



Saint Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church

"Go, set the world on fire!"

St. Raphael Vision Statement: *to be a vibrant, growing parish that invites people to encounter Jesus and forms them as passionate disciples who serve his mission by their lives. Our members commit to: pray profoundly, connect consciously, serve selflessly, deepen deliberately, invite intentionally, and welcome warmly.*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your trust in choosing our Catholic schools to assist you in the education of your children. I hope that our schools and parish will be a blessing to your children, and in turn to your whole family, whether your children are at St. Raphael Catholic School and Preschool or at Cardinal Gibbons High School. Likewise, the presence of Catholic school children and families enriches and makes the whole parish community here at St. Raphael more vibrant.

People support each other here at St. Raphael and I hope you and your family find all the support you need here. There's always opportunity for even **more** mutual support and care. St. Raphael as a parish also **needs you** as a family with your particular gifts to offer support to others!

I want to continue to honor this unique relationship between school families and the larger parish community. One important way of doing this is offering a special tuition rate to families who are active parishioners, the "discipleship rate." **Why "discipleship"?** Because the tuition rate is offered in partnership with families who **generously give** of their unique gifts: by their regular presence at Sunday Mass, by participating in parish opportunities to live out our vision commitments and by giving financially to the parish proportional to their means to support the good things happening as we journey toward our vision. **I invite you as a family to discern the ways God is calling you** to offer your particular gifts to the parish community as active parishioners.

In such a large and diverse parish, there are many opportunities for each one of us to live out our commitments. As we move toward our vision of being a parish whose members commit to **praying** profoundly, **connecting** consciously, **deepening** deliberately, **inviting** intentionally and **welcoming** warmly, I ask that you join us on the journey!

Enclosed you'll find a **Guide to Discipleship for Catholic School Families** and a **Covenant for Catholic School Families**. I invite you to take time to pray and discuss these as a family. The **Guide** offers suggestions to help you discern the specific commitments you're called to make as a family, as active parishioners at St. Raphael. This part is for you to keep. The **Covenant** is a way to make a commitment as a family with the larger parish community for the coming year. We ask that you submit just this Covenant page with your application for the 2020-2021 school year: the process for submission is explained in the Guide.

I look forward to working in partnership with you and our schools, to follow where Jesus is leading us as a St. Raphael community!

God bless,

Fr. Phil Hurley, S.J.
Pastor

Guide to Discipleship for Catholic School Families 2020-2021

*The basic guideline for a family to be active parishioners at St. Raphael who are to receive the **discipleship tuition rate** at one of our Catholic schools is that the family be registered members of the parish who participate in Mass here weekly, participate in parish opportunities to live out our vision commitments, share their unique gifts by giving of their talents in service to the parish, and regularly give to fund the mission of the parish financially as they are able. All of this is part of serving the mission of Jesus by your lives as a Catholic family.*

1. **Please prayerfully discuss the following questions and reflections as a family.** Consider what it means to be active parishioners, faithfully sharing the gifts God has given you, and to support others in our parish:
 - **Prayer** and the *sacraments* are privileged ways to encounter Jesus. Do we fully and actively participate at Mass at least weekly? Do we foster in our family an eagerness to receive forgiveness and healing in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis? Are we involved actively in sacramental preparation with our children in discerning their readiness to celebrate the sacraments (i.e. First Communion, Confirmation) while **deepening** our relationship with Jesus? (See sacrament preparation information attached.) Are we committed to praying regularly as a family at home?
 - What are some ways we can **invite** and **welcome** those we meet who might feel far from God and church community to come back? (e.g. invite them to try *Alpha* with us, or to point them to our *welcome tables* before or after Mass)?
 - Do we have a **generous spirit** as members of our parish community? Do we understand the many ways we can support others on their journey of faith as we also deepen our faith as a family? Are our priorities in line with our calling as spouses, parents, children, and as brothers and sisters? Are we ready to actively support our St. Raphael community in various ways? Are we willing to offer our energies, resources and skills to strengthen the programs and ministries of the entire parish? Do we **give generously** and regularly from our financial resources to fund the good things in the mission of the Church?
 - Please stop by the Welcome Center in the church atrium to find information about the many ministries here at St. Raphael. There you will meet members of our Welcome Ministry who will share many exciting opportunities to help you **connect** with others in our parish and **serve** selflessly as active disciples at St. Raphael. This information can also be found on our parish website www.saintraphael.org
 - **Imagine** if *each* individual and *every* family at St. Raphael were engaged in **deepening as disciples** who embrace our vision commitments. Our great parish would be even more amazing! More people would be reached and know Jesus' love and healing and help in their lives. More people would be drawn to come to St. Raphael. More people would be drawn to the Catholic Church for the first time, or the first time in a long while. **How is God calling you as a Catholic school family to be part of all this?**
2. Following your prayerful discernment as a family regarding your active discipleship, please complete the enclosed **Covenant for Catholic School Families**. More specific qualifications won't need verification unless there is a significant question as to how a family is involved with the parish community.
3. Please submit the **Covenant** form with your oldest child's St. Raphael Catholic School or Preschool registration form. Only one form is needed per family.

****NOTE:** If you **ONLY** have a student at Cardinal Gibbons High School, **OR YOUR OLDEST CHILD WILL BE ATTENDING** Cardinal Gibbons High School, please return your form to the **PARISH OFFICE**. **Your form will be shared with St. Raphael Catholic School. No covenant form should be sent to Cardinal Gibbons High School.**

The covenant form is also available on the parish website www.saintraphael.org. We're glad to help you in providing a Catholic education for your children, and we're grateful to have your active participation as disciples of Jesus in the life of our parish.



Catholic Sacramental Preparation Information

Come be a part of the sacramental process! Grow together with your child in the faith. **All Catholic families interested in celebrating First Eucharist or Confirmation at St. Raphael's need to register for a two year process of preparation.**

For First Eucharist, the earliest age that preparation can begin is 1st grade. The child should already have celebrated the sacrament of Baptism.

For Confirmation, the earliest age that preparation can begin is 7th grade. The child should already have celebrated the sacraments of Baptism and First Eucharist.

Sacramental preparation can always happen at an older age. Families should register for the first year preparation process and then re-register the second year.

Registration for First Eucharist and Confirmation will occur **during the summer of 2019 online via the Parish website.** All Sacramental preparation is coordinated and administered through the Parish Office of Lifelong Faith Formation. Please contact us at 919-865-5735 or saintraphael.org for more information!

Covenant for Catholic School Families
Discipleship Rate Tuition
2020-2021

I _____, am parent/guardian of the following student(s) enrolled at St. Raphael Preschool, St. Raphael Catholic School or Cardinal Gibbons High School.

Child's First Name	Child's Last Name	Grade or Preschool Age	School

I do attest that we as a family have prayerfully considered our level of commitment as active parishioners and disciples who will embrace the vision of St. Raphael. We are registered parishioners. We also intend to grow as true disciples of Jesus, fully engaged Catholics who participate in and support our parish, our fellow parishioners, and the larger community the parish serves, in all the ways God is inviting us to. We commit to be generous with our time, energy, skills and financial resources. We intend to actively participate in the gift of the sacramental and prayer life of the parish, especially weekly Mass.

Below are some of the ways we have discerned to continue or begin supporting the parish community as an active parish family during the upcoming school year:

This list is not exhaustive as we may be called by the Holy Spirit to offer our energy, skills or resources to other or additional projects/ministries not yet identified.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Approved by Pastor: _____

Fr. Phillip R. Hurley, S.J.

More specific qualifications won't be needed unless there is a significant question as to how a family is involved with the parish community.