is, that of the Son of God. Regarding his Father, Jesus' circumcision, or a scrape of the knee or cut on his finger, offered up on our behalf, would have been sufficient for the redemption of the whole world. For all that Jesus does in our human nature is infinitely pleasing and of surpassing value before His God and Father.

So then, if one drop were sufficient, why does He shed so much blood and in such a brutal way? It is for our sake to show us the horror of sin and just how much He is willing to go through to win our love. Had He shed a mere drop, we would not have been able to grasp the price of our sins nor the love of our God. His Blood is the price of our salvation. This blood is contained within the Eucharist. It is “poured out” each and every day in the sacrifice of the Mass. The precious blood of Jesus is applied to us and spiritually cleanses us every time we receive the Eucharist worthily.

As one author points out, “Christ's Blood is the pool of our purification.” Saint Ephrem the Syrian puts it so well when he said: “*O Lord, we cannot go to the pool of Siloe to which You sent the blind man. But we have the chalice of Your Precious Blood, filled with life and light. The purer we are, the more we receive.*” The Blood of Christ gives us the full dignity of God's children. Saint Augustine tells us: “*Don't hold yourselves cheap, seeing that the Creator of all things and of you estimates your value so high, so dear, that He pours out for you every day the most Precious Blood of His only-begotten Son.*”

This Blood must also be adored. Pope St. John XXIII in his 1960 Encyclical said, “*Unlimited is the effectiveness of the God-Man's Blood — just as unlimited as the love that impelled Him to pour it out for us, first at His circumcision eight days after birth, and more profusely later on in His agony in the garden, in His scourging and crowning with thorns, in his climb to Calvary and Crucifixion, and finally from out that great wide wound in His side which symbolizes the divine Blood cascading down into all the Church's sacraments. Such surpassing love suggests, nay demands, that everyone reborn in the torrents of that Blood adore it with grateful love.*” He goes on to say, “*The Blood of the new and eternal covenant especially deserves this worship of latria [adoration/reverence due to God alone] when it is elevated during the sacrifice of the Mass.*”

During this month dedicated to the Precious Blood, consider reading Pope St. John XXIII's short encyclical “On Promoting Devotion to the Most Precious Blood” (June 30, 1960). Read here: <https://www.papalencyclicals.net/john23/j23pb.htm> Growing up the pope's parents would recite the [Litany of the Precious Blood](#) every day during July. Consider praying as a family at least once each of the remaining weeks in July.

May the Precious Blood of Jesus cleanse our hearts and minds and be poured out abundantly upon our families, nation and world!

Fr. Joseph D. Bergida

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, July 20th

6:30 am Peter Wagner +
 8:30 am Patty Miller

Tuesday, July 21st

6:30 am Ginger Avvenire
 8:30 am Mark Brousseau

Wednesday, July 22nd

6:30 am Miriam Celio +
 8:30 am Marcialito Abundo +
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, July 23rd

6:30 am Joseph M. Wippel +
 8:30 am Therese Nguyen

Friday, July 24th

6:30 am Paul Louis O'Donnell +
 8:30 am Virginia Ellis

Saturday, July 25th

9:00 am Ellen Dila

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles
 Peter Wagner+

Sunday, July 26th

7:00 am Fr. Bergida
 Tom Dietz +
 9:00 am Fr. De Celles
 Parishioners
 11:00 am Fr. Bergida
 Brad and Catherine Hoopes
 1:00 pm Fr. Horkan
 Jessica Rubino

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 returned home safely!

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 Snavely 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

- 7/18-19 Brown Scapular Enrollment after all Masses
- 7/20 No in person Family of Jesus Prayer Group
- 7/20 Young Adults 7 pm
- 7/21 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15 pm Maurer Room
- 7/21 Legion of Mary 6:30 pm Maurer Room
- 7/22 Adoration 9 am—7 pm
- 7/24 Adoration 9 am—3 pm
- 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 August 1st.** 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.

**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 NEED OF USHERS—If you would like to volunteer, please contact headushers@straymonds.org.

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 was the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. **THIS** 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.





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—

AUGUST 2026

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



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 still 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.



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.

SAINT RAYMOND'S TRAIL LIFE TROOP VA-0683 is a great scouting opportunity for the boys of the parish. By pairing outdoor opportunities like camping and wood tools with spiritual formation and a focus on developing the faith life of our sons, Trail Life seeks to develop boys into young men who are godly and responsible husbands, fathers, and citizens. Our troop meets on the first and third Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall, beginning again this September. For additional information, please contact TrailLifeUSA@straymonds.org.

SAINT RAYMOND'S LOVES LIFE

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

elections.virginia.gov/registration/how-to-register
Catholics VOTE NO in November! arlingtondiocese.org/vote

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. Free and open to the public. No RSVP necessary.

Degree of Dependency: It is ludicrous to think that autonomous viability makes us human. If it did, then all those who depend on dialysis or insulin or any other medication, etc. would not be intrinsically valuable, and it would be licit to kill them. Conjoined twins who share blood and bodily systems would also have no right to life. In short, it's far more reasonable to argue that although humans differ immensely with respect to talents, degrees of development and dependency, we are all equal in dignity because we share a common God given (not man-made) human nature. It is our **HUMAN NATURE** which makes each person inherently and eternally valuable! "Thou shalt not kill" applies. Prolifetraining.com

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: July 21 - Basilica of St. Mary (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 FREE! For additional dates, locations and information, go to www.asjb.org/student-registration.com

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

It is time to register for 2026-27 CCD classes! Registrations received after July 31 will be subject to a \$25 late fee. You can register through the website or using this link (case sensitive): bit.ly/STRAYCCD2026

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. We are in need of the following volunteers for the 2026-2027 academic year:

Sunday (5-6:30 pm):

4th grade Teacher

7th grade Assistant

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-LECTORS - Please consider volunteering to be a Lector at Mass. Please contact the parish office if interested.

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 August 1st.** 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

Persecutions of Catholics continue in Nicaragua under the co-dictatorship of Daniel Ortega and his wife, Rosario Murillo. Bishop Juan Abelardo Mata Guevara, the 80-year-old bishop-emeritus of the Diocese of Esteli, celebrated Mass at Cruz del Calvario Church in Esteli, where he urged the faithful to pray for the persecuted Catholic Church in Nicaragua. That was enough for him to be picked up the next day for questioning by the Nicaraguan government where he was taken to Tisma and kept under surveillance. The next day he was again abducted by the government.

The Nicaraguan interior ministry reported that he "has returned to his home, where he remains in perfect condition." The statement continued, "Mr. Abelardo Mata has given statements regarding various episodes of violation of national laws, which the Nicaraguan people have known about at different times." Unfortunately, Bishop Mata has not been seen since his abduction.

The Catholic Church has continued to be persecuted in Nicaragua by the previous and current governments of Daniel Ortega who has held power since 2007 and has refused to give it up. This is just the latest chapter of that oppression.

Dr. Robert Royal, in his book, *The Martyrs of the New Millennium – The Global Persecution of Christians in the Twenty-First Century*, (Sophia Press 2025) documents the Marxist regime of Ortega having absolute control of the country throughout this millennium.

Royal highlights Bishop Rolando Jose Alvarez Lagos, who was placed under house arrest by the Ortega government in 2022 after the protesting of several Catholic radio stations in the country. One of his crimes was, "organizing violent groups...to carry out acts of hate against the population..." He was subsequently sentenced to twenty-six years in prison, and in 2024 exiled to the Vatican. This links to an excellent EWTN interview with Bishop Alvarez and what life is like for a Catholic cleric in Nicaragua. <https://ewtn.co.uk/bishop-alvarez-i-always-believed-in-my-liberation-and-what-sustained-me-was-prayer/>. In the meantime, we continue to pray for the release of Bishop Mata.

FORMED®

GET INFORMED

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

The parish has already purchased a FORMED subscription for you!

To set up your account, scan this QR code or visit [Formed.org/](https://formed.org/) sign up and select our parish.



The best Catholic content for all ages in one place - movies, series, Bible studies, apologetics, catechesis, lectures, prayers, dramas, & e-books—just one click away!

Watch anytime, anywhere on your electronic devices: computer, tablet, Smart phone, Smart TV, etc.



Saint Bonaventure

A Franciscan cardinal-bishop and contemporary of St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Bonaventure is an excellent example of saintly humility. Known as the "Seraphic Doctor," St. Bonaventure loved God above all else. He is known for many works, including *The Life of Saint Francis* and *The Journey of the Mind to God*. His feast day is July 15.

Watch and learn 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.

Openings still available for students at Angelus Academy,

We love having St. Raymond parishioners at our school. What a blessing it is to be learning together! We are continuing to accept applications for the 2026-27 school year as space permits. Spots are filling up fast--apply soon! Application information can be found at angelusacademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/. Call or email Julie Maimone, Director of Admissions, for more information or to schedule a tour this summer: admissions@angelusacademy.org or 703.924.3996 x18. We are located at 7644 Dynatech Court in Springfield, just down the parkway from St. Raymond.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

www.AngelusAcademy.org

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.

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.

COOPERATIVE HORMONAL AND REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE (CHARM) - Board certified OB/GYN and Reproductive Endocrinology/Infertility Specialist Dr. Joseph Davis, DO, FACOG will be speaking on Wednesday August 12 at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall. Dr. Davis has been offering care in the infertility field for 15 years and is globally recognized for his clinical success as well as his role in developing ethics guidelines for the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) and the World Health Organization (WHO). A trained restorative reproductive surgeon, Dr. Davis treats couples with an integrative and holistic approach as well as restoring fertility through surgery. His care is fully in accord with the teachings of the Catholic Church. Hosted by Tepeyac OB/GYN and Divine Mercy Care. No RSVP necessary.

July 12 Collections

Offertory	\$ 14,396.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,195.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,580.00
OLOR	\$ 725.00
Venezuela Earthquake Relief	\$ 2,700.00

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