



Saint Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church

To See as Christ Sees and Love as Christ Loves

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 more vibrant the whole parish community here at St. Raphael.

People support each other at St. Raphael. In such a large and diverse parish, however, there is always opportunity for even more mutual support and care. Many times, as I speak with people seeking help in their spiritual, family and personal lives I think, "***I know we have other parishioners who could be of support to them!***" I hope you and your family find all the support you need here. But also know this: St. Raphael as a parish **needs you** as a family with your particular gifts, to offer support to others!

I want to continue to honor this unique relationship between families and the larger parish community. One particular way of doing this is offering a special tuition rate to families who are active parishioners, the "stewardship rate." **Why "stewardship"?** Because the tuition rate is offered in partnership with families who are generous *stewards* of their unique gifts: families who make a commitment **to support others** in our parish community by taking time to grow as disciples by their regular presence at Sunday Mass and participating on other on-going faith formation for both adults and children, by offering service to others in the parish using their various talents, and who assist the parish financially as they are able. If your family would like to participate, **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.

Enclosed you'll find a **Guide to Stewardship for Catholic School Families** and a **Covenant for Catholic School Families**. I invite you to take time to pray and have conversations about these as a family. The **Guide** offers suggestions to help you discern the specific commitments you are 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 2017-2018 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 Stewardship for Catholic School Families 2017-2018

The basic guideline for a family to be active parishioners at St. Raphael who are to receive the stewardship tuition rate at one of our Catholic schools is that the family be registered members of the parish who participate in Mass here weekly, take time for other on-going faith formation, share their unique gifts by giving of their talents, in service to the parish, and support the parish financially as they are able. All of this is part of being disciples of Jesus as a Catholic family.

1. Please prayerfully discuss the following questions and reflections as a family. Consider what it means to be active parishioners, faithful stewards of what God has given you, disciples who support others in our parish:

- The **sacraments** are privileged ways to encounter God. 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 for those who have sacraments coming up (i.e. First Communion, Confirmation)? Are there ways we can help in the sacramental preparation of others? What are some ways we can invite those we meet who might be far from being part of the parish community and the sacraments to come back?
- 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 grow in our faith as a family? Are our priorities in line with our calling as spouses, as parents, as children, and as brothers and sisters? Are we ready to actively support our parish and school communities 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 contribute a sacrificial offering from our financial resources toward the works of the Church?
- Attached please find our *Directory of Parish Ministries & Parish Chartered Organizations*. In it you will find many **examples of how you might get involved** as active stewards and disciples at St. Raphael. What other ideas can you think of as a family? What needs do you see at our parish that aren't being met, and how could your family be of service to help meet them?
- **Imagine if each individual and every family at St. Raphael were engaged in discipleship and stewardship as active parishioners.** A great parish would be even more amazing! More people would be reached and know God's 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 Pre-School registration form. Only one form is needed per family. If you **ONLY** have a student at Cardinal Gibbons High School, return your form to the parish office. *No covenant form should be sent to Cardinal Gibbons High School.*

*We're glad to help you in providing a Catholic education for your children, and we're grateful to have your active participation in the life of our parish. **St. Raphael's needs you!***



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Covenant for Catholic School Families Stewardship Rate Tuition 2017-2018

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 (2017-2018)	School
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

I do attest that we as a family have prayerfully considered our level of commitment as active parishioners, stewards, and disciples at St. Raphael. We are registered parishioners. We also intend to grow as true disciples of Christ, 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.