

April 2018

Saint Raphael



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Looking to Christ: *The Sacrament of Holy Orders*

The seven holy sacraments of the Catholic Church were instituted by Jesus Himself and entrusted to our Church. Sacraments are visible signs and effective channels of the grace of God to those who receive them. The seven sacraments are often organized into three groups: The Sacraments of Initiation into the Church, the Body of Christ, consisting of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist (Communion); the Sacraments of Healing, including Penance (Confession) and Anointing of the Sick; and the Sacraments of Service — Holy Orders and Matrimony.

The Sacrament of Holy Orders is the continuation of Jesus Christ's priesthood, which He bestowed upon His Apostles. This is why the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* refers to the Sacrament of Holy Orders as "the sacrament of apostolic ministry." Specifically, according to the *Catechism*, "Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time: thus it is the sacrament of apostolic ministry. It includes three degrees: episcopate, presbyterate, and diaconate" (1536).

This refers to being ordained — not to be confused with joining a religious order and taking vows. In the Sacrament of Holy Orders, a man is incorporated into the priesthood of Christ at one of three levels — the episcopate (bishops), the priesthood, or the diaconate (deacons).

Fr. Eric Garris, who was ordained in May 2017 and joined our parish this past summer, is a perfect



Fr. Eric Garris at his ordination to the priesthood with his mother, Jennifer, and Bishop Thomas

example of what Holy Orders represents and means. The path to his priesthood was interesting.

"What drew me to the priesthood was love of the Lord," he says. "Of course, that is something which developed in me over time. It was not always a part of my life.

"As a youth, I dreamed about many things I might do in life, but being a priest was not one of them," he adds. "I was blessed with attending Catholic schools

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Looking to Christ: The Sacrament of Holy Orders

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from kindergarten through high school. By the end of high school, God was calling me though, and I entered seminary right out of high school. When I was ordained last May, you might say I had never left Catholic school.”

The Sacrament of Holy Orders can be validly conferred only on baptized men, following the example set by Jesus Christ and His Apostles, who chose only men as their successors and collaborators. A man cannot demand to be ordained — the Church has the authority to determine who is

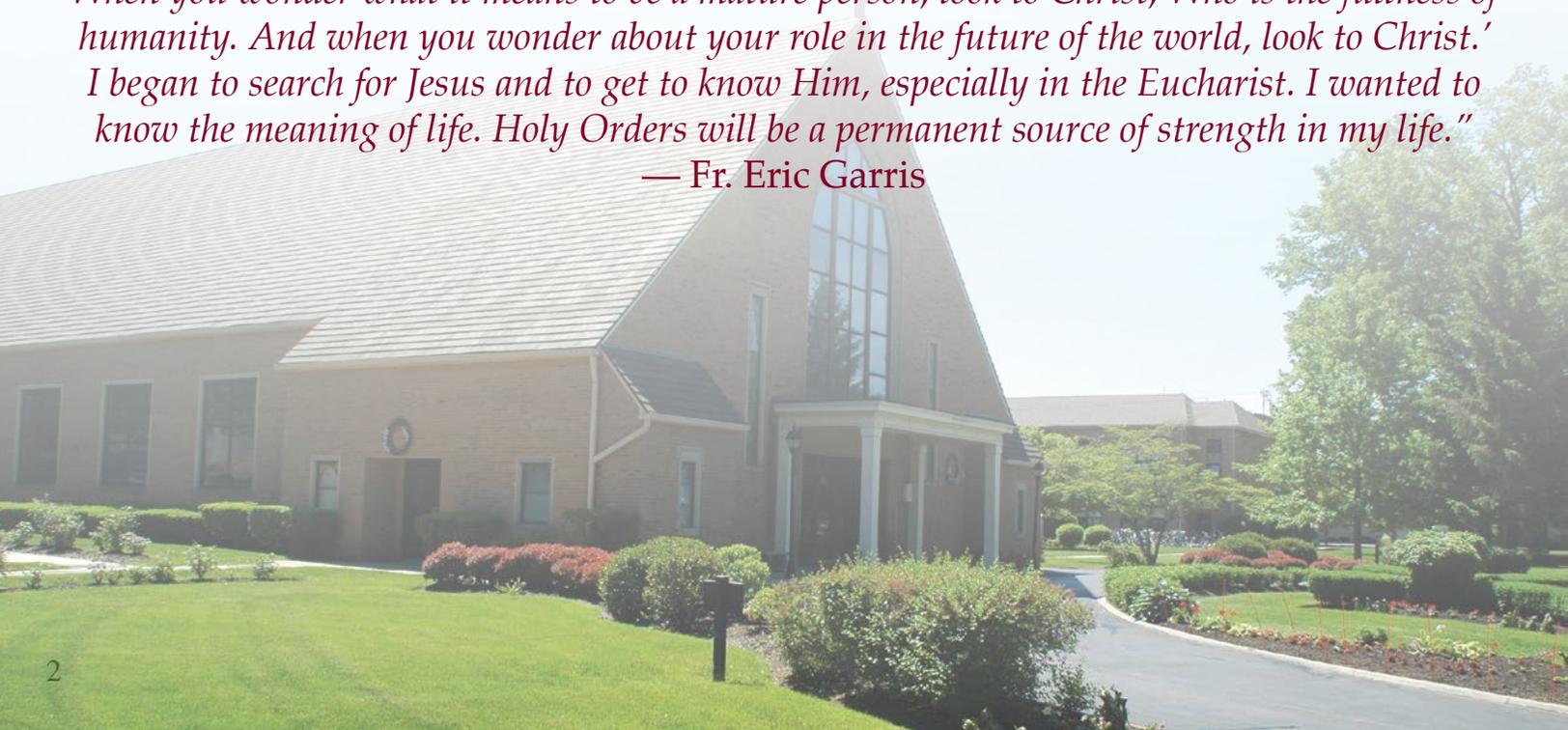
eligible to receive the sacrament.

“Jesus was not a real person to me, not someone Whom I felt I knew, Whom I thought was with me really,” Fr. Garris says. “In high school, I stumbled on a quote from Pope St. John Paul II which said, ‘When you wonder about the mystery of yourself, look to Christ, Who gives you the meaning of life. When you wonder what it means to be a mature person, look to Christ, Who is the fullness of humanity. And when you wonder about your role in the future of the world, look to Christ.’ I began to search for Jesus and to get to know Him, especially in the Eucharist. I wanted to know the meaning of life. Holy Orders will be a permanent source of strength in my life.”

Holy Orders is a true sacrament instituted by Christ. It is administered by the laying on of hands. Only a bishop can validly ordain. The effect of the sacrament is to impart the Holy Spirit. The laity has a part in Christ’s priesthood, but in another way. The Office of the Bishop is above the priesthood, which in turn is above the diaconate. The priest has special powers of consecration. To the priesthood belongs the celebration of Holy Mass and the power of forgiving sins. We have several examples of Holy Orders here at St. Raphael, in addition to Fr. Garris — including our Pastor, Fr. Tim Gareau, and Deacons Larry Gregg, Tom Senn and Mark Cunningham. It is people like these who offer us example, hope and leadership.

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— Fr. Eric Garris



A Letter From Our Pastor

Where Are Our Priorities?

My Dear Friends in Christ,

I am in hopes that you are aware that we are completing and will continue to celebrate the holiest time of the year in our Church. Easter Sunday, April 1, is the high point of the year for us as Catholics. We will, of course, continue to celebrate this holy time until Pentecost Sunday, which is May 20 this year. That is correct — our Easter season continues until then.

St. Paul provided some sage advice. He said, “think of what is above, not of what is on earth” (Colossians 3:2). Regardless of your opinions on what happens after resurrection, we can agree that it will be something “above” this life. Paul might be asking us if we put God first in all things.

Life can become very encumbered with possessions, money, power, and even our egos.

Our goal should be to put God at the top of our lists. If that is not what we do, we may need to adjust our priorities. If we have not moved in that direction during Lent or in the past, now is the time to do it. We must constantly strive to not allow earthly things to become our gods.

It was St. Gregory the Great who said, “God made us to be the gardeners of paradise.” Some stewardship people have maintained that God has given each of us a garden — and when we are judged, we only hear one question, “What have you done with the garden I gave you?”



What have we done? What are we doing? First, we must recognize and acknowledge that we are all gifted, admittedly in different and varied ways. Despite what we see as our gifts or how we measure them, we need to ensure that we are using them in ways that serve God and others — ways that show good discipleship and stewardship on our parts.

Were you aware that the month of April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit in the Church? The term “spirit” translates from the Hebrew word *ruah*, which means “breath.” Truly, as Catholics, the Holy Spirit has been breathed into each of us, and is part of the garden we have received. Do we turn to

Him? Do we rely on Him for strength? Do we even grant that He is part of our very being? We should. We need to, as St. Paul advised, “think of what is above, not of what is on earth.”

May God bless you in all you do, and strive to do!

May God bless and keep you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Tim Gareau".

Fr. Tim Gareau,
Pastor

A Wonderful The St. Raphael School Drama

The late Dr. Frank Rutledge was a member of the Ohio State University faculty and then the chair of the Department of Theatre at Michigan State University for more than 30 years. He had this to say about drama and theatre: "Many people are aware that drama improves communication skills and confidence skills, but there is more to it than that. In my many years in the field, I have watched the transformation of shy and uncommunicative students into open-minded and forward-thinking individuals as they discover the benefits of the dramatic arts. Naturally confident pupils have always been drawn to drama, but it is the skills which are transferable to life that are most important. Some young people are switched on by sports, others by performance, some by technology, and others by academics. Drama is a way of engaging young people, and it does so spectacularly in my experience."

In today's world, things like drama, music art, and other aspects of the fine arts sometimes fall by the wayside as our schools attempt to fill the basic curriculums required of them. Some parents at St. Raphael School stepped forward a few years ago to fill that void and established — through the Home and School Association — the school Drama Club.



The part of Shrek was played by Audrey Charvat and the part of the Donkey was played by Anna Marie Durbin.

One of those parents is Katie Gerba. "My husband, Steve, and I recognized how important this was to offer our children a complete education and the fullest opportunities possible," she says. "This has been and continues to be a community effort, however. It takes so many people to make this work, not the least of whom are those students who take advantage of it."

Indicative of the success of their

efforts was a production of *Shrek the Musical*, which was presented on the weekends of March 3-4 and 10-11 this year.

"In the past we have only done two shows of each play, but the students and everybody else all work so hard, we thought it important that they be given a couple more chances to show the results of all their efforts," Katie says. "Some 2,000 people witnessed the fruits of

"It has been an honor to work with these young people every Sunday since last September. I have watched each of them discover different talents in themselves as well as others. I have watched the cast dance, sing and act, and the crew nail and paint and create. They have developed the teamwork needed to put on a wonderful production." — David Glowe

Production: Drama Club and *Shrek the Musical*

their labor in the PAC over the two weekends.”

Some of the other people involved with the Drama Club were David and Jennifer Glowe, Dr. Kevin Turner, Mike Clark, and Ellen Skonce. They all bring talents to this endeavor. David served as Director of the *Shrek* production and Jennifer was the choreographer. Mike was in charge of the Stage Crew, Kevin was vocal coach/sound and lights guru, and Ellen was vocal coach, as well. It is a small but mighty team. David echoes the late Dr. Rutledge’s perspective on how the dramatic arts can positively impact our youth.

“It has been an honor to work with these young people every Sunday since last September,” he says. “I have watched each of them discover different talents in themselves as well as others. I have watched the cast dance, sing and act, and the crew

nailed and painted and create. They have developed the teamwork needed to put on a wonderful production.”

“There is no way to thank all the people we need to thank in relation to the success of Club and our most recent production,” Katie adds. “Fr. Tim has shown his support by approving improvements to our lighting and the installation of a donated curtain, as well as being in the audience. Certainly our parents played a key part, not only in being supportive of their children, but also being supportive of our whole Drama Club endeavor. We hope to continue to grow the program and we welcome anyone who wants to share their talents with the Club.”

Many Catholics are familiar with the fact that in his younger years, Pope St. John Paul II was an actor and a playwright, and always had a great appreciation for the arts. He

We thank our school Drama Club for keeping this art form alive and well at St. Raphael, and we congratulate them on their success. For more information, or if you wish to support their efforts, please email them at srshomeandschooldramaclub@gmail.com.

wrote, “Society needs artists, just as it needs scientists, technicians, workers, professional people, witnesses of the faith, teachers, fathers and mothers, who ensure the growth of the person and the development of the community by means of that supreme art form which is ‘the art of education.’ Within the vast cultural panorama of each nation, artists have their unique place. Obedient to their inspiration in creating works both worthwhile and beautiful, they not only enrich the cultural heritage of each nation and of all humanity, but they also render an exceptional social service in favor of the common good.”



The cast in action!



The costumes were incredible!

Stewardship: Living Life to the Fullest



As professed disciples of Christ, we are also stewards of our personal and communal vocations. When we declare Christ as our King and Savior, we also promise to exist as His earthly body. The universal Church depends upon its individual earthly members for evangelization and support. As stewards of Catholicism, we must respond to this call with living faith and heartfelt stewardship. We must employ our lives in Christ's service, allowing Him to vocationally use us to our fullest potential. God designed us with specific talents in

mind — by closely communicating with Jesus, His Son, we can put our talents to proper use. As stated in John's Gospel, when we give our lives to Christ, He promises to ignite them accordingly: "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (Jn 10:10).

True life demands sacrifices, which are crucial in urging us onward and upward toward Christ. When we embark upon a lifelong path of stewardship, giving our time, talent, and treasure in the service of God and His Church, we are effectively allowing Jesus to guide us along

life's slippery slopes with the steady hand of a practiced master. Christ explains this concept in the ninth chapter of Luke's Gospel: "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it" (Lk 9:23-24). Only after completely giving our lives over to Christ, will we experience the true majesty of life — the life each of us is destined to live.

As Catholics, we are urged to outwardly promote all stages of life, and to stand up in its defense. Considering the attention death has garnered within our society — whether we focus upon abortion, embryonic stem cell research, capital punishment or euthanasia — an understanding and respect for life must be reinstated into our culture and lives. But we must first harbor a true, personal love for life within our very souls, and live our own lives to the fullest, through Christ, in the service and promotion of His Church. We must become stewards of faith, in order to truly live as Christ planned. And we must give our time, talents, and treasure — all gifts God has given us through life — before we can really claim to be alive.

Let us promote the sanctity of life through personal conversion. Our deaths in Christ destine us to live in His glory, the ultimate expression of life. Let us become the disciples we claim to be, by adopting the essence of stewardship and melding it into our very souls.

Stained Glass Windows

Add to the Beauty of Our New Church

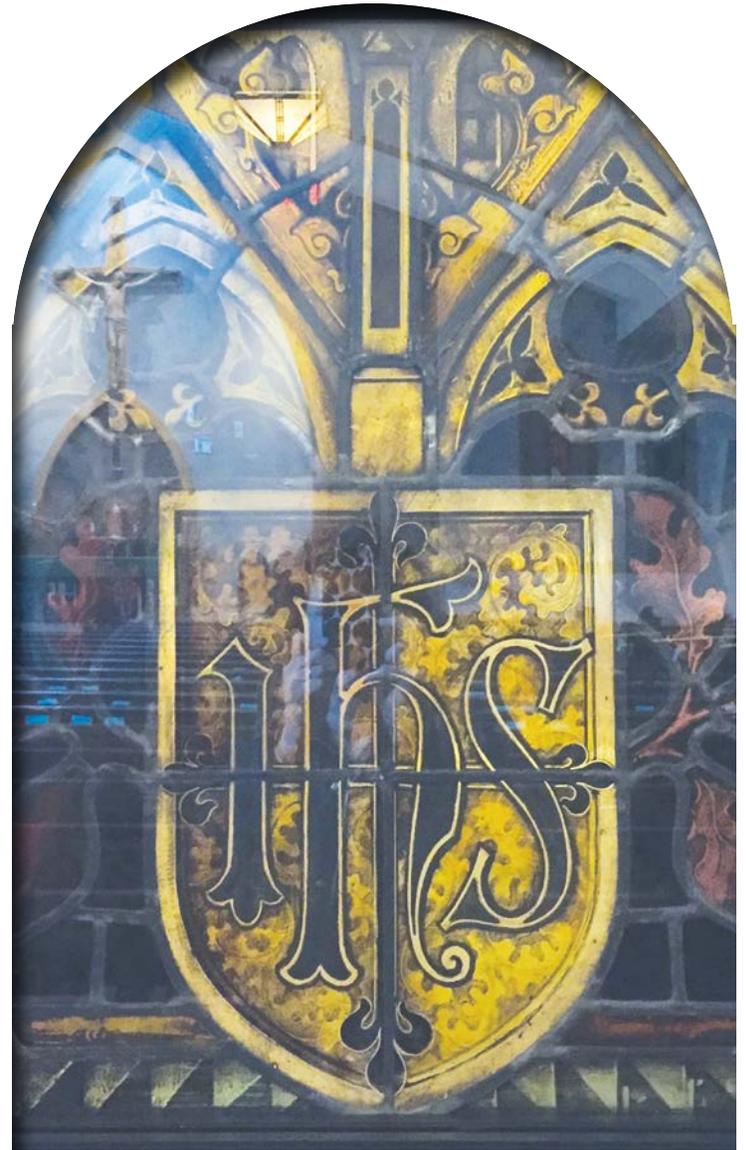
Our new St. Raphael is rightfully a source of pride. However, improvements have been occurring consistently since it was dedicated in August 2015. You may be aware that four stained glass windows have been added in recent weeks. They bear lots of historical significance to our area.

Candy Reese serves on the committee which is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the church and, as a result, is privy to much of what occurs, and why. It seems a problem had developed with some of the clear glass windows at the back of the church — people sometimes walked into them in the belief that they were open spaces which provided access to the church.

“Our new church is beautiful in so many ways, and as parishioners we are rightfully proud of it,” Candy says. “As carefully as we might plan, however, sometimes things develop that no one could have anticipated. A problem developed in the entrance ways where people sometimes walked into the clear glass thinking it was an open way into the church. I am part of the committee which oversees the maintenance and care of the church. We considered what we might do, and the solution seemed to be placing something there which clearly distinguished the clear windows as windows, not doors.”

“We considered many options,” she continues. “And we contacted the church contractors and builders to see if they had any suggestions. We were told that they still had some stained glass windows which were in our old church. They had four small stained glass windows which few people saw in the old church because they were in the choir loft. These windows came to us originally from St. Joseph Church, which was closed.”

The process of coloring glass was probably invented in ancient Egypt, but it was during the Middle Ages that they became an important feature of gothic-style churches. The beauty of the stained glass church window is not only to enhance the worshipers’ spiritual experience, but also to serve an educational purpose. Especially in the original cases when there were no Bibles or books available, and many people



were illiterate, the windows became an important teaching tool in depicting Christian Bible scenes and lessons. Therefore, the most intricate stained glass scenes are not just simple decoration, but in fact are an earthly piece of glass, elevated into something more divine.

The four stained glass windows are not large — 2 ½ feet by 2 ½ feet. Two of them are Franciscan coats of arms. Photos of those appear with this article. You will note that one is inscribed “IHS,” which you may have

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St. Raphael

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seen in churches previously. "IHS" is the first three letters of the Greek spelling of "Holy Name of Jesus," clearly something the Church and the Franciscans wanted to emphasize.

The windows also serve a very practical purpose in a variety of ways, as the four newly installed ones do in our St. Raphael Church — case in point, to keep us from walking into windows.



For more information, please contact the parish office at 440-871-1100.

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.