

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

School Announcement

Last week while I was completing my annual retreat, Archbishop Rozanski announced a revision to the timeline for changes to the Archdiocesan grade school footprint. The announcement stated that decisions regarding schools would be discerned after the announcement of the parish models on Pentecost, 2023.

Additionally in his announcement, Archbishop Rozanski announced that our teachers will be receiving a long overdue salary raise so that they may be compensated more equitably for the time, expertise, and dedication they bring every day to our school.

The announcement by our Archbishop has jumpstarted our regular school planning process here at St. Raphael's. We are planning on having our full Pre-K and K to 8 program open next year as we know it today. For this to happen, we need our entire community to come together around our school to help make this desire a reality.

To maintain a responsible parish budget, we will need everyone's support over these next months. The just salary increases given to our teachers will raise costs in our school. While some of these costs in the short term may be absorbed by parish reserves, our parish cannot abandon responsible budgeting of our monies now. The Archdiocese will still need to approve our budget. They will not approve a budget with a large draw on reserves to close a budget gap. Additionally, teachers want assurance that we are on a path to sustainable school for the future. Proposing a budget that puts significant pressure on our reserves will not inspire confidence from our teachers. Such a path is not sustainable and cannot be our solution to this situation.

Some of these costs, then, will need to be absorbed by all of our Pre-K and K to 8 families in the form of tuition increases. The finance committee, school board, and I are examining our options toward a responsible budget with as minimal of a tuition raise as is possible. We will also likely be asking the parish to contribute more to the school through either a larger 2023 Angel Appeal or by increasing the amount of monies from the Sunday collection that will be used to subsidize our school.

With these proposed changes, especially to

tuition, I want to assure families of my pledge since I became a pastor nearly 10 years ago: we will not turn away a family from our school due to financial need. I have been assured by parish leadership that should need increase due to a raise in tuition and the ongoing inflation situation in the wider economy that parish organizations and private individuals stand ready to help our tuition assistance fund with additional funds so families can continue to send their children to our school.

In addition to these funds, we will need a healthy enrollment in our school in all grades. We will be graduating twenty-two 8th graders this year, so we will need a healthy incoming Kindergarten class to fill in our numbers. We also continue to receive much interest in our Pre-K and are hopeful for a strong enrollment in this program again next year. Also, we will need all of the other grades, from 1st-8th grade, to maintain their enrollment numbers for us to make our desire a reality of having our school next year.

A concern too about next year is having enough teachers to open our school. Many schools, including ours, had a difficult time filling out their faculty during the summer. We hope every teacher we have now will be back next year. I know we have a supportive community for our school, especially for our faculty. I encourage you to show your support to our faculty in these next months as you always do, be that through a large gesture as a class or an organization to seeing a call from a teacher as a time to work with that teacher for the good of your child. Our teachers truly care for the students they teach. Letting them know we truly appreciate it and want to work with them is the best way so they know they want to be part of our community next year.

I am hopeful that our parish community can come together and make our desire for St. Raphael the Archangel School to be open next year a reality. Whatever comes after that only God knows at this moment. We cannot assume or jump to conclusions about what that might be yet. We know that it will be discussed and prayerfully discerned inside our parish community, in those parishes that we will be joining with sometime after May, 2023, and by Archdiocesan leadership. May we trust the Holy Spirit who has guided our school and parish thus far will continue to

provide our parish with every good thing and blessing we need!

Parish Council

Recently, our parish council had a time of discernment to welcome new members to our council and to also thank those who served for the past four years on the council. We also held an election of officers and would like to welcome our new officers as well.

First, please join me in thanking Dan Meshoto and Mary Niemeyer for their dedicated time and service to the council these past four years.

Next, please welcome Jerrie Oldani and Krissy Sullivan onto our parish council. We are grateful for your willingness to serve our SRA community.

Finally, here is the 2022-2023 SRA Parish Council:

President: Brian McCarthy
(brianmccarthy@peaknet.net)

Vice-President: Barb Cramer

Secretary: Linda Hiette

Members: Dan Cierpiot, Brian Klos, Jerrie Oldani, Mary Reck, Krissy Sullivan

Please feel free to approach them at any time to give your thoughts and input for consideration by the Parish Council.

All Things New Planning Maps

The maps that were released for our planning area during the All Things New Listening Sessions in late October are now available. If you need a hard copy, please contact the parish office. Due to the number of color pages, we will not be running copies to put at the doors of the church.

Masses and Eucharistic Adoration this Week

Due to the Thanksgiving Break, we will only have 7:00am Mass on Wednesday and Friday this week. On Thanksgiving as is traditional on national holidays, we will also only have the 7:00am Mass. We will have Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesday, but ending at 7:00pm due to the Thanksgiving holiday the next day.

This Weekend

I would like to welcome all of those who are coming to the 4:30pm Mass this weekend to honor or

to pray for those in our parish community who have passed away over the past year. May this Mass help to bring peace to your heart.

Also, I am excited to welcome our families to our quarterly Family Mass this Sunday. Welcome! Enjoy this beautiful celebration of faith!

Auction

We will be having on Monday a meeting of the auction committee to set the final direction for our auction in February. Beginning in this week's bulletin, you will begin to see information on the auction and how you can help our auction this year. Thank you in advance for your generosity to this annual fun event which benefits our school.

#IGiveCatholic

Also coming up is #IGiveCatholic. This year, we will be raising funds for some security items needed for our school community. These items will help to enhance some of the security needs of our school from emergency buckets to door coverings. Thank you for considering to help this cause.

Amazon Smile

Lastly, please do not forget as you begin your shopping for Christmas to use Amazon Smile! Please visit smile.amazon.com or turn select us as your charity of choice in the Amazon App!

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