

September 2018

Saint Raphael



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

“Do You Believe In Miracles” Presentation Coming Sept. 9 — Featuring Tim Francis

On the evenings of Sunday, Sept. 9 and Monday, Sept. 10, nationally-renowned speaker Tim Francis will be presenting “Do You Believe In Miracles.” The program is the same each night and begins at 6:30 p.m. and concludes at 9 p.m. Tim Francis, founder of You Shall Believe Ministries, knows everyone does not share his belief in miracles, but he is out to convince them anyway. He is bringing his mission to change lives to what he considers a Doubting Thomas society. He has conducted more than 500 parish missions throughout the United States.

Fr. Thomas McCarthy from Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Trenton, Ohio, says, “I found seeing a young, layman, passionate about his faith and the authentic teachings of the Eucharist, not only refreshing but reaffirming. It is nice to see someone besides a priest give testimony on the Sacredness and importance that the Eucharist holds in the life of a Catholic. It reaffirmed my belief that the missionary spirit and zeal is alive and well in the laity.”

In an interview for this newsletter, Francis, now of Arlington, Texas, said, “I was raised Catholic and served as an altar boy at my home parish Sacred Heart in New Carlyle, Ohio. However, I did not realize the religious significance of the Sacraments until later in my life. My mother died in 2004, and

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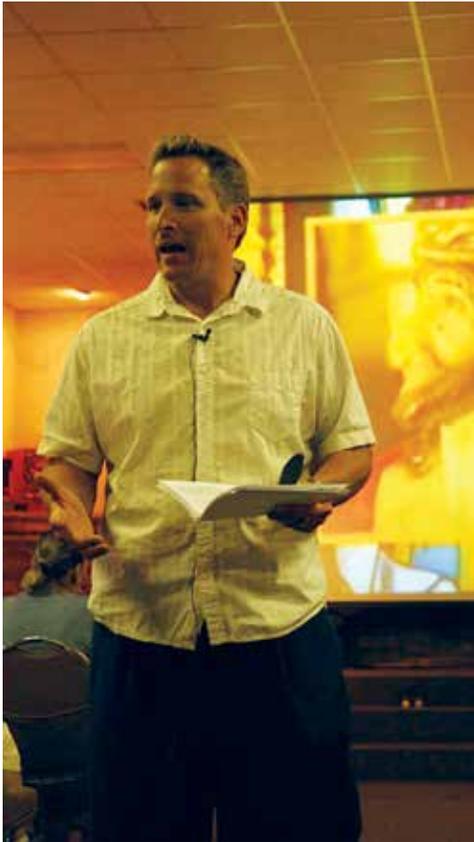


On Sept. 9-10, nationally-renowned speaker Tim Francis will be presenting “Do You Believe In Miracles” at St. Raphael Parish.

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"I take people on my journey to faith. It involves what I call signs from God. I feel called to share these signs, and I do it with a combination of power point, videos, and explanation."

—TIM FRANCIS

"Do You Believe In Miracles" Presentation *continued from front cover*

I came to the realization that she had such strong faith, and good reasons for it. I attended Ohio State University and fell away from my Catholic faith. My early career was in sales. My mother was persistent in her prayers for me and she would send me items to read and view. Finally I did and the light bulb sort of went on."

"I take people on my journey to faith," says Tim. "It involves what I call signs from God. I feel called to share these signs, and I do it with a combination of power point, videos, and explanation."

Father Patrick Sheedy, the pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Ocala, Fla., spoke about the effect Tim's presentation had on his parish: "His message was clear, faith filled, and passionate. He is a dynamic speaker. He presented compelling evidence of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. I think his story especially resonated with young adults and teenagers. His presentation on the importance and power of the Sacrament of Reconciliation gave a number of

parishioners and other Catholics in attendance the courage to come back to that Sacrament."

A woman from Lansing, Mich., says, "What I saw last night at the 'Do You Believe in Miracles' presentation has left me changed. This is another time in my life when my faith was rekindled. I have had periods of questioning in recent years. I can still see the pictures in my head I saw last night, and I will always see them, especially when I receive the Eucharist."

Watch what Tim explains in the short video available at ScienceTestsFaith.com/straphael. Dr. Andy Kereky, Director of Spiritual Development, is responsible for these two evening sessions.

"This will be another spiritually exciting event in the life of our parish," Dr. Andy says. "Childcare is available, but please RSVP to me with the number of children and which night you plan to attend. E-mail me at akereky@saintraphaelparish.com You can learn more about Tim at www.youshallbelieve.com."

For more information on the "Do You Believe in Miracles" presentation to be held Sept. 9-10 at St. Raphael Parish, please contact the parish office at 440-871-1100.

A Letter From Our Pastor

Christ Becomes One With Us Through the Eucharist

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Any of us who are old enough to remember the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, had to have been marked by that experience. As I reflect on this solemn date in our country's history, I also faithfully reflect upon our celebration of the Eucharist. As Catholics, through the Eucharist, we are called to consciously be bread broken and wine poured out for others each day of our lives. We are called to become what we receive.

Throughout the calendar year, certain dates are commemorated to inspire us to remember and honor those who may have been lost. These kinds of days — like 9/11 — are testimony to the reality that we, as human beings, are consciously connected to one another. There are unfortunately some who would have us believe that we are independent, separated from those around us.

For us as Catholics, the reception of the Eucharist is the most intimate union with God Himself on this earth. It is through the Body of Christ that we are unified to God and one another, and reminds us that we are invited to be bread broken and wine poured out for our world.

We gather as a community around the table of the Eucharist. We receive the gift of Christ's Body and Blood so that we may become the embodiment of God's love among us. As we receive Christ, we



should recommit ourselves to following in Jesus' footsteps and reaching out to those around us with mercy, encouragement and compassion. By doing that, we reaffirm our identity as disciples and our Baptismal commitment to be His Body and Blood given for others.

Unfortunately to some, the Eucharist has been diluted to the point that it is viewed as merely a ritual or a symbol. As Catholics, we know that it is Christ's real presence among us — we are to accept that gift and personally become Christ's presence everywhere we go and in everything we do.

The very word "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving." When we live a Eucharistic life, it has everything to do with gratitude. Let us be thankful for the Eucharist and thankful for one another, and let us demonstrate that through the love that pours out of us.

May God bless and keep you,

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

Fr. Tim Gareau,
Pastor

CURRENT NEEDS OF THE PARISH

As the summer ends and the fall season begins, this time of year is when many begin to contemplate certain financial planning decisions, including their annual charitable gifts. Perhaps you are one of those persons, and are prayerfully considering a charitable gift to St. Raphael Parish given its importance to you, your family and the community. There are a few ways to satisfy a charitable gift, each with different advantages and features:

GIFT OF CASH

Giving cash is easy. You can either simply write a check payable to St. Raphael Parish and send it to the parish before Dec. 31, 2018 — or, alternatively, you can make a one-time cash gift by visiting the parish's website at www.saintraphaelparish.com and selecting "Online Giving."

You may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction for the full value of the gift on your 2018 income tax return, but you should consult with your tax advisor to help make that determination.

GIFT OF LONG-TERM APPRECIATED SECURITIES

Charitable gifts of long-term appreciated securities (i.e. securities you have held for longer than one year) can also be advantageous. You simply transfer your long-term appreciated security from your brokerage or custody account directly to the parish.

You may receive an immediate charitable

income tax deduction of the full fair market value of your contribution, and most significantly, any capital gains tax will have been eliminated.

You should consult with your tax advisor to determine if this type of charitable gift is right for you.

USING A REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION (RMD) FROM AN INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT (IRA) TO MAKE A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD)

If you have attained age 70½, you may likely be faced with an RMD from your IRA. You can make a QCD of up to \$100,000 of your RMD, to St. Raphael Parish without including the distribution in your income.

The rules applicable to QCDs from IRAs are very specific. Before you decide whether you should make such a gift, please consult your tax advisor to determine if you qualify, and if such a gift makes sense given your particular situation.

If you wish to learn more about gifting strategies to St. Raphael Parish — including information on what you can do now and also how you can remember St. Raphael in your estate plan — please visit the parish website at www.saintraphaelparish.com, or contact Kris McGivney at 440-871-1100, or via email at legacysociety@saintraphaelparish.com.

PAYABLE GIFTS TO ST. RAPHAEL PARISH

FUTURE NEEDS OF THE PARISH

Fr. Tim has asked parishioners to consider making a post-death gift to the parish endowment fund. Such a gift is commonly called a “planned gift.” Any such gift would be invested for the future financial needs of the church as determined by the terms of the gift (specific ministry) or at the discretion of the pastor (unrestricted). There are a few ways to give a planned gift, each with different advantages and features:

BEQUESTS

A bequest is a written instruction in a person’s Last Will and Testament or Trust document to distribute cash, securities, land or any other asset controlled by that document to a charity. The bequest must be written and the gift can be expressed as a dollar amount, a specific number of shares of a security, a specific asset, or a percentage of your estate.

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION FOR IRA, 401K, 403B, OR OTHER RETIREMENT PLAN

All such retirement plans allow a person to name a charity as a beneficiary of the plan assets at the person’s death. Contact your IRA custodian or Plan administrator to obtain a beneficiary designation form. The allocation can be expressed as a dollar amount or a percentage. The beneficiaries have no rights until your death, and then all payments must be made as you directed. Any person who receives payments from a conventional IRA or other qualified retirement

plan must report the payments received as taxable income and pay income tax thereon. Payments to St. Raphael are not subject to income tax because the church is tax exempt; therefore, there is an income tax savings that otherwise would be paid by the persons who receive the balance of the account. Consult with your tax advisor to determine if this type of gift is right for you.

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION FOR LIFE INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES

The recipient of insurance proceeds upon the death of the insured will be the person or charities listed as the beneficiaries. Similarly, the beneficiary of annuity proceeds, upon the death of the annuitant, will be the persons or charities listed as the beneficiaries. Contact the company issuing the policy/annuity to obtain a beneficiary designation form. The allocation can be expressed as a dollar amount or percentage. The beneficiaries have no rights until your death, and then all payments must be made as you

directed. The receipt of insurance proceeds is generally not income to the recipient, BUT the receipt of annuity proceeds is generally income to some extent to the recipient. Consult with your tax advisor to determine if this type of planned gift is right for you.

OTHER PLANNED GIFT OPTIONS

A “Payable on Death” designation is a written instruction to a bank providing the name of a person or charities to receive the balance of the bank account upon the death of the depositor. A “Transfer on Death” designation is similar, but it applies to brokerage accounts, individual securities, bonds, mutual funds or motor vehicles (cars, trucks boats, etc). A “Transfer Upon Death Affidavit” is a sworn document recorded in the county recorder’s office naming the person or charities to receive real estate upon the death of the owner. Consult with an attorney or other tax advisor to ensure consistency with your overall estate plan and to provide specific language.



Celebrating the Feast of the *Archangels*

Every Sept. 29, the Church celebrates the feast day of the Archangels — St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael. We are blessed to be inspired by these “servants and messengers of God” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 329).

The term “archangels” has its Scriptural basis in the New Testament (1 Thes 4:16, Jude 1:9), indicating a chief or leading angel. “Archangel” generally refers to St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael, as they are the three angels most frequently mentioned throughout Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. The fact that these three angels are mentioned by name on multiple occasions indicates the significance of their roles in the history of salvation. It is because of these important roles that we take pause to celebrate on Sept. 29.

St. Michael is mentioned by name on several occasions in Sacred Scripture (Dn 10:13, Rev 12:7), and his role in the Tradition of the Church has been extensively documented. He has been widely referred to as the “great prince,” and is most often associated with the apocalypse — the final battle against Satan. Christian Tradition gives St. Michael four different roles, but he has primarily been regarded as the patron and protector of the Church.

St. Gabriel is mentioned by name in Scripture (Lk 1:19), and Tradition has also assigned him implicit roles within Scripture where he is not specifically mentioned. Most important, however, is St. Gabriel’s role as the messenger of God, delivering to Mary the announcement of the birth of Our Savior (Lk 1:26).

St. Raphael is mentioned by name only in the Book of Tobit, where he is responsible for healing Tobias. Raphael means “God has healed” and thus, he has also often been associated with the “angel of the Lord” (Jn 5:4).

The feast day on Sept. 29 gives each of us the opportunity to consider our own role in the Church, as we gratefully commemorate the Archangels responsible for carrying out their roles of defender, messenger and healer.

St. Raphael Parish to Present Bishop Robert Barron's New Series: *The Mass*

The Mass is the central liturgical ritual in the Catholic Church where the Eucharist (Communion) is consecrated. The Church describes the Mass as "the source and summit of the Christian life." The Church teaches that through consecration by a priest the sacrificial bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

It has been seven years since the release of then Father Robert Barron's *Catholicism*, which was called "the most vivid catechism ever created." In the time between then and now, Robert Barron has gone from being rector of Mundelein Seminary in Chicago to the episcopacy as auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles. But he has continued the Word on Fire apostolate that has brought him much-deserved acclaim.

Bishop Barron has released a new series titled *The Mass*, which is a series of lectures filmed last October at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Santa Barbara, Calif. Bishop Barron stands at a lectern and holds forth, and he does so brilliantly. There are six segments of about twenty-five minutes each.

Our parish Director of Spiritual Development, Dr. Andy Kereky says, "Beginning on Sunday Sept. 23, and continuing for the five Sundays following, Fr. Tim Gareau and I will present Bishop Barron's six part series. We will begin at 4 p.m. each Sunday and conclude by 5:30 p.m. Each session will begin with an opening prayer and a brief introduction. We will show the videos which are only 20-25 minutes in length. Following the video there will be a short presentation and then a question and answer period, followed by small group discussions. We will culminate with a closing prayer."

The series on the Mass is an opportunity to walk through our Catholic Liturgy with Bishop Barron in a creative and spiritually engaging way. For example, in Episode 1, Bishop Barron explains why "the Mass is the supreme form of play." In Episode 6 (*The Real Presence Creates Communion*) we are reminded that "the words the priest uses change reality... as he makes the subtle move from third to first person" in the Eucharistic Prayer. In addition to founding Word



on Fire Catholic Ministries, he hosted his *Catholicism* series on public television and is considered by many as the voice of today's American Church. Bishop Barron is an Amazon bestselling author and has published numerous books, essays, and articles on theology and the spiritual life. He is a religion correspondent for NBC and has also appeared on FOX News, CNN, and EWTN. The late Francis Cardinal George said this of him: "He is one of the Church's best messengers."

This is a valuable opportunity for people to

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St. Raphael

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St. Raphael Parish to Present *The Mass* continued from page 7

experience this gifted teacher's message as well as share their thoughts with others while hearing theirs as well. Bishop Barron says, "One of the most fundamental problems in the spiritual order is that we sense within ourselves the hunger for God, but we attempt to satisfy it with some created good that is less than God. Thomas Aquinas said that the four typical substitutes for God are wealth, pleasure, power, and honor. Sensing the void within, we attempt to fill it up with some combination of these

four things, but only by emptying out the self in love can we make the space for God to fill us."

In his series on the Mass Bishop Barron shares a story told about St. Thomas Aquinas. He tells the story of how St. Thomas Aquinas, who – having completed writing his own explanation of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist – hears the voice of the Lord Himself praising the work. And Jesus asks what reward Thomas now seeks. And Thomas says simply, *Non nisi te* – "None but you."

For more information on this special event, please contact Dr. Kereky at the parish office 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.