

***"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

AMENDMENTS TO THE VIRGINIA CONSTITUTION. At all Masses last Sunday we read Bishop Burbidge's letter regarding two of the three Questions on the current November Ballot, asking us to **vote "NO" to both on Ballot Questions #1 and #2.**

Question #1 would amend the Virginia Constitution to *make abortion a fundamental right in Virginia, even up to full-term birth.* It would allow some regulation in the third trimester unless the mother's "health is at risk or the pregnancy cannot survive;" but remember, "health" has historically been applied very broadly in abortion cases.

This amendment would prohibit any parental notification about their minor daughter's decision, allow for unlicensed abortionists, and remove safety restrictions on clinics. It won't even protect an infant who is born alive after a failed abortion.

Question #2 would amend the Virginia Constitution to allow marriage between "any two adults." Our Constitution currently limits marriage to only "between one man and one woman. This is currently not enforceable as a result of the US Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015, which found a US Constitutional right to "same-sex marriage." But there is a movement to overturn *Obergefell*, and if/when, that happens the Virginia Constitution's current definition would once again be enforceable. Question 2 wants to amend the Virginia Constitution to allow same sex marriage even if the US Supreme Court reverses *Obergefell*.

This amendment also provides no protection for clergy who refuse a ceremony that violates their beliefs.

No Catholic can morally vote "yes" for Questions 1 or 2.

What about Ballot Question #3? *The Virginia Constitution currently prohibits anyone convicted of a felony (a "felon") from voting in Virginia.* Question #3 would **restore the right to vote in Virginia to all felons immediately upon their release from incarceration.**

This measure is **very different from the first two Ballot Questions.** As Bishop Burbidge and Richmond Bishop Knestout wrote in a joint letter in August, "This issue is a matter of prudential judgment upon which **people of goodwill can disagree.**" So, Catholics can vote "yes" or "no" as their well-formed conscience tells them.

But the Bishops went on to write that they: "have consistently supported this measure and continue to do so. ...[W]e invite you to consider the Church's teaching on participation in the common good, rehabilitation, restoration, mercy and second chances – as well as times when you have witnessed God's redemptive work in your own life and the lives around you."

So, the Bishops recommend we vote "Yes." I respectfully disagree with the Bishops, and I will vote "NO" on Question 3. These are my thoughts on this:

While the Catholic Church teaches that voting is a basic human right, this right is not absolute. For example, the Church would agree that felons in prison are justly denied the right to vote, and that non-citizens may be justly denied the right to vote. And if you live in true monarchy, the Church has always recognized that subjects need not have the right to vote. For example, citizens of the Vatican City State do not have a right to vote for Vatican leadership.

In this case, voting "yes" would allow felons to vote even if they are still on parole, probation, or supervised release, or haven't paid required restitution or met all court ordered obligations. So, even though they haven't "paid their debt to society," they would be allowed to participate in governing society by their vote.

Also consider the reality that reoffending rate (recidivism) among felons is high: About 66% of felons are re-arrested within 3 years of release from prison, 82% with 10 years. So prison is no guarantee of rehabilitation. Voting "yes" to this question would allow people who have lost the trust of society by their own bad choices, to be given back that trust automatically after prison. I think murderers, rapists and armed robbers and the like should not be automatically trusted to vote without any first showing they deserve our trust.

And felons do have a chance to regain the public's trust under the current laws of Virginia: Felons can apply to the Governor, on a case-by-case basis, to have their voting rights restored. I think this is the just way to proceed, because it allows for "mercy" and "redemption" where it is just and merited.

SUNDAY CONFESSIONS. Every Sunday we hear confessions for 30 minutes before the 9am and 11am Masses (so we begin at 8:30 and 10:30). Confessions should normally end once Mass has begun (the priest may sometimes extend this, but that should not be taken for granted, and they should never go later than the start of the Gospel).

Also, while all are welcome, **these confession times are provided specifically to meet the genuine needs of those who truly cannot confess on other days**, especially for those who have a specific need to go to confession before receiving Communion on Sunday Mass. This means **you should not** plan to go to confession on Sunday **merely because it is more convenient** than some other day/time, or to make a **merely devotional confession**. Parents, in particular, if you follow the admirable practice of monthly family confessions, please try to do this on Saturdays or Wednesdays, but not on Sunday mornings. And little children, in particular, would probably not have a genuine need to go to confession at this time. Of course, if the line is short on Sunday, then certainly anyone should feel free to take advantage, but if the line is longer, be considerate of others with a genuine need.

OUR LADY OF RANSOM. This Thursday, September 24th, is the Feast of Our Lady of Ransom. Many of the newcomers to our parish don't know much about this devotion, so...

During the 13th century Muslim pirates from northern Africa would regularly raid and capture ships from Christian countries and then hold the captured Christians for ransom, forced conversion, and/or for the slave trade.

So on the evening August 1, 1218, the Blessed Mother appeared separately to three very different men in Barcelona, Spain: to St. Peter Nolasco, a veteran of various battles against the "Moors" (Muslims) occupying southern Spain; to King James I of Aragon; and to our own St. Raymond of Peñafort, who was Peter's confessor. Our Lady told each of them that St. Peter was to found a religious order dedicated to the ransom of Christian captives of Muslims. The members of this new order would take a vow to offer themselves personally, when necessary, as ransom or as security for the freedom of their fellow Christians. St. Peter obeyed Our Lady, and with the support of the King and the guidance of St. Raymond, the order was founded and proceeded in its mission. The order is officially named the "Order of the Virgin Mary of Mercy of the Redemption of Captives," so that Our Lady of Ransom is also sometimes called "Our Lady of Mercy," and the order is commonly called "the Mercedarians."

The apparition of Our Lady of Ransom to St. Raymond of Peñafort is pictured in the beautiful mural located in our sanctuary above our statue of Blessed Mother.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 21st

6:30 am Eleanor Childers +
8:30 am Benjamin Shealy

Tuesday, September 22nd

6:30 am Roger Olson +
8:30 am Zoila Esperanza
Bernabé +

Wednesday, September 23rd

6:30 am Phyllis D. Deeney
8:30 am Mike Frankfurth +
7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, September 24th

6:30 am Ann Marie Hill +
8:30 am Florence Mary Miller +

Friday, September 25th

6:30 am Charles Mugno
8:30 am Francis C. Larvie +

Saturday, September 26th

9:00 am Ruth Perkins Kilroy +

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm
William Magallanes +

Sunday, September 27th

7:00 am
Pattie Sue Suter +

9:00 am
Parishioners

11:00 am
Caroline Fogg and Robert
Jarvis

1:00 pm
Carlo Enrico 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 and Ryan Higgins

Please pray for the sick of our parish

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

- Sept 20 Back to CCD Night at 5:20 pm
- Sept 21 Back to CCD Night at 5 pm (same meeting come to one that is most convenient for you)
- Sept 21 Adult Bible Study (9:30 am in Parish Hall and 7 pm in Maurer Room— both classes are the same)
- Sept 22 Junior Legion of Mary 4:15 pm in Classroom 2
- Sept 22 Legion of Mary 6:30 pm in Library
- Sept 23 Adoration 9 am-7 pm
- Sept 23 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign Begins
- Sept 25 Adoration 9am-1 pm (early Benediction due to Wedding)
- Sept 26 WAY Daystar Mother Daughter Retreat
- Oct 1 Ken Cuccinelli Talk

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.

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 October 3rd.** For more information, call Dave Wilson, 703-966-5327 or email maryndavew7705@gmail.com.

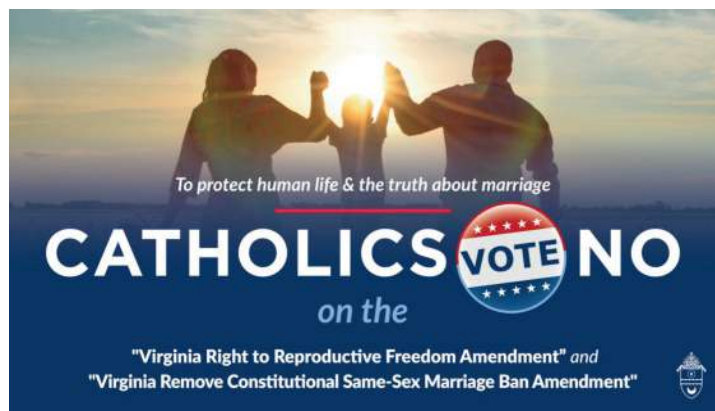
AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS - Did you know we have an American Heritage Girls troop here at St. Raymond's? AHG is a fun Christian scouting group for girls from Kindergarten to 12th grade. Our troop, Troop VA0683, meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month beginning in September at St. Raymond's. 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 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 and October!** 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, EliseHamilton@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

19/20 Asian Fusion Ticket Sales after all Masses
26/27 Asian Fusion Ticket Sales after all Masses

OCTOBER—

3 Soccer Challenge at Holy Spirit Church 9 am—2 pm
3 Asian Fusion Dinner
3/4 Project Manger Collections after all Masses



ASIAN FUSION- The Knights of Columbus Asian Fusion Dinner will take place on Saturday, October 3rd, 2026 at 6:30pm in the parish hall. Come enjoy delicious lumpia, kimbab (Korean sushi), Barbeque skewers, and much more! Tickets for the event will be sold after all Masses on the weekends of September 19th-20th and September 26th – 27th. Ticket Prices are \$6.00 for children (5-12), \$20.00 for Adults and \$65.00 max for Families. Based upon availability, tickets will be sold at the door. You can use the QR Code here for tickets as well.

PROJECT MANGER—Cribs for Life! After all the Masses on the weekend, 03/04 October, St Raymond will once again have the opportunity to support Project Manger, which purchases new cribs and mattresses for moms (and dads) and their babies in need. The new cribs and mattresses are distributed through “A Woman’s Choice” and other Pro-Life Crisis Pregnancy Centers in the local (Springfield/Annandale) area. There will be more detailed information in next week’s bulletin. POC for this effort is John Crennan who can be reached at 339.223.0887.



SOCCER CHALLENGE: The annual Knights of Columbus District Soccer Challenge takes place **Saturday, October 3, 2026** on the field behind Holy Spirit School located at **8800 Braddock Rd. Annandale, VA 22003**. This event is for boys and girls aged 9-14 and will run from **9 am until 2 pm**. Mark your calendar and just arrive during that time and shoot to win! The district contest will have 3 practice and 25 kicks for record.

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.

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.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

SAINT RAYMOND’S LOVES LIFE

Life is on the line!

Catholics VOTE NO in November! CatholicsVoteNo.com

Beware! One of the dangers of **Amendment #1** is that it **fails** to require care for babies born alive after an attempted abortion, allowing them to be left to die without life-saving treatment.



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 are in the narthex. 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.

• ... **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.

Tepeyac Pro-Life OB/GYN: Faith-based Pro-life OB/GYN restoring integrity of human person with modern medicine and healing of Christ. tepeyacobgyn.com, 703.273.9440.

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.

Gabriel Project: Pregnancy Outreach for Expectant Mothers. Offers emotional, spiritual, material, and financial support through a pregnancy helpline and parish-based volunteer “Angel” support. helpforpregnantwomen.org. 866-444-3553.

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!

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

Happy Catechetical Sunday! Thank you to all the volunteers who make it possible for our RE Office to serve 240 students in classes and sacramental preparation!

Welcome to all our new families! We are very happy to have you join us this year.

ALL CCD PARENTS are expected to attend a "Back to CCD

Night" meeting THIS WEEK -The meetings will begin in the Parish Hall once we return from our Holy Ten Minutes in the church: **Sunday, Sept. 20th at 5:20 pm or Monday, Sept. 21st at 5 pm** You may attend the meeting which is most convenient for you.

Parents of homeschool students who are in sacramental preparation (grades 2, 7 and 8) need to attend one of these meetings.

Parents of Catholic school students in grades 2, 7 and 8 who will be receiving their Sacraments here at St. Raymond's also need to attend one of these meetings.

OUR LADY OF RANSOM Scholarships to Catholic Schools. St.



Raymond's offers 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.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY There will be two classes each Monday—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.

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.

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.

KEN CUCCINELLI TALK—Please join us Thursday, October 1st at 7 pm in the Parish Hall for a talk entitled, "Virginia Vote No". The November 3rd Ballot has several amendments to the Virginia Constitution that harm the unborn and families. Please bring the entire family. No RSVP required.



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.

CHURCH PERSECUTED

Several news sources are reporting the continued attacks by Islamist Fulani Ethnic Militia (IFEM) in northern Nigeria's Benue state recently. The latest attack in the village of Ayilamo on Sept. 10 killed at least seven Christians, including two children and four police officers. The Nigerian Police Force successfully repelled the attack and the bandits retreated into the local forests with heavy casualties. Local police responded because the national police, trained to respond to such attacks, did not leave their barracks.

The state of Benue is in north central Nigeria and is familiar to such Islamic attacks in the past. This follows a roadside attack and killing of a Catholic priest and injuring a Catholic seminarian in Aug.

The founder of a ministry which supports persecuted Christians in Nigeria, Brad Brandon, who heads a relief group, Across Nigeria, reports that "Christians are five times more likely to be killed than any other group in northern Nigeria," adding that "72% of all the Christians killed in the world are killed in northern Nigeria, within a 300-mile radius of our field office there. So, it's very clear that Christian villages, communities, and individuals are being targeted, where other groups are not."

The radical Islamists focus their attacks not only on Christians, but also on peaceful Islamists who do not support their radical views. Their hope is to turn Nigeria Muslim and institute their Sharia law (Muslim law derived from the Qur'an). Nigerian national elections are in Jan. 2027 with three main candidates: one Christian, one Islamist, and one tribal. The fear is that since Nigerians generally do not share a national identity, but align themselves with one of these three groups, violence may break out if their leader is not elected. While Nigeria is still barely Christian, a Christian president may face more active resistance from the radical Islamists in the country.

<https://zeale.co/news/articles/exclusive-founder-of-ministry-supporting-persecuted-christians-in-nigeria-calls-violence-level-unprecedented>

<https://orfa.africa/how-fulani-militias-became-nigerias-deadliest-groupwhile-escaping-global-notice/>



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Openings still available for students at Angelus Academy.

We love having St. Raymond parishioners at our school. What a blessing it is to be learning together! We are continuing to accept applications for the 2026-27 school year as space permits. Spots are filling up fast—apply soon! Application information can be found at angelusacademy.org/admissions-overview/applying/. Call or email Julie Maimone, Director of Admissions, for more information or to schedule a tour: 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 Hempfling for more information: sohlmb@gmail.com.

This Weekend's Second Collection—Catholic University of America

The Collection for The Catholic University of America underwrites scholarships to assist financially deserving students in completing their education at CUA in over 50 disciplines. Please visit CUA's [website](http://www.cua.edu) for more information.

Collections Below are for 9/13/26

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OLOR Scholarship Fund	\$ 3,120.00
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