

St. Raymond de Penafort Parish
Report on Finances and Operations
for the Fiscal Year Ending
June 30, 2016

October 29, 2016

Dear Parishioners,

This is the report on the finances and operations of St. Raymond de Penafort Parish for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2016. The report shows that the parish incurred an operating loss for the year just ended of more than \$64,000. This is an improvement of approximately \$138,000 from the prior fiscal year where the loss was over \$202,000.

This operating loss would have been larger but a special Catch Up collection of \$59,000 and tight control of expenditures (they were equal with the prior fiscal year) helped minimize the deficit. On the positive side Sunday collections were up 5%, Fees up 11%, and Tuition 1%. Conversely, fundraising was down \$41,000 (or 25%), and building repairs and maintenance costs were up 15%.

Enrollments in the school are down 5% to 483 students, but still remain strong to support an engaging and active school environment. The Church body is holding relatively steady at approximately 3000 families.

Work done as a final part of remaining Capital Campaign funds for the past fiscal year includes:

School - Electrical work for new school air conditioners; re-wire servers

Church - Re-lamp interior, stripe parking lot and boiler overhaul

PMC - continued renovation of parish office (painting and lighting)

Rectory - new windows, plumbing and painting

We continue to ask for your financial support as it through your donations that all the various ministries can be remain viable and very active. With that in mind we ask you to:

- Re-evaluate your contribution to the parish and see if you can increase it even a few dollars per month or week especially if you have not changed the amount donated for a few years.
- Become an on-line donor so your gifts to the parish become regular and are easier to plan and budget.
- Support the many fundraising activities here to make them even more profitable.

St. Raymond remains a very vibrant and active parish. Our parishioners who through their generous donations, or by their various talents serve as volunteers for the many ministries, remain the lifeblood for our church. Your generosity and your gifts to our parish are greatly appreciated. St Raymond is still facing some tough challenges and some economic uncertainty, but we are confident that we will stay strong as a parish community and will continue to thrive more years to come with everyone's help.

Sincerely,

Reverend Edward Panek

Pastor

St. Raymond Parish
Income & Expenses for the Fiscal Years Ending
Jun 30, 2016 and 2015

	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Sunday & Holy Day Collections	\$1,330,218	\$1,274,165	4%
Christmas Collection	\$132,913	\$120,026	11%
Easter Collection	\$85,506	\$84,028	2%
Other Collections	\$7,137	\$14,440	-51%
Tuition	\$2,232,532	\$2,180,916	2%
Fees	\$292,194	\$252,075	16%
Facility Rental/Lease	\$21,880	\$23,450	-7%
Fundraising	\$124,037	\$163,297	-24%
Interest & Investment Income	\$8,376	\$6,648	26%
Miscellaneous Income	<u>\$137,107</u>	<u>\$124,826</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total Income	<u>\$4,371,900</u>	<u>\$4,243,871</u>	3%
Salaries	\$2,521,320	\$2,505,021	1%
Health Insurance	\$321,767	\$311,336	3%
Employer FICA	\$170,417	\$171,214	0%
Fringe Benefits	\$145,983	\$149,633	-2%
Professional Growth	\$20,576	\$24,058	-14%
Books/Supplies - Non Liturgical	\$51,968	\$106,060	-51%
Administrative Expenses	\$242,343	\$238,328	2%
All Utilities	\$133,919	\$141,649	-5%
Maintenance & Building Repairs	\$294,299	\$255,683	15%
Altar & Liturgical Supplies	\$38,301	\$25,680	49%
Archdiocese Assessment	\$155,524	\$158,475	-2%
PRMAA Assessment	\$54,720	\$55,014	-1%
Insurance	\$110,540	\$106,116	4%
Food Service & Meals	\$30,843	\$18,398	68%
Furnishings & Equipment	\$30,821	\$44,685	-31%
Other Expenses	<u>\$113,529</u>	<u>\$135,393</u>	-16%
Total Expenses	<u>\$4,436,870</u>	<u>\$4,446,743</u>	0%
Net Ordinary Income	(\$64,970)	(\$202,872)	68%
Total Extraordinary Income	\$623,035	\$652,684	-5%
Total Other Expenses	<u>\$427,633</u>	<u>\$499,028</u>	<u>-14%</u>
Net Other Income	<u>\$195,402</u>	<u>\$153,656</u>	27%
Net Income	\$130,432	(\$49,216)	n/a

St. Raymond Parish
Assets & Liabilities

	<u>30-Jun-16</u>	<u>30-Jun-15</u>
<u>Assets:</u>		
Cash in Bank	\$314,786	\$456,570
Funds with Archdiocese		
Operating Savings	\$585,928	\$480,739
Long Term/Building Funds	\$267,505	\$265,608
Store Certificate Inventory	\$12,495	\$28,550
Advanced Receivables	<u>\$2,763</u>	<u>\$1,832</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$1,183,477</u>	<u>\$1,233,299</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Vendor Accounts Payable	\$11,641	\$200,438
Emergency Assistance Fund	\$12,975	\$3,890
Teacher Appreciation Fund	\$250	\$1,359
Back Pack Ministry	\$10,121	\$6,083
Food Pantry	\$0	\$3,906
Kairos Scholarship Fund	\$4,742	\$1,187
School Social Comm Funds	\$1,412	\$663
Italian Grant	<u>\$9,974</u>	<u>\$10,028</u>
Total Liabilities & Unexpended Funds	<u>\$51,115</u>	<u>\$227,554</u>

Parishioner's Summary - Contribution Ranges

During Period July1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Donation Range	# of Families	Percentage of Families		Total \$ Donated	% of Total Given
\$0.00	1218	41.0%		\$0	0.0%
\$0.01-\$100	325	11.0%		\$15,587	1.1%
\$101 - \$300	306	10.3%		\$61,752	4.5%
\$301 - \$500	276	9.3%		\$113,237	8.3%
\$501 - \$1,000	427	14.4%		\$310,421	22.8%
\$1,001 - \$2,000	265	8.9%		\$367,614	27.0%
\$2,001 - \$2,500	64	2.2%		\$143,464	10.6%
\$2,501 - \$5,000	76	2.6%		\$267,870	19.7%
\$5,000 - \$7,500	8	0.3%		\$44,625	3.3%
\$7,501 - \$10,000	1	0.0%		\$9,020	0.7%
\$10,000 +	2	0.1%		\$25,700	1.9%
Total	2968	100.0%		\$1,359,290	100.0%

Avg Amount donated by contributing families \$776.74

* These amounts do not include loose currency and coin in the collection baskets

St. Raymond – By the Numbers

Registered Families:	2968
Number of new families registered In the past fiscal year	67

Baptisms	148
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First Communions	124
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Confirmations	103
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Reception into Full Communion	3
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Weddings	23
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Funerals	71
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What Have Your Gifts to ST. Raymond Parish Made Possible

On the next page is a schedule that shows how much you, our parishioners, contributed to our various alms collections during the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2016. It includes gifts to our two sharing parishes, gifts to Archdiocesan ministries to support their work, as well as gifts to organizations that St. Raymond Alms Committee has selected as beneficiaries.

It is amazing and very heartening how we can make a difference in the lives of others. On behalf of those who have been touched by your generosity and your commitment to the gospel message of love and sharing – Thank You!

Following that schedule are St. Raymond's own ministries that your gifts to the parish supported. Without your support these ministries, programs, and activities would not exist.

Your generosity is much appreciated!!

Alms Donations - Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016

Alms Collections for Our Sharing Parishes

Providence of God - 18th Street, Chicago	\$	5,646	
Holy Family - Roosevelt Road, Chicago		22,109	
Total Alms for Sharing Parishes			\$ 27,755

Locally Determined Alms Collections

Brothers and Sisters of Love	\$	3,765	
Catholic Charities - Ministry to HIV/Aids Victims		801	
Catholic Relief Services - Equador Earthquake / Syrian Relief		5,197	
Center for Concerns		2,458	
Christmas Cheer Foundation		2,329	
Cristo Rey St Martin College Prep		2,488	
Heather's House		1,021	
Journeys from PADS to Hope		2,354	
Kolbe House		1,871	
Northw est Casa		1,526	
Northw est Compass		2,515	
Our Lady of the Angels Mission		9,803	
Peace Corner Youth Center		1,009	
Religious Education Scholarship Fund		1,362	
Rest in His Arms		2,872	
Salute Inc.		2,605	
Taller de Jose		1,509	
The Rev. Robert J. Loftus Endow ment Fund		6,280	
Timothy's Ministry		1,826	
Willow House		1,719	
Baby Bottle -- Aid for Women		4,300	
Total Locally Determined Alms Collections			59,610

Donations to St. Raymond's Emergency Fund

Disbursements from the Emergency Fund			8,800
totalled \$3,762 during the fiscal year.			

St. Raymond Backpack Ministry

Disbursements from the Back Pack totalled \$12,867			16,906
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Archdiocesan Alms Collections

Work of the Church in Latin America	\$	385	
Seminaries		1,431	
Work of the Church in the Holy Land		1,244	
Work of the Church in Eastern Europe		623	
Catholic Charities (Mothers Day Appeal)		6,042	
Peters Pence		434	
Propagation of the Faith		1,487	
Catholic Campaign for Human Development		1,812	
Retirement Fund for Religious Sisters and Brothers		1,914	
Summer Appeal for the Missions		5,347	
Catholic Relief Services - Operation Rice Bowl		5,970	
Support for Retired Priests		4,562	
Total Archdiocesan Collections			31,251

Total Alms Donations by Parishioners

\$ 144,322

MUSIC MINISTRY

Over 120 people of all ages participated in music ministry at St. Raymond this year, providing an enthusiastic and prayerful energy to our liturgies. Upon attending a mass at St Raymond, many a guest has commented that the music ministry helped to provide a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere and enhanced their communal worship experience greatly.

Among the highlights of the year include...

- Mother's Day at the 9:30am featured a Men's Choir which was 35 members strong, the largest in the past 5 years.
- On November 15, the music ministry presented "Hearing God's Voice in Popular Music", which was attended by around 350 people, and featured members of St. Raymond Music Ministry, including the parish choir and a number of our cantors and instrumentalists. We continued to explore how God can speak to us through the music of our everyday lives.
- Our teen choir continues to grow. There were 23 teens on the roster, including 5 seniors, most of who had been with the choir for 6 years.
- Part Time Choir once again sang throughout the summer, as well as the rest of the calendar year, and continually adds new members.
- High school and college aged young adults are being trained as cantors on a continual basis. There are now 6 teens/college aged cantors in the music ministry, to go along with our 11 adult cantors currently in the rotation.
- Christmas Midnight mass featured our St. Raymond Festival Choir, which added two beautiful choral pieces to its repertoire. The low brass quartet also returned, featuring St. Raymond's own Phil Masini and Doug Barr.
- Mike Lehman, an excellent alto saxophone player and new parishioner, began playing weekly at the 9:30am mass.

We always welcome new members to the music ministry. In particular, it would be great to add to our present roster of singers in Parish Choir, as well as Part Time Choir. Also, we welcome any young drummers or bass players at St. Raymond who would be interested in working with our adult music ministers to be trained as liturgical musicians.

Ministries of Care

Afghans for WINGS

80 gift bags with hand knitted/crocheted blankets were prepared for the mothers/children sheltered by WINGS, with the name of recipient sewn on each blanket. 40 red hats for newborns were mailed to the American Heart Association in Chicago to commemorate Heart Awareness Month in February. Baby items were also delivered to Maryville in Des Plaines and to Mt. Prospect outreach programs.

Bereavement Ministry

We celebrated 78 funerals, each with the service of a Bereavement Minister to help plan and facilitate the funeral liturgy, as well as preside at the wake and cemetery services. These included funerals for current and former parishioners, family members of parishioners and for those who had no other way of providing a funeral for their loved one. The ministry also hosted several funeral luncheons through the service of our Funeral Luncheon Coordinator.

Group and individual grief counseling was provided for both parishioners and members of surrounding parishes as requested.

The annual Mass of Remembrance was celebrated on November 2nd for those who died in the past year. Each person was remembered by name and with a lit candle presented by family members. The listing of names included those whose funeral was celebrated at St. Raymond and loved ones of parishioners whose funerals were celebrated elsewhere.

Christmas messages of remembrance from the Parish Administrator and Director of Care Ministries were sent to the families of those whose funerals were celebrated at St. Raymond, both parishioners and non-parishioners alike.

Another Bereavement Minister was added for a total of seven who serve on two-week rotations. Ten parishioners also serve as Funeral Sacristans on an on-call basis.

Domestic Violence Ministry

Domestic Violence Awareness month was commemorated in October with a DV Awareness Banner and purple ribbons placed throughout the parish campus. The October 17-18 weekend liturgies focused on Domestic Violence in the homily, and with special Prayers of the Faithful and candle-lighting.

Articles with educational and hotline information are included in the weekly bulletins along with monthly Prayers of the Faithful for those affected by abuse.

Preparations were made to present the CNN documentary “The Hunting Ground” in July of 2016. Sixty-five people were in attendance including sixteen college students.

St. Raymond has provided leadership to the Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach.

Ministry of Care

Ministers of Care bring the Eucharist to our homebound parishioners as requested, to the residents in skilled nursing at Church Creek weekly, and celebrate weekly Communion Services for the residents in skilled nursing and memory care at The Moorings.

St. Raymond parishioners at Northwest Community Hospital are visited by a Minister of Care most days of their hospitalization in addition to visits by the Director of Care Ministries and our Pastor as needed or requested.

Parishioners at other surrounding hospitals/rehab facilities are visited by the Director of Care Ministries when informed of their hospitalization.

Five parishioners completed the required Archdiocesan Deanery Training and were commissioned in November, 2015, increasing the number of Ministers of Care to over fifty.

Ongoing formation for Ministers of Care is provided through an Evening of Reflection for St. Raymond Ministers of Care in September and Deanery Evenings

of Reflection in fall and spring as well as a Morning of Reflection during the winter season.

Additional Ministers of Care are always welcome so we can provide the best ministry we can for our parishioners in need.

Rosary Makers

This fiscal year the St. Raymond Rosary Makers made/distributed over 15,700 rosaries. The vast majority of overseas shipments went to Africa –Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and the Ivory Coast-with the remainder shipped to India, the Philippines, and Jamaica.

The majority of domestic shipments went to Birmingham, AL and to colleges nationwide via the Vocations Director of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, with the balance going to Stella Maris (a shipboard ministry based in New Orleans), Missionaries of Charity for Cook County Hospital in Chicago, Ambassadors of Mary, and general parish use.

The Rosary Makers regularly teach rosary making and complete rosaries made by the residents of the Oakton Pavilion Home in Des Plaines and The Moorings in Arlington Heights.

In October, the annual rosary making instruction for the 5th Grade Religious Education classes was completed.

Seamless Garment/Respect Life Committee

In September and October ministry members organized a sign up for parishioners to volunteer their time to peacefully pray at the abortion clinic in Chicago during the national 40 Days for Life Campaign. St. Raymond partnered with St. Emily in this effort by sponsoring a 24 hour period where a commitment was made to have someone present and praying during that time frame.

Friday, January 22nd was designated as a mass dedicated to all life issues. A rosary for life was prayed following mass.

Parishioners participated in the Daily Herald Ad for Life sponsored by the Catholic Parishes in Vicariate1. Enough signatures and donations were collected to have

the ad run on January 22nd and 23rd. An extra \$2,400.00 was collected and distributed as follows: \$800 – Knights of Columbus Holy Ghost Council of Palatine for the Aid for Women Ultrasound Initiative, \$500 – Women’s Center of Greater Chicago, \$500 – Fr. Michael J. McGivney Center of Hope and Healing in Chicago, \$500 – Birthright of Joliet, IL, \$100 – Martha and Mary Maternity Home.

In April and May a Baby Bottle Campaign was sponsored to benefit Aid for Women Centers. During the three week campaign in both the parish and school \$4300 was raised.

Substance Abuse

The Substance Abuse Ministry Team provides education and awareness to individuals and the parish community about the disease of addiction. The team is a resource for those families who are in need of professional help because of the disease. The team makes itself available to offer hope and confidential help to active alcoholics and/or addicts and their family members who want a positive way to deal with their problems. The members of the team are addiction counselors and/or actively involved in a 12-Step program. The names and telephone numbers of the team are published in the weekly bulletin. All calls are strictly confidential.

Justice Ministries

Annual Paint-a-Thon

In September of 2015, the St. Raymond Paint-a-Thon Team of eighteen volunteers power-washed, scraped, primed, and painted a neighborhood home in Des Plaines. This was the fifteenth year that St. Raymond has participated in the annual Northwest Suburban Paint-a-Thon project in cooperation with Hands on Suburban Chicago and Catholic Charities. This project took a total of 213 person hours (110 hours of prep and 103 hours of finish painting) along with 20 gallons of paint and 4 gallons of stain.

Providence of God Monthly Food Collection

Through the Parish Sharing Program established by the Archdiocese, St. Raymond helps to support the needs of the people/parishioners of Providence of God Parish in the Pilsen area of Chicago with a monthly food collection. This year, 1,036 bags of food were delivered to Providence of God through the generosity of St. Raymond parishioners and volunteer drivers who bring the food to the POG Food Pantry. Parishioners of Providence of God are also invited join us for our annual parish picnic in July. Due to the “Renew My Church” restructuring of parishes in the Archdiocese, a needs assessment will be made to ascertain any changes and how St. Raymond can respond to these changes.

Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS)

In partnership with St. Mark Lutheran Church (PADS site), volunteers welcomed our homeless brothers and sisters on Monday evenings from October through April. St. Raymond volunteers prepare and serve dinner on the first Monday of every month as well as two other Mondays during the PADS year. Bag lunches are also prepared for our guests to take when leaving the site. On average, 50 guests were welcomed each week, with a total of 1487 guests and 4461 meals served.

In cooperation with other churches in the area, St. Raymond volunteers also prepared, served dinner, and cleaned afterwards for two Summer Suppers held at St. Mark.

Racial and Ethnic Sensitivity Ministry

For 2015-2016 the Racial and Ethnic Sensitivity Committee continued to have monthly (except summer) meetings with the six parish WRES groups. The meetings are usually held at Holy Family Parish. The WRES group sponsored a Solidarity Mass which was held at Queen of All Saints Parish. We are also exploring collaborating on issues with other groups such as the Community Renewal Society, Eighth Day Center, SURJ and other groups, for example, we attended a MLK Day assembly held by the Community Renewal Society. This

meeting focused on holding public officials accountable for issues such as police accountability, criminal justice reform, and provision of mental health services. We also attended the Good Friday Walk for Justice sponsored by Eighth Day Center.

We also tried to educate and advocate for issues addressing immigrant rights and immigration reform. We attended an immigration forum sponsored by the Archdiocese at St. James parish. In addition, we have weekly articles in the Sunday Bulletin providing information and links on ways to get involved and become educated on immigration issues.

Parish Life Commission

The social events of the Parish Life Commission bring together over 3,000 adults and children for yearly events of fellowship and celebration. Here are some highlights from last year.

We began the year with our *Annual Summer Picnic*. Lively music, tasty food, games for the children and shared company was enjoyed by all despite being moved inside due to rain.

Monster Mash and our *Chili Cook-off* were huge successes. With our chili contestants vying for recognition as the best chili around town and spooks of all ages entertaining children and adults alike, more than 600 who attended all had a Spooktacular time. And we certainly can't forget about our Mini-Mash for our littlest of spooks. They had a great time going through the un-haunted house and playing games in the courtyard.

Our three *Fish Fry Fridays* during Lent were again very successful and filled with friendship and fellowship. The addition of having seating in the Community Room was a huge hit and enjoyed by many adults. We also enjoyed our St. Joseph Day celebration as parishioners came together to share a meal and also shared some of their favorite desserts.

In April, we gathered for the Roaring Twenties Benefit Gala Dinner Dance and Live Auction – a night filled with friends, great food, music, dancing and fellowship. A great time was had by all!

The *Parish Youth Theatre* performed “Beauty and the Beast.” over Memorial Day weekend. We were all mesmerized by the talent of our young people.

St. Raymond's Women's Club met monthly between September and May offering topics from gardening, crafting, and cooking and social events such as bowling and theatre. They began the year with a Pot Luck Dinner and ending the year in May with a May Crowning and Living Rosary. The Women's Club serves the social and spiritual needs of members and supports a variety of charities throughout the year.

The Parish Life Commission is always looking for individuals who enjoy the gift of hospitality. Through our events we promote friendship and fellowship. Whether you can give an hour or two, a month, or an extended amount of time, we invite you to join us. With events happening throughout the year, there is certainly something for everyone.

Youth Ministry

During this past year, St. Raymond's Youth Ministry...

Branches Home Groups

- Had about 150 teens participate in our ten (10) Branches Home Groups; we welcomed 45 new freshmen and graduated 45 seniors
- Groups met 2x month in home groups.
- Began the year with an opening teen mass and potluck in the Community room—about 80 people participated
- In September, we hosted a “Parent Information Night” for all parents and teens new to Branches where they learned more about the program and met their leaders.
- In November, all juniors and seniors met together, discussing God’s plan for their lives and discerning their gifts & talents.
- In November, all freshmen groups met and made Advent Wreaths together.
- In February, all sophomore groups met to learn about healthy dating relationships
- In April, freshmen groups met to pack toiletry kits for PADS shelter guests.
- In April, we hosted a Senior Branches Graduation Mass and Brunch for 45 graduating seniors and their parents.

- In May, we ended our year by celebrating a BBQ in the courtyard. Over 100 teens participated.

Service Opportunities:

- In October, we had about 50 people—teens and adult chaperones—join us as the host group at Timothy’s Ministry, where we provided food, served it, and joined in lunch with over 150 guests who struggle with homelessness.
- In March, we had about 75 teens participate in a Feed My Starving Children opportunity, where we packed food for hungry children.

Summer Mission Trips:

- **Teen Service Week June 22-25th, 2016.** Several teens took part in the Teen Service Week, spending a week in service and prayer at various agencies in the Chicagoland area.
- **Casa Romero Urban Plunge Milwaukee, WI July 6-10, 2016** Fifteen (15) teens and three adult chaperones participated in an urban immersion experience in Milwaukee where they took part in educational, service, and reflective activities to better understand the situation of those living in poverty, immigration, and homelessness. They ate on a food stamp budget, served lunches and dinners to the homeless, tutored immigrants working to gain citizenship, had dinner with veterans, and were educated on many of the larger issues regarding poverty.

Children’s Religious Education

The Religious Education program helped our Catechists and Teachers shape the faith of over 1,000 students in our combined schools.

- 105 Second Grade students received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist last year
- 107 High School Freshmen received the Sacrament of Confirmation last year

- Approximately 150 children had a blast while learning how to Follow Jesus; The Light of the World during our summer 2016 Vacation Bible School
- Students in all parish 7th grades and Confirmation students participated in a Saturday Confirmation Retreat
- In-class retreats were held for students in grades 1, 2, and 6.
- 3rd grade students dramatized the Nativity Story for all Religious Education students and parents
- 5th grade students led other religious education students in the Stations of the Cross

Religious Education has added two new prayer services either in the form of Guided Meditation or more traditional prayer services

St. Raymond Parish School

2015-16 School Highlights

- Enrollment: 483 total, including Pre-School
- Achieved Archdiocesan AdvancED Recognition and Illinois State Board of Education Recognition
- Modified the Kindergarten full day program to become an all academic school day
- Pre-School wing Air Conditioned
- Grades 1-8 Adopted a New Literacy Program, **National Geographic Program**
- Grades 6-8 Adopted a New Literature and Writing Program, **Pearson Literature and Writing Coach**
- All teachers have an iPad mobile device to access curriculum and use as a communication tool
- All classrooms have a SMARTBoard or Interactive White Board
- Technology Lab has a green screen to create a TV Station
- Teachers continued to receive training in technology to ensure use of technology in classroom
- Purchased six iPad carts with over 200 mobile devices for student use to increase interactive instruction in the classroom
- Curriculum aligned with **College Career Readiness Standards**
- New Archdiocesan Assessment, ACT: Aspire was administered in Spring for grades 3-8
- All students K-8 are assessed three times per year in the area of reading fluency, comprehension, math computation and application
- Restructured Jr. High program to include 6th grade in the middle school
- Digital Citizenship class taught to all grades through technology class and recognized as a Digital Citizenship certified school
- Technology teacher infused technology into the classroom
- Implemented a Social Emotional Learning Program with Jr. High students grades 6-8

- ***School Rush!*** app introduced as way to increase communication between school and families
- Info Snap introduced as an online format for registration and re-registration of school families
- Greater emphasis was placed on service. All grades developed a service project throughout the school year.
- Collaborated with parish in creating bi-monthly school/parish mass
- Hosted hospitality for our parish community after Tuesday morning mass to share what is happening at St. Raymond School
- Students supported the Backpack Ministry each month by donating goods to the program
- Introduced a variety of new clubs such as drama, science, art and yearbook.
- Worked with Parish on creating home blessing kits
- Began a partnership with Mobile Therapies to assist with meeting the needs of our students
- Continued to support our sharing parish, Holy Family in Chicago at Christmas and Easter time
- New Playground added to courtyard

Adult Formation Ministry Update July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

The Second Vatican Council issued a major document describing the two-fold mission of the Church by saying: “In every age, the church carries the responsibility of reading the **signs** of the **times** and of **interpreting** them in the light of the **Gospel**.” This describes well the double focus of the Adult Formation ministries: a continuing development of an **adult faith** in our parishioners, and also empowering our community to use all of their **resources** (talents, gifts of faith, imagination, energy, etc.) to **transform** the world into the reign of God (that is, according to the gospel values). Vatican II also reminds us that parents are the primary religious educators of their children, as they “create a family atmosphere inspired by love and devotion to God and humanity...” And so we offer a variety of opportunities for adults to continue to grow in their **adult** faith – and hopefully to celebrate this adult faith as members of our larger community. This past year we had about **25 small groups** of women and men who met on a regular basis (men’s and women’s spirituality groups, Moms Plus, scripture groups, RCIA, CRHP, etc.). We also had **8 speakers** for larger gatherings (Gathering of Women, Women’s Spirituality groups, MAC groups and 4 speakers for the multi-parish mission). We hosted one of the evenings of the mission. Three of our ministries included as participants members from **other parishes** (Men’s CRHP, Gathering of Women and the parish mission). As a faith community we know the **abundance** of **God’s love** – and we want very much to **grow deeper** into that awareness, to **share** it and to **celebrate** it!

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

The RCIA is truly a ministry of loving, welcoming and serving others – and the entire faith community of St. Raymond plays a crucial role in this. Each year the candidates speak of our community as being so warm and welcoming. Many times that’s what brought them to the RCIA. In addition, we have a wonderful team of parishioners (the RCIA Team) who meet on a weekly basis with the candidates. They share their faith and lives with the candidates, and they form close relationships as they journey with these women and men to full initiation into our faith community. Every year, after the Easter Vigil, those who became

Catholic speak high praises of the team and the process. The quality of relationships and formation is outstanding. Last year we welcomed 2 new members into our community as we celebrated their Baptisms, first Eucharist and Confirmation. And now we are all blessed to count them as friends and companions.

One of the highlights is always going downtown to Holy Name Cathedral for the Rite of Election. The families of the candidates are always invited to be part of this. We come back here afterwards for a pizza party! But the biggest highlight is the Easter Vigil itself. Our parish does this liturgy so very well. It's truly an evening none of us will ever forget. And again, our parish community is a big part of this celebration. We are grateful to everyone who comes to the Easter Vigil. It's one of our very best celebrations! And the reception after the liturgy – to which the whole church is invited – is awesome!

Tuesday Morning Scripture Group

A group of about 30 people gather each week to read and pray the scriptures, and as we do so, we pay attention to the many ways they affirm and challenge us today. We always learn something new as we explore contemporary scripture scholarship and our own faith-filled reflections and questions. We are currently studying the Gospel according to John. Please consider joining us. We always welcome new members – both women and men!

Moms Plus

Moms Plus groups meet once or twice a month and share experiences, support one another, do service projects and plan fun moms-only outings. Becoming a part of a Moms Plus group is a wonderful way to connect with others and establish deeper roots in our faith community! Moms Plus groups welcome expectant moms, moms with infants, with kids in school and out of school!

Moms Working Outside the Home! We have groups that meet weeknights and weekends to accommodate your busy schedules. Learn how other moms manage their work and family lives and create balance. Connect with other moms to recharge from life's demands!

Work at Home Moms! Take a break from your routine and join our Moms Plus morning playgroup. Bring youngsters for play and infants for some stimulation and sleep. If your kids are in school, come by yourself! Friendships and adult conversations are waiting for you!

Gathering of Women

This is our 17th year offering the "Gathering of Women!" This is a Saturday morning enrichment opportunity for women. The morning begins at 8:00 am with Mass, and is followed by a continental breakfast, good company and a wonderful speaker. We finish by 11:00 am. We usually have 100 or more women who attend. They appreciate the format, the time frame, getting together with other women and the speakers who are both informative and inspiring. The topics include issues of spirituality, relationships, church, balance in our lives, the arts as an expression of our faith journeys, science and religion, etc. The Gathering of Women committee does an outstanding job of selecting topics that are relevant, inspiring, creative and fill us with hope! If you've never come before, please consider joining us in the future! We also have women from outside our parish who regularly come to these gatherings.

Men's CRHP (Christ Renews His Parish)

Christ Renews His Parish is a unique weekend experience that offers men the opportunity to hear other men share their faith and life experiences, to pray, reflect and enjoy the brotherhood of other men. Forget your past notions, ideas or images of a retreat! It's not like that! The time together highlights how God is

at work in men's lives -- through both their struggles and triumphs. Hundreds of men have experienced these special weekends since 1981. Ages of the participants range from men in their 20's to their 80's. This past year our men worked closely with and mentored the pastor and some of the men from one of the parishes in Chicago that had never experienced CRHP. In this way our men helped another parish experience the renewal weekend and formation process. Please consider joining us for the next men's weekend. You'll be glad you did!

Women's Spirituality Circles

Women's Spirituality Circles are small groups of 8-18 women who gather once a month to nurture, reflect upon and share their own spiritual lives. A resource book is used, which enables the women to come to a deeper understanding of themselves and their own unique spirituality. Through reading, discussion and prayerful reflection, the women experience a deeper prayer life and an invitation to share their gifts in service to God's people. They also strengthen their relationships with others and recognize God's gifts to them in other people. Each group has a facilitator. We can begin another new group if enough people are interested.

MAC (Men of Action and Contemplation)

MAC is a group of five or six men who commit themselves to meeting twice a month for one hour to dialogue, support and encourage each other to live the Gospel message more fully in their daily lives. A resource book, based on the daily scripture readings is used. Each daily reflection contains a part of a scripture reading, a contemporary story, and a question for one's own life application and a concluding thought for the day. Each man is asked to find ten minutes each day to reflect and pray over the daily reflection. New members are always welcome.

Mornings For Men

Mornings For Men is a periodic opportunity for men to get together on a Saturday morning for some input and reflection. The event includes Mass, a continental breakfast and a very fine speaker. The men gather at 8:00 am and are on their way home by 11:00 am. The topics are those of relevance to men's daily lives. These opportunities are greatly appreciated by the men.

Men's Morning Scripture Group

A group of men meet on Saturday mornings to read, discuss and pray the scriptures. Through this process the men of the "Lower Room" have become good friends. Each week some of life's joys and challenges are shared. Through the years the men have put their faith into action by supporting the homeless, building an orphanage in Bangladesh, caring for the elderly, helping mothers and children going through divorce and assisting widows and the unemployed. They've also served in various ministries at St. Raymond. The men of the "Lower Room" are glad to welcome new members to their table.

Moms Rosary Group

The Moms Rosary Group meets once a month to pray the rosary for their adult children, their intentions and concerns. New members are most welcome.

Grandmothers In Prayer

Grandmothers In Prayer is a ministry which gives Grandmothers a special way to connect with their grandchildren: by praying for them. These women come together on two Wednesdays every month to pray for their grandchildren, their schools and teachers.

Skach Memorial Library

The Skach Memorial Library (parish library for adults) is in the PMC (Parish Ministry Center). As you know, Fr. Charlie Skach taught some adult formation classes here at St. Raymond and donated his personal library to us. We purchased other books and received yet others as donations. We currently have over 900 books in the library. Some of the categories of books include: spirituality, prayer, scripture, parenting, Jesus, Church, Catholicism, world religions, suffering and healing, grief and death, etc. We're not trying to duplicate the Mt. Prospect library, so we're keeping "fiction" to a minimum. The library is open whenever the PMC is open. We encourage you to take advantage of this library. And together we will continue our journey of adult faith.

Multi-parish Mission

We offered a three evening parish mission, "Looking Beyond One's Self," in collaboration with St. Alphonsus, St. Cecilia, St. Emily and St. Thomas Becket. The fourth evening was an opportunity to "walk the talk" and share outreach events and ministries.

Worship
“A Year in Review”
2015-2016

Altar Servers:

Our Altar Server Ministry remains vibrant and strong! Over 70 young people were trained last spring. A good number of Servers will soon be trained for funerals and weddings. Our weekend Servers remain to be High School aged Servers. Some of our college aged Servers ministered during Holy Week.

Art and Environment:

This Art and Environment Ministry works hard to design and implement the seasonal decorations, banners, altar cloths and anything that is necessary to enhance the aesthetic environment of the church. There is always an invitation for our fellow parishioners to join this ministry.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word - “CLOW”:

We recently had a good response to our annual recruitment for adults to join this ministry as we bring the Good News to the Children! Through prayer, song and activities, our ministers lead a child-centered celebration of the Liturgy of the Word (for children ages 5 and up). We attempt to provide our children the opportunity

to discuss and experience the Gospel in an age-appropriate, smaller group setting to better help them apply it to their daily lives. We also offer the invitation to our Young Adults post-Confirmation.

Communion Ministers:

We are in need of Ministers of Communion. We invite young adults post-Confirmation to discern too. This is a very rewarding ministry that we wish many parishioners could experience. There is a moment when hands touch, eyes lock and we connect with the Body of Christ raised between us; a moment of “communion” for both with Christ in the center.

Family Mass Ministry:

The Family Mass Ministry continues to provide a Sunday worship experience that is engaging and one that involves parents and children alike. We continue to facilitate the participation of families in the 9:30 Mass on the first Sunday of each month, from October through June; to coordinate the following special events: the “child-focused” Christmas Eve Mass, including the Gospel reenactment; the Stations of the Cross reenactment for families on Good Friday; and the pet blessing on St. Francis's feast day in October. We are in need of more ministers to assist the families.

Lectors:

The Lector's role is to share prepared, internalized renderings of the Word. Lectors attempt to reach and make the Word significant to each member of the assembly through their proclamation. Like the Cantor Ministry, those interested will be asked to audition.

Liturgical Dancers:

Our Liturgical Dancer Ministry, offers an interpretation of the scriptures through dance. As the young ladies grow each year, one can see the progression to their talent. We have been pleased to have a senior dancer, who is in college, return home to dance at our Easter Vigil for the past number of years.

Ushers:

Our Ushers are ministers of the liturgy who do more than assist the congregation in finding seating, providing assistance, directions, and information. Ushers are also Ministers of Hospitality. All are welcome to join this rewarding ministry.