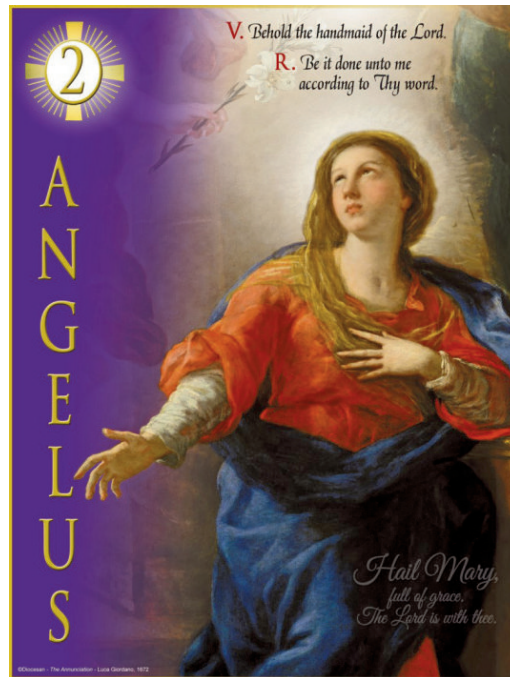


# St. Raphael Catholic Church



**1513 Dunster Road    Rockville, Maryland 20854    December 6, 2020**

**Please mail correspondence to the Parish Office  
1592 Kimblewick Road, Rockville, MD 20854**

**Parish Phone    301-762-2143  
Parish Fax       301-762-0719  
Website         www.straphaels.org**

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

**Deacon Jose Carbonell, ext. 187  
Deacon Jorge Gatica, ext. 164  
Deacon Frank Salatto, ext. 149**

**Mary J. Beaudoin, Dir. Of Religious Education, 240-864-2524  
Gerri Stoner, St. Raphael School Secretary, 240-864-2522  
Teri Dwyer, Principal, Baptism Coordinator, ext. 121  
Eileen Kutchak, Dir. of Parish Programming, 240-864-2510  
Luisa Duarte, Spanish Coordinator, 240-864-2565  
Pietro Lojacono, Asst. for Religious Education, 240-864-2523  
Annalee McHugh, Youth Minister, 240-864-2519  
Vince Natali, Dir. Of Music Ministries, 240-864-2532  
Linda Poindexter, RCIA Coordinator, 240-864-2542  
Elaine Salatto, Publications, Welcoming, 240-864-2513**

**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 or you may register online at [www.straphaels.org](http://www.straphaels.org). The Parish Wide Ministry Resource List can be found on our website on the Welcome tab or under Ministries, Social Responsibility, and Documents.

**For Life Affirming Resources:**  
<https://adw.org/about-us/resources/pregnant-need-help/>  
Healing after abortion? Project Rachel 301-853-4565

**The church capacity is 200 effective November 10.**

**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

**Masses will be live-streamed on the  
parish Youtube channel,  
Daily at 6:30AM, Saturday at 9AM and  
Sunday 11:30AM and 1:00PM Masses**

**Listen or watch the 11:30AM Sunday Mass on  
campus and receive Communion outside.**

During the 11:30AM Sunday live-streamed Mass, you may remain in your car in the parking lot and watch the 11:30 livestream on your phone; and at Communion the Eucharistic Ministers will distribute Holy Eucharist outside the front center doors of the church.

The Church will be open for adoration every Thursday, after the 9AM Mass. Please remember we cannot leave Jesus alone during the day, so please sign up for one or more time slots using the SignUp Genius link here. <https://bit.ly/STRadoration> Please enter the Church using the side doors by the St. Joseph side of the sanctuary.

The collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious is next weekend December 12/13th. Thank you for your generosity.



**Tuesday, December 8 is the Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, A Holy Day of Obligation**

### Mass Schedule for the Holy Day

#### Monday, December 7

**Vigil Mass—7:00 PM in Spanish**

#### Tuesday, December 8

**6:30 and 9:00 AM**

**4:30 and 7:00 PM**

**Please note that the Kimblewick Road Gate will be down on Tuesday, December 8**

### Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week

#### Monday, December 7

6:30AM Frank & Katherine Yagesh (d)  
9:00AM Antonio Barberena Salinas (d)  
7:00PM Spanish Vigil Mass for Solemnity

#### Tuesday, December 8 Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6 30AM Robert Meyer (d)  
9:00AM Adrienne Szigety (d)  
4:30PM Abel Wilfredo Gerpe (d)  
7:00PM Fr. Alberto Biondi

#### Wednesday, December 9

6:30AM Decano Family  
9:00AM Trixia & Richard Antalan

#### Thursday, December 10

6 30AM Fr. Andrew Gronotte  
9:00AM Christy Fellows Hadwen (d)

#### Friday, December 11

6:30AM Alma Boesch (d)  
9:00AM Luciano Cornetta (d)

#### Saturday, December 12

9:00AM Olga Brignoni (d)  
5:00PM Fr. Morrow Dr Joseph & Eileen Zigarelli (d)

#### Sunday, December 13

7:00AM	Fr. Morrow	Members of the Parish
8:30AM	Fr. Wadsworth	Edward & Helen Janus (d)
10:00AM	Fr. Salah	Donald McGuire (d)
11:30AM	Fr. Morrow	Maria Spalici Alfonsi (d)
1:00PM	Fr. Wadsworth	Virginia Pañuela (d)
6:00PM	Fr. Salah	Jim Bogart (d)

The priest schedule is subject to change.

#### \*Live-streamed Masses:

Daily, 6:30AM and Saturday, 9:00AM,  
Sunday, 11:30AM, 1:00PM

**Volunteers will be needed to stay after masses to sanitize the pews.**

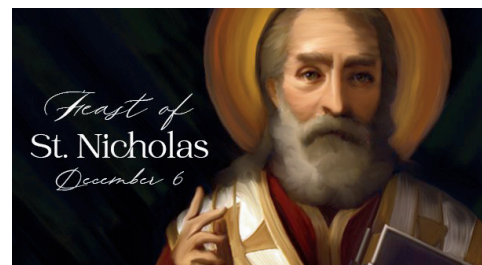
**COVID-19 regulations remain in place, please wear a mask and follow the physical distancing rules in the Church. The church capacity is 200 effective November 10.**



Dear Santa



**SAVE THE DATE...**because Santa Claus is coming to town! From 4:00 - 6:30 PM on Friday, December 18, the children of St. Raphael are invited to a drive-by "Letters for Santa" drop off where Santa will be here to receive their Christmas wish lists and give out treats to all the boys and girls on his nice list (and we know that St. Raphael kids are always on the nice list!). There will be music and lights for all to enjoy as we celebrate the season safely!



# The Advent Giving Tree is Virtual for 2020!

We have 1350 Advent Giving Tree "VIRTUAL" tags!

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 Advent Giving Tree is going virtual! The need is even greater this year and we know that our generous parishioners will be happy for the opportunity to help the wonderful organizations that we support annually at Christmas.

Please purchase any number of **\$25 TARGET or WALMART Gift Cards** and get them to us by **DECEMBER 11, 2020**, so that they can be distributed before the holiday.

There are two ways you can do this:

- Bring gift cards in an envelope labeled "Advent Giving Tree" to **St Raphael's Parish Office** located behind the church, on Kimblewick Road. If the office is closed, please place the envelope in the mail slot on the door.

OR

- Mail gift cards to:

St Raphael's Church  
Attn: Eileen Kutchak/Advent Giving Tree  
1513 Dunster Road  
Rockville, MD 20854



As in past years we will be supporting: St Martin of Tours Church in DC, Dorothy Day Shelter, Mission of Mercy, Interfaith Works Women Center, St Ann's Center, Children Hospital-Oncology Unit, Christ House DC and the Betty Krahne Center.

In addition to these organizations, we will also continue to support our **ANGEL GIFTS** recipients. You will be able to support these organizations by making online donations through their websites:

Gabriel House: [www.lovegn.org](http://www.lovegn.org)

Little Sisters of the Poor: [www.littlesistersofthepoorwashingtondc.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorwashingtondc.org)

Montgomery Hospice: [www.montgomeryhospice.org](http://www.montgomeryhospice.org)

If you have any questions or concerns, please email or call:

Diana Grimm at [rgrimm1015@aol.com](mailto:rgrimm1015@aol.com) or (301) 762-3808

Linda Trinh at [lindamtrinh@gmail.com](mailto:lindamtrinh@gmail.com) or (301) 279-0838



## VIRTUAL Advent Giving Tree

Gift for a Family at St Ann's

Ideas: \$25 Gift Card from Target or Walmart

This gift will go to a family in need at St. Ann's Catholic Church.

1 of 60 tags

Gift for a BOY

Age: 6 months – 14 years old

Ideas: \$25 Gift Card from Target or Walmart

This gift will go to a child at Betty Krahne Center, Mission of Mercy or St Martin's Catholic Church in DC.

1 of 320 tags

Gift for a HOMELESS WOMAN

Ideas: \$25 Gift Card from Target or Walmart

This gift will go to a Homeless Woman at the Interfaith Works Women's Center or the Dorothy Day Shelter.

1 of 505 tags

Gift for a Family at Children's Hospital

Ideas: \$25 Gift Card from Target or Walmart

This gift will go to a family with a child at Children's Hospital.

1 of 50 tags

Gift for a GIRL

Age: 6 months – 14 years old

Ideas: \$25 Gift Card from Target or Walmart

This gift will go to a child at Betty Krahne Center, Mission of Mercy or St Martin's Catholic Church in DC.

1 of 320 tags

Gift for a HOMELESS MAN

Ideas: \$25 Gift Card from Target or Walmart

This gift will go to a Homeless Man at Christ House or the Dorothy Day Shelter.

1 of 95 tags



# Signup today for-

**An easy way to keep up with updates and changes  
at St. Raphael Catholic Church**

**Messages from Fr. Mike  
Christmas/Holiday Mass Schedules,  
Weather Cancellations,  
Capacity and COVID guideline changes  
delivered to your phone or email!**

# Flocknote is a tool for-

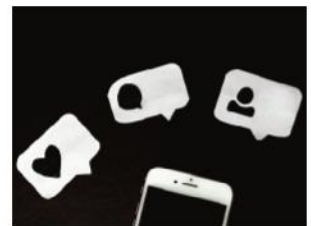
**St Raphael to communicate important information quickly parish-wide to our "Flock"**

**Sign up today for Flocknote from St. Raphael's Home page [www.straphaels.org](http://www.straphaels.org)**

**OR**

**TEXT**

**Raphaelrockville to 84576**



**Text STOP to 84576 to stop txt notifications at any time.**

**Text HELP for help.**

**There is no charge for this service,  
but your carrier message and data rates may apply.**

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at [flocknote.com/txt](http://flocknote.com/txt)**

# School News

DECEMBER 6, 2020



A peek behind our classroom doors



Stephanie Serna Klinger with her son, Isaac—the inspiration for her love of volunteering at SRS.

Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia



## SRS honor roll

Announcing our Catholic Business Network volunteer and business partner of the year

*By Teri Dwyer, Principal*




### **Volunteer of the Year: Stephanie Serna Klinger**



Each autumn, the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County celebrates a volunteer and a business partner from each school.

This year, we congratulate and thank Stephanie Serna Klinger as our St. Raphael School Volunteer of the Year! In a school with many generous helping hands and fabulous volunteers, Stephanie stands out. School events, Stephanie is there! In the middle of the action, Stephanie is planning setup, organizing fun, and making it come together.

Surrounded by her husband and friends, she gets the job done! As president of our Home & School Association, Stephanie recruited and collaborated with our roster of class representatives, orchestrated regular communications with parents and staff, and ensured that our calendar was filled with events to punctuate each season for our students. From a school year opening day to SpringFest at the end, we applaud Stephanie for a job well done! Not even COVID has stopped Stephanie or dampened her efforts. With her phenomenal technology skills, she has made SRS online initiatives come to life. A huge thank you to our 2020 volunteer of the year, Stephanie Klinger!

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



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Photos by MJ Zafis-Garcia

Connecting our students and teachers virtually would not be possible without the donation of equipment and expertise from Roger Pardo and Viper Unified Communications.

### Business Partner of the Year: Viper Unified Communications | Roger Pardo



During the month of August, Roger Pardo's company, Viper Unified Communications, donated 23 Cisco TelePresence Codec systems to St. Raphael School for video collaboration, 12 of which were integrated into mobile carts for each classroom. During summer and fall, one could find Roger at St. Raphael in the middle of the night and on weekends as he made his generous donation take shape. The Codec systems integrated with the existing Cisco Unified Communications Manager used as our audio phone system. Cisco Expressway Core and Edge devices were deployed on the network to allow for secure video communication to the Webex cloud-conferencing environment.

This new way to adapt during the pandemic has helped facilitate a crucial connected learning and teaching experience for the SRS and SRNS communities. Through Roger's generous work transforming our communication abilities, we

were able to pivot to virtual during a time of rising COVID-19 numbers. But Roger's work doesn't end there—he continues offering 24/7 professional development and support to our teachers. We cannot thank you enough, Roger!



SRS parent Roger Pardo, shown with wife Natalie and children Christian and Isabella, was instrumental in equipping SRS to provide virtual instruction during the pandemic.

## VOLUNTEER WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities is recruiting 50 volunteers to take on a weekly, year-long commitment to service.

**General Volunteer Roles:** Are you friendly, dependable, culturally sensitive and able to encourage a person going through a big change – for example, returning to the community after incarceration or learning to speak English or finding a job? Become a virtual mentor or instructor.

**Pro Bono Volunteer Roles:** Are you a doctor, nurse, lawyer or financial professional? Contribute your expertise pro bono to our most marginalized neighbors.

All roles require an application, dialogue with program staff about expectations, and at least a 75-hour commitment including orientation and training. Except for medical professionals, volunteering is done remotely via video chat, phone calls, email, and regular mail.

Have questions? Send us an email to [Volunteer@CC-DC.org](mailto:Volunteer@CC-DC.org)

## Faith Direct

If you haven't already, I prayerfully request that you consider joining the many families who use Faith Direct to fulfill their very generous stewardship commitments to our parish and the wider church. Faith Direct provides our families with the ability to give to our parish via electronic donation and I remain most pleased with the service they have provided St. Raphael Catholic Church. I hope you will set aside a few minutes to visit [faith.direct/MD34](https://faith.direct/MD34) and enroll securely online. With online enrollment, you will be able to access your account any time to view and make changes to your account information and gifts.

For those already enrolled, I want to thank you for your participation in the Faith Direct electronic giving program! eGiving has proven to be the most cost-effective way for St. Raphael Catholic Church to receive your generous donations.

God bless you,  
Father Mike Salah



*Lord, let us see  
your kindness,  
and grant us your  
salvation.*

**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.

## Do you want to be a Catholic? Or, at least, learn more about the Roman Catholic Church?

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the place for you! In meetings, virtual or physical, by phone and email discussions – you can make new friends who will help guide you and answer your questions and other new friends who are inquirers like you.

If you want to know more, call Linda Poindexter, 240-864-2542 and leave a message. I promise you will get a return! Or email [lpindexter@straphaels.org](mailto:lpindexter@straphaels.org)

In the past, RCIA has typically offered weekly meetings with other seekers (those who have never been part of a Church, those that have been in other Christian communities and are seeking more, those who are curious!), and with members of a Team who find great pleasure and satisfaction in being friends and guides for Seekers.

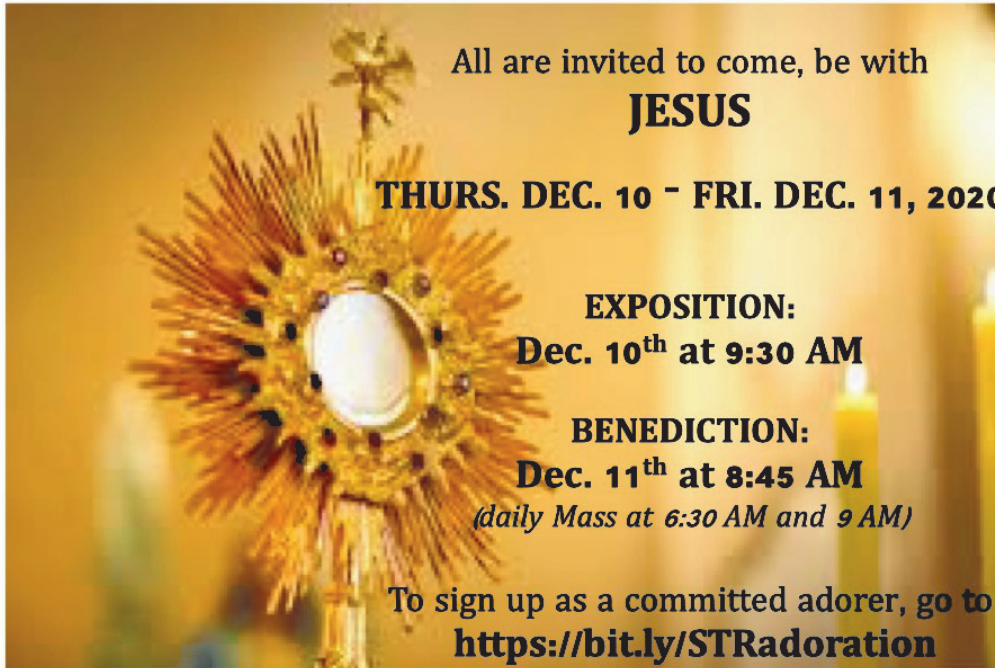
This year may be quite different – in the “meetings” – some of which may be Virtual, some individual by phone, perhaps some together but in a large enough space to be “socially distant”. The Holy Spirit will help us adapt!

In this most difficult, puzzling and even frightening time, the Church remains to nourish spiritually its members, to encourage and help our world and always to welcome with open arms those who have felt the call to become Catholic Christians and to know the love of God in Jesus Christ in their lives.



## O Come, Let Us Adore Him!

### St. Raphael Parish 24-Hour Adoration for Advent



All are invited to come, be with  
**JESUS**

**THURS. DEC. 10 - FRI. DEC. 11, 2020**

**EXPOSITION:**  
**Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM**

**BENEDICTION:**  
**Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 AM**  
*(daily Mass at 6:30 AM and 9 AM)*

To sign up as a committed adorer, go to  
**<https://bit.ly/STRadoration>**



Raphael House has openings.  
Please call **301-217-9116** if interested.

### Saint Vincent de Paul Society/ St. Raphael Conference

#### *How to Handle People Soliciting Money in the St. Raphael Parking Lot*

Occasionally, you may run into a person in our parking lot asking for money for their families. We want to help. **PLEASE DO NOT GIVE CASH.** We have a good system to help those in need yet we feel it must be taken care of during the business week. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be able to provide them with information on how they help and resources for them to find assistance. Please tell an usher about the person asking for help and he/she will direct them to our **SVdP contact Don Novotny at 240-447-7027.** They can leave a message and he will call them back in a timely manner to see if we are able to help. **The system we have in place works very well and we ask you to help us to help them.**

#### Readings for the Week of December 6, 2020

Sunday	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8
Monday	<b>Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</b> Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday	<b>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1,2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday	<b>Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin</b> Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday	<b>Our Lady of Loreto</b> Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Friday	<b>Saint Damasus I, Pope</b> Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	<b>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</b> Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a, Rv 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Sunday	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



## St. Raphael Religious Education (SRRE) Family Catechesis

It is not too late to register children and teens for faith formation and sacrament preparation. Because of COVID 19, SRRE is offering family catechesis for 2020-2021 year; registration is ongoing:

[SRRE Registration](#)

[Formulario de Registro de Educación Religiosa de San Rafael](#)

SRRE provides parents with the materials and support they will need to teach their children at home. Each family receives a family catechesis packet, which includes grade-level textbook, lesson plans, calendar, an age-appropriate Bible, and details on how to access online resources. Throughout the year, SRRE will provide online sessions for parents, family prayer celebrations, and group meetings for students in Grades 6-12. Our hope is that this can be an opportunity for parents to grow in knowledge and confidence in sharing their faith with their children. For more information please contact Mary Beaudoin, Director of Religious Education.

## St. Raphael Religious Education (SRRE) Weekly Schedule

- Dec. 6-7 – Family Prayer Celebration: Advent (virtual)  
high schoolers – *Handbook*, chapter 34
- Dec. 13 – grades 1-8 *Finding God* Session 8
- Dec. 14 – high school in-person meeting, 7:00 PM in church (discuss Unit 2)
- Dec. 20-21 – Family Prayer Celebration: Christmas (virtual)
- Dec. 27 - grades 1-8 *Finding God* Christmas lesson (grades 1-6, Session 10)

\*Students need to complete Interactive Session Review for each numbered session. Find these review quizzes at *Finding God 2021* Family Resources page. [Finding God webpage for families](#)

Select grade, scroll down to find interactive session reviews, select Session, complete review questions, click CONTINUE, complete self-assessment, click CONTINUE; and in the last frame enter child's name and this email: [SRREQuiz@gmail.com](mailto:SRREQuiz@gmail.com) Then click SEND.

[\[Encontrando a Dios\]](#)

\*High schoolers answer 3 reflection questions at the end of each chapter; email responses to [SRREQuiz@gmail.com](mailto:SRREQuiz@gmail.com)



## Resources for Advent at Home

Are you looking for inspiration, prayers, calendars, Jesse Tree, arts, and other activities for celebrating Advent at home? Find them at Loyola Press Catholic Resources: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/family/>

## Catholic School – First Communion or Confirmation

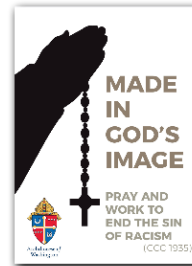


We look forward to welcoming Catholic school children to sacrament preparation. If your child attends a Catholic school (other than St. Raphael) and will be entering grade 1 or 2, please register for First Penance and First Communion preparation at this link: [First Eucharist - Catholic School](#) Thank you!

If your child attends a Catholic school (other than St. Raphael) and will be entering grade 7 or 8 (or high schoolers who have not received Confirmation), please register for Confirmation preparation at this link: [Confirmation - Catholic School](#) Thank you!

## Made in God's Image: Pray and Work to End the Sin of Racism

In light of current events in our country and the need for ongoing work in the fight against racial injustice everywhere, Archbishop Gregory has announced the new Archdiocese of Washington initiative 'Made in God's Image: Pray and Work to End the Sin of Racism (CCC 1935).'



Over the coming months we will feature various components of this initiative in our parish bulletin. Please join Archbishop Gregory, our auxiliary bishops, clergy, and staff as we pray and work together to proclaim Christ's love for all people and work for justice for all.

## Our Family Prayer for Justice and Human Dignity

Loving and faithful God, we come to you, Father, to ask that through your Son, Jesus, and in communion with the Holy Spirit, you help us in the battle against America's "original sin" of racism that divides us from being the Body of Christ that we are called to be as your children.

We implore you to give us your wisdom, so that we may build a community founded on the Gospel message of the life and dignity of all people from the womb to the tomb, and to live in communion like the divine communion of the Holy Trinity.

Bless parents that they may form their children in faith, to love one another regardless of skin color, ethnicity and national origin, just as Jesus loves us.

Bless and protect all of us as we live out our faith in being "instruments of your peace" as St. Francis said.

Fill us with a thirst for justice and righteousness.

Hear our prayer and give us the courage, compassion, and perseverance to root out any form of injustice within our communities and to bring the healing love of Christ to all in need.

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of our Church, hasten to help us and intercede on our behalf, so that our Archdiocese can continue to witness to the Gospel message of life and dignity of all people.

Amen.



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PRAY LIKE JESUS

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