

St. Raphael Catholic Church



Thanksgiving Sharing '23

The St. Martin's/St. Raphael's Twinning Committee will again be collecting food donations for Blessing Baskets to go to needy families in the neighborhoods around our Twin Parish, St. Martin's, which is located on North Capital Street, in Washington, D.C.

Two dates to donate: **November 12 and 19 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.** Tables will be located on either side of the church with volunteers who will collect your donations. **Please bring items ONLY on these two dates** (gift cards may be left at the rectory between the 12th and 19th).

Blessing Baskets are nonperishable food items for families to cook their own Thanksgiving dinners, along with a gift card to purchase a turkey:

- ☐ Canned Vegetables (corn, green beans, peas)
 - ☐ Canned Sweet Potatoes
 - ☐ Canned Turkey Gravy or Packaged Dry Gravy Mix
 - ☐ Boxed Stuffing Mix (**no bags please**)
 - ☐ Boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes
 - ☐ Rice (1 to 2 lb packages)
 - ☐ Corn Bread Mix
 - ☐ Canned Cranberry Sauce
 - ☐ Canned Fruit (peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, applesauce)
 - ☐ Cake Mix and Frosting
 - ☐ Jarred Baby Food (meat, vegetable, starch and cereals) or baby formula.
 - ☐ \$10, \$20, \$25 or \$50 **Giant** Gift Cards
- NO frozen turkeys, please.**

LAST COLLECTION
Sunday

November 19

Thanksgiving Sharing '23



give the gift of warmth!

Again this year, The St. Martin's/St. Raphael's Twinning Committee will also be collecting new or like new clean winter gear* for children, youth and adults. There is a particular need for children's clothing.

Collection will be on Sunday, November 19, ONLY
8:00 am to 1 pm.

*Winter Gear: coats, vests, hats, gloves, scarves. Gear must be clean and show little wear and tear. Zippers must be in working order.

Questions? Contact Eileen Cheng at 301-606-0277.

Join Our Team!!

If you are interested in helping to support this Thanksgiving Sharing event, we are welcoming volunteers for a variety of tasks (collect donations, sort food, sort clothes, drive food down to St. Martins, and sort the food there). Please contact Steve Caramanico at steve.caramanico@gmail.com or Carolyn Tyc and Jeff Duncel at tycdunc3@aol.com.

1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

November 19, 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 Lojaco, 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
No Adoration this week: on Thursday

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.

HO! HO! HO!



Santa is coming to St. Raphael's!
Saturday, December 2
Trumpet Room
Breakfast with Santa
from 9:00 – 11:00 AM
(pancakes & sausage)

Student volunteers are needed! If you can help with the preparation before the event, assistance during, or cleanup after the event, please contact Peggy Weldon at peggyweldon2@aol.com. The donation per family is \$25.00. There will be food, crafts, Santa's Secret Shop (items cost \$2.00 each), raffles, and of course a visit from Santa himself. *This event is for registered parishioners only.* If you need to register to become a parishioner at St. Raphael's, please contact the parish office! There is a limited amount of seating (300) and the event fills quickly, so please email peggyweldon2@aol.com early to make a reservation for your family only – multiple reservations will not be accepted on one email. Each family will be limited to two adults.

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS please provide your name, email address, number of children and adults (max. of 2 adults per reservation) and envelope number!!

Advent Giving Tree 2023

The Advent Giving Tree is back at St. Raphael's! The need is even greater this year and we know that our generous parishioners will be happy for the opportunity to help the wonderful organizations that we support annually at Christmas.

Please purchase any number of **\$25 TARGET or WALMART GIFT CARDS** and get them to us by **DECEMBER 10, 2023**, so that they can be distributed before the holiday.

There are two ways you can do this:

- Bring gift cards in an envelope labeled "Advent Giving Tree" to **St. Raphael's Parish Office** located behind the church on Kimblewick Road. If the office is closed, please place the envelope in the mail slot by the door.

OR

- Mail gift cards to:
St. Raphael's Church
Attn: Eileen Kutchak/Advent Giving Tree
1513 Dunster Road
Rockville, MD 20854

As in past years we will be supporting St. Martin of Tours Church in DC, New Leaf Shelter, Mission of Mercy, Interfaith Works Women Center, St. Ann's Center, Children Hospital-Oncology Unit, Christ House DC, the Betty Krahne Center, St. Vincent De Paul/St. Raphael Conference, the Stepping Stones Shelter in Rockville, and Gabriel Network

In addition, we will also continue to support our **ANGEL GIFTS** recipients. You can support the following organizations by making online donations through their websites:

Little Sisters of the Poor: www.littlesistersofthepoorwashingtondc.org
Montgomery Hospice: www.montgomeryhospice.org

If you have any questions or concerns, please email
Anna Frankford at acfrankford@gmail.com
Janice Frankford at jwfrankford@yahoo.com

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week Thirty-Third Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, November 20

6:30AM All Souls
9:00AM P.D. Mathew (d)

Tuesday, November 21

6:30AM Marcelo Herrera (d)
9:00AM All Souls

Wednesday, November 22

6:30AM All Souls
9:00AM Victor Stello, Jr. (d)

Thursday, November 23—Happy Thanksgiving No Adoration today.

8:00AM Cupples Family (L&d)
10:00AM Lee Bogart

Friday, November 24

6:30AM All Souls
9:00AM Francis Thekkekara (d)

Saturday, November 25

9:00AM All Souls
5:00PM Fr. Tom Deacon Richard Mattocks (d)

Sunday, November 26

7:00AM Fr. Tom Members of the Parish
8:30AM Fr. Christian Thomas Dunne (d)
10:00AM Fr. Mike All Souls
11:30AM Fr. Tom Rose Anne Victory (d)
1:00PM Fr. Christian Eleanor Scott (d)
6:00PM Fr. Mike Chase Pearson

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.

Email bulletin notices to: esalatto@straphaels.org. This bulletin was transmitted November 14.

Baptism

Liljana Colette Lorei—November 11

Please pray for the soul of

Jorge Duarte
Mrs. Florence Middleton
Reverend Robert Richardson
Doug Robertson
Joan Patricia Price, mother of Judy Kettl
Karen Matta



**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.**

Prayer Corner

November 19, 2023

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. (Psalm 107:1)

Thanksgiving Day is not a holy day of obligation, nor is it even a Catholic feast day. Yet, in the United States, Catholics rightly sense that worshipping at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is something altogether fitting on this day. It just “feels right” to go to Mass on Thanksgiving Day. Why is that?

The mystery of giving thanks is very great. When we stop to intentionally thank God in a concrete way, we are drawn out of ourselves and into the Lord’s wisdom and love. We begin to see how He has been and is at work in all the particular moments of our life, and see a glimpse of His loving plan unfolding in and through this. We are drawn up to contemplate His much greater work of creating and redeeming the whole world in Christ.

The word “Eucharist” means “thanksgiving,” a thanksgiving sacrifice. Not only on Thanksgiving Day, but any time we worship at the Holy Sacrifice, we can gather in our minds and hearts all our thanks, and unite them to the one great thanksgiving of Christ Himself, and to the Father.



Thanksgiving Day Masses

Thursday, November 23

8:00AM

10:00AM (bilingual)

**A reminder that there is no Adoration on
Thursday, November 23 - Thanksgiving Day.**

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>



View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Religious Christmas Cards for Sale

The **Respect Life Committee** will be selling religious Christmas cards in the **Trumpet room on December 3** to support Montgomery County Right to Life. Please plan to purchase your Christmas cards as you enjoy coffee and donuts.

**Mark Your Calendar
Next Coffee and Donuts
Sunday, December 3
after 8:30, 10, 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM
Masses**

Cardinal Gregory announced the following assignment change effective December 17, 2023.

Father Charles Cortinovis

Has been given permission to accept an appointment as an official in the Vatican Secretariat of State, Rome, Italy, from Priest Secretary to Cardinal Gregory.

For those of you who are new to the parish, Father Cortinovis (we know and love him here as Father Charlie), was a parochial vicar at St. Raphael from 2010-2012. We congratulate him on his new assignment and wish him the very best. As you do so well, please keep Father Charlie and all our priests in your prayers.

Father Charles Cortinovis
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington
P.O. Box 29260
Washington, D.C. 20017-0260

Ushers Ministry

We need your help! The Usher Ministry needs volunteers for all weekend masses. Duties and responsibilities currently include ensuring an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion brings the Eucharist to parishioners who are not able to walk the communion line, safeguarding the offertory and special collections comfortably or safely after mass, general tidying of the pews, and promoting a sense of welcoming and belonging to all the faithful assembled for worship. The Ministry of Hospitality is truly a service to the Church and is a great opportunity to serve with very little time commitment required. This is an ideal ministry for families to serve together. Please contact Terry Salsgiver at 301-437-2018 or tsalsgiver@comcast.net.

Marriage

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Retrouvaille (retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a **weekend on January 26th**, please visit:

www.HelpOurMarriage.org,
call (443) 400-7017, or email us at:
3015@HelpOurMarriage.org

If you are approached by someone in church or parking lot in need of help, please hand them a bulletin. 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 or someone you come in contact with 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.



**St. Raphael Church Married
Couples – One Day Retreat**

Saving Our Families

Saturday, February 10th, 2024

The whole family's invited.

For Info: call 240-464-8285

Email: joe@simplexstruc.com

THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

For the Pope

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

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.

LEGION OF MARY FOR KIDS




ON GOING
Saturdays From 11:00 to 12:30

FOR MORE INFORMATION
KARINE OHANA: KARINE.OHANA@HOTMAIL.COM
DEBORAH TYLOR: HADLEYJOG@GMAIL.COM

Held at
THE YOUTH CENTER
Behind the parish's Gym

COME TO PRAY
SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS
bring your own rosary!
If you decide to come Email Us first!




FAMILY HOLY HOUR

To celebrate the Year of Eucharistic Revival,
families of all ages are invited to our monthly
holy hour on Friday, December 1!

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



#GIVINGTUESDAY
November 28

**SUPPORT YOUR
FAVORITE LOCAL
CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS**




1 VISIT
iGiveCatholic.org

2 SEARCH
for your parish, school, or ministry

3 DONATE
\$10 or more

**ADVANCED GIVING DATES:
NOVEMBER 13-27**

#iGIVECATHOLIC



ST. RAPHAEL'S MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

PRESENTS: THY KINGDOM COME 10 DYNAMIC SPEAKERS INCLUDING:



WHEN

Saturdays 6:00 AM - 7:45 AM

TMİY is back and we are nearing the end of the semester. Nonetheless, this may be the most powerful session yet.

Jeff Joaquin, a TMİY core team leader for well over a decade, shares his story - ultimately, a story of God's unfathomable mercy.

Build the Kinadom - Brina a Friend!



More info

**Holy Mass
followed by
Healing Prayers**

December 5, 7:00 PM

Confessions will continue during
Mass and Healing Prayers.

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

School News

NOVEMBER 19, 2023



A peek behind our classroom doors

Kindergarten Visits Pumpkin Village



There were many big moments

for the students. A bus ride, feeding the animals, a hayride, playing in a large pit of corn kernels, and of course, the giant slides! The students also each picked a pumpkin to take home.



www.straphaelschoolmd.org | www.srnsmd.org |    @SRSRockville

Sponsor-A-Student

Yes! I would like to help educate a new or current student at St. Raphael School / Nursery School who would not be able to attend otherwise.

1 year of SRS tuition:

- ☐ One lump sum of \$10,300
- ☐ Four quarterly installments of \$2,575 each
- ☐ 12 monthly installments of \$859 each

— or —

I will contribute the following amt: \$ _____

My contact information:

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

I would like

- ☐ the school to decide who benefits from my gift
- ☐ my gift to benefit the following student or family: _____

■ St. Raphael is 501(c)(3) nonprofit; your donation should qualify as a charitable deduction. Tax-deductible gifts may not be made to benefit family members. Consult details of your gift with your tax adviser.

■ If paying by check, make payable to "St. Raphael School" with "Sponsor-A-Student" in the memo line, and remit, along with this completed form, to St. Raphael School, Attn: Teri Dwyer, 1513 Dunster Road, Rockville, MD 20854

■ If paying by credit card, visit the school website at www.straphaelschoolmd.org and click "Support Us."

■ For questions, contact Principal Teri Dwyer at tdwyer@straphaels.org or at 301-762-2143.

This Thanksgiving, Give The Gift Of A Catholic Education Sponsor-A-Student

We at St. Raphael School are forever grateful to the many members of our community who were so generous during the construction of the parish Educational Building. At that time, we also heard from



those who said they wanted their donation to directly benefit a child, so we introduced Sponsor-A-Student, a program that has assisted several children since its inception in 2011. Many parish families want their child to be in a Christ-centered classroom, but the unfortunate reality is that some simply cannot afford it. Sponsor-A-Student allows friends of St. Raphael to open the doors of our remarkable school for those who wouldn't be able to attend on their own. Won't you consider giving a helping hand to a


child right here in your own parish? Your gift of any amount will be eternally appreciated!

You can make a difference in the life of a parish child


www.straphaelschoolmd.org | www.srnsmd.org | [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) @SRRockville

2023
SAVE THE DATE
30th Annual
CBN-MC Gala
FRIDAY DECEMBER 1, 2023
BETHESDA NORTH
MARRIOTT HOTEL
& CONFERENCE
CENTER

Celebrating the Pillars of Catholic Education
HONORING
BUSINESS PERSONS OF THE YEAR
Anne & Dennis Sullivan- FCN, Inc.
COMMUNITY LEADERS OF THE YEAR
Catherine & Ike Leggett
PAUL ZURKOWSKI FOUNDER'S AWARD
Julie Beavers




SCAN QR CODE FOR GALA TICKETS



POST CANA

Save the Date
The Washington Archdiocese
Post Cana* for Widows and
Widowers group is hosting a
Day of Reflection Retreat



When: Tuesday, December 5th
Where: Our Lady of Grace in Leisure World, Silver Spring.
Time: 8:30AM until 3:00PM

An assortment of inspirational activities include:


- A Meet and Greet with light breakfast,
- Guided discussions,
- Holy Mass,
- A Beautiful catered luncheon,
- Silent prayer time,
- Witness speakers and a
- Concluding festivity with Christmas carols and a raffle.

You will also be able meet **Monsignor John Enzler**, current chaplain for Saint John's High School, and **Father Mark Hughes**, pastor of Holy Redeemer in Kensington and **Sally Daniels**, Director of Family Life at the Pastoral Center.

There are only 25 places left. To ensure your reservation, you may send a \$25 check made out to Post Cana to our treasurer: Herb Biegel, 13509 Maidstone Lane, Potomac, MD 20854. The deadline to send in check is November 27. Hope to see you there!



The annual St. Jude Christmas tree and wreath sale of balsam trees will be conducted on the lawn next to the Thaddeus Room, 12701 Veirs Mill Rd, Rockville. The prices are: \$60 per tree and \$30 per wreath. The sale is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, St. Joseph Manyanet Council #5567. The profits are used to help the Church and the needy. This event will beheld on December 8 (Friday) from 3-6 PM; December 9 (Saturday) from 9AM-5PM and December 10 (Sunday) from 9 AM-3PM.



**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
a Holy Day of Obligation
December 8, 2023**

Thursday, December 7
7PM Spanish Vigil Mass
Reposition of Blessed Sacrament at 6:30PM
Thursday

Friday, December 8
6:30AM
9:00AM (school attends)
4:30 and 7:00PM

Scripture Readings for the Week of November 19, 2023

Sunday Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Ps 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5; 1 Thes 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30 or Mt 25:14-15, 19-21

Monday 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158; Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; 1; Lk 19:1-10

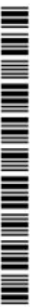
Wednesday Memorial of Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr
2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15; Lk 19:11-28

Thursday Memorial of Saint Clement I, Pope and Martyr; St Columban, Abbot; Blessed Miguel Austin Pro, Priest & Martyr
1 Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Lk 19:41-44
Thanksgiving: Sir 50:22-24; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19

Friday Memorial of Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest and Companions, Martyrs
1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11d-12a, 12cd; Lk 19:45-48

Saturday Memorial of Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr
1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-3, 4 & 6, 16 and 19; Lk 20:27-40

Sunday The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46



Religious Education

Mary Beaudoin, 202-294-7697



Faith Formation

Religious Education Classes

St. Raphael 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. SRRE weekly classes began on September 17 and our Family Catechesis program is underway. Parents can still register their children and teens for SRRE and sacrament preparation and complete missed lessons at home.

Find the registration link at <https://www.straphaels.org/religious-education>.

Find the Religious Education Calendar at <https://www.straphaels.org/religious-education>

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

Contact Mary Beaudoin for information on faith formation and sacrament preparation.



The SRRE Office coordinates sacrament preparation for all children ages 7-18. This includes Baptism, Confirmation, Reconciliation, and Eucharist. Please contact Mary Beaudoin for information.

SRRE Calendar

Find the SRRE Calendar at our webpage:

<https://www.straphaels.org/religious-education> (scroll down)

Here are a few highlights:

- Christmas Break on December 24-25 and December 31-January 1
- SRRE Classes resume on January 7 and 8
- No classes on January 14-15 or on February 18-19
- Spring Break during Holy Week and Easter Week, March 24-25, and March 31-April 1
- End-of-the-Year Social on May 13

First Penance and First Eucharist 2024 Online Meeting



Our First Reconciliation parent meeting was held on October 18 and October 24. Any parents - of children preparing for First Communion in spring 2024 - who missed the meeting, are asked to contact Mary Beaudoin to receive instructions and their child's at-home workbook packet.

Confirmation Year I and Year II Meeting Notes



For those families who missed the Confirmation Year I or Confirmation Year II meetings during the first two weeks of October, the Powerpoint presentations are now available. Please contact the SRRE office to receive a link to the presentations.

High school Confirmation candidates must attend one of the high school retreats,

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.

Synod on Synodality

Over three weeks in October, Catholic clergy and laypeople gathered in Rome for an assembly, which was part of the multiyear Synod on Synodality. Below are excerpts from the synthesis report from that gathering. The report is entitled *A Synodal Church on Mission* and Part 1 is "The Face of the Synodal Church."

Synodality: Experience and Understanding

- We welcomed the invitation to recognise the synodal dimension of the Church with a new awareness. Synodal practice is attested to in the New Testament and the Early Church, taking particular historical forms in different Churches and traditions. The Second Vatican Council "updated" this practice, and Pope Francis has once again encouraged the Church to renew it. The Synod 2021-2024 is part of this renewal. Through it, the Holy People of God have discovered that a synodal way of being silent, praying, listening, and speaking, rooted in the Word of God and in joyful, if also sometimes painful encounters, leads to a deeper awareness that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. An invaluable fruit of this process is the heightened awareness of our identity as the faithful People of God, within which each is the bearer of a dignity derived from Baptism, and each is called to differentiated co-responsibility for the common mission of evangelisation.
- This process has renewed our experience of and desire for the Church as God's home and family, a Church that is closer to the lives of Her people, less bureaucratic and more relational. The terms "synodal" and "synodality" have been associated with this experience and desire, offering an understanding that now requires further clarification. This is the Church that young people first declared they desired in 2018 on the occasion of the Synod of Youth.
- The manner in which the Assembly proceeded in the Paul VI Hall, including the seating of people in small groups at round tables, was likened for some cultures to the biblical image of the wedding banquet (Rev 19:9). This was understood as emblematic of a synodal way of being Church and an image of the Eucharist, which is the source and summit of synodality, with the Word of God at the centre. In a Church that is living synodally, different cultures, languages, rites, ways of thinking, and realities can engage together and fruitfully in a sincere search for the Spirit's guidance.
- In our midst there have been sisters and brothers coming from peoples afflicted by war, martyrdom, persecution, and famine. The plight of their people, unable often to participate in the synodal process, has nevertheless entered into the cycle of our discussions and prayers, deepening our sense of communion with them and our determination to be peacemakers.

Link to Synthesis Report: <https://www.synod.va/en/synodal-process/the-universal-phase/documents.html>

Christ Promises to Restore and Renew His People
“Our world is hurting. We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery here in the United States by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.” - <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>
Pope Francis invites us “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.”
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.
Find ideas for Adoration for Children at TeachingCatholicKids.com <https://www.teachingcatholickids.com/eucharistic-adoration/>
Adoration for Teens and Young Adults: <https://busthalo.com/ministry-resources/a-beginners-guide-to-eucharistic-adoration>
All are welcome to our parish Adoration on Thursdays after 9:00 AM Mass through 7:15PM and to the Family Holy Hour on First Fridays at 6:00 PM. The church is open every day for anyone who wants to spend time in quiet prayer.

Using Your Gifts

Today we celebrate the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Remember to make time to reflect on the [Scripture readings](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/111923.cfm) with your family: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/111923.cfm>

Key Passage: [The servant said,] “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” (Matthew 25:20b–21)

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

- ▶ Adults: What gift have you not developed as you had hoped? What could you still do?
- ▶ Kids: What gift has God given you? What do you want to do with it?



Christus Vivit To Young People and to the Entire People of God

Christus vivit (Christ is alive) is an exhortation of Pope Francis, written in response to the Fifteenth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, on young people, faith, and vocational discernment. That synod was held in October 2018. This week we continue Chapter Seven: Youth Ministry.

Areas needing to be developed - continued

226. Nor can we overlook the importance of the arts, like theatre, painting, and others. “Music is particularly important, representing as it does a real environment in which the young are constantly immersed, as well as a culture and a language capable of arousing emotion and shaping identity. The language of music also represents a pastoral resource with a particular bearing on the liturgy and its renewal.” Singing can be a great incentive to young people as they make their way through life. As Saint Augustine says: “Sing, but continue on your journey. Do not grow lazy, but sing to

make the way more enjoyable. Sing, but keep going... If you make progress, you will continue your journey, but be sure that your progress is in virtue, true faith and right living. Sing then, and keep walking.”

227. “Equally significant is the emphasis that young people place on sports; the Church should not underestimate the potential of sports for education and formation, but instead maintain a strong presence there. The world of sport needs to be helped to overcome some of its problematic aspects, such as the idolization of champions, subservience to commercial interests and the ideology of success at any cost.” At the heart of the experience of sport is “joy: the joy of exercising, of being together, of being alive and rejoicing in the gifts the Creator gives us each day.” Some Fathers of the Church used the example of the training of athletes to encourage the young to develop their strength and to overcome idleness and boredom. Saint Basil the Great, writing to young people, used the effort demanded by athletics to illustrate the value of self sacrifice as a means of growth in virtue: “These men endure sufferings beyond number, they use many means to build their strength, they sweat constantly as they train... in a word, they so discipline themselves that their whole life prior to the contest is but a preparation for it... How then

can we, who have been promised rewards so wondrous in number and in splendor that no tongue can recount them, even think of winning them if we do nothing other than spend our lives in leisure and make but half-hearted efforts?”

228. Nature holds a special attraction for many adolescents and young people who recognize our need to care for the environment. Such is the case with the scouting movement and other groups that encourage closeness to nature, camping trips, hiking, expeditions and campaigns to improve the environment. In the spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi, these experiences can be a real initiation into the school of universal fraternity and contemplative prayer.

229. These and various other opportunities for evangelizing the young should not make us forget that, despite the changing times and sensibilities of young people, there are gifts of God that never grow old, for they contain a power transcending all times and places. There is the word of the Lord, ever living and effective, the nourishing presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Reconciliation, which brings us freedom and strength. We can also mention the inexhaustible spiritual riches preserved by the Church in the witness of her saints and the teaching of the great spiritual masters. Although we have to respect different stages of growth, and at times need to wait patiently for the right moment, we cannot fail to invite young people to drink from these wellsprings of new life. We have no right to deprive them of this great good.

Sowing Peace – January 24 at St. Raphael

The Potomac Area Interfaith Communities (PAIC) will host a World Café style Interfaith Dialogue on Wednesday, January 24, at 7:30 PM at St. Raphael. Watch upcoming bulletins for more details.



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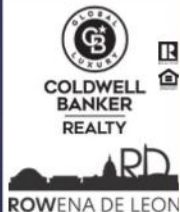
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