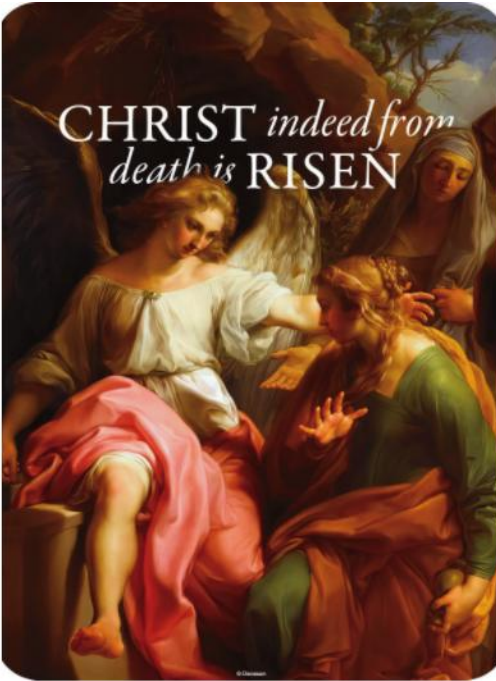


# St. Raphael Catholic Church



CELEBRATE  
EASTER

**1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854**

**April 9, 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 Lojacono, Assistant for Religious Education, ext. 123**  
**Annalee McHugh, Youth Minister, 240-864-2519**  
**Vince Natali, Dir. Of Music Ministries, 240-864-2532**  
**Krys Psurek, 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, (children), 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.



A warm **Welcome** to everyone!  
We are happy you are here at Mass today.

New to the parish and want to register:

Blue registration cards are available on the wall rack in the main entrance of the church or you may register online. Go to our website: click About—parish registration form.

Would you like to offer your time and talent to the parish? Our Ministry Resource List can be found on our website on the Welcome tab or under Ministries, Social Responsibility, Documents.

Website: [www.straphaels.org](http://www.straphaels.org) Parish  
Phone: 301-762-2143



**Mark Your Calendar for  
the next COFFEE AND DONUTS  
Sunday, May 7  
after the  
8:30, 10, 11:30am  
and 1:00pm Masses  
See you there!**

### Adult Confirmation

For adults who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation and would like to prepare to receive on Pentecost Sunday, May 28, at St. Matthew's Cathedral.

Preparation sessions will be on Saturdays starting with 9AM Mass and meeting after Mass until 11AM. There will be six meetings starting April 15th until May 20th.

Please call Krysz Psurek at the RCIA number, 240-864-2542 and leave a message or by email [RCIA@straphaels.org](mailto:RCIA@straphaels.org) for more details and to sign up.

**If you would like to go on  
Father Mike's Holy Land Pilgrimage  
in October  
Please register by Email:  
[rtemmaus@gmail.com](mailto:rtemmaus@gmail.com)**

### Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week Week Within the Octave of Easter

#### Monday, April 10

6:30AM Michael Houston (d)  
9:00AM John & Ellen Moriarty (d)

#### Tuesday, April 11

6:30AM Johanna Martinez & Family  
9:00AM Michael Roy Brandes (d)

#### Wednesday, April 12

6:30AM James Wasel  
9:00AM Steve Cassano (d)

#### Thursday, April 13

6:30AM Intercession of Blessed Mother  
9:00AM Dolores Lingren (d)

#### Friday, April 14

6:30AM Elijah Perez  
9:00AM Jerome Leifeld (d)

#### Saturday, April 15

9:00AM John Farley (d)  
5:00PM Fr. Tom Dr. Joseph & Eileen Zigarelli (d)

#### Sunday, April 16

##### Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)

7:00AM	Fr. Christian	Members of the Parish
8:30AM	Fr. Christian	Benjamin Koka
10:00AM	Fr. Tom	Alice Mary Lee (d)
11:30AM	Fr. Tom	Paul & Linda Saah (d)
1:00PM	Fr. Christian	Carlos Barco (d)
6:00PM	Fr. Tom	Lauren Winn

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.

### Please pray for the soul of

Nancy Rael, mother of Alison May



**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](mailto:esalatto@straphaels.org). This bulletin was transmitted March 31.

## Divine Mercy Sunday April 16, 2023



**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
(following the 1:00 PM Mass)**

**3:00 PM - Chaplet of Divine Mercy**

**Benediction**

**Image and Relic will be available for  
veneration.**

Sr. Faustina had a very deep faith and love for the Lord. Her faith and love for the Lord Jesus led her to a very unique relationship with the Lord and a mystical experience documented in the treasure of her diary. From her diary, we see the mission of Sr. Faustina consists of three tasks:

- Proclaiming to the world the merciful love of God toward every human being as revealed in Holy Scripture.
- Imploring God's mercy for the whole world through the practice of new forms of devotion to Divine Mercy including the Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet, and the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday.
- Initiating the apostolic movement of Divine Mercy which undertakes the task of proclaiming and imploring God's Mercy for the world and strives for Christian perfection following precepts laid down by Sr. Faustina. The precepts require an attitude of child-like trust in God which expresses itself in fulfilling His will and in the attitude of showing mercy to one's neighbor.

For more information on Divine Mercy Sunday go to:

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

<https://www.usccb.org/prolife/divine-mercy-sunday>

## Scripture Readings for the Week of April 9, 2023

**Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord**  
Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 or Lk 24:13-35

**Monday Monday in the Octave of Easter**  
Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Mt 28:8-15

**Tuesday Tuesday in the Octave of Easter**  
Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 & 22; Jn 20:11-18

**Wednesday Wednesday in the Octave of Easter**  
Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 24:13-35

**Thursday Thursday in the Octave of Easter**  
Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 24:35-48

**Friday Friday in the Octave of Easter**  
Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a; Jn 21:1-14

**Saturday Saturday in the Octave of Easter**  
Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1 & 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21; Mk 16:9-15

**Sunday Divine Mercy Sunday**  
Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

## Rockville Catholic Summer Program Employment

Looking for an amazing summer job, deepening your faith and meeting other incredible young Catholics? Consider applying to be a counselor at the Rockville Catholic Summer Program, the area's largest Catholic summer camp. Join a staff of over 50 high school and college age teens leading fun camps for 200 campers a week this summer at St. Patrick Church. Best of all, staff attend daily Mass, theology talks and adoration as part of their paid day.

Visit [www.rockvillecatholicsummer.com/employment](http://www.rockvillecatholicsummer.com/employment) for more details!

The next  
Holy Mass  
followed by Healing Prayers

First Tuesday, May 2  
7:00 PM



Confessions will continue during Mass.

## THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR APRIL

For a culture of peace and non-violence  
We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

## 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).



## Youth Ministry

Annie McHugh, 240-864-2519

### Mary and the Pope - April 16

Join us for youth group as we seek to understand the role of Mary as intercessor and the Pope as the earthly authority for the Church from a biblical perspective. We'll explore the Old Testament and find the foundations for these two Catholic teachings! 7-9PM in the Youth Center, dinner included.

### Purgatory and Confession - April 23

Where in the Bible is a teaching on purgatory? On confession? Come to YG as we dive into the word of God to uncover where these Catholic teachings come from. 7-9PM in the Youth Center, dinner included.

**Retreats are held at Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20187.** Registration is required so that we can properly prepare. Visit us at [www.ourladyofbethesda.org](http://www.ourladyofbethesda.org) or call 301-365-0612.

### Mini-Retreats for Women

**Evening: Apr 26, 6:00-9:00 PM**

**Morning: Apr 27, 9:15 AM - 12:15 PM**



Ladies, join us for the next Mini-Retreat! Each Mini-Retreat (evening or morning) includes: Mass, adoration, a directed meditation, a practical talk, confession, time for personal prayer, and a delicious meal. Cost is \$25 per person. Advance Registration is required. Babysitting will be available during the

morning retreat and must be reserved in advance. Hosted by the Women of Regnum Christi.

### Have you signed up for Flocknote?

Sign up Today for an easy way to keep up with the updates and changes at St Raphael Catholic Church.

Flocknote is a tool for St. Raphael to communicate important information quickly parish-wide to our "Flock". You can sign up for FLOCKNOTE from the St. Raphael's homepage [www.straphael.org](http://www.straphael.org)

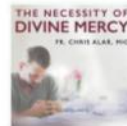
## THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of April 09, 2023



### Divine Mercy Chaplet | Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

Consider praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in a new way with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. This video on FORMED includes breathtaking footage of Catholics across the world performing works of mercy and asking God to have mercy on us.



### The Necessity of Divine Mercy by Fr. Chris Alar

Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, reveals the urgency to live and share the powerful message of Divine Mercy. He explains the basics of the Divine Mercy feast, image, novena, chaplet, and hour of mercy, and how to incorporate them into your spiritual life.



### Misery Meets Mercy: Saint Faustina

St. Faustina is known as the 'secretary of Divine Mercy' because of the revelations of the Lord to her about His unfathomable mercy. Join Dr. Ben Akers and Fr. Mateusz as they discuss her proclamation of the message of Divine Mercy.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](http://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.

An offering from the AQUEDUCT INSTITUTE and REGNUM CHRISTI



### St. Raphael Honor Roll

Please pray for those serving in our armed forces, those wounded in body and spirit, and for those families who have suffered loss.

Daniel Bertrand Del Bianco, USN (d) and family  
LT Victor H. Esch, III, USA  
CPT Paul D Galvin  
E-3/HN Colleen Gardella  
Robert Garret, US Army MP  
Taylor Hardy, AE USN  
Ens. Andrew Hayes, USN  
Captain Julia Timm Intili, USAF  
Jake Klosowski, USNA  
LT COL Todd Lennon, USAF  
Captain Frank Lowery, USN  
Commander Mike McNally, USN  
Charles McTavish, USA  
Ens Zachary Poindexter, USN  
2LT Dan Quackenbush  
1LT Will Quackenbush, USA  
2LT Benedict Ray, USMC  
LT Paul Schauppner, USN  
LT James Sheets (USN)  
2nd LT Andrew Valentine USMA  
LT Kenneth Yale, USAF

Changes: e-mail [esalatto@straphaels.org](mailto:esalatto@straphaels.org)



**chosen**

**A VOCATIONS RETREAT FOR YOUNG WOMEN**

"IT WAS NOT YOU WHO CHOSE ME, BUT I WHO CHOSE YOU AND APPOINTED YOU TO GO AND BEAR FRUIT THAT WILL REMAIN."  
JOHN 15:16

<b>WHO?</b>	<b>WHERE/WHEN?</b>	<b>limited spaces! register today!</b>
all high school young women	-Saturday, April 29, 2023 from 8:30am-4:00pm -Saint Mary of the Mills Catholic Church, Laurel MD	
<b>WHAT?</b>	<b>COST</b>	
a vocations retreat for women; we will have talks, games, adoration, Mass, time for reflection, snacks, lunch (chick-fil-a), and more!	-\$15 per person -scholarships are available if necessary	

**CONTACT**  
YOUTH@STMARYOFTHEMILLS.ORG

**WITH QUESTIONS!**  
REGISTER USING QR CODE!  
[WWW.STMARYSLAUREL.ORG/YWRETREAT](http://WWW.STMARYSLAUREL.ORG/YWRETREAT)  
REGISTRATION CLOSING APRIL 18TH



### Parental, Spousal and Significant-Other Bereavement Support Group

St. Elizabeth Bereavement Ministry will offer an eight-week bereavement support group series for adults who have experienced the death of a parent, spouse or significant other. The sessions will be held virtually using the Zoom format. The Spring series will meet on Thursday evenings at 7 – 8:30 PM, from April 13 - June 1, 2023. There is no fee but registration is required. Space is strictly limited so call early. To register call Deacon Kevin Byrne (301-279-5962) or Claudia McAuliffe (301-881-1457).

### Mercy Health Clinic Gala– Friday, April 28

Please join us at Columbia Country Club in Chevy Chase, MD for an evening of cocktails, dinner and dancing to live music by the Rockville Station, a local classic rock band. Bid in a silent and live auction featuring vacation homes in Hilton Head and Cape Cod. All proceeds support Mercy Health Clinic, a volunteer-driven, out-patient clinic offering primary and specialty medical care, medications and health education free of charge to low-income Montgomery County residents. For more information about Mercy Health Clinic and to buy tickets, please go to [www.mercyhealthclinic.org](http://www.mercyhealthclinic.org) or contact Joan Ronnenberg at 240-773-0332.

### Save the Date: Hope Blossoms 2023 benefiting St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families

Sister Mary Bader, DC and Jan and John Magnolia invite you to attend **Hope Blossoms 2023**, benefiting St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families. Honorees: Kathy and Ed Quinn are the Mary McGrory Award recipients and Luke Hester and Trudy Conrad are the Michele Heidenberger Volunteer Award recipients.

Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023: 6-8PM; Location: Columbia Country Club, 7900 Connecticut Ave, Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
[www.stanns.org/events](http://www.stanns.org/events)—Questions: Sue Flaherty: 301-559-5500 or [sflaherty@stanns.org](mailto:sflaherty@stanns.org)

**FIND THE RIGHT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOR YOU**



**The Archdiocese of Washington CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FAIR**

Designed for rising 7th and 8th grade students and their parents, the fair includes exhibits from each Catholic high school, information on financial aid and the admissions process.

**LOCATION:** The Catholic University of America  
**DATE:** Saturday, April 22, 2023  
**TIME:** 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



To register, please visit the 2023 Catholic High School Fair section at [adwcatholicsschools.org](http://adwcatholicsschools.org) after April 1, 2023.

Having unresolved feelings about your abortion experience?  
You don't feel forgiven?  
Feelings of guilt, shame, regret, and sadness return?



**Come to an Entering Canaan Day of Prayer and Healing**

April 22, 2023  
9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. ET  
Suggested donation: \$40.00 (financial assistance available)

For more information, contact Project Rachel Ministry at 301-982-2008 or [hope@adw.org](mailto:hope@adw.org).

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

Location and participation are confidential due to the personal nature of this experience.



# School News

April 9, 2023



A peek behind our classroom doors



## Science Fair Winner



Seventh Grade student, Christian, took home the blue ribbon for his science project. He determined which angle of attack creates the most lift for a butterfly; something known as aerodynamics. A huge thank you to our fabulous panel of judges!



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



After the winners are announced, students in grades K-5 attend the fair where middle school students explain their projects.



**ONLINE AUCTION**

**April 24-30**

- ✓ amazing items
- ✓ easy to bid
- ✓ open to all

**ADULT SOCIAL**

**April 29**

- ✓ live music
- ✓ food/beverages
- ✓ live cigar rolling

**WWW.STRAPHAELSCHOOLMD.ORG**

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





## NO MARRIAGE IS BEYOND HOPE

The Retrouvaille marriage program is for couples with marital problems that want help. Those who are considering marriage separation and those who are already separated or divorced are encouraged to consider the Retrouvaille Program. There is always hope of reviving your relationship.

For more details, please contact us at 443-400-7017, 3015@HelpOurMarriage.org or [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org)



**Please Help Save Lives in Bethesda!** We thank you for your support of 40 Days for Life which ended April 1. St. Raphael's Right to Life continues its support with a weekly prayer vigil that occurs in front of Leroy Carhart's abortion facility at the Wildwood Medical Center, 10401 Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda. For more information email Deacon Rich at [rsmhome@verizon.net](mailto:rsmhome@verizon.net)

## International Exhibition THE EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES OF THE WORLD

Designed and created by the Servant of God Carlo Acutis



### Coming to Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center in May! Saturday, May 6

You and your family are invited to **experience the International Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles of the World**. This amazing exhibit was compiled by Blessed Carlo Acutis, a teen from Italy who died from cancer but had a true devotion to the Eucharist and a passion for researching and documenting the miracles.

Featuring more than 100 miracles from 20 countries, the exhibition includes the principal Eucharistic Miracles recognized by the Church, the plus a first-class relic of Bl. Carlo. **Exhibit hours: 10AM-6PM; there will be a mass celebrated at 10AM.** All are welcome. Find more information on the website [www.ourladyofbethesda.org](http://www.ourladyofbethesda.org) or call 301-365-0612. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, A Place to Encounter Christ! 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter  
Experience **July 14-16 2023**



1513 Dunster Rd. Rockville, MD 20854  
*Your marriage deserves that kind of attention!*

- ♥ Non-residential (couples go home each night).
- ♥ The weekend begins on Friday evening, runs all day Saturday, and ends with **Mass on Sunday** afternoon.
- ♥ It's a time for you and your spouse to be **alone together**: to explore, rediscover, and reconnect with each other.
- ♥ Together, you **focus on your relationship** for an entire weekend.

There is a \$50.00 non-refundable application fee. Each couple has the opportunity to make a voluntary donation at the close of the weekend.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY ON LINE,  
CONTACT: [MOMENTS4MARRIAGE.ORG](http://MOMENTS4MARRIAGE.ORG) OR [WWME.ORG](http://WWME.ORG) OR  
CALL: 301-541-7007**

WWME is faithful to the Roman Catholic Church's teaching that marriage is a covenant that exists between one man and a woman. Any reference to marriage or couple made by WWME is in this context.





## Religious Education

Mary Beaudoin, 202-294-7697

### CRS Rice Bowl – Donating Lenten Alms

Throughout Lent we have called to mind the countless men, women and children who endure hunger, homelessness, a lack of resources or security. Today our Lenten fast turns into Easter feast as God wins the day. As we celebrate Easter with joy, it is our responsibility as members of God's one human family to share that joy with everyone, near and far. Donations of your Lenten alms can be made online. Go to [www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org) and click on Donate.



### Prayer at Table during Eastertime

Here is a special prayer to use before meals on Easter and throughout 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.

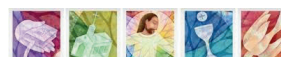
### Witness to Faith

On this Easter Sunday, remember to make time to reflect on the Scripture readings with your family. Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/040923.cfm>

Key Passage: Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed. (John 20:8)

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

- Adults: What is your experience of resurrection in your own life or the life of your family?
- Kids: Jesus is with us today. How can you see him in the people around you in Church?



Faith Formation

### Religious Education

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. Find the SRRE Calendar at our webpage:

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

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

June – registration for 2023-2024 opens

### First Eucharist



This week children complete chapter 7 of *God's Gift Eucharist* or chapter 7 of *Eucharist: We Give Thanks and Praise* workbooks. Older children are continuing in their *God's Gift Reconciliation and Eucharist* books (chapter 13) and completing the worksheet for each chapter.

First Communion Masses will be celebrated on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. Rehearsals will be on Wednesday, May 3 (5:00 PM for morning First Eucharist, and 6:00 PM for afternoon First Eucharist).

### Confirmation Year 2



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. Mass time assignments are being made now.

Be sure to contact the SRRE office if you are requesting one Mass or the other.

### Confirmation Year 1



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.

Year 1 students will be given a copy of *57 Saints* to read in preparation for choosing a Confirmation saint.

### A Prayer for Refugees and Victims of War

Lord God,

No one is a stranger to you  
And no one is ever far from your loving care.

In your kindness, watch over refugees and victims of war,  
Those separated from their loved ones,  
Young people who are lost,  
And those who have left home or who have run away from home.

Bring them back safely to the place where they long to be,  
And help us always to show your kindness to strangers and to all in need.

- Author Unknown



### Marriage Moments

Easter has come. Hurray! We can eat sweets again and let go of “giving up.” But what has Lent taught you this year? Reflect together honestly about how this Lent (or harder times in general) have taught you a life lesson – perhaps how to love each other better, warts and all.

### Parenting Pointers

Remember, your children are not a reflection of you. They are souls placed on this earth by God with their own unique purpose. Our job, as parent and guide, is to help them identify this purpose.

### 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:*

#### WATER

**EASY:** Wash dishes and laundry on a full load.

**CHALLENGING:** Install a system at your home to capture and store rainwater

Also, be sure to see the documentary of Pope Francis' meeting with activists from the Brazilian Amazon, India, Senegal and the U.S. “The Letter: A Message For Our Earth” is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BI>

\*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 Three: You

Are the Now of God.

#### Migrants as an epitome of our time

91. How can we fail to think of all those young people affected by movements of migration? “Migration, considered globally, is a structural phenomenon, and not a passing emergency. It may occur within one country or between different countries. The Church’s concern is focused especially on those fleeing from war, violence, political or religious persecution, from natural disasters including those caused by climate change, and from extreme poverty. Many of them are young. In general, they are seeking opportunities for themselves and their families. They dream of a better future and they want to create the conditions for achieving it.” Migrants “remind us of a basic aspect of our faith, that we are ‘strangers and exiles on the earth’ (Heb 11:13).”

92. Other migrants are “attracted by Western culture, sometimes with unrealistic expectations that expose them to grave disappointments. Unscrupulous traffickers, frequently linked to drug cartels or arms cartels, exploit the weakness of migrants, who too often experience violence, trafficking, psychological and physical abuse and untold sufferings on their journey. Nor must we overlook the particular vulnerability of migrants who are unaccompanied minors, or the situation of those compelled to spend many years in refugee camps, or of those who remain trapped for a long time in transit countries, without being able to pursue a course of studies or to use their talents. In some host countries, migration causes fear and alarm, often fomented and exploited for political ends. This can lead to a xenophobic mentality, as people close in on themselves, and this needs to be addressed decisively.”

93. “Young migrants experience separation from their place of origin, and often a cultural and religious uprooting as well. Fragmentation is also felt by the communities they leave behind, which lose their most vigorous and enterprising elements, and by families, especially when one or both of the parents migrates, leaving the children in the country of origin. The Church has an important role as a point of reference for the young members of these divided families. However, the stories of migrants are also stories of encounter between individuals and between cultures. For the communities and societies to which they come, migrants bring an opportunity for enrichment and the integral human development of all. Initiatives of welcome involving the Church have an important role from this perspective; they can bring new life to the communities capable of undertaking them.”

94. “Given the varied backgrounds of the Synod Fathers, the discussion of migrants benefited from a great variety of approaches, particularly from countries of departure and countries of arrival. Grave concern was also expressed by Churches whose members feel forced to escape war and persecution and by others who see in these forced migrations a threat to their survival. The very fact that the Church can embrace all these varied perspectives allows her to play a prophetic role in society with regard to the issue of migration.” In a special way, I urge young people not to play into the hands of those who would set them against other young people, newly arrived in their countries, and who would encourage them to view the latter as a threat, and not possessed of the same inalienable dignity as every other human being.



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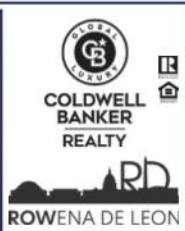
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