



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

July 30, 2023
17th 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 31	NO Mass <i>Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34; Matthew 13:31-35</i>
Tues Aug 1	NO Mass <i>Exodus 33:7-11, 34:5b-9, 28; Matthew 13:36-43</i>
Wed Aug 2	NO Mass <i>Exodus 34:29-35; Matthew 13:44-46</i>
Thur. Aug 3	NO Mass <i>Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38; Matthew 13:47-53</i>
Fri. Aug 4	NO Mass <i>Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Matthew 13:54-58</i>
Sat. (Spfld) Aug 5	5:30pm Mass +Ray & Loretta Roiger <i>Leviticus 25:1, 8-17; Matthew 14:1-12</i>
Sun. (Spfld) Aug 6 (Lamb)	8:30am Mass –For the People 10:30am Mass +Doris Weber <i>Daniel 7:9-10-, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Matthew 17:1-9</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

Email stjoseph@centurylink.net

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

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**
✠Wednesday 6:30-7:30 pm at **St Raphael**

◆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,

Something to keep on your radar... Sunday, August 13th, Bishop Chad Zielinski is coming to our AFC to install me as your pastor at the 8:30 a.m. mass at St. Raphael's. Members of the parish councils as well as Trustees of our parishes should be present and have a seat at the front of the church for this mass. I am not sure who all of the members of our councils are yet, but I ask that you help spread the word and make your reservations with the parish office so that we know how many seats to reserve.

I want to extend my sympathy to Sharon Ferdinandt and her family upon the passing of her husband Bob. We had his funeral mass on Tuesday morning at St. Raphael's and it was good to pray with and to meet some of her family and friends. Please keep them in your prayers.

This past week I met with some people from our area that are in the beginning stages of planning for the parish phase of our National Eucharistic revival. Please keep us in your prayers so that we are able to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Encountering the love, forgiveness, mercy, and compassion of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist is such a powerful component that leads to eternal life for so many people. To know that we always have access to literally touch Jesus on this earth never ceases to amaze me.

Remember that as you are reading this article, I will be on vacation up north. Please contact St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye if you need a priest. I will be turning my phone off during vacation.

Back to Canon Law for a bit as we continue to reflect on the topic of pastors:

Can. 524 A diocesan bishop is to entrust a vacant parish to the one whom he considers suited to fulfill its parochial care, after weighing all the circumstances and without any favoritism. To make a judgment about suitability, he is to hear the vicar forane and conduct appropriate investigations, having heard certain presbyters and lay members of the Christian faithful, if it is warranted.

I am not sure how Bishop Zielinski concluded that I was the one suited to be your new pastor. Nor am I aware of how he weighed all of the circumstances that went into his decision. In our diocese the bishop listens to the priests on the Priest Personnel Board to help give advice and recommendations on assignments. Whatever is said in those meetings is supposed to remain confidential from what I understand. If there are others that the bishop chooses to visit with before making a decision about a new assignment of a priest to a particular AFC, I am not aware of who those people are at the moment.

Can. 525 When a see is vacant or impeded, it belongs to the diocesan administrator or another who governs the diocese temporarily:

1/ to install or confirm presbyters who have been legitimately presented or elected for a parish;

2/ to appoint pastors if the see has been vacant or impeded for a year.

This canon applies to when a diocese doesn't have a bishop, but priests still need to be moved for various reasons. I know it may sound weird, but a vacant see means a diocese without a bishop. Before Bishop Zielinski arrived, our diocesan administrator was Monsignor Grams.

God's blessing upon you all!

Fr. Jeremy

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

July 30	10:30 am	Mass
	8:00am	NO Mass
Aug 3		NO Mass—St. Thomas
Aug 6	10:30am	Mass

This week we remember *these people in our prayers.*
Greg & Sandy Wille and Charles Willhite



Our Shepherd of the field:

Father Matt Wiering

~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

St. Joseph Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	62,000.00	\$4,769.24	\$3,680.00
Student	\$250.00	\$19.24	\$15.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$192.32	\$113.00

August 6 Ministries

Lector	Pat Story
EMC	Diane Arnsdorf
Servers	Otto Hubert & Adeline Wenisch
Sacristan	Diane Arnsdorf
Ushers	Vern Hillesheim & Tom Anderson
Gift Bearers	VOLUNTEERS
Money Counters	Marg Weber & Katy Wille

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph	
Adult Envelope	\$1,120.00
Student Envelope	\$11.00
Loose Plate	\$28.00
Total	\$1,159.00

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend renews the promises you made to each other on your wedding day. Experience an enrichment for your marriage that will make your good marriage great! The 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 applications@southmnwwme.org or 507-227-8229.

Father Jeremy will be away July 28-August 4. If you have any Sacramental emergencies while he is away, please call St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye.

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.





worldwide
marriage encounter

St. Mary's Parish
Alexandria, MN
October 28-29

To apply or for more info,
 visit WWME.org or call **507-227-8229**

~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$25,769.24	\$13,931.50
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$84.64	\$0.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$84.64	\$0.00

Last week's Parish Revenue	
Adult Envelopes	\$2,776.00
Loose Plate	\$608.00
Choir Robe Donation	\$500.00
Candles	\$17.00
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$461.33
Total Income	\$4,362.33

Father Jeremy will be away July 28-August 4. If you have any Sacramental emergencies while he is away, please call St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye.

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.



Please remember in your prayers **Robert Ferdinandt**, who recently passed away. We extend our prayers and sympathy to his family and friends. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.



We would like to welcome Keesha Barnes, to St. Raphael Parish Community. We are happy to welcome you to our parish family.

The 400 Club Winners this Week

#74	Kylie Vogel	\$65.00
#311	Ron & Sharon Sturm	\$65.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group I~

August 5 & 6, 2023

	5:30pm	8:30am
Servers	Belle Groebner	TJ Reindl
	Triston Groebner	Paul Goedtke
Lector	Bev Fults	Mariah Pietig
EMHC	Bev Fults	Dcn Barry Reindl
Accompanist	Sharon Pieschel	Kathleen Goedtke
Song Leader	TBA	David Goedtke
Rosary	Jane Irlbeck	This Man is You Group
Head Usher	VOLUNTEER	Luke Roiger
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Videographer	VOLUNTEER	

~Good Neighbor Thrift ~

Monday 9:00am-12:00pm

Tuesday-Friday 9:00-5:00pm

Saturday 9:00am-12:00pm

July 31—Aug 5

75% off Kids Room

Looking for volunteers on August 24th to stock shelves with new inventory.

Now accepting donations

CCW DUES...It is the start of a new fiscal year. To save on postage, we ask you to **PLEASE PAY YOUR \$35 DUES TODAY.** You can drop it in the collection, bring it to the office, or mail to Donna Krueger, 16423 County Road 16, Springfield, MN 56087. Make checks payable to *St. Raphael CCW.* **HONORARY MEMBERS ARE EXEMPT FROM PAYING DUES.** After August 30, postcards will be mailed to those who haven't paid.

CCW MEMBERS...if you are an older member and feel you no longer can be an active member due to physical or medical constraints, you can request to be put on the honorary list. You will need to contact the Parish Office or Donna Krueger (723-6395) with this request.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

July 30	8:30am	Mass
Aug 1		NO Mass
Aug 4	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
		NO Mass
Aug 5	5:30pm	Mass
Aug 6	8:30am	Mass

Please remember in your prayers:


✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:
Father Jeremy Kucera

Please pray for our parishioners this week~

Sun: Dustin & Rhonda Hauschild Family
 Mon: Gerald & LaVonne Hauth
 Tues: Kevin & Amy Hauth Family
 Wed: Michael Hauth
 Thur: Monica Hauth
 Fri: Preston & Ashley Hauth
 Sat: Roger & Diane Hauth

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

✠ Small Votive Candles are now \$1.00 each
 ✠ Large Intention Candles are now \$5.00 each



Summer Parish Office Hours
 Monday-Thursday 8:00am-12:00pm
 Friday CLOSED

Hours may vary, please watch bulletin for notices.


Check out Channel 8—Cablecast

* **St. Raphael Sunday Mass**
 Every Tuesday at 5:00 pm & Friday at 5:00 pm
 ***Real Life Catholic—Episode 2**
 Every Tuesday at 11:00am & Thursday at 7:00pm



The 400 Club ~ Please show your support for the 400 Club. Our loyal sellers are out and about selling tickets. **There are also tickets available in the Parish Office.** Please be supportive of this worthy fundraiser.

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.



Fall Festival Raffle Tickets are ready to be picked up in the gathering space.

St. Raphael Catholic Church

Fall Festival

2-LITER POP NEEDED!

The Kids Games are in need of some 2-Liter Pop Bottles for the Fall Festival! All brands and flavors are accepted and appreciated!

All pop donations can be dropped off at the Parish office.



Save THE Date



ST. RAPHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
 FALL FESTIVAL
 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH
 Mass at 10:30 AM
Watch the bulletin for more information!

~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.

Shoe Drive: So far, we have collected **1,600 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.

Daycare Update: Our daycare is scheduled to open on September 11, 2023.

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.

Blessings,

Mrs. Beth Steffl



YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR KIDS

JUST BY DONATING YOUR SHOES

We are collecting shoes again! The drop box is located in the Gathering Space. We are accepting all gently worn, used and new shoes.

Mark Your Calendar

2023-2024 School Open House

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

4:00pm-7:00pm

St. Raphael Catholic School

Catholic United Financial Matching Grant

Taco in a Bag Fundraiser

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

4:30-7:00pm

Taco in a Bag, Beverage & Cookie for \$8.00

St. Raphael School Auditorium

Proceeds benefit St. Raphael School

~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

Parts of the Mass week 9:

The Communion Rite continues with the Lamb of God. *THE* Lamb of God is Jesus. It is Jesus who takes away the sins of the world, it is Jesus who has mercy on us, poor sinners that we are.

The Lamb of God is held up for all to see as we hear proclaimed, “Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.”

We are called to the supper of the Lamb. We humbly respond with the words like the Centurion, “Lord I am not worthy, that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.” Jesus said of the centurion from Luke 7:1-10, “not even in Israel have I found such faith.”

A covenant is a promise made with God, out of love, that binds us together until death.

When we receive communion we are participating in a covenant between God and his people (us). This covenant is made by saying the words of Centurion and the eating of the Lamb which is Holy Communion.

When we are presented with the host and it is proclaimed, “The body of Christ” we should say a bold Amen to express our agreement and belief. Then we receive the host and eat it, thus sealing the covenant.

This Amen literally means, “I stake my life on it.” We should only receive communion if we truly believe that this is Jesus; body, blood, soul and divinity, presented before us. This is also why we receive communion without any mortal sin upon our souls. Just because you have had your first Holy Communion does NOT mean that you should always receive it again if you do not believe or if you have mortal sin. How do you “fix” this? Talk to a priest who can answer any questions you may have about the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and/or attend reconciliation.

After receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist we watch as the vessels are purified. This may seem like a long, unnecessary event but remember, Jesus is 100% present in the smallest of crumb or drop. Because Jesus is still present on the Altar we remain kneeling.

After communion and the purification there is silence to sit with Jesus within us. Our Savior, Our Lord, Our Creator is IN us! What a gift the Eucharist is that Jesus has given us.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Upcoming VIRTUS Training Sessions

✠A new VIRTUS Training Session has been added for **Tuesday, August 29, 2023, from 6:30-9:30pm at Church of Sacred Heart, Murdock.**

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.



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!



Catholic Charities provides personal, marriage, and family counseling. In-person sessions are now available. Call 866-670-5163 (toll free) or 507-233-5318 (local).

~Upcoming Area Events~

Fly-in/Cruise-in

Airplanes, Classic Cars & Motorcycles
and Vintage Tractors
All are welcome!



Pancake Breakfast



Sunday, July 30 8 AM-12 PM
Springfield Municipal Airport D-42

Pancakes, Sausages, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee
\$10 Adults; 5-12 years \$5; 4 years and under FREE
1 Free Breakfast for PIC, Classic Car, Motorcycle and Tractor Drivers

 Sponsored by Springfield Area Lions Club
and Springfield FFA Alumni 

Join Us for Sleepy Eye's
St. Mary's Parish Festival!
Sunday, August 6, 2023 - 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fun

Bounce House
Buggy Rides
Kids' Games
Treat Walk
BINGO!

Food

Hamburger Stand
Hispanic Food Stand
Beer Garden
1919 Root Beer Floats
Pie & Ice Cream
Shaved Ice
KC Donuts
& More!

Different For 2023

No Pork Chops on a Stick
No Marie's Cookies

Returning

Pie & Ice Cream Stand
(please donate pie!)

Music

St. Mary's Church
Members Concertina
10:30 am - 1:00 pm
Derrickson Duo
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Sign Up to Help

<https://divinemeracyafc.flocknote.com/signup/117270> or in the Church's North Addition

Festivities

Bake Sale
Farmer's Market
Treasure Alley
(bring all donations to Social Room between July 31 - August 5)
Silent Auction
(bring items to Rectory between July 31 - August 4)
Big Ticket Raffle
(drawing at 3:30 p.m.)

Please Donate

(bring all donations to Social Room between July 31 - August 5)
Games: *Bubbly, Soda, Gatorade, etc.*
Farmer's Market: *Produce*
Treat Walk: *Little Debbie or Hostess treats*
Silent Auction: *Theme Baskets, Wood Working, Home Decor, Quilts, etc.*
Bake Sale Items & Pies
Treasure Alley
(no items with electrical cords)

Summer FESTIVAL

10:00 am MASS followed by Chicken & Ham Dinner

Takeout or Drive thru only
Serving from 11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Outside and Inside - Air Conditioned Seating Available
Meal Cost: \$15
Includes: Our Famous Dressing • Corn Mashed Potatoes & Gravy • Ice Cream • Beverage

Bingo • Raffles • Games • Country Store Food & Beer Stand • Live Music Kids Pedal pull starting at 2:00


Presented by **THE CHURCH OF THE JAPANESE MARTYRS**
Leavenworth, Minnesota

Sunday, July 30, 2023

Printing provided by 

Catholic United Financial Matching Grant

Dine in or take out Taco in a Bag Fundraiser




Tuesday, August 15th 4:30-7:00 pm
Taco in a Bag, Beverage & Cookie
\$8.00

St. Raphael School Auditorium
Springfield, MN

Proceeds benefit St. Raphael School

Catholic United is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial services company, connecting people of faith, protecting their future and generously impacting parishes, schools and communities.



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