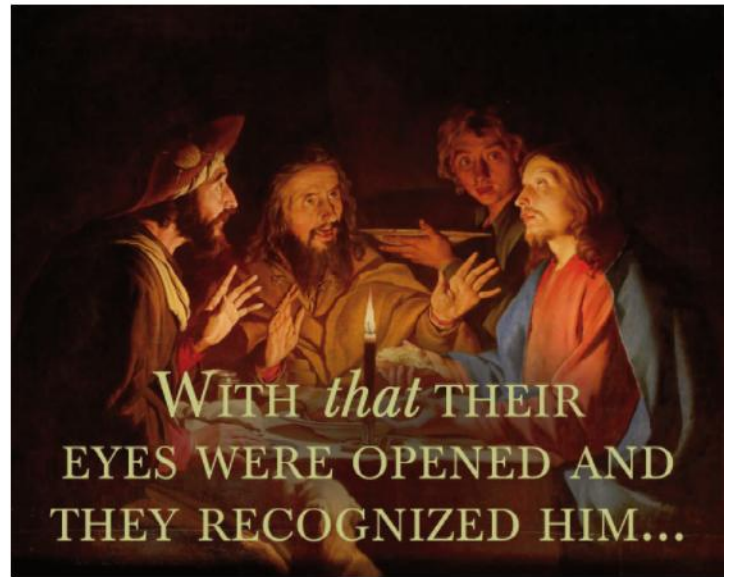
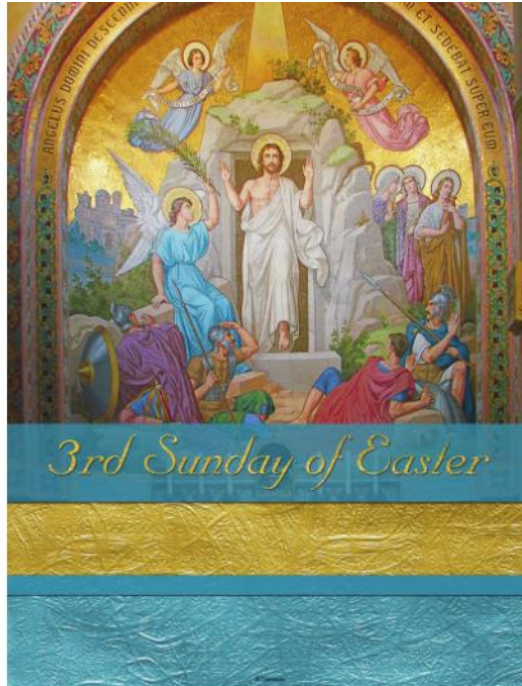


St. Raphael Catholic Church



1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

April 23, 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 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

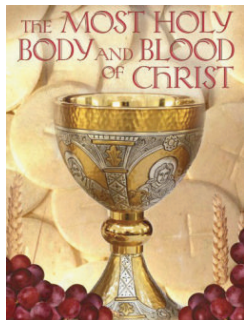
Miraculous Medal Novena: Tuesday, 7:30PM
Divine Mercy Chaplet: Tuesday, following Novena
Thursday, 7:00PM

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.

"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 has returned at all Masses.

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

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. The deadline for registering is Monday, April 24.

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 18.

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week THIRD WEEK OF EASTER

Monday, April 24

6:30AM William Michael Hammond (d)
9:00AM Fausto Stacey (d)

Tuesday, April 25

6:30AM Minelly Villarreal (d)
9:00AM Minelly Villarreal (d)

Wednesday, April 26

6:30AM Rosemarie Buckley (d)
9:00AM Deacon Richard Mattocks (d)

Thursday, April 27

6:30AM Joan England (d)
9:00AM Monica Leupold

Friday, April 28

6:30AM Fr. Danielle Rebbegiani
9:00AM John & Ellen Moriarty (d)

Saturday, April 29

9:00AM Rosalba Barco (d)
5:00PM Fr. Christian Thomas Dougherty (d)

Sunday, April 30

7:00AM	Fr. Mike	Myrna Batay (d)
8:30AM	Fr. Tom	Members of the Parish
10:00AM	Fr. Christian	Arthur Keefe (d)
11:30AM	Fr. Mike	Beata Bacza Bisk (d)
1:00PM	Fr. Christian	Carlos Barco (d)
6:00PM	Fr. Tom	Stella Jasinski 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.

Baptism

Chikamara Rylee Ikoro

April 10

Please pray for the soul of

Reverend Robert T. Guillen



**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.**

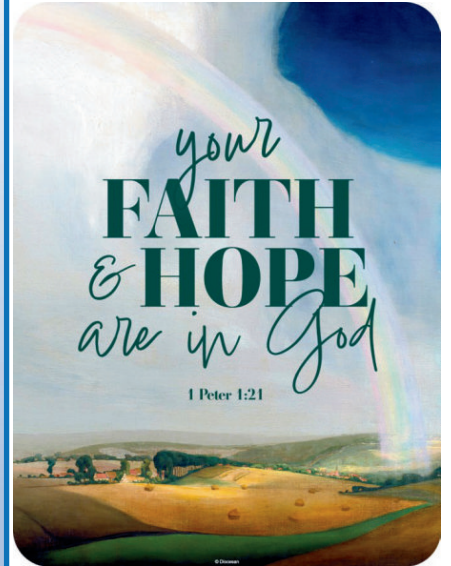
The next Holy Mass

followed by Healing Prayers

First Tuesday, May 2
7:00 PM



Confessions will continue during Mass.



Please join us for the
First Friday Coffee

May 5

after the 9:00 AM Mass
in the parish library

Rose Folsom will speak on
“The Virtues of Mary”.

The First Friday Coffee
will resume in September.

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!

THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR APRIL

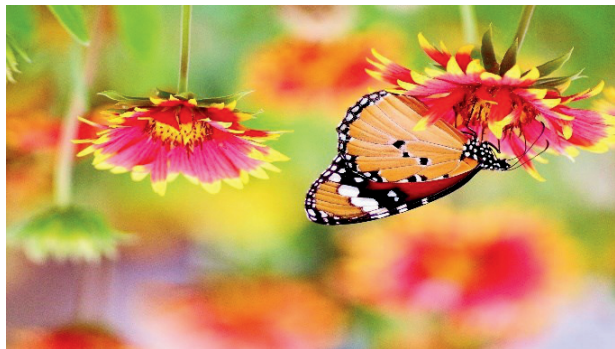
For a culture of peace and non-violence
We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

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.

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!

POST CANA



When: Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Where: Our Lady of Grace in Leisure World, Silver Spring

Time: 11:00AM until 2:00PM

Entertainment:

Captain David Wilbar will return with a music playlist of country, classic rock, and oldies songs. Also coming back is Mara Riordan who will treat us to her Irish dancing. Father Mark Hughes from Holy Redeemer will also join us.

Lunch: The six choices for a boxed lunch from Sisters Sandwiches in Olney are:

Roasted Turkey and Provolone Cheese on French Baguette

Ham and Swiss Cheese on Marble Rye (Swiss, provolone, gouda, cheddar, American)

Chicken Salad on Spinach Wrap

Tuna Salad on Multigrain Bread

Roasted Veggie with Mozzarella Cheese on French Baguette

Veggie wrap with cheese.

Bring \$20 in cash. The deadline for making a reservation is Friday morning, May 12th. Registered members as well as prospective members contact Mary Dugan at 301-873-3902 or marydugan12@yahoo.com.

Youth Ministry

Annie McHugh, 240-864-2519

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.

St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families Annual Hope Blossoms Event, May 10 at Columbia Country Club

Sister Mary Bader, DC, and Honorary Co-Hosts Jan & John Magnolia invite you to Hope Blossoms - our annual cocktail reception and awards ceremony which celebrates and supports the families rewriting their futures at St. Ann's Center. All proceeds will directly support St. Ann's Center's programs.

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

Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage

St. Mary's Newport was chosen to be a featured site for the **Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage**—an annual tour that rotates between the counties of Maryland every few years, where people can tour historic homes and their gardens. Moreover, they will be donating all the proceeds raised to St. Mary's Newport Catholic Church.

The tour is on Saturday, April 29th, from 10.00AM to 5.00PM. More information can be found at their website (<https://www.mhgp.org/prince-george-s-county>), or their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/people/Maryland-House-and-Garden-Pilgrimage/100064481148450/>)

Scripture Readings for the Week of April 23, 2023

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

Monday

Memorial of St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr

Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday

Feast of Saint Mark, Evangelist

1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

Memorial of St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr & St Louis Mary de Montfort, Priest

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

Saturday

Memorial of Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Jn 6:60-69

Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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.



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

THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of April 23, 2023



Episode 1: Saint Mark the Evangelist

Just who is St. Mark, the author of this short but action-packed Gospel? Using outside sources, other books of the Bible, and the Gospel itself, Dr. Gray takes a closeup look at St. Mark, and his connection with St. Peter and the Christians of Rome.



Who is St. Catherine of Siena?

In light of St. Catherine of Siena's feast day, join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Elizabeth Klein, as they celebrate this holy woman: a nurse and mystic with papal influence who became a doctor of the Church.



Can You Trust God? by Dr. Tim Gray

To be a saint, we must trust God wholeheartedly. Since the fall of our first parents, however, humanity has been tempted to mistrust the Father's love for us. Scripture scholar Dr. Tim Gray takes us on a journey that addresses the pervasive misconceptions about God, showing us that there is no reason not to follow him.

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

An offering from the AQUINAS INSTITUTE and ST. RAPHAEL PARISH

School News

April 23, 2023



ST. RAPHAEL
Fides et Ratio



A peek behind our classroom doors



Spring Musical *Cinderella* Youth Edition



www.straphaelschoolmd.org | www.srnsmd.org |    @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

Get to Know Some of Our Top Auction Donors

THE ST·JAMES



The St. James Performance Club - Look no farther than 6828 Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda, MD for a brand-new take on physical fitness! Up for bid in the 2023 Spring Soiree Online Auction is a 3-month membership to The St. James.



Joanne Rodriguez

INTERIOR DESIGN



Joanne Rodriguez knew that interior design would be her lifelong passion. Now, after 20+ years in the industry, this SRNS alumni mom is bringing her talents to the Spring Soiree Online Auction. Visit the Bidding Page between April 24th and April 30th and you may win one of Joanne's four design consultation sessions.



and rewards-based methods. Her devotion to man's best friend - no matter how big or small.

Melissa Dilla has dedicated her life to honing the craft of dog training and behavior modification by using only force-free, fear-free, positive reinforcement,

To bid on these packages AND more - take out your phone, open your camera, and hover over this QR code. Click the link and start bidding! It is that easy!! Good Luck!!



www.straphaelschoolmd.org | www.srnsmd.org | @SRRockville



NO MARRIAGE IS BEYOND HOPE

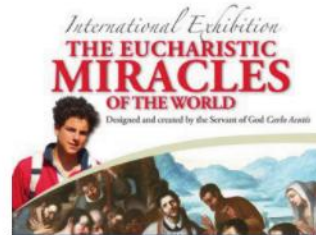
The Retrouvaille marriage program is for couples with marital problems that want help. Those who are considering marriage separation and those who are already separated or divorced are encouraged to consider the Retrouvaille Program. There is always hope of reviving your relationship.

For more details, please contact us at 443-400-7017, 3015@HelpOurMarriage.org or www.HelpOurMarriage.org



Mark your calendar for the exhibit and retreat at Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.

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, 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.



Marriage Retreat~ Back to Basics June 16-17

Refresh your marriage by going Back to Basics! This Marriage Renewal Retreat weekend is the signature marriage retreat of Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center and covers many of the topics presented in their highly acclaimed marriage prep program. You will learn practical tips and advice from our team of Catholic priests and married couples. You will experience a mixture of talks, questionnaires, time for personal reflection (individually and with your spouse); celebration of the Saturday Vigil Mass, and time for Confession and Renewal of Wedding Vows are all included. This is a two-day retreat, but you do not stay overnight. Retreat schedule~ Fri: 7:00-9:30PM, Sat: 8:30AM-6:30PM. There will also be time to socialize with the other participants, but this program is about the couple, and no one will be put on the spot to share with the group. Cost to attend: \$335 per couple; **EARLY-BIRD RATE: \$225.** Visit our website for more information and to register for www.ourladyofbethesda.org or call 301-365-0612.




Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience July 14-16

& Renewal July 30



- ♥ 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 **focus on your relationship** for an entire weekend.

There is a \$50.00 non-refundable application fee with opportunity for voluntary donation at the end

APPLY ON LINE! CONTACT: MOMENTS4MARRIAGE.ORG OR WWME.ORG OR CALL: 301-602-0249

Religious Education
Mary Beaudoin, 202-294-7697



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.

Eastertime

Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the "Feast of feasts," the "Solemnity of solemnities," just as the Eucharist is the "Sacrament of sacraments" (the Great Sacrament). St. Athanasius calls Easter "the Great Sunday" . . . The mystery of the Resurrection, in which Christ crushed death, permeates with its powerful energy our old time, until all is subjected to him. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1169) The paschal mystery (the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus) is the center of our faith. It is the model that governs and shapes the life of each Christian.

The celebration of Easter is not limited to one day or even one week; it lasts fifty days. God's sending of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost) is the moment when we come to know the full impact of salvation on the world and enjoy the outpouring of God's life upon us.

CRS Rice Bowl – Donating Lenten Alms



Throughout Lent we 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.

Recognizing the Lord

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Easter. This year we hear the Gospel story of the disciple on the road to Emmaus. Remember to make time to reflect on the Scripture readings with your family. Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/042323.cfm>

Key Passage: When he was at the table with the disciples, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. (Luke 24:30-31)
. . . and then have a family sharing time on the questions below:

- ▶ Adults: In what way have you come to know Jesus better through the breaking of the bread at Eucharist?
- ▶ Kids: When you join Jesus at the table of the Eucharist next Sunday, what would you like to thank him for?

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

Were Not Our Hearts Burning within Us?

The two disciples in today's Gospel are like all of us - frequently downcast and disillusioned. In the midst of our many questions and disappointments, we wonder where Christ Jesus is. Children, teens, and adults are also searching for answers and trying to make sense of the world and of our faith. As a Catholic Christian community, we believe that Jesus is walking with us and, through faith, we recognize him in the Eucharist.

The joy of knowing Jesus propels us to share the Good News with others. Each of us must prayerfully consider how God is calling us to grow in our faith and to participate in the Church's evangelizing mission. Through the ministry of catechesis, adults who have journeyed with Jesus now teach others about him. Catechists grow in knowledge of our faith as they prepare lessons and journey with their learners. Please contact Mary Beaudoin to learn more about becoming involved in the ministry of catechesis at St. Raphael.

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, 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

Last week was National Conversation Week. What was your favorite conversation with your beloved? Forgot? It's not too late. Talk today. Didn't forget? Even better. Look for a new person to have a respectful conversation with - perhaps a stranger or someone you often disagree with.

Parenting Pointers

April 22 is Earth Day. Enjoy nature together today or this weekend. Take a hike.

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:

NATURE

EASY: Pick up trash along a walking-jogging route.

CHALLENGING: Plant a garden that will attract pollinators. Butterflies, bees, and birds can be your friends.

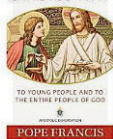
*Marriage Moments, Parenting Pointers, and Eco-Tips by Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net

Living Laudato Si'

During April, check out [Our Common Home: A Guide to Caring for Our Living Planet](http://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



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 - continued

99. Together with the Synod Fathers, I wish to thank, with gratitude and affection, "those who had the courage to report the evil they experienced: they help the Church to acknowledge what happened and the need to respond decisively." Particular gratitude is also due for "the generous commitment of countless lay persons, priests, consecrated men and women, and bishops who daily devote themselves with integrity and dedication to the service of the young. Their efforts are like a great forest that quietly grows. Many of the young people present at the Synod also expressed gratitude to those who have accompanied them and they emphasized the great need for adults who can serve as points of reference."

100. Thank God, those who committed these horrible crimes are not the majority of priests, who carry out their ministry with fidelity and generosity. I ask young people to let themselves be inspired by this vast majority. And if you see a priest at risk, because he has lost the joy of his ministry, or seeks affective compensation, or is taking the wrong path, remind him of his commitment to God and his people, remind him of the Gospel and urge him to hold to his course. In this way, you will contribute greatly to something fundamental: preventing these atrocities from being repeated. This dark cloud also challenges all young people who love Jesus Christ and his Church: they can be a source of great healing if they employ their great capacity to bring about renewal, to urge and demand consistent witness, to keep dreaming and coming up with new ideas.

101. Nor is this the only sin of the members of the Church; her long history is not without its shadows. Our sins are before the eyes of everyone; they appear all too clearly in the lines on the age-old face of the Church, our Mother and Teacher. For two thousand years she has advanced on her pilgrim way, sharing "the joys and the hopes, the grief and anguish" of all humanity. She has made this journey as she is, without cosmetic surgery of any kind. She is not afraid to reveal the sins of her members, which some try at times to hide, before the burning light of the word of the Gospel, which cleanses and purifies. Nor does she stop reciting each day, in shame: "Have mercy on me, Lord, in your kindness... my sin is always before me" (Ps 51:3.5). Still, let us never forget that we must not abandon our Mother when she is wounded, but stand beside her, so that she can summon up all her strength and all her ability to begin ever anew.

102. In the midst of this tragedy, which rightly pains us, "the Lord Jesus, who never abandons his Church, offers her the strength and the means to set out on a new path." This dark moment, "not without the valuable help of the young, can truly be an opportunity for a reform of epoch-making significance," opening us to a new Pentecost and inaugurating a new stage of purification and change capable of renewing the Church's youth. Young people will be all the more helpful if they feel fully a part of the "holy and patient, faithful People of God, borne up and enlivened by the Holy Spirit", for "it will be precisely this holy People of God to liberate us from the plague of clericalism, which is the fertile ground for all these disgraces."



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