

ST. RAPHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH



1513 Dunster Road ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20854

December 29, 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

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

Weekday Masses:

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.

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, call 443-400-7017, or email: 3015@retrouvaille.org

FOR SINGLE CATHOLICS—

A way to meet good Catholic friends or maybe even a future spouse.

22ND Annual Epiphany Party at St. Raphael Church, 1513 Dunster Road, Rockville, MD 20854; **Saturday, January 11, starting at 7PM.** Includes delicious Greek dinner, salsa dance lessons, complementary wine and beer, DJ, and more. Send \$21 check donation by January 3 to SCS Epiphany Party, St. Raphael, 1513 Dunster Road, Rockville, MD 20854, Or \$23 by credit card at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/epiphany-party-tickets-82529723625>; (\$27 cash, card or check at the door)

For more information, call 240-426-5589.
P.S. We are expecting over 200 Catholics.

Catechist Needed for High School Class – Monday Nights

We are very pleased to have a number high schoolers in our Religious Education class on Monday nights. In fact, we have so many that we need to split the class into two sections so that we have a Confirmation I section and a Confirmation II section. The class meets at 7:00 until 8:15PM on Monday nights. Good resources and support are provided. Please contact Mary Beaudoin at 301-762-2143, ext. 124 or mbeaudoin@straphaels.org to learn how you can help with this important ministry.

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week

Monday December 30

6:30 AM Intention Available
9:00 AM Mary Zakowski (d)

Tuesday December 31

6:30 AM Intention Available
9:00 AM Philip Chen (d)

Vigil Mass

5:00 PM Fr. Salah Robert Stovall (d)
7:00 PM Sp Fr. Gallagher Members of the Parish

Wednesday January 1 Mary, Mother of God

8:30 AM Fr. Morrow Edward O'Neill (d)
10:00 AM Fr. Salah Geraldine Gray (d)
11:30 AM Fr. Gallagher James W. Sassen (d)
1:00 PM Sp Fr. Gallagher

Thursday January 2

6:30 AM Intention Available
9:00 AM Robert Kilcullen (d)

Friday January 3

6:30 AM Robert F. Smith (d)
9:00 AM Charles Covell III (d)

Saturday January 4

9:00 AM Boyd Brown (d)
5:00 PM Fr. Morrow John Buckley (d)

Sunday January 5

7:00 AM Fr. Morrow Members of the Parish
8:30 AM Fr. Salah Ken & Nancy Gardner
10:00 AM Fr. Gallagher Rahul Koka
11:30 AM Fr. Salah Christo Family
1:00 PM Fr. Gallagher Juan Antonio Vallejo Parra (d)
6:00 PM Fr. Soley Lawrence Mann (d)

The Priest Mass Schedule is subject to change.

Schedule for Confession:

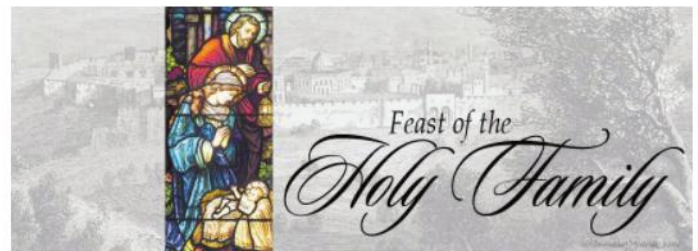
No Confessions, Tuesday, December 31

Saturday, January 4, 3:45-4:30PM

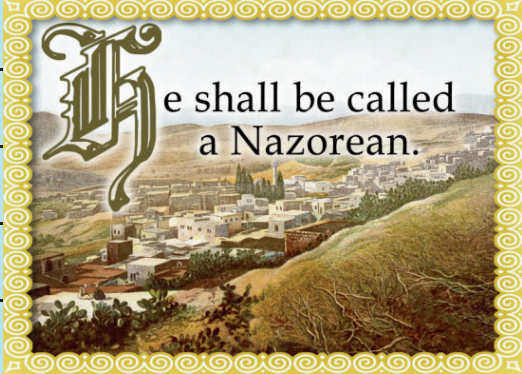
RCIA/RICA (Spanish RCIA): Non-Catholics or Catholics who have not received Eucharist and Confirmation, come and discover more about the Catholic Faith! Contact Linda Poindexter, 240-864-2542, lpindexter@straphaels.org and for Spanish: Luis & Maruja Quezada, 301-330-5982, for details. Any youth interested 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



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Monday December 30	Tuesday December 31	Wednesday January 1	Thursday January 2	Friday January 3	Saturday January 4	Sunday January 5
No Religious Education	Vigil Mass for Holy Day 5PM, 7PM in Spanish	Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God Holy day of obligation Masses: 8:30, 10, 11:30 AM, 1PM in Spanish	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after 9AM Mass, Benediction, 7:15PM	First Friday Coffee after 9AM Mass	No Men's Group No Spanish RCIA	Stone Soup Sunday Parish Library is Open 8AM-1PM Coffee/Donuts after 8:30, 10, 11:30AM, 1PM Masses
	Parish Offices are closed		CYO Basketball, 5PM, Trumpet Room	CYO Basketball, 5PM, Trumpet Room	Spanish Bible Study, 10AM, Upper Room D	RCIA, 9:30AM, Youth Center
	No Religious Education		Legion of Mary, Spanish, 7PM, Upper Room ABC	Spanish Prayer, 7PM, Duffy Center 3456, Youth Center		Religious Education, 10, 11:30AM, 7:05PM, Classrooms
			Boy Scouts, 7:30PM, APR	Spanish Holy Hour, 7:30PM, Church		Children's Liturgy, 10AM, 1PM, Duffy Center
				Light of Christ Prayer, 7:30PM, Parish Library		Spanish Choir, 11:30AM, Upper Room ABC
						Spanish Ministry, 2PM, Parish Library
						Spanish Prayer, 2:30PM, Duffy Center 3456, Upper Room ABC
						No Youth Group




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.

To enroll in Faith Direct, direct debit program, visit faith.direct/MD34 to enroll securely on line.

Parish Council: Please feel free to contact a Parish Council member listed here to discuss your views, opinions, or concerns regarding our parish.
Mark Dirlam—240-364-4523
Silvia Abularach—301-251-1634

Bulletin notices are due in writing ON FRIDAY, THE WEEK BEFORE THE published date. Notices may be emailed to: 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.

The offertory will return after the New Year because of early bulletin deadlines.

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

Please pray for the soul of Maria Cristina Calzada.

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.

The bulletin cover this week
Advent Giving Tree Sorting and Packing Day, December 15 was a success. Thank you parishioners for the all the donations and thank you volunteers for another great year!

Vocations

Men's Discernment Retreat: Archbishop Gregory invites men in their 20's – 40's, who are interested in learning more about the priesthood, to attend a discernment retreat led by priests and seminarians of the Archdiocese of Washington. The retreat will be held the weekend of January 31-February 2, 2020 at Saint John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C. The weekend will be an opportunity to pray and reflect on God's call, meet priests and seminarians, hear their stories, and learn more about the seminary and priesthood. Registration is now open at www.DCPriest.org. For more information, contact Fr. Mark Ivany at 202-636-9020 or vocations@adw.org.

Quo Vadis Shadow Day: On Friday, February 7, 2020, juniors and seniors in high school are invited to join the seminarians of the Archdiocese of Washington for a special Quo Vadis "Shadow Day" at Saint John Paul II Seminary and the Catholic University of America. Attendees will be able to experience a "day in the life" of a seminarian by joining them for Mass, Adoration, meals, class, sports and just hanging out. Please register to attend at www.dcpriest.org. For more details, contact Sarah Baugher at vocations@adw.org.



Montgomery County Catholic Convocation on Engagement Across Generations

Catholic Charities and the Justice and Advocacy Council of Montgomery County invite parishes and their ministries, Catholic schools, and non-profit agencies to participate, understand, explore and create faith-driven relationships across generations to promote the good of all.

March 21, 2020

8:15AM-9:00AM: Refreshments and Registration
9:00AM-1:00PM: Convocation

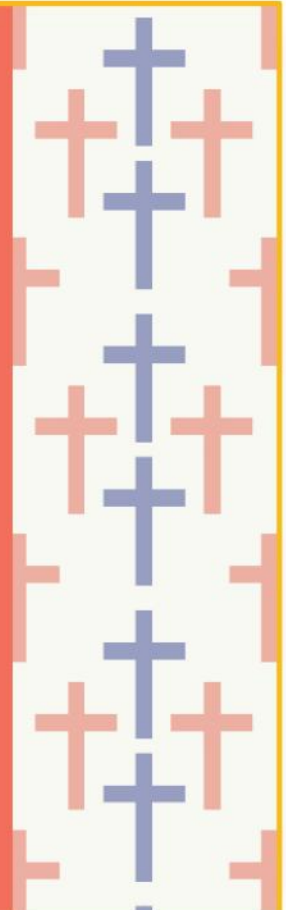
Montgomery County
Executive Office Building Auditorium
101 Monroe Street Rockville, Maryland 20850

Generations working together can help with many community goals while building stronger Catholic communities through (but not limited to):

- Enabling parishioners to **age in place** and live **actively**
- **Supporting young families** with children
- **Encouraging youth** through tutoring, career exploration, religious connection, and social activities
- **Mentoring immigrants** to succeed in the U.S.
- Enabling those with differing intellectual and physical abilities to more **fully participate in the community**

Please complete this survey in advance
to help inform the Convocation:
<https://tinyurl.com/skaleyo>

Please inform us of any special accommodations you require.
RSVP to leah@empoweringtheages.org



Archdiocese of Washington Faith Foundations – Sacred Scripture

Join us as we explore the Sacred Scriptures to deepen our relationship with God in His revealed Word.

St Rose of Lima

11701 Clopper Road
Gaithersburg, MD, 20878

Thursday Evenings

7:00pm – 9:00pm
January 9, 16, 23, 30 & February 6, 13

Registration Required

www.strose-parish.org/adult-faith-formation

**General Cost – \$29.00 (\$20 for Catechists)
checks collected at the first class.**

Instructor: Edward Kent

Questions: Susan Joseph SJoseph@StRose.com

Christine Jeffrey CJeffrey@StRose.com

For more LIVE course opportunities, please visit: <https://adw.org/learning-the-faith/faith-formation/certification/>

Monthly Evening of Reflection for Men

"The Spiritual Struggle of Following Christ: Winning Your Battles Between Virtue and Sin" Wednesday, January 8, 7:00-9:30PM. This series of monthly reflections will be offered from September to June. The evening includes: Mass, a meditation and practical talk, time for personal reflection, opportunities for Confession, a meal and fellowship. Cost is \$20 per person. Advance Registration is appreciated to help us prepare, visit our website to register www.ourladyofbethesda.org. Hosted by the Men of Regnum Christi. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.

Parental and Spousal Bereavement Support Group

The 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 series will begin on Wednesday, January 15th and continue for eight consecutive Wednesdays through March 4th. This will be a morning series running from 10:00-11:30 AM. There is no fee, but REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. To register, contact Deacon Kevin Byrne at kevin_byrne@verizon.net or Claudia McAuliffe at 301-881-1457, 917 Montrose Road, Rockville MD 20852.

Monthly Mini-Retreats for Women

"A Path to Holiness...A Path to Happiness!" Discover the path to holiness and happiness that God has paved for you! The Women of Regnum Christi invite you to a new season of monthly mini retreats focusing on personal conversion and transformation. Next Sessions: Evening retreat Wednesday, January 22, 7-9:45PM, Morning retreat Thursday, Jan 23, 9:45AM–12:15PM. This mini retreat includes: Mass, practical talk, personal reflection, opportunities for Confession, a meal and fellowship. Cost is \$20 per person. Advance Registration is requested, visit our website to register www.ourladyofbethesda.org. Babysitting, for children 2yrs and up, is available for the morning session, and requires reservation. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
VIGIL MASS – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

5:00 PM

7:00PM SPANISH

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020

8:30, 10, 11:30AM,

1:00 PM IN SPANISH



No Confessions on Tuesday, December 31

More 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.

The Adult Club having a wonderful time at their annual Christmas Luncheon. Seventy members and guests enjoying a delicious lunch, caroling and friendship.



First Friday Coffees



Our theme for the Fridays will be
"Prayers and Support for Parish Priests"



January 3, 2020

We will gather at 10AM in the parish library following 9AM Mass to listen to a guest speaker and rosary recitation.

There will be a guest speaker.

There will be a guest speaker.



Mark your calendar

Holy Mass and Healing Service

first Tuesday, January 7, 2020

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6:45PM
Confession at 7PM and will continue during Mass
Benediction at 7:15PM,
Bilingual Mass at 7:30 PM - Healing Service follows

Celebrant: Father Dan Gallagher
Deacon Frank Salatto

School News

DECEMBER 29, 2019



A peek behind our classroom doors



Photos by MJ Zafis-Garcia



Spreading Joy



At the annual parish Mother Teresa Luncheon, residents from two Washington, D.C., shelters are treated to a hot meal and warm company.

Our students accompany the guests at Mass, serve them lunch, and even serenade them with Christmas carols—including a special performance by our 4-Plus class.



www.straphaelschoolmd.org | www.srnsm.org |    @SRRockville

Preschool registration opens Jan. 17

Registration for St. Raphael Nursery School 2020-21 will open at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 17. The link can be found on the SRNS website at www.srnsm.org.

SRNS offers programs for 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds, and 4-Plus (pre-K), as

well as before care and after care. Visit our open house on Jan. 13 to learn more about our highly regarded early-childhood program.

For questions about registration or to schedule a tour, contact Julie Cress at 301-762-2143.



Accepting applications
for 2020-21

#WeAreStRaphael

(Find out if you are, too!)

SRNS
ST. RAPHAEL NURSERY SCHOOL

~ 9:15 a.m. ~

- 3-year-olds
- 4-year-olds
- 4-Plus (Pre-K)
- Spanish lessons
- Before/after care

**DOUBLE
OPEN HOUSE**
**Monday
Jan. 13**

SRS
ST. RAPHAEL SCHOOL

~ 10:30 a.m. ~

- Grades K-8
- Integrated technology
- Small-group instruction



To register, visit www.straphaelschoolmd.org (pre-registering saves you time on arrival)

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

www.straphaelschoolmd.org | www.srnsm.org | @SRSrockville

Social Responsibility and Outreach (SRO)

Sandy Shamburek, 240-864-2514

Vincentian reflection: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul reaches out to those in need throughout the U.S. and the world. Nearly 100,000 trained volunteers in the United States provide tens of millions of hours of volunteer service in helping more than 23 million people through visits to homes, prisons and hospitals at a value of nearly \$1 billion dollars.



When Pope Francis visited the U.S. several years ago, he reached Christians and non-Christians alike with his message of helping others. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been putting these words into practice for 173 years. SVdP is completely run by volunteers and we are especially in need of Spanish-speaking volunteers. Consider joining as the St. Raphael Conference continues its service to the poor in 2020. **Call Ursula Boesch at 301-762-7134.**

Next week is Stone Soup Sunday! Our next collection for St. Martin's in Gaithersburg Food Pantry will be on the weekend January 4-5, 2020. Please drop-off your kind donations by following the signage. Volunteers will still be present to assist you, as needed. Thank you for your continuous support!

Please turn in your Angel Gifts and Gift Cards! The 2019 Advent Giving Tree Season has ended. Thank you for all the donations that placed smiles on faces and joy in hearts. Please drop your donations in the mail to the attention of Sandy Shamburek or drop them off in person to the SRS reception desk by **January 3, 2020.**



Montgomery County Catholic Convocation Engagement Across Generations: Please join us for an intergenerational convocation at the Montgomery County Executive Office Building Auditorium, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville on March 21st, 2020 from 8:15 AM - 1:00 PM. All parishioners are invited as the Justice and Advocacy Commission and Catholic Charities welcome you to a discussion of how we can better address the needs of all members of the county, particularly through our parishes, schools, and senior living facilities to inform parishes about the benefits of engagement across generations. For more information or to RSVP, contact leah@empoweringtheages.org or call (301) 476-0186. See the flyer on page 4.



"As mariners are guided into port by the shining of a star, so Christians are guided to heaven by Mary"
~Saint Thomas Aquinas, Doctor of the Church

Pray to end abortions in your backyard! Join other concerned pro-lifers for the weekly prayer vigil every **Monday morning from 9 to 11 AM.** We pray to end late-term abortions performed by Leroy Carhart against innocent unborn life in Bethesda. Meet on the public sidewalk **north of the Wildwood Shopping Center** (in front of the Sun Trust Bank) on Old Georgetown Road. Visit www.prayforbethesda.com for more information and parking instructions. Dick Retta (301-538-2500) and Missy Smith (202-288-4984) are the points of contact.

With "aid" like this, who needs afflictions? The drop in abortions across the board for all racial and ethnic groups shows that pro-life legislation, education, and outreach have had an impact, but these statistics are also an indication that there is more work to be done in minority communities. Planned Parenthood and its allies in the abortion industry market themselves to these communities, doing Latino outreach, bringing in hip-hop celebrity spokespersons, offering themselves as allies to the poor, yet, not surprisingly, the presence of an abortion clinic has never done anything to "aid" these hurting communities. **Source:** <https://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/2013/12/what-the-new-cdc-abortion-numbers-tell-us-about-abortions-impact-on-minorities/>.

Join us! The Respect for Life Committee will host **Coffee & Donuts on Sunday, January 5, 2020.** Come and see what the committee is doing and how you can become involved in our activities that support the Sanctity of Life. We will have some free giveaways that will help you to evangelize during your daily round and will also highlight upcoming activities in the New Year.

A WONDERFUL SURPRISE! We have received a grant from a generous couple in our parish, which will cover the expenses of the March for Life bus transportation! As listed in an earlier notice this month, a 32-seat bus has been secured for this most powerful event on **Friday, January 24, 2020.** Please see the Sign-Up Genius link on the parish website and reserve your seat! Dress appropriately for the weather, bring your own lunch and bottled water and a cash contribution of \$5.00 for the driver tip. If you do not have access to a computer, call Sandy Shamburek at 240-864-2514 to sign up.

Youth Ministry

Annie McHugh, 240-864-2519

No Youth Ministry December 29th and January 5.



Religious Education

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

A Family Prayer for Christmas

Loving God, on this Christmas day we are filled with joy. You have given to us the greatest gift, your Son, Jesus, born as a little baby. He is the true light that scatters the darkness of this world. You sent angels to announce Jesus' birth. The shepherds heard the angels' song of praise and they rejoiced in the Good News. Fill our hearts with love and peace to last throughout the coming year, and through your Holy Spirit, gently shape us into a holy family pleasing to you. May the light of faith shine in all we do. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



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.



Preparation for Sacraments

The St. Raphael Religious Education (SRRE) office oversees and coordinates sacrament preparation for all children ages 7-18. This includes Baptism, Confirmation, Reconciliation, and Eucharist. Please contact Mary Beaudoin for information.

If your child attends a Catholic school (other than SRS) and is in grade 2, 7 or 8, and you have not done so yet, please complete the Catholic School Sacrament Registration form (Eucharist or Confirmation) and return it to the St. Raphael Religious Education Office. Download the form from the Religious Education page of St. Raphael website or contact us to request a copy. Thanks!

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

First Reconciliation will be celebrated on Wednesday evening, January 22, and Saturday morning, February 1. Families can choose either day. Children in grades 3 and up are invited to make an appointment for Confession practice by calling or emailing the SRRE office. Confession practice will be offered during class for children in grade 2. We also have at-home packets for role-playing Confession.

Families with children (grades 2, 3, and 4) should have completed chapters 1 through 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*. High schoolers are reading *The Light of Forgiveness*. 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*

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>.

Religious Education Calendar

SRRE classes are on Christmas break this week and next week. Classes resume January 5. Find the calendar at <https://www.straphaels.org/religious-education> (scroll down) or contact the SRRE office for a print version.

Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love

Over the past several months we have read the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops pastoral letter on 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>. Below is an excerpt from "Going Forward" in the final section of the letter:



Almost thirty years ago, St. John Paul II reminded us just what is at stake. Each person "is called to a fullness of life which far exceeds the dimensions of his earthly existence, because it consists in sharing the very life of God. The loftiness of this supernatural vocation reveals the greatness and the inestimable value of human life."⁴³ We are all called to that great life, to the communion of heaven where "a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue stand before the throne and before the Lamb" (Rev 7:9). That Lamb, Christ, showed us that the very life of God is love, and love requires something of each of us. We pray that the reader will join us in striving for the end of racism in all its forms, that we may walk together humbly with God and with all of our brothers and sisters in a renewed unity. For there is no place for racism in the hearts of any person; it is a perversion of the Lord's will for men and women, all of whom were made in God's image and likeness. We end by adopting the words of St. Paul: Brothers and sisters, "be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong. Your every act should be done with love" (1 Corinthians 16:13-14).

³⁴ *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, no. 19.

Adult Faith Formation

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

AFF QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Create a Holy Family in your home
in your church, in your world....

***"Never worry about numbers. Help one at
a time, and always start with those
nearest you."***
- Mother Teresa



**Q: HOW IS A CHRISTIAN FAMILY DIFFERENT
FROM OTHER FAMILIES?**

A: IT IS A "DOMESTIC CHURCH".

It is a "communion of persons," a "privileged community" that is a sign and image of the unity, love, and work of the Holy Trinity.

Relationships in the family bring an "affinity of feelings, affections and interests" arising from the members' respect for one another.

Through daily prayer and reflection on the Word of God, the family is strengthened in charity for their "evangelizing and missionary task."

-CCC #2204-2206

**Prayer after Communion
Feast of the Holy Family**

Eternal Father, we want to live as Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in peace with you and one another. May this communion strengthen us to face the troubles of life. Grant this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



COMING IN 2020

• **BIBLE STUDIES ON WISDOM**

....**Tuesday Mornings** 9:45 AM – 12:00 Noon
Beginning Jan. 28, 2020 – Parish Library

Thursday Evenings 7:30-9:00 PM

Beginning Jan. 23, 2020 – Duffy Center

• **REFLECT, REVIEW, REFRESH**

....An AFF planning meeting

• **PANEL DISCUSSION**

....on "End of Life Issues"

• **SPIRITUALITY AND AGING**

....A lecture and Reflection

• **FREE ACCESS TO FORMED**

....Continues at: formed.org/signup

• **WOMEN OF GRACE**

....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 or

Fr. Tom Morrow tgmmorrow1@gmail.com



I resolve to.....
**grow in faith and to learn more
about "the faith" by.....**

BOOKS & LINKS

- **Vibrant Paradoxes: The Both/And of Catholicism** by Robert Barron, 2017.

- **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm>

- **Word on Fire**

<https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/video>

- **FORMED - Sign up for FREE. Go to: formed.org/signup and follow the links.**

Explore: Movie Night ✳ The Sacraments ✳ Bible Studies ✳ Faith Formation ✳ Current Topics ✳ Saints of History ✳ Documentaries ✳ Modern Day Saints ✳ Life and Witness of Mary ✳ Devotionals ✳ Share Your Faith] Men and Women of Faith ✳and more.

ANOTHER WAY TO KEEP UP

Go to www.straphaels.org/adult-faith-formation and just click on the links.

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