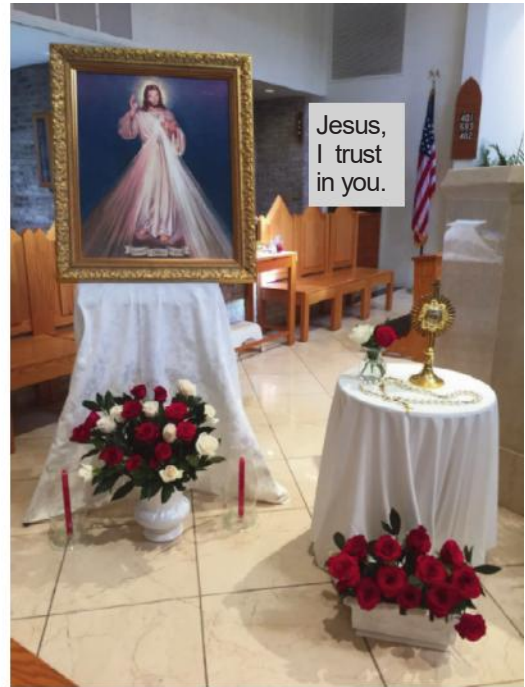
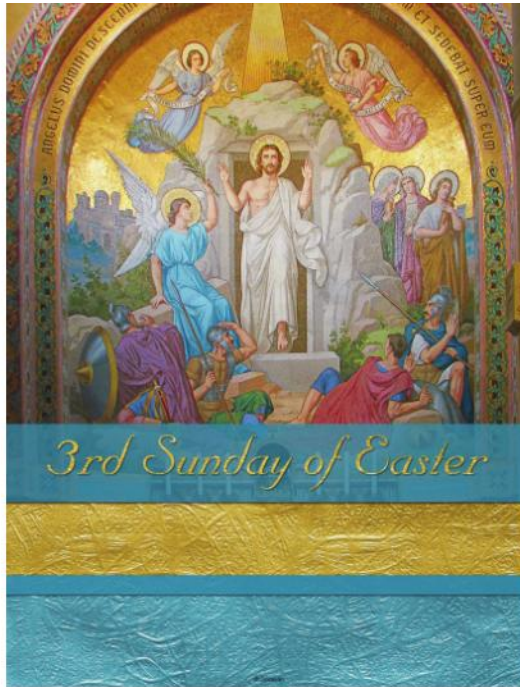


St. Raphael Catholic Church



1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

May 1, 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 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 :

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.



Monthly update on St. Raphael donations to the 2022 Appeal.

Thank you for the \$307,545.25 received from 364 donors, 85 percent of our goal total of \$362,100.00.

Spring is in full bloom – God's glory is all around us! If you want to help St. Raphael Catholic Church flourish, now is the perfect time to make the switch to eGiving. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet, and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift; you'll be growing our ministries that share the Good News of God's love.

Your recurring gifts will sustain and strengthen our parish. You'll provide us with consistent support that helps us always be at the ready with programs, services, and ministries for our church families and for those in need throughout the community.

Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/MD34.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

God Bless You,
Father Mike Salah

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week

Monday, May 2

6:30AM Selica Rinaldi (d)
9:00AM Bryan Geyer

Tuesday, May 3

6:30AM Bonnie Fogelberg (d)
9:00AM Deacon Richard Mattocks (d)

Wednesday, May 4

6:30AM Elizabeth Aino (d)
9:00AM Rita Goulet (d)

Thursday, May 5

6:30AM Sophia Schroeder (d)
9:00AM Sonia Pollan

Friday, May 6

6:30AM Virginia Miranda Datu (d)
9:00AM Deacon Richard Mattocks (d)

Saturday, May 7

9:00AM Fausto Vocal (d)
5:00PM Fr. Bill Sophie Muratore (d)

Sunday, May 8

7:00AM	Fr. Tom	Elizabeth Aino (d)
8:30AM	Fr. Mike	Helen Janus (d)
10:00AM	Fr. Mike	Julia Moreno (d)
11:30AM	Fr. Tom	Helen Lowery
1:00PM	Fr. Bill	Members of the Parish
6:00PM	Fr. Bill	Francis Thekkekkara (d)

The priest schedule is subject to change.

Please help update the Parish Data Base!

- ⇒ Have you changed your mailing address in the past 6 months?
- ⇒ Has your phone number changed?
- ⇒ Have you cancelled your landline telephone number and only use your mobile?
- ⇒ Has your email address changed?
- ⇒ Are you contributing electronically through Faith Direct and still receive offertory envelopes?

To make the changes/updates to your household in the parish database and/or to stop the envelope mailings:

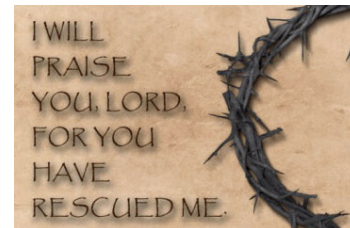
Please contact Eileen Kutachak, in the Parish office, with your updates at ekutachak@straphaels.org or leave a message 240-864-2510, complete a new parish registration online www.straphaels.org

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.



Please pray for the soul of

Bill Hunter

Edwin K. McCaffrey, father of Bob McCaffrey,
Nelson Humberto Lemus, cousin of Cesar Lemus, Jr.



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.

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 April 26.

Vicar's Verbiage

Dear Friends,

Even though we have concluded the great Octave of Easter, we're still in Eastertide, or the Easter Season. It lasts for several more weeks because it's just not right that we should spend weeks and weeks preparing for the feast without the celebration lasting a long time! And the resurrection of Jesus is so important it doesn't get just a day, or a week, but almost seven weeks of celebration. At the end of it, we'll be thoroughly tired of the word alleluia but for now it's good to keep the party going!

One thing that has always struck me about the life and ministry of the Lord was that he loved to eat and to be at parties. He's always at banquets or feasts and he was always meeting people where they were and living among them. In the Gospel for this weekend Jesus reveals himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias.

The city of Tiberias is situated on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. The first time I was in the Holy Land we had our hotel there for the first few days while we went around to the different parts of Galilee. I still remember going down to the shore of the sea one morning to watch the sunrise and I saw the remains of a charcoal fire on the shore.

Today's Gospel is one of those I never tire of reading and remembering the feeling of the breeze and the smell and taste of the water by the shore. I can vividly see St. John leaning over to Peter in the boat and whispering, "It is the Lord" and Peter's eyebrows raise up and the expression on his face changes to wonderment.

Of course, Jesus provides a meal for his hungry and tired children but doesn't waste the opportunity to teach them and be reconciled with Peter. Jesus was always to be found around food and feasts so is it any wonder that he would make the most important act of his followers a sacred meal? Is it a surprise that he commands his disciples not to fashion a statue or commission a painting of him but to come together in fellowship and share a holy meal?

When we come to Mass, the Lord again provides a meal for us. Perhaps we're like Peter and have denied Jesus in some way or another or done things that he does not approve of. Perhaps we've expected so much but can't get our minds around how things are turning out. Maybe we've been trying all through the proverbial night but have caught nothing.

Jesus beckons to us still, "come, have breakfast." He calls out to us to follow where he leads and to trust in his love and care. Hopefully we can be like St. John and recognize the Lord and then leave the safety of our boat like Peter and go quickly to him.

Fr. Bill

Welcome to David Gilardi, our summer seminarian, who will be joining us the end of May.

David Gilardi

Seminarian Directory

First Pre-Theology
Saint John Paul II
Seminary
Home Parish: Our
Lady of the
Presentation,
Poolsville
Likes playing
soccer, ping pong,
pool,
guitar/music,
hiking,
swimming, and reading.



"I speak English and could survive with what Spanish I have."

Last Sunday was a Perfect Day for a Bake Sale for Ukraine!



A Great big thanks to all the bakers, the buyers, the donors, and the coordinator of a successful event!

A total of \$3,473.93 will be sent to Catholic relief Services offering humanitarian relief in Ukraine.

Pope's Intention for Month of May

We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life, the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council serves the St. Raphael community by advising the Pastor on matters of concern to parishioners. If you would like the Council to consider a particular issue, please feel free to send an email message to: parishcouncil@straphaels.org.

Scripture Readings

For the Week of May 1, 2022

Sunday Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Ps30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13; Rev5:11-14;
Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

Monday Memorial of Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Mt4:4b; Jn6:22-29

Tuesday Feast of Saints Philip and James, Apostles

1Cor 15:1-8; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Jn 14:6b, 9c; Jn 14:6-14

Wednesday Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a; Jn6:35-40

Thursday Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:51; Jn 6:44-51

Friday Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:56; Jn 6:52-59

Saturday Saturday of the Third Week of Easter
Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Jn 6:60-69

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 13:14, 43-52; Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5; Rev 7:9, 14b-17; Jn 10:27-30

Help Our 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. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on September 2 - 4, 2022, please visit: www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call (443) 400-7017, or email: 3015@retrouvaille.org

Take a Personal "Retreat" Day! May 13th, Our Lady of Fatima Feast Day!

Are your days overcrowded, jam-packed, and busy, busy, busy? Celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima with your very own personal retreat at Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center. 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. Or call 301-365-0612. We also have monthly Mini-Retreats for women and Evenings of Reflection for men. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.



FORMED

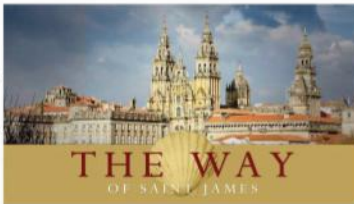
PICK OF THE WEEK

May 1, 2022

WATCH

THE WAY OF ST. JAMES

This documentary follows the journey of several pilgrims who differ in culture and religious faith but are united in their journey across the Camino de Santiago. Each of them is traveling toward the shrine of St. James the Apostle, whose feast day we celebrate this week.



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES WITH MARK HART

The feast day of Saints Philip and James reminds us of the impact that the Apostles made on the whole world. With Philip, James, and all the Apostles in mind, join Mark Hart in this refresher on the Book of Acts.

LEARN

The ACTS OF THE APOSTLES



LISTEN

REACHING OUT TO TODAY'S CULTURE BY BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

Saints Philip and James each lived extraordinary lives of missionary zeal. In this insightful talk, Bishop Barron shares his advice on how to live similar lives of mission within a culture dominated by media and misconceptions about faith.



REACHING OUT to today's culture

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.



Do you have Rice Bowl monies you need to submit to CRS? You can do so by writing a check and send to the below address.

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

Or

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

DONATE

Be alert to scammers using Father Mike's name asking for money or cards. They are at it again. Please know Father Mike will never ask you for money.

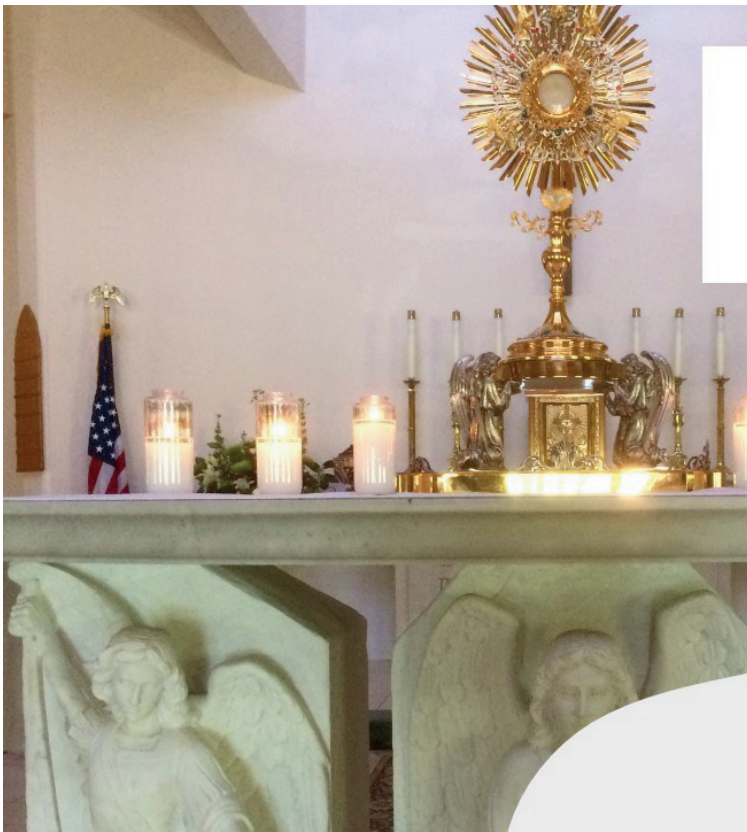
Consider praying the Rosary on Zoom nightly with Father Morrow and fellow parishioners to honor Mary during the month of May.

Monday-Saturday at 7PM

Sunday at 8PM

Please email Maria Elena mecrespo7@gmail.com
or Angela srmabray@hotmail.com

Want some Christian or family friendly movies to stream?
Go to: tmorrow.pub



**Holy Mass (Bilingual)
and Blessing
7:00 PM
Tuesday, May 3**

- Confessions at 7:00PM and will continue during Mass.
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Blessing
- Benediction concludes the evening

Catholic Charities Parish Domestic Violence Outreach Team

Parish leaders are invited to join the Catholic Charities Parish Domestic Violence Outreach Team. The team brings helpful and lifesaving information to parish groups to raise awareness about domestic violence and community resources that can help families suffering abuse. Using provided curriculum and monthly training by zoom, volunteers offer short presentations to parish groups virtually or in-person during September and October each year. Catholic Charities staff and trained volunteers assist presentations. For more information contact: Laura.YeomansDV@CC-DC.org.

Sign up for a Natural Family Planning Class

Married couples interested in learning about Natural Family Planning are invited to join in a virtual class anytime, anywhere to learn a specific NFP method. You will learn how to chart your fertility, have better communication with your spouse and strengthen your conjugal love. To register for these on-line classes visit any of the following organizations: Couple to Couple League - BOMA USA - Creighton Method - Marquette Method. For more information, contact the Office for Family Life at 301-853-4546 or visiblesign@adw.org.



St. Raphael's Right to Life continues its support for life with a weekly prayer vigil that occurs in front of Leroy Carhart's late term abortion facility at the Wildwood Medical Center, 10401 Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda each Monday morning, 9AM-11AM and Saturdays 10-11AM. You are welcome to join us each week. Many of us meet in the vestibule after the 9 AM Mass, if you need help with directions. For more information email Deacon Rich at rsmhome@verizon.net

**Hope Blossoms 2022
Event for St. Ann's Center for Children**

Sister Mary Bader, DC and Pam & Dennis Lucey invite you to attend **Hope Blossoms 2022**, benefiting St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families. Honorees: Judy and John Ritz And Steve Heidenberger †

Date: **Wednesday, May 11, 2022: 6PM to 8PM**, Location: Columbia Country Club: 7900 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815

To purchase tickets please visit: www.stannns.org/events
Questions? Please contact: Carolyn Boyle: 301.559.5500
or: cboyle@stannns.org

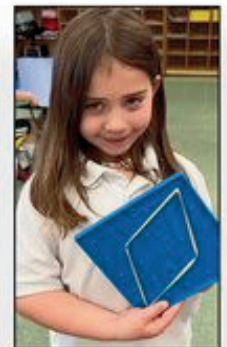
School News

A peek behind our classroom doors

MAY 1, 2022



A favorite classroom activity for our younger students is working with geoboards! Geoboards are a fantastic learning tool that challenge little ones to create a variety of patterns and shapes that build math and logic skills.



Students gather to watch Father Salah do his magic card tricks.

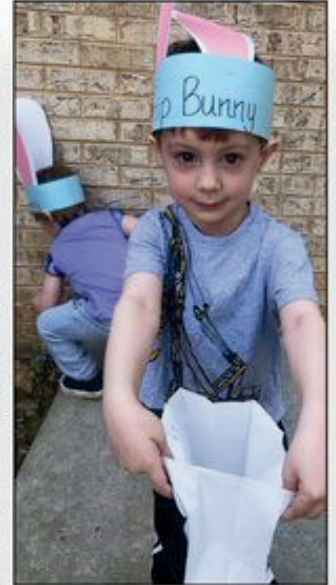


Art class

www.straphaelschoolmd.org | www.srnsmd.org | [f](https://www.facebook.com/SRSrockville) [i](https://www.instagram.com/SRSrockville) [@SRSrockville](https://www.tiktok.com/@SRSrockville)



Easter Egg Hunt



Charity Garage to Attic Sale

St. Raphael Church, Trumpet Room
1513 Dunster Road, Rockville, MD

Friday, June 24 – Drop Off Donations

(9AM – 7PM; Trumpet Room)

Saturday, June 25 – Sales

(9AM – 2PM, Trumpet Room/School)

We accept any donated items in good condition brought to the Trumpet Room door except:

- Bedding (we will take bed frames and springs)
- Non-working electrical or mechanical items
- Christmas decorations
- Rubber Tires
- Dirty Clothing
- Fuel (except in lawn-item gas tanks)

Sponsored by the
Knights of Columbus



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Electronics
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Household
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And
Much More!

Religious Education

Mary Beaudoin, 202-294-7697

Prayer at Table during Eastertime

Here is a special prayer to use before meals during Eastertime:

An Easter candle is lighted while the leader says: This is the day the Lord has made, alleluia!

All respond: Let us rejoice and be glad, alleluia!

The leader prays: We praise you, Lord, with greater joy than ever in this Easter season. The thirsty have come to the water. The poor have come to receive bread and eat. Blessed are you in earth's bounty: the joy of the resurrection renews the whole world.

Christ is risen, alleluia!

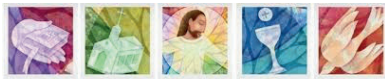
All respond: Christ is truly risen, alleluia!

Excerpts from the English translation of *Book of Blessings* © 1987, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Bringing Easter Home

The paschal mystery (the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus) is the center of our faith. But it is not just something that happened 2000 years ago; the paschal mystery is the model that governs and shapes the life of every Christian. Our faith rests on the knowledge that God loved humankind enough to become one of us and to die for us; that Jesus rose from the dead and invites us to follow him; and that in the Eucharist the saving work of his death and resurrection is present and active, right here and right now.

The Church asks us to "bring Easter home" by reflecting on the paschal mystery with our family members and by celebrating the Eucharist each Sunday with our parish.



Faith Formation

St. Raphael Religious Education (SRRE)

SRRE offers ongoing faith formation for all children and teens, as well as preparation for sacraments. If you have questions about religious education or sacrament preparation for your child, please contact Mary Beaudoin, Director of Religious Education.

People of Faith, We Need You!

In today's Gospel Jesus speaks to Peter and to us when he says, "Feed my lambs," "Tend my sheep," "Follow me." Each of us needs to prayerfully consider how God is calling us to grow in faith and to share in the work of evangelization. A great way to do both of these is through the ministry of catechesis. It takes many catechists to spread the Good News to all seekers. SRRE is looking ahead to the 2022-2023 SRRE year to identify more catechists and class aides. People of faith, we need you to mentor and form our children and teens. Please contact Mary Beaudoin to learn more about becoming involved in the ministry of catechesis.

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, 301-762-2143, ext. 123 in the SRRE office for information and forms to get started. Thanks!

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

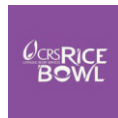
We are very excited that Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW) has returned to the 10:00 AM Mass. CLW is a celebration of the Liturgy of the Word in language that children can readily understand. During the Liturgy of the Word, adult leaders take children to a separate space where they share the Sunday readings, homily, Creed, and intercessions in a way that is developmentally appropriate for the children.

For details on CLW, please contact Linsey at linsey.brault@gmail.com or Mary at mbeaudoin@straphaels.org or 202-294-7697.

Eastertime

Lent and Holy Week have given way to Eastertime—the fast has turned into a feast. God wins the day. As we celebrate the Easter season with joy, it is our responsibility as members of God's one human family to share that joy with everyone, near and far.

To donate your Lenten alms, go to <https://www.csricebowl.org/> and click the green DONATE button.



Religious Education and Sacrament Calendar

May 7 First Communion Masses, 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM
May 9 last day of SRRE Classes (no classes on May 8, Mother's Day)
May 21 Confirmation Masses at 10:30 AM and 1:00 PM

First Eucharist



First Communion Day is May 7! Children need to bring their completed workbooks - *God's Gift Eucharist* (younger children) or *Eucharist: We Give Thanks and Praise* (grades 4 and 5) - or worksheets - *God's Gift Reconciliation and Eucharist* (book and worksheets for older children) - to First Communion rehearsal on Wednesday. Also, remember to turn in your completed Eucharist banner by May 4. The Eucharist is both a sacrifice and a sacred meal. Families are encouraged to have a special, prayerful family meal each week.

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>. Bishop Campbell will be at St. Raphael to celebrate Confirmation Masses on May 21 at 10:30 AM and 1:00 PM.



More next page

Feed My Sheep

During this Easter season, remember to make time to reflect on the Scripture readings at home. This Sunday's readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/050122.cfm>

Key Passage: When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." (John 21:15)

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

- Adults: In what ways are you answering Jesus' command to Peter to "feed my sheep"?
- Kids: What do you do to take care of others as Jesus asked Peter to do?

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 and the subsection "Fruitfulness over Results."

FRUITFULNESS OVER RESULTS

193. Apart from their tireless activity, politicians are also men and women. They are called to practice love in their daily interpersonal relationships. As persons, they need to consider that "the modern world, with its technical advances, tends increasingly to functionalize the satisfaction of human desires, now classified and subdivided among different services. Less and less will people be called by name, less and less will this unique being be treated as a person with his or her own feelings, sufferings, problems, joys and family. Their illnesses will be known only in order to cure them, their financial needs only to provide for them, their lack of a home only to give them lodging, their desires for recreation and entertainment only to satisfy them." Yet it must never be forgotten that "loving the most insignificant of human beings as a brother, as if there were no one else in the world but him, cannot be considered a waste of time."

194. Politics too must make room for a tender love of others. "What is tenderness? It is love that draws near and becomes real. A movement that starts from our heart and reaches the eyes, the ears and the hands... Tenderness is the path of choice for the strongest, most courageous men and women." Amid the daily concerns of political life, "the smallest, the weakest, the poorest should touch our hearts: indeed, they have a 'right' to appeal to our heart and soul. They are our brothers and sisters, and as such we must love and care for them."

195. All this can help us realize that what is important is not constantly achieving great results, since these are not always possible. In political activity, we should remember that, "appearances notwithstanding, every person is immensely holy and deserves our love."

Consequently, if I can help at least one person to have a better life, that already justifies the offering of my life. It is a wonderful thing to be God's faithful people. We love with hope and with confidence in the reserves of goodness present in human hearts. Indeed, "authentic political life, built upon respect for law and frank dialogue between individuals, is constantly renewed achieve fulfilment when we break down walls and our hearts are filled with faces and names!" The great goals of our dreams and plans may only be achieved in part. Yet beyond this, those who love, and who no longer view politics merely as a quest for power, "may be sure that none of our acts of love will be lost, nor any of our acts of sincere concern for others. No single act of love for God will be lost, no generous effort is meaningless, no painful endurance is wasted. All of these encircle our world like a vital force."

196. For this reason, it is truly noble to place our hope in the hidden power of the seeds of goodness we sow, and thus to initiate processes whose fruits will be reaped by others. Good politics combines whenever there is a realization that every woman and man, and every new generation, brings the promise of new relational, intellectual, cultural and spiritual energies."

197. Viewed in this way, politics is something more noble than posturing, marketing and media spin. These sow nothing but division, conflict and a bleak cynicism incapable of mobilizing people to pursue a common goal. At times, in thinking of the future, we do well to ask ourselves, "Why I am doing this?," "What is my real aim?" For as time goes on, reflecting on the past, the questions will not be: "How many people endorsed me?," "How many voted for me?," "How many had a positive image of me?" The real, and potentially painful, questions will be, "How much love did I put into my work?" "What did I do for the progress of our people?" "What mark did I leave on the life of society?" "What real bonds did I create?" "What positive forces did I unleash?" "How much social peace did I sow?" "What good did I achieve in the position that was entrusted to me?"

-Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* #193, #194, #195, #196, #197

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.

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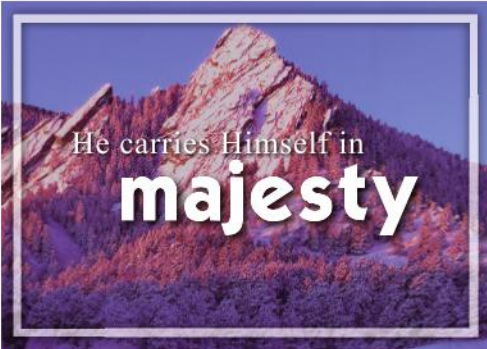
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