

# St. Raphael Catholic Church

## Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

### Vigil

Wednesday, December 31

5:00 PM

7:00 PM (Spanish)

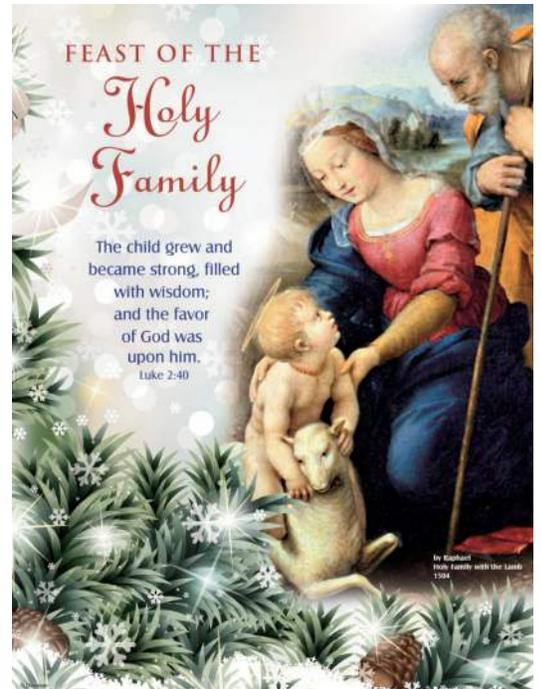
### Solemnity

Thursday, January 1, 2026

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

1:00PM (Spanish)

no 7:00 AM or 6:00 PM



**1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854**

**December 28, 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](http://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](mailto:GonzalezJ@adw.org)

Deacon Jose Carbonell, [JRCarbon@comcast.net](mailto:JRCarbon@comcast.net)  
Deacon Richard Meyer, 202-365-0913  
Deacon Jim O'Brien, [obrien3@verizon.net](mailto:obrien3@verizon.net)  
Deacon Frank Salatto, ext. 149

Taylor Cotting, 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  
Annalee McHugh, Youth Minister, [amcHugh@straphaels.org](mailto:amcHugh@straphaels.org)  
Vince Natali, Dir. Of Music Ministries, 240-864-2532  
Krys Psurek, OCIA Coordinator, 240-864-2542, [ocia@straphaels.org](mailto: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 No Exposition on December 31, Thursday: 9:30 AM

**Benediction:** Tuesday, following novena 7:45 PM

**Miraculous Medal Novena:** Tuesday, 7:30PM

**Divine Mercy Chaplet:** Tuesday, following Novena

**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 4<sup>th</sup> or the 15<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:donorsupport@parishsoft.com)  
or call #866-930-4774 option 6.



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

## Coffee and Donuts

**Next Sunday**

**January 4**

**in Trumpet Room**

**after the 8:30, 10, 11:30 AM**

**and 1:00 PM Masses**

### Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week

#### Monday, December 29

6:30AM Ayde Najarro (d)  
9:00AM Leonard Jacobs (d)

#### Tuesday, December 30

6:30AM Alberto Najarro (d)  
9:00AM Edward Daniel (d)

#### Wednesday, December 31

6:30AM Cinborosa Najarro (d)  
9:00AM Philip Chen (d)  
**Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary**  
5:00PM Robert Stovall (d)  
7:00PM Sonia Rehhof (d)

#### Thursday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

8:30AM Members of the Parish  
10:00AM Sandra Najarro (d)  
11:30AM Leandro Gutierrez (d)  
1:00PM Saragosa Guttierrez (d)

#### Friday, January 2

6:30AM Silvio Gutierrez (d)  
9:00AM Victor Gutierrez (d)

#### Saturday, January 3

9:00AM Triny Berrocal (d)  
5:00PM Fr. Mike Members of the Parish

#### Sunday, January 4

7:00AM Isaac Arnold & Family  
8:30AM Mary Beaudoin  
10:00AM Janie Davidson (d)  
11:30AM Karen Patterson (d)  
1:00PM Cesar & Rebeca Gutierrez (d)  
6:00PM Karen Patterson (d)

The priest schedule was not available at early printing.

### 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.

Bulletin notices are due in writing ON THURSDAY, THE  
WEEK BEFORE THE published date. Notices may be  
emailed to: [esalatto@straphaels.org](mailto:esalatto@straphaels.org) . This bulletin was  
transmitted December 17.

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.

**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](mailto:tgmorrow1@gmail.com).

### 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](http://www.helpourmarriage.org), call 443-400-7017

### 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](mailto:jackiefmurphy@comcast.net) or 301-807-2369

### 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 register, email the following information to [esalatto@straphaels.org](mailto:esalatto@straphaels.org)

Name  
Number of Years Married  
Any Children attending the Mass

### Rockville Catholic Summer Program

Registration opens in February for our parish summer camp, the Rockville Catholic Summer Program! Each year, RCSP hosts 1,500+ campers, ages 4-14, for seven weeks of sports, crafts, LEGO robotics, tree house building, Minecraft and more! Our prices are the lowest in the area and our staff is the best!

Visit

[www.rockvillecatholicsummer.com](http://www.rockvillecatholicsummer.com) to learn more!

Visit

[rockvillecatholicsummer@gmail.com](mailto:rockvillecatholicsummer@gmail.com) with any questions.

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

*A peek behind our classroom doors*

# School News



December 28, 2025



## Snow Day!

Students at St. Raphael School enjoyed a white winter morning as snowflakes covered the ground. Laughter and bundled-up excitement bring cheer as students took in the season's first exciting snowfall.



[www.straphaelschoolmd.org](http://www.straphaelschoolmd.org)

[www.srnsmd.org](http://www.srnsmd.org)



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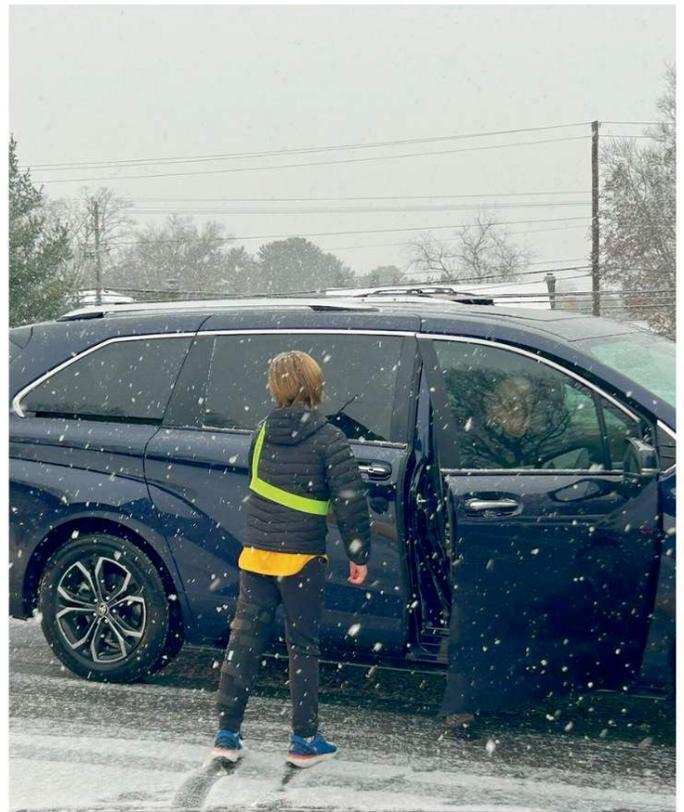


**ST. RAPHAEL  
NURSERY SCHOOL  
OPEN HOUSE**

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



SCAN  
TO  
PRE-  
REGISTER



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - DECEMBER 28, 2025

Gathering Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Gather Hymnal #361

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and on earth peace to peo-ple of good will. we praise you, we bless you we a-  
dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you thanks for your great glo-ry, Lord God heav-en-ly King, O  
God al-might-ty Fa-ther. Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly be-got-ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the  
Fa-ther, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us; you take a-way the sins of the world  
re-ceive our prayer you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther, have mer-cy on us, for  
you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ,  
with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther, A-men.  
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and on earth peace to peo-ple of good will.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.  
Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Gospel Acclamation

Michael Prendergast, Joseph Sullivan

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

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation Hymn *Mary, Joseph, Pray for Us*

Angela Birkhead-Flight

O ho - ly Ma - ry, pray for us.  
 O ho - ly Jo - seph, pray for us.  
 O ho - ly Ma - ry, pray for us.

Communion Antiphon

Steve Angrisano, Sarah Hart, Curtis Stephan

Our God has ap - peared on the  
 earth, and lived a - mong us.

Communion Procession *Child of the Poor*

Scott Soper

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:  
 Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Ma - ry.

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 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Gather Hymnal #356

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**December Supermoon, or "Cold Moon".**  
taken by Priscilla Quackenbush (L)  
and Bob Quackenbush (R)



**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](mailto: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**.*

The next Family Holy Hour is February 6.



**The children Adoring Jesus at the monthly Family Holy Hour.**



**All parishioners are invited to our First Friday Coffee & Speaker Series**

**When:** Friday, January 9, 2026  
at 10:00AM

**Where:** Parish Library

**Featuring:** We are delighted to welcome St. Raphael's OCIA Coordinator, Krys Psurek, who will speak on the Mary Apparition in Poland.

Light refreshments will be served

**Religious Education**

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



**Dear Confirmation 2026 Families:**



Please remember that **Confirmation Sponsor Forms are due in the SRRE Office no later than January 23, 2026.** We appreciate your timely submission as we continue preparations for Confirmation on May 9, 2026.

**The next Confirmation 2 parent meeting will be on February 4 @ 7 PM in the Trumpet Room**



**\*\*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 as we grow in faith together

**St. Anysia - Feast Day: December 30**

St. Anysia was a young Catholic woman from



Thessalonica (in Greece) who lived in the late 300s. Even though she came from a wealthy family, she chose a simple life focused on prayer, helping the poor, and staying close to God. When Christians were being persecuted, Anysia refused to give up her Catholic faith. On her way to church one day, a soldier tried to force her to take part in pagan worship. She bravely said **no**, choosing to stay faithful

to Jesus even though it cost her her life.

St. Anysia shows us what **real courage** looks like - standing firm in your beliefs, choosing what’s right even when it’s hard, and letting your Catholic faith and trust in God guide your choices.



**First Penance and First Eucharist Students**  
**First Penance “Get Ready” Morning**

Families preparing for First Penance are invited to our

**SRRE First Penance Get Ready Morning on Saturday, January 10, 2026 @ 9:30 AM in the Trumpet Room!** Children will enjoy hands-on activities that help them learn about God’s love, forgiveness, and peace as they prepare for this special sacrament.

**First Penance dates are:**  
Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM  
Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 AM



**Come Spend Time with Jesus**

**Eucharistic Adoration is a peaceful time to be in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Come rest in His love, find renewal for your spirit, and let His peace fill your heart. Even a few minutes with the Lord can make a difference.**



It is with much gratitude that the St. Martin's and St. Raphael's Twinning Committee wishes to thank everyone in the parish for the overwhelming support that was given during this year's Thanksgiving Food and Coat Drive. Your generous donations of 348 gift cards, 147 boxes of food and 71 bags of coats and clothing far exceeded what we received last year. Amazing! These donations went on to benefit over 300 families in need in the neighborhoods surrounding St. Martin's Parish. THANK YOU!

Volunteers are such a necessary part of this effort and we were blessed with an abundance!

We had teens and parents from our parish, again this year, providing the manpower in the collection, sorting, and boxing of the food items and coats. Their energy and positivity is such a blessing. We also had the Knights of Columbus once again arranging for a team of drivers to transport all of our donations down to St. Martin's. The Drive was also blessed by the numerous families and individuals who so willingly volunteered their time to stand in the cold to accept donations, who loaded cars, who sorted through clothes, and who worked at St. Martin's to create the Blessing Baskets. We are so grateful for each and every one of these volunteers - too many to name - for our success would not have been possible without your help. THANK YOU!



By these works of mercy, we come to the aid of our neighbors. When we serve our neighbors, we honor the love that Christ has given us. We hope that everyone enjoys a blessed holiday season, and again, THANK YOU!





## Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will

For further information, please call the parish office.

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1515 Dunster Road • Rockville, MD 20852

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