

St. Raphael Catholic Church



"We continue to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation during this Easter season."
Celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist on Saturday, April 30.

1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

May 7, 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 Lojano, 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.

Carnation Sale on Mother's Day



The Respect for Life Committee will sell carnation corsages and carnations at the Mother's Day Masses. Proceeds will support Maryland Right to Life. Maryland Right to Life is the only single issue group with a lobbyist in Annapolis that supports life from conception to natural death.

*Taste and see
the goodness
of the Lord.*

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

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.



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

Come join us!

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 May 2.

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week Fifth Week of Easter

Monday, May 8

6:30AM Francis Thekkekara (d)
9:00AM Abel Gerpe (d)

Tuesday, May 9

6:30AM Frank Della Penna (d)
9:00AM John & Ellen Moriarty (d)

Wednesday, May 10

6:30AM Frank Della Penna (d)
9:00AM Annalee McHugh

Thursday, May 11

6:30AM Tom Jaworski (d)
9:00AM Helga Castro (d)

Friday, May 12

6:30AM Keith Gilmore (d)
9:00AM Helen Janus (d)

Saturday, May 13

9:00AM Intercession of Blessed Mother
5:00PM Fr. Tom Members of the Parish

Sunday, May 14

7:00AM	Fr. Christian	Elizabeth Aino (d)
8:30AM	Fr. Tom	Thomas William Rothert (d)
10:00AM	Fr. Mike	George Reese (d)
11:30AM	Fr. Mike	Helen Lowery
1:00PM	Fr. Christian	Juan Antonio Carbonell (d)
6:00PM	Fr. Tom	Ricardo Lojaco (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.

Please pray for the soul of

Janet McGrath, mother of Sandy Huke
Dolores Willis, mother of Kelly Konz



**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.**



Altar Server Training and Pizza Dinner

When: Saturday, May 20
Time: After 5 PM Mass to 8 PM
Where: Church for training, then dinner in the Trumpet Room.

Prospective altar servers are encouraged to attend. Families of servers are welcome too!

To sign up go to our website:
www.straphaels.org and click link from home page:
parish news Altar Server Training and Pizza Dinner or email Karen Watson at straphaelaltarserver20854@gmail.com

May is Foster Care Awareness Month

James 1:27 says pure religion is to care for orphans. At baptism, God adopted us into his family as sons and daughters. Family is where kids are loved, protected and nurtured to their full potential, but for children who age out of the foster care system without a family, 1 in 3 will become instantly homeless and 1 in 5 will be incarcerated. Sixty percent of trafficked youth come from the foster care system. This month, pray for children in foster care, and for loving families to welcome them, because every child deserves a loving family.

Pray for Every Child to Find a Loving Adoptive Family

Every child deserves a loving family. We are all adopted sons and daughters of God, and we know that the family is the "domestic church," the basic building block of society. There are nearly 4,000 children and youth in foster care in Maryland, and nearly 500 children waiting for an adoptive family. These foster children and youth need the love of a family to support them and nurture them to their full potential. Please pray for these kids during Foster Care Awareness Month.

For information go to:

<https://www.mdccatholic.org/parish-resources/respect-for-life/fostercare/>

Or click from the www.adw.org home page

Planning Ahead:

Garage to Attic Sale for Charity June 24

The Knights of Columbus Mater Dei Council annual Garage to Attic sale for charity is

Saturday, June 24 (9AM - 2PM).

Save your gently used household items (e.g., clothing, toys, books, appliances, furniture, and more) for

**drop off on June 22 (1-7PM)
or June 23 (9-6PM).**

We count on the wonderful support from the St. Raphael community to bring us merchandise and to also shop (and spread the word) for incredible deals. With your help we can reach our goal of raising \$15,000 for local charities.

We offer scheduled pickups of large items on a case by case basis. To discuss pickups, contact Rafael Ramirez at (202) 603-0353 (text or voicemail) or by email at rafram23@yahoo.com.

In honor of Our Lady of Fatima's first apparition

The World Apostolate of Fatima, Archdiocese of Washington Division

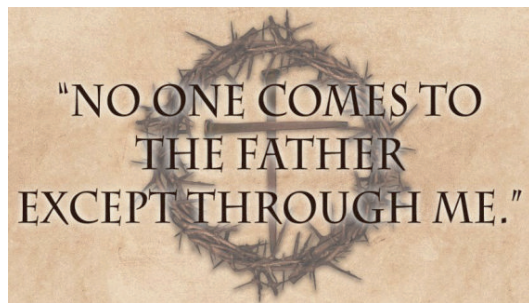
"The Blue Army"

Invites you to **Rosary and Mass**

Saturday, May 13 at 8:30AM at

St. Catherine Laboure Church, Wheaton, MD

For more information call 301-595-1770



In Case you missed Bishop Jerome Feudjio last weekend:

Bishop Feudjio spoke at three Masses last weekend with an Appeal for the Diocese of St. Thomas.

Please make donations payable to St. Raphael with a note/memo: Diocese of St. Thomas –

We will present Bishop Feudjio with a check when he returns to St Raphael for Confirmation on May 13.

Thank you for your generosity.

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.

FRIENDSHIP

A true friend is a gift from God. To be blessed is to have a true friend and to be called "friend." A friend might or might not be a family member. We tend to treat our friends well. Sometimes our friends become our extended family. Friends visit each other, write to one another, talk on the phone, and go out to dinner, the movies and various entertainment. Friendship is something that you do not neglect. You introduce the people you care about (family and friends) to one another. You depend on each other for support. A friend is also a person who knows your secrets. A friend is a person you like to imitate. It is nice to have a friend. Even if it is just a smile and a greeting from someone who cares, it leaves you feeling good.

Do you wonder if Jesus Christ is your friend? I am sure He would be if you ask. To have Jesus as a friend is a great thing. We believe that Jesus is in the Eucharist and that He is in the Church, as well as being everywhere. We also believe that God is in your life. He has done many things for us. He loves us and is in all living things. Why should it be so hard to believe that a Priest (who is an instrument of God) can change the bread & wine into the Body & Blood of Christ? God can do anything. Let's get real: we are still trying to understand our physical world and science. Why would we think that we should completely understand the mystical world of God. There is nothing wrong in admitting we do not know or understand. We should just trust in God and have faith that He would do this for us and His Son. God does know us well and loves us and allows this phenomenon to take place.

As we go into the Church, we bless ourselves with holy water and make the Sign of the Cross. We also kneel, bow, and genuflect to show respect. At the Mass we watch, listen, and participate and during the most important moment when the Priest consecrates the Host, Jesus is with us in an extra special way. No other religion except the Orthodox has such special blessings and graces. When we go to Mass, we can think it is like conversing and dining with Christ, like at the Last Supper. It is a happy occasion with good conversation and a meal to give us strength and to renew us.

We carry pictures, crosses and relics of the Saints just as we would carry photos of family and friends. Whether we pray either individually, or in a group, formal or informal, for five minutes or an hour, it does not matter as long as it comes from the heart and is respectful. It is like talking or writing to a friend, one who knows your secrets. Whom else but God knows more about you than yourself? Think about the theory, that the more you open up to a person, the more that person may reveal themselves to you and the bond of friendship becomes stronger. The same with Jesus; as a friend you should stop by to see Him. We all have busy lives, some more than others, as well as heavy responsibilities. A good friend would understand and would accept that. One should always inform a friend about themselves, so they do not worry; for that reason taking five minutes for a visit would be greatly appreciated.

Continued next week

Written by a Parishioner with help from her friends ♥

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
1LT 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



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.

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

HOLY LAND Pilgrimage

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

\$4980.00

There are some spaces available on Father Mike's Holy Land Pilgrimage in October, please register today 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)

Scripture Readings for the Week of May 7, 2023

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

Monday

Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday

Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday Feast of Saint John of Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church, and St Damien of Molokai, Priest

Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; Jn 15:1-8

Thursday

Acts 15:7-21; PS 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10; Jn 15:9-11

Friday Feast of Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs, and Saint Pancras, Martyr

Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-9, 10 & 12; Jn 15:12-17

Saturday Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5; Jn 15:18-21

Sunday Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20; 1Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

When the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated on the following Sunday, the Second Reading and Gospel from the Seventh Sunday of Easter may be read on the Sixth Sunday of Easter.

1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 17:1-11

In those places where the observance of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord has been transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter, the Mass and readings of the Ascension are used.

MEALS FOR REFUGEES
UKRAINE · POLAND, TURKEY, SYRIA

Saturday June 24th
St. Mary's Gym
11-3pm
HOW YOU CAN HELP

- VOLUNTEER:**
 - SignUp Genius Link: <https://bit.ly/3MU1VHV>
 - OR EMAIL: MARY.E.MCCORMICK22@GMAIL.COM
- FINANCIAL SUPPORT:**
 - PayPal link: <https://bit.ly/3dw1dnt>
 - link to The Outreach Program/Bobby Pelito Account
 - CHECK: PAYABLE TO THE OUTREACH PROGRAM
 - MAIL TO MARY MCCORMICK, 506 LYNCH ST, ROCKVILLE, MD 20850
- SPREAD THE WORD - SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

60,000 MEALS
100 VOLUNTEERS
\$21,000 NEEDS TO BE RAISED

VOLUNTEERS WILL ASSEMBLE SHELF STABLE MEAL BAGS OF RICE, BEANS, SOY AND SEASONING

ST MARY'S
600 VEIRS MILL ROAD
ROCKVILLE, MD 20852

CONTACT: MARY MCCORMICK
MARY.E.MCCORMICK22@GMAIL.COM

VOLUNTEER QR
DONATION QR

School News

May 7, 2023

A peek behind our classroom doors



Spring Soiree



This year's Spring Soirée, Havana Nights adult-only event & live auction had record breaking fun and monies raised for SRS! Teachers and parents enjoyed a night out with school spirit and camaraderie.



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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



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



THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of May 07, 2023



Spiritual Motherhood
| The Augustine Institute Show
Join Dr. Tim Gray and Sr. Maris Stella for a conversation on the vocation of every woman, that of motherhood. Although all women will not be called to be physical mothers, every woman is called to be a spiritual mother.



The 13th Day

In a world torn apart by persecution, war, and oppression, three children in Fatima were chosen by God to offer an urgent message of hope to the world. Based on the memoirs of the oldest seer, Lucia Santos, *The 13th Day* dramatizes the true story of three young shepherds who experienced six apparitions of Our Lady, which culminated in the final prophesied miracle on October 13.

REAL WOMANHOOD
LISA COTTER



Real Womanhood by Lisa Cotter

What does it mean to be a real woman in today's culture? Join Lisa Cotter in her talk *Real Womanhood*, as she draws on modern-day saints, St. John Paul II to define what it means to be an authentic woman.

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

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and SPECIAL PROMOS



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](https://moments4marriage.org)
OR [WWME.ORG](https://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.

Jesus, the Way

Today we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Easter. Remember to make time to reflect on the Scripture readings with your family.

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

Key Passage: I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

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

- ▶ Adults: In a challenge you face right now, what will it mean to live the way of Jesus Christ?
- ▶ Kids: Name some ways you can be more like Jesus when you are playing with your friends or family.



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

Congratulations to all our parish children who received First Communion this weekend. May the joy and faith of these children and their families keep them always close to Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist!



Confirmation Year 2

We are very excited about the upcoming celebration of Confirmation this 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

May Day can be a time of celebration as the weather is often pleasant. BUT... saying "May Day" fast, 3 times in a row can also be a call for help. Enjoy some time playing together today, but also check out if your beloved needs help with anything.

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

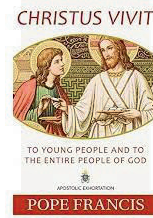
EASY: If we can get the banks to shift, that would probably have more global impact than getting Congress to shift." (Bill McKibben) To find out how banking and pollution are connected read about [Third Act](#).

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 - continued

108. If [you are to reach the great goal of holiness and be fully yourself], you need to realize one basic truth: being young is not only about pursuing fleeting pleasures and superficial achievements. If the years of your youth are to serve their purpose in life, they must be a time of generous commitment, whole-hearted dedication, and sacrifices that are difficult but ultimately fruitful. As a great poet put it:

"If to regain what I regained, / I first had to lose
what I lost;
If to achieve what I achieved, / I had to endure
what I endured;
If to be in love now / First I had to be hurt,
I consider what I suffered well suffered, / I
consider what I wept for as well wept for.
Because in the end I came to see / That we do
not really enjoy what we enjoyed
Unless we have suffered for it. / For in the end
I realized
That the blossoms on the tree / Draw life from
what lies buried beneath."

109. If you are young in years, but feel weak, weary or disillusioned, ask Jesus to renew you. With him, hope never fails. You can do the same if you feel overwhelmed by vices, bad habits, selfishness or unhealthy pastimes. Jesus, brimming with life, wants to help you make your youth worthwhile. In this way, you will not deprive the world of the contribution that you alone can make, in all your uniqueness and originality.

110. Yet let me also remind you that, "when we live apart from others, it is very difficult to fight against concupiscence, the snares and temptations of the devil, and the selfishness of the world. Bombarded as we are by so many enticements, we can grow too isolated, lose our sense of reality and inner clarity, and easily succumb." This is especially the case with young people, for whenever you are united, you have marvelous strength. Whenever you are enthused about life in common, you are capable of great sacrifices for others and for the community. Isolation, on the other hand, saps our strength and exposes us to the worst evils of our time.



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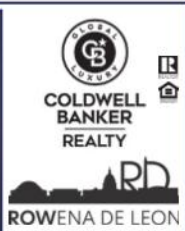
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