



*Each of us is a gift of God,  
and each of us bears many gifts.*

# **Parish of St. Raphael** *Ambassadors of Hope* **Gifts and Ministries**



*Ambassadors of Hope share their gifts, their time,  
their skills with others, often through  
participating in a parish ministry or group.*

*What might your gifts be? How might you share them?*

*This booklet invites you to first consider what your gifts, skills and talents might be. Sometimes, others see talents in us which we might overlook. So, invite someone else to share their view.*

*Then consider the ministries and service groups at St. Raphael's.*

*Might one or more offer you ways of being an  
Ambassador of Hope?*



**St. Raphael's Parish, East Meadow, NY**





**These are among my skills and talents:**

**MY VIEW**

**ANOTHER'S VIEW**

- |       |   |       |
|-------|---|-------|
| _____ | organizational skills                   | _____ |
| _____ | technological skills                    | _____ |
| _____ | vocal music skills                      | _____ |
| _____ | instrumental music skills               | _____ |
| _____ | artistic skills                         | _____ |
| _____ | public speaking skills                  | _____ |
| _____ | listening skills                        | _____ |
| _____ | gardening skills                        | _____ |
| _____ | carpentry skills                        | _____ |
| _____ | painting skills                         | _____ |
| _____ | teaching skills                         | _____ |
| _____ | people skills                           | _____ |
| _____ | writing skills                          | _____ |
| _____ | photography skills                      | _____ |
| _____ | videography skills                      | _____ |
| _____ | sewing skills                           | _____ |
| _____ | clerical skills                         | _____ |
| _____ | sports skills                           | _____ |
| _____ | speak a language in addition to English | _____ |
| _____ | decorating skills                       | _____ |
| _____ | homemaking skills                       | _____ |
| _____ | driving skills                          | _____ |
| _____ | cooking/baking skills                   | _____ |
| _____ | computer skills                         | _____ |
| _____ | calligraphy skills                      | _____ |

*Other skills and talents?* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**These are among my areas of interest:**

**MY VIEW**

**ANOTHER'S VIEW**

_____	prayer	_____
_____	music	_____
_____	learning	_____
_____	hospitality	_____
_____	outreach to those in need	_____
_____	justice issues	_____
_____	teaching	_____
_____	community building	_____
_____	sharing faith	_____
_____	sports	_____
_____	art	_____
_____	gardening	_____
_____	acting	_____

*Other areas of interest?* \_\_\_\_\_

**These are some words which describe me:**

_____	quiet	_____
_____	athletic	_____
_____	reflective	_____
_____	organizer	_____
_____	worker	_____
_____	fun loving	_____
_____	prayerful	_____
_____	curious	_____
_____	empathetic	_____

*Other describing words?* \_\_\_\_\_





## **The Gifts and Fruits of the Spirit**

*Through our Baptism and Confirmation,  
we have been blessed with the  
gifts and fruits of the Spirit.*

*Take a moment to consider which gifts and fruits  
you most naturally exhibit in your life.*

*Then consider which you would most  
need to be strengthened.*

**I believe I most  
naturally exhibit:**

**I would like  
strengthened:**

- |       |                       |       |
|-------|-----------------------|-------|
| _____ | <i>wisdom</i>         | _____ |
| _____ | <i>understanding</i>  | _____ |
| _____ | <i>knowledge</i>      | _____ |
| _____ | <i>courage</i>        | _____ |
| _____ | <i>right judgment</i> | _____ |
| _____ | <i>reverence</i>      | _____ |
| _____ | <i>wonder and awe</i> | _____ |
| _____ | <i>peace</i>          | _____ |
| _____ | <i>patience</i>       | _____ |
| _____ | <i>love</i>           | _____ |
| _____ | <i>joy</i>            | _____ |
| _____ | <i>self-control</i>   | _____ |
| _____ | <i>kindness</i>       | _____ |
| _____ | <i>generosity</i>     | _____ |
| _____ | <i>faithfulness</i>   | _____ |
| _____ | <i>gentleness</i>     | _____ |



How will you use your gifts, skills,  
talents and interests for the common good?  
**HOW WILL YOU BE AN  
AMBASSADOR OF HOPE?**  
*Call 785-0236 to explore.*



## *St. Raphael Parish Ministries*

Each of us has many opportunities to bring Christ's hope to others — in our families, in our neighborhoods, in our world, and in our parish.

During the year various needs arise. Some call for a regular commitment of time and a particular type of skill.

Others call for a brief, one time commitment to help — a "bite (or byte) size" way to be an Ambassador of Hope.

*The following pages list ongoing ministries. Please check the weekly bulletin for short - term opportunities to serve.*

# **Parish of St. Raphael** *Ambassadors of Hope*

*"Brothers and sisters, we are ambassadors for Christ..."*

*(2 Corinthians 5:20)*

We, the parishioners of St. Raphael's, are a community of disciples of Jesus Christ. As stewards of his gospel, and as companions on a common journey to God, we are committed to welcome one another as active participants in worship and service, so that like our patron, St. Raphael, we might be messengers of healing in a broken world.



Parish of St. Raphael, 600 Newbridge Road, East Meadow, NY 11554  
516-785-0236, [www.straphaelparish.org](http://www.straphaelparish.org)



# LITURGICAL MINISTRY

Help  
Other  
People  
Everyday

**Eucharistic Ministers**—are trained and commissioned to distribute the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass. Eucharistic Ministers may also bring the Eucharist to the homebound as well as those hospitalized.

**Readers**—are trained and commissioned to proclaim the Word of God at liturgical celebrations.

**Altar Servers**—are trained and commissioned to assist the presider with certain rituals during Mass.

**Ushers**— provide assistance at Mass and other liturgical celebrations, greeting, guiding, seating, processing, distributing materials and taking collections.

**Gift Bearers**—bring forward the gifts of bread and wine at Mass, representing the community's gift of self.

**Dust Bunnies/Busters**—help beautify our worship space by cleaning the church together every Friday.

**Assistant Sacristans**— serve the assembly by preparing the altar for daily Mass, putting out the gifts of bread and wine and returning the items to appropriate places after Mass.

**Tenders of the Cloths**— prepare the altar linens for use during liturgical celebrations.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word**— adults and youth provide a setting for children to better understand the Scripture readings at Mass.



# INITIATION MINISTRY

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Holy  
Openness  
Promise  
Embrace

**RCIA Team**—trained parishioners experienced with RCIA meet weekly with those seeking full initiation into the Catholic Church, facilitating faith sharing, leading catechetical sessions, participating in liturgical rituals.

**Prayer Sponsors**—parishioners who commit to pray for catechumens and candidates throughout the initiation process.

## BAPTISM MINISTRY

**Initial Welcome Ministers**—meet with individual couples seeking baptism for their child, explaining the process, taking specific information, sharing a little about the parish.

**Blessing at Mass Ministers**—contact scheduled families, greet them at the assigned Mass, participate in the ritual blessing at Mass.

**Parent Preparation Class Couples**—welcome parents, share some of their own experience of raising children in the Catholic faith.

**Baptism Celebration Ministers**—greet and welcome families and guests, participate in the ritual, assist with preparations before and after as needed.

**Bib Makers**—use provided pattern to sew white garments given to each newly baptized during the baptism ceremony.

**Anniversary Mailers**—use provided materials to prepare a mailing sent to families during the month of child's baptism for the one year anniversary.

**Welcome Cards**—created by children and youth are given to families during the baptism ceremony, welcoming the newly baptized into the parish family.

# CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

Honest  
Openness  
Peace  
Excite

**PARE Catechists/Co-Catechists**—(Parents as Religious Educators)—provide grade level religious instruction to small groups of children using lesson plan from provided text.

**FIRE Leaders and Co-Leaders**—(Family Intergenerational Religious Education) facilitate a group of families as they learn about God through specific hands-on lessons.

**Sacrament Rite Helper**—assists at Confirmation, First Reconciliation or First Communion rites as Line Leader, Greeter, etc.

**Hall/Door Monitor**—safeguards the children attending Religious Education before, during and after class.

**Special Education Catechist**— instructs children of various ages with special needs in a comprehensive Religious Education program using materials provided.

**Office Volunteer**—assists with registrations, copying, collating, mailing, etc.

**Vacation Bible School Catechist**—works with children in VBS using provided materials and assists with supervision.

# YOUTH MINISTRY

**Liturgical Ministries**—trained youth members assist at Mass as readers, ushers, servers, and Eucharistic Ministers.

**Adult Leaders**—assist at youth gatherings, with service projects, and at Sunday liturgical celebrations.

**Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)** - sports activities for boys and girls which also instill Catholic values.

**Scouting**—opportunities for girls and boys to participate in Scouting programs.





# PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

H ealing  
O utreach  
P ersonal  
E ncourage

**Office Support**—parish volunteers assist in areas including phone work and referrals for assistance in various areas.

**Emergency Food Pantry**—using goods donated by the community, assistance is given individuals and families.

**St. Anthony Ministry**—people bring the food donated by parishioners from the St. Anthony statue in church to the Food Pantry after Masses.

**Share-a-Meal**—parishioners who provide a hot meal for community members temporarily in need of assistance due to illness, recuperation, etc.

**Don't Eat Alone**—senior widowed or divorced gather at various restaurants once a week to enjoy food and good conversation.

**Bereavement Group**—trained parishioners hold groups in the fall and the spring to provide support and information for those in the grieving process.

**Lazarus Group**—ongoing meetings of those who have experienced the loss of a loved one are held twice monthly to share and support one another in moving on.

**Transportation Assistance**—volunteer parishioners who provide transportation to and from medical appointments, Mass and food shopping, sometimes via our parish "HopeMobile".

**HopeMobile Drivers and Companions**—provide scheduled rides for qualified applicants in our parish van. May serve weekly, monthly, seasonally. NYS driver license required.

**Friendly Visitors and Callers**—parishioners visit the homebound or make weekly phone calls to nurture the parish community connection.

**St. Vincent de Paul**—members work with Parish Social Ministry to answer emergency needs within the community.

**Caregiver Support Group**—meetings are held monthly for those caring for chronically ill loved ones.



## PRAYER/ADULT EDUCATION/ SPIRITUALITY MINISTRY

**H** eart  
**O** riginal  
**P** roclaim  
**E** nlighten

**Ministry of Praise**—parishioners who commit to daily prayer at home for specific seasonal intentions of the parish and for specific individual intentions.

**Eucharistic Adoration**—parishioners commit to a time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays, between 1 and 7pm, in the church.

**Centering Prayer**—people who commit to the daily practice of Centering Prayer at home, and gather for a group experience twice a month at the parish.

**Prayer Blanket Ministry**—parishioners who prepare lap-size blankets, made with love and prayers, for those who are ill or who are going through difficult times. People are needed to shop, cut, sew, wash. Monetary donations for material are gratefully received. Blankets are blessed and distributed monthly at a Sunday Mass.

**Bible Study**—parishioners participate in sessions offered periodically on different themes from Scripture at various times during the year.

**Sandals & Staff**—parishioners contribute articles and/or photos for publication in our quarterly parish magazine.

**Times of prayer, retreats, book discussions, workshops**— offered periodically throughout the year.

## MARRIAGE MINISTRY

**FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding Study)** - trained FOCCUS couples meet with engaged couples to explore feedback from a previously administered inventory.

**Pre-Cana**—trained married couples meet with engaged couples over several sessions in an effort to help them more fully understand the commitment they will be making.

**Wedding Rehearsal Ministry**—trained parishioners provide guidance for couples, families and wedding parties at the rehearsal.



# MUSIC MINISTRY

H armony  
O verflow  
P rayer  
E nergy

**Adult Choir**—parishioners who sing twice a month at the 10am Sunday Mass and at other liturgical celebrations during the year. Rehearsal is on Monday evenings.

**Teen Choir**—sings at the 5pm Mass each Sunday and at other celebrations during the year. Rehearsal is Sunday at 4pm.

**Children's Choir**—sings twice a month at the 10am Sunday Mass and at other celebrations during the year. Rehearsal is Monday from 6-7pm.

**Cantors**— help to lead the congregation in song at all Masses and liturgical celebrations.

**Instrumentalists**—those who add to the beauty of our liturgies through a variety of musical instruments.

# MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION

**Companions**—trained parishioners meet and assist the family of the deceased with liturgy preparation, attend the wake and the funeral Mass.

**Phone Coordinators**—telephone and assign the needed ministers for each funeral.

**Readers**—proclaim Scripture readings and intercessions at funeral Mass.

**Eucharistic Ministers**—serve as Eucharistic Minister and altar server at funeral Mass.

**Greeters**—are present at the funeral Mass to greet guests and to distribute booklets.

**Booklet Preparers**—prepare and copy computer generated booklet for funeral Mass.

**Cake Bakers**—bake or buy a cake and deliver it to the family of the deceased.



# SERVICE/PARISH GROUPS

**H**umble  
**O**utward  
**P**onder  
**E**vokę

**Rosary Society**—parishioners rooted in devotion to Mary who gather monthly for spiritual, educational and social enrichment.

**Knights of Columbus**—a Catholic, family, fraternal, service organization supporting the parish in various ways, offering assistance to those in need in the community.

**Kids & Us**—infants and pre-schoolers gather with their parent or caregiver at various locations on Friday mornings.

**Helping Hands**—teams of parishioners who coordinate hospitality and refreshments at various parish events.

**Garden Committee**—parishioners who contribute their time and love of nature to care for our parish gardens.

**Filipino-American Ministry**—parishioners who celebrate their heritage and sponsor various activities to support the parish community.

**General Maintenance Group**—parishioners who volunteer their skills (e.g. carpentry, painting) to help with repair and upkeep of the parish.

**Mailing Group**—parishioners who gather periodically to prepare bulk mailings while enjoying conversation.

**Merry Seniors**—seniors who meet at the parish to socialize and plan various activities.

**Catholic Ministry Appeal**—parishioners who assist in the parish response to this diocesan appeal to support educational and charitable efforts in the parish and in the diocese.

Ambassadors of Hope: Call 785-0236  
to be put in contact with the  
Ministry/Group you'd like to explore.

The diocese requires all volunteers to complete necessary paperwork and to attend VIRTUS training. Paperwork packets are available at the rectory. VIRTUS training is held periodically at St. Raphael's and at other parishes throughout the diocese. Check [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org) for listings.