

FR. JOHN'S DIGITAL QUILL FOR SPIRITUAL MUSINGS AND PARISH NEWS

All Things New Listening Sessions

Thank you to all of those who came this week to participate in the listening sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Our Key Parish Leaders and I are grateful for your participation and your comments and questions in this planning process.

One question that was asked was will we be publishing the planning maps that were shown. Yes, we will be, but not yet. The reasoning is that people from other parishes have not had their listening session and may visit our parish and see us with the map already and find out what will happen with their parish that way. I have heard from other areas people have been surprised and hurt to learn this information in this way instead of at the listening session. We will be sending them out electronically after all parishes in our area have had their listening session and will be happy to provide hard copies to anyone who needs them as well. Please look for this around November 15.

The next step in the planning process on the parish side is to wait for the post-listening session to come out later on in November. That survey will be open for comments until the end of the calendar year.

We also encourage our school families to make their voices heard on the school survey currently going on until November 1. This survey will be the main way for you to give feedback before the announcement of the new school footprint around mid-January.

All Saints Day

On Tuesday, November 1, the Church will celebrate the Feast of All Saints. This day, we remember all of the saints, both those who are recognized by the church and our family members and friends who we pray are now in Heaven as well. This is a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics this year.

Our parish will celebrate the feast on Monday, October 31 with a 4:30pm Vigil Mass. We will have Masses on the feast at 7:00am and 7:00pm. Please note that on Tuesday due to the school being off due to Halloween the night before that there is no 8:00am Mass on

Tuesday only this week.

All Souls Day

The next day, Wednesday, November 2, is All Souls Day. This is a special time for us to pray for those who have died, asking God to bring them home to Heaven.

Our parish will have our regular Mass schedule this day at 7:00 and 8:00am. We will have a special Mass remembering all those who have died this past year on Saturday, November 19 at 4:30pm.

Rosary

This past Friday, our 7:00am Mass community began praying the Rosary after Mass and offering the opportunity to pray with them virtually. We will offer this opportunity to pray the Rosary together as a community twice per week. The first opportunity will be on Wednesdays at 6:30am and the other will be after the 7:00am Mass (starting at approximately 7:25) on Fridays. Both Rosaries will be streamed on our YouTube page each week. Please join us to pray the Rosary for our parish and for your intentions.

Veterans Day Mass

All veterans are invited to join the school community for a Veteran's Day Mass at church on Friday, November 11th at 8 am. Mass will be followed by a reception in the school cafeteria. Veterans interested in celebrating with us and attending the reception should contact the school office at 314-352-9474 and should leave their name and number of people coming. Please RSVP by Wednesday, November 9th. Participants are to gather in the back of the church for a procession. We are looking forward to seeing you on November 11th.

On the Road Again

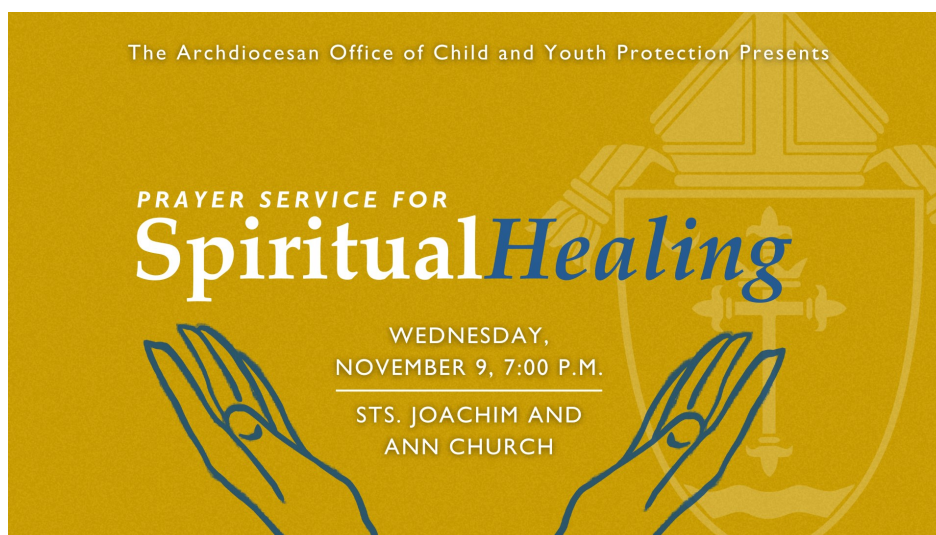
I will be leaving midday November 1 for my annual retreat. As I have the last couple of years, I will be making my way down to Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House located in Lake Dallas, Texas. I enjoy the warmer weather, beautiful scenery, and good spiritual direction offered

by the Jesuits in this place. It also forces me to disconnect from the parish, which if I was closer, I know I would struggle with doing even more. This is my one time per year that I will not be answering e-mails or returning phone messages between November 2-November 9. I will be driving home on November 10, but will not be back in the office until November 11. Those on the parish staff have a way to get ahold of me should the need arise.

Retreat is an important time in my life. It is the time for me to disconnect and to stop, be still, and to receive the Lord's love for me in a particular way. Certainly daily in prayer I try to do that, but like you, I struggle with thinking about other things going in life or in the parish. With All Things New this year, this has been an added prayer each day as we have journeyed through this process. Know that as I go on retreat, I carry your intentions, hopes, and worries, especially with All Things New with me to the Lord. I ask that you pray for me too during this time.

Thank you to Monsignor Stehly, Mrs. Hayes, Deacon Bob, and all of those on the parish and school staff who will step up in so many ways while I am away to make sure the parish and school run smoothly and well. Know I am grateful daily for all you do for us here at St. Raphael and thank you on behalf of our community for your dedication and hard work each day.

I will see you online or in Church! - Fr. John #SRAstrong



HSA Presents 2022 Christmas Kits!

Thanks to your feedback Home and School will be selling Christmas Kits again this year!

- **Pickup on the School Parking Lot (just show your square receipt)**
- **Sunday, December 4th**
- **11am to 1pm**
- **While you're picking up your Christmas Kits:**
 - **Drop off your letter to Santa**
 - **Enjoy hot chocolate with your fellow St. Raphael families**

Please place your order by Friday, November 18th via the SRA Square site:



Two options to choose from:

- Christmas Cookie Kit - \$20**
 - Decorate your own cookies (6)
 - Hot chocolate
 - Peppermint spoon
- Allergy Free Christmas Kit - \$10**
 - Christmas craft
 - Christmas surprise