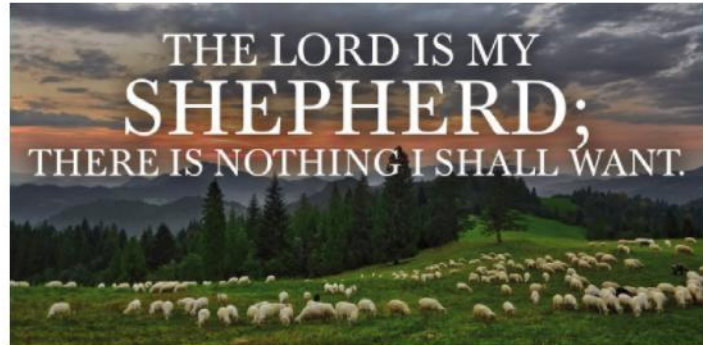
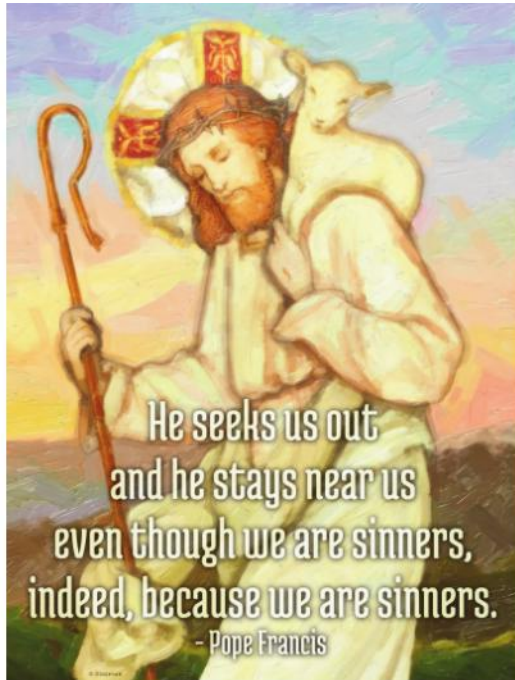


St. Raphael Catholic Church



1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

April 30, 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.

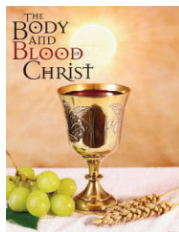
Mark Your Calendar for



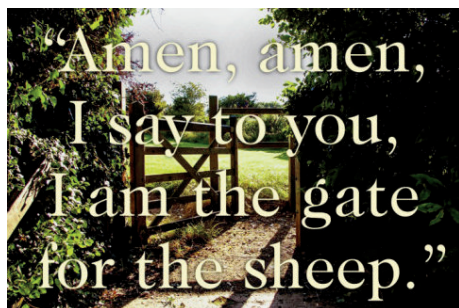
Next Sunday, May 7
after the
8:30, 10, 11:30am
and 1:00pm Masses

See you there!

Low Gluten Hosts that are approved by the Catholic Church for the Holy Eucharist are offered at the time of Communion. The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion offering these Hosts will be standing near the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary at all the Masses.



For those who wish to receive Holy Communion under both species, the Precious Blood is available at all Masses.



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 25.

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week Fourth Week of Easter

Monday, May 1

6:30AM Mothers of Sarceno and Diaz Families
9:00AM James Boland (d)

Tuesday, May 2

6:30AM Rev. Christopher Wyvill (d)
9:00AM Jane Denker (d)
7:00PM Mass & Healing Service Nelson Family

Wednesday, May 3

6:30AM Fidela Loberiza (d)
9:00AM Alexander Castelli (d)

Thursday, May 4

6:30AM Elizabeth Aino (d)
9:00AM Gary Welsh (d)

Friday, May 5

6:30AM Gary Welsh (d)
9:00AM John McGrade (d)

Saturday, May 6

9:00AM Jim Verme (d)
5:00PM Fr. Tom Sophie Muratore (d)

Sunday, May 7

7:00AM Fr. Tom Elizabeth Geer (d)
8:30AM Fr. Mike James Doyle (d)
10:00AM Fr. Mike Paul Hilvers (d)
11:30AM Fr. Tom Paul Saah (d)
1:00PM Fr. Christian Ana Mercedes Gomez (d)
6:00PM Fr. Christian Members of the Parish

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

Archer James Clark Galdi

April 21

Please pray for the soul of

Jose Sanchez



**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.**

HOLY LAND Pilgrimage

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

\$4980.00

If you would like to go on Father Mike's Holy Land Pilgrimage in October, please register by Email: rtemmaus@gmail.com

3 nights Pilgerhaus (by the Sea of Galilee)

- 6 nights at Gloria hotel in Jerusalem (5-minute walk to Holy Sepulchre)



The next
Holy Mass
followed by Healing Prayers

First Tuesday, May 2
7:00 PM



Confessions will continue during Mass.

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

Please join us for

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 Coffees
will resume in September.**

THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR MAY

For church movements and groups

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Scripture Readings for the Week of April 30, 2023

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

Monday Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker

Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4; Jn 10:11-18 or Mt 13:54-58

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

Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday Feast of Saints Philip and James, Apostles

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

Thursday Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 & 27; Jn 13:16-20

Friday Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-7, 8-9 10-11ab; Jn 14:1-6

Saturday Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 14:7-14

Sunday Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

**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

**CONTACT
information**

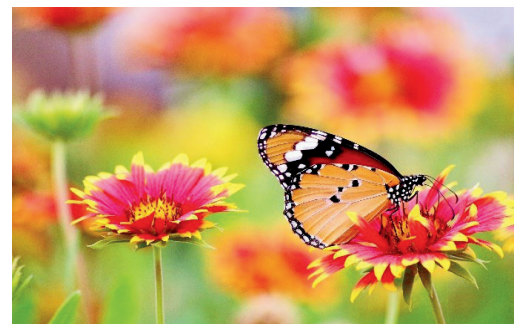


**PLEASE HELP UPDATE
THE PARISH DATA BASE!**

- Have you changed your mailing address in the past 6 months?
- Has your phone number changed?
- Have you cancelled your landline telephone number and only use your mobile?
- Has your email address changed?
- Are you contributing electronically through Faith Direct and still receive offertory envelopes?
- To make the changes/updates to your household in the parish database and/or to stop the envelope mailings:

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

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



*Thank
you for
Easter
Flower
donations.*

In Memory of:

Mary & Neil Ahern, Edward C. Fechter
Dorothy DeClementi, Florence Arella,
Florence Arella, Teresa Ingardia,
Rose Trotta
Concetta & Joseph Gerardi
M/M A. Jasinski, M/M G. Fabbro
Elizabeth McShea, Maria Cheng & Paul
Cheng
Sam & Eleanor Plott, Boyd Nad Sophie
Howard, John & Rose Willis, Marguerite
J. Prensinger, Mary Eileen Freize,
Thomas R. and J. Paul Mcneal,
Judith Bedal
Charles & Mary Salsgiver
James & Dorothy Sullivan, Donald &
Chae Burklow
The Spaulding Family
The Van Der Meulen Family
John Charles & Amelia Leona Yagesh,
Rosella & Joseph Penkrot, John Paul &
Emma Jean Yagesh, Reverend Richard
Charles Yagesh, Joseph Lawrence
Penkrot, Louis & Leona Fabec, Frank &
Katherine Yagesh, All Living and
Deceased of Yagesh, Penkrot, Fabec,
Lotis & Proch Families,
All Souls in Purgatory

Donations from:

M/M Jorge Acuna
Ms Tula M. Amas
M/M Nikolaos Bonos
Mr. John Bosso
Mr/Dr Florencio Campello
M/M Luis Castellanos
M/M Adolfo Castro
Mr. Guadalupe Coreas
Martha Corrado
M/M Craig Correa
Ms Jane Croker
M/M Jorge Castillo
Mr. John Dawson
Mrs. Ruth Dettleff
M/M Joe Dixon
Ms Jenn Do
Mrs. Mary Driscoll
G. Martinez & G. Fabian
Mrs. Rosemary J. Futrovsky
M. Flores & P. Garcia Gomez
M/M Arturo Guevara
Mrs. Bill Gustavson

M/M Antonio Hernandez
Rev. Christian Huebner
Mr. George Hughes
M/M Max Jalandoni
M/M Jose Jimenez
M/M George Kinyera
Mrs. Raymond Klimkosky
Truong Le & Thuy Bul
M/M Nelson Lee
Daisy Lizama
M/M Frank Mayo
Martha Molina
Beverly Mowery & George Godding
V Mwumvaneza & J Kabasing
Ms Cecilia Natoli
M/M Elio Oliva Sr.
M/M Thomas O'Neill
M/M Fredy Orantes
Mrs. Donald O'Rourke
M/M Gustavo Obando
M/M Kingsley Obiora
M/M John Partidge
John & Eileen Sue Pensinger
M/M Robert Phelan
Mrs. Francis Piper
Mr. Edwin Quispe/Consuelo Arias
Mr. Gerardo Quispe/Maria Espilco
Mr. Gustavo Ramirez Mrs Tatiana Pra
Jorge Sanchez
M/M Fernando Sarceno
M/M Scott Sheffler
M/M Philip Sobel
M/M Matthew Stoycos
M/M Michael Szwed
M/M Juan Valencia
M/M John Wiegard
Mr. Henry Williams
Gloria Wright
Mrs. Mary Zack
Ms Suzanne E. Ziemer

Thomas Arias
Nona Ash
Julie Bader
Milan Basta
Rosario Basta
Keith Chan
Mary Chretien
Beny Christakis
Thomas DeGraba
Varghese George
Patricia Hughes-Troost
Geraldine Lyons
Jessica Mayorga
Thomas McMahon
Edward O'Donnell
Margery Prokos
Terry Sullivan
Mary Wassum
Barry Barga
Jose Calvo
Dario Canal
Charles Carr

Oswaldo Castro
Kathleen Chang
Geraldine Chen
Michael Connell
Louise Cox
Sandra Cupples
Luz Consuelo David
Patrick Dragga
Robert Fontana
Funmi & Margaret George
Patrick Gower
Scott Graham
Lynn Grainger
Elizabeth Gravely
Elizabeth Guevara
Edward Healy
Graciela Heintz
Colin Heitzmann
Michael Herman
Richard Kaps
Gerard Kashatus
Steven Kelley
Kurt Knoblach
Beata Kozak
Sandra Leffew
Mark Li
Jason Lising
Christine Maloney
Jo Anne Marrone
Christopher Martin
Richard Meyer
John Mietus
Robert Molyneaux
Gary Muratore
Gerard Murphy
Susan Nalley
David Oberst
Grant Orr
Anthony Pappano
Maureen Potter
Bob Quackenbush
Cristina Radi
Angela Ray
Guillermo Rueda
Cathleen Shannon
Therese Shell
David Singleton
Ann Staron
Carolyn Tabb
Alan Tablada
Ramona Thompson
Patricia Watts
Dorothy Welsh
Joan Young
Felipe Zamalloa



School News

A peek behind our classroom doors

April 30, 2023



We Have A Golden Apple Teacher!



Within the Archdiocese of Washington, each year, 10 teachers are highlighted for their teaching excellence and commitment to sharing their faith. Catherine Williams, St. Raphael School's 1st Grade teacher, was selected as a 2023 Golden Apple winner!



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



A beloved SRS tradition in 3rd Grade is the Annual Artist Tea. Our students share creations they have painted or sculpted as well as accompanying poems. A special day!



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

Ever considered the priesthood?



Join us for a Men's Discernment Mass and Brunch

Holy Mass, brunch, and an opportunity for young men, college age and up, to discuss the priesthood with priests and seminarians.

Sunday, May 21, 2023—10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Saint John Paul II Seminary
145 Taylor Street, NE, Washington, D.C.

Please register to attend at
<https://dcpriest.org/2023-mens-discernment-mass-and-brunch>

For additional information contact
Fr. Mark Ivany, Director of Priest Vocations
202.636.9020 vocations@adw.org



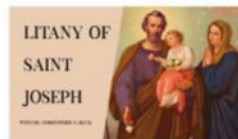
THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of April 30, 2023



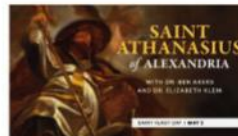
St. Joseph: Old and New (Part 1 of 4)

Join Taylor Kemp and Dr. Ben Akers as they comment on St. Joseph and his importance in the life of the Church. In this episode, they reflect on the Joseph of the Old and New Testament.



Litany of Saint Joseph

Join Dr. Christopher O. Blum as he prays the Litany of St. Joseph, asking for his intercession in your life and the lives of your loved ones.



Saint Athanasius of Alexandria | Catholic Saints

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein as they discuss the early Church Father, St. Athanasius. A bishop and Doctor of the Church, St. Athanasius is remembered as the great defender of the Nicene Creed. He was exiled five times from his own diocese under four different emperors. A great teacher, his writings are accessible to both beginners and experts in theology, writing works that serve different needs in the Church.

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

An offering from the AQUEDUCT INSTITUTE and IGNATIUS MISSION

For high-school age young men—

QUO VADIS CAMP 2023

July 23-26, 2023

Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md.

Run by priests and seminarians of the Archdiocese of Washington, Quo Vadis Camp includes Mass, great talks, sports, Eucharistic Adoration, games, food, and time to relax with other young men discerning God's will in their life.



Register now at
<https://dcpriest.org/2023-quo-vadis-camp>



For more information, please ask your parish priest or contact Father Mark Ivany, Director of Priest Vocations, Archdiocese of Washington. vocations@adw.org 202-636-9020



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 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.

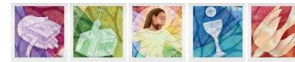
Called to Be Shepherds

Today we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter. This Sunday is often referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday because each year the Gospel passage is taken from the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John, in which Jesus speaks of himself as a shepherd. Remember to make time to reflect on the Scripture readings with your family. Readings:

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/043023.cfm>

Key Passage: [The shepherd] goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. (John 10:4). . . and then have a family sharing time on the questions below:

- ▶ Adults: How are you a shepherd to those in your care?
- ▶ Kids: What will you do this week to show you love those around you?



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 continue 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 on the road to Emmaus 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 themselves 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

Children should have completed all of their *God's Gift Eucharist* or *Eucharist: We Give Thanks and Praise* workbooks. Older children should have completed their *God's Gift Reconciliation and Eucharist* books and worksheets. All these are due at rehearsal.

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. Rehearsals will be on Wednesday, May 10 (5:30 PM for morning Confirmation Mass, and 7:00 PM for afternoon Confirmation Mass).



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

Officially May 1 - 7 is Screen Free Week) <https://screenfree.org/> but you can start it any time. Ask your family if they are willing to free themselves of digital devices (with the exception of work or school) for one full week. Experiment with human or outdoor entertainment. Secret weapon: Tell your child it would make a great Mother's Day gift.

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:

BANKING

EASY: "If we can get the banks to shift, that would probably have more global impact than getting Congress to shift." (Bill McKibben) To find out how banking and pollution are connected read about [Third Act](#).

CHALLENGING: Find out if your bank has large investments in fossil fuels. JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Citibank, and Wells Fargo are among the top contenders. Act on this information.

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

A way out

103. In this chapter, I have taken time to look at the reality of young people in today's world. Some other aspects will be dealt with in the following chapters. As I have said, I do not claim to be exhaustive in this analysis. I encourage communities to examine, respectfully and seriously, the situation of their young people, in order to find the most fitting ways of providing them with pastoral care. At the same time, I do not want to end this chapter without addressing some words to each of you.

104. I remind you of the good news we received as a gift on the morning of the resurrection: that in all the dark or painful situations that we mentioned, there is a way out. For example, it is true that the digital world can expose you to the risk of self-absorption, isolation and empty pleasure. But don't forget that there are young people even there who show creativity and even genius. That was the case with the Venerable Carlo Acutis.

105. Carlo was well aware that the whole apparatus of communications, advertising and social networking can be used to lull us, to make us addicted to consumerism and buying the latest thing on the market, obsessed with our free time, caught up in negativity. Yet he knew how to use the new communications technology to transmit the Gospel, to communicate values and beauty.

106. Carlo didn't fall into the trap. He saw that many young people, wanting to be different, really end up being like everyone else, running after whatever the powerful set before them with the mechanisms of consumerism and distraction. In this way they do not bring forth the gifts the Lord has given them; they do not offer the world those unique personal talents that God has given to each of them. As a result, Carlo said, "everyone is born as an original, but many people end up dying as photocopies." Don't let that happen to you!

107. Don't let them rob you of hope and joy, or drug you into becoming a slave to their interests. Dare to be more, because who you are is more important than any possession. What good are possessions or appearances? You can become what God your Creator knows you are, if only you realize that you are called to something greater. Ask the help of the Holy Spirit and confidently aim for the great goal of holiness. In this way, you will not be a photocopy. You will be fully yourself.



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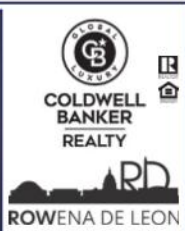
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