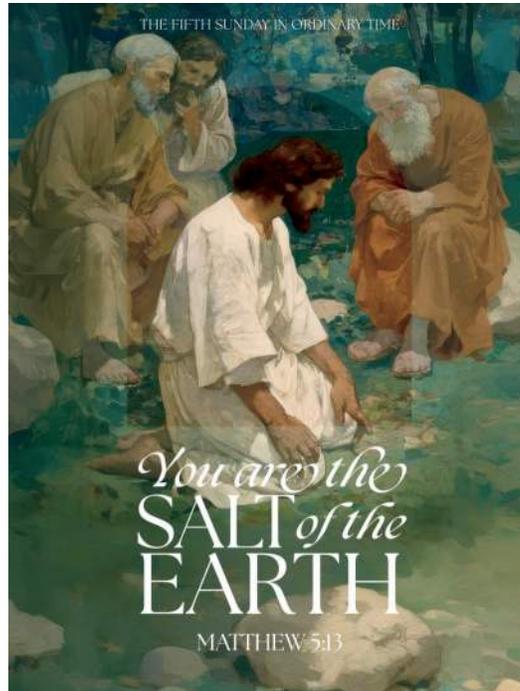


St. Raphael Catholic Church



1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

February 8, 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 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 February 3.

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

Monday, February 9

6:30AM Patricia Paslowski (d)
9:00AM Brendan McKinley (d)

Tuesday, February 10

6:30AM Amy Sherman (d)
9:00AM Ruth Hacker (d)

Wednesday, February 11

6:30AM John E. Kelly (d)
9:00AM Barbel & Kurt Schmeisser (d)

Thursday, February 12

6:30AM Ann Tonkinson (d)
9:00AM Thomas G. Smith (d)

Friday, February 13

6:30AM Maya Vakas
9:00AM John Charles Thompson (d)

Saturday, February 14

9:00AM Timothy Strachan (d)
5:00PM Fr. Tom David Kerr (d)

Sunday, February 15

7:00AM Fr. Tom Kevin Brady (d)
8:30AM Fr. Joe Hien Pham (d)
10:00AM Fr. Tom Catherine Anne Smith (d)
11:30AM Fr. Tom Abner Cauton (d)
1:00PM Fr. Joe Beatrice Mikalauskas de Dominguez (d)
6:00PM Fr. Joe 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 and click the link to YouTube Channel.

**Please pray for the soul of
Mrs. Chalfant**



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.

Be the Light: The 2026 Annual Catholic Services Appeal. This weekend we have been asked prayerfully to consider making a gift to the *2026 Annual Catholic Services Appeal*. Please complete or take a commitment form at Mass this weekend or make your gift at give.adw.org. Visit appeal.adw.org to learn more about how the Appeal benefits our parish and serves people in need throughout the archdiocese. 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 *2026 Annual Catholic Services Appeal!*

“Vocations Display” Coming Soon!

Here’s something simple you and your family can do for Lent. Next weekend, you will see a Vocations display in the church narthex with cards. Each card has information about a seminarian of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington. Choose a card (or more than one) and pray for that seminarian each day during Lent. Who knows—you could be praying for a future priest of our parish!

2026 Lenten Small Home Groups Forming

Are you giving thought to your Lenten sacrifice? Last year a number of you joined us in a Lenten Neighborhood Small Home Group Scripture Study. Our 2026 Lenten initiative, will pattern our meetings like the 2025 program. We’ll meet on Sunday evenings and will be using the USCCB material for the Sunday following our meetings (includes reference to scriptures, and questions for discussion). This will be provided electronically for your study and use prior to our meetings. Meetings will start at 7:00 PM, wrap up by 8:30 PM. Hosts will provide coffee and cookies for social. Meeting dates: February 15 & 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29. We are looking for participants and leaders. You are encouraged to join with your neighbors and friends. Time is short to bring groups together.

You may send your response to StRaphaelSG1@outlook.com
Please include: name, complete address, email address and preferred telephone number

Blessings, Dick Jasinski

**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.

2025 Contribution Statements

Contribution Statements for 2025 were mailed. If you are in need of a 2025 contribution statement, please call or email Eileen Kutchak 240-864-2510, ekutchak@straphaels.org with your last name and envelope number. Those contributing through Faith Direct/ParishSoft will receive an additional statement from Faith Direct/ParishSoft. The Archdiocese Annual Appeal statements are sent to donors by the Archdiocese of Washington.



Legal Help Requested

Fr. Tom is seeking legal help to resubmit corporation papers for his little non-profit Catholic Faith Alive, Inc. to add officers to carry on after he passes. Kindly call him at 240-426-5589 or email tgmmorrow1@gmail.com.

Looking Ahead



**Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026**

Masses:

**6:30 and 9:00AM (SRS attends)
4:30 and 6:30PM
8:00PM in Spanish**

Confessions during lent will begin at 6:30PM

The collection on Ash Wednesday is for

Church in the Developing World (Church in Latin America, Church in Central and Eastern Europe, Church in Africa)

Scam Alert!

Be mindful of the *sender’s* email address if you receive an email “from Fr. Mike” or “pastor”

The real Fr. Mike @ salahm@adw.org , will not ask for a favor, gift cards, etc. by email or text.

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.

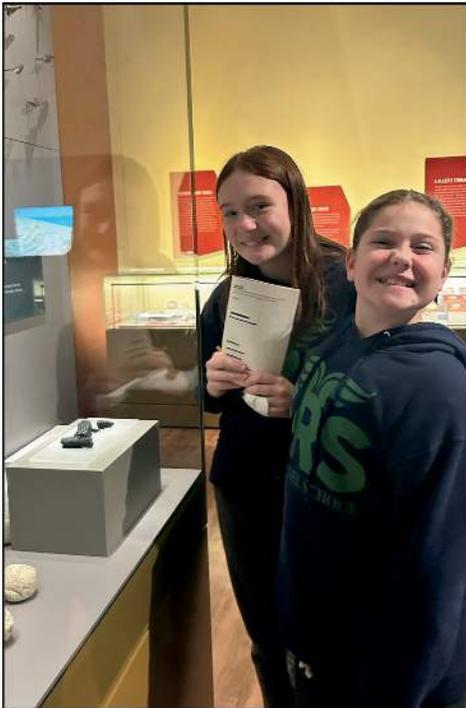
School News

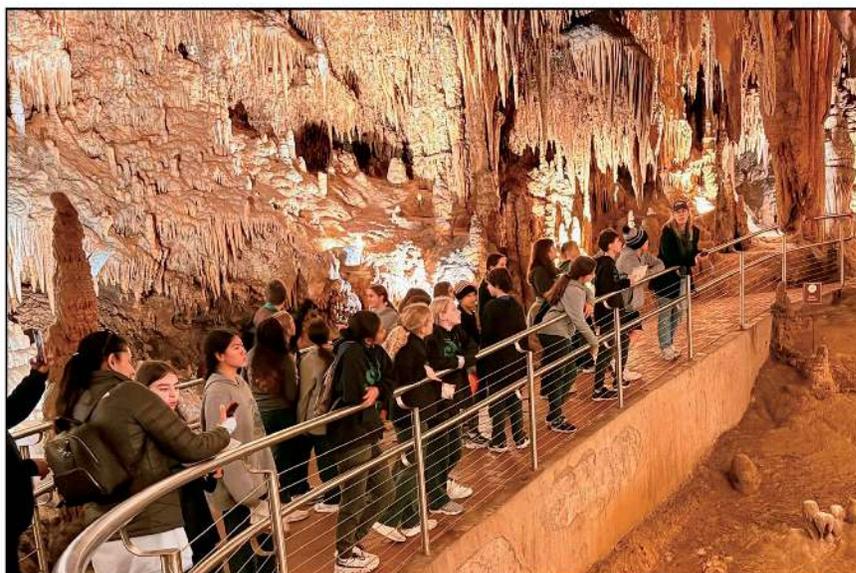
A peek behind our classroom doors

February 8, 2026



6th Grade Field Trip to the Bible Museum





Seventh Grade Visits Luray Caverns



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Gathering Hymn *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

Gather Hymnal #631

Glo- ry! Glo- ry to God in the high- est. Glo- ry! 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- migh- 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.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

The just man is a light in dark- ness, a light in dark- ness to the up right.

Gospel Acclamation

William Gokelman, David Kaufmann

Al - le - lu - ia, Al- le- lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Al- le- lu - ia!

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation Hymn *Let Us Walk in the Light of the Lord* Paul Tate

Let us walk, let us walk, let us walk in the light of the Lord! Let us wake from our sleep for the day of the Lord is at hand! Let us sing and rejoice for the day of the Lord is at hand!

Communion Antiphon Steve Angrisano, Sarah Hart, Curtis Stephan

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

Communion Procession *O Sacrum Convivium* Ricky Manalo

O sa-crum con-vi-vi-um! O sa-cred ban-quet! Be hold, the meal where Christ is received. quiet! May we be-come what we re ceive.

Meditation Hymn *Not to Be Hidden* Joseph B. Sullivan

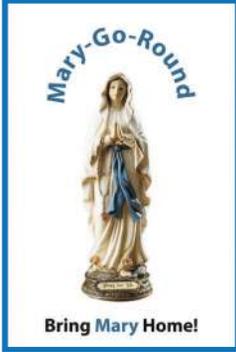
Not to be hid-den, not to be hid-den, but to be seen by all the world, all the world.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Recessional Hymn *God of Day and God of Darkness* Gather Hymnal #750

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This is a perfect time to host Our Lady in your home!



In the winter, families are indoors more and not away on vacations, so now is a good time to gather together. For almost 18 months St. Raphael's families have been hosting Mary's statue in their homes and have found strength and comfort through Our Lady's presence. Many of the families have shared how much it has meant to have Mary's statue in their home especially for celebrations or when praying for special intentions but there doesn't need to be any

reason.

Our Lady's message at Fatima and even now is to pray the Rosary every day for peace in the world and the salvation of souls. These prayers are needed today more than they were in 1917!

Here is a list of a few of the Marian feast days.

- February 11 - Our Lady of Lourdes
- March 25 - The Annunciation
- May 13 - Our Lady of Fatima
- May 31 - The Visitation

Sign up to host Our Lady on this Sign Up Genius link:
<https://bit.ly/3YC3JXN>

The hosting family will receive the statue at the end of Sunday's 10:00 am Mass.

The family can sign up for 1 or 2 weeks.

Questions:

Anne Marie Begley, annemariebegley5@gmail.com



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

Women (and former abortionists) report that the **prayers and presence of pro-life witnesses** at abortion clinics **dissuade** seventy-five (75 %) of them **from** having an **abortion**. *With the total number of abortions increasing since the Dobbs decision, what could be more important than protecting the lives of innocent babies and their mothers from the devastating effects of abortion?*

40 Days for Life is a peaceful, coordinated national campaign to bring continuous prayer to local abortion clinics in more than 600 cities across the world. Our parish will support the **Spring 2026 Chevy Chase 40 Days for Life** campaign by **praying the rosary** on the public sidewalk in front of the Care Clinic's late term abortion at 5454 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase, at the kickoff event **Sunday, February 15th** from **9-11AM** and then **each Saturday** during Lent, beginning **Saturday February 21** through **Saturday March 28** from **10 AM - 11 AM**.

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 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 Saturday's do not work, you can sign up to pray at another time on the 40DFL website.

<https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/chevychase>.

Please contact Mary Cardoza at 301-509-2372 or marycardoza826@gmail.com for more information.

Post Cana Lenten Reflection



The Washington Archdiocese Post Cana for Widows and Widowers is having a half day of Lenten Reflection at Our Lady of Grace Church in Leisure World on **Tuesday, March 10th**. Our new Post Cana moderator, **Fr. Tom LaHood**, Holy Redeemer pastor,

will be our celebrant and will also join us for lunch. The Mass will begin at 11:00 followed by lunch at noon in the parish center catered by Luis Javel from *AYS Hospitality*:

Lunch Menu:

- Beef Chili, Vegetarian Chili, Grilled Chicken, Corn bread
- Fruit Salad, Caesar Salad
- Assorted cookies

The reservation fee is **\$25 for members and \$30 for interested participants**. Please send your check, made payable to Post Cana, to:

Herb Biegel
13509 Maidstone Lane
Potomac, MD 20854

Or you may drop off your check in the Our Lady of Grace parish office.

DAY OF PRAYER AND HEALING

Post Abortion Healing Retreat for Women

April 25, 2026
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET

Retreat based on the *Entering Canaan Model*

Suggested donation: \$40.00 (financial assistance available)

For more information, contact Project Rachel Ministry at 301-982-2008 or hope@adw.org



Location and participation are confidential due to the personal nature of this experience.



Religious Education

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

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR FORM PAST DUE

Dear Confirmation 2026 Families:

Thank you to the families who have already turned in Sponsor Forms by the **1/23/2026** due date. We are grateful for your help and cooperation!



If you have not yet submitted your student's Sponsor Form, please turn in a **completed and sealed Sponsor Form** as soon as possible. This required form must be submitted to keep your student eligible and on track for Confirmation.

Submit to: SRRE Office

Thank you for your prompt attention as we continue our preparations for **Confirmation on May 9, 2026.**

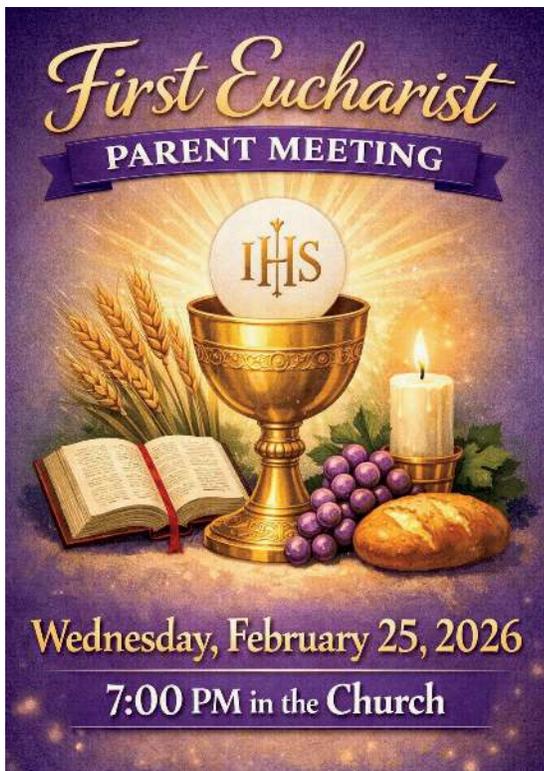
VIRTUS[®]Online

****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

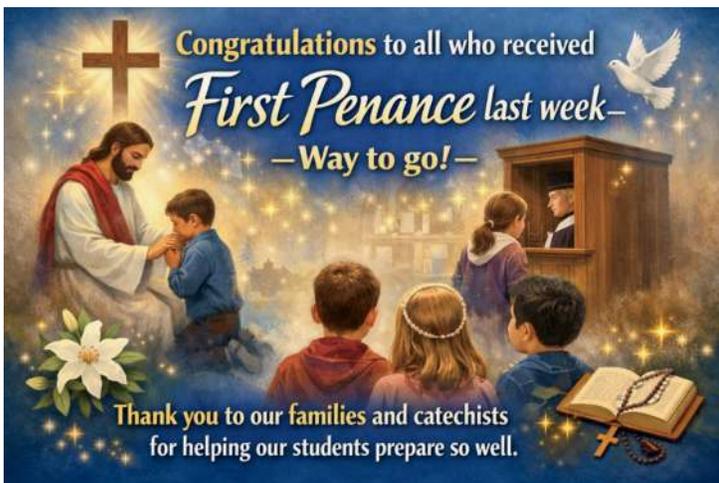
St. Scholastica (Feast Day: February 10)

Regarded as the patron saint of nuns, education, and is often invoked against storms and rain



Tuesday, **February 10**, we celebrate the feast of **St. Scholastica**, the twin sister of St. Benedict and a powerful witness to prayer and holy friendship. Tradition tells us Scholastica and Benedict encouraged one another to seek God first because faith grows best when we don't try to do it alone. As school, sports, and schedules get busy, St. Scholastica reminds us to pause, pray, and make space for what lasts.

St. Scholastica, Pray for Us.



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

Talk on the Shroud



**Join us for a
2 hour
presentation:**

- Unveiling the truth of Christ's Passion according to the Shroud of Turin.
- Medical Analysis of the Shroud of Turin
- Presentation of artifacts used in crucifixions.
- Q&A session

**St. Raphael (Bilingual)
Saturday, February 28th at 1:00 pm
Trumpet Room**



Order of Malta
Federal Association, U.S.A.

The Order of Malta Invites You to Attend
16th Annual

Lourdes Anointing Mass

For the Sick, Mobility Challenged, Elderly and their Companions



Saturday, March 21, 2026, at 10:30 AM

Our Lady of Mercy Church
9200 Kentsdale Drive
Potomac, Maryland
Complimentary lunch to follow in the Parish Hall

*Questions call: Barbara Ritschel 202-674-2931
or email barbaraff@live.com*

Scripture Readings for the Week of February 8, 2026

- Sunday Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16
- Monday** 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13; Ps 132:6-7, 8-10; Mk 6:53-56
- Tuesday Memorial of Saint Scholastica, Virgin**
1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11; Mk 7:1-13
- Wednesday**
1 Kings 10:1-10; Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40; Mk 7:14-23
- Thursday**
1 Kings 11:4-13; Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40; Mk 7:24-30
- Friday**
1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19; Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15; Mk 7:31-37
- Saturday Memorial of Saints Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop**
1 Kings 12:26-32, 13:33-34; Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22; Mk 8:1-10
- Sunday Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 or Mt 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

Guadalupe Radio Network's 2026 'Fishers of Men' Award - Honored: The Byrne Family, including Bishop William D. Byrne, Sr. Dede Byrne, their siblings, and late parents.

Guadalupe Radio Network will honor the family of Bishop William D. Byrne and Sr. Deidre "Dede" Byrne with its 2026 Fishers of Men Award on Saturday, April 18 at the Kenwood Golf & Country Club. The Most Rev. William D. Byrne, Bishop of Springfield, Mass., his sister, Sr. Dede Byrne, Superior of the Washington, D.C. convent of the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts, their five siblings, and their late parents Dr. Bill and Mary Byrne, will be honored under the theme, *The Sacred Journey: Every Household, Every Heart, Called to Holiness*. The Network, EWTN's largest radio affiliate, last year celebrated 25 years of serving through 48 stations nationwide, including WMET 1160 AM, the first Catholic radio station in the Nation's Capital Region. Each year, the Network honors a person or persons – a family in this case – that epitomizes *Love of God and Love of Neighbor*. The lives of the Byrne Family witness to heroic efforts of evangelization and Catholic example, from parents Bill and Mary to the generations that follow. Mother Angelica said it best: *Evangelization is simply telling someone that God loves them*. For the entirety of this families' contribution, The Byrne Family will be presented with the Network's 2026 Fishers of Men Award. Msgr. Roger J. Landry of the Papal Mission Societies USA and EWTN commentator, will keynote the dinner. **Visit GRNOnline.com/FOM to learn more.**

St. Michael Prayer

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will

For further information, please call the parish office.

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