

# St Raphael School's Opening Season is in Full Swing

By Gabriela Herrera Gugiu

At SRS, coming together as one school and participating in Morning Prayer is an integral part of our daily routine. During the upcoming school year, we plan to reinstate this converted tradition in-person and in our church. This is one of the many things reinstated in the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. The fall plan also includes a five-day in person school week, class Mass, and enrichment classes including PE and Music offered to our students.

We also kick off the new school year by welcoming Deacon Richard Meyer. Deacon Meyer has been a parishioner at St. Raphael's since 2004 and an active member of the Knights of Columbus, Mater Dei Council, and St. Raphael's Respect for Life Committee. The community wished a fond farewell to Deacon Jorge Gatica during Sunday mass on August first as he transfers to St. Martin in Gaithersburg after seventeen years.

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With this year's theme in mind and as we look back at last year's accomplishments, SRS community would like to acknowledge and thank Roger Pardo, a parent at St. Raphael School. Mr. Pardo worked tirelessly throughout the summer of 2020 and throughout the school year of 2020-2021 to ensure that

our students and staff had the tools they needed to make remote learning as smooth as possible. From bringing the students at home into the classroom via WebEx, revamping our phone system to work more efficiently and fielding questions day and night from our staff with any technology issue, Roger was amazing in sharing his time and talents with St. Raphael School.



We acknowledge the tireless work of Roger Pardo, a dedicated parent at St. Raphael School, who ensured that our students and staff had the tools they needed for remote learning.

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## CLEARY

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"Our hearts unite as we pray for Mrs. Cleary and for her family," said Catherine Ronan Karrels '86, head of school. Pat was the heart and soul of the community, greeting five decades of Stone Ridge students and community members and making everyone feel that they had arrived at their home away from home.

Pat was a lifelong devout Catholic. Her faith, as described in her obituary, was "central and foundational" to who she was. Pat was born on August 30, 1924 and spent most of her life in New York until she moved to Bethesda, Maryland with her husband, Tim. Once Pat became involved with the Stone Ridge, her family joined too. Her husband,

Tim, was president of the Stone Ridge Father's Club; her three daughters, Maureen Cleary '70, Gail Cleary '77, and Eileen Cleary '81, along with two granddaughters, Madeline Jordan '05, and Patricia Richey '08, are alumnae.

Pat's memory will live on in the new Student Life Center, at the heart of campus at Stone Ridge. With the opening of the Mater Center this month, the school paid tribute to Pat by naming the front desk in her honor. "She will be forever remembered at Stone Ridge," Catherine said.

Learn more about the space and Mrs. Cleary's legacy, featured in Stone Ridge's Spring/Summer 2021 magazine. All are welcome to leave thoughts and memories of Pat for the family on the Stone Ridge website.

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## Upcoming Events

### 13th Annual St. Raphael Golf Classic

Registration is open! Please join us for the 13th Annual Fr. Bill Finch Memorial St. Raphael Golf Classic on Friday, October 1, 2021 at Bretton Woods. As we continue to fulfill one of Fr. Bill's last works in progress prior to his passing, we hope we can count on your support by playing golf, volunteering to help with the event, and/or committing to a sponsorship.

### SRS Open House 2022-2023

St. Raphael School will hold an open house for prospective families on October 18 at 1:30pm. For more information visit <https://straphaelschoolmd.org/>



## OPEN HOUSES

UPPER SCHOOL (Grades 9-12) • Sunday, October 17, 2021  
MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 5-8) • Tuesday, November 16, 2021  
LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL (Preschool-Grade 8) •  
Friday, January 7, 2022

[WWW.STONERIDGESCHOOL.ORG/VISIT](http://WWW.STONERIDGESCHOOL.ORG/VISIT)

*Empowering leaders to serve with  
faith, intellect, and confidence.*

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart is an all-girls grades 1-12, Catholic, independent school, with a co-educational Little Hearts program for children age three months through Kindergarten, located in Bethesda, Maryland.

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