

July 2017

Saint Raphael



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Eucharistic Adoration at St. Raphael *A Powerful Experience in the Presence of Christ*

Our Four Pillars of Stewardship are Prayer, Hospitality, Formation, and Service. Prayer prepares us spiritually to do things we did not think possible, and to do the will of God. When we spend time in prayer, we show God that He is more important than anything else we could be doing at that moment. And our daily actions, done with love, can become prayerful when we dedicate our work to Him. At the same time, we cannot pray at all times if we don't pray at specific times.

Here at St. Raphael, we have many opportunities for prayer, but one of the most significant is Eucharistic Adoration, held every Friday beginning at 10 a.m., as well as at other times as announced. There is a procession at the end of the 9:15 a.m. Mass led by the celebrant, which culminates with the beginning of adoration. Adoration continues until 4 p.m. on Saturday.

"For me, Eucharistic Adoration is a powerful experience," says Melissa Pillari, who coordinates Eucharistic Adoration at the parish. "I know that Christ is present. I think I initially became involved because I felt I was giving a gift to Christ. However, the truth is that He ended up pouring His gifts out to me."

Understood simply, Eucharistic Adoration is adoring, or honoring, the Eucharistic Presence of Christ.



In a deeper sense, it involves "the contemplation of the Mystery of Christ truly present before us." During Eucharistic Adoration, we "watch and wait," we remain "silent" in His Presence, and open ourselves to His Graces which flow from the Eucharist. By worshiping the Eucharistic Jesus, we become what God wants us to be! Like a magnet, The Lord draws us to Himself and gently transforms us.

Because, as Catholics, we believe that Christ is truly and substantially present in the Eucharist, the Blessed Sacrament is given the same adoration and devotion that is accorded to Christ. At the beginning of the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a priest or deacon removes the sacred host from the tabernacle and places it in the monstrance on the altar for adoration by the faithful. The monstrance is the vessel used in the Church to display the consecrated Eucharistic Host, during Eucharistic Adoration or benediction. The word "monstrance" comes from the Latin word *monstrare*, meaning "to expose." It is known in Latin as an *Ostensorium*. When a consecrated host is placed in the monstrance, it is said to be a solemn exposition. "Adoration occurs for 30 hours each week," Melissa says. "We have 70 to 75 regulars who participate, but we could use more, and we encourage

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Stewardship Becoming Fishers of Men

Some people mistakenly think that building the Church – in particular, building our own parish or diocese – is no different than building a successful business. Indeed, the purpose of building the Church is to change hearts – a goal that only God can accomplish.

Secular society has not prepared us for this work. However, the Holy Spirit – sometimes referred to as the “Architect of the Church” – has the plan. In order to implement this plan, we must become good listeners. We must open ourselves to the workings of the Holy Spirit as He transforms us and guides us to carry out God’s work and to serve as His instruments on earth, building the Church together with Him.

This is where spiritual exercises, such as retreats, come into play. A retreat offers the individual an opportunity to spend time alone with the Lord, allowing God to draw the person deeper into the mystery of who

He is, who we are and what He is doing in our lives. Stewardship retreats can offer parish leaders the opportunity each year to spend time with the Lord as He directs them in the ways of discipleship. As leaders, we must take time to meditate on the Scriptures and allow Jesus to open up His Word to us. Then, as we grow deeper in our understanding of what God wants of us, we can exclaim, just as the first disciples did on the road to Emmaus, “Our hearts are burning within us” (Lk 24:32).

God has placed an extremely important call on the lives of all parish leaders, no matter how big or small the role. It is vital to understand how we, as parish leaders, can best answer His call. What, in particular, is the Lord calling each one of us to do? He most likely is not asking us to drop our nets, but to pick them up and become “fishers of men.” We must discern how we can most effectively cast our nets for Him.

Whether you hold a high-profile position, such as parish council president, or have more of a behind-the-scenes role as a coordinator of a parish ministry, God has called you – as a parish leader – to help build His Church.

This challenge is just as important as the call of any other Catholic leader, including the earliest disciples.

When Jesus walked along the Sea of Galilee, He urged a group of fishermen, “Come follow me.” Jesus promised if they laid down their nets and followed Him, He would make them fishers of men. These men were among His original disciples, and they knew Christ’s call was so important that they left their secular occupation to follow Him.

Just as He did with the fishermen, Jesus calls each of us today. He is not necessarily asking us to leave our secular careers, but He is asking us to put Him first in our lives and to share His message of love with others.

God truly wants us to serve Him and to build His Church through the secular occupations we have chosen. It is through the Church that new disciples are born, and it is in the Church that disciples continue to mature. Forming disciples of Christ is the most important work that can be done on earth, and each of us has been called to play an active role in this work.

So, how do we go about building the Church? Where do we find the plans?



A Letter From Our Pastor

We Are Blessed as a Church and a Nation

My Dear Friends in Christ,

The month of July may seem like a bit of an “in-between” month. Of course, it sits in the middle of summer. During this last month of June, we shared in a number of solemnities and celebrations – these served to remind us of the incredible gifts we have received as Catholics, from the Holy Trinity to the Body and Blood of Christ.

Now, a look at the calendar shows us that all of the Sundays this month are in Ordinary Time. We know that Ordinary Time is anything but “ordinary,” even though it might seem that way – especially after a month of celebrations.

However, one thing happens this month that is certainly unique to us as Americans – Independence Day. We are Catholics, but we also are Americans, and we should be proud to be both – grateful for the gift of faith, and equally grateful for the gift of liberty we receive as American citizens.

Yet, to be Catholic and American should not mean choosing one over the other. These allegiances should be complementary. Our Catholic faith states that we need to work together as fellow citizens for the common good of everyone in this great country. Through the Constitution, our Founding Fathers guaranteed us of religious rights to contribute to our common life together.

Freedom is a special inheritance we have received, fought for by many at a great price, and it is a heritage that must be guarded – we are truly stewards of the gifts of freedom.

In 1886, just over 140 years ago, Bishop James Gibbons of Baltimore was made the second American Cardinal. He attributed the progress of the Church in America to the “civil liberty we enjoy in



our enlightened republic.” He continued to say that “in the genial atmosphere of liberty, the Church blossoms like a rose.”

July is not just a time for us to celebrate – it is also a time for us to blossom. It is not a time to cease praying or working to build the Kingdom of Christ. Rather, it is a time to work even more diligently to express our appreciation for our many gifts, and to share them with others. We are blessed – by the gifts of our faith and the gifts of freedom – and we must always remember to thank God for that.

May God bless and keep you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Tim Gareau".

Fr. Tim Gareau,
Pastor

The Legion of Mary at St *Love and Guidance Through Our Bless*

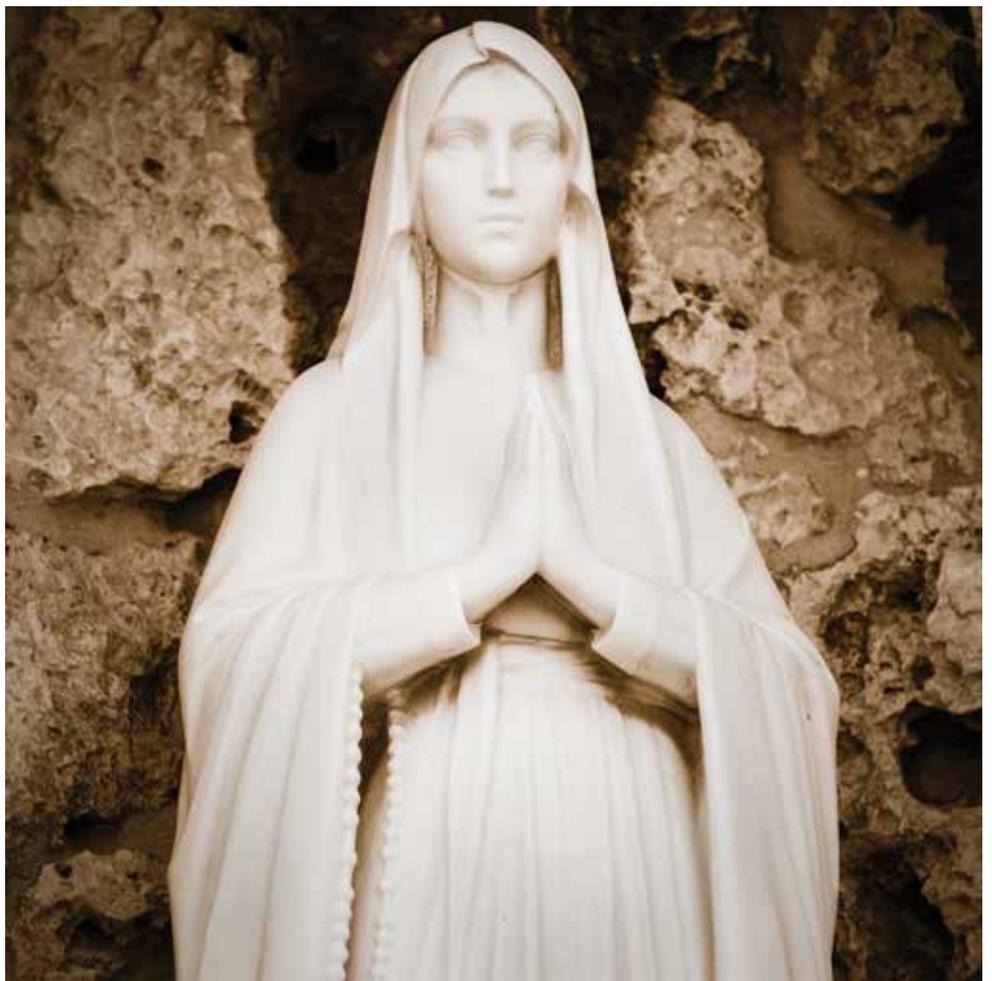
The Legion of Mary is a lay Catholic organization whose members are giving service to the Church on a voluntary basis in almost every country. The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active cooperation in Mary's and the Church's work. The most basic unit of the Legion of Mary is called a praesidium, which holds a weekly meeting, where prayer is intermingled with reports and discussion.

Here at St. Raphael, the Our Lady of Guadalupe Praesidium was founded in the fall of 2010. Current President JoAnn Kahl strongly recommends the Legion to anyone who is looking to enhance their prayer life and to fulfill their spiritual goals.

"The Legion of Mary has been very valuable in my own life," she says. "In fact, it has changed my life completely. It is somewhat simplistic, but it gives me the opportunity to turn to our Blessed Mother Mary and to our Lord and Savior Jesus for direction and guidance – something I need every day, and certainly every week."

At St. Raphael, the Legion of Mary has 44 members who pray Legion prayers every day and other members who meet at 10 a.m. each Tuesday of the week in the Community Room at the church.

"The meeting begins with the Rosary, and all are welcome for that," JoAnn says. "Normally, we will have 10 to 15 people for



praying the Rosary. Then we begin our formal meeting, which is not really that formal.

"Our meeting consists of people reporting on the progress of any assignments they may have," she continues. "Note that our priority is the spiritual and social welfare of each individual member. However, the members participate in the life of the parish through prayer and/or visitation of families, the sick, both in their homes and in hospitals and through collaboration in

every apostolic and missionary undertaking sponsored by the parish. Every legionary available is required to carry out a weekly apostolic work in the spirit of faith and in union with Mary."

The Legion sponsors many programs and spiritual efforts at St. Raphael, but one of the best known is the Hearts Afire program.

"This is based on a series of books by Fr. Michael Gaitley, and it has to do with being consecrated," JoAnn says. "Jesus Christ is the one Mediator of man and God the

St. Raphael Blessed Mother and Her Son

Father, the only Person Whose Blood saves us. But the most effective and beautiful way to Jesus is through the imitation of Mary and beseeching her to pray for us. Mary is not only Christ's mother – she is our mother, and the Queen Mother of Christ's Kingdom. She intercedes for us with the King of Kings."

For the Legion of Mary members, it is truly a valuable and fulfilling ministry.

"We are a traditional organization, and our goals are spiritually healthy and take us back to the very roots of our faith," JoAnn says.

The Legion of Mary is the largest apostolic organization of lay people in the Catholic Church, with well over 3 million active members in almost every country of the world. The Legion of Mary has been active in the United States since 1931, has been approved by the last eight popes, and was endorsed by the Second Vatican Council. The main purpose of the Legion of Mary is to give glory to God through the sanctification of its members.

"There is room for many more people," JoAnn says. "The Legion of Mary is open to all Catholics who faithfully practice their religion, who are animated by the desire to participate in the Church's evangelistic mission through membership in the Legion, and who are prepared to fulfill each duty of prayer and/or activity which active membership in the Legion involves."

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If you are interested in the Legion of Mary, please contact JoAnn Kahl at 440-463-0885 or Anne Marie Farr at 440-336-2025. You may express your interest in membership by attending one of the Legion meetings, on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Community Room.

Let Your God Love You
A Poem by Edwina Gateley

Be silent.
Be still.
Alone.
Empty
Before your God.
Say nothing.
Ask nothing.
Be silent.
Be still.
Let your God look upon
you.
That is all.
God knows.
God understands.
God loves you
With an enormous love,
And only wants
To look upon you
With that love.
Quiet.
Still.
Be.

Let your God –
Love you.

Feast of St. James: July 25

Calling Us to Holiness

The beauty of St. James the Great's character lies in his undivided heart – a heart that treasured its Lord from its very depths.

The Gospel story (Luke 5:1-11) recounts that, after laborious fishing efforts, James and his brother, John, had caught nothing. Jesus accompanied them and caught an astonishing bundle of fish. At the sight of this miraculous catch of fish, they began to understand that this man Jesus was not someone to merely pass by – that this man must be divine. He called them to “leave all and follow” Him.

From this moment forward, St. James had a relentless resolve to follow his newfound Messiah.

Christ made James one of the Twelve Apostles, giving him the mission to proclaim the Good News, and the authority to heal the sick and suffering.

Jesus also allowed him some special privileges.

For instance, when Jairus' daughter was raised, James, along with John and Peter, were the only ones Jesus allowed to accompany Him. When Christ sought God's presence in an intimate way through prayer from a mountaintop, He brought along with Him only James, John and Peter. There, they witnessed the glorious transfiguration of Jesus. He also chose these three to be at His side during His excruciating Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. Clearly, he was one of Christ's most beloved followers.

This brave saint was also one of the first martyrs of the Church.

King Herod Agrippa killed him with a sword in an early Church persecution. “Confidence in God arms us... with that supernatural courage which causes us to dread nothing in our struggle for the kingdom of God: that conquering intrepidity which has animated the martyrs,” wrote Dietrich von Hildebrand in *Transformation in Christ*. St. James certainly had this

“conquering intrepidity.”

St. James is the patron saint of laborers, hat makers and rheumatoid sufferers.

Let us not allow such a saint to pass by unnoticed. Let us emulate his dedication to God in our daily lives. We are called to be as holy as we can be – just as holy as St. James – today, not tomorrow.

Alleluia, truly, He is coming soon!



Kim O'Brien and Family Share in a Powerful Faith Journey

According to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Stewardship is a way of life." In their pastoral letter about stewardship, the bishops also described stewardship as "a disciple's response." As they wrote, "Beginning in conversion, change of mind and heart, this commitment is expressed not in a single action, nor even a number of actions over a period of time, but in an entire way of life ... committing one's very self to the Lord" (5).

St. Raphael parishioner Kim O'Brien understands the stewardship idea of commitment. She has agreed to be one of the leaders of the parish's Moms' Ministry. The ministry meets at various times during the week, including evenings to accommodate working moms.

"It is an opportunity for moms with young children to come together and share about our faith and the challenges of doing what we do in our roles as moms," Kim says. "When Dan and I moved to the area with our daughter, Brenna, four years ago, we were struck by the warmth of this parish and the people in it. Being new to the area, we only knew few other families. The Moms' Ministry provided a great opportunity to meet other moms in the same season of life who share my faith and values."

Kim and Dan have been married for eight years and have two children, Brenna and Fallon. While they have always practiced their faith, Kim believes that the community at St. Raphael has helped them grow in their faith, and today they are each active

in various parish ministries, including Pre-Cana, Familia, and Raphael Brewing Company.

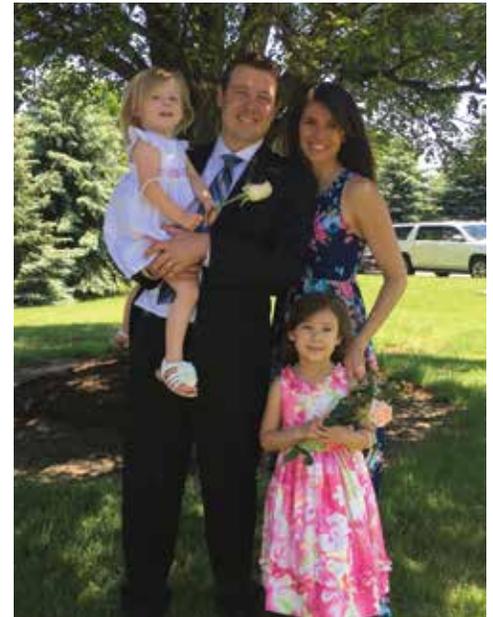
For Kim, the opportunities provided by the Moms' Ministry are unique, impacting her faith life in a profound way.

"We meet every week for a variety of activities, including playdates, moms' nights out, and programming that we call Moms' Reflections," she says. "Other moms help lead and plan different components of the Moms' Ministry, and the whole group is really the result of a committed team effort. This year I am responsible for planning the Moms' Reflections meetings with the help of Dr. Andy Kereky. We open with prayer, and then Dr. Kereky or someone else speaks on whatever topic we've selected for the meeting – for example, living a life of gratitude, praying with the Bible, and Ignatian Spirituality, among others.

"Baby-sitting is offered during all of the sessions, so it is a great time for us to engage and learn together," Kim continues. "All of our meetings tend to be very casual. I think we try to meet people where they are rather than expect that everyone is at the same place in their faith journey."

Kim notes that she became more involved with the Moms' Ministry because she wanted to give something back in return for all she had received from the group.

"Since I initially joined the Moms' Ministry, I have gotten so much out of being on a faith journey with the other women who have become my dear



The O'Brien Family – Dan holding Fallon (2), Kim, and Brenna (5).

friends," she says. "I was hesitant at first because of the time demands of being a wife and mother, but it was definitely the best thing for me and my family. We always welcome more people to our ministry, so I hope that other moms will consider joining our friendly community."

The parish is where the Church lives, and stewards are the lifeblood of a successful parish. In the parish, we find community and support, liturgy and ritual, sacrament and healing. In the parish, we find a way to give and a way to receive. On a practical level, fall is the time when parish planning gears up for the seasons ahead. Now, for a Christian steward, is the time to prayerfully consider your own involvement in the life of the parish in the coming year. How might we serve – and be served? The Christian steward knows participation in the parish is a win-win situation, feeding us as we feed others.

For more information, please contact the Moms' Ministry at moms@straphaelparish.com or call the parish office at 440-871-1100.

St. Raphael

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Eucharistic Adoration at St. Raphael *continued from front cover*

people to take advantage of this opportunity. People need to sign up for a particular time when they can be there – including throughout the night on Friday/Saturday. Our goal is to have at least two people there at all times.

“My husband, Tom, and I have been part of St. Raphael since 1979, and adoration has become an important part of our parish experience, not to mention a foundation for our prayer lives,” she continues. “I feel that St. Raphael is a large enough parish to provide

prayerful people at our current adoration schedule, and hopefully expand it in the future.”

As St. Alphonsus Liguori wrote, “Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the Sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us. The Eucharist is a priceless treasure: By not only celebrating the Eucharist, but also by praying before It outside of Mass, we are enabled to make contact with the very wellsprings of Grace.”

If you would like more information, or are interested in being part of the Adoration Ministry, please contact Melissa Pillari at 440-871-1476.

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m. | **Sunday:** 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., noon

Weekday Mass: M, T, W, F, 7:45 a.m. | M, T, Th, F, 9:15 a.m. | Saturday, 8:30 a.m.

Confessions: Saturdays 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. | **Eucharistic Adoration:** Friday 10:00 a.m. - Saturday 4:00 p.m.