



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

August 6, 2023
The Transfiguration of the Lord

*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 Aug 7	NO Mass <i>Numbers 11:4b-15; Matthew 14:13-21</i>
Tues Aug 8	NO Mass <i>Numbers 12:1-13; Matthew 14:22-36</i>
Wed Aug 9	(VVNH) 1:30pm Mass <i>Numbers 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26a-29a, 34-35; Matthew 15:21-28</i>
Thur. Aug 10	(Sanb) 8:00am Mass <i>2 Corinthians 9:6-10; John 12:24-26</i>
Fri. Aug 11	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Carl & Mary Bates <i>Deuteronomy 4:32-40; Matthew 16:24-28</i>
Sat. Aug 12	(Spfld) 5:30pm Mass +Edward & Veronica Groebner <i>Deuteronomy 6:4-13; Matthew 17:14-20</i>
Sun. Aug 13	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Caroline Fromm (Lamb) 10:30am Mass –For the People <i>1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33</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

Email stjoseph@centurylink.net

Prayer Chain– Sue Imker 507-829-1846

Pastor

Fr. Jeremy Kucera Phone: 507-828-5247

fatherjeremykucera@hotmail.com

Deacon

Dcn. Barry Reindl Phone: 723-5952

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**

✠Wednesday 7:15-7:45am at **St. Joseph**

✠Wednesday 6:30-7:30 pm at **St Raphael**

◆ **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.

Hello everyone,

By the time you read this article I should have gotten back from vacation. However, I was on vacation and therefore didn't prepare anything for the bulletin while I was away (this was written before I left). Instead, I'll just include a photo of my chapel in the rectory where I pray for all of you (in case you were wondering if I ever pray for you, you now have photographic evidence that at least a place has been prepared to pray). The altar was made by a former student and the statues were given to me by former parishes. It's not done yet, but we're getting there.

God's blessings,

Fr. Jeremy



~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

Aug 6	10:30 am	Mass
Aug 9	1:30pm	Mass—Valley View Nursing Home
Aug 10	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
Aug 13	10:30am	Mass

This week we remember *these people in our prayers.*
Kevin & Jane Zimmermann and Brent & Katie Alms



Our Shepherd of the field:

Father Matt Wiering

~Please also pray for those in need ~

Bruce Olson	Mary Arnoldi	Pat Dauer
Barb Axford	Linda Riley	Bob Peterson
Brett Baumann	Marcie Anderson	“Pickle” Riley

St. Joseph Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	62,000.00	\$5,961.55	\$4,030.00
Student	\$250.00	\$24.05	\$15.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$240.40	\$280.00

August 13 Ministries

Lector	Tasha Frasher
EMC	Jeff Strock
Servers	Emily Decock & Riley Alms
Sacristan	Jeff Strock
Ushers	Mike Hubert & Jim Imker
Gift Bearers	Mike Hubert Family
Money Counters	Kyle Jenniges & Teresa Wenisch

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph	
Adult Envelope	\$350.00
Student Envelope	\$0.00
Loose Plate	\$167.00
Total	\$517.00

Prayer for Rain

O God, our Creator,
 you are the source of all life.
 It is through your divine providence
 and infinite power, that the wonder
 and splendor of all creation surround us.
 How majestic is your name in all the
 earth. We pray to you who calms the rain
 waters and commands the wind,
 to provide us sufficient rain to
 meet our needs.
 During this time of drought,
 we are mindful of our dependence on
 you for all that sustains our
 body and soul.
 We pray for the cooling, gentle rain that
 will once again bring life to the fields
 and crops that feed us,
 restore the colorful rainbow of flowers
 and the cooling shade of the trees.
 We also pray for all those who are
 suffering from natural disasters.
 May they look to you for the strength to
 restore their lives and
 heal their wounded land.
 Help us to always be good stewards
 of your creation and care for the
 many resources of this earth.
 May your grace refresh our souls.
 We ask for these blessings through
 the intercession of Mary,
 Queen of Heaven and Earth.
 Amen.

We have Mass intention availability at both St. Joseph and St. Thomas. If you would like to have a Mass said in honor or in memory of your loved one, please contact Raquel at the Parish Office, at 507-723-4137 to reserve a date.

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend renews the promises you made to each other on your wedding day. Experience an enrichment for your marriage that will make your good marriage great! The next available Weekends are Nov 17-19, 2023 in WINDOM, MN and Oct 6-8, 2023 in Buffalo, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: southmnwwme.org or contact Miki at applications@southmnwwme.org or 507-227-8229.

worldwide
marriage encounter

St. Mary's Parish
Alexandria, MN
October 28-29

To apply or for more info,
 visit WWME.org or call **507-227-8229**

~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$32,211.55	\$17,047.50
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$105.80	\$0.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$105.80	\$0.00

The 400 Club Winners this Week		
#90	Ken Groebner	\$65.00
#57	Caroline Welsch	\$65.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group I~

August 12 & 13, 2023		
	5:30pm	8:30am
Servers	VOLUNTEER	Andrew Reindl
	VOLUNTEER	Paul Goedtke
Lector	Laura Bast	Max Meine
EMHC	Laura Bast	Dcn Barry Reindl
Accompanist	Bailey Cords	Julie Prechel
Song Leader	TBA	Adult Choir Members
Rosary	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Head Usher	Terry Ochs	Steve Meine
	Cathy Ochs	Brooklyn Sturm
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Videographer	Brayden Sturm	

Last week's Parish Revenue	
Adult Envelopes	\$3,116.00
Loose Plate	\$373.75
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$457.40
Total Income	\$3,947.15

Prayer to St. Raphael
 The Archangel
 St. Raphael, the Archangel,
 Great prince of the heavenly court, you are radiant with
 your gifts of wisdom and grace.
 You are a guide of those who journey, the consoler of the
 afflicted, and refuge of sinners.
 Because you are the "Healing of God," we pray you to
 heal the many weaknesses and ills of our body, mind, and
 soul, and to assist us in our needs and sufferings in this
 life.
 St. Raphael,
 As once you helped young Tobias, we ask you to guide
 and lead our youth, to serve Almighty God with their
 whole strength and to spend their lives gladly to serve the
 Church as priests, Brothers, and Sisters.
 Amen.

 **We would like to welcome Sara Hauth, to St. Raphael Parish Community. We are happy to welcome you to our parish family.**

~Good Neighbor Thrift ~
 Monday 9:00am-12:00pm
 Tuesday-Friday 9:00-5:00pm
 Saturday 9:00am-12:00pm
Aug 7—12
75% off Kids Clothes
75% off Swimming Suits
75% off Dresses
 Looking for volunteers on August 24th to stock shelves with new inventory.
 Now accepting donations



CCW DUES...It is the start of a new fiscal year. To save on postage, we ask you to **PLEASE PAY YOUR \$35 DUES TODAY.** You can drop it in the collection, bring it to the office, or mail to Donna Krueger, 16423 County Road 16, Springfield, MN 56087. Make checks payable to *St. Raphael CCW.* **HONORARY MEMBERS ARE EXEMPT FROM PAYING DUES.** After August 30, postcards will be mailed to those who haven't paid.

CCW MEMBERS...if you are an older member and feel you no longer can be an active member due to physical or medical constraints, you can request to be put on the honorary list. You will need to contact the Parish Office or Donna Krueger (723-6395) with this request.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

Aug 6	8:30am	Mass
Aug 8		NO Mass
Aug 11	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
	8:30am	Mass
Aug 12	5:30pm	Mass
Aug 13	8:30am	Mass

Summer Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:00am-12:00pm
Friday CLOSED

Hours may vary, please watch bulletin for notices.



The 400 Club ~ Please show your support for the 400 Club. Our loyal sellers are out and about selling tickets. **There are also tickets available in the Parish Office.** Please be supportive of this worthy fundraiser.



Fall Festival Raffle Tickets are ready to be picked up in the gathering space.

Please remember in your prayers:

✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:

Father Jeremy Kucera

Please pray for our parishioners this week~

Sun: Jeff & Jenny Hayden

Mon: Linda Hayden

Tues: Mike Hayden

Wed: Jason & Samantha Healing Family

Thur: Jeff & Melonie Healing Family

Fri: Lowell & Connie Helget

Sat: Sally Helget

Weekly Candle Intentions (\$5.00 offering)

Special Intentions

Special Intentions DGF

✠ 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

* **Real Life Catholic—Episode 3**

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

We are beginning to collect donations for the Silent Auction for the 2023 Fall Festival. If you are interested in donating, please contact Sarah Boettger (507-227-5597) or Mariah Pietig (507-822-2634) before preparing your donation. We would like to make sure we have a variety of baskets/items and can help with theme ideas to ensure there are not several similar baskets. If you would like to donate but not prepare a basket, we will also accept monetary donations to put toward baskets that we can assemble.

St. Raphael Catholic Church

Fall Festival

2-LITER POP NEEDED!

The Kids Games are in need of some 2-Liter Pop Bottles for the Fall Festival! All brands and flavors are accepted and appreciated!

All pop donations can be dropped off at the Parish office.



ST. RAPHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

FALL FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

Mass at 10:30 AM

Watch the bulletin for more information!

~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.

Shoe Drive: So far, we have collected **1,975 pairs of shoes** for our shoe drive! We need 2,500 pairs by August 7th! This helps us raise money for our school, reduces waste in landfills, and helps people in developing countries start their own business. If you have extra shoes that your children have outgrown or have some that you are not using, please bring them in! We have a collection box in the church gathering space.

Beginning of School Packets: Beginning of school packets are being sent out in the mail this week- so you should be getting them very soon!

Open House and School Pictures: Our school Open House is on Tuesday August 15th from 4:30-7:00p.m. All parents and children are invited to come! This is such a fun night when we get to come together again as a school family! Please bring any completed papers from the back to school packet to Trisha, our school secretary, in the gym. Students and staff will have their school photos taken in gathering space--photo information will be in the back to school packet. Strawbridge Studios will be taking the photos again like last year. Parents and students will go to see their child's classrooms, teachers, and put their school supplies away. There will also be a taco in a bag fundraiser meal (you can eat in the gym or take it to go) done by Catholic United Financial. We can't wait to see you there!

School Supply Lists: If you have not purchased school supplies yet, the lists can be found on our website! Go to [vineandbranchesafc.org](https://www.vineandbranchesafc.org) and look under St. Raphael School--Supply Lists. <https://www.vineandbranchesafc.org/supply-lists>

Staffing: I praise God for the blessing of fantastic staff that we have been able to hire since knowing many of our staff were not returning--but instead were moving, getting married, and retiring! I have wonderful news! I have hired Gretchen Peichel to teach 5th grade. She comes to us with a wealth of experience with children, subbing, and working as a teaching assistant. I am confident that Gretchen will be a great fit for our school and students. Welcome aboard, Gretchen!

I have been diligently working and planning in order to find a 4th grade classroom teacher. I have been unsuccessful so far in doing so. I know you are all eager to find out what the plan is and there may be some unease and discomfort in the "not knowing." Please know that I am working on it and I am confident that I can come up with a plan that will work for our fourth grade students. I am not comfortable sharing the plan until it is 100% ready but my plan will involve some of our current staff at the school. I assure you that they're (the 4th grade students) school happiness and success is number one in my mind. I will update everyone as soon as I can.

Please continue to pray for our school and staff as we prepare our halls and classrooms for our students! We can't wait! It is going to be a fantastic year!

Blessings,

Mrs. Beth Steffl



YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR KIDS

**JUST BY DONATING
YOUR SHOES**

We are collecting shoes again! The drop box is located in the Gathering Space. We are accepting all gently worn, used and new shoes.

Mark Your Calendar

2023-2024 School Open House

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

4:00pm-7:00pm

St. Raphael Catholic School

~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

Parts of the Mass week 10:

After receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist we begin the concluding rite.

Sadly, some receive communion and then duck out to begin their busy life, too busy to finish what is so close to completion at Mass.

After hearing God's word proclaimed to us, after receiving Jesus in Holy Communion we receive a final blessing and then are invited to "Go forth". Go forth to what? Be done? No – to bring Jesus with us out to our world.

We should be changed by the Mass so much that our actions and ways we treat others are so transformed that people ask, "What is so different about you?" The Answer, "I have received Jesus and He has changed me!"

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Will you help our mission by volunteering your time?

I am looking for a second grade catechist for Wednesdays from 5:45-7pm. By being a volunteer, you get the chance to inspire young people to learn about the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist.

Don't worry you won't be alone!

The lesson schedule and materials are all prepared for you. You will even have a teen volunteer to assist you in the classroom each week if you would like and of course, I am willing to help where you need me.

Ask a friend to co-teach with you if you would prefer.

All catechists must be VIRTUS compliant. At this time there are eight students in the second grade faith formation class.



St. Raphael's Adult Choir is in need of new choir robes and stoles. We estimate our current robes are almost twenty-five (25) years old. Each robe and matching stole cost around \$120. The Choir would like to purchase thirty (30) robes. If you would like to donate, make your check payable to **St. Raphael's Church** and **earmark your check for Choir Robes**. Any amount is so appreciated. Thank you for your support of our music ministry!



Catholic Charities provides personal, marriage, and family counseling.

In-person sessions are now available. Call 866-670-5163 (toll free) or

507-233-5318 (local).

Upcoming VIRTUS Training Sessions

✠A new VIRTUS Training Session has been added for **Tuesday, August 29, 2023, from 6:30-9:30pm at Church of Sacred Heart, Murdock.**

✠A new VIRTUS Training Session has been added for **Wednesday, September 13, 2023, from 6:00-9:00 pm at St. Anne School, Wabasso.**

You can register online through the diocesan website www.dnu.org/safeenvironment by clicking on the large red button in the left margin of the main Safe Environment web page.



Enkindle, Rekindle, and Deepen a Living Relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist

The U.S. Catholic Bishops Secretariat of Evangelization and Catechesis has launched a **Heart of the Revival** weekly email newsletter for ongoing inspiration and information as we journey forward toward the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress.

CATHOLICS OF ALL AGES ENCOURAGED TO SIGN-UP!

It's the simplest way to stay connected to what the National Eucharistic Revival is all about.

Visit the Diocese of New Ulm website, dnu.org to sign-up for the newsletter, learn of various upcoming Eucharistic Revival events, and more.



~Upcoming Area Events~

Join Us for Sleepy Eye's
St. Mary's Parish Festival!
Sunday, August 6, 2023 - 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fun
Bounce House
Buggy Rides
Kids' Games
Treat Walk
BINGO!

Food
Hamburger Stand
Hispanic Food Stand
Beer Garden
1919 Root Beer Floats
Pie & Ice Cream
Shaved Ice
KC Donuts & More!

Music
St. Mary's Church
Members Concertina
10:30 am - 1:00 pm
Derrickson Duo
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Festivities
Bake Sale
Farmer's Market
Treasure Alley
(bring all donations to Social Room between July 31 - August 5)
Silent Auction
(bring items to Rectory between July 31 - August 4)
Big Ticket Raffle
(drawing at 3:30 p.m.)

Sign Up to Help
<https://divinemercyafc.flocknote.com/signup/117270> or in the Church's North Addition

Please Donate
(bring all donations to Social Room between July 31 - August 5)
Games: *Bubbly, Soda, Gatorade, etc.*
Farmer's Market: *Produce*
Treat Walk: *Little Debbie or Hostess treats*
Silent Auction: *Theme Baskets, Wood Working, Home Decor, Quilts, etc.*
Bake Sale Items & Pies
Treasure Alley
(no items with electrical cords)

Different for 2023
No Pork Chops on a Stick
No Marie's Cookies

Returning
Pie & Ice Cream Stand
(please donate pie!)

St. Andrew's Fun Fest
Fairfax, MN
Sunday, August 20, 2023
10:00 a.m. Polka Mass
featuring St. A's Polkateers

Delicious Deep Fried Chicken Dinner – 11:00-1:00
Potato Salad, Cucumber Salad, Cole Slaw, Dessert & Beverages
Adults: \$13.00 – Children (5-10) \$5.00 – Under 5 – FREE
Bucket of Chicken (4 quarters) w/Salad (while supplies last) - \$20.00
**Take Out's available/delivery within the Fairfax City Limits – Call: 507-224-4984*

Outside Music:
Cogley Sisters – 12:00 – 12:30
Alpensterne 12:30 – 2:30
Featuring Jim Strehlke, the Singing Yodler and Horn Player and Eric Ray playing Accordion and Button Box
This group plays at German Festivals across the Midwest – Don't miss seeing their performance!
BINGO – KID'S GAMES-RAFFLE-BEER-COUNTRY STORE-PULL TABS

LUNCH STAND – 11:00 – 3:00
hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages
AUTHENTIC MEXICAN TACOS

Join us for a Full Day of Fun!!

Catholic United Financial
Matching Grant
Dine in or take out Taco in a Bag Fundraiser



Tuesday, August 15th 4:30-7:00 pm
Taco in a Bag, Beverage & Cookie
\$8.00

St. Raphael School Auditorium
Springfield, MN

Proceeds benefit St. Raphael School


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.

Sales Representative
Brian Zitzmann, FIC
Call or Text (701) 238-3643
bzitzmann@catholicunited.org
catholicunitedfinancial.org/rep-brian-zitzmann

Catholic United Financial

Catholic United Financial
Matching Grant
Pillow Cleaning
By Carlson's Fluff & Puff Pillow Cleaning Service

Thursday, September 28th 6-8 pm
Friday, September 29th 7:30 am-3 pm
St Raphael Church Gathering Space
Springfield, MN



New Ticking of your Choice
On the Spot Cleaning
Returned Same Day

Proceeds benefits St. Raphael Religious Education

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