

***"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"
St. Raymond***



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

Mary Butler, Parish Office Support

PARISH OFFICE

Telephone Numbers:

Rectory: 703-440-0535

Rel. Education: 703-440-0537

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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.

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

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

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This coming Saturday, August 15, is the Solemnity of the Assumption. Normally this is a Holy Day of Obligation, but this year, because it falls on Saturday, it is not, so you **DO NOT** have to attend Mass on Saturday. Still, it is sort of the Feast of Feasts for our Blessed Mother, so I encourage you to come to Mass, either the regular 9am or a special Mass (with music, and extra Latin) at noon on Saturday.

This feast celebrates the day in history when, Pope Pius XII infallibly declared in his 1950 Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*: “the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.” This, of course, is a great day in the life of our Blessed Mother so we rightly celebrate it as such. But it is also a great day for the life of the Church and for each Christian. Because, as we pray, “where she has gone, we hope to follow.” Our Lord Jesus has given to His Mother the heavenly rewards of her faith and love on earth, rewards that we hope to share in when we die.

But it's important to remember that this feast is not just about Mary going to heaven: it is about her having her body with her in heaven, just as Jesus has His Body in heaven. This reminds us that at the end of time all the souls who go to heaven after death will be reunited with their glorified bodies in the Resurrection of the Dead.

This, in turn, reminds us that all of us are created to live bodily in heaven, that we are not souls imprisoned in bodies, nor are we souls using an outward shell (the body) that we can manipulate or abuse as we choose without affecting or damaging our souls. Our body is part of us, that part that communicates to others. And so what we do with our bodies expresses us and who we are. This is important in these days when so many people seem to think the body means nothing—you can abuse it with drugs or deviant sex, or you can even mutilate it with senseless surgeries. The Assumption reminds us that the human body has a fundamental dignity and is destined for the glory of heaven.

Marxist/Socialist/Communist Advance. For many years now the Democrat Party has been slouching more and more to the left. Now it seems to be coming completely out of the closet as supporting the most oppressive, tyrannical, violent and godless economic-political system the world has ever known: Marxism.

Much of the support for this is coming from young people who have been indoctrinated by our left-oriented educational system to believe you can take other people's money and property and give it to not only the truly needy, but also to healthy and educated lazy people and somehow preserve freedom, prosperity and peace.

Of course, they ignore the over 100 million people killed by Marxists in the last century through man-made famines brought about by failed central planning and collectivism, to political purges and executions, and brutal forced labor in China, Russia, Cambodia, North Korea, Vietnam, Eastern Europe and parts of Latin America.

The Church has a long history of condemning **Marxism** (which includes **Socialism** and **Communism**), beginning with 1891, when Pope Leo XIII issued his monumental encyclical, *Rerum Novarum* (“Of the New Things”), which is the foundational document of modern Catholic teaching on “social justice.” Sadly, many Catholics misunderstand this teaching. Some Catholics even believe that Socialism is the way to social justice. But as **Pope Pius XI** wrote in his 1931 encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*: “**Religious socialism, Christian**

socialism, are contradictory terms; no one can be at the same time a good Catholic and a true socialist.”

One of the errors/sins of Marxism is to promote class warfare—to pit different groups in society against each other. How is this consistent with the Christian command to “love your neighbor as yourself”? So the Church particularly condemns this aspect of Marxism, whether it manifests in the supposed struggle between the “proletariat” vs. the “bourgeoisie,” capitalists vs. labor, rich vs. poor, male vs. female, or minority race(s) vs. majority race(s).

Yet the Democrat party is openly embracing this agenda as it nominates active members of the Democrat Socialist of America (DSA) to represent them on the November ballot. In doing this, it embraces the DSA's Marxist class warfare approach, adopting even violence to reshape our country's values.

In particular the DSA plans to: abolish the U.S. Senate and have Congress elect the president and Supreme Court; abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement, national borders, most prisons, and most of the military; end Capitalism and transition to public ownership of large corporations; establish complete freedom for abortion and the LGBTQIA+ “community;” support antisemitism and Islamism abroad and at home. (*Sources: many, including PBS and USA Today*).

Many Catholics, especially younger Catholics fall for Marxism's lies because they are attracted to its promise of an economic utopia. But in his historic encyclical, *Centesimus Annus* (1991) St. John Paul wrote, after the fall of Soviet Communism:

“...can it perhaps be said that, after the failure of Communism, **capitalism is the victorious social system**, and that capitalism should be the goal of the countries now making efforts to rebuild their economy and society? **Is this the model which ought to be proposed** to the countries ...searching for the path to true economic and civil progress?...The answer is obviously complex. **If by "capitalism" is meant an economic system** which recognizes the fundamental and positive role of business, the market, private property and the resulting responsibility for the means of production, as well as **free human creativity** in the economic sector, then **the answer is certainly in the affirmative**, even though it would perhaps be more appropriate to speak of a "business economy", "market economy" or simply **"free economy"**.”

“Free human creativity” is the basis of the American economy, government and culture. Not the oppression of Marxism/Communism/Socialism.

And don't believe that lies the media and DSA-Democrats are promoting that Socialism is “way different” from Communism. Just last month, David Jenkins, the national leader said social media last month: “Our goal is communism.”

My Mom. This last Wednesday, August 5, was my Mother's **100th birthday**. To be clear, Barbara (“Bobby”) died in 2003, but my family still holds this day dear, to remember and thank God for what a wonderful gift she was to us, and to pray for her soul. She was the sweetest, kindest, holiest woman I ever knew. She loved the Lord Jesus with her whole being, and everyone she ever met couldn't help but love her also. I think she's in heaven, and I pray to her, but I also pray *for* her every day: she used to warn me: “if you don't pray for me when I'm dead, I'm going to come back and spank you!” Please join me in praying for this remarkable woman.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 10th

6:30 am Loretta Chin +
 8:30 am Rodrigo Salomon Delgado +

Tuesday, August 11th

6:30 am Barbara Brady +
 8:30 am Jonathan & Nida Besant-Jones

Wednesday, August 12th

6:30 am Anna Mildred Mault +
 8:30 am Teresa Hodges
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, August 13th

6:30 am William Magalanes +
 8:30 am Anne Bucchianeri +

Friday, August 14th

6:30 am Sr. Maria Susanna +
 8:30 am Paul Qui

Saturday, August 15th

9:00 am Rosemary Coddling
 12:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Keith & Suzy McCready

Sunday, August 16th

7:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
 Paul Bayer +
 9:00 am **Fr. Bergida**
 Parishioners
 11:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
 Sonia Myers +
 1:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Family of Jesus Prayer Group

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

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
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Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- 8/10 **Family of Jesus Prayer Group**
- 8/10 **Young Adults 7 pm**
- 8/11 **Junior Legion of Mary 4:15 pm Maurer Room**
- 8/11 **Legion of Mary 6:30 pm Maurer Room**
- 8/12 **Adoration 9 am-7 pm**
- 8/12 **CHARM Talk at 7 pm**
- 8/14 **Adoration 9 am-3 pm**
- 8/15 **Men's Prayer Group**
- 8/15 **Assumption Additional Mass at Noon with Music**
- 8/16 **Back to School Sock and Underwear Drive**
- 8/23 **Bethlehem Olivewood Sales after all Masses**
- 8/23 **Parish Picnic after 1 pm Mass**

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.

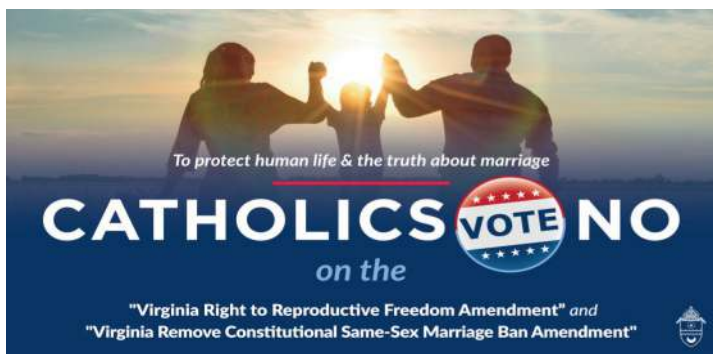
MEN'S PRAYER GROUP - On the first and third Saturdays of each month a group of men meet in the Parish Hall to pray and read the Scriptures. **Our next meeting will be August 15th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryndavew7705@gmail.com.

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 August!** 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.



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

- 8/9—Blood Drive Sign Up in Narthex
- 9 Knights at Fred Nats 1:35pm
- 10 Exemplification/Membership Meeting (7:00pm Rosary, Library, 7:30pm Exemplification)
- 15 Men's Prayer Breakfast (7:30 am., Parish Hall)
- 15 Blood Drive at Church of the Nativity
- 23 Parish Picnic (2-5 pm)



The Knights of Columbus are co-sponsoring a blood drive on behalf of INOVA Blood Donor Services on Saturday, August 15th, at Nativity parish hall from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Please consider signing up for a 15 minute time slot within that period and giving the Gift of Life. You may sign up either on-line at www.inovabloodsaves.org or in the Narthex after all masses in the coming weekends. If you have any questions or difficulty signing up, please contact Mark Maslyn of our parish at (202) 679-3293 (m/text) or by email at: mam7253@msn.com.

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.

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.

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.



SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY—

Saturday, August 15th

9am and an additional Mass (with music) at Noon.

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

Beware! Did you know that Virginia is set to become the abortion destination of the South? Six new abortion facilities have opened in Virginia since 2022 and there's been a 30% increase in abortions on women brought into the state from other places.

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 Tepyac OB/GYN and Divine Mercy Care. Free and open to the public. No RSVP necessary.

Natural Family Planning. For more information, visit Couple to Couple League. *Educating Couples that's rooted in faith.* ccli.org or visit arlingtondiocese.org/nfp

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.



CHOOSE LIFE License plates bring the pro-life message to the highways and byways – wherever you go. chooselifeva.org. Partial proceeds from these plates support Heartbeat International's efforts to provide services to expectant mothers.

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

All 6-12th Graders & their families are invited...

Every Wednesday in August

for

7pm Mass & Ice Cream

*8/12 Meet in the narthex for ice cream

as there will be another event happening in the hall.

There is also Adoration until 7pm, Family Rosary at 6:30pm
and Confession available from 6:15-7pm

All families with students in grades 6-12 and are invited to join us every Wednesday in August for 7pm Mass followed by ice cream in the parish hall. The purpose is simply to come together as a family, both domestic and ecclesial, to spend time with Jesus and with one another! Come meet new families, make new friends, and build community! **6-12th graders are able to attend without family, however we strongly encourage you to come spend time with Jesus and meet new families too!! If you do send your child(ren) without an adult, please pick them up by 8:30pm.*

VOLUNTEERS (age 21+) NEEDED

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.

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.

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

We pray you are having a fun and restful summer!

Parents, please register your children ASAP. **CCD classes begin Aug. 30!** You can register through the website or using this link (case sensitive): bit.ly/STRAYCCD2026
All **high school students** of the parish are particularly encouraged to take advantage of our fantastic teachers – and no tests!

All Catholic School and homeschool students intending to receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation at St. Raymond's must register with the RE office (grades 2, 7, 8) even if they will not attend classes. Please reach out with any questions.

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

Sunday (5-6:30 pm):
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.

BRIDGE CLUB - All levels of players are welcome. We play Bridge cards each week in the Parish Hall. Contact Lois Kotlowski at 703-455-6567 or bridgeclub402@gmail.com if interested in joining us.



ALTAR SERVING TRAINING—Saint Raymond's has a very active Altar Server Program. We invite all young men of the parish to consider becoming an Altar Server. Young men between the ages of 9 and 18, who have received their First Communion are eligible. Training sessions with Fr. Bergida will begin in the fall. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/SRPAltarServerTraining> or contact the Parish Office to sign up.

BETHLEHEM WOOD CARVINGS— Aug. 22nd /23rd, there will be a display of beautiful olive-wood handmade carvings from the Holy Land after all Masses. These Carvings are made by the Christians of Bethlehem who use them as their source of income. As Christians of faith, it is our duty to support our brothers and sisters in Bethlehem. YOU can support them by purchasing some of these beautiful carvings after Mass. Thank you in advance for all your help and support!



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

Wednesday, August 14th is the memorial to St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe, priest and martyr. You likely know his story: he offered himself to spare the life of a husband and father in the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz. In his 2000 book, *The Catholic Martyrs of the Twentieth Century*, Dr. Robert Royal reports that Kolbe said, 'If I have to die, I would like it to be on the feast of Our Lady.' (p. 210)

Kolbe is not a saint just because of his martyrdom. He dedicated his whole life to the Blessed Mother. As a young child, he revealed to his mother that he saw the Blessed Mother and she had a crown in each hand—one white for purity, and the other red for martyrdom. At his canonization, there was a question as to what vestments Pope Saint John Paul II would wear. When he entered the St. Peter's Basilica wearing red, it recalled the rest of the story above. Our Lady asked him which crown would you wish to wear? St. Kolbe said, "I choose both!"

Dr. Royal goes on to report that, "Friends recalled later that he had said years before entering Auschwitz, 'I would like to be ground to dust for the Immaculate Virgin and have the dust be blown away by the wind all over the world.'" In fact, Kolbe's "ashes passed into the air through the chimney of an Auschwitz crematorium" on August 15, 1941, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Father Kolbe knew that persecution of Catholics was a very real thing.

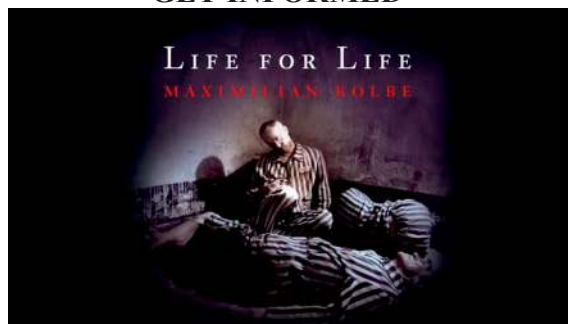
In his past column in *The Catholic Thing*, "The Front Line is Everywhere Now," Dr. Royal tells the story of a friend who is the director of the Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination, Against Christians in Europe. Let's focus on one word, "Observatory." To English-speakers it deals with astronomy, but to others, "it denotes a kind of permanent and systematic observer, an institution that watches very carefully, and reports about what's going on."

We are blessed to have an "observatory" here in the parish with Father DeCelles' weekly commentary on the events of the day and how Catholics should respond to them. Additionally, *The Catholic Thing*, provides us with a daily observatory of the events pertinent to Catholics. Take a bulletin and read it! Sign up to read TheCatholicThing.org daily. These also help inform our minds and form our consciences for addressing the heavier religious liberty issues so key for us to respond to.

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Maximilian Kolbe Feast Day August 14th

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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).

BACK TO SCHOOL SOCK AND UNDERWEAR DRIVE: Saint Martin de Porres Committee is again sponsoring a "Back to School" drive for students in the Springfield area. We will be accepting donations of NEW socks and underwear for school aged children (ages 5-17) this weekend. For health code reasons we can only accept new items. A collection box will be in the narthex. Items requested: boys: socks, undershirts, briefs and boxers; girls: socks, tights, undershirts, camisoles and briefs. Thank you for your continued support.

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@gmail.com for more information: sohlm@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.

	8/2/26 Collections	Online Giving July 2026
Offertory	\$ 14,438.00	\$ 62,120.00
Family Assistance	\$ 592.00	\$ 4,081.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,637.00	\$ 6,657.00
OLOR	\$ 2,535.00	\$ 5,627.00

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