St. Raphael Catholic Church

1513 Dunster Road • Rockville, Maryland 20854

Parish Office Hours	**Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM**
Parish Phone	**301-762-2143**
Parish Fax	**301-762-0719**
Website	**www.straphaels.org**

Rev. James P. Meyers, Pastor, ext. 112
Rev. Francisco Aguirre, Parochial Vicar, ext. 150
Rev. Msgr. Vincent Gatto, in residence
Deacon Jose Carbonell, ext. 187
Deacon Jorge Gatica, ext. 164
Deacon Richard Mattocks, 301-928-8227
Deacon Frank Salatto, ext. 149
Mary J. Beaudoin, Dir. of Religious Education, ext. 124
Gerri Stoner, St. Raphael School Secretary, ext. 122
Teri Dwyer, Principal, Baptism Coordinator, ext. 121
Eileen Kutchak, Dir. of Parish Programming, ext. 110
Luisa Duarte, Spanish Coordinator - 240-864-2565
Annalee McHugh, Youth Minister - 240-864-2519
Vince Natali, Dir. of Music Ministries - 240-864-2532
Suzanne Nelson, Adult Faith Formation - 443-472-3730 (cell)
Linda Poindexter, RCIA Coordinator - 240-864-2543
Elaine Salatto, Publications, Welcoming - 240-864-2513
Sandy Shamburek, Social Concerns Coordinator- 240-864-2514
Juliana Weber, Associate for Religious Education, ext. 123

New Parishioners: A warm welcome to St. Raphael's Catholic Church. Blue registration cards and white ministry sign-up sheets are available on the wall rack in the main entrance of the church. Information describing each ministry can be found on our website: www.straphaels.org, click on Parish Organizations.

For Life Affirming Resources:
http://www.adw.org/pregnant-need-help/
Healing after abortion? Project Rachel 301-853-4565

Weekend Masses:	Saturday: 5:00 PM Sunday: 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30AM and 1:00 PM (en español), 6:00 PM (youth)
Weekday Masses:	Monday thru Friday: 6:30 and 9:00 AM Saturday: 9:00 AM
Penance:	Sundays (en español: 11:30-12:30 in the parish library Tuesday: 7:00-7:30 PM Saturday: 3:45-4:30 PM
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:	Tuesday: 6:45 PM Thursday, 9:30 AM
Benediction:	Tuesday, 7:30 PM; Thursday 7:15 PM
Miraculous Medal Novena:	Tuesday, 7:30 PM
Chaplet to the Divine Mercy:	Tuesday, following Novena Thursday, 7:00 PM

Sacrament of Baptism: Parish Registration and a Baptism class is required. Please contact Teri Dwyer to register and plan to attend the class while awaiting the birth or adoption of your child.

Sacrament of Matrimony: In Accord with the regulations of the Archdiocese of Washington, couples must contact a priest and begin preparation at least six months prior to the wedding. Parish registration and active participation for the minimum of three months is required *before* preparation may begin. Living together before marriage is sinful and harmful to the future marriage. Couples who are living together will be asked to live separately during the preparation time.

What does it mean to be an active Catholic? Frequently, those seeking to celebrate Marriage, have children baptized, or serve as sponsors for Confirmation or Baptism request a letter stating they are parishioners and active, practicing Catholics. To receive such a letter, one must be registered in the parish, attend Mass regularly, and be committed to a stewardship of time, talent, and treasure. We encourage all parishioners to become active in one of the parish organizations. In a community as large as St. Raphael, one means of verifying participation is through the regular use of parish offertory envelopes. If you choose not to participate in the support of the parish, or are unable to contribute at this time, please at least note your prayerful support on your envelope and place it in the weekly offertory. We will then be aware of your continued participation, and you will not be noted as "inactive" on our parish roster.

From the Pastor's Desk

Wishing all of you a Happy and Blessed New Year!

Monday	**January 2**	
6:30 AM	Jacqueline C. Vesce (d)	
9:00 AM	John Gleavy (d)	
Tuesday	**January 3**	
6:30 AM	Patricia Ann Mercuri (d)	
9:00 AM	Daniel Isaacs	
Wednesday	**January 4**	
6:30 AM	Janie Davidson (d)	
9:00 AM	Ramona Zargas (d)	
Thursday	**January 5**	
6:30 AM	Elliott Laniel Copeland (d)	
9:00 AM	Robert Natiello (d)	
Friday	**January 6**	
6:30 AM	Lily Mae Bash (d)	
9:00 AM	Pat & Gene Ott (d)	
Saturday	**January 7**	
9:00 AM	Barbara Fegan (d)	
5:00 PM	Cecilia Fabbro (d)	
Sunday	**January 8**	
7:00 AM	Msgr. Gatto	Members of the Parish
8:30 AM	Fr. Meyers	Jane Whiteis (d)
10:00 AM	Fr. Aguirre	Mona Paczkowski (d)
11:30 AM	Fr. Meyers	Elizabeth & Albert Hoffman d)
1:00 PM	Fr. Aguirre	Jaime Torres Preciado (d)
6:00 PM	Visiting Priest	Jim Woodward (d)

The Priest Mass Schedule is subject to change.

Schedule for Confession:
Tuesday, January 3, 7:00 PM, Fr. Aguirre/Msgr. Gatto
Saturday, January 7, 3:45-4:30 PM, Fr. Aguirre/Msgr. Gatto
Sunday, January 8, 11:30 AM -12:30 PM, Fr. Aguirre
Parish Library in Spanish

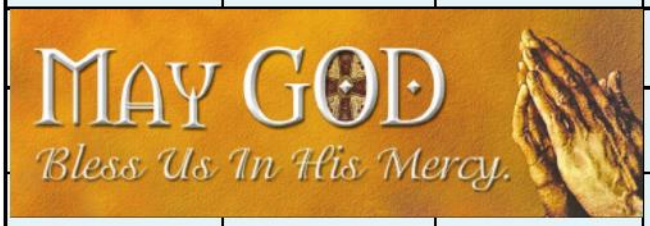
RCIA/RICA (Spanish RCIA): Non-Catholics or Catholics who have not received Eucharist and Confirmation, come and discover more about the Catholic Faith! Contact Linda Poindexter, 240-864-2543, for details. Any youth interested in becoming Catholic contact the Office of Religious Education, 301-762-2143, ext. 124.

Education:
St. Raphael School: 301-762-2143—Mrs. Teri Dwyer, Principal

Baptisms:
Thomas Robert O'Brien December 17, 2016

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Monday January 2	Tuesday January 3	Wednesday January 4	Thursday January 5	Friday January 6	Saturday January 7	Sunday January 8
Parish Offices closed	No Religious Education	Contemplative Prayer, 9:45AM, Upper Room D	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 9:00 AM Mass	First Friday Coffee, after 9:00 AM Mass, Parish Library	No Men's Fellowship	Second Collection New Education Building Stone Soup Sunday
	CYO Basketball, 5PM, Trumpet Room	CYO Basketball, 5PM, Trumpet Room	CYO Basketball, 5PM, Trumpet Room	Making Music Praying Twice, 10AM, Youth Center	Spanish Bible Study, 10AM, Upper Room D	Coffee/Donuts after 8:30, 10, 11:30 AM, 1PM Masses
	Exposition, Novena, Benediction, 6:45 PM, Church	The Lord's Vineyard, 7PM, Upper Room D, Youth Center	Legion of Mary, 7PM, Upper Room ABC	CYO Basketball, 5PM, Trumpet Room		RCIA, 9:00 AM, Youth Center
	Spanish Prayer, 7:30 PM, Upper Room ABC		Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM, **APR**	Spanish Prayer, 7PM, Upper Room ABCD		Religious Education, 10, 11:30 AM, 7:05PM, Classrooms
				Spanish Holy Hour, 7:30 PM, Church		Children's Liturgy, 10, 11:30 AM, 1PM, Duffy Center
				Light of Christ Prayer, 7:30 PM, Parish Library		Spanish Choir, 11:00 AM, Upper Room ABC
				Young Adult Spanish, 7:30 PM, Room 12		Spanish Ministry, 11AM, Upper Room D
						Spanish CLW Meeting, 12PM, Teacher's Lounge
						Spanish Ministry, 2:30 PM, Duffy Center 4
						Spanish Prayer, 2:30 PM, Upper Room ABC, Duffy Center 3,5
						Middle School Youth Group, 4PM, Youth Center
						Youth Ministry, 7:00 PM, Youth Center



To enroll in Faith Direct, direct debit program, visit www.faithdirect.net to enroll securely on line or complete an enrollment form. Our parish code is MD34.

Low Gluten Hosts that are approved by the Catholic Church for the Holy Eucharist are offered at the time of Communion. The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion offering these Hosts will be standing near the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Sunday Masses. At the 9:00 AM weekday Mass, the Minister will stand near the pulpit.

e.p.i.f.a.n.ē.

Everyone ~ Pay ~ It ~ Forward ~ And ~ Never ~ Expect

"I give because it is my responsibility and joy to support our wonderful parish."

Have you told us why <u>you</u> give?

Parish Council: Please feel free to contact a Parish Council member listed here to discuss your views, opinions, or concerns regarding our parish.
John Piernikowski – 301-838-0712
Dan Garges—301-340-8197

Bulletin notices are due in writing ON FRIDAY, THE WEEK BEFORE THE published date. Notices may be emailed to: esalatto@straphaels.org. Flyers must be approved by the pastor two weeks in advance. Call Elaine, ext. 113 for available calendar dates.

Prayers for Healing

Mary Crawford, Alicia Czorny, Mary Rey Girardi, Ruth Hacker, Beverly Sassa, Dorothy Wessel, Elizabeth Cassidy, mother of Maryann Kearns.

If you are on the mend and wish your name to be removed from our prayer list, please call the parish office and let us know. *Names on this list are only included with permission of the individuals. They will remain on the list for one month, and can be repeated by calling the parish office.*

THE POOR BOX FOR JANUARY 1 WILL BE GIVEN TO ST. VINCENT DE PAUL/ST. RAPHAEL CONFERENCE.

WARM UP AT SODALITY'S WINTER TEA!

Not a member, please come and consider joining Sodality.
Tuesday, January 17th in the Parish Library from 1:45-4:00 PM (snow date: January 24th).

Your help is needed, so please sign up with Signup.com to bring a tea item, or call Liz Slyne at 301-340-2925 or Jan Rathgeber at 301-424-0381 for help or questions.

We are looking forward to spending time together celebrating our "Sisterhood" in style. Hope to see you there!

Please RSVP before January 17th.
Remember to wear your Miraculous Medal.

If anyone can lend us teapots for decoration or tiered serving trays, please contact Liz or Jan. Bring your own special teacup to use at the tea, if you like. We will have some available also.

Readings for the Week of January 1, 2017

Sunday	**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God** Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Monday	**Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church** 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28
Tuesday	**The Most Holy Name of Jesus** 1 Jn 2:29—3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34
Wednesday	**Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious** 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42
Thursday	**Saint John Neumann, Bishop** 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 1:43-51
Friday	**Saint André Bessette, Religious** 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147: 12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
Saturday	**Saint Raymond of Penyafort** 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b; Jn 2:1-11
Sunday	**The Epiphany of the Lord** Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

January 1

This Sunday we continue the celebration of the Christmas season, joyfully recalling the day when the Perfect Gift, Jesus Christ, came to us through His Mother Mary. As we ponder the role that Mary, Mother of God played in bringing us the Christ we are reminded that we play a similar role in the lives of our friends and families. We who have received Jesus are to share him with those we love. This week continue to invite others to experience the joy of being Catholic! Find inspiration and celebrate the season at FindThePerfectGift.org

First Friday Coffee

Friday, January 6th

The Talk will be given by

Fr. Carter Griffin
From Saint John Paul II Seminary

At St. Raphael's Church
Talk will begin after Mass in Parish Library

Youth Ministry
Annie McHugh, 240-864-2519

High School Youth

Follow Youth Group on Social Media
All high school teens are invited to stay up to date with Youth Group happenings on Instagram "@straphsyg" and Facebook "St Raphael's Ignite". You can also sign up for text message reminders by sending your number to Mike, mmchugh@straphaels.org. Parents can sign up for monthly e-mail updates by e-mailing Mike, mmchugh@straphaels.org.

No Youth Group – January 1

The Power of Holy Desire – January 8
This semester at Youth Group, we will discuss love, dating, sexuality, and marriage as we dive into the "Theology of the Body" (talks written by Pope Saint John Paul II about sexuality.) To begin, we will discuss God's plan for human sexuality and the beauty of holy desire. All high school teens are invited to join us on January 8 from 7-9PM in the Youth Center and dinner will be provided.

March for Life – January 27
Join Youth Group and hundreds of thousands of other pro-lifers as we march in protest of Roe vs. Wade in Washington, D.C. on January 27. We'll begin with a Youth Rally and Mass in the Verizon Center, then walk to the Mall and march to the Supreme Court. This event requires a reservation and permission form. Contact Annie amchugh@straphaels.org to sign up.

Middle School Youth

Middle School Youth Group – January 8
All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are invited to Middle School Youth Group on January 8 from 4:00-5:30 for pizza and a discussion about our Catholic faith. Contact Courtney, cdaniel@straphaels.org for more details.

ST. RAPHAEL MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
RESUMES JANUARY 14

With approximately 100 men actively involved (average attendance is 80 men each week), this is a great opportunity for both new parishioners and long-time members to gain new friends and connections within the parish. The program is for men of all ages (over 18) and is particularly well suited for those men who are still "actively" parenting young children and adolescents.

Knowing the Faith. Living the Faith.
This year we are using a popular video program called **Symbolon** from the Augustine Institute. Visit the Formed Website and reconnect to the essential aspects of our faith such as the Trinity, redemption in Christ, the Church, the Bible, Mary and the Saints, creation, the fall and the Last Things. Part 2 of the Symbolon program focuses on the encounter with God in the sacraments as well as the moral life.
www.formed.org
Parish Registration Code: VCCHCY—This free registration gives parishioners free access to a wealth of materials online.

PROGRAM INFORMATION	SCHEDULE	FOR MORE INFORMATION
Saturday Mornings St. Raphael Trumpet Room	6:00 am - Light Breakfast 6:30 am - Presentation 7:00 am - Small Group Discussions 7:45 am - Dismissal	Contact Brian deKowzwan 443-326-1678 or via email at bdekowzan@gmail.com

School News

A peek behind our classroom doors

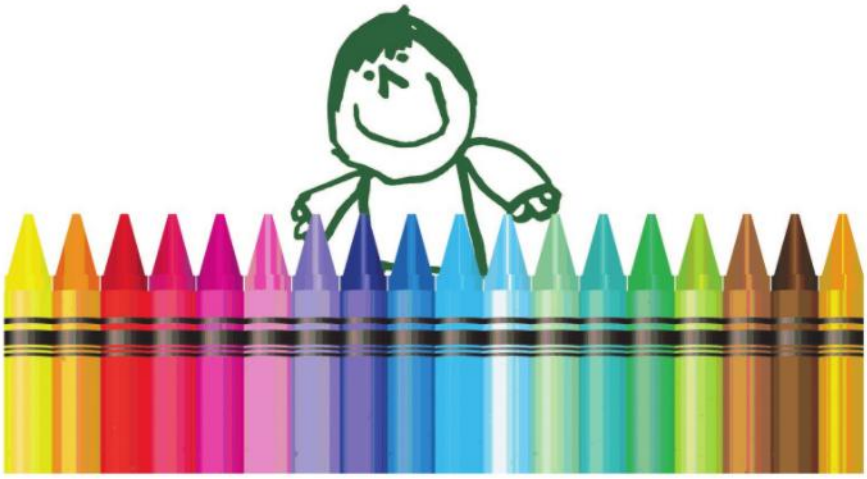
JANUARY 1, 2017

SRNS Registration Opens Jan. 13

It's hard to believe that we are already getting ready for the next school year. Registration for St. Raphael Nursery School 2017-18 will open online at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 13. Registration can be found at **www.srnsmd.org**.

SRNS offers an early-childhood program for 3- and 4-year-olds, as well as a transitional program for older 4's called 4-Plus. At SRNS, we focus on the whole child—spiritually, mentally, physically, and socially—to ensure a positive first-time school experience that puts the child on the right track to a lifetime of learning. We've been helping little ones grow since 1969.

We encourage everyone to visit our wonderful preschool at our open house. Our doors are open to all! Check us out at 9:15 a.m. Monday, Jan. 9 (see flyer at right), or share with friends who are looking for the best preschool in the Rockville area.



One of the many reasons parents love us is because of the flexibility in our scheduling. Our offerings for 2017-18:

- Tu/Th AM 3's: 28 seats
- M/W/F AM 3's: 14 seats
- M/W/F AM 4's: 16 seats
- M/W/F full-day 4's: 16 seats
- M–F AM 4's: 16 seats
- M–F 4-Plus AM: 16 seats
- M–F 4-Plus PM: 16 seats

We also offer Lunch Bunch as well as morning and afternoon enrichment classes each day of the week. Families may combine programs to create a full-day experience. Learn more about our programming options at **www.srnsmd.org**.

For questions about registration, or to schedule a tour at your convenience, contact Julie Cress at 301-762- 2143 ext. 158 or jcress@straphaels.org.

Mike Haverty
Lunch Supervisor

Ann Healey
3's Teacher

Lindsay Howley
3's Assistant

Melissa Kelly
Science Teacher

Who's Who at SRS and SRNS

One in a series

A simple ongoing guide to our faculty and staff (a reader request!)

www.straphaelschoolmd.org | www.srnsmd.org | www.facebook.com/straphaelschool

(Find out if you are, too!)

St. Raphael Nursery School

▶ **9:15 a.m.**

- 3-year-olds
- 4-year-olds
- 4-Plus (Pre-K)
- Extended day
- Before/after care

DOUBLE OPEN HOUSE

Monday Jan. 9

St. Raphael School (K-8)

▶ **10:45 a.m.**

- Integrated technology
- Small-group instruction
- After care

Each open house starts with a presentation, followed by a tour

www.straphaelschoolmd.org | www.srnsmd.org | www.facebook.com/straphaelschool

Social Responsibility and Outreach (SRO)
Sandy Shamburek, 240-864-2514

Poor Box: Today's collection will benefit **The Society of St. Vincent de Paul/St. Raphael Conference.** *Next weekend's collection* will benefit **Dorothy Day Place**. Part of Catholic Charities, Dorothy Day Place is a transitional shelter for homeless women in Rockville. Thank you for your care and concern for others!

Next week* is Stone Soup Sunday:** Our monthly food collection of non-perishables for St. Martin's of Gaithersburg Food Pantry will occur at all Masses ***next weekend. Please bring your non-perishable items to the truck parked in the circle and a volunteer will accept them from you. Thank you!

Vincentian reflection: Today is the feast of Mary, Mother of God. Like Mary may we always treasure the events in our life so blessed by God's goodness. We wish to encourage all parishioners to have ears to hear the "cries of the poor", to have eyes to "seek and find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived", and to have hearts that "bring God's love to the poor" through their generosity and donations. May the peace and joy of the New Year be yours!

World Day of Peace is January 1, 2017: Today marks the 50th anniversary of the Papal World Day of Peace. Pope Francis' theme for this year's message is ***"Non-Violence: A Style of Politics for Peace."*** He urges families, faith communities, the international community to engage in his commitment to active non-violence, and building a just peace. The Catholic response to the 'just war tradition' was not only established to reduce the recourse to war and to limit its humanitarian consequences but to encourage the commitment to active non-violence and building just peace. There are several strategies employed including peacebuilding, conflict transformation, restorative justice and unarmed civilian protection. To learn more on what you the individual can do to promote peacemaking strategies, visit the **Peace and Justice Subcommittee** page of the SRO ministry homepage at www.straphaels.org. The entire World Day of Peace for 2017 will also be available to read from this page.

The Work of Christmas: Written by Howard Thurman, this reflection gives us pause on how we are to serve others as Jesus would want us to serve all:

When the song of the angel is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

St. Raphael RESPECT FOR LIFE

"The family is the basic cell of society. It is the cradle of life & love, the place in which the individual 'is born' & 'grows.'"
~ St. Pope John Paul II, *Christifidels Laici*
("Lay Members of Christ's Faithful People")

Pray to end abortion: Storm heaven with your prayers by joining others at the Monday morning vigils at the Germantown Reproductive Health Services office located at 13233 Executive Park Terrace at 8:00 until 10:00 AM. If you cannot go in person, then pray a Holy Rosary for the end to abortion every day.

Pro-Life advocacy workshop coming up: Effectively advocate your pro-life values on the local level through preparation provided in an online workshop called **Annapolis 101.** Join other interested Catholics on ***this coming Saturday***, January 7 at 9:00 AM. Visit www.MarylandMarchforLife.org to register for the webinar.

Sign-Up for March for Life: This year's National March for Life will be held on Friday, January 27 in Washington, D.C. A bus to transport those interested in participating will be available on a first come first serve basis. Reserve a seat by visiting our SUG site located on the homepage of the parish website. Please bring your own bagged lunch and water. A collection for the driver's tip will be made; we suggest $5.00 per person. Dress warmly in layers including proper shoes, hat and gloves. A manual sign-up sheet will be on the credenza of the vestibule for those with no access to a computer.

Around the Archdiocese

Parental and Spousal Bereavement Support Group
St. Elizabeth Bereavement Ministry will offer an eight week bereavement support group series for adults who have experienced the death of a parent, spouse or significant other. The Winter daytime series will meet at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, Montrose Road in Rockville on Wednesday mornings, 10–11:30AM, from January 11 – March 1, 2017. There is no fee but registration is required. Space is strictly limited so call early. To register call Deacon Kevin Byrne (301-279-5962) or Claudia McAuliffe (301-881-1457).

Religious Education

Mary Beaudoin, 301-762-2143, ext. 124

Family Prayer for the New Year

God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time. (© Loyola Press; used with permission; all rights reserved)

Home Blessing on Epiphany

The feast of Epiphany is the traditional time for blessing your home. Please take a moment to find the "Blessing of the Home and Household on Epiphany" at www.usccb.org. Then, gather family members to pray this special Christmastime blessing on your loved ones and your home.

Religious Education Calendar

Religious Education classes will resume on January 8, 9, and 10. Find the full SRRE calendar at www.straphaels.org/religious-education (scroll down). If you need a printed copy, please contact the Religious Education office.

Amoris Laetitia: On Love in the Family

In his apostolic letter *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*) Pope Francis gives us a guide for how to talk with one another:

Dialogue is essential for experiencing, expressing and fostering love in marriage and family life. Yet it can only be the fruit of a long and demanding apprenticeship. Men and women, young people and adults, communicate differently. They speak different languages and they act in different ways. Our way of asking and responding to questions, the tone we use, our timing and any number of other factors condition how well we communicate. We need to develop certain attitudes that express love and encourage authentic dialogue. [136]

As we begin this New Year, let us recommit ourselves to loving dialogue within our families and other relationships.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for January

Christian Unity: That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.

First Communion Family Reminders

First Penance will be celebrated Wednesday, January 25, at 7:00 PM or Saturday, January 28, at 10 AM. Penance practice will be offered during class (grade 2) or on Sunday, January 22, 11:00 AM -1:00 PM. (grades 3-8). Families with children (grades 2, 3, and 4) are completing chapter 6 of *God's Gift Reconciliation*. First Communion candidates in grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 should have completed chapters 1 through 7 in *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace.* Be sure to memorize the Act of Contrition:

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.
In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen

Confirmation Student Reminders

Confirmation I students are working on their Confirmation Service Projects. The focus of these projects is the Corporal Works of Mercy (to feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to shelter the homeless, to visit the sick, to visit the imprisoned, and to bury the dead) and the Spiritual Works of Mercy (to instruct the ignorant, to counsel the doubtful, to admonish sinners, to bear wrongs patiently, to forgive offences willingly, to comfort the afflicted, and to pray for the living and the dead).

Confirmation II students should have turned in their sponsor certificates, saint projects, and Confirmation service reflection papers. All students have participated or will be participating in a Confirmation retreat. We look forward to Confirmation Masses with Bishop Dorsonville on Saturday night, May 6, and Sunday afternoon, May 7, 2017.

Making Music Little Angels- Winter and Lent Session

Families are invited take part in our Catholic music program for children ages 0 – 5. Children learn about Jesus and about God's love while participating in an interactive program with song, dance, instruments, parachute play and more. The curriculum is carefully chosen to enhance music aptitude and attitude in growing brains, while remaining sensitive to maturing souls. Our Winter/Lent session begins January 6; classes meet on Friday mornings at 10:00-11:00 in the Parish Library. Please find the registration form on the Religious Education page of the parish website.

Potomac-Area Interfaith Communities

Recently, representatives from nine religious congregations, including St. Raphael, came together to form the Potomac-Area Interfaith Communities (PAIC). Participating congregations include Catholic, Orthodox Christian, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Mormon, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and Bahá'í. The group's first program was held on November 22 when approximately 400 people came together for an interfaith Thanksgiving service. The next event will be "Sacred Texts: Creed, Culture, Code," an interfaith panel discussion. It will be held on Sunday, February 12, at 7:00 PM at Potomac Presbyterian Church. All are welcome.

Adult Faith Formation

Suzanne.nelson2@gmail.com
443-472-3730

AFF Quote of the Week

Here's New Year's resolution for you:
"We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word."
-Goran Persson

CONTINUING:

STAY AND PRAY ---
All are welcome! Come when you can.

"Our Catholic Faith at Christmas and Beyond"
Theme: *The Human Journey of Faith*
Prayer, Scripture, Catholic Teaching,
and Small Group Discussion
7 Advent gatherings leading to Christmas and beyond.
In the All Purpose Room on Mondays
from 7:00-8:15 PM
January 9 ..., 23, 30 – 2017

Session Titles:

The Inborn Hunger for God
The Response to Revelation is Faith
Made in God's Image
The Human Inclination to Sin
Mercy, Grace, and Sin
The Dignity of the Human Person
The Communion of Saints and the End of Life

Booklets and Refreshments will be provided. Courtesy of the Archdiocese of Washington
Facilitators: *Ana Fernandez-Daza and Suzanne Nelson*

CHRISTLIFE, PART 2: *FOLLOWING CHRIST*

Begins February 1, 2017

7 Wednesdays: February 1 – March 28
(No meeting on Ash Wednesday)
7:00-9:00 PM

+ 1 day retreat – TBA
Please join us for Prayer and Worship, DVD input, small group discussion, and refreshments.
Booklets provided.
Free will offerings accepted.
Child Care available on request.
Please sign up by emailing Suzanne.
Put "ChristLife" in the header.
suzanne.nelson2@gmail.com
For more information, please contact Jack jack@singletonelectric.com

COMING SOON:

BIBLE STUDY:

Morning Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles, Part 2
Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom provides us more than a history of the First Christians – it is the story about the Early Church with the Holy Spirit as the protagonist. The study will resume Tuesdays, 9:45—12:00, January 10 through March 14. For more information or to register for the study, contact **Dorothy Welsh** at 301-526-5779 or at dwwelsh5@aol.com.

Evening Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles, Part 1
Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom provides us more than a history of the First Christians – it is the story about the Early Church with the Holy Spirit as the protagonist.
Thursdays, 7:30-9:00 PM – Duffy Center.
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BOOKS AND LINKS WORTH READING/VIEWING/ DISCUSSING:

Evangelization
The Jesuits: A History by John W. O'Malley, SJ
Follow Christ: Developing the Lifestyle of an Intentional Disciple by Dave Nodar, Fr. Erik Arnold, and Ally Ascosi
A Church on the Move: 52 Ways to Get Mission and Mercy in Motion by Joe Paprocki
Forming Intentional Disciples by Sherry Weddell

Fortune-Time Global Forum 2016 with Pope Francis
http://www.worldreligionnews.com/religion-news/fortune-time-global-forum-2016-pope-francis-concludes-vatican

NEW: **View Bishop Robert Barron's comments on "Dr. Strange"** at https://www.youtube.com/watch?

Amoris Laetitia, an Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Francis. Read it online at: w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20160319_amoris-laetitia.html
[Watch for details about the February 23, 2017 Panel Discussion of this document on love in the family.]
What is an Apostolic Exhortation? Hint: It's not new doctrine. Find out here: http://library.athenaeum.edu/c.php
Vibrant Paradoxes: The Both/And of Catholicism by Robert Barron
Letters of Fire by Thomas Esposito, O. Cist.
God Help Me. These People are Driving Me Nuts by Gregory K. Popcak, Ph.D.

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