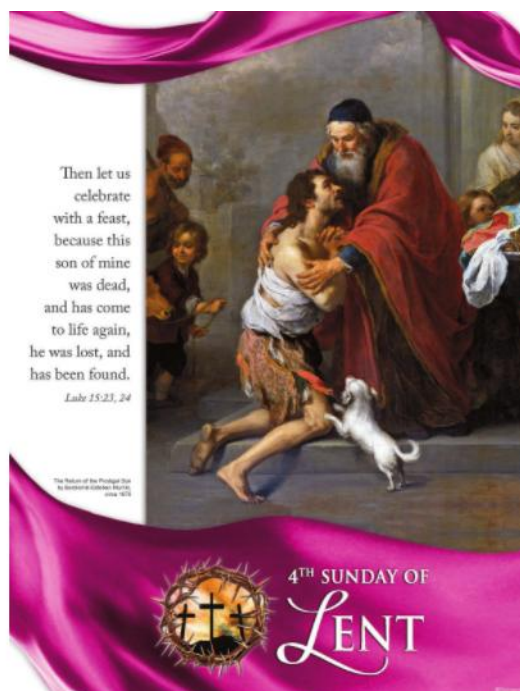


# St. Raphael Catholic Church

March 27, 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 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

**Abuse isn't love.** Help is available 24/7 on the National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

**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 during Lent:** Tuesday: 6:30 - 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.

# LENT



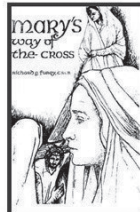
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## Fridays in Lent

April 1 and 8

After 9:00 AM Mass  
Sodality – Mary's Way

6:30PM  
7:15PM in Spanish



Confessions every Tuesday in Lent  
6:30PM

Tuesday, April 5, 6:30PM  
Parish Penance  
with Adoration and extra priests

The next Mass and Blessing will be held  
Tuesday, May 3.

## Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week

### Monday, March 28

6:30AM Richard Hillsley (d)  
9:00AM Carmen Sia Palmaira (d)

### Tuesday, March 29

6:30AM Rosita Divino (d)  
9:00AM Kitty Gleavy (d)

### Wednesday, March 30

6:30AM Joseph Maher (d)  
9:00AM Louise Cox

### Thursday, March 31

6:30AM John Miller (d)  
9:00AM Bryan Geyer

### Friday, April 1

6:30AM Hisun Lee and Lee Hee Sun (d)  
9:00AM Dorothy Wessel (d)

### Saturday, April 2

9:00AM Mercy Metherate (d)  
5:00PM Fr. Mike Shawn Rhoden (d)

### Sunday, April 3

7:00AM	Fr. Tom	Daniel Tan
8:30AM	Fr. Mike	Margareta Pescatore (d)
10:00AM	Fr. Bill	Lilia Kozicky (d)
11:30AM	Fr. Tom	Onana-Msege
1:00PM	Fr. Bill	Jose Zamora (d)
6:00PM	Fr. Mike	Eugene Vaz

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.

Bulletin notices are due in writing ON THURSDAY, THE WEEK BEFORE THE published date. Notices may be emailed to: [esalatto@straphaels.org](mailto:esalatto@straphaels.org). This bulletin was transmitted March 22.



### 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 [Wednesday, April 6 at 7:30PM](#) in the Parish Library. This could be the first step to welcome them Back Home.

### 2022 Annual Appeal:

#### From God's Abundance, Our Gifts of Charity

Thank you to parish families who made a gift to the 2022 Annual Appeal! Your support strengthens our archdiocesan ministries to be a beacon of hope and help for all who seek Christ's love. If you haven't made your gift, please do so today and help our parish reach our 2022 goal of \$362,100.00. Visit [appeal.adw.org](http://appeal.adw.org) to learn more about the 2022 Annual Appeal and to donate online. Thank you for your gift of charity as a sign of God's abundance in your life.

### Please pray for the soul of

Jorge Otero

Teresa Modica, mother of Darlene Combs  
Ronald W. Shurie, former parishioner and  
St. Raphael Music/Choir Director



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,

Since we are in a season of fasting and penance, I thought I would write about food this week! Well, actually not, I wanted to mention another wonderful film *Babette's Feast* which was released in 1988 and is set in Denmark in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It's also in Danish (and some French) so if you don't like subtitles or foreign films beware, but I think it actually makes the movie more interesting.

Anyway, the story is set in a bleak part of the coast in a small village, two older sisters have a French cook and in the midst of their very Puritan lifestyle, it seems a little incongruous. We learn in the course of the movie about a little of her history and that she is actually one of the greatest chefs in France and humbly works for these sisters for almost two decades.

One day she receives news that she has won the national lottery in France and the sum she receives is immense. The sisters think Babette will leave them and are resigned to it. Their servant asks for one (last) thing, to make a real French dinner for them: *Un vrai dîner français*. The sisters agree and eventually are shocked and horrified when they see all the foreign foods and wine(!) arriving from France.

The sisters have terrible dreams and believe perhaps their servant is some type of witch or demon. They speak with their little group of fellow Puritans and agree that they will reluctantly partake of the dinner but that they will disregard the food.

The day of the feast arrives and the guests arrive in a state of apprehension and stress. Then they come into the dining room and see the table. For these simple people who are used to bland food and simple meals, it seems almost unbelievable. The scene when they first behold the table and see the room is wonderful.

Through the course of the meal their attitude becomes more and more jovial and happy and the sad and petty divisions that had plagued their little group seem to melt away. Most of the guests have no idea what they are eating or drinking but one of the visitors is a general who *definitely* knows this is something special.

At the end he tells the story of a famous chef who used to make dinners like this in Paris and the sisters realize that their humble cook is actually this culinary genius who has sacrificed her life for them. Once the meal is over the sisters come in to thank Babette and she reveals that she has spent all the money she won in the lottery on the dinner. The sisters are again shocked but Babette says she wanted to do it, to have one last chance to give her very best. The film ends with the little group of guests going into the night singing hymns of praise and full of joy.

For me, this movie is filled to the brim with allusions to the Eucharist, the Mass and the sacrifice of Jesus. The people have no idea who Babette is, they think she's just a cook when she is really perhaps the greatest chef in the world. They are terrified of what she is preparing but it ends up being probably the best meal they will ever have in their lives. They are used to simple meals but here they are overwhelmed with how the table is set. And they think it is the last gesture of their cook before she departs to spend her new fortune but they find out she has sacrificed it all for them.

I think we can sometimes be the same way with the Mass and how we see the Cross. The Eucharist is such an amazing gift from God but we don't often realize how utterly astounding it is. I'd encourage you to watch the film if you can. It definitely made me see our own Feast a little differently!

Fr Bill

## Confirmation for Adult Catholics

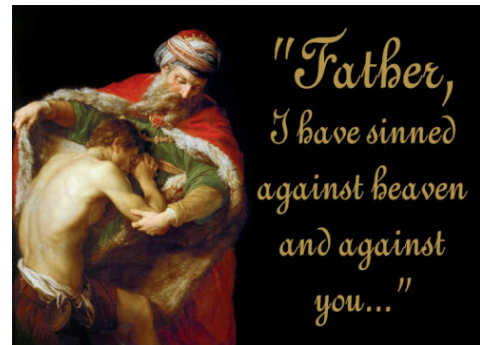
Adults who are Catholic and have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation are invited to receive it at the Cathedral of St. Matthew on Pentecost Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 3PM.

Registration and Preparation are necessary!

Call Linda Poindexter at 240-864-2542 or email [lpindexter@straphaels.org](mailto:lpindexter@straphaels.org) to sign up or to ask questions.

There will be four preparation sessions in the Parish Library on

**Saturdays**, April 23 and 30 and May 7 and 14 at 10AM (60-90 minutes long)



The Second Collection this weekend, March 26/27, is for Catholic Relief Services.

Thank you for your generosity.

## COVID-19 Updates

There have been many conversations within the Catholic community about the safety and morality of COVID-19 vaccines. The Archdiocese of Washington supports and affirms the statement published on March 2, 2021 by the USCCB.

We have compiled information to respond to any questions you might have about the COVID-19 vaccine and Catholic moral teaching on this matter, including an FAQ webpage on vaccine development.

USCCB internal memo on Covid-19 vaccines

Catholic Standard: The Catholic Church's perspective on ethics of Covid-19 vaccine

This information can be found at <https://adw.org/coronavirus/>

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Office of Life Issues at [windelsk@adw.org](mailto:windelsk@adw.org) if you would like more information or resources.



### St. Martin's/St. Raphael's Twinning Committee

invites you to **SAVE THE DATE of SATURDAY APRIL 2, 2022** for our **Annual Lenten Retreat** which will run from **1:00-3:00PM**. This event is virtual over Zoom so you can participate from the comfort of your home. We will follow a format where each person brings a prayer or an uplifting story to share with the group related to your Lenten journey and we will have a short group reflection around that topic/prayer/story. If you are interested, please contact Jeffrey Dunckel or Carolyn Tyc at 301-951-5262 or by email at [tyc1dunc3@aol.com](mailto:tyc1dunc3@aol.com). We hope you will join us!

### Reading for the week of, March 27, 2022

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>
Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32	
<b>Monday</b>	Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2 & 4, 5-6, 11-12a & 13b; Jn 4:43-54
<b>Tuesday</b>	Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
<b>Wednesday</b>	Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
<b>Thursday</b>	Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; Jn 5:31-47
<b>Friday</b>	Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 & 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Memorial Saint Francis of Paola, Hermit</b>
Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; Jn 7:40-53	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>
Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11	

### We Need Your Help Lenten Parishioner Calling Initiative

(Seeking volunteers from across our entire parish)

We need caller volunteers. You will be making a Lenten Sacrifice for the benefit of our parishioners and our parish. During the Lenten period we will attempt to call every family registered in our parish. Our parish has over 2300 parishioner families registered. With 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), will help provide a better connection with our parish and will serve to help those who have not yet returned following the COVID interruption.

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 and calling lists. You will not be making calls as a parish expert. You will be calling at the request of our Pastor, Fr. Salah. You will decide how many calls you would like to make.

Email **[StRaphaelsSG@gmail.com](mailto:StRaphaelsSG@gmail.com)** to sign up and to be part of the calling team. Provide your preferred phone number in your emailed message. We'll provide you with a suggested calling script to help you make the parishioner calls. You may contact Dick Jasinski with your questions 202-569-4297.



### The Middle School Students of St. Raphael School Proudly Present



Friday, April 8 at 7 p.m.

&

Saturday, April 9 at 2 p.m.

**Buy your tickets ONLINE now thru 4/1 for just \$10!**

After 4/2, tickets can only be purchased at the front desk or at the door for \$15.

**Avoid lines.** Pick up your tickets at **Will Call** desk in SRS reception area:

- Wednesday, April 6 and Thursday, April 7: 2:30-3:30 p.m.
- Friday, April 8: 2:30-3:15 p.m.

Otherwise, there will be Will Call tables in the Duffy Center before each show:

- Friday, April 8: 6-7 p.m.
- Saturday, April 9: 1-2 p.m.

**A Special Way to Congratulate Cast & Crew!**

**ADS & SHOUT-OUTS (by March 20) & FROZENGRAMS (by April 1)**

Both available for purchase online.

Please visit [www.straphaelschoolmd.org](http://www.straphaelschoolmd.org)



**Tuesday, April 5  
6:30PM**

**Parish Penance**  
with Adoration and extra priests



## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

- ☐ **Tuesday, April 12, Confessions, 6:30PM**
- ☐ **Wednesday, April 13, Tenebrae, 7:30PM**
- ☐ **Holy Thursday, April 14**
  - Morning Prayer, 9:00AM in Church**
  - 7:30PM, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, bilingual followed by Adoration in the Church**
- ☐ **Good Friday, April 15**
  - Morning Prayer 9:00AM in Church**
  - Stations of the Cross**
  - 12:00PM in Spanish, 3:00PM in English**
  - Confessions - 1-3PM**
  - Passion of Our Lord-Spanish in Church, 4:00PM**
  - Passion of Our Lord-English in Church, 7:30PM**
- ☐ **Holy Saturday, April 16**
  - Morning Prayer 9:00AM in Church**
  - Confessions - 10:00AM and 3:45PM**
- ☐ **Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 16, 7:30 PM**
- ☐ **Easter Sunday Masses – April 17**
  - 7:00 AM**
  - 8:30 AM**
  - 10:00AM Church only**
  - 11:30AM Church only**
  - 1:00 PM Spanish Mass**
  - No 6PM Mass on Easter Sunday**



# School News

A peek behind our classroom doors

MARCH 27, 2022

## St. Raphael School Springs into Full Bloom!



Our *Girls' Night Out* event was huge success, with over twenty amazing vendors there was something special for everyone! Thank you to our fantastic Event Chair—Chris Beall—and all our volunteers. A reminder that the *Spring Online Auction* is right around the corner, happening March 30th to April 3rd. Be sure to check out the school website for details. One of the epic prizes could be yours! Also, we look forward to seeing our SR community at our *Spring Soiree*, an adult only event, on Saturday, April 2nd at Rock Creek Mansion in Bethesda.



Students had a special guest at recess—Father Bill!

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





**Disney Frozen Jr. Spring Musical:** Please join us April 8 at 7 PM and April 9 at 2 PM in support of our St. Raphael School Performing Arts Program. Event tickets, frozengrams, DVDs, and digital copies of DVDs are available for purchase on the school website. Early-bird fees apply until April 1 — limited seating available.

**April 8 @ 7 PM**  
**April 9 @ 2 PM**

## Spring Online Auction: March 30 - April 3

This week's spotlight auction item is a **Summer 2022 Seasonal Membership to Potomac Woods Swim Club**. *Item only available to NEW families, not returning members.* Located across the street from our school at 1520 Dunster Road, this is the place to be during the summer months to see SRS family and friends. Don't miss this rare opportunity, your summer is depending on it!



**Auction Prize Item:**  
Summer membership  
at Potomac Woods  
Swim Club for new  
families only!

Are you interested in submitting a bid for this popular item or donating an auction prize of your own to SRS? Check out the online auction through the SRS school website—open to all from March 30 to April 3.



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



The trip to the Holy Land WITH Father Salah in September is FULL.  
For Fr. Kennealy's pilgrimage in MAY, there is AVAILABLE SPACE.

**Fr. Jack Kennealy**  
Pastor of St. Matthias  
Catholic Church  
Lanham, MD.

• 1 night in Haifa Stella  
Maris Guest House • 3  
nights Pilgerhaus by the  
Sea of Galilee • 6 nights  
in the Dan Hotel in  
Jerusalem

\$300 deposit (nonrefundable)  
to reserve place, (first come  
first served.) • 2<sup>nd</sup> payment  
due on Aug 15, 2021.  
• Final payment due on  
Feb 1, 2022

Cost Per Person Sharing  
Twin Room \$4280.00  
(based on minimum 30 pax)

**For More Information**  
Fr. Jack's Tel #: (301) 459-4814 ext.229  
Email: [kennealyj@adw.org](mailto:kennealyj@adw.org)



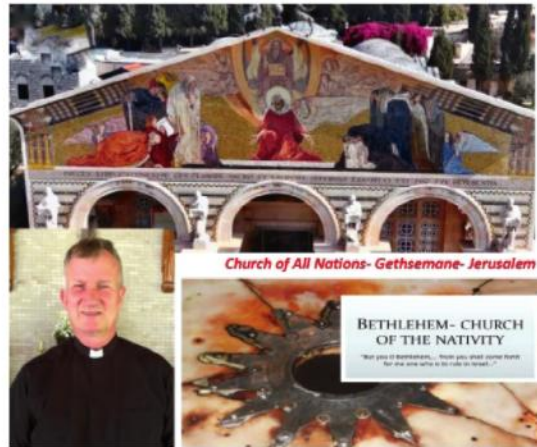
Or: [rtemmaus@gmail.com](mailto:rtemmaus@gmail.com)  
Tel: 203 946 0322

Israel requires **COVID 19**  
**VACCINE** certificate as a  
condition prior to entry

## HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

**May 22 – June 2, 2022 (12 Days - 10 nights)**  
**\$4280.00**

The Holy Land Road to Emmaus is a must walk for every Christian!



Tour Spiritual Leader Fr. Jack Kennealy

**Includes:** Roundtrip air on direct flight from Dulles to TLV; 10 nights hotel; All Meals (B/L/D), full schedule of sightseeing per day by private coach; Guiding by Peter E. Sabella, author of pilgrim guidebook, *CLOSED FOR RENOVATION - On The Road To Emmaus*. All entrance fees; audio system; luggage handling; all tips to hotels and restaurants, daily Mass at one of the shrines; all Mass donations; hotel taxes and service charges; air taxes & fuel surcharges. **Single Room Supplement: \$950**

**Not Included:** Any item not specified above; Optional health or travel insurance (available at approx. \$280 per person) additional with payment; Group gratuities to guide, driver & other donations (\$180 per person); Optional sightseeing and personal expenses; passport and visa fees if applicable; additional air taxes & fuel charges if airline increases them before the group is ticketed in March 2022.

[www.roadtoemmauspilgrimages.com](http://www.roadtoemmauspilgrimages.com)

### Take a Personal Retreat" Day Apr 7 / May 13

During your personal retreat, from 8:30AM-4PM, an experienced retreat director will guide you to a place of rest with Christ. The retreat schedule allows for one-on-one spiritual direction (optional), quiet reflection, Mass, Confession and Eucharistic Adoration, plus continental breakfast and lunch, so you will be nourished and cared for while Our Lord speaks to your soul about the depths of His love for you. Cost is \$120 per person. Advance Registration is required, and registrations will be limited to facilitate appropriate social distancing. Visit our website to register and to find more dates [ourladyofbethesda.org](http://ourladyofbethesda.org). Or call 301-365-0612. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.

### Prayer Vigil to Witness to the Sanctity of Human Life and End Abortion

The Spring Bethesda 40 Days for Life campaign continues until April 10. Prayer vigils are requested in hourly slots from 7 AM to 7 PM. Full details on the prayer campaign is available at <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/bethesda> St. Raphael's is once again supporting the campaign by praying a rosary on the public sidewalk in front of Leroy Carhart's late term abortion facility at the *Wildwood Medical Center, 10401 Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda* each Saturday during hourly slots from 10AM – 4 PM from March 5 through April 9. Many of us meet in the vestibule after the 9 AM Mass, if you need answers to questions or help with directions, but please come and pray during one of these hourly slots on Saturdays.

Please use our SignUp Genius website at <https://bit.ly/40DFL2022> to sign up for one or more hourly slots, so we can ensure maximum coverage. Signs are available in a bin located at 5944 Avon Drive (behind the clinic). Please return the signs when you are done or give them to the people praying the following hour for them to return. The people praying from 3-4PM should return all the borrowed signs.



<https://www.csricebowl.org/>

**DONATE**

**Keep your Rice Bowl throughout Lent and then count the money and donate that amount online or write a check and send to:**

Catholic Relief Services  
CRS Rice Bowl  
P.O. Box 17090  
Baltimore, MD 21297-0303

### Catholic Advocacy Network

It's not too late to join our statewide Catholic Advocacy Network (you will receive occasional updates on news plus issue-based action alerts during the legislative session, which runs from mid-January to mid-April)

Contact legislators via our issue-based action alerts.

Pray for our General Assembly and Governor that, through God's powerful protection, they may lead our State with honesty and integrity.

Go to <https://www.mdccatholic.org/joincan> to signup today.

## Religious Education

Mary Beaudoin, 202-294-7697

### 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.

We are beginning to look ahead to Fall 2022 and we invite all parishioners to consider becoming part of our catechetical team. The Church exists to evangelize. Please reflect on how God is calling you to be part of this work of evangelization – whether in catechesis or another aspect of ministry of the word.

### 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 reading 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 Lojano in the SRRE office for information and forms to get started. Thanks!

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

We are very excited that Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW) is now offered at the 10:00 AM Mass. 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. **CLW is in need of adult leaders and helpers.** Once enough volunteer teams are in place, each team will only need to serve one Sunday each month. **Volunteers must have completed the Archdiocesan child protection training program (Virtus).** See the article above about how you can complete this training. For details on CLW, please contact Linsey at [linsey.brault@gmail.com](mailto:linsey.brault@gmail.com) or Mary at [mbeaudoin@straphaels.org](mailto:mbeaudoin@straphaels.org) or 202-294-7697.

### Fourth Week of Lent: A Story of Hope from Rwanda

During the 40 days of Lent, we're invited to slow down and focus on our journey back to God and how we can follow Christ's will more faithfully. We do this through the three pillars of **prayer, fasting and almsgiving.**

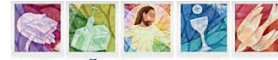
Lord Jesus,  
You call us to a conversion of heart during Lent, and you give us the tools to do this through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. When we pray, help us remember the needs of our sisters and brothers. When we fast, help us offer our sacrifice in union with you.

When we give, help us recognize our gifts are from you so that we are generous with others. Amen

This Lent put your faith into action by using your CRS Rice Bowl. Learn 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. Rice Bowl funds to be sent to CRS. See page 8.

**Fourth Week of Lent: A Story of Hope from Rwanda**  
<https://www.crsricebowl.org/stories-of-hope/week-4>

*Gloriose says because parents in her village have gained knowledge about balanced diets, their children are receiving the food they need to grow. But what she considers truly wonderful is how, by participating in the program, "a woman has been given a voice."*  
*"It wasn't a thing before for a woman to speak up ... or borrow a certain amount of money and use it to make profit and pay it back," she says. "That is something to be thankful for."*



*Faith Formation*

### Religious Education and Sacrament Calendar

March-April	SRRE Classes through April 4
April 10-11, 17-18	No SRRE Classes
April 24-25	SRRE Classes Resume
April 30	First Communion Mass, 11:00 AM
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 six of *God's Gift Eucharist* (younger children) or chapter six of *Eucharist: We Give Thanks and Praise* (grades 4 and 5); middle schoolers are working on prayers and completing chapter 12 in *God's Gift Reconciliation and Eucharist* (book and worksheets for older children). All families are asked to have a special, prayerful family meal each week. The Eucharist is both a sacrifice and a sacred meal.

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 includes SRS).

### 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>.

During March we have interviews for all those seeking Confirmation in May 2022. The letters to Bishop Campbell are due in the SRRE office this week. Confirmation sponsors are invited to sign up for Dynamic Catholic's Best Lent Ever daily reflections for reflection and dialogue with their Confirmation candidate. Bishop Campbell will be at St. Raphael to celebrate Confirmation Masses on May 21 at 10:30 AM and 1:00 PM.

### Family Resources for Lent

The Lenten season offers a great opportunity for families to be particularly intentional about their faith journey. During this time, we take concrete steps to pray, fast, and give alms as we follow the way of the cross. Start the season well and decide together how to observe it this year.

► Lenten Family Resources: <http://pastoral.center/lent-families>

► All Lenten Resources: <http://pastoral.center/lent>

### A Generous Spirit

Today we continue the Year C Sunday readings for the season of Lent. Remember to make time to reflect on this Sunday's Scripture readings at home: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/032722-YearC.cfm>



Key Passage: Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." (Luke 15:31-32)

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

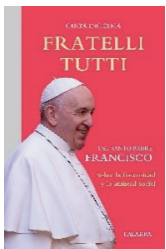
► Adults: When have you been generous enough to forgive someone who hurt you deeply?

► Kids: Is there someone you need to forgive or ask forgiveness of?



Wide Open

### 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 5: A Better Kind of Politics, in the Forms of Populism and Liberalism section and subsection "Social and Political Charity."

### SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHARITY

176. For many people today, politics is a distasteful word, often due to the mistakes, corruption and inefficiency of some politicians. There are also attempts to discredit politics, to replace it with economics or to twist it to one ideology or another. Yet can our world function without politics? Can there be an effective process of growth towards universal fraternity and social peace without a sound political life?

#### The politics we need

177. Here I would once more observe that "politics must not be subject to the economy, nor should the economy be subject to the dictates of an efficiency-driven paradigm of technocracy." Although misuse of power, corruption, disregard for law and inefficiency must clearly be rejected, "economics without politics cannot be justified, since this would make it impossible to favor other ways of handling the various aspects of the present crisis." Instead, "what is needed is a politics which is far-sighted and capable of a new, integral and interdisciplinary approach to handling the different aspects of the crisis." In other words, a "healthy politics... capable of reforming and coordinating institutions, promoting best practices and overcoming undue pressure and bureaucratic inertia." We cannot expect economics to do this, nor can we allow economics to take over the real power of the state.

178. In the face of many petty forms of politics focused on immediate interests, I would repeat that "true statecraft is manifest when, in difficult times, we uphold high principles and think of the long-term common good. Political powers do not find it easy to assume this duty in the work of nation-building," much less in forging a common project for the human family, now and in the future. Thinking of those who will come after us does not serve electoral purposes, yet it is what authentic justice demands. As the Bishops of Portugal have taught, the earth "is lent to each generation, to be handed on to the generation that follows."

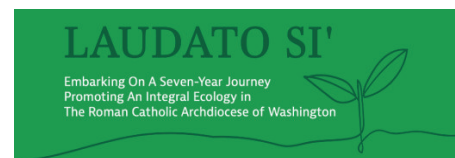
179. Global society is suffering from grave structural deficiencies that cannot be resolved by piecemeal solutions or quick fixes. Much needs to change, through fundamental reform and major renewal. Only a healthy politics, involving the most diverse sectors and skills, is capable of overseeing this process. An economy that is an integral part of a political, social, cultural and popular program directed to the common good could pave the way for "different possibilities which do not involve stifling human creativity and its ideals of progress, but rather directing that energy along new channels."

-Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* #176, #177, #178, #179

### Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace in Ukraine

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!  
Open our eyes and our hearts,  
and give us the courage to say:  
"Never again war!";  
"With war everything is lost."

Instill in our hearts the courage  
to take concrete steps to achieve peace.  
Keep alive within us the flame of hope,  
so that with patience and perseverance  
we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation.  
In this way may peace triumph at last.  
Amen.



### "Common Prayer for Earth and for Humanity"

Loving God,  
Creator of Heaven, Earth, and all therein contained.  
Open our minds and touch our hearts,  
so that we can be part of Creation, your gift.

Be present to those in need in these difficult times,  
especially the poorest and most vulnerable.  
Help us to show creative solidarity as we confront the  
consequences of the global pandemic.  
Make us courageous in embracing the changes required to  
seek the common good.  
Now more than ever, may we all feel interconnected and  
interdependent.

Enable us to succeed in listening and responding to the cry  
of the Earth and the cry of the poor.  
May their current sufferings become the birth-pangs of a  
more fraternal and sustainable world.  
We pray through Christ our Lord, under the loving gaze of  
Mary Help of Christians.  
Amen.

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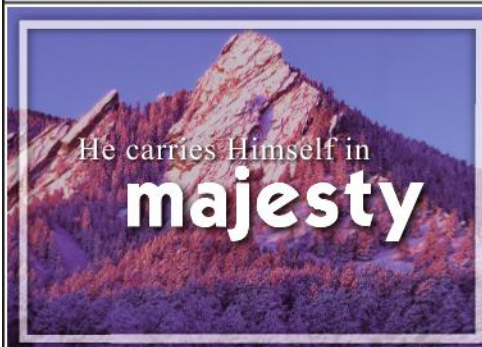
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