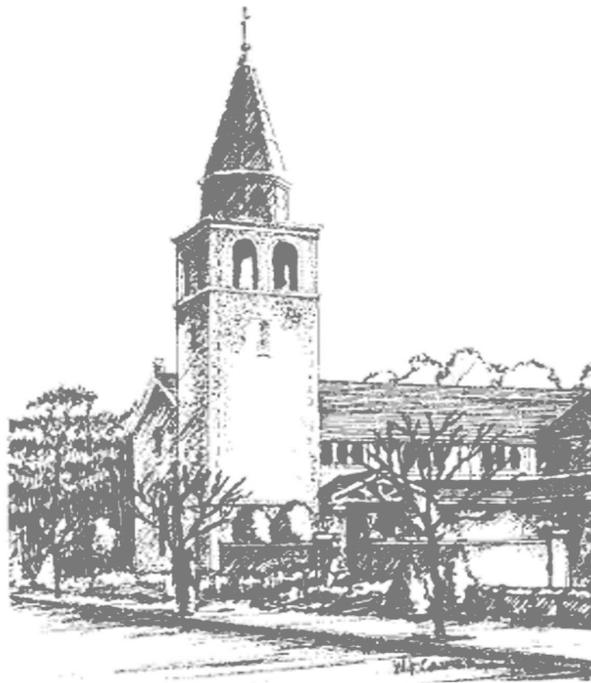
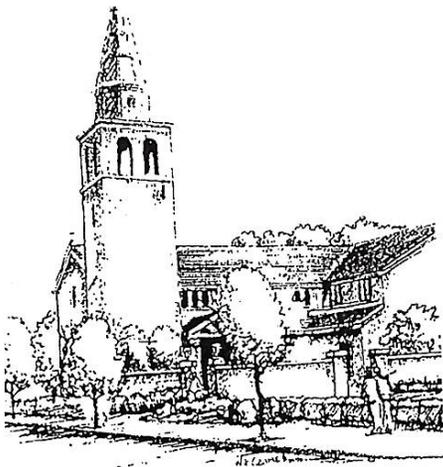




Parish Pastoral Plan 2020-2023 Phase VI



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Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, OFM Cap.
Archbishop of Boston
66 Brooks Drive
Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

Dear Cardinal Seán,

We are blessed to offer to you our parish pastoral plan for Saint Raphael Parish in Medford, Massachusetts. We thoughtfully understand our responsibility as a stand alone collaborative, and embrace our role in The New Evangelization to create Disciples in Mission.

This plan is the collaboration of a diverse group of volunteers from throughout the parish, who have worked passionately and tirelessly to draw from various experiences within the parish. It reflects many hours of discussion and debate, information gathering and synthesizing, and most importantly prayer.

Our Plan Writing Team Members include:

Mary Brennan

Rosemarie Giovino

Frank O'Leary

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Ryan Stewart

We also recognize and thank Chris Donoghue, Evangelization Consultant from the Archdiocese of Boston, and Jen DeNisco, Saint Raphael Parish Disciples in Mission Coordinator for their guidance throughout this process.

Saint Raphael Parish has continually been a vibrant and engaged community of believers, but even with this, we recognize our ability to grow and improve as a people of faith. Our pastoral plan highlights four goal areas on which to focus over the next three years, while we continue to do our best in every aspect of parish life.

As with any endeavor, prayer must be the first and most focal point of accomplishing our goals. For without the guidance and blessing of Jesus Christ, we would be lost. We ask for your prayers, as we ask for the prayers and support from each member of our parish.

God Bless,

Reverend Paul Coughlin

Our Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray for guidance as we implement our Pastoral Plan. Please let Jesus be in our hearts, thoughts, and actions, trusting He will be at our side watching over us, leading, and guiding us, according to His will.

Our Mission

"Saint Raphael is a Catholic community committed, with God's grace, to living gospel values and sharing these with all people. As a Eucharistic people united in faith and worship, we affirm the gifts of the Spirit among us and celebrate the uniqueness of each of our members. Supporting one another in love, we strive to respect and use these diverse gifts in joyful service to those within our parish and beyond."

Saint Raphael Parish School

Saint Raphael School opened its doors in 1961. It is part of a vibrant Catholic community where each student is nurtured and valued as a child of God. We teach the value of tolerance and compassion toward others and we continue to ingrain in them an eagerness and passion to serve those in need. Children are inspired to grow spiritually, intellectually, morally and socially as they build the knowledge, character and faith to become leaders within and beyond our community.

Our motto is: The Dignity of All



Parish Plan Vision Statement

Saint Raphael Parish will be a thriving community of believers making Jesus Christ visible through the sacraments and by our actions:
Welcoming, Healing, Forming, and Growing

Saint Raphael Parish

The sacrificial generosity which characterizes Saint Raphael Parish today began in 1905 with hard-working, dedicated members of the West Medford Catholic community. The 105 families that initially comprised Saint Raphael Parish managed to raise enough money to build a small church on the Duane Estate.

Many pastors served to continually grow both the physical and spiritual components of the parish

The Duane Home served as the rectory until the Bishop Estate at 516 High Street was purchased and became the second rectory. A small chapel was built on the grounds and then increased the seating capacity of the church was accomplished by building a new wing to the left of the altar. Religious education classes were added and the CCD program grew very quickly.

The building of the elementary school for the parish was a welcomed addition and opened its doors in 1961. The first Saint Raphael's parish council was convened, and then the first school advisory board. During this time, the first youth ministry program was also formed. It was used as a model for similar programs throughout the diocese. Lay involvement was fostered in the everyday life of the parish, and programs for Eucharistic ministers and lectors were developed.

On December 7, 1990 many parishioners watched in anguish as flames destroyed Saint Raphael Church. This tragic loss strengthened the sense of community here. In 1991, the decision to raise enough money to rebuild Saint Raphael Church was made. After raising over a million dollars, the beautiful new church was dedicated on December 19, 1993.

As the older parish center was deteriorating, a new one was built as a place for various ministries to meet and house the growing parish staff offices.

After serving as the Parish Administrator, Father Coughlin became pastor in 2018. Under his guidance, Saint Raphael Parish continues to thrive. He has implemented the Welcoming Committee here at Saint Raphael's and he has been instrumental in its success.

GOALS

Goal Area: Ministry

Goal #1

St. Raphael Parish will define and implement a communication process among parish staff, ministry volunteers and parishioners by March 2021.

- Appoint (hire) a Director of Parish Life (DPL)
- Establish monthly communication and coordination with Heads of Ministries

Goal Area: Vocations

Goal #1

By 2023, St. Raphael Parish will provide a knowledge base of the roles and responsibilities of various vocations, bringing an awareness of God's calling in the religious orders of the Priesthood, Permanent Diaconate, Religious Sisters and Brothers, and Contemplatives, by scheduling informational panels with various members of these religious orders and interested parishioners.

- Establish a parish vocations committee
- Provide information and guidance on vocational opportunities (Diocesan)
- Connect interested candidates with appropriate resources as needed

Goal #2

By 2023, St. Raphael Parish will involve single and married adults, especially young adults, in living out their baptismal call to lead others to Christ through active engagement in parish life and ministries.

- Establish list of Catholic lay organizations and arrange specific seminars on the vocation of a lay person as a disciple of Jesus.
- Achieve minimum of two new members in each ministry
- Use laity / ministries to engage wider community (become Disciples in Mission)

Goal Area: Hospitality

Goal #1

By 2023, Establish Saint Raphael Parish as a welcoming and inclusive community for all ages, backgrounds, ethnicity, and orientation, focused on providing social / informational gatherings and fostering involvement in all parish ministries. (A "Welcoming Committee" was established in 2018/2019 as a part of the Parish Council and this goal is intended to complement that effort.)

- Investigate and implement opportunities for parishioners to be involved in parish community
- Volunteers welcome all individuals before/after mass (offer specific information about parish involvement)
- Establish consistent communication through multiple avenues regarding parish involvement opportunities

Goal Area: Youth

Goal #1

By May 31st, 2023, Saint Raphael support the spiritual, moral, and social life of our Parish Youth by forming 2 age-appropriate youth ministries and creating and implementing 3 annual activities that advocate for community participation and outreach including those that help to make a positive difference in the lives of others

- Appoint (hire) Youth Minister or train a Volunteer Parishioner
- Convene a diverse Youth Planning Team (5-10) of varied ages to propose and plan appropriate youth events
- Plan and implement youth retreats/social gatherings