



ST. RAPHAEL COMMUNITY OF CATHOLIC MOMS

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025



Wreaths Across America



With Veteran's Day coming up, seems like an opportune time to highlight this operation. Thank you Megan Evett for getting this onto the radar! A beautiful program to honor those who served, held across the nation on Saturday, December 13th this year. Closest participating location looks like it will be Hillview Cemetery in Hinsdale.



Join Us 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

November 18th - Advent Wreath Decorating

December 9th - The Art of Living

January 13th - Starting the New Year

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

Congratulations, Denon Family!

Dan & Lisa Denon welcomed their baby boy Nathaniel Joseph on Sunday, October 26th! There is a MealTrain up and running for them--[click here if you would like to participate.](#)

Congratulations to Lisa, Dan, and big siblings, Elizabeth, Alex, & William!

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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Thank you for
joining us, Megan
Barnhart!



Our October meeting was a beautiful night, complete with an inspiring presentation from Megan Barnhart of the WaterLeaf Center. Follow-up questions were sent in and she has taken time to provide these details! Thank you, Megan!

Q: Do you ever need gift baskets put together, like with non-essential but sweet/cute items, like, board books, bibs, plush toys?

We have had gift baskets given to us before. We would give them to our moms when they visit with their babies. We just cannot store a whole bunch of them. We are limited on storage. We do like small books, bibs and items like that. We love to give siblings little plush toys when they come visit with the babies and moms.

Q: Do you take material donations? Old crib, stroller, car seats?

We can take some material donations by nothing old. We can only take new items such as car seats, cribs, etc. Sharing Connections in Downers Grove takes much more.

Q: If we wanted to schedule a tour as a group, how could we plan for that?

Tours are scheduled through me. We can do daytime or nighttime tours. They usually last an hour.

Q: What is involved in volunteering? How many hours a week, what is the time commitment?

Volunteering requires starting in a cohort (6-8 people) that meets weekly here at Waterleaf for 6 weeks of training followed by shadowing another advocate or resource specialist until you are ready to fly solo. The only commitment is that you let us know your availability-part time-full-time, once a week, once a month etc. and then try to commit to that time. Obviously, trips or other things come up and you just need to let us know. One of our advocates comes every Monday from 12-4pm. Lots of flexibility here. The other part of the training would be to decide if you wanted to be an advocate- walk women through their appointments, or a resource specialist- help them find what they need to successfully parent/ counsel them/ help with parenting classes etc.

CONT'D - >





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Answers from Megan Barnhart, CONT'D

Q: Megan mentioned that they work with 6 pro-life Doctors in the area, can she share who they are? Many times it's hard to find pro-life doctors in this area.

These are local doctors who work with and support the WaterLeaf mission:

Dr. Joseph Kash- Oncology Edwards
 Dr. Tony Leazzo- Family Medicine- moving to southern Illinois soon:(
 Dr. Jennifer Baxter CNM-midwife
 Dr. Robert Lawler OBGYN
 Dr. Michael J Hussey OBGYN
 Dr. Kevin Hussey OBGYN

There is a website where several providers are listed called "MyCatholicDoctor." Most of our providers can be found on this site.



Why Donate to Sharing Connections?

Upon Megan Barnhart's rec to take maternity clothes to Sharing Connections, we took the drive over to Downers Grove and were delighted to learn more about the incredible work they are doing at this center! Mia Churma, the Development Director, was so gracious to even give Aidan and I a tour!



Your donations will go to people who are at or below the poverty line. The "Show Room" is re-staged for each client to browse, one family at a time, as part of the program's goal to provide dignity to those they serve.

And the storage warehouse is set up to thoroughly clean, inspect, sort and refurbish furniture that is still in good shape but might need a new set of drawer handles or some such improvement.

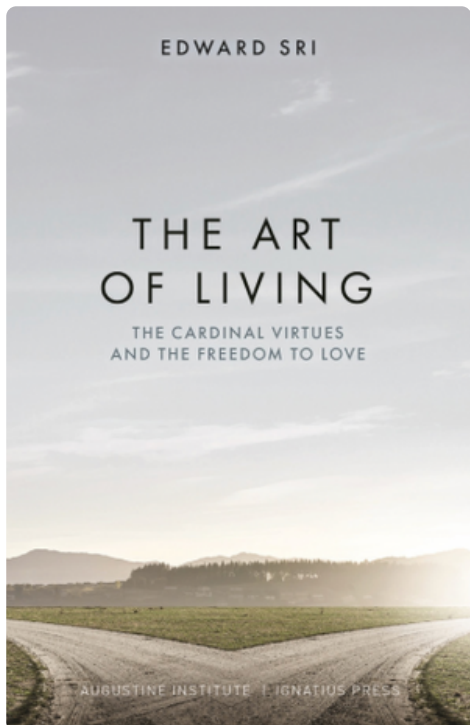
They are always happy to accept volunteers on an "a la carte" commitment basis!

SHARING CONNECTIONS
 we furnish hope





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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!

Still time to grab a copy, for FREE! Message Elizabeth Jarr to pick up, or email the CCM address: straphaelccm@gmail.com.



And shout-out to Alex Ziegler for spotting this serendipitous bookend to our December meeting night! Lots of chatter already--think there will be a good turnout from CCM!

Save the Dates!

Other Events for Moms & Families

Donut Sunday
Nov 23rd

Saturday, December 6th
"Breakfast with Santa" put on by KoC
&
Women's Advent Reception

February 4th
OLM hosts Dr. Edward Sri for "An Evening for Married Couples"

February 7th
Annual Gala for WaterLeaf at the
Abbington in Glen Ellyn

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 on Monday, November 24th





COMMUNITY *of*
CATHOLIC MOMS

Advent Wreath Decorating

Join for an evening of creativity, connection, and cheer as we craft Advent wreaths.

Whether you're a seasoned candle-lighter or have just seen these wreaths from afar, this is a great chance to (re)start a lovely tradition at home. We'll have everything you need to create your wreath, or spiff up your old one.

Light fare & refreshments. Come late, leave early.
Room 167 at St. Raphael Parish (Door #2).

Tuesday | November 18th
7:30pm-9pm

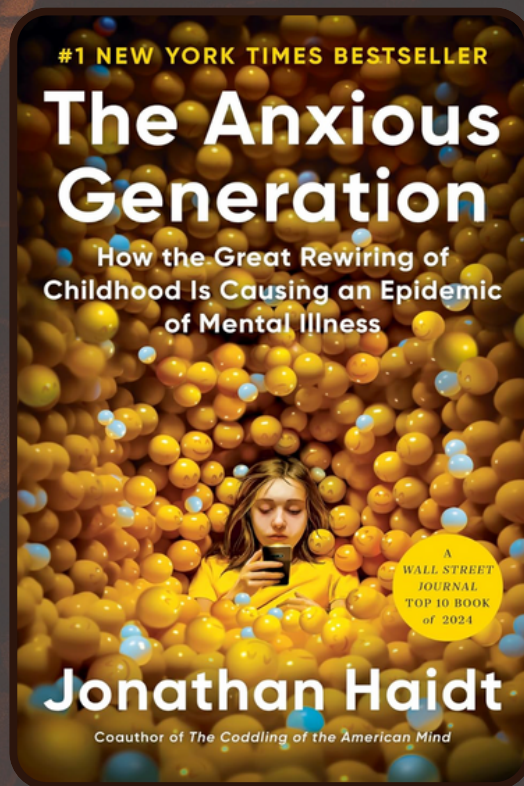


OPEN TO ALL
CATHOLIC MOMS OF
INFANTS THROUGH
HIGH SCHOOLERS



MARCH 10TH

*Couples Night & Panel
Discussion*



*Book a sitter & Bring
your husband along!*