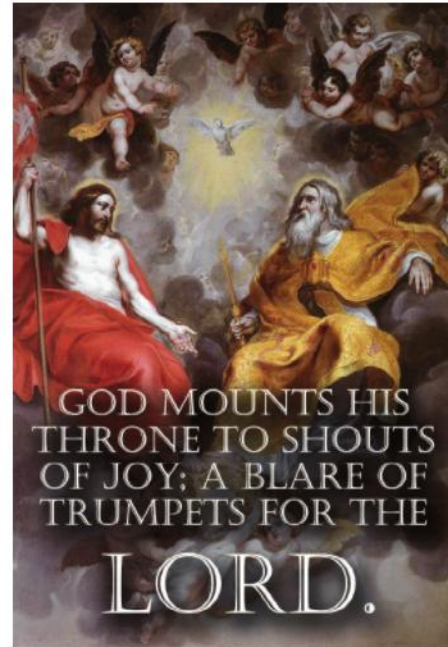


St. Raphael Catholic Church



1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

May 21, 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 : **No Confession this week on Tuesday**
Saturday: 3:45 - 4:30 PM
Tuesday: 6:45 PM

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Tuesday: 6:45 PM
Parish Library this week: 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.

**Due to an Archdiocese-wide Convocation,
No Confession
Tuesday, May 23.**

**Eucharistic Adoration will be held in the
Parish Library
Thursday, May 25**

Usher Ministry- We need your help!

The Usher Ministry is in urgent need of volunteers for all weekend Masses. We are delighted that parishioners are returning and the church is filling up at Mass. There is increasing need for Ushers to serve. We need enough ushers that when someone is unable to attend Mass usher duties and Mass are not disrupted. Before and after Mass we need several Ushers in the Narthex to open the door for parishioners with walkers, wheelchairs, strollers, etc. and promote a sense of welcoming and belonging to all the faithful assembling for worship. We need one usher dedicated to each of the six sections of the church during Mass. This will allow us to again pass the collection basket for the offertory and ensure an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion brings the Eucharist to parishioners in their section who are not able to comfortably or safely process the communion line. After Mass, two ushers safeguard the offertory and special collections. All ushers assist with general tidying of the pews. Ushering is a Ministry of Hospitality and is a valuable service to our community. It is a great opportunity to serve with very little time commitment required. This is an ideal ministry for families to serve together.

Ushers needed:

Saturday 5:00 PM: Five (5)

Sunday 7:00 AM: Five (5)

Sunday 8:30 AM: Three (3)

Sunday 10:00 AM: Five (5)

Sunday 11:30 AM: Three (3)

Sunday 6:00 PM: Six (6)

**Please contact Terry Salsgiver at 301-437-2018 or
tsalsgiver@comcast.net.**

**Come and Enjoy
Coffee and Donuts
JUNE 4
After 8:30, 10:00, 11:30AM,
and 1:00PM 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 May 16.

**Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week
Seventh week of Easter**

Monday, May 22

6:30AM Michael Denker (d)
9:00AM Leonardo Aponte (d)

**Tuesday, May 23
No confession tonight**

6:30AM The Walton Family
9:00AM Helen Cornetta (d)

Wednesday, May 24

6:30AM Clifford H. Guion (d)
9:00AM Gary Welsh (d)

**Thursday, May 25
Adoration is in Parish Library today.**

6:30AM John Manfreda (d)
9:00AM Aquilina Diaz (d)

Friday, May 26

6:30AM Nathan L. Pinsker (d)
9:00AM Deacon Richard Mattocks (d)

Saturday, May 27

9:00AM Robert FitzGibbon (d)
5:00PM Fr. Mike Joan Wickes (d)

Sunday, May 28

7:00AM Fr. Tom Georgia Mae Smith (d)
8:30AM Fr. Mike Members of the Parish
10:00AM Fr. Mike Ricardo Lojaco (d)
11:30AM Fr. Tom Julia Moreno (d)
1:00PM Fr. Christian Miguel Martinez & Jim Edmondson (d)
6:00PM Fr. Christian Christian Raul Thompson (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
Rafael Obando, Father of Victoria Obando**




**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.**



Shady Grove Pregnancy Center's mission is to help any woman who finds herself struggling with an unplanned pregnancy. Their goal is to help a pregnant woman look at her options so she can make an informed decision about the life growing inside her. They offer options-counseling, pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, parenting classes, and material aid. They depend on donations like yours to continue providing these services for free.

A little change CAN change lives!

Pick up a baby bottle on May 21st and fill it with coins, currency, or a check made out to Shady Grove Pregnancy Center. Put "St. Raphael's BBC" in the memo. Please return all bottles by **June 25th**.




Respect For Life Committee

Have you ever wondered what happens when someone visits a Pregnancy Center?

Come hear Abby Elias from Shady Grove Pregnancy Center explain the counseling and health services offered at no cost to their clients.

Wednesday, June 14 at 7:00 PM in the Parish Library

Abby and a representative will role play a typical first visit conversation with a client. The counselors focus on support with no judgment, no shaming, and no pressure. They offer free pregnancy testing, an ultrasound if warranted, and information and support to develop a plan.

Come learn how we can support mothers to nurture their babies.

Apply Now for a BOOST Scholarship

Do you want your child to go to a Catholic school, but you need financial assistance? Apply for a Maryland state BOOST scholarship. Details and the application are at www.marylandboost.org. (Use the translate button on the top right for other languages.) The deadline is June 30, 2023.

Annual Memorial Mass On Sunday, June 4th, at 1:00 PM, the **Washington DC Archdiocese's Post Cana for widows and widowers** will gather at Holy Redeemer parish in Kensington, Maryland, for the annual Memorial Mass. It will be said by Father Mark Hughes. We will gather in the church basement to remember our loved ones. Come join us after Holy Mass for a variety of appetizers and refreshments. Our membership spans the Archdiocese of Washington. More than 20 parishes are represented, and we are growing. To make a reservation or to learn more about Post Cana, contact Mary Dugan, Post Cana President: marydugan12@yahoo.com or 301-873-3902.

Make this a Summer of Stewardship!

As summer approaches, we recognize that many families in our parish will be traveling for vacations and other reasons. During this time, we encourage you to consider eGiving to ensure your support for our parish remains consistent even when you're away. By setting up eGiving through our parish's online platform, Faith Direct, you can make a meaningful impact on the ministries you care about most, even while you're away. Your recurring gifts will not only sustain our parish throughout the summer months, but you will help our staff steward God's resources well by reducing our costs for envelopes and paper. Getting started with eGiving is easy. Here are the ways to sign up:

- Visit faith.direct/MD34
- Call Faith Direct Customer Service at 866-507-8757

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 May 21, 2023

Sunday Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20

Monday Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious

Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday

Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday Venerable Bede, Priest and Doctor of the Church, Gregory VII, Pope, St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi, Virgin

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a & 5, 7-8. 9-10, 11; Jn 17:20-26

Friday Memorial of Saint Philip Neri, Priest

Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19

Saturday Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5 and 7; Jn 21:20-25

Sunday Pentecost Sunday

Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b Or Ez 37:1-4 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 20, 30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39

Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

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
LCDR 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

**THE NEXT HOLY MASS
WITH
HEALING PRAYERS**



**TUESDAY, JUNE 6
7:00 PM**

Holy Hour for Vocations—

Join your fellow parishioners in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament at the

**“Holy Hour for those to be ordained priests”
and an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life on
Thursday, June 15 at 6:15PM.**

Unite with parishes throughout The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington as we anticipate the ordination of six future priests on Saturday, June 17. This year’s ordinandi are

For the priesthood—

Dcn. Martin Joseph Begley
Dcn. Taylor Gregory Colwell
Dcn. John Francis Lado
Dcn. Juan Pablo Noboa
Dcn. Pablo Andres Villa Jaramillo
Dcn. Vincent Tinh Vu

“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”
Mt 9:37–38

“Every vocation, every path to which Christ calls us, ultimately leads to fulfillment and happiness, because it leads to God, to sharing in God’s own life.” —Saint John Paul II

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



Summer Clothing & Shoes Drive

Are you looking for ways to help support migrant families in DC? Join Catholic Charities on June 17th for a Summer Clothing and Shoes Drive!

Over the past year, thousands of migrant families have been bussed from the Southern Border to the District of Columbia. Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Washington D.C. is providing 372 families (comprised of over 1,300 people) of newly arrived migrants with basic necessities and shelter. Half of these people are children. Many families arrived in D.C. with only the clothes on their backs and very few other personal belongings.

As the seasons rapidly transition to Summer, there is an obvious need we can all help to address: access to Summer clothing and shoes.

On June 17th, from 10am-2pm at **Anchor Mental Health**, Catholic Charities ADW will be hosting a Summer Clothes and Shoes Drive. Any donation of new or professionally cleaned clothing or shoes, no matter how big or small, will make a difference.

Families most need

- Summer shoes: Crocs or flip flops,
- t-shirts: any short-sleeved or T-shirt will work,
- shorts: biker/athletic shorts, and
- underwear and sports bras.



Below is a list of preferred clothing items and sizes that will be collected on June 17th:

	Shirts	Shorts	Underwear	Shoes
Women	Sizes S-M	Sizes S-L	Sizes XS-L	Up to size 8
Men	Sizes S-L	Sizes M-L	Sizes S-L	Sizes 10 and below
Children	All sizes	All sizes	All sizes	All sizes

There are two ways to donate:

- 1) **Family Pack:** Shop for the Drive with a family in mind. A standard "family pack" includes Summer clothing & shoes for 2 adults (1 woman, 1 man) and 2 children (1 boy, 1 girl).
- 2) **Mass donations:** Shop for a category of clothing, such as bras or women's bike shorts, and donate in bulk. Are you a company with an excess of branded t-shirts or gear to donate? We will gladly accept it all!

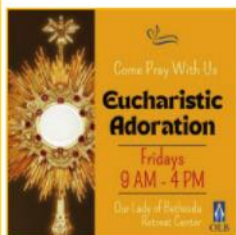
Have questions about the Summer Clothes & Shoes Drive? Contact volunteer@cc-dc.org

Scan the QR code below for more information!



Eucharistic Adoration at Our Lady of Bethesda! Fridays, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Come for an hour, for a moment, or stay all day. Visit Our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration at Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center. The Most Blessed Sacrament will be exposed upon the altar in the chapel each Friday from 9:00AM to 4:00PM (Please Note: any schedule changes will be announced on our website.) All are welcome. **Find more information on the website www.ourladyofbethesda.org** or call 301-365-0212. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, A Place to Encounter Christ! **7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.**



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



THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of May 21, 2023



Pentecost | Sacred Art

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp to enhance your prayer and expand your knowledge of sacred art. In this episode, they discuss Jean Restout's depiction of Pentecost.



The Holy Spirit in Light of Pentecost

This week we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost, often referred to as the birthday of the Church. Join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Ben Akers as they discuss Christ's sending of the Holy Spirit in this monumental event. After watching, you'll recognize the meaning of Pentecost for our lives today.



The Holy Spirit: Third Person of the Trinity by Fr. Shannon Collins

In this captivating presentation, Fr. Shannon Collins discusses the essential character of the Holy Spirit and his role in salvation history. Drawing upon Scripture and Tradition, Fr. Collins explains the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and how he works in the lives of believers. Listeners are sure to come to a better appreciation of this "sweet guest of our soul" who seeks to bring us closer to divine life.

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

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



School News

May 21, 2023



A peek behind our classroom doors

Truck Day



A day loved by *all* the students; they got to climb, pretend to drive and ask their questions to some of the coolest truck drivers. The crane from Digging and Rigging is always a favorite!

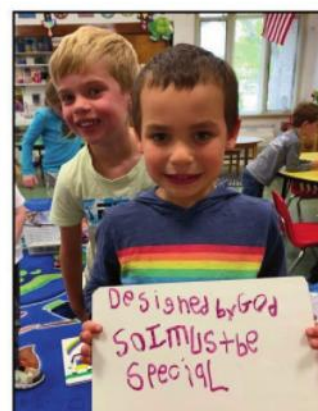


www.straphaelschoolmd.org | www.srnsmd.org |    @SRSRockville

5th Grade Field Trip to Mount Vernon



Whiteboard Fun in 4+



**We accept donated items in
good condition**

*Clothing, furniture, appliances, boutique
accessories, linens, books, toys, electronics,
bikes, lawn and outdoor items*

Dropoff Donations

Thursday, June 22, 2023 (1:00pm to 7:00pm)

Friday, June 23, 2023 (9:00am - 6:00pm)

Trumpet Room parking lot

1513 Dunster Road, Rockville, MD 20854

St. Raphael Church



**We offer scheduled pickups of large items
For more information, please contact**

Rafael Ramirez
(202) 603-0353 (text or voicemail)
rafram23@yahoo.com (email)

June 24, 2023 (9:00am - 2:00pm)

We do NOT accept

Mattresses, sofa beds, non-working electrical or mechanical items,
tires, dirty clothing, fuel (unless in yard tools), medical supplies,
cribs, baby car seats / carriers, or broken, damaged, stained
or extremely worn furniture



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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.

What Ever Happened to Ascension Thursday?

In Acts 1:3 we hear that Jesus "presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God." Based on this passage Christians celebrated the feast of the Ascension on the 40th day of the Easter season, which became known as Ascension Thursday. For pastoral reasons, in particular to make it possible for all Catholics to celebrate this Holy Day of Obligation, several Bishops Conferences requested permission to transfer the celebration of the Ascension of the Lord to the following Sunday, since every Sunday is a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics. In the United States, approval to transfer the feast was obtained in 1999. Most dioceses transferred the feast to the following Sunday, but a few dioceses - Boston, Hartford, New York, Newark, Philadelphia, and Omaha - continue to celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord on Thursday.

Come, Holy Spirit (Veni, Sancte Spiritus)

Come, Holy Spirit, come! / And from your celestial home / Shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor! / Come, source of all our store! / Come, within our bosoms shine.
You, of comforters the best; / You, the soul's most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below; / In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat; / Solace in the midst of woe.
O most blessed Light divine, / Shine within these hearts of yours, / And our inmost being fill!

Be My Witnesses / I Am with You Always

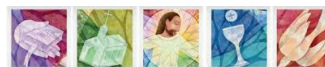
Today we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension. Remember to make time to reflect on the Scripture readings with your family. Readings:

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/052123-Ascension.cfm>

Key Passages: Jesus said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses." (Acts 1:8) "And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Mt. 28:20)

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

- ▶ Adults: Jesus promises to be with us always. How do you experience his presence most?
- ▶ Kids: What good news about Jesus could you share with someone?



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)

June – Registration for 2023-2024 begins

September 10 and 11 – Opening of the 2023-2024 SRRE year

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 over the past couple of weeks. 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

Congratulations to all our young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last week! May you always be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as you seek to follow the way of Jesus.



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

What's the best argument you've ever had with your beloved? You may have felt mad at each other at the time, but what helped you get past the anger or hurt to deepen your love?

Parenting Pointers

It's hard to raise kids these days. Heck, it's always been hard but in different ways in different eras. What do you think was the hardest part of raising a child during your own parents' or grandparents' day? Is it easier or harder now? There's no answer to this, just something to think about.

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:

EDUCATE YOURSELF

EASY: Read an article about the environmental crisis / ecological justice. Google it.

CHALLENGING: Read a book about the environmental crisis and ecological justice.

*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 begin Chapter Four: A Great Message for All Young People.

A God who is love - continued

115. For him, you have worth; you are not insignificant. You are important to him, for you are the work of his hands. That is why he is concerned about you and looks to you with affection. "Trust the memory of God: his memory is not a 'hard disk' that 'saves' and 'archives' all our data. His memory is a heart filled with tender compassion, one that finds joy in 'deleting' from us every trace of evil." He does not keep track of your failings and he always helps you learn something even from your mistakes. Because he loves you. Try to keep still for a moment and let yourself feel his love. Try to silence all the noise within, and rest for a second in his loving embrace.

116. His is "a love that does not overwhelm or oppress, cast aside or reduce to silence, humiliate or domineer. It is the love of the Lord, a daily, discreet and respectful love; a love that is free and freeing, a love that heals and raises up. The love of the Lord has to do more with raising up than knocking down, with reconciling than forbidding, with offering new changes than condemning, more with the future than the past."

117. When he asks something of you, or simply makes you face life's challenges, he is hoping that you will make room for him to push you, to help you grow. He does not get upset if you share your questions with him. He is concerned when you don't talk to him, when you are not open to dialogue with him. The Bible tells us that Jacob fought with God (cf. Gen 32:25-31), but that did not keep him from persevering in his journey. The Lord himself urges us: "Come, let us argue it out" (Is 1:18). His love is so real, so true, so concrete, that it invites us to a relationship of openness and fruitful dialogue. Seek the closeness of our heavenly Father in the loving face of his courageous witnesses on earth!



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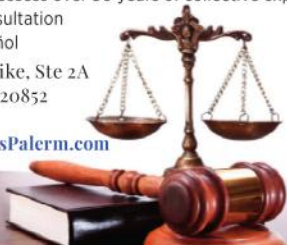
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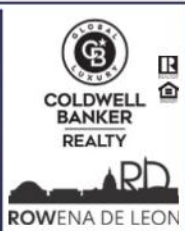
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