

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

### *8:00am Mass Resumes*

This week, we will have our first full week of 8:00am Masses. 8:00am Mass will be celebrated from Monday-Thursday, with Thursday being a day with music offered by Mr. Ben, who joined our school last year.

We will return to our pre-covid routine of not having 8:00am Mass on Friday as our students will be attending a prayer event in the school. This prayer event will allow our school to resume its family groups, which is something our students, parents, and teachers have all missed during this time of the pandemic.

### *Parish School of Religion (PSR)*

We are so grateful to so many families who trust St. Raphael the Archangel School for the education of their children. I am also aware that some families have chosen to send their children to a public or charter school that may not necessarily have a faith background. In these cases, families often send their children to a Parish School of Religion Program (PSR).

St. Raphael the Archangel is a partnering parish in the South City Deanery PSR Program at St. John the Baptist. I also respect those families that have chosen to be part of the PSR Program at Epiphany Parish.

If you are a parishioner of St. Raphael the Archangel and plan on sending your child(ren) to a PSR program for the 2022-23 school year, I ask that you meet with me by October 15 of this year. This meeting is so we can touch base on where your child is in faith formation and how the parish can serve your family. I believe this meeting is so essential that any parish portion of program fees for your chosen PSR Program will be withheld until this meeting takes place.

Parents are the first educators of their children, and I in no way want to infringe on this parental obligation. I simply want to be sure that all of our young people are learning the faith and all of our families feel welcomed and involved in the life of the parish.

### *"Bother Father"/Open Office Hours*

Our second "Bother Father" time is this week!

This is a time that anyone can stop by without an appointment and talk to me about anything you would like. Some things I have thought of are:

- Questions about our faith
- Questions about the sacraments or questions relating to an annulment
- Questions about our parish
- Opportunity for confession
- Discussion of a situation that is ongoing in your life
- Direction and help relating to prayer
- Questions/concerns relating to All Things New
- And anything else you can think of...

Here are the times to "Bother Father" in

August:

Tuesday, August 23, 2:00-4:00pm

Wednesday, August 31, 6:00-8:00pm

Please consider coming up and visiting!

### *Parish Meeting*

Next Sunday, we will have an opportunity to come together as a parish community. At 5:00pm in the gym, we will meet to discuss the state of our parish. At this meeting, members of the Key Parish Leaders will give a report on our DMI results, our Finance Council will give an overview at our fiscal year-end of our current financial state, and we will also discuss the 2022-2023 Angel Appeal.

This meeting will also be livestreamed for our parishioners who are unable to be with us. We encourage everyone to join in person or via the livestream.

### *Amazon Smile*

Thank you for your continual support of this easy fundraiser for us. Last quarter, we received \$181.58 through people using smile.amazon.com to checkout on Amazon.

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



## Notes From Our Deacons

### Thank You from Deacon Jerry

I wanted to extend my sincere thanks to the entire St. Raphael the Archangel Parish family for the wonderful Mass and retirement reception you held in my honor on August 14. Your warmth, generosity, and kind words touched me deeply and will never be forgotten. When my late wife Nancy and I moved into this parish in 1966, we never could have imagined how St. Raphael would become a home for us. And that sense of belonging only grew when I was ordained a deacon in 1996. I am so grateful to have served as your deacon for the past 26 years, and I look forward to seeing you all from my new seat in the pews. Thank you again for a special day and for decades of fellowship and friendship.

- Deacon Jerry Geiser



### Welcome Message from Deacon Bob

Hello, Church family! I am Deacon Bob Leake. Lisa and I have been married 38 years. I have been a deacon in the Jefferson City Diocese for 15 years and my last assignment was in the parishes of Hannibal and Palmyra, Missouri. I am semi-retired from the electrical utilities in northern Missouri. Lisa is a retired high school counselor. We moved to the St. Louis area to be closer to our 4 grandchildren. Our 2 daughters and their families live in St. Louis. Our son and soon-to-be wife live in Tacoma, Washington. Lisa and I are looking forward to serving here in St. Raphael's parish.