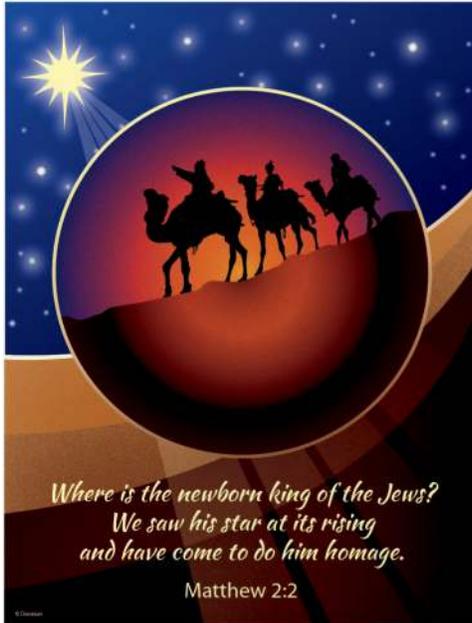


St. Raphael Catholic Church



1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

January 4, 2026

**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

Coffee and Donuts

Sunday, January 4

Trumpet Room

after the 8:30, 10, 11:30 AM
and 1:00 PM Masses today

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

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week

Monday, January 5

6:30AM Ana Perez (d)
9:00AM Christo Family (I&d)

Tuesday, January 6

6:30AM Epifanio Munoz (d)
9:00AM Robert Stovall (d)
7:00PM Mass & Healing Prayer Kelly & Isaiah Anthony

Wednesday, January 7

6:30AM Rosalie St. George (d)
9:00AM Jonny Arnold & Family

Thursday, January 8

6:30AM Abner Cauton (d)
9:00AM Robert Stovall (d)

Friday, January 9

6:30AM Celsa & Federico Goseco (d)
9:00AM Eleanor Arnold & Family

Saturday, January 10

9:00AM Rev. John Lado
5:00PM Hank Kenny (d)

Sunday, January 11

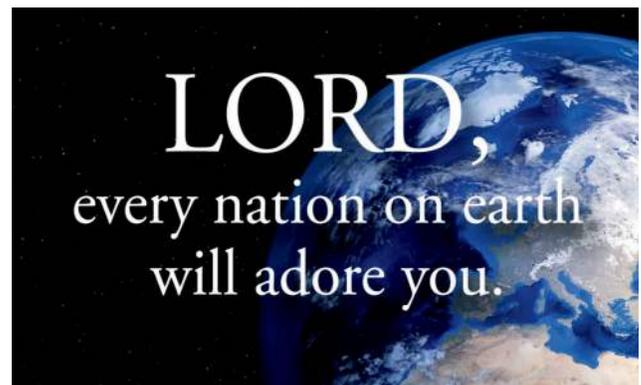
7:00AM Members of the Parish
8:30AM Park Family (d)
10:00AM Helen Dixon (d)
11:30AM Thomas G. Smith (d)
1:00PM Jorge Duarte (d)
6:00PM Fr. Shaun Foggo

The bulletin was sent to print before posting of priest schedule.

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.



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.

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 to learn more!
Contact rockvillecatholicsummer@gmail.com with any questions.

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

- Name
- Number of Years Married
- Any Children attending the Mass

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.

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

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



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



January 4, 2026

ST. RAPHAEL NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

 JANUARY 12

 9:30 – 10:30 A.M.

 1513 DUNSTER ROAD
ROCKVILLE, MD
20854



SCAN
TO
PRE-
REGISTER



www.straphaelschoolmd.org

www.srnsmd.org



@SRSrockville



Young Learners in Action

The youngest students at St. Raphael School took part in a range of enriching activities, including crafts, reading circles, and early academic challenges. Their enthusiasm and engagement made for lively and fun lessons. Our young learners are filled with energy, curiosity, and joyful discovery.



SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY - JANUARY 4, 2026

Gathering Hymn *We Three Kings*

Gather Hymnal #382

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 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

Ev-'ry na-tion on earth will a-dore you, Lord; dore you, Lord;

Gospel Acclamation

Michael Prendergast, Joseph Sullivan

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

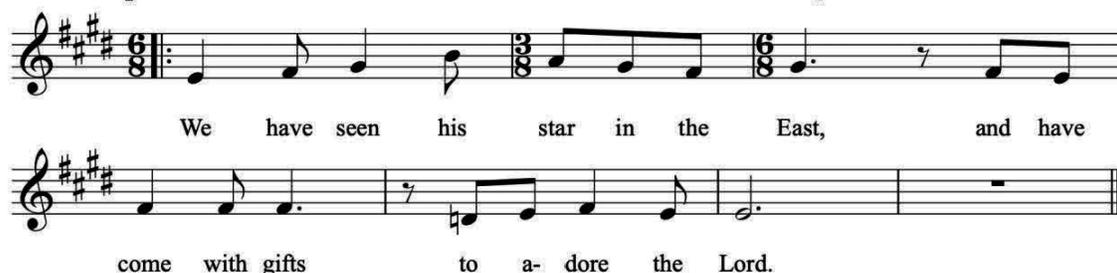
Prayers of the Faithful

Child of Mar-y, hear our prayer.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation Hymn *Epiphany Carol* (5 and 8:30) Gather Hymnal #386
Arise, Shine (10 and 11:30) Marty Haugen

Communion Antiphon Steve Angrisano, Sarah Hart, Curtis Stephan



We have seen his star in the East, and have
come with gifts to a-dore the Lord.

Communion Procession *The First Noel* Gather Hymnal #386

Meditation Hymn *Bethlehem Sky* Liam Lawton



Glo- a in ex- cel- sis De- o, glo- a in ex-
cel- sis De- o. On this wIn-ter night in ce- les- tial bright, lies the
Son of God, the Most High. On this night, 'neath a Beth- le'em sky.

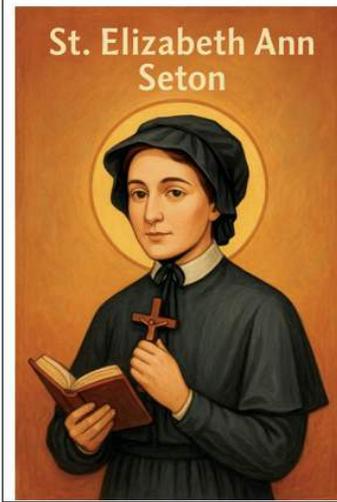
THE CONCLUDING RITE

Recessional Hymn *Go Tell It on the Mountain* Gather Hymnal #163

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Saintly Steps with SRRE

Discover a new holy friend every week as we grow in faith together
Thank you to TWO Saints with a Vision for Catholic School



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - Feast Day: January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774–1821), the first native-born American saint, was a pioneer of Catholic education in the United States.

She is considered the founder of the American parochial school system because she **established the first Catholic school** in the nation in Emmitsburg, Maryland setting the model for the parish schools that would follow. No child was turned away.

She also founded the first American Catholic orphanage and later organized the *Sisters of Charity*, whose mission and structure supported the growth of Catholic schools across the country. Her life of courage, charity, and unwavering faith continues to inspire families, teachers, and students today.

Visit her shrine in Emmitsburg, MD



St. John Neumann - Feast Day: January 5

St. John Neumann (1811 – 1860) was a young man from Europe who felt called by God to serve as a priest in America. So, he packed his bags, traveled across the ocean, and arrived to find... no one was ready to ordain him! Instead of giving up, he trusted God and eventually became a priest in the United States.

He traveled from town to town on horseback, through snow and storms, to bring the sacraments to people who had no church nearby. As bishop of Philadelphia, PA he **started the first diocesan system of Catholic schools** in the U.S. He continued to help immigrants feel at home and worked tirelessly making sure every child was educated.

Even though he was small, quiet, and never saw himself as important. He became the first American bishop to be canonized a saint. Visit his shrine in Philadelphia, PA.

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.

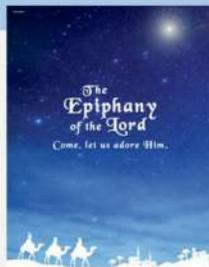
- 2LT Chase Alexander, US Army
- Daniel Bertrand Del Bianco, USN (d) and family
- SGT Christian John C. Bravo, USMC
- BU3 Logan Discavage
- LT Victor H. Esch, III, USA
- CPT Paul D Galvin
- E-3/HN Colleen Gardella
- Robert Garret, US Army MP
- Cpl Samuel Guerrero, USMC
- Taylor Hardy, AE USN
- Major 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

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.



Our Monday afternoon

Grade 1 Religious Education class is growing, and we're looking for an assistant to help in the classroom.

Middle school or high school students (service hours available) or adults are welcome!

Class time: Mondays, 4:30–5:45 PM

Please contact:

kwatson@straphaels.org



Religious Education

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



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 at 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 28th at 7 PM

Saturday, January 31st at 10:30 AM

We look forward to seeing you there!

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, 2026 @ 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 tGod'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.

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

All ladies of St. Raphael's are invited to join us at our Sodality General Meeting



When: 6pm Wednesday, January 14th, 2026

Where: Parish Library

Topic: We are delighted to welcome Fr. Ben Bralove, from St. Mary of the Mills, who will discuss his topic, "Woman at the Well" and share his interesting journey to the priesthood.

*St. Raphael Sodality
To Jesus, through Mary*

Scripture Readings for the Week of January 4, 2026

Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Mt 2:1-12

Monday Memorial of St. John Neumann, Bishop

1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52

Thursday

1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22

Friday 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16

Saturday

1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Jn 3:22-30

Sunday The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Mt 3:13-17



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

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**.*





Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will

For further information, please call the parish office.

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Raphael House Assisted Living
1515 Dunster Road • Rockville, MD 20852

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