

St. Raphael Catholic Church



Our great school starts at 8:00 AM. Today they had a Wacky dressed code.

1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

February 13, 2022

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 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.



Dear Friends in Christ,

The turning of the calendar to February means Lent is just around the corner. This also means it is the time of year when I will again ask you to make a gift to the Annual Appeal in support of the many charitable works of our Archdiocese.

You have been generous in providing for our parish needs. Your support of the Annual Appeal is in many ways an extension of your parish support. It is a critical source of funding for everything from seminarian formation to life and family ministries to pastoral and social outreach, all of which directly or indirectly impacts our parish and local community.

At the same time that the Annual Appeal strengthens our parish life, it also unifies us as the Church of Washington in caring for the spiritual and other needs of those beyond our parish boundaries and even outside our Catholic faith. We are able to accomplish together what we could not do on our own.

As in every year, 100% of your gift to the Annual Appeal will be restricted to the ministries that are a part of the Annual Appeal and will not be used for any other purpose. Furthermore, your gift will be credited towards our parish goal. Learn more about the 2022 Annual Appeal at appeal.adw.org.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful commitment to the 2022 Annual Appeal. Your steadfast generosity during this time of hardship is not only a source of inspiration for me but also a force for good.

I pray that God will continue to bless you and bring you peace and joy.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Father Michael Salah
Pastor

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week

Monday, February 14

6:30AM Hilda Santana (d)
9:00AM Robert Stovall (d)

Tuesday, February 15

6:30AM Hien Pham (d)
9:00AM Pat Redshaw (d)

Wednesday, February 16

6:30AM Rosario Lozano Basta
9:00AM Jackie Christo (d)

Thursday, February 17

6:30AM Deacon Leondro Espinosa (d)
9:00AM Nicolas Molina (d)

Friday, February 18

6:30AM Deacon Richard Mattocks (d)
9:00AM P.A. Felix (d)

Saturday, February 19

9:00AM Donna Herndon
5:00PM Fr. Bill Kitty Gleavy (d)

Sunday, February 20

7:00AM	Fr. Mike	Members of the Parish
8:30AM	Fr. Bill	Soen Kwat Nio (d)
10:00AM	Fr. Mike	Joseph L. Derenge (d)
11:30AM	Fr. Tom	Eileen Kutchak
1:00PM	Fr. Bill	Junior Legion of Mary
6:00PM	Fr. Tom	Cecilia Fabbro (d)

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 and link to YouTube.

Baptisms

Maxwell James Marooney	February 4
Elena Kalasky	February 5

**There will be Anointing of the Sick
at all the Masses today.**

There is a Montgomery County **mask mandate**.
Please wear a mask. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bulletin notices are due in writing ON THURSDAY, THE WEEK BEFORE THE published date. Notices may be emailed to: esalatto@straphaels.org . This bulletin was transmitted on February 8.

Please pray for the soul of

Carole Gallagher
Nicolas Molina, Father of Catalina Morris



**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,

"Let's start at the very beginning/ A very good place to start." Today I wanted to talk a little about the sacrament of baptism. If you've been following along you already know a little about what the sacraments are and why they are important. You also know about the essential elements of form and matter for each sacrament. We'll to dive right in...the matter of the sacrament of baptism is of course water.

Water is quite important, as well you probably know. We need it to live, it covers most of the surface of the world, it often tastes good and we use it for lots of different things. It's also quite important in the history of salvation because we see it everywhere in the Bible. From the very beginning of Genesis, the flood of Noah, the crossing of the waters of the Red Sea, crossing the Jordan to enter the Promised Land, the baptism of Jesus, and so on. There are hundreds of references to water and its importance in the Bible.

So it's really no wonder that God would choose water to be the means by which we become part of his family. But it's what we do with the water that is important. Baptism is a washing. Like when we come in from jumping around in the mud we need some help to get clean. The water is the outward sign of what is going on inside in our souls. In ancient Greek βαπτίζω (baptizō) means to dip, plunge, or draw wine. The Romans used the word to mean to take a bath and of course we use the word to mean the sacrament of baptism. We need to be washed clean of our sins.

Over the centuries the place where the baptisms occurred (called a font) gradually got smaller and smaller but in the early Church they were huge. Most often they were large enough for an adult to be totally submerged under the water and could have steps as well. It's very interesting (at least to me) to see how the style of the font changed over the centuries.

You also need to use real, ordinary water. You can't use Sprite or anything like that. The reason is because Jesus was baptized in ordinary water (of the river Jordan—which is really murky and has a lot of sediment in it but I digress...).

The main idea is that the water must touch the person being baptized, whether they are plunged completely in the water or have water poured over their head, the water needs to touch the person because it's an essential part of the sacrament. Something has to be done to us to symbolize the grace God is giving to us. Ok, so that was more information than I thought so we'll continue next week with the form part. Don't go anywhere!

Fr Bill



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.md catholic.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

This is an opportunity to stand with Catholics from across Maryland as we raise our voices in support of life, justice, and the common good through outreach to our legislators.

The day has three parts: prayer, education, and action. We will provide everything you need to participate virtually.

Thank you for participating in Advocacy Day, and please invite your friends and parishioners to join you. A few minutes is all it takes to be a voice for hope and justice.



Join the SRS Track & Field Team for 2022 season. Both girls and boys are welcome, and there are four divisions of competitors based on age. Participants will learn and experience a variety of events. There will be sprint and distance running along with field events like long jump and softball throw, and everyone's favorite—relays (4x100, 4x100, Medley). Practices are fun, meets unite the community and the program inspires and empowers the runners of tomorrow.

Season: March 30-May 18

Practice: Mondays at Richard Montgomery HS track:
Time: TBD
Meets: Wednesdays at Rockville HS track

Early bird \$10 discount if you register before 3/3.
(Filter youth programs, scroll to Sports Leagues).

Questions? Contact Head Coach Mike Gregory
Email: mg@gregoryhq.com

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 for more information or call 443-400-7017, email: 3015@HelpOurMarriage.org

Ash Wednesday, March 2



Masses:

6:30 and 9AM (SRS Mass)
4:30 and 7PM
8:30 Spanish Mass

Please enter the parking lot from the Dunster Road entrance. The Kimblewick Road entrance is not open during the week.

Help Transform the World with Your Family this Lent



Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all. Learn more at <https://www.crsricebowl.org/> Rice Bowls will be available for pick up in the church entryway beginning on February 27.

Youth Ministry

Annie McHugh, 240-864-2519

Theology of the Body for High School

Our youth ministry program is hosting a multi-week Theology of the Body program discussing the Church's understanding of the body, sexuality, chastity, dating and marriage! TOB will meet each Tuesday night, starting February 1 in the Youth Center from 7:15-8:30PM. The program will run until early April. Contact Annie McHugh at amchugh@straphaels.org to sign up your teen. Workbooks are \$22.00.

Keep Going: The Virtue of Fortitude – February 13

Come to YG as we look at the virtue of Fortitude, that virtue that helps us endure and persevere through hardship and persecution! All high school teens are invited for prayer, discussion, fellowship and games from 7:00-8:30PM in the Youth Center.

Temper, Temper: The Virtue of Temperance – February 20

Binge watching Netflix? Scrolling endlessly through Tik Tok? Come to YG and learn how to understand and control these impulses with the virtue of Temperance! 7:00-8:30PM in the Youth Center, all high school teens invited!

Stay Connected

Want regular updates? Email Mike McHugh at mmchugh@straphaels.org to sign up for the YM parent email or to add your number to receive FlockNote text updates.

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.

Readings for the Week of February 13, 2022

Sunday	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Jer 17:5-8/ Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6/ 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/ Lk 6:17, 20-26
Monday	Memorial of Saints Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop Jas 1:1-11/ Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76/ Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday	Jas 1:12-18/ Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19/ Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday	Jas 1:19-27/ Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5/ Mk 8:22-26
Thursday	Jas 2:1-9/ Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/ Mk 8:27-33
Friday	Jas 2:14-24, 26/Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mk 8:34-9:1
Saturday	Jas 3:1-10/ Ps 12:2-3, 4-5, 7-8/ Mk 9:2-13
Sunday	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/ Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13/ 1 Cor 15: 45-49/ Lk 6: 27-38

Diaconate Formation "Come and See" Events for 2022

Deacons are called to a special ministry of service through which they assist the poor, the hungry, the sick, the homeless, the imprisoned, immigrants, among 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.

The Office of Diaconate Formation of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington is beginning a new cycle of recruitment and preparation of men for the Permanent Diaconate. Formation of the new class for ordination in 2027 will begin with a retreat in **October of 2022** to start a year of aspirancy. The initial selection process for this class will begin with a series of "Come and See" events at various parishes around the Archdiocese in **January through March 2022**. Potential applicants should review the schedule below for the locations and dates of these events in order to take advantage of the opportunity to attend and 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. The mailing address for the office is: Office of Permanent Diaconate Formation, P.O. Box 29260, Washington, D.C. 20017-0260. Additional information and an *Inquirer's Information Form* is available at <https://adw.org/vocations/deacons/formation-program/>.

The dates and locations to "come and see" for potential applicants and their wives are:

Tue. Feb. 15, 2022, 7-9 PM	St. Rose of Lima, Gaithersburg
Thur. Feb. 17, 2022, 7-9 PM	St. Philip the Apostle, Camp Springs
Thur. Feb. 17, 2022, 7-9 PM	Our Lady Help of Christians, Waldorf
Tue. Feb. 22, 2022, 7-9 PM	Annunciation, NW Washington, DC
Mon. Mar. 7, 2022, 7-9 PM	St. Aloysius, Leonardtown
Wed. Mar. 9, 2022, 7-9 PM	St. Joseph, Largo
Wed. Mar. 16, 2022, 7-9 PM	St. Mary, Landover Hills

In March, Online Only, 7-9 PM, please contact Mrs. Diane Biggs for the Microsoft Teams meeting link.

- Thursday, March 10, 2022 from 7-9 PM
- Tuesday, March 15, 2022 from 7-9 PM
- Monday March 21, 2022 from 7-9 PM

Please RSVP to Mrs. Diane Biggs, 301-853-5345, biggsd@adw.org and let her know which session you will attend, and if your wife (if married) will be attending with you as well.

Revised, ch 1/24/22

Blessed Sacrament Bereavement Support Group

The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 3630 Quesada Street, NW Washington, DC, 20015-2538, will offer an eight-week bereavement support group series for adults who have experienced the death of a parent, spouse, child, sibling or significant other. The next series will begin Tuesday February 22 and continue for eight consecutive Tuesdays through April 12, 2022 from 7:00-8:30PM. The meetings are virtual.

For more information contact Jim Hoffman at hoffmanlpc@gmail.com or call cell: (202) 577 – 2213.

A Journey Through the Bible Tuesdays | March 1 - April 26 7 - 8:30 PM St. Bartholomew Church \$75 | Satellite Cost

Offered by the Catechetical Institute and taught by Jeff Cavins, *A Journey through the Bible* is open to all. Although this 8-week course will take place at Holy Family Church in St. Louis Park, we are excited that St. Bart's will serve as one of only three Minnesota satellite locations where participants can gather for in-person small groups and watch the teachings together via livestream. Online option also available.

To register or learn more, visit www.st-barts.org/events/journeythroughbible

Looking Back and Moving Forward: A Catholic Response to Racism

Presented by Ogechi Akalegbere



ST. MARY'S ROCKVILLE

Date: Wednesday, February 23

Time: 7:00pm

Location: St. Mary's Parish School

RSVP:

stmaryrockville@yahoo.com

301-424-5550.

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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. Information: www.saintjohnneumann.org

POST CANA

Commemorative Mass
For Widows and Widowers



OUR LADY OF GRACE CATHOLIC CHURCH
15661 Norbeck Blvd Silver Spring
Saturday, February 19 at 1:00pm

Posta Cana Group for Widows and Widowers invites you to join Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory for this special celebration

To register please email marydugan12@yahoo.com or call 301-873-3902

Registrations will close on Monday February 14 due to limited capacity



Our Lady of Grace Church

15661 Norbeck Blvd
Silver Spring, MD 20906

School News

A peek behind our classroom doors

FEB. 13, 2022

Celebrating God's Miracles & Magic at SRS!



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



8th Grade vs. Faculty Basketball Game!



www.straphaelschoolmd.org | www.srnsmd.org |    @SR5rockville

We Need Your Help!
Lenten Parishioner Calling Initiative
(Seeking volunteers from across our entire parish)



Here is a real opportunity for any one of you willing to make a Lenten Sacrifice for the benefit of St. Raphael, your parish. During the upcoming Lenten period we will be trying to call every family registered in our parish. Our parish has over 2300 parishioner families registered. If we have 100 caller volunteers, that would work out to 23 parishioner families per caller.

These calls will serve a number of purposes. They will provide the parishioners with a better understanding of what the parish offers, will serve to understand parishioner needs (e.g. prayer needs), and will help provide a better connection with our parish.

We'll also use these calls to introduce a larger parish objective, the formation of Small Faith Sharing Groups in our homes, organized by community neighborhood. This activity is planned to begin in late summer as the Fall school year begins. The purpose of these groups will be to reenergize faith practices in our homes, wherein group members will revisit The Word of God regularly in the company of others. This will provide feeding and nourishment to bring our faith to life in our families, our homes, and our neighborhood.

This calling initiative will continue through the entire Lenten period, approximately 15 weeks. All calls will be made from your homes on your own time schedule. All caller volunteers will receive a caller instruction packet. You will not be making calls as a parish expert. You will be calling at the request of our Pastor, Fr. Salah. A Calling instruction packet will be provided on February 24. We will hold a caller Zoom kickoff meeting on Thursday, March 3. The meeting will walk through and review the caller instruction material, and follow with a question and answer session. Calling lists will also be provided following this meeting. We will plan to record this Zoom meeting and make it available to those who cannot attend the scheduled meeting.

Email StRaphaelsSG@gmail.com to sign up and to be part of the calling team. Provide your preferred phone number in your emailed message. You may contact Dick Jasinski with your questions 202-569-4297.

(Think of this as a Lenten service/sacrifice for our parish. We'd like participation from our entire parish community.)

Thank you for giving this Lenten activity careful consideration and for volunteering.

Welcome to Eucharistic Adoration at St. Raphael's



What is *Eucharistic Adoration*? Eucharistic Adoration is exposition of the Blessed Sacrament enabling the faithful to gaze upon Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and to pray in the Real Presence of God. St. John Vianney said: *Our Lord is hidden there in the Blessed Sacrament, waiting for us to come and visit Him.* At the end of Adoration, before a priest or deacon reposes the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle, he conducts a special liturgy called *Benediction* in which God Himself in the Blessed Sacrament blesses those present. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction thus are part of the Church's official liturgy.

Adoration is one of the four "ends" or goals of prayer. It is not the same as the other three: contrition, thanksgiving, supplication. It is more focused on God Himself. During Adoration, we can express our awareness, understanding, and love of God as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. We may use our own words or no words at all. St. Therese explained it as a *surge of the heart*. We can also read and reflect on Catholic prayers, scripture, or the Liturgy of the Hours, or simply offer a Holy Hour of our own choosing. According to Pope St. Paul VI, a *Holy Hour brings Heaven's choicest blessings on those who are faithful to their Hour*.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a time to publicly show honor and love to Christ our Lord and King by your presence and personal prayer. We are blessed to have Adoration available all day on Thursday from about 9:30 AM, after daily Mass, until Benediction at 7:15 PM. What a gift that anyone can come to St. Raphael's on any Thursday to enter into Adoration and receive these blessings!

But with this special grace, there is a strict rule according to the Congregation for Divine Worship, Rome. *There must absolutely never be periods when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and there is no one present for adoration.* Accordingly, we have a very flexible system in place in which volunteers called Committed Adorers sign up and agree to be present for one hourly slot on **Thursdays starting at 9:30 AM and ending at 6:30 PM**. The Committed Adorers sign up for one hour on a website called Sign Up Genius. A Committed Adorer may sign up for more than one hourly slot (the hourly commitment can vary from week to week), and it is not required to sign up every week. You can view the current schedule at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4dafaf2aaafc1-straphael2>. Committed Adorers are the *backbone* of our parish's Thursday Adoration as they enable the rest of us to come and go as we please during the day. Committed Adorers thus provide an invaluable service to the parish. If you are interested in learning more about Adoration, and/or becoming a Committed Adorer, please email our adoration coordinators at stradoration@gmail.com

Submitted by:
Deacon Richard Meyer, rsmhome@verizon.net

Religious Education

Mary Beaudoin, 202-294-7697

Children's Liturgy of the Word at 10:00AM Sunday Mass

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. We are hoping to re-start Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW) at the 10:00 AM Mass in March. More adult leaders are needed. Leaders must first complete the ADW Child Protection Training. See details of that program in the Child Protection Training article below. Thank you!

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 Lojaco in the SRRE office for information and forms to get started. Thanks!

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

February 13-14	SRRE Classes in Session
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 completing chapter one of *God's Gift Eucharist* (younger children) or *Eucharist: We Give Thanks and Praise* (grades 4 and 5); middle schoolers are working on prayers and beginning chapter 9 in *God's Gift Reconciliation and Eucharist* (book and worksheets for older children).

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

Confirmation Year 2 Student/Parent Meeting – February 16

There will be an **online** meeting for all young people preparing for Confirmation in May 2022, along with a parent, on

 **Wednesday, February 16, at 7:00 PM.** At this meeting we will review the theology of Confirmation, share information to send to Confirmation sponsors, discuss details of Confirmation interviews, and address questions related to Confirmation Masses. Parents are asked to watch their email for the link to join the meeting. An alternate meeting date may be offered that week for families unable to attend on February 16.

Reaching Out to Others

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/021322.cfm>

Key Passage: Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." (Lk. 6:20)

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

- Adults: In what way are you serving the poor, as Jesus did?
- Kids: When have you helped bring God's love to someone who was sad, or hungry, or whom?

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 begin Chapter 5: A Better Kind of Politics.

154. The development of a global community of fraternity based on the practice of social friendship on the part of peoples and nations calls for a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good. Sadly, politics today often takes forms that hinder progress towards a different world.

FORMS OF POPULISM AND LIBERALISM

155. Lack of concern for the vulnerable can hide behind a populism that exploits them demagogically for its own purposes, or a liberalism that serves the economic interests of the powerful. In both cases, it becomes difficult to envisage an open world that makes room for everyone, including the most vulnerable, and shows respect for different cultures.

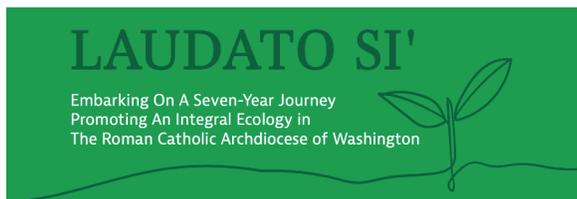
Popular vs. populist

156. In recent years, the words "populism" and "populist" have invaded the communications media and everyday conversation. As a result, they have lost whatever value they might have had, and have become another source of polarization in an already divided society. Efforts are made to classify entire peoples, groups, societies and governments as "populist" or not. Nowadays it has become impossible for someone to express a view on any subject without being categorized one way or the other, either to be unfairly discredited or to be praised to the skies.

157. The attempt to see populism as a key for interpreting social reality is problematic in another way: it disregards the legitimate meaning of the word "people." Any effort to remove this concept from common parlance could lead to the elimination of the very notion of democracy as "government by the people." If we wish to maintain that society is more than a mere aggregate of individuals, the term "people" proves necessary. There are social phenomena that create majorities, as well as megatrends and communitarian aspirations. Men and women are capable of coming up with shared goals that transcend their differences and can thus engage in a common endeavor. Then too, it is extremely difficult to carry out a long-term project unless it becomes a collective aspiration. All these factors lie behind our use of the words "people" and "popular." Unless they are taken into account – together with a sound critique of demagoguery – a fundamental aspect of social reality would be overlooked.

158. Here, there can be a misunderstanding. “‘People’ is not a logical category, nor is it a mystical category, if by that we mean that everything the people does is good, or that the people is an ‘angelic’ reality. Rather, it is a mythic category... When you have to explain what you mean by people, you use logical categories for the sake of explanation, and necessarily so. Yet in that way you cannot explain what it means to belong to a people. The word ‘people’ has a deeper meaning that cannot be set forth in purely logical terms. To be part of a people is to be part of a shared identity arising from social and cultural bonds. And that is not something automatic, but rather a slow, difficult process... of advancing towards a common project.”

-Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* #154, #155, #156, #157, #158



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 seventh marker is

7. Emphasis on Community Involvement and Participatory Action

“We are to engage in public advocacy work for decisive political action for the common good. As Catholics, we have models for dialogue and civil engagement in our political processes. In our public policy engagement, we must continue to be effective advocates and heed the “cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” (LS 49)

“Public pressure has to be exerted in order to bring about decisive political action. Society, through non-governmental organizations and intermediate groups, must put pressure on governments to develop more rigorous regulations, procedures and controls. Unless citizens control political power – national, regional and municipal – it will not be possible to control damage to the environment.” (LS 221)

The Archdiocese employs professional staff to collaborate with parish leaders to advocate for changes in public policy, organize grassroots initiatives, and represent the Catholic voice for the common good. The Archdiocese’s Office of Social Concerns and Office of Public Policy serve as a touchpoint to mobilize and empower Catholics to become effective citizen advocates at local, state, and federal levels. The Offices work with appropriate partner organizations to provide policy and advocacy training to accomplish a goal to engage and encourage all Catholics to fulfill their moral obligation to participate in political action. These partnering organizations include:

D.C. Catholic Conference: The D.C. Catholic Conference maintains awareness and provides support for legislation in the D.C. City Council that addresses a variety of issues including environmental justice and environmental protection. The D.C. Catholic Conference advocates for the Archdiocese before the District of Columbia City Council and directs grassroots Catholic action on pending legislation. You can learn more about the D.C. Catholic Conference here: www.dccathcon.org.

Maryland Catholic Conference: The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) advocates for three (Arch)dioceses (Washington, Baltimore, and Wilmington) before the Maryland State Assembly; mobilizes grassroots action through the Catholic Advocacy Network; and surveys and reports on the stances of candidates regarding issues of concern to Catholics. The Conference supports legislation in the Maryland General Assembly that addresses a variety of issues including environmental justice and environmental protection issues. You can learn more about the Maryland Catholic Conference here: <https://www.mdccatholic.org/>.

Possible actions for individuals, families, parishes and schools:

- Use parish and parish school communication channels to spread the message of *Laudato Si’* (easy)
 - Distribute liturgical calendars with suggestions for environmentally beneficial practices and other ways to promote justice (easy)
 - Utilize Flocknote, parish Facebook pages, and other social media to put *Laudato Si’* teaching/learning into action (easy to advanced)
- Form parish social concerns teams that focus on integral ecology (easy to moderate)
- Engage ministries and groups in collaborative efforts on integral ecology (easy to moderate)
- Utilize resources from organizations such as Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake or the Interfaith Power & Light (DC, MD) to train parish social concerns team (moderate)
- Connect with other parishes through the Archdiocesan Care for Creation Committee (moderate)
- Connect to interfaith groups such as Interfaith Power & Light (DC, MD), Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, and the Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions; and through local community organizing entities such as the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) or Action in Montgomery (AIM) (moderate to advanced)
- Collaborate with Action in Montgomery Social Concerns Committees and other parish groups to foster an integrated approach (moderate to advanced)

Conclusion: The Archdiocese of Washington is proud to embark on this journey towards a fuller implementation of *Laudato Si’*! As a people of faith, the archdiocese is ready to continue our efforts in preserving and protecting God’s creation of our common home in our local communities and throughout the world. We are ready to heed the call of our faith and science to work together to implement *Laudato Si’* in our families, parishes and schools. We are ready to proclaim the Gospel message of hope, create a more sustainable society, and preserve Earth for future generations. Let us work together to embrace Care for Creation!



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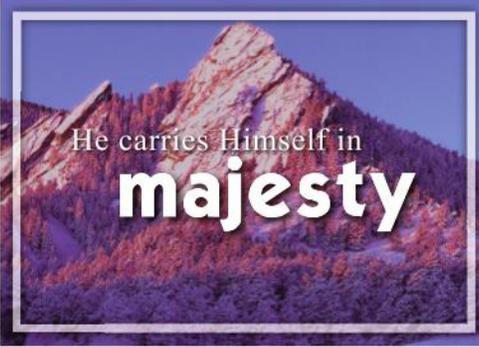
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