

# St. Raphael Catholic Church

## ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES FEBRUARY 14, 2024

6:30AM, 9:00 AM (SRS attends)  
4:30PM, 6:30 PM  
8:00 PM Spanish

**Tuesday Confession During Lent:**  
6:30PM beginning February 20

**Fridays: Stations of the Cross:**  
After 9:00 AM Mass (Mary's Way)  
6:30PM English and 7:15PM in Spanish

## LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE



### Fasting

Ash Wednesday  
Good Friday

Ages 18-59

### Abstinence

Every Friday  
during Lent

Ages 14+

### How do we fast?

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

### Am I excused from fasting and abstinence?

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women.

For more information on fasting and abstinence, visit [uscbb.org](http://uscbb.org).



**1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854**

**February 11, 2024**

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](http://www.straphaels.org)

Rev. Michael Salah, Pastor, ext. 112  
Rev. Christian Huebner, Parochial Vicar, 301-762-2143, ext. 150  
Email: [huebnerc@adw.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jcress@straphaels.org)  
Luisa Duarte, Spanish Coordinator, 240-864-2565  
Eileen Kutchak, Dir. of Parish Programming, ext. 110  
Pietro Lojacono, Assistant for Religious Education, ext. 123  
Annalee McHugh, Youth Minister, [amchugh@straphaels.org](mailto:amchugh@straphaels.org)  
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.

**United in Purpose: The 2024 Annual Catholic Services**



**give.adw.org**

**Appeal:** This weekend we have been asked prayerfully to consider making a gift to the *2024 Annual Catholic Services Appeal*. Please complete or take a commitment form at Mass this weekend, or make your gift at [give.adw.org](http://give.adw.org). Visit [appeal.adw.org](http://appeal.adw.org) to learn more about how the Annual Catholic Services Appeal benefits our parish and serves people in need throughout our community. It is our goal that every parish family will participate this year. All gifts will be credited towards our parish goal. Thank you in advance for your generous response to the *2024 Annual Catholic Services Appeal*.

**Happy Anniversary** to the couples who registered for The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass, and/or or certificates.

Han and Sukza Hwangbo—60 years

Mattia and Norma Saad—59 years

Walter and Patricia Wraga —53 years

David and Nona Ash—50 years

Bill and Diane Arcieri—50 years

James and Ruth O'Connor—50 years

Fred and Rosemary Futrovsky—41 years

Jose and Beatriz Espejo—40 years

Mark Li and Luciante Tang—40 years

Egdares and Isabel Futch—30 years

Thomas and Kathleen Klausing—30 years

Luis and Ruby Gonzalez—20 years

Parker and Dawn Russell—15 years

**2023 Contribution Statements**

If you are in need of a 2023 contribution statement, please call or email Eileen Kutchak, 240-864-2510, [ekutchak@straphaels.org](mailto:ekutchak@straphaels.org) with your last name and envelope number.

Those contributing through Faith Direct will receive an additional statement from Faith Direct. The Archdiocese Annual Appeal statements are sent to donors by the Archdiocese of Washington.

**Pray for our Seminarians**

Please stop by our vocations prayer card display in the church vestibule, where you'll see cards for each of the seminarians of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington. Choose one or more cards and pray for your chosen seminarian(s) each day during Lent. Make it a beautiful offering to the Lord this Lent to pray for those whom He calls to give their lives in service of His Church.

**Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week  
Sixth Week in Ordinary Time**

**Monday, February 12**

6:30AM Sandra Corporal (d)  
9:00AM Juan Pe (d)

**Tuesday, February 13**

6:30AM Sandra Corporal (d0)  
9:00AM John Charles Thompson (d)

**Ash Wednesday, February 14**

6:30AM Erika Thompson  
9:00AM Helen Sisto (d) (SRS attends)  
4:30PM John Li  
6:30PM Richard N. Gottron (d)  
8:00PMSp Jake Li

**Thursday, February 15**

6:30AM Hien Pham (d)  
9:00AM Deacon Richard L. Walker, Jr. (d)

**Friday, February 16**

6:30AM Sandra Corporal (d)  
9:00AM M/M Pastor Marquez (d)

**Saturday, February 17**

9:00AM Rosalina Plaza (d)  
5:00PM Fr. Christian Dr. Joseph & Eileen Zigarelli (d)

**Sunday, February 18**

7:00AM Fr. Mike Monica Czaplinski  
8:30AM Fr. Mike Kelly Arquette (d)  
10:00AM Fr. Tom Elinor Metz  
11:30AM Fr. Tom Robert Stovall (d)  
1:00PM Fr. Christian Jorge Duarte (d)  
6:00PM Fr. Christian 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](http://www.straphaels.org) and click the link to YouTube Channel.

**Ash Wednesday Collection** is for the Church in the Developing World (Church in Latin America, Church in Central and Eastern Europe, Church in Africa. We thank you for your generosity.

**Please pray for the soul of**

Grace Wagner, mother of Joanne Staunton  
Reverend L. James Downs



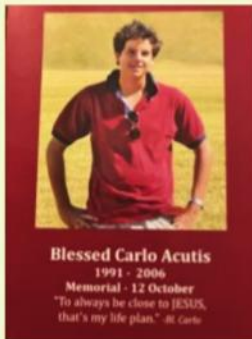
**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace. Amen.**



NATIONAL  
Eucharistic  
Revival

## St. Raphael Parish Mini Mission

Come to our parish Mini Mission on the Eucharist and experience an outstanding exhibit of 158 Eucharistic Miracles in 22 countries collected by Blessed Carlos Acutis, who said *"The Eucharist is My Highway to Heaven."* Each miracle is described on a color panel with photos and descriptions going back to the 3rd century and up to recent years. As we support the National Eucharistic Revival, this exhibit reminds us that Our Lord is truly present in the Eucharist and will inspire hearts to adore Him.



### Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition Blessed Carlos Acutis

Where:

**St. Raphael's All Purpose Room  
Located in the School**

**When: February 24 and 25**

### Saturday, February 24

- 9am: Bilingual Mass (Mass of Day for Lent)
- 10-10:30am: **Father Christian Huebner Talk**  
**Eucharist, Eucharistic Miracles, and Carlo Acutis—Parish Library**
- 10:30am-7pm: Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit, video of Carlo Acutis life, and pamphlets available in All Purpose Room

### Sunday, February 25th

- 7:30am-8:00pm: Exhibit open in All Purpose Room

St. Raphael Catholic Church, 1513 Dunster Road, Rockville, MD  
For more information email: [laurebricequesnel@gmail.com](mailto:laurebricequesnel@gmail.com) or Anne Marie Begley, 301-767-7284.

### For Your Lenten Journey...

During Lent we are reminded to develop a more conscious spiritual life and share what we have with those in need. One practical way to achieve this goal is to make the change to eGiving for your parish support.

You can use our parish's online giving platform, Faith Direct, to deepen your commitment to the church and the ministries you care about most. Your recurring gifts will sustain our mission month after month. You will also help our parish by cutting costs for envelopes and postage.

It's easy to get started. Here are the ways to sign up:

- Visit [faithdirect/MD34](http://faithdirect/MD34)
- Call Faith Direct Customer Service at 866-507-8757
- Scan the QR code
- Text "Enroll" to 301-756-5300

Thank you and may God bless your generosity.



### 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>



### Rockville Catholic Summer Program

The Rockville Catholic Summer Program is the area's best option for summer camp in terms of both quality of programming and affordability! Registration for the 2024 season of RCSP opens in February! Visit our webpage, [www.rockvillecatholicsummer.com](http://www.rockvillecatholicsummer.com) for more information on how to sign up! New families are encouraged to fill out our new family form to get on the email list. Contact Mike McHugh at [rockvillecatholicsummer@gmail.com](mailto:rockvillecatholicsummer@gmail.com) with any questions.

### 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](mailto:amchugh@straphaels.org) to sign up! Cost is \$15.00.

#### Spring Retreat – Mar. 1-3

Join us for a weekend away at Skycroft Conference Center on Spring Retreat! All high school teens are encouraged to step back from the chaos and crazy of their lives and come away for prayer, fellowship & a chance to refresh their relationship with God. Retreat is a mix of sports, talks, discussion, prayer and much more! Cost is \$165.00, please contact Mike McHugh for more details.

#### 6:00pm Youth Mass Music Director

St. Raphael's continues its search for a new music director for the 6pm Youth Mass. We are striving to preserve the spirit of this Liturgy as well as the involvement of our parish youth. For the next few weeks, the music will be the same as the Sunday morning Masses. Thank you for your patience as we trust in the Lord to provide!

For inquiries or to apply, please contact Vince Natali, [vnatali@straphaels.org](mailto:vnatali@straphaels.org) or Mike McHugh, [mmchugh@straphaels.org](mailto:mmchugh@straphaels.org).

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

### THE 2024 LUCINDA L. JASPER SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION FOR EIGHTH (8<sup>TH</sup>) GRADE STUDENTS

The 2024 Lucinda L. Jasper Scholarship Competition officially opened January 16, 2024, to all eighth-grade students presently attending a Catholic elementary school in the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. who plans to attend a Catholic high school in the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. in the fall of the year.

Visit the website, <http://www.lljsf.org/>, to find the application packet which contains the application form, school report, teacher recommendation, the criteria, and details for 1500-2500 word essay.

Students must complete an application form, write a 1500-2500 word essay, provide one teacher recommendation and have the principal submit a school report. Submissions are accepted **ONLY** online. **All materials (application form, essay, school report and recommendations) must be successfully submitted online no later than 11:59 pm March 31, 2024.**

For more information, visit <http://www.lljsf.org/> or call 301-780-5313 or send an email to [lljsf@aol.com](mailto:lljsf@aol.com).

### Children's Liturgy of the Word Needs You!



**Children's Liturgy of the Word is looking for volunteers** to join our ministry to bring the Good News of the Gospel to our children from 4-10 years at the 10AM Mass in developmentally appropriate language.

We provide training, weekly materials, mentorship and encouragement from experienced CLW ministers.

**Time Required:** 1-2 hours prep and 1 hour at Mass when it is your team's turn to serve. The prep time will decrease as you become comfortable with the format.

**Qualifications:** a genuine love of children and a desire to share your faith with our children. We will provide all the instructions and support to navigate the required ADW Child Protection screening.

**Benefits:** Priceless! Don't be surprised if your own faith grows as you dig a little deeper into the Sunday readings! Make new friends and share your talents with this important parish ministry.

**Interested? Come and see us on Sunday at 10AM Mass.** Then, please contact Mary Beaudoin ([mbeaudoin@straphaels.org](mailto:mbeaudoin@straphaels.org)) or Cathleen Shannon ([cshannon1794@gmail.com](mailto:cshannon1794@gmail.com)).

**We look forward to hearing from you!!**

### THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2024 FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

### 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](mailto:parishcouncil@straphaels.org).

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### For young men in high school in The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington **Quo Vadis Excursion in Prince George's County**

Sunday, February 25, 2024 9:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

#### Want to learn more about the priesthood?

Register now for our excursion to Piscataway Park in Accokeek. The day starts with Mass at historic Saint Mary's of Piscataway, followed by a hike and lunch. Optional bus transportation is available.



Baptism of Piscataway Teyas/Chief, Kittamaquond, on 7-15-1640, by Fr. White, S.J. Painting by Henry Wingate.

Join us for Mass, hiking, talks, lunch, and more!



There is no charge to attend this event, but you must register by Thursday, February 22, at <https://dcpriest.org/event/february-2024-quo-vadis-excursion/>



DCPRIEST

For additional information, contact  
Fr. Mark Ivany, Director of Priest Vocations  
202-636-9020 vocations@adw.org

### Scripture Readings for the Week of February 11, 2024

Sunday Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv 13:1-2; 44-46; Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11; 1 Cor 10:31—11:1; Mk 1:40-45

Monday Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76; Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 9:22-25

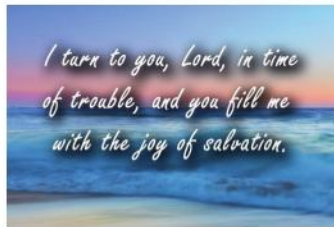
Friday Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday Memorial of the Seven Founders of the Order of Servites, Religious

Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 5:27-32

Sunday First Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mt 4:4b; Mk 1:12-15



Holiday Inn Washington-College Park  
10000 Baltimore Ave, College Park, MD 20740

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on  
March 1-3, 2024  
at Holiday Inn Washington-College Park

Your marriage deserves that kind of attention!

There is a \$50.00 non-refundable application fee with the opportunity to make a donation.

To apply online go to [moments4marriage.org](https://moments4marriage.org) Or call: 301-500-0871

### Leap into Volunteering: Make February's Extra Day Count!



2024 has an extra day! Thursday, Feb. 29, is Leap Year Day, an extra 24 hours added to our calendar to sync it with the seasons. How will you use this gift of time? Why not put a volunteer activity with Catholic Charities on your calendar. Scan the QR Code with your phone for more information and to sign up!



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

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

There will be no formal Spring 2024 40 Bethesda 40 Days for Life campaign this year, but our parish will continue to pray the rosary on the public sidewalk in front of the abortion facility at the Wildwood Medical Center, 10401 Old Georgetown Road, in Bethesda, **each Saturday during Lent from Saturday, February 17 through Saturday March 30 from 10-11 am.**

40 Days For Life will continue to have the Witness for Life event for all 40 Days for Life participants at the same location on the first Saturday of each month year-round.

Please do not go alone, but bring a friend with you. Please meet in the vestibule after the 9 AM Mass on Saturdays, or if you have questions. **What could be more important than protecting the lives of innocent babies and their mothers from the devastating effects of abortion?**

### For students in The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington **Vocations Mass for Students in 6th Grade**

Thursday, March 21, 2024 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception  
4000 Michigan Avenue, NE, Washington, D.C.



Sixth-grade students are encouraged to attend the 28th Annual Vocations Mass on March 21. Seminarians, priests, and religious brothers and sisters will be present after Mass to meet with students and answer their questions. For more information, please contact the Office of Priest Vocations at [vocations@adw.org](mailto:vocations@adw.org). Or, call 202-636-9020.

Please register your school now at <https://dcpriest.org/event/2024-vocations-mass-for-students-in-6th-grade/>



DCPRIEST

For additional information, contact  
Fr. Mark Ivany, Director of Priest Vocations  
202-636-9020 vocations@adw.org



# School News

February 11, 2024



A peek behind our classroom doors



**All the Celebrations  
from Catholic Schools  
Week...**





The students and staff from SRS and SRNS had fun dressing up each day of CSW with themes decided by the Student Council. All while still celebrating the parents, clergy, staff, and all who make Catholic Schools a great place to be!

**Mon:** Jersey Day  
**Tues:** Dress like a Teacher  
**Wed:** Red, White and Blue  
**Thurs:** Career Day  
**Fri:** PJ Day





# A Better Way Forward

A message on physician assisted suicide  
from the Catholic Bishops of Maryland  
January 2024



We are deeply disappointed to learn that once again the Maryland General Assembly will debate whether to legalize physician assisted suicide.

The central tenet guiding our opposition to this deadly proposal is that all human life is created in the image and likeness of God and therefore sacred.

In 2024, medical advancements and improvements in pain management mean we can make individuals with terminal illnesses comfortable and improve the quality of the remainder of their lives without them feeling the need to reluctantly choose a "dignified death."

## Enhance End of Life Care

Therefore, it is incumbent upon each of us to ensure that those at the end of their lives can experience a death that doesn't include offering a form of suicide prescribed by a doctor.

We believe our elected officials should work to improve access to the network of care available to Maryland families by increasing access to palliative and hospice care, enhancing end-of-life education and training opportunities for physicians, and ensuring that there is appropriate diagnosis and treatment for depression and other mental and behavioral health issues.

## Legislation Lacks Safeguards

The proponents of this legislation claim that that this policy offers an "option" to a very small set of individuals who are suffering from a terminal illness with less than six months to live, claiming this option will help them maintain control and dignity during their final days on earth.

This legislation ignores the reality facing many in such conditions and is woefully lacking in the types of meaningful safeguards that would prevent this unnecessary and drastic option. Such safeguards include mandated mental health assessments, reporting requirements, safe disposal of unused medication or prohibitions against expansion of this program.

## Vulnerable Individuals are at Risk

In every state or country where this dangerous policy has been legalized grave abuses and expansion have occurred,

making assisted suicide available to far more people and not just those facing imminent death.

This legislation puts our most vulnerable brothers and sisters at risk of making decisions for themselves that are manipulated by factors such as disability, mental instability, poverty and isolation. Maryland has accurately recognized that suicide is a serious public health concern in the general population and has offered substantial resources to address the concern. At a time when our nation is grappling with how to address a frighteningly high suicide rate it is deeply illogical for the State of Maryland to be seeking ways to facilitate suicide for those with a terminal illness, all the while claiming such preventable and unnecessary deaths are somehow dignified.

## A Better Path Forward

There is a better path forward for the people of Maryland and it does not involve suicide. As Pope Francis reminds us: "We must accompany people towards death, but not provoke death or facilitate assisted suicide. I would point out that the right to care and treatment for all must always be prioritized, so that the weakest, particularly the elderly and the sick, are never discarded. Indeed, life is a right, not death, which must be welcomed, not administered. And this ethical principle applies to everyone, not just Christians or believers."<sup>1</sup>

We urge all people of good will to demand that our lawmakers reject suicide as an end-of-life option and to choose the better, safer path that involves radical solidarity with those facing the end of their earthly journey. Let us choose the path that models true compassion and dignity to those facing end of life decisions and protects the most vulnerable from the deadly proposition of physician assisted suicide.

Most Reverend William E. Lori  
Archbishop of Baltimore

Wilton Cardinal Gregory  
Archbishop of Washington

Most Reverend William Koenig  
Bishop of Wilmington



MARYLAND  
CATHOLIC  
CONFERENCE

mdcatholic.org

<sup>1</sup>Pope Francis, General Audience, Feb. 9, 2022



## Religious Education

Mary Beaudoin, 202-294-7697

### CRS Rice Bowl – Journey with Us this Lent

Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and climate change, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all.

CRS Rice Bowl shares [stories of hope](#) from CRS' work around the world. These stories are examples of how your Lenten alms are helping communities find solutions to problems like hunger and climate change. Take a virtual journey with us to Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia! Don't forget to try the [meatless recipes](#) each Friday during Lent.

Find stories of hope, reflections, recipes, and resources for families and individuals at: [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org)

### Religious Education Classes

St. Raphael Religious Education (SRRE) offers ongoing faith formation for all children and teens, as well as preparation for sacraments. See our webpage at <https://www.straphaels.org/religious-education>

#### SRRE Calendar

Find the SRRE Calendar at our webpage: Note these highlights:

- **Sunday, February 11, classes at 4:30-5:45 PM**
- **No classes 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

#### Prayer Ministry

Please pray for the adults and children in our parish who are preparing for sacraments at the Easter Vigil and during the Easter season. Pray also for their parents or family members and their catechists.

Almighty God, bless our brothers and sisters who are asking for baptism. Grant them light and strength to profess the faith of the Church and to follow Christ with resolute hearts. Give them new life in your Holy Spirit.

Lord, send your Spirit to touch the hearts of our Confirmation candidates that they may believe in you and in Jesus whom you sent. Stir up in them an ardent desire for the gifts of wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, and wonder and awe in your presence. Open their hearts to your Spirit and bring to fulfillment the good work you have begun in them.

Loving God, strengthen the faith of all those who are preparing for First Communion. Ground their hope in the true presence of Christ. Help them to recognize in the Body and Blood of Christ your boundless love for us. Through this sacrament, nurture in them a Christ-like love for all people.

#### First Eucharist



This week, families with children preparing for First Eucharist in April and May are beginning the *God's Gift Eucharist* workbook (younger children) or chapter 9 of *God's Gift Reconciliation and Eucharist* and worksheets (older children). Completed workbooks and worksheets are due at First Communion rehearsal.

- First Eucharist will be celebrated on Saturdays, April 27 and May 4



### 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 and/or the 7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching, 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.
- Saint Projects and Sponsor Certificates for those in Confirmation Year 2 are overdue!
- Confirmation Interviews begin this week!
- We are pleased that Bishop Evelio Menjivar will be coming to St. Raphael for Confirmation on Saturday, April 20, at 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- Letters to Bishop Menjivar are due in the SRRE office on March 15.
- Find Confirmation preparation forms at <https://www.straphaels.org/confirmation-1>



### Eucharistic Revival: Reverence and Mission

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' National Eucharistic Revival project seeks both to deepen our belief in the Real Presence and to explore what that belief imposes on each Catholic.

Catholic teaching calls us to believe that Christ is truly present – Body, Soul and Divinity – in the Eucharist. It is truth of that Presence that summons us to respond in generous ways through frequent and active participation in the Mass which is the summit and source of the Christian life, along with quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. When we convey our conviction in the truth of the Lord's Eucharistic Presence, we also agree to respond to that Presence in ways that will inevitably take us into the world's neediest places and to respond in charity and justice to those who live on the periphery of society. Simply put, we cannot dine on the Eucharist and yet remain disinterested in those who endure physical, spiritual or emotional hungers.

Any true Eucharistic Revival must increase our faith in Christ's Presence but also underscore the obligations that flow from that reality. Therefore as we plan special events to honor the Lord's gift of the Blessed Sacrament, we must pair those same events with a heightened summons to live charitably and in active response to the needs of those who look to us as witnesses to that truth.

– Cardinal Wilton Gregory, *Catholic Standard*, May 10, 2013

### Models of Christ

Today we continue Year B in the cycle of Sunday readings with the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Remember to make time to reflect on the [Scripture readings](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/021124.cfm) with your family: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/021124.cfm>  
Readings: Leviticus 13:1–2, 44–46 (on leprosy); 1 Corinthians 10:31–11:1 (imitation of Christ); Mark 1:40–45 (healing of a leper)

Key Passage: Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:1)

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

- ▶ Adults: Would you have the courage to tell others to do as you do in order to be a Christian? Why or why not?
- ▶ Kids: What can you do this week to be an example to others?

### Synod on Synodality

In October 2023, 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, *A Synodal Church on Mission*, Part 4, People in Poverty, Protagonists of the Church's Journey.

g) Christians have a duty to commit themselves to active participation in building up the common good and defending the dignity of life, drawing inspiration from the Church's social doctrine and working together in various ways, through engagement in civil society organizations, trade unions, popular movements, grassroots associations, in the field of politics, and so forth. The Church is deeply grateful for them. The community has a duty to support those who work in these fields in a genuine spirit of charity and service. Their action is part of the Church's mission to proclaim the Gospel and bring about the coming of the Kingdom of God.

h) The Christian community encounters the face and flesh of Christ, who, though he was rich, became poor for our sake, that we might become rich through his poverty. It is called not only to be close to them, but to learn from them. If becoming synodal means walking together with the One who is the Way, a synodal Church needs to put those experiencing poverty at the center of all aspects of its life: through their sufferings, they have direct knowledge of the suffering Christ (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 198). The likeness of their lives to that of the Lord makes those who are poor heralds of a salvation received as a gift and witnesses to the joy of the Gospel.

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

### Marriage Moments

*How Do I Love Thee?* - As we count the days to Valentine Day, let us also count the ways we love our spouse. This is not a math contest. Pick out 1, 2, or 3 ways that your beloved brings you joy.

### Parenting Pointers

Your family may not come from royalty but have fun playing *King or Queen for a Day*. Assign each person 1 day this week to choose their favorite food, activity, and be free of most chores. Others have to take up the slack. (More than 7 people in your family? Extend the week.)

\*Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers by Susan Vogt, [www.SusanVogt.net](http://www.SusanVogt.net)



### Laudate Deum

On October 4, 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." Below is an excerpt from section 3: The weakness of International Politics.

36. It continues to be regrettable that global crises are being squandered when they could be the occasions to bring about beneficial changes. This is what happened in the 2007-2008 financial crisis and again in the Covid-19 crisis. For "the actual strategies developed worldwide in the wake of [those crises] fostered greater individualism, less integration and increased freedom for the truly powerful, who always find a way to escape unscathed".

### Reconfiguring multilateralism

37. More than saving the old multilateralism, it appears that the current challenge is to reconfigure and recreate it, taking into account the new world situation. I invite you to recognize that "many groups and organizations within civil society help to compensate for the shortcomings of the international community, its lack of coordination in complex situations, and its lack of attention to fundamental human rights". For example, the Ottawa Process against the use, production and manufacture of antipersonnel mines is one example that shows how civil society with its organizations is capable of creating effective dynamics that the United Nations cannot. In this way, the principle of subsidiarity is applied also to the global-local relationship.

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>







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