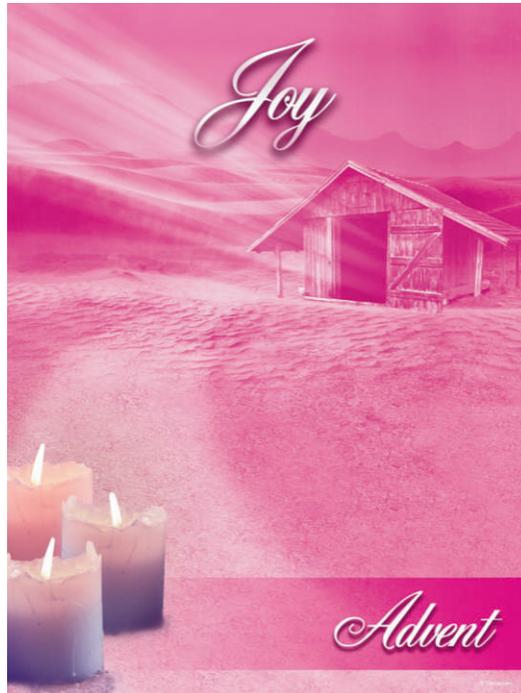


St. Raphael Catholic Church



1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

December 14, 2025

**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. Thomas Morrow, Retired, ext. 128
Rev. Joseph Gonzalez, Parochial Vicar, ext. 150
Email: GonzalezJ@adw.org**

**Deacon Jose Carbonell, JRCarbon@comcast.net
Deacon Richard Meyer, 202-365-0913
Deacon Jim O'Brien, obrien3@verizon.net
Deacon Frank Salatto, ext. 149**

**Taylor Cotting, 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
Annalee McHugh, Youth Minister, amchugh@straphaels.org
Vince Natali, Dir. Of Music Ministries, 240-864-2532
Krys Psurek, OCIA Coordinator, 240-864-2542, ocia@straphaels.org
Elaine Salatto, Publications, Welcoming, 240-864-2513
Karen Watson, Coordinator of Religious Education, ext. 124**

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: 240-688-6829**

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: Sunday: 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, (children), 11:30AM, 1:00PM (español), 6:00PM (youth) Saturday: 5:00 PM

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.

Update Your Online Parish Giving

Faith Direct has merged to be part of the ParishSoft Giving platform.

What you need to know!

All your giving data and payment information was securely migrated over so that you do not have to create a new account. Your login information will be the same password that you had in Faith Direct and your user name will be the email address on file on your account. However if you have any trouble with it, we recommend to click 'forgot password' and instructions will be sent to your email to reset your password.

[If you should have any questions or need any assistance on your account, you can contact ParishSOFT Donor Support at donorsupport@parishsoft.com](mailto:donorsupport@parishsoft.com) or call #866-930-4774 option 6.

If you're signed up for weekly offering, the amount that you want to donate weekly will be deducted weekly instead of once a month! This is a benefit to not only you but the parish as well. If you don't like it and would like to keep the amount just once a month, you will be able to log in and update your account or contact Donor Support to have that change made as well. You're also no longer locked into the 4th or the 15th, you'd be able to log in and set your recurring gifts based on your schedule any day of the month.

Your Parish Giving

The new sign in link for both NEW and Existing parish donors is

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/FD-34>

ParishSOFT Donor Support

at donorsupport@parishsoft.com

or call #866-930-4774 option 6.



This is new QR code for Parishsoft (Faith Direct) eGiving

Support Montgomery County Right to Life and send religious Christmas cards

The St. Raphael's Respect Life committee invites all members of our parish to support Montgomery County Right to Life by purchasing religious Christmas cards. If you missed the sale in the Trumpet Room last weekend, cards are still available for sale in the parish office. There will be a variety of religious cards including some with a prolife Christmas message. Ten cards cost \$8.00. Please have cash or check for payment.

Bulletin Notices may be emailed to:

esalatto@straphaels.org

This bulletin was transmitted December 9.

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Monday, December 15

6:30AM Marianne Dunn (d)
9:00AM Mary Gabriel Fairbanks (d)

Tuesday, December 16

6:30AM Rufino Loberiza (d)
9:00AM Maria Fernandes de Souza (d)

Wednesday, December 17

6:30AM Karen Patterson (d)
9:00AM Marjorie Cammarota (d)

Thursday, December 18

6:30AM Liliana Salmon (d)
9:00AM Jake Hynes

Friday, December 19

6:30AM Jorge Correa (d)
9:00AM Donald O'Rourke (d) (School attends)

Saturday, December 20

9:00AM Gary Welsh (d)
5:00PM Fr. Mike Ed McCaffrey (d)

Sunday, December 21

7:00AM Fr. Tom Sandy Cupples
8:30AM Fr. Mike Father Pio's Women's Prayer Group
10:00AM Fr. Mike Members of the Parish
11:30AM Fr. Tom Terry O'Donnell (d)
1:00PM Fr. Joe In Thanksgiving
6:00PM Fr. Joe Women's Bible Study

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.



Parish Penance
Tuesday, December 23
6:30 PM

There will be nine priests hearing confessions.

Please pray for the soul of

Barbara Lynch



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.

Parishioners who have lost a family member outside of the parish, please call 240-864-2510 with their names and they will be included in prayers.

NEW BIBLE STUDY GROUPS ARE FORMING!

***THE FIRST BOOK of SAMUEL:
Establishing the Throne of David***

**Tuesday Mornings 10:00 -12:00 Noon in
PARISH LIBRARY January 6 – May 19**

OR

**Tuesday Mornings 10:30 – 12:00 Noon on
ZOOM January 6 – May 19**

**Come hear the voice of the God who still calls
your name –
just as He called Samuel!
Join us for lively discussion and inspiration
for your own walk with the Lord!**

Study guides can be purchased from TAN
BOOKS at

<https://tanbooks.com/products/books/first-samuel-establishing-the-throne-of-david/>

For further information and to register, contact
Jackie Murphy.

jackiefmurphy@comcast.net or 301-807-2369

**THE HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS ARE OUR GUESTS
HEAR THEIR STORY AND BUY THEIR BEAUTIFUL
OLIVEWOOD CRAFTS**

On December 20-21, 2025, we will be hosting a nice display of handmade olive-wood religious carvings from Bethlehem and Jerusalem in the Trumpet Room 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.

All carvings are handmade by Christian families in Bethlehem who rely on sales for their daily bread. Please, help support our brothers and sisters in Bethlehem by purchasing some of your Christmas gifts for this year. Let us keep Bethlehem a Christian town forever.

Marriage Help

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.

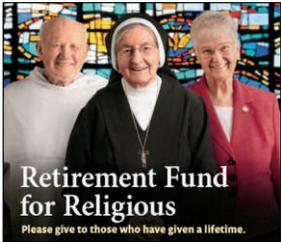
For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning **with a weekend on January 16, please visit:**

www.helpourmarriage.org,

call 443-400-7017,

or email us at 3015@HelpOurMarriage.org

**The Second Collection this weekend,
December 13/14 is for the Retirement Fund
for Religious.**



Donations provide housing, medical assistance and essential support for thousands of aging religious. Thank you for your donation.

Scripture Readings For the Week of December 14, 2025

Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Monday

Num 24: 2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab; 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday

Gen 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8,17; Mt 1:1-17

Thursday

Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Friday

Jdg 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Saturday

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rm 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
St. Raphael Catholic Church Conference**



240-688-6829 – Intake

This number is also on front of bulletin.

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.

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.

A peek behind our classroom doors

School News



December 14, 2025



Fourth Graders Step Back in Time

St. Raphael School fourth graders celebrated their annual Medieval Festival by proudly presenting their family's coats of arms to classmates and parents. Students learned about heraldry and medieval traditions as they showcased their creative designs. Their achievements were celebrated with costumes, and a feast. That brought their stories to life. We are so proud of their bravery and creativity!

www.straphaelschoolmd.org

| www.srnsmd.org



@SRSrockville

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 14, 2025

Gathering Hymn *Come Lord Jesus*

Chris de Silva

Ma-ra-na - tha! Come, Lord Je - sus, Ma-ra-na - tha! God with us. Ma-ra-na - tha!
Come, Lord Je - sus, come, Em - man - u - el, come, Em - man - u - el.

Kyrie

Mass of Spirit and Grace - Ricky Manalo

All
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

Lord, come and save us. Lord, come and save us.

Gospel Acclamation

Michael Prendergast, Joseph Sullivan

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -
-ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation Hymn *Every Valley*

Bob Dufford

Ev - 'ry val - ley shall be ex - alt - ed and ev - 'ry hill made low. And
all God's peo - ple shall see to - geth - er the glo - ry of the Lord.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

General Intercessions

Tony Alonso, Gabe Huck

Come quick - ly, Lord, in mer - cy come.

Communion Antiphon

Steve Angrisano, Sarah Hart, Curtis Stephan

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not
fear. Be- hold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Communion Procession *To You, O Lord*

Marty Haugen

To you, O Lord, I lift my_ soul, to you, I lift my soul.

Meditation Hymn *Come, Lord Maranatha*

Ricky Manalo

Come, Lord! Ma- ra- na- tha! Come and bring us your peace.____ Come, Lord, Ma-
ra- na- tha! Come to us; set us free.____ Come, Lord, and bring us your peace.____

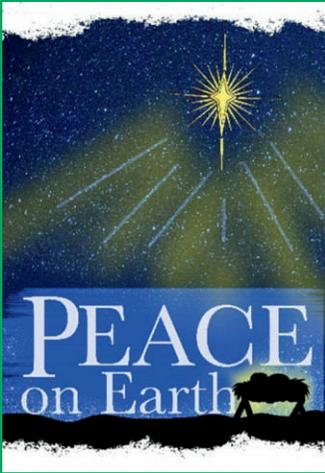
THE CONCLUDING RITE

Recessional Hymn *People Look East*

Missalette #153

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Christmas Eve Masses

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

4:00 PM Church (Nativity)

4:00 PM Trumpet Room

6:00 PM Church

8:00 PM Spanish

11:00 PM (Music prelude begins 10:15PM)



Christmas Day Masses

Thursday, December 25, 2025

8:30 AM

10:00 AM

11:30 AM

1:00 PM Spanish

no 7:00 AM, no 6:00 PM



Religious Education

Karen Watson, 301-762-2143, ext. 124

The Third Week of Advent: A Time for Joy This Sunday, let us rejoice as the coming of Jesus draws near. In the midst of Advent's quiet preparation, Gaudete Sunday fills us with hope and encouragement. The rose candle on the Advent wreath reminds us that Jesus, our Light, is approaching and that God's promise is close to fulfillment.



****VIRTUS Child Protection Training – Required for All Adult Volunteers****

All adults who wish to volunteer with children or teens in parish programs **must complete the Archdiocese of Washington's Child Protection Program**, which includes:

- VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" training
- Volunteer application
- Fingerprinting & background check
- Review of the Archdiocesan Child Protection Policy

Training sessions are offered **online**. Start the process today by contacting the SRRE office. For dates and registration, visit <http://www.virtusonline.org>. Click on "First Time Registrant," then "View a list of sessions," and select "Washington, DC (Archdiocese)."

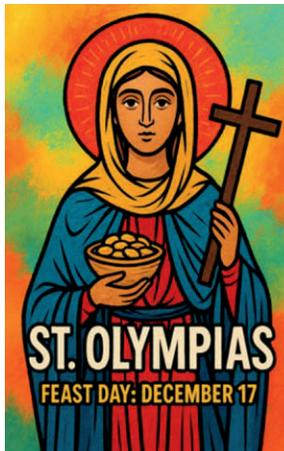
Let's work together to keep our children safe.

Saintly Steps with SRRE

Discover a new holy friend every week as we grow in faith together

St. Olympias - Feast Day: December 17

St. Olympias was born into a wealthy Constantinople family, orphaned young, and briefly married and widowed before choosing a life devoted to Christ. She used her inheritance to found a community of women, support the poor, and establish a hospital and orphanage.



A close friend of **St. John Chrysostom**, Patriarch of Constantinople, she stood by St. John during his exile and suffered persecution for

refusing to support Arsacius as the new patriarch. She spent the last years of her life beset by illness and persecution but comforted by St. John Chrysostom from his place of exile. She died in exile in Nicomedia on July 25, less than a year after the death of Chrysostom.

Our mission, *Spreading the Good News of the Gospel to All Generations*, guides everything we do in SRRE.



ST. RAPHAEL
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are a ministry dedicated to forming young disciples who know, love, and live their Catholic faith.

Though we gather once a week, our time together is prayerful, purposeful, and rooted in the Archdiocese of Washington's curriculum. In partnership with the ADW, we follow their curriculum and reporting requirements to ensure strong and faithful Catholic formation.

Students learn Scripture, prayer, the foundations of the Catholic Church, and practical ways to live their faith. Our experienced and **trained catechists** craft thoughtful, age-appropriate lessons that help children understand the Mass, grow closer to Jesus, and build a strong Catholic identity.

We provide preparation for Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation for all our parish families, *including all Catholic school students*. We also accompany adults and children in the parish's OCIA process by offering resources and formation tools to support their journey into the Catholic Church.

Thank you for supporting SRRE. If you feel called to accompany others in their walk with Christ through Religious Education, OCIA, or Children's Liturgy of the Word please reach out. I would be glad to share how you can be part of this beautiful ministry.

Today, Sunday is the last date of Giving Tree.
Thank you for your generous giving.

Advent Giving Tree 2025

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 14, 2025**, so that they can be distributed before the holiday.

There are two ways you can do this:

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

OR

- Mail gift cards to:

St Raphael's Church
Attn: Eileen Kutchak/Advent Giving Tree
1513 Dunster Road
Rockville, MD 20854



As in past years we will be supporting St Martin of Tours Church in DC, Mission of Mercy, Interfaith Works Women Center, St Ann's Center, Children's National Hospital-Oncology Unit, Christ House DC, the Betty Krahnke Center, St. Vincent DePaul/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

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

Thanks to all who supported the successful Fall 40 Days for Life Campaign by praying in front of Care Clinic's late term abortion facility at 5454 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD. Our parish will continue to support this effort by **praying the rosary the first Saturday of each month** until the Spring campaign begins in April from **10AM-11AM**.

The building is across the street from the Western Ave. exit of the Friendship Heights metro stop. Paid parking is available in the building at 5454 Wisconsin Ave., free parking at the nearby Amazon Fresh (4-minute walk), and there is plenty of inexpensive, street meter parking nearby. **Please do not go alone but bring a friend with you.** Please contact Deacon Rich at MeyerRS@adw.org or meet in the vestibule after the 9 AM Mass on Saturdays, if you have questions or need help with directions.

*What could be more important than protecting the lives of innocent babies and their mothers from the devastating effects of abortion? **If you will not protect them, who will?** Women (and former abortionists) report that the prayers and presence of pro-life witnesses at abortion clinics **dissuaded over 70%** them **from** having an **abortion**.*

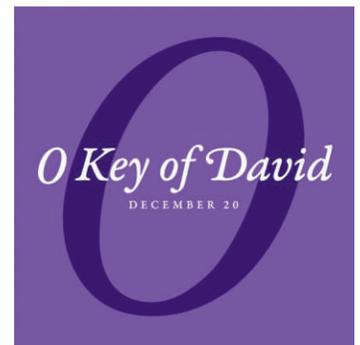
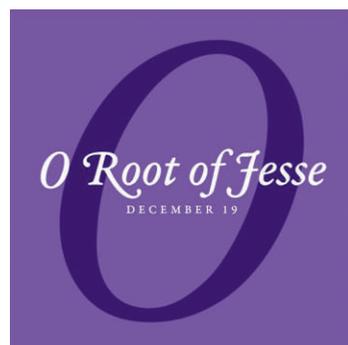


Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God



Vigil
Tuesday, December 31
5:00 PM
7:00 PM (Spanish)

Solemnity
Wednesday, January 1, 2025
8:30, 10:00, 11:30AM
1:00PM (Spanish)
no 7:00 AM or 6:00 PM





Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will

For further information, please call the parish office.

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