

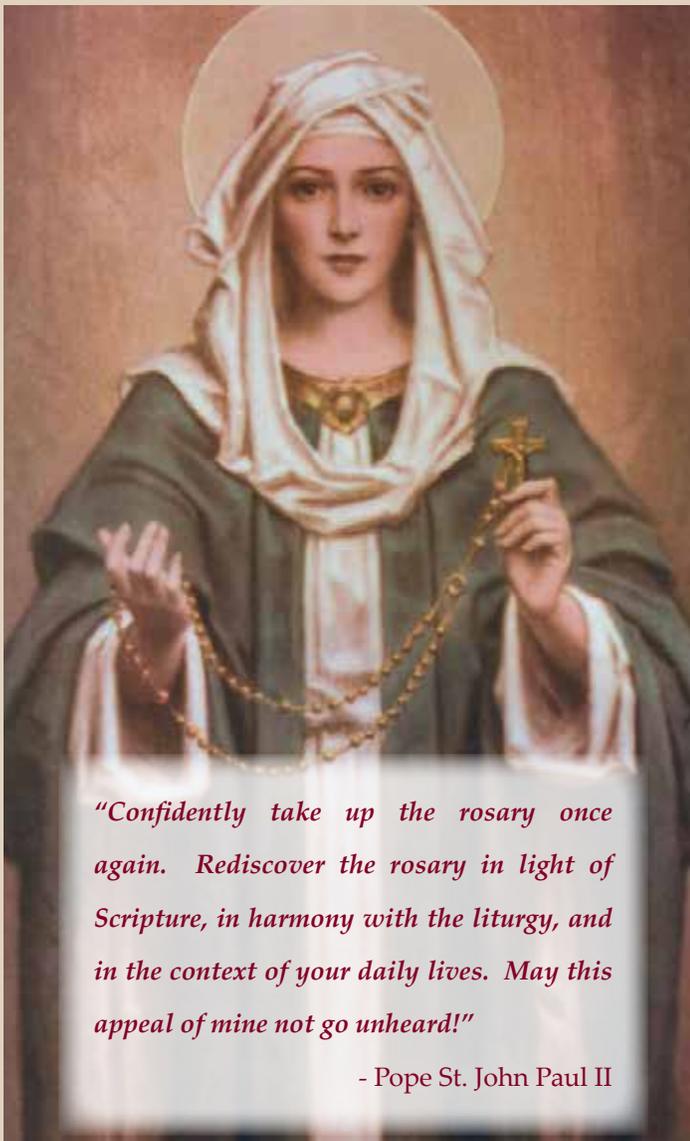
May 2019

# Saint Raphael



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Encounter Mary and the Rosary



*"Confidently take up the rosary once again. Rediscover the rosary in light of Scripture, in harmony with the liturgy, and in the context of your daily lives. May this appeal of mine not go unheard!"*

- Pope St. John Paul II

*By Maggie Brady*

A new program is coming to St. Raphael parish that will help us nurture our relationship with the Blessed Virgin through an appreciation for the preeminent Marian prayer, the rosary.

The "Encounter Mary and the Rosary" series will run from May, traditionally the month dedicated to Our Lady, through October, the month dedicated to the rosary. Participants will hear firsthand testimonies from those who've experienced miracles as a result of devotion to the rosary, learn about the rich history and remarkable power of this prayer, and most importantly, pray it together.

This series is ideal for those who say the rosary daily, for those who have prayed it in the past and would like to start again, and for those who have never done it at all.

It is meant for people who are suffering or struggling in their prayer life, and also for those who have experienced miraculous answers to prayer, big and small.

In other words, it is for everyone!

Don't have a clue where to begin with praying the rosary? This series will teach you!

*Continued on page 8*

- 1 Encounter Mary and the Rosary
- 2 A Conversation with Ann Miller
- 3 O Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 4 School's Out!  
A Funny Thing Happened on the  
Way to Nursing School  
*or, How Deacon David found his Vocation*
- 6 A Holy Journey
- 7 Why I'm Still Catholic

## A Conversation with Ann Miller *by Joy Horvath*

Recently, I had the pleasure of sitting down with Ann Miller, retiring principal of St. Raphael School, to talk about her tenure as leader of one of the largest Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Cleveland. Some of the most significant events in our country occurred during her eighteen years as head of the school, and also the greatest recent growth of our parish campus. Through all these changes and challenges, Ann has kept her sense of humor, her drive to improve the school, and her focus on the students of our school.

Her mission, and the mission of the faculty and staff, is "keeping the kids front and center" in all they do. She credits the dedicated and talented faculty for the high achievements that earned a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award in 2010. During Ann Miller's tenure, the number of support and intervention specialists has increased from 5 to 8, and more than 70% of the faculty has earned Master's degrees. In addition, she credits the 17-year presence of Assistant Principal Roger Andrachik, Administrative Assistant Jan Murphy, and Pastor Father Tim, for continuity and mutual support. She believes this may be the most long-term stable school administrative team in the Diocese. "Friendship! It's all about friendship!"

A few weeks after school started in 2001, while she was still getting settled in as new Principal, the world was shocked by the 9/11 attacks. Security became a priority, and only increased in importance after school attacks in other communities. Ann remembers well the Bay Village Police school invasion drill (no students involved!), with lots of noise and realism. Security measures have been taken over time to assure the safety of the school.

Technology has become an integral part of education. In the past few years, all 6th graders have been given Chromebooks. Much research, homework and testing are now done on-line, so much so that the school has a full-time Technology Specialist on staff. MAP achievement testing is taken on-line, and the results are available to staff the next day. Homework pages, grade pages and email communications are all on-line for parents. The new STREAM Innovation Center will allow student access to the latest technology for creative investigation and instruction.



Many new and enlarged programs and groups have appeared in the last 18 years. St. Raphael School now has "Raiders Club," before and after school care for working families, serving more than 100 students. The Home and School Association, that perennial powerhouse of energy, has expanded fund-raising activities like Mardi Gras, and has funded the "Rock the Challenge" program each spring. Talented and generous volunteers have come forward to mentor interest groups like the Science Olympiad, Cooking Club, Chess Club, and Lego Club. The recently-built kitchens, PAC, and new church have permitted a hot lunch program, expanded sports and theater activities, and all-school Masses with room to spare.

*Continued on Page 5*

# O Sacred Heart of Jesus

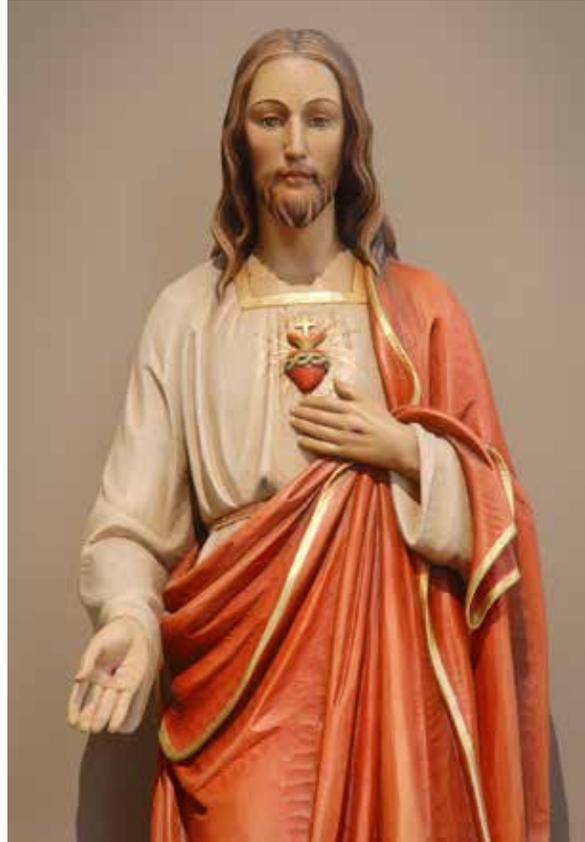
by Maggie Brady

The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be celebrated on June 28th this year. This feast has been commemorated in the Church for centuries. Here at St. Raphael parish, we even have a beautiful statue of the Sacred Heart next to our altar. And yet for many Catholics, this feast day is confusing. A celebration of one of Jesus's body parts? What does that even mean?

The Sacred Heart devotion gained momentum in the 17th century. At the time, a heresy called Jansenism was spreading throughout Europe. Among other falsehoods, Jansenists believed that Christians needed to be totally pure before they could receive Holy Communion, not just free of mortal sin, and therefore they thought receiving the Eucharist should be very rare. Their vision of God was as a harsh Judge who coldly held back graces from his children.

As the Church struggled with Jansenism, Jesus appeared several times to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a young Visitation nun living in a French monastery. During one mystical experience, she rested her head upon Jesus' heart while he told her about God's incredible love for us.

"Behold this heart which has so loved men that it has spared nothing, even to exhausting and consuming itself, in order to testify its love," Jesus said. "In return, I receive from the greater part [of humanity] only ingratitude, by their irreverence and sacrileges, and by the coldness and contempt they have for me in this sacrament of love [the Eucharist]..."



He asked St. Margaret Mary to have a feast established for the whole church to celebrate his loving heart. And he asked for Catholics to receive Holy Communion more devoutly, and more often.

Jesus also promised her: "The all-powerful love of my heart will grant to all those who receive Communion on the first Friday of nine consecutive months the grace of final repentance; they will not die under my displeasure, nor without receiving their sacraments; my heart will be their assured refuge at that last hour."

St. Margaret Mary was a humble sister in her religious order, and she struggled for a long time to convince her

superiors about the mission Jesus had called her to. Today, the feast of the Sacred Heart is celebrated throughout the world, and in the United States, we commemorate it on the 19th day after Pentecost. Since the date of Pentecost can vary, that means the Sacred Heart is also a "movable feast" that has a different date every year. In fact, the entire month of June is traditionally dedicated to honoring the Sacred Heart.

St. Teresa of Calcutta, also known as Mother Teresa, had a life-long dedication to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and summarized the meaning of this devotion for all of us when she said:

"Keep looking at the Sacred Heart – Why worry? You are His."

# School's Out!

*By Dianne Borowski*

School will soon be out. It's time to prepare for the many changes which summer brings. Children are delighted to look forward to time off from reading, writing and math, but parents are often not so happy to see the onset of summer vacation. Summer vacation brings many changes to family life. Schedules often must be changed to accommodate children in day care or with a care giver. Many times budgets must be readjusted. Summer activities often change daily. As a result of all these changes, finding time to bring God into the equation is a challenge.

Students who attend Catholic school receive regularly scheduled religious instruction. PSR classes are available during the school year but not during the summer months. When our children were in elementary school many years ago, I often wondered how I as a parent could begin to fill the void left by the absence of regular religious instruction. Prayers before meals and praying the rosary didn't seem enough to me. If I remember correctly, my intentions were good but I could never exactly figure out how to incorporate religion into our home during the summer months.

For many Catholic families religion and spirituality are routinely discussed in the home. Some families might discuss a scripture passage or pray for special intentions around the dinner table. For families (like our family so many years ago) who do not regularly speak of God or scripture at home, I decided to see if I could come up with some ideas as to how to begin to bring God into the homes and hearts of families during the summer months.

Libraries are wonderful resources. A weekly family trip to the library to find and take home children's books about the lives of the saints or some other aspect of religious/moral subjects is a good beginning. Encouraging children to read and discuss what they have read and asking questions on the subject will help keep them interested. Information about topics of interest to Catholic children and families can be found on the internet. Caution must be used to determine if the information is accurate and approved by the church. If the child is able, let he or she look up the information and have them share it with you and the rest of the family if it is appropriate.

Going to church festivals is a fun family activity. Children enjoy the games, rides and food and often the parish church is open during the festival for short visits. Visiting local shrines can be a fun family experience. Spending time walking around the grounds, saying prayers together at the grotto, visiting the shrine's gift shop and discussing what was seen on the way home helps to bring God closer to the family. Bringing children for a short visit during Eucharist Adoration is an awesome experience.

As summer winds down, it is my hope that any family activities which brought the family together to talk about God and His love for us will be continued throughout the following school year. Teaching children to invite God into their lives outside of Mass and the classroom is something they will hopefully continue throughout their lives.

Background image: *The School of Athens, by Raphael 1509-1511*

## A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Nursing School ...or, How Deacon David found his Vocation

by Kathleen Maloney

The Mass for priestly ordination this year will take place on May 18 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in downtown Cleveland. During this Mass, the bishop will confer the sacrament of Holy Orders upon the candidates, who then will become priests in the Roman Catholic Church. Recently I spoke with our Transitional Deacon, David Stavarz, who himself (God willing) will be ordained that day.



communicate to us in our everyday life if we take some time during the day, even 10 or 15 minutes to quiet the mind and do prayerful reflection.

During this quiet time, we should ask ourselves, where is God in my day? What is God asking me to do today? How can I use my gifts to do His will? This is good advice because when I do this, I feel God's presence guiding and helping me to be more patient and kind - and I really need that help!

Let us pray for Deacon David as his ordination day approaches and his new life in the Church begins. Let us also remember to reflect on what our own vocation may be and remember Isaiah 6:8:

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" "Here I am," I said; "send me!"*

I asked Deacon David what influenced him to become a priest. He told me it happened during his senior year at Archbishop Hoban High School. He was all set to attend nursing school after graduation when a friend invited him to a retreat weekend at the seminary. Deacon David decided to shadow his friend for a few days instead to see what life was like for a seminary student.

Keeping an open mind, he considered the priesthood over nursing. He made the decision to apply to Borromeo Seminary and was accepted. Deacon David believes it was God's grace working through his friend and the power of the Holy Spirit that brought him to his true vocation. He is looking forward to beginning his "call to the vineyard" and becoming a spiritual father to his parish.

Another question I asked was how a lay person can discern his own vocation or calling from God? How can we in our busy, secular world hear God speaking to us? Deacon David said that God can

### *Continued from Page 2*

And yet it hasn't been "all-work, no-play". Ann still laughs about one young student's Halloween costume: a short wig, a sweater and coffee mug, just like hers! And then there was the time she locked Jan Murphy in her office along with a mouse...

It is obvious that Ann has enjoyed her tenure as Principal, since she had planned to stay for five years, and ended up staying for 18! Her departure is bittersweet for her, as she'll miss the friends and the children. Her last day is sometime at the end of June.

And then what? She and her husband Russ have booked a Mediterranean cruise for later in the summer, at about the time her replacement will be reporting for duty. Russ is planning an extended stay for them in Hawaii (I hope it's in January!). Ann would like to spend some time in Alaska in the winter. (Not enough snow in Ohio?) And there's her golf game that needs perfecting, and a big pile of books demanding to be read. Enjoy your retirement, Ann Miller. You've earned it!

# A Holy Journey – Learning About My Catholic Faith

*By Mike Manco*

I'd like to share with you part of my personal faith journey, which may be completely different than yours. By that I mean I grew up in a home that was superficially Christian. My father was Catholic, but my mother was Protestant. As may be the case in other families, my mother was the "Religious Director" in our family. Her duties were limited to taking us to a Protestant church, dropping us off, and returning in an hour to pick us up. (I might add that in her later years she became a devout Christian.)

Having had no religious education – and I'm jealous of those who did receive one – I've committed myself these past three years to learning all that I can about my faith, through whatever means available. The good news is that here at St. Raphael we're blessed to have a wealth of materials available to anyone who wants to learn more about their faith.

My journey started with the Alpha program at St. Raphael. It's a wonderful program designed to reach people like me, who had no or limited knowledge of God. I looked forward to the weeknight meetings (not just because of the food!), to watch the video's, and more importantly to meet at my table with those who had the opportunity to express their views about the topic of the night. I learned that there are others like me who are just starting their journey, and others who are farther down the road than I.

If you have some time to spend after Mass, the back wall of the Gathering Area contains

bookshelves that have a number of great books on all subjects of faith that can be purchased at very reasonable prices. I now have a small library in my home that was created primarily through this great gift.

The best "hidden" resource is the parish library tucked away on the second floor of the Raphael Center building. It's open Monday through Friday 8AM to 8PM, and weekends 8AM to 3PM. It houses hundreds of books that have been donated to the parish. The subjects are wide ranging, and you can spend hours just browsing the many titles.

For the past two years I've attended Bible Study classes in the parish Community Room hosted by Bill Toler, our parish Director of Liturgy and Adult Education. We meet once a week when school is in session. Bill is a wealth of

knowledge and is extremely effective in opening the Scriptures up to be seen in a new light for me.

There are other opportunities at St. Raphael in the many ministries that I personally have not gotten around to yet but hope to get involved with in the very near future.

Finally, I've found two apps for my iPhone that offer several programs I listen to while taking my daily walk. I'm currently listening to "Christ is the Answer" podcasts by Fr. John Riccardo on the Ave Maria Radio app, and "Called to Communion" with Dr. David Anders on the EWTN app.

We're blessed as Catholics, not only with all St. Raphael parish offers us, but also with so many other resources to help us live a sanctified life.



*Parishioner, Mike Manco*



# Why I'm Still Catholic

By Susan Orenga

"How can you STILL be Catholic?" This question has recently been asked of me, as I have friends and colleagues who have stepped away from the Church after the reports of abuse came out last summer. As a community we are all angry, hurt, disappointed, and have feelings of betrayal, but we should not step away from the Church. Yes, all involved should be held accountable, and the Church should work to ensure none of this happens again, but since we are all sinners ourselves, we should follow Jesus' teachings by not judging. God's mercy is one of the most wonderful aspects of our faith. No man (or woman) is perfect, but we can all strive to be more Christ-like which means to forgive. This doesn't mean accepting or condoning what was done, it means to set aside judgment, act from your heart, and allow forgiveness.

## Matthew 6:14-15

*For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others for their sins, our Father will not forgive your sins.*

While the reports are horrific and the cover-ups run deep, this has not caused me to stop attending Mass. I know I have been judged because of this, and some may feel I am not appalled by what has happened. Of course I am, but I also know this was man's doing, not God's. Our religion goes back thousands of years; our beliefs have not changed; our readings have not changed. During this time, many horrible things have occurred by man, but every time we come back as a community through God's love and forgiveness. We continue to attend Mass and be a part of the Church to find a sense of community and to share in God's love with others who have the same beliefs.

I have asked others who still attend Mass what keeps them coming back. One person shared that "Since all people are human, there will always be situations that are wrong, and many Catholics might be inclined to turn away. As a sinner, I must look at the current wrongs of the clergy and see the weakness and try not to be the judge. I must look to the teachings of God – to forgive....Make the amends necessary and continue to spread the word – with LOVE."

Catholics do so many wonderful things which we may forget because of the news reports and the scandals. The charitable work of Catholics around the world show God's love for others, the many missions that bring others from far away closer to us, and the education of our children, raising them to practice in God's mercy and love.

So while many of you may still be angry or hurt or disappointed, remember the Church is greater than this. Father Tim shared, that we (Catholics) are **not** defined by the actions of those who have been accused. And if you haven't heard Father Tim's Homily on the topic from last August, I urge you to view it.

He shares that "...we must remember that in times like this that even though certain members of the Church have not been faithful and have created scandal within our Church - Christ never ceases to be faithful to his promises, and God has not left us....And while it appears that in recent time certain columns/pillars of the Church and Church's hierarchy have fallen and certain members of the Church have let us down, we must be reminded that who we are as a Church is founded upon Christ and His Apostles...We must not lose sight of the fact that we as Catholics have access not only to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ but that we are given the opportunity to encounter Him in and through the Church's Sacramental Life in a very real and substantial way. While it may appear that the Church is crumbling before our eyes due to the sins of her ministers, Christ has promised us, 'that the gates of hell will never prevail against us'."

## Matthew 7: 1-3

*Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

You may also feel you don't have a voice in all of this. But you do. God hears all of our prayers. Take this time to pray for all priests, pray for those affected by the actions of some of the clergy, and remember it is not reflective of the entire Church. Have mercy, attend Mass, live our faith, and share in the community we have been blessed with to follow God's word. As Pope Francis stated, "as individuals we are not the sum of our weaknesses, we are only the sum of God's love for us."

# St. Raphael

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### *From Page 1*

The presentation will be at 7 pm on the 13th of each month. That's an historically significant date. In one of her most recent apparitions, Our Lady appeared in Fatima, Portugal, beginning on May 13th, 1917, and ending on October 13th of the same year. During these events, the Blessed Virgin revealed herself to three young peasant children, giving them messages to share with the entire world. Among other requests, Mary urged us all to pray the rosary daily to obtain peace in our families and around the globe.

This series will give us all the perfect opportunity to get reacquainted with this devotion, so warmly recommended by a multitude of saints over the centuries.

*"O blessed rosary of Mary! What joy to see it raised in the hands of innocent children, of holy priests, of the pure in heart, young and old, of all who understand the value and efficacy of prayer; raised aloft by countless pious multitudes as an emblem of that peace in men's hearts and among peoples for which we all hope."*

*- Pope St John XXIII*

### *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.