OCTOBER 2026

ST. RAPHAEL COMMUNITY OF CATHOLIC MOMS

NEWSLETTER

Save the Dates!

CCM Fellowship Nights

November 3rd- Feed my Starving Children, (off-campus)

December 1st- All About Advent

January 5th

February 2nd

Other Events on Campus for Moms & Families

Donuts Sunday
Sunday, November 22nd
following the 8am & 10am Masses

Worship and Adoration Night
Sunday, November 22nd
4-5pm

Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, December 5th
7am-12pm

Welcome!

With gratitude to Father Alex for helping our ministry establish firmer roots and continue to flourish this past year, we recently officially formalized a "Mission & Vision" for our mom's ministry!



Fun fact: The "Catholic Church" is actually a living, breathing body of faith-filled people, (not a static building).

Our ministry welcomes all moms of infants through college-aged kids. We welcome moms from our parish and the greater Naperville area, whether you're a longtime parishioner, belong to a neighboring Catholic parish, or are new to the community!

And because life rarely goes according to plan, there's no pressure to do it all or make it to everything. **Join us when you can, bail when you must, and know wherever you're at with your faith journey, you're <u>always</u> welcome!**

OCTOBER FELLOWSHIP NIGHT



Apologetics: Equipping Moms to Share the Faith

Our October Fellowship Night welcomed Father John Honiotes for a thoughtful and wide-ranging conversation on Catholic apologetics and equipping ourselves as mothers to answer our children's questions about the faith. Father John reminded us that before we are wives and mothers, we are daughters of God the Father—and that our own prayer lives and spiritual formation are foundational to the faith we hope to pass on.

One most reassuring takeaway was that we don't need to have every answer perfectly formed. Sound reasoning matters, but so does the witness of a faithful life. Through prayer, the sacraments, and trust in the Church that Christ established, we can invite the Holy Spirit to work through us as we guide our children toward Him. As Father John emphasized, our role as mothers carries a God-given authority to pray for, bless, and spiritually form our children—a responsibility we can humbly approach each day with confidence, charity, and conviction.

Father John Honiotes guided us in an exploration of several questions our children might ask, with thoughtful, well-informed explanations, of which the following summaries are but a snippet:

How do we know God is real?

Philosophical arguments, such as St. Thomas Aquinas's argument from contingency, offer a reasoned foundation for belief. Yet our own experiences of God and the witness of a faithful life, especially in the saints, can speak just as powerfully. We can also study documented modern miracles.

Did God create dinosaurs or Adam and Eve first?

1. *Short Answer: Dinosaurs.*
2. *Faith and science are not at odds! Catholics can accept the scientific account of the universe's development, including evolution, while holding to God as Creator and the material universe as his creation.*

Aren't all religions good?

While we can recognize goodness in other religious traditions, Catholics believe Jesus Christ brings the fullness of God's revelation in the Catholic Church and calls us to share the Gospel with all nations.

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OCTOBER FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

Apologetics Q&A with Fr. John Honiotes, continued

Why is the Church the boss of what's right and wrong?

Christ established the Church to lead us toward salvation, entrusting its teaching authority to the apostles and their successors through Apostolic Succession. While we may wrestle with particular teachings, we can find security in the Church Christ established rather than feeling we must determine everything for ourselves.

Christ did not leave His Church orphaned; He said He would be with us until the end of the age. This applies to doctrinal decisions which would immediately besiege the Church after its establishment. Peter and his successors have been given the role of having the final say on matters of faith and morals. Jesus supernaturally guides the teaching Magisterium to truth throughout the ages.

Does God think it's okay for them to have a baby when they're not married?

Every human life is precious and loved by God, even when a child's circumstances fall short of the ideal God intends. Fr. John emphasized the importance of a committed union between husband and wife as the God-given ideal for raising children.

Why can't two boys get married if everyone else thinks it's okay?

Father John discussed the Church's understanding of marriage as a union of husband and wife ordered toward both unity and procreation, while emphasizing that every person is made for love, intimate friendship, and communion with God. Experiences of same-sex attraction do not diminish a person's dignity, nor their call to holiness.

Thank you for illuminating these points for us, Father John! We were so delighted to have you join us!









OCTOBER FELLOWSHIP NIGHT



Thank you, Megan McCatty!

Major thanks to Megan McCatty for chairing this event! Megan accomplished much behind the scenes to survey our ministry, thoughtfully write questions based on the responses, and plan the formatting of the evening in collaboration with Fr. John.

Apologetics Survey Follow-up

Many thanks to all who took time to respond to the survey we sent out! Given the constraints of time, Fr. John was not able to address all of the questions at our Fellowship night. But we do hope to honor everyone's inquiries! Father Alex has graciously offered to take up the mantel and in the coming months, he will provide a response to one of the remaining questions each month, via our newsletter:

1. Who is God's dad? He doesn't have a dad. So is God an orphan?
2. What happens when we die?
3. Why does God let bad things happen?
4. How can bread be Jesus' body?
5. How is God three guys at the same time?
6. Why doesn't God talk to me, but other kids at school say they talked to Him?
7. How can the stories of Adam & Eve, and Jonah & the Whale be true?
8. Why does Jesus love my sibling more than me?
9. Why can't I just tell my sins to God?
10. Why does our family do things so differently and have to do all the boring things when other kids don't have to go to church and get to watch any movie they want and wear any clothes they want?

Fr. Alex also asked us to pass on that he is always willing to meet and talk if you have questions outside of these; please don't hesitate to reach out! alorang@st-raphael.com

COMMUNITY of CATHOLIC MOMS

Playgroup

Mondays are better together!



Moms of
infants, tots, and preschoolers:
Come join us for our weekly playgroup, Monday mornings on campus!

Rolling start: 9:20
Wraps at 10:20am

For the winter months, we'll primarily meet indoors, in room 157--Look for the strollers!



Upcoming Dates

October 26th
November 2nd
November 9th
November 16th
November 30th

***NO meeting on Nov 23rd



Get a chance to get to know your fellow parishioners in a relaxed, playful setting, complete with toys & circle time!





For real time/weather updates & date reminders, scan the QR to join the Playgroup's WhatsApp Group!

OCTOBER 2026

ST. RAPHAEL COMMUNITY OF CATHOLIC MOMS

BOOKCLUB

Our next meeting will be at 7:30pm on November 19th to discuss *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck. RSVP here.

In Edna Ferber's ***So Big***, we were both challenged and inspired by Selina DeJong, a widowed mother who tends to a barely profitable vegetable farm in the early 1900s.

Rather than grumble at her circumstances, Selina chooses to see beauty in the mundane, viewing rows of cabbages as jewels and reading imaginative literature to her son to ease life's hardships. Though not explicitly religious, Selina's appreciation for beauty offered our group a meaningful opportunity to reflect on how beauty can reveal something sacred in the ordinary.

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For more details about participating in bookclub, reach out to Elizabeth Jarr & Ali Patti at straphaelccm@gmail.com with any questions!

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ST. RAPHAEL COMMUNITY OF CATHOLIC MOMS

BOOKCLUB

So Big recap & discussion, continued

Ours was an evening of marvelous discussion and fellowship! Through our shared Catholic lens, we explored the Church's call to cultivate beauty, recognize God's presence in everyday life, and seek beauty rooted in His truth, goodness, and creation.

Spurred on by the anecdotes of *So Big*, we reflected on our unique ability as women to bring beauty into the world.

We explored the book's characters and questioned beauty defined in God's abundance, juxtaposed to the conflated meaning of beauty that materialism and secular ideals may often offer--in the characters' world, and in our own modern culture.

Last, we reflected on lessons from our own parents, taking note of little ways they cultivated beautiful, meaningful elements of our childhoods, that we didn't fully appreciate until we became wives and mothers ourselves.







BONUS LINK

Intrigued by the recap and themes? For a quick read on beauty, check out this article!

For more details, reach out to Elizabeth Jarr & Ali Patti at straphaelccm@gmail.com with any questions!

St Raphael

COMMUNITY of CATHOLIC MOMS

GOES OFF CAMPUS!

November Fellowship Night

join us at

Feed My Starving Children

Tuesday, November 3rd
7:15-8:45pm

555 Exchange Ct.
Aurora, IL 60504



Back by popular demand!

Moms had such a great time serving at FMSC last January—we're going back!

This time, it's adults only!

Join us for a fun evening of fellowship, service, and a little social time as we pack meals together and make a difference for children around the world.

Sign-ups have passed!

If you're still interested in attending, email Elizabeth Jarr to see if there are any spots remaing.

elizabethjarr@gmail.com

Ministry participation open to all Catholic moms of infants through college-aged kids