

May 2018

Saint Raphael



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The St. Raphael Men's Golf League Develops Great Friendships

The St. Raphael Men's Golf League plays every Thursday from late April through the beginning of September at Bob-O-Link Golf Course in Avon. The starting time is between 4:15 and 5:30 p.m. You can show up between these times as your schedule permits. The league plays nine holes of golf. There are no set foursomes as people are placed in order to tee off as they arrive. In addition, there are cookouts during the summer and a couple special outings.

"This is the 27th year of our league," says current league President Bob Gerlach. "I wish I could say I was a charter member, but I joined during the season that first year. We do, however, have two men, who have been with us from the very beginning. In this 2018 season we have two ten-week sessions — the first from April 26 until the last Thursday in June, and the second from July 12 through Sept. 6. We play at Bob-O-Link and always have."

Bob-O-Link Golf Course is a 36-hole golf facility open to the public, located on state route 83 (Center Rd.) in Avon, Ohio. It has access from both I-90 (2 mi. S.) and I-480 (5 mi. N.). Bob-O-Link is well suited for all levels of golfers. The 36-hole layout features four nine-hole courses: The White Course, The Red Course, The Blue Course, and The Gold Course. The terrain is somewhat flat, which makes it a good layout to walk. Pull carts and riding carts are available. The White and Red Course opened in 1969 and the Blue Course in 1988. The Gold Course opened in the spring of 2008.



"It really does not matter whom people play with, as the idea is that it is a league and we are playing against everyone else," Bob says. "We develop handicaps and those are used to measure each of us. The course has software to track all this and each week we enter our results on their system when we finish our nine holes. Because there are four separate nine-hole courses, we alternate courses each week. The players are informed when they check in which course we are playing that week. For me Bob-O-Link is really a surprising course. It may not be considered the best course in the area, but there are challenging holes on each course."

continued on back cover

This Issue:

3 The Month of Mary: A Time for Celebration and Joy

4 “An Incredibly Blessed School and Parish”: End-of-the-Year Events and Activities at St. Raphael School

6 Involvement in Our St. Raphael CYO Track and Field Program is “an Utter Joy”

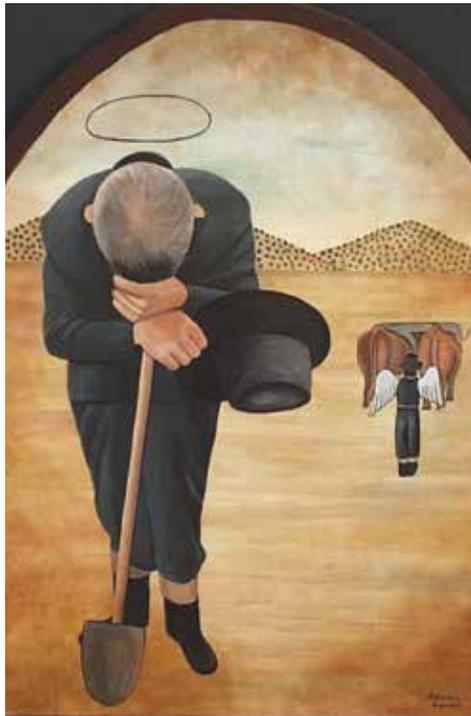
When we consider the lives of the saints, the first that usually come to mind are more than likely classed into four categories — martyrs, priests, religious, and great miracle workers. St. Isidore was none of these, and yet he is revered in Spain as one of “the five saints,” which include St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Francis Xavier, and St. Philip Neri, all of whom were canonized with him in the same year. His feast day is May 15.

The life of St. Isidore is a great testimony to how, with God’s grace, we can take the occurrences of a simple, mundane, and even sometimes difficult life and use them as opportunities for sanctification.

Isidore was born near Madrid, around the year 1070, into a peasant family. While still a young boy, he began working as a day laborer on the farm of Juan de Vergas, a wealthy landowner, just outside of Madrid.

Despite the hard work on Vergas’ farm, where Isidore spent the rest of his life in service, he did not complain and always tried his hardest to meet the tasks requested of him. Above all things, he upheld his relationship with Jesus. As he walked behind his plow, he would talk to God, offering up his work as a prayer. He rose up extra early each day before work to attend daily Mass. He would

St. Isidore’s Simple Stewardship



even spend his vacations touring the different churches of Madrid and the surrounding areas.

As hardworking as Isidore was, his fellow workers complained to Vergas that the pious laborer always arrived late for work because he attended Mass every day. Isidore could not deny the accusation, but he assured his employer that he always made a special effort to compensate for the extra minutes he spent in prayer. One day, Vergas decided to see for himself whether Isidore was really slacking in his work. Hiding in the bushes, he watched as Isidore came out of church, went directly to the fields, and began his plowing. To Vergas’ astonishment, he saw a “man” with another plow beside Isidore, driving a team of white

oxen. When he ran toward the mysterious team, it disappeared and Isidore only looked puzzled when Vergas asked him about it. “Sir, I work alone and know of none save God to whom I look for strength,” Isidore said. No doubt, God had sent His angels to help ensure that Isidore’s work would not suffer because of his placing the spiritual above the temporal.

While working for Vergas, Isidore fell in love with and married a young woman, Maria Torribia, who shared his devotion and faith. They had one child, a son, who died while still a boy. A model of sanctity herself, Maria — also a canonized saint — served her husband faithfully all her life. Together, Isidore and Maria would look for ways to serve the poor, even though they had very little themselves. One story says that when Isidore brought a number of hungry people home with him one day, Maria realized as she scraped the bottom of the pot that there was no more stew. Isidore asked her to check one more time, and she was able to spoon out enough to feed everyone. They could not refuse an act of kindness to anyone.

At times, we might be tempted to think that we do not have the talents or the assets to be good stewards. But St. Isidore shows us by his simple, humble example that we can live out the call to discipleship in the smallest actions of charity and piety — that we only need do as much as we can, and trust that God will do the rest.

A Letter From Our Pastor

The Month of Mary: A Time for Celebration and Joy

My Dear Friends in Christ,

In the Catholic Church, we designate a particular devotion for each month — and May is when we honor our Blessed Mother Mary. Thus, this is a good time for us to think about and concentrate on our devotion to the Mother of God. Perhaps we can add a few more Marian prayers to our daily routine. Praying the Rosary might be even more important. Of course, that assumes that daily prayer is part of our daily routine — which it should be.

Our Blessed Mother is important to our faith and to our Church. Her willingness to serve in a way that allowed the Lord to take human form really made our salvation a possibility. Because of her complete trust in God, she lived her life free from sin, and after her life, she was assumed into heaven by the power of God and crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth.

She is, of course, not divine. We worship only our Lord Jesus Christ, but we honor Mary as a saint and in many other ways. We honor God when we remember the role of Mary in our salvation. Devotion to Mary always leads to Jesus Christ Himself.

Mary was joyous when she said “yes” to God. That is the kind of joy we need to seek — and we, too, must say



“yes” to the Lord. Let us be grateful to Mary for bringing us her Son. This is why we crown her on our Catholic version of Mother’s Day. Through Mary, we are given an invitation into the Catholic fold. Her feminine presence and the safety of her motherhood may help us grow.

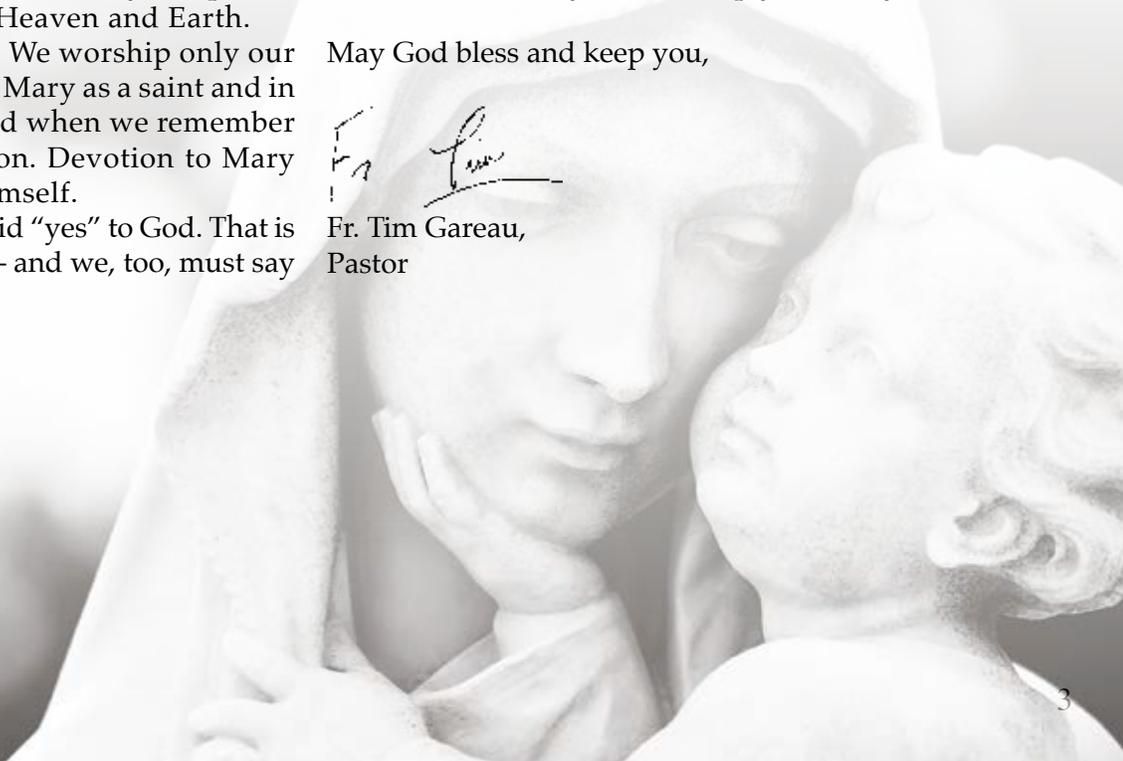
For most of us, this time of year is a month of growth in relation to nature. It is difficult not to have May as one of our favorite months for so many reasons. May is a beautiful time. We are called to make it even more beautiful, and we can do that as we serve and love one another.

I am deeply blessed to be your pastor. I may say that often, but it is true. My priesthood has been a blessing, and serving you all has made that blessing even more significant. I pray for you daily. Please pray for me. God bless you and keep you always.

May God bless and keep you,

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

Fr. Tim Gareau,
Pastor



“An Incredibly Blessed End-of-the-Year Events and A



Pope St. John Paul II had a great love and appreciation for Catholic schools and education. Speaking to visiting American Bishops in 1998, he said, “A Catholic School is a place where students live a shared experience of faith in God and where they learn the riches of our Catholic faith. Catholic Schools help students to deepen their relationship with God and to discover that all things human have their deepest meaning in the person and teaching of Jesus Christ.”

Our St. Raphael School proclaims as an identity “Guiding Students in Faith and Knowledge.” Its mission statement begins with “St. Raphael School is a Catholic Community where we live our faith and learn through a commitment to academic excellence.”

For the last several years Mr. Roger Andrachik has served as the Assistant Principal. He has high regard for the school and for his experiences there.

“We are an incredibly blessed school and parish,” he says. “There is a vibrancy here that you just do not find too many places. It has been my privilege to serve as the Assistant Principal at St. Raphael School for the past 16 years. Between our Pastor Fr. Tim Gareau and our Principal Ann Miller, both of whom have been here longer than I, we have a wonderful leadership team. We also have very excellent and involved parents who quite frankly send us some outstanding children and young people.

“What we do at the end of the school year is evidence of what is important to us,” Mr. Andrachik adds. “Much of what we do is built around traditions we have established and developed at St. Raphael.”

May 11 is one important annual event as the school has a May crowning ceremony (note that the Parish School of Religion also celebrates a May crowning on Tuesday evening, May 14 at 7 p.m.). Mr. Andrachik described the school May Crowning.

“The entire school gathers in the church at

ed School and Parish”

Activities at St. Raphael School

1:45 p.m. on the afternoon of May 11,” he says. “We have a process by which the faculty and staff select an eighth-grade girl and boy to actually do the crowning. A guideline they use in that selection is to pick young people who exemplify the traits of our Blessed Mother Mary. The second-graders are also included in a special way as they will have recently received First Communion. The eighth-grade and second-grade classes process in; they are all dressed up. It is a wonderful tradition here.”

On **May 15** is our yearly art show and ice cream social. That occurs in the Library and all over the school beginning at 6:30 p.m.

“Throughout the school year our students display art work in the school and parish,” Mr. Andrachik says. “Students are invited to submit their best works and those selected are put on display. The ice cream social provides another special St. Raphael moment.”

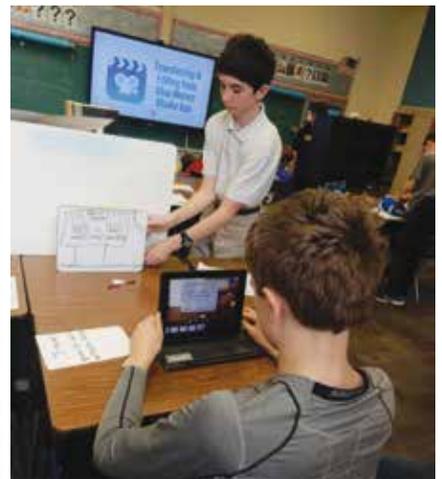
May 17 is the spring band concert featuring the three school bands. The concert begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center (PAC).

June 1 is the end of the school year Mass in the church.

“Our Masses are planned by our outstanding Student Liturgy Committee and students play a key part in all of them,” Mr. Andrachik says. “As the last Mass of the year, the eighth-graders have a particularly special role.”

On Monday, **June 4**, the eighth-grade Baccalaureate Mass occurs in the church beginning at 9:15 a.m. That is followed by the Honors Assembly in the PAC. The parents prepare a special themed luncheon for the eighth-grade students in the lunchroom. That occurs after the Honors Assembly.

June 6 is the last day of school, but it is also a busy day. Kindergarten graduation is in the PAC beginning at 10 a.m. (This year, there are 67 in kindergarten.) It is a shortened school day highlighted by the annual school Field Day. In the evening is the eighth-grade graduation in the PAC at 7 p.m. (There are 85 eighth-graders who are graduating.)



The St. Raphael community is invited to attend and participate in all of these activities/events. For more information on anything, please contact the school office at 440-871-6760.

..... Involvement in CYO Track and Field

One of the more famous quotes from St. Paul is “I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.” Paul was fond of using athletic competition, particularly running, as a reference point in many of his letters. To the Corinthians, he wrote, “Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one.” There is no question that discipline is critical for success in both your spiritual life and a goal many have to stay fit through physical activity.

“It has been my absolute pleasure to be involved in the track program at

St. Raphael for 11 years, the last five as the head coach,” says St. Raphael track team Head Coach Mike Ginley. “We could not do what we do without the interest of the young people in participating, and the incredible contributions and involvement of our parents. This is an utter joy. The CYO program is outstanding and provides us the opportunity to practice and hold meets at local area high schools.”

The first CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) was initiated by prison chaplain and auxiliary bishop Bernard J. Sheil in Chicago in 1930 during the time of the Great Depression. The first CYO was conceptualized as an

athletic association. Its aim was to offer young males, especially from the working class, a community and constructive leisure activity in the hope to dissuade them from taking part in criminal activities. Under the patronage of Archbishop George Cardinal Mundelein, it became a core principle of CYO not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, or gender, as was common in other youth organizations of the time. (CYO was opened to girls as well early on.)

Our Diocese of Cleveland CYO is among the largest in the United States. CYO endeavors to help young people be more Christ-like in the way





Our St. Raphael Program is “an Utter Joy”

they live. CYO promotes participation and sportsmanship to foster the total development of participants and influence the formation of Christian values. CYO serves youth in the Diocese of Cleveland with the leadership necessary for the coordination and administration of athletic activities between members that provide equitable opportunities for participation in a safe environment to enhance the experience of the young athlete.

“The track program at St. Raphael is open to boys and girls in grades 3-8,” Mike says. “Practices start in March and are held at local area high school tracks, four nights per week [Monday through Thursday] for about an hour. Meets are held on weekend days in late March or early April and continuing through to late May with competition held at each grade level. The real beauty of track and field is that the participants are competing more than anything against themselves. Yes, they compete against others, and those results are tracked and rewarded, but the bottom line is that once you do an event you have a measuring stick against which you can compare all future efforts. It involves times, distances, and heights and the idea is that each participant tries to better what he or she may have previously done. Winning is, quite frankly, secondary.

“We have seen this program grow



and grow,” Mike adds. “This year we have 138 young people participating, and we have had more than 100 each year for several years. St. Raphael School is at the core of the participants, but everyone is welcome, so we have young people who attend public school or perhaps even a Montessori School or a nearby Catholic school. The only thing we require is that they have a connection to St. Raphael. This year our practices are at Magnificat High School Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and at Learwood Middle School on Thursday. Our meets on the weekends are all set up and planned

by CYO.”

Mike is grateful for the involvement of parents and others from the parish.

“I am so blessed, as I said by the involvement of parents and others from the parish,” says Mike. “This year for example, we have 12 assistant coaches who give of themselves as good stewards to teach and help. I could not do this without them. It is too late to get involved this year, but I encourage parents and young people to consider this opportunity in the future.”

Those interested in learning more should contact Mike Ginley at 440-821-7317 or mpginley@gmail.com.

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.

The St. Raphael Men's Golf League *continued from front cover*

In terms of expense for joining, Bob says, "We ask each participant to pay annual dues of \$40 per person. That is because on the last Thursday of each month from May through August we have a cookout at the course when we finish. Currently we have more than 50 players and each week we will have between 40 and 50 who are able to play. People often arrive before 4, often as early as 3:30 or even earlier. Most tee off within the 'official' tee times of 4:15-5:30

though. When there are four people here, we begin, and then continue until all have checked in. Some are unable to get to the course until toward the end at 5:30.

"In July we usually plan an outing to another course in the area at which we play 18 holes, and provide food to everyone at the turn (after the first nine holes)," he adds. "We also have an 18-hole outing right at Bob-O-Link in September after our official season has ended."

The league is open to others as well, although the majority are from St. Raphael. St. Raphael Men's Golf League offers Christian fellowship while enjoying the game. Sharing life with good men is the goal. If interested, please contact Bob Gerlach at 440-724-3353 or call 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.