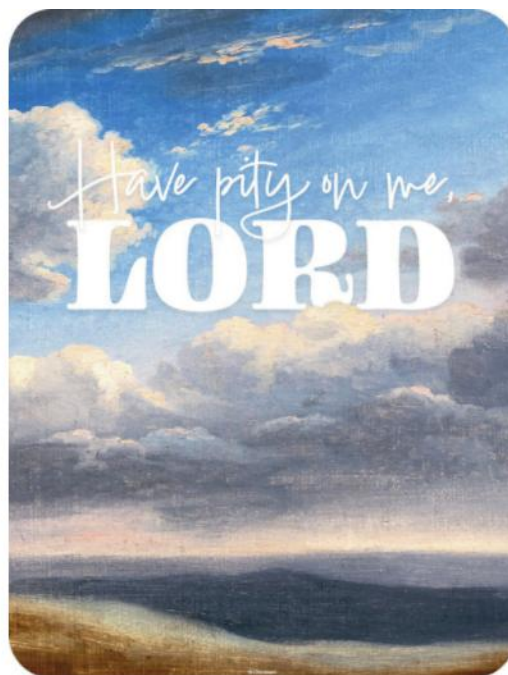
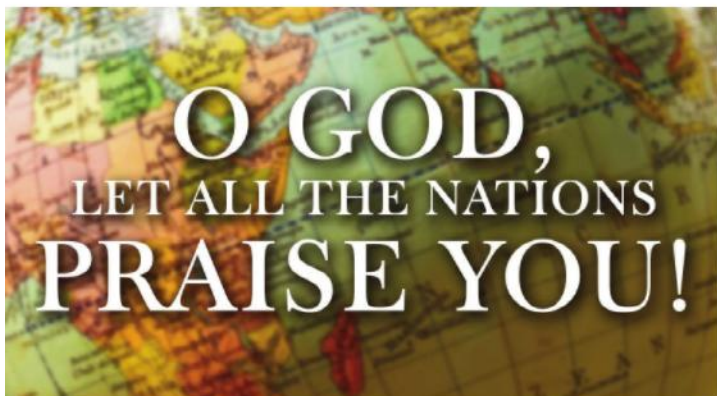


St. Raphael Catholic Church



1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

August 20, 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
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 www.straphaels.org.

For Life Affirming Resources:
<https://adw.org/about-us/resources/pregnant-need-help/>
Healing after abortion? Project Rachel 301-853-4565

St Vincent de Paul/St Raphael Conference Intake Number: 240-447-7027

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 2024 Mass intention request book will open on Tuesday, August 29.

You may request your Mass intention (limit 12) in person at the Parish Office.

Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30AM-5PM.

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: 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.

Dear People of St. Raphael's,

Thank you so much for hosting myself and my family for my Mass of Thanksgiving on June 18th! It meant a lot to me to celebrate Mass in the beautiful parish where I was baptized! It was in some ways a surreal experience to be celebrating Mass in the church where I had been an altar server on so many occasions. It definitely brought home to me how awesome the generosity of the Lord is. I pray for you all, and hope to visit again soon.

God bless,

Fr. Martin Begley

If you are approached by someone in church or parking lot in need of help, please hand them a bulletin with below information. The SVdP intake number is also on bulletin front cover.



**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
St. Raphael Catholic Church Conference**

1513 Dunster Road
Rockville MD 20854

240-447-7027 - Intake

If you are in need of financial help (for utilities, housing, food or other needs) please call the phone number above. If no one answers, leave a message, giving your name and phone number, repeating the phone number a second time.

You will receive a call from one of our members within 24 hours. If you don't receive a return call in 24 hours, please call again to make sure the message wasn't missed.

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 15.

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

Monday, August 21

6:30AM Pierce Quinlan (d)
9:00AM Regina Hernandez (d)

Tuesday, August 22

6:30AM Lawrence Leong (d)
9:00AM Allison Meyer-Sabino & Larry Sabino

Wednesday, August 23

6:30AM Miguel Divino (d)
9:00AM John Piper (d)

Thursday, August 24

6:30AM Lawrence Leong (d)
9:00AM Edward Janus (d)

Friday, August 25

6:30AM Thomas Moore Wolf (d)
9:00AM Mrs. Aleykutty Antony (d)

Saturday, August 26

9:00AM Deacon Richard Mattocks (d)
5:00PM Fr. John Sue Choi (d)

Sunday, August 27

7:00AM	Fr. Christian	Members of the Parish
8:30AM	Fr. Mike	Maureen Weyers (d)
10:00AM	Fr. John	Dolores Willis (d)
11:30AM	Fr. Tom	Paul & Linda Saah (d)
1:00PM	Fr. John	Jacqueline Durocher (d)
6:00PM	Fr. Mike	Jeffrey Laberiza Chatterjie (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.

Need Marriage Help?

Retrouvaille has helped tens of thousands of couples struggling in their marriage.

For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend September 1-3, please visit:

www.HelpOurMarriage.org, call (443) 400-7017, or email us at: Maryland@HelpOurMarriage.org

Please pray for the soul of

Eleanor Scott

Colleen Cohan, sister of Kathleen Cohan



**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.**

Usher Ministry - We need your help!
Please contact Terry Salsgiver at
301-437-2018 or tsalsgiver@comcast.net

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.

Disaster Relief for Maui:

Donations to assist in the recovery efforts can be made directly through Catholic Charities USA at www.catholiccharitiesusa.org or telephone 1-800-915-9338.

Come Join St. Raphael's Team to Support ADW Ride for Vocations

CHECK YOUR BRAKES! REFILL YOUR WATER BOTTLES! THROW YOUR BICYCLE ON THE BIKE RACK, JOIN HUNDREDS OF CATHOLICS FOR THE "RIDE FOR VOCATIONS" SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH.

Once again a team of riders from St. Raphael's, including Deacon Rich Meyer, Bill Arcieri, Mike Coene, Alonzo Garcia, Daniel Rueda Posada, and Frederico Sologuren will be joining a group of priests, seminarians, and laypeople from across the Archdiocese of Washington to participate in a long-distance bicycle ride to support priestly vocations in the Archdiocese through prayer, sacrifice, and financial support. The goal for the ride is to have each participant raise at least \$250 from either his/her sponsors, fundraising or personal charitable contribution. Cyclists of all experience levels are welcome to join us for our Bike Ride at either the 100, 70, 50, or 20-mile distance. The ride will start from Sacred Heart Church in LaPlata, MD and proceed along the state's beautiful southern byways. Re-fuel your body and soul at Catholic Churches along the way. To register or obtain further information on the ride, please see <https://dcpriest.org/ride-for-vocations>.

Please contact Bill Arcieri at warcieri@gmail.com or Deacon Rich at rsmhome@verizon.net for further information on joining the St. Raphael's team, including practice rides, or supporting or team financially. Should you choose to donate online, please indicate that your donation is in support of the St. Raphael's team.

Scripture Readings for the Week of August 20, 2023

Sunday Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 56:1, 6-7; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

Monday Memorial of Saint Pius X, Pope
Jgs 2:11-19; Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40; 43ab & 44; Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Jgs 6:11-24a; Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14; Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday Memorial of Saint Rose of Lima, Virgin
Jgs 9:6-15; Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mt 20:1-16

Thursday Feast of Saint Bartholomew, Apostle
Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51

Friday Memorial of Saint Louis of France and Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest
Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10; Mt 22:34-40

Saturday
Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Mt 23:1-12

Sunday Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 22:19-23; Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20



Please join us for the TWINNING COMMITTEE PLANNING MEETING AND BARBECUE - Saturday, August 26, 2023 at 4 pm!

The St. Martin's/St. Raphael's Twinning Committee will be having their annual Summer Planning Meeting (and barbecue) on this date and we would love for you to join us. At this meeting we will plan out our activities for the coming year, including the Thanksgiving Food Drive, as well as enjoy the fellowship of members from our two parish communities. If you are looking for a wonderful way to provide service to your community with a rather small time commitment, look no further. The Twinning Committee has been working together for over 30 years and it is a fulfilling and fun ministry. So come check us out! The meeting will be held at the home of St. Raphael parishioners Carolyn Tyc and Jeff Duncel at 4304 Rosedale Avenue in Bethesda. Feel free to contact us at tyc1dunc3@aol.com or call/text us 301-807-9810 for more information.



Holy Mass
followed by
Healing Prayers

SEPTEMBER 5, 7:00 PM

Confessions will continue during
Mass and Healing Prayers.

*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

EPIC: The Early Church

Tuesday Mornings 10 -12:00 Noon in PARISH LIBRARY September 12 – November 14

Tuesday Mornings 10:30 – 12:00 Noon on ZOOM September 12 – November 14

Thursday Evenings 7:30 – 9:00 PM on ZOOM September 14 – November 16

Epic: The Early Church is about the first 500 years of the Church – a time of courageous saints, brilliant philosophers, eloquent theologians, threatening heresies, ruthless emperors, and heroic martyrs – a time that prepared the Church to carry on the faith. This 10-part study with its colorful workbook, videos & timeline chart will draw you closer to Christ through a deeper understanding of His Church.

For further information and to sign up, contact Dorothy Welsh at dwwelsh5@aol.com (for Tuesday classes) or Terry Salsgiver at tsalsgiver@comcast.net (for Thursday class).

View & order the Study Set (materials & online video access \$26.95) at www.ascensionpress.com and they will be sent directly to you.



walking with purpose

Make authentic connections with other women

Refuel and refresh | Learn more about God

Walking with Purpose gives women the opportunity to embark on a journey where they learn how they can navigate everyday challenges and struggles with the help of Biblical teachings, the love of Jesus Christ and the support of other women.

This fall St. Raphael will be offering, *Opening Your Heart*, which explores the fundamental questions of our Catholic faith and our relationship with Jesus Christ. Join us as we examine the core questions that we need to wrestle with if we want to experience all that God has for us.

We will meet Thursday morning's from 9:45-11:30 AM, Youth Center, beginning September 14, 2023. Child care will be available off-site. Registration will open in August.

Questions? Contact Janice Frankford at jwfrankford@yahoo.com or (206) 661-2972

To Register, Contact: Kathy Lising at (301) 525-8678 or straphael.wwp@gmail.com



Have You Heard?

**GOD IS DOING SOMETHING
NEW—AND HE IS CALLING
YOU TO BE A PART OF IT!**

We are in the midst of a National Eucharistic Revival. Why? Because the Church needs healing, and the world needs Jesus. The Holy Spirit is inviting us to return to the source and summit of our faith—the Eucharist.

Scan the code to learn more about the exciting journey ahead, and sign up for weekly updates on what's happening in this unprecedented national movement!

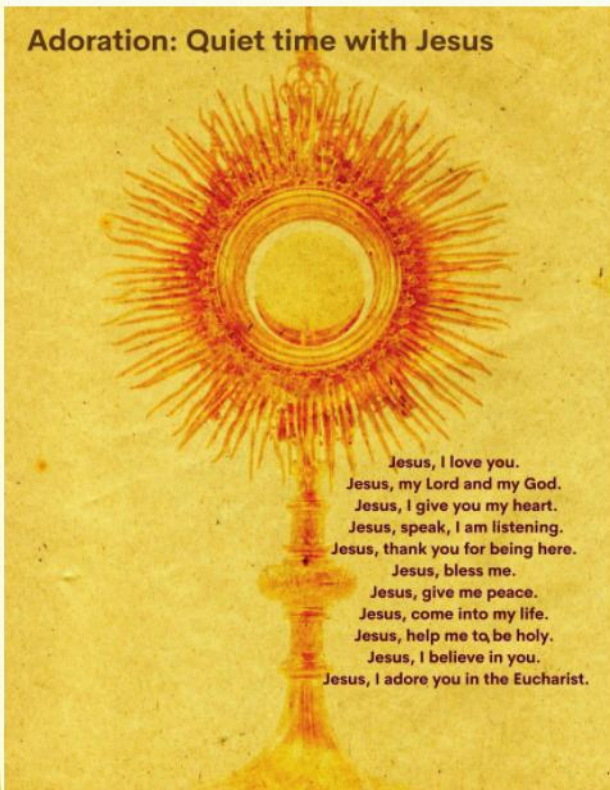
eucharisticrevival.org



Welcome to Eucharistic Adoration at St. Raphael Catholic Church



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.

Every Thursday from 9:30am until Benediction at 7:15pm.

Out of reverence to our Lord Jesus, *someone must always be present when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the Altar.*

Committed Adorers are present for one hour or more, with a pew marker to be easily identified.

The commitment doesn't have to be regular, and they can change it according to their needs (once a week, once a month, morning, afternoon...).

To join the team, please enroll through the Sign-Up Genius link no later than Wednesday for the following Thursday: <https://bit.ly/STRadoration>

The Eucharistic Coordinator for each Thursday (phone number on the sign-up sheet) can help if someone is late for his or her hourly slot.

Enjoy your blessed time with the Lord!

Catechists and Aides Needed

St. Raphael Religious Education

Catechists echo the teaching of Christ by praying, preparing weekly lesson plans, teaching the lessons, loving the children and teens in their care, attending formation events, and communicating with parents.

Sundays, 7:05-8:20 p.m.

Co-Catechist for Grade 3

Catechist for Grade 4

Catechist for Grade 6

Catechist for Grade 7 or 8

Class Aides - all grades



Class aides support catechists by helping individual learners, accompanying children outside the classroom, ensuring an attractive and functional environment, gathering and distributing supplies and worksheets, and filling other roles as needed.

Mondays, 4:30-5:45 p.m.

Co-Catechist for Grade 1

Catechist for Grade 7

Class Aides - all grades



Mondays, 7:00-8:15 p.m.

Catechist for Grade 3 or 4

Catechist for Grade 5

Catechists for Grade 8

Class Aides - all grades



For more information, contact Mary Beaudoin at mbeaudoin@straphaels.org or 202-294-7697.



Register for SRRE
Today . . .



Saint Raphael Religious Education (SRRE)

St. Raphael Religious Education (SRRE) offers ongoing faith formation for all children and teens, as well as preparation for sacraments.

- **Sundays, 7:05-8:20 p.m. – grades 2-8**
- **Mondays, 4:30-5:45 p.m. – kindergarten through grade 8**
- **Mondays, 7:00-8:15 p.m. – grades 1-12**
- **Family Catechesis – sessions on six Sundays at 4:30-5:45 p.m.**

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.

SRRE begins on September 10 and 11.

Register today at www.straphaels.org/religious-education

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

CENTRO
TEPEYAC
Women's Center

PREGNANT?

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

- We encourage, educate, and empower women and men to make life giving decisions for themselves and their unborn children.
- We do this by being the first point of contact through gentle, compassionate counseling, practical support, and walking with our clients every step of the way.

FREE SERVICES

- Pregnancy Tests
- Material Assistance
clothes, diapers, car seats, blankets, bath items...
- Parenting and health Classes
- Counseling
- Abortion Pill Reversal Information
- Referrals
ultrasound, adoption services, pre-natal care, English classes, childcare programs, prenatal and postpartum classes.



Ways to support!

- Material assistance
- Donate
- become a volunteer



HOURS

Monday- Friday
10am-3pm

12247 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20902

301 587-9516
centrotepeyac.org
juliekilmer@ctepeyac.org

Marriage

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Because We Care About Your Marriage!

MARRIAGE RENEWAL RETREATS

June 16-17, 2023 & November 4-5, 2023

Encouragement and inspiration for any marriage. Topics range from improving communication and respect to deepening your prayer life as a couple.

MARRIAGE STRENGTHENING WORKSHOPS

October 14-15, 2023 & January 27-28, 2024

A Christ-centered weekend designed to offer practical tools to foster effective communication and emotional closeness in any marriage. The expert speaker team includes Catholic psychologists, therapists, and priests who are available throughout the entire weekend.

COUPLE'S EVENINGS OF REFLECTION

Sep 20, Oct 18, Nov 8, Dec 13

Married and Engaged couples are invited to an Evening of Reflection especially for you! The evening will begin with mass and include a delicious dinner, talk, time for quiet reflection and the opportunity for confession.

Information & Reservations
OURLADYOFBETHESDA.ORG



OUR LADY OF BETHESDA
RETREAT CENTER
A Place to Encounter Christ for 50 Years



Bethesda, Maryland
301-365-0612



*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.

Religious Education

Mary Beaudoin, 202-294-7697



Faith Formation

Religious Education Begins Soon!

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>.

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 class 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

One child - \$155

Two children - \$230

Three or more children - \$280

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.

Catechists and Class Aides Needed!

In the ministry of catechesis we share a 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 (7:05-8:20 PM)

Catechist for grade 4

Catechist for grade 6

Catechist for grade 7 or 8

Co-Catechist for grade 3

Class Aides

Monday afternoon (4:30-5:45 PM)

Catechist for grade 7

Co-Catechist for grade 1

Class Aides (all grades)

Monday night (7:00-8:15 PM)

Catechist for grade 5

Catechists for grade 8

Class Aides (all grades)

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, Greeting to the Organizing Committee of the National Eucharistic Congress in the United States of America).

All Are Welcome

Today we celebrate the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Remember to make time to reflect on the [Scripture readings](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/082023.cfm) with your family: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/082023.cfm>

Key Passage: For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. (Isaiah 56:7)

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

- ▶ Adults: The woman in today's Gospel story was persistent in prayer. For what do you pray insistently?
- ▶ Kids: For what do you ask God to give you most often?

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

"Observe what is right, do what is just." (Isaiah 56:1) Of course, easy to say, difficult to live out. Commit as a couple to doing at least one work of justice (service) this week.

Parenting Pointers

There is more to parenting than providing food, clothing, and shelter. A reliable income helps; but focus on high integrity. Think of a way you can be an example of integrity during this week.

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.

ENERGY

EASY: Turn off computers and other appliances when not in use.

CHALLENGING: Clean or replace filters for all appliances/furnace/air conditioners that have filters.

*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 Six: Young People with Roots.



179. I have sometimes seen young and beautiful trees, their branches reaching to the sky, pushing ever higher, and they seemed a song of hope. Later, following a storm, I would find them fallen and lifeless. They lacked deep roots. They spread their branches without being firmly planted, and so they fell as soon as nature unleashed her power. That is why it pains me to see young people sometimes being encouraged to build a future without roots, as if the world were just starting now. For "it is impossible for us to grow unless we have strong roots to support us and to keep us firmly grounded. It is easy to drift off, when there is nothing to clutch onto, to hold onto."

Don't allow yourselves to be uprooted

180. This is an important issue, and I want to spend a brief chapter discussing it. If we appreciate this issue, we can distinguish the joy of youth from a false cult of youth that can be used to seduce and manipulate young people.

181. Think about it: if someone tells young people to ignore their history, to reject the experiences of their elders, to look down on the past and to look forward to a future that he holds out, doesn't it then become easy to draw them along so that they only do what he tells them? He needs the young to be shallow, uprooted and distrustful, so that they can trust only in his promises and act according to his plans. That is how various ideologies operate: they destroy (or deconstruct) all differences so that they can reign unopposed. To do so, however, they need young people who have no use for history, who spurn the spiritual and human riches inherited from past generations, and are ignorant of everything that came before them.

182. These masters of manipulation also use another tactic: the cult of youth, which dismisses all that is not young as contemptible and outmoded. The youthful body becomes the symbol of this new cult; everything associated with that body is idolized and lusted after, while whatever is not young is despised. But this cult of youth is simply an expedient that ultimately proves degrading to the young; it strips them of any real value and uses them for personal, financial or political profit.

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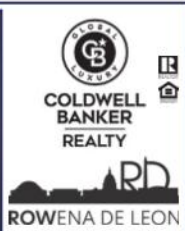
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