

St. Raphael Catholic Church



St. Raphael Spring Retreat for Teens—March 2026

1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854

March 15, 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.

In case you missed this announcement from Father Mike last weekend, we are placing here.

Dear Parishioners,

I have enjoyed my nine years here at Saint Raphael Church and School serving as your pastor. It has been a pleasure getting to know you and sharing God's love and mercy with you.

I have been thinking about resigning as pastor for some time, to help my Mom and be more involved in Retrouvaille. This was not an easy decision; I have been a pastor for over thirty years.

Recently, I met with our Cardinal, and we both agreed that it is best for me to resign as your Pastor. A formal letter of resignation was sent to the Cardinal, and the Cardinal accepted my resignation and promised to move me to another parish near my Mom's home in Kensington to serve as a priest without the responsibility of a Pastor. I am looking forward to serving those parishioners as either a Senior Priest or a Retired Priest. My last day at St. Raphael will be June 30, 2026.

I have met and prayed with so many of you at Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings, Sacramental Celebrations, Daily Mass and Sunday Masses, morning prayer with the students, at your homes, the Nursing Homes and Assisted Living facilities. As a priest, I have been blessed to call St. Raphael home.

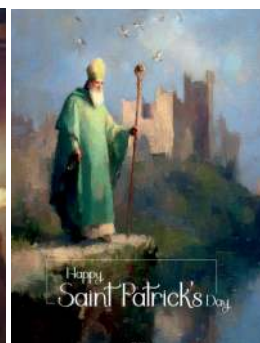
Together, we paid down debt, made it through COVID, the church closure, the parking lot confessional, livestreaming Masses, the re-opening of the school; while many area schools remained closed, the church HVAC system failing and the supply chain problems that followed, and that was only 18 months of my tenure! Recently, we replaced the school roofs and repaired the church steeple.

With your support, we managed to make our way through each hurdle with grace and a sense of humor! I am definitely going to miss you very much.

I promise to pray for you. Please remember me in your prayers.

May God Bless every one of you.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Mike
Pastor



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

Monday, March 16

6:30AM Rev. Thomas Morrow
9:00AM Carol Sabino (d)

**Tuesday, March 17
St. Patrick, Bishop**

6:30AM Miguel Martinez & Jim Edmondson (d)
9:00AM Sister Denette Leifeld

Wednesday, March 18

6:30AM Lagrotteria Family (d)
9:00AM Miss P. J. Aleykutty (d)

**Thursday, March 19
St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Mother**

6:30AM Feliciano Palmaira (d)
9:00AM Helen & Edward Janus (d)

Friday, March 20

6:30AM Vinny Lagrotteria
9:00AM Deacon Andrew John Nosacek (d)

Saturday, March 21

9:00AM Armand Oei
5:00PM Fr. Joe Zoila Chirinos (d)

Sunday, March 22

7:00AM Fr. Mike Alexander Aino (d)
8:30AM Fr. Tom Anne Marie Puglise (d)
10:00AM Fr. Tom Nancy Ann Cramer (d)
11:30AM Fr. Mike Members of the Parish
1:00PM Fr. Joe José Antonio Gonzalez (d)
6:00PM Fr. Joe Alirio Henao

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.

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 March 10.

Baptism:

Wynn Alexander Aung-March 7

Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, the archbishop of Washington, responded in an email interview to questions from the *Catholic Standard* newspaper of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington about the U.S. attacks on Iran. His responses were posted on the *Catholic Standard's* website on March 9 and will appear in the newspaper's March 12 edition.

You can visit the Catholic Standard to read the questions and responses.

<https://www.cathstan.org/us-world/in-interview-cardinal-mcelroy-says-u-s-entry-into-war-with-iran-not-morally-legitimate-citing-catholic-just-war-teaching>



A big thank you to Terry Salsgiver who has led the Usher Ministry for many years. Terry will be relocating to Pennsylvania soon. We appreciate all she has done, organizing the Ushers schedule for Sundays and Holy Days, personally covering extra Masses when coverage was short to name a few.

Terry did everything with a calm demeanor and a smile. Thank you, Terry!

Ornella Njampou has graciously stepped up to coordinate the Ushers. There is a need for more Ushers, if you would like to join this ministry, please reach out to Ornella ornellanicolas13@gmail.com or speak to an Usher at Sunday Mass.

The Second Collection this weekend March 14/15 is for the Catholic Relief Services.

**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.

**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

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



March 15, 2026



2ND GRADE FIELD TRIP!

Our second graders visited Discovery Theatre to learn about famous African Americans and visited the National Museum of American History.





Carmen's
ITALIAN ICE & MORE

St. Raphael School
MARCH MADNESS
Double the Fun
Dine Out Event

MARCH 19

Hard Times Cafe
4-9pm

Carmen's Italian Ice
2-9pm

Scan the QR code to access the dine out flyer. You **MUST** show it on your **PHONE** or as a **PRINTABLE COPY** for the school to receive **20%**!



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

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT- MARCH 15, 2026

Gathering Hymn *Bring Us Home*

Deanna Light, Paul Tate

1. Bring us home to the ban-quet, to bread and to wine, the fruit of the har-vest, the
2. Bring us home to the heav-ens where par-don and peace pass all un-der-stand-ing where
fruit of the vine. Bring us home to the ta-ble, to Love's sac-ri-fice, of
mourn-ing shall cease. Bring us home to the king-dom where Love sits en-throned, our
blood and of bod-y, where grace will suf-fice,
hope and our prom-ise, our e-ter-nal home,
of blood and of bod-y, where grace will suf-fice
our hope and our prom-ise, our e-ter-nal home.
Bring us home, bring us home, to Love's sac-ri-fice, bring us home!
to par-don and peace, bring us home!
Bring us home, bring us home, where grace will suf-fice bring us home.
till mourn-ing shall cease, bring us home.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

The Lord is my shep-herd; there is noth-ing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation

William Gokelman, David Kaufmann

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

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THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation Hymn *The Body of Christ*

Sarah Hart

A- men, a- men! We are healed by the Bread of life.
 A- men, a- men! We are one in the Bod-y of Christ.
 We are one in the Bod-y of Christ. We are one in the Bod-y of Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Steve Angrisano, Sarah Hart, Curtis Stephan

The Lord a- noint- ed my eyes: I went, I washed, I
 saw and I be- lieved in God.

Communion Procession *Have Mercy on Me*

Sarah Hart

Blot out my trans-gres- sions. O Lord:
 have mer- cy on me.

Meditation 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.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Recessional Hymn *From Ashes to the Living Font*

(Verses 1 and 3C)

Missalette #185

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



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.

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@badw.org



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

For young men in high school in The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington
Quo Vadis Excursion in Prince George's County

Sunday, March 22, 2026 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Are you a young man in high school who wants to learn more about the priesthood?

Please register now for our excursion to **Bowie**. The day starts at 10:00 a.m. with Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, followed by lunch and talks. Next we'll head to Sky Zone trampoline park for an afternoon of jumping, sports, games, and fellowship. The excursion concludes with a Rosary at Sacred Heart Chapel or the Grotto (if weather permits). Pick-up is at 3:00 p.m.



Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bowie, bell tower (1896) at Sacred Heart Chapel.

JOIN US FOR MASS, LUNCH, TALKS, & SKY ZONE FUN!

There is no charge to attend this event, but you must register by **Wednesday, March 18**, at <https://dcpriest.org/event/2026-quo-vadis-excursion-to-prince-georges-county/>



For additional information, contact Fr. Brendan Glasgow, Assistant Director of Priest Vocations: 202-636-9020 vocations@adw.org

Shady Grove
PREGNANCY CENTER

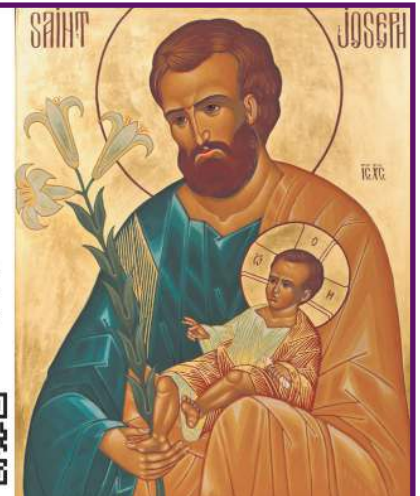
Labor/Delivery/Breastfeeding Presenter Needed

Shady Grove Pregnancy Center is seeking a nurse who is available to talk to first-time moms about labor/delivery/breastfeeding. This presentation is done on Wednesday evenings, 6:00 - 7:30, four times a year. Available to bless Moms in this way? Call 301-963-6223.

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



Religious Education

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

May 2026 Confirmation Students



Saintly Steps with SRRE

Discover a new holy friend every week as we grow in faith together

St. Joseph – Feast Day: March 19

St. Joseph: husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus is a



model of quiet faith and courageous love. As patron of the Church and protector of families, he invites us to trust God and serve with humble hearts. Around the world people honor **St. Joseph's Day (March 19)** with prayers and joyful traditions. Many of these are food related. A favorite in Italian tradition is **zeppole (or "St. Joseph pastries")**: a cream-filled pastry (often topped with a cherry or candied fruit), sometimes baked or fried. Other traditional treats include **sfinge/sfinici** (fried dough filled with sweet ricotta

cream) and **frittelle** (small fritters or doughnuts). In many Polish families, celebrations may include **paćzki** (filled doughnuts) or other home-baked pastries shared with family and neighbors. In Spanish and Latino households, you may find festive **buñuelos** (fried pastries), **rosquillas** (ring-shaped cookies/doughnuts), or other regional sweets made for sharing.

Another beautiful tradition is the **St. Joseph's Table** a prayerful table of meatless Lenten foods prepared in thanksgiving and shared in hospitality and charity. You'll often see decorated breads (sometimes shaped like a cross, staff, or crown), **fava beans** (a symbol of God's provision), pasta dishes, vegetables, fruit, and sweets. The food is shared with guests and those in need.

OCIA for Children (Age 7+) & Adults

Is your child **age 7 or older** and **not baptized**?
 Are you an **adult** who is **not baptized** and interested in becoming Catholic?

St. Raphael's offers OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) with a track for children age 7+ and a group for adults, to prepare for Baptism and the Sacraments.

For Adults: contact Krysta Psurek: OCIA@straphaels.org
 For Children: contact Karen Watson: kwatson@straphaels.org
<https://straphaels.org/becoming-a-catholic>

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.

Calling All St. Raphael Sacrament Students
 Contest to Design the...
2026
First Eucharist & Confirmation
Mass Program Covers

WHO MAY ENTER: All SRRE students including SRS & other Catholic School Students who are candidates receiving First Eucharist or Confirmation in May 2026

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Can be found using the QR code or at www.straphaels.org

JUDGING: A panel of judges from inside and outside of the Parish will judge the submissions

PRIZE: In addition to recognition for creating the Mass cover, a \$50 gift card will be presented to the winners

All Entries Are Due: APRIL 17, 2026

Scripture Readings For the Week of March 15, 2026

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Lent
1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a, Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 or Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Monday
Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30

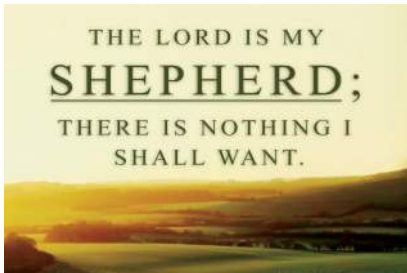
Thursday Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
2 Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Rm 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Friday Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; Jn 7:40-53

Sunday Fifth Sunday of Lent
Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Rm 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Catholic Charities is having a **FREE tax prep clinic** February 1st - April 15th at our main office - **924 G ST NW Washington, DC**. If your income is under **\$69,000**, have IRS-certified volunteers prepare and review your tax return for **FREE!** Scan the QR code or email FSN@cc-dc.org to request an appointment!



Tenebrae
Wednesday, April 1, 7:30PM

The Office of Tenebrae, meaning darkness or shadows, has for centuries been a Holy Week devotion. Following the opening prayer, the service is divided into three Nocturns, each with Psalms and each preceded and concluded by an appropriate antiphon. After the Psalm reading, the Lord's Prayer is prayed by the congregation. Then follows the reading of three Lessons, each with versicles and congregational responses. One of the distinguishing features of the service is the extinguishing of the candles and other lights in the church until only a single candle (Christ Candle) symbolizing the Lord's death and burial remains. After the third Nocturn, the service concludes with Psalm 51 and the removal of the Christ Candle for a time. The strepticus is heard (loud noise). The Christ candle is then returned in anticipation of Our Lord's resurrection. At the conclusion of the service, all depart in silence.



Lent

Stations of the Cross

Fridays in Lent,
March 20, 27
9:30AM - Mary's Way
6:30PM English
7:15PM Spanish



Confession Tuesdays will begin at 6:30 PM

Mass and Healing Service
Tuesday, April 7, 7:00 PM
with confessions during Mass.

Holy Week



Parish Penance
Tuesday, March 31, 6:30PM



Tenebrae
Wednesday, April 1, 7:30PM

Holy Thursday, April 2
Morning Prayer 9:00AM-church
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper,
7:30PM, (Bilingual)

Good Friday, April 3
Morning Prayer 9:00AM Church
12Noon Stations(Spanish)
3:00PM Stations(English)
4:30PM Good Friday of the Lord's
Passion (Spanish)
7:30PM Good Friday of the Lord's
Passion (English)

Holy Saturday, April 4
Morning Prayer 9AM Church
Easter Vigil, 7:30PM

Easter Sunday, April 5

7:00AM
8:30AM
10:00AM
11:30AM
1:00PM (Spanish)
No 6:00PM Mass



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56¢

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nobleinhomecare.com

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CONTACT US | CONTÁCTENOS
202-492-9769 • razazilaw@gmail.com
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Consider
Remembering
Your Parish in
Your Will



For further information,
please call the parish office.

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