

St. Raphael Catholic Church



Congratulations! SRS Student Council members 2023-24—more on page 6.

**The picnic is
today,
Sunday, the 24th,
12:30-4:00PM
Hope to see you
there!**

1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

September 24, 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 Lojano, Assistant for Religious Education, ext. 123
Annalee McHugh, Youth Minister, 240-864-2519
Vince Natali, Dir. Of Music Ministries, 240-864-2532
Krys Psurek, RCIA Coordinator, 240-864-2542
Elaine Salatto, Publications, Welcoming, 240-864-2513**

New Parishioners: A warm welcome to St. Raphael's Catholic Church. Blue registration cards are available on the wall rack in the main entrance of the church or you may register online at: <https://straphaels.org/parish-registration-form>

The **Parish Ministry List** can be found on our website,

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

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 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 or email rcia@straphaels.org . You can also check the latest RCIA announcements and schedule at St. Raphael web site www.straphaels.org , Faith Formation, RCIA.

St. Raphael Parish Picnic

Children's Activities
Moon Bounce
Cotton Candy
Snow Cones
Popcorn

**Sunday, September 24
12:30–4:00PM**

Rain or Shine!!

BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE.

nut-free preferred



Hot Dogs
Hamburgers
Chicken
Baked Beans
Cole Slaw
Potato Chips
Soda & Beer

**We hope to
see you on
the 24th!**

A Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, September 25

6:30AM Hernando Rueda Rico (d)
9:00AM Deacon Richard Mattocks (d)

Tuesday, September 26

6:30AM William & Ann Gallagher
9:00AM Antonio Hernandez (d)

Wednesday, September 27

6:30AM Nancy Blanco Bertola (d)
9:00AM Helen Janus (d)

Thursday, September 28

6:30AM Richard Ingardia (d)
9:00AM Sebastian Mathew

Friday, September 29

6:30AM Mike Divino, Sr. (d)
9:00AM Miguel Divino (d)

Saturday, September 30

9:00AM Jamshid Hafshejani (d)
5:00PM Fr. Tom Mario Castaneda (d)

Sunday, October 1

7:00AM Fr. Christian Sister Antonetta Maria
8:30AM Fr. Tom Rob & Hayley Swestka
10:00AM Fr. Mike Thanksy Thekkekara (d)
11:30AM Fr. Mike Frank & Beth Lowery
1:00PM Fr. Christian Miguel Martinez & Jim Edmondson (d)
6:00PM Fr. Tom Members of the Parish

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 click the link to YouTube Channel.

ROSARY – Please join the Knights of Columbus to pray the Rosary during the last hour of Eucharistic Adoration each Thursday evening in October, starting at 6:35 PM in the church. All are welcome. October is the Month of The Rosary and October 7 is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.



Please pray for the soul of

Deacon Joseph Welch
Deacon Perry Iannaconi



**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.**

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 September 19.

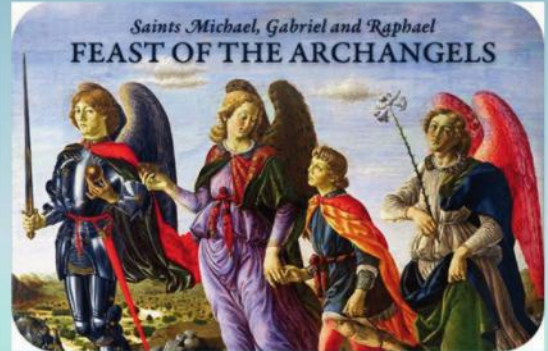
Prayer Corner

September 24, 2023

This Sunday we celebrate our parish feast day, the Feast of the Archangels, including our patron, St. Raphael. The angels help us in prayer.

During the Mass, we join in the prayer of the angels in heaven when, for example, we pray the *Gloria* ("Glory to God in the highest...") and the *Sanctus* ("Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts..."). Each of us also are given the help of a guardian angel, whom we can ask for help. (Matthew 18:10).

Since our parish is under the special care of St. Raphael, we have an especially strong connection with him. The Scriptures reveal that Raphael is "one of the seven holy angels who present the prayers of the saints and enter into the presence of the glory of the Holy One." (Tobit 12:15b) Let's not hesitate to go to him for help in prayer. —St. Raphael, pray for us!



- The Anima Christi will be prayed after each Mass beginning this weekend of September 23/24.
- For your convenience, the prayer will be posted in the bulletin and worship aids each week.



FAMILY
HOLY
HOUR

To celebrate the Year of Eucharistic Revival, families of all ages are invited to our new Family Holy Hour on the first Friday of each month, beginning on October 6th.

6:00-7:00pm: Praise and Worship Eucharistic Adoration/Confessions in the church.

7:00-8:00pm: Fellowship in parish courtyard, hot cider, cocoa, firepit!

Contact Mike and Annie McHugh for more details at mmchugh@straphaels.org & amchugh@straphaels.org

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, embolden me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O good Jesus, hear me. Within your wounds hide me.

Never permit me to be parted from you. From the evil Enemy defend me.

At the hour of my death call me and bid me come to you,
that with your Saints I may praise you for age upon age.

Amen.



<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/anima-christi>



Mark Your Calendar
The first Coffee and Donuts is
coming October 1
in the Trumpet Room
after the 8:30, 10, 11:30 AM
and 1PM Masses

Youth Ministry
Annie McHugh, 240-864-2519

High School Youth

Why God 2.0? – September 24

Join Youth Group as we look inside the human heart to find the natural longings and tendencies which point to the reality of God's existence. We'll discuss how common morality and natural law demonstrate a longing for happiness are evidence of a Creator calling out. All high schoolers are welcome from 7-9PM in the Youth Center, all newcomers welcome!

For more information on programs, or to be added to a youth ministry listserve, please contact Mike McHugh at mmchugh@straphaels.org

Knights of Columbus hosts
Caring for a Loved One

The Mater Dei Council is hosting a free 2-hour educational program on caring for a loved one at home. Intended to provide practical knowledge to effectively engage, interact and motivate an older person, topics include communication, person-centered care, dementia, behaviors, trauma, self-care and others.

Please join us **on Saturday, September 30th from 10AM-12PM** in the Trumpet Room for useful information to improve the quality of life of our older loved ones aging in place at home.

First Friday Coffee
All are welcome!

Our **First Friday Coffee**
kicks off this year

October 6, 2023
Parish Library
9:30-11:00AM

"Visit the Imprisoned"
"Feed the Hungry"

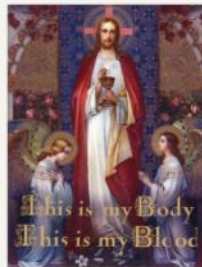
Speakers are
Deacon Frank Salatto
Daphne De Felcourt

Holy Mass
followed by
Healing Prayers

OCTOBER 3, 7:00 PM

Confessions will continue during Mass
and Healing Prayers.

The Novena prayers are not recited on
Mass and Healing Prayer Tuesdays.



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.

Domestic Violence Outreach Committee

Please consider joining this important outreach for St. Raphael Parishioners. The time commitment is in your control. Your principal responsibility would be to become informed about the problem of domestic violence and available local resources for victims; help with display of materials in the church pamphlet rack and participate in scheduled ministry fair organized by the parish. If you are interested in helping, please contact Elinor Metz at 240-731-0657.

THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER

For people living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

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.

FEAST OF THE SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

Annual Parish Financial Report Fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 St. Raphael Parish (223), Rockville, MD

St. Raphael Parish	Fiscal year ended June 30, 2023		
	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Income			
Offertory collections	\$ 1,936,605	\$ 1,874,524	\$ 1,846,000
Donations and bequests	204,877	225,441	211,000
Investment income (loss)	(39,705)	86,090	25,000
Rental income	2,168	4,475	4,000
Religious education	27,496	48,162	42,000
Other income	25,406	27,280	26,500
Total income	\$ 2,156,847	\$ 2,265,971	\$ 2,154,500
Expenses			
Salaries and benefits	\$ 811,305	\$ 845,860	\$ 922,846
Parish life and worship	59,948	82,416	61,804
Rectory and parish clergy	12,318	16,182	17,400
Religious education & Youth Minis	32,790	49,098	53,782
Social concerns	16,115	44,052	32,000
Administration and other	120,699	122,121	120,736
Facilities and maintenance	319,789	281,488	309,377
Other	\$ 275,870	\$ 280,534	\$ 268,500
Total expenses	\$ 1,648,834	\$ 1,721,752	\$ 1,786,444
Net income	\$ 508,013	\$ 544,219	\$ 368,056
Other uses of funds			
Capital improvements			\$ 200,000
Net income (Loss) after Capital Improvements Expenditures	\$ 508,013	\$ 544,219	\$ 168,056

Balance Sheet for parish, including school	Balance at June 30, 2023	
	2022	2023
Assets		
Cash and investments available for operations, at market value	\$ 4,266,891	\$ 4,858,816
Restricted assets	62,125	21,064
Fixed assets and other assets	15,012,810	15,275,760
Total assets	\$ 19,341,825	\$ 20,155,641

Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 51,606	\$ 46,770
Other Liabilities	658,527	622,969
Restricted liability	62,125	21,064
Current Period Changes to Net Assets	856,826	544,887
Fund balance	17,712,742	18,919,950
Total liabilities and fund balance	\$ 19,341,825	\$ 20,155,641

Fiscal year ended June 30, 2023		
National Collections	2022	2023
Amounts collected and remitted in the		
Archdiocese National Collections	\$ 60,835	\$ 68,935

Parish census data		
Registered parishioners	7,296	7,319
Sacraments celebrated		
Baptism	84	60
First Communion	76	105

St. Raphael School	Fiscal year ended June 30, 2023		
	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Income			
School tuition and fees	\$ 2,869,463	\$ 2,944,138	\$ 3,299,800
Donations & Fundraising	292,839	237,737	230,000
Grants	197,588	88,496	54,000
Other income	214,291	256,283	255,000
Total income	\$ 3,574,180	\$ 3,526,653	\$ 3,838,800
Expenses			
Salaries and benefits	\$ 2,429,915	\$ 2,778,905	\$ 3,095,781
Instruction	168,039	124,127	132,530
Facilities and maintenance	122,898	153,732	164,800
Administration	155,944	147,496	131,573
Auxiliary services	109,860	153,066	121,670
Nursery school/day care	235,513	168,660	184,061
Total expenses	\$ 3,222,170	\$ 3,525,986	\$ 3,830,415
Net income (loss)	\$ 352,011	\$ 668	\$ 8,385

Dear Parishioners,
I am pleased to present the year-end financial report for St. Raphael Church for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. This report highlights our financial performance and the various activities and initiatives that the church undertook throughout the year.

Offertory: Our generous parishioners have contributed a total of \$1,874,524 in offertory collections during the year. Your unwavering support and commitment to the church have been instrumental in funding our ministries and maintaining the church's operations.

Charitable Giving: As part of our mission to serve those in need, we gave \$44,052 to support the less fortunate in our community.

ADW Collections for Catholic Causes: Our dedication to supporting Catholic causes remained strong, and we were able to raise \$68,935 through ADW collections throughout the year. These funds were directed towards various charitable initiatives and organizations that promote the values and teachings of our faith.

School: St. Raphael takes great pride in its commitment to education. During this fiscal year, we provided a nurturing and educational environment to over 300 pre-K through 8th-grade students. Our dedicated team of educators and staff worked tirelessly to ensure that our students receive not only a quality education but also a strong foundation in their faith.

Religious Education Program: Our religious education program continued to flourish, offering opportunities for spiritual growth, and understanding. Through various classes, workshops, and events, parishioners of all ages were able to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and strengthen their relationship with God.

I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your steadfast support and active participation in the life of our parish. Without your contributions, both financial and spiritual, we would not be able to achieve such impactful results. With your continued support and prayers, I am confident that St. Raphael Church will remain a beacon of hope and love in our community.

May God bless you abundantly for your generosity and dedication.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Michael Salah Pastor, St. Raphael Church

School News

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023



A peek behind our classroom doors



Congratulations to our 2023-24 student council members who were inducted and given a blessing by Fr. Christian.



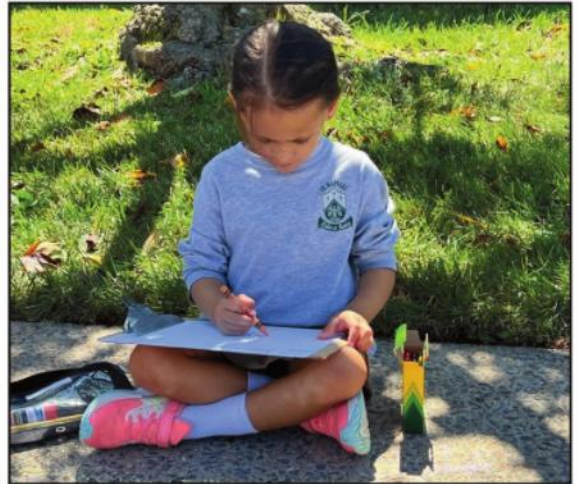
Eighth Grade students play in the new Gaga pit with Fr. John before he leaves for Rome.



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



Nursery School students having fun on the playground.



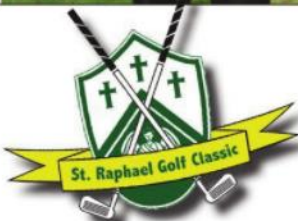
Kindergarten took advantage of a beautiful day to learn about weather outside!



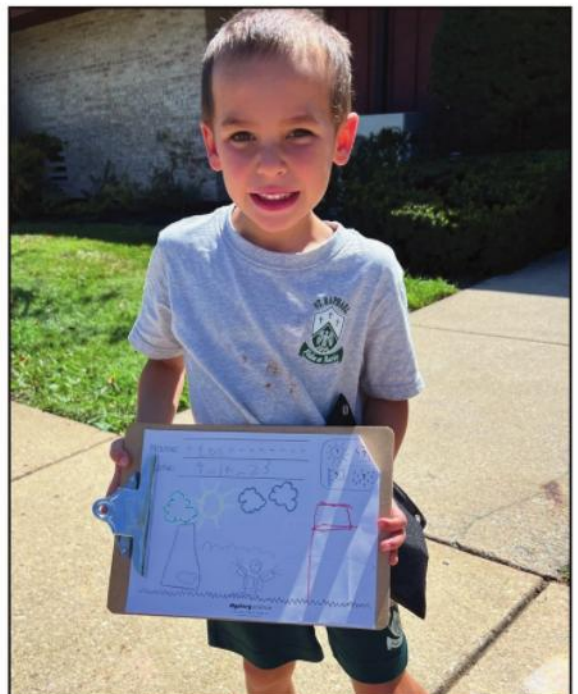
**We Hope You
Can Join Us!!**



**15th Annual
St. Raphael Golf Classic**



- Register
- Sponsor
- Volunteer



Prayer Vigil to Witness to the Sanctity of Human Life and End Abortion

Now that *Roe v. Wade* has been overturned, your **prayers** are **needed** more than ever. Montgomery County officials are actively promoting and supporting abortions. Women (and former abortionists) report that **prayers** and **the presence of peaceful, pro-life witnesses** at abortion clinics **dissuaded** them **from** having an **abortion**.

The Fall 2023, 40 Days Bethesda, 40 days for Life campaign will begin on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 and run through Sunday, November 5, 2023. **St. Raphael's is supporting the campaign** by praying a rosary on the public sidewalk in front of the CARE Abortion Clinic at the Wildwood Medical Center, 10401 Old Georgetown Road, in Bethesda, **each Saturday from 10AM-4PM**. The first Saturday of each month year-round is also the Witness for Life prayer vigil for all 40 Days for Life participants at the same location and time. For more information, see <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/bethesda>.

For security reasons, please do not go alone, but always bring a friend with you. Please meet in the vestibule after the 9 am Mass on Saturdays, if you have questions or need help with directions. *What could be more important than protecting the lives of innocent babies and their mothers from the devastating effects of abortion? If you won't protect them, who will?*

Scripture Readings For the Week of September 24, 2023

Sunday Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels
Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Rv 12:7-12ab; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5; Jn 1:47-51 (at St. Raphael we are celebrating are patron Saint Raphael today)

Monday
Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday Memorial of Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs
Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest
Ezr 9:5-9; Tobit 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday Memorial of Saint Wencelaus, Martyr and Saint Lawrence Ruiz, and Companions, Martyrs
Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a & 9b; Lk 9:7-9

Friday Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels—celebrated here on Sunday
We are celebrating the Mass of the Day.

Saturday Memorial of Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Phil 2:1-11 or Phil 2:1-5; Mt 21:28-32

ST. RAPHAEL'S MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

PRESENTS:

THY KINGDOM COME

10 DYNAMIC SPEAKERS INCLUDING:



Kevin Wells
Best Selling Author



Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR
The Wild Goose Series



Jason Evert
The Chastity Project



Fr. Leo Patalinghug
Plating with Grace



Steve Bollman
That Man Is You

WHEN

Saturdays 6:00 AM - 7:45 AM

Starts 09/02/23 (Latecomers welcome)

WHERE

Trumpet Room

1513 Dunster Rd.
Rockville MD, 20854

MORE INFO

<https://www.straphaels.org/mens-fellowship>



MASS TO COMMEMORATE NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

"Share, Learn, and Celebrate"



Sunday, October 1, 2023
12:00 p.m. ET

Saint Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church
7501 Adelphi Rd, Hyattsville, MD 20783

Principal Celebrant
Bishop Evello Menjivar
Auxiliary Bishop of Washington

The Roman Catholic
Archdiocese of
Washington

Artwork by Santiago Savil

For ASL interpretation,
contact dealcatholic@adw.org
two weeks in advance.



For more information, contact the Office of Cultural Diversity
and Outreach at (301) 853-5335 or culturaldiversity@adw.org.

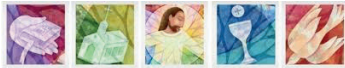
Religious Education

Mary Beaudoin, 202-294-7697

Children's Liturgy of the Word Has Resumed!

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW) has returned at the 10:00 AM. Mass and 1:00 PM (Spanish) Masses. We ask parents to encourage their children, ages 4-10, to participate in CLW each Sunday. Parents can come and see too.

CLW is a celebration of the Liturgy of the Word in language that children can readily understand. During the Liturgy of the Word, adult leaders take children to a separate space where they share the Sunday readings and an interactive homily. They pray the Creed and intercessions, then they return to church at the Preparation of Gifts for the rest of Mass.



SRRE Classes Have Begun!

St. Raphael Religious Education (SRRE) weekly classes have begun and our Family Catechesis program is also underway. Parents, if you have not yet registered your children and teens for SRRE and sacrament prep, please do so TODAY. Please note that families must complete the registration form each year.

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. 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

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

Mondays, 7:00-8:15 PM – grades 1-12 [no catechist yet for grades 3]

*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 and to attend the six seasonal sessions.

Thank You, Catechists and Class Aides!

We are very grateful to all who have come forward to serve as catechists, class aides, and substitutes for Religious Education weekly classes and Family Catechesis sessions. We still have a few openings for those who would like to become involved in this ministry. To learn more about becoming part of our catechetical team, please contact Mary Beaudoin.

Needed:

Sunday night (7:05-8:20 PM)

Substitutes

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

Substitutes

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

Catechist for grade 3

Preparation for Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist

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.

Confirmation, Year 2, Candidate and Parent Meeting - October 4

A meeting for all Confirmation Year 2 students and their parents will be held on Wednesday, October 4. The meeting will be online and a link will be emailed to parents of registered Confirmation candidates.

Confirmation, Year 1, Candidate and Parent Meeting - October 11

A meeting for parents and their children who are beginning Confirmation preparation will be held on Wednesday, October 11. The meeting will be online and a link will be emailed to parents of registered Confirmation Year 1 students.

First Penance Parent Meeting – October 24

A meeting for all parents of children preparing for First Communion in spring 2024 will be held on Tuesday, October 24. The meeting will be online with a follow up in-person meeting to pick up preparation workbooks. A link will be emailed to all parents of children who are registered.

Eucharistic Adoration for All!



The National Eucharistic Revival in the United States is now in its second, or parish, year.

When Pope Francis met with the organizers of the National Eucharistic Congress in June, he said:

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.

[TeachingCatholicKids.com](https://www.teachingcatholickids.com) offers ideas on how to "do" Eucharistic Adoration with kids. Here is an excerpt:

If you're intimidated by the idea of bringing younger children (or even teens) into a quiet Eucharistic adoration chapel...or even to pray before the tabernacle...then take heart: Many parents are already taking their children along to Eucharistic adoration, with good results.

Read the entire article [here: https://](https://www.teachingcatholickids.com/eucharistic-adoration/)

www.teachingcatholickids.com/eucharistic-adoration/

Children and teens enjoy "making a visit" to the Blessed Sacrament. It can be a welcome refuge of silence and a nudge to contemplative prayer.

God's Generosity

Today most parishes will celebrate the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time which is the passage below for reflection. (St. Raphael will be celebrating the Feast of the Archangels –readings on page 8). Remember to make time to reflect on the [Scripture readings](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/092423.cfm) with your family: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/092423.cfm>

Key Passage: [The landowner] said "Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" (Matthew 20:14–15)

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

- ▶ Adults: What lessons do you draw from today's Gospel? How has God been generous to you in this way?
- ▶ Kids: Who is generous to you, even when you do not always deserve it?

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

In Matthew 20:1-16, some laborers complain that the landowner is not paying them fairly. What's fair in your marriage? Does one of you do harder work than the other? Get paid more? Talk about the value of the work each of you do. Should any adjustments be made?

Parenting Pointers

Monday, September 25, is "[Eat Dinner Together Day](https://www.informedfamilies.org/campaigns/family-day)." (<https://www.informedfamilies.org/campaigns/family-day>) How many days a week should your family eat together? Some experts say try for at least 4 or 5. [More ideas](http://thefamilydinnerproject.org/resources/faq/). (<http://thefamilydinnerproject.org/resources/faq/>).

Living Laudato Si' - Eco-Tips

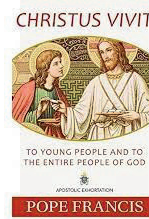
Planet Earth supports our lives. We must take care of it. In Pope Francis' encyclical, LAUDATO SI', he calls not only on Catholics, but all humanity to care more vigorously for creation.

EDUCATE YOURSELF more on Laudato Si'

EASY: Read 2 of the 9 sub-chapters of [Laudato Si' Chapter 6](https://www.vatican.va/encyclicals/laudato-si/), ([bit.ly/3pCSCIE](https://www.vatican.va/encyclicals/laudato-si/)) on Ecological Education & Spirituality. (Sections 202-245) Why were these 2 of special interest to you?

CHALLENGING: Read the other 7 sub-chapters. It's a lot to digest. Which of them calls you to action?

*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 complete Chapter Six: Young People with Roots.

Taking risks together

198. A love that is generous and outgoing, that acts and takes risks, may at times make mistakes. Here we may find timely the witness of Maria Gabriella Perin, who lost her father shortly after her birth: she reflects on how this influenced her life, in a relationship that did not last but that left her a mother and now a grandmother. "What I know is that God makes stories. In his genius and mercy, he takes our triumphs and our failures and weaves beautiful tapestries that are full of irony. The reverse of the fabric may look messy with its tangled threads – the events of our life – and maybe this is the side we dwell on when we doubt. But the right side of the tapestry displays a magnificent story, and this is the side that God sees." When older people look at life closely, often they instinctively know what lies behind the tangled threads, and they recognize what God can create even out of our mistakes.

199. If we journey together, young and old, we can be firmly rooted in the present, and from here, revisit the past and look to the future. To revisit the past in order to learn from history and heal old wounds that at times still trouble us. To look to the future in order to nourish our enthusiasm, cause dreams to emerge, awaken prophecies and enable hope to blossom. Together, we can learn from one another, warm hearts, inspire minds with the light of the Gospel, and lend new strength to our hands.

200. Roots are not anchors chaining us to past times and preventing us from facing the present and creating something new. Instead, they are a fixed point from which we can grow and meet new challenges. It does us no good "to sit down and long for times past; we must meet our culture with realism and love and fill it with the Gospel. We are sent today to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to a new age. We need to love this time with all its opportunities and risks, its joys and sorrows, its riches and its limits, its successes and failures."

201. During the Synod, one of the young auditors from the Samoan Islands spoke of the Church as a canoe, in which the elderly help to keep on course by judging the position of the stars, while the young keep rowing, imagining what waits for them ahead. Let us steer clear of young people who think that adults represent a meaningless past, and those adults who always think they know how young people should act. Instead, let us all climb aboard the same canoe and together seek a better world, with the constantly renewed momentum of the Holy Spirit.

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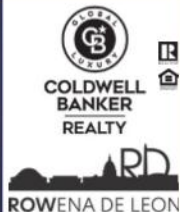
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