



St. Raphael Parish Plan 2006-2011

Mission Statement

Saint Raphael Parish, established as a California Mission in 1817, is a welcoming multicultural Catholic community. By celebrating Christ's presence in Word and Sacrament, we are inspired to serve others and bring healing peace to our community.

A Ten Year Vision for Saint Raphael Parish

Saint Raphael Church is a vibrant Catholic community, where a broad diversity of people come together to pray, worship, learn, share, and serve as disciples of Jesus Christ. Recognized as a significant historical, cultural, moral and spiritual center, our parish serves its own members and the larger community.

Inspired by Liturgy of Word and Sacrament, our members go out into the world as living examples of Christ's love and presence among us.

Our members challenge themselves continually to grow deeper in faith through scripture study, spiritual retreats and small faith communities.

Guided by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, our community actively pursues peace and justice, and responds with compassion and generosity to the needs of those around us.

The children of our parish have access to a stellar parochial school, featuring a diverse student body, academic excellence and a strong faith-based program of learning. The parish eagerly meets the challenge of supporting our youth as active members through relevant faith formation and numerous opportunities to participate in the life of the parish.

Saint Raphael Parish benefits from a Pastor who encourages the involvement of dedicated and talented lay people, who share with him the leadership and responsibilities of the parish. Parishioners create a dynamic and vital faith community through the generous sharing of their skills, experiences, time and resources.

Value Statements

- Sacramental life.
- Ongoing education and faith formation.
- Active participation in parish life.
- Being an integrated, welcoming community.
- Compassion and service to all.
- The vitality of Catholic Social Teaching.
- Evangelization through proclaiming and living the Gospel

Ten-Year Goals for Saint Raphael Parish

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION FOR GOAL 1

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:12-15)

Goal 1: TO CELEBRATE OUR FAITH IN GOD THROUGH PRAYER & WORSHIP

- A. Promote full, conscious and active participation in liturgy.
 - B. Provide a welcoming environment at all liturgical celebrations.
 - C. Offer leadership opportunities in worship.
 - D. Ensure quality, appropriate liturgical music.
 - E. Provide a well maintained physical environment in all worship spaces.
 - F. Offer meaningful devotional practices.
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SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION FOR GOAL 2

Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you. (Luke 6:38)

Goal 2: TO PROMOTE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN PARISH LIFE

- A. Identify, develop and promote opportunities for parishioners to share their gifts.
 - B. Promote and encourage increased lay leadership and leadership throughout Parish life.
 - C. Encourage lay ownership and responsibility for the parish.
 - C. Recognize those involved in Parish ministries.
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SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION FOR GOAL 3

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect. (Romans 12: 1-2)

Goal 3: TO DEEPEN FAITH FORMATION & SPIRITUAL WHOLENESS

- A. Develop and implement a parish plan for lifelong faith formation.
- B. Promote relevant adult religious education opportunities in the parish and wider community.
- C. Offer opportunities that nurture individual and communal prayer life within and outside of the parish community.
- D. Support faith formation activities for all age groups.

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION FOR GOAL 4

Brothers and sisters: As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.
(1 Cor. 12:12-13)

Goal 4: TO BUILD A WELCOMING, UNIFIED PARISH

- A. Develop and implement a plan for building strong, mutually beneficial relations between all ethnic, cultural and language groups in the parish.
- B. Promote programs and processes that further cultural awareness, understanding and sensitivity
- C. Implement plans that respond to parishioners' specific needs.
- D. Incorporate and involve all communities such as East San Rafael and the Canal more fully in the life of the parish.
- E. Develop and implement a plan to welcome parishioners and invite them to participate in Parish life.

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION FOR GOAL 5

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hand on them and pray. The disciples rebuked them, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." After he placed his hands on them, he went away. (Matthew 19:13-15)

Goal 5: TO SUSTAIN A STRONG & VIABLE PARISH SCHOOL

- A. Provide an excellent Catholic faith-based academic program for all students
- B. Continue to cultivate a strong working relationship between the parents, students, faculty and staff.
- C. Strengthen the relationship between the parish and school.
- D. Promote the school through improved marketing.
- E. Ensure the financial stability of the school.
- F. Cultivate life-long ties to the school with alumni and their families.

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION FOR GOAL 6

I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1)

Goal 6: TO ENHANCE THE VISIBILITY & PROMOTE THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF MISSION SAN RAFAEL ARCHANGEL

- A. Develop programs that educate parishioners and the larger community about the Mission and its history.
- B. Support ongoing building improvements related to the Mission Renovation Project.
- C. Make the Mission Gift Shop a more viable commercial enterprise.

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION FOR GOAL 7

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. (Luke 2:46-47,52)

Goal 7: TO ENCOURAGE THE SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS AND THEIR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN PARISH LIFE

- A. Provide relevant religious education that nurtures spirituality and teaches our youth to live the gospel.
- B. Support dynamic youth and young adult programs that are age appropriate.
- C. Create and encourage multicultural, social, faith sharing, and service experiences for youth in the parish community.
- D. Expand youth and young adult participation in liturgical ministries.

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION FOR GOAL 8

Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25:34-36, 40-41)

Goal 8: TO DEMONSTRATE A COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE, PEACE AND SERVICE

- A. Raise sensitivity to peace, justice and service issues.
- B. Respond compassionately to vulnerable people in need.
- C. Engage in advocacy for life, peace and justice issues.
- D. Create a plan for a comprehensive Peace, Justice and Service ministry.

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION FOR GOAL 9

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? (Acts 2:1-8)

Goal 9: TO DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE PARISH COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

- A. Examine current communication and technology practices.
- B. Develop and implement a plan for enhancing the parish website.
- C. Develop and implement a plan for improving overall communications in the parish and larger community.

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION FOR GOAL 10

And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18)

Goal 10: TO DEVELOP & MAINTAIN A BEAUTIFUL, SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE CAMPUS

- A. Create a committee to facilitate maintenance and improvement projects for the entire campus to include Church, Rectory, Mission, School and St. Sylvester Chapel.
- B. Develop and implement a plan for maintaining existing plant, including a maintenance schedule and method of prioritizing repairs and improvements.
- C. Support and work in cooperation with the Mission Preservation Foundation.
- D. Develop and implement a process regarding emergency building repairs.
- E. Research, formulate and prioritize capital improvement needs for entire campus to include Church, Rectory, Mission, School and Saint Sylvester Chapel.
- F. Define policies and guidelines regarding day to day usage of parish buildings.
- G. Create a disaster plan for the entire campus to include Church, Rectory, Mission, School and Saint Sylvester Chapel.