

August 2019

Saint Raphael



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Take Time for Adult Education this Fall

by Joy Horvath

It's Back to School time! How about an opportunity to return to school for your *spiritual education*? St. Raphael Church is offering an intriguing series of adult religious education programs this fall. There is surely a topic or two to pique your interest.

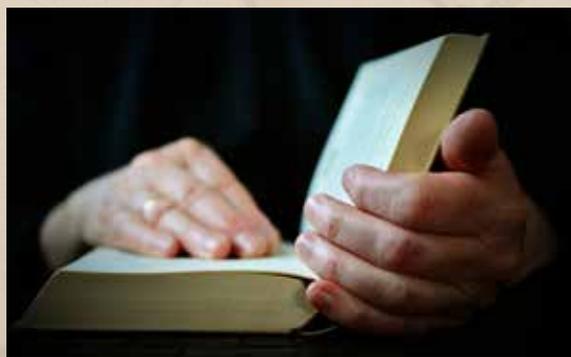
Bible Study is an on-going program Thursday mornings from 9:45 to 11:30 in the Community Room. Using each Sunday's readings as a point of departure, the group "cracks open" the scriptures to discuss cultural and historical meaning, relationships between passages, and ultimately, the meaning and message for each one of us. We use the *Living Liturgy* series as a basis and reference. Questions are answered, thoughts are clarified, and understanding is refined. The room is large, and there are always plenty of seats. The coffee pot is full, and there are tasty treats to accompany our discussions.

The fall session begins on September 5. New members are always welcome at any time.

A comparable study group meets once a month in the evening, covers similar material, and uses the same book. Because the time frame is much shorter, the focus is more on an overview of the readings for the entire month. The first session is Monday, September

16 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room. Again, new members are certainly welcome!

Birds, Bible, and Bay Village will be a one-evening program on Monday, September 27 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room. What birds appear in the Bible? What can they tell us about the Kingdom of God? What does the Bible say about our natural world, and our reaction to it? How can we experience the same spiritual response when we encounter nature around us today?



Cards and Catechism will gather on Monday, October 21 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room. Did you know that playing cards came from Tarot cards? What does the catechism say about Tarot and games of chance? Where do games of chance appear in the Bible? What does the Bible tell us about oracles and astrology?

Astronomy and Religion will be the topic on Monday, November 18 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room. What did the Church *really* say about Galileo? Who were the Jesuit astronomers, and what was their contribution to science? What stars are mentioned in the Bible? What is their

Continued on page 2

This Issue:

- 1 Take Time for Adult Education this Fall
- 2 Meet Our New School Principal
- 3 MOMS
- 4 Serving God & His Kids
- 6 Catholics Don't go to Mass Because Dad Doesn't



Principal Ken Mitskavich

"Meeting with the teachers, there's so much they want to do, and I just want to embrace their talents, because they're all such respectable professionals."

Meet Our New School Principal

by Maggie Brady

The upcoming 2019-2020 school year will bring many new smiling faces to St. Raphael School, not least of which is our new principal, Mr. Ken Mitskavich!

Mr. Mitskavich grew up in Euclid and is a product of Catholic schools, including St. Ignatius High School in 2000. He went on to Ohio University, and completed a Master's degree at Baldwin Wallace. Along the way, he followed his calling to work in the ministry of Catholic education. He started out as a 6th – 8th grade social studies teacher at Holy Trinity in Avon. Most recently he was principal at Corpus Christi Academy in Lyndhurst.

"Christ-centered education is very important to me," he says. "Being able to talk to the students about Jesus is huge." Incorporating a strong Catholic identity is a key part of his approach. He plans to focus on discipleship with the students, leading them to get to know God better. That in turn will help the kids have great relationships with each other and be great scholars, too.

Mr. Mitskavich's favorite part of being a principal is interacting with students throughout the day and being able to go where the action is. He loves the opportunity to pop into classrooms and take part in the activities the kids are involved in. His leading goal for this school year is to get to know as many people as possible. He also wants to bring a positive energy and draw the parish, school, and the entire St. Raphael community closer together to be one tight knit family. "I'm really looking forward to it!" he says. "Meeting with the teachers, there's so much they want to do, and I just want to embrace their talents, because they're all such respectable professionals."

In his free time, Mr. Mitskavich enjoys fishing on Lake Erie and playing hockey. In fact, he played on St. Ignatius's hockey team and even returned as an adult to help coach their squad. Although he no longer has many spare hours to devote to the sport, he still loves being on the ice. His favorite activity of all is having fun with his wife Erin and their two daughters, who will both be attending school at St. Raphael this fall.

We will also see the Mitskavich family at Mass, as they have become new members of our parish, too. If you get the chance, don't forget to introduce yourself and give them a warm hello!

Continued from page 1

theological meaning? Where does the Church stand on cosmology, that is, the origins of the Universe?

Calendars and Religion will be discussed on Monday, January 27 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room. How did our Western calendar develop? How do other cultures mark days and seasons? Where did the idea of “the weekend” come from, and do other cultures’ calendars set days aside as well? How do calendars shape our lives? How is the Christian calendar related to astronomy?

Who is leading these groups? The facilitator and instructor, the font of knowledge and information, is our Director of Liturgy & Adult Education cum Renaissance Man, Bill Toler. Outside of music, Bill has a wide range of interests, including birding,

astronomy, and bridge. He holds a B.A. in History and Catholic Studies from John Carroll University, and has an M.A. in Theology with a concentration in Old Testament Studies, also from JCU.

He loves to teach, and especially to see the nonverbal feedback, that “Ah ha!” light in someone’s eyes. His goal is to connect faith to ordinary living, to find the spiritual element in the activities we choose to do every day. He also likes to dispel the misconceptions of what people *think* the Church teaches, versus what the Church *actually* says.

If you see something of interest in any of these sessions, mark your calendar, and plan to attend one or all of these programs. You’re sure to find them informative and thought-provoking!

MOMS *by Maggie Brady*

Being a parent of little ones is a wonderful experience and truly a blessing and a calling. But it can also be a lonely season of life. If you are a mom like me, it’s easier to find critics than supporters, and even harder to find a spare moment to connect with women like you who share our faith. There is an easy way to finally make it happen, though. Come to St. Raphael’s Mom’s Reflection Group!

Starting in September, the moms will be meeting twice a month on Tuesday mornings for speakers, fellowship, and friendship, in an atmosphere that lets us get to know our faith better, and each other. The very best part of all: Childcare is provided! You read that right, this is a precious opportunity to have an adult conversation (or several!) at a normal volume. It may feel like a miracle, but it’s just Mom’s Group.

If you can’t make Tuesday mornings, never fear, because there are still many other opportunities to participate. Watch for 3 dates during the upcoming year when couples can gather for Post-Cana fellowship events with fun, dynamic speakers. The need to nurture our spousal relationships and learn about the art of family life doesn’t end with Pre-Cana preparation, and it makes a big difference to connect

with others who share the goals of Catholic marriage. Once again, babysitting will be provided, making this perhaps the most productive date night you could schedule with your spouse! Look out for the couples end-of-summer cookout, which will be September 28.

Other events include mom’s outings – our last excursion was to the amazing restaurant Bomba in Rocky River, with delicious tacos! - and of course, children’s adoration. All are welcome to attend this parent-led program which takes place Fridays after school. Its 20 minutes of grace-filled prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, with a small treat afterward. What a great way to teach our kids to love the Eucharist, even before they’re old enough for Holy Communion. Not to mention the incredible blessings that will be sure to rain down on these innocent hearts praising God!

If you’ve been wishing you could plug in to the community and meet other moms who share your faith, struggles, and joys, consider this your invitation to join us! For questions or for more information, contact Karen Campbell at campbell@saintraphaelparish.com or Brigid Perkins at brigid001@aol.com.

Serving God & His Kids

“This is a new moment for catechesis in our country... Some by ordination, others by commissioning, have leadership roles, but **all** by virtue of baptism have an obligation to spread the faith and to do so in a unified and collaborative manner. We live in an age of hope. This is not a groundless euphoria but a confidence that God continues to grace the Church with challenges that urge us to reach deep within our lived experience of Jesus to find the practical means to introduce a whole new generation into the knowledge of—indeed, into the encounter with—the living Jesus Christ.” (*In Support of Catechetical Ministry*, USCCB, 2000)

St. Raphael has a vibrant Religious Education program which includes more than 500 students enrolled in our Parish School of Religion. The PSR program is a critical ministry that helps our children from preschool to eighth grade learn their faith, celebrate the Sacraments, and take personal ownership of their baptismal call to live the Gospel. However, none of that can happen without help from volunteers like you!

You don't need to be a theologian or education ninja to help. Under the leadership of Director of Religious Education Terri Telepak, volunteer PSR teachers are given access to lots of resources and support, not least of which is working as a team with each other. Faculty meetings throughout the year help keep the group on the same page. Many activities are not confined to the classroom,



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whether it's the Christmas pageant, Mass, confessions, May Crowning, Stations of the Cross, or service projects. Plus, there are additional roles like classroom aide, parking lot shepherd, or hall monitor available to parents.

There are two PSR sessions on Monday evenings, 4:15-5:30 pm and 6:30-7:45 pm, intended for students in grades 1-8. On Sunday mornings, 3 and 4 year olds and kindergartners have their classes. Volunteer catechists are needed for all of the above times and days.

If you speak with past or current PSR teachers, many will tell you that this form of ministry is one of the most rewarding and impactful ways to give back to your community, as well as to serve God and His kids. Most of all, it's important to remember that the job of passing on the message and teachings of Jesus Christ is the responsibility of everyone in the Church. If everyone thought, "someone else will do it," nothing would get done and we'd be letting our kids, and ourselves, down! **Someone took the time to tell you about Jesus and His Church.** Will you help pay that goodness forward by volunteering in the PSR program?

Please contact Terri Telepak at 440-871-1100 or ttelepak@saintraphaelparish.com to volunteer or get more information.



Catholics Don't Go to M

by Mike Manco

It seems Americans these days are not doing a very good job of observing the 3rd Commandment. Over the past 50 years, Sundays have been filled with youth sports, professional sports, shopping, work and just about everything else . . . except for Mass.

In 1965, 55% of American Catholics attended Sunday Mass each weekend. Recent surveys show that only 23% of American Catholics attend Sunday Mass each weekend today. Even though there are nearly 30 million more Catholics in the United States today, there are still more than 8 million fewer American Catholics at Mass each Sunday.[1]

Gentlemen: We are not doing our job. Why do I single out Catholic men? Because it's the father who must be the spiritual head of the home. This is not only in the Bible [2], it's Christian tradition and it's a documented fact: The family takes on the father's faith. This doesn't mean that if the father is Catholic, the family is Catholic. Here is what I'm talking about: A Swiss study [3] found that the religious practice of the father is the most important factor in the future faith of his children. The survey found in families where both parents regularly attend religious services, 33% of children will be regular churchgoers for life, 41% will attend irregularly, and 25% will stop practicing their faith. That's not a very impressive result given the faithfulness of both parents is it?

It's even worse when the father rarely or never attends church on Sunday (even if mom attends regularly). In this scenario, only 2% of their children in the study became regular attendees in adulthood, 37% attended irregularly, and over 60% stopped practicing their faith completely.

Much more hopeful is the finding that 44% of the children in the study continued practicing their religion when dad was the one who took the lead in getting the family to church on Sunday. That's 11% higher than families in which both parents regularly went to church on Sunday!

One may initially think that children are more likely to remain faithful as adults if they grew up in a home



where both parents were faithful. While this may actually be true, it appears that it is more likely if the father was the spiritual leader in the home. If your father's not honoring the 3rd Commandment, why should you honor the 4th?

But when our dad is the one who sets the pace on Sunday, kids pay attention. Instead of looking at faith as a feminine interest, the children see it as something a man can practice, something masculine.

Based on the decline in Mass attendance over the past 50 years, it's evident that men are not taking the lead in the spiritual guidance of their family. Meanwhile, things like sports and entertainment have taken over, which may indicate where American men have been spending their extra time on Sunday morning.

Loss Because Dad Doesn't



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In the Swiss study, when fathers were the spiritual leaders in the home, 44% of children grew up to regularly practice their faith. Just think of the potential we have if we are intentional about our leadership. Knowing what we know, we can approach our role as husbands and fathers with a much more intentional effort to educate and inspire our children.

When it's time to pray as a family (which should be every day), men should lead the prayers. When there are notable occurrences in the life of your family, men should be first to praise God for the blessings and call to God for His help through the struggles. Children should see their fathers reading the Bible and spiritual books, and they should hear their fathers recommending scripture verses or books to their wife and others.

Men should be taking the lead much more often than not. What you will probably find is that your wife will appreciate it even more than your children will. The impact on your children will come to its full fruit years later when they are on their own. The impact on your marriage will be nearly immediate and it will be a very good impact.

Observing the traditional approach to Sunday will have three obvious impacts. It will quiet your family down for one day each week. It will serve as a very virtuous example to others, and it will allow God to reign as King each Sunday in your family.

By taking the lead on the 3rd Commandment, you will give your kids a lot of reasons to honor the 4th Commandment. When they are adults, they will be more equipped to hand down the faith, thereby rebuilding a culture which has largely abandoned the Lord's day.



Sources

[1] <https://cara.georgetown.edu/frequently-requested-church-statistics/>

[2] Ephesians 6:4

[3] <http://www.touchstonemag.com/archives/article.php?id=16-05-024-v>

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NOTICE: New Parish Directory

St. Raphael Church will be publishing a printed directory of all parishioners at the end of this year, to include family name, street address, and home phone numbers. If you do **NOT** want your family to be listed in the directory, please contact Deacon Mark Cunningham in the Parish Office: 440-360-7763 (mccunningham@saintraphaelparish.com).

This directory is intended for use by parishioners, and your contact information will not be provided to outside sales organizations.

If you have received a copy of this newsletter via the U.S. Post Office, then we have your address and you are likely to be included in the directory – unless you opt out by contacting Deacon Mark. Parishioners who have had their photographs taken for the directory this summer will automatically be listed in the directory using the contact information provided at the time of the photography.

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.