"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"
St. Raymond

Welcome to Saint Raymond of Peñafort Catholic Church

8750 Pohick Road
Springfield, VA 22153

WEEKEND MASSES:
Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm
Sunday:7:00 am,9:00 am (Latin-English),
11:00 am and 1:00pm

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 7:00pm
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.

Rev. John C. DeCelles,	**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

EMAILS:

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.

Pastor's Corner

HOLY DAYS. Today and tomorrow we celebrate 2 great feasts, All Saint's Day and All Souls' Day, which remind us that the Church is more than just the 2 billion plus Christians on Earth, but also the countless Christians that have lived and died before us, and many of those are in Heaven, or on their way there.

This is what the Church means when it speaks of the **"Communion of Saints"** ("saint" in the sense used in Scripture, referring to all Christians living and dead. And so, the one Church of Christ has three states,: first, all Christians on **Earth** ("The Pilgrim Church" or "The Church Militant"), second, all those in **Heaven** ("The Church in Glory" or "The Church Triumphant"), and third, all the souls in **Purgatory** ("The Church Being Purified" or "The Church Suffering").

All Saints Day reminds us of our unity with the Church in Heaven, as we remember not just the officially "canonized saints" but ALL the countless numbers of souls who have gone to Heaven. Hopefully, this includes many of our deceased family members. This is their feast day! So, we honor them, and pray to them, asking the whole multitude in Heaven to assist us on our way to join them.

All Souls Day, tomorrow, November 2, remembers our unity with the Church in Purgatory. The dogma of Purgatory goes back to the Old Testament, as 2 Maccabees 12:39-46 makes very clear:

"But under the tunic of each of the dead they found amulets sacred to the idols of Jamnia, which the law forbids the Jews to wear. …Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out. The noble Judas …then took up a collection among all his soldiers …which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection in mind; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. …Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be absolved from their sin."

Remember, St. John tells us in Rev. 21:27 that **"nothing imperfect shall enter into" Heaven.** Who do you know that is perfect? Everyone has at least some venial sin or some inordinate attachment to earthly things we cling to. But in His great mercy, the Lord takes all of us who die with any imperfections (but having, before dying, properly repented of any *mortal*—"deadly"—sins) and He perfects, or purifies, us. This time/place/state of purification is called "Purgatory."

It is true that **Purgatory is a place of suffering**. One way to understand this is in the light of the suffering that comes with any change. When we try to get into better physical shape, or when we try to learn a new subject, it's difficult, "painful" ("no pain, no gain"). But this pain is not something we should shun—in fact, the pain becomes a source of joy, as we begin to recognize it as a sign of change to a better state.

So, is it a surprise that the change from imperfect to perfect will be painful? Or that in spite of their suffering, St. Catherine of Genoa, after receiving a vision of Purgatory from Our Lord, wrote: "I believe **no happiness can be …compared with that of a soul in Purgatory** except that of the saints in Paradise."

Even so, **we must pray for the Souls in Purgatory—because they do suffer, even as they rejoice**. We try to help those we love on Earth by praying for them, and we should continue to help them with our prayers after death. So, the Church encourages us to go to Mass on All Souls Day to offer that greatest prayer possible for the "Holy Souls." See you at Mass!

ELECTION. This Tuesday, November 3, Virginians go to the polls to elect a U.S. Senator and a U.S. Representative. We will also vote on the horrible Questions 1 (fundamental right to abortion) and 2 (redefining marriage). You **must vote "no" to Q1 and Q2**, and you should vote for pro-life pro-marriage Senators and Representatives. Vote Like a Catholic.

Adoration and Prayer for the Election. I encourage all of you to pray for God's will to prevail in the election, and remind you we will have Adoration and Exposition in the church **all day Election Day** (this Tuesday), beginning immediately after the 8:30am Mass and ending at 7pm. I also ask you all to pray the Rosary today, tomorrow and Tuesday.

Thanks to Bishop Burbidge. I want to publicly thank our Bishop for his leadership in opposing Q1 and Q2. God bless you Bishop for your courage and clarity.

CONFUSED BISHOPS. Did you read that about the Oct. 22 meeting at the Oval Office between Trump and 11 U.S. bishops? During the gathering, the bishops prayed with the President, as Catholic Word Report wrote, "for the Holy Spirit to 'surround our country, to protect us against any influence of evil.' CWR, went on, "The prayer event generated some backlash for what critics have argued was a politically motivated photo opportunity on the part of the White House."

Well, it was also praised by a bunch of us as a sign that after constantly criticizing the President for disagreeing with their personal political opinions, the bishops can still honor his office and pray for him. If there was anything political about it, it was a sign that we can disagree and still love and pray for each other.

This is, I think, reflected in **Denver Archbishop James Golka's** response to critics. CWR quotes the Archbishop: "But as I prayed about it, I thought that **this is what Catholics do**. **We pray for people**. No matter whether we agree or disagree on anything, we always pray for our country and leaders." To critics the archbishop responded: "**I was being a Catholic priest**….I will keep praying for our president, our governor and everyone who serves in public office, regardless of their party or position on divisive topics." God bless the Archbishop!

But this stands in sad contrast to the statement of **Milwaukee Archbishop Jeffrey Grob** which he called a **"public apology"** over his participation in the Oct. 22 meeting.

"I feel a heavy sadness, not only over the pain I caused…We came …to pray with a president, not to pose for a political photo…. We should never have been put in that position by the White House…I apologize for any damage my actions have done."

Come on. Everyone knows if you go to the White House there will be pictures taken and reported. Is he that naïve? Why not correct the critics who, with a lack of charity, could not see the fundamental importance and requirement of praying with and for the President. Very disappointing.

In the words of St. Paul and the Holy Spirit: *"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions… "* [1 Timothy 2:1–2].

Oremus pro invicem et pro res publica Virginiae et pro praesidente nostro. Fr. De Celles

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 2nd
6:30 am All Souls in Purgatory
8:30 am All Souls Triduum

Tuesday, November 3rd
6:30 am All Souls Triduum
8:30 am All Souls of Legion of Mary +

Wednesday, November 4th
6:30 am Stefan Buchman & Parents
8:30 am All Souls Triduum
7:00 pm Celebrant's Intentions

Thursday, November 5th
6:30 am Luis and Margarita Wolf +
8:30 am Bill Roche +

Friday, November 6th
6:30 am Malcom Brown +
8:30am Eugene and Pauline Tougas

Saturday, November 7th
9:00 am
All Souls in Purgatory

Vigil Mass
5:00 pm
Vernon Butler

Sunday, November 8th
7:00 am
Bill Roche +

9:00 am
Parishioners

11:00 am
Bill Roche+

1:00 pm
Florence Miller +

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)

VISIT OF THE FATIMA "PILGRIM VIRGIN" STATUE TO PARISHIONER HOMES. St. Raymond of Peñafort Legion of Mary is honored to bring the Fatima 'Pilgrim Virgin' Statue to parishioner homes for a 1 or 2 week period! 1. To pray together! 2. To allow Our Blessed Lady to act as Mediatrix to bring Jesus Christ close to your family and household. 3. To make prayer a continuing daily foundation toward peace and forgiveness within the family. The Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary are enthroned in your home upon our return to pick up our Fatima statue. Allow us to assist you with this! Please contact Judy Mayer, call/text 703-627-7320, or email jmayer9014@aol.com to discuss and make arrangements.

Discover Chesterton Academy of Christ the King, a classical high school in the Catholic tradition dedicated to forming students in faith, reason, virtue, and truth. Join us for our Fall Open House on **November 7** from 3:00–4:30 p.m. on our campus at Saint Lawrence Church in Alexandria. Families are invited to learn more about the school, meet members of the faculty, and see what makes a Chesterton education truly special. Visit our website at Chesterton-ChristTheKing.org to register.

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
Annette Haynes
Beth Fitzgibbons
Robert Petitti
Alicia Tocconi
Jay & Linda Cabacar
Rita Felkel
Frankie Downs
Christina Urrutia
Christy Shaiko
Lilia Unalivia

Upcoming Events at St. Raymond Church

Nov 1 Donut Sunday
Nov 1 Reminder - Day Light Savings Time
Nov 2 All Souls Day Masses 6:30 am, 8:30 am and 7 pm
Nov 2-4 All Souls Day Triduum of Masses
Nov 3 Election Adoration 9am to 7pm
Nov 3 Don't Forget to VOTE
Nov 4 Adoration 9 am- 7pm
Nov 5 A Mom's Peace Mass 7 pm
(Miscarried - Stillborn babies and their mothers)
Nov 6-7 First Friday Nocturnal Adoration
Nov 11 Veteran's Day - One Mass at 10 am
Nov 18-21 Pictorial Directory Photoshoot
Dec 2-5 Pictorial Directory Photoshoot

DONUT SUNDAY - AHG is hosting this weekend's Donut Sunday after the 7 am, 9 am and 11 am Masses. Come and meet your fellow parishioners. We will have lost and found articles on a table. Items not claimed will be donated to charity.

SAINT BERNADETTE RELIC TOUR - Saint Bernadette Catholic Church will welcome the Relics of Its Patron Saint as Part of the National Journey of Grace Pilgrimage from Lourdes, France. The faithful of Northern Virginia will have an extraordinary opportunity to welcome and venerate the relics of Saint Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes when they visit Saint Bernadette Catholic Church in Springfield, Virginia, November 5–6, 2026. All are welcome.

VOTING INFORMATION TABLE IN THE NARTHEX
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 2 proposed amendments to the Virginia Constitution that must be defeated. Our **VOTER INFORMATION TABLE** is set up in the Narthex.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Saint Raymond's will be putting together another Pictorial Directory and is in need of volunteers to form a committee. Some of the effort includes data entry and checking families in for their photo shoot. If you are interested in helping, please contact 703-440-0535 or email office@straymonds.org.

THE FULLNESSOF 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 NOVEMBER-

1 Blood Drive Sign up (Narthex, after all Masses)
5 OPM (7pm- Library)
7 Men's Prayer Group 7:30 am Parish Hall
7 Blood Drive in Parish Hall

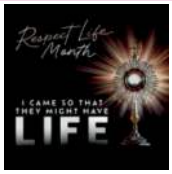
FLAG COLLECTION - The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus fom Marian Assembly will be collecting your worn and tattered U.S. flags to be respectfully retired at St. Lawrence on Saturday, November 14 beginning at 0930. Please put your worn U.S. flags in the box provided in the narthex of the church from October 31 - November 11.

INOVA BLOOD DRIVE - The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a blood drive on behalf of Inova Blood Donor Services on Saturday, November 7th here at St. Raymond's parish hall from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM . Please consider signing up for a 15 minute time slot within that period and giving the Gift of Life. You may sign up either on-line at www.inovabloodsaves.org or in the Narthex after all Masses in the coming weekends. If you have any questions or difficulty signing up, please contact Mark Maslyn of our parish at (202) 679-3293 (m/text) or email at: mam7253@msn.com.

COATS for Kids

St. John Bosco Council 12846 of the **Knights of Columbus** are collecting **NEW** coats for kids (infants to teenagers) after all Masses on November 14th and 15th, 2026. All coats collected will be donated to local charities (e.g., Lorton Community Action Center, ECHO and The Catholic Charities Christ House). Coats can be any size, and boxes will be in the Narthex and at all exits to collect them. Donations (cash/check/card) will also be accepted. Please use this QR Code for card donations. Money donated will be used to purchase new coats and given to the charities above. Your support is greatly appreciated.

SCAN ME



SAINT RAYMOND'S LOVES LIFE

Life is on the line!

Catholics VOTE NO in November!
CatholicsVoteNo.com

40 DAYS FOR LIFE
THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION

Put your faith into action and join with other people of good will. 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. **JOIN US!**

Remember Presence is very important, but 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!

A MOM'S Peace is a Lay Apostolate for Mothers of Miscarried and Stillborn Souls. By discretely supporting mothers with burial, bereavement and remembrance programs, they lovingly guide families through difficult decisions in the immediate wake of loss. A Mom's Peace exists to fulfill the corporal and spiritual works of mercy "bury the dead" and "comfort the sorrowful." Kara Palladino, founder of this ministry, will be available in the narthex after **the 7pm Mass on Wednesday 4 November** to visit with you and answer questions.

Did you know that there's a 24/7 Life Affirming Chatbot*? Introducing Olive chat.ai.* **Almost 80% of Gen Z and Millennials use AI to get answers.** *Olive — life-affirming AI assistant.* https://bit.ly/oliveAI.

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. **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.

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 each child *prior to* participating in any Youth Apostolate event on or off site. http://bit.ly/YAforms

11/1/26 Youth Group & Religious Ed.
3:30-5pm Middle School Youth Group
5-6:30pm Religious Ed.
6:30-8pm High School Youth Group

11/3/26 Sons of Thunder 7-8:30pm (Classroom #2)
High School Men: Come hungry (physically & intellectually) and ready to rumble. Sons of Thunder meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30pm in Classroom #2 in the parish hall with Phil, Nate, Julian and Fr. Bergida.

11/6: 6:30am Mass & Breakfast Before School
All 6-12th graders are invited to 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 at https://bit.ly/FRIDAYRSVPS so we have enough food!

11/14: Witness for Life-Prayer Outside Abortion Facility (10:15am-1pm) All 6-12th graders are invited to join us for an hour of prayer for life, on the sidewalk outside the abortion clinic in Falls Church. We will meet at St. Raymond's and carpool over then return to the parish hall for pizza. For those that need it for Religious Ed., this can count as 1 prayer or church hour Much more importantly, your prayerful witness will impact lives. Compliant adult chaperones/drivers are also needed. Permission slips & more info found at http://bit.ly/YAforms **Due Nov. 10.**

5-12th Grade Pro-Life Essay Contest visit prolifeessay.com for the promps, prizes and submission guidelines. **Due Nov. 7**

YA Pie Sale Fundraiser Pre-Orders are open!
The Youth Apostolate has picked 4 full bushels of apples and is gearing up to make 70+ apple and 70+ pumpkin pies for you, your family, friends, neighbors and loved ones to enjoy! All pies and crusts are made by the youth, from scracth! All pies will be **ready for pick-up November 21-22** after Masses, just in time for Thanksgiving! All proceeds support our Youth Apostolate meetings and events, including Steubenville & Mount 2000. **Pre-orders are due Monday, November 16th, unless we sell out sooner!** Forms for the pre-order can be found on the youth bulletin boards & as an insert in this bulletin. Thank you, in advance, for supporting our youth!

Food (or Financial) Contributions Needed
The Youth Apostolate is in need of hot casseroles for our Friday Mass and breakfast crew: https://bit.ly/breakfastfriday We are also in need of folks willing to contribute a simple meal or dessert on Sunday evenings for our high school youth group. Many families contribute, but we still struggle to get all meals and desserts accounted for. https://bit.ly/feedthehungryteens Perhaps you are willing to help but are not a baker or cook? If you would be willing to donate towards a meal, we could then use that donation to reimburse someone who enjoys cooking but either does not have the money or who already contributes often and would be happy to cook more frequently but not always have to pay for it. Please consider contributing by making a donation to the Youth Apostolate with "meal contribution" in the memo at this QR code.

Jeanne Sause
Director of Youth Apostolate (Grades 6-12)
youth@straymonds.org Call/Text: 571-334-9890
Email Jeanne to be added to the email list for the most updated info. on Youth Apostolate news & upcoming events.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Parents: There IS class on Nov. 1 and 2 even though FCPS is closed.

Today is All Saints Day! Consider finding a saint movie on Formed.org to enjoy as a family this weekend! Our parish library has lots of saint books, so stop by after Mass and pick some out!
Remember to pray for the Poor Souls in Purgatory tomorrow, and throughout the month of November. During our Holy 10 Minutes this month, we are using a beautiful prayer of St. Gertrude the Great. I will share it with you here in case you would like to pray it at home. We believe that our prayers can help "release" souls in purgatory to be with God in heaven! Praying for the dead is a spiritual work of mercy.

Eternal Father, I offer You the most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the Universal Church, those in my own home, and within my family. Amen.

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 at 703-440-0535.

Healing Our Past: Victim Assistance Ministry: The Victim Assistance Ministry offers referrals to therapists with experience working with victims/survivors of sexual abuse as well as referrals for spiritual assistance. In addition the diocese offers Masses an prayer serviced for healing for victims/survivors of sexual abuse, as well as various other support services. If you or someone in your family has been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church, we encourage you to contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator at 703-841-2530. All calls are confidential. For more information about services provided by the Victim Assistance Ministry, please visit our website at www.arlingtondiocese.org.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY - It's time for our NEW Parish Directory. Every family who participates will receive a free 8x10 family portrait and a printed directory. **Photoshoot dates are November 18-21 and December 2-5.** Please sign up for your photoshoot here.

CHURCH CODE:va319
PASSWORD: photos319

CHURCH PERSECUTED

The first two days of November, the Feast of All Saints and the Commemoration of All the Faithfully Departed (All Souls' Day) remind us of our own personal departure from this world and the opportunities for the next life – either gloriously with Our Lord in heaven or preparing for that glory in purgatory.

In his monumental work, *The Divine Comedy,* Dante Alighieri devotes a series of three volumes to one of three destinations for our soul upon its departure from this world: *Inferno* (Hell), *Purgatorio* (Purgatory), and *Paradiso* (Heaven). We Catholics are blessed because we recognize and acknowledge the presence of Purgatory and set aside a day to honor and pray for those souls who are there. As Dante writes:

> And of the second kingdom will I sing
> Wherein the human spirit doth purge itself,
> And to ascent to heaven becometh worthy.

In his book, *Dante Alighieri* (Crossroads, 1999), Dr. Robert Royal writes, "Humility will be a principal theme of the whole *Purgatory,* but it is especially important here because through humility we enter upon the right path again." (p. 105)

In humility, we acknowledge that our parents and relatives, our friends and neighbors, and others whom we do not know may have been virtuous individuals on earth but may still need preparation before entering heaven. We may even question someone who definitively says that a deceased person is in heaven. A non-Catholic friend frets that "if only my daughter would take on Jesus as her Lord and Savior, she would be saved, and assured heaven." That friend only believes in heaven or hell. She, like others, only read the *Inferno* in order to avoid discussing purgatory. If not heaven, then what? Purgatory awaits as a period of purgation – cleansing because since God is all perfect, only perfectly cleansed souls may enter heaven.

We must set our sights on heaven, with the hope that failure to attain it will lead us to purgatory, rather than hoping to creep into purgatory to avoid hell. Pray this month of November for the souls in purgatory and thank our God for giving us a place of cleansing before entering the royal banquet of heaven.

FORMED®

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

Questions? Email us at formed@straymonds.org.

Angelus Academy

Where the Truth of Catholic teaching takes flesh in the lives of 3 year-old to 8th grade children and their families.

Openings still available for students at Angelus Academy

We love having St. Raymond parishioners at our school. What a blessing it is to be learning together! We are continuing to accept applications for the 2026-2027 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.

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.

BOOK CLUB NEWS - Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November 12th at 9:30 AM, in the Parish Library. We will be discussing **"Autobiography of a Hunted Priest"** by Rev John Gerard, S.J. The schedule for the full year can be found on the parish website: https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/book-club/. New members welcome. If you have questions or plan to join us for the first time in November, please contact Jim Mault at bookclub@straymonds.org.

WE ARE IN NEED OF USHERS—If you would like to volunteer, please contact headushers@straymonds.org.

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 7pm 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.

Offertory Collection Totals for October 25, 2026

Offertory	13,552.00
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