



# Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

[www.vineandbranchesafc.org](http://www.vineandbranchesafc.org)

January 21, 2024  
3rd 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 22	<b>No Mass</b> 2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10; Mark 3:22-30
Tues Jan 23	<b>(Sanb) 8:00am Mass</b> +Rosemary Fromm 2 Samuel 6:12b-15, 17-19; Mark 3:31-35
Wed Jan 24	<b>(Lamb) 8:00am Mass</b> +Jim Wenisch 2 Samuel 7:4-17; Mark 4:1-20
Thur. Jan 25	<b>(Spfld) 8:30am Mass</b> +Carl & Mary Bates Acts of the Apostles 22:3-16; Mark 16:15-18
Fri. Jan 26	<b>(Spfld) 8:30am Mass</b> +Frank Marz 2 Timothy 1:1-8; Mark 4:26-34
Sat. Jan 27	<b>(Spfld) 5:30pm Mass</b> –Dennis & Janice Meidl 2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mark 4:35-41
Sun. Jan 28	<b>(Lamb) 8:30am Mass</b> +Cy & Carol Steffl <b>(Spfld) 10:30am Mass</b> –For the People Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28

## Church of St. Raphael & Area Office

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

Email: [staphael@newulmtel.net](mailto:staphael@newulmtel.net)

### Prayer Chain

Karen Brandl 507-920-6709

## Church of St. Joseph

400 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, PO Box 458  
Lamberton MN 56152

& St. Thomas Oratory, Sanborn MN  
507-752-7269

Email [stjoseph@centurylink.net](mailto: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](mailto:fatherjeremykucera@gmail.com)

### Deacon

Dcn. Barry Reindl Phone: 723-5952  
[barkmr7@gmail.com](mailto:barkmr7@gmail.com)

### Parish Secretary

Raquel Kieper 723-4137  
[staphael@newulmtel.net](mailto:staphael@newulmtel.net)

### Parish Bookkeeper

Connie Vogel 723-4138  
[cvogel@newulmtel.net](mailto:cvogel@newulmtel.net)

### Faith Formation/Youth Ministry

Karen Reindl  
[mrsreindl@staphaelpk-6.com](mailto:mrsreindl@staphaelpk-6.com)

### School Principal

Beth Steffl 723-4136  
[mrssteffl@staphaelpk-6.com](mailto:mrssteffl@staphaelpk-6.com)

### School Secretary

Trisha Ludewig 723-4135  
[straysschooloffice@newulmtel.net](mailto: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 Agnes

A.D. 291–304

**Patron Saint of:** Young Girls, Chastity, and Victims of Rape

**Symbols:** A lamb and a Martyr's Palm

**Feast Day:** January 21

A seismic shift occurs in our spiritual lives when we stop asking God for what we want and begin to ask The Big Question.

This is The Big Question: "God, what do you think I should do?" When we start asking God for advice, direction, inspiration, and guidance, this is a significant moment. When we stop asking him for things, for favors, and for our will to be done, we open ourselves to his wisdom.

Saint Agnes started asking The Big Question at a young age. Even though she only lived to thirteen years old and little is known about her, she is one of the most revered saints in the Catholic Church.

Agnes was raised in a Christian home in Rome when Christianity was still illegal. As she grew older, her beauty drew the attention of many high-ranking suitors. When they proposed marriage, Agnes asked The Big Question: "God, what do you think I should do?" In response, she felt God calling her not to marry. So she rejected all their proposals.

Angered by her refusal, one of the rejected suitors exposed her Christian beliefs to the authorities, leading to her arrest. Even in the face of execution, Agnes sought God's will, asking, "God, what do you think I should do?" She held steadfast to her faith, and as a result, was killed for it.

For Saint Agnes, The Big Question was not a one-time event. It was a guiding principle of her life, a question she asked over and over again. May it be the same for us. Ask The Big Question today, whenever you have a decision to make. Ask it again and again, and soon you'll find yourself living out God's dream for you.



Dynamic Catholic: Saint of the Day

# ~Church of St. Joseph~

## Meetings and Activities

Jan 21	10:30am	Mass
Jan 23	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Mass—St. Thomas</b>
Jan 24	8:00am	Mass—St. Joseph
	6:30-7:30pm	Faith Formation Classes
Jan 25		NO Mass—St. Thomas
Jan 28	<b>8:30am</b>	Mass

### St. Joseph Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
<b>Adults</b>	62,000.00	\$34,576.99	<b>\$35,537.76</b>
<b>Student</b>	\$250.00	\$139.49	<b>\$187.00</b>
<b>Loose Plate</b>	\$2,500.00	\$1,394.32	<b>\$1,863.65</b>

No Mass held January 14, 2024  
No Collection Received

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.

This week we remember *these people in our prayers.*  
*Kevin & Teresa Kastner and Wayne & Diane 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

### January 28 Ministries

<b>Lector</b>	Jane Zimmermann
<b>EMC</b>	Teresa Wenisch
<b>Servers</b>	Celia Vogel & Lou Vogel
<b>Sacristan</b>	Jeff Strock
<b>Ushers</b>	Larry Weber & Vern Hillesheim
<b>Gift Bearers</b>	Mike Hubert Family
<b>Money Counters</b>	Cathy Graff & Marg Weber

### Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

**Wednesday, January 24**

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 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

**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](http://riverbendtec.org) or use the QR code.

# ~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$186,826.99	<b>\$204,676.14</b>
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$613.64	<b>\$0.00</b>
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$613.64	<b>\$0.00</b>

## The 400 Club Winner this Week

#341 Marlene Kosel \$150.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group C~

### January 27 & 28, 2024

	5:30pm	10:30am
<b>Servers</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	St. Raphael Student
	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	St. Raphael Student
<b>Lector</b>	Jack Hartjes	St. Raphael Student
<b>EMHC</b>	Jack Hartjes	Dcn Barry Reindl
<b>Accompanist</b>	Erin Cowan	Sharon Pieschel
<b>Song Leader</b>	Erin Cowan	St. Raphael Students
<b>Rosary</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>
<b>Head Usher</b>	Terry Ochs	St. Raphael Student
	Cathy Ochs	St. Raphael Student
	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	St. Raphael Student
	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	St. Raphael Student
<b>Videographer</b>	St. Raphael Student	

### Last week's Parish Revenue

Adult Envelopes	\$1,020.00
Immaculate Conception	\$5.00
Christmas	\$20.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$20.00
DUF	\$2.00
Red Heart Envelope	\$50.00
Teacher Support	\$50.00
Capital Improvement—Playground	\$1,750.00
Fuel & Heat	\$100.00
Adopt a Student	\$225.00
Candles	\$68.00
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$536.66
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$3,846.66</b>



**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.

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

*...God speaks.*

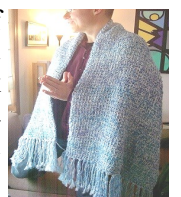
The Broom Tree Retreat is for those in grades 9-12 looking to "go deeper" in their relationship with Christ. Daily Mass, adoration, talks, games, and silence refresh and renew your soul. Register now to get away from the craziness of life and spend time with the Lord.

- To register, go to [dnu.org/btr-registration](http://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.



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).

**SUPPORT THE CUF RAFFLE**  
**St. Raphael School** will once again participate in the Catholic United Financial Raffle! Raffle tickets were sent home on Friday, January 12. 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!



# ~Church of St. Raphael~

## Meetings & Activities

Jan 21	8:30am	Mass
		Rolls sold after Mass
Jan 23		<b>NO Mass</b>
	4:00-5:30pm	Atrium
	5:00pm	PTT Meeting
Jan 24	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
Jan 25	8:30am	Mass
	5:00-7:00pm	2nd Grade First Reconciliation
Jan 26	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
	8:30am	Mass
Jan 27	5:30pm	Mass
Jan 28	<b>10:30am</b>	Mass—Catholic Schools Week
	11:00am-1:00pm	Build Your Own Burger Meal

*Please remember in your prayers:*

✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:

*Father Steven Verhelst*

***Please pray for our parishioners this week~***

Sun: Dale & Rosie Potter

Mon: Roger & Julie Prechel

Tues: David & Melissa Prokosch

Wed: Ethel Quinlan

Thur: Alex & Samantha Ramsbacher Family

Fri: Dean Rans

Sat: Cynthia Reese

*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.



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



**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!



**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

## ~Good Neighbor Thrift ~

Monday 9:30-3:00

Tuesday-Friday 9:30am-4:00pm

**NEW WINTER HOURS**

**January 22-26**

**January 25—Last Thursday of the Month  
50% off all Clothing**

Anniversary Sale Winners: Lois Mattson, Sue Christensen & Lowell Helget

Guessing Game Winners: Crissy Rogotzke & Loni Hoffman (15 was the correct number)

Coloring Contest: Connie Helget's Daycare

Now accepting Fall/Winter Clothing Donations



**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!



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

## ~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:** Last Friday, we kicked 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>

**Teacher In-Service:** This past Monday, the teaching staff and I spent the day working on curriculum, looking at new math materials, and testing data. We looked at our students' test scores from fall to winter in order to see where they had grown and what skills they still need to work on! We also took a look at some new math materials, and discussed how to intentionally bring Catholic Identity throughout our curriculum, starting with Math. Additionally, we assessed our current Social Studies curriculum to see if we had all the resources we needed to teach it! It was a productive day!

**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!

**Open House:** St. Raphael Catholic School will be hosting an open house after Mass on Sunday January 28th during the Build Your Own Burger meal (11:30-1:00.) If you would like to tour the school, please meet just outside the school office and an Education Committee Member would be happy to take you around to see the school, preschool, and daycare! If you haven't walked around in a while, if you are interested in sending your children to school here, or if you're simply curious, stop by for a tour! We would love to show you around!

**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 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.



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

## ~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

Please pray for our second graders as they receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this Thursday, January 25. Most are pretty excited about receiving this sacrament of God's Grace and Mercy. Thank you to parents for preparing your children and to Lauren Vogel and Bev Krueger their Wednesday night catechists.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

### Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

#### Wednesday, January 24

6:00-7:00pm Faith Formation Classes grades 1-6

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

### Youth Choir Schedule

#### Wednesday, January 24

5:00-6:00pm Children's Choir Practice

6:00-7:00pm Praise & Worship Choir Practice



NATIONAL  
Eucharistic  
Revival

### Week 9 MISSION

**REFLECTION:** Congrats! You've made it to week nine of our meditations from the National Eucharistic Revival!

However, this is far from the end – it is only the beginning. Pope Francis reminded the faithful of our call to mission in 2019 when he said, “I am a mission, always; you are a mission, always; every baptized man and woman is a mission.....Each of us is a mission to the world, for each of us is the fruit of God's love.”

The rhythm of the Church has always been to gather and then to scatter. We come together as a Church every Sunday to be renewed and refreshed by the Eucharist. From there, we are called to spread the fragrance of Christ to all the world. These simple meditations have been a building a foundation to empower you to bring all those who will listen to the Good News that the “Eucharist is God's response to the deepest hunger of the human heart, the hunger for authentic life, for in the Eucharist Christ Himself is truly in our midst, to nourish, console and sustain us on our journey.” (Pope Francis)

Each of us is called out of infinite love to a unique mission. We have been given gifts, skills and opportunities to be used to build up the kingdom of God. Sometimes it can be difficult to know how God is asking you to serve, but that does not mean you have no mission. Mission doesn't necessitate going to a third-world country. For most of us, our mission can be found right where we are. IF we have eyes to see, we will find a vast mission field full of opportunities within our own homes and communities. The fact that you have breath in your lungs is living proof that God still has a purpose for you.

If you are unsure where God is asking you to fulfill your missionary calling, a simple place to start is by looking at what skills and traits you possess that you can use to assist others. Are you great at math? Perhaps you can be a tutor for the youth in the area. Do you have a good grasp of Sacred Scripture? Could you use your knowledge to start a Bible study? Make no mistake, mission isn't always easy. But God gives us all we need for the task, and we can be renewed in grace every week – or even more often! The Eucharist nourishes and empowers our souls to be sent forth each week to bring Christ to the world.

**PRAYER:** Lord, you have given everything to us. Today, we offer back to you every good gift we have received. We pray that you use our talents and abilities for your glory and the service of your Kingdom. Grant us eyes to see the needs of those around us and the courage to serve faithfully, so that through us, others may come to know, believe, and love you, all for your glory. Amen.

**CHALLENGE:** You've now completed this nine-week journey of prayer and reflection; it's time to bring it to others. Find three people with whom you can share this experience, focusing on how you have encountered God through this prayer exercise. You can even invite those three people to partake in the Jesus and the Eucharist video study that will be beginning. See bulletin for more information.



~Upcoming Area Events~



Please Join Us!  
Catholic School's Week  
Kickoff


## BUILD YOUR OWN BURGER

for a good cause

**Sunday, January 28, 2024**  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
St. Raphael Auditorium  
Springfield, MN 56087

**\$8.00 Plate includes:**  
Burger or Hotdog, Beans, Potato Chips,  
Cookie and Beverage  
**Take outs available**

SUPPORTING OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
"PRICELESS"



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](mailto:mrsreindl@straphaelpk-6.com)

*The Diocese of New Ulm presents*

# COR NIGHT

»»» Two Nights! »»» Two Big Speakers!



**Bob Lesnefsky**  
DECEMBER 10  
**YA'LL NEED JESUS**



**Lisa Cotter**  
FEBRUARY 13  
**RELATIONSHIP GOALS**

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](http://dnu.org/cor-night)





## Sparkle and Dine

*7<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's event held at the Springfield Community Center February 12<sup>th</sup>, 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**