

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

### *Welcome to Deacon Bob*

I am delighted to announce that we will have a new permanent deacon who will begin ministering at St. Raphael this month.

Deacon Bob Leake recently moved from the Hannibal area to Affton and has selected our parish where he will continue his diaconal ministry. He moved into our area to be closer to his children and grandchildren.

Deacon Bob will tell about himself in the bulletin next week, but I can say he is a delightful man to talk to and has an infectious smile and laugh.

He will help here in liturgical roles at Mass, while preaching, at Benediction, and at weddings and funerals. We have discussed his helping in the RCIA and other faith-formation opportunities as well.

Please welcome Deacon Bob and his wife to our community, especially as we get closer to his start date for ministry of August 15.

### *Thank You to Deacon Jerry*

The day before we welcome Deacon Bob to officially start ministry in our parish, we will thank Deacon Jerry, who has been a staple of our community for so many years, for his service to us.

We want to invite everyone to a celebration for him on August 14. He will be present and minister at the 10:00am Mass. Following Mass, the Parish Council will host a reception for him in the gym. We encourage everyone to come to thank Deacon Jerry for his many years of service to our parish.

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

Also, August 15 is the first day for "Bother Father"!

I will offer opportunities beginning this month for you to 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...

Each month, I will try to schedule a time in the morning, a time in the afternoon, and a time in the evening so hopefully everyone will have a chance to "Bother Father."

Here are the times in August to "Bother Father":

Monday, August 15, 8:00-10:00am

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

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

Please consider coming and visiting!

### *Parish Meeting*

On August 28, 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 be livestreamed for our parishioners who are unable to join. We encourage everyone to join in person or via the livestream.

### *This Sunday*

I am excited that Mary Reck and Mary Steck will offer an opportunity for "Catholic Faith Story Time." This will be in the cafeteria from 11:00-11:30am. We invite all of our 2.5-year-old to 5-year-old children, parents, and siblings to this time of learning about our faith. There will also be times in the next few months too, so please make it a point to be at one or more of them!

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

# Don't Miss our 2022 Back to School Curriculum Night!



**Spend an evening getting to know SRA teachers and fellow parents, plus learn more about SRA groups and committees.**

**Thursday, August 25, 6:30-8:30pm**

### **6:30-6:50 Opening Remarks in the Gym**

*Father John, Julie Hayes, Home & School*

### **6:50-7:30 Meet the Teachers in their Classrooms**

*Visit with your child's teacher and learn more about this school year's curriculum*

### **7:30-8:30 Fellowship in the Gym**

*Mingle with SRA groups and committees over beverages and appetizers - Sponsored by the Men's Club and the Ladies' Club*

*Earn a Dress Down Day for your child by attending BTS Curriculum Night*

*Check out the Uniform Exchange in the cafeteria - Sponsored by the Ladies' Club*



#### **About HSA**

Home and School Association raises capital through the volunteer efforts of school families, parishioners, and faculty and safeguards and uses those funds for the maximin benefit of the children attending St. Raphael the Archangel School.

HSA is also here to grow a sense of community among the families, parishioners, and faculty at SRA. This is achieved by promoting communication between home and school, supporting the faith development in the school, and providing information to aid in the education and development of SRA students.

Learn more about the opportunities by visiting our website, <http://www.school.org/families/home-and-school-association>, or by speaking with a current member of the HSA Board.