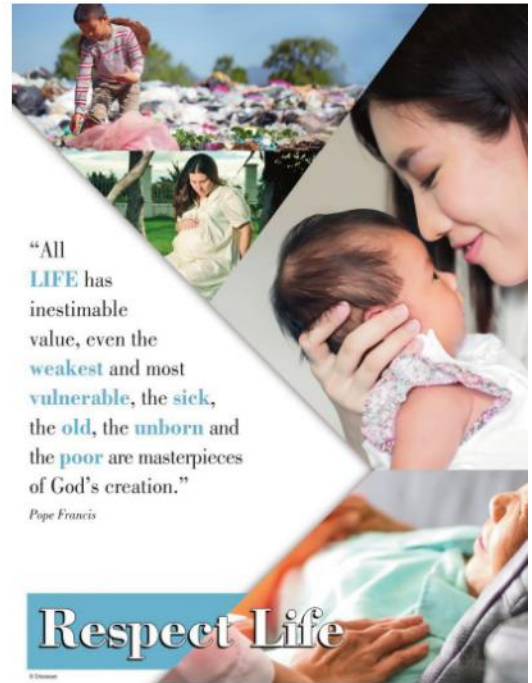
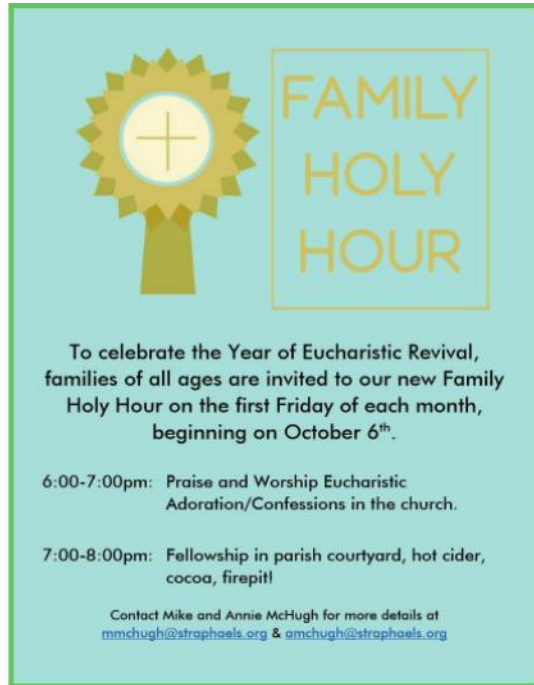


# St. Raphael Catholic Church



**1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854**

**October 1, 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 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.

**Coffee and Donuts, this Sunday , October 1  
after 8:30, 10, 11:30AM and 1:00PM Masses.  
See you there for  
friendship and conversation!**

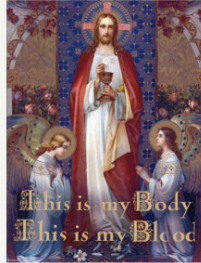
## Holy Mass

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.



## Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week Twenty-Sixth Week of Ordinary Time

### Monday, October 2

6:30AM Hilda Murillo (d)  
9:00AM Marjorie Cammarota (d)

### Tuesday, October 3

6:30AM William & Ann Gallagher  
9:00AM John Piper (d)  
7:00PM Mass & Healing Service Eileen & Jef Christian

### Wednesday, October 4

6:30AM Lawrence Leong (d)  
9:00AM Thomas Pullano

### Thursday, October 5

6:30AM Cindi O'Connor (d)  
9:00AM Gary M. Welsh (d)

### Friday, October 6

6:30AM Edwardo Claux Legrand (d)  
9:00AM Yolanda Prinsloo

### Saturday, October 7

9:00AM Jim Verme (d)  
5:00PM Fr. Christian Members of the Parish

### Sunday, October 8

7:00AM Fr. Tom Helen & Edward Janus (d)  
8:30AM Fr. Christian Joseph O'Connell (d)  
10:00AM Fr. Christian Richard Bianchi (d)  
11:30AM Fr. Tom Rose Victory (d)  
1:00PM Fr. Christian Jorge Rueda Gomez (d)  
6:00PM Fr. Tom Mary Guerro

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](http://www.straphaels.org) and click the link  
to YouTube Channel.

### Baptisms—September 23, 2023

Theodore Thuyet Ford  
Emily Ryder DuFief  
Dominic Cristian Garcia  
Joscelyn June Tippet  
Thomas Michael Tippet II

**Little Sisters of the Poor will be here at all the Masses  
October 14/15.**

**Please pray for the soul of  
James Brown, brother of Laura O'Neil**



**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.**



**Blessing of Animals  
Wednesday, October 4  
3PM and 4PM**

**Driveway area  
near the garden.**

### 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

Bulletin notices are due in writing ON THURSDAY, THE  
WEEK BEFORE THE published date. Notices may be  
emailed to: [esalatto@straphaels.org](mailto:esalatto@straphaels.org) . This bulletin was  
transmitted September 26.



## Prayer Corner

October 1, 2023

THE FIRST DAY OF OCTOBER IS THE FEAST OF ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX, ALSO KNOWN AS THE LITTLE FLOWER. THIS GREAT SAINT AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH LIVED A SHORT AND HIDDEN LIFE MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO IN FRANCE, FIRST AS A DAUGHTER AND SISTER IN HER FAMILY AND LATER IN A CARMELITE CONVENT, YET THE FRUIT OF HER LIFE HAS BEEN IMMENSE IN THE CHURCH.

AT THE OPENING OF THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S TREATMENT OF PRAYER, WE FIND THIS DESCRIPTION OF PRAYER:

*FOR ME, PRAYER IS A SURGE OF THE HEART; IT IS A SIMPLE LOOK TURNED TOWARD HEAVEN, IT IS A CRY OF RECOGNITION AND OF LOVE, EMBRACING BOTH TRIAL AND JOY.*

MAY THE PRAYERS AND WISDOM OF ST. THERESE HELP US THIS WEEK IN OUR PRAYER!



### 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>

### Adult Club Event

Join the St. Raphael's Adult Club on our visit to the Marine Museum in Quantico, Virginia, on Wednesday, October 25. We will travel by bus, leaving the the Potomac Woods Swim Club parking lot at 8:45 am and returning around 5 pm. The cost is \$30 for club members and \$35 for non-members and guests. This is a spectacular museum (240,000 square feet of exhibit areas) which tells the history of our country and is a lasting tribute to the commitment, accomplishments and sacrifices of the U.S. Marine Corps. You can't see everything in one visit, but every visit is a great experience. The Korean War and Vietnam War areas are not to be missed as is the TERRIFIC gift shop!

Lunch is at individual expense either at the grab-and-go area where you can purchase beverages, chips and snacks at your leisure OR at the Tavern, which has a full menu of soups, salads, sandwiches and beverages, including alcoholic beverages - this option requires reservations and we have made one reservation at noon for 15 people and one reservation at 12:45 for another 15 people.

If you would like to go to the Marine Museum with the Adult Club on October 25, please make your check payable to ST. RAPHAEL'S ADULT CLUB and mail it to Cathy Sullivan, 5 Richview Court, Potomac, MD 20854. The bus holds 32 people and we are about half full already, so first come, first served. Please send your check before October 9, hope you can join us



**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.

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.

## CONTACT information



- Have you changed your mailing address in the past 6 months?
- Has your phone number changed?
- Have you cancelled your landline telephone number and only use your mobile?
- Has your email address changed?
- Are you contributing electronically through Faith Direct and still receive offertory envelopes?

To make the changes/updates to your household in the parish database and/or to stop the envelope mailings, please contact Eileen Kutchak, in the Parish office, with your updates at:

ekutchak@straphaels.org or  
leave a message 240-864-2510  
or complete a new parish registration online [www.straphaels.org](http://www.straphaels.org)

### Scripture Readings For the Week of October 1, 2023

**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

**Monday** **Memorial of the Guardian Angels**  
Zec 8:1-8; Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 & 22-23; Mt 18:1-5, 10

**Tuesday** Zec 8:20-23; Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; Lk 9:51-56

**Wednesday** **Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi**  
Neh 2:1-8; Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Lk 9:57-62

**Thursday** **Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin**  
Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Lk 10:1-12

**Friday** **Saint Bruno, Priest and Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher, Virgin**  
Bar 1:15-22; Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9; Lk 10:13-16

**Saturday** **Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary**  
Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Ps 69:33-35, 36-37; Lk 10:17-24

**Sunday** **Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Is 5:1-7; Ps 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

### THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR OCTOBER

For the Synod

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

### CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council serves the St. Raphael community by advising the Pastor on matters of concern to parishioners. If you would like the Council to consider a particular issue, please feel free to send an email message to:  
[parishcouncil@straphaels.org](mailto:parishcouncil@straphaels.org).



## 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)**

We are pleased to welcome back Michael "Gomer" Gormley. Last week, Fr. Dave assured us of Christ's Kingship and victory over the powers of darkness. Now we look inside. What is our role? How do we advance the Kingdom of God in a post-Christian world? They are all related. Join us this week as we answer these incredibly relevant and timely questions.



More info

**Sunday,  
October 8**

**Mass at 1PM**

**The  
Celebration of  
the Lord of  
Miracles**

**Patron of Peru**

**Procession  
and festivities  
to follow.**

All of us, Parishioners of Holy Cross Church, invite you, and each and every one of your families to join with us gladly playing the "very popular" games of BINGO winning lots and lots of prizes (cash, gifts, door, raffle) with Supper (hot!) and Sundaes (cold!) all to benefit

**Centro Tepeyac Pregnancy Aid Center**

truly a good cause

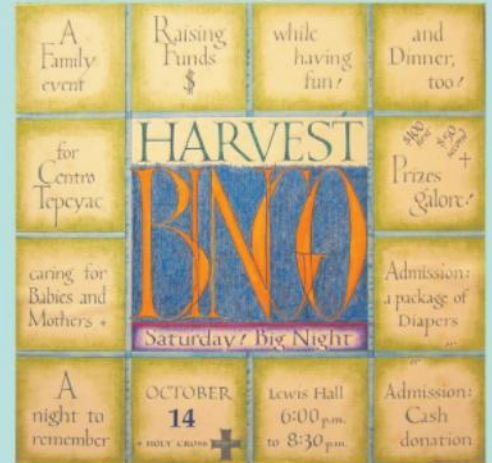
Saturday, 14 October 2023 ▶ 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you

**WELCOME!**

4900 Strathmore Avenue

Garrett Park, Maryland



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

The Rite of Christian Initiation, **RCIA**

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 Krys Psurek, 240-864-2542 and leave a message or email [rcia@straphaels.org](mailto:rcia@straphaels.org). You can also check the latest RCIA announcements and schedule at St. Raphael web site [www.straphaels.org](http://www.straphaels.org), Faith Formation, RCIA.**



**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 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**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](mailto:mmchugh@straphaels.org) & [amchugh@straphaels.org](mailto:amchugh@straphaels.org)



# School News

October 1, 2023



A peek behind our classroom doors



Fourth grade students made dragons during summer break to kick-off their studies of the Medieval Era.



Second grade students work together on their community helpers social studies project.



[www.straphaelschoolmd.org](http://www.straphaelschoolmd.org) | [www.srnsm.org](http://www.srnsm.org) |    @SRSRockville





You can be anything you want to be in Ms. Wooten's class! Playing dress up is always fun with friends.



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



- 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** began 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 9AM 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?*

**October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.** "The number of women who are beaten and abused in their homes, even by their husbands, is very, very high," Pope Francis said in answer to a question by a woman named Giovanna, a victim of domestic violence. (Reported by Reuters Dec 19, 2021.) "The problem is that, for me, it is almost satanic because it is taking advantage of a person who cannot defend herself, who can only (try to) block the blows," he said. "It is humiliating. Very humiliating." Giovanna said she had four children to care for after they escaped from a violent home. For women suffering abuse, help is available. Call the National Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 (24 hours).

Having unresolved feelings about your abortion or use of the abortion pill? You don't feel forgiven?  
Do feelings of guilt, shame, regret, and sadness return?

**Come to an Entering Canaan Day of Prayer and Healing**

October 14, 2023  
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. ET

Location and participation are confidential due to the personal nature of this experience.

Suggested donation: \$40.00 (financial assistance available)

For more information, contact Project Rachel Ministry at 301-982-2008 or [hope@jadw.org](mailto:hope@jadw.org).

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

*Maryland Right to Life*

**50**  
*Anniversary*  
BANQUET

**UNITED IN THE FIGHT FOR LIFE!**

**November 9, 2023 7-9 PM**

MARTIN'S WEST  
6817 DOGWOOD ROAD  
BALTIMORE, MD 21244

Join us as we UNITE IN THE FIGHT FOR LIFE and formally announce the launch of our campaign to defeat the deadly "Reproductive Freedom" Amendment to the Maryland State Constitution.

Be inspired by keynote speaker Dr. Marc Newman, President of Speaker for Life and author of

*Contenders: A Church-Wide Strategy to Unmask Abortion, Defeat Its Advocates, Empower Christians and Change the World.*

Become a sponsor or purchase tickets for an evening not to be missed! Our banquet will include food, fellowship and a pathway to a culture of LIFE in Maryland.

**VIP Reception with Dr. Marc Newman 6:00 PM.**  
**Dinner and Program 7:00 PM.**

*Seating is Limited!* *Register Online Here!*

Sponsorship information & online registration available at:  
MDRTL.org  
Pro-Life Events



*the 26<sup>th</sup> annual*

**PATRICIA SULLIVAN BENEFIT DINNER**  
FOR POTOMAC COMMUNITY RESOURCES, INC.

SERVING TEENS AND ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DIFFERENCES SINCE 1994

His Eminence Wilton Cardinal Gregory  
Archbishop of Washington  
HONORARY BENEFIT CHAIR

Porsha Hands &  
Dennis Hermonstynne Jr.  
BENEFIT CHAIRS

**AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**Lawrence B. Ryan**  
Patricia Sullivan Leadership Award

**Beth Zeidman**  
Outstanding Adult Volunteer

**Ridgely Bryer**  
Outstanding Youth Volunteer


**Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington**  
Outstanding Community Partner

**Saturday, October 21, 2023**  
Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center  
Cocktails at 6:30 pm - Dinner, Awards & Dancing at 7:30 pm

**Tickets are \$250/person**

To purchase tickets or sponsorships online, or for more information, please visit [www.pcr-inc.org](http://www.pcr-inc.org), or contact Steve Riley at [sriley@pcr-inc.org](mailto:sriley@pcr-inc.org)

Thank you for supporting Potomac Community Resources, Inc.  
PCR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

 Named "one of the best small charities in the Greater Washington region."



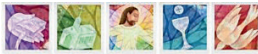
## **Religious Education**

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 began on September 17 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 – grades 2-8

Mondays, 4:30-5:45 PM – grades kindergarten-grade 8 [aide needed for grade 2]

Mondays, 7:00-8:15 PM – grades 1-12 **[no catechist yet for grade 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.

#### **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.\*\*

### **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 couple of 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)

Class Aide for Grade 2

Substitutes

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

**Catechist for grade 3**

Substitutes

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> grade who wish to prepare for Eucharist, and children older than 7<sup>th</sup> 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 requirements and 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 or October 10**

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. The same meeting will be offered on Tuesday, October 10, for those who could not attend the previous week.

### **Confirmation, Year 1, Candidate and Parent Meeting - October 3 or October 11**

A meeting for parents and their children who are beginning Confirmation preparation will be held on Tuesday, October 3. The meeting will be online and a link will be emailed to parents of registered Confirmation Year 1 students. The same meeting will be offered on Wednesday, October 11, for those who could not attend the previous week.

### **First Penance Parent Meeting – October 18 or October 24**

A meeting for all parents of children preparing for First Communion in spring 2024 will be held on Wednesday, October 18. 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. The same online meeting will be offered on Tuesday, October 24, for those who could not attend the previous week.

### **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:

Continued next page column 1

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://www.teachingcatholickids.com/eucharistic-adoration/](https://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.

### Promises and Actions

Today we celebrate the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Remember to make time to reflect on the [Scripture readings](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/100123.cfm) with your family: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/100123.cfm>

**Key Passage:** A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father? They said, "The first." (Matthew 21:28-31)

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

- ▶ Adults: When have your actions not measured up to your promises? What was the outcome?
- ▶ Kids: Why is it important to follow through on your promises to others?

### Marriage Moments

During this Respect Life Month, talk with your beloved about the life issue you feel most strongly about (preventing abortion, supporting new mothers, helping those whose lives are mired in poverty, caring for the frail elderly, working for gun control, eliminating the death penalty...) Is there a common issue you can act on?

### Parenting Pointers

October is Respect Life Month. Pick the life issue that you feel most strongly about (preventing abortion, supporting new mothers, helping those whose lives are mired in poverty, caring for the frail elderly, working for gun control, eliminating the death penalty, bullying...) Tell your child why this is important to you.

### 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.*

#### PLASTIC

**EASY:** To reduce Single Use Plastics (SUPS) carry snacks from home (fruit, nuts, etc.) in a paper bag or reusable bag.

**CHALLENGING:** Buy juices and soft drinks in cans or glass rather than plastic bottles. After use, recycle them.

\*Marriage Moments, Parenting Pointers, and Eco-Tips by Susan Vogt, [www.SusanVogt.net](http://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 Seven: Youth Ministry.

202. Youth ministry, as traditionally carried out, has been significantly affected by social and cultural changes. Young people frequently fail to find in our usual programs a response to their concerns, their needs, their problems and issues. The proliferation and growth of groups and movements predominantly associated with the young can be considered the work of the Holy Spirit who constantly shows us new paths. Even so, there is a need to look at the ways such groups participate in the Church's overall pastoral care, as well as a need for greater communion among them and a better coordination of their activities. Although it is never easy to approach young people, two things have become increasingly evident: the realization that the entire community has to be involved in evangelizing them, and the urgent requirement that young people take on a greater role in pastoral outreach.

#### *A pastoral care that is synodal*

203. I want to state clearly that young people themselves are agents of youth ministry. Certainly they need to be helped and guided, but at the same time left free to develop new approaches, with creativity and a certain audacity. So I will not attempt here to propose a kind of manual of youth ministry or a practical pastoral guide. I am more concerned with helping young people to use their insight, ingenuity and knowledge to address the issues and concerns of other young people in their own language.

204. The young make us see the need for new styles and new strategies. For example, while adults often worry about having everything properly planned, with regular meetings and fixed times, most young people today have little interest in this kind of pastoral approach. Youth ministry needs to become more flexible: inviting young people to events or occasions that provide an opportunity not only for learning, but also for conversing, celebrating, singing, listening to real stories and experiencing a shared encounter with the living God.



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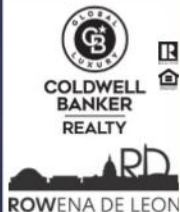
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