



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

April 7, 2024
2nd Sunday of Easter

*I am the vine, you are
the branches.
Whoever remains in
me and I in him will
bear much fruit,
because without me
you can do nothing.
John 15:5*

Liturgies This Week

Mon Apr 8	No Mass <i>Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38</i>
Tues (Spfld) Apr 9	No Mass <i>Acts of the Apostles 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15</i>
Wed (Lamb) Apr 10	No Mass <i>Acts of the Apostles 5:17-26; John 3:16-21</i>
Thur. (Sanb) Apr 11	No Mass <i>Acts of the Apostles 5:27-33; John 3:31-36</i>
Fri. (Spfld) Apr 12	8:30am Mass +Stacey Mathiowetz <i>Acts of the Apostles 5:34-42; John 6:1-15</i>
Sat. (Spfld) Apr 13	5:30pm Mass +Ursula Broich <i>Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7; John 6:16-21</i>
Sun. (Spfld) Apr 14	8:30am Mass –For the People 10:30am Mass +Jeff Decock <i>Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2:1-5a; Luke 24:35-48</i>

Church of St. Raphael & Area Office

20 W Van Dusen Street ~ 507-723-4137
Springfield MN 56087
Email: straphael@newulmtel.net

Prayer Chain

Karen Brandl 507-920-6709

Church of St. Joseph

400 W 2nd Ave, PO Box 458
Lamberton MN 56152

& **St. Thomas Oratory, Sanborn MN**
507-752-7269

Email stjoseph@centurylink.net

Prayer Chain— Sue Imker 507-829-1846

St. Joseph Secretary—Sue Imker

Pastor

Fr. Jeremy Kucera Phone: 507-828-5247
fatherjeremykucera@gmail.com

Deacon

Dcn. Barry Reindl Phone: 507-276-8553
barkmr7@gmail.com

Parish Secretary

Raquel Kieper 723-4137
straphael@newulmtel.net

Parish Bookkeeper

Connie Vogel 723-4138
cvogel@newulmtel.net

Faith Formation/Youth Ministry

Karen Reindl
mrsreindl@straphaelpk-6.com

School Principal

Beth Steffl 723-4136
mrssteffl@straphaelpk-6.com

School Secretary

Trisha Ludewig 723-4135
straysschooloffice@newulmtel.net

Sacrament of Reconciliation

- ✠ Saturday 4:30—5:15pm at **St. Raphael**
- ✠ Tuesday after Mass at **St. Raphael**
- ✠ Wednesday after Mass at **St. Joseph**
- ✠ Sunday before Mass at **St. Joseph** (when Father can get there in time)

◆ Prayer Chain

507-920-6709, 507-441-1049, 507-227-6606

◆ Good Neighbor Thrift Store 723-5778

20 E. Central, Springfield, MN

◆ Office of Catholic Charities 866-670-5163

Baptism: Pre-baptism classes required - Contact AFC Office

Suggested Stipend for Sacrament of Baptism—\$25.00

Marriage: All Catholics are to contact the parish and pastor at least 6 months before their wedding.

► **Mass Stipend \$10.00**

► **Bulletin Deadline:** Wednesday at 1:00pm

The Mission of the Vine & Branches Area Faith Community empowered by the Holy Spirit is to bear fruit that will last as Jesus commanded: by celebrating and proclaiming our Catholic faith as disciples of Jesus using our God-given gifts; by reaching out to and welcoming all people; and by centering our lives on the Eucharist, sacraments, scripture, service and the teaching of the Church.

This week we have a guest writer in Father's column. Katie Dauer, Reverence for Life CCW Chairman reports:

Current Minnesota legislature regarding Life Issues

In 2023, many changes occurred in the state of Minnesota (The Pro Act Law) concerning abortion including the fact that women no longer need to be provided information about their babies gestational age, abortion no longer needs to be performed in a hospital or by a physician and that babies can be aborted up to birth. I want to address these issues more fully and suggest how to protect unborn babies.

The elected people who run our legislature are trying to “put an amendment into the Minnesota State Constitution guaranteeing the “right” to kill an unborn baby—including an 8 pound full term baby, days away from being born” (source Minnesota Right to Life.) Minnesota Right to Life is attempting to stop this constitutional amendment going into the 2024 session. We **MUST** stop this bill from being codified into the Minnesota constitution. **Please go online to Minnesota Right to Life and sign the petition and if possible, contribute to their work to save babies.** Pro-life Minnesotans must fight for the unborn, knowing that God decides when and how to add His increase.

Minnesota has some of the worst laws in America when it comes to abortion. Every year 10,000 babies in Minnesota are put to death for the crime of being inconvenient and in the name of “reproductive health care”. The number of abortions in Minnesota increased by 20% in 2022. Remember the pro-abortion words (health care, reproductive rights, etc.) are words that are attempts to make abortion of babies acceptable. This is **NOT** a mainstream position. The truth is it is “murder” plain and simple. When the VP of the United States of America visited St. Paul Abortion clinic, she and the Biden administration showed their extreme devotion to abortion. They agree with The Pro Act Law created by pro-abortion lawmakers in 2023 which created a right to abortion up to birth. Now legislators want to codify it into the state constitution.

Did you also know that 66% of abortions in the US last year took place via abortion pills which are more dangerous for the mother (source—The Washington Stand, March 20, 2024). Chemical abortions are a two-pill regimen distributed by abortion facilities and recently, the Biden administration certified pharmacies to distribute the abortion pill cocktail. Senator Klobuchar indicated that this cocktail is “very safe”. Since when is a pill that causes severe cramping, bleeding, and loss of a baby from a woman's uterus considered safe? Do we Minnesotans want to be known for abortion of babies up to the time of their full term birth and putting women's health and safety last? I don't think so.

In addition, in 2024 the House Health Finance and Policy Committee voted in favor of a bill that would allow adults with a terminal illness to end their own lives with medication prescribed by a doctor. It is called the “End of Life Option Act”. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church “putting an end to the lives of handicapped, sick, or dying persons” is morally unacceptable. Causing death to eliminate suffering is murder and contrary to the dignity of the human person.

Please contact your representatives and senators regarding both **VERY** controversial bills and ask for protection of our babies in the womb and protection of our end of life family members.

Katie Dauer, Reverence for Life CCW Chair

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

Apr 7	10:30am	Mass
Apr 10		NO Mass
	6:30-7:30pm	Faith Formation Classes
Apr 11		NO Mass—St. Thomas
	6:30pm	St. Joseph Parish Council Mtg
Apr 14	10:30am	Mass

This week we remember *these* people in our prayers.
Wade & Barb Rogotzke and Jeremy Roiger

Our Shepherd of the field:
Father Jeffrey Horejsi



~Please also pray for those in need ~

Bob Peterson	Mary Arnoldi	Pat Dauer
Brett Baumann	Linda Riley	Marcie Anderson
Shane Blair		

St. Joseph Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	62,000.00	\$47,692.40	\$51,282.85
Student	\$250.00	\$192.40	\$244.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$1,923.20	\$2,619.65

April 14 Ministries

Lector	Emily Scheffler
EMC	Gordy Wille
Servers	Maia Scheffler & Oliver Hubert
Sacristan	Teresa Wenisch
Ushers	Vern Hillesheim & Mike Hubert
Gift Bearers	Mike Hubert Family
Money Counters	Kylee Jenniges & Diane Arnsdorf

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph	
Adult Envelopes	\$2,355.00
Student Envelopes	\$10.00
Easter	\$1,608.00
Candles	\$12.00
Youth Group	\$20.00
Easter Flowers	\$25.00
Total	\$4,030.00

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, April 10

6:30-7:30pm Faith Formation Classes

If you have Religious articles such as crosses, rosaries, etc and no longer have a need for them but do not want to throw them away, there is a box under the church mailboxes that you can put them in.



Thank you to everyone who helped/participated in any way during Holy Week/Easter Sunday. Maia, Sydney & Celia—you did a wonderful job as acolytes Holy Thursday at St. Raphael. To the 6 who said “YES” right away to having your feed washed. Jeff & the high school CCD

students—again, an amazing job with the “Shadow Stations”. Jeff & Brenda for your flawless reading of the Scriptures. John & Brenda always so much with the instruments. Elizabeth’s beautiful voice that she is always willing to share with us. The ushers, keeping everything flowing plus, setting up chairs for Easter Sunday Mass. Doreen, Sandy & Marlene—the environment was decorated so elegant and beautiful. Lastly, to all of you who came—Jesus died and now has risen!! God’s Blessings to you.



Please pray for Scarlett Frasher as she prepares for her Holy Communion.

NUDCCW convention on April 27, 2024 in Glencoe. Contact our CCW President, Katy Wille by April 3 if you wish to attend. Closer to the time we will discuss ride share options.

Please bring your old palms from last year and place in basket in entrance of church.

Rice Bowls can be placed in basket in church entrance.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$257,692.40	\$257,685.95
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$846.40	\$10.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$846.40	\$115.13

The 400 Club Winners this Week		
#209	Judy Lipetzky	\$65.00
#254	Lori Herfurth	\$65.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group E ~

April 13 & 14, 2024		
	5:30pm	8:30am
Servers	Kallen Riederer	Andrew Reindl
	Zoie Riederer	VOLUNTEER
Lector	Katie Wilhelmi	John Ryan
EMHC	Jill Riederer	Dcn Barry Reindl
Accompanist	Sharon Pieschel	Julie Prechel
Song Leader	Lori Kretsch	Julie Prechel
Rosary	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Head Usher	Keith Riederer	Arland Roiger
	Noah Riederer	Cher Roiger
	Jill Riederer	VOLUNTEER
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Videographer	Christina Reindl	


Last week's Parish Revenue	
Adult Envelopes	\$4,442.00
Children's Envelope	\$60.13
Loose Plate	\$748.60
Capital Improvement	\$10.00
Rice Bowl	341.00
Fuel & Heat	\$50.00
Holy Land	\$762.00
Easter Flowers	\$265.00
Easter	\$9,820.00
School Donation	\$50.00
Red Heart Envelope	\$10.00
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$902.64
Total Income	\$17,461.37

Bishop Chad Zielinski's
Easter Message
Available in English/Spanish at www.dnu.org


If you have a scholarship form that needs to be signed by Father Jeremy and turned in by April 15th, please bring them to the Parish Office no later than Thursday, April 11th for his signature.

Thank you.

St. Raphael 150th Anniversary Donation



If you who would like to make a monetary donation towards our 150th Anniversary, please complete the form below and return it and your donation in the collection basket.



Name _____

Address _____

Amount _____

You will receive credit on your 2024 tax contribution statement for your donation.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

Apr 7	8:30am	Mass
	9:45-11:30am	Children's & Praise & Worship Choirs Practice
Apr 9		NO Mass
	4:00-5:30pm	Atrium
Apr 10	5:00-6:30pm	Children's Choir Practice
	5:45-7:15pm	Praise & Worship Choir Practice
	6:00-7:00pm	Faith Formation Classes grades 1-6
	7:15-8:15pm	Faith Formation Classes grades 7-10
Apr 12	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
	8:30am	School Mass
Apr 13	5:30pm	Mass
Apr 14	8:30am	Mass
	9:45-11:30am	Children's & Praise & Worship Choirs Practice



We would like to welcome Jacob Zihlke, to St. Raphael Parish Community. We are happy to welcome you to our parish family.

Please remember in your prayers:

✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:

Father Steven Verhelst

Please pray for our parishioners this week~

Sun: Brandon & Nissa Schroeder Family

Mon: Dan & Judy Schroeder

Tues: Thomas Schroeder

Wed: Scott & Chastity Schultz

Thur: Lorne & Jeannie Schwartz Family

Fri: Ed & Linda Schweiss

Sat: Marilyn Sell

Weekly Candle Intentions (\$5.00 offering)

Special Inten Special Inten

✠ Small Votive Candles are now \$1.00 each

✠ Large Intention Candles are now \$5.00 each



Check out Channel 8—Cablecast

*** St. Raphael Sunday Mass**

Every Tuesday at 5:00 pm & Friday at 5:00 pm

***Remembering Jesus: A Catholic Approach to Alzheimer's Disease—Episode 9**

Every Tuesday at 11:00am & Thursday at 7:00pm

To view the Mass videos online, visit our YouTube channel and subscribe.



<https://www.youtube.com> and search for St. Raphael Catholic Church. You will see a picture of our church.

The 63rd Annual New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Convention will be held on **Saturday, April 27, 2024**, at the **Church of St. Pius X in Glencoe, MN**. The theme for the convention is **“Be an Instrument of Salvation.”**

Our keynote speaker in the morning is Kelly Wahlquist. Kelly is the founder of the national women's ministry WINE: Women In the New Evangelization and the Director for the Catechetical Institute at The Saint Paul Seminary in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

Join other women of the Diocese for Mass and the presentation of the NUDCCW Woman of the Year, along with lunch, silent auction and various exhibits and booth displays to fill the day. Early bird registration deadline is April 15th. To register contact Mariah Pietig 507-822-2634 or Sarah Boettger 507-227-5597 or on the New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women website at nudccw.org. All women 18 years and older are welcome and encouraged to attend.

~Good Neighbor Thrift ~

April 8-12

Monday 9:00-3:00; Tuesday-Friday 9:30-4:00

Adult Men's & Women's Tops are

Buy 1 Get 1 50% off

If you know someone who needs a bit of comfort and blessing in their life, grab a prayer shawl from the chair near the back of church. Shawls are blessed and have a miraculous metal attached to foster spiritual well-being.



Prayer shawls are crafted by the prayer shawl group, which also makes blankets for baptismal gifts. Supplies for this ministry are donated by Council of Catholic Women (CCW).

~St. Raphael School~

It is the mission of St. Raphael Catholic School to bring students to a deeper relationship with Jesus while providing excellent education.

Save the Date: Our largest fundraiser of the school year is coming up on Friday, May 31, 2024 from 5 PM- Midnight. This year marks our fourth annual "A Night in Havana" event. It is an adults only night out with many fun ways to entertain yourself for the evening! The event is free to attend and open to the public. It takes place in the parking lot of the church and school. This year, we will have a food truck that is available to purchase your meal, you can purchase drinks at our own Havana bar, bid on the silent and live auction items, purchase raffle tickets, and enjoy free live music by local bands Chris and Chris and The Blue Ringers. Come and join us for this fun fundraising event! All proceeds benefit St. Raphael Catholic School.

On Sale Soon!!!: A Night in Havana Raffle ticket forms and sponsorship forms have been sent out already to our alumni, friends of St. Raphael, and our generous sponsors. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase from students and the school office on Monday April 8th through the event on May 31st. We will once again be having a meat raffle, gift card raffle, and big ticket raffle--we will be giving away a 2024 Polaris Ranger! If you would like to purchase tickets, please see a St. Raphael Catholic School family or come to the school office!

Thank You: Mrs. Hovland has decided to resign as a teacher at St. Raphael Catholic School. Thank you so much to Tanya Hovland who has served as our preschool teacher for the past 14 years along with various other teaching tasks at St. Raphael Catholic School. Thank you for all the love and care you've given to your students, their families, and our staff. We are so thankful for your many years of service to the school. We wish you well on your next adventure, we can't wait to see what God has in store for you!

Now Hiring: We are looking for an awesome preschool teacher! Ideal candidates would have education in teaching and/or child development along with experience working with young children. Preferred candidates would have a passion for passing on the faith, love children, and be a great communicator. Working hours are 7:45 am-11:15 am Monday-Friday during the school year. Interested candidates can send a cover letter, personal resume', and two letters of recommendation to Mrs. Steffl at principal@straphaelpk-6.com.

Preschool-Now Enrolling: *Although we will have a different teacher, we plan to keep doing what we do best at St. Raphael Catholic School--bringing students to a deeper relationship with Jesus while providing them with excellent education!!! I am confident we will find an excellent candidate and continue the legacy of an awesome preschool program at St. Raphael.* Registration is now open for the Little Panthers Preschool program (3 year olds) and our Kindergarten Readiness program (4 year olds). Our Little Panthers program meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8-11 AM and our Kindergarten Readiness program meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8-11 AM. The cost is \$13.50 per day for each of our preschool programs. Students who are eligible for our program must be 3 years old before September 1, 2024 (Little Panthers) and 4 years old by September 1, 2024 (Kindergarten Readiness.) Students must also be potty trained and be able to use the bathroom independently. To register for the 2024-2025 school year, stop in to the school office to get a registration form and return it with your \$25 registration fee. You can also call the school office and we would be happy to mail a registration form out to you!

Godly Virtues: In April, we will be focusing on **forgiveness** which is pardoning those who offend you. We read this over our morning announcements every day and use it in the classrooms as we teach our students to follow Jesus. It has been fun to listen to students and staff and see how they bring the Godly virtues that we have learned so far into their day-to-day lives.

Upcoming School Masses:

Friday April 5--6th grade leads

Friday April 12--5th grade leads

Friday April 19--1st grade leads

Friday April 26--4th grade leads

Friday May 3--2nd & 3rd grade lead (May Crowning)

Friday May 10--Kindergarten leads (Kindergarten Graduation)

Tuesday May 14--6th grade leads (6th Grade Graduation)

Upcoming Dates:

May 8: Spring Program 6:00PM

May 31: A Night in Havana Fundraiser 5 PM-Midnight

Blessings,

Mrs. Beth Steffl

~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

I personally love this second Sunday of Easter. It is called Divine Mercy Sunday. I think I love it so much because I know I am need of God's divine mercy every day.

This coming Wednesday, April 10 we will have a class night for all students in grades 1-10 as usual. The next week, April 17 will be the Celebration of Faith fundraiser and concert. Please consider coming for a burger meal and then going to concert for a nice evening out. April 24 will be our last week of Faith Formation classes for this year.

Please pray for our second graders as they prepare for their first Holy Communion at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, April 21. 17 second graders will be receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist this year.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, April 10

6:00-7:00pm Faith Formation Classes grades 1-6
7:15-8:15pm Faith Formation Classes grades 7-10

Youth Choir Schedule

Wednesday, April 10

5:00-6:30pm Children's Choir Practice
5:45-7:15pm Praise & Worship Choir Practice

Sunday, April 14

9:45-11:00am **BOTH** Children's & Praise & Worship
Choir Practice

~Pilgrims of Hope Spotlight~

Xander Bigelow, grade 7 and Kameron Bigelow, grade 9 and their parents, James and April, are attending the Jubilee pilgrimage.

Xander is hoping to see the Pope, the Catacombs, the Vatican and all of the historic sites in Rome. He is also looking forward to going to Pompeii! He believes being able to see some of the relics mentioned in the Bible will help him grow in his faith.

Kameron is very excited to actually see the Vatican, the Colosseum and the town of Assisi to name a few places. He hopes to grow closer to God while he experiences these historic and religious places. Of course, he says, "I'm looking forward to the food as well, what teenager wouldn't be!"



Celebration of Faith

Burger/Hotdog Meal

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

5:00-7:00 p.m.

St. Raphael School Gymnasium

Menu: Burgers, hotdogs, chips & drink

\$8.00 per meal

Dine in or take out

Following the meal join us in St. Raphael Catholic Church for the Children's Choir and Praise & Worship Choir Concert at 7:00 pm

Sponsored by: St. Boniface Catholic United Council #035

All proceeds from the meal benefit St. Raphael Faith Formation Program

"This event is eligible for a Grant for Good from Catholic United Financial of up to \$500".

Catholic United is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial services company, connecting people of faith, protecting their future and generously impacting parishes, schools and communities.



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Catholic United Financial



**Southwest Minnesota
Men's Chorus
Spring
Dinner Show Series**

*Melody
of Spring*

Sunday, April 7 – 7PM
The Caboose, Tracy

Monday, April 8 – 7PM
Springfield Area Community Center
Springfield

\$30.00 per person ~ Advance tickets only
Tickets available from Springfield Advance-Press [507-723-4225]
F&M Bank - Springfield [507-723-4800]
Tracy Insurance Agency - Tracy [507-629-3084]
Knakmuhs Agency - Walnut Grove [507-859-2154]
Balaton Dental Clinic [507-734-2251] or Chorus Members

Springfield Area
Chamber of Commerce Invites
You To The

**SPIRIT OF SPRINGFIELD
&
BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
AWARDS BANQUET**

to honor
**Floyd and Susan Rogotzke
&
St. John's Circle of Care**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10TH, 2024
SPRINGFIELD AREA COMMUNITY CENTER
*6:00 PM RECEPTION & CASH BAR *6:30 PM DINNER
*PROGRAM TO FOLLOW

ADVANCE TICKET SALES
\$35 Per Person

Through April 5th
(tickets will NOT be sold at the door)
purchase tickets at:

Chamber Office SouthPoint Financial Credit Union
F&M Bank Springfield Advance-Press

spfdchamber@newulmtel.net
507-723-3508

The Church of St. Raphael's presents

Gratitude

The Children's Choir
and The Praise & Worship Choir
In Concert

Wednesday, April 17 ~ 7:00 p.m.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. RAPHAEL
Springfield, Minnesota

Led by Lori Kretsch and Nick Dauer



Meal available preceding the concert | Serving 5:00-7:00 PM | St. Raphael School Gymnasium