



Greetings!

Grace & Peace to all.

I am so excited and extremely humbled to see each month more parishioners interested in receiving this Staying Connected Thru E-mail communication. So, once again, welcome all newcomers and welcome back to those who have been with me from the start. Also, I would like to express my gratitude to those of you who have shared your thoughts about this communication. I will continue to try and make this as fun and informative as I can.

The summer is coming to a close, the days are cooler, school is once again in session and fall is upon us. This year I had the pleasure of attending the opening day assembly at the school. The excitement and energy was absolutely contagious. Made me want to go back to school again, well ok almost! In any case it was nice to see the halls filled with anticipation of another great year as well as hearing the wonderful volunteer teachers preparing for PSR classes which will begin on 9/19/11. Yes, St Raphael is truly Blessed.

Items of interest this month:

Coming to a Prayer Garden near you: Please look to see Elizabeth Ann Seton, St Therese, The Pieta', Jesus and the Children, the Good Shepherd, St Peregrine and Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto .Dedication Blessing is scheduled take place on 10/1/11 after the 4:30PM Mass.

New Translation of the Roman Missal: By now you should have received a booklet that outlines the changes we as the community will need to learn. Now I know that it might seem very unfamiliar, music will be changing as well as responses, but let me assure you that our responses are nothing in comparison to what the Celebrants are learning. If you have an opportunity please consider attending one of Father Steve's classes or one of Bill Toler's Learning the Liturgy sessions.

Stewardship Renewal: Our Stewardship Renewal will take place in October. At that time parishioners will be asked to consider the gifts God has given them and to share those gifts in love of God & neighbor. The renewal is a time of prayerful discernment on the part of the individual, the family, and the parish. We seek to be faithful stewards of these gifts and we commit ourselves by sharing of our time, talent and treasure by giving the gift of self to the church and the community.

Capital Campaign: Father Tim has received permission to move forward with our Phase II of the capital campaign. Please stay tuned for more information in the months ahead.

In our newsletters you have been reading about stewardship and seeing how stewardship is lived out in our parish. Through those articles you have also heard about the three T's of stewardship, Time, Talent & Treasure and hopefully through this Staying Connected communication, I have in some way challenged you to better understand just what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We talked about what stewardship is. We discussed how we as Catholic Christians live a stewardship way of life and through that discussion we have come to know that it goes far beyond the walls of the church. Lastly we thought about "What will God Ask Us.

Shortly you will be hearing more about stewardship especially as we approach our Stewardship Renewal weekend that will take place in October. That being said the reflection on the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard seems to be fitting and beautifully

put by Deacon Don McArdle. I would like to share it with you now.

“The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard is one that startles centuries after Jesus told it. Those who worked in the vineyard only part of the day, perhaps just one hour, get paid as much as those who labored the whole day long.

The parable, however, is not so much about the workers as it is about the owner of the vineyard. The owner paid all the workers everything they had agreed upon. But in his generosity, he paid many of them more than was required.

In the same way, God is more than just; he is merciful. In his mercy and generosity, he gives all who turn to him eternal life in heaven, no matter when we decide to respond to him.

Our response to this merciful and generous God should be one of thankfulness and a commitment to offer him a portion of the time, talent, and treasure he has entrusted to us.”

What is your response to this generous and loving God?

Stewardship, a way of life.

God Bless You

Joyce Wager

Stewardship Director