

***"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. Thanks be to God (and St. Raymond) for the wonderful picnic he gave us this last Sunday. Beautiful weather, good food, music and fun. Most especially wonderful Catholic fellowship. What a great day. So many children playing and having fun, and so many adults enjoying each other's company. The best and most well-attended parish picnic I know of.

I want to thank everyone who volunteered to help, and there were scores of you. I have to say a very special word of thanks to my parish staff who came to work on a Sunday! And most especially, thank you to Anthony Hansen, who coordinated the whole thing—fantastic job!

Fr. Michael Duesterhaus. Last Sunday, after the picnic, I found out that my confrere in the Arlington presbyterate, Fr. Michael Duesterhaus, had died after years of struggling with cancer and other ailments.

He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Arlington in 1991, and was pastor of St. William of York from 2001-04, and parochial vicar at several parishes, including St. John the Baptist where he was last assigned. In addition to his parochial work he also served a Naval Chaplain 27 years, Active and Reserves, most of the time serving in Marine Corps units, including 2 tours in Iraq. His subsequent poor health, and cancer, was directly related to his service in Iraq.

I first met Fr. Duesterhaus when, as a layman, I came up from San Antonio to visit the Diocese in 1991 to talk to some priests about possibly studying for the priesthood for Arlington. He was the newly ordained vicar at Holy Spirit and his hard charging enthusiasm was truly inspiring. We hit it off right away. When I moved here to go to seminary, the Holy Spirit rectory became my home during seminary breaks and I got to know him as a true friend. He served as my Master of Ceremonies/"Archpriest" at my first Mass.

He was a character, though. There are so many stories I could tell you about him. But my favorite is perhaps the one that some call "**the shootout at the Holy Spirit Corral.**" As the Washington Post reported on December 6, 1983:

"A priest chased away a burglar from an Annandale church rectory early Monday when he opened fire with a handgun, Fairfax County police said yesterday....police were still searching for the burglar, who broke through a ground-floor window at the Pastoral Center at Holy Spirit Catholic Church late Sunday or early Monday. [Police] said the burglar fled from Holy Spirit after the priest fired several shots at him with a 9mm pistol shortly after 4 a.m."

This son of Texas could not help but admire his mettle.

He was a man of unbounded courage, faith and zeal, a man of true sacrificial love for God and the Church. He will be sorely missed by those who knew him, especially me. I will pray for his soul, but I will also soon start to pray to him—for I can't help but be confident that a wondrous heavenly reward awaits this holy priest of Jesus Christ.

Religious Education (CCD). CCD begins this evening, **August 30.** Parents, don't forget to bring your kids this evening, or on Monday, whichever day you've signed up for. If you haven't registered yet, it's not too late, but time is running out. Please see the registration forms in the narthex, go to the parish website or call the RE office ASAP.

And Parents, remember CCD is meant to *supplement* the work you do with them at home. Parents are the primary educators of their children—especially in the Faith. CCD is just here to help you do that. But do not use CCD as an excuse to

neglect your part. Instead take this as a time to renew your own personal commitment to teach your kids the Faith. Life is hard, but it's a lot harder without Jesus and His Church. And in the end, the odds are they will not retain their faith when they grow up if you and we don't do our very best to teach them the Faith when they are young.

OCIA ("RCIA"/"Convert Class"). Another program set to restart is the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA, formerly called "RCIA"). Classes begin this Monday (tomorrow), August 31, at 7pm in the Parish Hall.

If any adult you know is interested in becoming a Catholic, or is a Catholic in need of the sacrament of Confirmation (or First Communion and Confession) this is the course for them. Fr. Bergida teaches most of the classes, taking participants through the basics (and more) of the Catholic faith. Contact the Mary Hansen in the **Religious Education** office with any questions at 703-440-0537 or mary.hansen@straymonds.org.

But the class is also designed to be a refresher course for all adult Catholics. So please consider joining this class—even on a week-to-week/topic-to-topic basis.

Synodality. There have been a couple of very interesting discussions about this topic bouncing around the internet the last few weeks. Here are excerpts from two of these, but I recommend you go online and read the entirety of both.

Fr. Gerald E. Murray article in *The Catholic Thing* on Tuesday, August 18, 2026:

"The people in charge of the Synod have created a semantic shield for their project. They attempt to hide the plain truth that they want to create a new Church with a new doctrine in which the hierarchy will share governing authority with lay people and in which heterodox impositions will be characterized as the community's discernment of where the Holy Spirit is leading the Church."

"They present themselves as reformers, not revolutionaries. They simply want to do away with an outdated clericalist and "hierarchicalist" culture, lingering from a lamentable past, that diverted the Church from her true synodal nature which will now be restored by the common effort of all the faithful, guided by the Holy Spirit (and the Synod Secretariat) to throw off that outdated culture."

"The synodality steamroller is a danger to the Church. It needs to be seen for what it is, and stopped before it wreaks any more havoc upon the Church."

Bishop Robert Mutsaerts, "Open Letter to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV," published on his blog on August 13:

"The synodal project emphasizes participation. But here a curious paradox emerges. The people who participate intensively in ecclesiastical consultation processes are not necessarily representative of the entire Church. The quiet Catholic who attends Mass every morning, prays the rosary, and gives catechism to his grandchildren usually does not write a synodal report. The young Catholic who travels three hours to attend a traditional liturgy usually does not sit on the diocesan working group. The mother of six children trying to raise her family as a Catholic may have little time for listening sessions. A contemplative sister does not fill out a survey. But their faith may be more deeply rooted than that of professional ecclesiastical assembly participants. Whoever listens only to those who come to the microphone can easily forget that the People of God are greater than the circle around the meeting table."

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 31st

6:30 am Ora Hall
 8:30 am Vada McKinley

Tuesday, September 1st

6:30 am Marie & Adolf
 Grauman+
 8:30 am Odunayo Onabanjo +

Wednesday, September 2nd

6:30 am Stephan & Kasmir
 Horvisz +
 8:30 am Mason Shealy
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, September 3rd

6:30 am Paul & Marie
 Sundberg +
 8:30 am Bishop Emeritus Paul S.
 Loverde

Friday, September 4th

6:30 am Luz Maglalane +
 8:30 am Mandy Shealy

Saturday, September 5th

9:00 am Michael & Jewel
 McKinley+

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles
 Gonzalo Saenz +

Sunday, September 6th

7:00 am Fr. Bergida
 Religious Education
 Catechists

9:00 am Fr. De Celles
 Parishioners

11:00 am Fr. Bergida
 Eunice M. Brown +

1:00 pm Fr. Horkan
 Carlo Javier +

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	Frankie Downs
Phyllis Zitnik	Mary M. Dixon	Pauline Ferguson
John Florio	Michael Snavelly	Sundi, Larry &
Carolina Baker	Annette Haynes	Melanie Stubbs
Debra Henkel	Joann Alba	Serrin Foster
Gaudencio Dizon	Beth Fitzgibbons	

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- 8/30-31 Religious Education Classes Begin
- 8/30 Youth Apostolate HS YG Resumes
- 8/31 Order of Christian Initiation Classes Begin
- 9/1 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15 pm
- 9/1 Legion of Mary 6:30 pm
- 9/2 Adoration 9 am-7 pm
- 9/4-5 First Friday Nocturnal Adoration
- 9/5 Legion of Mary Birthday Celebration for the Blessed Virgin
- 9/5-6 Saint Joseph Project Collections in Narthex after all Masses
- 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
- 9/19 Knights of Columbus Document Shredding in Parking Lot
- 9/19 In Igne
- 9/23 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign Begins

CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF CHRIST THE KING is a small co-ed classical high school that is part of the international Chesterton Schools Network, opens 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.

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.

**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 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.



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—

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Men's Prayer Group
- 19 Shredding Event (Parking Lot)
- 19 In Igne (7:00PM - 9:00PM, Parish Hall)



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 have transitioned 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 let 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.



Spring Campaign runs from 23 September – 1 November. Our witness

weekend will be 31 Oct - 1 Nov with other Saturday opportunities before then. Sign Up Sheets will be in the Narthex soon. Our location for this peaceful prayerful witness is on the sidewalk in front of the Falls Church Healthcare Center 900 S Washington Street. Non graphic signs. Can you spare one hour?! Come with friends. Bring the family. Bring your rosary. 40daysforlife.org.

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

A new **YA Info. Sheet** is **REQUIRED** to be turned in once **each school year** for every child *prior to* participating in any Youth Apostolate event on or off site. <http://bit.ly/YAforms>

High School Youth Group is back 6:30pm this Sunday 8/30!

5-6:30pm Religious Ed
6:30-8pm High School Youth Group

There is no charge for youth group or high school religious education (RE). If you have not participated in RE classes in the past, I highly recommend checking it out! High school RE classes are open to everyone no matter where you go to school, Catholic school, public school, homeschool, or private school. Classes are Sundays from 5-6:30pm followed by youth group from 6:30-8pm. Because the two are back to back, and our hope is that most of the kids participating in youth group will be coming from RE, youth group begins with dinner!

Middle School Youth Group will hopefully start Sunday 9/13

Middle school youth group will meet prior to Religious Education on Sundays beginning 9/13 (so long as we get volunteers!) from 3:30-5pm, ending in time for students to go right to religious education. We will have dinner at the end so they won't go in to class hungry! *We are still in need of 1-2 more compliant adults (age 21+) to help chaperone MS YG.* We have 4 incredible college students 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. Time commitment is most Sundays, 3pm-5:45pm. **Contact Jeanne if willing to help and/or for more info!**

Friday 9/11: 6:30am Friday Morning Mass & Breakfast

Calling all 6-12th Graders: Add Mass before class as a part of your Friday sacrifice, then come downstairs for breakfast with Fr. Bergida & Fr. Horkan before school! Please RSVP if you can, at <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVPS>

Sons of Thunder: High School Guys' Group

7-8:30pm 1st & 3rd Tuesdays beginning 9/15 (Maurer Room)

High School Men: Come hungry (physically and intellectually) and ready to rumble. Sons of Thunder meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30 pm in the Maurer Room with Phil, Nate, and Father Bergida.

Talitha Koum: High School Girls' Group

7-8:30pm 2nd & 4th Tuesday's beginning 9/22 (Maurer Rm)

ALL High School Ladies are invited to become part of our authentic sisterhood in Christ, deepening our faith, sharing life & growing in holiness. It's a real special time of friendship together, immersing ourselves in the Good, True & Beautiful.

1-2 WOMEN VOLUNTEERS (age 21+) are still needed to supervise, no prep, no standing up front, just extra eyes! **Contact Jeanne if willing to help and/or for more info!**

FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

Would you be willing to contribute a breakfast casserole or other meatless dish one Friday this semester? More details at <https://bit.ly/breakfastfriday>

Are you able to contribute some snacks or heavy hors d'oeuvres one Sunday evening for our high school youth group to enjoy?

More details at <https://bit.ly/feedthehungryteens>

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

Welcome Back!!! Classes begin this week, August 30th and 31st!

All CCD sessions begin in the church - Sunday at 5:00 pm and Monday at 4:45 pm. Parents may walk children into the church or may drop them off at the front of the church. Your child(ren) should be seated in the church by the start time of the session, so **please drop off about 10 minutes early.** Parents will pick children up from their classrooms at the end of each class session - Sunday at 6:30 pm and Monday at 6:15 pm.

ALL CCD PARENTS and families with students in sacramental preparation are expected to attend a "Back to CCD Night" meeting on September 20 at 5:20 pm or September 21 at 5 pm in the Parish Hall. You may attend the meeting which is most convenient for you. **Parents of Homeschool and Catholic School students** who are in sacramental preparation years (grades 2,7 and 8) and are receiving their Sacraments here at St. Raymond's, should attend one of these meetings. **And don't forget to register your students with the RE office!**



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 in Sept. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/SRPAaltarServerTraining> or contact the Parish Office to sign up.



AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS SAINT JOSEPH GARDEN PROJECT - On the weekend of 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.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY resumes Monday September 14th. There will be two classes—one in the morning at 9:30 am in the Parish Hall and the same class in the evening at 7 pm in the Maurer Room. Come to the one that is most convenient. The topic: *Jerusalem Will Be Built With Gold: The Preamble to the New Testament*. Seven books have been excluded from the Protestant canon of Scripture and kept by the Catholic Church: Baruch, Sirach, Wisdom, Judith, Tobit, and 1 & 2 Maccabees, along with portions of Daniel and Esther. They are a brilliant gem in her crown, "a wholly indispensable link in the economy of revelation," connecting the world of the Hebrew Bible to the life and times of Christ. Please join us and bring your bible.

SHREDDING EVENT -The Knights will sponsor a Document Shredding Event on Saturday, 9/19, from 10a.m. to Noon in the church parking lot. This is a convenient and secure way to dispose of documents and canceled checks. Donations are gratefully accepted and will benefit individuals with intellectual disabilities and support vocations. For more information, please call or text Tim Williams at (571) 451-5648.

CHURCH PERSECUTED

Some of the older members of the parish may remember Father John Hardon, S.J., a prolific author and educator, who taught as a professor at the Notre Dame Institute, a Pontifical catechetical institute, the forerunner of Christendom College's Graduate School. His writings have been preserved at <https://hardonsj.org>.

Fr. Hardon lived in the generation that followed Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, who will be beatified next month. Of the many common traits between the two priests, one common characteristic of both was their evangelization spirit. Hardon was able to reflect on much of the writing of the to-be-beatified prelate to include a tract, "Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen: Advancing the Kingdom of Christ in America." What follows are some excerpts from that article.

"Fulton Sheen realized from the outset that the apostolate in our times, before everything else, means to expose the errors and tactics of the enemies of Christ. Unless the evils which surround them are understood, he argued, how can faithful Christians protect themselves from contagion; and unless their disease is made known to them, how can those who now hate and revile Christ be finally converted to love Him?"

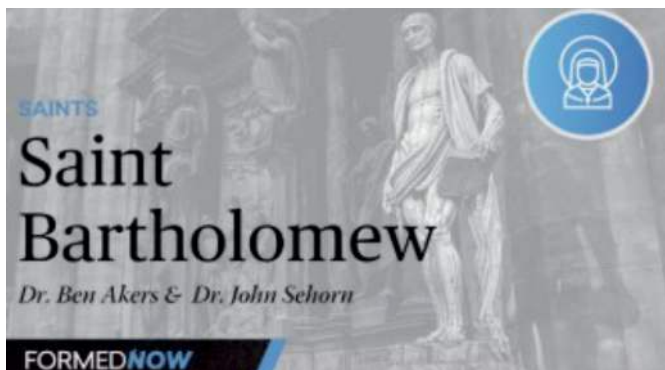
"Fulton Sheen's interest in converting non-Catholics and bringing lapsed Catholics back to the Church dates from his earliest years in the priesthood. With his increased popularity as a speaker and writer, requests for instruction multiplied from prospective converts – with remarkable success....The Bishop gives three reasons why non-Catholics turn to the Church: 1) a moral crisis, especially the consciousness of sin and the desire of forgiveness which the sacraments of the Church assure them; 2) an intellectual crisis, when people who have wandered for years in the desert of agnosticism suddenly realize that in the Catholic Faith are to be found that conviction of mind and peace of soul which they had been looking for elsewhere in vain; 3) a physical crisis such as illness, and accident or the loss of a loved one by desertion or death, when they realize that only in the teachings of the Church can they find that courage and strength of will which they need to carry their cross in conformity to the will of God."

We will continue this discussion next week, but you can read ahead at the link below.

https://hardonsj.org/archbishop-fulton-j-sheen-advancing-the-kingdom-of-christ-in-america/#_edn8

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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.

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.

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