

***"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

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.

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

Parish Picnic. Our annual Parish Picnic is **next Sunday, August 23, from 2-5pm** here on the Parish grounds, behind the church. There's lots of food, games, rides (the ponies are back!), music and a great way to meet and get to know your fellow parishioners. For new parishioners this is a great opportunity to meet people and learn more about the parish; for the rest of us, this is one of the best chances we will have all year to welcome others into the life and fellowship of our parish—don't pass it up!

Back to School. For those of you heading back to school this week or in the coming weeks. I hope you have all had a wonderful summer, and are rested and refreshed and ready to take on the new challenges of the coming academic year, and have a blessed year.

For those of you returning to the Fairfax County Public Schools, be on guard against the anti-Christian bigotry growing in the schools. But remember, Catholics don't hate or degrade others or themselves. We don't dwell on the offenses of the past, but believe in conversion, forgiveness and the dignity of every human being.

Parents, you cannot simply let the government/public schools take charge of the education of your children. **YOU are the primary educators of your children,** so monitor and discuss with your children what they are being taught in school. And **opt your children out** of anything that attempts to teach them secular morals, especially sexual and family morals, i.e., especially relevant sections of **"Family Life Education."** And remember to be on guard against the Marxist-secularist-atheist ideologies that will be permeating almost every class, from social sciences to math.

But also keep an eye out for the **many good and dedicated teachers** and administrators in public schools (many of our parishioners). Seek them out and support them.

Scholarships to Catholic Schools. Remember that the parish offers scholarships to all qualified parishioners who attend Catholic schools: **\$1,000** for grade school and **\$2,000** for high school, renewable every year, and subject only to minimal qualification terms.

Also, additional financial aid is available to families that truly can't afford Catholic school, even with the above scholarships. These decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

Also, similar financial assistance to cover direct educational costs is also available to folks who homeschool.

Finally, we will **double the scholarship** for the first year for each child (a parishioner) who **switches from public school** (k-12) to Catholic school this year. That means, for Catholic grade school the scholarship will be **\$2,000** and for Catholic high school it will be **\$4,000**.

Just contact me or the parish office to apply.

Religious Education. With school starting up again remember to enroll your kids in Religious Education, CCD. Virginia Osella and Mary Hansen have been working hard for weeks preparing for the new CCD school year which begins on Sunday, August 30th.

Remember, parents are morally obliged to not only teach their children to love Jesus but also to teach them what Jesus and His Church teach. It's very difficult for most parents to do this on their own in any comprehensive way especially if

they choose to send their kids to public schools, which often presents an environment and culture that is in many ways antithetical to Christianity.

Which is why most of these parents must send their children to CCD/Religious education. **And this obligation doesn't end after 8th grade: we have a great high school CCD program.**

Ask yourself: **am I doing everything I can to get my kids to heaven, and keep them out of hell?** If you don't educate them in the faith then the answer is almost certainly "no," which means you are risking not only the salvation of your children's souls, but your own soul as well.

So: **SIGN YOUR KIDS UP FOR CCD NOW!!!**
Please. You can call or email the office, or you can register online on our website.

A Note to Parishioners Going Off to College. I know how great it is to go away and spread your wings in college. It is a good, necessary and natural experience to leave the nest and grow into adulthood. Enjoy yourself, but remember it wasn't so long ago, that people your age were expected to get a job and support themselves or their family, including their parents. Today your parents are allowing you this "time off" not to have fun, but to grow and learn. So make good use of this time to grow and to learn the skills, knowledge and wisdom you will need to function as responsible adults. Remember not to waste your time on foolish things, including ideologies or philosophies that lead you away from living as an adult Christian in a fallen world. Don't let anything lead you away from Christ and His Catholic Church. Whatever that "anything" is—greed, lust, alcohol, drugs, self-righteousness, pride, selfishness, friends, teachers, whatever. Keep your eyes fixed on Christ. When you are lonely, know that He is with you and loves you. When you are overwhelmed know that He fell under the weight of the Cross 3 times, and He will lift you up and help you carry your burden. When you are tempted, turn to Him in prayer. When you hear lies and half-truths remember, He is the Truth. Go to Mass, every Sunday. Go to confession at least once a month. Obey the Commandments at all times. And pray every day, throughout the day. (And let me know if I can do anything to help you out: fdc@straymonds.org).

Parish Finances. Just a quick update on our finances for the year ended June 30, 2026. Our preliminary ("unadjusted") numbers show that we had a **net ordinary income (surplus) of \$ 446,431.56**. Part of this was due to a one-time \$100,000 donation to our Scholarship Fund, but most of it was due simply to your generosity: we saw a 12% increase in total offertory and donations from the prior year. Praised be Jesus Christ, and thank YOU very much.

But please don't stop now. In the next two months we'll be spending almost \$300,000 on repairs to the facade of the church and repaving the parking lot. And after that, sometime soon we'll have to pay a bunch to redo our 20-year-old roof.

Sadly, it costs a lot of money to run a parish, but happily I have the most generous parishioners a pastor could pray for. And I do pray for you.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 17th

6:30 am Nena Robles +
 8:30 am Suzy McCready

Tuesday, August 18th

6:30 am Fe M. Robles +
 8:30 am Ricardo Fernandez +

Wednesday, August 19th

6:30 am Anthony & Kendra Pomilla
 8:30 am Barbara and Daniel De Celles +
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, August 20th

6:30 am Betty Schwartz +
 8:30 am Mary Wilson +

Friday, August 21st

6:30 am Nicolas Salvi +
 8:30 am Burman Skrable +

Saturday, August 22nd

9:00 am Mary Wilson +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles
 Victor Princz Sr. +

Sunday, August 23rd

7:00 am Fr. Bergida
 Harriet Elbert +
 9:00 am Fr. De Celles
 Parishioners
 11:00 am Fr. De Celles
 Jim Jagielski +
 1:00 pm Fr. Horkan
 Patrick Fisher

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	Paul Haynes	Beth Fitzgibbons
Michael O'Neill	Nena Brennan	Jean Keegan
Cindy Laird	Donald Trayer	Robert Petitti
Patricia Lewis	Ellen Trayer	Alicia Tocconi
Mai Pham	Arlene Pietraszko	Jay & Linda Cabacar
Jason Saenz	Virginia Cummings	Rita Felkel
Phyllis Zitnik	Mary M. Dixon	Kristina Parman
John Florio	Helen Estabrooks	Pat Pelszynski
Carolina Baker	Michael Snaveley	Ralph Wade
Debra Henkel	Annette Haynes	
Gaudencio Dizon	Joann Alba	

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- 8/17 Family of Jesus Prayer Group
- 8/18 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15 pm Maurer Room
- 8/18 Legion of Mary 6:30 pm Maurer Room
- 8/19 Adoration 9 am-7 pm
- 8/21 Adoration 9 am-3 pm
- 8/23 Bethlehem Olivewood Sales after all Masses
- 8/23 Parish Picnic after 1 pm Mass
- 8/30-31 Religious Education Classes Begin
- 9/4-5 First Friday Nocturnal Adoration
- 9/5 Men's Prayer Group
- 9/6 Donut Sunday
- 9/7 Labor Day—One Mass at 10 am Daily Family Rosary at 10:45 am and Parish Offices Closed
- 9/19 Father Tad Talk 7 pm

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.

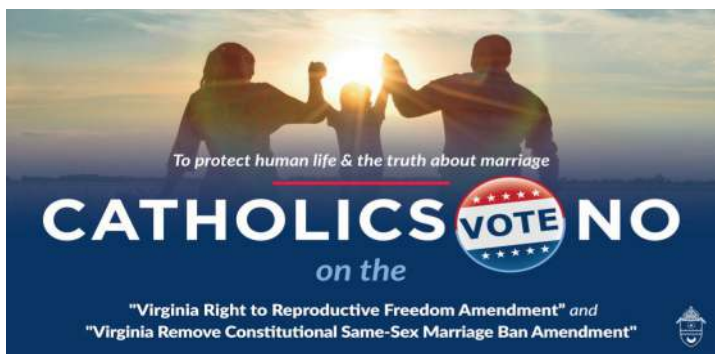
MEN'S PRAYER GROUP - On the first and third Saturdays of each month a group of men meet in the Parish Hall to pray and read the Scriptures. **Our next meeting will be September 5th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryndavew7705@gmail.com.

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

23 Parish Picnic (2-5 pm)

SEPTEMBER

5 Men's Prayer Group
19 Shredding Event



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.

ST. RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

Senior Ethicist at the National Catholic Bioethics Center

The New Technologies of Artificial Intelligence: Should We Be Concerned About the Ethics?

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19

8750 Pohick Rd., Springfield, Va. 22153

9 a.m. Mass in Church | 10 a.m. Talk in Parish Hall

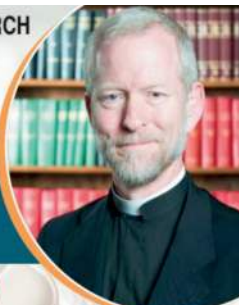
11:30 a.m. Questions/Answers

Light breakfast available No reservation required

EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

www.straymonds.org

For information, contact 703-440-0535 or maryl.butler@straymonds.org



Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He was ordained in 1999 as a priest for the diocese of Fall River, MA, and currently serves as Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

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.

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.

Mary's Comfort of VA. An independent nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization committed to making the world a better place by supporting expecting and new Moms in need. We have a beautiful home, several current residents, and an opening for another expecting Mother in Springfield. To learn more, visit maryscomfortva.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

VOLUNTEERS (age 21+) NEEDED

The Youth Apostolate is in need of **SEVERAL** more volunteers for the 2026-2027 academic year. Several folks have been asking when things will be starting up and the answer is...**NOTHING WILL BEGIN UNTIL WE HAVE ENOUGH VOLUNTEERS!** 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 VERY soon!!

Specific Volunteer Needs/Time Commitments:

*We can get you compliant, just need willing volunteers!

*Subs are available if you are not able to make it to every mtg!

★3-6pm most Sundays: Jr. High Youth Group

- **1-2 more adults are needed to supervise**, no prep, no standing up front, just extra eyes!
- We have several college age folks who have generously volunteered to help plan and run the meetings, but due to Diocesan Youth Protection rules, chaperones must be age 21+, so we are in need of a few more adults willing to hang out and help keep an eye on kids for safety purposes.

★6-9pm most Sundays: High School Youth Group

- **At least 2 WOMEN and 1 MAN** ideally folks who like being a little more active and would be willing to be with the teens playing Frisbee etc. and who would enjoy interacting with our AMAZING teens! Looking for folks who would be good role models for our teens!

★Talitha Koum High School Girls Group—day/time TBD

- **1-2 WOMEN are needed to supervise**, no prep, no standing up front, just extra eyes!

Contact Jeanne if willing to help and/or for more info!

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

Every Wednesday in August

for

7pm Mass & Ice Cream

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.**

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

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 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.

Please contact the RE Office if you are interested in volunteering! We are in need of the following volunteers for the 2026-2027 academic year:

Sunday (5-6:30 pm):

4th grade Teacher

Monday (4:45—6:15 pm):

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.

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!



AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS SAINT JOSEPH GARDEN PROJECT - On the weekends of 8/22-23 and 9/5-6, Miriam Hale will be in the Narthex after all Masses to share more about her St. Joseph Garden Project. This project is part of her Stars & Stripes Award to benefit the St. Raymond's community. Donations are greatly appreciated. For more information, please email carlyhale@mail.com.

CHURCH PERSECUTED

What happens when you put a frog in a pot of water? If it's cool/tepid water, the frog leisurely swims until the water temperature nears the boiling point at which time it now becomes an edible delicacy. On the other hand, if the water is boiling or near boiling and the frog is dropped into the pot, it immediately jumps out.

With the emergence of the Democratic Socialists of America, our American society has experienced its frog in the pot of water. (Hopefully, you did not throw away Father De Celles' Pastoral Corner from last week's bulletin and his article, "Marxist/Socialist/Communist Advance.")

"How did we get to this point?" Pope Benedict XVI called it an "educational emergency." Catholic school enrollment has decreased by two-thirds since the 1970's. The decline in the number of Catholic schools and Catholic school enrollment parallels a similar decline in infant baptisms and Catholic marriages. This decline in Catholic education has led to a crisis in the Catholic Church and in American Society. Unfortunately, many Catholic schools and colleges today are highly secular, and parents have now fled these institutions. Families urgently need Catholic education that forms the mind and soul in complete fidelity and steadfast witness to Catholic teaching. Catholics should settle for nothing less!

The Cardinal Newman Society has been dealing with this crisis since 2017 when it began issuing the Newman Guide recognizing outstanding Catholic colleges and universities. Now it has extended that recognition to Catholic K-12 schools, home school curricula, and graduate programs. In the Arlington Diocese, Divine Mercy University is recognized for its graduate programs, as is Christendom College. Christendom College was on the initial list of recognized Newman Guide colleges in 2017. Currently, John Paul the Great High School and Seton School are recognized, along with St. Rita (Alexandria), St. William of York (Stafford), Thomas Aquinas Regional School (Woodbridge), and Summit Academy (Fredericksburg). We cannot afford to relax in that tepid water. (www.cardinalnewmansociety.org)

FORMED®



GET INFORMED



Saint Bernard of Clairvaux Feast Day—August 20

Formed is available for FREE! To set up an account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

Questions? Email us at formed@straymonds.org.



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).

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 Morgan Hempfling for more information: sohlmb@gmail.com.

BOOK CLUB—The parish Book Club will have its first meeting of the 2026-27 year on Thursday, September 10, 2026 in the St. Raymond Library to discuss "The City of God: Selections and Introduction by Hans Urs von Balthasar" by St. Augustine. The schedule for the full year is on the parish website at <https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/book-club/>. New members are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org. Alternatively, please stop by the Book Club's table at the parish picnic on 23 August.

Collections for August 9th

Offertory	\$ 16,250.00
Family Assistance	\$ 2,195.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,947.00
OLOR Scholarship Fund	\$ 447.00



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