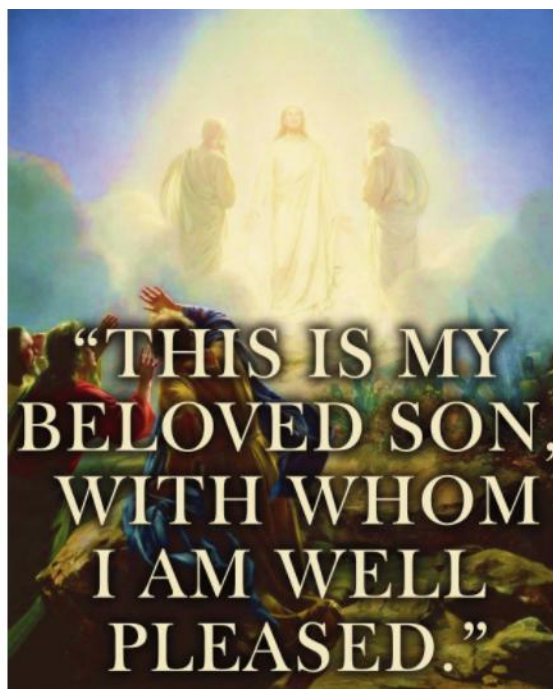


St. Raphael Catholic Church



1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

August 6, 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
Teri Dwyer, Principal, ext. 121
Julie Cress, School Admissions, ext. 158 or jcress@straphaels.org
Gerri Stoner, St. Raphael School Secretary, ext. 122
Luisa Duarte, Spanish Coordinator, 240-864-2565
Eileen Kutchak, Dir. of Parish Programming, ext. 110
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 Eileen Kutchak, 240-864-2510, 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.

The Rite of Christian Initiation, **RCIA**



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

We are in the RCIA Inquiry Stage. If you are thinking about joining the Catholic Church, or just looking for meaning in life, please join our meetings Sundays in August: 6, 13, 20, 27, 9:45-11:15AM in the youth center after the 8:30AM Mass. 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 Kryz 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 www.straphaels.org, Faith Formation, RCIA.

BINGO

The organizers of the Festivity of Our Lord of the Miracles, Patron Saint of Peru, invite you to Our **Annual Bingo, Sunday, August 6th at 2:30PM in the Trumpet Room.** The cost of a card is \$5.00.

There will be food available, prizes and raffles.



Come with your family and have some fun in an effort to raise funds for the Celebration that will take place this year on the 8th of October.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesdays at 6:45PM with Miraculous Medal Novena at 7:30 PM followed by Benediction.

Thursdays following 9:00AM Mass with Benediction at 7:15PM



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 August 1.

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, August 7

6:30AM Rochester Family
9:00AM Ho-Fan Chan (d)

Tuesday, August 8

6:30AM Henrietta Goldfrank (d)
9:00AM Joseph Ihsan (d)

Wednesday, August 9

6:30AM Seigi Tully (d)
9:00AM Dana Semmes (d)

Thursday, August 10

6:30AM Lawrence Leong (d)
9:00AM Teresa Ingardia (d)

Friday, August 11

6:30AM Lawrence Leong (d)
9:00AM Gary M. Welsh (d)

Saturday, August 12

9:00AM Helen Lowery
5:00PM Fr. Tom Alfred Muratore (d)

Sunday, August 13

7:00AM Fr. Tom Antonio Lozano (d)
8:30AM Fr. Mike Patrick Young (d)
10:00AM Fr. Mike Leticia Garcia (d)
11:30AM Fr. Tom Intercession of Our Blessed Mother
1:00PM Fr. John Members of the Parish
6:00PM Fr. John Austin Hu, Ting-Chi Hu, See Mei Hu (d)

The priest schedule is subject to change.

Live-streamed Masses:

There will be daily live-streamed Masses, Sunday English and Spanish Masses.

Go to website:

www.straphaels.org and link to YouTube.

Baptisms:

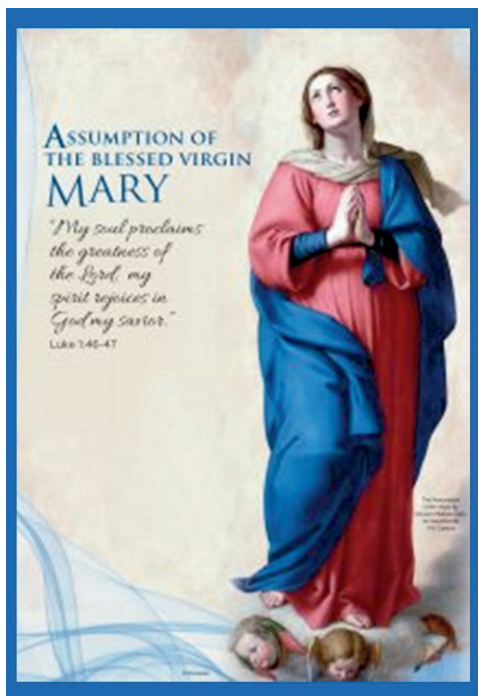
Michael Julian Jensen	July 29
Anabelle Hoyos Jensen	July 29
Penelope Rose Jensen	July 29

Please pray for the soul of

Ruth Czecha (d)



**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. Amen.**



THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

MONDAY, AUGUST 14
7:00PM SPANISH VIGIL

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15
6:30 AND 9:00AM
4:30 AND 7:00PM

Confessions will be heard during Mass.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL/ST. RAPHAEL CONFERENCE

Feast of the Transfiguration:

In the Gospel, the Lord's voice says: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." The disciples were afraid, but Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise and do not be afraid."

Know that in making your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, you are listening to Christ, and helping others not to be afraid.

Have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

For more information, you may call Ursula Boesch at 240-988-7134 or e-mail ursulaboesch@aol.com.

AUGUST



NO MARRIAGE IS BEYOND HOPE

The Retrouvaille marriage program is for couples with marital problems that want marriage 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@retrouvaille.org or www.HelpOurMarriage.org



THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR AUGUST

For World Youth Day

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

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.

Have you experienced shame and had feelings of sadness, regret or guilt after abortion or the use of the abortion pill?

You are not alone! Any woman, who has gone through an abortion, is invited to attend an *Entering Canaan Day of Prayer and Healing on Saturday, October 14, 2023*. You will find the Sacraments, a caring retreat team, a witness talk, and a non-judgmental atmosphere, to heal from this shame and other negative emotions that come after abortion. Exact location and participation is confidential, due to the personal nature of this experience. For more information, contact Project Rachel Ministry, sponsored by The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington: 301-982-2008. You are welcome to email, just remember that email is not a confidential means of communication hope@adw.org

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience

"And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light."
Through the grace of Jesus, your marriage can be transformed. Join us on the next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on October 13-15, 2023 in College Park, MD and September 22-24, 2023 in Herndon, VA**. Early sign up is recommended.

For more information visit our website at:
<https://moments4marriage.org> or contact us at applications@moments4marriage.org or 301-500-0871.

Did you miss a weekly offering while on summer vacation? eGiving through Faith Direct is the easiest and most convenient way for our parish to receive your weekly offering and other Church support. eGiving through Faith Direct will also save you time while helping St. Raphael Catholic Church reduce our expenses. 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

Scripture Readings for the Week of August 6, 2023

Sunday Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord
Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9

Monday Memorials of Saint Sixtus II, Pope and Martyr and Companions, and Saint Cajetan, Priest
Nm 11:4b-15; Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Mt 14:13-21

Tuesday Memorial of Saint Dominic, Priest
Nm 12:1-13; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13; Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday Memorial of Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr
Nm 13:1-2, 25 - 14:1, 26a-29a, 34-35; Ps 106:6-7ab, 13-14, 21-22, 23; Mt 15:21-28

Thursday Feast of Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr
2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9; Jn 12:24-26

Friday Memorial of Saint Clare, Virgin
Dt 4:32-40; Ps 77:12-13, 14-15, 16 & 21; Mt 16:24-28

Saturday Religious Memorial of Saint Jane Frances de Chantal,
Dt 6:4-13; Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 47 & 51; Mt 17:14-20

Sunday Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Ps 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33

THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of August 06, 2023



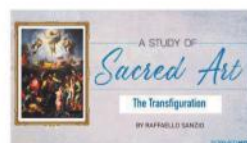
Edith Stein: The Seventh Chamber

This film is a moving, artistic portrayal of the life of Jewish philosopher, Catholic convert, and Carmelite martyr, Edith Stein. It powerfully captures the interior struggles of this extraordinary woman and her journey toward the Lord.



Clare and Francis

This outstanding movie is unique among films about St. Francis because of the historical accuracy of the story and its authentic spirit of joy and piety so characteristic of Francis, as well as the major role played by Clare. Both founded major religious orders, and together they inspired many to follow their radical call to live the Gospel.



The Transfiguration | Sacred Art

Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp sit down with Raffaello Sanzio's painting, "The Transfiguration," to discuss its theological meaning and how it can speak to us today.

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

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and apostolic prelates



*impacting life...
impacting lives*

ANNUAL BENEFIT BANQUET
ft. Keynote speaker, Abby Johnson
October 26, 2023 | 6:30pm

Shady Grove Pregnancy Center is pleased to invite you to attend our 40th Annual Benefit Banquet. Join us in celebrating 40 years of service with a gourmet dinner & dessert, games, and an inspiring message from keynote speaker, Abby Johnson.

The Benefit Banquet will be held on Thursday, October 26, at the Rockville Hilton Hotel. **Reservations are required to attend.** Please call 301-963-6223 to RSVP by October 13.



CLINIC's Welcome the Stranger Golf Outing 2023

Join the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) at the *Welcome the Stranger* golf outing in celebration of 35 years of upholding dignity and protecting rights of immigrants.

CLINIC provides training and support to a dedicated network of more than 400 Catholic and community-based immigration law providers in 49 states. By supporting approximately 3,000 network employees with diverse and in-depth training, real-time updates and best practices, CLINIC ultimately serves nearly 500,000 immigrants a year, making it the largest nonprofit immigration law organization in the country. Your participation will help CLINIC continue to support immigrants and refugees for years to come!

Registration includes 18 holes of golf, 12:30 p.m. shotgun start, scramble format, a cocktail reception, and an autographed golf memorabilia auction to immediately follow.

register at <https://www.cliniclegal.org/events/golf>

University of Maryland Golf Course
Saturday, September 9, 2023



Marriage Workshop: Strengthening Your Love Marriage Renewal Workshop October 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.



You are cordially invited to attend the
14th Annual FCRTL Banquet

Friday, September 29, 2023 • Reception • Buffet Dinner

(Buffet includes Salmon, Beef, & Chicken)

Dutch's Daughter, 581 Himes Avenue, Frederick, MD

Appetizers and cash bar will be available at 5:30 PM, with dinner at 6:30 PM

Speaker: Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Coffey, Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA

Topic: Take Action - Give Life a Chance



Bishop Joseph Coffey is one of four auxiliary bishops of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, the largest archdiocese in the world. Since his installation on March 25, 2019, he has logged thousands of hours and miles all over his territory, the entire United States. As vicar for veterans' affairs, his duties include visiting chaplains of VAMC (veterans' hospitals). A decorated Navy captain and a chaplain himself, an adventurous globe-trotter and a tireless worker in the cause of the sanctity of all human life, he is uniquely suited to the task.

Price: \$65 per person; \$55 for students, seminarians & clergy
Do not delay; this event sold out early last year!

To reserve seats **before** September 15th:

Mail order form and check payable to FCRTL to: FCRTL, P.O. Box 3272, Frederick, MD 21705

OR order and pay by credit card by visiting our website at:

FrederickCountyRighttoLife.org (Scan the QR code to access our website)

To reserve seats **after** September 14th please call Virginia Grant at 301-695-2811 to confirm availability before following instructions above for paying for the seats.

Donations accepted the night of the Banquet by check, credit card, or cash.

Unable to Attend? Please consider sponsoring a seat or donating to FCRTL. Checks should be made payable to: FCRTL. Because we are working to change the law regarding pro-life issues, the IRS does not allow donations made to FCRTL to be tax-deductible.

Please Print

FCRTL Order Form

Please Print

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Total # of Reg Seats: _____ Total # of student/clergy seats: _____ Total Cost: \$ _____

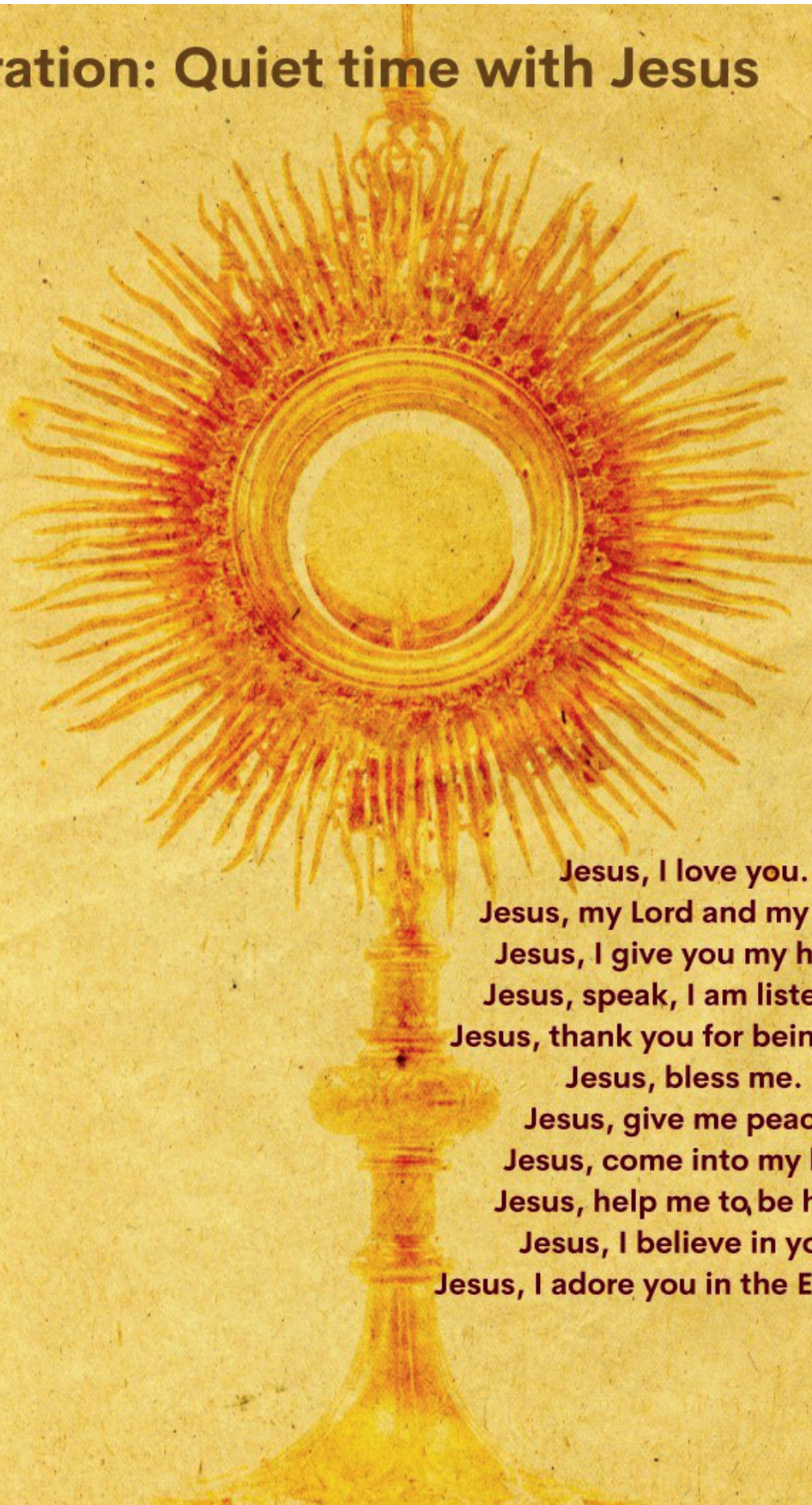
Check#: _____

Number requiring vegetarian dinner: _____

Names of All Attendees: _____



Adoration: Quiet time with Jesus



Jesus, I love you.
Jesus, my Lord and my God.
Jesus, I give you my heart.
Jesus, speak, I am listening.
Jesus, thank you for being here.
Jesus, bless me.
Jesus, give me peace.
Jesus, come into my life.
Jesus, help me to be holy.
Jesus, I believe in you.
Jesus, I adore you in the Eucharist.

There is not just one right way to adore Jesus present in the Holy Eucharist. He is happy that you have come to spend quiet time with Him! As you come to spend time with Jesus, begin by kneeling on two knees - or bow reverently - before going into the pew. Bless yourself with the Sign of the Cross as you begin your quiet time with Jesus.

- Say "Jesus, I love you, Jesus, I adore you."
- Pray quietly to Jesus. Tell him why you came to spend this time with Him.
- Think about what Jesus might say to you.
- Say some prayers you know, like the Our Father, Hail Mary.

...or...

Pray the rosary or a decade of the rosary.

...or...

Think of how you are living and acting as a disciple of Jesus.

...or...

Just be quiet and let Jesus be present to you.

Some people use the word "ACTS" to help them pray. It reminds us that prayer includes adoration, contrition, thanks and supplication. Here are ways you can begin this type of prayer:

- Jesus, I adore you. I come to worship you.
- Jesus, I am sorry for the times I turn away from you. When I am selfish or mad, when I don't treat others with respect.
- Jesus, thank you for the gift of faith, thank you for my family, food, clothes, and all that I have. Thank you for loving me.
- Jesus, please bless those I love, for those who are hungry, or who have no place to live. Please bless people who are sick and lonely.

Before you leave your time of adoration, thank Jesus for the time you had and promise to come back to spend time with Him in adoration.

Adapted from Adoration guide by Sr. Ann Parker, IHM

CST 101 SOLIDARITY

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

OPENING PRAYER: Together, pray, "Because We Are Yours."

WATCH: "CST 101: Solidarity" on YouTube.

PRAY WITH SCRIPTURE:

Read this Scripture passage twice.

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

"Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If [one] part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy."
(1 Corinthians 12:22-26)

SHARE:

To show compassion, from the root words "com" and "passion," means "to suffer with" another.

- When have you experienced deep compassion for the suffering of another?
- Have you ever experienced compassion for the suffering of a stranger?

REFLECT ON TRADITION:

Read these passages aloud.

"[Solidarity] is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the



Photo courtesy of Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS

common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all."

—St. John Paul II, *On Social Concern (Sollicitudo rei Socialis)*, no. 38

"The solidarity which binds all men together as members of a common family makes it impossible for wealthy nations to look with indifference upon the hunger, misery and poverty of other nations whose citizens are unable to enjoy even elementary human rights. The nations of the world are becoming more and more dependent on one another and it will not be possible to preserve a lasting peace so long as glaring economic and social imbalances persist."

—St. John XXIII, *Mother and Teacher (Mater et Magistra)*, no. 157

DISCUSS:

- Do you believe that "we are all really responsible for all"? If so, how does this challenge you?
- How can you join with others to take concrete steps—big or small—to help build a society of solidarity?

ACT:

Read this article to learn how college students are living out the call to solidarity as CRS Student Ambassadors. How can you work to educate others about issues that impact our brothers and sisters at home and around the world?

SEND:

Loving God, Father of all people, help sensitize us to the suffering of others so that we can overcome indifference and build up a civilization of love and solidarity. Amen



Mass for Families of Miscarriage

Tuesday, August 22

7pm at Our Lady of Lourdes



7:00 Mass

7:30 Testimony

8:00 Gathering

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
7500 Pearl Street, Bethesda

St. Michael Prayer

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.

Be our defense against the wickedness and
snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,

O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,

who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls. 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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Religious Education
Mary Beaudoin, 202-294-7697



Register for Religious Education THIS WEEK!

We are busy preparing for the start of St. Raphael Religious Education (SRRE) on September 10. Parents are reminded to register children and teens for religious education and sacrament preparation this week. Please note that families must complete the registration form each year. Please find the registration link at

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

Note that 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 2-8

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

Mondays, 7:00-8:15 PM – grades 1-12

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

Religious Education Calendar:

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

(Scroll down; use arrows to find upcoming months.)

*Our Family Catechesis program helps parents grow in their own faith while they guide their children in core faith formation. Parents teach their children each week's lesson at home. Then all families come together for seasonal sessions with hands-on activities focused on faith topics. Families 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 to attend the six seasonal sessions.

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

*Tuition support is available. Please contact Mary Beaudoin to arrange an assistance plan.

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.

Eucharistic Revival

The National Eucharistic Revival in the United States moved into its second, or parish, year on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. In July 2024, the Church in the United States will hold a National Eucharistic Congress. Pope Francis met with the organizers of the Congress on June 19 and offered these and other important insights.

"It is my hope, then, that the Eucharistic Congress will inspire Catholics throughout the country to discover anew the sense of wonder and awe at the Lord's great gift of himself and to spend time with him in the celebration of the Holy Mass and in personal prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.... I likewise trust that the Congress will be an occasion for the faithful to commit themselves with ever greater zeal to being missionary disciples of the Lord Jesus in the world... This is the sense of a missionary spirit. You go to the celebration of Mass, receive communion, adore the Lord and then what do you do after? You go out and evangelize. Jesus asks this of us. The Eucharist, then, impels us to a strong and committed love of neighbor. For we cannot truly understand or live the meaning of the Eucharist if our hearts are closed to our brothers and sisters, especially those who are poor, suffering, weary or who may have gone astray in life" (Pope Francis, Greinget to the Organizing Committee of the National Eucharistic Congress in the United States of America).

A Lamp Shining in a Dark Place

In today's Second Reading from the First Letter of Peter, the author writes, "Moreover, we possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable. You will do well to be attentive to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." In the ministry of catechesis we share this prophetic message with the youngest generation of Catholics, so that they too will experience the light of Christ shining in the many dark places of life. You are invited to become involved in this ministry as a catechist, co-catechist, or class aide. To learn more about becoming part of our catechetical team, please contact Mary Beaudoin.

Needed:

Sunday night catechists and class aides (7:05-8:20 PM)

Monday afternoon catechists and class aides (4:30-5:45 PM)

Monday night catechists and class aides (7:00-8:15 PM)

Call to Faithfulness

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. Remember to make time to reflect on the [Scripture readings](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/080623.cfm) with your family: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/080623.cfm>
Key Passage: Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. (Matthew 17:1-2)
... and then have a family sharing time on the questions below:

- Adults: How has your faith in Jesus transformed you? What difference does your faith in Jesus Christ make in your life?
- Kids: How has the example of Jesus helped you become a better person and Christian?

Marriage Moments

August has 2 full moons (Aug. 1 & 30) Rare but thought provoking. A full moon symbolizes completion, fertility, abundance, and transformation which are marriage worthy qualities. Ponder these qualities throughout the month.

Parenting Pointers

On August 6 & 9, 1945 the USA bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Have we learned anything since then? "Not everyone is going to be a friend, but no one needs to be an enemy." (*Raising Kids Who Will Make a Difference*) How do you and your children deal with people you don't like? Avoid them? Pray for them? Try to understand them? Gossip about them? Confront them? Fight with them? Other?

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.

EASY: Google *Regenerative agriculture vs Industrial agriculture*. Do you understand the difference? Then google *"What are the pros & cons of Industrial farming?"*.

CHALLENGING: Choose a Regenerative agriculture farming practice to support.

*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.

Young and committed

168. At times, seeing a world so full of violence and selfishness, young people can be tempted to withdraw into small groups, shunning the challenges and issues posed by life in society and in the larger world. They may feel that they are experiencing fraternity and love, but their small group may in fact become nothing other than an extension of their own ego. This is even more serious if they think of the lay vocation simply as a form of service inside the Church: serving as lectors, acolytes, catechists, and so forth. They forget that the lay vocation is directed above all to charity within the family and to social and political charity. It is a concrete and faith-based commitment to the building of a new society. It involves living in the midst of society and the world in order to bring the Gospel everywhere, to work for the growth of peace, harmony, justice, human rights and mercy, and thus for the extension of God's kingdom in this world.

169. I ask young people to go beyond their small groups and to build "social friendship, where everyone works for the common good. Social enmity, on the other hand, is destructive. Families are destroyed by enmity. Countries are destroyed by enmity. The world is destroyed by enmity. And the greatest enmity of all is war. Today we see that the world is destroying itself by war... So find ways of building social friendship." It is not easy, it always means having to give something up and to negotiate, but if we do it for the sake of helping others, we can have the magnificent experience of setting our differences aside and working together for something greater. If, as a result of our own simple and at times costly efforts, we can find points of agreement amid conflict, build bridges and make peace for the benefit of all, then we will experience the miracle of the culture of encounter. This is something which young people can dare to pursue with passion.

170. The Synod recognized that "albeit in a different way from earlier generations, social commitment is a specific feature of today's young people. Alongside some who are indifferent, there are many others who are ready to commit themselves to initiatives of volunteer work, active citizenship and social solidarity. They need to be accompanied and encouraged to use their talents and skills creatively, and to be encouraged to take up their responsibilities. Social engagement and direct contact with the poor remain fundamental ways of finding or deepening one's faith and the discernment of one's vocation... It was also noted that the young are prepared to enter political life so as to build the common good."

171. Today, thank God, many young people in parishes, schools, movements and university groups often go out to spend time with the elderly and the infirm, or to visit poor neighborhoods, or to meet people's needs through "nights of charity." Very often, they come to realize that there they receive much more than what they give. We grow in wisdom and maturity when we take the time to touch the suffering of others. The poor have a hidden wisdom and, with a few simple words, they can help us discover unexpected values.

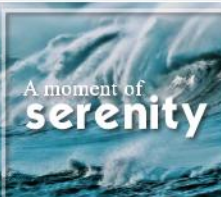
172. Other young people take part in social programs that build houses for the homeless, or reclaim contaminated areas or offer various kinds of assistance to the needy. It would be helpful if this shared energy could be channeled and organized in a more stable way and with clear goals, so as to be even more effective. University students can apply their knowledge in an interdisciplinary way, together with young people of other churches or religions, in order to propose solutions to social problems.

173. As in the miracle of Jesus, the bread and the fish provided by young people can multiply (cf. *Jn* 6:4-13). As in the parable, the small seeds sown by young people can yield a rich harvest (cf. *Mt* 13:23.31-32). All of this has its living source in the Eucharist, in which our bread and our wine are transformed to grant us eternal life. Young people face immense and difficult challenges. With faith in the risen Lord, they can confront them with creativity and hope, ever ready to be of service, like the servants at the wedding feast, who unknowingly cooperated in Jesus' first miracle. They did nothing more than follow the order of his Mother: "Do whatever he tells you" (*Jn* 2:5). Mercy, creativity and hope make life grow.

174. I want to encourage all of you in this effort, because I know that "your young hearts want to build a better world. I have been following news reports of the many young people throughout the world who have taken to the streets to express the desire for a more just and fraternal society. Young people taking to the streets! The young want to be protagonists of change. Please, do not leave it to others to be protagonists of change. You are the ones who hold the future! Through you, the future enters into the world. I ask you also to be protagonists of this transformation. You are the ones who hold the key to the future! Continue to fight apathy and to offer a Christian response to the social and political troubles emerging in different parts of the world. I ask you to build the future, to work for a better world. Dear young people, please, do not be bystanders in life. Get involved! Jesus was not a bystander. He got involved. Don't stand aloof, but immerse yourselves in the reality of life, as Jesus did." Above all, in one way or another, fight for the common good, serve the poor, be protagonists of the revolution of charity and service, capable of resisting the pathologies of consumerism and superficial individualism.



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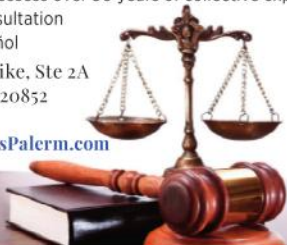
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