

# ST. RAPHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH



Turkeys packed and ready to go down to Twinning Parish, St. Martin's, DC along with canned and dry goods.



Canned foods received are bagged at St. Martins, DC for distribution to needy families along with turkeys.

**1513 Dunster Road ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20854**

**December 8, 2019**

**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](http://www.straphaels.org)**

**Rev. Michael Salah, Pastor, ext. 112**  
**Rev. Dan Gallagher, Parochial Vicar, ext. 150**  
**Rev. Thomas Morrow, Retired, ext. 128**

**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**  
**Pietro Lojacono, Assistant for Religious Education, ext. 123**  
**Annalee McHugh, Youth Minister, 240-864-2519**  
**Vince Natali, Dir. Of Music Ministries, 240-864-2532**  
**Suzanne Nelson, Adult Faith Formation, 443-472-3730**  
**Linda Poindexter, RCIA Coordinator, 240-864-2542**  
**Elaine Salatto, Publications, Welcoming, 240-864-2513**  
**Sandy Shamburek, Social Concerns Coordinator, 240-864-2514**

**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. The Parish Wide Ministry Resource List can be found on our website by clicking Ministries, Social Responsibility, and Documents.

## **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,  
1:00PM (español), 6:00PM (youth)

## **Weekday Masses:**

Monday thru Friday: 6:30 and 9:00AM  
Saturday: 9:00 AM

## **Penance:**

Tuesday: 7:00 - 7:30 PM and  
Saturday: 3:45 - 4:30 PM

## **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:**

Tuesday: 6:45 PM  
Thursday: 9:30 AM

## **Benediction:**

Tuesday, following novena 7:45 PM  
Thursday, 7:15PM

## **Miraculous Medal Novena:**

Tuesday, 7:30PM

## **Divine Mercy Chaplet:**

Tuesday, following Novena  
Thursday, 7:00PM

**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.

Dear Parishioners,

I once again present this "Tithing" piece to you. It has a holy perspective to help each of us live our life more closely to God.

I always thank God for your generosity. Please continue to give systematically, give cheerfully, give faithfully, and give thoughtfully by wrapping your gift in a parish envelope or selecting to donate through faith direct.

We are the church, together we can help the poor, maintain our buildings, pay our utilities, pay our staff and continue our Catholic education. We give because we are blessed by God, "**we do not give to a need, but rather we need to give**" in recognition and appreciation that everything we have comes from the Lord. So we give to God in gratitude, and with a cheerful attitude.

Tithing is not a new idea, it is based on the spiritual principles of the Old Testament and the teachings of Christ. Tithing is, making a voluntary, and systematic contribution of financial support to God's church.

Voluntary: means we are giving out of Love for God and thanking God for the many blessings he has given us. The Old Testament tells us that we are to give 10% of our property to God's Church. And God in turn will enrich our lives.

The bible mentions the word tithe 46 times in Genesis. Fourteen times Abraham gives the priest Melchizedek a tenth of everything he had. Jacob the grandson of Abraham, utters this vow in **Genesis 28:20-22**, "If God remains with me to protect me on this journey I am making, and to give me enough bread to eat and clothing to wear, and I come back safe to my father's house, the Lord shall be my God.... Of everything you give me I will faithfully return a tenth back to you"

**Sirach 35:7-10** "In generous spirit pay homage to the Lord be not sparing of freewill gifts. With each contribution show a cheerful countenance, and pay your tithes in a spirit of joy. Give to the Most High as he has given to you, generously, according to your means. For the Lord is the one who always repays, and he will give back to you sevenfold."

**Exodus 23:19** The choicest first fruits of your soil you shall bring to the house of the Lord, your God.

**Leviticus 27:26-33** The first born of an animal already belongs to the Lord, one tenth of all the produce of the land belongs to the Lord. When the animals are counted every tenth one belongs to the Lord.

**Proverbs 3:9-10** Honor the Lord with all your wealth with the first fruits of all your produce, then will your barns be filled with grain with new wine your vats will overflow.

Tithing will change our lives and the life of the church.

I can tell you first hand, I was born selfish and stingy. Somehow God opened my eyes and I began to question, why is it that I can simply open the refrigerator and eat when I am hungry, while other kids are going to bed hungry, digging through the trash for food. Why is it that I have a warm bed to sleep in while the homeless have to sleep under the bridges. Finally I understood the Words of Christ, You will always have the poor with you. They taught me to be generous. I finally learned to appreciate God's blessings, and the need to give my first 10% back to God. When I was hungry you gave me something to eat.

God Bless you,  
Fr. Mike

## Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week

<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 9</b>
6:30 AM	Stuart Flavin (d)
9:00 AM	Sophia Yang
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 10</b>
6:30 AM	Crescence Kilcoyne (d)
9:00 AM	Christy Fellows Hadwen (d)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 11</b>
6:30 AM	Lucy Rodriguez (d)
9:00 AM	Luciano Cornetta (d)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 12</b>
6:30 AM	Michaela Oei
9:00 AM	Jim Bogart (d)
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 13</b>
6:30 AM	Maria Spalice (d)
9:00 AM	Donald McGuire (d)
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 14</b>
9:00 AM	Helga Castro (d)
5:00 PM	Fr. Morrow Dr. Joseph Zigarelli (d)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 15</b>
7:00 AM	Fr. Gallagher Barbara Yetka Eisenberg (d)
8:30 AM	Fr. Morrow Jack Nill (d)
10:00 AM	Fr. Morrow Laurence Adams (d)
11:30 AM	Fr. Salah Thomas E. Lynch (d)
1:00 PM	Fr. Gallagher Irene Stokes
6:00 PM	Fr. Salah Members of the Parish

**The Priest Mass Schedule is subject to change.**

### Schedule for Confession:

Tuesday, December 10, 7:00PM

Saturday, December 14, 3:45-4:30PM

**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, 240-864-2542, lpoindexter@straphaels.org and for Spanish: Luis & Maruja Quezada, 301-330-5982, 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:

Anthony Joseph Chongpinitchai - November 30

## Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – NOT a Holyday of Obligation in 2019

The Second Sunday of Advent falls on December 8. Because the Second Sunday of Advent takes precedence over the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Solemnity is transferred to Monday, December 9. Because of this, the Solemnity is NOT a holyday of obligation this year.



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Monday December 9	Tuesday December 10	Wednesday December 11	Thursday December 12	Friday December 13	Saturday December 14	Sunday December 15
Religious Education, 4:30 & 7PM, Classrooms	Mother Teresa Mass 10:30AM, luncheon follows	Contemplative Prayer, 9:45AM, Upper Room D	Adoration for Advent after 9AM Mass, Benediction 7:15PM	CYO Basketball, 5PM, Trumpet Room	Men's Group, 6AM, Trumpet Room	<b>Parish Library is Open 8AM-1PM</b>
SVdP, 6:30PM, Parish Library	Religious Education, 4:30PM, Classrooms	Book Club, 9:45AM, Youth Center	CYO Basketball, 5PM, Trumpet Room	Spanish Ministry, CLW, 5:15PM, Duffy Center, 3456	Spanish Bible Study, 10AM, Upper Room D	RCIA, 9:30AM, Youth Center
Spanish Committee, 7:30PM, Upper Room ABC	Cofradia of Our Lord of Miracles, 7PM, Upper Room D	Legion of Mary, English, 7PM, Room 10	Legion of Mary Spanish, 7PM, Upper Room ABC	Spanish Prayer, 7PM, Duffy Center 3456, Youth Center	RCIA Spanish, 11:30AM, Room 12	Religious Education, 10, 11:30AM, Classrooms 7:05 PM, Classrooms & Church
	Spanish Prayer, 7PM, Upper Room ABC	Young Adult Divine Mercy, Spanish, 7PM, Upper Room ABC	Boy Scouts, 7:30PM, <b>APR</b> , Committee, 8PM, Youth Center	Light of Christ Prayer, 7:30PM, Parish Library	Spanish Ministry, Posadas, 6PM, Church	Children's Liturgy, 10AM, 1PM, Duffy Center
	Knights of Columbus, 7:30PM, Duffy Center 4, 6	Nueva Alianza, 7PM, Upper Room D	Knights of Columbus, 7:30PM, Parish Library		Spanish Ministry, 7PM, Trumpet Room	Advent Giving Tree Project 11AM, Trumpet Room
		Women of Grace, 7PM, Youth Center				Spanish Choir, 11:30AM, Upper Room ABC
		Evening Bible Study, 7:30PM, Duffy Center 3, 5				Scripture Study, Spanish, 11:30AM, Youth Center
						Children's Choir Rehearsal, 1PM, Upper Room ABC
						Spanish Prayer, 2:30PM, Duffy Center 3456, Upper Room ABC
						Spanish Ministry, Posadas, 6PM, Parish Library
						Youth Ministry, 7PM, Youth Center

**December 1, 2019**

**Offertory** .....\$37,675.00

**Poor Box:** .....\$599.00

**To enroll in Faith Direct, direct debit program, visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://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.  
James Damron—301-525-4589  
Debbie Hynes—301-251-0192

**Bulletin notices** are due in writing ON FRIDAY, THE WEEK BEFORE THE published date. Notices may be emailed to: [esalatto@straphaels.org](mailto:esalatto@straphaels.org). Please note that graphic PDF's and graphic page inserts are to be sized 1/4 page and 1/8 page and will be placed as space permits.



**Please pray for** Meredydd Evans, Catherine Loveland, Mary Ellen Mahoney, Jack Reed, nephew of Lillie Basso, Yasmine Tashman, William Valentine

**Please pray for soul of** Jesse Colgrove.

**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.**

**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.

## O COME, LET US ADORE HIM!

ST. RAPHAEL PARISH ADORATION FOR ADVENT

All are welcome to spend time with  
JESUS

During regular parish Adoration times  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019

EXPOSITION at 9:30AM  
BENEDICTION at 7:15PM

Hourly intentions will be  
offered for our parish

To sign up as a Captain to open  
a Holy Hour, please go to

<http://bit.ly/AdventAdoration2019>



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Parish Penance Service

Tuesday, December 17

7:00 PM



### The scams keep coming ...

Please do not respond to emails, text messages from con artists masquerading as Father Salah. **This is a fraud.** These messages are **NOT** coming from Father Mike asking for a favor. Do not reply to these solicitations to avoid falling victim to these scammers.

### Blessing of the Bambinelli and Lighting of the Christmas Tree at the National Shrine

This year the National Shrine will host its annual Blessing of the Bambinelli and Lighting of the Christmas Tree on **Sunday, December 22** at the 4:30PM Mass. Bring the Baby Jesus from your Nativity scene to be blessed at the National Shrine on this Fourth Sunday of Advent. This annual tradition in St. Peter's Square features the Pope offering a special blessing after his weekly Angelus for all those who brought their Bambinelli. Following the Mass and Blessing of the Bambinelli, the National Shrine will bless and ceremonially light the Christmas Tree as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. Please come for this special opportunity to start your Christmas week! No tickets or reservations are required. The Basilica is located at 400 Michigan Ave NE, offers ample free parking, and is walking distance from the Brookland-CUA Station on Metro's Red Line. For more information please visit [www.nationalshrine.org](http://www.nationalshrine.org) or call (202) 526-8300.

### Christmas Eve Masses Tuesday, December 24

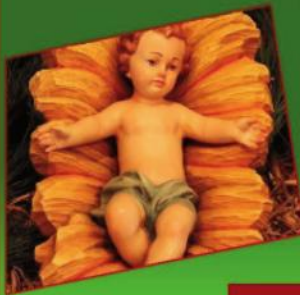
4:00PM Church with Nativity

4:00PM Trumpet Room with Children's Choir

4:00PM Ritchie Park

6:00PM Church Only

Midnight Mass, prelude begins at 11:15PM



### Christmas Day Masses Wednesday, December 25

8:30, 10, 11:30AM and 1PM in Spanish

No 7AM or 6PM on Christmas Day

A big thank you to our Kimblewick Road neighbors for saying yes to having the parking lot gate open for our weekday Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses.  
Please be mindful of signs to park on one side of street





**Retirement Fund for Religious  
Collection this weekend of December 7/8**

Give in thanksgiving. "the nuns left lasting impressions on me," writes a donor. "I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education." Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. The second collection this weekend is for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. Please give generously.

**Procession 11:30AM from Shrine  
of the Sacred Heart to Basilica of  
the National Shrine of the  
Immaculate Conception**  
Rosary at 1:00PM  
Mass at 2:00 PM



*Walk with Mary*  
**DECEMBER//DICIEMBRE 14, 2019**  
Basilica of the National Shrine  
of the Immaculate Conception



[adw.org/walkwithmary](http://adw.org/walkwithmary)

**Help Our Marriage**

**Do you feel alone?** Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped many couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on January 24th - January 26th, 2020, please visit: [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com), call (443) 400-7017, or email: [3015@retrouvaille.org](mailto:3015@retrouvaille.org)



**Youth Ministry**

Annie McHugh, 240-864-2519

**High School Youth**

**Raphael House Christmas Caroling – December 8**

It's a favorite annual Youth Group tradition – Christmas caroling next door at Raphael House. Whether you sing well or sing poorly, you'll have a wonderful time singing with the elderly residents! All high school teens are invited to join us from 7-9PM for dinner, caroling, and hot cocoa with Youth Group.

**Ice Skating Social – December 14**

Teens from St. Raphael and St. Patrick are invited to ice skate at Rockville Ice Arena on December 14. For additional details, a permission form, and to sign up, e-mail Mike at [mmchugh@straphaels.org](mailto:mmchugh@straphaels.org).

**O Come, Let Us Adore Him (Advent Adoration) –  
December 15**

One of the best ways to prepare your heart for the birth of Christ at Christmas is to spend time with Him in Eucharistic adoration. On December 15, youth group will learn about the season of Advent and then spend time in praise and worship adoration with an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



**Want to Help?**

**Move Gifts after Masses**

December 7/8 & 14/15

(From collection boxes to storage area -  
takes 5 minutes)

**Confirmation Students Needed!**

(To move gifts to Trumpet Room  
on December 15 at Noon)

**Sort & Pack Gifts**

Sunday, December 15

1:00 - 3:00 PM

Trumpet Room

**Pick up Gifts with your vehicle**

Sunday, December 15

At Trumpet Room

**Deliver Gifts on**

Monday, December 16

**TO VOLUNTEER:**

**Contacts:**

Linda Trinh

301-279-0838 [lindamtrinh@gmail.com](mailto:lindamtrinh@gmail.com)

Diana Grimm

301-762-3808 [rgrimm1015@aol.com](mailto:rgrimm1015@aol.com)

# School News



A peek behind our classroom doors

DECEMBER 8, 2019



## Grateful



There is nothing sweeter than breaking bread together and giving thanks for faith, friendship, and family. Our preschoolers make headdresses and have a special snack, while all of K-8—including staff—celebrate their blessings at the annual SRS Thanksgiving Feast.



Photos by MJ Zafis-Garcia

**For more  
photos from our  
Thanksgiving  
events, visit our  
Facebook Page**

[www.straphaelschoolmd.org](http://www.straphaelschoolmd.org) | [www.srnsmd.org](http://www.srnsmd.org) |    @SRSrockville



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



[www.straphaelschoolmd.org](http://www.straphaelschoolmd.org) | [www.srnsmd.org](http://www.srnsmd.org) |    @SRSRockville

## Social Responsibility and Outreach (SRO)

Sandy Shamburek, 240-864-2514



**Vincentian reflection:** In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." This is what Advent is all about, for we are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need. During this second Sunday of Advent, let us reflect on what the Church reminds us that **"how we do these everyday things is how we bear fruit and receive everlasting life."** (Living Liturgy, p. 10). If you know of a person who is in need of help, tell them to call for help at 240-447-7027. Tell them to leave their name, a phone number where they can be reached and a brief description of their need. A volunteer conference member will return the call within 3 business days or sooner.

**Today is Stone Soup Sunday:** Please drop-off your food donations in Room 3 of the old school building. There are signs on campus directing you to the correct door and a volunteer will be available to assist you with your package. Thank you for your continued support.

**The Thanksgiving Food Drive results:** St. Raphael parishioners came through once again for this year's Thanksgiving food drive. We collected **339 birds, 6 chickens**, and sent down about **187 boxes** filled with **canned goods!** We also sent **six** extra-large bags full of **winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves** and other mixed clothing items. Thank you St. Raphael for your generosity!

**Advent Giving Tree:** We only have **one week left!** Please make sure to pick up your tags this weekend and bring the gifts to the collection boxes by Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> for the Sort and Pack Day. Volunteers are also needed to help move gifts from the back of the church to the storage area after each Mass. There is still time to volunteer on December 15<sup>th</sup>! Contact Diana Grimm at [rgrimm1015@aol.com](mailto:rgrimm1015@aol.com) or 301-762-3818 or Linda Trinh at [lindamtrinh@gmail.com](mailto:lindamtrinh@gmail.com) or 301-279-0838. We love our volunteers!



**Mother Teresa guests come this Tuesday!** We still need a few **baked hams or roasted turkeys and some volunteers.** To sign up, visit the Parish Website's homepage and click on words "Mother Teresa. Don't have a computer? Call **Sandy Shamburek at 240-864-2514.** Drop off your food or drink donation on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> **after 5:00 PM** or on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> **before 8:00 AM** in the Trumpet Room Kitchen. Many thanks to our parishioners who help support this favorite event of our guests!

**St. Martin's Christmas Concert:** Please join our Twin Parish, St. Martin's D.C. on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 4PM. The church is located at 1908 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016. The concert features St. Martin's gospel choirs and much more. A reception will follow in the hall. A \$10 donation will be accepted. All proceeds support St. Martin's Outreach to Families in Need.



**"We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give."**  
~Winston Churchill

**Pray an end to late term abortions by Leroy Carhart in Bethesda.** Join other concerned pro-lifers for the weekly prayer vigil every Monday morning from 9 to 11 AM on the public sidewalk north of the Wildwood Shopping Center (in front of the Sun Trust Bank) 10401 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814. Contact Dick Retta, 301-538-2500 for more information. Visit [www.prayforbethesda.com](http://www.prayforbethesda.com) for parking instructions.

**Love Can Make The "Unwanted Child" Wanted!** When President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, it changed the legal status of millions of enslaved African Americans from slave to freeperson in the Confederate states of the South. Over the past 46 years, however, many Americans in authority, judges and lawmakers, are still treating women like property before slavery was abolished. These intelligent yet sadly misguided people consider babies in the womb as chattel, possessions to be discarded or destroyed, with their mothers cast as owners. In doing so, they deny the unborn child's humanity. How, you may ask, can you make a difference? Spread the message that treating all human beings with respect and dignity by sharing the message of love. **"Love declares that there is no such thing as an unwanted child....With love, children are adopted, not aborted. With love, children are cherished, not abused. With love, there is less room for the oppressor because his hunting grounds are smaller....We simply need to see no child as unwanted.... And it can start with just one. One life loved can make all the difference. After all, one life changed the entire world."** Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made this observation. She is a leading pro-life advocate who formerly had two abortions before having a faith conversion.

**Save the date!** The Annual National March for Life is scheduled on **Friday, January 24, 2020.** St. Raphael has over the past several years rented a 56-seat bus to transport interested parishioners to the event. Sadly, nearly half of the bus seats were unfilled! To improve cost-effectiveness, the RFL Committee has rented a 32-seat bus. Watch future bulletins for information on how to reserve your bus seat. It will be on a first-come, first served basis.

**Justice shall  
flourish in  
his time, and  
fullness of  
peace for ever.**



## Religious Education

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

### A Family Prayer for Advent



O God our Father, in Jesus you call all Christian families and homes to be signs of living faith. By the light of the Holy Spirit, lead us to be thankful for the gift of faith, and by that gift may we grow in our relationship with Jesus, your Son, and be confident witnesses to Christian hope and joy to all we meet. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Bilingual Advent Calendar

Find a prayer activity for each day of Advent at [www.usccb.org/cs/upload/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/291638\\_1.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/cs/upload/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/291638_1.pdf)

### Religious Education Calendar

SRRE classes continue through December 17. After Christmas break classes resume January 5. Find the SRRE calendar at <https://www.straphaels.org/religious-education> (scroll down) or contact the SRRE office for a print version.

### Children Needed for Christmas Eve Nativity

Children's Liturgy of the Word is casting the annual enactment of the Christmas nativity during the Children's Mass at 4:00 PM on Christmas Eve. We are seeking children between the ages of 5 to 9 to play the roles of angels and shepherds. Children must be available for a rehearsal on Wednesday, December 18, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. Costumes are provided. If your child is interested, please email Mary Beaudoin at [mbeaudoin@straphaels.org](mailto:mbeaudoin@straphaels.org) and provide your child's name and age.



### First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

This week families with children preparing for First Eucharist in May 2020 are completing chapter five of *God's Gift Reconciliation* (for grades 2, 3, and 4) or chapter six of *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* (for grades 5, 6, 7, and 8). High schoolers are reading *The Light of Forgiveness*. Families who missed the First Eucharist Listening Rite are asked to download the rite from our webpage, pray the rite at home, and then stop by the SRRE office to pick up the *Illustrated Children's Bible*. Those who missed the Enrollment Rite are asked to pray that rite at home and then bring their child to sign the Enrollment Book in the SRRE office.

### Confirmation Student Reminders

Confirmation I students (those in grade 7 or high school preparing for Confirmation in 2021) are working on their Confirmation Service Projects. The focus of these projects is the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Anyone who missed the Confirmation Enrollment Rite (Nov. 24) should pray the rite at home with their family (find rite on the SRRE webpage sidebar), then come in to our office to pick up a copy of *57 Saints*.

All Confirmation II students (those preparing for Confirmation in 2020) have several items due: **Confirmation sponsor forms** (sent from the pastor of the sponsor's current home parish) and **saint projects**. Also due are any **Confirmation service reflection papers** and record sheets not turned in earlier this fall. If you have any questions, please contact the Religious Education office. If you have misplaced your packet, you can find the forms at <https://www.straphaels.org/confirmation-1>.

### Catechists and Class Aides Needed

SRRE catechists are adults who have heard God's call and accepted the invitation to mentor others to a deeper relationship with Christ. By echoing Christ's teaching they grow in understanding of their faith and in what it means to be a Catholic. Training, ongoing support and excellent resources are provided. We are also in need of aides to assist catechists.

Substitute catechist for Sunday morning 10:00 AM preschool

Catechist for Monday night high school, 7:00-8:15 PM  
Class aide for Tuesday afternoon, upper grades, 4:30-5:45 PM

Substitute catechists for Sunday night, Monday night, and Tuesday afternoon

Please contact Mary Beaudoin at 301-762-2143, ext. 124 or [mbeaudoin@straphaels.org](mailto:mbeaudoin@straphaels.org). Teens are welcome to serve as class aides. Adults must complete the child protection training program.

### Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love

In November 2018, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops published a pastoral letter against racism. You can find the full text of the document at <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/open-wide-our-hearts.pdf>. Here is an excerpt from "Working in Our Churches" section:

We instruct our priests, deacons, religious brothers and sisters, lay leaders, our parish staffs, and all the faithful to endeavor to be missionary disciples carrying forth the message of fraternal charity and human dignity. We ask them to fight the evil of racism by educating themselves, reflecting on their personal thoughts and actions, listening to the experience of those who have been affected by racism, and by developing and supporting programs that help repair the damages caused by racial discrimination. We need to continue to educate ourselves and our people about the great cultural diversity within our Church. One way to do this is to support actively the cause for canonization of the first African American saint. We can also promote knowledge of the martyrs, blessed, and saints of the different cultural groups and nationalities present in our midst, and propose them as models of faith for the entire Church. So many of our parishes are richly diverse, composed of people from various cultures and ethnic groups, such that they can be a model for the whole Church and for the country. We will redouble our efforts to promote vocations to marriage, priesthood, and religious life—especially within communities of color—so as to better reflect all of the People of God. We commit to preach with regularity homilies directed to the issue of racism and its impact on our homes, families, and neighborhoods, particularly on certain feast days and national holidays. We direct our priests and deacons to do the same. We call on theologians to help us address these issues as well. In this task, it is essential to understand, and to help others see, how racism diminishes everyone—society as a whole—and not just those who are directly affected by it.

### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December

**The Future of the Very Young:** That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

Adult Faith Formation  
suzanne.nelson2@gmail.com 443-472-3730

## AFF QUOTE OF THE WEEK



May PEACE lead us to faith and love.

See the poem:

<https://allpoetry.com/poem/496440-The-Four-Candles-by-Aino-Makoto>

## CONTINUING

### EVENING BIBLE STUDY

#### *Psalms: The School of Prayer*

Wednesdays, 7:30–9:00 PM - Duffy Center

Continuing on December 11 and 18, 2019

For more information please contact

[suzanne.nelson2@gmail.com](mailto:suzanne.nelson2@gmail.com)



### Q. What is peace?

**A. Peace, said St. Augustine, is the “tranquility of order.” Earthly peace is the image and fruit of Christ, the Prince of Peace. - CCC#2304-2305**

In the Sacrament of Penance we hear, “May God grant you *pardon and peace*.” From Pope Paul VI we heard, “If you want peace, *work for justice*.” Working effectively for justice takes education and *discernment in union with the Holy Spirit*.

Advent time is a good opportunity to fine tune our conscience, brush up on our discernment process, and seek peace. Have I made plans to go to Confession? When do I take time to pray to the Holy Spirit? How do I educate myself about Catholic Social Teachings?

Suggestion: Subscribe to a (free) daily Gospel Reflection from Bishop Robert Barron: <https://dailycatholicgospel.com/sign-up-daily-gospel>

## SOME OTHER WAYS TO KEEP UP

Go to [www.straphaels.org/adult-faith-formation](http://www.straphaels.org/adult-faith-formation) and just click on the links.

From Facebook join our very own **St Raphael Church AFF** group and share your thoughts.

## ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES WEEKLY VIDEO REFLECTIONS

Enjoy these online video reflections to help you in your spiritual journey.

**Week One:** [Love Is Coming](#) by Joe Paprocki

**Week Two:** [Waiting](#) by Tim Muldoon

**Week Three:** [How Does Hope Shape Us?](#) by Vinita Hampton Wright

**Week Four:** [Mary Receiving Jesus into Her Arms](#) by Becky Eldredge

<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/advent/>

## SACRED ADVENT

Embrace the Advent season as a sacred space from the ease of your e-mail inbox. Each day invites you to slow down for a moment of reflection inspired by the rich Scripture and traditions of Advent. The series features the words of Vinita Hampton Wright, Amy Welborn, the Irish Jesuits, and more. The messages also include suggestions for further exploration of Advent themes through additional online articles and prayers. Sign up here: <https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/advent/sacred-advent-retreat>

**AN ADVENT CALENDAR** (clickable) <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/index.cfm>

## "LET THE LIGHT ENTER"

**An Advent Examination of Conscience**  
by special arrangement with *Twenty Third Publications*.

**Sunday, December 8 - Saturday, December 14**

<https://waterloocatholics.org/online-advent-retreat>



This spiritual program for women continues on **Wednesday** evenings from **7:00-8:15 PM** in the **Youth Center**. All women of the parish are cordially invited to attend. For specific dates and more information, please contact:

Suzanne Hren [suzannehren@gmail.com](mailto:suzannehren@gmail.com) or  
Fr. Tom Morrow [tgmorrow1@gmail.com](mailto:tgmorrow1@gmail.com)

## BOOKS & LINKS




- **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**  
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm>
- **Word on Fire**  
<https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/video>
- **Advent Resources**



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