St. Raphael Catholic Church

March 26, 2017

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. Michael Salah, Pastor, ext. 112
Rev. David Wells, 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 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

Dear parishioners

Father Dave and I are so excited to be here together in your wonderful parish. My first assignment as parochial vicar was at St. Pius X in Bowie. I first met Father Dave there when he was in second grade. As he got older, he served Mass for me. Now we are here together serving you.

I have visited our great school and enjoyed meeting the teachers and students along with our wonderful staff. I also look forward to visiting our Religious Education children and their teachers. In time I hope get to know more of you.

Please pray for me and for Fr. Dave.

God bless you.

Father Michael Salah

Lenten Confession Schedule

Please note that this Lent, there will be no Parish Penance Service on Tuesday, April 11 but that evening we will have the regularly scheduled Tuesday evening Confessions from 7:00-7:30PM.

Please take advantage of the Confessions we have for you to prepare for Easter:

Every Tuesday night, 7:00 PM
Every Wednesday night,
The Light is On for you, 6:30-8:00 PM, and
Every Saturday afternoon, 3:45-4:30 PM.

Father Mike and Father Dave are able to hear confessions in two languages English and Spanish.

Monday	**March 27**
6:30 AM	Thomas Cook (d)
9:00 AM	Mary & Bob Muzzy (d)
Tuesday	**March 28**
6:30 AM	Rev. James P. Meyers
9:00 AM	France Staudemann
Wednesday	**March 29**
6:30 AM	Oscar Escobar (d)
9:00 AM	Patricia Croker
Thursday	**March 30**
6:30 AM	Deacon Larry & Beatrice Gordon (d)
9:00 AM	John M. Burke (d)
Friday	**March 31**
6:30 AM	John DuFief (d)
9:00 AM	Ifeyinwa Davis
Saturday	**April 1**
9:00 AM	Agnese Gavagnani Ciarla (d)
5:00 PM	Don Crawford (d)
Sunday	**April 2**
7:00 AM	Members of the Parish
8:30 AM	John Gleavy (d)
10:00 AM	Enrique Castillo (d)
11:30 AM	Karen Burrell (d)
1:00 PM	Intentions of Spanish Community
6:00 PM	Mary & Richard Lucey (d)

The Priest Mass Schedule will be available next bulletin.

Schedule for Confession:
Tuesday, March 28, 7:00 PM, Fr. Salah/Msgr. Gatto
Wednesday, March 29, The Light is On,
6:30-8PM, Fr. Wells
Saturday, April 1, 3:45-4:30 PM, Fr. Salah/Fr. Wells
Sunday, April 2, 11:30 AM -12:30 PM, Fr. Wells
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:

Abraham Frederick Sellier	March 19
Camila Alfonso Portan	March 18
Abrianna Alfonso Portan	March 18
Irene Frances Davis	March 18
Joseph Frank Davis	March 18

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Monday March 27	Tuesday March 28	Wednesday March 29	Thursday March 30	Friday March 31	Saturday April 1	Sunday April 2
Children's Choir, 3:45PM, Church	Bible Study, 9:45 AM, Parish Library	Contemplative Prayer, 9:45 AM, Upper Room D	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 9:00 AM Mass	Sodality, Mary's Way, after 9:00 AM Mass, Church	No Men's Fellowship	Second Collection: New Education Building
Religious Education, 4:30 & 7PM, Classrooms	Religious Education, 4:30 PM, Classrooms	Confessions: The Light is On for you, 6:30-8PM, Church	Legion of Mary, 7PM, Upper Room ABC	Making Music Praying Twice, 10AM, Parish Library	Spanish Bible Study, 10AM, Upper Room D	Coffee/Donuts after 8:30, 10, 11:30AM, 1PM Masses, Trumpet Room
SVDP, 6:30 PM, Parish Library	Exposition , Novena, Benediction, 6:45 PM, Church		Boy Scouts, 7:30 PM, **APR**	Spanish Prayer, 7PM, Upper Room ABC	RCIA, 11:30 AM, Room 12	Stone Soup Sunday
Stay and Pray, 7PM, APR	Adult Faith Formation, 7:30 PM, Duffy Center 3, 5		Bible Study, 7:30 PM, Duffy Center 3, 5	Stations of the Cross, 7:30 PM, English 8:30 PM, Spanish		RCIA, 9AM, Youth Center
	Spanish Committee, 7:30 PM, Duffy Center 4			Light of Christ, 7:30 PM, Parish Library		Religious Education, 10, 11:30 AM, (7:05 PM Classrooms & Penance Service Church)
	Spanish Prayer Group, 7:30 PM, Upper Room ABC			Young Adult Spanish, 7:30 PM, Room 12		Children's Liturgy, 10, 11:30 AM, 1PM, Duffy Center
				AA, 8:30 PM, Duffy Center 3456		Spanish Choir, 11AM, Upper Room ABC
						Scripture Study Spanish, 11:30 AM, Youth Center
						Spanish Ministry, 12PM, Teacher's Lounge
						Spanish Ministry, 2:30 PM, Duffy Center 3456
						Middle School Youth Group, 4PM, Youth Center
						Youth Ministry, 7PM, Youth Center, Trumpet Room

Budgeted weekly collection to meet expenses and obligations……...$42,000.00
Offertory — 413 envelopes……..$25,523.50
Faith Direct—378 donors ……...$13,044.37
($3,432.13)

Poor Box: So Others May Eat (S.O.M.E.) …… $748.00
Education Building …… $230.00

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.

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 & Healing

Mary Crawford, Alicia Czorny, Mary Rey Girardi, Father Jim Meyers

Please pray for soul of Edward Gilmore father of parishioner Keith Gilmore, and Loretta M. Meyers, Mother of Father Jim Meyers.

Ministry to the Sick: The priests of the parish want very much to make sure that parishioners who are hospitalized or homebound receive pastoral care. We depend on the families and neighbors of parishioners to notify the parish office so we can bring you the sacraments. If you would like to receive Communion, a visit from Priest/Deacon or are going into the hospital please call the parish office. For immediate needs ask for one of the Priests.

The bulletin cover this week

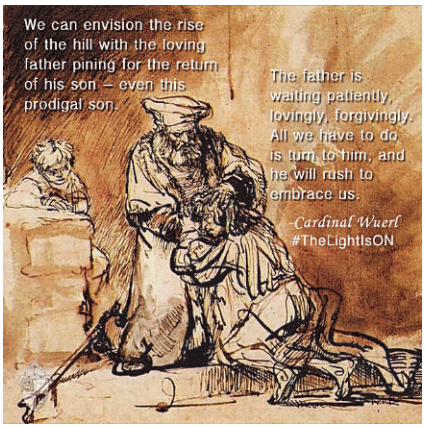
Our new Pastor, Father Michael Salah and Parochial Vicar, Father David Wells.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

THE POOR BOX FOR MARCH 26 WILL BE GIVEN TO BREAD FOR THE WORLD HUNGER RELIEF.

Adult Club Trip

Join St. Raphael's Adult Club for a trip to historic Frederick, MD on Thursday, April 27th. We will depart St. Raphael's by bus at 9:00 AM. Our first stop in Frederick is a guided tour of the historic home of Roger Brooke Taney, the 5th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Following that tour, we will board the bus and be transported back 300 years by our trained, experienced guide as we tour the rest of historic Frederick. Our last stop will be on Market Street for a lovely lunch on your own at individual expense at one of the many highly rated restaurants. We will return to St. Raphael's by 3 PM. Total cost is $45 for members and $55 for non-members. Please make checks payable to St. Raphael's Adult Club and send to Chickie Zaudtke, 11332 Brandy Hall Lane, N. Potomac, MD 20878



Sacrament of Confirmation

Adult Catholics who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation are invited to receive it on Pentecost Sunday at the Cathedral of St. Matthew.

Preparation meetings for that sacrament will be held very soon.

If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact Deacon Jose Carbonell by email, jrcarbon@comcast.net or Linda Poindexter by email; lpoindexter@straphaels.org or leave a message at 240-864-2543.

Fast and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may also be taken, but not to equal a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/lent/catholic-information-on-lenten-fast-and-abstinence.cfm

2017 Annual Jubilarian Mass

Cardinal Donald Wuerl will celebrate the annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years on *Sunday, June 25, 2017* at 2:00 PM at the Basilica of the national Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Please call Elaine in the Parish Office, 240-864-2513 or use the sign-up forms in the back of church to register. Please return the form to Parish Office by April 24 deadline.

The Stations of the Cross

Children's Stations of the Cross and Pizza Dinner

Friday, April 7th

Dinner — 6:30PM
Stations of the Cross — 7:30PM

$15 per family/$5 per person

For reservations, please call 240.864.2548 on Friday, 4/7/17 before Noon

First Friday Coffee

Friday, April 7th

At St. Raphael's Church
Talk will begin after 9am Mass in Parish Library

The Talk will be given by

Fr. Greg Shaffer
Pastor of Assumption Church
All are welcome!!

Stations of the Cross

March 31, April 7
7:30PM in English
8:30PM in Spanish

Good Friday, April 14
3:00 PM in English
4:00 PM in Spanish

St. Raphael Honor Roll

Please pray for those serving in our armed forces and for those families who have suffered loss.

Cpt Paul D Galvin
E-3/HN Colleen Gardella
Robert Garret, US Army MP
Specialist Thomas Kimelblatt
Jake Klosowski, USNA
LT Nicholas Kutchak, USN
Captain Frank Lowery, USN
Ed Mackey USMC
Commander Mike McNally, USN
Col. Ivan Monclova
LTJG Zachary Poindexter, USN
LT Paul Schauppner, USN
LT James Sheets (USN)
Cadet Andrew Valentine USMA
Captain Mary White
LT Kenneth Yale, USAF

Changes: e-mail esalatto@straphaels.org

Youth Ministry

Annie McHugh, 240-864-2519

High School Youth

A Holy Union – March 26
Continuing our Youth Group semester theme of Theology of the Body, we will discuss the meaning and purpose of holy marriage on March 26. With the legalization of gay marriage and more young couples choosing not to marry, there is a lot of confusion about the Catholic understanding of marriage. All high school teens are invited to Youth Group from 7-9PM in the Youth Center to discuss the beauty and challenge of Church teaching about the Sacrament of Marriage.

Rockville Catholic Summer Program Instructors and Volunteers Needed
Rockville Catholic Summer Program is a joint program organized and run by St. Raphael and St. Patrick Youth Ministries. "RCSP" is accepting applications for the 2017 season for paid instructors and volunteers. Juniors in high school – college seniors are invited to apply for instructor. Instructors plan and run classes such as sports, MineCraft, Bakeless Baking, Art, Spies and Detectives, and more for campers age 4-14. They also attend daily Mass, theology, and Holy Hour. "RCSP" is also looking for volunteers who are rising 8th grade – high school who are interested in serving children and earning SSL hours and Confirmation service hours. Volunteers assist instructors in running classes, games, and activities and participate in the spiritual life of the camp. For more information and to apply online, visit: www.rockvillecatholicsummer.com or contact Annie and Mike at rockvillecatholicsummer@gmail.com with any questions.

Live Love now – April 2
To wrap up our series on Theology of the Body, we will talk about practical tips for chastity and dating. Living in a sex-saturated culture makes the message of chastity difficult to live – but as Pope John Paul II said, "Chastity is the sure way to happiness." At Youth Group on April 2, we will discuss how chastity leads to happiness in relationships and tips about how to practice chastity. All high school teens are invited to join us from 7-9PM in the Youth Center and dinner will be provided.

Middle School Youth

Middle School Youth Group – April 2
All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are invited to Middle School Youth Group on April 2 from 4:00-5:30PM in the Youth Center. We will discuss a topic about our Catholic faith, eat pizza, and spend time together. For more information, contact Courtney, cdaniel@straphaels.org.

Young Adult

270Catholic Monthly Holy Hour – March 28
On Tuesday, March 28, young adults in their 20's and 30's are invited to St. Mary's Historic Chapel in Rockville from 7:30-8:30PM for a music-infused hour of adoration (option for Confession.) Join us after for fellowship in the basement of the rectory. Visit 270Catholic's Facebook page or e-mail 270catholic@gmail.com for more information.

School News

A peek behind our classroom doors

MARCH 26, 2017

'Little Windows into Their Hearts'

By Catherine Williams
3's and 4's Teacher

This year, we began something new in our class. After our morning prayers, the children take turns saying their special intentions. Each child says, "I like to pray for..."

In the beginning of the year, the children took this opportunity to tell a story. As the year progressed, the stories have almost ended, and now the students are praying for someone or something.

The children's special intentions have become little windows into their hearts. Through prayer, they can express what they are feeling inside. Often they pray for themselves because they miss a parent, for a sibling who was not very nice to them, or for something that concerns them. My favorite special intention is, "I like to pray for Jesus."

Photos by Catherine Williams
For Mrs. Williams' preschoolers, special intentions are an important part of the day and begin with, "I like to pray for..."

Karen Watson
Lunch Supervisor

Catherine Williams
3's and 4's Teacher

Stacey Woodward
Co-Director of Development

MJ Zafis-Garcia
Co-Director of Development

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 | @SRSrockville

Disney
THE LION KING JR
©Disney

7 p.m. Friday 3/31
2 p.m. Saturday 4/1

Tickets: www.straphaelschoolmd.org

tell·your·friends

- Shopping!
- Raffle!
- Festive drinks!
- Free admission!

St. Raphael School | 1513 Dunster Road, Rockville, MD | www.straphaelschoolmd.org

7-10 p.m. 4·5·17

ST. RAPHAEL spring fest
APRIL 29 2017

Join us 4.29.17!

- Cornhole Tournament
- Live Music
- Beer Garden
- Silent & Live Auctions
- Sign-Up Parties
- Photo Booth

Visit **www.straphaelschoolmd.org** for event details, sponsorship opportunities, and to purchase tickets!

(Must be 21 to attend)

www.straphaelschoolmd.org | www.srnsmd.org | @SRSrockville

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

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

Poor Box: Today's collection will benefit Bread for the World-Hunger Relief. ***Next weekend's collection*** will benefit **The Society of St. Vincent de Paul/St. Raphael Conference.** Many thanks!

Vincentian reflection: In today's Gospel, Jesus is the model of compassion and kindness showing us how to be merciful and nonjudgmental. Many of the people who come to SVdP for assistance have no other place to go; they feel panic, fear and isolation. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis stated: *"Mercy is a force that reawakens us to a new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope."* We are called to follow Jesus' witness to be merciful. When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and mercy into our hearts and into the hearts of those suffering in poverty.

Shelter Week – A Note of Thanks: We have received the following note from Interfaith Works for meals and supplies provided during Shelter Week:

Dear St. Raphael Shelter Week Volunteers:
Thank you so much for your faithful commitment to the residents of the Interfaith Works new Women's Center and for filling our shelves with much-needed supplies. Your parish always serves wonderful meals with a helping of loving community, which our residents deeply appreciate. With your help, we empower residents with the tools and skills to lift themselves out of homelessness. We are so grateful for the many ways the St. Raphael's parish and its parishioners partner with us to assist those in need.
Many blessings,
Diana Pina, Program Director of Interfaith Work's Women's Center

Week Four: An encounter of call to family, community and participation: This week, we encounter Maria, who grew up in Ejido Hidalgo, Mexico, where raising animals and planting crops of corn and beans was relatively bountiful. With the decrease of rain, crops easily dried up and now they are no longer able to sustain the families. The above principle of Catholic social teaching inspires and guides how all people are to live and work in the world. As human beings, we are social in nature and depend on each other. Like the early disciples, we are called to come together and grow as a community. Maria and her fellow female neighbors care for the family, animals and greenhouse plants that gives them income. While the men go and find jobs outside of their village, they come together and share the joy and comradery of building their business. To see how extensive their efforts have helped them thrive, visit www.crsricebowl.org. This week's recipe is Arroz Rojo (red rice).

ADW Lenten Food Drive ends this weekend: Brown paper bags with your donations can be dropped off at the church truck parked in the circle of the parking lot. Volunteers will be available to help you with your bag at all Masses. We will be counting the number of bags and will report on it next week. Thank you St. Raphael for contributing to the food stores at St. Martin of Tours Food Pantry. Your generosity will help feed the hundreds of individuals and families who pass through their location every week. *Forgot your donation? No worries!* Drop them off at the truck parked in the circle for the regular Stone Soup Sunday collection.

ADW to Host 7th Conference on Faith, Deafness and Disabilities: The conference is scheduled for Saturday, April 1 between 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM at Bishop McNamara Catholic High School located at 6800 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, MD 20747. There is a $20 registration fee to attend. For more information and to register, visit: http://adw.org/community/

St. Raphael Respect for Life

"You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. My very self you knew; my bones were not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret."
~Ps 139: 13-15

Pray to end abortion: Storm heaven with your prayers by joining others at the Monday morning vigils at 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.

Stand in prayerful Vigil with 40 Days for Life: One more week to sign up to pray at the abortion clinic located on the corner of Wisteria Drive and Executive Park Blvd in Germantown, MD. To sign-up for a one-hour prayer time, visit: www.40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/germantown and click on the "sign up for vigil hours" tab on the **April 3** calendar date. There will be a hard copy of the calendar on the credenza of the church vestibule for those parishioners without computer access.

New date for Maryland March for Life: The event will be held on the evening of April 3. Forty Days for Life founder David Bereit will speak at the Rally on Lawyer's mall. For more information, visit www.marylandmarchforlife. com.

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

Religious Education Calendar
Spring break will begin April 9 through April 23. Classes resume April 23. Find the full SRRE Calendar at www.straphaels.org/religious-education (scroll down).

First Communion Family Reminders
This week, in addition to attending Sunday (or Saturday night) Mass, families with children preparing for First Communion this spring are completing chapter five in *God's Gift Eucharist* workbook and *Together* parent's booklet. Older children (grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8) are completing chapter six in *Eucharist: We Give Thanks and Praise*. All families are sharing a special family meal whenever possible, since the Eucharist is both a sacrifice and a meal. Those who missed the Signation Rite (at the Family Retreat Day) can stop in the SRRE office for a cross and are then asked to pray the rite at home. The scripts for all four rites can be downloaded from the Religious Education webpage. First Communion interviews are being held throughout March and April.

Confirmation Student Reminders

Children and teens preparing to confirm their baptismal commitment need to attend Sunday Mass each week.

Confirmation I students are working on their Confirmation Service Projects; they are completing five hours of service with their families and five hours of service in the community. Through this service these young people and their families will participate in 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). Parents are asked to contact the SRRE office if they need any forms or have any questions; forms are also available for download from the SRRE webpage.

Confirmation candidates (Confirmation II) are completing the Cardinal Wuerl videos and workbook, as well a Confirmation interview. Completed video workbooks are due the first week of April. Each Confirmation sponsor is asked to join their Confirmation candidate in prayer throughout Lent using daily reflections from the *Best Lent Ever* website (or a Lenten booklet - contact the SRRE office). Letters to Bishop Dorsonville are overdue. Those families that missed the Confirmation II Student and Parent meeting need to contact the SRRE office for information and to choose a Confirmation Mass day/time.

Looking for a First Communion of Confirmation Gift?

Check out Saint Mary's Press for bibles and prayer books for children and teens. Find religious articles online at zieglers.com. Stop by the SRRE office for a small catalog of First Communion gifts. The Printery House also has many gift ideas.

Prayer Ministry

Please continue to pray for all those preparing for sacraments in the coming weeks and months. Some are preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil on April 15. Our 8th graders and some high schoolers are preparing for Confirmation on May 6 and May 7. Our 2nd graders and some older children are preparing for First Communion on May 6 and 7. Even if you do not have a child preparing for a sacrament, you can participate in the faith formation of these children by praying for them and their families.

Amoris Laetitia
On Love in the Family

Amoris Laetitia: On Love in the Family

In his apostolic letter *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*) Pope Francis reminds us of the necessity of taking time and making space to love one another.

Love needs time and space; everything else is secondary. Time is needed to talk things over, to embrace leisurely, to share plans, to listen to one other and gaze in each other's eyes, to appreciate one another and to build a stronger relationship. Sometimes the frenetic pace of our society and the pressures of the workplace create problems. At other times, the problem is the lack of quality time together, sharing the same room without one even noticing the other. [224]

Who Is this Man Called Jesus?

In today's Gospel the man born blind gradually grows in his understanding of who Jesus is. At first the man refers to Jesus as "the man called Jesus." Then he says Jesus is "a prophet from God." And finally he calls him "Lord." Catechists journey with their learners as they come to recognize Jesus' true identity. Along the way the catechists themselves grow in faith. Perhaps God is calling you to the ministry of catechesis. Please contact Mary Beaudoin to learn more about this vital moment in the work of evangelization.

Class Aides Needed

We are currently in need of class aides on Sunday night, Monday afternoon, Monday night, and Tuesday afternoon. Though we only have six more sessions, this might be a good time to try out catechetical ministry. Please call Mary Beaudoin, 301-762-2143, ext. 124.

Saint Raphael to Host Interfaith Dialogue

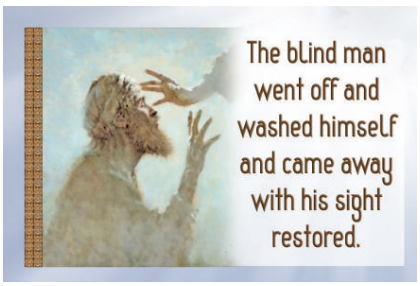
On May 21, 7:30 PM, St. Raphael's will be hosting the second part of a series called Our Sacred Texts: Informing Our Creed, Culture and Code. This series features an interfaith panel of our neighbors from different faiths. St. Raphael's is proud to host this event as it is in keeping with the efforts of our Bishop, Cardinal Wuerl, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and recent popes. We welcome our neighbors from different faiths and invite you to join us in learning more about other religious traditions as they learn more about our Catholic Faith. At the May 21 event we will hear presentations from representatives of the Baha'i faith, Judaism, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and the Presbyterian Church, and they will hear readings from our Catholic Church.

This evening is an outgrowth of decades of work reflected in key statements from the Catholic Church. Here is one example:

"In our times, when every day men are being drawn closer together and the ties between various peoples are multiplied, the Church is giving deeper study to her relationship with non-Christian religions. In her task of fostering unity and love among men, and even among nations, she gives primary consideration in this document to what human beings have in common and to what promotes fellowship among them." [Nostra Aetate, Documents of the Second Vatican Council, October 28, 1965]

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March

Support for Persecuted Christians: That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.



Adult Faith Formation

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

AFF Quote of the Week

"How great is the power of prayer! … I say very simply to God what I wish to say, without composing beautiful sentences, and He always understands me." —*St. Therese*

COMING SOON

The Soul: Hiding in Plain Sight

What are some philosophical arguments for the soul?

What are some of the more interesting findings from contemporary science and medicine that indicate the existence of a trans-physical soul?

What is a rational being to do?

Joseph G Miller
Executive Director of the Magis Center
Will be held Tuesday, April 25, 7:30-9:00 PM, Duffy Center

The lecture is offered by the St Raphael Adult Faith Formation committee on Science and Faith. It is open to the public and all are welcome. No fee. Free Will Offerings accepted. For more information see the March 2017 issue of Our Parish Times, p.12.

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible

Looking for a deeper relationship with God and a better understanding of your faith? Then join us for ***Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible.*** You will not be the only one who benefits from being part of this study; you will also help to bring about a profound renewal in our parish as we grow closer to Christ.

(Please note the change in dates due to school closings) The eight week study begins on **Tuesday April 4 from 9:45 – 11:30 AM in the Parish Library and runs each week through Tuesday May 23. It** includes a series of engaging half-hour videos presented by Jeff Cavins and followed by a lively group discussion.

You will receive a color-coded *Bible Timeline* Chart, a Bible study workbook, and the ability to stream the study videos online at your convenience. Contact Dorothy Welsh for more information at 301-526-5779 or dwwelsh5@aol.com

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible uncovers the story woven through Scripture with its clever narrative approach and ingenious color-coded *Bible Timeline.* It is a great way to get the "big picture" of the Bible and see how our Catholic Faith is rooted in Scripture. You'll see how the Bible reveals God's loving plan for your life, and you will learn helpful ways to put your faith into practice.

Sign up now at Evangelization.com

An Online Course with St. Raphael Parishioners:
Spirituality in Adult Learning and Faith Formation

See Course Objectives here:
https://vlcff.udayton.edu/courses/course_details.php?course=123
Enrollment Limit: 15 people
To avoid the cut off, email your intent to sign up for the course To the facilitator, suzanne.nelson2@gmail.com **by Monday, April 3.** Registration directions will be sent to you.

Course Details:

Cost for ADW parishioners: **$50 each**
Interactive Discussion Boards with your Facilitator and fellow parishioners; Brief weekly written assignments; Elect "Scored" or "Not Scored"
The course runs from **April 26—May 24.** It is "asynchronous," i.e., you can logon anytime; each week's assignments should be completed within that week. Get a friend and try something new!

CONTINUING

EXPLORING SPIRITUALITY

Discussing current approaches to various forms of Catholic spirituality.
Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00 PM – Duffy Center
All are welcome.
March 28 – ***"The Passion of Christ": DVD and Discussion, part 2*** - Facilitator: Dennis Stiles

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. Tuesday 9:45-12:00 through March 28. For more information 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 through April 6 - 7:30-9:00 PM – Duffy Center.
Order your companion book now and you will receive an online link to the program.
Please go to: https://study.ascensionpress.com/signin
Contact Suzanne for more information. suzanne.nelson2@gmail.com

BOOKS AND LINKS

The Developing Christian: Spiritual Growth through the Life Cycle by Peter Feldmeier
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
Being Catholic Today by Donald Cardinal Wuerl http://adw.org/being-catholic-today/

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