

February 2018

# Saint Raphael



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## “MERCY, MARY, AND ME”

### Women’s Retreat — Saturday, March 10

On Saturday, March 10, from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. the annual St. Raphael Women’s Retreat will occur in the PAC. The theme for this year’s program is “Mercy, Mary, and Me: The Power of God’s Merciful Love.”

What is the role of Mary in mercy? To help the women of St. Raphael find an answer to this question, the 2018 Women’s Retreat Team has invited Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, a member of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception and the author of *33 Days to Morning Glory*, to guide us.

Father Gaitley lives and works at the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass., and is dedicated to sharing the messages of Divine Mercy and Marian consecration. An international speaker, his zeal and joy-filled faith are the hallmarks of his inspiring and motivational presentations.

Now is the time of mercy, so come and prepare your heart for understanding God’s mercy through Mary. Hear Father Gaitley’s personal story, discover Mary’s role in Divine Mercy, discover powerful spiritual weapons, and prepare to live to the fullest in God’s merciful love.

“Mercy, Mary, and Me” will bring the two apostolic messages of Divine Mercy and Marian consecration together as we learn from our greatest mercy saints like John Paul II, Faustina Kowalska, Maximilian Kolbe, and Thérèse of Lisieux. Learn



how Mary brings us closer to Divine Mercy and how God is counting on us.

Watch for registration forms in the Sunday bulletin or find them in the parish office. The requested donation of \$20 includes all retreat materials, continental breakfast and lunch. A selection of books and materials published by the Marian Missionaries will be available for purchase during the retreat.

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# Living Lent in 2018



During the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting and praying in the desert, Satan was constantly tempting Him. He preyed on Jesus' humanity, trying desperately to get Him to test God. Of course, we all know that it didn't work. As Jesus is fully God at the same time He is fully human, the devil was unable to take hold of Him.

Yet, the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert communicates an all-important truth to us. Jesus, the God-man, experienced everything we have and everything we ever will as human beings. Satan even tried to tempt Him, just as he tempts us every day. But because Jesus is God at the same time that He is human, He had no tendency to give in to Satan's attempts.

Even so, Christ fought Satan tooth and nail, putting him in his place: "Get away, Satan! It is written, 'The Lord, your God shall you worship, and Him alone shall you serve'" (Matthew 4:10). At that, the devil left Him.

We all find ourselves in similar situations. We live in a world wrought with sin, and, in his ever-so-cunning way, Satan makes the sinful look appealing. We must stand firm in our faith and tell Satan to "Get away," just as Jesus did. Only then will we truly experience the glory of the

salvation Christ came to give. Lent offers us a particular time to fight Satan, taking courage in the resurrection that we are preparing to celebrate. It is a time that we spend focused on strengthening our relationships with the Lord. Armed with His power, which we receive in many different ways, we can resist the temptations of the devil and accept the salvation Christ offers each one of us.

How can we do this? Get to know the Lord through prayer. Read the Scriptures often. St. Jerome tells us that ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ. So, we must be steeped in Scripture. Read it daily — chapter by chapter, or verse by verse. It is, after all, the Word of God! Draw close to the Blessed Mother — she is eager to bring us to her Son. Join her at the cross, where she witnessed her most precious Son die for each one of us. Pray the Rosary — individually and as a family. It is a powerful prayer through which, with Mary, we walk through Christ's life, His Death, and His resurrection. Unite with Christ Himself in His suffering.

Let us focus on the spirit of the season. We are to be preparing ourselves, just as Christ did, for the great event that won for us salvation!

*A Letter From Our Pastor*

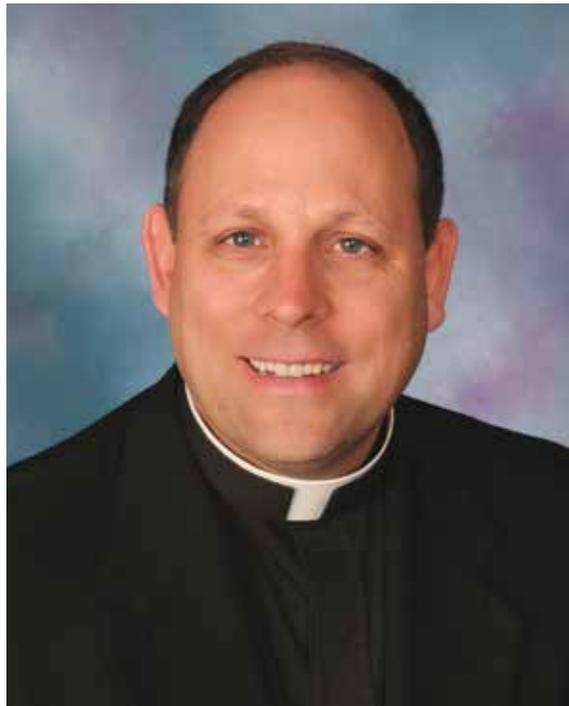
# Preparing for Our Lenten Journey and Prioritizing the Gift of Time

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Lent begins on Wednesday, Feb. 14, Ash Wednesday. Most of us are aware that Lent is a time of prayer, penance and giving alms. So, it would seem that Lent is a perfect time for stewardship. As we examine our lives and try to find ways to deepen our relationship with God, it is good to remember that whenever we give our time, talent, or treasure, we are living as better stewards.

For each of us, our relationship with God should be the first priority. God has given us the precious gift of time, so we need to thank Him for this gift by using it wisely. Stewardship of time is about how we spend every minute of every day. Most of us probably feel that we do not have enough time for all the things we hope to accomplish or achieve. However, each of us is given the same amount of time — 24 hours in a day, seven days in a week. So, how do we choose to use our time? We need to prioritize this gift of time, which means putting the most important things first.

If deepening our relationship with God is our first priority, then time spent in prayer, at Mass, in our personal lives through reading Holy Scriptures, and meditating on God's Holy Word should be paramount. Our second priority might be our relationship to our family. We need to spend time building a strong family unit filled with respect and love for life. And perhaps our third priority should be our relationship with our parish and our community of faith. Finally, we must spend time supporting others in their faith



journeys and ministering to those in need.

We must remember that first requirement for our Lenten journey — prayer. Our Catholic faith is full of prayer forms and traditions that are available to us all. Find a prayer form that works for you, and truly cultivate your prayer life in order to connect and build a real, personal relationship with the Lord. We all need to carve out time during Lent by dedicating time to prayer. Perhaps it is only 10 minutes each day for quiet reflection on Holy Scripture. Or it may be something more substantial — perhaps a reflective weekend retreat.

We might consider Lent our own personal Stewardship Renewal season. Fasting, prayer and almsgiving should be what we try to do the entire year. But we must make an intentional effort to practice these during the 40 days of Lent. After all, 40 days comprises just over 10 percent of the year — and that is remarkably close to our stewardship tithe of 10 percent, isn't it?

God bless you in all you do, and especially during this holy time of Lent.

May God bless and keep you,

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

Fr. Tim Gareau,  
Pastor

# GRATITUDE FOR OUR

## *The St. Raphael*

The St. Raphael Legacy Society was established in 2016 to recognize parishioners who have included St. Raphael Parish in their estate plans. St. Raphael Legacy Society members give witness to the importance of passing on the tradition of our Catholic faith while helping to secure parish ministries for the benefit of future generations.

The Vision of the Society is as follows: With God's grace and the generosity of the people of our faith community, St. Raphael Parish will be able to continue its mission and

ministry for many years. In making a legacy gift through a will, trust or by beneficiary designation, the members share in our vision to build upon the foundation that has already been laid by parishioners, past and present. Funds received from legacy gifts, unless restricted for a specific purpose, are intended to advance the long-term goals of the parish.

When someone makes plans to leave a gift to the Church, they demonstrate their gratitude to God for all the gifts with which God

has blessed them. They also give witness to family and friends as to the importance of their faith, at the same time blessing the lives of those who will benefit from their generosity. As an expression of our gratitude, St. Raphael Legacy Society members will be invited to a Mass of appreciation and an annual event with the Pastor, and have their names listed in an honor roll of donors. Membership in the St. Raphael Legacy Society also entitles members to join the Heritage Society of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.

### *Our Pastor, Fr. Tim Gareau, offers the following in his support of the Legacy Society:*

My dear friends in Christ,

As I reflect on the legacy of our Catholic faith that has been entrusted to us, I am humbled by the blessings we have received from our parishioners, past and present. The foundation that has been laid has served us well, but building Christ's kingdom here on earth is an ongoing pursuit. Looking ahead, I have to stop and ask: What will our legacy be? What is in store for the next generation?

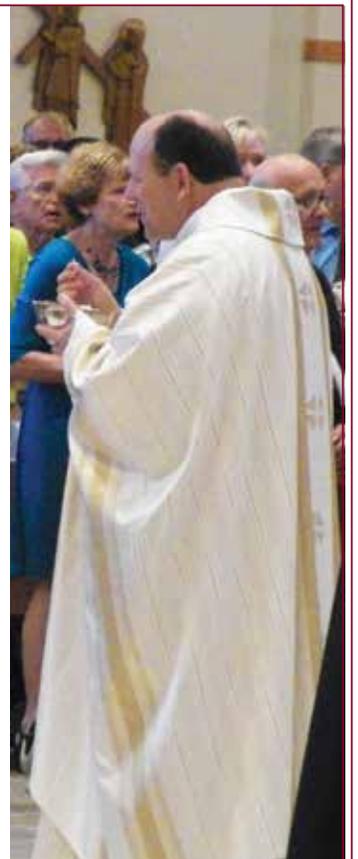
As a parish, we are called to understand and practice responsible stewardship in our lives. That is why we have established the St. Raphael Legacy Society. With God's grace and your generosity, our parish will be able to continue its mission and ministry for many years. In making a legacy gift

through your will, trust or beneficiary designation, you share in our vision to continue to build upon the foundation that has been laid by parishioners past and present.

I have designated the parish as the beneficiary of my life insurance policy and I invite you to join me as a member of the St. Raphael Legacy Society. Let's together express our gratitude and love for God and begin to build our legacy in support of our parish ministry for generations to come.

May God bless you for all you do to build His kingdom here on earth.

Fr. Tim Gareau



# FOR MANY BLESSINGS: Legacy Society

Since the establishment of the Legacy Society, many St. Raphael parishioners have responded to the invitation to be a part of leaving a legacy for the future. Among them are Steve and Maureen Smith.

"Many family milestones and sacraments have been celebrated at St. Raphael Parish for our family," Steve and Maureen say. "We were married here in 1985. Maureen graduated from St. Raphael School, as did our three children, Meghan, Kevin and Bridget. Confirmations, First Communions, First Reconciliations, and graduations have been celebrated here.

"We met many new friends through our involvement in school and parish activities and renewed old friendships when we moved back to the area after living in other cities," they continue. "Fr. Tim welcomed us at that time, and he has been a trusted friend and pastor ever since. We were fortunate enough to serve on the committees for the most recent building campaigns for the St. Raphael campus, a campus that will serve this community for years to come. Therefore, we couldn't think of a better way to say 'thank you' to our parish community than by including St. Raphael in our will so that others may have the same parish blessings with their families in the future."



The Smith family

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## St. Raphael LEGACY SOCIETY

*"At the end of our days, we hope to look back on our lives and feel we have shown gratitude for our many blessings by using our time, talent, and treasure for the greater honor and glory of God. We also hope to leave a small legacy for those who follow in our footsteps. For this reason, joining the Legacy Society at St. Raphael seemed a fitting way to say 'thank you' for the many blessings that the Robert J. Thomas family has received and continues to do so." — Monica Thomas*

# St. Raphael Legacy Society *continued from page 5*



*Monica Thomas with her late husband, Bob*

Parishioner Monica Thomas echoes those same feelings.

"In the year since the death of my dear husband, Bob, I have had countless opportunities to reflect on the many blessings we received in the 46 years of our marriage," Monica writes. "Certainly, our children (Stephanie/Greg and Bob/Krysten) and treasured granddaughters (Emmy and Graysie) quickly come to mind — as does St. Raphael. This wonderful parish has been the cornerstone of our life in Bay Village, both personally and professionally, since we moved here in 1977. We watched our children learn solid Catholic values and grow into loving and caring adults. Through our involvement in parish activities, we nurtured lifelong friendships. It was

here in August of 2016 that we came together as "family" at the beautiful Mass of the Resurrection and sent Bob off to his heavenly reward. That memory has brought me such peace of mind and comfort. I cannot think of a more nurturing place for one's soul.

"At the end of our days, we hope to look back on our lives and feel we have shown gratitude for our many blessings by using our time, talent, and treasure for the greater honor and glory of God," she continues. "We also hope to leave a small legacy for those who follow in our footsteps. For this reason, joining the Legacy Society at St. Raphael seemed a fitting way to say 'thank you' for the many blessings that the Robert J. Thomas family has received and continues to do so."

**As Fr. Tim indicated in his message, there are a number of ways to include St. Raphael Parish in your estate plan and become a member of the St. Raphael Legacy Society, including the following:**

- Through a bequest in your Will, Codicil or Trust, either of a specific dollar amount, a percentage of assets, or as a remainder or contingent beneficiary.
- By designating the parish as a partial or full beneficiary of an IRA or retirement account.
- By naming the parish as the beneficiary, and perhaps even the owner, of a new or existing life insurance policy.
- By designating the parish as a beneficiary of a Payable on Death or Transfer on Death bank or brokerage account.
- By establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity, Permanent Named Fund or a Donor-Advised Fund with the Catholic Community Foundation and naming the parish as beneficiary.
- By creating a Charitable Remainder Annuity or Unitrust, or a Charitable Remainder Lead Trust and naming the parish as the charitable beneficiary.

**To learn more about remembering St. Raphael Parish in your estate planning or other giving opportunities, please contact:**

**St. Raphael Parish  
Kris McGivney  
440-871-1100**

**Email: [legacysociety@saintraphaelparish.com](mailto:legacysociety@saintraphaelparish.com)**

# Drawing From the Traditions of Spirituality in Our Catholic Church

If you knew that the person who loves you most in the world was longing to spend some time with you, would you want to meet with them? What if this person was also the only one capable of saving your soul for all eternity, not to mention blessing you abundantly on earth?

You'd be crazy to say "no" to getting to know them just a little better, right?

That being said, you may wonder how you can best go about getting to know this particular person. To do just that, as Catholics, it is important that we seek out and read things from our Catholic Christian tradition — immersing ourselves in the spiritual works of those who have found Christ in a very deep way in accordance with the Church. Indeed, there are many great saints who have flowered out of the community of believers, and we can turn to them to get to know God better.

Over the centuries, the Catholic Church has been profoundly touched, enriched and enlightened by spiritual masters whose works are powerful enough to convert souls. It is also important to recognize that the spiritual traditions in the Church express many of the same ideas but in different ways, bearing witness to the ineffable, mosaic-like beauty of Catholicism.

St. Benedict began the first formal monastic tradition in the western Catholic Church, basing it on the *Rule of St. Benedict*. To this day, Benedictine spirituality is centered around the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours, simplicity and the appreciation of the Holy Eucharist.

The Franciscan spiritual tradition began with St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. These saints brought about the Counter-Reformation that still marks the Church with splendor today. St. Francis is widely known for his Gospel-centered living, love of poverty, devotion to Christ Crucified, and mercy for all men and creatures.

*The Life of St. Francis of Assisi* by St. Bonaventure, as well as *The Little Flowers of St. Francis* both help one to learn more about this magnificent saint.

Similar to St. Francis, St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila also sparked a critical reformation within the Carmelite Order, which later influenced the entire Church in a positive way. Carmelite spirituality is a desert spirituality, which bases itself on silence, deep contemplative prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours, outstanding penance, and various traditional Catholic devotions. *The Story of a Soul*, which is the autobiography of renowned Carmelite St. Therese of Lisieux, the *Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila*, and the works of St. John of the Cross all capture the essence of Carmelite spirituality.

Furthermore, Salesian spirituality stems from the great life and work of St. Francis de Sales. *The Introduction to the Devout Life* is a fantastic primer for those desiring to enter more profoundly into a life of union with Christ.

Ignatian spirituality is known for educating people on the discernment of spirits. *The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola*, as well as *The Discernment of Spirits* by Fr. Timothy Gallagher are excellent resources for learning more about this powerful spiritual tradition.

Last but not least, *The Fulfillment of All Desire* by Ralph Martin is modern-day spiritual work that can help those who are seeking Christ, to find Him.

The rich variety of spiritual traditions we have in the Catholic Church are an indication of how diverse our Church is. There are so many different ways of following Christ and praying — and to do so, we can draw from the spiritual "greats." But of course, we must always pray in the way that God is leading us, in a way that we can truly encounter God in conversation.

# St. Raphael

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## Women's Retreat *continued from page 7*

Come join us on March 10 — and in the meantime, join Father Gaitley and the Marian Missionaries in the following prayer that they recite each day:

*Good and gracious Father in heaven, in this time of great mercy, please grant to us Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy the grace to understand, accept, and trust in the Love and Mercy pouring forth from the Heart of your Son, Jesus.*

*Dear Mary, our Mother, please keep us under this torrent*

*of Grace that it may make us overflow with the joy of the Gospel. Then, with haste, bring us to those who are lonely, sad, and suffering that they might drink of our joy and meet the loving gaze of God.*

*Through this work, may we build up the Body of Christ and thus prepare the world for the coming of Him who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.*

*St. John Paul II, pray for us.*

*For more information about the Women's Retreat on March 10, 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.