



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

January 14, 2024
2nd 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 Jan 15	No Mass <i>1 Samuel 15:16-23; Mark 2:18-22</i>
Tues Jan 16	(Spfld) No Mass <i>1 Samuel 16:1-13; Mark 2:23-28</i>
Wed Jan 17	(Lamb) No Mass <i>1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Mark 3:1-6</i>
Thur. Jan 18	(Sanb) No Mass <i>1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Mark 3: 7-12</i>
Fri. Jan 19	(Spfld) No Mass <i>1 Samuel 24:3-21; Mark 3:13-19</i>
Sat. Jan 20	(Spfld) 5:30pm Mass +Liola Cornelius <i>2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Mark 3:20-21</i>
Sun. Jan 21	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Francis Gervais (Lamb) 10:30am Mass –For the People <i>Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20</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.

Saint Sava

A.D. 1175–1236

Patron Saint of: Serbia, Education, and Medicine

Symbols: Holding a Book

Feast Day: January 14

Feast Day Shared by: Saint Felix

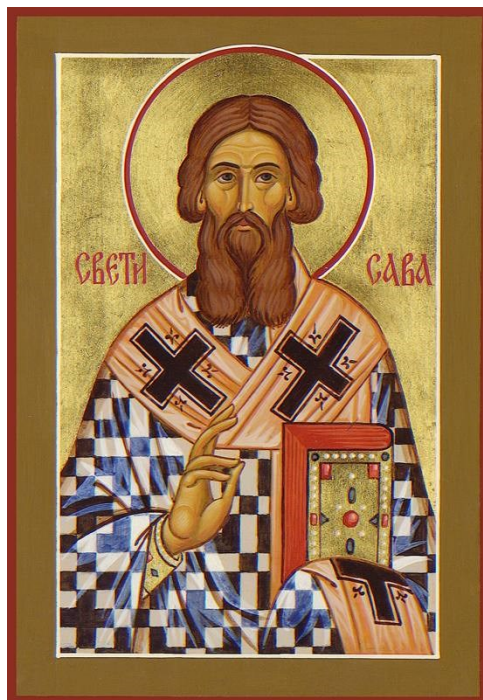
There is nothing more powerful than authenticity. Great leaders don't lead with words, they lead with action. Example trumps all else when it comes to leadership. It doesn't matter how grand your vision is or how good you are at communicating that vision. Being willing to get in and do what you are asking others to do will always be respected by those you are trying to lead. How does the old saying go?

“What you do screams so loudly that I cannot hear what you say.”

Saint Sava didn't just preach humility. He left his life as a Serbian prince, became a monk, and changed his name. He didn't just preach living an ascetic life away from society. He climbed Mount Athos in Greece to live in a mountaintop monastery.

Saint Sava knew that Serbia needed a spiritual revival, so he founded the Serbian Orthodox Church and became its first Archbishop. He knew Serbia needed greater access to education, so he founded centers of learning like the Studenica Monastery. He knew the Serbian Church needed a formal code of worship, so he wrote it: *The Nomocanon*.

The list goes on and on. The point is, Saint Sava led by example, and others followed. He was a great leader. Where are you called to be a leader in your life? Maybe it's as a parent, raising children. Let your example inspire your children to love and serve others. Maybe it's at work, taking on bigger responsibilities. Be an example of diligence and hard work. Maybe it's in your parish, helping others encounter God. Let them see you live faithfully and joyfully. Whatever the case may be, lead by example, and soon you'll find others following.



Dynamic Catholic: Saint of the Day

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

Jan 14	10:30am	Mass
Jan 17		NO Mass
	6:30-7:30pm	Faith Formation Classes
Jan 18		NO Mass—St. Thomas
Jan 21	10:30am	Mass

This week we remember *these people in our prayers.*
Kurt Jensen and Ken & Laurice Kastner

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

St. Joseph Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	62,000.00	\$33,384.68	\$35,537.76
Student	\$250.00	\$134.68	\$187.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$1,346.24	\$1,863.65

January 21 Ministries

Lector Emily Scheffler
EMC Anthony Axford
Servers Maia Scheffler & William Frasher
Sacristan Teresa Wenisch
Ushers Pat Schroepfer & Jason Axford
Gift Bearers Jeremiah Frasher Family
Money Counters Doreen Kronback & Diane Arnsdorf

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph	
Adult Envelope	\$1,020.00
Student Envelope	\$7.00
Loose Plate	\$10.00
Christmas	\$100.00
Total	\$1,137.00

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, January 17

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

A reminder that on Sunday, January 28th and Sunday, February 4th, St. Joseph's will have Mass at 8:30am. Coffee and rolls will be served after the January 28th Mass. Please mark your calendar.

St Joseph's CCW is again taking donations for the Revere Home residents. We will start collecting now and 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 Maynards where they get taken to buy their own treats. Thank you in advance for helping take care of our neighbors in need.

We are in need of someone to bring Eucharist to Valley View Manor on the second, third, and fourth weeks of the month (the first week Father has Mass at VVM). If you could do this, please contact Sue at 507-829-1846.

Thank you



~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$180,384.68	\$203,656.14
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$592.48	\$0.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$592.48	\$0.00

The 400 Club Winners this Week


#154	Pat & Amy Vogel	\$65.00
#78	Shane Dauer	\$65.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group C~

January 20 & 21, 2024

	5:30pm	8:30am
Servers	VOLUNTEER	Paul Goedtke
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Lector	Denise Reiner	Jim Miesen
EMHC	Dcn Barry Reindl	Dcn Barry Reindl
Accompanist	Erin Cowan	TBA
Song Leader	Erin Cowan	TBA
Rosary	VOLUNTEER	Jim Miesen
Head Usher	Mike Reiner	Arland Roiger
	George Tauer	Cher Roiger
	VOLUNTEER	Bracey Lerner
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Videographer	Elliott Maleska	

Last week's Parish Revenue	
Adult Envelopes	\$6,730.00
Loose Plate	\$525.53
Christmas	\$250.00
Thanksgiving	\$50.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$225.00
DUF	\$35.00
School Teacher Support	\$55.00
Fuel & Heat	\$55.00
Adopt a Student	\$30.00
Red Heart Envelope	\$25.00
Candles	\$15.00
Coffee Connections	\$12.25
Total Income	\$8,007.78




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.

Father Jeremy will be away until January 20. If you have any Sacramental emergencies while he is away, please call Father Tony in Redwood Falls at 507-644-2278.


Upcoming VIRTUS Training Sessions

✠ A new VIRTUS Training Session has been added for **Sunday, January 14, 2024, from 1:00-4:00pm at St. Aloysius, Olivia.**


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.




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).



Congratulations to Vivian Vonne Beyer, daughter of Ryan & Julia Beyer, as she recently received the Sacrament of Baptism and was welcomed into the Holy Catholic Church and the St. Raphael Parish Community!




Congratulations to Anna Kate Hillesheim, daughter of Matthew & Emily Hillesheim, as she recently received the Sacrament of Baptism and was welcomed into the Holy Catholic Church and the St. Raphael Parish. Community!

~Church of St. Raphael~


Meetings & Activities

Jan 14	8:30am	Mass
Jan 15		NO School—MLK Day Parish Office Closed
Jan 16		NO Mass 4:00-5:30pm Atrium
Jan 17	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
Jan 18	6:30pm	CCW Meeting
Jan 19	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You NO Mass
Jan 20	5:30pm	Mass
Jan 21	8:30am	Mass
		Rolls sold after Mass




The Parish Office will be CLOSED
Monday, January 15, 2024.

There will be a **CCW meeting** on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 6:30pm in the Gathering Space. All members are welcome to attend.



Coffee Connection has begun and we are looking for people willing to help serve coffee and treats on Sundays after mass. You can find the sign up sheets in the Gathering Space on the counter by the sink. Contact Vicki Roiger 507-822-1504 if you have



That Man is You meets in the Church Basement on Friday mornings from 6:30—7:30am. All men ages 18 and up are welcome!

Please remember in your prayers:


✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:
Father Steven Verhelst

Please pray for our parishioners this week~

Sun: Marlys Platz
Mon: Vernon & Laura Platz Family
Tues: Andrew & Brooke Plotz Family
Wed: Elaine Polzin
Thur: Brianna Portner
Fri: Dan & Darla Portner
Sat: Robert & Jessica Potter Family

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


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

 **YouTube**

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

~Good Neighbor Thrift ~

Monday 9:30-3:00
Tuesday-Friday 9:30am-4:00pm
NEW WINTER HOURS
January 15-19
50% off Bedsheets & Blankets
Now accepting Fall/Winter Clothing Donations



St. Raphael Parish is looking for both youth (grade 9 and up) and adults to usher at our weekend masses. If this is something that you would be interested in, please contact the Parish Office at 507-723-4137. Students, this is a great way to earn some community service hours and it looks great on scholarship applications!

USHERS

~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!

School Schedule With Inclement Weather: Our school shares bussing with Springfield Public Schools and therefore, we try to keep roughly the same school calendar as they do. If there is inclement weather, we follow what the public school does. This means that if they have a late start, we have a late start. If they do not have school, we do not have school. The public school utilizes digital days, whereas we do a traditional snow day. Our Education Committee has approved 5 snow days per year. Local radio stations and news outlets will announce Springfield Public Schools are closed or delayed. This means that St. Raphael Catholic School is also closed or delayed. If there is a two hour delay for school, that means there is no preschool that day and school begins at 10:00A.M. We will serve breakfast on those late start days from 9:45-10:00A.M.

Catholic United Financial Raffle: This Friday, we will kick off our Catholic United Raffle fundraiser. This has been a very successful fundraiser for us the past two years! Ticket sales will go from January 12th 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. 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>

Catholic Schools Week decorating: Do we have any volunteers who wish to decorate the school gym and hallways before Catholic Schools Week? The plan is to do this on Saturday January 27th. Please contact Brooke Plotz or Lisa Landkammer if you can help! If you do not have their contact information, please let me know and I can help you get in touch with them!

Build Your Own Burger (BYOB) and CSW Mass: Our Catholic Schools Week Mass and Build Your Own Burger celebration meal is on Sunday January 28th at 10:30AM (Mass) with the meal to follow. Please join us for this special event!

Catholic Schools Week: Catholic Schools Week begins with our kickoff Mass on Sunday January 28th and continues until February 3rd. Catholic Schools Week is one of the most anticipated weeks of the school year and truly a *celebration* of who we are as a Catholic school! It includes our special Mass and meal, service projects so students can put their faith into action, fun activities that help draw us closer together as a school family, fun dress up days, and a field trip or two! More information about these special events will be coming soon!

Upcoming Dates:

Friday January 12: No Mass (father gone)

Monday January 15: No School- Teacher In-service

Friday January 19: No Mass (father gone)

Friday January 26: Staff Mass

Sunday January 28: Catholic Schools Week Mass at 10:30AM, Build Your Own Burger meal after Mass until 1:00PM

January 28-February 3: Catholic Schools Week

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.



There will be **NO school at St. Raphael** Monday, January 15, 2024 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day



St Raphael School will be selling rolls after Mass on Sunday, January 21, 2024.

~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

How did we get to the middle of January already!

We have had one week of our book study *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist* with 13 adults in attendance. I still have books if you would like to join us – the books are free and you will receive the topic questions before hand. All information is located on the faith formation table in the gathering space. We will meet for the next 7 Sundays at 6:30pm in the Holy Family room to discuss that week’s chapter.

I strongly encourage you to sign up for a FORMED account. The Faith Formation program pays for this format for you to use free of charge. It has many great movies, series, Bible studies, theology talks and is a great resource to use to help learn more about your faith. Check it out! Here is the log in information.

Search Formed.org and at the top right side click on “Sign up”. Then choose “As a parishioner”. It will ask you to create an account – this is free! Type in “Vine and Branches AFC”. Click on the drop down for Springfield, MN then click next. Type in your name and email address.

We even have it on our smart TV! Wondering where to start? This Man is You group has watched “The Search” and we use the program “Symbolon” for our RCIA programs.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, January 17

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

Youth Choir Schedule

Wednesday, January 17

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



Week 8 WORKS OF MERCY

Eucharistic REFLECTION: Can you think of a time when someone did something kind or helpful for you? Maybe they paid for a meal when you were short-changed or made you chicken noodle soup when you were sick. Perhaps it was offering prayers for you or a loved one in a difficult season of life. The smallest, simplest gestures can have profound effects.

As followers of Christ, we are called to serve those in need. But it isn’t always easy to serve others, especially when the people that we serve don’t seem to appreciate our help or reciprocate with any kindness themselves. Of course, we aren’t called to serve others when it is easy or even when it makes us feel good about ourselves.

Christ gave Himself even though we didn’t earn it or deserve it. When the truth dwells in our hearts, “love can also blossom as a response within us”. When you have experienced the grace of God, you want to show the grace of God. When you receive mercy, you desire to extend mercy.

There are countless ways we can help others. However, the Church has given us the works of mercy as charitable actions to aid our neighbor. Instructing, advising, consoling and comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. Corporal works of mercy consist of feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned and burying the dead.

Today, let us be mindful of those around us and the opportunity we have to meet them in their needs.

PRAYER: Lord, thank you for the gift of today. As you have loved us, let us now do the same for others. We pray that we may be given the opportunity to be your hands and feet in this world. When it is difficult, grant us the grace to pour ourselves out for others, just as you have done for us. May your Holy Spirit give us the strength needed to serve those in our path. Amen

CHALLENGE: Choose one Corporal Work of Mercy and one Spiritual Work of Mercy that you can perform. Paragraphs 2447-2448 in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* has more information on the Works of Mercy.

~Upcoming Area Events~

The Church of St. Michael in Morgan
Invites you to our

**70TH
ANNUAL
MEN'S SAUSAGE
DINNER**

**SUNDAY
JAN 28th 2024**

**SERVING FROM
11A.M.-1P.M.
AS SUPPLY LASTS**

**DRIVE-THRU,
TAKE-OUT ONLY
\$14 A DINNER**


SERVING SAUSAGE, MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY,
CORN, COLESLAW, DINNER ROLL,
APPLESAUCE AND ICE CREAM.

DINNER CAN BE PICKED UP
AT THE CHURCH PARKING LOT.

ALSO

Pre-Packaged Rings for Sale \$7.50/each





Jesus and the Eucharist

Join a small group for discussion on the Eucharist in this seven-part series from FORMED. The same discussion will take place each week but on the two different dates/times.

Tuesday Evenings
January 30, February 6, 13, 20, 27, March 5, 12
starting at 6:30pm

Thursday mornings
February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, March 7, 14
starting at 9:00am

Register by contacting Karen Reindl at
mrsreindl@straphaelpk-6.com



BE A Totus Tuus Missionary
DIOCESE OF NEW ULM

EXPERIENCE A LIFE-GIVING SUMMER!

- Evangelization!**
Spread the Faith to hundreds of people all summer long. From adolescents, to teens, to adults, you will have the opportunity (and be given the skills) to tell the world about the good news of Jesus Christ!
- Formation!**
Formation doesn't end after training week. Every Friday, teams gather together to hear talks, share a meal, meet with the director, and to share stories from the mission field. Adoration, Confession, and spiritual direction are offered as well.
- Community!**
Travel around the beautiful Diocese of New Ulm with three other zealous young adults and meet up with the other teams every Friday. Spend the last two weeks of the summer with all of the missionaries serving as counselors at our diocesan camps.



dnu.org/totus-tuus-missionary **APPLY NOW!**



Diocese of New Ulm



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 DeYounge 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