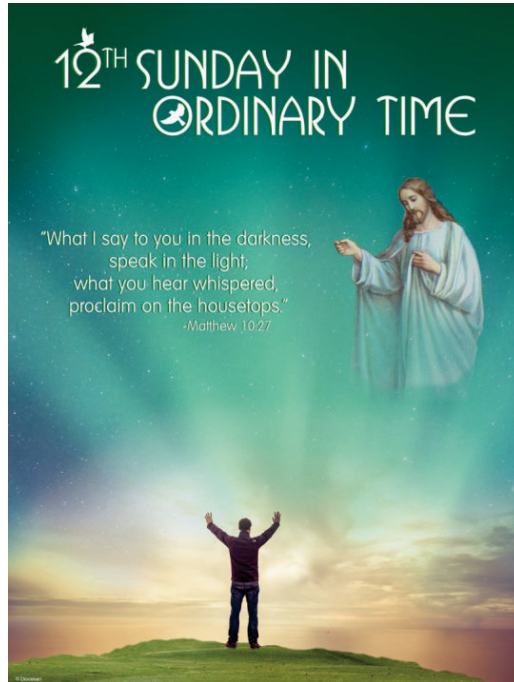


St. Raphael Catholic Church



1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

June 25, 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.

**After 18 years, Gerri Stoner is retiring.
We are really going to miss her!**

St. Raphael School is looking for a 12-month employee to input and manage data systems, to maintain the directory and emergency alert system, and to oversee the school office.

Candidates must be efficient with Microsoft Office and Google Apps, customer service oriented, and Mission driven.

Please reach out to tdwyer@straphaels.org if interested.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The next Mass with Healing Prayers will be August 1.

RCIA

We are in the RCIA Inquiry Stage. If you are thinking about joining Catholic Church, or just looking for meaning in life, please join our meetings on Sundays 9:45am-11:15am. We will move from inquiry to catechism at the end of September 2023.

You can join RCIA at any time! To learn more about it, please call Krys Psurek, 240-864-2542 and leave a message. He will call you back. You can also check the latest RCIA announcements and schedule at St. Raphael web site in the RCIA section.

The **second collection** this weekend, June 24/25 is for Peter's Pence.

A little change CAN change lives!
This Campaign Supports
Shady Grove Pregnancy Center
Please return all baby bottles
This weekend, June 25th.

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 June 20.

**Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week
Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time**

Monday, June 26

6:30AM Maureen Cianflone (d)
9:00AM Charles Corrado (d)

Tuesday, June 27

6:30AM Jayme Lucille Dinsmore (d)
9:00AM Oswaldo Castro, Sr. (d)

Wednesday, June 28

6:30AM Janet McGuire (d)
9:00AM Marjorie Cammarota (d)

Thursday, June 29

6:30AM Mr. Park Young-Tae (d)
9:00AM Charles Benson (d)

Friday, June 30

6:30AM Alice Jose
9:00AM Deacon Richard Mattocks (d)

Saturday, July 1

9:00AM Raymond Klimkosky (d)
5:00PM Fr. Mike Members of the Parish

Sunday, July 2

7:00AM Fr. Mike Tracy & Shannah
8:30AM Fr. Tom Phillip Chen (d)
10:00AM Fr. Mike Beth Stoycos (d)
11:30AM Fr. Mike Miguel Martinez & Jim Edmondson (d)
1:00PM Fr. Regan Aquilina Diaz (d)
6:00PM Fr. Tom Jan Johnson Riely (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

Everna Brown, Mother of Alexis Bakos
Thomas Smith, father of Carol DeOro and Peggy Weldon
Marie Spaulding, mother of Sandra Spaulding



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.

Are you a high school senior attending the University of Maryland in the Fall?

The University of Maryland is a large place, and it's easy to get lost in the chaos. If you are a student who will be attending in the fall, we would love to you connect with the Catholic Student Center.

Parents and students can check out catholicterps.org. This page has all the information for new students to learn about our Mass schedule, free Wednesday Night Dinner, bible studies, retreats and more.

We look forward to having you in the fall.

FAITH DIRECT

School's out! Summer is in!

St. Raphael Catholic Church asks that before you begin your vacations, travels, and other summer plans, consider eGiving to ensure your support for our parish remains consistent even when you're away. Your recurring gifts will not only sustain our parish throughout the summer months, but you will help 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

National Catholic Conference for Single Catholics

August 25-27, 2023

St. John's Resort

Plymouth, Michigan

Register now at

NATIONALCATHOLICSINGLES.COM

Scripture Readings for the Week of June 25, 2023

Sunday Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 20:10-13; Ps 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35; Rom 5:12-15; Mt 10:26-33

Monday Gn 12:1-9; Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20 & 22; Mt 7:1-5

Tuesday Memorial of Saint Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Gn 13:2, 5-18; Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5; Mt 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday Memorial of Saint Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr

Gn 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 7:15-20

Thursday Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

Vigil: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Gal 1: 11-20; Jn 21: 15-19

Day: Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19

Friday Memorial of the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome

Gn 17:1, 9-10, 15-22; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Mt 8:1-4

Saturday Memorial of Saint Junipero Serra, Priest

Gn 18:1-15; Lk 1:36-47, 48-49, 50 & 53, 54-55; Mt 8:5-17

Sunday Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a; Ps 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19; Rom 6:3-4, 8-11; Mt 10:37-42

HOLY LAND Pilgrimage

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

\$4980.00

HURRY! Call today!!

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 POPE'S INTENTION FOR JUNE

For the abolition of torture

We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

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.



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

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





SUMMER INTENSIVE

EXPERIENCE THE FIRST 4 QUARTERS IN 4 DAYS
JULY 31 - AUG 3

SAVE 20%!
REGISTER BY JULY 1

ESM - DC CAMPUS - MOTHER OF GOD COMMUNITY
20501 GOSHEN RD GAITHERSBURG, MD 20879



SPEAKER LINEUP



THERESA LEYVA



FR. DIOGO ESCUDERO



DCN. JASON LEWIS



DR. ANDRE LEYVA



BETSY ROEDER



DAN DEMATTE



FR. MARK RUTHERFORD



JOHN ROEDER

EXPERIENCE THE **FIRST 4 QUARTERS** OF THE ENCOUNTER SCHOOL OF MINISTRY IN **JUST 4 DAYS**

Drawing from the richness of our Catholic heritage, we seek to teach, equip and activate disciples to demonstrate the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit in their sphere of influence.

1 IDENTITY & TRANSFORMATION

2 HEARING GOD'S VOICE & THE PROPHETIC GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

3 POWER & HEALING

4 INNER HEALING & FREEDOM



DC Campus: <https://encounterschool.org/dc/>

REGISTER ONLINE
<https://encounterschooldc.org/summer-intensive>



FREE WEBINAR SERIES

presented by SJCP Clinical Director Rebecca Lee, MS, LPCP

Summer

webinar series

Seeking Holy + Holistic Health
June | 6.15.23 at 7:30 pm

In the World But Not of It: Engaging Our Culture as Catholic Families
July | 7.13.23 at 7:30pm

Suicidal Thoughts: A Compassionate Response
August | 8.2.23 at 7:30pm



SARAH PORTER MSW, LMSW



REBECCA LEE MS, LPCP



WEEBAN MERIS MS, LPCP

todos los seminarios web también estarán disponibles en español; envíe un correo electrónico a sjcpounselingadmin@stjeromes.org para obtener más información

TO REGISTER, please email counselingadmin@stjeromes.org
Full 2023 Webinar Calendar can be found on our website: stjeromes.org/counseling-program



St. Mary's Catholic Church
Rockville, MD

WELCOMES



MARK HOUCK

DATE: JUNE 27, 2023

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: ST. MARY'S PARISH HALL, 520 Veirs Mill Rd., Rockville, MD

Come and listen to Mark's first-hand account of his and his family's ordeal and what it means for the Pro-Life Movement, our nation, our Church, and the Kingdom of God.

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

Captain Julia Timm Intili, USAF

Jake Klosowski, USN

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)

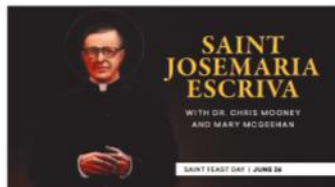
2nd LT Andrew Valentine USMA

LT Kenneth Yale, USAF

Changes: e-mail esalatto@straphaels.org

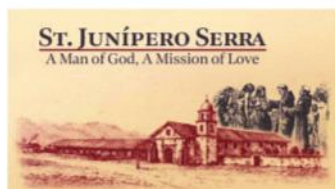
THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of June 25, 2023



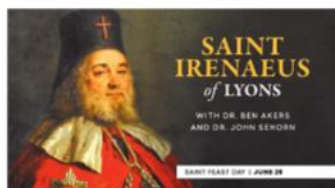
St. Josemaria Escriva | Catholic Saints

Called "the saint of ordinary life" by Pope John Paul II, St. Josemaria Escriva centered his ministry around a simple truth: each person can experience the extraordinary grace of holiness even in the ordinary events of day-to-day life.



St. Junípero Serra: A Man of God, A Mission of Love

In this documentary, learn about Father Serra's heroic missionary activity to Indigenous peoples in 18th-century North America.

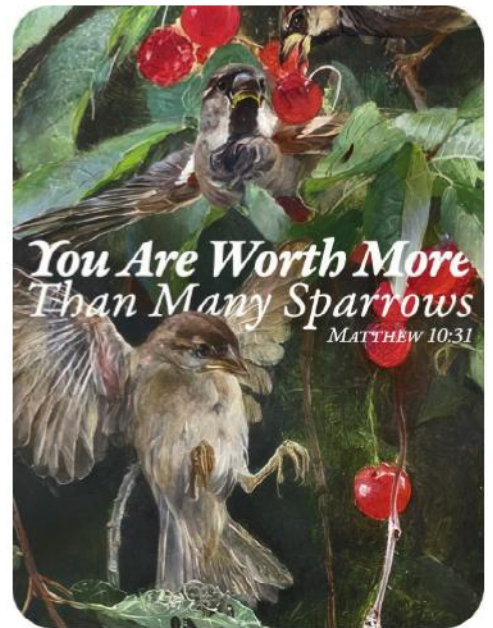


Saint Irenaeus of Lyons | Catholic Saints

In this episode of FORMED Now, Dr. John Sehorn and Dr. Ben Akers discuss this second-century Church Father, explaining his importance to the history of Christianity and his title, the "Doctor of Unity."

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

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and OPUS DEI



View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

CST 101 LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

A discussion guide from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services

OPENING PRAYER: Together, pray, “Prayer for Life and Dignity.”

WATCH: “CST 101: Life and Dignity of the Human Person” on YouTube.

PRAY WITH SCRIPTURE:

Read this Scripture passage twice.

Invite participants to reflect silently after it is read the first time.

“Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness.
Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame
animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth.

God created mankind in his image;
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.” (*Genesis 1:26-27*)

SHARE:

Every person is made in God’s image.

- In whom is it easy to see God’s image?
- Are there people who you struggle to believe are made in God’s image? Why?

REFLECT ON TRADITION:

Read these passages aloud.

“Every individual, precisely by reason of the mystery of the Word of God who was made flesh (*cf. John 1:14*), is entrusted to the maternal care of the Church. Therefore every threat to human dignity and life must necessarily be felt in the Church’s very heart; it cannot but affect her at the core of her faith in the Redemptive Incarnation of the Son of God, and engage her in her mission of proclaiming the Gospel of life in all the world and to every creature (*cf. Mark 16:15*).”

—St. John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life (Evangelium Vitae)*, no. 3



Photo courtesy of Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS

“When we speak of mankind, we must never forget the various attacks on the sacredness of human life. The plague of abortion is an attack on life. Allowing our brothers and sisters to die on boats in the Strait of Sicily is an attack on life. Dying on the job because the minimum safety standards are not respected is an attack on life. Death from malnutrition is an attack on life. Terrorism, war, violence; so is euthanasia. Loving life means always taking care of the other, wanting the best for him, cultivating and respecting her transcendent dignity.”

—Pope Francis, [Address to Meeting of the Science and Life Association](#)

DISCUSS:

- How do these passages move or challenge you?
- As people of faith who believe in Christ’s life, death and resurrection, why do we have a special call to ensure that every person’s life and dignity is respected? How can we live out this call?

ACT:

Read about the youth from [St. Catherine of Siena parish](#), in Austin, Texas, who witness to the life and dignity of every person through their prayer and action against the death penalty. In your family, neighborhood, school or faith community, how might you be called to act with others to protect human life and dignity?

SEND:

Creator God, help us honor the dignity of all people, especially those in whom God’s face may be difficult to recognize. Inspire us to help protect human life in all its stages, at home and around the world. Amen

Visit crs.org/CST-101 or wearesaltandlight.org/CST101 for all CST 101 resources, including the prayers, stories and videos linked to in these discussion guides.



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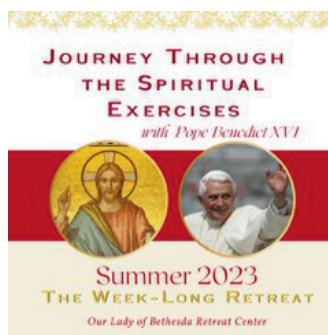
Scripture texts in this work are taken from the *New American Bible, revised edition* © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C., and are used by permission of the copyright owner. All Rights Reserved. No part of the New American Bible may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae* © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City; Pope Francis, *Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to Participants in the Meeting Sponsored by the Science and Life Association* © 2015, LEV. Used with permission. All rights reserved.



Marriage Workshop: Strengthening Your Love Marriage Renewal Workshop Oct 14-15, 2023

A Christ-centered weekend designed to offer practical tools that can help foster effective communication and emotional closeness in your marriage. Make your marriage thrive, not just survive! The expert speaker team includes Catholic psychologists, therapists, and priests who will offer their expertise and experience, plus they will be on hand the entire weekend to offer individual consultation, upon request. Please note: This is NOT an overnight program. Cost: \$480 per couple. Seating will be limited to facilitate social distancing. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817. See our website for more details about the program and links to register: www.ourladyofbethesda.org.



Experience the Week-Long Spiritual Exercises this Summer!

For Women: June 25-July 2

For Men: July 22-28

The Week-Long Spiritual Exercises are for those well familiar with mental prayer, silence, and the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. This year, the Exercises will be based on the extensive writings of Pope Benedict XVI to deepen our reflection on the perennial themes of St. Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises. This week-long format allows more time for personal prayer. With longer periods of silence, you are challenged to stretch your soul, thus engaging in deeper intimacy with God. A trained spiritual director will be available for the daily colloquy to help you detect and understand the movements of the Holy Spirit in your soul. Cost: \$675 per person. Find more details on our website www.ourladyofbethesda.org or call 301-365-0612. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817. Registration is required so that we can properly prepare.



NO MARRIAGE IS BEYOND HOPE

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

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



Religious Education

Mary Beaudoin, 202-294-7697



Faith Formation

Registration for 2023-2024 St. Raphael Religious Education (SRRE) is now open.

Please find the registration link at

<https://www.straphaels.org/religious-education>.

Early registration will end on August 15.

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. We look forward to having all our SRRE children and teens back in September, and we are eager to welcome new families to our faith formation program. If your family was not part of SRRE last year, please contact Mary Beaudoin to be included in email communications.

SRRE sessions will begin on September 10 and 11. We plan to offer the following schedule.

Sundays, 7:05-8:20 PM. – grades 3-8 (and possibly grade 2)

Mondays, 4:30-5:45 PM – grades kindergarten-grade 8

Mondays, 7:00-8:15 PM – grades 1-12

Family Catechesis – sessions on seven Sundays at 4:30-5:45 PM

Family Catechesis includes group meetings for parents and classes for children once every five weeks. Parents teach their children at home for the four weeks in between meetings. Parents need to commit to spending an hour each week on faith formation with their child at home - in order to fulfill the minimum of 30 hours of instruction required by the Archdiocese of Washington – and attend the in-person sessions with their child(ren).

Tuition during Early

Registration:

One child - \$125

Two children - \$200

Three or more children - \$250

Sacramental Fees:

First Eucharist in Spring 2024 - \$75

Confirmation in Spring 2024 - \$75

Sacrament Preparation for School Age Children

In our parish, preparation for a sacrament is a process that usually encompasses about two years. Typically, baptized children begin their preparation for First Penance and First Eucharist in the first grade and receive these sacraments at the end of second grade. In general, preparation for Confirmation begins in seventh grade, and Confirmation is celebrated in the eighth grade. Children ages seven and up who have not been baptized are invited to take part in RCIA adapted for children. Children who are older than 1st grade who wish to prepare for Eucharist, and children older than 7th grade who wish to prepare for Confirmation are incorporated into our Religious Education classes and sacrament preparation process. Children in Catholic schools need to register with their parish Religious Education office so that they receive information about important meetings. Please contact Mary Beaudoin in the Religious Education Office to discuss your child's preparation for sacraments.

Proclaim It on the Housetops!

In today's Gospel (Matthew 10:26-33), Jesus tells his disciples, "What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops" We have heard and known the life-giving Good News of hope and salvation. We must share it with others.

For some, the directive of Jesus is a call to evangelize through the ministry of catechesis. Catechists, co-catechists, and aides mentor young Catholics and, in the process, their own faith is expanded and deepened. To learn more about becoming part of our catechetical team, please contact Mary Beaudoin.

Needed: Over the summer months the SRRE openings for catechists and class aides gradually become clear. We are considering offering a 2nd grade class during our Sunday evening class time, but we need to identify someone who could serve as catechist.

The Reassurance of Faith

Today we celebrate the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Remember to make time to reflect on the [Scripture readings](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/062523.cfm) with your family: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/062523.cfm>

Key Passage: Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. (Matthew 10:28a)

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

- ▶ Adults: When has your faith in Jesus been most seriously tested?
- ▶ Kids: What could you do to encourage someone who is feeling hurt?

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

Is it any wonder that couples find it more difficult to keep marriage vows when promiscuity is portrayed as normative on sitcoms, snuck into e-mails, and annoyingly pops up on websites." What is the media feeding your psyche? Your marriage?

Parenting Pointers

Jeremiah said, "I hear the whisperings of many: Terror on every side!" (Jeremiah 20:10) Jesus said, "Do not be afraid..." (Mt. 10:31). To feel afraid at times is human. Share one thing each of you is afraid of. What helps you get through your fear?

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.

EDUCATE YOURSELF more on *Laudato Si'*

EASY: Read *Laudato Si' Chapter 3* (bit.ly/3pCSCjE) on *The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis* (Section 101-136) which covers Technology, Globalization, and Anthropocentrism. After reading Chapter 3, figure out what "Anthropocentrism" means. Google it if you must.

CHALLENGING: Explain "Anthropocentrism" to someone. 😊

*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 Five: Paths of Youth.

139. Sometime ago, a friend asked me what I see in a young person. My response was that "I see someone who is searching for his or her own path, who wants to fly on their two feet, who faces the world and looks at the horizon with eyes full of the future, full of hope as well as illusions. A young person stands on two feet as adults do, but unlike adults, whose feet are parallel, he always has one foot forward, ready to set out, to spring ahead. Always racing onward. To talk about young people is to talk about promise and to talk about joy. Young people have so much strength; they are able to look ahead with hope. A young person is a promise of life that implies a certain degree of tenacity. He [or she] is foolish enough to delude himself [or herself], and resilient enough to recover from that delusion."

140. Some young people might hate this stage of life, because they want to continue being children or indefinitely prolong their adolescence and put off having to make decisions. "Fear of the definitive thus generates a kind of paralysis of decision-making. Yet youth cannot remain on hold. It is the age of choices and herein lies its fascination and its greatest responsibility. Young people make decisions in professional, social and political fields, and in other more radical ways that determine the shape of their lives." They also make decisions about love, choosing a spouse and starting a family. We will look at these issues more closely in the final chapters, when dealing with individual vocations and their discernment.

141. But opposed to these hopes and dreams that generate decisions, there is always the temptation to complain or give up. "We can leave that to those who worship the 'goddess of lament'... She is a false goddess: she makes you take the wrong road. When everything seems to be standing still and stagnant, when our personal issues trouble us, and social problems do not meet with the right responses, it does no good to give up. Jesus is the way: welcome him into your 'boat' and put out into the deep! He is the Lord! He changes the way we see life. Faith in Jesus leads to greater hope, to a certainty based not on our qualities and skills, but on the word of God, on the invitation that comes from him. Without making too many human calculations, and without worrying about things that challenge your security, put out into the deep. Go out of yourselves."

142. Keep following your hopes and dreams. But be careful about one temptation that can hold us back. It is anxiety. Anxiety can work against us by making us give up whenever we do not see instant results. Our best dreams are only attained through hope, patience and commitment, and not in haste. At the same time, we should not be hesitant, afraid to take chances or make mistakes. Avoid the paralysis of the living dead, who have no life because they are afraid to take risks, to make mistakes or to persevere in their commitments. Even if you make mistakes, you can always get up and start over, for no one has the right to rob you of hope.

143. Dear young people, make the most of these years of your youth. Don't observe life from a balcony. Don't confuse happiness with an armchair, or live your life behind a screen. Whatever you do, do not become the sorry sight of an abandoned vehicle! Don't be parked cars, but dream freely and make good decisions. Take risks, even if it means making mistakes. Don't go through life anesthetized or approach the world like tourists. Make a ruckus! Cast out the fears that paralyze you, so that you don't become young mummies. Live! Give yourselves over to the best of life! Open the door of the cage, go out and fly! Please, don't take early retirement.

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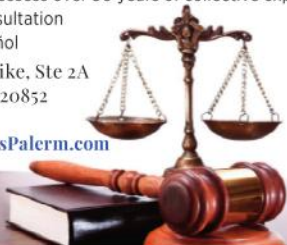
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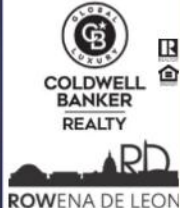
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