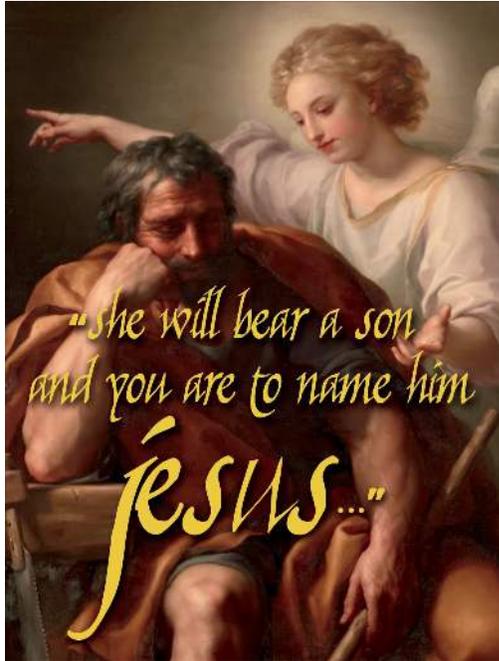


St. Raphael Catholic Church



1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

December 21, 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: Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, (children), 11:30AM, 1:00PM (español), 6:00PM (youth)

Weekday Masses: Monday thru Friday: 6:30 and 9:00AM
Saturday: 9:00 AM

Penance : Tuesday: 7:00 - 7:30 PM and
Saturday: 3:45 - 4:30 PM

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Tuesday: 6:45 PM
No Exposition on Christmas Day 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.



**Parish Penance
Tuesday, December 23
6:30 PM**

Nine priests will be here for confessions.

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 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

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 15.

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

Monday, December 22

6:30AM Paul Byberg (d)
9:00AM Don Novotny (d)

Tuesday, December 23

6:30AM Raymond Timm (d)
9:00AM Dianne and June Heim (d)
6:30PM Parish Penance

Wednesday, December 24

6:30AM Alexander & Maria Basta
9:00AM Karen Patterson (d)

Christmas Eve Masses

4:00PM Ch Robert Stovall (d)
4:00PM Tr Maria Narashko (d)
6:00PM Costa & Beaty Families (d)
8:00PM Sp Carlos & Zoila Linares (d)
11:00PM Members of the Parish

Thursday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

8:30AM Steve Do (d)
10:00AM Verme & Fulbright Families (d)
11:30AM James Yang (d)
1:00PM Laurence G. Keeley (d)

Friday, December 26

6:30AM Deacon Richard Mattocks (d)
9:00AM James Yang (d)

Saturday, December 27

9:00AM James Yang (d)
5:00PM Fr. Joe John & Rosemarie Buckley (d)

Sunday, December 28

7:00AM Fr. Mike Denise & Aaron Young
8:30AM Fr. Joe Mary Theresa Tortora (d)
10:00AM Fr. Mike Linda Hacker (d)
11:30AM Fr. Mike Mary Ellen Mahoney (d)
1:00PM Fr. Joe Members of the Parish
6:00PM Fr. Joe Robert Stanton (d)

The priest schedule is subject to change.

Please pray for the soul of

Arthur Zuranski

Tony Topolski, brother-in-law of Dick Jasinski



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

FOR SINGLE CATHOLICS – 26th Annual Epiphany Party at St. Raphael Church, 1513 Dunster Rd., Rockville, MD 20854; SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026; starting at 7 PM. BLACK TIE OPTIONAL. Includes delicious Ledo's lasagne dinner, complementary wine and beer, DJ, and more. (Usual age range – 21-50s) Send \$23 check donation by January 10 to SCS Epiphany Party, St. Raphael, 1590 Kimblewick Rd., Rockville, MD 20854, Or \$25 by credit card at <https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=AJLD5F4VY43NE> by January 12, or \$28 cash, card or check at the door. For more info. email Fr. T. Morrow at tgmorrow1@gmail.com.

**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.

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

This weekend, December 20-21, 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.

**Wedding Anniversary Mass to Celebrate the
Vocation of Marriage on
Saturday, February 14, 2026**

Join us at the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass to honor the Vocation of Marriage on **Saturday, February 14, 2026, 10:00 AM at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.**

Couples, please register by February 6, 2026, to attend the Mass and/or request a certificate in honor of your anniversary year. All married couples and their families are welcome, regardless of how long you have been married. Couples registered will receive a certificate.

If you would like to attend, email the following information to esalatto@straphaels.org

Name

Number of Years Married

Any Children attending the Mass

Story You Would Like to Share

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

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 21, 2025



Our SRS Service Club organized a school-wide tag day to raise money to support rebuilding Catholic schools in Jamaica that were impacted by the hurricane.



www.straphaelschoolmd.org

www.srnsmd.org



@SRSRockville



**ST. RAPHAEL
NURSERY SCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE**

📅 JANUARY 12
🕒 9:30 – 10:30 A.M.
📍 1513 DUNSTER ROAD
ROCKVILLE, MD
20854



SCAN
TO
PRE-
REGISTER



Learning in the Light of Advent

As Christmas break approaches, students at St. Raphael School remain dedicated to their studies while embracing the peaceful spirit of Advent. Classrooms are filled with quiet focus as students prepare both academically and spiritually for the season.



www.straphaelschoolmd.org

www.srnsmd.org



@SRSrockville

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 21, 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 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Let the Lord en-ter; he is king, he is king of glo-ry.

Gospel Acclamation

Michael Prendergast, Joseph Sullivan

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

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation Hymn *Christ the Lord*

Sarah Hart, Robert Feduccia

Dark-ness hangs, the world is ach-ing. Yearn-ing for the com-ing light.
As we wait with hope for res-cue Love de-scends and all is well.
On us now the Son is shin-ing Lift-ing us to his em-brace.
us
In his ris-ing. hope a-wak-ing. Love has come to steal the night...
Proph-ets tell, "Your God with us. Heav-en's gift, Em-ma-nu-el."
Shame is cursed, no more con-found-ing; Lift your head and know his face...
In our hearts tru east we're fac-ing. Toward the com-ing of our Lord...
He is here, but hid as low-ly In the poor and mys-ter-y...
Love in-car-nate breath in-dwell-ing, Now in truth is truth made known.
Morn-ing ris-ing, gloom now flee-ing; Christ re-turned! His word is true!
Where the bread and wine are of-fered He is here: our God and King.
We are his and he for-ev-er Is our God and he a-lone.

FOURTH 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

Be- hold, a Vir- gin shall con- ceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Em - man- u - el

Communion Procession *Emmanuel*

Steve Angrisano

Come, come, Em - man - u el! Son_ of God_ ap - pear.
Heav- en and earth re- joice! Sal- va- tion_ draw- ing near_ Sal- va- tion_ draw- ing near.

Meditation Hymn *Creator of the Stars of Night*

Ed Bolduc

Come, come in your ho-ly light, we pray. O come, come re- deem us, Lord.
Come, come to your peo- ple now, we pray. O come, come re - deem us, Lord.

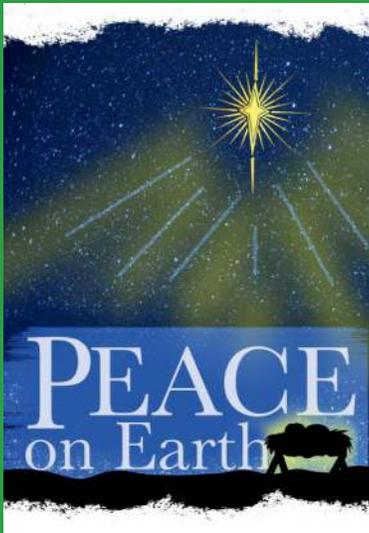
THE CONCLUDING RITE

Recessional Hymn *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

Gather Hymnal #351

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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 Fourth Week of Advent: A Time for Love As Advent draws to a close, we turn our attention to Mary, whose “yes” or fiat opened the way for our Savior. In this final week, we are invited to imitate her faith, humility, and trust in God’s plan. The fourth candle of the Advent wreath, often called the Candle of Love, reminds us that God’s greatest gift is Jesus, who comes to dwell among us as Emmanuel, “God-with-us.” With Christmas only days away, let these last moments of

Advent help us quiet our hearts, seek reconciliation, and make room for Jesus who desires to be welcomed into our lives and homes.



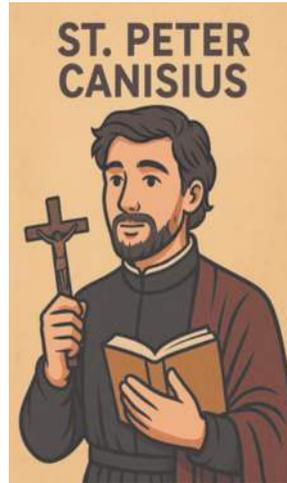
****VIRTUS Child Protection Training – Required for All Adult Volunteers****

All adults who volunteer with children or teens must complete the Archdiocese of Washington’s Child Protection Program, which includes *VIRTUS Protecting God’s Children* training, a volunteer application, fingerprinting and a background check, and a review of the Archdiocesan Child Protection Policy.

Training is available online. To begin, contact the SRRE office. You may also visit <https://straphaels.org/volunteer>
Let’s work together to keep our children safe.

Saintly Steps with SRRE

Discover a new holy friend every week



St. Peter Canisius - Feast Day: December 21

Jesuit Priest and Doctor of the Church

St. Peter Canisius (1521–1597) was a key figure in the Catholic Reformation and is often called the “*Second Apostle of Germany*.” A gifted preacher, teacher, and writer, he traveled extensively to strengthen the Catholic faith during a time of great confusion in the Church. His simple, practical teachings helped generations understand what the Catholic faith is all about.

A Jesuit devoted to prayer and service, he worked tirelessly to renew Catholic education, support clergy, and encourage families in living their Catholic faith with confidence and charity. St. Peter Canisius challenges us today to deepen our Catholic knowledge and share it with humility and courage.

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

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.

With Gratitude,
Karen Watson
kwatson@straphaels.org

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Vigil

Wednesday, December 31

5:00 PM

7:00 PM (Spanish)



Solemnity

Thursday, January 1, 2026

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

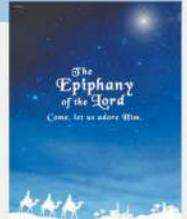
1:00PM (Spanish)

no 7:00 AM or 6:00 PM

Holy Mass and Healing Service

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

7:00 PM



Those wishing to receive prayers following Mass will come forward to the reserved front pews. Confessions continue during Mass and Service.

St. Raphael Honor Roll

Please pray for those serving in our armed forces, those wounded in body and spirit, and for those families who have suffered loss.

2LT Chase Alexander, US Army
Daniel Bertrand Del Bianco, USN (d) and family
SGT Christian John C. Bravo, USMC
BU3 Logan Discavage
LT Victor H. Esch, III, USA
CPT Paul D Galvin
E-3/HN Colleen Gardella
Robert Garret, US Army MP
Cpl Samuel Guerrero, USMC
Taylor Hardy, AE USN
Major Julia Timm Intili, USAF
LT Jake Klosowski, USN
CPT Andrew Lamb, USA
2LT Molly Lamb, USA
LTJG Lee Lennon, USN
LT COL Todd Lennon, USAF
Captain Frank Lowery, USN
Commander Mike McNally, USN
Charles McTavish, USA
SSG George David Pitts III, USA
LCDR Zachary Poindexter, USN
CPT Dan Quackenbush, USA
CPT Will Quackenbush, USA
LT Mary Quackenbush, DENG
Capt. Benedict Ray USMC
LT Paul Schauppner, USN
LT James Sheets (USN)
2nd LT Andrew Valentine USMA
LT Kenneth Yale, USAF

Changes: e-mail esalatto@straphaels.org

Scripture Readings for the Week of December 21, 2025

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

Monday

1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Lk 1:67-79

Thursday The Nativity of the Lord

Vigil Mass: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Mass during the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Mass at Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Mass during the Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr

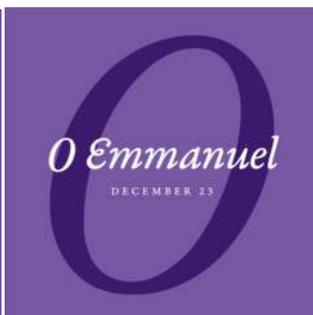
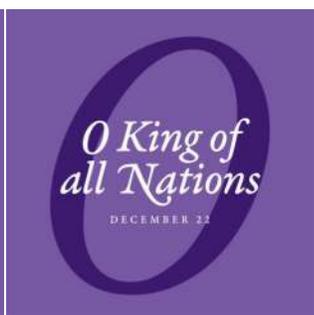
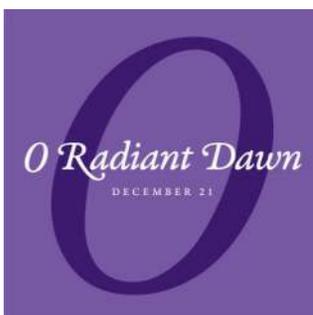
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Mt 10:17-22

Saturday Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Sunday Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



**CHRIST
THE SAVIOR
IS BORN!**





Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will

For further information, please call the parish office.

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