



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

February 4, 2024
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*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 5	No Mass <i>1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13; Mark 6:53-56</i>
Tues Feb 6	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Urban Salonek <i>1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Mark 7:1-13</i>
Wed Feb 7	(VVNH) 1:30pm Mass +Gladys Donnay <i>1 Kings 10:1-10; Mark 7:14-23</i>
Thur. Feb 8	(Sanb) 8:00am Mass +LeRoy & Margaret Fox <i>1 Kings 11:4-13; Mark 7:24-30</i>
Fri. Feb 9	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Lawrence Turbes <i>1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19; Mark 7:31-37</i>
Sat. Feb 10	(Spfld) 5:30pm Mass +Bob Ferdinandt <i>1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Mark 8:1-10</i>
Sun. Feb 11	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass –For the People (Lamb) 10:30am Mass +Armin & Inez Coulter <i>Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Mark 1:40-45</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,

Thanks to everyone has helped out with the various Catholic Schools Week activities here at St. Raphael's. It was good to see so many people participate at mass and come over for a burger and partake in the open house.

Last week we celebrated first reconciliation with the kiddos at St. Raphael's and it was a great evening. The two priests who came to help out were uplifted by the evening and enjoyed the supper we had afterwards. Thank you to the person(s) who anonymously bought our meal. Please pray for Scarlett who's preparing for her first reconciliation at St. Joseph's.

I would also like to thank whoever bought my supper after mass on Saturday evening at the steakhouse. The funny thing is that the St. Raphael parish rectory has been under construction for the past few weeks, and I have not been able to cook anything. Dan felt bad for me since he's the one overseeing the renovation, so he and Cindy invited me out to supper, and you didn't even let them pay for it (I think that is what you call Minnesota Nice going overboard)! The cabinets are being put in this week and hopefully in a couple more weeks the project will be done. I am not sure how it will all look in the end, but I trust that the administrative council did a good job planning it this last year before I even knew I was coming. Fr. Garrett has good taste so I am sure that it will be wonderful. I'd also like to thank the volunteers who are being lined up to clean the rectory once all of the construction is finished. It's really dusty and it won't be an easy job moving everything back into the kitchen.

Lent is quickly approaching, and I would like to encourage all of you to begin preparing for this very important part of our liturgical year. From what I have been told, this part of our diocese is a big baseball hub. It's a sport that I never played growing up but grew to enjoy while watching the Twinkies win the World Series in 1987 and 1991. Lent is very similar to Spring Training. Without it, playing baseball just doesn't work. The more we put in the work in our spiritual lives, with prayer and penance, the greater the freedom that comes from the hard work of the wonderful spiritual practices of Lent. If you find yourself praying about how to enter more deeply into this penitential season and don't know what to do, just ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in where the Lord wants you to focus. There are plenty of areas that we all have for growing in the spiritual life and freedom within.

God bless,

Fr. Jeremy

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

Feb 4	8:30am	Mass
Feb 7	1:30pm	Mass—Valley View NH
	6:30-7:30pm	Faith Formation Classes
Feb 8	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
Feb 11	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	\$36,961.61	\$38,127.76
Student	\$250.00	\$149.11	\$195.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$1,490.48	\$1,958.65

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph

Adult Envelope	\$1,210.00
Loose Plate	\$28.00
Total	\$1,238.00

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 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.

Thank you.

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.

This week we remember *these people in our prayers.*
Dean & Jody Kronbach and Adam Kronback

Our Shepherd of the field:

Father Jeffrey Horejsi



~Please also pray for those in need ~

Bruce Olson Mary Arnoldi Pat Dauer
Brett Baumann Linda Riley Bob Peterson
Marcie Anderson

February 11 Ministries

Lector Tasha Frasher
EMC Diane Arnsdorf
Servers Celia Vogel & Kinley Alms
Sacristan Jeff Strock
Ushers Pat Schroepfer & Kevin Zimmermann
Gift Bearers Mark Vogel Family
Money Counters Fred Berg & Teresa Wenisch

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, February 7

6:30-7:30pm Faith Formation Classes



Please pray for the following students as they prepare for their upcoming Sacraments:

First Reconciliation/Communion – Scarlett Frasher

Confirmation – Maia Scheffler, Mercedes

Myers, Reese Berg & Sydney Vogel

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.

St. Joseph's CCW is sponsoring a table of 8 for St. Raphael's Sparkle and Dine on Monday, February 12. Please contact Katy Wille or Angie Axford if you want a ticket. Tickets are \$20.00. Checks payable to St. Joseph's CCW.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$199,711.61	\$211,889.14
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$655.96	\$0.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$655.96	\$0.00


The 400 Club Winners this Week		
#85	Mary Ann Tauer	\$65.00
#21	Jalen & Mariah Pietig	\$65.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group C~


February 10 & 11, 2024		
	5:30pm	8:30am
Servers	VOLUNTEER	Riley Arnsdorf
	VOLUNTEER	Paul Goedtke
Lector	Paul Pieschel	Jim Miesen
EMHC	Paul Pieschel	Dcn. Barry Reindl
Accompanist	Children's Choir	Sharon Pieschel
Song Leader	Children's Choir	TBA
Rosary	VOLUNTEER	Jim Miesen
Head Usher	George Tauer	Arland Roiger
	Dale Lindmeier	Cher Roiger
	VOLUNTEER	Carson Arnsdorf
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Videographer	VOLUNTEER	

Last week's Parish Revenue	
Adult Envelopes	\$2,574.00
Loose Plate	\$329.00
Red Heart Envelope	\$570.00
Adopt a Student	\$10.00
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$538.41
Total Income	\$4,021.41

The 2023 Contribution Statements are now available for pick up in the gathering space. Please be sure to stop in and grab yours.



We would like to welcome Phil & Phlayne Gill and their son, Jakob, to St. Raphael Parish Community. We are happy to welcome you to our parish family.



Happy Birthday Deacon Barry!

...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.



Spring is in the Air

Vendor/Craft Fair

Over 20 Vendors & Crafters

Saturday March 2nd, 2024


Springfield Area Community Center

9 AM - 2 PM


Watch for more details!



Proceeds from this event benefit St. Raphael Catholic School PTT



The Parish Office will be CLOSED
Monday, February 12, 2024—Monday, February 19, 2024.



Mark your calendars! Saturday, June 22, 2024 at 4:00pm, Bishop Chad Zielenski will be here to celebrate Mass and the 150th anniversary of St. Raphael's parish.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

Feb 4	10:30am	Mass-Catholic Schools Week
Feb 6	8:30am	Mass
	4:00-5:30pm	Atrium
Feb 7	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 7-12
Feb 9	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
	8:30am	Mass
Feb 10	5:30pm	Mass
Feb 11	8:30am	Mass

Check out Channel 8—Cablecast

* **St. Raphael Sunday Mass**
Every Tuesday at 5:00 pm & Friday at 5:00 pm



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 ~

Monday 9:00am-3:00pm
Tuesday-Friday 9:30am-4:00pm
NEW WINTER HOURS

February 5-9

I Love to Read Month 50% off Books

Now accepting Winter Clothing Donations

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

Please remember in your prayers:



✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:

Father Steven Verhelst

Please pray for our parishioners this week~

Sun: Steven & Marie Renner

Mon: Shayne & Cassandra Rice Family

Tues: Gary & Coke Richert

Wed: David & Joan Richert

Thur: Mike & Kaye Richert

Fri: Travis & Laura Richert Family

Sat: Zach & Samantha Richert Family

Weekly Candle Intentions (\$5.00 offering)

Special Intentions

✠ Small Votive Candles are now \$1.00 each

✠ Large Intention Candles are now \$5.00 each

Staff Recognition: On behalf of St. Raphael Catholic School and our board of Education, we want to thank and recognize our amazing school and parish staff for all that they do to help our children grow in so many ways, especially in their faith and academics. We recognize the important work you do every single day with so much dedication, hard work, and love for the students. Thank you!

Jennie Anderson—1st year of service

Crystal Dauer—1st year of service

Samantha Healing---1st year of service

Father Jeremy Kucera—1st year of service

Angie Lazatin—1st year of service

Trisha Ludewig—1st year of service

Gretchen Peichel—1st year of service

Katie Pierson—1st year of service

Brianna Platz—1 and a half years of service

Maggie Vogel—2 years of service

Kelsey Vogel---3 years of service

Steve Renner—4 years of service

Erin Meine—5 years of service

Raquel Kieper—6 years of service

Deacon Barry Reindl-6 years of service

Allison Nachreiner—10 years of service

Tanya Hovland—14 years of service

Greg Roiger—17 years of service

Beth Steffl—18 years of service

Diana Windschitl—18 years of service

Karen Reindl—23 years of service

Connie Vogel—26 years of service

~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.

Catholic United Financial Raffle: This is the third week of our Catholic United Raffle fundraiser. 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 \$2,800 of CUF ticket sales! Our total so far from the first two weeks of sales for the fundraiser is \$3,470** I know this week we sold even more tickets! I will be letting everyone know what our sales are each week here in the bulletin!! There are some fantastic prizes for this year's 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>

Thank You! Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our Catholic Schools Week Mass, Build Your Own Burger meal, and Open House! We had a great turnout for the day! We are so grateful for the overwhelming support of the school. We truly appreciate it.

Catholic Schools Week: This week we celebrated Catholic Schools Week with dress up days, big and little buddy activities, a special family breakfast, service projects, fun games, and a field trip to New Ulm Recreation Center to enjoy the pool and gym. This is an incredible week to celebrate who we are as a Catholic school, come together in fellowship with one another, and serve others out of thankfulness for the many blessings we have received. We had a fantastic week!

Godly Virtues: Our school has been emphasizing and fostering one Godly virtue each month. We began this in December school-wide. Our December virtue was patience (waiting or enduring without complaint), and our January virtue was fortitude (being brave and strong in the face of trials). Each morning, the definition of these virtues are read over the announcements, teachers have them posted in classrooms and staff help by adding them into their daily teaching. It has been exciting to see the students and staff working on these virtues since we began them!

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:

Friday February 9: School Mass @ 8:30 planned by grade 4

Wednesday February 14: School Mass @ 8:30 planned by grade 5 (Ash Wednesday Mass)

Thursday February 15: Optional spring conferences after school for K-6

Friday February 16: Early out at 12:30PM

Monday February 19: No School, President's Day

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

Blessings,

Mrs. Beth Steffl

School Office Hours

Monday-Friday 7:30am—3:30pm

Hours may vary if school is closed. Please watch bulletin for notices.



SUPPORT THE CUF RAFFLE

St. Raphael School will once again participate in the Catholic United Financial Raffle! You can purchase tickets from any St. Raphael School student or by stopping in the school office. Thank you for supporting our school with this fundraiser!

~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

Please pray for our Confirmation students as they are confirmed this Sunday. Confirmation is the outpouring of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit that were first received at Baptism. These gifts are: **WISDOM**: Helps us to see the world is only a temporary place and that heaven is our true home. It helps us to see things as God sees them. **UNDERSTANDING**: gives us the insight of our faith and helps us explain the faith to others. **KNOWLEDGE**: Helps us to see everything in life in relation to God. **COUNSEL**: Helps us to make correct decisions about God’s will for our lives. **FORTITUDE**: Gives us the strength to be faithful to Christ even when it is difficult to do. **PIETY**: Inspires us to worship God and to love him as our Father and our neighbor as our self. **WONDER AND AWE** sometimes called “Fear of the Lord”: Shows us the evil of sin and helps us to desire to live in God’s grace. It reminds us that He is great and all-powerful.

We have these gifts but we have to exercise our spiritual muscles in order to use them, pray to the Holy Spirit asking Him to show you how to use them. The Holy Spirit will answer your prayer!

It is not too late to join us for week two of Jesus and the Eucharist video series. We meet Tuesday evening at 6:30pm and the same video is shown Thursday morning at 9am.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, February 7

6:00-7:00pm Faith Formation Classes grades 1-6
7:15-8:15pm Faith Formation Classes grades 7-12

Youth Choir Schedule

Wednesday, February 7

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

Travel Planning

Information Meeting

Anyone interested in traveling to ROME should attend this meeting.

Wednesday, February 7
8:15pm in the Gathering space

You have heard it right – there is a ROME trip in the planning stages! Come hear what it is all about.

~Upcoming Area Events~

Comfrey Commercial Club Sauerkraut, Dumpling & Sausage Dinner

Saturday, February 10th
Comfrey Community Center
5:00 pm to 8:00 pm (or until gone)



Menu:
Sauerkraut, Dumplings, Sausage
Applesauce, Bar & Beverage
or
Hotdog, Chips, Applesauce,
Bar & Beverage

Sauerkraut Meal - \$14.00
Hotdog Meal - \$5.00



Polka Music by The Misfits
Beer & Drinks Available for Purchase
Come join us for a night of food, fun,
& friends!



Takeouts & In Town Deliveries Available
Please call 877-2665 to Schedule
Deliveries by Friday, Feb. 9th

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.



Sparkle and Dine

7th Annual Women's event held at the Springfield Community Center February 12th, 2024

Enjoy Beautiful Theme Tables, a Catered Meal & Fellowship with other Women!
You will Be Inspired by our Speaker
Amanda DeYoung from Nisswa, MN
We are looking for women that will volunteer to host and decorate a table for 8.

Invite your friends.
Use your imagination and creativity to decorate a table...
..God gave us lots of talent!



Proceeds will go towards the **NUMAS Haus**, a women's shelter dedicated to helping women and their families get back to independent living. They provide housing, classes and other support to aide in long-term stability.



Interested in hosting? Contact:

Crystal Dauer 612-910-4931

Alice Johnson 763-645-2873

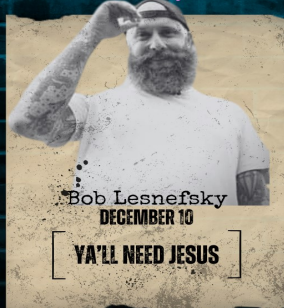
Vicki Roiger 507-822-1504

Deadline: January 22nd, 2024

The Diocese of New Ulm presents

COR NIGHT

Two Nights! Two Big Speakers!



Join us for an energetic evening of entertainment, great food, a captivating speaker, and some time of Eucharistic adoration. Show up hungry for truth (and pizza). Leave feeling satisfied.



LOCATION: ST. ALOYSIUS, OLIVIA
FOR YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12
EVENT IS FROM 4-8PM! DOORS OPEN AT 3:30PM
COST: \$20
TO REGISTER: dnu.org/cor-night

Office of
Youth & Young
Adult Ministry



RIVERBEND TEC
Together Encountering Christ

February 17-19, 2024
Holy Redeemer School Marshall, MN

Spend some time with Jesus during Lent in this 3-day weekend experience of the Paschal Mystery. Anyone 16 years+ is encouraged to attend. For more information and to register, visit riverbendtec.org or use the QR code.