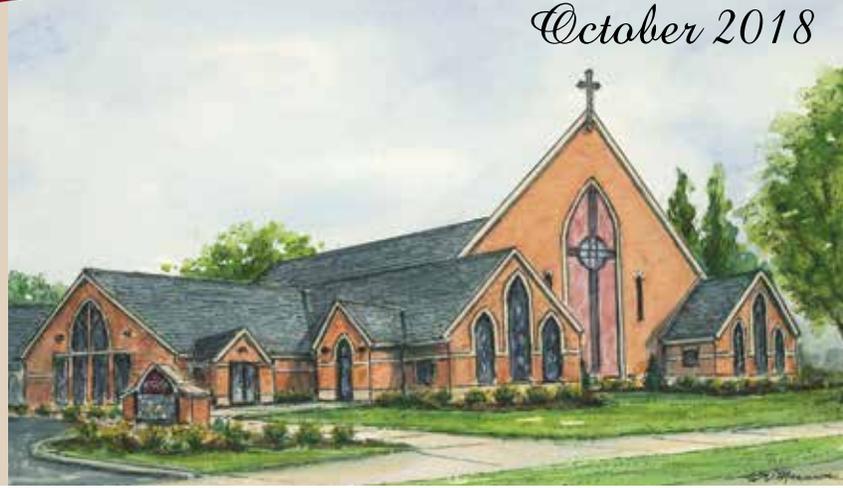


October 2018

Saint Raphael



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Bible Study Transforming Minds and Hearts

We approach two altars each time we celebrate Mass. The first is the altar of God's Word. Sunday after Sunday the lectionary unfolds the story of salvation for us, but that story is more than just words for our minds. During the season of Advent, the Word calls us to "be ready!" and "stay awake". It rouses us, as the dark of winter sets in, to live lives that proclaim that God is truly with us.

During the Christmas season, our readings recall the beauty of the Incarnation, the cosmic moment of history when the Word became flesh and pitched His tent among us. As we celebrate Mass during Lent, we hear the Word proclaiming a clarion call to repentance and conversion of life.

During the even longer season of Easter, we are reminded that we are a resurrection people, called to sing "Alleluia!" not just during Mass, but by making our very lives a living praise of God! Finally, our Scripture readings during Ordinary Time challenge us with the realities of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

The proclamations during the Liturgy of the Word lead us to the second altar, the altar of Christ's Body and Blood. They shape and color how we are called to be transformed by this week's reception of the Eucharist. One way to "get more out of Mass" is to "put more into Mass" by preparing our minds and hearts to receive that Word.

This year, our parish Bible Study turns its focus to the Sunday cycle of lectionary readings. We have a

continued on page 2



This Issue:

4 The St. Raphael Guild Serves as a Unique and Vibrant Group Supporting Our Parish and Community

6 Good Stewardship of Our Social Media

7 Meet Colleen Maher

Bible Study.....

Transforming Minds and Hearts

continued from front cover

terrific group of parishioners that meet each Thursday morning in the Community Room. Here we discuss the themes of the coming Sunday's Gospel reading, focus our thoughts by examining how the First Reading (chosen by the Church to highlight a particular theme of the day's Gospel) narrows our focus, reflect on the psalm of the day, and dig deeper into each of the upcoming Sunday's liturgical texts.

By considering the larger context of the books in which the Sunday selections are found, by uncovering meanings to be found in the translations of original Hebrew and Greek words, and by reflecting on the possible messages that these readings have for today's world, our Bible Study aims to transform our minds and hearts into rich soil. We hope to come to Sunday Mass ready for the Liturgy of the Word to more easily plant seeds of faith and action in our hearts.

The Thursday morning group meets after the 9:15 Mass, and our gatherings conclude at 11:30. Additionally, Bible Study is offered on Monday evenings once a month from 7-8:30 p.m. (also in the Community Room). While this



group is smaller, we bring that same thirst for nourishment to our study (and there's plenty of room for you and your friends to join us!). The Monday evening class schedule for the last quarter of this year is: Oct. 8, Nov. 5, and Dec. 3.

As one participant recently said, "I came to Mass this past Sunday, and felt so much more enriched by the readings, because I'd already prepared my heart and mind to receive them during Bible Study." A parish cantor noted that she approached her proclamation of the Responsorial Psalm differently. And another person offered: "This is a really exciting way to make Mass

more meaningful!"

All are welcome to join this year's Bible Study program for either our weekly Thursdays or our monthly Mondays. No prior Bible Study experience is necessary. Even if you can't join us, though, consider reading the Sunday readings earlier in the week, and taking some time with them in prayer and personal study. They can always be found at uscbb.org, the U.S. Bishops' website. By allowing yourself to be nourished more deeply by the Word, you may just find that you are more well-disposed to be transformed by the Eucharist you receive!

For more information contact the Director of Liturgy Bill Toler at the parish office 440-871-1100.

A Letter From Our Pastor

This Month and Beyond, Let Us Share the Faith in Word and Action

My Dear Friends in Christ,

When reading through our newsletter, it is clear that we often discuss and reflect upon the topic of ministries — within our community and beyond — and how Christ shares His ministry with us.

As a faith community that is committed to living out stewardship, we all share in Christ's ministry. And while we share our many gifts with God and His Church, we take the truths set forth in the readings from Scripture and apply them to present-day life. Of course, that's what you are supposed to do when you share your faith with your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers.

But what does it mean to "share our faith"? Well, it is exactly what parents — as the "domestic church" — are supposed to do with their children. Furthermore, lay people act as catechists when they teach religion classes in Catholic schools or help with religious education programs in their parishes.

"Sharing the faith" also encompasses serving and providing assistance to those in need, both within and beyond the parish community, or bringing the Eucharist to the ill or homebound who cannot regularly attend Mass. In these ways and more, lay people have many opportunities to participate directly in the ministry of the Church.

But as the Second Vatican Council reminded us, "An apostolate of this kind does not consist only in the witness of one's way of life; a true apostle looks for opportunities to announce Christ by words addressed either to non-believers with a view to leading them to



faith, or to the faithful with a view to instructing, strengthening, and encouraging them to a more fervent life" (*Apostolicam Actuositatem, Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*, 6).

In other words, we must proclaim our Christian faith through our actions and how we live our lives — and *also* be prepared to share it in words if we are given the opportunity. With this in mind, we may each want to make a commitment of time to study the Scriptures and the Church's teachings so that we may be better prepared to share the faith!

Of course, the month of October draws us a little closer to the end of the year — thus, we are soon approaching the celebration of Thanksgiving, and the Advent and Christmas seasons. In the next few months, we will each have so many opportunities to share our faith through words and actions. I ask you to prayerfully consider how you will take advantage of these opportunities, living as stewards carrying out His ministry every day, for the rest of this year and beyond.

May God grant you the grace to share richly as a disciple of Christ!

May God bless and keep you,

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

Fr. Tim Gareau,
Pastor



The St. Raphael Guild Serves a Supporting Our Par



The first Guild Gourmet Luncheon of the year



Signage throughout the parish complex provided by the Guild

One of the more dynamic service organizations is the St. Raphael Guild which has been in existence for many years. The Guild's stated purpose is "to make things happen." The Guild is committed to passing on God's love in everything they do.

The President of the Guild is Beth Kish. She says, "I have been involved with the Guild for more than 25 years. This is a great way to bring women together for fellowship, and we do so much and accomplish so much each year."

"Membership in the Guild is open to women of all ages," says Beth. "Our purpose is mainly service, but there are also some social activities which cement our relationships. We have approximately 100 members. We basically plan and operate from May to May, so May is our membership drive; however, women should feel free to join at any time."

"One of our major events and fundraisers is coming up on Sunday, November 4", Beth says. "It is our Fall Luncheon, Fashion Show, and Raffle. The funds we raise from that provide finances for our scholarship fund and many other activities and events we plan and host."

Beth outlines much of what they do and offer during the year: "Upcoming projects include a Halloween Costume Collection Sept. 30 through Oct. 14, and a Coat Collection Nov. 11 and Dec. 2, both collections are for the West Side Catholic Center and Women's Shelter, which we support consistently in many ways."

"We continue volunteering for Afternoon Bingo at the Rae-Ann Nursing Home, as we have done for several years," says Beth. "Other sources of funds include our Donut Sale and Poinsettia Sale held annually in December, as well as our ongoing cookbook sales, *Table of Plenty II*, available in the Parish Office. In addition to the fund raising events we host many fellowship events for the Parish community. These include the Gourmet Lunch Group, Book Discussion Group, Ladies Fall Get Together (to be held October 16 at Veranda Bistro), Advent Evening of Reflection in December, Ladies Night Out planned for Jan. 30 at White Oaks Restaurant featuring a speaker from the

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Western Reserve Historical Society on Elliott Ness's Cleveland."

Beth says, "We do more than have events and raise money though. In the past few years we have gifted St. Raphael with the Holy Family Statue, on the right side of the altar in the new church, the indoor signage throughout the new additions of Good Shepherd Square, the Gathering Area, Community Room, and hallways. We have also funded two of the three benches outside the school facing Dover Center Road, and contributed funds for the renovation of the Zwilling Room."

"We have had Soup and Salad Luncheons," says Beth. "We also have Girls' Nights Out. I mentioned the scholarship fund through which we award \$1,000 scholarships to eighth grade students entering a Catholic high school here. Last year we were able to give three scholarships. Last but not least, we anticipate closing out our busy year with the Spring Salad Luncheon in April."

The Guild is overseen by a Board of twenty women, each of whom heads up a program we are planning or serves in some important way. That Board meets six times a year to pray, plan, review, and report. There are no meetings of the general membership. Each member pays an annual dues of \$10. Membership forms are available at the parish web site under Guild included in the list of ministries.

Beth says, "The Guild truly does have something for everyone. Our group spans generations and members can be as involved as their schedules allow. Events are open to non-members, and I would encourage those interested to come to one of our events. They are always listed and well-advertised in the bulletin, as well as the Guild bulletin board in the Gathering Area."



Benches donated by the Guild



Holy Family Statue given by Guild

*For more information contact Beth Kish
at 440-892-9197 or our membership chair
Laura Gallagher at 440-892-6903.*

Good Stewardship of Our **SOCIAL MEDIA**

When we are talking about the idea of stewardship and how we care for the tools and gifts we have been given, it is not often that we stop to have a conversation about how we are caring for and using the gift of social media to positively spread Gospel values. However, this is an appropriate topic for us to consider when we are talking about the many young people, as well as adults, who gather online on a frequent basis. Therefore, it is important for us to think about how we are using the amazing gifts of technology.

If you are frequently online — especially on Pinterest — there is a popular acronym that you may have already come across. While it is used in many different contexts, it seems very appropriate to follow as we find ourselves posting statuses and pictures on various social media sites. The acronym is T.H.I.N.K., and it invites us to consider what we are saying and sharing, and whether or not it should be said!

Is what we are posting:

True? Are we sharing factual information or a rumor that we heard, and if we think our information is factual, what is our source? Is it trustworthy?

Helpful? Is the information we are sharing something that can be useful to another person? We don't need to over-examine all of our content to consider its "educational factor," but is the content we are posting going to help someone learn about us, learn about a place or an activity, think about the world, reflect on life, engage us in laughter, and so forth?

Inspirational? There is certainly no requirement to be a poet or an artist, but social media has become a wonderful outlet for positive self-expression. "Positive" is the key word — are we posting to inspire others about the good in our world, or are we posting to cut someone down or to simply rant?

Nice? Have we considered the

feelings of others when we include them in a status or post a picture of them? Will they be embarrassed? Are we using social media to humiliate and intimidate others, or are we using it to try to better the world and the lives of others?

Kind? What a great tool to compliment, show gratitude, and build the self-esteem of those you care about!

People often speak of social media in a negative way because of the content they see posted. T.H.I.N.K. is a great way for us to remind ourselves that we can be good stewards of our own social media use. A major part of living out the Gospel has to do with the positive way we approach this life and bring God's light and love to others — and we can do just that by sharing an uplifting status on Facebook, a Tweet of gratitude to a friend, or a beautiful image of God's inspiring creation on Instagram. What a great way to build the Kingdom of God!



MEET COLLEEN MAHER

Enjoying Opportunity to Serve as One of the “Faces and Voices” of the Parish

Colleen Maher is St. Raphael through and through. “I grew up here in Bay Village,” she says. “I went to St. Raphael School. And now I find myself working for the parish I love. I feel very fortunate that this opportunity afforded itself, and that I was able to take advantage of it. It is a perfect fit for me and my family.”

Colleen came to work for St. Raphael after the retirement of Marilyn Senn. Colleen says, “This particular position really matched up with my past training, education, experience, and skill set. My son, Teddy, began kindergarten at St. Raphael this year, so that made it even better.”

“Some people know me as the manager of the master calendar for the parish,” says Colleen. “I oversee that calendar which also involves a lot of information relating to facility usage. We have so many groups and ministries who tend to fill up and utilize our facilities almost completely. I have organizational training and skills and that certainly comes in handy in relation to that calendar. Of course, I also understand our faith and the many good things which happen here at St. Raphael.”

Of course, Colleen does much more in and for the parish, which is typical of employees in Catholic entities. She says, “I am also a recorder of sacramental records. As a Church we take great care of all sacraments from Baptism to First Communion to Confirmation to Marriage to Holy Orders and more. I receive all that information and assure that it is recorded and preserved properly. I am also in charge of the Mass celebrant calendar based on information provided to me by Father Tim and Father Eric. If necessary, I make arrangements for a visiting or substituting celebrant.”

Colleen says, “I also oversee the parishioner data base, and I help the parish accountant on a part time basis. In fact, I spend Thursdays working in the accounting/finance office located at the back of the parish offices.”



Colleen Maher with her 5-year-old son, Teddy

Colleen says, “We are blessed with a parish staff and parish leadership here at St. Raphael, all of whom seem to give extra and go that extra step. I think people are aware what a great pastor Fr. Tim is. He is a pleasure to work with, but it goes way beyond that. We are blessed with such a great team here who are so cooperative and supportive in every way. One of the things I enjoy about my job is that no two days are ever the same. I may have a great idea what my day is going to be and how it is going to go, but by

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St. Raphael

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Colleen Maher *continued from page 7*

9:30 a.m. that may have changed completely."

The *Catholic Register* is the oldest English language Catholic publication in Canada, published in Toronto. In a recent article they had this to say about people like Colleen in a parish: "The unsung hero of parish life, the administrative assistant, is both the face and the drive behind the church community. Every day, they answer calls, welcome people, put out fires, and make sure the flock is looked after."

Colleen Maher falls into that category, and we are blessed to have her as a member of our community and our parish staff.

"We are blessed with a parish staff and parish leadership here at St. Raphael, all of whom seem to give extra and go that extra step. I think people are aware what a great pastor Fr. Tim is. He is a pleasure to work with, but it goes way beyond that. We are blessed with such a great team here who are so cooperative and supportive in every way." — Colleen Maher

To directly contact Colleen, call the parish office at 440-871-1100 or email her at cmaher@saintraphaelparish.com.

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.