



St. Charles Borromeo Church

Celebrating 175 Years as the Catholic Community in the Heart of Pikesville

Mission Statement

Saint Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church is a Christian Community bonded by faith and empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and action through prayer, education, evangelization, and service.

DECEMBER 10TH 2023
Second Sunday of Advent



101 Church Lane • Pikesville, MD 21208 • 410-486-5400 • Fax: 410-486-5421 • www.ourstcharles.org
Facebook.com/SCBPikesville • Office Hours: 9:00am – 3:00pm • Email: parish@ourstcharles.org

STAFF CONTACTS

Rev. Canisius T. Tah, *Pastor*
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Tim Fish, *Parish Pastoral Council Chair*
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Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00PM (Traditional Choir)

Sunday: 8:30AM, 11:00AM (Contemporary Choir)

Monday-Friday: 7:30AM

Wednesday (*en español*): 7:00PM (@ St. Gabriel, Woodlawn)

Holy Day: 7:30AM, 12:10PM, 7:30PM

Eucharistic Adoration: Tuesdays, 8:00AM-9:00AM

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:15PM-3:45PM; Wednesday 6:00PM-6:55PM @ St. Gabriel, Woodlawn; or by appointment

Infant Baptism

Congratulations to all parents and parents to be. Baptism Preparation sessions for parents and new godparents are led by Deacon Steve Roscher. Contact Deacon Steve at sroscher@ourstcharles.org to register for a session and to arrange for the celebration of your child's baptism.

Faith Formation

Religious Education classes for children (K-8th Grade) take place on Sunday mornings at St. Gabriel in Woodlawn (September-May). For more information, contact Allison Mooney at reled@ourstcharles.org.

Sacramental Preparation

Families wishing to prepare their children for Reconciliation or First Holy Communion, please contact Allison Mooney at reled@ourstcharles.org. High School youth interested in Confirmation, contact Dan Bremehr at djbreme@hotmail.com.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

RCIA is for adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and deepening their relationship with Jesus Christ as they journey toward full initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) into the life of the Catholic Church. Please contact Deacon Steve Roscher.

Care for the Sick

Please contact the Parish Office when a parishioner is homebound, in the hospital, or in a healthcare facility and wishes to receive a visit or any of the Sacraments. Whenever possible, please make arrangements for Anointing of the Sick before surgery or hospital admission.

Marriage

We rejoice with engaged couples and ask them to contact Deacon Steve Roscher at least 6 months prior to the date of the marriage to schedule an appointment for marriage preparation.

DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN: TUESDAY AT NOON

Please pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP . . .

✠ A REFLECTION FROM FR. CANISIUS ✠

Dear sisters and brothers,

It was great to see many of you at our Lessons and Carols this past Sunday. Our *demisemiseptcentennial* committee headed by Patrick McCusker has worked very hard to put together an amazing, inclusive calendar of events to celebrate the beautiful community we have always been in our yearlong celebrations of 175 years. Please make it a priority to join us in these different events.

John the Baptist is the last prophet before the coming of the Christ, and he is the first to recognize Jesus once he came. John fulfills Isaiah's prophecy as that voice crying out in the desert – *prepare the way of the Lord*. His clothing of camel's hair was traditional garb for prophets, and his diet of *locusts and wild honey* perhaps reflected either Jewish purity laws or a particular communal asceticism. As it was, it stood in stark contrast to the finery of the Jewish religious leaders and elders of that time, namely the Sadducees and Pharisees.

Yet John was drawing large crowds to the Jordan riverbank. Some likely came out of desire, believing he would lead them to the Messiah. Others perhaps came out of curiosity. John spoke like no one else, and called them to conversion, speaking with conviction. With such a following, it would have been easy for John to proclaim himself the Christ, and even easier for the people to believe him. Yet his humility and holiness meant that John could not lie or mislead them. He made it clear that his message and baptism were both inferior to the one, as he said, *who is mightier than I*.

John's preparation of the way for Christ is a model for us, especially in this Advent season. He challenges us to consider whether we lead others to Jesus, or whether our actions are motivated by a need for attention and affirmation. Is our lived faith attractive to those who have none? This last question is especially important, for while we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, we also prepare for his Second Coming. And, as Saint Peter says in our second reading, *The day of the Lord will come like a thief*.

We are given these days to grow in holiness and devotion so that we will be *eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace*, when he comes. During this busy time of year, a time when we are doing so much to prepare for the coming of Christmas, let us

make sure to heed the voice crying out in the wilderness – to prepare for the coming of the Christ, not just as a babe in Bethlehem, but his imminent return in glory as our King.

Remember, our Advent Penance Service with individual confessions takes place this Wednesday, December 13, from 7:00pm until 8:30pm at St. Gabriel. We should mark this preparation time by a good and holy confession of sins. Have a blessed week!

DAILY MASS INTENTION/PRESIDER

Date	Time	Presider	Mass Intention
Mon Dec 11	7:30am	Fr. Canisius	Rev. Thaddeus Skrzynski
Tue Dec 12	7:30am	Fr. Canisius/ Deacon Steve	Christopher Tah
Wed Dec 13	7:30am	Fr. Canisius	Prof. Rose Ure Mezu & Family Intention (L)
Thu Dec 14	7:30am	Fr. Canisius	Maria Aguh Igbo
Fri Dec 15	7:30am	Fr. Canisius/ Sem Bienvenu	Chigozie Nnabue Birthday Int. (L)
Sat Dec 16	4:00pm	Fr. Tom/ Deacon Steve Sem Bienvenu	People of the Parish
Sun Dec 17	8:30am	Fr. Rodney/ Deacon Steve	Margaret Kammer & John Kammer
Sun Dec 17	11:00am	Fr. Rodney/ Deacon Steve Sem Bienvenu	Richard Geelhaar



If you are looking for a more immediate date for a Mass intention when the schedule is filled at St. Charles, Masses are available at St. Gabriel on almost any weekday and most weekends. To have a Mass offered for your chosen intention on an upcoming date at St. Gabriel, please contact Alondra at 410-944-2106.

SIMPLIFIED SUNDAY READINGS AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Weekly videos are posted on our Facebook page proclaiming the Sunday readings from a simplified lectionary translation created for children. These videos also contain "closed captions," so they are wonderful for those who suffer from hearing loss or are deaf. They are about 9-10 minutes long. Check it out this weekend!

https://www.facebook.com/pg/SCBPikesville/videos/?ref=page_internal

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday, December 10th

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11 / 2 Pt 3:8-14 / Mk 1:1-8

Monday, December 11th

St. Damasus I, Pope

Is 35:1-10 / Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 12th

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday, December 13th

St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Is 40:25-31 / Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, December 14th

St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Is 41:13-20 / Mt 11:11-15

Friday, December 15th

Is 48:17-19 / Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 16th

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 / Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday, December 17th

Third Sunday of Advent

(Gaudete Sunday)

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 / 1 Thes 5:16-24 / Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

The full text of Daily Mass readings can be found at

www.bible.usccb.org or on MyParish app.

LET US PRAY WITH OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

*"There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens."*

- Ecclesiastes 3:1

...a time to heal

Joann Franklin; Shannon Renner; Emmanuel Okereke; Deborah Burns; Shirley Wilcher; Ryan Hankins; Lincoln Gee; Nora Din; Richard Abbotts; David Bickel; Messiah Santos Robert Rose; Mary Charlotte Koerner; Janet Winters; Carol Jordan; Norberta Winborne; Leonard Robert; Sandy; Francie & Mike Gill; Rod Brittingham; Jimmy Williams; Charles Schweiger, Jr.; Rafael Martinez; James Mayfield; Dianne Wemmer; Katherine Bowders; Patricia "Rusty" Lands; Robin Buttles; Lindsey Waters; Patricia James; Reggie Diggs; Johnnie Fogg; Xavier E. Gordon; Katherine Ann Kings; Kaitlyn Hitt; Felix Buchanan, Sr.; Wendy Simpkins; Sierra Thomas; Bert Wallace; Les Gilmor; Polly Boiser; Rowena Mejia; Charles Williams; Joshua Sanchez; Diana Hicks; Kenny Bena; Sandra Brooks; Catherine Potillo; Rodney Barrett; Paul McKeown; Susan Bateman; Deacon Vito Piazza; Catherine Shipley; Paul Gambrell; Andrew, Bob & Peggy Moan; Ernest Hunter; Christine Isaac; Chinyere Chikeka; Gary Frank; Robert & Mary Anthony; Jeff Lohinski; Charlotte Hurley; Terry Neuman; Dennis Bowersox; Jeanette Cherigos; Helen Arena; Ann Marie Goddard; Kathy Justice

*May our Lord and Redeemer give health to their
bodies and holiness to their souls.*

...and a time to die

Mattie D. Martin

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord

SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTION

Our sanctuary lamp is lit this week:

In Loving Memory of

Pasquale DeSantis

At the request of: *Carmela DeSantis*



WE LOVE HAVING YOU AS PART OF OUR FLOCK!

Let us know who you are by
officially registering in the parish:

<https://ourstcharles.org/register>

or update us if your contact info has changed:

<https://ourstcharles.org/staff#contactus>

Help us keep in touch via email and text:

Text **OURSCB** to 84576 or visit us online at:

www.flocknote.com/ourstcharles.

Like us on Facebook:

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or follow us on YouTube:

[St Charles Borromeo Church Pikesville, MD](http://StCharlesBorromeoChurchPikesville.MD)



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

Christmas flower memorial envelopes are included in the December offering envelope packet and can also be found in the church vestibule. Please return yours to the parish office by **Monday, 12/18**. You may also make a memorial donation via online giving—just select fund "Christmas Flowers" on the giving form at:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stc101164>

Advent Penance Service with individual confessions

for the Pastorate of St. Charles Borromeo & St. Gabriel

Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face
and we shall be saved. - Ps 80:4



**Wednesday, December 13
7:00 – 8:30 PM**

at St. Gabriel Catholic Church



Bambinelli Sunday is celebrated on the Third Sunday of Advent. This year St. Charles will have the blessing as part of all Masses **next weekend, December 16th and 17th**. Please bring baby Jesus from your Nativity to be blessed.

ST. CHARLES CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

December 23/24
4th Sunday of Advent
Normal weekend Mass schedule

Sunday, December 24
Christmas Eve Masses at
4:00 PM and 8:00 PM
St. Gabriel: 6:00 PM

Monday, December 25
Christmas Day Mass at 8:30 AM
St. Gabriel: 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM misa en español



**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH**
Saturday/Sunday, December 30th/31st
4:00pm ♦ 8:30am ♦ 11:00am

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord
Sunday, December 31st @ 6:00pm
Monday, January 1st @ 8:30am

MESSAGE #28 FROM DEACON STEVE FOR THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL



The older generation remembers a time when stores were universally closed on Sundays. The newspapers would begin a countdown on Thanksgiving with reminders each day on page one as to how many “shopping days” (since Sundays were not available) until Christmas. Like the old *shopping days*, the Advent season is naturally a time of anticipation. We await the Christmas celebration of the birth of Jesus. Yet we tend to reflect back on that greatest of events as something in the past. The birth of Jesus in a stable at Bethlehem is in fact an event of the past, but we must never lose sight of the presence of Jesus in the here and now. Pope St. John Paul II reminds us of this fact with these words of wisdom: ***“Jesus is not an idea, a sentiment, a memory! Jesus is a person, always alive and present with us! Love Jesus present in the Eucharist. He is present in a sacrificial way in Holy Mass, which renews the sacrifice of the Cross. To go to Mass means going to Calvary to meet him, our Redeemer. He comes to us in Holy Communion and remains present in the tabernacles of our churches, for he is our friend.”*** How blessed we are to have this friend who is always walking with us on our life long pilgrimage of faith. ***“O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine.”***

See: <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org>

Fr. Ray's Prayer-Poem for 12/10/23

Part I...in the words of the Prophet Isaiah 40:9

“Here is your God!”

Part II...a response in another's words, a prayer-poem –

I've thought
You
were always
someplace else

someplace
elsewhere
to be sought
diligently

when all the time
You've been
here
not there

here is always here
meaning I surmise
You are always
simply always...

[my “amen!”]

– fr. Ray

175th ANNIVERSARY . . .



175 YEARS
**ST. CHARLES
BORROMEO**
PIKESVILLE, MD

**IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE
OUR 175TH ANNIVERSARY!!**



St. Charles Church History Presentation
Monday, January 15, 2024 ✕ 1:00pm-2:00pm
Tuesday, January 16, 2024 ✕ 7:00pm-8:00pm

FAITH FORMATION . . .

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Parents wishing to schedule a baptism for their child(ren) should email Deacon Steve Roscher at sroscher@ourstcharles.org to learn more about the preparation process.



ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

The *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* (formerly the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a process by which candidates proceed through an intellectual, personal, and spiritual journey concluding with their formal acceptance into the Catholic Church. Interested? Contact Deacon Steve Roscher at sroscher@ourstcharles.org for more details. December sessions: 12/17 at 9:40am; and 12/23 at 3pm (pre-reading is required).

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION: GRADES PREK-8

Weekly classes for our Children's Religious Education program take place in the *Watershed School* building on the campus of St. Gabriel (6950 Dogwood Rd., Windsor Mill, 21244). Classes in **English** begin at **9:10am** and classes in **Spanish** begin at **11:15am**. **Register your child(ren) at:**

<https://ourstcharles.org/faithformation>

Contact Allison Mooney at reled@ourstcharles.org or 410-486-5400, ext. 209 with any questions.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Preparation sessions for the sacraments of **Reconciliation** and **First Holy Communion** are tentatively scheduled for **Saturday mornings**. Contact Allison Mooney at reled@ourstcharles.org or 410-486-5400, ext. 209 for information.

Confirmation preparation for youth in grades 9 and above takes place on **Sunday mornings** at **9:10am** (English) and **11:15am** (Spanish). Questions should be directed to Dan Bremehr: confirmation@stgabrielch.org

All sessions take place on the campus of St. Gabriel (6950 Dogwood Rd., Windsor Mill, 21244). Families can register their children for these programs by completing the Religious Education registration form at: <https://ourstcharles.org/faithformation>

STEWARDSHIP . . .

**- What I Do With What I Have Been
Given When I Believe in God -**

NOV. 27 TO DEC. 3, 2023	IN-PEW	ONLINE
Offertory – Envelopes	\$5217	\$2115
Offertory – Loose	\$740	\$0
Maintenance / Utilities	\$1336	\$360
Christmas Offering	\$75	\$0
Immaculate Conception	\$45	\$0
Solemnity of Mary	\$45	\$0
TOTAL PARISH OFFERTORY	\$7458	\$2475
Christmas Flowers	\$618	\$0
Retired Religious	\$65	\$0
Catholic School Support	\$60	\$0
Poor Box—Food Pantry	\$130	\$385
ATTENDANCE: 12/2-12/3	285	

**YOUR POOR BOX OFFERINGS SUPPORT OUR
OUTREACH TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

SECOND COLLECTIONS

We have the following special collections upcoming:

December 10 Retired Religious
December 17 Catholic School Support
December 25 Christmas Offering
January 1 Solemnity of Mary

Thank you for your generosity!

You may also give online at www.ourstcharles.org by selecting the fund name listed above on the giving page.

GIANT Gift Cards: \$100 • \$50 • \$25

Use them for your regular shopping; or to buy your prescriptions; or give them as gifts. St. Charles makes 5% on every card sold! Purchase your cards with cash or check in the parish office, 9am–3pm, Monday-Friday.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO ONLINE GIVING

- No need to write checks or remember envelopes
- Contributions can be scheduled regularly--or give on an a la carte basis, giving when you choose
- Choose which Special Collections to support
- Contribute to the Poor Box
- No missed contributions to make up
- Use a credit card, debit card, or bank account

For more information contact the parish office or go to www.ourstcharles.org/give

SECOND COLLECTION – 12/9-12/10

Support a lifetime of service. Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education, and care for those in need—usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the **Retirement Fund for Religious** this weekend (12/9-12/10). Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously.

OUTREACH & MINISTRIES . . .



St. Charles Parish Giving Tree

Thank you for your support of our annual **Giving Tree** Christmas Outreach Program. Once again, we are astounded by the tremendous generosity of the members of our small faith community. Gifts are being delivered this week, bringing joy and the blessings of Christmas to hundreds of people in the community who otherwise would be forgotten. Thank you for bearing the light of Christ to them and to our world! A full report of all donations will be in the bulletin in January.

FOOD FOR LIFE: CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES

Thanks for your help in making this annual parish work of mercy a success! Because of your generosity, we are able to distribute Christmas Food Boxes and Giant Gift Cards to **75** of our neighbors in need this Christmas. We are grateful for everyone's participation!



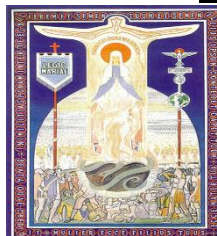
FOOD FOR LIFE

JUNIOR CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS INVITES YOU...

The St. Charles Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas (JCDA) is a small group of girls who meet on the third Friday of the month from 6pm-8pm. We want to invite all young ladies between the ages of 8 and 18 to join us! Our group focuses on leadership roles to serve others and growing in our faith together. The girls lead our games, ice breakers, crafts, snacks, and plan ways to help fund raise for needy groups. If you are interested, please call Julianne DeMarco at (410) 653-0832 OR (203) 943-9621. We look forward to seeing you on 12/15!



LEGION OF MARY NEWS



The Legion of Mary will discontinue their 8:30am-10:00am Saturday morning meetings during the month of December ONLY. They will meet instead on Thursday evenings from 6:00pm-7:30pm via Zoom or conference during that time. Contact Cecelia for details at 410-458-9899.



**God's Love
Charismatic Prayer Group**
invites you . . .
All Are Welcome!

Wednesday evenings 6:30pm-8:30pm

Bring your Bible and join us!

(in the Rectory Basement – rear entrance)

Contact Elizabeth Vincent at 443-622-4723 or
beach5party@yahoo.com

Believe in the Power of Prayer!

OUR
DAILY
BREAD

CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN ACTION

Serving Meals. Nourishing Opportunity.

Thank you to all those who participate in our outreach to the guests at **Our Daily Bread**.

NEXT DELIVERY DATE:

Wednesday, January 17th

Frozen casseroles can be dropped off at the parish office Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm. Pans w/ recipe are available at the parish office or in the church vestibule. Store-bought party-sized Lasagna and Mac & Cheese casseroles are also gratefully accepted.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS . . .

DATE	TIME	PLACE	EVENT
Sun Dec 10	9:10a (Eng) & 11:15am (Espanol)	St. Gabriel	Childrens' Religious Ed. & Confirmation Prep
Tue Dec 12	8:00am- 9:00am	Church	Eucharistic Adoration
Tue Dec 12	7:00pm	Rectory Board Room	PPC Meeting
Wed Dec 13	7:00pm- 8:30pm	St. Gabriel	Advent Penance Service
Thu Dec 14	7:30pm	Church	Contemporary Choir Practice
Thu Dec 14	6:00pm- 7:30pm	Zoom or Conference	Legion of Mary
Fri Dec 15	6:00pm- 8:00pm	Rectory Basement	JCDA Meeting
Sat Dec 16	9:00am	Church	Decorating (Trees & Lights)
Sat Dec 16	10:00am- 12:00pm	Rectory Basement	Cadets of Mary
Sat Dec 16	3:00pm	Church	Traditional Choir Practice
Sat Dec 16	3:15pm- 3:45pm	Church	Confessions

DECORATE the Church

We'll be putting up the Christmas trees and other decorations in the church next **Saturday, December 16th**, starting at **9:00am**. If you can lend a hand, or two, and help get our beautiful church ready for Christmas, please join us!

Getting Involved and Volunteering



The Archdiocese of Baltimore and St. Charles Borromeo Parish are committed to maintaining the trust of the faithful by providing our children and youth with safe environments characterized by healthy relationships. With our longstanding commitment in mind, **all volunteers, employees, and clergy must register as a volunteer in VIRTUS**, our compliance management system, which allows us to facilitate compliance with archdiocesan child protection requirements. To register as a volunteer, or for more information, visit www.ourstcharles.org/virtus.

EMAIL SCAM WARNING

The scammers are at it again! We have been made aware that people are receiving emails, claiming to be from Fr. Canisius, asking for help purchasing gift cards for the needy/holiday/staff. Father will NEVER ask you to purchase gift cards for him or for the parish. The ONLY valid email addresses for Fr. Canisius are canisius.tah@archbalt.org and frcanisius@ourstcharles.org. Please check the email address on any email received before responding. If you receive ANY message that is out-of-the-ordinary, please verify its authenticity by calling the parish office. Be Safe!

IN THE COMMUNITY . . .

HEALING MASS - The City of God Prayer Group is sponsoring a Healing Mass at Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier (13717 Cuba Rd., Hunt Valley, 21030) **this Sunday, December 10th at 2:00pm**. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is available during Mass, and individual prayer by prayer teams afterward, for you or in proxy for another. Come and bring a friend.

EVENING PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIVES LOST TO HOMICIDE

A coalition of public, private and faith-based partners will hold a one-hour evening prayer vigil on **Wednesday, Dec. 27th** to remember the lives lost to homicide this year and plead for an end to violence. Meet at **5:30pm** at St. Joseph's Monastery Parish in Irvington (3801 Old Frederick Rd., 21229) and walk in prayer by candlelight to My Brother's Keeper, less than half a mile away. The names of the 2023 homicide victims will be read along the walk and hot chocolate and fellowship will be offered afterward at the Catholic Charities resource center. A minibus from Mount St. Joseph High School will offer rides back to the Monastery after the walk. Event takes place rain or shine.

APOLOGY, HEALING & ACTION – Read Archbishop William Lori's letter where he addresses the depth of pain endured by victim-survivors, apologizes for the grievous harm they experienced, addresses healing and how the Church of the past is no longer. The pastoral letter outlines the actions that have been taken over the last three decades, including mandatory reporting of all accusations to law enforcement, finger printing and background checks, volunteer and all-employee trainings, zero-tolerance policies and ongoing therapeutic care offered to all victim-survivors. Please scan the QR code to read the Archbishop's letter or email communications@archbalt.org and a printed copy can be mailed to you.



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