



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

January 7, 2024
The Epiphany of the Lord

*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 8	(Spfld)	No Mass <i>Isaiah 55:1-11; Mark 1:7-11</i>
Tues Jan 9	(Spfld)	No Mass <i>1 Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28</i>
Wed Jan 10	(Lamb)	No Mass <i>1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39</i>
Thur. Jan 11	(Sanb)	No Mass <i>1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45</i>
Fri. Jan 12	(Spfld)	No Mass <i>1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2:1-12</i>
Sat. Jan 13	(Spfld)	5:30pm Mass +Nick Wenisch <i>1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Mark 2:13-17</i>
Sun. Jan 14	(Spfld) (Lamb)	8:30am Mass –For the People 10:30am Mass +Arnold Helget <i>1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20; John 1:35-42</i>

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 you have all had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Man, that was a quick six months since I first arrived here, and I am grateful for the time that I have had here with all of you. But you know what? I'm tired and am going on my first big vacation since I arrived. After mass this Sunday some of my friends and I will be flying out in the evening.

Now some of you may be wondering where I am going and what I will be doing. Last spring before I moved here some of my friends and I were just visiting, and we ended up talking about how we've been saying for the past 15 years that at some point we were going to go to Rome together. So, on the spot we decided to take a look and see how much the tickets would cost. To our surprise the tickets ended up being 30,000 frequent miles a piece, which is the equivalent of \$300. Immediately we bought our tickets and are able to fly over for free with the use of the miles that had accrued over the years. Please pray for us that it is renewing and that we get the rest we need to come back and jump into things in the dead of winter. We're especially looking forward to our time in Assisi. Two of us will have the privilege of spending three days on a silent retreat while we're over there.

All of you will be in my prayers as we head over. Some of the places that we will say mass at and pray for you will be at the tomb of St. Peter, the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi, the tomb of St. Monica, the tomb of St. Ignatius of Loyola and many others as well. We'll be sure to stay out of the line of sight of Pope Francis so that we don't get any extra jobs (ok that would never happen anyway, but we'll wave to him for you).

While I am over there, I will be doing some prep work for a potential pilgrimage with some of our high schoolers and their family members and other parishioners that are interested in going next year. A bunch of the kids were excited about the idea when I visited with them a couple of weeks ago. They didn't know that I had led a number of these pilgrimages with teens throughout my priesthood and so we'll see what happens. The rough plan would be to fly over the day after Christmas and come back on or around January 5th so that they miss very little school.

Why next year? Next year it will be the 27th ordinary jubilee year of the Catholic Church. The last ordinary jubilee happened in the year 2,000. Rome is expecting 35 million people to be making their way on pilgrimage. What is a jubilee year about? Here is a link that you can look it up yourself to see what the Church is getting ready: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

Let's keep this in prayer and see if God blesses it and desires that we take the kiddos over for a much broader experience of their faith and world. There's world altering history, life altering faith, some of the most beautiful art and architecture in the world, and the most amazing food and fun to be had all in the same place.

God's blessings,

Fr. Jeremy

P.S. While I am getting some rest there won't be articles for the next couple of weeks.

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

Jan 7	10:30am	Mass
Jan 10		NO Mass
	6:30-7:30pm	Faith Formation Classes
Jan 11		NO Mass—St. Thomas
Jan 14	10:30am	Mass

This week we remember *these people in our prayers.*
Margaret Jenniges and Marlys Jenniges

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	\$32,192.37	\$34,517.76
Student	\$250.00	\$129.87	\$182.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$1,298.16	\$1,853.65

January 14 Ministries

Lector Doreen Kronback
EMC Gordy Wille
Servers Koyer Alms & Riley Alms
Sacristan Cathy Graff
Ushers Jim Imker & Mike Hubert
Gift Bearers Katie Alms Family
Money Counters Teresa Wenisch & Katy Wille

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, January 10
 6:30-7:30pm Faith Formation Classes

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph	
Adult Envelope	\$2,272.00
Student Envelope	\$5.00
Loose Plate	\$39.00
Candles	\$4.00
Christmas	\$850.00
DMA	\$100.00
Christmas Flowers	\$25.00
Total	\$3,295.00

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

Special Thank You's to:

*Emily Scheffler, Kiki Hubert, Jared Wenisch, Anita Vogel & Katie Alms (our Elementary CCD teachers) for their help with the Children's Christmas program—they did GREAT!

*Doreen & Sally Kronback, Robyn & Anna Schroeffer—the handmaids in the kitchen—they made and served the lunch after the Christmas Program.

*Our Liturgical Committee: Doreen Kronback, Pat Story, & Marlene Schroeffer, along with all of their helpers, for the beautiful Christmas decorations at St. Joseph's.

*Those that sang in our Christmas Eve choir—John & Brenda Derickson (trumpets/flute) - you did a great job! And the young children who sang "Away in A Manger."

*Kiki Hubert for volunteering to do the Ministry List.

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	\$173,942.37	\$196,926.14
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$571.32	\$0.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$571.32	\$0.00

The 400 Club Winners this Week		
#261	Joel Heiling	\$65.00
#169	Clarice Platz	\$65.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group C~


January 13 & 14, 2024		
	5:30pm	8:30am
Servers	Oliver Ludewig	Andrew Reindl
	Jaden Walter	TJ Reindl
Lector	Bev Fults	Pat Dauer
EMHC	Dcn Barry Reindl	Dcn Barry Reindl
Accompanist	Julie Prechel	Kathleen Goedtke
Song Leader	TBA	Adult Choir
Rosary	VOLUNTEER	Jackie Roiger
Head Usher	Dean Walter	Mike Reiner
	Alexis Walter	Luke Roiger
	VOLUNTEER	Brooklyn Sturm
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Videographer	Brayden Sturm	

Last week's Parish Revenue	
Adult Envelopes	\$18,184.00
Loose Plate	\$667.00
Christmas	\$970.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$295.00
Christmas Flowers	\$255.00
Fuel & Heat	\$100.00
School Gift	\$20.00
Adopt a Student	\$2,575.00
Playground Donation	\$1,195.00
Candles	\$20.00
Coffee Connections	\$34.67
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$857.55
Total Income	\$25,173.22

Thank you to our Decorating Committee for all of their hard work in getting our church ready for the birth of our Savior.

Father Jeremy will be away January 7—January 20. If you have any Sacramental emergencies while he is away, please call Father Tony in Redwood Falls at 507-644-2278.

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).

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.



Update

Many people no longer have a land line phone number and we do not have a cell phone number to contact parishioners. Please share your cell phone number with us so we can keep communication up to date.

Name _____

Cell Phone # _____

Turn in at the Parish Office or Sunday collection.
Thank You.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

Jan 7	8:30am	Mass
Jan 9		NO Mass
Jan 10	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 12	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
		NO Mass
Jan 13	5:30pm	Mass
Jan 14	8:30am	Mass
		Coffee Connection

Please remember in your prayers:

✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:

Father Steven Verhelst

Please pray for our parishioners this week~

Sun: Jalen & Mariah Pietig Family

Mon: Matthew & Ashley Pietig Family

Tues: Joel Pingeon Family

Wed: John Pistulka

Thur: Steve Pistulka

Fri: Candice Platz Family

Sat: David Platz 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

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

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

~Good Neighbor Thrift ~

Monday 9:30-3:00

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

NEW WINTER HOURS

January 8-12

Anniversary Sale January 12th

50% off Storewide

Sign up for drawings

Refreshments on Friday

Now accepting Fall/Winter Clothing Donations

An Epiphany Prayer

Lord Jesus, may your light shine our way,
as once it guided the steps of the magi:
that we too may be led into your presence
and worship you, the Child of Mary,
the Word of the Father, the King of nations,
the Saviour of mankind;
to whom be glory for ever.

(Frank Colquhoun)



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!

Back At It: This week is a shorter week of school due to the New Year on Monday. Students were back to school Tuesday– Friday this week as they began the 3rd quarter of school. 2nd quarter report cards were sent home with students Friday January 5th.

NWEA: Students in K-6 will begin their NWEA Map Growth tests next week and will test the next two weeks. Our students take these standardized tests three times a year. Our K-2 students are tested in the areas of reading and math. Our 3-6 grade students are tested in the areas of reading, math, language and science. The fall tests give us a baseline score for students. The tests are one tool for us to see if students need extra help or interventions in an area, or to see if they are really excelling in an area. As we look at the winter scores compared to the fall ones, we see if students are growing. If we see growth, we know things are going well, if we do not see growth, or if we see decline, that helps guide our instruction. When we test our students in the spring, we hope to see growth in each area from fall to spring. This helps us see patterns where students, grade levels, or areas of the curriculum might need to tweak instruction or instructional materials. Our NWEA tests are one of the many teaching tools we use to help our students!

Upcoming School Masses: Please join us for school Masses at 8:30a.m.

Friday January 5: Grade 4 leads

No Mass January 12th or 19th (Father is away)

Friday January 26: Staff Mass

Catholic Schools Week Mass Sunday January 28 @ 10:30 a.m. followed by our Build your Own Burger meal

Education Committee Meeting: Our Education Committee will meet on Thursday January 11th at 5:00PM for our regular monthly meeting.

CUF Raffle: Next week, we will kick off the Catholic United Financial raffle. This has been a great fundraiser for our school when we began doing it again the last two years (after taking several years off!) Last year we brought in over \$9,000 that went toward our new school playground fund! The year before that, we brought in \$14,000 that went toward our new school bleachers. We hope to bring in \$12,000 this year. This year the funds will directly support the daily operation of the school. The fantastic thing about the CUF fundraiser is that every single penny raised, we get to keep right here at St. Raphael! All of the fantastic prizes that are given away for the raffle are donated to CUF or purchased by CUF. Ticket sales will begin next week and will go for 6 weeks. If you would like to purchase tickets, please see a St. Raphael Catholic School student or come to the school office to purchase them.

Catholic Schools Week: Catholic Schools Week kicks off with a special Mass on Sunday January 28th at 10:30 followed by our Build Your Own Burger dinner. Please join us for this special event! Catholic Schools Weeks goes from January 28th- February 3rd. Throughout the week, we will celebrate what it is to be a Catholic School, participate in field trips, do service projects, have dress up days, and show appreciation for our School community.

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 ~

I ask that you please keep our students in your prayers in the coming weeks. Second graders are making final preparations for receiving their first reconciliation on January 25. Confirmation will be on Sunday, February 4 at 10:30am Mass in Springfield. Reminder to these students that all requirements must be completed and forms all turned in by this Wednesday, January 10.

Sunday, January 7 is the first night of the book study *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist*. We will meet in the Holy Family Room in the church basement at 6:30pm. These books were a generous donation so come and learn “the Secrets of the Last Supper”. Books and guides are available on the faith formation table in the gathering space.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, January 10

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 10

5:00-6:00pm Children’s Choir Practice

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



JESUS and the
JEWISH ROOTS of the EUCHARIST

Unlocking the Secrets of the Last Supper
BRANT PITRE
Preface by SCOTT HAHN

Join us for this 8-part BOOK discussion

Books are free thanks to a generous donor!

Register and receive your free book by contacting Karen Reindl at
mrsreindl@straphaelpk-6.com

We will discuss the introduction and Chapter 1

Sunday, January 7, 2024

at 6:30pm

in the Holy Family Room

The next gathering will be decided upon January 7.



NATIONAL

**Eucharistic
Revival**

Week 7 PILGRIMAGE

REFLECTION: There are two types of people in the world: those that like to hit the open road and those who prefer to stay at home. Whether or not you prefer to stay on your couch nestled under a cozy blanket or enjoy a long road trip with loved ones, a great form of piety that can foster our Sacramental life is to make a pilgrimage. Of course, to make a pilgrimage is different from other road trips, and the idea of pilgrimage can feel foreign in today’s world. However, a pilgrim” is one who journeys for a religious reason. The endpoint of the journey is typically a holy place, perhaps a church or shrine, but the end goal is altogether different than a vacation spot. Pilgrimage is not simply about landing at a geographic location but about transforming the heart.

You may have heard of pilgrimages to Lourdes, the Holy Land or perhaps the Camino. All of these are amazing opportunities to encounter God’s grace. Yet, traveling across the world is not the only way to experience pilgrimage. Anything that intentionally turns our mind to eternity and renews our prayer can be a pilgrimage. The truth is the Church on earth is constantly on pilgrimage toward heaven.

Whether or not a pilgrimage to the Holy Land or Rome is in your future, each of us can make our weekly venture to the Sunday liturgy a private pilgrimage because, at the altar, Jesus meets us and presents Himself to us as food for our journey forward. Today let us take an intentional step toward eternity with the confidence that Jesus is with us.

PRAYER: Jesus, we know that this world is not our home. Thank you for being our faithful companion on this pilgrimage. We pray that you grant us the grace to continue this journey forward, that each day we may take a step closer to you and your perfect will for our lives. Be our strength as we experience the ups and downs of life. Remain with us as we continue our way home to you.

CHALLENGE: Pray about whether God is calling you on pilgrimage. If so, how? Is your parish or diocese planning a pilgrimage in the near future? Or make a pilgrimage to Mass on Sunday, naming a specific intention that you offer up when you receive the Blessed Sacrament.

~Upcoming Area Events~



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



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



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!**

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.



If you or someone you know are interested in receiving Meals on Wheels, please contact Diane Johnson at 507-227-1056 to be placed on the list.



Save your pop tabs and bring them into the School Entry and add them to our pop tab collection house. Once the house is full, we will make a delivery to Cash Heemeyer in Marshall so he can deliver them to the Ronald McDonald House.