

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKENDS:

Saturday at 4:30 pm

Sunday at 8:00 am & 10:00 am

WEEKDAYS:

Monday through Saturday 7:00 am

Monday - Thursday 8:00 am

No 8:00 am Mass for Summer

HOLY DAYS AND HOLIDAYS:

Check Bulletin For Mass Times

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Friday of each month (with exposition) following 7:00 am Mass concluding at 2:00 pm with Benediction

Subsequent Tuesday of each month (without exposition) 7:00 am to 2:30 pm

PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

Tuesday mornings at 6:50 am

CONFESSIONS

15 minutes before 7:00 am Mass on Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday; and 3:45 pm to 4:20 pm on Saturday

ROSARY

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in Church

SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

CATHOLIC CHURCH

JANUARY 28, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Celebrate
Catholic
Schools
Week 2018

January 28 – February 3 #CSW18



PARISH INFORMATION

Registration of New Members: Please call the Parish Office to register.

Baptism: Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements for Baptismal instructions and to arrange a Baptismal date.

Marriage: Please contact the Pastor at least six months prior to the intended date to begin the Church process of marriage preparation.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.): Please call the Parish Office for information.

**ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH
6047 BISHOPS PLACE • SAINT LOUIS, MO 63109**

CLERGY & STAFF

Rev. Robert J. Reiker Pastor
reiker@straphaelarchangel.org

Msgr. Dennis Stehly Priest-In-Residence
dennisstehly@archstl.org

Deacon Ron Holmes Permanent Deacon
and Pastoral Associate
holmes@straphaelarchangel.org

Deacon Gerald J. Geiser Retired Deacon

Ty Taylor Seminarian

Mateo Salam Seminarian

Dr. Nancy Deacon Music Director
musicdirector@straphaelarchangel.org

Mrs. Diane Halbert Parish Office Manager
halbert@straphaelarchangel.org

Mrs. Mickey Janos Admin. Assistant
janos@straphaelarchangel.org

Mr. Robert Schlueter Maintenance

Mr. Howard Adams Maintenance

Mrs. Julie Hayes School Principal
hayes@straphaelarchangel.org

Mrs. Linda Mechler School Secretary
secretary@straphaelarchangel.org

Mrs. Amy Ruggeri Cafeteria Manager

Parish Office 314.352.8100
Fax 314.353.6603

School 314.352.9474
Fax 314.351.7477

Website
straphaelarchangel.org

Facebook
Saint Raphael the Archangel Parish and School

Twitter
@SRAtoday

MyParishApp
Text 'App' to 88202

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Monday, January 29th

6:00 pm - Gym
6:00 pm - Parish Office
7:00 pm - Archangel Room
7:00 pm - Gym
9:00 pm - Gym

3rd Gr. Boys Bball.
Finance Council
Historical Society Mtg.
6th Gr. Girls Bball.
Men's Club Soccer

Tuesday, January 30th

1:30 pm - Tobias Room
7:00 pm - Church

Bible Study
Rosary Recitation

Wednesday, January 31st

9:00 am - Quilters' Room
6:00 pm - Cafeteria
8:30 pm - Gym

Quilters
Step Class
Men's Club Basketball

Thursday, February 1st

2:00 pm - Trophy Room
3:00 pm - Trophy Room
3:15 pm - Art Room
3:30 pm - Gym

5:00 pm - Cafeteria
7:00 pm - Church

Pre-K Dance
K-6 Dance
Chess Club
1st & 2nd Gr. Girls
Basketball
1st Gr. Girl Scouts
Contemporary Music

Friday, February 2nd

7:00 am - Church
8:00 am - Church

9:00 am - Gym

3:15 pm - Gym
4:00 pm - Cafeteria

Mass
Grandparent's Day
Mass
Grandparent's Day
Bingo
6th Gr. Girls Bball.
Kdg. Girl Scouts

Saturday, February 3rd

6:30 pm - Gym

Marcia Matreci Trivia
Night

Sunday, February 4th

8:00 am - Church
10:00 am - Church
11:30 am - Gym

7:30 pm - Gym

Mass
Mass
K of C Free Throw
Contest
Berns Bball. Game

THIS WEEK IN THE CAFETERIA

Monday, January 29th	Tuesday, January 30th	Wednesday, January 31st	Thursday, February 1st	Friday, February 2nd
Chili and Corn Bread	Taco Tuesday	White Castle Wednesday	Popcorn Chicken and Mac & Cheese	Early Dismissal

FATHER BOB'S COLUMN

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK & OPEN HOUSE AT SRA TODAY!

Our exceptionally good St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic School is having its annual Open House this Sunday, January 28th, 11am to 3pm. **Everyone is invited to tour the school** – to see the classrooms and visit with the teachers. Take a tour or just take a walk around the school to reminisce. Start at the main school entrance.

Prospective new SRA school families with young children are highly encouraged to come and visit. Grandparents are welcome to see how good our school is, and then tell your grown children the good news of how great SRA would be as a school for your wonderful grandchildren. Current school families should come and pick up their registration packet for the coming school year.

SRA parish members are welcome to see how some of your parish donations, including your Angel Appeal pledges and your Fifty & Beyond pledges, are being used to good advantage for our school.

{This past summer, we have already spent about \$55,000 on new doors, storefront windows, and columns on the two Jamieson entrances to the school that badly needed replacing. This also included rebuilding the top ten feet of the boiler chimney. Your contributions in action!}

After a visit to the school, all Open House guests are encouraged to share a free lunch in the cafeteria.

St. Raphael School is the best little Catholic school in town! Just ask our school parents and our incredible students, and our many graduates. You will find out that our pre-school (three- and four-year olds), and our elementary school (Kindergarten through 8th grade) live up to our SRA School Mission Statement: Our school “*guides its students as they form their knowledge of the Catholic faith and their love for Jesus Christ, in an environment that promotes compassionate hearts through habits of personal prayer, reflection, and community service.*” “*We utilize a rigorous, measurable academic program that develops critical thinking skills, promotes imagination, celebrates individual gifts and talents, and fosters a life-long love of learning.*”

In a dramatic conclusion our Mission Statement promises: “*With these values, and through the guidance of our patron, St. Raphael the Archangel, our students are ‘Formed in Faith; Prepared for Life.’*”

DID YOU NOTICE SOME PEWS HAVE DISAPPEARED?

We have started the “Fifty and Beyond” project of refinishing our pews and getting brand-new kneelers by shipping 18 of our transepts’ pews to Wisconsin to be stripped, rebuilt, refinished and repainted (the white pew ends). They should be back by early March – looking better than new! No more unsightly scratches and gouges, no more embarrassing words in the wood. The remainder of the pews in the center of the church will be done in June and July.

Thank you for your contributions and prompt payment of your “Fifty & Beyond” pledges that make this \$100,000 project possible. God bless you!

BIBLE STUDY ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON STARTS UP AGAIN!

Now that I can manage steps better after my knee surgery, we will reconvene in the Tobias Room in the Parish Office at 1:30pm on Tuesday, this week and every week. We finish at 3pm so it is possible for a school parent (grandparent) to attend and still be ready for your student.

We read and study the Scripture Readings for the coming Sunday. All you need is your Bible. No previous experience required. Each week is free standing – not a series – so that you come sometimes and still benefit from the discussion.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *To speak kindly does not hurt the tongue.*



SERVERS FOR JAN. 29/FEB. 4, 2018

Monday, January 29th

7:00 am	Sean Madden	William Madden
8:00 am	Avery Bradshaw	Grace Goeddel

Tuesday, January 30th

7:00 am	Addison Berta	Thad Berta
8:00 am	Christian Concepcion	Anna Mersinger

Wednesday, January 31st

7:00 am	William Hotze	Gavin Smith
8:00 am	Isabella Pfeiffer	Mateo Switzer

Thursday, February 1st

7:00 am	Lydia Bick	Andrew Kellar
8:00 am	Lucille Schlichting	Rory Barnawell

Friday, February 2nd

7:00 am	Henry Cyr	Joey Raymo
8:00 am	Avery Bradshaw	Cate Gunther
	Christian Concepcion	
	<u>Grandparent's Day Mass</u>	

Saturday, February 3rd

7:00 am	Samantha Koziacki	Joey Raymo
4:30 pm	Avery Bradshaw	Grace Goeddel
	Jack Stein	

Sunday, February 4th

8:00 am	Cate Guenther	Ellie Guenther
	Isabella Pfeiffer	
10:00 am	Flora Borowiak	Mady Shine
	Anna Mersinger	

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JAN. 20/21, 2018

Sunday Collection	\$ 3,553
Online Giving	\$ 1,222
Weekly Total Collection	\$ 4,775
Weekly Budget Goal	\$ 9,000
Fiscal Year-To-Date Goal	\$242,000
Fiscal Year-To-Date Actual	\$209,705
Shortfall	\$ 32,295

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 28th

8:00 am Joseph Grana, Jr.
10:00 am People of the Parish

Monday, January 29th

7:00 am Fr. Greg Usselman, SI
8:00 am Hodes Family SI

Tuesday, January 30th

7:00 am George & Tom Cline Families
8:00 am Joyce Boeger

Wednesday, January 31st

7:00 am Helen Magac
8:00 am Aaron Bernstein

Thursday, February 1st

7:00 am Joe Anderson
8:00 am John Haynes

Friday, February 2nd

7:00 am George Sullens
8:00 am John Hummert
Grandparent's Day Mass

Saturday, February 3rd

7:00 am Cissy Ferrara
4:30 pm Bob Abel

WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 3/4, 2018

4:30 pm 8:00 am 10:00 am
LECTORS:

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Ron Goedeker	Mary Reck	Boy Scout Sunday
Bob Ahrens	Lorraine Gurley	Joan Billing
Maureen Ahrens	Sue Lawton	Ted Green
George Kerry	Amy Ruggeri	Mary Faith Green
Margie Auer	Rosita Koehler	Barbara Favre
Matt Fuhr	Christy Connor	Heather Hays
Tony Mariani	Kerry Deacon	Fred Hodes
		Steve Kratky



Sunday, January 28	Catholic Schools Week Begins
Friday, February 2	Grandparent's Day
Saturday, February 3	Marcia Matreci Trivia Night
Sunday, February 4	K of C Free Throw Contest
Saturday, February 10	Wedding Anniversary Mass and Dinner
Thursday, February 15	Ladies' Club Vendor Fair
Sunday, February 25	Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast

FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

In the Gospel today, we read that because Jesus spoke with authority his reputation spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. As his disciples, we can also speak with authority when we put our faith into action by helping the poor and suffering. This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. V. de Paul was able to show that we indeed love our neighbors by assisting many families within our parish boundaries, providing them with food, assisting with utility and rent bills, etc. Thank you and God bless you.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 3, 2018

Sunday, January 28th
10:00 am Mass
11:00 - 3:00 Open House

Monday, January 29th
Parent Appreciation Day

Tuesday, January 30th
Service Day

Wednesday, January 31st
Faculty Appreciation Day

Thursday, February 1st
Student Appreciation Day

Friday, February 2nd
Grandparent's Day
8:00 am Mass
11:00 - 12:00 Grandparents Day Activities

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

On Saturday, February 10 after the 4:30pm Mass, there will be a reception for couples who are celebrating a milestone anniversary. If you were newly married in 2017 or if you will be married this year for 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55 or 60-plus years, please call the Parish Office at 314.352.8100 or e-mail to parish@straphaelarchangel.org with your wedding date. We will place you on the invitation list.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
DEACON DIAPER DRIVE**

During the weekends of March 17-18 through Easter, the Permanent Deacons in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, in conjunction with the Respect Life office, will be collecting diapers for infants, toddlers and adults as part of our 3rd annual diocesan-wide ProLife service project to assist families in need. Last year we collected over 185,000 diapers and we would like to exceed that total this year. We would ask that you please consider placing infant, toddler or adult incontinence products on your shopping list and bring them to the Parish Office or drop them off in the church vestibules. All diapers collected will be donated to assist families in our parish community. For more information, speak to Deacon Ron or give the office a call. We ask you to pray for the success of this project and to please be as generous as possible.

BOX TOPS FOR SCHOOL

Don't forget to save your box tops! The school earns 5¢ for each box top. We earned over \$300 in the fall and are hoping to earn even more this spring! Place all box tops in the marked boxes in the back of church.

ST. RAPHAEL TO SERVE DINNERS AT STS. PETER & PAUL

Peter and Paul Community Services offers an evening meal 20 days out of each month to people of the Soulard area who may be on limited or fixed incomes. These meals are sponsored by local churches and organizations who are willing to fund, cook and serve those in need. On February 15th, St. Raphael's SVdP Conference will provide the meal. We are excited about this opportunity to reach out to those in need. If you are interested in helping us, we could use the following items:

Meal Preparers and Servers
Coffee

Paper Towels

Cans of Sweetened Kool-Aid

Financial Donations (Checks

Payable to SRA marked for Sts. Peter & Paul)

To help prepare and/or serve or contribute, please contact Mary Faith Green at 314.832.3310 or email at greenfamily7@sbcglobal.net.

ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH VOLUNTEERS

St. Louis Archdiocesan policy mandates that all who work with children be in full compliance with the Safe Environment Program.

Compliance involves: 1) attending a Protecting God's Children workshop; 2) reading and signing a Code of Ethical Conduct; 3) completion of a state of Missouri Family Care Safety Registration background check before a person begins the ministry that gets updated each even year.

Our parish is in the process of updating all necessary background checks for 2018. If you are no longer active in your ministry, please email the parish Child

Safety Coordinator at mary.a.steck@gmail.com. If you are interested in getting involved in a ministry, please let Mary know too!

Thank you so much for your ministry at St. Raphael the Archangel Parish.



ST. RAPHAEL PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY- COMMUNION TO HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

The main purpose of our St. Raphael Pastoral Care Ministry is to ensure that the elderly and sick members of our parish have a connection to the Body of Christ. We accomplish this by bringing the Eucharist to our homebound on a regular basis, allowing them to remain an integral part of our parish family.

We need your help. Do you know of a parishioner who is unable to receive regular sacraments due to an inability to physically attend Mass (on a permanent or temporary basis)? We could use more Eucharistic Ministers. Are you interested in becoming a member of this Ministry and learning more about how you can assist?

Please respond by calling the Parish Office or by calling or emailing: Mary Faith Green at greenfamily7@sbcglobal.net or 314.832.3310.

Please pray for all members of our parish community.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus will host a Free Throw Contest on Sunday, February 4th at 11:30 am in the St. Raphael Gym. Boys and Girls ages 9-14 (as of 1/1/18) may register to participate. Winners may advance to Region and State levels. The St. Raphael council has had two individuals advance to the State Level in the past, with Jessie Davis winning the State Championship. If you have any questions, contact Bob Ahrens at 314.353.8444 or Matt Borowiak 314.351.0606.



WINTER OUTREACH: A MINISTRY OF MERCY

Encouraged by the example of Pope Francis, who lives out our Catholic social teachings of *“Option for the Poor and Vulnerable,”* southside parishes continue to be committed to making St. Louis Winter Outreach a faith-filled Ministry of Mercy. *“As long as you did it to one of these the least of my brethren, you did it to me.”* (MT 25:31-46)

While St. Louis is making great strides to provide resources for the homeless, many still spend their days and nights on the streets. Winter is particularly hard for them. In an effort to reach out to our “brethren” needing warmth and food, **we are asking for help to provide meals** during the coldest months.

Drivers are also needed to deliver meals to Americorps Shelter, 1315 Ann St., on our assigned evenings. Anyone is welcome to serve/visit with shelter guests on these evenings:

	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
February	8	9	10

Will you please provide one of the following:

- 9 x 13 Hot Casserole (any kind)
- Dessert for 24



Together we can make a bountiful meal. Food is to be dropped off at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall entrance at 6:00pm. If needed, arrangements can be made to pick it up from your home. If you would like more information about this ministry, like to share a dish, and/or be a driver, please contact Mary Ellen Mueller at 314.374.1712 or Barbara Favre at 314.303.9941.

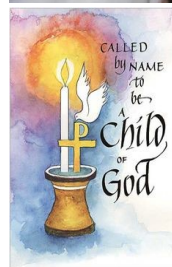
FIFTY PLUS CLUB

The next Fifty Plus meeting is Tuesday, February 6 at 1:00pm in the Parish Office Raphael Room. Please bring canned goods for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. All parishioners and their friends are always welcome!

MEMORIAL MASS UPDATE

On Saturday, January 27, the St. Louis ProLife community gathered at the Cathedral Basilica to mark the Roe v. Wade decision with the Annual Memorial Mass. The Rose Procession, a moving witness to the lives lost to abortion in each year since 1973, preceded the Mass. Afterwards, the attendees processed to the Planned Parenthood facility, praying the Rosary as they went, there to witness to the sanctity of human life. May the Lord bless all ProLifers and may He soon bring about an end to abortion.

The St. Raphael ProLife Committee



Congratulations to our newest member of the church, Romy Wagoner, daughter of Christopher Wagoner and Kimberly Pinkel. Romy was baptized on January 21, 2018. May God continue to bless Romy and her family.

BOY SCOUTS NEWS AND UPDATES



BOY SCOUT SUPER BOWL SANDWICHES ON SALE THROUGH FEBRUARY 1ST

Boy Scout Troop 500 is selling sub sandwiches for your Super Bowl parties. The Scouts will make two-foot long subs custom ordered to your needs. Order forms can be found at the exits at church. Scouts will be collecting order forms through Thursday, February 1. Boy Scout Subs are \$18 for each two-foot sub, and all proceeds will go to purchasing new camping equipment for the troop. Sandwiches can be picked up on Sunday, February 4 after the 10:00am Mass in the cafeteria.

BOY SCOUT PANCAKE BREAKFAST RESCHEDULED



The annual Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast has been rescheduled for February 25 after the 10am Mass. Tickets will be on sale after Masses for the next month for \$6 (\$3 for seniors and children under 5). Tickets may also be purchased at the door at the breakfast. Join the SRA Boy Scouts for some great pancakes and sausage, and Tom Finan's famous One Pot Mountain Man Breakfast!

SRA LENTEN OPPORTUNITY TO CHALLENGE YOURSELF 40 DAYS, 40 REFLECTIONS, 40 CHALLENGES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Do you consider yourself a generous person / family? Do you think it's possible to be just a little more generous?



This Lent everyone is invited to join fellow parishioners as we approach Lent a little differently than you may have done in the past.

What if for the 40 days of Lent you received a challenge by email that caused you to take a look at what it means to be generous in a very practical way? A way that would prepare you to continue your generosity well beyond the season of Lent and may quite possibly change your life.

Join us for *40acts*, a Lenten challenge based on the book of James and the connection between our faith and our deeds. The book of James sets out a framework for the kind of practical, day-to-day living that springs from hearing God's word, obeying it and acting on it.

Here is how *40acts* works. Every day throughout Lent (not on Sundays) you will wake up to a new generosity challenge and a short Bible-based blog sent straight to your inbox. Each act is designed to sharpen your awareness and give you practical ways to stretch your faith as well as your generosity, with three challenge levels. Sign up at <https://40acts.org/uk>.

We will offer the opportunity to get together each week to share with one another how we responded to the challenges that week and the impact they had on us and on those on the receiving end of our generosity. Watch the bulletin for days and times for the small group sharing. Even if you can't participate in a small group, *40acts* can be done on your own.

What if you don't "do email"? Everyone has a friend who could share the daily email information. In fact, sharing the challenges with those who don't have email accounts would be an extra act of generosity and charity. If you have any questions or would like to host a small group each week or need someone to share the challenges with you, please contact Sue Brandt at susan_brandt@att.net or 314.704.5304.



SRA 8th grade students have returned home from the annual Pro-Life Pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., where they participated in the March for Life. Along with 2,000 other teens from the St. Louis area and 700,000 marchers from around the country, our students marched to the Supreme Court steps as witnesses for those children who lost their lives to abortion. In addition to the march, our 8th graders visited Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, the National Holocaust Museum, and several of the National monuments throughout the D.C. area. They would like to thank the SRA parishioners for their support and prayers for their safe pilgrimage.

St. Raphael the Archangel PTA
Eighth Annual
Marcia Matreci
Memorial Trivia Night



WHEN..

Saturday, February 3, 2018

- **Doors open at 6:30 PM**
- **Trivia starts at 7:00 PM**

WHERE..

St. Raphael the Archangel Gym
6000 Jamieson Avenue / St. Louis, MO 63109

***An incredibly fun PTA fundraiser -
 reserve your table now!***

ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICING...

- **\$180/table**
(up to 8 people)
- **Includes 3 mulligans &
2 table games**
- **Includes beer, soda &
snacks**

RESERVATIONS...

- **Make checks payable to:
SRA PTA**
- **Complete bottom portion**
- **Return bottom portion
with payment to:**

SRA Rectory
6047 Bishops Place
St. Louis, MO 63109
314.352.8100

Contact Name, Number, & Email: _____

Table Members: _____



Saint Louis LIFETEEN

ATTENTION ALL SRA EIGHTH GRADERS AND HIGH SCHOOLERS

Please join us this Wednesday, January 31, from 7-9pm at Bishop DuBourg as we continue our new Rx series. See saintlouislifeteen.org for more information.

ATTENTION, EIGHTH GRADERS

We are excited to announce that Luke 18 will be held February 16-18 at Bishop DuBourg High School. Signups for Luke 18 are now live - please see saintlouislifeteen.org/luke18 for more information.

BIRTHRIGHT CARD PARTY

FRIENDS OF BIRTHRIGHT from St. Clement and St. Gerard Majella Parishes will hold their annual card party and luncheon on Wednesday, March 14, from 10:30am to 2:30pm at St. Gerard Majella Parish Center, 2005 Dougherty Ferry Rd. All proceeds will benefit Birthright. Come play your favorite card or dice game: Bridge, Gin Rummy, Canasta, Bunko and more! Or just come for lunch! The cost per person is \$30.00. Make your reservation by sending your name and those playing with you, along with your check made out to "Birthright" to: Jane Johans, 12335 Ironstone, 63131. ***Please inform us in advance if you need a gluten free lunch. RAFFLE TICKETS will be sold after all the masses at St. Clement and St. Gerard on March 4 and 11. ***If you cannot attend but wish to make a donation to Birthright, please send a check to the above address. Thank You!

IRS DEDUCTION

Any family who attended Preschool, Club Tobias, and/or Summer Camp in 2017, and would like a copy of your invoice and payments, please send your request to halbert@straphaelarchangel.org. In your email, please include your current address and a daytime phone number. If you have any questions, you may reach me (Diane) at 314.352.8100, Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Bishop DuBourg Class of 2018

TRIVIA NIGHT

For the love of the game!



Saturday, February 3rd, 2018

Doors open at 6:00 pm - Trivia starts at 7:00 pm

Best "Sports Theme" decorated table and guests will win a prize!

♥ Questions will be from a variety of categories, not just sports. ♥

TO RESERVE A TABLE PLEASE CONTACT:

Joan Provaznik

314.783.4492

jprovaznik@bishopdubourg.org

**Tables of 10
\$20.00 per person**

Mulligans - 10 for \$20.00



Thank you for supporting the Class of 2018 and Project Graduation!

SUNDAY READINGS-BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is held on Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 pm in the Lower Level of the Parish Office. Studying the Bible is something everyone can do, therefore, enabling a person to help others and to encourage them through difficult times.

