



SUMMER 2026

ST. RAPHAEL COMMUNITY OF CATHOLIC MOMS

NEWSLETTER

May Meeting Night Re-Cap

We were in good company! Father Alex & Father Chris greeted and served drinks; St. Raphael Choir Director, Julie Frazier mixed & mingled; and Father Max Behna, Pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church, led us in thoughtful reflection.

Playgroup

New song from Father Alex to share!
Plus: An invitation from our neighboring parish

Looking Ahead

Friday, August 21st, 6pm

Parish Concert featuring Father Alex

Tuesday, September 1st, 7:30pm

CCM Meeting Night

Friday, September 11th

STR Family Fun Night

Thursday, September 17th, 7:30pm

Book Club Kickoff

Almsgiving

The Little Sisters of the Poor of Chicago visited St. Raphael earlier this summer to share about their mission to serve the elderly disenfranchised and asked our congregation to consider making a donation.

Click [this link](#) for ways to give.

Family Social at the ballpark!



Shout-out to all the families who joined for a fun day out at the Cougars Game in June!



Farewell, Father Steve!



The parish farewell reception for Father Steve at the end of June was bittersweet. Father Steve has been such a blessing to the young families of St. Raphael! We are so excited for him to become a pastor at St. Petronille in Glen Ellyn! Please keep him in your prayers as he embarks on this next journey.

SUMMER 2026



ST. RAPHAEL COMMUNITY OF CATHOLIC MOMS

Playgroup

Neighboring Parish Playgroup Opportunity!

While our parish playgroup takes a break for the summer, our friends at neighboring St. Margaret Mary parish have graciously invited our families to join them for their weekly playgroup!

It's a wonderful chance for little ones to keep playing, exploring, and making friends, while parents enjoy fellowship with other families in our wider Catholic community.

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church Playgroup
LATTES & LITTLES
August 2026

Tues Aug 4 - SMMP Parish Center, 9am
Our first 'Service Day Playgroup' - We will be decorating bags & assembling snack packs for kids that are staying at DuPage Pads. Bring a box of individually packaged snack items. Outside play to follow.

Tues Aug 11 - 95th Street Splashpad & Park, 10am
Bring your bathingsuits!

Tues Aug 18 - Seven Gables Wheaton, 9am
This park has 2 entrances. You should use the entrance off of Winners Cup Circle - using 'Seven Gables East Shelter' in google maps.

Tues Aug 25 - SMMP Outside, 9am
Mass before at 8:15 if interested!

Please email kreznicek@smmp.com to be added to our email list for reminders and to be contacted in case the location changes.

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church Playgroup
LATTES & LITTLES
July 2026

Tues July 7 - Dragonfly Landing Playground & Splashpad, 10am
Splashpad opens at 11!

Wed July 15 - SMMP Outside, 9am
Mass before at 8:15 if interested!

Tues July 28 - Burr Ridge Community Center at Harvester Park & Splashpad, 10am

Please email kreznicek@smmp.com to be added to our email list for reminders and to be contacted in case the location changes.

SMM's Kaitlin Litterio truly extends a warm welcome to our group! See event listings left & above for dates, times, and location. Kaitlin recommends you contact her directly if you plan to drop in so that she can greet you and notify you if last minute weather warrants changes to the venue:

kaitlin.litterio@gmail.com



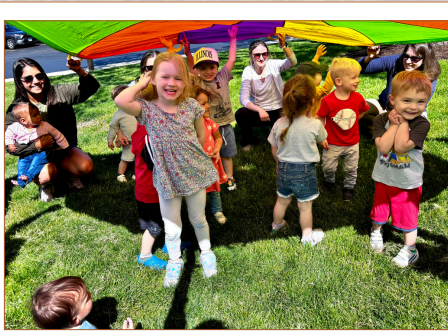
SUMMER 2026

ST. RAPHAEL COMMUNITY OF CATHOLIC MOMS

Playgroup

**Mondays are better
together!**

Moms home with infants, tots,
and preschoolers: Come join for
our weekly playgroup!



We will resume our weekly
Monday morning gatherings in
early September. Stay tuned!



Use the QR to join the WhatsApp
Channel for real time updates & date
reminders when we start back up in
the Fall.

**Father Alex,
Recording Artist**

Father Alex recently
recorded an awesome
song he titled, "Bugs."
It's a great listen,
available on Spotify.





SUMMER 2026

ST. RAPHAEL COMMUNITY OF CATHOLIC MOMS

May Meeting Night

For our final fellowship night of the school year we welcomed Father Max Behna, pastor of St. Margaret Mary church, to provide us some sage reflection time on how to love more fully.

In addition, Mrs. Julie Frazier, our choir director, stopped in to mingle and highlight the beautiful opportunities to participate in music ministry.

THE VIRTUE OF LOVE



We were so blessed to welcome Father Max! He offered us a beautiful talk on agape—the self-giving love that Christ calls each of us to live.

Opening with John 15:9–12, Father Max reminded us that Jesus tells His disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love... This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you." Father Max reminded us that this isn't merely a suggestion; it's Christ's command. Yet He doesn't ask this of us simply out of obedience. As Father Max put it: Living agape has the power to transform our hearts, deepen our relationships, and bring us greater joy and peace.

Unlike the many ways we use the word "love" in everyday conversation—to describe our favorite foods, hobbies, or even romantic feelings—agape means something much deeper: to will the good of the other. Father Max went on to remind us that the greatest image of this love is the Cross. Jesus willingly gave Himself completely for our good, offering us the perfect example of what authentic love looks like.

Father Max shared three practical ways we can grow in agape each day.

The first is to give others the benefit of the doubt. Instead of assuming someone's intentions, we can lead with

**continued*



SUMMER 2026



ST. RAPHAEL COMMUNITY OF CATHOLIC MOMS

May Meeting Night

THE VIRTUE OF LOVE, CONT'D

curiosity. Asking questions before making judgments opens the door to understanding and helps us respond with charity rather than frustration.

The second invitation was to practice true respect. Father Max referenced Mother Mary Francis's book, But I Have Called You Friends, and explained that the Latin root of "respect" (respectare) means "to look again." It's easy to become fixated on another person's shortcomings or to see situations through only one lens. To illustrate this, he demonstrated a simple optical illusion in which the direction of a spinning finger appears to change depending on your point of view. The lesson was simple but profound: sometimes we don't need to change the situation—we need to change our perspective.

Closely connected to this is the practice of gratitude. Father Max shared a story about a car breaking down on the way to a meeting. Rather than focusing on the inconvenience, the experience became an opportunity to be thankful for a pleasant walk to the gas station and that the car could be repaired. Gratitude doesn't ignore difficulties; it helps us notice God's goodness even within them.

Finally, Father Max reflected on the word tolerate. Its Latin root, tollere, means "to carry" or "to bear the weight of another." Seen this way, tolerance becomes much more than simply "putting up with" someone. It becomes an act of sharing another person's burden with patience and compassion. Sometimes, it also means allowing others to help carry ours.

This doesn't mean overlooking every problem or avoiding difficult conversations. Father Max acknowledged that there are

“
**GRATITUDE DOESN'T
IGNORE DIFFICULTIES;
IT HELPS US NOTICE
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WITHIN THEM.**
”

times when fraternal correction is necessary, while at other times we are simply called to bear with one another in love.

As one mom notably highlighted during the open discussion, "Sometimes not everything's a teachable moment." Loving well also includes healthy boundaries, ensuring that our generosity remains rooted in wisdom. For those interested in exploring this balance further, Father Max recommended the book Boundaries by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend.

As mothers, wives, daughters, and friends, we are constantly presented with opportunities to choose agape: to assume the best, to look again, to practice gratitude, to carry one another's burdens, and to love as Christ has loved us.

May we continue to abide in His love this summer, allowing that love to shape our homes, our families, and our hearts.

Thank you, Father Max!



SUMMER 2026

ST. RAPHAEL COMMUNITY OF CATHOLIC MOMS

May Meeting Night



SING A JOYFUL NOISE!

We were also delighted to welcome our parish Choir Director, Julie Frazier, who came to mix and mingle and introduce herself at the start of our evening. Julie warmly invites parishioners of all ages to consider joining our Adult and/or Children's Choirs!

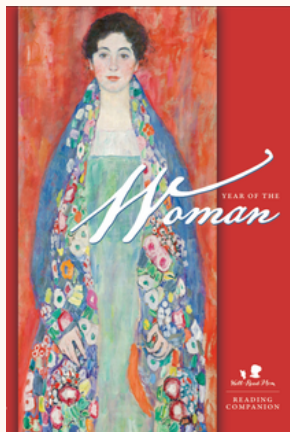
Within the pages of the Catechism of the Catholic Church [1156–1158] we're reminded that sacred music is not simply an accompaniment to the liturgy—it is an integral part of our worship, uniting our hearts in prayer and lifting our minds to God. This beautiful teaching is often reflected in the familiar Catholic saying that "He who sings, prays twice." By sharing their voices, parish choirs do more than make beautiful music; they lead the congregation in prayer and give glory to God through the gift of song.

Participation in all choirs is free, and is a wonderful opportunity for individuals and families to grow in faith, serve our parish community, and even develop confidence and learn more about music. Enrollment forms are included on the final pages of this newsletter. If you have questions or would like to learn more, Julie would be delighted to hear from you by email! She hopes you'll consider answering this joyful call to music ministry.

jfrazier@st-raphael.com



COMMUNITY of CATHOLIC MOMS



Under the theme of
"Year of the Woman,"
book titles for this
year will include:

Joan of Arc
by Mark Twain &
A Room with a View
by E. M. Forster

Book Club

with Well-Read Mom
read more. read well.

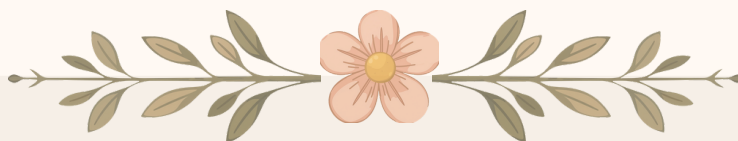


FIRST
MEETING:
SEPT. 17TH
7:30PM
FOUNDER'S
ROOM,
STR CAMPUS

Learn about
Well-Read Mom
and become a
Member [here](#)



Add yourself
to the CCM
Book Club
email list [here](#)



Not sure you can keep up with a reading commitment these days?

Watch this inspiring [3-minute video](#), or
give this [5-minute audio](#) a listen.

**Joining a book club may not be a matter of waiting til you have more time—
rather, discovering it's worthwhile and possible to make a little room for.**

For more details, you can also scan through the
addendum to the Newsletter for an excerpt directly
from An Invitation from Well-Read Mom.

Reach out to Elizabeth Jarr & Ali Patti at
straphaelccm@gmail.com with any questions!

CCM IS OPEN TO
ALL CATHOLIC
MOMS OF
INFANTS
THROUGH
COLLEGE-AGED
KIDS



THE VIRTUE OF LOVE

"Love" may be one of the most overused words in the English language. Has it lost its meaning? Fr. Max Behna, pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church, will lead us in thoughtful conversation on how the early Christians understood love, how it transformed the world, and how love in its richest form has the power to transform *your* heart, home, and the lives of those you cherish.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What struck you most about Fr. Max's presentation? Why?
2. Who in your life are you currently struggling to love right now? Which concept from tonight might help you approach them with agape love?
3. Beyond practicing gratitude, what else might help you love a family member or friend by "looking again" at them?
4. We often try to "fix" weaknesses or "count the cost" of helping others. How might the concept of tollere—simply carrying the weight with them—change your approach to a loved one in need?
5. Is there a biblical figure, saint, or personal mentor who exemplifies agape love for you? What about their story inspires you to live it out more fully?



ST.RAPHAEL YOUTH / TEEN CHOIRS

Ministry Form for 2026-2027
Pre-school thru High School

MEMBER'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____

GRADE: _____ SCHOOL: _____

BIRTHDAY: MONTH _____ DAY _____ YEAR _____

NAMES OF PARENTS/ GUARDIANS: _____

MOM CELL: _____ E-MAIL: _____

DAD CELL: _____ E-MAIL: _____

TEEN E-MAIL or CELL (best contact): _____

VOICE PART (teens only) : Soprano Alto Tenor Bass

HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENT: _____ YEARS PLAYED: _____

CHECK THE FOLLOWING

_____ **JOYFUL NOISE**- Pre-school thru 2nd grade
Rehearsals-Tuesdays 3:45-4:30 pm (September 1, 2026- May 4, 2027)

_____ **YOUTH CHOIR**- 3rd grade thru 7th grade
Rehearsals- Thursdays 4-5:00 pm (September 3, 2026 thru May 6, 2027)

_____ **SPIRIT VOICES**- 8th grade thru High School
Rehearsals- Wednesdays 6-7pm (September 9, 2026 thru May 26, 2027)
Instruments are most welcome to continue playing over the summer

A complete Fall schedule will be distributed at the first rehearsal.

Thank you for participating in the youth/teen music ministry. We're looking forward to a wonderful year of music making. May our time together be blessed abundantly. Please feel free to call at anytime with any questions or suggestions about the program. 630-615-7611 or jfrazier@st-raphael.com.

In peace,
Julie Frazier
Director of Music
jfrazier@st-raphael.com

_____ Please check if you do not want your child's photo included in group shots that may be used in parish communications (e.g. bulletins, website, live stream)
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ST. RAPHAEL ADULT CHOIRS

MEMBER'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____

VOICE PART: (circle) Soprano Alto Tenor Bass

YEARS IN MINISTRY (new or other choir experience):

HOME PH: _____ CELL: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

BIRTHDAY: MONTH _____ DAY _____

CHECK THE FOLLOWING

_____ **ADULT CHOIR**- ministers at Sunday 10am Mass and special feasts throughout the year(i.e.: Christmas, Holy Week). Rehearsals: Thursdays 7:30-9/9:30pm starting September 10, 2026 through May 30, 2027

_____ **MAGNIFY**- ministers bi-monthly at 5pm Saturday evening Mass and special services throughout the year. Rehearsals - Wednesday 7:30pm-9:00pm twice a month starting September 9, 2026 through May 26, 2027

_____ **RESURRECTION CHOIR**-ministers at Funeral liturgies throughout the year and sings for AllSoulsMass.Rehearsals are usually 30 minutes before a funeral or service

Thank you for all your support in the music ministry at St. Raphael's. As St. Augustine said, "When one sings, they pray twice." We are privileged to be among those who can rejoice and praise God in song. May all we do be for the greater glory of God. Blessings now and in the coming year.

Julie Frazier
Director of Music
jfrazier@st-raphael.com

_____ Please check if you do not want your photo included in group shots that may be used in parish communications (e.g. bulletins, website, live stream)

Make the Commitment to Reclaim Time for Reading & Friendship

FIND OUT MORE AT WELLREADMOM.COM

Well-Read Mom accompanies women in the reading of great books and spiritual classics to encourage personal growth, friendship, and meaningful conversations in order to explore the human condition and reorient ourselves to what is good, beautiful, and true.

Our book selections for each year correspond to a theme of a woman's life; such as: mother, daughter, sister, friend, worker, pilgrim, contemplative, artist, sister, family, giver, seeker, and father.

"Women will increasingly play a part in the solution of the serious problems of the future: leisure time, the quality of life, migration, social services, euthanasia, drugs, health care, the ecology, etc.

In all these areas, a greater presence of women in society will prove most valuable, for it will help to manifest the contradictions present when society is organized solely according to the criteria of efficiency and productivity, and it will force systems to be redesigned in a way which favors the processes of humanization which mark the "civilization of love'."

- St. John Paul II

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

We want all women who participate in Well-Read Mom to enjoy our beautiful materials. When you join Well-Read Mom, you're not just purchasing a product. You are joining and supporting a movement of women who want to read more and read well!

For this reason, we are asking each woman who participates in a group to register with Well-Read Mom officially.

Well-Read Mom materials make it easy to lead or be part of a group. Women who consistently use the materials tell us they have a richer experience, and are more connected to our mission.



Scan the QR code to find out more about membership and registration.

