

Saint Raphael Parish
514 High Street
West Medford, Massachusetts 02155
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www.saintraphaelparish.org

October, 2023

Dear Friend and Parishioner,

It has been said that *"The parish is where the Church lives...communities of faith, of action, and of hope...where the Gospel is proclaimed and celebrated, where believers are formed and sent to renew the earth. Parishes are the home of the Christian community; they are the heart of our Church."* Communities of Salt and Light, USCCB

Saint Raphael is indeed such a parish, and like every home, our parish must be cared for and maintained to live out its sacred function.

Some of the work that has been completed this past year include: mechanical improvements to the elevator in the parish center; replacing the compressor in the school boiler room that control the thermostats allowing for more efficient energy use; a formal evaluation of the sound system in the church for improvement; and the replacement of damaged window frames in the gym.

I am sure that you have noticed that the exterior doors of the church and parish center have been refinished. LED lighting has been installed in the school, parish center and church. We have also increased our internet security by purchasing new firewall software for the parish.

On December 9, 2023, we will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of our beautiful church. After 30 years, it should come as no surprise that the roof of our Church is at the end of its functional life and needs to be replaced. After we look up, we can then look down at the surface of the walkway and courtyard. There we can see how over time repetitive use has caused many uneven areas and a number of spots where there are broken bricks.

Once again, I respectfully request your participation in our Annual Parish Support collection that is scheduled for the weekend of October 28/29. I am sensitive to the many financial demands that you face, and I ask that, if you have the means, you make a gift of \$350.00.

My deepest gratitude for your unwavering commitment to our parish. As we journey together bound by our faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ, be assured that you and your families are always in my prayers.

May God Bless You,



Father Paul F. Coughlin, Pastor