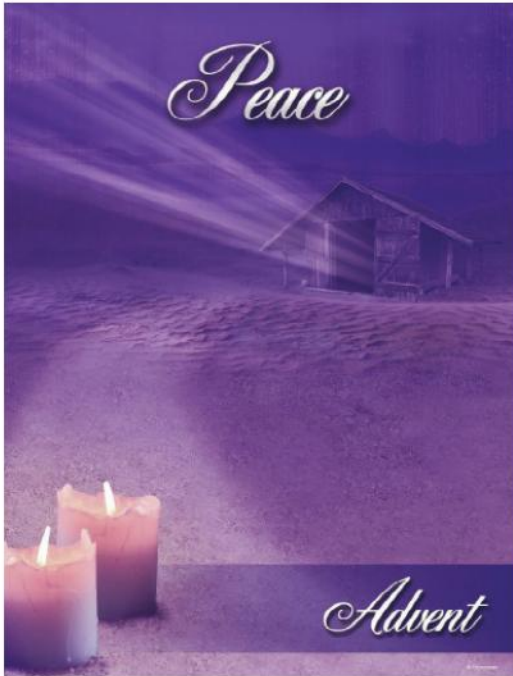


# St. Raphael Catholic Church



**1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854**

**DECEMBER 5, 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](http://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 Lojacono, 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.

**The Immaculate Conception of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
Wednesday, December 8**

A Holy Day of Obligation

**December 7, 7:30PM**  
Vigil Mass in Spanish

**December 8**  
6:30AM  
9:00AM (School in attendance)  
4:30 & 7:00PM

**The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation**

On **December 11-12**, will be hosting a nice display of handmade olive-wood religious carvings from Bethlehem and Jerusalem available outside for purchase. These carvings include olive wood nativity sets, crucifixes, rosaries, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels, and many other religious crafts that make nice wedding, baptism, Easter, and especially Christmas gifts.

All carvings are handmade by Christian families in Bethlehem who rely on sales for their daily bread. Please, help support our brothers and sisters in Bethlehem by purchasing some of your Christmas gifts for this year. Let us keep Bethlehem a Christian town forever.

**Sign up today for**

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

**Flocknote is a tool for St. Raphael to  
communicate important information  
quickly parish-wide to our "Flock".**

**You can sign up for Flocknote from the  
St. Raphael's Home page  
[www.straphaels.org](http://www.straphaels.org)**

**Faith Direct**

Your generous online donations now will help sustain our ministries that reflect God's love.

We prayerfully request that you consider signing up for eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet. You can set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift.

Sign up today by visiting [faith.direct/MD34](http://faith.direct/MD34). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

God Bless You,

Fr. Mike

**Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, December 6**

6:30AM Thomas Parker (d)  
9:00AM Edward & Helen Janus (d)

**Tuesday, December 7**

6:30AM Thomas Parker (d)  
9:00AM Doug Whitlock (d)

**Vigil Mass** **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
7:30PM Julia Moreno (d)  
Spanish

**Wednesday, December 8**

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30AM Father Alberto Biondi  
9:00AM Members of the Parish  
4:30PM Patricia Dwyer (d)  
7:00PM Marcus Frankel (d)

**Thursday, December 9**

6:30AM Vaz Family (d)  
9:00AM Mary Davitt (d)

**Friday, December 10**

6:30AM Bob McCarly (d)  
9:00AM Christy Fellows Hadwen (d)

**Saturday, December 11**

9:00AM Leonardo Aponte (d)  
5:00PM Fr. Tom Luciano Cornetta (d)

**Sunday, December 12**

7:00AM Fr. Mike Christine Lim (d)  
8:30AM Fr. Tom Rosemarie Buckley (d)  
10:00AM Fr. Tom George Joseph (d)  
11:30AM Fr. Mike Members of the Parish  
1:00PM Fr. Bill Miguel Martinez (d)  
6:00PM Fr. Bill Patricia Dwyer (d)

The priest schedule is subject to change.

**\*Live-streamed Masses:**

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

**Baptisms**

Brynn Valerie Watkins November 27  
Raymond Maxwell Vlacancich November 27

**Please pray for the soul of**

Afife Da Silva, mother of Valerie Da Silva  
 John Del Vecchio,

Dr. James J. McCormick, brother of Francis McCormick  
 Karl Rohrer, father of Karl Rohrer, Jr.

Dr. Virginia Saba

Margaret Blockowicz, mother of Joel Blockowicz



**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.**

## Vicar's Verbiage

### Advance Planning

Dear Friends,

Whenever we go on a trip somewhere, we like to plan ahead. It's a good thing to make sure you will have someplace to stay, that you have bought your tickets, that you know generally what the plan is for the trip and when you will be returning. For modern diplomats and officials of state, these preparations also involve a huge advance contingent to make sure everything goes according to plan. In the case of presidential visits, the Secret Service spends months planning and scouting routes, locations and developing contingencies for every possible scenario. They send equipment and personnel ahead as well in preparation—there are two (!) Air Force One's...just in case.

We could say that Saint John the Baptist is like the Secret Service for Jesus. We know him as "the Baptist" because of his role as the one who baptizes Jesus but he is also known as "the Forerunner" or the "Precursor." His major role is to prepare the way for the Messiah. He sets the scene, he calls the people of Israel to repentance and shows them that the Messiah is near. He bursts on the scene as the last of the prophets of the Old Testament, when everything is finally ready for the Messiah. John is not the One but is making the way smooth for the One who is to come.

Saint John the Baptist is a great figure and one that we need for this time. He was unconcerned with the riches and titles of this world, his whole life was dedicated to his mission and he was willing to die for the truth. Its always been interesting to me that even though he is the Forerunner to the Messiah, he died defending the truth of marriage—perhaps a sign of how important that institution is to God.

John is courageous, zealous, dedicated and committed. He is also humble and recognizes that he is the Voice, not the Word. In this time of preparation for Christmas, we can use the example and image of Saint John the Baptist to see if we are truly preparing our hearts and minds for the Messiah. How straight is the path to our hearts?

Fr. Bill

### Did you know?



There is a small group, **COME BACK HOME**, at St Raphael, eager to listen to those who have left the Catholic Church.

If you have a family member or friend who has walked away, please invite them to share their journey on December 14 at 7:30PM in the Parish Library. This could be the first step to welcome them Back Home.

### Adults -

*Do you want to learn more about the Catholic Church? Or even about becoming a Catholic? "No Strings Attached!"*

*Are you a Catholic who has been "away" or seeking Confirmation?*

*We want to help you and will work out a way to do that!*

*We will meet on a Sunday morning schedule in the Youth Center from 9:45-11:15AM. Please join us on this journey. Our schedule is to meet on December 5, 12 and 19. We will **not** meet on December 26 and January 2.*

Contact Linda Poindexter, 240-864-2542

[lpindexter@straphaels.org](mailto:lpindexter@straphaels.org)

Bulletin notices may be emailed to:

**[esalatto@straphaels.org](mailto:esalatto@straphaels.org)**

Early bulletin deadlines in December are as follows:

Friday, December 3 - December 12 bulletin

Tuesday, December 7 - December 19 bulletin

Friday, December 10 - December 26 bulletin

Monday, December 13 - January 2 bulletin

This bulletin was transmitted on November 30.

Next weekend, December 11/12, the second collection will be for the Retirement Fund for Religious. The proceeds help religious communities across the country to care for aging members. We thank you for your generosity.



### Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

The Mater Dei Council of the Knights of Columbus invites **all children ages 5-14** (as of November 1st) to submit a poster centered around the theme "Keep Christ in Christmas". This is a wonderful opportunity for children to be creative, to be involved in their faith, and to have fun while experiencing the true meaning of Christmas. Posters should be 11x17. If pastels, chalk, or charcoal are used, the poster must be laminated or covered in clear plastic. **Submit posters to the parish office by December 20th.** We will award prizes for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in each age bracket. Winning entries will advance to the district, regional, and international levels. For more information, visit our website at [www.kofc9774.org](http://www.kofc9774.org) for rules and the entry form. Entry forms are also available in the vestibule of the church.





## **Christmas Eve Masses**

**Friday, December 24, 2021**

**2:00PM**

**4:00PM Church and Trumpet Room**

**6:00 PM**

**8:00PM in Spanish**

**11:00PM**

## **Christmas Day Masses**

**Saturday, December 25, 2021**

**8:30AM, 10:00AM, 11:30AM,**

**1:00PM in Spanish**

**No Confessions on Saturday, December 25**

## **Masses Sunday, December 26**

**The Holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**7:00AM, 8:30AM, 10:00AM, 11:30AM, 1:00PM in Spanish, 6:00PM**



**Parish Penance Service  
December 21 at 7:00PM**

### **Readings for the Week of December 5, 2021**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Saint Nicholas, Bishop</b> Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</b> Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14
<b>Wednesday</b>	<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
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin</b> Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Our Lady of Loreto</b> Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Saint Damasus I, Pope</b> Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18



## The Advent Giving Tree is Virtual for 2021!

We have 1350 Advent Giving Tree "VIRTUAL" tags!

Due to the pandemic, the 2021 Advent Giving Tree is going virtual again this year. The need continues to be high 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, 2021**, 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 by 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



# School News



A peek behind our classroom doors

## Twelve Days of a St. Raphael Christmas



'Tis the season for our second annual Twelve Days of a St. Raphael Christmas! Event festivities include: an advent wreath workshop, "Deck the Halls" Day, a gingerbread house contest, a "Hello Hallmark!" Ladies Movie Night Out, Letters for Santa, and a "Home for the Holidays" service project. The month of December will bring us this and a whole lot more, including our annual school Christmas Pageants.



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



FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2021  
GREEN FRIDAY

SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2021  
MASS & ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP

MONDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2021  
DECK THE HALLS DAY

FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER 2021  
A HOME FOR THE  
HOLIDAYS SERVICE DAY

MONDAY 6 DECEMBER 2021  
FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS

THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER 2021  
SRS BAND AND CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER 2021  
HELLO HALLMARK!  
A LADIES NIGHT OUT

SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER 2021  
GINGERBREAD SUNDAY

MONDAY 13 DECEMBER 2021  
'Twas THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS:  
MRS. DWYER'S BEDTIME STORY

WEDNESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2021  
MIDDLE SCHOOL GIFT STEAL

THURSDAY 16 DECEMBER 2021  
SRS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

FRIDAY 17 DECEMBER 2021  
SCHOOL MASS & CLASS PARTIES  
LETTERS FOR SANTA OPEN HOUSE

# THE 12 DAYS OF A ST. RAPHAEL CHRISTMAS

Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus!  
All month long we'll remember the precious gifts we get from you.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	





## 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 Krahnke 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 Krahnke 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



**Religious Education**  
Mary Beaudoin, 202-294-7697



**Resources for  
Celebrating Advent  
at Home**

Find inspiration, prayers, and resources for Advent (books, calendars, Jesse Tree, arts and crafts, and other activities) at Loyola Press Catholic Resources:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/>



*Faith Formation*

**St. Raphael Religious Education (SRRE)**

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 questions about religious education or sacrament preparation for your child, please contact Mary Beaudoin, Director of Religious Education.

**Religious Education and Sacrament Calendar**

Today through December 19-20 SRRE Classes meet weekly

December 26-27	No SRRE Classes
January 2-3	SRRE Classes resume
January 16-17	No SRRE Classes
January 23-24	SRRE Classes Resume
February 20-21	No SRRE Classes
February 27-28	SRRE Classes Resume
February 2 and 12	First Penance
March 19	First Eucharist Family Retreat Morning
April 10-11, 17-18	No SRRE Classes
April 24-25	SRRE Classes Resume
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

**First Penance and First Eucharist**



Families with children preparing for First Eucharist in May 2022 are completing the first four chapters of *God's Gift Reconciliation* (younger children), *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* (grades 4 and 5), or *God's Gift Reconciliation and Eucharist* (older children).

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

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**



Confirmation Year 1 students are working on their Confirmation Service Project. If you have any questions, please contact the Religious Education office. If you have misplaced your packet, you can find the forms at <https://www.straphaels.org/confirmation-1>.

Confirmation Year 2 students (candidates to receive Confirmation in May 2022) are completing their Confirmation Service Project (for those who needed an extension; due date is December 15), the Sponsor Certificate and the Saint Report (due date for both is January 26). If you have any questions, please contact the Religious Education office. If you have misplaced your packet, you can find the forms at <https://www.straphaels.org/confirmation-1>.

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

**Prayer of Repentance**

Today we continue Year C in the cycle of Sunday readings. Remember to make time to reflect on this Sunday's Scripture readings at home:

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/120521.cfm>

Key Passage: John went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Luke 3:3)

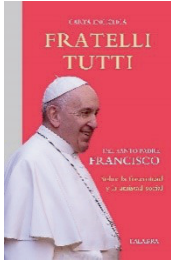
... and then have a family sharing time on the questions below

Adult: In what areas of your life do you need God's forgiveness right now? What Advent practice would assist you in expressing your repentance?

Kids: What do you want to ask God to forgive you for? What can you do during Advent to show you are sorry?



## 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.”

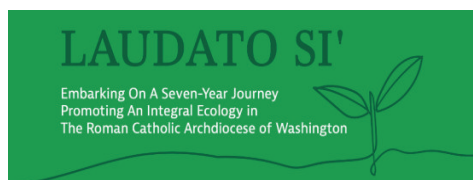
### Rights without Borders

121. No one, then, can remain excluded because of his or her place of birth, much less because of privileges enjoyed by others who were born in lands of greater opportunity. The limits and borders of individual states cannot stand in the way of this. As it is unacceptable that some have fewer rights by virtue of being women, it is likewise unacceptable that the mere place of one's birth or residence should result in his or her possessing fewer opportunities for a developed and dignified life.

122. Development must not aim at the amassing of wealth by a few, but must ensure “human rights – personal and social, economic and political, including the rights of nations and of peoples.” The right of some to free enterprise or market freedom cannot supersede the rights of peoples and the dignity of the poor, or, for that matter, respect for the natural environment, for “if we make something our own, it is only to administer it for the good of all.”

123. Business activity is essentially “a noble vocation, directed to producing wealth and improving our world.” God encourages us to develop the talents he gave us, and he has made our universe one of immense potential. In God's plan, each individual is called to promote his or her own development, and this includes finding the best economic and technological means of multiplying goods and increasing wealth. Business abilities, which are a gift from God, should always be clearly directed to the development of others and to eliminating poverty, especially through the creation of diversified work opportunities. The right to private property is always accompanied by the primary and prior principle of the subordination of all private property to the universal destination of the earth's goods, and thus the right of all to their use.

-Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* #121, #122, #123



### 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'*. Integral ecology means 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.” *Laudato Si': Embarking on a Seven-Year Journey Promoting an Integral Ecology in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington* contains easy to advanced ways for us to exercise stewardship over God's creation. Find the link to the plan at [www.adw.org](http://www.adw.org). The plan names seven markers that help to measure the implementation of *Laudato Si'*. The fourth marker is

**4: Adoption of a Simple Lifestyle:** In *Laudato Si'*, we are called to adopt a prayerful and intentional approach to our purchases, and to be mindful of the toll our choices have on God's creation and the world we live in. *Laudato Si'* calls us to live more simply. There are many ways to live more simply that foster care for creation. For example, living simply can include buying less goods, purchasing re-usable products to reduce single use plastics, using plant-based home cleaners and consuming more in-season fruits and vegetables over meat-based meals. Another way to live simply is to use what Pope Francis calls the “circular economy of materials.” The circular economy of materials includes the trading, exchanging, and donation of office, home, and personal items within our communities. Possible actions for individuals, families, parishes and schools:

- ☐ Cut down or eliminate single-use plastic (such as water bottles) (easy)
- ☐ Buy less non-essentials (easy)
- ☐ Cut down or eliminate foam-based food containers (easy)
- ☐ Encourage recycling (easy to moderate)
- ☐ An initiative of the The Laudato Si' Movement, *LiveLaudatoSi'* is a guide produced to encourage Catholics to consider the implications of their actions. Here are 10 ideas identified to live more simply from the The Laudato Si' Movement: (easy to moderate)
  - ☐ Buy consciously: look for goods that have less packaging; support businesses that pay fair wages.
  - ☐ Eat intentionally: go meat-free, buy local and in-season fruits and vegetables, or try growing your own.
  - ☐ Waste less: avoid throwing away food whenever possible, bring your own bags
  - ☐ Share more: such as a yard or house equipment, share your time by finding ways to volunteer or support community groups.
  - ☐ Drive less: share a vehicle for grocery trips. Bike, walk, or use public transportation when possible.
  - ☐ Nurture your relationships.
  - ☐ Take quality time for yourself.
  - ☐ Examine your lifestyle for waste.
  - ☐ Take time to pray and give thanks.
- ☐ Implement an ecological purchasing system (moderate)
  - ☐ Purchase only products that are fair-trade or sustainably produced (easy- moderate)
  - ☐ Purchase office supplies made from natural, recycled, or recyclable materials (moderate)

“Purchasing is always a moral—and not simply economic—act.” (LS 206).



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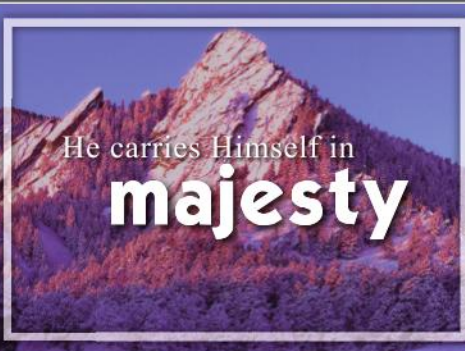
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