

March 2023

Saint Raphael



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A Combined Lenten Mission: March 19 - 21

This year St. Raphael Parish is collaborating with Holy Trinity Parish and St. Joseph Parish to present a combined three-night Lenten Mission. The mission presenter each evening will be Bishop Michael Woost. As the Eucharistic Revival inaugurated by American bishops last year on Corpus Christi prepares to enter its second year, Bishop Woost will be our guide. The overarching theme of his talks will be the Eucharistic mystery. Each night he will focus on a different aspect of that mystery: Blessed, Broken, and Shared.

The mission will run from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm on each of three consecutive evenings, from Sunday March 19 through Tuesday March 21. Each night of the mission will be hosted by a different parish:

Sunday, March 19, at Holy Trinity Parish – theme for the evening: BLESSED

33601 Detroit Rd, Avon, OH 44011 (440-937-5363)

Parishioners from all three parishes are invited to gather in the Holy Trinity school gym for Evening Prayer and Exposition of the Eucharist. The night will begin with a procession bringing the Eucharist from the church over to the gym, where it will be placed in a monstrance and set on an altar. There will be time for adoration. Bishop Woost will preside at Evening Prayer within which he will deliver his talk. The evening will conclude with Benediction. Holy Trinity church sits at the intersection of Detroit Road and Nagel Road in



Bishop Michael Woost

Avon. Parking is available in two parking lots off Nagel Road: a northern lot directly behind the church, and a southern lot a block further down Nagel, behind the school. There will be parish volunteers on hand to provide directions to the gym and help with seating.

Continued on Page 3

This Issue:

- 1 A Combined Lenten Mission:
March 19 - 21
- 2 A Message from Father Tim
- 3 Holy Week 2023
- 4 Sister Thea Bowman, Servant of God
- 6 A St. Francis Statue
- 7 About the "Litany of Humility"
- 8 Special Guest at the
Lenten Fish Fry, March 24th

Easter is quickly drawing upon us; and we, as a faith community, look to celebrate God's saving activity in the gift of the Resurrection. How deeply we long and yearn for our God who loves us unconditionally. Jesus is risen, just as He foretold! This new and everlasting covenant has been established by the blood of His cross and remains with us forevermore! What a blessing, what a gift! May we continue to be drawn more deeply into the mysteries of our faith and the miracle of Easter this year.

During these final days of Lent, be sure to take the opportunity to spend some quality time with Our Lord. Let us openly walk with Jesus through Holy Week and fully embrace the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the ceremonies that are made available to us. The mystery of Passion Sunday with the palms reminds us of the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, the city where He gave His life for us; Holy Thursday, which recalls the institution of the Eucharist (the source and summit of our faith) and the gift of priesthood (the source of service in Jesus); Good Friday, which asks us to follow the path of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross and embrace the redemptive value that the cross holds out to us; and Easter, the culmination of these days of grace and strength.

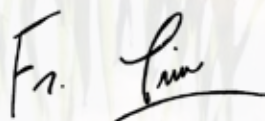
Please join us during Holy Week, Easter and well beyond. How important it is to gather as a faith community to remember and celebrate what God has done for us. All are welcomed and encouraged.

The Pastoral Staff here at St. Raphael extends a heartfelt "thank you" to all of our parishioners. Your dedication, support, and love for the Lord encourage us in our ministry. You are an Easter People! You live in the light and the love of the Lord and inspire us greatly! May we continue to work together in building God's Kingdom and extending Easter joy to all those we meet. May the grace of the Risen Christ be with you and your loved ones. God bless and keep you!

Rev. James T. Winings, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Mark Cunningham
Deacon Larry Gregg
Susan Andregg
Keith Benya
Joanne Gill
Zak Jester
Colleen Maher
Maureen Mayer
Ken Mitskavich
Tom Pussel
Candy Reese

Kyle Rosser
Mary Sak
Diane Schreiber
Sara Seybold
Bill Sheehan
Nancy Sullivan
Anna Synek
Terri Telepak
Pat Terry
Bill Toler
Kelley Tonegato

Rev. Timothy W. Gareau, Pastor



A Combined Lenten Mission

Continued from Page 1

Monday, March 20, at St. Raphael Parish – theme for the evening: BROKEN

525 Dover Center Rd, Bay Village 44140 (440-871-1100)

Parishioners from all three parishes are invited next evening to gather at St. Raphael Parish for a Communal Penance service. Bishop Woost will lead the service which will include scripture readings followed by his talk. Mission attendees will then have an opportunity for private Confession with one of many priests to be stationed within and adjacent to the church. The main parking lot at St. Raphael can be accessed from Dover Center Road to accommodate all mission participants. There will be parish volunteers on hand to provide directions to the church and to direct attendees to priest confessors.

Tuesday, March 21, at St. Joseph Parish – theme for the evening: SHARED

32929 Lake Rd. Avon Lake, OH 44012 (440-933-3152)

Parishioners from all three parishes are invited to gather for a final mission evening at St. Joseph Parish for celebration of the Holy Eucharist (Mass). Bishop Woost will again be the celebrant, and he will give his

talk in the form of an extended homily. A special collection for the poor in our area will be taken up. There will be a parishioner social immediately following the Mass with an opportunity to meet the Bishop. The main parking lot at St. Joseph can be accessed from the north by Lake Road and from the south by Electric Boulevard. Parish volunteers will be present to provide directions to the church and to the social/reception following Mass.

This combined three-night Lenten Mission will provide an opportunity to gather with a couple of our neighboring parishes, to become better acquainted with Bishop Woost, to worship our God in the context of a wider faith community, and to enter more deeply into the mystery of the Eucharist. There will be choirs and beautiful music each night, perhaps the allure of unfamiliar worship spaces, and mementos to take home. Plan to attend all three mission nights, or as many as you're able. Come experience and celebrate our parish differences and the Eucharist which unites and empowers us all.

Holy Week 2023

Confessions

Saturday, April 1

3:00-4:00 pm

Sunday, April 2

9:15 am - 9:45 am

11:15 am - 11:45 am

Wednesday, April 5

5:00-7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 7

12:30-2:00 pm

No confessions on Holy Saturday

Passion (Palm) Sunday, April 2

Saturday Vigil Mass, April 1

4:30 pm

Sunday Masses, April 2

8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm

Monday, April 3

Mass

7:45 am, 9:15 am

Tuesday, April 4

Mass

7:45 am, 9:15 am

Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 5

Mass

7:45 am

Confessions

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Tenebrae

8:30 pm

Holy Thursday, April 6

(No Morning Mass)

Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:30 pm

Eucharistic Adoration in the

Community Rooms until 11:30 pm

GOOD FRIDAY, April 7

(No Masses)

Stations of the Cross

12:00 pm

Confessions

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Celebration of Our Lord's Passion

3:00 pm

HOLY SATURDAY, April 8

(No Morning Masses/Confessions)

Blessing of Food

1:00 pm

Easter Vigil Mass

8:45 pm

EASTER SUNDAY, April 9

Resurrection of Our Lord

Mass

7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm

Sister Thea Bowman, Servant of God

By Joy Horvath



Illustration of Sister Thea Bowman

Who was this remarkable woman, and why is her cause for sainthood being advanced by so many people? What did she accomplish in her short lifetime, and how has it affected the Catholic Church in our nation, in Cleveland, and in Bay Village?

She was born Bertha Elizabeth Bowman, the only child of Dr. Theon Bowman, a physician, and his wife Mary Esther, a teacher, in Yazoo, Mississippi, on December 29, 1937. The family soon moved to nearby Canton, Mississippi, where Bertha was steeped in Black history and culture, Black spirituality, Black music, and a strong Black Methodist family.

In Canton, the Holy Child Jesus Catholic Church was staffed by priests from the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, who recognized the need for a

“school for colored children.” They invited four FSPA teachers from La Crosse, Wisconsin to come and staff the school. Knowing Bertha would be well-taught, her parents enrolled her. Later, as Sister Thea, she reminisced that, for the first time, she saw white women wipe the noses of black children, comfort and hug them, and treat them as God’s beloved children. She was so impressed by what she witnessed, that at age 9 she told her parents she wanted become a Catholic, which they supported. A few years later at age 15, she told her parents that she was determined to join the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Wisconsin; they were a little less supportive of that decision, but eventually agreed.

She left Mississippi at age 15 on a train bound for La Crosse, Wisconsin, the first and only Black postulant in the Order. At St. Rose Convent, she completed high school, attended Viterbo University in La Crosse, earning a B.A. in English, Speech, and Drama, and became a teacher. In the early 1950s, her first assignment was at an elementary school in La Crosse—a Black woman teaching in an all-White school, unheard of! She went on to teach many different grade levels, at one point returning to Mississippi schools. Subsequently, she earned a Master’s Degree in English, and then a Ph.D. in English Language, Literature, and Linguistics, both from Catholic University of America (CUA). She was the first African-American woman to receive a Doctorate in Theology from Boston College. With these credentials, she taught at the college level at Viterbo University, CUA, and Xavier University in New Orleans.

The 60s marked a time of turmoil and change in our country: Medgar Evers and John Kennedy were both assassinated in 1963; Cleveland’s Hough neighborhood (1966) and Detroit (1967) both suffered damaging riots; Martin Luther King was killed in 1968. The Civil Rights Act was signed into law in 1964. And Vatican II met and reformed the Catholic Church from 1962-1965.

Change came for Sr. Thea too. She rediscovered her African-American religious roots, and found her vocation: to speak and write about Black spirituality,

Black history and culture, and its place in the Catholic Church. When in 1966 FSPA exchanged their habits for street dress, she adopted the African dashiki, a brightly colored robe, as her preferred clothing. After 16 years as a teacher, she was invited by the Bishop of Jackson, Mississippi to become his Consultant on Intercultural Awareness. There, she became an acclaimed evangelizer, teacher, writer, and singer, sharing her rich cultural heritage across the nation. She travelled the U.S. fighting racial prejudice and promoting cultural sensitivity. Ever eager to promote education, she helped found the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University in New Orleans, established the Sister Thea Bowman Foundation for Catholic education of youth in the state of Mississippi, and constantly urged bishops to establish and maintain schools in Black communities. Sr. Thea had a beautiful voice – stage-worthy according to her friends - and she often broke out in song during her talks. In 1987, *Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal* was published; Sr. Thea had helped choose some of the included hymns.

1984 was a momentous year for Sr. Thea. Both her parents died, then she discovered a lump in her breast that turned out to be cancer. Not one to wallow in self-pity, she said, “Part of my approach to my illness has been to say I want to choose life. I want to keep going. I want to live fully until I die.” She maintained her schedule of traveling, speaking and teaching. In 1987 she was interviewed by Mike Wallace, noted “gotcha” reporter for 60 Minutes. She utterly captivated him! (You can see the full interview online.) Harry Belafonte saw the interview, and proposed making a movie about her life, starring Whoopi Goldberg! The project was never completed, though, as Belafonte decided there wasn’t enough material for it—indeed!

A final shining moment for Sr. Thea was her address to

Highlights of Sister Thea Bowman

- *Born in 1937 in the deep Jim Crow South but preached racial healing and understanding.*
- *Raised in a religious Methodist household but called by God to be a Roman Catholic Sister.*
- *Grew up in the sun and warmth of Mississippi but chose to join the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (FSPA) in La Crosse, Wisconsin.*
- *Diagnosed with cancer at age 47 but taught and witnessed to her faith until only a few days before she died in 1990 at age 52.*

the June 17, 1989 summer meeting of the Catholic Bishops of the United States. Her message to them and to us: “We all have multi-cultural people in our families. We need to know the histories and cultures from which we come, to claim all, to use all, all the experience, all the survival and coping mechanisms, all that we need if we’re going to get over to that Promised Land, to the new Jerusalem, where there won’t be anybody hungry, or lonely or poor, because we’re walking together as brothers and sisters in Jesus’ name.” At the end of her presentation, she asked the Bishops to join hands and sing together. Someone jokingly said it may have been the first time all the Church’s leaders were united about anything! You can find the entire address online.

On March 30, 1990, in her parents’ home in Canton, Sr. Thea Bowman died. Her funeral at St. Mary’s Church in Jackson, Mississippi lasted three hours. She is buried in Memphis, Tennessee next to her parents. Her tombstone bears the simple inscription she requested, “She tried.” Again, her words: “I want people to remember that I tried to love the Lord and that I tried to love them.”

She left a legacy at all levels of the Catholic Church. At the national level, she influenced Black study courses at the universities, encouraged financial support for Black K-12 Catholic schools and students, and helped incorporate Black spirituality into the Church. Many schools, outreach centers, shelters, and free clinics around the country bear her name. In Cleveland, the Thea Bowman Center in the Mount Pleasant community near Shaker Heights began in 1966 as an outreach from Epiphany Catholic Church, which has since closed. But the Center continues to provide food support, health and education services, and senior and youth programs for marginalized people. During the liturgy at St. Raphael when we sing gospel hymns, we celebrate Sr. Thea’s vision of love and harmony.

Sr. Thea Bowman, evangelizer, teacher, writer, singer, was charismatic and undeniably close to God. In 2018, the Bishop of the Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi opened a cause for her canonization. That same year, she was declared a *Servant of God*, the first step on the road to sainthood. The process takes many years, deep research into her life, a few attributable miracles, and many prayers. She is most definitely worthy of consideration!

A St. Francis Statue

By Stephanie West

Years ago, my mother finally decided on the Catholic statue she wanted to display in her yard. I admit I was surprised by her selection, but should not have been.

My mother chose St. Francis to adorn her flower bed near her front porch. Of all the saints, she had a decided affection for St. Francis, most probably because her birthday was on October 4, his feast day. But maybe she had another reason for choosing St. Francis.

As we all understand about the saints, St. Francis was not a perfect person. Growing up, he was the son of a successful merchant and wanted for nothing. He was high-spirited and loved life. He joined the military to defend Assisi against a neighboring enemy, then returned home where he became dissatisfied with his comfortable way of life. He defied his parents when he decided to give up his family heritage and to live in poverty. He began a new religious order, the Order of Friars Minor. He also was thought to be a little crazy because of his extreme penitential practices that he believed pleased God.

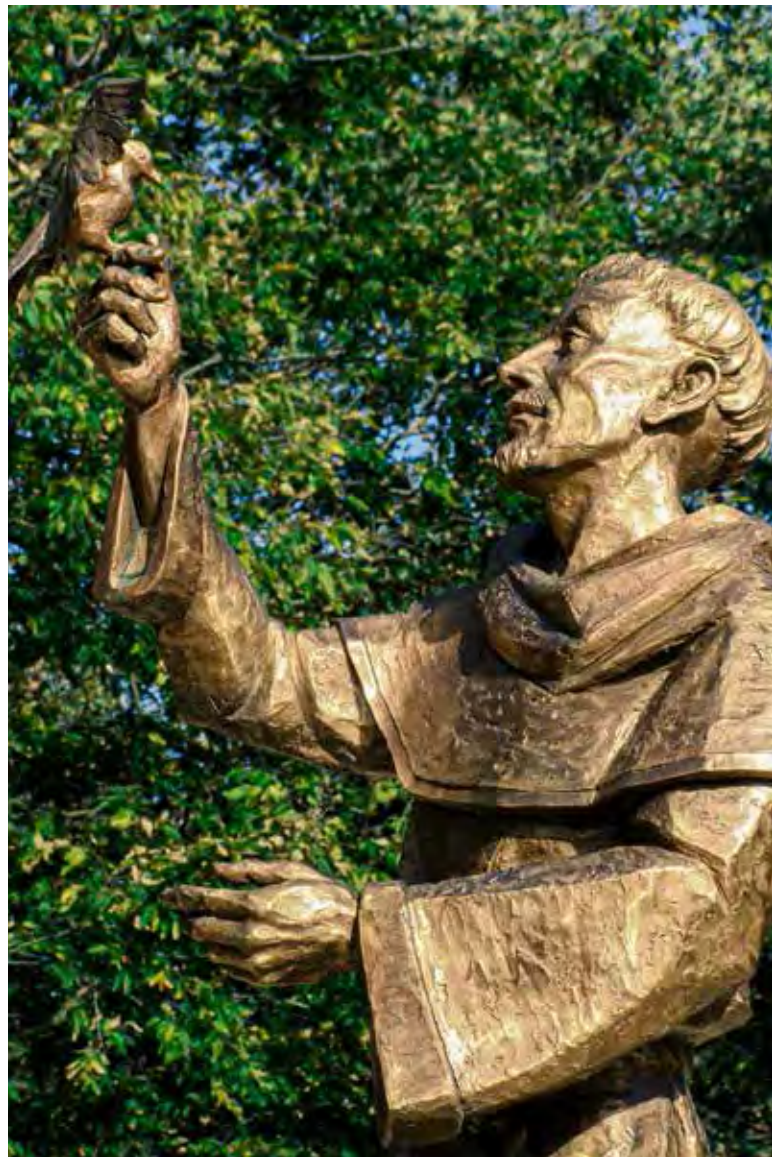
I suspect my mother related to St. Francis because she was a high-spirited lady herself. She aspired and made a concerted effort to live with a peaceful spirit. She also understood that she needed periodically to do penance and probably admired St. Francis for practicing humility in this way.

When my mother passed, I inherited St. Francis. He sits in my backyard, and I see him every day. I think of my mom. I remember how she embraced a peaceful and humble spirit in her later years. I love this statute of St. Francis because he was a role model for my mother, and I'm sure she would want her family to look to him also.

To me and to many Catholics, he stands for peace. Oh, Jesus said it so clearly... "Love on another as I love you!" My St. Francis statue is my daily inspiration to this end.

In the "Canticle of the Sun," St. Francis prays, "Praise be You my Lord ... (and)... Blessed are those who endure in peace, By You Most High, they will be crowned...Blessed are they (who are) doing Your Will...Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility."

Do you have a Catholic statue in your yard? In your home? We've been taught that our statues of the saints exist to remind us of their virtues in the hope that we will emulate them, though none of them are perfect like Jesus. Which would you choose?



St. Francis of Assisi at Trinity Heights, Sioux City, IA. Photograph by Chris Light, 2011. Wikimedia Commons.

About the “Litany of Humility”

By Mike Manco

A litany is a form of prayer with a repeated responsive petition. The so-called “Litany of Humility” dates back to the mid 1800s, and when prayed, it provided me with a great sense of what I strive to achieve. We know that humility is the virtue we need to fight the sin of pride which is also the source and root of so many other sins.

Please read and save it as I think it will impact you as much as it did me. God Bless.

The Litany of Humility

Lord Jesus. Meek and humble of heart Hear me.
From the desire of being esteemed, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being loved, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being extolled, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being honored, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being praised, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being preferred to others, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being consulted, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being approved, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being humiliated, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being despised, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of suffering rebukes, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being calumniated, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being forgotten, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being ridiculed, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being wronged, Deliver me, Jesus.
From the fear of being suspected, Deliver me, Jesus.



That others may be loved more than I, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may be esteemed more than I, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.
That, in the opinion of the world, others may increase and I may decrease, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may be chosen and I set aside, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may be praised and I unnoticed, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may be preferred to me in everything, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.
That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

St. Raphael

CHURCH

525 Dover Center Road
Bay Village, OH 44140

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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.

Special Guest at the Lenten Fish Fry, March 24th

Bishop Edward Malesic will be attending our St. Raphael parish Lenten Fish Fry on Friday, March 24th, and then following dinner in the PAC, he will lead Stations of the Cross in the church at 7:00 pm. Mark your calendar for this unique opportunity to attend Stations with our Bishop!



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.

Confessions: Saturdays 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. | **Eucharistic Adoration:** Friday 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.