

St. Raphael Catholic Church

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

Monday, November 1, is not a holy day of obligation this year.

Masses on November 1

6:30AM, 9:00AM and 7:00PM in Spanish

Commemoration of all the
FAITHFUL DEPARTED

(ALL SOULS DAY)

Tuesday, November 2

Masses on November 2

6:30AM, 9:00AM, 12:00PM

7:00 PM bi-lingual

Confessions: 7:00PM



Announcements for next Mass and Blessing will be included in upcoming bulletins.

1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

October 31, 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.



Face Masks are required in all ADW buildings and churches. We wish to thank you for keeping everyone safe as we all continue to comply with the county mask mandate.

Readings for the Week of October 31, 2021

Sunday	Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Dt 6:2-6; Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51; Heb 7:23-28; Mk 12:28b-34
Monday	Solemnity of All Saints Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a
Tuesday	The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) Wis 3:1-9; Rom 5:5-11 or Rom 6:3-9; Jn 6:37-40
Wednesday	Saint Martin de Porres, Religious Rom 13:8-10; Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9; Lk 14:25-33
Thursday	Memorial of Saint Charles Borromeo, Bishop Rom 14:7-12; Ps 27:1bcde, 4, 13-14; Lk 15:1-10
Friday	Rom 15:14-21; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Lk 16:1-8
Saturday	Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11; Lk 16:9-15
Sunday	Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Kgs 17:10-16; Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10; Heb 9:24-28; Mk 12:38-44 or 12:41-44

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week

Monday, November 1 (Solemnity of All Saints) (not a Holy Day of obligation this year)

6:30AM	Joan & Robert Tryon (d)
9:00AM	David Dickinson (d)
7:00PM	Spanish

Tuesday, November 2 (All Souls)

6:30AM	All Souls
9:00AM	Edward & Helen Janus (d)
12:00PM	A Special Intention
7:00PM	Bi-lingual Carmen Sia Palmaira (d)

Wednesday, November 3

6:30AM	Fernandes Family (d)
9:00AM	All Souls

Thursday, November 4

6:30AM	All Souls
9:00AM	Don Wolf (d)

Friday, November 5 (First Friday)

6:30AM	Miguel Martinez (d)
9:00AM	All Souls

Saturday, November 6 (First Saturday)

9:00AM	George Joseph (d)
5:00PM	Fr. Tom Guido Fabbro (d)

Sunday, November 7

7:00AM	Fr. Mike	Members of the Parish
8:30AM	Fr. Tom	Joseph DeLone (d)
10:00AM	Fr. Tom	Agnieszka Wnek (d)
11:30AM	Fr. Mike	Consuelo Garcia (d)
1:00PM	Fr. Bill	Miguel Martinez (d)
6:00PM	Fr. Bill	All Souls

The priest schedule is subject to change.

*Live-streamed Masses:

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



Thank you, parishioners, who have made a gift to the 2021 Annual Appeal. **As of October 26**, we now stand at **435 donors**, and **89% of our parish goal with donations totaling 321,416.50 of the St. Raphael 362,100.00 goal.**

For parishioners who have not had an opportunity to make their gift, donations can also be made by visiting give.adw.org or you can scan the barcode.



Thank you for supporting the charitable works of our archdiocese through your Annual Appeal giving. If you have questions about how Annual Appeal funds are used, we encourage you to visit appeal.adw.org or email your inquiry to development@adw.org.

Please pray for the soul of

Jerry Czecha

Michael Glynn

Joseph Ihsan, son of Donna DeClementi,
grandson of Vincent and Carol DeClementi



**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.**

Baptism:

Callum Schellhorn

October 23

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 transmitted October 26.

Vicar's Verbiage

"Never let me be parted from you"

Dear Friends,

How do you prepare to receive Holy Communion? Perhaps you have a prayer or two you learned in childhood, something you've memorized and said so often you don't even remember the words. Perhaps you have a set of prayers you think or say; or perhaps you have no prayer at all. Or perhaps you hadn't even thought it was something good to say some private prayers before Communion.

For priests celebrating Mass, the prayers they say before Communion are written out and obligatory—they're also beautiful and perfectly fine for you to say if you want to use as well.

Right before Communion is a wondrous moment of intimacy with the Priest and his Lord in the Eucharist, the prayers are meant to be spoken quietly, like a private whisper between spouses or friends. Its something that can be seen by everyone but in that moment (at least for me), there's no one else in the room except for Jesus. That's why I like to bend down as I say them, just to make sure He hears me whispering them.

Here's what we say:

Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
who by the will of the Father
and the work of the Holy Spirit,
through your Death gave life to the world,
free me by this, your most Holy Body and Blood,
from all my sins and from every evil;
keep me always faithful to your commandments,
and never let me be parted from you.

Or:

May the receiving of your Body and Blood,
Lord Jesus Christ,
not bring me to judgment and condemnation,
but through your loving mercy
be for me protection in mind and body
and a healing remedy.

The Eucharistic Prayer is addressed to God the Father, since its Christ the High Priest offering Himself as victim and priest in that moment, but these prayers are focused on Jesus himself, because of course after the Consecration He is there on the altar in the Eucharist.

I've always been drawn to the last line of the first prayer: "keep me always faithful to your commandments, and never let me be parted from you." That sort of sums up the whole point of why we are here, to be faithful to the Lord so that we can be with him forever in heaven. When we fall into sin we are parted from God, separated again like Adam and Eve. In the Eucharist we see God's answer to that separation, an act of love which allows us to have communion with God always, never to be separated from him.

Even though its not required to say, maybe you could whisper one of those prayers along with the priest at Mass and pray that the Eucharist will be protection for you in mind and body and a healing medicine to keep you close to God now and for ever.

Fr. Bill

WANT TO BE A CATHOLIC – OR LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH – IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

UPDATE on RCIA (the pathway for adults wishing to explore becoming Catholic – and for those who have not received their Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist – and those Catholics who have been "away" and want to learn more about their Faith)

So far, we do not have anyone to begin the RCIA journey on Sunday mornings. Instead of the Sunday morning meetings, **we will find another path such as individual meetings; or ZOOM meetings or some other creative way to help you in your journey.**

If you are interested in RCIA, please contact Linda Poindexter at 240-864-2542 or lpindexter@straphaels.org

Teams of Our Lady

We are thinking of forming a new Catholic couples group, Teams of Our Lady here at St. Raphael's. The group would meet monthly at members' homes to have dinner, pray, and discuss how to best live a Catholic marriage. Kindly contact Fr. Tom Morrow for more info. morrowt@adw.org or text at 240-426-5589.

Bereavement Mass—November 6, 9:00AM

During the past year you may have experienced a loss of a family member or close friend. As is our tradition, there will be a Bereavement Mass at St. Raphael for all of our parish family members who have died during the past twelve months. We will offer this Mass on Saturday, November 6 at 9:00 AM in the church.

We invite you, your family and friends to join us at this Mass on November 6 .



The Usher Ministry is in need of volunteers for all weekend masses. Duties and responsibilities currently include ensuring an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion brings the Eucharist to parishioners who are not able to comfortably or safely walk the communion line, safeguarding the offertory and special collections after mass, general tidying of the pews, and being the welcoming sign to the faithful assembled for worship.

The Ministry of Hospitality is truly a service to the Church and is a great opportunity to serve with very little time commitment required. This is an ideal ministry for families to serve together. Please contact Terry Salsgiver at 301-437-2018 or tsalsgiver@comcast.net.

Catholic Charities sent to St. Raphael a letter of gratitude regarding the help and support of parishioners, Elinor Metz and Gladys Baba, given to them and the Archdiocese for their domestic violence outreach and assistance. A big thank you goes out to them. We are most grateful for their willingness to start a team here at St. Raphael.

Would you like to be part of the St. Raphael's Domestic Violence Outreach Team?

If you are alert and sensitive to victims, can listen with compassion and be able to provide information regarding local resources for victims and families, prayfully, consider joining our team.

TIME COMMITMENT?

Minimally participants will commit to 3-5 hours of training on Zoom over 2-3 months that will focus on:

- +the extent and severity of domestic violence
- + how to recognize and respond to victims
- +identifying local resources that render direct assistance to victims.

After that, how much additional time you devote to supporting domestic violence organizations is up to you.

To join, contact:

Gladys Baba - gladyspbaba@yahoo.com or Elinor Metz - edmetz15@gmail.com , and you will be invited to an organizational meeting to provide more detailed information.



October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. To learn more about the Catholic response, visit the U.S. Bishop's website for their Pastoral Letter: "When I Call for Help" (http://bit.ly/usccb_dv) If you or a family member or friend needs help now, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 800-799-7233 (24 hours); 800-787-3224 (TTY); <http://www.ndvh.org>. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

Please Help Save Lives in Bethesda!

Support the prayer vigils to protect mothers and children by praying with our parish on Mondays and Saturdays in front of Leroy Carhart's Late Term Abortion clinic in Bethesda. There are two prayer vigils to witness to the sanctity of human life and end abortion that you can support:

The Fall Bethesda 40 Days for Life campaign began with the kick-off event at 8 AM on Wednesday September 22. Full details on the campaign are available here. <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/bethesda> St. Raphael's is supporting the campaign by praying a rosary on the public sidewalk in front of Leroy Carhart's late term abortion facility at the Wildwood Medical Center, 10401 Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda each Saturday from 10 - 11 AM from September 25 through October 30. Please meet in the vestibule after the 9 AM Mass if you need help with directions. Our Knights of Columbus may also livestream the Saturday prayer on St. Raphael's YouTube channel.

St. Raphael's also supports the weekly prayer vigil that occurs every Monday from 9:00 – 11:00 AM at the same location. This effort is one of the main prolife efforts in Washington, D.C. Leroy Carhart is one of the only abortionists in the country who performs abortions during the entire nine (9) month term, and has killed or seriously injured numerous women, including two in May 2020. This prayer vigil seeks to inform the public of the evil taking place in Bethesda and includes signs showing the victims of abortion and the abortionist.

Come to the First Friday Speaker and Coffee on November 5 at 9:30 AM in the Parish Library

Fr. Greg Shaffer
of Our Lady of Visitation parish
will speak to us on the

Fullness of Joy

Fr. Greg Shaffer is grateful to Almighty God to be the pastor of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Darnestown. He grew up in Bethesda where he attended Our Lady of Lourdes parish and school. He graduated from Gonzaga College High School in 1989 and the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Arts degree (Communication) in 1994. He spent a total of six years at Mount St. Mary's Seminary (MD) and worked as a sales manager during his two leaves of absence from the seminary. In 2006, he was among twelve men who were ordained priests for the Archdiocese of Washington.

Please consider joining us on Saturday, November 6 at 8:40 AM for the inspirational First Saturday devotions. This includes Reading the Meditations of the Rosary, Mass at 9:00 AM, Adoration, Rosary, and Confessions.

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Annual Parish Financial Report Fiscal year ended June 30, 2021 St. Raphael Parish (223), Rockville, MD

Fiscal year ended June 30, 2021
2020 2021 2022
Budget

Parish			
Income			
Offerory collections	\$1,714,065.47	\$1,855,659.00	\$1,632,000.00
Donations and bequests	\$119,873.63	\$411,805.31	\$100,000.00
Investment income	\$10,263.01	\$4,700.09	\$0.00
Rental income	\$5,547.30	\$1,970.00	\$2,000.00
Religious education	\$36,144.00	\$30,777.50	\$35,000.00
Building Fund Donations	\$5,749.00	\$20.00	
Other income	\$527,951.06	\$74,319.10	\$138,000.00
Total income	\$2,262,770.18	\$2,379,251.00	\$2,102,900.00
Expenses			
Salaries and benefits	\$922,600.67	\$804,141.21	\$798,834.16
Parish life and worship	\$122,846.48	\$57,102.98	\$123,000.00
Rectory and parish clergy	\$16,894.53	\$18,271.77	\$27,400.00
Religious education & Youth Minis	\$40,033.41	\$18,841.69	\$49,050.00
Social concerns	\$7,487.30	\$27,384.94	\$25,400.00
Administration and other	\$151,361.21	\$130,443.72	\$136,900.00
Facilities and maintenance	\$295,294.22	\$198,593.00	\$345,650.00
Other	\$282,677.81	\$250,875.22	\$269,600.00
Total expenses	\$1,839,195.63	\$1,505,634.53	\$1,775,834.16
Net income	\$423,574.55	\$873,616.47	\$327,065.84
Other uses of funds			
Capital improvements	\$334,813.00	\$247,953.00	\$200,000.00
Loan payments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$334,813.00	\$247,953.00	\$200,000.00
Net income over (under) expenditures	\$88,761.55	\$825,663.47	\$127,065.84

Fiscal year ended June 30, 2021
2020 2021 2022
Budget

School			
Income			
School tuition and fees	\$ 2,469,546	\$ 2,464,353	\$ 2,727,000
Donations	63,994	112,006	75,000
Other income	287,558	291,746	304,000
Total income	\$ 2,821,098	\$ 2,868,105	\$ 3,106,000
Expenses			
Salaries and benefits	\$ 2,341,134	\$ 2,437,946	\$ 2,437,946
Instruction	99,462	205,321	107,300
Facilities and maintenance	105,430	113,367	145,400
Administration	84,409	113,367	82,600
Auxiliary services	104,480	57,249	101,300
Nursery school/day care	177,723	101,927	144,020
Total expenses	\$ 2,912,638	\$ 2,808,245	\$ 3,018,566
Net income (loss) on school	\$ (91,540)	\$ 59,860	\$ 87,434

Balance sheet highlights for parish, including school

Balance at June 30,
2020 2021

Assets		
Cash and investments available for operations, at market value	\$ 2,761,929	\$ 3,540,723
Restricted assets	20,995	35,802
Fixed assets and other assets	14,604,328	14,825,806
Total assets	\$ 17,387,252	\$ 18,402,331

Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 38,152	\$ 32,959
Payroll Protection Program Loan Payable	614,244	-
Other Liabilities	548,839	620,828
Restricted liability	20,995	35,802
Fund balance	16,165,021	17,712,742
Total liabilities and fund balance	\$ 17,387,252	\$ 18,402,331

Fiscal year ended June 30

National Collections	2020	2021
Amounts collected and remitted in the Archdiocese National Collections	\$ 56,275	\$ 45,591

Parish census data

Registered parishioners	7,175	7,283
Sacraments celebrated		
Baptism	62	65
First Communion	4	167
Reconciliation		
Confirmation	3	184
Matrimony	10	8

Dear Parishioners,

We are blessed with a solid financial foundation, a hardworking staff and extremely generous parishioners. This report demonstrates how well St. Raphael's weathered the Covid storm. Mass attendance was down for most of the year but we saw an increase in parishioners. Our offertory is still below FY19 but remains solid thanks to the substantial number of parishioners who continue to give either in person or through eGiving.

Our school enrollment is strong which is a testament to well our school adapted classrooms and "powered-up" to emerge stronger in FY21. Our principal, teachers, staff and parents all deserve our sincere thanks for a job well done! I ask for your prayers and support as we head into FY22, and pledge my continued commitment to the comprehensive maintenance program that we embarked on in FY19. Our focus is on renovations which enhance the health, safety and well being of our parishioners, students and staff, extend the life of the property, provide energy savings and avoid costly emergency repairs in the future. Thanks to your generous support to date, we have repaved the parking lot, painted the interior of the church, completed necessary roof and HVAC repairs, installed energy efficient LED lighting and renovated older bathrooms. I take my responsibility as steward of the parish resources seriously and I am confident that working together we will maintain our fiscal health as we continue to grow and improve our facilities.


May God bless you for your unfailing support and generosity!

Gratefully,
Father Michael Salah

School News

A peek behind our classroom doors

OCT 31, 2021



Halloween Fun at St. Raphael



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



Thanksgiving Sharing '21

The St. Martin's/St. Raphael's Twinning Committee will again be collecting food donations to go to needy families in the neighborhoods around our Twin Parish, St. Martin's in N.E. Washington, D.C.



Two food collection dates: **November 14 and 21** from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Volunteers (all masked) will collect food and **Giant and Walmart gift cards**. Volunteers will be located on either side of the church. ***Please bring items ONLY on these dates.***

Blessing Baskets are nonperishable food items for families to cook their own Thanksgiving dinners, along with a gift card to purchase a turkey:

- ☐ Canned Vegetables (corn or green beans)
- ☐ Canned Sweet Potatoes
- ☐ Canned Turkey Gravy or Packaged Dry Gravy Mix
- ☐ Boxed Stuffing Mix (no bags please)
- ☐ Boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes
- ☐ Rice (1 to 2 lb packages)
- ☐ Corn Bread Mix
- ☐ Canned Cranberry Sauce
- ☐ Canned Fruit (peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, applesauce)
- ☐ Cake Mix with Can of Frosting
- ☐ Jarred Baby Food (meat, vegetable, starch and cereals)
- ☐ **\$25 Giant or Walmart Gift Card**

Join Our Team!!

If you are interested in helping to support this event, we are welcoming volunteers for a variety of tasks (collect donations, drive food down to St. Martins, and sort the food). **Please contact Steve Caramanico at steve.caramanico@gmail.com or Carolyn Tyc and Jeff Duncel at tyc1dunc3@aol.com.**

Advent Giving Tree—needs a Team to continue in 2022! Can you help?

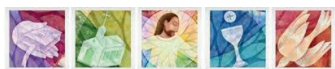
The Advent Giving Tree (AGT) is in its 31st year! The project has provided tangible and monetary gifts each December to service organizations in Montgomery County, and DC, including homeless shelters, support agencies for children and families in need, hospice care and our sister parish, St. Martin's DC. The organizations provide wish lists each year that are fulfilled by the generosity of St. Raphael Parishioners. Over 50 volunteers are involved in the success of this project. This includes making and hanging up of tags on the trees, moving, sorting, packing, and delivering of gifts.

This year, due to the ongoing pandemic, the Advent Giving Tree Project will collect gift cards. We hope to get back to the tangible and monetary gifts in 2022.

We are most grateful to Diana Grimm and Linda Trinh who have co-chaired St. Raphael's annual Advent Giving Tree Project since 2011. They will be stepping down after this year. It's time to recruit new chairpersons to manage AGT. Diana and Linda would welcome new volunteers to work alongside them this year to ensure a smooth transition. Over the years, they have worked to make the process efficient with a step-by-step outline to follow and they promise it's Fun!

The Advent Giving Tree truly embodies the spirit of Christmas and is a tradition that our parishioners look forward to every year — we don't want to see it end!

Please consider volunteering for this wonderful ministry! Email Diana Grimm at rgrimm1015@aol.com to volunteer.



Faith Formation

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

First Penance and First Eucharist 2022 Meeting Notes



For those families who missed the First Penance meeting on October 27, the Powerpoint presentation is now available.

Please pick up your Reconciliation and Eucharist folder at the religious education office. This week families are completing chapter 1 in the Reconciliation workbook.

First Penance/Reconciliation is scheduled for Wednesday, February 2, and Saturday, February 12, 2022.

The large group First Communion Masses are scheduled for May 7, 2022 at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM with Saturday, April 30, as an alternate date (Mass at 11:00 AM).

Confirmation Year I and Year II Meeting Notes

For those families who missed the Confirmation Year I or Confirmation Year II meetings during the first two weeks of October, the Powerpoint presentations are now available. Please contact the SRRE office to receive a link to the presentations.

The Confirmation Retreat (Year II) will be held at St. Raphael on Saturday, November 13. (The registration/permission form is overdue.)

Confirmation Masses are scheduled for May 21, 2022 at 10:30 AM and 1:00 PM.

No Religious Education Classes on October 31 and November 1

St. Raphael Religious Education (SRRE) is on Fall Break this week. Classes resume on Sunday, November 7 and Monday, November 8.

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.

If you have not yet registered your child, please do so now. 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.

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.

All SRRE students, catechists, parents, and others (age 2 and above) are required to wear well-fitting face coverings in St. Raphael buildings, regardless of vaccination status. We do not allow any indoor eating or drinking during SRRE sessions.

Religious Education and Sacrament Calendar

October 31-November 1	No SRRE Classes
November 13	Confirmation Retreat
December 26-27	No SRRE Classes
January 2-3	SRRE Classes resume
January 16-17	No SRRE Classes
February 20-21	No SRRE Classes
February 2 and 12	First Penance
March 19	First Eucharist Family Retreat Morning
April 10-11, 17-18	No SRRE Classes
May 7	First Communion Masses, 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM
May 9	last day of SRRE Classes
May 21	Confirmation Masses at 10:30 AM and 1:00 PM

The Greatest Commandment

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

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/102421.cfm>

Key Passage: [The scribe] asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'" (Mark 12:28-30)

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

Adult: Why is love of neighbor as important as love of God?
Child: When do you show that you love God and your neighbor with your whole heart?

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 with Chapter 3: Envisaging and Engendering an Open World."

A Universal Love That Promotes Persons

106. Social friendship and universal fraternity necessarily call for an acknowledgement of the worth of every human person, always and everywhere. If each individual is of such great worth, it must be stated clearly and firmly that "the mere fact that some people are born in places with fewer resources or less development does not justify the fact that they are living with less dignity." This is a basic principle of social life that tends to be ignored in a variety of ways by those who sense that it does not fit into their worldview or serve their purposes.

107. Every human being has the right to live with dignity and to develop integrally; this fundamental right cannot be denied by any country. People have this right even if they are unproductive, or were born with or developed limitations. This does not detract from their great dignity as human persons, a dignity based not on circumstances but on the intrinsic worth of their being. Unless this basic principle is upheld, there will be no future either for fraternity or for the survival of humanity.

108. Some societies accept this principle in part. They agree that opportunities should be available to everyone, but then go on to say that everything depends on the individual. From this skewed perspective, it would be pointless "to favor an

investment in efforts to help the slow, the weak or the less talented to find opportunities in life." Investments in assistance to the vulnerable could prove unprofitable; they might make things less efficient. No. What we need in fact are states and civil institutions that are present and active, that look beyond the free and efficient working of certain economic, political or ideological systems, and are primarily concerned with individuals and the common good.

109. Some people are born into economically stable families, receive a fine education, grow up well nourished, or naturally possess great talent. They will certainly not need a proactive state; they need only claim their freedom. Yet the same rule clearly does not apply to a disabled person, to someone born in dire poverty, to those lacking a good education and with little access to adequate health care. If a society is governed primarily by the criteria of market freedom and efficiency, there is no place for such persons, and fraternity will remain just another vague ideal.

110. Indeed, "to claim economic freedom while real conditions bar many people from actual access to it, and while possibilities for employment continue to shrink, is to practice doublespeak." Words like freedom, democracy or fraternity prove meaningless, for the fact is that "only when our economic and social system no longer produces even a single victim, a single person cast aside, will we be able to celebrate the feast of universal fraternity." A truly human and fraternal society will be capable of ensuring in an efficient and stable way that each of its members is accompanied at every stage of life. Not only by providing for their basic needs, but by enabling them to give the best of themselves, even though their performance may be less than optimum, their pace slow or their efficiency limited.

111. The human person, with his or her inalienable rights, is by nature open to relationship. Implanted deep within us is the call to transcend ourselves through an encounter with others. For this reason, "care must be taken not to fall into certain errors which can arise from a misunderstanding of the concept of human rights and from its misuse. Today there is a tendency to claim ever broader individual – I am tempted to say individualistic – rights. Underlying this is a conception of the human person as detached from all social and anthropological contexts, as if the person were a "monad" (monás), increasingly unconcerned with others... Unless the rights of each individual are harmoniously ordered to the greater good, those rights will end up being considered limitless and consequently will become a source of conflicts and violence."

-Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* #106, #107, #108, #109, #110, #111

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

Five years ago, Pope Francis released his encyclical *Laudato Si'* (Care for Our Common Home). Many dioceses, parishes, parish schools, and families have embraced the call of integral ecology, 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." 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. 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 names seven markers that help to measure the implementation of *Laudato Si'*. The second marker is **2. Response to the Cry of Those Who Are Poor/Vulnerable**: defense of human life from conception to death and all forms of life on Earth, with special attention to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, migrant children at risk through slavery, etc.

Listening to 'the cry of those who are poor or vulnerable' means actively ensuring all communities; especially our cultural communities are consulted, listened to, and empowered to make decisions on environmental issues that affect them. Persons of all income levels including low-to-moderate income, the elderly, children, immigrants, people with disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, racial and ethnic minorities, and indigenous people must be included in discussions and decisions related to their communities. There are people in the Archdiocese of Washington who are suffering from the effects of structural racism and from political, social, and economic negligence, and who are disproportionately affected by climate change. The lack of environmental and racial justice is of great concern to our Church. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis points to the global dimensions of the issue of environmental and racial justice, and how these issues are interconnected. Excessive consumption, extraction of Earth's natural resources, and the culture of waste in affluent countries, has led to dire consequences for the most vulnerable countries of the world and has had a negative impact upon the health of people living in vulnerable countries. Many vulnerable countries have experienced environmental consequences due to climate-change such as: rising temperatures, rising sea levels, intense flooding, severe drought, and dangerous fires. These consequences have resulted in water scarcity, devastated many farming communities, and people forced to flee their countries for better lives as climate refugees. Such climate refugees (e.g. from Central America and Africa) can be found in our communities, and some of them encounter discrimination in the archdiocese and this country.

Possible Actions for Individuals and Families:

- ☐ Create or expand parish and school libraries to feature a variety of voices and experiences on the impact of watershed pollution on low-income communities (easy)
- ☐ Explore local ecological educational opportunities in your community to learn about environmental justice (e.g. Tour Blue Plains in Washington, D.C., the largest advanced wastewater plant in the world; Chesapeake Bay Foundation Educational Tours.) (easy)
- ☐ Volunteer to do a parish clean-up (easy)
- ☐ Assist vulnerable persons (easy to advanced)
- ☐ Know your neighbors, develop relationships with one another (easy)
- ☐ Run errands for those who need assistance in your neighborhood (easy)
- ☐ Develop awareness of programs that can assist vulnerable persons (easy)
- ☐ Support local charity programs to help and assist vulnerable persons, such as Catholic Charities DC, Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Campaign for Human Development (easy to advanced)
- ☐ Contribute food or financial donations to your parish food pantry (easy to advanced)
- ☐ Develop or expand parish emergency funds to help individuals with energy, water, and other bills (moderate to advanced)
- ☐ Volunteer with a local clean the waterways project: Sweep Sligo Creek, Chesapeake Bay, and Anacostia River projects (moderate)

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