

Vine & Branches **Area Faith Community**

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

February 18, 2024 1st Sunday of Lent 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. Iohn 15:5

Liturgies This Week

| • | - | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| Mon Feb 19 | | No Mass Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46 |
| Tues Feb 20 | (Spfld) | 8:30am Mass +Albert Hillesheim Family Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15 |
| Wed Feb 21 | (Lamb) | 8:00am Mass +Milton Navratil <i>Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32</i> |
| Thur. Feb 22 | (Sanb) | 8:00am Mass +Steven Schmidt <i>1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19</i> |
| Fri. Feb 23 | (Spfld) | 8:30am Mass +Mary Meidl <i>Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26</i> |
| Sat. Feb 24 | (Spfld) | 5:30pm Mass +Vera Bloedow Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48 |
| Sun. Feb 25 | (Spfld) (Lamb) | 8:30am Mass –For the People 10:30am Mass +LeRoy Geis Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10 |

Sacrament of Reconciliation

\$\pi\$Saturday 4:30—5:15pm at St. Raphael

♦Praver 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

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

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

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, I ran into the following article from Catholic News Agency this week and it was very encouraging on the one hand but also shows us some difficulties that are coming when we talk about the gift of married life. I pray that you find it enlightening:

Men and women who are married and who attend church regularly are among the happiest couples, according to data compiled by a prominent sociological professor.

Brad Wilcox, a professor of sociology at the University of Virginia as well as the director of the school's National Marriage Project, <u>told "EWTN News Nightly"</u> this week that he wrote his newest book, "Get Married: Why Americans Must Defy the Elites, Forge Strong Families, and Save Civilization," after hearing concerns from his students about the state of marriage today.

"They're kind of worried about their prospects for marriage, particularly the women at UVA," Wilcox told "EWTN News Nightly" host Tracy Sabol. "And so this kind of concern led me to write a book on the importance [and] the value" of adults getting married.

Contrary to popular perception, Wilcox said, data indicate that married men and women are markedly happier than their unmarried counterparts.

"We've been seeing a lot of stories ... talking about the ways in which [women], for instance, are kind of really miserable in marriage and miserable as mothers," Wilcox said, citing a recent media report alleging that "married moms were less well off" than "single, childless women."

"In fact, the data point us in exactly the opposite direction," he said. "What we see is that for both women and men, the path to prosperity and happiness kind of runs right through marriage. So both women and men who are married, for instance, are almost twice as likely to be very happy with their lives compared to their single peers."

"There's really no group that's as happy for men as married dads and for women as married moms," Wilcox said. "So as tough as marriage [and] as tough as being a parent can be, the upside to having a spouse and kids for most Americans is pretty high."

The happiness factor, Wilcox said, shows up even more prominently in married couples who attend church regularly.

"What we see in this data is that couples who attend church together are about 15 percentage points more likely to be very happy with their marriages," Wilcox said. "They're about 30% to 50% less likely to get divorced, depending upon the data set."

Those high numbers also translate to higher sexual satisfaction for married couples, he said.

"I think the thing that surprised me the most was that not only are they more sexually satisfied on average, but couples who attend church together tend to have more sex than couples who don't go to church at all," Wilcox said. "So there's just any number of outcomes that look better for couples who go to church together."

Declining divorce rates in recent years are a sign of encouragement, Wilcox pointed out, though overall declining marriage rates present problems of their own, he said.

"The '70s were known as the divorce revolution," he told Sabol. "But since then, divorce has been coming down. And so today at least, we're estimating that well below 1 in 2 couples who are getting married are going to end up getting divorced. Or to put it more positively, most of the couples who are getting married today are going to go the distance."

"We are seeing, because marriage is more stable, that a growing share of kids are being raised in stably married households," Wilcox said. "That's the good news. The bad news is for American adults, we're still seeing a pretty marked decline in marriage rates. And they call that the closing of the American heart."

Data have long pointed toward a sustained drop in marriage rates for every age cohort following the "Silent Generation," the group of Americans born between 1928 and 1945. A recent Pew survey found that just 30% of marriage-age millennials live with a spouse and a child, compared with 70% of those from the Silent Generation at the same stage in their lives.

Wilcox told CNA last year that sharply declining marriage rates among younger Americans had him concerned.

"A lot of adults — more than one-third of young adults today in their 20s — will never marry," he said at the time. "This is record demographic territory we're heading into."

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

| Feb 18 | 10:30am | Mass |
|--------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Feb 21 | 8:00am | Mass |
| | 6:30-7:30pm | Faith Formation Classes |
| Feb 22 | 8:00am | Mass—St. Thomas |
| Feb 25 | 10:30am | Mass |

| St. Joseph Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| | Annual Budget | Budget to Date | Received to Date |
| Adults | 62,000.00 | \$39,346.23 | \$39,796.76 |
| Student | \$250.00 | \$158.73 | \$209.00 |
| Loose Plate | \$2,500.00 | \$1,586.64 | \$2,048.65 |

| Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|--|
| Adult Envelopes | 1,669.00 | |
| Student Envelopes | 14.00 | |
| Loose Plate | 90.00 | |
| Sacramental Offerings | 3.00 | |
| Total | \$1,494.00 | |

I don't know if this has always been the case, but I was told if you have children 18 years or older and they want to remain a member of St. Joseph's, they need to reregister. Please talk with your children—if they need to re-register, please contact me at 507-829-1846 and we can get this taken care of. Thanks, Sue Imker

St. Joseph's is in need of:

- 2 more Sacristans. The set up for Mass before and put away after.
- 1 more person to lead the Rosary before Mass. You wouldn't be on the schedule—just someone to call when needed.

Prayers are that someone will step up—it takes the pressure off those that are already scheduled.

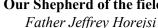
Parents should have received information in their mailboxes about the CHILD CARE ACT. If you did not receive this, let Sue know. There is more information on the bulletin board, please read.



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

This week we remember these people in our prayers.

Deb Lingle and David & Lori Miller
Our Shepherd of the field:





~Please also pray for those in need ~

Bruce Olson Mary Arnoldi Pat Dauer

Brett Baumann Linda Riley Bob Peterson

Marcie Anderson

February 25 Ministries

Lector Emily Scheffler **EMC** Jeff Strock

Servers Sydney Vogel & Max Vogel

Sacristan Cathy Graff

Ushers Jim Imker & Doug DeCock
Gift Bearers Jeremiah Frasher Family
Money Counters Fred Berg & Kylee Jenniges

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, February 21

6:30-7:30pm Faith Formation Classes

St Joseph's CCW is again taking donations for the Revere Home residents. We will start give these as Valentine's gifts. You will find a box at the church entry to deposit them in - marked Revere Home. Do not wrap them, so the employees there can pick out and give each resident what they need the most. They enjoy treats; personal care products; socks, stocking hats, sweatpants, sweatshirts; etc. or even small gift card to Maynard's where they get taken to buy their own treats. Thank you in advance for helping take care of our neighbors in need.

What is in your Lenten journey?

"Women & Men in Neighboring Evangelization"

Thursday, Feb 22 6:00pm at the home of

Art and Dawn Rohlik 29324 Cty Rd 4 Sanborn, MN, 56083

Book discussion begins at 6:30 (concludes around 8:30). Dawn will have the books. Dawn will lead the women (The Power of the Praying Wife) and Art will lead the men

(The Power of the Praying Husband). Please bring your children as there will be a space for them.

The next meetings will be planned that evening.

Bring your favorite bottle of wine or beverage

~Church of St. Raphael~

| Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 | | | |
|--|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| | Annual Budget | Budget to Date | Received to Date |
| Adults | \$335,000.00 | \$212,596.23 | \$220,822.14 |
| Gr. 7-12 | \$1,100.00 | \$698.28 | \$10.00 |
| Pre K-6 | \$1,100.00 | \$698.28 | \$0.00 |

| Last week's Parish Revenue | | |
|----------------------------|------------|--|
| Adult Envelopes | \$1,938.00 | |
| Loose Plate | \$181.00 | |
| Fuel & Heat | \$120.00 | |
| Sacramental Offering | \$25.00 | |
| Candles & Votive Candles | \$315.40 | |
| Capital Improvement Fund | \$65.00 | |
| Adopt A Student | \$40.00 | |
| Alumni Donations | \$750.00 | |
| Good Neighbor Thrift Store | \$545.55 | |
| Total Income | \$3,979.95 | |



The Parish Office will be CLOSED Monday, February 19, 2024.



Congratulations to Carter James Hornick, son of Steven & Mykhaila Hornick, as he recently received the Sacrament of Baptism and was welcomed into the Holy Catholic Church and the Baptism St. Raphael Parish Community!



The 400 Club Winner this Week

#311 Ron & Sharon Sturm \$150.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group C~

| February 24 & 25, 2024 | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|--|
| | 5:30 _I | om | 8:30am | |
| Servers | Brynn Wilhelmi | | Austin Landkammer | |
| | Blake | Wilhelmi | TJ Reindl | |
| Lector | Katie ' | Wilhelmi | Mariah Pietig | |
| ЕМНС | VO | LUNTEER | Dcn. Barry Reindl | |
| Accompanist | | TBA | Julie Prechel | |
| Song Leader | TBA | | Adult Choir | |
| Rosary | VO | LUNTEER | VOLUNTEER | |
| Head Usher | Dale Lindmeier | | Mike Rothmeier | |
| | VO | LUNTEER | Duane Roiger | |
| | VO | LUNTEER | VOLUNTEER | |
| | VO | LUNTEER | VOLUNTEER | |
| Videographer | | VOLUNTEER | | |





~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

| Feb 18 | 8:30am | Mass |
|--------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Feb 19 | | NO School—President's Day |
| | | Parish Office Closed |
| Feb 20 | 8:30am | Mass |
| | 4:00-5:30pm | Atrium |
| Feb 21 | 5:00-6:00pm | Children's Choir Practice |
| | 6:00-7:00pm | Faith Formation Classes grades 1-6 |
| | 6:00-7:00pm | Praise & Worship Choir Practice |
| | 7:15-8:15pm | Faith Formation Classes grades 7-10 |
| Feb 23 | 6:30-7:30am | That Man is You |
| | 8:30am | Mass |
| Feb 24 | 5:30pm | Mass |
| Feb 25 | 8:30am | Mass |



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Sisterhood in Times of Adversity'

In times of trials and tribulations, when hope seems elusive, the essence of resilience shines brightest. In this speech, we delve into the depths of the human spirit, exploring how resilience is not merely a quality to possess, but a journey to embark upon. Join us as we embrace the journey of resilience, forging bonds of sisterhood that withstand the tests of time, and emerge stronger, united in faith and love.

5:00 PM - Registration

5:30 PM - Mass

6:15 PM - Meal

7:00 PM - Meeting & Speaker

Sign-up Today! Registration: \$15.00

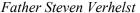
Please contact your parish president to register for the evening by Wednesday, March 13.

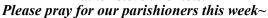
*Parish Presidents: Please call or text Arlyce Anderson at 507-317-0617 on Thursday, March 14 with the number attending from your parish.



Please remember in your prayers:

♣ Our Shepherd of the Field:





Sun: Kyle Rogotzke

Mon: Mike & Crissy Rogotzke Family

Tues: Andrew Rohlik & Gabrielle Cohrs Family

Wed: Alan & Paula Roiger
Thur: Anthony Roiger
Fri: Arland & Cher Roiger
Sat: Bernadine Roiger

Weekly Candle Intentions (\$5.00 offering)
Special Intention Special Intention

♦Small Votive Candles are now \$1.00 each \$\dagger\$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 2

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

► YouTube

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.

~Good Neighbor Thrift ~

75% off Kids Clothing including
Winter Coats & Snow Pants
Feb. 19th-23rd
Accepting Spring/ Summer Clothing

LSS Meals (Meals on Wheels) is looking for a Site Coordinator in Springfield. This position operates out of St. John Lutheran Church, Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am. No evenings/weekends/major holidays and paid time off. Call Anna at 507-593-5862 for more information or apply online at www.lssmn.org/careers

Springfield Area Food Shelf is open Tuesday evenings 5:00-7:00 PM and Thursday mornings 9:30-11:30 AM. We are looking for volunteers to help with various jobs - call Shari Koll at 507-227-0386 to volunteer.

~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.

Greetings!

Catholic United Financial Raffle: This is the last week and weekend for our CUF Raffle. Ticket sales will go through February 18th. Our goal for this fundraiser is \$14,000. The awesome thing about this fundraiser is that CUF does all the work for us! They print the tickets, they get the prizes. All we have to do is sell the tickets! Every single penny of this fundraiser stays with St. Raphael Catholic School to support the school directly, going into the general budget of the school. Last week we had \$1,280 of CUF ticket sales! Our total so far from the fundraiser is \$7,160. This is 51% of our goal! I know this week we sold more tickets! I will let everyone know the final result of the fundraiser! If you purchased tickets to support the school, we thank you so much for your support! There are some fantastic prizes for this years' raffle! This year ticket prices have gone up to \$10 each. If you would like to purchase a ticket, please stop into the school office or contact a St. Raphael Catholic School family. For more details on the raffle and the prizes they are giving away, visit the CUF Raffle web page. https://bit.ly/3TRfEAwt

I Love to Read Month: This is our third week of "I Love to Read" month. This is a time during the school year where we take some extra time to focus on the importance of reading. During the next month, we will have a weekly "mystery reader," this is a guest that reads a book to the students. So far, I got to be a mystery reader and Justin "Hoover" Hillesheim was a mystery reader. It has been so much fun! Our committee also planned a special activity to go along with the book. During the month, all students have a daily personal reading goal, and a collective school-wide goal for minutes read during the month. If the students reach the school-wide goal, there is a fun activity attached with it that is a surprise!

Godly Virtues: Our Godly virtue that we are emphasizing this month at school is honestybeing trustworthy and true. 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.

Kindergarten Roundup: We are hosting our annual Kindergarten Roundup event on Thursday February 29th, 2024 from 6:30-7:30. Parents and their children who will be at least 5 years old by September 1, 2024 are invited to attend. Students will do fun activities with our kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Maggie Vogel in the kindergarten classroom. Parents are invited to spend some time with Mrs. Steffl and some of our St. Raphael School parents to learn about the school, take a school tour and be able to ask questions. We invite anyone who wants to come and take a look at the school!

Upcoming Dates:

Monday February 19: No School, President's Day

February 21-28: Mrs. Steffl out of the office on vacation

Friday February 23: School Mass @ 8:30 planned by grade 1

Thursday February 29: Stations of the Cross @ 12:15 for staff and students gr. 3-6

Friday March 1: Reconciliation for school students during the school day

Tuesday March 12: Stations of the Cross @ 2:15 for staff and students gr. 3-6

Friday March 15: No School, Teacher Faith Formation Day

Monday March 25: Stations of the Cross @ 8:30 for staff and students gr. 3-6

Blessings, Mrs. Beth Steffl

~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

This week we introduced the Lenten Challenge of students in grades 1-12 to do chores around the house to earn money to bring to the Church. The goal is \$5 per student. I will graph each class to see who meets this challenge first. Last year we had classes that even brought in more than their class goal. This is the church in action – little children lead us!

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, February 21

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

Youth Choir Schedule

Wednesday, February 21

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



The Generosity Habit by Matthew Kelly: This week, use social media to spread <u>only</u> positive messages. Be it Facebook, Snapchat or email.



The next ROME meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 8:20pm.

This is a second informational meeting, anyone interested in traveling to ROME and has questions, please plan on attending this meeting.

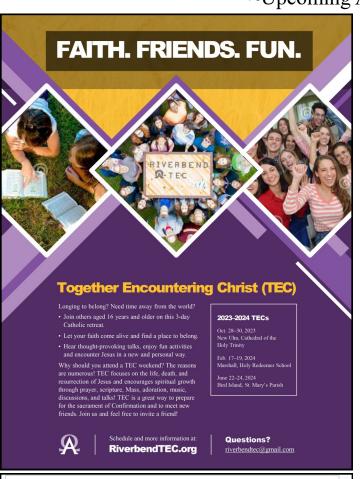


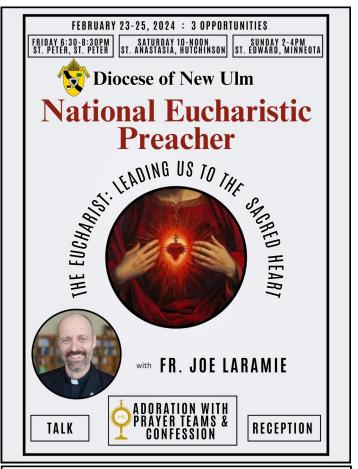
..God speaks.

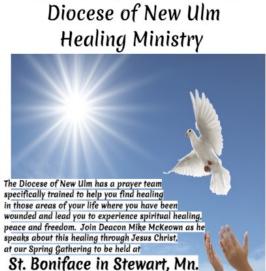
The Broom Tree Retreat is for those in grades 9-12 looking to "go deeper" in their relationship with Christ. Daily Mass, adoration, talks, games, and silence refresh and renew your soul. Register now to get away from the craziness of life and spend time with the Lord.

- To register, go to dnu.org/btr-registration.
- Cost is \$150.
- Registration due 2/26.
- Retreat begins at noon on Friday and ends at 1:00pm on Sunday.
- Ask your youth ministry coordinator about transportation plans and additional payment and registration details.









Saturday, March 9th, 2024

8-9a.m. Reconciliation with Fr. Bob Mraz

8:30a.m. Holy Rosary Led by Lisa Stifter 9:00a.m. Holy Mass with Monsignor Lozinski

9:45a.m. Brunch served by St. Boniface's CCW and

Speaker Deacon Mike McKeown

Parish CCW Presidents: please RSVP to Ruthann Hansen, CCW Deanery 3

Walk-ins Welcome!

President @320-296-0079 or LaMae Maiers @ 320-583-1302 by Wednesday, March 6th. \$10 Donations to Fr. Bruno's Water Project. All are Welcome!

Deanery 3 Council of Catholic Women Presents:

