



St. Raphael Church

525 Dover Center • Bay Village, Ohio • 44140 •

www.saintraphaelparish.com

Parish Office: 440-871-1100 • Parish Office Fax: 440-899-2911 • Rectory: 440-871-1100

School Office: 440-871-6760 • School Office Fax: 440-871-1358

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Timothy W. Gareau Pastor
 Rev. Ryan Cubera Parochial Vicar
 Rev. Al Krupp In Residence
 Rev. Mr. Larry Gregg Deacon
 Dr. Andy Kereky Director of Spiritual Development
 Terri Telepak Pastoral Associate
 Ann Miller School Principal
 Mark Cunningham Director of Stewardship
 William Toler Director of Liturgy & Adult Education
 Maureen Mayer Administrative Director
 Amy Lashutka Director of Youth Ministry
 Tish Bush Office Manager
 Kathy Witmer Administration Secretary
 Clare Blake Bookkeeper
 Ashley Klug Religious Ed. Secretary

Parish Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 Friday 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Sunday 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Pre-School Religion - Ages 3-4-5/Kindergarten

Meet on Sundays 9:30-10:30 a.m. Sept-May.

Parish School of Religion

Grades 1-8 meet on Mondays 4:15 - 5:30 p.m. or 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 & 7:00 p.m.
Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m.
Weekdays: 7:45 a.m. M-T-W-F
 9:15 a.m. M-T-TH-F
 8:30 a.m. Saturday
Holy Day: Please consult bulletin

Eucharistic Adoration: Every Friday from 10:00 a.m. to Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m., Raphael Center Chapel.

Confessions: Saturdays 3:00-4:00 p.m. Any other time by request.

Baptism: Instruction Program required for parents. Held on first Sunday of month from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Baptisms on remaining Sundays of month at 2:00 p.m.

First Communion / First Penance / Confirmation: Preparation program required for parents and child.

Marriage: Preparation of couple according to Diocesan norms required. Call one of the priests at least 6 months prior to marriage.

Anointing of the Sick: Anytime upon request - call one of the priests. Communal anointing in October on Sunday closest to Feast of St. Luke (October 18).

Cluster Parish Schedules

† One family in Christ †

St. Joseph Church 32929 Lake Rd., Avon Lake
 (440)933-3152

Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m.
 Sunday Masses 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
 Weekdays Monday 6:30p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday 7:30 a.m.
 Thursday 7:30 a.m., Friday 8:30 a.m.
 Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday 3:15-4:00 p.m.
 Monday 5:30-6:15 p.m.
 Eucharistic Adoration Every Tuesday 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
 First Fridays 9:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Saturday

Holy Spirit Church 410 Lear Rd., Avon Lake
 (440)933-3777 (440)871-8157 (Cleveland Line)

Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday Masses 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m.
 Weekdays 8:30 a.m. (Chapel of the Holy Family)
 Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturdays 3:30-4:30 p.m.
 Eucharistic Adoration Every Monday 12:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

March 2, 2014

"God feeds the bird and clothes the flowers. Do not be anxious; God knows all your needs."

MASSSES THE WEEK

Weekday **Monday, March 3**

7:45 AM *Don Engle, Special Intention*

9:15 AM *James Kahl*

Weekday **Tuesday, March 4**

7:45 AM *Dorothy Liptak, Birthday*

9:15 AM *Anthony Saccilotto*

Ash Wednesday **Wednesday, March 5**

Day of Fast and Abstinence. See insert.

7:45 AM *Nancy Marta*

9:15 AM *Yvette Steier*

11:00 AM *Des Rosiers Family, Special Intention*

4:30 PM Prayer Service

7:30 PM *Paula Fox, Birthday*

Thursday after Ash Wednesday **March 6**

9:15 AM *Margaret Conway*

Friday after Ash Wednesday **March 7**

7:45 AM *Robert & Laura Bouhall, Anniversary*

9:15 AM *William Tumney, Anniversary*

6:00-6:45 PM Confessions

7:00 PM *Lynn & Don Worthington, Special Intention*

Saturday after Ash Wednesday **March 8**

8:30 AM *Deceased members of Battaglia Family*

Vigil: First Sunday of Lent

4:30 PM *Herb Dunchack*

7:00 PM *Gregory Vitrano*

First Sunday of Lent **March 9**

7:30 AM *Nellie Cadiz-Ramos, Anniversary.*

9:30 AM *Fr. Steve Breck, Special Intention*

11:00 AM *Jacqueline Pugliese*

12:30 PM *Rose Gulasy*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Pt 1:3-9; Ps 111:1-2, 5-6, 9, 10c;
Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16; Ps 98:1-4; Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17;
2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17;
Rom 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]; Mt 4:1-11



Deadline for bulletin is noon on Friday for the following week. Articles can be dropped off in the Parish Office or e-mailed to: tbush@saintraphaelparish.com. If you are interested in placing an advertisement in our bulletin, please contact J.S. Paluch Co. 1-800-945-6629. **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS-THEY MAKE THE BULLETIN POSSIBLE!**



Altar Servers

For Weekend of:

March 8-9

4:30 PM Crisafi-Crisafi-Vedda-Kurtz-Roach

7:00 PM Hearn

7:30 AM Sanchez-Leszcz-Kelly

9:30 AM McKenna-Dever-Lee

11:00 AM Whitaker-Notarianni-Walsh-Lindholm

12:30 PM TBD

Rest in Peace 

MABEL SHOCKLEY, mother of Carol Kadlubak (James); FATHER HARRY WINCA, Pastor Emeritus of St. Edward Parish, Parkman, and St. Lucy Mission, Middlefield,; EDWARD BERNEIKE, and SIDNEY WILSON, died this past week. May they rest in peace.

ST. RAPHAEL PRAYER MINISTRY

prays daily for specific requests. We pray in our own homes, on our own time and in our own ways. Requests are distributed by phone-chain or e-mail. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, or to join this ministry, please call Joanne Hout (835-0169) or email Karen Mackin at: kmom41@wowway.com.

The next two scheduled BAPTISM CLASSES

will be held on Sunday, April 6 and May 4 at 2:00 p.m. in the School Library. Please note: There will be no Baptism Class in March due to Confirmation.

Immediate Need:

Could you wake up early on Saturday mornings for Jesus? An hour spent in the Real Presence of Jesus is a tremendous blessing. Giving up sleep to be with Him is a wonderful gift. Jesus longs to spend time with you and to speak to your heart. A second individual is needed from **4:00 to 5:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings**. It is a 'perfect time' because, other than being out of town, nothing conflicts on your schedule. Please call Melissa if interested in volunteering: 440-871-1476.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION RAPHAEL CENTER CHAPEL

"Love the Eucharist, adore the Eucharist, celebrate the Eucharist." -- Pope John Paul II



Adoration takes place in the chapel in the Raphael Center every week from 10:00 a.m. on Friday, through the night until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Introduce your children to this beautiful devotion by bringing them on Friday at 3:30 p.m. for 20 minutes of guided prayers and songs.

Jesus is waiting for you every week. Come and be with Him. (Park by the Parish Office or Post Office.)

**A REPORT ON OUR
STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

Weekly Envelopes-February 16, 2014	\$28,489.13
Online Giving	4,564.00
Total Collection	\$33,053.13
33 Sundays x \$33,500 budgeted	1,105,500.00
Contributions 7/7/13-2/16/14	<u>1,043,003.47</u>
Offertory under budget	\$-28,996.53
Weekly Envelopes-February 23, 2014	\$23,213.90
Online Giving	3,780.00
Total Collection	26,993.90
34 Sundays x \$33,500 budgeted	1,139,000.00
Contributions 7/7/13-2/23/14	<u>1,103,050.50</u>
Offertory under budget	\$-35,949.50

*Thank you for your continuing gift to our parish.
Fr. Tim*

EASTER FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

A special envelope was included in the regular St. Raphael Church envelope packets to contribute to our annual Easter Flower and Decoration Fund. Envelopes are also available on the windowsills of the church for anyone who wishes to participate. Donations are also being accepted for Easter flowers in memory of a loved one. The Easter flower list will be published in the bulletin after Easter. Please complete the information on the envelope and return it to the Parish Office or drop it in the collection basket.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

This is the final weekend of the in-pew portion of the 2014 Catholic charities annual appeal. This is not a special collection; rather, the Catholic Charities Annual Appeal represents the chance for all Catholics to make a significant pledge, payable in installments, to Catholic charities in order to support its mission of a society that stands united in its support of the "least among us." Many parishioners have received a letter from Bishop Lennon requesting their support. If you have not received this letter, please respond to the in-pew commitment process today! If you have received the mailing, please respond to it. There is a box on the in-pew envelope to indicate that you have responded by mail. Something wonderful happens when we unite ourselves through Christ with others. Over 399,000 people from every suburb and city in Northeast Ohio benefit from their programs and services each year. Please consider a generous gift to the Catholic charities 2014 Annual Appeal, and please pray for the success of this important Appeal.

Stewardship



**What's Happening?
Catch This!**

**Lenten Fish Fry Fridays
5 – 7:30pm**

**March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28, April 4,
April 11**

**\$12.00 adult, \$7.00 seniors and children
Parish Activity Center**


Our 2014 Lenten Fish Fry is right around the corner and we need **YOU**. Volunteer Registration Forms are located near the church entrances and on the Parish Website (www.saintraphaelparish.com), or just contact Mark Cunningham at the Parish Office to register. See you at the Fish Fry!

Our Lenten Fish Fry will be featuring Adult, Children and Senior Dinners. Entrée choices include baked fish, fried fish, macaroni and cheese, and Pierogis. Sides will also be available; choices are: macaroni & cheese and Pierogi. All meals will include French fries, coleslaw, roll and butter, and dessert. Iced tea and lemonade will be served. Soda will be available to purchase. Please join us every Friday during Lent to enjoy an evening of good food, good fun, laughter and friendship. Carry out available.

St. Raphael's **LITTLEST ANGELS ROOM** is open during 9:30 and 11:00 AM Mass on Sunday. Stop in with your little one (toddler age 2 through 5) to see the age-appropriate alternative to Sunday Liturgy.

CONFIRMATION 2014

This weekend we welcome Bishop Roger Gries who will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with 147 candidates. Confirmation will take place in the Church on Sunday, March 2nd at Masses at 2:30 and 5:30 p.m. Please keep our Confirmation candidates, their sponsors and their families in your prayers. COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

+ + + + +
+  +
+ **Be courageous,** +
+ **go to Confession.** +
+ (recent message +
+ from Pope Francis) +
+ Reconciliation: Saturdays 3 to 4 PM +
+ + + + +

**SAVE THE
DATE!!!!**
St. Raphael will be participating in the Diocesan Wide Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance.
**March 12, 2014
5:00-8:00 p.m.
St. Raphael**

REMEMBER

On Sunday, March 16 after the 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses, there will be teams of people to pray with you for comfort, strength, healing, thanksgiving and any need you may have. If you are interested in being part of the **GUARDIAN ANGELS**, please call Sussy Hidalgo (835-4087). Remember, the Guardian Angels pray with you every third Sunday of the month.

LEGION OF MARY

Do you have two hours a week for service to our parishioners at the direction of our pastor? If so, the **Legion of Mary** may be right for you! Our Legion meets every Tuesday for one hour from 10:00 am until 11:00 am in the Tobit room. We pray the Rosary, read from our handbook, report on our works, hear a reflection from our spiritual director, and have a short business meeting followed by a closing prayer. During the school year, we perform an hour of service each week – sometimes more – by sending cards to bereaved families or to parents of newly baptized children. We serve in pairs in our visits to local nursing homes or attending wakes or funerals. We also go into the school twice a year to help students make rosaries. If you feel called to serve Jesus through Mary in this ministry, please contact Father Ryan in the parish office (871-1100).



40 DAYS FOR LIFE - 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Preterm at 12000 Shaker Boulevard, Cleveland, 44120 or Surgi Center at 4269 Pearl Road, Cleveland, 44109 or Family Planning at 54 South State Street, Painesville, 44077. Please help spread the word about this important community outreach. If you'd like more information-and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact: John Noall (216)245-9744 or email at: clevelandpraysforlife@gmail.com.

WOMEN OF ST. RAPHAEL: SAVE THE DATE!

The **2014 Women's Retreat** will take place on **Saturday, March 22nd**. Humility of Mary Sister Cheryl Rose will be our retreat leader. See today's insert to sign up and for more information.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION CORNER

PRESCHOOL RELIGION There will be no class next Sunday, March 9th. We have found in the past that we have very low attendance when the clocks "*Spring forward*". Please take your children to the Mass of your choice. Child Care is also offered during the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses through our Littlest Angels' ministry in the Zwilling Room across from the Lunchroom. Preschool Religion classes will resume on Sunday, March 16th.

Thanks for the Donations! We would like to thank both the Preschool Religion and PSR families who sent in a donation for an "Irish Basket". Through your generosity, two beautiful baskets were assembled. One was donated to St. Malachi Center for their "Soup for the Soul" fundraiser and the other was donated to Saint Raphael's "Night at the Races" which raises funds for our parish. Thanks for being a blessing to others!

SACRAMENT PREPARATION NEWS

First Communion Preparation: Children and parents should be working on the "Called to His Supper" book. We are in the process of scheduling Family First Communions. **First Communion Reply forms are now due.** The "*Come to the Table*" **Retreat Day** for Parents and Children will take place on **Saturday, April 5th**. Families register for their retreat time (10 a.m. to noon or 1:30-3:30 p.m.) when they return a copy of their First Communion Reply form. Once we process your form, a copy with the confirmation of your child's First Communion Mass date and time will be returned to you through their Religion class.

Prayer for Religious Freedom

Almighty God, Father of all nations, for freedom You set us free in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 5:1)

We praise and bless You for the gift of religious liberty, the foundation of human rights, justice, and the common good. Grant to our leaders the wisdom to protect and promote our liberties; by Your grace may we have the courage to defend them, for ourselves and those who live in this blessed land. We ask this through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, our patroness, and in the name of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with whom You live and reign, one God, forever and ever. Amen!

Fr. Tim

For information on the High School Youth Ministry Program or the Confirmation Program contact Amy Lashutka at 440-871-1100, ext. 109 or alashutka@saintraphaelparish.com

THERE WILL BE NO HSYM SUNDAY GATHERING ON SUNDAY, MARCH 2nd due to Confirmation. See you on March 9th!

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY FOR TEENS

3/9 ~ Session #10 – Finding Your Vocation

All high school teens are invited to our next Theology of the Body night on Sunday, March 9th from 6:30-8:30pm in the Upper Room. If you haven't come to any of the TOB nights – it doesn't matter! Just come!!!! Refreshments served. Invite a friend.

HSYM LENTEN RETREAT- March 28th-30th

Attention all high school students!!! Registration for the 2014 HSYM Lenten Retreat – *PATHWAYS* – is underway! This retreat will take place from 7:30 pm Friday, March 28th through Sunday, March 30th at 2:30pm. It is open to teens currently in grades 9-12 and to newly confirmed 8th graders! **Registration forms available at the Parish Office, next to the HSYM Bulletin Board, and on the parish website.** Any questions? Contact Amy at the Parish Office.

2014 ND Vision Summer Conference for High School Students

Early registration, which includes a reduced conference fee, is due to the Parish Office by MARCH 25th! Informational flyers and applications are available at the Parish Office, next to the Youth Ministry Bulletin Board and on the parish website (on HSYM page). Feel free to call Amy Lashutka at the Parish Office with any questions. You can check out the program at www.nd.edu/~ndvi/.

We are also looking for parishioners who would be willing to financially support a student who would like to attend this conference. If you are interested in contributing to this fund, please contact Amy at the Parish Office. Thank you in advance for supporting the growing faith of our young men and women!

Applications for the 2014 HSYM Summer Service Trip to Cincinnati and to the ND Vision Conference are available next to the HSYM Bulletin Board and in the Parish Office. Spaces are limited for both events so teens interested in attending either or both of these events should sign up ASAP! **BOTH OF THESE SUMMER EVENTS ARE OPEN TO CURRENT 8th GRADERS!**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEENS:

1) **Littlest Angels Babysitting:** We are in need of teen volunteers to assist with babysitting in the **Littlest Angels Room** (Zwilling Room) on Sunday mornings. Students may help during the 9:30 or 11:00 Masses and do not need to sign up ahead of time – just show up 15 minutes before the Mass begins. (Please remember that you still need to go to Mass before or after you help!)

2) **Raiders Club Volunteers:** Teens in grades 8-12 are needed to assist with activities during the after-care program, Monday through Friday, from 3:25pm (or whenever you can get there after school) until 5:30pm. Please contact Mrs. Katie Gerba at raidersclub@saintraphaelparish.com for more information and to sign up to help. **YOU CANNOT JUST SHOW UP FOR THIS PROJECT!**

3) **Parish Fish Fry Volunteers**

Teens are needed for serving, bussing tables, beverage cart, dessert and drink tables, set-up and clean-up on all six Fridays in Lent. Contact Mr. Mark Cunningham at the Parish Office for more information or at mcunningham@saintraphaelparish.com about volunteering at the Fish Fry and to sign up. (Dates of the Fish Fry: March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, April 4th and 11th).

Attention Confirmation Candidates: The above volunteer opportunities count towards your 12 Parish Exploration Service Hours!

Wedding Policy During the Construction of the Church

1. **Call St. Raphael Parish for availability of the priest.**
2. **Choose between St. Bernadette, Westlake, St. Joseph, Avon Lake or St. Christopher, Rocky River (or have the wedding in the St. Raphael Parish Activity Center).**
3. **St. Raphael Parish will call as to the agreed upon date of the wedding to schedule it with St. Bernadette or St. Joseph.**
4. **Weddings are at 1:30 p.m. as we will continue to have confessions at St. Raphael at 3:00 p.m.**
5. **Dr. Andy Kereky will handle rehearsals.**
6. **Bill Toler will handle the music.**

Thank you for your cooperation!

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Monday, March 3

6:00am Cursillo Men's Group (MICH)
 4:00pm Athletics (PAC, 8:00-10:00pm LRm)
 4:00-8:30pm Choose Life Classes (PO Upper Room)
 4:15-5:30pm PSR (S, LIB, ZR, C, LRm)
 6:30-7:45pm PSR (S, LIB, C, LRm)
 7:00pm Women's Cancer Support Group (RC Chapel)
 7:00pm RCIA (ZR, C)

Tuesday, March 4

10:00am **MARTHAS DECORATE FOR LENT**
 Legion of Mary (TOB)
 4:00pm Athletics (PAC)(4:30-10:00pm LRm)
 5:30pm **Liturgy of the Hours (C)**
 7:00-8:30pm Middle School Theology of the Body
 Class (PO Upper Room)
 7:00pm Altar Server Luncheon mtg. (MPR)
 7:00pm Reformation (LIB)

Liturgy of the Hours, Evening Prayer is offered every Tuesday evening at 5:30 p.m. in the church. All are welcome.

Wednesday, March 5

ASH WEDNESDAY DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE
Masses: 7:45, 9:15, 11:00am/7:30pm
Prayer Service: 4:30pm
Distribution of Ashes at all Masses and Prayer Service
 3:20pm Girl Scouts (MPR)
 4:00pm Athletics (PAC) (4:30-7:00, 8:30-10:00pm LRm)
 7:00pm Catholics Coming Home (ARCH, MPR)
 7:00pm Boy Scouts (LRm+K, ZR)

Thursday, March 6

9:00am Home & School General Membership mtg. (ARCH)
 9:45-11:30am Bible Study (HM)
 2:30pm Beginning Band Concert (C)
 3:20pm Girl Scouts (MPR)
 3:30-4:30pm Chess Club (LIB)
 4:00pm Athletics (PAC)(4:30-7:00, 8:30-10pm LRm)
 6:30pm Echoes of Faith (LIB)
 7:00pm Cub Scout 159 Den Mtg. (LRm)
 7:30pm Familia (HM)

Friday, March 7

9:30am **FIRST FRIDAY**
 10:00amFri-4:00pm Sat **NO SCHOOL**
 5:00-7:30pm MOMS Group (ARCH)
 5:30-7:00, 8:00-10:00pm Eucharistic Adoration (RC Chapel)
 6:00-6:45pm **FISH FRY (PAC+K)**
 7:00pm Athletics (LRm)
 7:00pm **Confessions (C)**
Mass Stations of the Cross after Mass (C)
 Pro Life Holy Hour (RC Chapel)

Saturday, March 8

8:00pm **NEIGHBORS WHO CARE**
 Eucharistic Adoration continued until
 4:00pm RC Chapel
PRE CANA (PAC+K, ZR, LIB)
 Bridge (ZR)

Sunday, March 9

9:30am **NEIGHBORS WHO CARE**
 1:30pm **NO PRESCHOOL RELIGION**
 2:00pm Babysitting (ZR)
 2:30pm Altar Server Luncheon (PAC+K)
 6:30-8:30pm Baptisms (C)
 6:30pm Athletics (LRm)
 7:30pm HSYM (PO Upper Room)
 Drama Club (PAC)
 Men's Basketball (LRm)

C-Church
S-School
ARCH-Archangel Room (formerly RC L.R.)
LIB- Library (located in school)
LRm- Lunchroom (formerly G-Gym, CAF-Cafeteria)
LRm-K-Kitchen (off Lunch Room)
Multi-Purpose Room (formerly RC D.R.)
PAC-Parish Activity Center
PAC-K-Parish Activity Center-Kitchen
PO-Parish Office
RC-Raphael Center
***CHER- Cherubim Room**
***GAB-Gabriel Room**
***HM-Humility of Mary Room**
***MICH-St. Michael Room**
***SER-Seraphim Room**
***TOB-Tobit Room**
*** Rooms located up-stairs in Raphael Center)**
ZR-Zwilling Room



ST. RAPHAEL SCHOOL NEWS



Saint Raphael School is proud of our Power of the Pen District Teams that competed at Saint Jude School in Elyria on Saturday February 15th. Not only did our twelve junior high students represent the School and Parish with class, but they also came home with a great deal of hardware.

Twenty schools competed at both the seventh and eight grade levels. Our seventh grade team finished in second place in the final team standings. Caroline DiMarco earned the 7th place individual medal and Flynn Lenahan took home the fourth place individual trophy. “There were one hundred writers in the seventh grade division and one hundred in the eighth grade division,” said Mr. Kyle Barberic. “It is quite an accomplishment to place as high as we did.” Joining Caroline and Flynn were Grace Thomas, Christopher DiMarco, Zachary LaPorte and Lila Simms.

The eighth grade team also had a tremendous day at the tournament, bringing home the first place team award. “Proud”. Said eighth grade coach Mrs. Kimberly Hirsch. “It takes effort and a whole lot of passion do that well in any competition. Our students truly earned the recognition.” Individual honors went to Kayla Lenahan, who finished in 11th place and Evan Osoteo, who finished 9th.

But there was one writer who stood out among all the rest. Ava O’Malley earned the top individual award at the District. One of Ava’s former teachers was elated but not surprised by Ava’s success. “Ava is a multi – talented student who is blessed with creativity and maturity. I can’t wait for her to come back and visit us when she is in high school. The sky is limit.”

Congratulations to each and every member of our Power of the Pen Teams. Write On!

We are the Hands and Hearts of Christ

All of parents who helped set up, work and clean up Mardi Gras served as the *Hands of Christ*. Their hard work not only provided our students with a great time but also helped to raise money to support our Parish and School.

MARCH

**EIGHTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:14–15
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 62:2–3, 6–7, 8–9
SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 4:1–5
GOSPEL: Matthew 6:24–34

The Right Emphasis

People have, it seems, a natural penchant for misplaced emphasis on less important things. They can so easily get caught up with what they're having for dinner or what they will wear. Often it is a tragedy that helps people to re-focus on what is really important. What shall I wear is an irrelevant question when one faces surgery or chemotherapy. What's for dinner is immaterial to those who face grief or unemployment.

‡ **Comment**

Some Scripture passages require a good deal of study before they yield their inner meaning. Not so with today's Gospel, a continuation of the Sermon on the Mount. Here we have Jesus' well-known sayings about God's care for us. "No one can serve two masters" and "Look at the birds in the sky" have become idioms in our culture. Perhaps they have become too familiar. Jesus' point is a simple one—if we keep our hearts set on the important things, God will take care of the rest. His use of simple images from nature—birds, flowers, grass—would have resonated just as deeply with his listeners then as they do today.

The brief passage from Isaiah, situated as it is in a longer section on the restoration of Zion, uses a wonderful feminine image to portray God's care for us. Even more than a mother's care for her own child is God's attentiveness to our needs. Juxtaposed with the Gospel reading, an image of God as doting parent surfaces. No wonder St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians is more confident in the judgment of the Lord than in any human assessment! For those whose hearts are set on God's priorities, the time of judgment can bring nothing but good.

‡ **Reflection**

There is an old saying that life is what happens to us while we are busy making other plans. How often do the people and events of today pass unnoticed because we are preoccupied with concerns about the future?

Sometimes when there is a death in the family, one hears the survivors lament all that they did not do for the deceased. "I was so busy with my career plans, I never spent time with her." "I put so much energy into establishing my place in the community, I forgot he was lonesome."

One would suppose that the birds in the sky do not spend a great deal of time mapping out a lifetime flight plan. They seem to fly where they need to go today, trusting it will eventually bring them where they must be tomorrow and next winter. Similarly, the wildflowers do not appear to bemoan their plot of earth or jockey for position. Rather, each accepts the sun and rain given it today and grows, imperceptibly perhaps, but beautifully.