



DECEMBER 2025

ST. RAPHAEL COMMUNITY OF CATHOLIC MOMS

NEWSLETTER



Connect. Encourage. Inspire.

Join Our Mom's Ministry for One Evening each Month

Evening meetings are one Tuesday evening each month of the school year, rolling start at 7:30pm. These nights are designed to give local Catholic moms a social evening to mix and mingle; feel rejuvenated, and inspired!

CCM Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers '25-'26

December 9th - The Art of Living

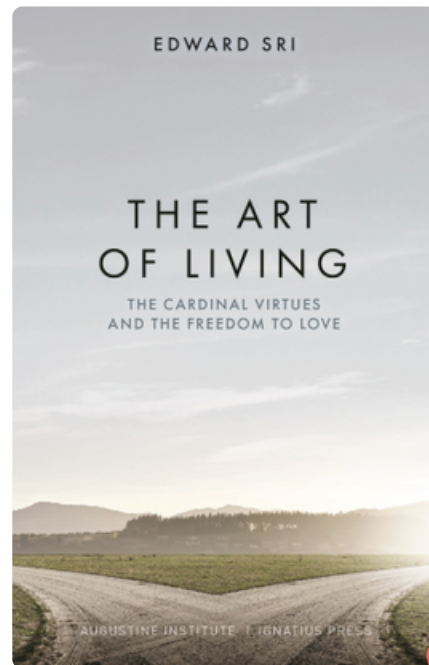
January 13th - Starting the New Year in High Gear - Group Workout - Stay tuned for more info coming mid-December!

February 10th - Preparing for Lent with Rachel Dickinson

March 10th - Panel Discussion & Couples Night!

April 14th - Father Max Behna, Pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church

May 12th - Father Alex Lorang



Please RSVP for our December Meeting



We'll do a book discussion for our December 9th evening! No need to have read cover to cover to join--we'll pick out some sage paragraphs to dive into and talk in small groups at our tables. Everyone so far has said they're really enjoying the read! If you didn't end up getting a copy, doesn't matter! Still come and enjoy the fellowship & conversation. Perhaps you'll be able to leave with a copy to read in the New Year! Also: need to clean out your home library? Bring a book or two to donate for the book drive to Loaves & Fishes!

If you're receiving this through the grapevine, [visit our website](#) for more information. If you're a Catholic mom raising your kids in Naperville, we would be so happy to have you join us!



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November's Advent Wreath Night



We had 52 moms attend for this month's evening gathering! It was a marvelous mash-up of crafting and festivity to kick-off the beautiful anticipation of the Advent Season! We had a "main crafting room," a "stationary room" for writing a prayer card, and a little refreshments and fare room too. There was a display table with more info about how to light the candles, as well as other faith-based Christmas books and activities to browse, including "The Giving Manger," and "Mary on the Mantel."



Traditionally, each of the four candles on an Advent wreath has their own meaning.

HOPE: The 1st Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.

FAITH: The 2nd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Faith with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

JOY: The 3rd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Joy with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

PEACE: The 4th Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."





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November's Advent Wreath Night



Materials Used in the Advent Wreath

Advent wreaths were traditionally made of evergreen branches, which have long been a symbol of the constancy and faithfulness we aspire to as Christians.

Holly, with its prickly leaves, represent the Crown of Thorns, and pinecones represent the Resurrection, because they contain the seeds of a new tree, and therefore of new life.

Contemporary style has given new interpretation to the wreath, and many artistic versions are made of other things besides evergreen branches.

From minimalist to traditional, from modern to sculptural, many other styles are available today without evergreen branches, but all are intended to convey the same spirit of anticipation, prayer, and waiting.



Since circles have no beginning and no end, the circular shape of the Advent Wreath symbolizes eternal life in Christ



The wreath holds four candles which are lit progressively, over the four weeks of the Advent season.



Violet is a liturgical color symbolizing penance, sacrifice, and prayer. We light violet candles as a reminder of the preparation of heart and mind undertaken in this season, which was traditionally known as a "little Lent."



The 3rd Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. Since rose is the liturgical color used to signify joy, we light the rose candle on the third Sunday of Advent as we rejoice in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah.





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The Joy You Give

by
John Greenleaf Whittier

Somehow, not only for Christmas

But all the long year through,

The joy that you give to others

Is the joy that comes back to you.

And the more you spend in blessing

The poor and lonely and sad,

The more of your heart's possessing

Returns to you glad.



Save the Dates! Other Events for Moms & Families

Saturday, December 6th

"Breakfast with Santa" put on by KoC &
Women's Advent Reception

Sunday, December 7th

Carols of the Season Concert at St. Raphael Church

Friday, December 12th

Adoration at St. Raphael with live music
6:30pm-7:30pm
Families Welcome!

Sunday, December 14th

Live Nativity at Compass Church - check their website for
more deets - always a beautiful, hands-on experience!

Wednesday, January 14th

Family Service Opportunity at Feed My Starving
Children

February 4th

OLM hosts Dr. Edward Sri for "An Evening for Married
Couples"

Come to Playgroup!



If you are home with littles on Mondays, come join us for some social time for moms and kids. Rolling start at 9:20; wrap up around 10:20. Lots of friendly faces to chat with and build a greater sense of who is who in our dear parish community! Room 157 at the end of the hall--look for the strollers!

**No playgroup Dec. 22nd, nor Dec. 29th **



Service Opportunity

Alicia Plancich and her kiddos have enjoyed going to FMSC so much, she has offered to organize a service event, inclusive of any families within our mom's ministry. Thank you for your leadership & service, Alicia!

PLEASE JOIN FELLOW CCM MEMBERS AND CHILDREN FOR A
FUN EVENING IN SERVICE AT

Feed My Starving Children

IN AURORA, IL

Wednesday, January 14th, 5pm-6:30pm

KIDS MUST BE 5 YEARS OLD TO ATTEND.

Husbands are also welcome!



Please RSVP to Alicia Plancich NO LATER THAN JANUARY 9th

Text Alicia: (815) 482-7777 if you are able to make it!

**Please include your kids' names and ages. If you'd like additional information,
please contact Alicia!**

The St. Raphael Knights of Columbus invite you to the 19th Annual

Breakfast with Santa



Bring
your camera and
have your picture
taken with
Santa



Saturday,
December 6th

7:30 to 11 am Parish Center
\$10 Adults, \$5 Kids (4 to 12)
\$15 Senior Couple, \$30 Families,
Kids UNDER 4 FREE!

Come and relax and enjoy a scrumptious breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, donut holes, sweets, and a variety of juices, coffee, and milk.

Guests will enjoy children's games, crafts, and prizes along with a gift basket raffle. Lots of Christmas music too. All are welcome at this annual event, so please invite a friend or two and make this one of your family holiday traditions! ALL proceeds after expenses support local charities.

St. Raphael School Gym, 1215 Modaff Rd., Naperville, Illinois

ST RAPHAEL WOMEN'S ADVENT TEA

Saturday, Dec 6th * 1:00 - 3:30 * Room 162

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FELLOWSHIP,
REFLECTION, BEAUTY, & QUIET JOY AS WE PREPARE OUR
HEARTS FOR CHRIST'S COMING

Presentation + Prayer + Reflection

* Small Bites * Hot Cocoa Bar *

Punch * Coffee * Tea * Spirits

FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER
SUZANNE CARTER



Boundless Compassion Facilitator
Portiuncula in Frankfort Program & Spiritual Director

Step away from the secular rush & rediscover the sacred heart of the Christmas season

Sue will guide us in embracing a spirit of deep preparation, joyful hope, and humble surrender inspired by Mary's quiet strength and luminous faith.

Mary's role in Advent is one of profound trust and active waiting. She models the posture of the soul that receives Christ: patient, open, and ready.

REGISTER TODAY!





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ST. RAPHAEL COMMUNITY OF CATHOLIC MOMS

St. Raphael Catholic Church

Presents

Carols of the Season

Sunday, December 7th

6:30 PM

Featuring

St. Raphael Adult, Children, and Handbell Choirs
with

Fr. Alex Lorang, Mary Mulligan, Ryan Smetana,
Rachel Frazier, and Adam Frazier

An Evening for Married Couples with Dr. Edward & Beth Sri

Nationally Renowned Catholic Speakers • Authors of *The Good, the Messy, and the Beautiful*

Hosted by  A NA FOR MARRIAGE

Save the Date

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2026 @7:00PM

Whether you've been married one year or forty, don't miss this powerful and inspiring evening! With humor, honesty, and deep faith, the Sris will share real-life insights into Catholic marriage—the joys and the struggles—and how God uses it all to draw spouses closer to Him and to each other.

Come be renewed in your vocation... and invite another couple to join you!

\$50 PER COUPLE (MARRIED, ENGAGED, OR DATING)



**The Realities of Marriage:
The Good, the Messy, and the Beautiful**
with Dr. Edward & Beth Sri