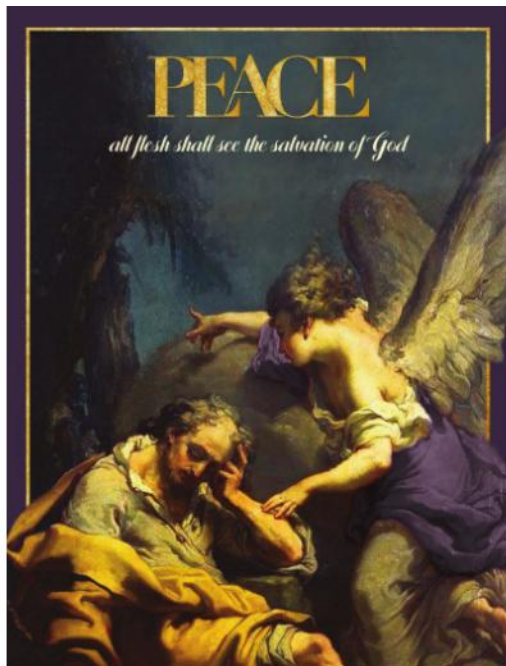


St. Raphael Catholic Church



1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

December 10, 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 HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS
ARE OUR GUESTS
HEAR THEIR STORY AND BEHOLD THEIR
BEAUTIFUL OLIVE-WOOD CRAFTS**

On **December 16-17**, we will be hosting at the Trumpet Room a nice display of handmade olivewood religious carvings from Bethlehem and Jerusalem available for purchase. These carvings include olive wood nativity sets, crucifixes, rosaries, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angles and many other religious crafts that make nice wedding, baptism, Easter, and especially Christmas gifts.

These carvings are handmade by Christian families in Bethlehem who rely on sales for their daily bread. For more than ten years Bethlehem Christians have been enduring many hardships as tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted due to the ongoing conflict and the COVID 19 pandemic. Many Christians were forced to leave their homeland. The Christian population of the Holy Land went down from 30% in the last century to almost 1% today.

Please help support our Christian brothers and sisters in Bethlehem by purchasing their carvings. George Ghanem, an indigenous Christian from Bethlehem will be standing by the carvings after all masses. Let us together keep Bethlehem a Christian town forever.

Luke 2:11- "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

As Christmas is rapidly approaching, this is our time to celebrate the birth of Jesus our Lord and savior. So, amidst the presents, cookie decorating and Christmas parties, remember, Jesus is the reason for the season.

Your eGiving donations allows our ministry to continue to provide gifts to the community and you can easily get started by:

- Visiting faith.direct/MD34
- Calling Faith Direct Customer Service at 866-507-8757

Thank you and may God bless your generosity.

Father Mike Salah

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

Bulletin notices be emailed to: esalatto@straphaels.org. This bulletin was transmitted December 5.

**Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week
Second Week of Advent**

Monday, December 11

6:30AM Mary Ellen Bohan (d)
9:00AM Luciano Cornetta (d)

Tuesday, December 12

6:30AM Paul Haynos (d)
9:00AM Thomas Dunne (d)

Wednesday, December 13

6:30AM Donald McGuire (d)
9:00AM Jim Bogart (d)

Thursday, December 14

6:30AM Paul Haynos (d)
9:00AM Gary M. Welsh (d)

Friday, December 15

6:30AM Eleanor Scott (d)
9:00AM Alicia Stacey (d)

Saturday, December 16

9:00AM Antonio Lozano (d)
5:00PM Fr. Tom Chester & Agnes Malinowski (d)

Sunday, December 17

7:00AM Fr. Mike Bryce Dickgeiser (d)
8:30AM Fr. Mike Richard Ingardia (d)
10:00AM Fr. Tom Jean Roche (d)
11:30AM Fr. Christian Rufino Loberiza (d)
1:00PM Fr. Christian Members of the Parish
6:00PM Fr. Tom 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.

Baptism: December 2
Andrea Dubravcic

Please pray for the soul of

Louette Semmes, mother of Guy Semmes,
Philip Combs, father of Brendan Combs
Jeanne Crossland, sister of Fr. Lee Fangmeyer



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.

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

Fr. Leo Patalinghug is back to feed us ... on the Word of God and another recipe for your family! Food for the body and the soul! What weeds do we need to uproot in our own lives, in our own hearts?

Build the Kingdom - Bring a Friend!



More info



Father Christian singing with Capital carolers at Knights of Columbus Christmas Party.

Second Sunday of Advent

Advent is a time when many of us are preparing our homes to gather with family and friends. We play our favorite Christmas music, make seasonal meals and desserts, and practice traditions and rituals from our childhood. Keep Christ at the center of your celebration in these simple ways: include Christian songs in your Christmas playlist, say grace before meals and let people offer intentions, and incorporate a moment of prayer and reflection into your family's traditions. Then share with others how you celebrate the perfect gift of God's love by going to **FindthePerfectGift.org/traditions** and posting on social media with **#ADWPerfectGift**

PEACE

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>

This year Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala will celebrate the **Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass** to honor the Vocation of Marriage on Saturday, February 10, 2024, 10:00AM at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This Annual Mass is a celebration of the living vocation of all couples who provide a Catholic witness to the beauty of the Sacrament of Matrimony. **Couples must register with the parish office by Saturday, January 27, 2024 to attend the Mass** and/or receive a certificate from Cardinal Wilton Gregory in honor of their anniversary year.

Email to: ekutchak@straphaels.org the following information for a certificate and/or to register to attend Mass.

- Name, as you would like it to appear on the Anniversary Certificate.
- Number of Years of Marriage you are celebrating.

St. Raphael Church Married Couples – One Day Retreat



Saving Our Families
Saturday, February 10, 2024

The whole family's invited.
For Info: call 240-464-8285
Email: joe@simplexstruc.com

The Respect for Life committee invites you to sign up to commit to pray three Memorares each day
<https://memorares4maryland.org/index.php>

Blessed Mother Mary, child of the Father, mother of the Son, spouse of the Holy Spirit, intercede for us to protect the lives of Maryland's babies and the souls of her children.

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.



Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please donate at your local parish or by mail at:

National Religious Retirement Office
3211 Fourth Street NE
Washington DC 20017-1194
Make check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.

retiredreligious.org

Visit retiredreligious.org/2023photos to meet the religious pictured.
©2023 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington DC - All rights reserved - Photo: Jim Judkis

This weekend, December 9/10 the second collection will be for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Thank you for your generosity.

Scripture Readings for the Week of December 10, 2023

Sunday Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Monday

Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday

Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Is 40:25-31; Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday

Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday

Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

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 parishioner issue, please feel free to send an email message to:
parishcouncil@straphaels.org.

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

**Today,
December 10,
is last collection
day**

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 Krahnke 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

For all retreats, please find more information and links to register on the website www.ourladyofbethesda.org or call 301-365-0612. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center is located at 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.

Advent Evening of Reflection for Couples

"No Room at the Inn" Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Are you and your spouse looking to deepen your relationship this advent season? Join us for our Advent Evening of Reflection for Couples, where we will exploring the "inn" of our hearts and find more room for Jesus in our marriages. Married and Engaged couples are invited to attend! The evening will begin with mass and include a delicious dinner, talk, time for quiet reflection and the opportunity for confession. \$75 per couple. Registration is required so that we can properly prepare.

New Years Retreat for Men—January 6-7, 2024

Experience the essentials of the Spiritual Exercises in this abbreviated one-night retreat!

Start the new year off right with a Retreat! Experience the essentials of the Spiritual Exercises in this abbreviated one-night retreat. Based on the Spiritual Exercises, the retreat is designed to provide a rejuvenating experience with a more convenient schedule. You will have the opportunity to participate in guided meditations, attend Mass, and benefit from individual spiritual direction. Additionally, you will have plenty of free time to explore the beautiful natural surroundings of the retreat center and spend time in personal reflection. Registration is required. Cost: \$150 per person.

Advent Personal Retreat Day

Friday, December 15th ~ 9am-4pm

This is your chance to take a step back, breathe, and reflect on what really matters. You'll leave feeling refreshed, renewed, and ready to take on the holiday season with a clear mind and an open heart. During your personal retreat, from 9am-4pm, an experienced retreat director will guide you to a place of rest with Christ. The retreat schedule allows for one-on-one spiritual direction (optional), quiet reflection, Mass, Confession and Eucharistic Adoration, plus lunch; so you will be nourished and cared for while Our Lord speaks to your soul about the depths of His love for you. Cost is \$100 per person. Advance Registration is required.

Three to Get Married Marriage Prep in 2024

Jan 18-20 / Feb 22-25 (virtual)

The Three to Get Married Marriage Preparation Program is a Catholic Pre-Cana program for seriously dating and engaged couples. This marriage preparation course is an intensive preparation experience true to the teachings of the Catholic Church. Convenient one-weekend schedule. FOCCUS administration is included. \$375 per couple. Space will be limited and these weekends fill up quickly, so reserve your spot today!



School News

DECEMBER 10, 2023



A peek behind our classroom doors

1st Grade Visits the National Zoo



First grade explored the zoo

as part of the "Animal Habitats" signature unit. While visiting the zoo, a few lucky students were

interviewed by CBS morning news about the departure of the pandas.



To see the clip from the CBS Morning News please visit our facebook page and search 'zoo'.



www.straphaelschoolmd.org | www.srnsm.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 Holiday Season, 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.srnsm.org | [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) @SRSrockville

The schedule of Masses
includes the
Fourth Sunday of Advent
and Christmas.

Both are days of obligation.



Mark your Calendar

Parish Penance Service
With 9 priests
Tuesday, December 19
6:30PM



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent
Masses

Saturday, December 23
5:00PM

Sunday, December 24
7:00, 8:30, 10:00,
11:30AM and 1:00PM

welcome

St Raphael Catholic Church
www.straphaels.org

301-762-2143



Sunday, December 24

4:00PM Church

(Nativity Play)

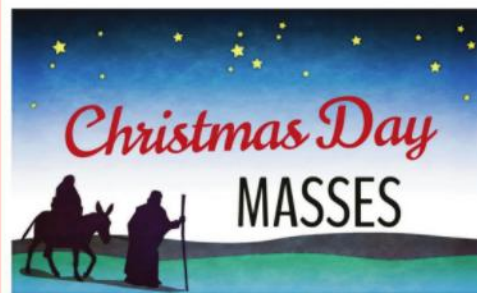
4:00PM Trumpet Room

(Nativity Play)

6:00PM Church

8:00PM Spanish

11:00PM (10:15 prelude)



Monday, December 25

8:30, 10:00, 11:30AM

1:00 PM (Spanish)

No 7:00AM and

No 6:00PM Masses



Religious Education

Mary Beaudoin, 202-294-7697

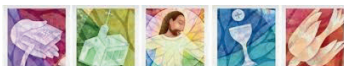


Resources for Celebrating Advent at Home

Find family activities for Advent at Catholic websites and blogs, such as Loyola Press, Sadlier, Catholic Sprouts, Blessed Catholic Mom, and Catholic Apostolate Center.

Children Needed for Christmas Eve Nativity

Children's Liturgy of the Word is casting the annual enactment of the Christmas nativity during the Children's Masses at 4:00 PM on Christmas Eve. There will be two Masses at 4:00 – one in the Church and another in the Trumpet Room. We are seeking children between the ages of 5 to 9 to play the roles of angels and shepherds. Children must be available for a rehearsal on Wednesday, December 20, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. Costumes are provided. If your child is interested, please email Mary Beaudoin at mbeaudoin@straphaels.org and provide your child's name and age.



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 Notes

• This week families with children preparing for First Eucharist in April and May 2024 are completing the first five chapters of *God's Gift Reconciliation* (younger children) or *God's Gift Reconciliation and Eucharist* (older children).



- Our First Reconciliation Get-Ready Morning will be held on Saturday, January 20, 9:30-11:30AM in the Trumpet Room.
- First Penance/Reconciliation is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31, at 7:00PM, and Saturday, February 3, at 10:30 AM.

Confirmation Year I and Year II Notes

- Confirmation Year 1 students are starting their Confirmation Service Projects. Focusing on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, young people complete ten or more hours of service in their parish, neighborhood, and/or broader community. They then write a reflection paper describing how this service is rooted in their baptismal call to follow Jesus. The completed Confirmation Service Project is due September 1, 2024.



- Candidates for Confirmation in May 2024 (Confirmation Year 2) are working on their Saint Project and prayerfully identifying a Confirmation sponsor. The Saint Project and Confirmation Sponsor Certificate are due January 26. (Note that the late Confirmation Service Projects are due on December 15.)
- We are pleased that Bishop Bishop Evelio Menjivar will be coming to St. Raphael for Confirmation on Saturday, April 20, at 10:30AM and 1:00PM.

- Find Confirmation preparation forms at <https://www.straphaels.org/confirmation-1>

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://bustedhalo.com/ministry-resources/a-beginners-guide-to-eucharistic-adoration>

All are welcome to our parish Adoration on Thursdays after 9:00AM Mass through 7:15PM and to the Family Holy Hour on First Fridays at 6:00PM. The church is open every day for anyone who wants to spend time in quiet prayer.

God's Faithfulness

Today we continue Year B in the cycle of Sunday readings with the Second Sunday of Advent. Remember to make time to reflect on the [Scripture readings](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/121023.cfm) with your family:

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 (promise of salvation); 2 Peter 3:8-14 (Christ will come in judgment); Mark 1:1-8 (John the Baptist)

Key Passage: The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

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

- Adults: With whom could you be more patient this week, as God has been patient with you?
- Kids: With whom can you be more patient?

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."

Proposals (Synodality: Experience and Understanding)

The richness and depth of the synodal process indicates the value of expanding participation, and overcoming the obstacles to participation that have emerged so far.

There is a need to find ways to involve the clergy (deacons, priests, bishops) more actively in the synodal process during the course of the next year. A synodal Church cannot do without their voices, experiences or contributions. We need to understand better the reasons why some have felt resistant to the synodal process.

The synodal culture needs to become more intergenerational, with spaces for young people to speak freely for themselves, within their families, and with their peers and pastors, including through digital channels.

The Assembly proposes to promote theological deepening of the terminological and conceptual understanding of the notion and practice of synodality before the Second Session of the Assembly, drawing on the rich heritage of theological research since the Second Vatican Council and in particular the documents of the International Theological Commission on *Synodality in the life and mission of the Church* (2018) and *Sensus fidei in the life of the Church* (2014).

The canonical implications of synodality require similar clarification. For these, too, we propose an intercontinental special commission of theological and canonical experts, ahead of the Second Session of the Assembly.

Finally, a wider revision of the Code of Canon Law and the Code of Canon Law of the Oriental Churches is called for at this time. A preliminary study is therefore advised.

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

Laudate Deum

This year on the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis released a new apostolic exhortation on the climate crisis. *Laudate Deum* is addressed to "all people of good will."

2. Eight years have passed since I published the Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'*, when I wanted to share with all of you, my brothers and sisters of our suffering planet, my heartfelt concerns about the care of our common home. Yet, with the passage of time, I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point. In addition to this possibility, it is indubitable that the impact of climate change will increasingly prejudice the lives and families of many persons. We will feel its effects in the areas of healthcare, sources of employment, access to resources, housing, forced migrations, etc.

(https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html)

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.

Always missionaries

239. Here I would point out that it doesn't take much to make young people missionaries. Even those who are most frail, limited and troubled can be missionaries in their own way, for goodness can always be shared, even if it exists alongside many limitations. A young person who makes a pilgrimage to ask Our Lady for help, and invites a friend or companion along, by that single gesture is being a good missionary. Inseparable from a "popular" youth ministry is an irrepressible "popular" missionary activity that breaks through our customary models and ways of thinking. Let us accompany and encourage it, but not presume to overly regulate it.

240. If we can hear what the Spirit is saying to us, we have to realize that youth ministry is always missionary. Young people are greatly enriched when they overcome their reticence and dare to visit homes, and in this way make contact with people's lives. They learn how to look beyond their family and their group of friends, and they gain a broader vision of life. At the same time, their faith and their sense of being part of the Church grow stronger. Youth missions, which usually take place during school holidays after a period of preparation, can lead to a renewed experience of faith and even serious thoughts about a vocation.

241. Young people can find new fields for mission in the most varied settings. For example, since they are already so familiar with social networks, they should be encouraged to fill them with God, fraternity and commitment.



A Prayer in Time of War

Lord God,
Remember Christ, your Son, who is peace itself,
and who has washed away our hatred with his blood.
Because you love all men and women,
look with mercy on all who are engaged in battle.
Banish the violence and evil within all combatants
so that one day, we may all deserve to be
called your sons and your daughters.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

SRRE Class Aide Needed



We are in need of a **class aide** for a first grade class on Mondays at 4:20-5:50 PM. Serving as a class aide is a great way for parents (and other adults) to be part of the SRRE team while their child is in class, and to gain experience for the ministry of catechesis.

By serving as class aides, middle school and high school students can earn service hours and learn about teaching and catechesis. Please contact Mary Beaudoin for details.

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