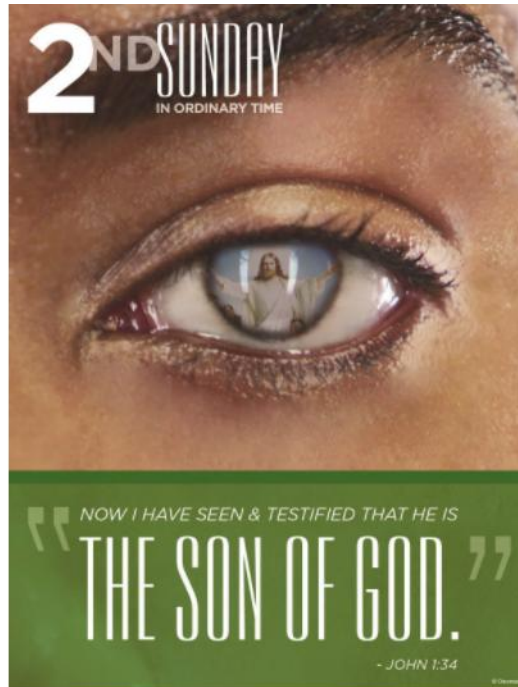


# St. Raphael Catholic Church



**1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854**

**January 15, 2023**

**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. Christian Huebner, Parochial Vicar, 301-762-2143, ext. 150  
Email: [huebnerc@adw.org](mailto:huebnerc@adw.org)  
Rev. Thomas Morrow, Retired, ext. 128**

**Deacon Jose Carbonell, ext. 187  
Deacon Richard Meyer, 202-365-0913  
Deacon Jim O'Brien, [obrien3@verizon.net](mailto:obrien3@verizon.net)  
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 Lojano, 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/>

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

**Weekend Masses:** Sunday: 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, (children), 11:30AM, 1:00PM (español), 6:00PM (youth) Saturday: 5:00 PM  
**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.



**Need Marriage Help?** – Retrouvaille has helped tens of thousands of couples struggling in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on January 20th, please visit: [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org), call (443) 400-7017, or email us at: [3015@HelpOurMarriage.org](mailto:3015@HelpOurMarriage.org)

## 2023 Epiphany Party

FOR SINGLE CATHOLICS – 23rd Annual Epiphany Party at St. Raphael Church, 1513 Dunster Rd., Rockville, MD 20854; Saturday, January 28; starting at 7PM. BLACK TIE OPTIONAL. Includes delicious Ledo's lasagne dinner, complimentary wine and beer, DJ, and more. Send \$22 check donation by Jan 20 to SCS Epiphany Party, St. Raphael, 1590 Kimblewick Rd., Rockville, MD 20854, Or \$24 by credit card at <https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=AJLD5F4VY43NE> by January 20 or \$28 cash, card or check at the door.) For more info, call Fr. T. Morrow at 240-426-5589.

**Mark your calendar  
for the next**



**SUNDAY  
COFFEE AND  
DONUTS**

**FEBRUARY 5, 2023**

## Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass

This year Bishop Roy E. Campbell will celebrate the **Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass** to Celebrate the Vocation of Marriage on Saturday, February 11, 2023, 10:00 AM at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This celebration is to highlight the witness to the Catholic vocation of marriage and the beauty of God's plan for married life.

**Couples must register with the parish office, 240-864-2510** to attend the Mass and/or receive a certificate from Cardinal Wilton Gregory in honor of their anniversary year **by Friday, January 20, 2023.**

## Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week

### Monday, January 16

6:30AM Marie Gardella (d)  
9:00AM John Himmellberg (d)

### Tuesday, January 17

6:30AM Marie Gardella (d)  
9:00AM Pat Farkas (d)

### Wednesday, January 18

6:30AM Marie Gardella (d)  
9:00AM Rudy Oswald (d)

### Thursday, January 19

6:30AM Marie Gardella (d)  
9:00AM Esther Dahan (d)

### Friday, January 20

6:30AM Marie Gardella (d)  
9:00AM Jack McGowan (d)

### Saturday, January 21

9:00AM Marie Gardella (d)  
5:00PM Fr. Christian Jawaher Tashman (d)

### Sunday, January 22

7:00AM	Fr. Christian	Camilo Mondragon
8:30AM	Fr. Christian	Marie Gardella (d)
10:00AM	Fr. Tom	Thomas Witowski (d)
11:30AM	Fr. Tom	Members of the Parish
1:00PM	Fr. Christian	Juan Nicholas Morales
6:00PM	Fr. Tom	Robert Stanton (d)

The priest schedule is subject to change.

## Live-streamed Masses:

Daily, 6:30AM and Saturday, 9:00AM,  
**Saturday, Vigil Mass, 5:00PM**, and  
Sunday, 1:00PM, Spanish

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 January 10.

## Please pray for the soul of

William Anderson, father of Alida Anderson,  
Jane Pisano, and Gladys Castillo



**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.**

We have been notified of temporary delays in the third class mail offering envelopes being delivered to your parishioners due to the winter storm.

To avoid delivery issues in the future, we will be adding the first two weeks of the following mailing into the rear of each set (at no charge) as a cushion for any delays in the mailing process. We will rerun those weeks and place in the beginning of the next mailing also at no additional charge.

We apologize for any inconvenience and believe the solution listed above will guarantee your parishioners always have access to their envelope supply. We appreciate your patience and understanding for the bumpy start. We look forward to serving your parish into the future.

*While you await the return of monthly envelope delivery, you may contribute a "loose check" or place cash in a supplemental envelope (available in the vestibule) with your name written on the envelope.*

*You may also want to consider e-giving by visiting Faith Direct.net St. Raphael church code is MD 34*

## Scripture Readings for the Week of January 15, 2023

**Sunday** Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

**Monday** Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4; Mk 2:18-22

**Tuesday**                      **Memorial of Saint Anthony, Abbott**  
Heb 6:10-20; Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 & 10c; Mk 2:23-28

**Wednesday** Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Ps 110: 1, 2, 3, 4; Mk 3:1-6

Thursday  
Heb 7:25-8:6; Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17; Mk 3:7-12

Friday  
Heb 8:6-13; Ps 85:8 & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Mk 3:13-19

**Saturday**      **Memorial of Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr**  
 Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Mk 3:20-21

Sunday Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Is 8:23—9:3; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23

**FAITH DIRECT**

The new year is filled with hope and promise as we seek to grow our vital ministries, explore new ways to share the good news of Christ's love, and reflect His care and mercy to those in need throughout the community. To continue to make a difference in 2023, St. Raphael Catholic Church is reaching out to our parishioners.

Begin the new year with eGiving to help sustain and build ministries throughout 2023 that reflect the steadfast promise of God's love. The need is great in our community, and your generous online gifts will help people all around us.

Due to the increase in the price of paper, our current envelope company has merged with another. The merger has not been smooth-we have not received notification on how the increase in the cost of paper, and the ongoing increase in postage or how the merger will raise St. Raphael expenses.

We prayerfully request that you consider signing up for eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet. You can set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Sign up today by visiting [faith.direct/MD34](http://faith.direct/MD34), or text 'Enroll' to (Text-to-Give Number). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

God Bless You,  
Father Mike Salah

## Rockville Catholic Summer Program 2023 Registration

Registration for the 2023 season of RCSP opens in February! RCSP is a Catholic day camp for children ages 4-14 operating out of St. Patrick Church Parish Center and run by St. Raphael and St. Patrick Youth Ministries. Visit our webpage, [www.rockvillecatholicsummer.com](http://www.rockvillecatholicsummer.com) for more information on registration days. New families are encouraged to fill out our new family form to get on the email list.

Contact Mike McHugh at [rockvillecatholicsummer@gmail.com](mailto:rockvillecatholicsummer@gmail.com) with any questions.

## THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY

### For Educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

## 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](mailto:parishcouncil@straphaels.org).

Holy Mass  
followed by Healing Prayers

First Tuesday, February 7, 2023  
7:00 PM



Confessions will continue during Mass.



**Youth Ministry**  
Annie McHugh, 240-864-2519

**Pro-Life After Roe – January 15**

Despite the overturning of Roe v Wade, the fight to protect the unborn continues! Join dozens of teens from all over MoCo to discuss our faith's approach to the Right to Life and how we can continue to build a culture of life in Maryland. 7-9PM in the Youth Center, dinner included.

**March 4 Life – January 20**

Come participate in the largest rally for life, the annual March for Life in DC! Come march alongside hundreds of thousands of others who seek to give a voice to the unborn. YG will be taking a group down for the Mass4Life at St. Matthews Cathedral in DC, followed by the March itself on the National Mall. Email Mike McHugh at [mmchugh@straphaels.org](mailto:mmchugh@straphaels.org) for more information.

**Word of Mouth – January 22**

YG is kicking off a new semester on Sacred Scripture! Come along as we dive into the Bible and learn how this amazing book was first written, gathered and organized. Use this New Year as an opportunity to know the story of salvation more deeply. 7-9PM in the Youth Center, dinner included.



walking with purpose  
SO MUCH MORE THAN A BIBLE STUDY

***Come as you are.***

**YOU ARE WELCOME HERE**

WWP Bible studies combine personal study with small group discussion, linking our everyday challenges to the solutions given to us through the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church.

If you desire to grow in your faith—in a supportive community of Catholic women—Walking with Purpose is for you!

February 2 - May 4, 2023  
Thursday's, 9:45am - 11:30am  
St. Raphael Youth Center

For more info contact: Janice Frankford  
(206) 661-2972 or [jwfrankford@yahoo.com](mailto:jwfrankford@yahoo.com)

Spots are limited! Register here:



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

**One-Hour Virtual Evening Reflection for Grieving Parents:** Do you know of a parent who has lost a child? Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents will host a one-hour evening reflection on **Wednesday, January 18** from 8:00PM – 9:00PM. To register: <https://www.emfgp.org/events/01-18-23-virtual-emmaus-monthly-midweek-gathering-retreat/> or for more information, contact the Office of Family Life at 301-853-4546 or [flm@adw.org](mailto:flm@adw.org).

**National March for Life Information - January 20, 2023**

Members of the parish who wish to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual National March for Life are invited to meet after the 9 am Mass on Friday January 20 to arrange for carpooling to Metro or downtown as desired. We plan on leaving by 10 AM. The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country witnessing to the sanctity of human life. For more information and a detailed list of events at the March this year see <https://marchforlife.org/national-march-for-life/>.

**ADW Youth Rally and Mass for Life - Friday, January 20, 2023.**  
See Youth Ministry above

**Adoration for Life on January 20, 2023**

In addition, we will have adoration in the Church on Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> after the 9 am Mass for those who wish to support the March by praying a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament.

**Novena for Life from January 19 - 27, 2023**

Like last year, we will be praying the USSCB Novena for Life in the Church at the conclusion of every daily Mass from January 19 -27. For more details on the Novena and to print your own copy, please see the USSCB website.

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/9-days-life-novena>

**Get the Facts  
On Assisted Suicide**

In January 2023, the Maryland Legislature will consider a bill to legalize assisted suicide.

Guest Speaker:

**Laura Jones**

Co-Founder of The Dignity Mandate

**Tuesday, January 17, at 7:30 pm**

Caulfield Hall (basement of church)

Saint Jane Frances de Chantal Church

9601 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814



**Fr. Michael Salah**  
 Pastor of St. Raphael  
 Catholic Church  
 Rockville MD  
 & Road to Emmaus  
 Pilgrimages

3 nights Pilgerhaus (by the Sea of Galilee)  
 • 6 nights at Gloria hotel in Jerusalem (5-minute walk to Holy Sepulchre)

\$400 deposit (nonrefundable) to reserve place, (first come first served) • 2<sup>nd</sup> payment due on Mar 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.  
 • Final payment due on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

Price Per Person Sharing DOUBLE Room \$4980.00 (based on minimum 40 pax)

**For More Information:**



[rtemmaus@gmail.com](mailto:rtemmaus@gmail.com)  
 Ph: 203-946-0322

**You must CONSENT to all Israel's COVID 19 entry regulations including VAX & PCR tests.**

# HOLY LAND Pilgrimage

**Oct 6-17, 2023 (11 Days, 9 nights)**

**\$4980.00**

***On the Road to Emmaus!***



*Church of All Nations- Gethsemane- Jerusalem*



*Tour Spiritual Leader Fr. Michael Salah*



**Includes:** Roundtrip air on direct flight from Dulles to TLV; 9 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: \$975**

**Not Included:** Any item not specified above; health coverage (that includes COVID19) is required) or (*optional*) travel insurance COVID19 included for 6.4% of tour price per person added to price & \$8 surcharge; Group gratuities to guide & driver (\$180 per person); Optional sightseeing & personal expenses; passport and visa fees if applicable; additional air taxes & fuel charges (if airline increases them before the group is ticketed in Aug 2023).

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

*Itinerary on page 8*



# School News

JANUARY 15, 2023



A peek behind our classroom doors



## Let's go, Angels!



Spirit Day celebrates our CYO and SRS basketball teams and showcases a matchup between eighth grade and staff. Go, Angels!



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







### **Preliminary Itinerary - Father Michael Salah – October 06-17/2023**

**Oct 6, Fri** - Meet at 7:00 pm at Dulles International Airport for **UA flight #72 at 10:45 pm** (22:45). Check in to TLV-Israel.

**Oct 7, Sat** - Arrival in Tel Aviv at **16:40** Meet our guide Peter & transfer to **Pilgerhaus Guest House** at the Sea of Galilee for overnight. (D) **Mass at Hotel.**

**Oct 8, Sun – Around the Sea of Galilee** Boat ride (08:30) on the Sea of Galilee. Then visit the sites around the Sea of Galilee associated with Jesus' ministry of teaching and healing. The Church of Peter's Primacy, Capernaum- hometown of his Galilean ministry, then break for Lunch of St. Peter's Fish. After lunch, we will visit the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes and the Mount of Beatitudes. **Overnight Galilee/Pilgerhaus (B/L/D) Mass at Beatitudes at 16:00 am.**

**Oct 9, Mon- Mt. Tabor, Cana – Nazareth** - Drive to Mount Tabor and meditate on the Transfiguration. Continue to Cana, the site of Jesus' first sign according to St John, for a visit & renewal of Wedding vows. Lunch in Nazareth. Visit the Basilica of the Annunciation, the **Museum**, and the Church of St. Joseph. Visit the Church Synagogue of Nazareth where Jesus read the prophecy of Isaiah & the Church of St. Gabriel (Mary's Well). Return to Tiberias for dinner and **Overnight Galilee/Pilgerhaus. (B/L/D) Mass at the Annunciation Basilica at 15:00. Renewal of wedding vows at Cana at 11:00 am.**

**Oct 10, Tue- Haifa, Caesarea – Jerusalem. Check out.** Visit **Magdala**. Drive to Haifa on Mount Carmel to for a panoramic view of the Bahai Temple and the city of Haifa. Visit the Church of Stella Maris and celebrate Mass (11:00). After lunch at Stella Maris, continue to Caesarea Maritima, a Roman city built by King Herod, where Peter & Paul visited. Continue to Jerusalem. **Check in & Overnight Gloria Hotel. (B/L/D) Mass at Stella Maris at 11:00 pm.**

**Oct 11, Wed- Bethlehem** – Drive to Bethlehem to visit the Church of the Nativity and the Church of St Catherine. Stop for souvenir shopping in one of the Christian Cooperatives. Lunch. Visit the Shepherds' Fields. Then, we will see the work of a remarkable St Vincent Creche Orphanage (15:00) the only facility of its kind in the West Bank, offering Christian love to over forty abandoned babies and little children. **Overnight Gloria. (B/L/D) Mass at Shepherds' Fields at 14:00 am.**

**Oct 12, Thu- Jerusalem - Ein Karem – Israel Museum- Mount Zion** Visit Ein Karem Church of the Visitation and then visit the Israel Museum Shrine of the book where the Dead Sea Scrolls & a scale model of Jerusalem in the times of Jesus. Lunch. After, visit the Cenacle (Upper Room), Dormition Abbey of Mary, and St. Peter in Gallicantu where Peter denied Jesus. **Mass at St. Peter at 16:00.**

**Oct 13, Fri- Jerusalem Old City** - Mount of Olives. Pater Noster Church, where Jesus taught 'Our Father'. Panoramic view of Jerusalem. Then walk down the slopes of the Mount of Olives, the traditional Palm Sunday route, visit Dominus Flevit, (the Lord Wept) and the Garden of Gethsemane. Lunch. Pm Bethany Church. **Overnight Gloria. (B/L/D) Mass at Gethsemane Basilica at 11:00.**

**Oct 14, Sat- Jerusalem Old City** Before breakfast, an early and prayerful walk of the "Via Dolorosa" to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built over the place of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. Then visit the church of St Anne and the Pool of Bethesda, where Jesus healed the crippled man. Continue to the Wailing Wall. After Lunch free afternoon. (B/L/D) **High Mass at Holy Tomb at 06:30 am.**

**Oct 15, Sun- Jericho- Dead Sea area – Jerusalem** – Drive to visit Qumran the site associated with the Dead Sea Scrolls. Continue to the Dead Sea to float in the unique mineral-laden waters. Continue to the Jordan River to renew the baptismal vows. After lunch in Jericho, we will view Zaccheus' Sycamore Tree, Elisha's Spring, and view the Mount of Temptation. Opportunity to ride on a Camel. (B/L/D) **Mass at Good Shepherd in Jericho at 15:00 pm.** Return to Jerusalem to prepare for our festive **farewell dinner** at the Tent Restaurant in Bethlehem.

**Oct 16, Mon- Checkout.** After a late checkout, guided tour of the Shroud of Turin exhibition at Notre Dame at 11:00. Lunch at Qiryat Yearim. Continue to the Benedictine Monastery of Emmaus (Abu Ghosh) associated with the Resurrection. Visit Jaffa's Church of St. Peter (if time permits). Dinner at 07:00 pm. At 08:30 pm transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for flight home **UA# 73 on Oct 17 at 12:20 am.** Arrival at Dulles airport at 05:30 am. **Mass at Emmaus Abu Ghosh at 14:30. (B/L/D)**

**Oct 17, Tue- Arrival at Dulles International Airport at 05:30 am.**

Please note this complex touring program may be subject to amendments based on flight itinerary and local daily conditions. There is extensive slow- paced walking each day on uneven terrain.

B- Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner

## Religious Education

Mary Beaudoin, 202-294-7697

### A Family Prayer for the New Year

God, thank you for a new year.

May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate.

We know that you are always ready to forgive us.

Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires.

Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do.

Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

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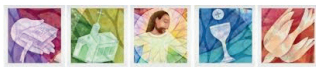
### Jesus, the Son of God

Today we celebrate the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A). Remember to make time to reflect on the Scripture readings with your family. Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/011523.cfm>

Key Passage: [John said,] "I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." (John 1:31)

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

- Adults: We witness to Christ as John did, by living lives full of generosity, forgiveness, and mercy toward others. When do you find it most difficult to do this?
- Kids: Who has surprised you by doing something kind for you when you did not expect it?



*Faith Formation*

### Religious Education Classes

St. Raphael Religious Education (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.

### Religious Education Calendar

Find the SRRE Calendar at our webpage:

<https://www.straphaels.org/religious-education> (scroll down)

Classes meet every Sunday night and Monday unless specified below.

SRRE Classes began on September 18 and 19

Christmas Break on December 25-26 and January 1-2

SRRE Classes resume on January 8 and 9

No classes on January 15-16

No classes on February 19-20

No classes on April 2-3 or on April 9-10 (Break during Holy Week and Easter Week)

End-of-the-Year Social on May 15

### First Reconciliation Get-Ready Morning – January 21



Families with children preparing for First Reconciliation in February are encouraged to attend the **Reconciliation Get-Ready Morning**. It will be held on Saturday, January 21, at 9:30-11:30 AM in the Trumpet Room and church.

This week children are memorizing the Act of Contrition and completing their *God's Gift Reconciliation* (younger children) workbooks; *Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace* workbooks (grades 4 and 5); or chapters 1-7 of *God's Gift Reconciliation and Eucharist* (older children) worksheets. Completed workbooks or worksheets are due at First Penance.

First Penance/Reconciliation is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1, at 7:00 PM, and Saturday, February 4, at 10:30 AM.

The large group First Communion Masses are scheduled for May 6, 2023 at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM with an alternate date to be announced.

### Confirmation Year I and Year II Notes

Confirmation Year 1 students are working on their Confirmation Service Projects. Focusing on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, young people complete ten or more hours of service in their parish, neighborhood, and/or broader community. They then write a reflection paper describing how this service is rooted in their baptismal call to follow Jesus. The completed Confirmation Service Project is due September 1, 2023.

Candidates for Confirmation in May 2023 (Confirmation Year 2) are completing on their Saint Project. Confirmation sponsors need to have their parish send a certificate of sponsorship to the SRRE Office. The Saint Project and Confirmation Sponsor Certificate are due in the SRRE Office by January 26.

We are pleased that Bishop Jerome Feudjio will be coming to St. Raphael for Confirmation on Saturday, May 13, at 10:30 AM and 1:00 PM.

### A Prayer for World Peace, 1978

We pray for the power to be gentle;  
the strength to be forgiving;  
the patience to be understanding;  
and the endurance to accept the consequences  
of holding on to what we believe to be right.

May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil  
and the power of love to overcome hatred.  
We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe  
in a world emancipated from violence,  
a new world where fear shall no longer lead men or women to commit injustice,  
nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.  
Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy  
to the task of making peace,  
praying always for the inspiration and the power  
to fulfill the destiny for which we and all men and women were created.

—Author unknown





### Marriage Moments

Martin Luther King emphasized that our differences need not divide us. How are you and your beloved different yet you complement each other? (Perhaps one gives attention to detail vs. seeing the whole picture, one is a quick thinker vs. thorough planner, an extrovert vs. self-reflective...)

### Parenting Pointers

With the "high holidays" behind us, perhaps you have some extra time to chill. Consider using this weekend to declutter your family's clothes. Ask each person to choose one or more usable pieces of clothing to donate to a family in need.

### Living *Laudato Si'* - Eco-Tips

*Planet Earth supports our lives. We must take care of it. In Pope Francis' encyclical, LAUDATO SI', he calls not only on Catholics, but all humanity to care more vigorously for creation. Here are 2 ways:*

### SPIRITUALITY

**EASY:** Pray for vulnerable peoples and species, those affected by the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis.

**CHALLENGING:** Act on your prayer. Advocate for environmentally friendly policies in your community, place of worship, the world. This usually means attending meetings, signing petitions, getting political.

\*Marriage Moments, Parenting Pointers, and Eco-Tips by Susan Vogt, [www.SusanVogt.net](http://www.SusanVogt.net)

### Christus Vivit

#### To Young People and to the Entire People of God



Christus vivit (Christ is alive) is a post-synodal apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis, written in response to the Fifteenth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, on young people, faith, and vocational discernment. That synod was held in October 2018. This week we continue Chapter Two: Jesus, Ever Young.

### A Church attentive to the signs of the times

39. "Even though to many young people, God, religion and the Church seem empty words, they are sensitive to the figure of Jesus when he is presented in an attractive and effective way." Consequently, the Church should not be excessively caught up in herself but instead, and above all, reflect Jesus Christ. This means humbly acknowledging that some things concretely need to change, and if that is to happen, she needs to appreciate the vision but also the criticisms of young people.

40. The Synod recognized that "a substantial number of young people, for all sorts of reasons, do not ask the Church for anything because they do not see her as significant for their lives. Some even ask expressly to be left alone, as they find the presence of the Church a nuisance, even an irritant. This request does not always stem from uncritical or impulsive contempt. It can also have serious and understandable reasons: sexual and financial scandals; a clergy ill-prepared to engage effectively with the sensitivities of the young; lack of care in homily preparation and the presentation of the word of God; the passive role assigned to the young within the Christian community; the Church's difficulty in explaining her doctrine and ethical positions to contemporary society."

41. Although many young people are happy to see a Church that is humble yet confident in her gifts and capable of offering fair and fraternal criticism, others want a Church that listens more, that does more than simply condemn the world. They do not want to see a Church that is silent and afraid to speak, but neither one that is always battling obsessively over two or three issues. To be credible to young people, there are times when she needs to regain her humility and simply listen, recognizing that what others have to say can provide some light to help her better understand the Gospel. A Church always on the defensive, which loses her humility and stops listening to others, which leaves no room for questions, loses her youth and turns into a museum. How, then, will she be able to respond to the dreams of young people? Even if she possesses the truth of the Gospel, this does not mean that she has completely understood it; rather, she is called to keep growing in her grasp of that inexhaustible treasure.

42. For example, a Church that is overly fearful and tied to its structures can be invariably critical of efforts to defend the rights of women, and constantly point out the risks and the potential errors of those demands. Instead, a living Church can react by being attentive to the legitimate claims of those women who seek greater justice and equality. A living Church can look back on history and acknowledge a fair share of male authoritarianism, domination, various forms of enslavement, abuse and sexist violence. With this outlook, she can support the call to respect women's rights, and offer convinced support for greater reciprocity between males and females, while not agreeing with everything some feminist groups propose. Along these lines, the Synod sought to renew the Church's commitment "against all discrimination and violence on sexual grounds." That is the response of a Church that stays young and lets herself be challenged and spurred on by the sensitivities of young people.

THIS WEEK ON

# FORMED

Week of January 15, 2023



**Saint Anthony of Egypt**

St. Anthony was a saint whose heroic life of humility and prayer inspired many other great Saints, including St. Athanasius and St. Augustine. Sit down with Taylor Kemp and Dr. Elizabeth Klein as they explore the life of this great saint.



**Respect Life The Augustine Institute Show**

Dr. Tim Gray welcomes Lynn Grandon on to his show to discuss what it means to respect life. You will leave this conversation with great ideas for how you can get involved in the pro-life movement.



**How Do We Live Pro-Life?**

The Catholic Church is committed to being pro-life. What does this mean and how are we called to live this out? Join Dr. Ben Akers and Lynn Grandon as they discuss what it means to live pro-life.

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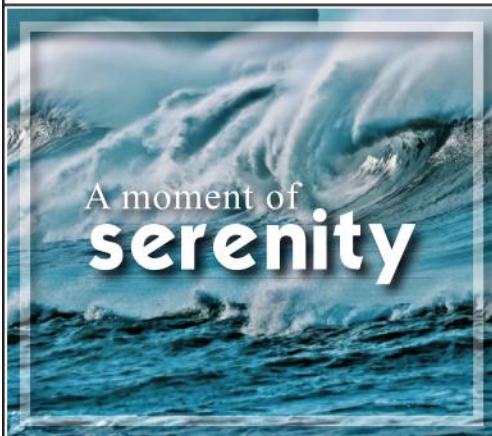
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