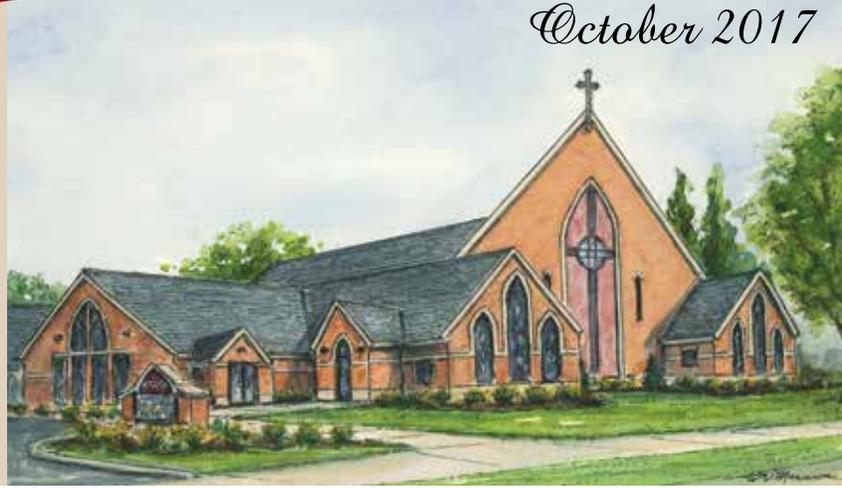


October 2017

# Saint Raphael



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## The St. Raphael Lending Library Is Open for Business!

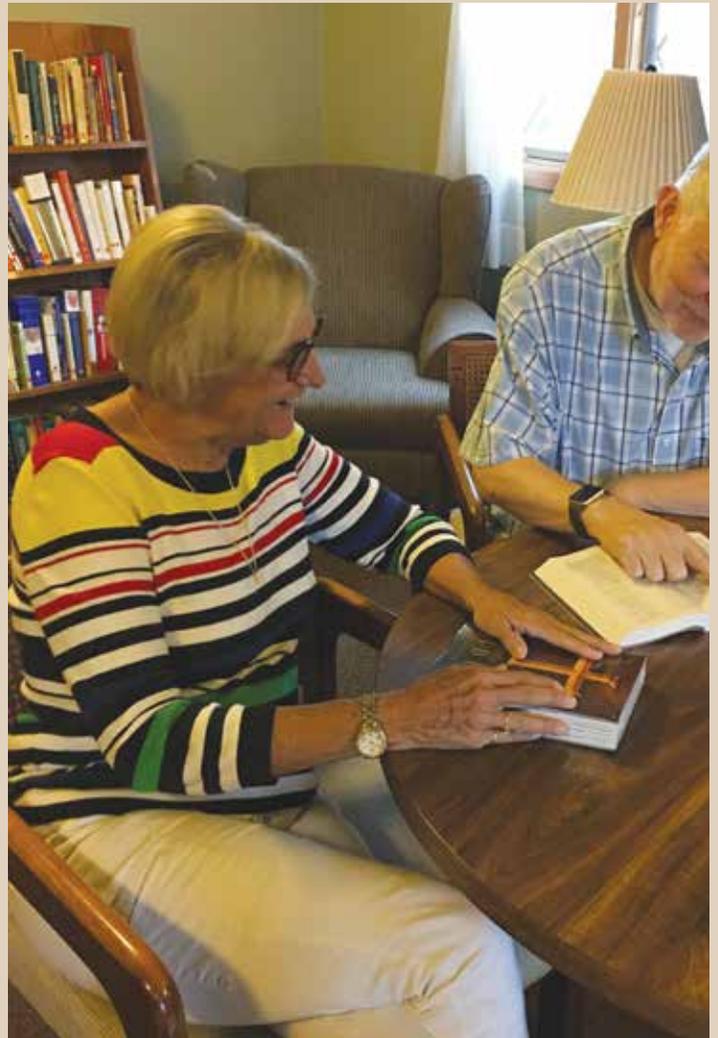
Our Mass and other resources provide us with the Word of God. The St. Raphael Lending Library builds on this gift by providing a wide variety of the best, recommended Catholic resources for enriching a life of faith. The library is now organized by topics, making it easier for the people of the parish to find the specific items they are seeking. And there is neither a charge nor heavy-handed process for utilizing it.

The library is located in the former convent – now the Raphael Center – on the top floor, and it is basically open when the campus is open, which is essentially from early in the morning until 9 p.m. at night. Dr. Andy Kereky, the parish Director of Spiritual Development, is responsible for the Library, as he has been the one who has gathered the books and materials through the years.

“I truly love my work and my role here at the parish because it involves such a variety of roles and responsibilities,” Dr. Kereky says. “As these books

*continued on page 2*

*“Through the years, people have been kind enough to give us literally thousands of books and other materials. For a long time, they were stored in the convent. When the convent was converted to meeting rooms and storage, we recognized an opportunity to do something with all of these fantastic gifts. The result is our St. Raphael Lending Library.” – Dr. Andy Kereky*



*Susan Andregg and Dr. Andy Kereky in the Lending Library.*

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started to accumulate, someone had to be placed in charge. Often here at St. Raphael, when they are not quite sure who should be responsible, they tend to ask me. I love the variety that produces for me, though.

"Through the years, people have been kind enough to give us literally thousands of books and other materials," he continues. "For a long time, they were stored in the convent. When the convent was converted to meeting rooms and storage, we recognized an



*Parishioners are invited to enjoy our Lending Library.*

## The St. Raphael Lending Library Is Open for Business!

*continued from front cover*

opportunity to do something with all of these fantastic gifts. The result is our St. Raphael Lending Library."

Dr. Kereky acknowledges, however, that it is a parishioner, Susan Andregg, who is the one who has put the library in a shape, which makes it usable and convenient for everyone. "Susan is what I would call a 'professional organizer,'" he says. "She took what we had and labeled, categorized, and put together an Excel spreadsheet of everything we had, then placed all of it in a way that people can find what they might be looking for."

Susan, on the other hand, explains what happened in this way.

"I was looking for a particular Bible, and I mentioned it to Andy," she says. "He told me he thought we had that Bible among our many books, and we went to look for it in the room where all of this was in boxes. He found the Bible, but I was a bit appalled at the disorganization of what we had. As a retired teacher, I guess I am sort of fond of organization. I volunteered to put it all in a system which would make sense and people could make use of."

Although the Lending Library has officially existed for a couple years, it is only through Susan's

efforts that it is now organized in a way that almost anyone can utilize.

"This may not be a library Dewey Decimal System, but thanks to gifts of bookshelves and more, it now looks like and feels like a real library," she says. "In fact, we keep getting more books and materials and are at a point where we are a bit strained for room. We would welcome even more books and religious materials if people wish to give them. I started this just wanting to help, but I guess I am sort of in charge now. Fr. Tim calls it my 'mission,' and that may be true. People here at St. Raphael all seem to have a 'mission,' and this is mine. We do not have a lot of traffic as yet, but I am in hopes that people will discover us and use us."

"We would like to see this expand, and to be able to offer more multimedia materials – we have some now," Dr. Kereky adds. "There is a sign-out sheet for books, and we do ask that people return them, but there is no particular time frame. I believe we have close to 4,000 books right now. The Lending Library is a comfortable room and people are welcome to come in and browse, or even sit and enjoy for a while if they wish. You might say we want them to come, browse, read, and enjoy."

*Please make use of the Lending Library – it is there for you! For additional information, or if you have questions, please contact Dr. Andy Kereky at the parish office, 440-871-1100.*

A Letter From Our Pastor

# “Here I Am, Lord.” But Are You Really There? Are You Responding to God’s Call?

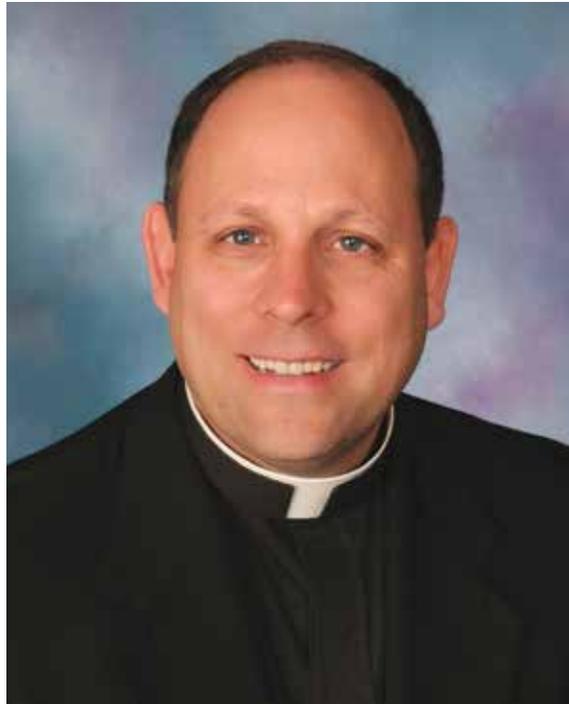
My Dear Friends in Christ,

Throughout the Bible we hear people say, “Here I am, Lord,” or something similar. Normally, it is a response to a communication, a call, from God. In the Old Testament Book of Exodus, for example, it states, “God called out to him from the bush: ‘Moses! Moses!’ He answered, ‘Here I am!’” (Exodus 3:4). We often speak in the Church about the fact that we have each received a calling from God. We also regularly say that one way to respond to that call is to live a life of stewardship.

Of course, the truth is that many do not hear God’s call because they are either not listening or they do not want to hear it. Of course, that is not how we should feel. I could write about my own call, but right now, I would rather address your call.

This is a time of year when there are calls from those in need all around us. Some of those calling are ministries right here in our parish. Before I address our response, it is important to emphasize that we need to hear the call. To hear something, we have to be listening.

The second issue is our response to the call. Do we indeed say, “Here I am”? Or, do we choose to say and do nothing? Stewardship is a call to action, a call to do something to share with and to help others. In the Old Testament passage cited above,



Moses responds, “Who am I?” (Exodus 3:11) – meaning he feels unworthy and unable to fulfill this call from the Lord. God’s answer is everything, as He says to Moses simply, “I will be with you” (Exodus 3:12). Thus, we receive the call; we are to respond to God making it clear that we are ready. We may quite likely feel (as Moses did) that we are unprepared for what God may be asking us to do, but His response to Moses was the same as His response to us – “I will be with you.”

That is enough to empower us and strengthen us to try to serve God and fulfill His desires for us. Of course, there is one other call to which we need to respond. It is, as Christ said many times, “Come follow Me.”

As we enter this part of our personal year, this part of our calendar year, and this part of our Church year, may we be ready to listen, to respond, and then to do – full with the knowledge that the Lord is with us always!

May God bless and keep you,

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

Fr. Tim Gareau,  
Pastor

*That is enough to empower us and strengthen us to try to serve God and fulfill His desires for us. Of course, there is one other call to which we need to respond. It is, as Christ said many times, “Come follow Me.”*

# Introducing Nick Gresko, Our New Youth Minister

## *Involving Our Young People*

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has long emphasized the importance of Youth Ministry in and for the Church. Speaking on the conference's behalf, one of the committee heads stated, "Youth Ministry is so important in the life of the Church... It is an exciting time to do Youth Ministry in this 'moment of grace,' especially with the election of Pope Francis. His humility, simplicity and example is prompting the world, especially among young people, to give the Church a 'second look.'"

At another point, the U.S. Bishops emphasize the goal "to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our

world today... In order to adapt our ministry to this changing world, we need to be clear about what we are being asked to do by the Lord Jesus. We are being asked to help young people answer the single most important question of their lives: the call to evangelization."

We are pleased to introduce the new Youth Minister here at St. Raphael – Nick Gresko. Nick has been preparing his whole life for this role, it seems. A parishioner of Mary Queen of the Apostles in Brook Park, Nick has been involved with the Church in the area of serving and working with youth for many years.

"I attended Bowling Green State University after high school

and graduated from there with a B.A. in Elementary and Middle School education," he says. "My wife, Alicia, and I met at Bowling Green and were married after graduating in 2003. For 11 years, I worked as a teacher and Assistant Principal of St. Adalbert Catholic School. Then, I took a position as Coordinator of Family Life Childcare Center of Cleveland. However, throughout that time, I continued to serve as a Catechist in our Parish School of Religion and was on the Youth Ministry Team.

"Alicia and I have been part of the Youth Ministry Team and part of the Parish School of Religion since 2003 at Mary Queen of the Apostles, and Alicia still is on both teams, as I now serve on both teams here at St. Raphael," he continues. "However, I was part of more ministries and services there, as well. In fact, I am proud to be one of the founding members of their Knights of Columbus Council and served as the first Grand Knight for that Council."

Nick understands that the Youth Ministry program here at our parish has had its ups and downs in recent years.

"My goal as Director of Youth Ministry is to get young people involved in the life of the parish and the Church," he says. "This means taking 'small steps' as we move forward to accomplish this goal."

To begin to accomplish that goal, the first Youth Ministry event will be on Sunday, Oct. 29.



*Nick Gresko at a youth ministry event at his previous parish*

## New Director of Youth Ministry A Blessing in the Life of the Parish



*Nick Gresko and his wife, Alicia*

“We are planning a kickoff bonfire and picnic to introduce myself better and to start the year with something both enjoyable and meaningful,” Nick says. “There will be introductions, games, a bonfire and, most important, discussion about our plans for the year. I hope to have three events each month and think in terms of one fun event, one catechetical event and one spiritual event. What we are about is prayer, adoration, worship, and fellowship. We wish to serve not just those students in grades nine through 12, but their parents, as well. There will be more information in the bulletins over the next few weeks about that opening bonfire, as well as other plans in the works.”

We welcome Nick and Alicia to the St. Raphael family!

*Nick Gresko can be contacted at the parish office, 440-871-1100, ext. 140 or via email at [ngresko@saintraphaelparish.com](mailto:ngresko@saintraphaelparish.com).*

The HSYM program is designed especially for YOU – the young men and women in our parish, who are in grades nine through 12, attending ANY high school! We know that your lives are extremely busy with school, extracurricular activities, jobs, sports and family obligations, but we also want you to be able to take some time throughout the year to grow in your faith, stay connected with your parish, and get involved at the parish. We are currently working on developing a High School Youth Ministry (HSYM) program. To help us we are asking ALL high school teens and their parents to go to the link below and fill out a survey. This is going to help us plan events for the teens and events for the parents. We ask that all teens and their parents complete this survey online.

**TEEN:** <https://form.jotform.us/72502929129156>

**PARENT:** <https://form.jotform.us/72504600429147>

The survey can also be accessed by clicking on the Youth Ministry button on the parish website and then clicking on the Teen and Parent Survey button.

# Prayer: Come to Know the Lord

We make constant reference to the “three Ts” of stewardship, recognizing that to truly live as a stewardship people, we must give God the first fruits of our time, talent, and treasure. It is easy for us to see the concrete reality of the latter two. If we are to give God our talents, we must first recognize with what talents He has blessed us, and then use those talents for His greater glory. And as we continue our stewardship path, we know very well that our money is something concrete. When we recognize it as a gift from God, we know that we are to give a certain amount back to Him. It is easy for many of us to understand what it means to give God our talent and our treasure.

But what does it mean to give God a portion of our time? This idea is much harder to grasp, and yet giving to God the first fruits of our time is just as important as the other two. And if we understand this idea and implement it properly, our stewardship of time will serve as the very foundation from which our stewardship of talent and treasure bear fruit.

When we talk about stewardship of time, we are referring to prayer time. Prayer is of the utmost importance in a disciple’s life, and in the Diocese of Wichita’s *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship*, it is also one of the four pillars of stewardship.

Does this mean that in order to be true disciples, we should say the *Our Father* three times a day or pray a daily Rosary? Not particularly. Of course, we must not discount the merits of prayer, as the Church in her wondrous wisdom has given us certain prayers to help guide our lives. However, the disciple’s deep life of prayer involves even more.

St. John Chrysostom explains, “You should not think of prayer as being a matter of words. It is a desire for God, an indescribable devotion ... the gift of God’s grace” (*Hom 6*). That is, if we look at prayer as a mere regimen that we must follow every day, then we do not see to the heart of it. The reality is that prayer will take on different forms for every one of us. One person may have a deep devotion

to the Rosary, and in praying it, he is closely united to the Lord. Another person might feel deeply connected to Him through constant conversation – in the car on the way to work, before bed at night, or at other hours throughout the day. Meanwhile, for another person, a daily or weekly hour of silence before the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration is the best place for him to offer the Lord his heart. No matter how we choose to pray, we must get to the root of it all. If we are to truly give God our time, it must be a gift of ourselves. It must come from the heart and not take the form of mere word repetition. If we offer an *Our Father* without meditating on the words, it can simply become recitation.

The point of prayer is to get to know the Lord. If we are committed to living as His disciples, we must be on personal terms with Him. The first disciples didn’t know what it meant to pray the Rosary. And until the Lord taught them the *Our Father*, they couldn’t pray that either. But they were definitely true stewards of their time. They walked with Jesus, talked with Jesus, and ate meals with Him. He was their best friend, and the more they got to know Him, the more they longed to serve Him.

The same holds true for us today. We can walk with Him, talk with Him and sit with Him, just as they did. And He wants us to do this, too. St. John Chrysostom proclaims, there is nothing more worthwhile: “For prayer unites us to God as His companions” (*Hom 6*). How can we serve Him if we don’t know Him? If we truly desire to be a servant people, we must talk to Him whom we wish to serve. We must get to know Him. Then, most assuredly, we will fall in love with Him. We will undoubtedly desire nothing more than to serve Him.

Recognize Jesus as your best friend and spend time with Him as such. He is the Lord, the Creator of the Universe, without whom we would cease to exist. Bring Him your cares and concerns, your excitement, your worry, your fears and your frustrations, and allow Him to comfort you. He is there, and He wants to speak with you.



## Our Kindergarten Retreats at St. Raphael on Oct. 24, 25 and 26 *A Time to Be Prayerful*

There are three kindergarten classes at St. Raphael School with over 20 children in each. One of the distinctive things we do here is to expose them to the idea of a retreat so that they can experience what it means to “go on a retreat.” Of course, we also want them to deepen and become aware of their relationship with God. The retreats take place on consecutive days in October during school time, one day devoted to each class. Each retreat is two and a half hours in length.

Our Director of Spiritual Development, Dr. Andy Kereky, coordinates the retreats.

“I have been conducting retreats for people of all ages for a number of years, but doing a retreat for children of kindergarten age is unique both for me and for a parish,” Dr. Kereky says. “I know the attention span is shorter for children of that age, so I try to carefully design retreat talks and activities to a length to keep their attention while being sensitive to where they are spiritually and emotionally. Talks and activities can only be a few minutes long and they are usually multimedia in nature. I like to use a lot of props and visuals.

“Our theme is built around the



*Dr. Andy Kereky leads the retreat!*

idea of superheroes this year, and that happens on three levels,” he continues. “The common thread among most of the superheroes the children know is that they want to do good. We delve into the fact that ‘doing good’ is based on ‘love.’ We

then transition into what we call the ‘superheroes of the Church’ – our saints. The children seem to have no problem grasping the connection between ‘superheroes’ and saints. Then we take the next step by having the children learn that they are

*continued on back cover*

*“All these retreat activities remind them, as ‘saints in training,’ that even now, they are loved by Jesus and are invited to return that love as ‘superheroes’ who are always ‘thinking big.’ The retreats they experience in first grade and beyond build on these teachings.” – Dr. Andy Kereky*

# St. Raphael

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## A Time to Be Prayerful *continued from page 7*

'saints in training.' We encourage them to 'think big' and to accentuate that we use a lot of oversized props, like giant light bulbs and crayons and others."

Dr. Kereky notes that while there is no way in this space that to provide all the detail that happens on the retreat, there are a few lessons are worth mentioning.

"I use a magic coloring book emphasizing how they learn about God from multiple sources – family, Church, school, etc. – as they get older," he says. "A giant light bulb

reminds them they are 'the light of the world' and a fun – and popular – reflection with a magic bag and colorful silks emphasizes how their spiritual heart becomes beautifully multi-colored as they do loving things for others. All these retreat activities remind them, as 'saints in training,' that even now, they are loved by Jesus and are invited to return that love as 'superheroes' who are always 'thinking big.' The retreats they experience in first grade and beyond build on these teachings."

*For information, please contact Dr. Andy Kereky  
at [akereky@saintraphaelparish.com](mailto:akereky@saintraphaelparish.com) or 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.