

# St. Raphael Catholic Church

January 30, 2022



Thank you, for Marching for Life, Friday, January 21, 2022

**1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854**

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 Lojaco, 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.

### Additional Synodal Meeting on Monday, January 31, 7:00PM, Church

The Synod is a unique gift for our local Church. It is a gift of time—a chance to step back and reconnect with our parish. It is an opportunity to invite people not only back to Sunday Mass but back to parish life. This invitation to parish life starts with listening. Listening to each other's joys, hopes, sorrows and anxieties. The Synod is not about changing doctrine or church structures, but rather encountering each other as brothers and sisters in Christ in a post-pandemic world.

**We invite you to attend:**

**Monday, January 31 at 7:00PM in the church**



#### 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 **February 2 at 7:30PM in the Parish Library**. This could be the first step to welcome them Back Home.

#### Blessing of the Throats

We will have Blessing of Throats on the feast of St. Blaise, Thursday February 3, and at all the Sunday Masses on February, 5 & 6.

#### Anointing of the Sick

We will have the Anointing of the Sick at all the Sunday Masses on February 12 & 13.

### Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week

#### Monday, January 31

6:30AM Teresa Salatto (d)  
9:00AM Zaid & Family

#### Tuesday, February 1

6:30AM Sheila Matheus (d)  
9:00AM John J. Hall (d)

#### Wednesday, February 2

6:30AM Linda D. Hacker (d)  
9:00AM The Bakers

#### Thursday, February 3

6:30AM Trina Sensenig  
9:00AM Ong Tiwan Nio (d)

#### Friday, February 4

6:30AM Al Pascavage (d)  
9:00AM Joseph Ihsan (d)

#### Saturday, February 5

9:00AM John Piper (d)  
5:00PM Fr. Mike James Renick (d)

#### Sunday, February 6

7:00AM	Fr. Tom	Edward Janus (d)
8:30AM	Fr. Mike	Julia Norris Serrano (d)
10:00AM	Fr. Bill	Jerome J. Stolov (d)
11:30AM	Fr. Tom	Paul & Linda Saah (d)
1:00PM	Fr. Bill	Alicia Duarte (d)
6:00PM	Fr. Mike	Members of the Parish

The priest schedule is subject to change.

#### Live-streamed Masses:

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

Go to website:

[www.straphaels.org](http://www.straphaels.org) and link to YouTube.

#### Please pray for the soul of

Jesus Huayapa, father of Maria Arque  
Haid Guzman, mother of Miriam Hosey  
Gina Nicklas, wife of Dr. Richard Nicklas



**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

Dear Friends,

"I suppose any impartial observer, comparing the religious ceremonies of the Jews with ours, would be struck by this fact—that the Jews expressed their religion in sacrifices, and we in sacraments." (Msgr. Ronald Knox) If you look through the Bible, you will indeed see that the ancient religion of the Hebrews was very much focused on sacrifices. At almost every important moment in the Old Testament we have examples of the great figures of the age offering sacrifices to God. It was an integral part of the religion.

Msgr Knox points out that a sacrifice entails the destruction of the victim. In the case of the ancient religion of the Jews this meant that whatever was offered, whether it was an animal or grain or something like that was destroyed in the offering. But Knox says that in the Sacrament, there is no destruction of bodies but their consecration.

The sacrifices of old always involved a victim that was outside of the person who offered. But with the Sacraments, we ourselves are consecrated by which our souls are filled with God's presence in a real way.

The Sacraments are such a fundamental part of the Christian life, they allow us to experience God's grace (his help), his presence, his love and his mercy. More than just specific moments, the Sacraments and their effects remain with us for our whole lives and even into eternity because their effect can be eternal.

More than just a symbolic action, the Sacraments actually do what they signify. In the rite of Baptism, a person is washed with water, symbolically cleansing them of sin and giving them the inheritance of eternal life with God. But its not just a symbol, it actually does what it signifies. So, the person actually is washed clean of sin and death in that moment. Or in Confirmation, a person is anointed with oil as a symbol of the gifts God gives to complete the graces they received in Baptism and make them ready to face the world. But its not just a symbol. Through the prayer of the minister and the anointing, the Holy Spirit actually does give the person those gifts and their soul is marked forever.

Sacraments are more than just ceremonies or a sort of sacred play, something powerful actually happens, though it is invisible. Jesus came to be the fulfillment of all the promises of the Old Covenant. And in his one, perfect sacrifice on the Cross he brought all the sacrifices of the Old Testament to fulfillment in himself. He is the priest, the altar and the victim. So, in him, now, we no longer have to offer animal sacrifices, we receive the effects of his offering in the Sacraments. I hope to go deeper into each of the sacraments in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

Fr. Bill



## Vocations

Are you a young man in high school who is interested in learning more about the priesthood? **Join us on February 6** for a day that includes Mass, breakfast, hiking, lunch, and talks. Spend time with seminarians, priests, and other high-school guys who are open to the priesthood. We'll gather at St. John Neumann (8900 Lochaven Drive, Gaithersburg) for 9:30 a.m. Mass, followed by breakfast. Bus transportation to and from Sugarloaf Mountain will be provided. The day concludes at 3:30 PM. Register at <https://dcpriest.org/2022-quo-vadis-spring-excursion>

## Shadow Day

at Saint John Paul II Seminary

For Juniors and Seniors in High School

Friday, February 11, 2022 ♦ 7:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m.



### Join us on February 11 to learn more about the priesthood!

**I**f you are a Junior or Senior in high school, come and shadow a day in the life of a seminarian at Saint John Paul II Seminary and experience seminary life firsthand!

You'll have a chance to meet, talk, and eat with our seminarians, ask questions, and attend class, Mass, and Adoration with them.



Register now at <https://dcpriest.org/2022-shadow-day>

For more information, please contact Fr. Mark Ivany,  
Director of Priest Vocations, 202-636-9020, or [vocations@adw.org](mailto:vocations@adw.org).



**FACE MASK  
REQUIRED**

"There is a **mask mandate** in Montgomery County. Masks are required to be worn inside the church. There are usually masks available in the vestibule.

If you are unable to wear a mask inside the church, you may remain outside and at Communion, the Eucharistic Ministers will distribute Holy Eucharist outside the front center doors of the church."



## Come and See What the Permanent Diaconate is All About

The Office of Diaconate Formation of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington will begin a new cycle of forming men for the Permanent Diaconate. Deacons are called to a special ministry of service through which they assist the poor, the hungry, the sick, the homeless, the imprisoned, immigrants, and others. As ministers of God's Word, deacons proclaim the Gospel at Mass, preach, and teach. They also exercise various liturgical roles, including the sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony, and preside at prayer services, funerals, wakes, and graveside services. Interested men and their spouses, if married, should review the schedule at the website below for the locations and dates of "Come and See" events to learn more about the permanent diaconate and the formation program.

Applicants must be baptized Catholic men between the ages of thirty and sixty (at the time the formation program begins), active in the parish, and recommended by their pastors. Interested persons may contact Deacon Charles Huber, Assistant Director of Formation, at 301-853-4582 or by e-mail at [HuberC@adw.org](mailto:HuberC@adw.org); you may also contact Deacon Richard Meyer at [rsmhome@verizon.net](mailto:rsmhome@verizon.net). Additional information and an Inquirer's Information Form is available at <https://adw.org/vocations/deacons/formation-program/>.

Upcoming Come and See events are scheduled in this area in person (see website for more locations) and virtually below:

- Tuesday February 15 7-9 PM, St. Rose of Lima, 11701 Clopper Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20878
- Online Only, 7-9 PM: Thursday. March 10; Tuesday, March 15; and Monday. March 2



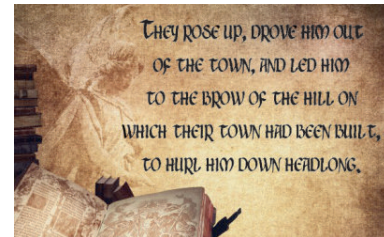
Be a voice for hope and justice in Maryland. Join Catholics statewide for a **virtual** Catholic Advocacy Day on February 16. Alerts on life, education and human rights will be provided. You just click and send, or call your legislators. Go to [www.mdccatholic.org/advocacyday](http://www.mdccatholic.org/advocacyday) for details, to sign up for email and text alerts (you also can text CATHOLIC to 443-764-8765), and to send the alerts on February 16. #MDCatholic

**Be a Voice for Hope and Justice**

## St. John Neuman Parish Event

**LENTEN MISSION:** "Taking the Journey of Discipleship: Reflections from Luke's Gospel" with Very Rev. Jack Gleason, Pastor, Church of Saint Mary, Tulsa, OK. February 20 to February 22 at St. John Neumann Church, Gaithersburg, MD. February 20 Talk: Beginning the Journey - Accepting the Basic Kerygma Conversion and Following the Lord. February 21 Talk: Lessons Along the Journey - Risk-taking, Pondering, and Allowing Ourselves to be Found. February 22 Talk: Goal of the Journey - Thanksgiving and Blessing. Holy Rosary at 7:00 PM, Talks at 7:30 PM.

Information: [www.saintjohnneumann.org](http://www.saintjohnneumann.org)



## Seton Shrine Events

### Book your FREE Live! Virtual Tour of the Stone Farmhouse

Gather your family, friends, religious communities, students and Church groups for this unique event to celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life! "Walk and talk" with a personal tour guide on these 30 minute tours through **Mother Seton's Stone Farmhouse**, where she established the first religious order of women in America. Virtual tours will be held on February 1st and February 2nd and will be available for groups or individuals. Reserve your spot by visiting [setonshrine.org/virtual-tours](http://setonshrine.org/virtual-tours) or to talk with our Groups Coordinator, Kelly Smith, please call 301-447-6981 or email [kelly.smith@setonshrine.org](mailto:kelly.smith@setonshrine.org).

## Sacred Relics of the Saints: Treasures of the Church

The Seton presents a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics on Sunday, February 20 at 3:00 PM. Father Carlos Martins, a Vatican-appointed expert on relics will be here with an extraordinary Vatican collection of over 150 relics, some as old as 2,000 years. Among the treasures will be relics of St. Joseph, St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. There will also be a portion of the Veil of Our Lady and one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world. Those in attendance will be able to examine and venerate each relic. Throughout history, many healings have been worked in the presence of relics; and thousands have occurred through this ministry. Do not miss this opportunity. You are encouraged to bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members, which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Learn more at [setonshrine.org](http://setonshrine.org).



## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Readings for the Week of January 30, 2022

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Jer 1: 4-5, 17-19/ Ps 71: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17/ 1 Cor 12: 31-13: 13 or 1 Cor 13:4-13/ Lk 4: 21-30
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Memorial of Saint John Bosco, Priest</b> 2 Sm 15: 13-14, 30; 16:5-13/ Ps 3:2, 4-5, 6-7/ Mk 5:1-20
<b>Tuesday</b>	2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/ Ps 86: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mk 5:21-43
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Feast of the Presentation of the Lord</b> Mal 3:1-4/ Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/ Heb 2:14-18/ Lk 2:22-40
<b>Thursday</b>	1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/ 1 Chr 29:10, 11 ab, 11d- 12a, 12bcd/ Mk 6:7-13
<b>Friday</b>	Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 & 50, 51/Mk 6:14-29
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr</b> 1 Kgs 3:4-13/ Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13,14/ Mk 6:30-34
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/ Ps 138: 1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8/ 1 Cor 15:1-11/ Lk 5:1-11

### **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)

If you want to learn more and perhaps be received into the Catholic Church - If you need to be Confirmed – or need to renew your Faith – We want to help you! If the in person on Sunday morning meetings just don't work we will find another path such as individual meetings; or ZOOM meetings or some other creative way to help you in your journey.

Please don't give up! Contact Linda Poindexter at 240-864-2542 or [lpindexter@straphaels.org](mailto:lpindexter@straphaels.org)

Leave a message and have patience! It will be answered!!

**We are meeting every Sunday in the Youth Center, 9:45-11:15AM.**

**Drop in and get acquainted!**



### ***When God Closes A Door, He Frequently Opens A Window***

St. Raphael Church is embarking on a plan to reenergize our faith practices in the homes of our parish family. In recent years the church has lost a significant number of members, particularly younger members who are the future of the Church. Many of our members have become inactive and do not take advantage of what Catholicism has to offer. There is significant

agreement that spiritual and faith development in our homes and families is very much needed as an antidote to the secular tsunami and Hollywood culture being promoted in our media and society.

Our plan will focus on reinstituting Small Faith Sharing Groups in our homes – with a strong emphasis on organizing these groups by community neighborhood. This will offer the group members the ability to revisit the Word of God regularly in the company of others and will provide feeding and nourishment to bring our faith to life in our families, our homes and our neighborhood. Meetings can be done virtually or in person (as appropriate).

There are two major elements to our plan. One element will be telephone contacts with our parishioners. Calls will be initiated as we begin the Lenten Season this year and will continue into July. These calls will serve multiple purposes, but one of the objectives will be to seed our parish members to encourage participation in a faith building effort which will be done through parishioner Small Home Groups.

In the second stage of our plan, we envision that the small group signup and organization process will be done in the August/September time frame, such that neighborhood small groups will begin meeting the last week in September. Meeting sessions will continue through the school year.

Although all details have not been worked out, we envision that the program can be made, and adapted to support continuing faith development for all that choose to participate, from our young through our oldest members.

We are very much in need and would welcome your support and help. If you would like to be part of this parish building initiative, please call Dick Jasinski @ 301-983-1445.

### **Help My Marriage:**

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped many couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. Visit

[www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) for more information or call 443-400-7017, email: [3015@HelpOurMarriage.org](mailto:3015@HelpOurMarriage.org)



*We love our church!*



# Happy Catholic Schools Week!



We kick off our Catholic Schools Week this Sunday, January 30, with a 10:00 A.M. Mass celebration and an outdoor display of SRS and SRNS "miracle workers". In honor of our CSW theme "Miracles and Magic" there will be beautiful decorations of gold stars and shades of teal and blue found throughout the school. This color palette is inspired by the mantle worn by our Lady of Guadalupe, who appeared to St. Juan Diego in 1531. During the course of the week, students will also participate in fun events and dress up days such as: Career Day, Community/Clergy Appreciation Day, Student Appreciation Day, Teacher Appreciation Day, Wacky Wednesday, Family Fun Night with a magic show and outdoor glow party,



*Our CSW decorating committee hard at work!*





## Tuesday, Feb. 1: A Day of Giving to Catholic Schools

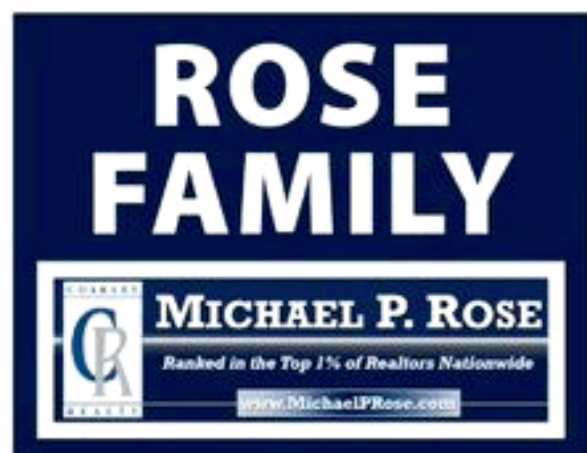
**A Day of Giving to Catholic Schools:** This national campaign during Catholic Schools Week begins at noon and runs for 24 hours on Tuesday, Feb. 1. Our community is invited to donate toward unanticipated expenses taxing the budgets of SRS and SRNS during COVID-19. With your help, we can continue to fulfill our mission of offering a St. Raphael Catholic education even during a pandemic. Visit our school website to donate and learn more. Thank you, Guardian Angels!



## Wings Sponsor Spotlight: Rose Family - Michael P. Rose

This week we recognize the **Rose Family** and **Michael P. Rose** for their endless support at St. Raphael School. We are grateful for their recommitment as Wings Sponsors this school year! Since 2016, Tricia and Michael have been loyal Wings Sponsors and true blessings to our community. **FUN FACT:** Michael P. Rose is ranked in the top 1% of realtors nationwide! Learn more at [www.michaelprose.com](http://www.michaelprose.com).

Interested in being a Wings Sponsor for our school? Find more info on the St. Raphael school homepage.





### Hear Sister Dede Byrne — Surgeon, Soldier, Sister, Servant at St. Raphael's

St. Raphael's Respect for Life Committee is pleased to welcome Sister Dede to speak to us on prolife issues of the day at St. Raphael's Church on February 9 at 7:00 pm.

Sister Deirdre "Dede" Byrne has worn three uniforms: a surgeon's scrubs, a soldier's camouflage, and now, a sister's habit.



Sister Deirdre is a medical doctor whose long career has been marked by extraordinary service. She served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, in active duty in Afghanistan and later as a reservist, eventually rising to the rank of colonel. As a missionary surgeon, she devoted herself to helping the sick in Kenya, Haiti, Sudan and Iraq.

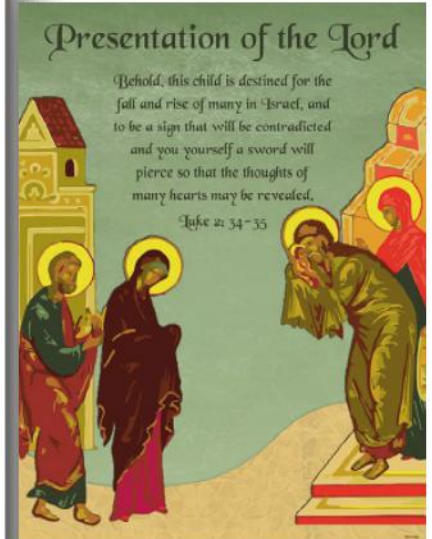
Sister Dede is an active missionary sister and superior of her community in Washington, DC. She is double board-certified in family medicine and general surgery. A native of the Washington, D.C. area, Sister Dede is one of eight siblings (Bishop Bill Byrne, former pastor of our Lady of Mercy, is her brother), attended Langley High School, and graduated from Virginia Tech. By 2000, the board-certified Dr. Byrne made her commitment to the Little Workers and began her novitiate training in earnest.

Sister Dede retired with the rank of Colonel from the United States Army in 2009 after 29 years of service in the military. Over the years, Sister Dede has found it easy to integrate her medical and military service into her religious vocation. Currently, she is the superior of the D.C. Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts house near Catholic University, where the sisters run a pro-bono physical therapy clinic and diabetic eye clinic, and retirement home for her elderly sisters.

#### Saving the Unborn and Their Mothers

Another area in which Sister Deirdre has enjoyed success in her medical clinic is with abortion reversal. She helps women who have taken the abortion pill, but who regret that action. If they come to her within 72 hours of taking the pill, she can take action to reverse the pill's trajectory and potentially save the life of the developing child. Sister Deirdre reports that she has an ultrasound machine in her convent, and that using available medical technology, they are able to save about 50% of the babies whose mothers come to the clinic for help in reversing the abortion.

Sr. Dede has said she is not just pro-life, she is pro *eternal* life.



### Walking with Purpose

We are thinking of having ***"Walking with Purpose"*** again at St. Raphael's, beginning perhaps in March. The meetings would be held at 9:35 AM in the parish library. We need 4 or 5 women to volunteer to be coordinators. To volunteer, kindly email Fr. Tom at [morrowt@adw.org](mailto:morrowt@adw.org).



## Mass and Blessing

- Tuesday, February 1
- 7:00PM



- ❖ There will be a bilingual Mass with Celebrant Father Bill Wadsworth on Tuesday, February 1 at 7:00PM followed by Eucharistic Exposition and a blessing pew by pew with the blessed sacrament as the priest or deacon process instead of the laying on of hands.
- ❖ Confessions available from 7:00PM through the blessing.
- ❖ Benediction will follow.



How many of us will be sad when we realize upon leaving this world we could have spent 5 to 20 minutes each night in prayer and never made use of that opportunity? Fr. Tom

## Religious Education

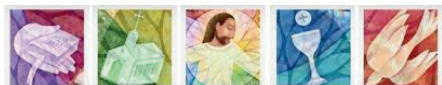
Mary Beaudoin, 202-2947697

### Child Protection Training

All adults who have contact with children or teens in parish programs must complete the Archdiocese of Washington child protection training program. The program includes the following: the Virtus Safe Environment training session, a volunteer application, fingerprinting, background check, and the Archdiocesan child protection policy booklet. The Archdiocese is currently offering the Virtus training session in-person and online. We encourage parents and other adults to complete child protection training now for future involvement in programs. Contact Pietro Lojacono in the SRRE office for information and forms to get started. Thanks!

### Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW) is a celebration of the Liturgy of the Word in language that children can readily understand. During the Liturgy of the Word, adult leaders take children to a separate space where they share the Sunday readings, homily, Creed, and intercessions in a way that is developmentally appropriate for the children. For many years CLW was part of the 10:00 and 11:30 Sunday Masses, but over the years several of our CLW leaders retired from this ministry. Then, with the arrival of the pandemic, CLW was halted completely. Recently, CLW was restarted at the 1:00 Spanish Mass. We would like to again offer CLW at the 10:00 and/or the 11:30 Masses in English, but new leaders are needed. If you are interested in becoming a CLW adult leader, please contact Mary Beaudoin. Thank you!



## 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. Our classes continue to meet in person each week, but we offer parents the option of completing lessons at home using the digital textbook and having children submit the quiz for each lesson.

### Religious Education and Sacrament Calendar

Jan. 30-Feb. 14	SRRE Classes in Session
February 2 and 12	First Penance
February 20-21	No SRRE Classes
February 27-28	SRRE Classes Resume
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 are starting their Eucharist workbooks this week.

First Penance/Reconciliation will be celebrated on Wednesday, February 2, at 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday, February 12, at 10:00 AM. 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) need to turn in Sponsor Certificate and Saint Reports. 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 will be celebrated on May 21, 2022 at 10:30 AM and 1:00 PM.

### Facing Rejection

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/013022.cfm>

Key Passage: They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way. (Lk. 4:29-30)

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

▢ Adults: What do you do when a message you are trying to deliver "falls on deaf ears"?

▢ Kids: Are there times when you have not listened as well as you could to what someone was telling you? Why didn't you?

### 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 4: A Heart Open to the Whole World and the subheading of "A Universal Horizon."

146. There is a kind of "local" narcissism unrelated to a healthy love of one's own people and culture. It is born of a certain insecurity and fear of the other that leads to rejection and the desire to erect walls for self-defense.



Yet it is impossible to be “local” in a healthy way without being sincerely open to the universal, without feeling challenged by what is happening in other places, without openness to enrichment by other cultures, and without solidarity and concern for the tragedies affecting other peoples. A “local narcissism” instead frets over a limited number of ideas, customs and forms of security; incapable of admiring the vast potential and beauty offered by the larger world, it lacks an authentic and generous spirit of solidarity. Life on the local level thus becomes less and less welcoming, people less open to complementarity. Its possibilities for development narrow; it grows weary and infirm. A healthy culture, on the other hand, is open and welcoming by its very nature; indeed, “a culture without universal values is not truly a culture.”

147. Let us realize that as our minds and hearts narrow, the less capable we become of understanding the world around us. Without encountering and relating to differences, it is hard to achieve a clear and complete understanding even of ourselves and of our native land. Other cultures are not “enemies” from which we need to protect ourselves, but differing reflections of the inexhaustible richness of human life. Seeing ourselves from the perspective of another, of one who is different, we can better recognize our own unique features and those of our culture: its richness, its possibilities and its limitations. Our local experience needs to develop “in contrast to” and “in harmony with” the experiences of others living in diverse cultural contexts.

148. In fact, a healthy openness never threatens one’s own identity. A living culture, enriched by elements from other places, does not import a mere carbon copy of those new elements, but integrates them in its own unique way. The result is a new synthesis that is ultimately beneficial to all, since the original culture itself ends up being nourished. That is why I have urged indigenous peoples to cherish their roots and their ancestral cultures. At the same time, though, I have wanted to stress that I have no intention of proposing “a completely enclosed, a-historic, static ‘indigenism’ that would reject any kind of blending (mestizaje).” For “our own cultural identity is strengthened and enriched as a result of dialogue with those unlike ourselves. Nor is our authentic identity preserved by an impoverished isolation.” The world grows and is filled with new beauty, thanks to the successive syntheses produced between cultures that are open and free of any form of cultural imposition.

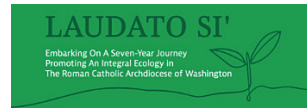
149. For a healthy relationship between love of one’s native land and a sound sense of belonging to our larger human family, it is helpful to keep in mind that global society is not the sum total of different countries, but rather the communion that exists among them. The mutual sense of belonging is prior to the emergence of individual groups. Each particular group becomes part of the fabric of universal communion and there discovers its own beauty. All individuals, whatever their origin, know that they are part of the greater human family, without which they will not be able to understand themselves fully.

150. To see things in this way brings the joyful realization that no one people, culture or individual can achieve everything on its own: to attain fulfillment in life we need others. An awareness of our own limitations and incompleteness, far from being a threat, becomes the key to envisaging and pursuing a common project. For “man is a limited being who is himself limitless.”

-Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* #146, #147, #148, #149, #150

### **Caring for God’s Creation – A Plan That Calls for Solidarity**

In his encyclical [\*Laudato Si’\*](#) (Care for Our Common Home),



Pope Francis calls us to embrace integral ecology. This concept states 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.” The Archdiocese of Washington developed a [\*Laudato Si’ Action Plan\*](#) with easy to advanced ways for us to exercise stewardship over God’s creation. The plan names seven markers that help to measure the implementation of *Laudato Si’*. The sixth marker is

**6. Ecological Spirituality** Pope Francis reminds us that spirituality rooted in creation is Christ centered, and this Christological approach compels us to be in relationship with others. This Christ-centered approach challenges us to change our personal behaviors and to seek to change society for the better. Guided by Catholic social teaching, Catholics have historically engaged in collective and individual advocacy work across a range of issues for the common good.

*Laudato Si’* has been “added to the body of the Church’s social teaching,” (LS 15). Catholics are called to be advocates for our common home, Earth. We are called to advocate for the people who are most directly affected by climate issues, namely the poor. Pope Francis wrote, “the gravest of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest,” (LS 48). Thus, we are called to be prophetic and persistent advocates at the local, state, and national levels of government.

Possible actions for individuals, families, parishes and schools:

- ☐ Homilies on pro-life values and integration of Catholic social and moral teaching regarding care for creation (easy)
  - ▷ Highlight Catholic teaching at appropriate times throughout the liturgical year in a variety of formats: bulletin announcements, parish social media pages, youth ministry, Religious Education classes, RCIA preparation, Adult Formation opportunities, coffee and donuts after Mass (easy)
- ☐ Plan, celebrate and mark the Season of Creation held each September 1 to October 4 (easy)
- ☐ Participate in the annual Archdiocesan Green Mass (easy)
- ☐ Utilize materials from USCCB on Caring for Creation (easy)
- ☐ Integrate *Laudato Si’* into all facets of promoting an integral ecology at celebrations of Respect Life Month/World Mission Month in October (easy)
- ☐ Bring in expert speakers to lead/guide conversations at parish or parish school sponsored events (easy)
  - ▷ Listen to a variety of voices including/especially from those in marginalized communities (easy)
  - ▷ Utilize parishioners, members of Catholic organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), who feature Catholic values, to speak on ecological issues (easy)
- ☐ Ensure parish and school events and formation opportunities promote the Church’s teaching on climate change, social, racial, environmental, and immigrant justice (easy)
- ☐ Empower parishioners to be active and engaged in the work of *Laudato Si’* (easy)





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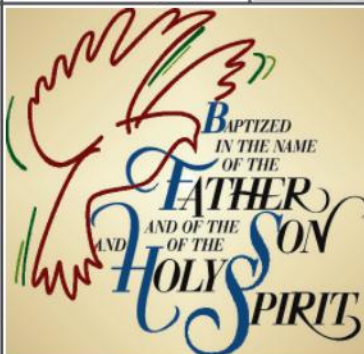
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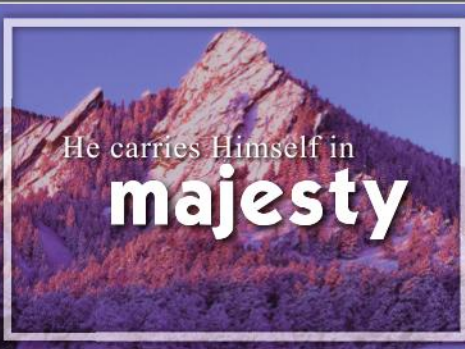
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