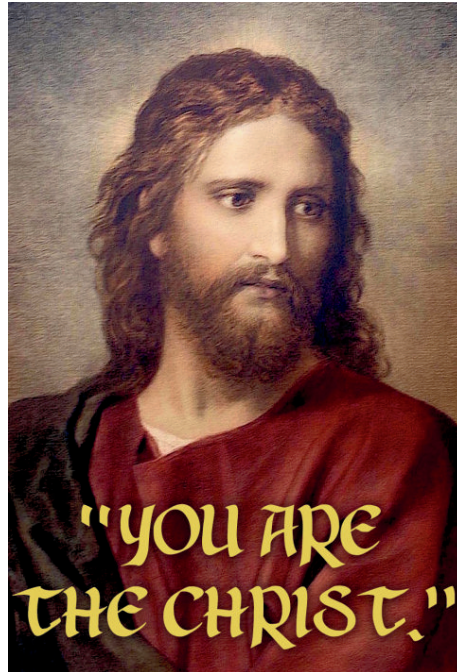


St. Raphael Catholic Church



1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

September 12, 2021

**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 Richard Meyer, 202-365-0913
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 Lojano, Assistant for Religious Education, ext. 123
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: <https://straphaels.org/parish-registration-form>
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

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.



As of September 6, St. Raphael Parish stands at 81% or \$291,516.00 of our goal of \$362,100.00. If you have not yet made your gift which will be credited to our parish, you can do so today by visiting appeal.adw.org.

We are most grateful for your generosity.



eGiving is a great stewardship habit – it streamlines your giving and lets you do even more to help St. Raphael Catholic Church grow our ministries that share the Good News of God's love. Why not make the switch today? You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet, and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift.

Recurring gifts were a lifeline during COVID-19 and sustained our parish throughout the year. They provide consistent support that helps us always be at the ready with programs, services, and ministries for our church families and for those in need throughout the community.

Sign up today by visiting Faith.Direct/MD34. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

God Bless You,
Father Mike Salah

Bulletin notices are due in writing ON FRIDAY, THE WEEK BEFORE THE published date. Notices may be emailed to: esalatto@straphaels.org. This bulletin was sent September 7.

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week

Monday, September 13

6:30AM Maya & Carlos Vakas
9:00AM Leifeld Family (living & d)

Tuesday, September 14

6:30AM Miguel Martinez (d)
9:00AM Luis Morales

Wednesday, September 15

6:30AM Fernandes Family (d)
9:00AM Dr. Alex Dromerick (d)

Thursday, September 16

6:30AM Katrina Martinez
9:00AM George Joseph (d)

Friday, September 17

6:30AM Michael O'Connor (d)
9:00AM Maureen & Vern Weyers

Saturday, September 18

9:00AM Bert & Marriane Morra (d)
5:00PM John Lippert (d)

Sunday, September 19

7:00AM Members of the Parish
8:30AM Mary Girardi (d)
10:00AM Virginia M. Datu (d)
11:30AM Stephen Gardella (d)
1:00PM Estela Rossel (d)
6:00PM John Henderson

*Live-streamed Masses:

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

Baptisms:

Joshua Dominic Smyth September 4
Luciano Christian Yequi September 5

Please pray for the soul of

Jose Luis Martin, brother of Maria Diaz
Leoncio Gutierrez
Lois JoAnn Witham



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. Amen.



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 all the Masses.

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings for the Week of September 12, 2021

Sunday	Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 50:4c-9a; Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35
Monday	Memorial of Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9; Lk 7:1-10
Tuesday	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
Wednesday	Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
Thursday	Memorial of Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs 1 Tm 4:12-16; Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10; Lk 7:36-50
Friday	Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20; Lk 8:1-3
Saturday	1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Lk 8:4-15
Sunday	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Wis 2:12, 17-20; Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8; Jas 3:16—4:3; Mk 9:30-37

St. Raphael Honor Roll

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

Daniel Bertrand Del Bianco, USN (d) and family
LT Victor H. Esch, III, USA
CPT Paul D Galvin
E-3/HN Colleen Gardella
Robert Garret, US Army MP
Taylor Hardy, AE USN
Ens. Andrew Hayes, USN
Captain Julia Timm Intili, USAF
Jake Klosowski, USNA
LT COL Todd Lennon, USAF
Captain Frank Lowery, USN
Commander Mike McNally, USN
Charles McTavish, USA
LT Zachary Poindexter, USN
2LT Dan Quackenbush
1LT Will Quackenbush, USA
2LT Benedict Ray, USMC
LT Paul Schauppner, USN
LT James Sheets (USN)
2nd LT Andrew Valentine USMA
LT Kenneth Yale, USAF

Changes: e-mail esalatto@straphaels.org

Volunteer with Catholic Charities

Prepare and deliver a meal for 20 people at Dorothy Day Place in Rockville, any night of the week! Signing up to cook a meal helps staff focus on other priorities such as clinical work and employment services. <http://bttr.im/80hmc>

Sign up for a year of service with Catholic Charities through AmeriCorps or Capuchin Franciscan Corps!

- Financial Stability AmeriCorps
- Nutrition Education AmeriCorps
- Volunteer Office VISTA
- Volunteer Medical Clinic VISTA
- Capuchin Corps Volunteer in Volunteer Office, Spanish Catholic Center, or Medical Clinic

You can learn more on our Volunteer Homepage: <https://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/volunteer/>

Welcome Back to St. Raphael Catholic Church

What you need to know.

Due to the rise of COVID-19 cases both locally and across the country, including the increasing number of cases from the Delta variant breakthrough cases in the fully vaccinated, we must require that **all** adults and children wear masks inside **all** Archdiocese of Washington (ADW) school and church buildings, regardless of vaccination status, until further notice".



**FACE MASK
REQUIRED**

*The church is open daily for prayer. Please enter from the St. Joseph side door entrance.

*Hand Sanitizer will be available in the vestibule.

*Gather song books have returned and Missalettes have arrived.

*The offertory collection baskets will remain at the foot of the altar. You may place your contribution in the baskets during the preparation of the gifts.

*The Sign of Peace has been restored with the use of a gesture, such as a bow or wave.

*Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Clergy will continue to wear masks. to distribute Holy Communion. The distribution of the Precious Blood remains suspended until further notice.

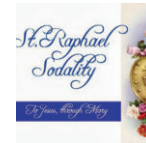
WANT TO BE A CATHOLIC? LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is for you or someone you know. (See link here for a short video – www.straphaels.org; click on Faith Formation RCIA).

We plan on resuming our normal, in-person meetings for those desiring to learn more about or enter into the Catholic faith on Sunday, October 3 (an Introductory meeting for all who are interested) at 9:45 AM in the Youth Center. Our meetings this year will be on Sunday mornings, 9:45 to 11:15 (allowing people to attend the 8:30 or 11:30 Mass) . in the Youth Center and will continue until a few weeks after Easter.

Those participating in RCIA receive a book about the teachings of the Church and listen to talks and take part in questions and discussions. Those to be baptized and/or received into the Catholic Church come to the Mass on the Easter Vigil for their Sacraments. Those who are Catholic and want to prepare for Confirmation may also be in RCIA especially if they have been “away” from the Church. There is also a preparation group for those needing only Confirmation that meets during Lent.

If you want to know more or to take part please contact Linda Poindexter and leave a message at 240-864-2542, or email lpindexter@straphaels.org



You are invited to join St. Raphael Sodality

St. Raphael's Sodality was founded in May 1994. Sodality's primary purpose is to foster a devotion to Our Blessed Lady that will manifest itself in personal holiness and Catholic action. Sodality, which is derived from the Latin word sodalitus, means fellowship. Sodality gives women the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the Catholic faith, to pray together (we pray the rosary at our meetings), and perform charitable works. Our motto is "To Jesus through Mary".

We have monthly meetings with speakers September through May. Please come to the first one of the year listed below. We host First Fridays with speakers and coffee after the 9:00 AM Mass. We take an annual pilgrimage to a nearby religious site, and support parish activities. We invite all women of the parish to join us. Dues are \$25 through October 31 and \$30 after that date. If you would like to join, please send your check payable to St. Raphael's Church (and note Sodality dues on the memo line) to Aleta Phillips, 304 Winter Walk Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.



Fall Bible Study

James: Pearls for Wise Living with Jeff Cavins will speak to all who feel torn between the competing demands of this world and their faith. The book of James offers a wealth of practical solutions for handling and even sanctifying everyday circumstances. Two groups are forming to meet on the zoom platform as follows:

**Tuesday Mornings 10:30 – 12 Noon
September 14 – November 23**

**Thursday Evenings 7:30 – 9:00 PM
September 9 – November 18**

For further information and to sign up, contact Dorothy Welsh at dwwelsh5@aol.com. Order the Study Set (workbook & online access) at www.ascensionpress.com and it will be sent directly to you.

Pray the Rosary



Support Training Our Priests with the ADW Ride for Vocations

A team of cyclists from St. Raphael's (including Deacon Rich Meyer, Federico Sologoren, Mike Coene, Alonzo Garcia and Bill Arcieri) will be participating in the annual Ride for Vocations on September 18, 2021 to raise money to support seminarians for the Archdiocese of Washington. Riders start in La Plata, MD and ride through the Southern Maryland countryside for 100, 70, or 50 miles, visiting several Catholic Churches in the area, some of which are historic. If you would like to support them and our seminarians by contributing, you can go online at the Ride for Vocations website at <https://dcpriest.org/ride-for-vocations>.

Prayer to Care for our Common Home



Father of all,
Creator and ruler of the universe,
You entrusted your world to us as a gift.
Help us to care for it and all people,
that we may live in right relationship--

with You,
with ourselves,
with one another,
and with creation.

Christ our Lord,
both divine and human,
You lived among us and died for our sins.
Help us to imitate your love for the
human family
by recognizing that we are all connected--
to our brothers and sisters around the world,
to those in poverty impacted by
environmental devastation,
and to future generations.

Holy Spirit,
giver of wisdom and love,
You breathe life in us and guide us.
Help us to live according to your vision,
stirring to action the hearts of all--
individuals and families,
communities of faith,
and civil and political leaders.

Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those in
poverty, and the cry of the earth, so that we may
together care for our common home.

Amen.

This prayer from the United States Conference
of Catholic Bishops is based on Pope Francis'
Laudato Si': *On Care for Our Common Home*.



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PRAYER RESOURCE

Youth Ministry

Annie McHugh, 240-864-2519

Color War Kick Off - September 12

All high school teens are invited to youth group's fall kick off with Color War in the side parking lot! Dress to get covered in paint powder through ridiculous games and challenges. 7:00-8:30PM in the side parking lot, drinks are provided!

Under Pressure 1 - September 19

Come to YG as we begin a series on the unique pressures, doubts and fears young people have. Our first night is on the pressure to succeed academically, athletically, socially and more! 7:00-8:30PM in the youth center, drinks are provided, please wear a mask.

Blessed Carlo Acutis Exhibit - September 25

St. Martin's Parish is hosting Blessed Carlo Acutis' exhibit on Eucharistic miracles. All teens and families are invited for 9:00AM Mass at St. Martin's in Gaithersburg, followed by a tour of the exhibit and veneration of a first class relic of Blessed Carlo!

6PM Lectors Needed!

The 6PM youth Mass needs lectors! If you're interested in helping fill this important role on a regular or semi-regular basis, please email Mike at mmchugh@straphaels.org. Service hours are offered.

Mother of God Community

presents

God's Healing Love

September 13, 14, and 15, 2021

Begins at 7 pm in the School Gym each night

Monday – "Blessed Are the Merciful" Matthew 5:7

Tuesday "Be Filled With the Holy Spirit" Acts 9:17

Wednesday "Pray That You May Be Healed" James 5:16

Father Greg Bramlage of **Missionaries of the New**

Evangelization will introduce you to a deeper understanding of God's Mercy and share with us the **incredible healings** that result when we repent of our sins, forgive those who've hurt us and pray with expectant faith. Please come with an open heart ready to be awed by the extravagant love of God. Music will begin at 6:30 pm. Each night there is a free will offering to help Fr. Greg build a Center for Prayer and the New Evangelization.



Mother of God Community
20501 Goshen Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Invite your friends, family, and neighbors!
Come Early – for 30 minutes of Powerful Praise
beginning at 6:30 pm each evening
For more information call Teri at
301 990-2081 or email
mogc@motherofgod.org

Father Greg Bramlage has given Missions to thousands of people throughout the United States, Africa, India, as well as, Central and South America, evangelizing with the Word of God & teaching others how to pray for miracles with expectant faith. He is now headquartered in the Diocese of Tyler, Texas.

Marriage Renewal Workshop
Strengthening Your Love
TOOLS FOR OVERCOMING OBSTACLES IN YOUR MARRIAGE

A Christ-centered weekend designed to offer practical tools to help married couples foster emotional closeness and overcome distance, hurts, and unhealthy patterns in their marriage.

Presented by a team of Catholic psychologists, therapists, and priests!

OCT 9-10, 2021
\$400 per couple

Register Today on Our Website!
www.ourladyofbethesda.org
Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center | 1001 Bradley Blvd. | Bethesda, MD



Be more romantic with my spouse



To attend a wwme experience, visit wwme.org

Has the romance in your marriage lessened during the Pandemic? Would you like to renew, reinvigorate or increase those romantic feelings? Why not join us on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on November 5-7, 2021? This is a **virtual** Experience and you can join in the privacy of your own home. You can apply at moments4marriage.org. If you would like additional information please leave us a message at 301-541-7007 and we will call you.

School News



A peek behind our classroom doors

Join us for these fabulous fall events!

Golf Classic

The Fr. Bill Finch Memorial St. Raphael Golf Classic returns Friday, Oct. 1, at Bretton Woods. Put together a foursome—or we can team you up—and enjoy the best charity



tournament in town! Not a golfer? Then be a sponsor (opportunities for every budget), volunteer, or simply attend the post-tourney reception!

Sign up at

www.straphaelschoolmd.org.

Don't miss the Golf Classic bake sale at Masses on Sunday, Sept. 19!



K-8 Open House

We are opening our doors to all on Friday, Oct. 18.

Join us for a presentation at 9:30 a.m., followed by a tour. It's never too early to start thinking about school for next year. Register at www.straphaelschoolmd.org.

NOTE: This open house is for St. Raphael School (K-8). On Jan. 10, 2020, we will host a double open house for St. Raphael Nursery School and St. Raphael School.



Angels on the Run

Dust off those athletic shoes for our annual fun run on Saturday, Oct. 30. Angels on the Run is open to all: There is a short course for young children and a 1 mi and 5K for adults and older children. For info about registration, sponsorships big and small, and volunteering, watch www.straphaelschoolmd.org.



www.straphaelschoolmd.org | www.srnsmd.org |    @SRsRockville

First Day of School Blessings



Students and their families are happy to be back at St. Raphael this year! We celebrate our first day of school with a beautiful morning mass and blessing.



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

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Hispanic Heritage Month Begins!

September 15-October 15, 2021

Hispanic/Latino Presence in the USA EARLY HISTORY

By Alejandro Aguilera-Titus and Fr. Allan Figueroa Deck, SJ, courtesy of the USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church

People with roots in Latin American countries have lived in the United States from its very beginnings. However, their presence on the national scene was practically invisible. The 1970 Census was the first time Hispanics were counted and recognized as a distinct population. The very term Hispanic was chosen by the U.S. Government to name a growing population that was not a racial or an ethnic group, but a people with roots in more than twenty-three Latin American countries and Spain, sharing a common cultural heritage and language. The term Latino emerged in the 80s as a self-given name, particularly in urban settings. This broadening of identity as Hispanics/Latinos was encouraged by robust immigration from

Latin America during the '80s and '90s. Yet today, most Hispanics/Latinos still identify with their nation of origin, for example, and prefer to call themselves Mexican Americans, Cuban Americans, Puerto Ricans, etc.

The roots of the Hispanic/Latino presence in the U.S. go back to colonial times when most of the country's southern flank was under Spanish rule. The first Mass celebrated in what is now the U.S. took place in 1569 in St. Augustine, Florida, under Spanish auspices. The Hispanic/Latino presence took on a whole new dimension in the 1840s with the annexation of half of Mexico's territory to the United States as a result of the Mexican-American War. The new border crossed entire populations from big and small towns, as the



Special Vigil Mass on Domestic Violence—October 2—Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Catholic families deserve to be safe and loved at home. Yet one out of 4 women, 1 out of 7 men have experienced severe physical violence in an intimate relationship: being kicked, beaten, choked, burned, having a weapon used against them. **Most Reverend Roy Edward Campbell, Jr, Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., will be the presider and homilist for a special vigil mass on domestic violence October 2nd at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.** All are invited and need to **register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mass-in-observance-of-domestic-violence-awareness-month-washington-dc-tickets-154714424007>**

Catholics believe that God loves and cares for everyone, and that God knows their pain and concerns. Catholics for Family Peace invites you to join us in a moment of prayer at 3 PM every day, wherever you are, for those suffering from violence and abuse and those who use violence to control others. We pray for them and for all who work to end domestic violence. Would you set an alarm to join us each day to pray at 3 PM? To learn more, please visit www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org.



Faith Formation

Religious Education
mbeaudoin@straphaels.org
202-294-7697

Religious Education Parent Orientation Meeting TODAY

New and returning families are invited to attend an orientation meeting today, September 12, after the 8:30, 10:00 or 11:30AM Mass in the Trumpet Room. Families attending the Spanish Mass are asked to come at 12:30PM. There will be a brief overview of SRRE programs followed by time for Q&A.



St. Raphael Religious Education (SRRE) classes begin on September 19 and 20. We look forward to seeing all our children and teens who are returning, and welcoming new families.

Register Today! Please find the registration link at <https://www.straphaels.org/religious-education>. Note that you will need the location and date of your child's baptism. Contact our office if you have any questions. If your child is new to SRRE we will also need their baptismal certificate.

SRRE offers ongoing faith formation for all children and teens, as well as preparation for sacraments. Each year of faith formation is designed to deepen relationships with Jesus and his Church through focus on what we believe, why we celebrate the sacraments, how we pray, and how we live.

Schedule of classes:

Sundays, 10:00 AM – pre-K
Sundays, 11:30 AM – pre-K and kindergarten
***New this year: Family Catechesis (grades 1-8) – six**
Sunday sessions, 4:30-5:45 PM
Sundays, 7:05-8:20 PM – grades 3-8
Mondays, 4:30-5:45 PM – grades K-8
Mondays, 7:00-8:15 PM – grades 1-12

All SRRE students, catechists and parents will be required to wear well-fitting face coverings in St. Raphael buildings, regardless of vaccination status.

Tuition and sacramental fees can be paid through Faith Direct or by check. Please make your check payable to "St. Raphael RE" and bring or send it to our office (St. Raphael Religious Ed., 1513 Dunster Road, Rockville MD 20854). Please put your child's name on the memo line of your Faith Direct payment or your check. Payment plan and reduced tuition are available for families who need financial assistance. Please contact Mary Beaudoin.

Tuition:

One child - \$155
Two children - \$230
Three or more children - \$280

Sacramental Fees:

First Eucharist in Spring 2022-\$75
Confirmation in Spring 2022-\$75

Family Catechesis is open to families with children in grades 1 through 8. Families come together for group meetings and one lesson every five weeks. Following each meeting, parents will teach their children at home for the remaining four lessons of each unit. Parents will need to commit to spending an hour each week on faith formation with their child at home - in order to fulfill the minimum of 30 hours of instruction required by the Archdiocese of Washington.

Family Catechesis In-Person Meeting Schedule:

- September 19
- October 24
- December 5
- January 30
- March 13
- May 1

Catechists and Aides – We Need You!

Our faith is a treasure that brings great joy; it is a pearl worth more than any other possession. SRRE catechists are blessed to share this treasure, this pearl, as they mentor young Catholics.



We invite you to be part of this exciting mission. Training, ongoing support and excellent resources are provided. Our greatest needs are:

Sundays, 6:55-8:25 PM – **Catechist for grade 8 + class aides in several grades**
Mondays, 4:20-5:50 PM – **Catechist for grade 7 or 8 + class aides**
Mondays, 6:50-8:20 PM – **Co-catechists and class aides needed in several grades**

Please contact Mary Beaudoin, Director of Religious Education, for details.

Catechetical Sunday – September 19

Each year USCCB sets aside one Sunday in September to recognize and pray for all those involved in the ministry of catechesis. The 2021 Catechetical Sunday theme focuses on healing: "Say the Word and My Soul Shall be Healed." This year's theme acknowledges a world in need of healing. The Church shares Jesus' special concern with those who are sick and suffering. At St. Raphael, those whom the parish community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel.



The SRRE Office also coordinates sacrament preparation for all children ages 7-18. This includes Baptism, Confirmation, Reconciliation, and Eucharist. Please contact Mary Beaudoin for information.

Religious Education and Sacrament Calendar

September 12, 9:30-1:00	SRRE Parent Orientation
Meetings in Trumpet Room	
September 19	Catechetical Sunday,
commissioning of catechists	
September 19-20	SRRE Classes begin
October – dates TBA	Confirmation Student/
Parent Meeting	
October – dates TBA	First Penance/First
Communion Parent Meeting	
October 31-November 1	No SRRE Classes
December 26-27	No SRRE Classes
January 2-3	SRRE Classes resume
January 16-17	No SRRE Classes
February 20-21	No SRRE Classes
Lent – dates TBA	First Penance
April 10-11, 17-18	No SRRE Classes
May – dates TBA	First Communion Masses
May 9	last day of SRRE Classes
May 21	Confirmation Masses

Confirmation Service Projects

Teens preparing for Confirmation in spring 2022 need to turn in their Confirmation Service Projects. Find service information and forms at www.straphaels.org/confirmation-1. Records of Service and Reflection Papers can be dropped off at the Religious Ed. office or sent to us by postal mail or email.

Faith and Works

Remember to make time to reflect on this Sunday's Scripture readings at home:

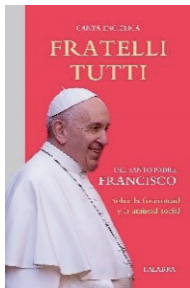
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/091221.cfm>

Key Passage: Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. (James 2:17-18)

. . . and then have a family sharing time on the questions below

Adult: Why should faith always lead to good works?

Child: What good works can you do to show your faith in Jesus?



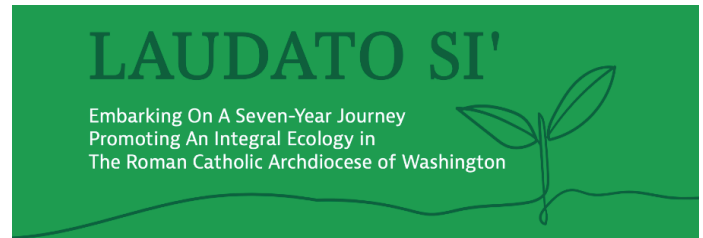
An Encyclical for All Brothers and Sisters

In his most recent encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis invites us to consider how we are called "in the face of present-day attempts to eliminate or ignore others" to respond "with a new vision of fraternity and social friendship that will not remain at the level of words." This week we continue Chapter 2: A Stranger on the Road. The Pope reflects on the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37.

Neighbors without borders

82. The parable, though, is troubling, for Jesus says that the wounded man was a Judean, while the one who stopped and helped him was a Samaritan. This detail is quite significant for our reflection on a love that includes everyone. The Samaritans lived in a region where pagan rites were practiced. For the Jews, this made them impure, detestable, dangerous. In fact, one ancient Jewish text referring to nations that were hated, speaks of Samaria as "not even a people" (Sir 50:25); it also refers to "the foolish people that live in Shechem" (50:26).

83. This explains why a Samaritan woman, when asked by Jesus for a drink, answered curtly: "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jn 4:9). The most offensive charge that those who sought to discredit Jesus could bring was that he was "possessed" and "a Samaritan" (Jn 8:48). So this encounter of mercy between a Samaritan and a Jew is highly provocative; it leaves no room for ideological manipulation and challenges us to expand our frontiers. It gives a universal dimension to our call to love, one that transcends all prejudices, all historical and cultural barriers, all petty interests.



Caring for God's Creation – A Plan That Calls for Solidarity

In the five years since Pope Francis released his encyclical *Laudato Si'* (Care for Our Common Home), many dioceses, parishes, parish schools, religious communities and families have embraced the call of integral ecology so that the earth is protected for future generations. Integral ecology is a key concept in *Laudato Si'*. It says that "everything is closely related" and that "today's problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis" (LS, chapter 4).

In August, Cardinal Gregory announced the launch of *Laudato Si': Embarking on a Seven-Year Journey Promoting an Integral Ecology in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington*. It contains easy to advanced ways for us to exercise stewardship over God's creation. Find the link to the plan at www.adw.org

In his video about the new plan, Cardinal Gregory says, "Pope Francis call us to a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. It requires a new and universal solidarity. All of us can cooperate, as instruments of God for care of creation, each according to his/her own culture, experience, involvement, and talents. . . . We must all do all we can for our common home for future generations in our archdiocese so that all can enjoy the natural beauty of the Chesapeake Bay, cherry blossoms, and the Anacostia River."

This is a wonderful opportunity for every individual, every family, and every group in our parish to make a difference in this all-important work. Young people looking for Confirmation and community service opportunities will find many projects in this action plan.

The plan includes seven markers, the first being Response to the Cry of the Earth. It outlines steps to conserving energy and using more and more clean energy.



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