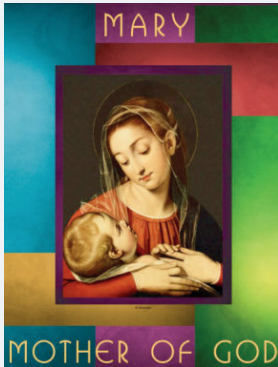


St. Raphael Catholic Church

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God *



Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 31, 6:00PM, Vigil Mass
and

Monday, January 1
9:00AM and 1:00PM Spanish

***Although a Holy Day, the obligation to attend is lifted.**

1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

December 31, 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 next



SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

after the 8:30, 10, 11:30 AM and 1PM Masses



Low Gluten Hosts that are approved by the Catholic Church for the Holy Eucharist are offered at the time of Communion. The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion offering these Hosts will be standing near the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary at all the Masses.

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.

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.

Bulletin notices are due in writing ON THURSDAY, THE WEEK BEFORE THE published date. Notices may be emailed to: esalatto@straphaels.org . This bulletin was transmitted December 19.

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week

Monday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

9:00AM Baby Regina Bronzi (d)
1:00PM Martin Silva

Tuesday, January 2

6:30AM Maebell Turner (d)
9:00AM Bockhi Park

Wednesday, January 3 The Most Holy Name of Jesus

6:30AM George Frank (d)
9:00AM Rahul Koka

Thursday, January 4

6:30AM Wladyslaw & Tadeusz Letman (d)
9:00AM Janie Davidson (d)

Friday, January 5

6:30AM Alison Hearne Atkins (d)
9:00AM Christo Family (d)

Saturday, January 6

9:00AM Christopher Warner (d)
5:00PM Fr. Mike Cecilia Fabbro (d)

Sunday, January 7 The Epiphany of the Lord

7:00AM	Fr. Christian	Christopher Arendse (d)
8:30AM	Fr. Tom	Edith Thomas (d)
10:00AM	Fr. Mike	Isaac Arnold & Family
11:30AM	Fr. Mike	Colleen Cohan & Bill Deeg (d)
1:00PM	Fr. Christian	Jorge Mandel Duarte (d)
6:00PM	Visiting Priest	Members of the Parish

The priest schedule is subject to change.

Live-streamed Masses:

There will be daily live-streamed Masses, Sunday English and Spanish Masses.

Go to website: www.straphaels.org and click the link to YouTube Channel.

Please pray for the soul of

Hilda Milev
Luis Ruiz



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

December 31, 2023

Two ancient prayers help us finish the calendar year and begin the new.

The *Te Deum*, which the Church sings on occasions of solemn gratitude, is especially customary to pray on the last day of the year, to give thanks to God for all that has unfolded in His providence.

The *Veni Creator Spiritus* is one of the Church's most beloved prayers to the Holy Spirit, and we pray this especially when we most seek His blessing for a new mission in Christ. By praying this prayer on the first day of 2024 A.D., we can consecrate the coming year to God, Who is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

The *Te Deum* and the *Veni Creator Spiritus* are easily searchable online, including in English sung translations through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/obpd-i-te-deum.pdf>

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/obpd-i-veni-creator-spiritus.pdf>

May the Lord fill us with gratitude at the close of the year and pour out His blessing upon us at the beginning!



FAMILY
HOLY
HOUR

To celebrate the Year of Eucharistic Revival,
families of all ages are invited to our monthly
holy hour on Friday, January 5!

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

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

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



Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, embolden me.

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

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

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

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

Amen.



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



A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated Target and Walmart gift cards for the **2023 Virtual Advent Giving Tree!** We received 504 gift cards to distribute among 11 service organizations who are all very appreciative of your kindness.

Your generosity will brighten the holidays for so many people! Thank you!

The **Little Sisters of the Poor** received a total of \$8,314.00 that was collected when they came in October. They and those they serve are most grateful to Father Mike and St. Raphael parishioners who always give so generously to them.



The **Legion of Mary** will pray the Rosary (bilingual, English and Spanish) every Thursday at 6:30PM, before the Knights of Columbus who will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 7:00PM. Blessing and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament will follow.

FOR SINGLE CATHOLICS

24th Annual Epiphany Party at St. Raphael Church, 1513 Dunster Rd., Rockville, MD 20854; Saturday, January 13; starting at 7:00PM. **BLACK TIE OPTIONAL.** Includes delicious Ledo's lasagne dinner, complimentary wine and beer, DJ, and more. (Usual age range 21-50s) **Send \$22 check donation by January 5 to SCS Epiphany Party, St. Raphael, 1590 Kimblewick Rd., Rockville, MD 20854, or \$24 by credit card at <https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=AJLD5F4VY43NE> by January 10 or \$28 cash, card or check at the door.) For more info. text Fr. T. Morrow at 240-426-5589.**

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.

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

High School Youth

Theology of the Body Series – 1/16 – 4/19

All high school teens are invited for a Going Deeper series on St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body. This 12-week program will meet each Tuesday evening, 7:30-8:45PM and explore the meaning of the body, chastity, sexuality, dating, marriage and more. Please contact Annie McHugh at amchugh@straphaels.org to sign up! Cost is \$15.00.

A Person's A Person – 1/8

Join us for the 1st of a 3-part series on Pro-Life issues as we examine what personhood is and why it should be granted to pre-born human! All high school teens are invited from 7-9PM in the Youth Center for games, food and faith.

It's Science – 1/15

In our 2nd night on abortion, we'll look more deeply at the pre-born human and embryology to demonstrate how the moment of conception is the most rational and scientifically endorsed time to grant life rights! We'll also look at some of the tough cases such as rape/health of the mother that are tough to articulate a pro-life message. 7-9PM in the Youth Center!

March for Life – 1/19

Join St. Raphael's YG in standing up for the rights of the unborn at the National March for Life! We'll be attending a youth rally/mass beforehand, followed by the National March on the mall. Email Mike McHugh at mmchugh@straphaels.org for more details.

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

THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2024 FOR THE GIFT OF DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

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.

Holy Mass followed by Healing Prayers



January 2, 7:00 PM

**Confessions will continue
during Mass and Healing
Prayers.**

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



Hebrews: The New and Eternal Covenant

Tuesday Mornings 10 -12:00 Noon in PARISH LIBRARY

January 16 – March 12, 2024

Tuesday Mornings 10:30 – 12:00 Noon on ZOOM

January 16 – March 12, 2024

The book of Hebrews is like a “Little Catechism” that reveals the rich truths that are foundational to our Catholic Faith.

This 8-session study, with Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins, helps us to see the astounding generosity of God in the wonders He has given us in the Church.

For further information and to sign up, contact Dorothy Welsh at dwelsh5@aol.com.

View & order the Study Set (workbook & digital access \$29.95) at www.ascensionpress.com and they will be sent directly to you.

All adults invited to

An Introduction to the Theology of the Body: Discovering the Master Plan for Your Life

January 11—February 29, 2024
(8 sessions on Thursday Evenings
7:30-8:30 PM on Zoom)

If you are interested, contact
tsalsgiver@comcast.net or
call/text 301-437-2018

Scripture Readings For the Week of December 31, 2023

Sunday Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2: 22-40

Monday Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God
Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus
1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34

Thursday Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42

Friday Memorial of Saint John Neumann, Bishop
1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100; 1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 1:43-51

Saturday Memorial of Saint André Bessette, Religious
1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or Lk 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Ushers Ministry

We need your help! The Usher Ministry is in need of volunteers for all weekend masses. 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.

School News

A peek behind our classroom doors

DECEMBER 31, 2023



Medieval Feast

Fourth grade students closed out the first quarter of school with a Medieval Feast. They created their own family shield, dressed up like a person from that era and enjoyed food with their parents and classmates.



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

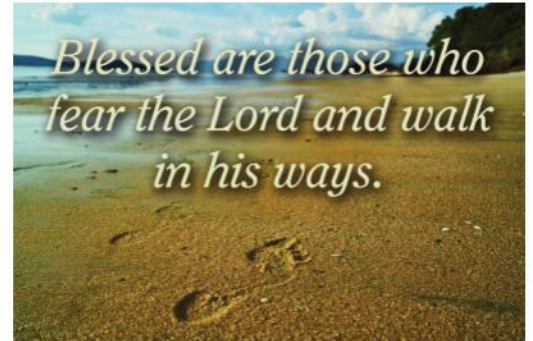
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH



www.straphaelschoolmd.org | www.srnsm.org |    @SRSRockville



Santa came to St Raphael's for Breakfast with Santa and stopped by for a photo with the breakfast crew.



"Saving Our Families"

Married Couples One Day Retreat - come with the whole family

Sat., Feb. 10th, 2024

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM



- Marriage as the Holy Cause
- Rekindling Wonder
- Our House Our Rules
- Growing Kids in Chastity

St. Raphael Domestic Church & Men's Fellowship, and the KOC Mater Dei Council # 9774 invite you to come and spend the day with the Lord and reflect on the life of your marriage and family.

The day will include: Mass, conferences, conversation, prayer and more. Children's Program & Care is provided (by the Youth Ministry). A Simple Lunch will be served. The event is free to all attending; however, a donation would be greatly appreciated.

To register, please use the QR code or follow the link: <https://kofc9774.org/married-couples-retreat/>.

Questions: please call Federico Sologuren, 202-438-5071. Whatever the form of response: please give your names, phone number & email, and number & ages of children attending.



Religious Education

Mary Beaudoin, 202-294-7697

A Family Prayer for Christmastime



Loving God, during this Christmastime we are filled with joy.
You have given to us the greatest gift, your Son, Jesus, born as a little baby.
He is the true light that scatters the darkness of this world.

You sent angels to announce Jesus' birth.
The shepherds heard the angels' song of praise and they rejoiced in the Good News.

Fill our hearts with love and peace to last throughout the coming year,
and through your Holy Spirit, gently shape us into a holy family pleasing to you.

May the light of faith shine in all we do.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever.

Amen.



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.

Find the SRRE webpage at <https://www.straphaels.org/religious-education>

The SRRE Office coordinates sacrament preparation for all children ages 7-18. This includes Baptism, Confirmation, Reconciliation, and Eucharist. For more information on our faith formation and sacrament preparation programs, please contact Mary Beaudoin.

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

- 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 the first six chapters of *God's Gift Reconciliation and Eucharist* (older children), and memorizing the Prayer of the Penitent (Act of Contrition).

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

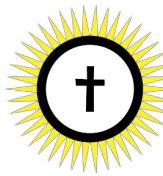


Confirmation Year I and Year II Notes



- 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.
- We are pleased that Bishop Bishop Evelio Menjivar will be coming to St. Raphael for Confirmation on Saturday, April 20, at 10:30 AM and 1:00 PM.
- 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 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>

Compassion

Today we continue Year B in the cycle of Sunday readings with the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Remember to make time to reflect on the [Scripture readings](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/123123.cfm) with your family: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/123123.cfm>

Readings: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 (duties toward parents); Colossians 3:12-21 (the practice of virtues; the Christian family); Luke 2:22-40 (circumcision of Jesus; presentation in the temple)

Key Passage: Then Mary said, "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience." (Colossians 3:12)

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

- ▶ Adults: How do your family members know that you are a compassionate person?
- ▶ Kids: What family member needs your compassion and kindness right now?

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 is an excerpt from the synthesis report from that gathering. The report is entitled *A Synodal Church on Mission* and Part 2 is "Gathered and Sent by the Trinity."

Matters for Consideration

To bring about true listening to the Father's will, it seems necessary to deepen the criteria of ecclesial discernment from a theological perspective so that the reference to the freedom and newness of the Spirit is appropriately coordinated with the fact that Jesus Christ comes "once for all" (*Heb 10:10*). This implies, first of all, to specify the relationship between listening to the Word of God attested to in Scripture, the reception of Tradition and the Magisterium of the Church, and the prophetic reading of the signs of the times.

To this end, it is crucial to promote anthropological and spiritual visions capable of integrating and not merely juxtaposing the intellectual and emotional dimensions of faith experience, overcoming any and all reductionism and dualism between reason and feeling.

It is important to clarify how conversation in the Spirit can integrate the contributions of theological thought and the humanities and social sciences, alongside other models of ecclesial discernment that are used such as the "see, judge, act" approach or the steps of "recognize, interpret, choose."

The contribution that *Lectio Divina* and different spiritual traditions, ancient and recent, can offer to the practice of discernment should be developed. Indeed, it is appropriate to value the plurality of forms and styles, methods and criteria that the Holy Spirit has suggested over the centuries and that are part of the Church's spiritual heritage.

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

Marriage Moments

(New Year's Day) Ask your spouse if there's one little annoying habit that he/she would like you to work on changing. You don't HAVE to do it, but the best part of a New Year's resolution might be making an effort to please the one you love most.

Parenting Pointers

Christmas and New Years holidays can be a happy but also hectic family time. Perhaps you have been hosting relatives or traveling to visit them. Ask your child which Christmas routines they like and which they don't. What would they substitute?

*Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers by Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net



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."

3. This is a global social issue and one intimately related to the dignity of human life. The Bishops of the United States have expressed very well this social meaning of our concern about climate change, which goes beyond a merely ecological approach, because "our care for one another and our care for the earth are intimately bound together. Climate change is one of the principal challenges facing society and the global community. The effects of climate change are borne by the most vulnerable people, whether at home or around the world." In a few words, the Bishops assembled for the Synod for Amazonia said the same thing: "Attacks on nature have consequences for people's lives." And to express bluntly that this is no longer a secondary or ideological question, but a drama that harms us all, the African bishops stated that climate change makes manifest "a tragic and striking example of structural sin."

Find the full *Laudate Deum* document online at the Vatican website.



Prayer for Peace

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/pope-francis-prayer-peace>



Diocesan is proud to be printing

St. Raphael's Sunday Bulletin

You are invited to help support our Parish!

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