

Becoming an active member of the Parish of Saint Raphael and Practicing Your Faith

The first step to active participation as a Saint Raphael parishioner is to be registered in the parish. Although you may attend Mass at Saint Ann Church or Saint Gabriel Church, if you are not a registered member of the parish, there is no record of your intention to take part in the faith life at Saint Raphael Parish. So, contacting the rectory will get the ball rolling.

Now that you are enrolled, the next step is to become one of the stewards of Saint Raphael's. We are a stewardship parish in the Archdiocese and parishioners are encouraged to share their time, talent and treasure. There are over 40 ministries that help to support the growth and development of Saint Raphael Parish and our local community. You are asked to prayerfully look at your talent and time, and make a commitment to become active in one or more of our many ministries. As an added benefit, you will make friends and more quickly become integrated as a member of this family of faith when you take a part in ministry.

Sharing your treasure is the third leg of Stewardship. Many parishioners use our church envelopes on a weekly basis; some submit their support monthly; still others use our online giving program. Using any of these systems is another way to measure active membership. Share what you can using one of these systems so you are counted.

Most importantly, attending Mass on Sunday and other designated holy days of obligation is another measure of your intent to be active in your Catholic faith.

So, to summarize, to be considered an active parishioner you should:

- 1. Register with the parish**
- 2. Attend Mass regularly**
- 3. Be active in a ministry or ministries**
- 4. Financially support the parish to the best of your ability**

In addition, there are parishioners in the parish who are no longer able, due to health or financial concerns, to fulfill one or more of the criteria. They are still considered active members of this parish and entitled to all the services that our parish offers for their spiritual and personal comfort.