

# Raphael's Refuge, Inc.

+ *A Place of Healing* +

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## **Fall/Winter Newsletter, 2017**

**The Storm** -- Praise be to God, there has been no storm damage at the Monument to the Innocents! By the time I returned home Monday (8/28), there was not even standing water on the grounds. That is amazing! I am deeply grateful to the many who covered us in prayer . . . *thank you.*

**September 29, Feast Day of the Archangels** – This year, in light of many difficulties caused by Hurricane Harvey in our state, no service is planned for the feast day. The monument will be open as usual and you are most welcome to come and pray privately.

**The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Feast Day of the Holy Innocents Celebration** – On Friday, December 28, we will begin with a Rosary at 10:15 a.m., followed by announcements and Christmas carols. Our main celebrant, Bishop Brendan Cahill, will begin Mass at 11:00. Also joining us will be Fr. Tommy Chen and the seminarians from the Diocese of Victoria. Following the service, we will gather on the porch for refreshments. You are welcome to bring something to share, but please do not feel that you must.

Though last year it was a glorious, warm day, typically it is very cold inside the Chapel . . . even with all doors closed. If there is an overflow crowd, then the doors will have to be left open, *dress accordingly.*

**Parking** – Work is expected to begin this fall on the twelve long wall foundations and sidewalks for the Monument. When it does begin, parking near the Monument will be significantly affected. You will be able to park on the circular road around the Monument, staying to the right (outside edge) so cars can pass. The pebbled parking areas (outside of the circular road) will be available. Drainage has been improved on the north lot.

**Glass Blocks** --To date, there are 370 glass blocks that have been engraved or are waiting to be engraved. More good news, Bernadette Kresta will finally have some help with engraving. Claire Youngblood is excited to be training in the art!

**Pews** – All 14 benches have been sponsored--thanks and blessing to all who made donations. Thanks and blessing also to those who have sponsored a pew. To date, 11 of the 24 pews have been sponsored. We are requesting a \$1,000 donation for pew sponsorship.

**Cemetery for miscarried and aborted babies** – We are already receiving phone calls from people searching for a place to bury their miscarried babies. If interested in overseeing the whole project, a big, multifaceted, on-going job without pay, or in helping in some other way, please give me call.

**Divine Mercy Chaplet** – A reminder -- you are welcome to join whoever may be at the Monument on Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. to pray the Chaplet. There will be no leaders – we will just pray together. There are cards available for any who do not know the words.

**Exit Road** – After events, please use the exit road. The charming drive leads to Old Waelder Road. A right turn will take you directly to Highway 90.

**Harvey's Aftermath** – I expect many who receive this letter will have suffered directly or indirectly from the terrible storm. May God's peace be with you and your loved ones. May He strengthen and bless you. May you know His love and joy.

Sincerely,

*Midge*

“Faith in action through prayer, faith in action through service: each is the same thing, the same love, the same compassion. This is something that should encourage us and should be a strength for us, that we complete each other more fully.” -Mother Teresa (*Heart of Joy*)