

"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 TODAY. This afternoon (Sunday, August 23) all are invited to our annual Parish Picnic from 2-5pm here on the Parish grounds, behind the church. There's lots of food, fun and music for kids and adults alike—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 a deeper participation in the life and fellowship of our parish. I'll see you there!

Back to School. I hope all our children who returned to school this last week found the adjustment easy, and that your school year will be successful and joyful in every way. Parents, remember, whether they're in government schools, Catholic schools, private schools or homeschooling, you're in charge of their education, not teachers and administrators. Schools are merely there to help you. God bless you as you do the good work divinely entrusted to you.

CCD/Religious Education. For those of you in government/public schools (and some homeschoolers) remember to register today (online or in person) for Religious Education classes here at St. Raymond's, beginning August 30.

LITURGY AT ST. RAYMOND'S. Three weeks ago, I welcomed new parishioners and gave a short introduction to our approach to the liturgy. Today let me take some time to go through some of the noticeable differences at St. Raymond's.

Use of Latin. We use a lot of Latin, and here are some reasons why.

A Dramatic Sign of Communion. At the Last Supper, the first Mass, Jesus repeatedly prayed for unity between Him, His Father, His apostles and all His disciples. The Eucharist He gave us that night expresses and brings about this unity/communion: that's why we call it "Holy Communion."

The Mass continuously and unceasingly reflects and expresses this communion. On any given Sunday, at Masses throughout the world all Catholics see the same types of vestments, say the same prayers, read the same readings, and kneel, sit and stand at the same times. All this expresses our communion, and not just with Catholics today, but also with all those Catholics who lived over the last 15 centuries, including almost all the great saints we love and cherish, and so many of our beloved ancestors. Because they also used the same vestments, prayers and gestures we do.

Latin is perhaps the greatest sign of that same unity and communion that permeates the rest of the Mass because it is the most important way we communicate with each other, and the language of our ancestors in the Faith, a dramatic expression of Eucharistic Communion with Catholics, past and present.

A Dramatic Sign of the Sacred Mysteries. Even so, while Latin is the "common language" of most of Catholicism, it is not the language in everyday use. But because of that, Latin helps remind us that the Mass is not an everyday event, but rather an eternal mystery defying time and space. Latin, especially as the language of centuries of Masses offered by so many saints, has the ability to lift us out of the "everyday" and the "today," into eternity, past, present and future without end. To take us out of the mundanity of the world, and move us to the sacredness, the "otherness," of heaven.

It is true that our unfamiliarity with Latin can be perceived by some as a sort of barrier that hides the liturgy. To

the extent that is true, the "hiddenness" need not be understood in a negative light. Think about it: because of the radical Holiness of God, only Moses was allowed to go into the Tent of the Lord, and only the priest was allowed to go into the Holy of Holies in the Temple. While most of the Mass is not hidden from the people, some aspects of "hiddenness" are still very important to our experience of the Sacred at Mass. Most importantly, Our Lord Himself is, in a certain sense, hidden from us under the veil of the appearance of bread. This hiddenness also is found in the silent prayers of the priest, and even the silent prayers you say in your pews. The "veil" acts not so much to *hide* what is holy, but to *"set it apart."* It draws our attention to what is apparently hidden, and enables us to see, hear and say something beyond what we normally can. So that through faith, we can pierce the veils of appearances and truly see, speak to and hear from the Lord.

The Mandate of Vatican II. And as the Second Vatican Council mandated: *"The use of the Latin language...is to be preserved in the Latin rites...A suitable place may be allotted to the vernacular in Masses.... Nevertheless care must be taken to ensure that the faithful may also be able to say or sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them."* (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 36 and 34, December 4, 1963).

Ad Orientem. We celebrate most Masses "Ad Orientem"—that is, the priest facing in the same direction as the people ("to the East," or toward the apse/tabernacle). This practice goes back to the early Christians' custom of facing *East* when they prayed, symbolically waiting for the second coming of the Son of God, like the rising of the Sun in the East. This was soon incorporated into the Mass of the early Church and became the norm for most of Christian history, until the 1960s.

But the most important reason for facing "ad orientem" is that the priest turns with the people to face toward and pray to God together with them. As the second half of the Mass begins, the "Liturgy of the Eucharist," the priest is no longer *talking to* the people, as when he proclaims the Gospel and homily, but rather now he *turns with* them and *leads* them in prayer *toward God*. All this emphasizes the *prayerful nature*—the adoration and reverence—of the Mass, especially during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Altar Rail. At every Mass we use the Altar Rail at Communion. The primary reason for this is very simple: to accommodate the popular demand/desire that many people have to exercise their right to kneel to receive Holy Communion. Kneeling without a kneeler is difficult and time-consuming, and therefore discourages most people who would like to kneel to receive. This is unjust. Moreover, with up to 8 people at-a-time standing/kneeling at the long rail, there is no need to rush to get out of the next person's way. So by adding the Communion Rail, everyone can receive comfortably the way they want, kneeling or standing.

But I also believe there are also great spiritual reasons for kneeling to receive Our Lord. As one holy Cardinal wrote: *"For if, as St Paul teaches, 'at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth' (Phil. 2:10), how much more should we bend our knees when we come to receive the Lord Himself in the most sublime and intimate act of Holy Communion!"*

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 24th

6:30 am Beth McTigue +
 8:30 am Rose Marie Tougas +

Tuesday, August 25th

6:30 am Carlo Enrico Javier +
 8:30 am Rosalie DeMarco +

Wednesday, August 26th

6:30 am Maria Ludwik Honisz +
 8:30 am Ceferina Gamboa +
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, August 27th

6:30 am Carlo Enrico Javier +
 8:30 am Fe "Nena" Robles +

Friday, August 28th

6:30 am Donna & Ron Schickel
 8:30 am Joseph & Ricardo (+)
 Fernandez

Saturday, August 29th

9:00 am Joseph Cautero

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 Ricardo (+) & Joseph
 Fernandez

Sunday, August 30th

7:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
 Mike Malachowski +

9:00 am **Fr. Horkan**
 Parishioners

11:00 am **Fr. De Celles**
 Bradley Hoopes

1:00 pm **Fr. Bergida**
 John Christensen

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

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- 8/23 Bethlehem Olivewood Sales after all Masses
- 8/23 **Parish Picnic after 1 pm Mass**
- 8/25 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15 pm Maurer Room
- 8/25 Legion of Mary 6:30 pm Maurer Room
- 8/26 Adoration 9 am-7 pm
- 8/28 Adoration 9 am-3 pm
- 8/30-31 Religious Education Classes Begin
- 8/31 Order of Christian Initiation 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
- 9/14 Adult Bible Study Resumes
- 9/19 Father Tad Talk 10 am

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.

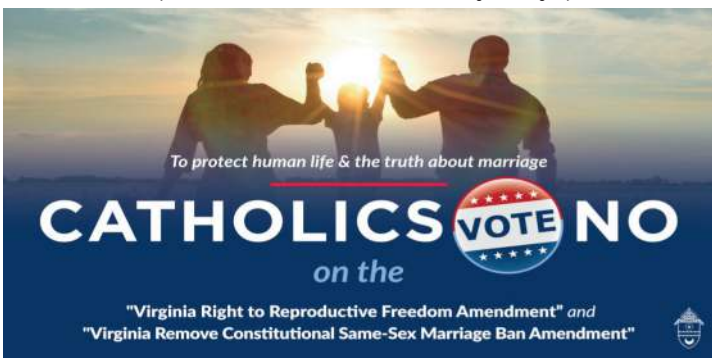
MEN'S PRAYER GROUP - On the first and third Saturdays of each month a group of men meet in the Parish Hall to pray and read the Scriptures. **Our next meeting will be September 5th.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryndavew7705@gmail.com.

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 and September!** All are invited to attend.

YOUNG ADULT WOMEN—ages 20-40, join the women of our parish in an Endow study of Saint Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Letter, *Mulieris Dignitatem* (Dignity of Women). They meet on first and third Thursdays from 7-9pm to read together, discuss our roles as women in Christ, and grow in Christian fellowship. For more information, please contact Dominique Bliss, domarch20@gmail.com, (470) 652-3411 or Elise Hamilton, 2EliseHamilton@gmail.com, (703) 300-4131.

SAINT 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.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS—Interested in becoming Catholic? In need of your Sacrament of Confirmation? Classes begin Monday, August 31st. Please call the Parish Office for more information.



THE FULLNESS OF KNIGHTHOOD: Join the Knights! Your very own St. John Bosco Council #12846 has just been awarded the prestigious and distinguished **STATE DEPUTY AWARD** for a **THIRD YEAR** in a row as one of the most outstanding councils in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This noteworthy award is only earned by strong Catholic men tirelessly working together to serve their parish, community and their nation. Now is the **perfect time** to take your place with us. Just go to <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> to experience the Knights **free** for one year. Enter our council #12846 for local information when you register. Please contact our Grand Knight, Dave Hayes, at cell (703) 380-4550 if you have any questions or want to learn more about the many benefits of being a Knight! Get in the game, answer the call, **LIVE FULLY; BECOME A KNIGHT!**

Upcoming Events—

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. We will not be meeting in person September 7th, 14th or 21st.

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

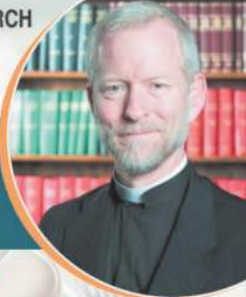
11:30 a.m. Questions/Answers

Light breakfast available No reservation required

EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

www.straymonds.org

For information, contact 703-440-0535 or mary.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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PARENTS: Last chance to register for **2026-27 CCD classes for children in grades K-12!** Visit the parish website or call our office to register your family ASAP. **Classes begin next week on August 30 and 31!**

Sacrament Preparation: If your child did not receive First Communion in 2nd grade or Confirmation in 8th, please contact our office for information about how he or she can receive these important sacraments. It's not too late!



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.

LAST CALL FOR SUMMER READING PROGRAM FORMS! Please turn in your completed forms to the parish office by close of business Monday August 24. Questions? Contact Liz Hildebrandt at hildebrandseven@gmail.com.



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—This weekend, Aug. 22nd/'23rd, there will be a display of beautiful olivewood 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@gmail.com.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate

5-6:30pm Sunday, 8/30 is the 1st night of Religious Ed!
 High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12)
Should be back NEXT Sunday 8/30 from 6:30-8pm
 Middle School Youth Group (Grades 6-8)
Should begin Sunday 9/13 from 3:30-5pm
Youth Group, SOT & TK CANNOT BEGIN UNTIL WE HAVE ENOUGH VOLUNTEERS! Please pray for folks to step up. If you are the one He is calling, it's time to answer!
 Contact Jeanne! **No experience necessary.**

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 1 WOMAN 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 good role models for our teens!

★7-8:30pm 2nd & 4th Tuesdays

Talitha Koum High School Girls Group

- **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!

6-12th Graders & your families are invited...

Wednesday, August 26th

for

7pm Mass & Ice Cream



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

Come spend time with Jesus!

Meet new families, make new friends, and build community!

**6-12th graders are able to come solo, though families are encouraged! If kids come solo, please pick them up by 8:30pm.*

Jeanne Sause

Seanne 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!

CHURCH PERSECUTED

Today, the definition of a "woman" continues to confront those who believe that a man can become a woman just by saying so. As of this writing, three former professional basketball players have indicated that they will make themselves available for the WNBA draft because the WNBA restricts participants to only "women," a term it does not define in its bylaws.

Larry Sanders, one of the above, who identifies as a male said that he would be a woman when he is on the court at a WNBA game. "I'm 'her' when I'm playing basketball," he recently posted. According to the current WNBA rules, all he needs to do is to "say you're a woman and that's it." After all, in the Supreme Court decision of *Casey v. Planned Parenthood of Penna.*, the majority wrote, "At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and the mystery of human life." So, these players have a Supreme Court decision to support them.

How sad that one segment of the population refuses to define a woman. The commissioner of the WNBA called it a "complicated question." U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, during her Senate confirmation hearing, and several other recent Democrats testifying on other topics before Congress, refused to define a woman.

Even though the WNBA continues to waver on this issue, *WSJ* writer, Jason Day, (*WSJ*, Aug. 15-16, 2026, A12), wrote that it "is an increasingly settled issue" since the Olympics and the NCAA restrict competition in women's sports only to women, and the U.S. Supreme Court upholding the rights of states to do the same.

Slowly the Truth is being revealed. God made this a "settled issue" for all eternity: "From the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female.'" (Mt 19:4; cf. Mk 10:6) A person's sex – male or female – is determined at conception and cannot be changed."

(see "A Catechesis on the Human Person & Gender Ideology" Arlington Diocese, Aug. 2021)

FORMED®

GET INFORMED



This first full-length feature movie on Augustine uses a historic backdrop to tell the true story of one of the Church's most beloved and well-known Saints. Its message of sin, conversion, redemption is as timely today as it was in the 5th century of Augustine. It is the story of a gifted man who pursues fame and fortune without a moral compass - and the dramatic changes that occur in his soul when challenging events lead him to see the light of truth. It also chronicles the collapse of the Roman world and how Augustine laid the intellectual foundations of what became Europe. With Augustine, the stories of two other great saints, Monica and Ambrose, are also portrayed.

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.

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.

BOOK CLUB—The Parish Book Club will have it's 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.

JOIN THE CHOIR AT SAINT RAYMONDS. Rehearsals resume on September 15! We practice on Tuesdays from 7 –8:30 pm and sing at 11 am Mass on Sundays with a warm up at 10 am. The choir also provides music for Easter, Christmas and Holy Days. The repertoire of the choir contains masterpieces of classical liturgical choir music. Singers who have a pleasant voice and sing in pitch are welcome. Enjoy wonderful fellowship, music training and the joy of making uplifting music for the liturgy. Contact Elisabeth Turco at music@straymonds.org or call 703-861-1302.

Collections for August 16th

Offertory	\$ 15,396.00
Family Assistance	\$ 690.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,055.00
OLOR Scholarship Fund	\$ 390.00

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