

May 2017

Saint Raphael



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

“Another World and Another Experience” The Spring Concert at St. Raphael School on May 16 at 7 p.m.

Doc Severinsen – whom you may remember as the music director and a trumpet player on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson* – once said, “Music and the arts are not just something to make people feel good. They elevate the soul and broaden the entire personality. It is easy to say they are not needed because culture seems intangible. But not having it deprives young people of a cultural heritage.”

On the evening of May 16 at the Parish Activity Center, the bands from our St. Raphael Catholic School will perform their Spring Concert. Three bands will perform at 7 p.m., opening with our Beginning Band, consisting mainly of fourth-graders, followed by our Cadet Band of fifth-graders, and concluding with our Concert Band consisting of sixth through eighth grades.

“I think the inclusion of our music curriculum at St. Raphael is important to the total development of the young person,” says Matthew Wirfel, Director of Music and the Bands at St. Raphael. “Being involved in music, learning to play an instrument, introduces the young person to another world and another experience. I look forward to the presentation of our students at the annual Spring Concert. It will be an exciting performance by all of the bands involved.”



“Our concerts are representative of a full range of music,” he continues. “The Beginning Band will present the classic ‘Frere Jacques’ as a round, ‘Old MacDonald Had a Band,’ ‘Hard Rock Blues,’ and the traditional ‘Oh, Susanna.’ They will be followed by the Cadet Band performing ‘Brother Martin,’ ‘Regal March,’ ‘Boom, Boom, Stomp,’ and the ‘Star Wars Theme.’ The evening will conclude with the full concert band playing ‘Gonna Fly Now’ (the

continued on page 2

This Issue:

4 "This is an Exciting Time"
First Communion and May
Crowning at St. Raphael Parish

6 The Bible
The Textbook of Stewardship

7 Take Stock in Our Youth
Youth Ministry at St. Raphael

The Spring Concert

continued from front cover

theme from *Rocky*), 'Gregorian Chant and Ritual,' 'Rain Dance,' and the classical 'Bohemian Rhapsody.'"

It was the eminent conductor Leopold Stokowski who once said, "A painter paints pictures on canvas, but musicians paint their pictures on silence." The National Catholic Educational Association Committee on the Arts states:

"Music education is an essential part of the Catholic elementary school curriculum, concerning itself with truth, goodness, and beauty, which have always been pursued by Catholic schools. As a universal language, music can be interpreted and understood by all children.

"Through music education, teachers and students can come to identify their talents and gifts, and respond to the beauty of God's world. They can learn to appreciate the creative talents of artists in many places, cultures, and times. It is important that every child have the opportunity to learn and experience the world of music. It is also important that in experiencing music, students are creating projects and gaining knowledge that fulfill the best practices in the field of music and is in line with the national standards set forth for music education."

"There is no charge to attend this concert, so I encourage everyone to come out and support our youths as they display their accomplishments," Mr. Wirfel says. "I have a lot of fun doing this, and so do the students. We rehearse after school so this is an extra for a lot of these students. I offer small-group lessons and we also meet once a week as a full band. I am so proud of what these youngsters have accomplished, and I hope the community will support them in their efforts."

"I think the inclusion of our music curriculum at St. Raphael is important to the total development of the young person. Being involved in music, learning to play an instrument, introduces the young person to another world and another experience. I look forward to the presentation of our students at the annual Spring Concert. It will be an exciting performance by all of the bands involved." – Matthew Wirfel, Director of Music and the Bands at St. Raphael



For more information on the St. Raphael School Music program, please contact Matt Wirfel at 440-871-6760 or email him at mwirfel@saintraphaelparish.com.

A Letter From Our Pastor

We Cannot Be Part-Time Christians

My Dear Friends in Christ,

May is traditionally celebrated in the Church as the month of Mary, our Blessed Mother. As the Mother of the Church, she provides us with an example of what it means to be a servant of God and our fellow humans, as well as how to obediently fulfill the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

As Catholics, we are called to model the life of Jesus. That can be difficult, and there are certainly challenges to living as a disciple of Christ. But living stewardship and discipleship brings intense contentment and joy to those who take that risk. As we hear in St. Paul's letter to the Romans, "All things work for good for those who love God."

After Jesus Himself, we look to our Blessed Mother as an ideal steward and an example of what stewardship means. As the Mother of Christ, she lived her life and her ministry in a total spirit of faithfulness and service. She responded to the call to be a disciple. For us to be disciples, we also need to be good stewards of the gifts we have received. Our Church and our parish are gifts to us from God.

At no point in Holy Scripture does Jesus tell us that following Him is easy. We know it is not always simple and effortless. It requires dedication and commitment. Pope Francis has said on more than one occasion, "We cannot be part-time Christians and Catholics! We should seek to live our faith at every moment of every day."

I suspect that is how Mary lived her life from that moment she turned it over to God and His Will. So, let us vow together during this month of Mary to follow her example, and seek to be the kinds of good stewards that will make our faith community even stronger and more effective.

I pray that we all can find the strength to live and practice our faith as we should. This means being faithful to the sacraments and looking for ways to help and serve one another. We have a great parish – let us make it even greater.

As we hear in Holy Scripture, "May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26). Pray for me, as I pray for you.

May God bless and keep you,



Fr. Tim Gareau,
Pastor



"We cannot be part-time Christians and Catholics! We should seek to live our faith at every moment of every day." — Pope Francis

“THIS IS AN EXCITING *First Communion and May Crowning*”



It is difficult to imagine a more joyous occasion and event than First Communion. We are blessed this year at St. Raphael to have 167 beautiful children receiving First Communion. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* puts this beautiful sacrament into perspective when it states, “The holy Eucharist completes Christian initiation. Those who have been raised to the dignity of the royal priesthood by Baptism... participate with the whole community in the Lord’s own sacrifice by means of the Eucharist. ‘At the Last Supper, on the night he was betrayed, our Savior instituted the Eucharistic sacrifice of his Body and Blood. This he did in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages until he should come again, and so to entrust to his beloved Spouse, the Church, a memorial of his death and resurrection: a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a Paschal banquet’... The Eucharist is ‘the source and summit of the Christian life.’ The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself” (1322-1324).

Because of the numbers, First Communion is now celebrated separately from our regular weekend Masses. Dividing the First Communicants into two groups, there

is a First Communion Mass on Saturday morning, May 6 at 10 a.m., and again that afternoon at 1 p.m.

“This is the second year we have been able to use this format for First Communion,” says Pastoral Associate Terri Telepak, who has worked for the Church for more than 38 years and has served here at St. Raphael for the past 13 years. “Until our new church was available, we just could not fit everyone in. Now, we are able to have more than 80 First Communicants at each Mass, and with their family and friends, we have more than 1,200 people in the church each time, and we can fit everyone at the table!

“In reality there are 167 separate stories, one for each First Communicant,” she continues. “But there is one family in particular that is celebrating three First Communions!”

Maria Patin, along with her children Jonathan and Yanisha Rivera, moved to this area from Puerto Rico a little more than two years ago to care for her 86-year-old grandmother who lived here. They began to attend Mass at St. Raphael, but because Maria, although baptized Catholic, had never completed her own First Communion and Confirmation, they were unable to be full communicants in the Church. In fact, the children had never done anything beyond Baptism.

A little less than two years ago, Maria came to a

“This is an exciting time, especially for my two children who are receiving First Communion, and for my whole family for that matter, as I received First Communion at the Easter Vigil service as part of the RCIA group. We will officially be all Catholic now. There are so many people we need to thank, including Fr. Ryan for his guidance and shepherding and Deacon Larry who sent us on this journey. This whole community is so welcoming, and we feel like we belong here.” – Maria Patin

“G TIME” at St. Raphael Parish



meeting of Catholics Coming Home.

“I realized that my faith life was not complete,” she says. “In fact, I wanted to fill in that gap in my faith life. I sat down with Deacon Larry Gregg and asked him for advice. As a result of that, I entered the RCIA program last year, and I made sure my children were placed in the class to receive First Communion.”

Maria became a full communicant in the Church at the Easter Vigil this year and her children will receive First Communion as part of the afternoon group on May 6.

“This is an exciting time, especially for my two children who are receiving First Communion, and for my whole family for that matter, as I received First Communion at the Easter Vigil service as part of the RCIA group,” Maria says. “We will officially be all Catholic now. There are so many people we need to thank, including Fr. Ryan for his guidance and shepherding and Deacon Larry who sent us on this journey. This whole community is so welcoming, and we feel like we belong here.”

Another important event in the life of the parish is the annual May Crowning. May Crowning is a traditional Roman Catholic ritual that occurs in the month of May of every year. An image or likeness of the Blessed Virgin Mary is ceremonially crowned to signify her as Queen of Heaven and the Mother of God. Here at St. Raphael, this is celebrated twice – once by the children of the school, and once by the children of our Parish School of Religion. The school May Crowning occurs on Friday, May 12, at 1:45 p.m. in the church and is led by the second-graders, who are new communicants, and the eighth-graders, who do the crowning. The general parish crowning is on the evening of Monday, May 15, and the featured people are the second-graders who have received First Communion and the Archangels group of senior citizens. These are both special events in the parish and we encourage any who can to attend. One of the defining aspects of being Catholic is devotion to Mary. This year's May Crowning celebrates the Centennial of the Blessed Virgin Mary's first appearance to the three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, on May 13, 1917.



If you would like more information on First Communion or May Crowning, please contact Pastoral Associate Terri Telepak at 440-871-1100.

The Bible

The Textbook of Stewardship

Have you ever wished that life came with an instruction manual? What a valuable resource that would be! Whenever you find yourself running in circles, this instruction manual would give you step-by-step instructions on how to fix the problem and reroute your course.

Well, here's some good news. For those living a Christian life, there is such a manual – the Bible.

Sometimes referred to as the “textbook of stewardship,” the Bible is a bountiful resource for the present-day Christian. Written by anointed prophets and sages, this collection of divinely inspired parables, poems and letters is full of testimonials that express the blessings that come from true discipleship, expressed through lives of stewardship.

Stewardship is not a new concept. The Bible gives proof to this claim through passages such as the 26th chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy. We read Moses' words, as he tells the Israelites to offer the choicest portions of their harvest to God: “When you have come into the land which the Lord, your God, is giving you as a heritage, and have occupied it and settled in it, you shall take some first fruits of the various products

of the soil which you harvest from the land which the Lord, your God, gives you, and putting them in a basket, you shall go to the place which the Lord, your God, will choose for the dwelling place of his name... ‘Therefore, I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O LORD, have given me.’ And having set them before the LORD, your God, you shall bow down in his presence” (Dt 26:1-2, 10).

St. Paul briefly touches on the essence of stewardship when he said, “In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35).

Again, in St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, we read about living a life of Christian stewardship: “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:6-7).

While this is well and good, what does it mean for the present-day Christian? Why should it matter that the Bible alludes to

stewardship in various passages? It shows us that Christians and Jews have struggled with and benefitted from the concept of stewardship for thousands of years. It ties the message of stewardship to the role of a Christian disciple. It gives proof that stewardship and discipleship go hand-in-hand. It offers encouragement to us, that stewardship is in fact a foundational component of the Christian life, a way of life that one of the founding fathers of the Church – St. Paul – preached about and advocated.

The Bible is indeed the textbook of stewardship. It lays out the steps we must take to become true disciples of Christ. Reading and meditating upon God's Word is always a fruitful exercise. Those who regularly delve into Scripture often develop a deeper understanding of who God is, how and why He loves us, and how we can show Him our love in return.

As you strive to become a grateful steward and live the life of Christian discipleship, develop a love for Sacred Scripture. Allow God's Word to nourish your soul regularly, and watch as stewardship changes from a foreign concept to an integral component of your daily life.



TAKE STOCK IN OUR YOUTH *Youth Ministry at St. Raphael*



Do you like to make good investments that will have a positive return? Are you willing to place funds in opportunities that you know will benefit society? Would you like to have some ownership in great experiences for our young people? If that is the case, you may wish to support our Take Stock in our Youth Program here at St. Raphael Parish.

Our parish Youth Ministry is returning Take Stock in Our Youth, which was in place a few years ago. On the weekend of May 20-21, representatives of the Youth Ministry will speak at all Masses to make us aware of what is happening in the program, as well as its potential.

There has been renewed emphasis on Youth Ministry throughout the Catholic Church in the United States in recent years. This is, in part, the result of a concentration in this area by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which issued a document titled *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*. This document emphasizes the importance of Youth Ministry and outlines approaches to it:

“We are confident that young people will commit themselves totally to Jesus Christ, who will ask everything from them and give everything in return. We

need to provide concrete ways by which the demands, excitement, and adventure of being a disciple of Jesus Christ can be personally experienced by adolescents – where they tax and test their resources and where they stretch their present capacities and skills to the limits. Young people need to have a true opportunity for exploring what discipleship ultimately involves.”

Recently, Most Reverend Frank Caggiano, the Bishop of Bridgeport, Conn., issued a statement on the importance of this ministry: “Youth Ministry is important in the life of the Church! In this grace-filled moment, you and I are called, by the Lord, to do this important ministry. It is an exciting time to do Youth Ministry in this ‘moment of grace.’ I come to you as a pastor of the Church and a fellow pilgrim in the journey of faith to help read the signs of the times. In order to adapt our ministry in this changing world, we need to be clear about what we are being asked to do by the Lord Jesus. We are being asked to help young people answer the single most important question of their lives: the call to evangelization.”

Indicative of the number of young people in our parish, we recently confirmed more than 150 teenagers.

continued on back cover

St. Raphael

CHURCH

525 Dover Center Road
Bay Village, OH 44140

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Cleveland, OH
44101
Permit No. 703

Would you like to stay connected to the Parish using E-Mail? Then please share it with us. Just go to our Parish Website, www.saintraphaelparish.com, and enter the information under "Staying Connected Thru E-Mail". Information will not be shared and you can remove it at any time. Contact Mark Cunningham in the Parish office with questions at (440) 871-1100.

Youth Ministry *continued from page 7*

"In response to the need we have to develop comprehensive programs for our young people, we are reaching out to our parish community," says Director of Youth Ministry Kyle Griesse. "When they speak to the people of the parish in May, our participants are going to reach out to our membership for support. That is why it is called 'Take Stock in Our Youth' – it is a way that

people can financially support our total effort. Our young people and our leadership will be present at all Masses on that weekend in May to provide updates, and then will be present after Mass to accept gifts of any size for that effort. We encourage people to consider investing in our program because it is, in effect, an investment in the future. The dividends are incalculable."

Youth Ministry meets on most Sunday evenings from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. in the upper room of the parish office. For more information, please contact Kyle Griesse, Director of Youth Ministry, at 440-871-1100 or kgriesse@straphaelparish.com.

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.