

***"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

September 11, 2001. Last Friday we remembered the infamous day when our nation was attacked by Islamist Terrorists, killing 3,000 innocent people and injuring more than 6,000 others (not to mention the tens of thousands who suffered from exposure to hazardous toxins that day). We remember our beloved and honored dead from that day, and pray for their souls. And we remember the courage of those who came to the aid of those trapped in the wreckage of the Pentagon and the Twin Towers, and of course the brave souls who took down the fourth plane over rural Pennsylvania rather than letting it proceed to a fourth target in Washington.

Let us pray for those who died, on 9/11 and in the "War on Terror," for the brave souls who continue to fight to protect us, and for the conversion of our enemies. And let us pray for our nation's safety, and that, with the strength of Christ and tempered by His wisdom and mercy, we may defeat those who seek to harm us.

A Timely Talk by Father Tad Pacholczyk. Next Saturday, September 19, I'm very excited to welcome back for the 17th straight year, nationally renowned bio-ethicist Fr. Tad Pacholczyk. This year, his topic is: **Ethics Issues in Artificial Intelligence.** You won't want to miss this thought-provoking and timely conversation! **HIGH SCHOOL and COLLEGE age kids are welcome!** Saturday, September 19, 10am.

Choir and Schola. Welcome back to our Choir at 11am Mass. You know summer's over when you hear the beautiful strains of choral singing showering down on us from the choir loft. I hope the choir members had a restful summer and look forward to their assistance at Mass. Also, I know they are looking to increase their numbers, so anyone with any interest in joining them is welcome and encouraged to contact Elisabeth Turco at music@straymonds.org.

Also, welcome back to our Schola at 9am—they add so much to the solemnity and reverence of that Mass.

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. We celebrate this feast tomorrow, Monday, September 14. Among other things, it commemorates the discovery in 326 of the actual Cross on which Jesus was Crucified by Saint Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine. According to ancient writers, St. Helena went on pilgrimage to venerate the holy places in and near Jerusalem. There she found, guided by either a heavenly sign or local tradition, the site where the True Cross was buried. She tore down the Roman temple of Aphrodite built on the spot, and underneath found three crosses. She identified the Cross of Jesus by laying the sick upon each of the three, finding that one of them miraculously cured them all.

PARISH SITE "ENHANCEMENTS." Last October I held two "parish-townhall meetings" to discuss the proposal to build a third building and other efforts to enhance the beauty of our property. The meetings were, to my disappointment, not very well attended, but between those and subsequent discussions with individual parishioners, I concluded that there was not much support for a new building, especially with the cost involved. So I have decided not to pursue that at this time. I know some will be disappointed in my decision, but it seems to me the best thing for now.

However, there did seem to be some general support for my suggestions regarding adding statues to the property, and continuing our efforts to beautify the interior of the church. So

today I'm announcing one project and proposing two more.

St. Joseph Shrine. After Mass last week the priests mentioned that for her Stars and Stripes award (the highest AHG award, like "Eagle Scout"), one of our American Heritage Girls is helping us construct a shrine for St. Joseph. We've purchased a large bronze statue of the Saint which will be placed in the clearing between "Lake St. Raymond" (the wastewater pond behind the church) and the woods. It is a very pretty, quiet and serene location, and I hope it will become an important place for prayer for our parish.

"Grand Mural." I have been in discussions with Henry Wingate regarding painting a new mural for the sanctuary. (Henry is the artist who created the two beautiful murals of St. Raymond, sailing on his cape and his apparition of the Our Lady of Ransom). After years of thought and prayer, I propose a mural that will extend over the top of the sanctuary.

To help you visualize this: see the large white arch that forms the top of the back of the sanctuary (over the painting of the dove/Holy Spirit). See the space above that up to the ceiling to the point where the two sides of the ceiling come together to form the top of a triangle. Then extend that on either side all the way around the half-circle of the arch, all that white area around the arch up to the ceiling. That's where the "grand mural" will go. I hope you can visualize this.

My vision is to **portray Heaven in this mural.** At each of the two bottom ends of this semi-circular mural there would be depictions of two great saints: on the left, **St. Mary Magdalene**, and on the right, **St. Augustine of Hippo**. I picked these saints because they are two of the most important saints in the life of the Church, and the two greatest examples of repentant sinners. Also, Augustine is considered the greatest theologian of the Church, and Magdalene the greatest of Jesus' women disciples (after the Blessed Mother) and the one "who love much." So, Augustine represents **Catholic wisdom** and Magdalene **Catholic love**.

At the highest point, the apex, in the top triangle created by the ceiling, I envision a depiction of **God the Father**, looking down from heaven with open arms (a common depiction in classic art). With that, looking at the sanctuary from the narthex, you would see God the Son on the Cross, God the Holy Spirit above him in the Apse (below the arch) and God the Father over all.

In between the Father and the two Saints I envision depictions of **angels praising God**.

Henry is working on a proposal and promises a concept drawing of the mural for my approval. When I receive that, I will display it so you can see it. As for cost, we have over \$2.6 million in savings, including a good amount which was donated to be spent on something like this. So **I will not do a fundraising campaign** for this. Certainly I will accept donations, and I promise to donate \$10,000 myself, personally, in honor of my dear St. Mary Magdalene.

Further Church Decoration. I am meeting with a major church design company to discuss an overall plan for enhancing the beauty of our church through painting, stenciling, and statuary. I will report back to you on this when I have more information.

Your Input. I promise I won't finalize anything without a wide consultation of the parish, and general support. If you really don't want it, don't like it, well I probably shouldn't do it. Feel free to give me feedback anytime.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 14th

6:30 am Matthew Dalke
 8:30 am Victoria Brousseau-Wright

Tuesday, September 15th

6:30 am Clyde Harris Sr. +
 8:30 am Michael Dibiasi +

Wednesday, September 16th

6:30 am Edward &
 Florence Jaworski +
 8:30 am Rolando Nomorosa +
 7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, September 17th

6:30 am Anna Anezin +
 8:30 am Serrin Marie Foster

Friday, September 18th

6:30 am Anna Mildred Mault +
 8:30 am Anthony Hansen

Saturday, September 19th

9:00 am Nena Robles +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm Fr. De Celles
 Barbara Brady +

Sunday, September 20th

7:00 am Fr. Bergida
 Melissa Rose Ryder +

9:00 am Fr. De Celles
 Parishioners

11:00 am Fr. Horkan
 Blake Hoopes

1:00 pm
 Krystopher &
 Joanna Buchman

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	Robert Petitti
Michael O'Neill	Nena Brennan	Alicia Tocconi
Cindy Laird	Donald Trayer	Jay & Linda Cabacar
Patricia Lewis	Ellen Trayer	Rita Felkel
Mai Pham	Arlene Pietraszko	Frankie Downs
Jason Saenz	Virginia Cummings	Pauline Ferguson
Phyllis Zitnik	Mary M. Dixon	Celeste Hyde
John Florio	Michael Snaveley	
Carolina Baker	Annette Haynes	
Debra Henkel	Joann Alba	
Gaudencio Dizon	Beth Fitzgibbons	

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

- Sept 14 **Adult Bible Study Resumes (9:30 am in Parish Hall and 7 pm in Maurer Room— both classes are the same)**
- Sept 15 **Junior Legion of Mary 4:15 pm in Classroom 2**
- Sept 15 **Legion of Mary 6:30 pm in Library**
- Sept 16 **Adoration 9 am-7 pm**
- Sept 18 **Adoration 9am-3 pm**
- Sept 19 **Men's Prayer Breakfast**
- Sept 19 **Father Tad Talk after 9 am Mass**
- Sept 19 **Knights of Columbus Document Shredding in Parking Lot**
- Sept 19 **In Igne**
- Sept 23 **40 Days for Life Spring Campaign Begins**
- Sept 26 **WAY Daystar Mother Daughter Retreat**

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 19th.** 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 began but not too late to begin. Please call the Parish Office for more information.

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).

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

**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

14 Membership Meeting 7 pm
19 Shredding Event (Parking Lot) 10 am—Noon
19 Men's Prayer Breakfast
19 In Igne (7:00PM - 9:00PM, Parish Hall)
19/20 Asian Fusion Ticket Sales after all Masses
26/27 Asian Fusion Ticket Sales after all Masses

IN IGNE (On Fire): The Knights of St. John Bosco Council invite all men of the parish to a night of Theology and Fraternity around the fire pit behind the Parish Hall on Saturday September 19th at 7pm. Fr. Horkan will lead a theology discussion about Angels. Our fraternal topic will be card games with several tables being set up for Euchre and Cribbage so people can learn to play. Dinner and beverages will be provided. You don't have to be a knight to participate and **admission is FREE**. Please RSVP to Barry Ryan at jamesbarryryan@aol.com so we make sure to have enough food.

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 us know by emailing Elaine Perricone at jpebtp@verizon.net or by calling the parish office. We will not be meeting in person September 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

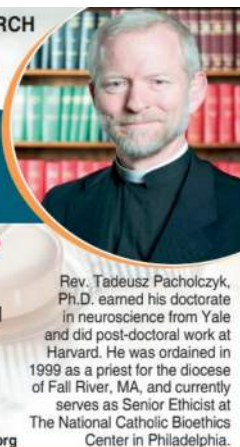
11:30 a.m. Questions/Answers

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

Life is on the line!

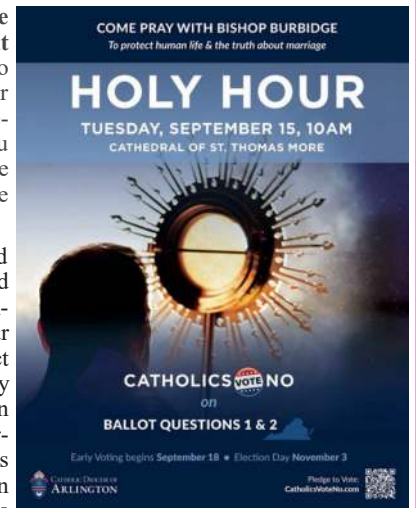
Catholics VOTE NO in November! CatholicsVoteNo.com

Beware! Abortion Tourism: With Amendment #1 Virginia will become the Abortion Capital of the South. Since Dobbs (June 2022) there has already been a 30% increase in out-of-state abortions occurring in Virginia.

National Day of Remembrance for aborted children. Please visit our Memorial to the Unborn located in the tree lined alcove adjacent to the parking lot down the hill from the parkway intersection. Come and pray – for those who have been lost to abortion and for those who continue to suffer from its affects.

Please join Bishop Burbidge on Tuesday, September 15 at 10:00 am for a Holy Hour to pray for the Virginia November Ballot Initiatives at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More. If you cannot join us in person, please click [HERE](#) to pray via live stream.

Put your faith into action and join with other Christians and people of good will. Fall Campaign 23 Sept – 1 Nov. 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.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION. *... and remember* if you are unable to be physically present, please offer up your prayers and sacrifices from home or from church. God hears our prayers wherever we are!

MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center... Thank you for the continued steady stream of overwhelming material support! May God bless you for your goodness. Diapers are always so very much appreciated. Collection box is in the narthex. **Greatest needs:** size 5 and 6 diapers, clothes up to 2T, formula, wipes. **Please do not leave bouncy seats, walkers, gates or jogging strollers.**

To those who have suffered an abortion: "Do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. The Father of Mercies is ready to give you His Forgiveness and His Peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation." **Project Rachel** helps women and men who are carrying the grief and sorrow of a past abortion. (888)456-HOPE. Men: (703) 841-3833. Confidentiality always respected. www.helpafterabortion.org.

Women often regret the desperate isolated decision to take the **abortion pill**. Call the abortion reversal helpline 855-209-4848. It may not be too late. abortionpillreversal.com.

THE POWER OF PRAYER. Abortionists and those who work in the abortion industry trespass against us. Yet how much more they offend Almighty God! As we call on Our Father to forgive us, we are called to forgive those who trespass against us. Every abortion deforms the abortionist and desensitizes him or her to the humanity of both the mother and child violated through abortion. In fact, it diminishes their understanding of the inherent value of every human being. **Pray fervently for the conversion of abortionists.** Somehow, they have been led astray by greed, ignorance, a misguided sense of compassion or perhaps evil itself.

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate Grades 6-12

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>

9/20/26 Youth Group & Religious Education

***3:30-5pm Grades 6-12 Youth Group** We will all meet in the narthex of the Church for attendance then go in for a special holy hour with Adoration, and a reflection by Fr. Bergida on Venerable Fulton Sheen (who will be canonized in St. Louis, MO on September 24th!). Confession will also be available. Family and friends are also welcome! Dinner will be served for 6-12th graders in parish hall after holy hour before RE.

5-6:30pm Religious Ed

***High school YG will be at the Middle School time; see above.**

Every Friday in September & October

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 by Wednesday night, at <https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVPS> so we have enough food!

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 can be found 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 can be found at <https://bit.ly/feedthehungryteens>

Mark Your Calendars for these upcoming HS events:

10/4 Donut Sunday (Youth Apostolate hosting, need your help)

10/24 Apple Picking & Dominican Monastery (8am-1:15pm)

10/25 Arlington Diocese High School RALLY (11am-9pm)

Calling all Bakers: 120 DOZEN cookies are needed by Oct. 13

Calling all BAKERS! One of our parishioners, Mr. Bob Keegan, is asking for your help in providing the **120 DOZEN COOKIES** he has been asked to bring with him for the upcoming Kairos Prison Ministry Retreat. If you are willing to help by baking a dozen cookies (or more!), please sign up at <https://bit.ly/120cookies4prisoners> Cookies can be dropped off at the parish office any time, but no later than Tuesday, October 13th. Specific cookie info and prayer signup: <https://kairos-bkcc.org/service/kairos-weekend-62>

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

Please support our program by donating to the second collection today! God bless you all for your generosity!

Religious Education classes began the last week of August! We still have limited space available for additional students, but **please contact our office as soon as possible.** All CCD sessions begin in the church - Sunday at 5:00 pm and Monday at 4:45 pm.

ALL CCD PARENTS are expected to attend a "Back to CCD Night" meeting on Sept. 20 at 5:20 pm or Sept. 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 sacrament 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 703-453-6567 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 begin THIS WEEKEND. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/SRPAltarServerTraining> or contact the Parish Office to sign up.

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.

VOTING INFORMATION TABLE—This year we have a very important Election for U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives coming up on November 3. There are also three proposed amendments to the Virginia Constitution that need your input. Our VOTER INFORMATION TABLE is set up in the Narthex. If you need to register to vote, update your registration, or vote absentee, we have the forms for you. Stop by to see us.

CHURCH PERSECUTED

Despite Church persecutions around the world, the Holy Spirit remains an active influence in the Church and the world today. On Sept. 19, we celebrate the feast of St. Januarius, a martyred archbishop of Naples who died around 305 A.D. At his death, a woman gathered some of his blood and placed it in two ampoules.

Reports dating back to 1389 indicate that three times a year, the blood liquefies: on the saint's feast day (Sept. 19), the first Saturday of May (marking the date that his body was moved to its present location), and Dec. 16 (the anniversary of the 1631 eruption of Mount Vesuvius). In 2026, it liquified on May 2. In 2025, it liquified on all three dates. The local lore is that the failure of the blood to liquify is an omen of war, famine, natural disasters or disease. Last year, the blood liquified as predicted on each of the above dates. The Church believes that the blood miraculously liquefies in response to the dedication and prayers of the faithful.

Usually on the given day, the Archbishop gathers one of the ampoules. Sometimes it takes minutes and sometimes hours to liquefy the solidified blood. He then rotates it sideways to show that it is a liquid. The Archbishop and the faithful then pray for St. Januarius to intercede for their needs.

There is no scientific explanation for this phenomenon. In some years, the blood did not liquefy. It did not liquefy in September 1939, 1940, 1943, 1973, 1980, nor in December 2016, 2020, or 2024. These miracles are a means of giving us hope that the Holy Spirit is still with us in this world. St. Januarius is the patron saint of blood donors.

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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: 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.

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.

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 Hempling for more information: sohlmb@gmail.com.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SECOND COLLECTION -The Second Collection THIS weekend supports our parish's Religious Education Program. All donations from this weekend's second collection stay here in the parish to help fund our amazing program! The RE office has many necessary expenses throughout the year, including textbooks and other educational materials, equipment, gifts for sacramental students and volunteer teachers, retreat costs, confirmation reception, and more. Your generosity helps us keep the cost of tuition low for our families. Thank you for your continued support of St. Raymond's Religious Education with your prayers and donations. God bless you!

Today's Second Collection—Religious Education

Collections Below are for 9/6/26

Offertory	\$ 14,130.00
Family Assistance	\$ 1,190.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,645.00
OLOR Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,863.00



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