



St. Raphael was made for greatness!

During my homily on the great Solemnity of Pentecost, I observed that the Holy Spirit is alive and well here. I noted that God gives us certain gifts to make every one of us and our Church great! I also noted many of the “good” things we have as a parish and challenged us to strive for greatness. We are heading in that direction, too. But if St. Raphael is to fulfill the greatness for which we have been created, we needed to renew our faith and our facilities to the greatness and glory of God.

Many of you must have agreed because renewal is already taking place.

- Mass attendance is on the rise.
- The presence of God in Mass is obvious.
- Excitement is in the air.
- Both our parish and our school are growing.
- We have built a brand new PreK classroom for the new school year.
- Our new playground is a big hit with our younger parishioners.
- The newly refurbished gym floor, with new paint and logos, looks amazing.
- School hallways and doors have been freshly painted with new colors.
- The leaky roofs over our gym have been repaired.
- And, very soon, the school bathrooms will be updated and the terrazzo floors in the church and school will be cleaned and restored.

It is exciting to feel God’s presence in our people and programs and to witness all these great things taking place within our facilities. But, for good things that are happening, much remains to be done, especially to the interior and exterior areas of our buildings and campus. Consider this:

- It has been 15+ years since any kind of major renovation or upgrade has taken place at St. Raphael.
- While our facilities have served us well, they are visibly and noticeably showing their age.
- Improvements should be made to the beauty and functionality of our entire campus.
- In just three years, St. Raphael will celebrate 75-years of service and ministry. We should prepare the bride of Christ, St. Raphael Church, for this historic celebration.

I’m inviting you, therefore, to join hearts and hands with me and share a vision of parish renewal. Clearly, our forebears faithfully lived the greatness for which they were made. Now, we, too, must faithfully live the greatness for which we are made.

Several months ago, therefore, we assembled a Building Committee and they, along with the Parish and Finance Councils, have been prayerfully reviewing what needs to be done to prepare St. Raphael for the next 75-years of disciple-making. Gil Stein & Associates Architects was invited to review and create an exciting plan for facility renewal. And, did he ever. When you see the plans, they will inspire you as they have inspired me.

Here are a few of the renewal plans:

- **Sanctuary and Narthex Renovation** – a new sanctuary entrance will enhance the beauty of our parish church. By exposing the ceiling in the middle section of our beloved sanctuary, our cathedral ceilings will be showcased, revealing a beautiful but currently-hidden stained-glass window. Additionally, exposed wood beams will create a greater warmth and enhance the overall beauty of our sanctuary for the celebration of the Mass. Expanding our narthex will give us restrooms and a larger area to gather for fellowship, conversations and community-building both before and after Mass. This will also provide us much needed space for special events like talks and formation classes. Cost estimate: **\$1,791,160**
- **A New Parish and School Office Entrance/Annex/Connector** - By adding a beautiful glass-enclosed connector and entrance, we will have an enhanced and more secure office spaces for both our church and school personnel, students, and parishioners. Transforming the old garage into a renovated and functional space for meetings and multi-use areas will give us a small kitchen as well as meeting areas that will better accommodate small and larger gatherings of groups and organizations. Further, this new addition would eliminate the need for organizations to compete for what is currently limited meeting space. Further still, this will provide us additional space and more rooms to start new programs and ministries. Cost estimate: **\$1,900,915**

Anticipated Design/Engineering Fees, Land Prep, Inspections, Contingencies, Etc: \$500,000 to \$1,000,000

Total Estimated Need: \$4,192,075 to \$4,692,075

Architect: Gil Stein & Associates Architects

Cost Estimates Provided by Kelly Construction Inc.

I know what you are likely thinking: “When might we see pictures of these plans for facility renewal?”

I am glad you asked. Very soon, I am going to host two Town Hall meetings where this vision of greatness will be revealed with pictures and a 3D animation. You will want to plan to attend one of these two opportunities to see more of our plans and know what is being prayerfully considered.

Here are the dates of the two Town Hall “Made for Greatness” opportunities:

- Saturday, August 10, 5:15PM in the church.
- Tuesday, August 13, 6:30PM in the church.

Pause long enough to look at your personal calendar and pick one of these days and plan to attend.

Made for Greatness? Yes, we are! St. Raphael, I am inviting you to share with me this vision of greatness!

Devotedly, Yours in Christ,



Rev. Fr. Shayne R. Duvall, Pastor