



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

January 28, 2024
4th 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 29	No Mass 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Mark 5:1-20
Tues Jan 30	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Gloria Ryan 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Mark 5:21-43
Wed Jan 31	(Lamb) 5:00pm Mass -Catholic Order of Foresters Note Members Time 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17; Mark 6:1-6 Change
Thur. Feb 1	(Sanb) 8:00am Mass +Bernie Radtke 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; Mark 6:7-13
Fri. Feb 2	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Cecelia Joyce Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40
Sat. Feb 3	(Spfld) 5:30pm Mass +John Gluth 1 Kings 3:4-13; Mark 6:30-34
Sun. Feb 4	(Lamb) 8:30am Mass +Anna Maria Kusber (Spfld) 10:30am Mass -For the People Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39

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

Deacon

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

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 everyone is doing well. I've been hearing that there has been a fair number of people who have been coming down with some form of sickness or another lately. It's that time of year we are all familiar with and it can be a tough time for families. You're in my prayers.

Some of you have been asking me to share a little bit about my recent time away on vacation and how it went. Usually that is something that I would not write about, but there are a few things that come to mind that I think may be good to share.

Firstly, I noticed once I got to Italy that I was really tired. After taking some time to sit back and reflect it kind of dawned on me how much the move to our AFC took out of me. I have considered it a real blessing to be here, and I am happy to be here with you. But everything is new over and over again. That extra newness to life really requires more energy and maybe some of you have moved recently and know what I am talking about. While everyone knows who you are, the new guy has to focus on learning hundreds of names and how they are all related. So, I think maybe that's why I was more tired than usual on vacation. The rest was a welcome gift. And the benefit of it all is that God really took care of us and blessed our time.

What were some of the highlights that are worth sharing? There was a museum I came across that I had not visited in Rome after all the time that I have spent there as a student and leading pilgrimages for youth and adults. It was the Diocletian baths. Seeing the massive bath house of ancient Rome and the marvel of how they plumbed the water and had hot, lukewarm and cold baths around 2,000 years ago is extraordinary in and of itself. But what really caught my attention were all of the pagan statues that have been preserved. We are so used to Christian imagery and symbolism in many areas of our life that it's just taken for granted. Seeing the normal art, architecture and statues of a pagan world were altogether different. Massive statues of the heads of bulls and goats were quite creepy, but also telling of a time without Jesus Christ. The barbaric reality of what life was like without a society built around Christian principles really jumped out to me at that museum. It was a wonderful lesson to behold and taught me how much I need to be grateful for living in a place and time where the true God had been revealed to us and has given us a life full of faith and hope that no one and nothing can take and destroy.

Another highlight worth sharing was being able to be in St. Peter's square with thousands of pilgrims to greet Pope Francis and pray the Angelus with him. Seeing people from every corner of the world gathered together and belonging to the same Church founded upon the rock of St. Peter is always special. Growing up I could never really understand the significance of something beyond my small town and parish until I lived in Rome. That time really helped me to see that I belong to something far greater than where I grew up so that I could always feel I have a home in the Catholic Church no matter where in the world I lived. My prayer is that the Lord will grant us an opportunity to take a pilgrimage together to Rome so that we can encounter the Universal Church in a powerful and moving way. Sometimes I find we can be too attached to our own parish and lose sight that we belong to something greater than just the church in our local communities.

Lastly, being able to say mass and pray for all of you at some really special places meant a lot to me. We were able to say mass at the tombs of St. Peter, St. Monica, and St. Francis of Assisi along with many other amazing places. Tying the heroes of our past to the present and feeling connected to our brothers and sisters who spent their lives handing on the faith so that it could be given to us is always special.

I look forward to celebrating Catholic Schools week at St. Raphael's and meeting more families. Please pray for us at the school that we grow day by day in our faith and really share the joy of Jesus Christ with those we serve.

I'd also like to ask all of you to keep our Confirmation students in your prayers. Their big day is coming up soon and I pray that each student is open and receptive to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

God's blessings,

Fr. Jeremy

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

Jan 28	8:30am	Mass
Jan 31	5:00pm	Mass—St. Joseph
	6:00pm	AFC Joint Admin Mtg at St. Raphael
	6:30-7:30pm	Faith Formation Classes
Feb 1	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
Feb 4	8:30am	Mass

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

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	62,000.00	\$35,769.30	\$36,917.76
Student	\$250.00	\$144.30	\$195.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$1442.40	\$1,930.65

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph

Adult Envelope	\$1,380.00
Student Envelope	\$8.00
Loose Plate	\$67.00
Building Fund	\$100.00
Candles	\$2.00
Total	\$1,557.00

This week we remember *these* people in our prayers.
Douglas & Jody Kircher and Jim Kretsch

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 4 Ministries

Lector Doreen Kronback
EMC Gordy Wille
Servers Otto Hubert & Adeline Wenisch
Sacristan Cathy Graff
Ushers Jim Imker & Mike Hubert
Gift Bearers Mike Hubert Family
Money Counters Marg Weber & Kylee Jenniges

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, January 31

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

A reminder that on Sunday, February 4th, St. Joseph's will have Mass at 8:30am. Please mark your calendar.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$193,269.30	\$209,315.14
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$634.80	\$0.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$634.80	\$0.00

The 400 Club Winners this Week

#57	Caroline Welsch	\$65.00
#193	Neil & Alissa Roiger	\$65.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group C~

February 3 & 4, 2024		
	5:30pm	10:30am
Servers	VOLUNTEER	Oliver Ludewig
	VOLUNTEER	Andrew Reindl
	—————	Paul Goedtke
Lector	Bev Fults	Jeff Strock
	—————	Dan O’Callaghan
EMHC	Bev Fults	Dcn. Barry Reindl
Accompanist	Sharon Pieschel	Adult Choir
Song Leader	TBA	Adult Choir
Rosary	VOLUNTEER	TMIY Group
Head Usher	VOLUNTEER	Steve Woidylla
	VOLUNTEER	Donna Woidylla
	VOLUNTEER	Mike Rothmeier
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Videographer	Christina Reindl	

Last week’s Parish Revenue	
Adult Envelopes	\$4,639.00
Loose Plate	\$527.30
Solemnity of Mary	\$30.00
Easter	\$100.00
DUF	\$20.00
Teacher Support	\$90.00
Faith Formation Support	\$20.00
CCW	\$5.00
Fuel & Heat	\$35.00
Adopt a Student	\$325.00
Capital Improvement—Playground	\$360.00
Total Income	\$6,151.30

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.

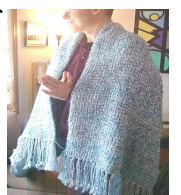
The Broom Tree Retreat is for those in grades 9-12 looking to “go deeper” in their relationship with Christ. Daily Mass, adoration, talks, games, and silence refresh and renew your soul. Register now to get away from the craziness of life and spend time with the Lord.

- To register, go to dnu.org/btr-registration.

- 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! 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 28	10:30am	Mass-Catholic Schools Week
	11:00am-1:00pm	Build Your Own Burger Meal
Jan 30	8:30am	Mass
	4:00-5:30pm	Atrium
Jan 31	5:00-6:00pm	Children's Choir Practice
	6:00pm	AFC Joint Admin Mtg at St. Raphael
	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 2	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
	8:30am	Mass
Feb 3	5:30pm	Mass
Feb 4	10:30am	Mass—Confirmation

Please remember in your prayers:

✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:

Father Steven Verhelst

Please pray for our parishioners this week~

Sun: Jason & Alicia Reese Family

Mon: Dcn. Barry & Karen Reindl Family

Tues: Bob & Jill Reiner

Wed: John & Lisa Reiner

Thur: Leah Reiner

Fri: Mike & Denise Reiner Family

Sat: Wally & Myrtle Reiner

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.



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 questions.



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!

~Good Neighbor Thrift ~

Monday 9:00am-3:00pm

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

NEW WINTER HOURS

January 29-February 2

50% off All Women's Tops

Now accepting Winter Clothing Donations

Spring is in the Air

Over 20 Vendors & Crafters

Vendor/Craft Fair

Watch for more details!

Saturday March 2nd, 2024
Springfield Area Community Center

9 AM - 2 PM

Proceeds from this event benefit St. Raphael Catholic School PTT



USHERS

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!

~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 second week of our Catholic United Raffle fundraiser. This has been a very successful fundraiser for us the past two years! 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 \$710 of CUF ticket sales!** 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 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>

Build Your Own Burger (BYOB) and CSW Mass: Our Catholic Schools Week Mass and Build Your Own Burger celebration meal is this week 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 this week after Mass on Sunday January 28th during the Build Your Own Burger meal (11:00-1:00.) 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:

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

January 30: School Mass @8:30AM, led by Grade 6

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.



Catholic Schools Week

January 28 - February 3

Faith. Excellence. Service

~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

Congratulations to the second graders on receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this past Thursday, January 25.

Please pray for those preparing for Confirmation. Next Sunday, **February 4 is Confirmation Mass at 10:30am**. This year there are 35 who have prepared to be confirmed. Confirmation is one of three Sacraments of Initiation. The other two are Baptism and Holy Eucharist. The remaining 4 Sacraments are: two Sacraments of healing are Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick and the two Sacraments at the Service of Communion (Vocation) are Holy Orders and Marriage.

Elementary Update for February: First Grade will finish their Mass booklets and begin the Stations of the Cross. Second Grade will begin their preparation to receive the Holy Eucharist on April 21. Third grade will continue their unit on the seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church. Fourth grade will finish the exiles and finish the Old Testament. Fifth grade will prepare and lead the elementary students in praying the Stations of the Cross on Wednesday, February 28. Join us if you are able. Sixth grade will finish the lessons on miracles and turn their attention to Holy Week readings.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, January 31

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 31

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

St. Thomas Aquinas

A.D. 1225–MARCH 7, 1274

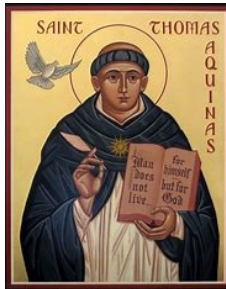
Patron Saint of: Academics

Symbols: The Sun

Feast Day: January 28

Canonized: July 18, 1323

Canonized By: Pope John XXII



For much of his childhood, Thomas Aquinas was known as the “Dumb Ox” because of his large size and slow speech. Little did his peers know they were mocking one of the greatest minds in human history.

Over the 2,000-year history of Catholicism, Thomas Aquinas is among the greatest theologians and philosophers the Church has known. Many believe his intellectual contribution to be unmatched. His theological treatise *Summa Theologica* is still read in universities across the world.

Brilliant as he was, Thomas was intimately aware of two important truths that elude many great minds.

The first was this: The longest journey we make is from the head to the heart. It is a spiritual journey, a pilgrimage of prayer. We think of the heart as emotional, and it is, but it is also deeply spiritual.

This was the second: There is a vast difference between knowing about God and knowing God.

Saint Thomas Aquinas wasn't just a brilliant mind. He was a man driven by a deep love for God. He was a man of deep prayer. And at the very center of his life, the source of his wisdom and joy, was the Eucharist. The same man who used Aristotelian philosophy to define Transubstantiation—the moment the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ—could hardly speak at times during the Mass because he was so moved when he participated in the actual miracle.

Thomas Aquinas' example invites us to ask some powerful questions about our own lives: Am I living my life from the mind? Am I living my life from the heart? Or have I found the delicate balance between the heart and the mind where love and wisdom reside?

And most importantly: Do I know *about* God or do I truly *know* God?

~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

The Diocese of New Ulm presents

COR NIGHT

»»» Two Nights! »»» Two Big Speakers!



Bob Lesnefsky
DECEMBER 10
YA'LL NEED JESUS



Lisa Cotter
FEBRUARY 18
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





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