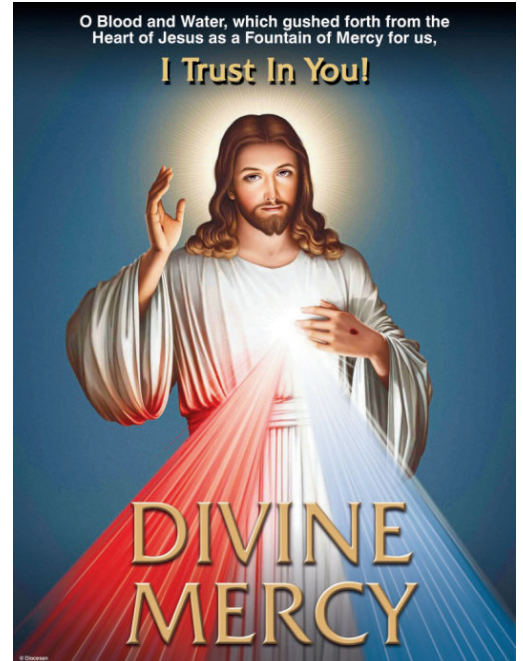


St. Raphael Catholic Church



Easter Sunday, 10:00AM, Children's Mass



1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

April 16, 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

Rev. Michael Salah, Pastor, ext. 112
Rev. Christian Huebner, Parochial Vicar, 301-762-2143, ext. 150
Email: 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
Deacon Frank Salatto, ext. 149

Mary J. Beaudoin, Dir. Of Religious Education, ext. 124
Gerri Stoner, St. Raphael School Secretary, ext. 122
Teri Dwyer, Principal, Baptism Coordinator, ext. 121
Eileen Kutchak, Dir. of Parish Programming, ext. 110
Luisa Duarte, Spanish Coordinator, 240-864-2565
Pietro Lojaco, Assistant for Religious Education, ext. 123
Annalee McHugh, Youth Minister, 240-864-2519
Vince Natali, Dir. Of Music Ministries, 240-864-2532
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.



"Our participation in the Mass appropriately culminates in our reception of Holy Communion if we are properly disposed; and fittingly, the reception of Holy Communion includes the reception of the Precious Blood. I am grateful that now, under God's providence, we are all able to receive the Precious Blood once again, and I urge everyone to make use of this great gift in their own celebration and reception of the Most Holy Eucharist."

—excerpt from Cardinal Gregory's letter to the Pastors

The distribution of the Precious Blood returned to St. Raphael's on Holy Thursday.

For those who wish to receive Holy Communion under both species, the Precious Blood will be available at two stations.



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 of Divine Mercy and
Relic of St. Faustina will be available for veneration.**

For more information on Divine Mercy Sunday go to:

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

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

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 Krys Psurek at the RCIA number, 240-864-2542 and leave a message or by email RCIA@straphaels.org for more details and to sign up.

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 11th.

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week Second Week of Easter

Monday, April 17

6:30AM Alfred Bartosiak (d)
9:00AM John Thomas Cunningham (d)

Tuesday, April 18

6:30AM Bianca Gattoni (d)
9:00AM Deacon Martin Begley

Wednesday, April 19

6:30AM Joseph Balogh (d)
9:00AM Leroy Turney (d)

Thursday, April 20

6:30AM Gary Welsh (d)
9:00AM Constanza Mondragon (d)

Friday, April 21

6:30AM Curt Davis (d)
9:00AM Henry Williams

Saturday, April 22

9:00AM Fernando Sarceno
5:00PM Fr. Mike Jaime Garcia (d)

Sunday, April 23

7:00AM	Fr. Tom	Members of the Parish
8:30AM	Fr. Mike	David Denker (d)
10:00AM	Fr. Mike	Joan Wickes (d)
11:30AM	Fr. Tom	Frank Jaworski (d)
1:00PM	Fr. Christian	Carlos Barco (d)
6:00PM	Fr. Christian	Laura Stohlman (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 and link to YouTube.

**If you would like to go on
Father Mike's Holy Land Pilgrimage
in October**

**Please register by Email:
rtemmaus@gmail.com**

Please pray for the soul of

Rose Victory, mother of Tracey Moss
Barbara O'Connor, mother of Tim O'Connor



**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.**

New to the parish and want to register:



Blue registration cards are available on the wall top 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

Phone: 301-762-2143

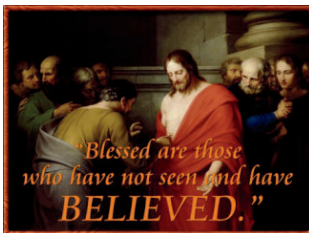
The next
Holy Mass
followed by Healing Prayers

First Tuesday, May 2
7:00 PM



Confessions will continue during Mass.

Parish Penance
FIRST TUESDAY, APRIL 4



FAITH DIRECT

Christ is risen! As His disciples, we are called to go forth and spread the good news of Christ's Resurrection. The fruitful ministries at our parish are examples of how many of you have answered, and continue to answer, that call. To ensure such work can continue requires not only gifts of time, but also of financial help. I ask you to prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through Faith Direct. You can sign up online at Faithdirect/MD34 or call Faith Direct customer service at 866-507-8757. 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. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

Father Mike
Pastor

SODALITY

Please join Sodality on

Wednesday, April 19

in the Parish Library

for an evening with Fr. Mike Salah.

Rosary and refreshments included! 7-9 PM



**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!**

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.

**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 for more details!

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 adwcatholicschools.org after April 1, 2023.

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.

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 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—Questions: Sue Flaherty: 301-559-5500 or sflaherty@stanns.org

THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of April 16, 2023



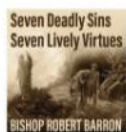
God's School of Trust | Divine Mercy | Episode 1

The sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve, has distorted the way we see God. But God hasn't given up on us. In fact, he has tirelessly worked to heal our distorted image of him through his "School of Trust," beginning with his Chosen People in the Old Testament.



St. Bernadette of Lourdes

"St. Bernadette of Lourdes" is a beautiful and faithful retelling of the familiar story of one of the world's most beloved saints. Humorous, moving, and reverent, this unique, award-winning, independent film has been seen by millions worldwide and has sold tens of thousands of copies since its release in 2009.



Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues by Bishop Robert Barron

Join noted professor of theology and author Bishop Robert Barron in this revealing presentation as he sheds light on the seven deadly sins—those great spiritual blocks that inhibit our relationship with God and others—and the antidote to them, the seven lively virtues!

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

An offering from the Aquinas Institute and Ignatius Press



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

WHO?

all high school
young women

WHERE/WHEN?

-Saturday, April 29, 2023
from 8:30am-4:00pm
-Saint Mary of the Mills
Catholic Church, Laurel
MD

WHAT?

a vocations retreat for
women; we will have talks,
games, adoration, Mass,
time for reflection, snacks,
lunch (chick-fil-a), and
more!

COST

-\$15 per person
-scholarships are available
if necessary

limited
spaces!
register
today!

CONTACT

YOUTH@STMARYOFTHEMILLS.ORG

WITH QUESTIONS!

REGISTER USING QR CODE!

WWW.STMARYSLAUREL.ORG/YWRETREAT

REGISTRATION CLOSING APRIL 18TH



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)

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

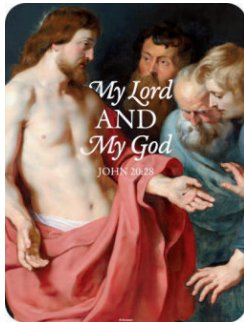
Come to an Entering Canaan Day of Prayer and Healing

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.

 The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

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



Scripture Readings for the Week of April 16, 2023

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

Monday

Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9; Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday

Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; Jn: 3:7b-15

Wednesday

Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn 3:16-21

Thursday

Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20; Jn 3:31-36

Friday

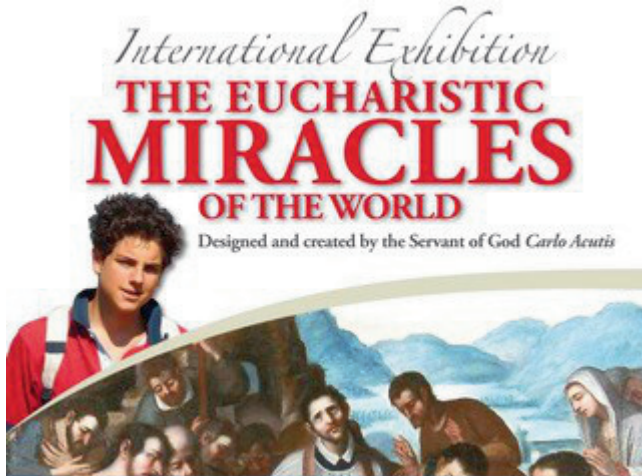
Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15

Saturday

Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; Jn 6:16-21

Sunday Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35



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 or call 301-365-0612. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, A Place to Encounter Christ! 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.

 **Join US**

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 OR 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.

School News

April 16, 2023

A peek behind our classroom doors

Mayor Newton Visits 4th Grade



Rockville Mayor Newton came and talked about her job as Mayor of Rockville with the 4th graders.



Safely Delivering Oreos



Third and Eighth-grade students work together to create a safe parachute delivery for a package of Oreos from the second floor down to the first floor. It was a fun, hands-on STEM learning experience!



www.straphaelschoolmd.org | www.srnsmd.org | [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) @SRSrockville



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 | www.srnsmd.org | [f](https://www.facebook.com/SRSRockville) [t](https://twitter.com/SRSRockville) [i](https://www.instagram.com/SRSRockville) @SRSRockville



Join the St. Raphael's Adult Club for a trip to Hillwood Estate and Gardens on Wednesday, April 26. We will leave from the Potomac Woods Swim Club (across the street from Church - NOT in the St. Raphael's Church parking lot) - please be there at 8:45 am - and we should return by 3:15 pm.

We will see a short introductory movie about Hillwood and the fascinating life of its owner, Marjorie Merriweather Post, before we have a private tour of the House, a buffet lunch in the Cafe, and time to stroll the magnificent greenhouse and gardens as well as see their wonderful gift shop.

The cost for this trip (including bus, entrance fee to Hillwood, private tour of the House, lunch and all taxes and gratuities), is \$55 for Adult Club members and \$60 for non-members. Please make your check payable to St. Raphael's Adult Club and send it to Cathy Sullivan, 5 Richview Court, Potomac, MD 20854. We must receive your check by Monday, April 17 and space on the bus is limited to 32 people.

Buffet lunch for our group will be in the Merriweather Cafe and will include assorted sandwiches (ham and brie, roasted turkey, tuna salad, and caprese), Hillwood garden salad, cookies, water and iced tea. Other beverages are available at an additional cost.

There is always something new at Hillwood as the exhibits are changed periodically but the house and the garden are lovely in every season. Hope you can join us!



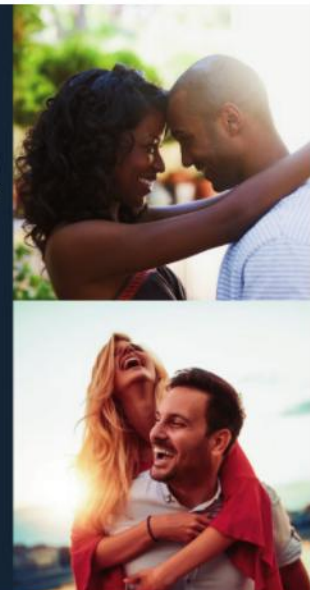
"Thank you to everyone who participated in our 40 Days for Life campaign this Lent. We will continue to support the 40DFL Campaign to end abortion in Maryland by participating in the Witness for Life Vigil the first Saturday of every month. If you would like to get involved in this or future pro-life events, please see the Respect for Life page on our website at <https://www.straphaels.org/respect-for-life> or email Deacon Rich Meyer at rsmhome@verizon.net."



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



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. Our Lenten fast has turned 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 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.

Encouraging Others

Today we celebrate the Second Sunday of Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday. Remember to make time to reflect on the Scripture readings with your family. Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/041623.cfm>

Key Passage: Then Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." (John 20:27)

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

- ▶ Adults: We show our faith when we demonstrate courage in the face of difficulty. What could you do this week to help strengthen someone?
- ▶ Kids: What could you do this week to encourage someone who is sad or discouraged?



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)

SRRE classes resume today

End-of-the-Year Social on May 15

June – registration for 2023-2024 opens

First Eucharist

This week children complete chapter 8 of *God's Gift Eucharist* or chapter 8 of *Eucharist: We Give Thanks and Praise* workbooks. Older children are continuing in their *God's Gift Reconciliation and Eucharist* books (chapter 14) 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 (5:00PM 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 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. 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

Apr. 17-23, 2023 is Natl. Week of Conversation. Of course this means talking together. But...remember to LISTEN FIRST. Consider taking the [Listen First Pledge](https://www.listenfirstproject.org/nwoc). (<https://www.listenfirstproject.org/nwoc>) Now the dilemma - Who starts the conversation so the other can "listen first"?

Parenting Pointers

Apr. 16-22 is Natl. Volunteer week. Perhaps you already do plenty of volunteer work. Good. But what about your kids? Consider doing a family volunteer action this week or month. Ideally, let them make the decision of what to do. Examples: clean up an area, make a sad person happier...

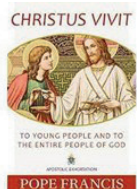
*Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers by Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net

Living Laudato Si'

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.

During April, check out [Our Common Home: A Guide to Caring for Our Living Planet](https://www.sei.org/publications/ourcommonhome/). <https://www.sei.org/publications/ourcommonhome/>

This is a joint initiative of the Vatican (the Holy See's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development) and the Stockholm Environment Institute. [PDF Version for Download](#)



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.

Ending every form of abuse

95. Recently, urgent appeals have been made for us to hear the cry of the victims of different kinds of abuse perpetrated by some bishops, priests, religious and laypersons. These sins cause their victims "sufferings that can last a lifetime and that no repentance can remedy. This phenomenon is widespread in society and it also affects the Church and represents a serious obstacle to her mission."

96. It is true that "the scourge of the sexual abuse of minors is, and historically has been, a widespread phenomenon in all cultures and societies," especially within families and in various institutions; its extent has become known primarily "thanks to changes in public opinion." Even so, this problem, while it is universal and "gravely affects our societies as a whole... is in no way less monstrous when it takes place within the Church." Indeed, "in people's justified anger, the Church sees the reflection of the wrath of God, betrayed and insulted."

97. "The Synod reaffirms the firm commitment made to adopting rigorous preventative measures intended to avoid the recurrence [of these crimes], starting with the selection and formation of those to whom tasks of responsibility and education will be entrusted." At the same time, the determination to apply the "actions and sanctions that are so necessary" must be reiterated. And all this with the grace of Christ. There can be no turning back.

98. "Abuse exists in various forms: the abuse of power, the abuse of conscience, sexual and financial abuse. Clearly, the ways of exercising authority that make all this possible have to be eradicated, and the irresponsibility and lack of transparency with which so many cases have been handled have to be challenged. The desire to dominate, lack of dialogue and transparency, forms of double life, spiritual emptiness, as well as psychological weaknesses, are the terrain on which corruption thrives." Clericalism is a constant temptation on the part of priests who see "the ministry they have received as a power to be exercised, rather than a free and generous service to be offered. It makes us think that we belong to a group that has all the answers and no longer needs to listen or has anything to learn." Doubtless, such clericalism can make consecrated persons lose respect for the sacred and inalienable worth of each person and of his or her freedom.



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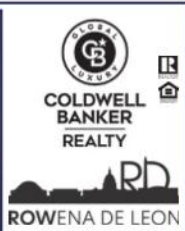
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