



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

February 25, 2024
2nd 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.
John 15:5*

Liturgies This Week

Mon Feb 26	No Mass <i>Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38</i>
Tues Feb 27	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Alan Clennon <i>Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Mathew 23:1-12</i>
Wed Feb 28	(Lamb) 8:00am Mass +Albert & Josephine Ardolf <i>Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28</i>
Thur. Feb 29	(Sanb) 8:00am Mass +Joan Baumann <i>Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31</i>
Fri. Mar 1	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Dale Hacker <i>Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-2a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-56</i>
Sat. Mar 2	(Spfld) 5:30pm Mass +Ralph, Mark, & Beth Bielen <i>Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32</i>
Sun. Mar 3	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Carol Steffl (Lamb) 10:30am Mass –For the People <i>Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25</i>

Church of St. Raphael & Area Office

20 W Van Dusen Street ~ 507-723-4137
Springfield MN 56087

Email: staphael@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: 723-5952
barkmr7@gmail.com

Parish Secretary

Raquel Kieper 723-4137
staphael@newulmtel.net

Parish Bookkeeper

Connie Vogel 723-4138
cvogel@newulmtel.net

Faith Formation/Youth Ministry

Karen Reindl
mrsreindl@staphaelpk-6.com

School Principal

Beth Steffl 723-4136
mrssteffl@staphaelpk-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

◆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,

I pray that you have gotten off to a good start during this season of Lent. If not, then there is always today to begin. I think it was G. K. Chesterton who once said, "If it's worth doing, it's worth doing poorly." So, if you can only do it poorly, that is better than nothing at all.

Today I met with the local pastors again and had lunch with them. We had a really good visit, and it has been a joy to get to know the fellas.

On Sunday evening I was with some of our youth at the second diocesan youth gathering of the year. It was good to be with the kids. The speaker was excellent, but maybe some of our kiddos were just a little too young to enjoy her talk as much as I did. The adoration and confession time went really well. It's always such a joy to see how a good confession can give so much freedom. Put down Palm Sunday in your calendars for a confessions at St. Raphael. We will have four priests again that evening to help out.

Recently I ran across an hour video of a discussion that took place between Jordan Peterson, Bishop Robert Barron and Fr. Michael Schmitz. In that talk Schmitz (sorry, we were classmates and that is what we called him in the seminary) mentioned a couple of authors that he had read years ago from Notre Dame that helped him when he was starting out as a university chaplain in the Diocese of Duluth. At the core of what he was saying, he mentioned Moralistic, Therapeutic Deism. In a nutshell, Christian Smith and Melissa Lundquist Denton summarize it in their book, *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*. They summarize Moral Therapeutic Deism (MTD) in five points:

1. A God exists who created and orders the world and watches over human life on earth.
2. God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
4. God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
5. Good people go to heaven when they die.

Fr. Dwight Longenecker in one of his blogs entitled, *Moralistic Therapeutic Deism—What's to Hate?*, describes it as follows:

This Moralistic Therapeutic Deism, like the Arianism of the fourth century, is an extremely attractive religion. What's to hate about it? It helps people be nice, good, tolerant, compliant citizens. It helps them with their problems and makes them better, happier people and best of all, it allows for an easygoing spirituality in which one can have "spiritual" feelings about nature or your grandmother's birthday or puppies and kittens, but you needn't worry about a Father in Heaven who not only loves you but will also judge you one day. You needn't worry about his revelation to humanity nor his moral and ethical demands.

I just thought I would share these thoughts with you because I've been lacking for a name of some of the "stuff" that I have been running into as a priest and I think this definition helps explain some of it. Maybe some of you will find that some of your belief structure is like this. There are plenty of times where I find people like my homilies when they make you feel good, but don't like them when they are challenging and don't make you feel good. Now I think I have found a name of what this attitude might be called (when the homily isn't simply a dud anyways). The gospel is life giving in every way, but it has a real bite to it and we can't ignore this quality. I pray that we will have a purification of this false structure of belief in our lives and live truly according to the faith passed on to us by God.

God's blessing,

Fr. Jeremy

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

Feb 25	10:30am	Mass
Feb 28	8:00am	Mass
	6:30-7:30pm	Stations of the Cross with Classes to follow
Feb 29	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
Mar 3	10:30am	Mass

This week we remember *these* people in our prayers.
John & Jean Moody and Kay Moulder

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

St. Joseph Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	62,000.00	\$40,538.54	\$40,811.76
Student	\$250.00	\$163.54	\$209.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$1,634.72	\$2,162.65

March 3 Ministries

Lector Doreen Kronback
EMC Anthony Axford
Servers Maia Scheffler & Hadynn Jenniges
Sacristan Jeff Strock
Ushers Pat Schroepfer & Gordy Wille
Gift Bearers Jared Wenisch Family
Money Counters Kylee Jenniges & Teresa Wenisch

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph	
Adult Envelopes	\$1,015.00
Loose Plate	\$114.00
Total	\$1,129.00

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, February 28

6:30-7:30pm Stations of the Cross with Faith Formation Classes to follow.

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 re-register. 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.



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

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

"The most important things
are almost never urgent."

MATTHEW KELLY
Resisting Happiness



~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$219,038.54	\$226,278.14
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$719.44	\$10.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$719.44	\$0.00

The 400 Club Winners this Week

#371	Cindy Reese	\$65.00
#17	Maureen Miesen	\$65.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group C~

March 2 & 3, 2024

	5:30pm	8:30am
Servers	VOLUNTEER	Riley Arnsdorf
	VOLUNTEER	Andrew Reindl
Lector	Bev Fults	Max Meine
EMHC	Bev Fults	Dcn Barry Reindl
Accompanist	Children's Choir	Praise & Worship
Song Leader	Children's Choir	Praise & Worship
Rosary	VOLUNTEER	TMIY Group
Head Usher	Terry Ochs	Steve Woidylla
	Cathy Ochs	Donna Woidylla
	VOLUNTEER	Steve Meine
	VOLUNTEER	Carson Arnsdorf
Videographer	Elliott Maleska	

Last week's Parish Revenue

Adult Envelopes	\$5,456.00
Loose Plate	\$476.50
Ash Wednesday	\$181.00
Black & Indian Collection	\$27.00
DUF	\$2.00
Adult Choir Memorial	\$10.00
Candles	\$70.00
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$410.04
Total Income	\$6,632.54

Upcoming VIRTUS Training Sessions

✠A new VIRTUS Training Session has been added for **Monday, April 22, 2024, from 6:00-9:00pm at Church of St. Mary, Willmar**

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.



Lenten Stations of the Cross

Friday, February 23 at 5:30pm
 Friday, March 1 at 5:30pm
 Friday, March 8 at 5:30pm
 Friday, March 15 at 5:30pm
 Friday, March 22 at 5:30pm



Please remember in your prayers **Lamonte Henrichs**, who recently passed away. We extend our prayers and sympathy to his family and friends. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

Spring is in the Air

Vendor/Crafter Fair

Mark your calendars
&
Save the Date

Find us on Facebook for event updates:
<https://fb.me/e/2SHxH6bG6>

Saturday
March 2nd, 2024
9AM-2PM

Springfield Area Community Center
33 S Cass Ave Springfield, MN

*Over 20 Vendors/Crafters with
 Great gift ideas for Easter, Birthdays,
 Graduation, Anniversary, Mothers Day, and more.*

Lunch Available 10:30 AM—1 PM

Proceeds benefit St. Raphael School PTT

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

Feb 25	8:30am	Mass
Feb 27	8:30am	Mass
	4:00-5:30pm	Atrium
Feb 29	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
Mar 1	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
	8:30am	Mass
	5:30pm	Stations of the Cross
Mar 2	5:30pm	Mass
Mar 3	8:30am	Mass

Please remember in your prayers:

✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:

Father Steven Verhelst

Please pray for our parishioners this week~

Sun: Blaine & Michaela Roiger

Mon: Charles & Vicki Roiger

Tues: Dale & Dorinda Roiger

Wed: David & Courtney Roiger Family

Thur: Dean Roiger

Fri: Duane & Janice Roiger

Sat: Gary & Pat Roiger

Weekly Candle Intentions (\$5.00 offering)

Special Intentions Special Intention

✠ 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 3**

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

Council of Catholic Women - Deanery 1

Spring Gathering

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Church of St. Mary

417 S. Minnesota Avenue, New Ulm, MN

Keynote Speaker

Gabrielle Cohrs Rohlik

Title: *"Finding Resilience: Nurturing Hope and 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.

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.

5:00 PM - Registration
5:30 PM - Mass
6:15 PM - Meal
7:00 PM - Meeting & Speaker



CCW
Council of Catholic Women

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 ~

50% off All Clothing Last Thursday of the Month—Feb 29

Feb. 26th-Mar. 1

Accepting Spring/ Summer Clothing

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.



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).

~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: We wrapped up our Catholic United Financial Raffle fundraiser this past week and weekend! 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.

A preliminary count of the total tickets sold for the raffle were 878 tickets. That means that we raised \$8,780 for the school with this fundraiser! Thank you to everyone who helped sell tickets and to everyone who supported the fundraiser by purchasing tickets!

I Love to Read Month: This is our fourth 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. 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 honesty-being 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!

Spring is in the Air: There will be a vendor event March 2nd from 9AM-2PM at the Springfield Community Center, with lunch that is served from 10:30-1:00. This event is being organized by Diana Windschitl. All the proceeds from this event will go to St. Raphael Catholic School PTT Organization, the funds will go to benefit the students and school. Come and enjoy!

Calendar Change: There is a calendar change! On the original school calendar, there was no school Thursday March 14th. There will now be school on Thursday March 14th. This has now been changed to no school on Friday March 15th. Teachers will be attending a Faith Formation Day in Redwood Falls with Dr. Sri as the keynote speaker.

Upcoming School Masses:

Friday March 1-Mrs. Lazatin/Grade 3

Friday March 8-Mrs. Anderson/Grade 2

Tuesday March 12-Mrs. Nachreiner/Staff Mass

Friday March 22-Mrs. Vogel/Staff Mass

Upcoming Dates:

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

February 26: Mystery Reader and activity @ 9:45

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

February 29: Kindergarten Roundup 6:30-7:30.

March 1: Students in gr 3-6 will have reconciliation during their religion classes

March 11: No School, Teacher In-service

March 15: No School, Teacher Faith Formation Day

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

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

Blessings,

Mrs. Beth Steffl

~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

Grade 5 will be leading the Station of the Cross on Wednesday, February 28 starting at 6:15pm. Then 10th graders will lead the Stations of the Cross for the teens starting at 7:30pm. You are invited to join us if you are able.

There will be a Q & A regarding the Rome pilgrimage on Wednesday February 28 for those who did not get to the first gathering or maybe those who did but now have more questions. Registration deadline is March 1, 2024. Registration forms are located on the Faith Formation table in the gathering space.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, February 28

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 28

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



This week, give authentic complements. Focus on character rather than appearance. Make eye contact. Expect nothing in return.

Mark your calendars! Totus Tuus will be here this summer Sunday, July 14-Thursday July 18. Elementary students will have their time M-Th during the day and teens will meet Sunday-Thurs in the evenings. More information to come!

Travel Planning

Information Meeting

Meeting

This meeting is for those who couldn't


make it to the first meeting OR have questions about the ROME trip.

**Wednesday, February 28
8:15pm in the Church Basement**

~Upcoming Area Events~


FEBRUARY 23-25, 2024 : 3 OPPORTUNITIES

FRIDAY 6:30-8:30PM ST. PETER, ST. PETER SATURDAY 10-NOON ST. ANASTASIA, HUTCHINSON SUNDAY 2-4PM ST. EDWARD, MINNEOTA


 **Diocese of New Ulm**


National Eucharistic Preacher

THE EUCHARIST: LEADING US TO THE SACRED HEART



with **FR. JOE LARAMIE**



TALK  **ADORATION WITH PRAYER TEAMS & CONFESSION** **RECEPTION**

St. Mary's Church
Sleepy Eye, Minnesota

Sausage Dinner



Country Style Sausage, Mashed Potatoes, Sauerkraut, Gravy, Applesauce & Ice Cream

Sunday, March 3, 2024
10:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Serving Family-Style
in the St. Mary's School Cafeteria
Enter through the High School Auditorium Door.

Ticket Prices:
Adults \$16.00
Children (6-12) \$6.00
Preschool \$2.00

Drive-Thru Adult Size Take-Out Orders
9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
St. Mary's School Parking Lot

MEAT SALES IN SCHOOL BUS GARAGE
USDA Inspected sausage and other meats for sale.
Saturday, March 2, 2024 ~ 9am-4:30pm ~ Sunday, March 3, 2024 ~ 9am-2pm

Deanery 3 Council of Catholic Women Presents:

Diocese of New Ulm Healing Ministry



The Diocese of New Ulm has a prayer team specifically trained to help you find healing in those areas of your life where you have been wounded and lead you to experience spiritual healing, peace and freedom. Join Deacon Mike McKeown as he speaks about this healing through Jesus Christ, at our Spring Gathering to be held at

St. Boniface in Stewart, Mn.
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 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! Walk-ins Welcome!

CALLED & GIFTED WORKSHOPS



Holy Family Area Called & Gifted Workshop

Discover God's call for your life

God is calling you to a unique purpose in life, a work of love that only you can do. Discern your charisms (spiritual gifts) and begin to discern God's call. You have received gifts in Baptism and Confirmation through which God intends His love to reach others. Come and discover these charisms in you!

WHO: All who want to learn about and grow in your spiritual gifts

WHAT: LIVE WORKSHOP

WHEN: Saturday, March 9, 2024

WHERE: Church of St. Joseph
512 Black Oak Avenue
Montevideo, Minnesota

COST: FREE to Holy Family Area Parishioners
Non-Parishioners - \$60

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Call of the Laity
Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory Explained
Role of the Holy Spirit
Charisms
Discernment Process
Role of Charisms in Parish, Community and World

RSVP TO: Karen Kling at 320-295-9062 or email to slkekling@gmail.com

RSVP required to attend and DUE by: February 28