

Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

March 24, 2024 Palm Sunday of the Passion 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

	2	
Mon Mar 25		No Mass Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11Mass
Tues Mar 26	(Spfld)	8:30am Mass +Kenneth Helget Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38
Wed Mar 27	(Lamb)	8:00am Mass +Arlene Gehlen Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25
Thur. Mar 28	(Spfld)	7:00pm Mass +Leonard & Marion Roiger Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15
Fri. Mar 29	(Spfld)	1:30pm Service Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42
Sat. Mar 30	(Spfld)	8:15pm Mass +Gary Reese Genesis 1:1-2:2; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11; Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ezekiel
Sun. Mar 31	(Lamb) (Spfld)	<i>36:16-17a, 18-28; Romans 6:3-11; Mark 16:1-7</i> 8:30am Mass – For the People

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

[⊕]Tuesday after Mass at St. Raphael

[⊕]Wednesday after Mass at St. Joseph

[⊕]Sunday before Mass at St. Joseph (when Father can get there in time)

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 \$10.00Bulletin 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 507-752-7269 Email <u>stjoseph@centurylink.net</u> 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: 507-430-4349 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

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,

Below I am sharing a little bit about the beginning of the Easter Vigil and its significance (shared from the Hallow website). I want to invite you to pray about coming to the Easter Vigil this year. It is a mass unlike any other that we celebrate. I will be attentive to your desires that it not be too long, but that it will also be celebrated with reverence befitting the occasion. Enjoy below:

Biblical Roots of The Easter Vigil

As with the entirety of Holy Week, we understand the Easter Vigil first from the Bible, which tells us of Jesus's final days, death and resurrection.

But the Easter Vigil celebrates the story of salvation unfolding throughout history, and the liturgy is inspired by both the Old and New Testaments.

"By most ancient tradition, this is the night of keeping vigil for the Lord (Ex 12:42), in which, following the Gospel admonition (Lk 12:35-37), the faithful, carrying lighted lamps in their hands, should be like those looking for the Lord when he returns, so that at his coming he may find them awake and have them sit at his table." Roman Missal

The Vigil Begins: Easter Vigil Worship Place + Service of Light

On Good Friday, the altar is bare; the church sparsely decorated. Crosses and statues are covered. The next day, on Holy Saturday, there is no morning Mass before the Easter Vigil. The church remains empty, quiet and dark before the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Throughout the day, we await Christ's imminent Resurrection, resting with Him in the darkness. As Pope Francis recently said,

"There are moments when life seems to be a sealed tomb: all is dark, and around us we see only sorrow and despair ... Jesus tells us that in these moments we are not alone. Precisely in these moments He comes closer than ever to restore life to us."

The Easter Vigil that night marks the first sign of Christ's light and resurrection.

After churchgoers have filed into the church, the Easter Vigil service begins at sunset with an invitation from the priest to walk from the dark church outside to begin the Service of Light.

A fire burns, dispelling the night's darkness, as the priest takes the Paschal Candle, carves a cross and other symbols into it, and lights the candle. With incense burning, the priest passes light from the candle to smaller candles held by everyone in attendance.

The light from Christ illuminates the dark worship space. It serves as a powerful symbol, as Christ is the Light of the World. As Christ's light enters the church, it can also enter our hearts.

As Pope Benedict XVI said, "Beginning with the resurrection, God's light spreads throughout the world and throughout history. This Light alone – Jesus Christ – is the true light, something more than the physical phenomenon of light..."

It's a symbol that perhaps those in the Middle Ages were better equipped to appreciate than we do, given that light and electricity are typically abundant for us.

The Exsultet

When the procession ends, and the candle settles on its resting place, the Exsultet, also known as Easter Proclamation, begins. It's a beautiful, rich hymn that celebrates the truly holy night with words such as those below:

This is the night of which it is written: The night shall be as bright as day, dazzling is the night for me, and full of gladness. The sanctifying power of this night dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners, drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty. On this, your night of grace, O holy Father, accept this candle, a solemn offering, the work of bees and of your servants' hands, an evening sacrifice of praise, this gift from your most holy Church.

The Exsultet gives a taste of the unique Scripture and song that take place as the Vigil unfolds. God's blessings, Fr. Jeremy

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

Mar 24	10:30am	Mass—Palm Sunday
Mar 27	8:00am	Mass
	6:30-7:30pm	Stations of the Cross with Classes to follow
Mar 29	8:00pm	The Way of the Cross— Shadow Theatre Presentation
Mar 31	8:30am	Mass—Easter Sunday

St. Joseph Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024				
Annual Budget Budget to Date Received to Date				
Adults	62,000.00	\$45,307.78	\$45,346.76	
Student	\$250.00	\$182.78	\$225.00	
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$1,827.04	\$2,535.65	

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph	
Adult Envelopes	\$1,635.00
Loose Plate	\$113.00
Total	\$1,748.00



A dramatic presentation of the Passion of Jesus the Christ

Depicted in SHADOW THEATRE

Church of St. Joseph 400 2nd Ave. Lamberton, MN

8:00 PM Friday March 29, 2024

All are welcome!

This week we remember *these* people in our prayers.

Thomas & Jeri Platz and Alice Radtke Our Shepherd of the field:

Father Jeffrey Horejsi

Please also pray for those in need ~Bob PetersonMary ArnoldiPat DauerBrett BaumannLinda RileyMarcie Anderson

March 31 Ministries

LectorJeff StrockEMCTeresa WenischServersCelia Vogel & Adeline WenischSacristanCathy GraffUshersJim Imker & Mike HubertGift BearersMike Hubert FamilyMoney CountersMarg Weber & Fred Berg

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, March 27

6:30-7:30pm Stations of the Cross with Faith Formation Classes to follow.

If you have Religious articles such as crosses, rosaries, etc and no longer have a need for them but do not want to throw them away, there is a box under the church mailboxes that you can put them in.



Please pray for Scarlett Frasher as she prepares for her Holy Communion.

Address Update

Many people have moved recently and we do not have correct mailing addresses for our parishioners. Please share your new address with us so we can keep communicate up to date.

Name

New Address

Turn in to the Parish Office or drop in the Sunday Collection.

Thank you

~Church of St. Raphael~

#106

#9

Kenny Lang

Katelyn Hauth

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$244,807.78	\$249,670.95
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$804.08	\$10.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$804.08	\$0.00

Last week's Parish Revenue

Adult Envelopes	\$5,383.00
Loose Plate	\$296.00
Capital Improvement—Playground	\$100.00
Fuel & Heat	\$500.00
Easter Flowers	\$120.00
Candles	\$10.00
Total Income	\$6,409.00



The Parish Office will be CLOSED Friday, March 29, 2024 and Monday, April 1, 2024 for Easter Break.



A special Thank You to the group of parishioners who cleaned the rectory from the kitchen remodel and dining room ceiling repair. We are so appreciative of those who came in yet the work done.

multiple days to get the work done.

Many hands were needed to see this project to fruition, from parishioners who emptied the kitchen cupboards, rewired fixtures, reorganized and cleaned the multiple spaces. Thank you to the administrative council who understood the scope of this project and supported it.

Mike and Denise Reiner

A Serving next Funeral will be Group E ~ A Serving next Funeral will be for a matching grant from Catholic United Financial of up to \$1000°. A Serving next Funeral will be for a matching grant from Catholic United Financial of up to \$1000°. A Serving next Funeral will be for a matching grant from Catholic United Financial of up to \$1000°. A Serving next Funeral will be for a matching grant from Catholic United Financial of up to \$1000°. A Serving next Funeral will be for a matching for the financial of up to \$1000°. A Serving next Funeral will be for a matching for the financial of up to \$1000°. <p

The 400 Club Winners this Week

\$65.00

\$65.00

Lenten Adoration and Confession

Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 7:00pm Join us for Adoration and Confession. We will have 3 visiting priests here to help with confession.

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~Church of St. Raphael~

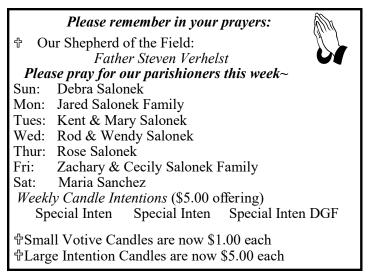
Meetings & Activities

		-
Mar 24	8:30am	Mass
		Rolls sold after Mass
	7:00pm	Lenten Adoration and Confession
Mar 26	8:30am	School Mass
	4:00-5:30pm	Atrium
	5:30-7:30pm	Rome Trip - Tastefully Simple Fundraiser in gathering space
Mar 27	1:00pm	Administrative Council Mtg
	5:00-6:00pm	Children's Choir Practice
	6:00-7:00pm	Faith Formation Classes grades 1-6
	6:00-7:00pm	Praise & Worship Choir Practice
	7:15-8:15pm	Faith Formation Classes grades 7-12
Mar 28		NO School at St. Raphael
	7:00pm	Holy Thursday Mass
Mar 29	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
		No School
	Parish Office Closed	
	1:30pm	Good Friday Service
Mar 30	8:15pm	Holy Saturday Mass
Mar 31	10:30am	Easter Sunday Mass

The 63rd Annual New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Convention will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at the Church of St. Pius X in Glencoe, MN. The theme for the convention is "Be an Instrument of Salvation."

Our keynote speaker in the morning is Kelly Wahlquist. Kelly is the founder of the national women's ministry WINE: Women In the New Evangelization and the Director for the Catechetical Institute at The Saint Paul Seminary in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

Join other women of the Diocese for Mass and the presentation of the NUDCCW Woman of the Year, along with lunch, silent auction and various exhibits and booth displays to fill the day. Early bird registration deadline is April 15th. To register contact Mariah Pietig 507-822-2634 or Sarah Boettger 507-227-5597 or on the New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women website at nudccw.org. All women 18 years and older are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Check out Channel 8–Cablecast * St. Raphael Sunday Mass Every Tuesday at 5:00 pm & Friday at 5:00 pm *Remembering Jesus: A Catholic Approach to Alzheimer's Disease—Episode 7 Every Tuesday at 11:00am & Thursday at 7:00pm

To view the Mass videos online, visit our YouTube channel and subscribe.

YouTube

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

~Good Neighbor Thrift ~ Mar 26—28

Come on in, we are excited to show you the new spring/summer arrival of clothing! Closed March 25 to flip the store and closed March 29 for Good Friday.



Save the date...our *Drive Thru* Men's Sausage Dinner will be Saturday, April 6, 2024.

In order to make this project a success; we need the help of all parishioners.

Cash Donations are needed for the dinner. Due to the fact that we do not have a federally inspected locker nearby, we are accepting cash donations to help pay for the meat. Please contact Randy Sturm 507-220-4874 or Michael Vogel 507-920-5694 by **Sunday, March 24, 2024** if you are able to help. There will be at \$1500 matching grant from the Catholic order of Foresters.

~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!

Now Enrolling: Registration is now open for the Little Panthers Preschool program (3 year olds) and our Kindergarten Readiness program (4 year olds). Our Little Panthers program meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8-11 AM and our Kindergarten Readiness program meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8-11 AM. The cost is \$13.50 per day for each of our preschool programs. Students who are eligible for our program must be 3 years old before September 1, 2024 (Little Panthers) and 4 years old by September 1, 2024 (Kindergarten Readiness.) Students must also be potty trained and be able to use the bathroom independently. To register for the 2024-2025 school year, stop in to the school office to get a registration form and return it with your \$25 registration fee. You can also call the school office and we would be happy to mail a registration form out to you!

Godly Virtues: In March, we will be focusing on respect, which is acknowledging the dignity of all people. We read this over our morning announcements every day and use it in the classrooms as we teach our students to follow Jesus. It has been fun to listen to students and staff and see how they bring the Godly virtues that we have learned so far into their day-to -day lives.

Save the Date: Our largest fundraiser of the school year is coming up on Friday May 31, 2024 from 5 PM-Midnight. This year marks our fourth annual "A Night in Havana" event. It is an adults only night out with many fun ways to entertain yourself for the evening! The event is free to attend and open to the public. It takes place in the parking lot of the church and school. This year, we will have a food truck that is available to purchase your meal, you can purchase drinks at our own Havana bar, bid on the silent and live auction items, purchase raffle tickets, and enjoy free live music by local bands Chris and Chris and The Blue Ringers. Come and join us for this fun fundraising event! All proceeds benefit St. Raphael Catholic School.

Upcoming School Masses:

Tuesday March 26--Mrs. Steffl/Staff Mass Friday April 5--6th grade leads Friday April 12--5th grade leads Friday April 19--4th grade leads Friday April 26--1st grade leads Friday May 3--2nd & 3rd grade lead (May Crowning) Friday May 10--Kindergarten leads (Kindergarten Graduation) Tuesday May 14--6th grade leads (6th Grade Graduation **Upcoming Dates:** March 25: Stations of the Cross @ 8:30 am for staff and students gr 3-6 March 28-April 1: No School, Easter break May 8: Spring Program 6:00PM May 31: A Night in Havana Fundraiser 5 PM-Midnight Mrs. Beth Steffl Blessings,



There will be **NO school at St. Raphael** on Thursday, March 28, Friday, March 29, and Monday, April 1, 2024 for Easter





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.

Upcoming VIRTUS Training Sessions

✤A new VIRTUS Training Session has been added for Monday, April 22, 2024, from 6:00-9:00pm at Church of St. Mary, Willmar

You can register online through the diocesan website <u>www.dnu.org/</u> <u>safeenvironment</u> by clicking on the large red button in the left margin of the main Safe Environment web page.



This Sunday is Palm Sunday – the beginning of Holy Week. A great way to prepare for this Holiest of weeks is to attend the reconciliation that is being offered this evening at 7pm. I strongly encourage you to participate in the liturgy being offered Thursday at 7pm, Good Friday at 1:30pm and Easter Vigil at 8:15pm.

Join us Sunday, March 24 at 12noon in the church basement for a showing of The Passion. All are invited!

Early Bird Camp sign up is due before April 1, 2024. Girls currently in grades 5-12 can register for Camp Beloved. Middle school is July 20-22, 2024 and Grades 9-12 is July 23-26, 2024. Boys currently in grades 5-12 can register for Camp Greatness. Boys in grades 5-8 is July 27-29 and for high school is July 30-August 2, 2024. Faith Formation is proud to offer the Student Enrichment Scholarship. This scholarship is available to any student in grades 5-12 to assist with expenses of attending a diocesan event or camp. This would include Beloved girls camp, Greatness boys camp and/or TEC. For more information on these camps and to register visit <u>www.dnu.org/summercamp2024</u>. Scholarship forms are on the faith formation table.

If you would like to donate to this scholarship, please place your donation in the collection basket labeled Student Enrichment Scholarship or bring your donation to the parish office. Thank you for supporting the youth of our parish.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

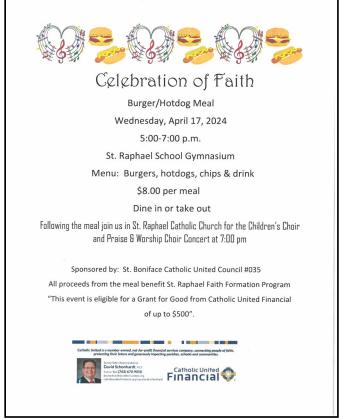
Weekly Faith Formation ScheduleYouth Choir ScheduleWednesday, March 27Wednesday, March 276:00-7:00pm Faith Formation Classes grades 1-65:00-6:00pm Children's Choir Practice7:15-8:15pm Faith Formation Classes grades 7-126:00-7:00pm Praise & Worship Choir Practice

generosity by Matthew Kelly:

This week, forgive. We have all been hurt by others, we have all been betrayed in ways large or small, we have all been the victims of wrongful acts of injustice. Everybody needs to forgive somebody. Forgiveness is a supreme form of generosity. Set out along the road of forgiving someone who has wronged you and begin to explore how you need to forgive yourself too. Sometimes it is our inability to forgive ourselves for something completely unrelated that holds us back from forgiving other people.

The Way of the Cross is a popular devotion among Christians. It is a spiritual pilgrimage to the holy places of Jerusalem depicted in the scenes of Jesus' passion and death. A dramatic presentation of the Passion of Jesus the Christ will be presented in Shadow Theatre on Friday March 29th beginning at 8:00 pm at the Church of St. Joseph, Lamberton. Shadow theatre uses shadows, cast by live actors, onto a lighted screen. Sacred music will begin at 7:30. All are welcome!





Palm Sunday

Video, pizza, popcorn and fellowship

WHERE: church basement

WHEN: 12 Noon, eat first then video

WHO: Everyone!

RSVP to mrsreindl@straphaelpk-6.com before 2pm Friday, March 22, 2024 so we can order pizza.

Interested in taking part in the Eucharistic Revival in a big way? All are encouraged to join our diocesan pilgrimage to the Star of the North Congress in Bemidji, MN May 17 -19, 2024. Pick up locations are scheduled for Redwood Falls, Darwin, Winsted, Willmar, and Watkins. Visit https://www.dnu.org/diocesan-events/2024/5/17/3-daypilgrimage-to-bemidji-lake-itasca-and-watkins to learn more and register by April 1.



DRIVE THRU ONLY MEN'S DINNER

Saturday, April 6, 2024

4:30pm-7:30pm

Sausage, Homemade Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Bun, Cookie

Meal Price \$ 14.00



Delivery inside city limits *Call 723-4139 by 6:30pm to place your order Meal Pick up *Available behind the North East corner of school

> Sponsored by Catholic Order of Foresters St. Thomas Court 766 Up to \$1500 in matching grant funds

Church of St. Raphael Springfield, MN

March 28			
Holy Thursday			
	7:00pm		
Servers	Paul Goedtke		
	Brayde	en Sturm	
	Maia S	Scheffler	
	Sydne	y Vogel	
	Celia V	Celia Vogel	
Lector	Jeff Strock		
Lector	Meriah Kirschstein		
ЕМНС	Dcn Barry Reindl		
Accompanist	Kathleen Goedtke		
Song Leader	Adult Choir		
Head Usher	Steve Woidylla		
	Donna Woidylla		
	Luke Roiger Brooklyn Sturm		
Videographer		Triston Groebner	

March 30				
Holy Saturday				
	8:15pm			
Servers	Triston Groebner			
	Paul Goedtke			
	TJ Rei	ndl		
		TBA		
		ТВА		
		ТВА		
	ТВА			
Lector	Jeff Strock			
Lector	Brenda Derickson			
Lector	Bev Fults			
Lector	Meriah Kirschstein			
ЕМНС	Dcn Barry Reindl			
Accompanist	Kathleen Goedtke			
Song Leader	Adult Choir			
Head Usher	Mike Reiner			
	Luke Roiger			
Videographer		VOLUNTEER		

~Church of St. Raphael~

March 29				
Good Friday				
1:30pm				
Servers	Cole J	Cole Jensen		
	Paul G	loedtke		
	Andre	w Reindl		
Lector	Katie	Katie Wilhelmi		
Lector	Marial	Mariah Pietig		
Lector	John R	John Ryan		
ЕМНС	Dcn B	Dcn Barry Reindl		
Accompanist	Kathle	Kathleen Goedtke		
Song Leader	Adult	Adult Choir		
Head Usher	Mike I	Mike Reiner		
	Arland	Arland Roiger		
	Cher F	Cher Roiger		
		VOLUNTEER		
Videographer VOLUNTEER				

March 31			
Easter Sunday			
	10:30am		
Servers	Cole Jensen		
	Isabella Groebner		
	Triston Groebner		
Lector	Katie Wilhelmi		
Lector	Mariah Pietig		
ЕМНС	Dcn Barry Reindl		
Accompanist	Kathleen Goedtke		
Song Leader	Adult Choir		
Rosary	VOLUNTEER		
Head Usher	Steve Meine		
	Brooklyn Sturm		
	VOLUNTEER		
	VOLUNTEER		
Videographer Brayden Sturm			