

St. Raphael Catholic Church

IF TODAY YOU
HEAR HIS VOICE,
**HARDEN NOT
YOUR HEARTS**

Psalms 95:8



1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

March 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, Director 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: 6:30 - 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.

Lent—Mark your calendar

Stations of the Cross

Fridays, March 13, 20, 27
After 9:00AM Mass-Mary's Way
6:30PM English
7:15 PM Spanish

Confessions during lent begin at 6:30PM

Parish Penance—March 31—6:30PM

The Family Holy Hour will resume in May.

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



**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.

The Second Collection next Sunday, March 15 is for the Catholic Relief Services.

Bulletin notices are due **THURSDAY, THE WEEK BEFORE THE** published date. Please email to: esalatto@straphaels.org
This bulletin was transmitted March 3.

**Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week
THIRD WEEK OF LENT**

Monday, March 9

6:30AM Michael Maggart (d)
9:00AM The Butler Family

Tuesday, March 10

6:30AM Robert Twitchell (d)
9:00AM Carmela Scaduto (d)

Wednesday, March 11

6:30AM Rev. Michael Salah
9:00AM Deacon Andrew John Nosacek (d)

Thursday, March 12

6:30AM Carina Lagrotteria
9:00AM Harold Claus Wegner (d)

Friday, March 13

6:30AM Lucas Futch (d)
9:00AM Robert Stovall (d)

Saturday, March 14

9:00AM Gary Welsh (d)
5:00PM Fr. Mike Michael Dabich (d)

Sunday, March 15

7:00AM Fr. Joe Hugo Lopez
8:30AM Fr. Tom Janie Davidson (d)
10:00AM Fr. Mike Jorge Otero (d)
11:30AM Fr. Mike Ellen & Jack Shannon (d)
1:00PM Fr. Joe Juan Arriaza (d)
6:00PM Fr. Tom 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.

Baptisms:

Hannah Maeve Donnelly-February 21
Jade Darasimi Sanwo-February 28

Please pray for the soul of

Beverly Dea , mother of John Dea
Hernan Osvaldo Llanos Gonzalez
Paul Maloney
Carol Silvestri, mother of Julie Mahon



**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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 8, 2026

Dear Parishioners,

There are new parishioners at St. Raphael who may not be familiar with the Parish Office Project that was presented to the Parish in November 2022.

A site study was prepared and presented outlining the need for a New Parish Office. The proposal included an outline of the current condition of the building as well as the redesign. The building was originally a farmhouse circa 1930, when the parish was established in 1966, it became the priest residence and offices. There have been four additions, and renovations throughout the years.

The current Parish Office does not meet the needs of the large active community that is St. Raphael. The structure is in poor condition, is not ADA compliant, not energy efficient, and houses four different heating/cooling systems.

The New Office building (photo below) will be built in the same footprint of the current office, one level with an English basement. This would include six offices for priests, Deacons and parish staff, accessible toilets, meeting spaces and an Adoration chapel. Due to the growth of St. Raphael School, there is a need for meeting space for parishioners. During the school day, the Parish Library and Upper Rooms are the only adult meeting spaces and with the loss of the DCC for adult meeting space, the library and Upper rooms are the only spaces used for adult meetings in the evenings as well. The addition of an Adoration Chapel would move the Thursday all day Adoration to the chapel and create an opportunity to have funerals and other functions in the church on Thursdays.

Once the project was presented to the Parish, in 2022 a request was made to the Archdiocese of Washington in 2023 to replace the office, pending approval of the site amendment from the City of Rockville.

There were many phases to prepare for the City of Rockville application in 2024, and time for the City to review the submission and return comments. Last week, the City of Rockville held a hearing on the Historical Significance of the building and found that it is not a Historical building. St. Raphael is awaiting the Minor Site plan approval from the City at which point permits will be applied for and another letter of request to the Archdiocese of Washington to proceed with demolition and building.

This has been a long process with a lot of back and forth from the City and Engineers as far as forestry, traffic studies, parking, soil studies, and stormwater Management plans, we are closer, but not there yet. The funds for the estimated 2M project have been in place (gaining interest) since replacing the office building was just a dream.

While we have waited, the buildings on campus are aging and require repairs and upgrades: the church HVAC system was replaced, the leaking church steeple repaired, the parking lot was re-striped, the church sound system and live stream cameras have been updated, the security system in the school buildings have been upgraded, the Upper School HVAC was replaced as well as several individual classroom units and the roof on both school buildings were replaced.

After hearing concerns from several parishioners regarding transparency, I wanted to let you know where we are in the application process.

I immediately put this much needed project on pause until we can meet again soon as a parish and address any concerns or questions you may have.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Mike



School News

A peek behind our classroom doors

MARCH 8, 2026



6th Grade Scientists and Poets!



Our dynamic 6th graders worked both sides of their brains in science and literature. In science lab, 6th graders dissected frogs. In language arts, as a culmination of their poetry unit, students recited famous poems and shared their own original poems at our SRS Poetry Coffee House. We love to see learning come to life!



www.straphaelschoolmd.org | www.srnsmd.org |    @SRSrockville

ST. RAPHAEL SCHOOL

CASINO NIGHT

APRIL 25, 2026

Adult Social

PARISHIONERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE INVITED

APRIL 25, 2026 | 6:30-10:30pm



- Live and Online Auction
- Professional Dealers and Tables

Scan to Register



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT- MARCH 8, 2026

Gathering Hymn *Bring Us Home*

Deanna Light, Paul Tate

1. Bring us home from our wan-d'ring the val-ley of death; come ran-some the peo-ple you
2. Bring us home to the heav-ens where par-don and peace pass all un-der-stand-ing where
filled with your breath. Bring us home from our ex-ile to love's warm em-brace; come
mourn-ing shall cease. Bring us home to the cir-cle where love has no end, where
gath-er your child-ren who long for your face
out-cast and strang-er are wel-comed as friend,
— come gath-er your child-ren who long for your face.
— where out-cast and strang-er are wel-comed as friend.
Bring us home, bring us home, from val-leys of death, bring us home!
from dark-ness of bring us home!
Bring us home, bring us home, come fill us with breath, bring us home.
come bathe us in light, bring us home

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

If to-day, if to-day you hear his voice, hard-en not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation

William Gokelman, David Kaufmann

1. Glo-ry and praise to you, Lord Je-sus Christ.
2. you, Lord Je-sus Christ.

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THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation Hymn *Return*

Sarah Hart

Re - turn to me with your whole heart, With fast-ing and weep-ing and mourn- ing.
 Rend your heart, not your gar- ments, and re- turn to the
 Lord, your God. and re- turn to the Lord, your God.

Communion Antiphon

Steve Angrisano, Sarah Hart, Curtis Stephan

For an- y- one who drinks it, says the Lord, the wa-ter I shall give will be-
 come in him a spring well-ing up to e- ter- nal life.

Communion Procession *To the Desert Follow Me*

Sarah Hart

To the de- sert fol- low me. for I am God. who is your
 hope. To the de- sert fol- low me.

Meditation Hymn *Lead Me to the Desert*

Sarah Hart

Lead me to the des-ert if it is your will; lead me in-to hun-ger on-ly you can fill.
 In the bar- ren plac- es, be the riv- er that re-
 stores; lead me to the des- ert where I thirst no more.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Recessional Hymn *From Ashes to the Living Font*

(Verses 1 and 3B)

Missalette #185

Solemnity of St. Joseph

What: Parish Family Celebration
When: March 21st @ 6:00 PM
Who: You, your family (invite a friend!)
Where: Trumpet Room
Cost: Free

The Celebration will include a commemoration of St. Joseph, food, drinks, music and, of course, fellowship with our families! For more information RSVP visit <https://kofc9774.org/joseph> or scan the QR Code



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



When: 6pm Wednesday 3/11/26

Where: Parish Library

We will enjoy a pizza dinner followed by a wonderful talk by Fr. Blake Evans on his topic, "Priests and Lent".

*St. Raphael Sodality
To Jesus, through Mary*

ST. RAPHAEL SCHOOL

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- Live and Online Auction
- Professional Dealers and Tables

Scan to Register

Heart to Heart Conversation

St. Raphael Church Married Couples and Families Retreat



The Domestic Church invites all married couples and their families to a special retreat focused on loving dialogue and strengthening family life.

Couples will learn effective communication tools and child care will be available during sessions. The event is free, generously sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.



Date: **March 21, 2026**
 Time: **9:00 AM – 3:30 PM** (Lunch provided)

The day includes Mass, talks, guided conversation, Adoration, and Confession

Register via the link or QR code:

<https://tinyurl.com/straphael2026>

or contact Krys Psurek at

kpsurek@straphaels.org ☎ 240-813-0739

When registering, please provide your and your spouse's names, phone numbers, emails, and your children's ages.



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
 SGT 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



Religious Education
 Karen Watson, DRE, 301-762-2143, ext. 124



CRS Rice Bowls

CRS paper Rice Bowls are available in the baskets in the church vestibule. CRS Rice Bowl is a simple Lenten way to support Catholic Relief Services' work to end hunger. At the end of Lent, when returning your bowl, if you're able, please include a check to **St. Raphael** with "CRS" in the memo line, instead of coins. This helps our volunteers process donations without having to count change.

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. Fina (Seraphina) – Feast Day: March 12

St. Fina (1238–1253) was a 13th-century 15-year-old from San Gimignano, Tuscany (Italy) who faced serious illness and poverty with steady faith. After becoming ill around age



10, she grew increasingly paralyzed and chose to live simply on a wooden pallet, offering her suffering to God with constant prayer and a surprisingly joyful spirit. From her sickbed, she clung to Jesus and became known for patience, humility, and hope. Tradition says St. Gregory the Great appeared to her and foretold her death; she died on March 12, 1253 and violets were said to have appeared where she had been lying, a sign that God can bring beauty even

from suffering. Devotion to her spread quickly in San Gimignano, and her relics were later honored at Santa Maria Assunta, including the Santa Fina Chapel built to preserve her memory.

Faith is at the heart of our work.

Please keep our state's elected officials in prayer as they make decisions impacting our state. This is especially important from January to mid-April, during the annual General Assembly session.

As Catholics we are encouraged to promote the common good according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1913 and 1915. The St. Raphael, Right to Life committee recognizes that human life is at the center of the "common good".

A key resource available to all who seek to promote the common good is the Maryland Catholic Conference, mdcatholic.org. To Take Action on state legislation that has potential impact on life and the quality of life is readily available at <https://www.mdcatholic.org/take-action/>.

Maryland March for Life, March 16

Please join us on Thursday, March 16, from 5:30 to 8:00 PM at the Maryland March for Life in Annapolis. Mass starts at 5:30 PM at St. Mary's, the March at 6:30 PM from St. Mary's, and the Rally at 7:00 PM. For information and registration, please see <https://marchforlife.org/maryland-march-for-life/>. If you are interested in carpooling, please email Deacon Rich at MeyerRS@adw.org



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, **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.

St. Bartholomew CATHOLIC CHURCH

SOLENNITÀ DI SAN GIUSEPPE

CELEBRATING THE SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH



Giovedì 19 Marzo
Ore 19:00 Santa Messa in Italiano presieduta da don Mattia
A seguire, un piccolo ricevimento con dolci tipici.
Voi portate i dolci, io ci metto lo spumante!

Thursday, March 19
7 PM, Italian Mass
Reception to follow in the Church Hall
You bring the sweets, I'll bring the spumante!

6900 River Rd, Bethesda, MD 20817 | 301-229-7933 | stbartholomew.org



Two Dates to Choose from:
March 6-8 or March 27-29

Mother of God Community Chapel (Goshen House)
20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20879

To register, follow the appropriate links or scan the appropriate QR code below for the weekend you can attend

What is Made for More?
Made for More is not just another program or conference—it is a **life-changing journey of awakening**. It's an invitation to encounter God in a new way, discover who you truly are in His eyes, and embrace your mission with passion and power. Through prayer, music, reflection, and Spirit-filled teaching, you will **step out of passivity and into purpose**, leaving equipped and ignited for mission.



Fr. Dominic Michael Sultana is a Catholic priest from Malta, ordained in 2005, who has spent over two decades helping people encounter God in a real and life-giving way. His ministry has taken him across many countries through parish life, retreats, spiritual direction, and formation programs, guided by a deep conviction that faith must move from belief to experience, and from experience to mission.

Formed in Rome, he holds a Doctorate in Sacred Theology and advanced training in Spiritual Counseling and Christ-like Listening. He is also the author of numerous books on prayer, Christian identity, and spiritual growth.

What can you expect to experience?
Made for More unfolds over a series of transformative sessions that include dynamic talks, deep prayer experiences, and practical workshops. You will be immersed in an atmosphere of faith and openness where the Holy Spirit can work in you. From uplifting worship to moments of quiet reflection, every part of the retreat is designed to **bring you into a personal encounter with God's love** and send you back home on fire for your mission.

Three Day Schedule
Friday: 5:30 – 8:30pm
Saturday: 9:00am – 7:00pm (with a break for lunch)
Sunday: 9:00am – 1:00pm
(Sunday's schedule includes Holy Mass)



March 27-29
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