

Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

July 2, 2023 13th 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 July 3		No Mass Ephesians 2:19-22; John 20:24-29
Tues July 4		No Mass Genesis 19:15-29; Matthew 8:23-27
Wed July 5	(VVNH)	1:30pm Mass Genesis 21:5, 8-20a; Matthew 8:28-34
Thur. July 6	(Sanb)	8:00am Mass +Bobby Frericks Jr. Genesis 22:1b-19; Matthew 9:1-8
Fri. July 7	(Spfld)	8:30am Mass +Loretta Wenisch Genesis 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67; Matthew 9:9-13
Sat. July 8	(Spfld)	5:30pm Mass +Alvin Prechel & Gerald Juenemann Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29; Matthew 9:14-17
Sun. July 9	(Spfld) (Lamb)	8:30am Mass +Caroline Fromm 10:30am Mass –For the People Zechariah 9:9-10; Romans 8:9, 11-13; Matthew 11:25-30

Sacrament of Reconciliation

[⊕]Saturday 4:30—5:15pm at St. Raphael

[⊕]Wednesday 7:15-7:45am at St. Joseph

[⊕]Wednesday 6:30-7:30 pm at St Raphael

♦ Prayer Chain

507-920-6709, 507-276-2887, 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 fee 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 \$10.00Bulletin Deadline: Wednesday at 1:00pm

Church of St. Raphael & Area Office

20 W Van Dusen Street ~ 507-723-4137 Springfield MN 56087 Email: <u>straphael@newulmtel.net</u> **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 Email <u>stjoseph@centurylink.net</u> Prayer Chain– Sue Imker 507-829-1846

Pastor

Fr. Jeremy Kucera Phone: 507-828-5247 fatherjeremykucera@hotmail.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 Bev Krueger 723-4135

straysschooloffice@newulmtel.net

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!

This is Fr. Jeremy Kucera and I just wanted to take the time to introduce myself a bit since some of you have probably been wondering what this new priest is going to be like. I have to admit that it was quite a surprise to be asked by Bishop Zielinski to come to the Vine and Branches AFC. While I knew that there was a chance that I could be moving since I just finished nine years in the St. Isidore the Farmer AFC, I didn't know that Fr. Garrett was in the process of discerning a vocation with the Jesuits. He had been here such a short time that it never crossed my mind that this AFC would be in need of a new pastor. Well, I guess you were in need and I happily accepted the assignment.

I have been asked to tell you a little bit about myself. I am 46 years old and have been ordained for 19 years now. I grew up on a small dairy farm in Silver Lake, MN. Now I know some of you are probably wondering what kind of ethnic background that means since I was told at the nursing home Wednesday morning that this area is heavily populated with German descendants. For the first time in my priesthood I have been assigned to an area that should be kind of similar to where I grew up. Silver Lake was predominantly Polish and Bohemian when I was a child, and my mother's hometown of Winsted was predominantly German. If you do the math I am 25% Polish, 25% Bohemian and 50% German. I don't have a card in my wallet to prove it, but the mere fact that my family makes about 300 gallons of sauerkraut every year should be sufficient evidence (although I have been experimenting the last few years with increasingly spicier kraut from jalapenos to ghost peppers).

It didn't take long for everyone in my family to figure out that I was not meant to be a farmer, although I greatly appreciate the gift of being able to grow up on one. To our surprise, the priesthood wasn't exactly on anyone's radar either, including my own. It took the Lord allowing some pretty drastic events to unfold in my life to get my attention. When I was younger I was simply to self-absorbed and only wanted to play sports. While my family always went to mass and we had the privilege of going to Catholic schools from first grade through high school graduation, my faith was immature at best. It wasn't until I almost died as a freshman in high school and had my knee shredded at a basketball camp the following summer that things started to develop a bit in regards to the priesthood (although I wouldn't know it at the time).

While I spent the next year pondering a bit more deeply on the meaning of life and wondering why I didn't die, a friend of mine came up to me one day and asked me if I would like to go on a retreat with him and some other friends. My initial reaction was simply no. I told him I never liked how the youth group kids acted and how it sometimes felt like they were being overly energetic, but in an insincere fashion at times. He knew that was partly true as kids were simply trying to find their way through life, but he persisted. He continued the pursuit by saying how I would get out of the house for the weekend and that was intriguing as a break from parents and chores as a teenager is something everyone understands as we yearn for more and more freedom at that age. What sealed the deal is that he said there would be a bunch of real cute girls on the retreat. I thought about it for two or three seconds and said, "Sam, I want to go on retreat!" Needless to say, my motives were not for the Lord.

The funny thing is, God used all of this stuff to simply lure me into a moment where I would be removed from the hustle and bustle of the world. Once I found myself in an environment to be able to listen to God and be in a more receptive posture, Jesus made himself known to me in a deeper and more concrete way for the first time. It was then and there where I was able learn of his love, forgiveness, mercy and compassion. God was exactly what my heart had been looking for my entire life, even though I didn't know it and I didn't realize that I was looking for him in worldly things.

It only took about five months after that initial encounter to come to a place of being able to receive the call to the priesthood. That is another story in and of itself, but for the time being I think that's about enough for now.

Again, I am happy to be here and am grateful for the call to serve you as your new pastor. I'm hoping to take this year to get to know you and the learn the lay of the land. I don't come with any big plans or ideas. Getting to know you is the first step. Then whatever I discover I will take to the Lord in prayer and ask Jesus what he would like for us. So you help me pray for that too, ok?

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has welcomed me into our AFC and that has helped with the moving and cleaning of the rectory. You've been very hospitable and helpful. Thank you!

God's blessings,

Fr. Jeremy

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

July 2	10:30 am	Mass
July 5	1:30pm	Mass—Valley View Nursing Home
July 6	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
July 9	10:30am	Mass

St. Joseph Contribution Budget July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023					
Annual Budget Budget to Date Received to Date					
Adults	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.20	\$70,062.86		
Student	\$300.00	\$300.04	\$214.95		
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.16	\$2,484.92		

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph			
Adult Envelope	\$925.00		
Student Envelope	\$5.00		
Loose Plate	\$48.00		
Peter's Pence	\$125.00		
Total	\$1,103.00		

We have Mass intention availability at both St. Joseph and St. Thomas. If you would like to have a Mass said in honor or in memory of your loved one, please contact Raquel at the Parish Office, at 507-723-4137 to reserve a date.

> If we will walk humbly with our God, He will lead us by the hand to exactly who and what we need, to those people, things, and experiences He has designed and intended for us, and this alone will be the cause of our deep fulfillment and happiness.

> > Matthew Kelly

www.idlehearts.com

This week we remember *these* people in our prayers. Larry & Marge Weber and Ralph & Judy Weber

Our Shepherd of the field: <i>Father Matt Wiering</i> ~Please also pray for those in need ~				
Bruce Olson	Mary Arnoldi	Pat Dauer		
Barb Axford	Linda Riley	Bob Peterson		
Brett Baumann	Marcie Anderson	"Pickle" Riley		

	July 9 Ministries
Lector	Jeff Strock
Lector EMC	Teresa Wenisch
Servers	Sydney Vogel & Otto Hubert
Sacristan	Jeff Strock
Ushers	Mike Hubert & Bill Schaffran
Gift Bearers	Vogel Family
Money Counters	Katy Wille & Kylie Jenniges



The Red Cross Lamberton community blood drive will be Thursday, July 13, 2023, from noon to 6 PM at the Lamberton Legion. If you are interested American Red Cross in donating and would like an appointment for that day, please contact Deb Furth @ 507 -227-3293, Jan Benedict at 507-221-1966, or make your appointment on-line at www.redcross.org. We would appreciate your donation as there is a blood shortage and all donations are very much appreciated.

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend renews the promises vou made to each other on vour wedding day. Experience an enrichment for your marriage that will good marriage great! The make your next available Weekends are Nov 17-19, 2023 in WINDOM, MN and Oct 6-8, 2023 in Buffalo, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: southmnwwme.org or contact Miki at <u>applications@southmnwwme.org</u> or 507-227-8229.

Upcoming VIRTUS Training Sessions

[⊕]A new VIRTUS Training Session has been added for Thursday, July 6, 2023, from 1:00pm-4:00pm at **Diocese of New Ulm.**

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.



~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023					
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date		
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$335,000.12	\$326,576.48		
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.32	\$556.00		
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.32	\$10.00		

Last week's Parish Revenue				
Adult Envelopes	\$9,442.00			
Loose Plate	\$290.00			
Capital Improvement	\$100.00			
Adopt a Student	\$3,110.00			
Red Heart Envelope	\$100.00			
Diocesan United Fund	\$100.00			
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$494.98			
Total Income	\$13,636.98			

Next week we will take up the Peter's Pence Collection to support the Universal Church and the work of the Holy See, including helping Pope Francis to carry out his charitable works. These works benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters.



Address, Phone, Membership Changes?

Please remember to update the office on any address, phone, or membership changes for yourself or your children, especially if they have completed their post-high school education. Thank you!

Prayer to St. Raphael

The Archangel St. Raphael, the Archangel, Great prince of the heavenly court, you are radiant with your gifts of wisdom and grace. You are a guide of those who journey, the consoler of the afflicted, and refuge of sinners. Because you are the "Healing of God," we pray you to heal the many weaknesses and ills of our body, mind, and soul, and to assist us in our needs and sufferings in this

> life. St. Raphael,

As once you helped young Tobias, we ask you to guide and lead our youth, to serve Almighty God with their whole strength and to spend their lives gladly to serve the Church as priests, Brothers, and Sisters. Amen.

The 400 Club Winners this Week

#391	Margaret Gostonczik	\$65.00
#103	Kelsey Vogel	\$65.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group H~

July 8 & 9, 2023

	5:30p	om	8:30am	
Servers	Kallen Riederer		VOLUNTEER	
	Zoie R	liederer	Paul Goedtke	
Lector	Laura	Bast	Mariah Pietig	
ЕМНС	Laura	Bast	Dcn Barry Reindl	
Accompanist	Sharon	n Pieschel	ТВА	
Song Leader		TBA	ТВА	
Rosary	Jane Ir	lbeck	VOLUNTEER	
Head Usher	ead Usher Keith Riederer		Tim Kuisle	
	Jill Rie	ederer	Karla Kuisle	
	VOLUNTEER		VOLUNTEER	
V		LUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	
Videographer		Noah Riede	erer	

~Good Neighbor Thrift ~

Monday9:00am-12:00pm Tuesday-Friday 9:00-5:00pm Saturday 9:00am-12:00pm

June 3-July 8 Women's Tops—Buy 1 Get 1 Half Off Closed Tuesday, July 4th

Now accepting donations

St. Raphael's Adult Choir is in need of new choir robes and stoles. We estimate our current robes are almost twenty-five (25) years old. Each robe and matching stole cost around \$120. The Choir would like to purchase thirty (30) robes. If you would like to donate, make your check payable to **St. Raphael's Church** and **earmark your check for Choir Robes.** Any amount is so appreciated. Thank you for your support of our music ministry!

St. Johns Lutheran Church, Springfield, offers a **free** meal every Thursday evening from 5:30-6:30pm. There is **no** cost to those who attend. Everyone is welcome.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

July 2	8:30am	Mass
July 4		NO MASS
July 7	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
	8:30am	Mass
	9:30am- 4:00pm	Adoration
July 8	5:30pm	Mass
July 9	8:30am	Mass

Summer Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:00am-12:00pm Friday CLOSED

Hours may vary, please watch bulletin for notices.



The Parish Office will be CLOSED Tuesday, July 4, 2023, in observance of Independence Day.



Please remember in your prayers:	AM .
✤ Our Shepherd of the Field:	
Father Jeremy Kucera	U
Please pray for our parishioners this week~	
Sun: Margaret Gostonczik	
Mon: Tim & Julie Gramentz	
Tues: Michael & Sandra Granda Family	
Wed: John & Evelyn Grausam	
Thur: Anthony Groebner Family	
Fri: David & Sandy Groebner Family	
Sat: Delbert & Amanda Groebner Family	
Weekly Candle Intentions (\$5.00 offering)	
Special Intentions	
Special Intentions DGF	
-	

Check out Channel 8–Cablecast

* St. Raphael Sunday Mass

Every Tuesday at 5:00 pm & Friday at 6:00 pm *Crossing the Goal: Marks of a True Christian— Episode 10

Every Tuesday at 11:00am & Thursday at 7:00pm

We are beginning to collect donations for the Silent Auction for the 2023 Fall Festival. If you are interested in donating, please contact Sarah Boettger (507-227-5597) or Mariah Pietig (507-822-2634) before preparing your donation. We would like to make sure we have a variety of baskets/items and can help with theme ideas to ensure there are not several similar baskets. If you would like to donate but not prepare a basket, we will also accept monetary donations to put toward baskets that we can assemble.



~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.

S.M.A.R.T. Training: Last week, I attended a three day conference in Minneapolis about children, brain development, and learning readiness. The acronym S.M.A.R.T stands for Stimulating Maturity through Accelerated Readiness Training. This research-based strategy for helping students succeed was so much fun to learn about. The premise of the training was to take students through a variety of exercises in order to intentionally stimulate certain parts of their brain and sensory systems. Many gross motor activities help with balance and vision and therefore early reading readiness. Some of the best gross motor exercises for children to do in order to attain learning readiness are creeping (what we think of as crawling), the alligator crawl, hopscotch, balancing on a balance beam, and pencil rolls. The training also talked about certain basic vision exercises, auditory exercises, and fine motor exercises in order to stimulate optimal learning readiness. Mrs. Hovland attended one of these conferences last summer and has implemented some of these activities into her preschool program. I look forward to sharing these ideas with the rest of our staff, sending some of the other staff to a training, and implementing these ideas within our school programs.

Daycare Update: Our daycare is scheduled to open on September 11, 2023. Katie has been working very hard to set up the room and obtain the needed materials! She has also been busy connecting with families on our waiting list and securing enrollment for when we open. Thanks to Bev for all her work in ordering all the items needed! Greg has been working with contractors and vendors to finish up all the final building and maintenance things needed before opening such as adding extra outlets in the room and getting the sink working. I will update everyone when we have more to share!

Part-time Daycare Employee Needed: We are seeking a part-time daycare employee that will begin on September 11, 2023. I will share a job posting with more details on our school Facebook page very soon. Qualified applicants should be flexible, love working with children, and be willing to do the necessary trainings required. Prior experience in a daycare setting is not required, but experience with children is preferred. If you or someone you know is interested, please have them send a cover letter, two letters of recommendation and a personal resume to mrssteffl@straphaelpk-6.com.

School/Teacher Update: We are still seeking and wanting to hire a 4th grade teacher and a 5th grade teacher. Please encourage any educators you know to talk to me or apply. To apply- applicants should email a cover letter, two letters of recommendation and a personal resume to mrssteffl@straphaelpk-6.com. We still plan to move forward during the 2023-2024 school year with preschool through grade 6 plus our new daycare program.

Shoe Drive: So far, we have collected 650 pairs of shoes for our shoe drive! We need 2,500 pairs by August 7th! This helps us raise money for our school, reduces waste in landfills, and helps people in developing countries start their own business. If you have extra shoes that your children have outgrown or have some that you are not using, please bring them in! We have a collection box in the church gathering space.

Blessings,

Mrs. Beth Steffl





Save your pop tabs and bring them into the Gathering Space 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.



Help our environment & Choices **Pregnancy Center, Redwood Falls** ~ In an effort to raise money for Choices Pregnancy Center, Redwood Falls, we are asking that you please donate all empty/used Inkjet

Cartridges. Cartridges should be placed in a Ziploc/ plastic bag to prevent leakage and dropped off at church.

Parts of the Mass week 5:

The first main part of the Mass is called the Liturgy of the Word. What is liturgy? The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 1069 tells us that the word "liturgy" means "the participation of the People of God (that's us) in the work of God". We are invited by Jesus to be a part of this "peek into heaven" that we call the Mass! Not to just sit there and half listen but to fully focus on the words, sing, pray and give ourselves to God.

Who's word will we hear? The very Word of God to us! The lector lends God their voice as they read from scripture. Liturgy of the Word is so much more than us listening to a story. We are participating in the very Word of God!

The first reading is from the Old Testament except during the 8 weeks of Easter when the first reading is from the book of Acts of the Apostles. Why do we listen to the Old Testament? Because it prepares us for the New Testament fulfillment. For example, when you hear that it is the saving blood of the sacrificed lamb that saved the Israelites from the Egyptians so they can enter into the promised land from the Old Testament book of Exodus, you can better understand why Jesus is referred to as the Lamb of God whose saving blood is given to us in communion so that we can enter heaven! Listening to the Old Testament should comfort and encourage us because it shows us how God has loved his people.

After the first reading is the responsorial psalm. The book of Psalm is actually a song book!

The second reading is always from the New Testament. Most of these are the letters that were written to new churches to help guide the faithful in how to be good Christians, how to teach others about the faith and to encourage them to be strong, even when they are being persecuted. We still need this guidance, teaching and encouragement today.

After hearing the first and second readings we now have the "backstory and theme" to be prepared to hear the Gospel. The word Gospel means "Good News", good news indeed!

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Teens, get your service hours completed in a fun way by volunteering to help with Totus Tuus! Volunteers will help the team with skits, walking with kids to other areas for bathroom break, snack and joining in with outside play time.

I divided each day up into two shifts, 9-11:30am and 11:30-2pm, although you can sign up for the full day! Available times are:

Two volunteers for Monday July 17 11:30-2pm Two volunteers for Tuesday, July 18 11:30-2pm One volunteer for Wednesday, July 19 9-11:30am One volunteer for Wednesday, July 19 11:30-2pm Two volunteers for Thursday, July 20 9-11:30am Two volunteers for Thursday, July 20 11:30-2pm Two volunteers for Friday, July 21 9-11:30am Two volunteers for Friday, July 21 11:30-2pm

Please email me at mrsreindl@straphaelpk-6.com with the day and times you would like to volunteer. The first to sign up gets the time! You can easily be finished with all of your service hours before the faith formation year even begins!



We are in need of student Servers for our weekend Masses. Students need to be in grade 3 or higher. Training will be made available. This is available to both girls and boys and service hours will be earned for students in grades 7-11. Please email or call the Parish Office at

straphael@newulmtel.net or 507-723-4137 if your child would like to be trained.



Only 2 more weeks before Totus Tuus Our summer vacation Bible begins! This Ture school will have two parts. Youth entering grades 1-6 will meet Monday.

July 17-Friday July 21 from 9am-2pm daily. They will participate in games, Mass, and learning through skits. A snack and lunch will be served.

Teens entering grades 7-12 will meet Sunday, July 16-Thursday, July 20 7:30pm-9:30pm. They will participate in games, adoration and engaging small group discussions and of course snacks will be served. This is the week that the NET team encouraged you to attend!

Registration form is located on the last page of this bulletin.

I am looking for parishioners to host meals for the Totus Tuus team. These meals should be simple in that the team will need to be back at Church for the evening portion of the week. The team consists of two young gentlemen and two young ladies, 4 total. Available meal dates are: Sunday, July 16 for lunch or supper Monday, July 17 for 5:30pm supper Tuesday, July 18 for 5:30pm supper Wednesday will be a potluck however if you would like to host them, the potluck could possibly be moved to a different day of the week. Thursday, July 19 for 5:30pm supper Friday, July 21 for supper Please contact Karen Reindl at mrsreindl@straphaelpk-

6.com or call the parish office (723-4137) and leave a message with your name and number.

FIT THIS PARISH PROGRAM INFORMATION

- To be kept for your information -

Cost: 1st child \$15, \$10 each additioRegistration and payment is due: July 15, 2023The grades 1-6 program starts at 9 AM on July 17, 2023and ends at 2:00 PM on July 21, 2023The grades 7-12 program starts at 7:30 PM on July 16, 2023and ends at 9:30 on July 20, 2023The location Totus Tuus will be held at is:St. Raphael Catholic Church and school. Enter through the gathering space doors.

For questions (or in case of emergency), contact: Karen Reindl, at 507-227-5667

Additional notes: please plan to bring and attend the potluck on Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Disses return this form (and novment) to:

Totis Tuus

----- cut here

YOUTH REGISTRATION FORM

- To be turned in along with payment -

Parent's Name:	Home phone: Home parish:		
Email address:			
Emergency contacts			Video/Photograph Permission
1	relationship to child	phone #	that may be taken of our child/ward during
name Participating children	relationship to child	phone #	
Child's name:	DOB:	Grade (in Fall):	
Child's name:	DOB:	Grade (in Fall):	
Child's name:	DOB:	Grade (in Fall):	
Child's name:	DOB:	Grade (in Fall):	distributed, or shown
Any allergies or conditions we a	should be aware of?		as the Diocese of New Ulm or parish sees fit.

I, ______ grant permission for the above stated child(ren) to participate in Totus Tuus and I warrant that my child(ren) is(are) in good health. In consideration of my child(ren)'s participation, I agree to indemnify St. Raphael Catholic Church and the Diocese of New UIm from any claims or lawsuits brought against St. Raphael Church /Diocese of New UIm by myself, my child(ren), or others, that arises out of any behavior by my child at Totus Tuus. I also agree to pay reasonable attorney's fees or expenses incurred by St. Raphael Catholic Church and the Diocese of New UIm in defense of such a claim/suit. As parent or guardian, I agree to all of the above-stated considerations and conditions.

Signature:

Date: