

Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

March 3, 2024 3rd Sunday of Lent 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

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Mon Mar 4		No Mass 2 Kings 5:1-15b; Luke 4:24-30
Tues Mar 5	(Spfld)	8:30am Mass +Elizabeth Gaertner <i>Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35</i>
Wed Mar 6	(Lamb)	8:00am Mass +Milton Navratil Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19
Thur. Mar 7	(Sanb)	1:30pm Mass +Steven Schmidt Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23
Fri. Mar 8	(Spfld)	8:30am Mass +Kenneth Losleben <i>Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34</i>
Sat. Mar 9	(Spfld)	5:30pm Mass +Bob Ferdinandt <i>Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14</i>
Sun. Mar 10	(Spfld) (Lamb)	8:30am Mass +Francis Gervais 10:30am Mass –For the People 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21

♦ 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: 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

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 are all doing well.

There are a few things that I would like to put on your radar in order to extend an invitation to all of you:

1. March 15th – Dr. Edward Sri is going to be visiting our diocese, at St. Catherine's in Redwood Falls, for a day of reflection and will be giving the Bishop Lucker Lecture that evening. His presentation is entitled, "Eucharistic Revival in Our Hearts: Bringing the Liturgy into Our Daily Lives". Please consider signing up for the day portion or come for the evening lecture (details can be found on the diocesan website and other places around our parishes as well). He is a very sought-after teacher and speaker. I've used some of his materials in my meetings with young adult groups in the past and he's quite good. Easy to understand but containing spiritual depth.

2. March 21st – We will be having our annual Diocesan Chrism Mass at the Cathedral in New Ulm at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 21st. This is where all the priests in the diocese are supposed to gather with the bishop to renew our priestly promises that we made on the day of our ordination. At the same time this is where all the Holy Oils for the next year are blessed and then distributed to our parishes throughout the diocese after mass. Please consider going if you have never been to one before. It is at liturgical celebrations such as these where we remember that we belong to something so much bigger than our own parishes. We belong to a diocese, and we belong to a Catholic Church that covers the entire planet. Parochialism is all around us these days (where we only care about our individual parishes and schools) and celebrations such as these really help all of us balance out our faith and remind us to whom and where we really belong in our faith.

3. March 28th – 31st. Holy Week. In a special way I would like to extend an invitation to all of you to come and join us in the celebration of Holy Week. I would like to extend an invitation for you to join us for the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening, the 30th, beginning at 8:15 p.m. I remember when I was a boy growing up my grandfather would ask my grandmother every year if the mass we were going to was the "long one". She always duped him into going year after year. I'm not going to do that with you. Rather I will try and do a little catechesis leading up to Holy Week over the next couple of weeks to explain why the Church considers it the liturgy of all liturgies and the most important one we celebrate every year. I have heard rumblings from the recent past that it was too long, and people were upset. When I was younger, and a new religious order was being formed in Ghent when I was the pastor there, I also remember doing everything that the sisters wanted, and people were mad at me too because the liturgy was too long for them. With a little more age and experience I hope to celebrate the Vigil with you in such a way that people will be filled with the joy of Easter and not be complaining about the length of the mass.

God's blessings,

Fr. Jeremy

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

Mar 3	10:30am	Mass	M
Mar 6	1:30pm	Mass—Valley View Nursing Home	~Ple
	6:30-7:30pm	Stations of the Cross with Classes to follow	-Ples Bob Peterson
	7:30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Brett Baumann
Mar7	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas	
Mar 10	10:30am	Mass	

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

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	62,000.00	\$41,730.85	\$41,931.76
Student	\$250.00	\$168.35	\$214.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$1,682.80	\$2,254.65

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph

Adult Envelopes	\$1,120.00
Student Envelope	\$5.00
Loose Plate	\$92.00
Total	\$1,217.00

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

There will be a CCW meeting on Monday, March 11. 2024 at 7:00pm in the church basement. All members are welcome to attend.



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

Cody Olson and Jim & Jeanna Olson **Our Shepherd of the field:**

Father Jeffrey Horejsi

~Please also pray for those in need ~

Mary Arnoldi

Linda Riley

Pat Dauer

March 10 Ministries

Lector	Jane Zimmermann
EMC	Emily Scheffler
Servers	Koyer Alms & Riley Alms
Sacristan	Cathy Graff
Ushers	Kevin Zimmermann & Vern Hillesheim
Gift Bearers	Katie Alms Family
Money Counters	Doreen Kronback & Diane Arnsdorf

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, March 6

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

St. Joseph's is in need of:

• 2 more Sacristans. The set up for Mass before and put away after.

• 1 more person to lead the Rosary before Mass. You wouldn't be on the schedule-just someone to call when needed.

Prayers are that someone will step up-it takes the pressure off those that are already scheduled.

What is in your Lenten journey?

"Women & Men in Neighboring Evangelization"

Thursday, Feb 22 6:00pm at the home of

Art and Dawn Rohlik 29324 Cty Rd 4 Sanborn. MN. 56083

Book discussion begins at 6:30 (concludes around 8:30). Dawn will have the books. Dawn will lead the women (The Power of the Praying Wife) and Art will lead the men (The Power of the Praying Husband). Please bring your children as there will be a space for them.

The next meetings will be planned that evening. ***Bring your favorite bottle of wine or beverage***

~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$225,480.85	\$230,586.14
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$740.60	\$10.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$740.60	\$0.00

Last week's Parish Revenue Adult Envelopes \$4,308.00 \$420.00 Loose Plate School Gift \$25.00 \$10.00 Adopt a Student \$150.00 Capital Improvement Coffee Connection \$9.00 \$43.25



Candles

Total Income

Please remember in your prayers Janice Meidl, who recently passed away. We extend our prayers and sympathy to her family and friends. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.

\$4,965.25

Lenten Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 1 at 5:30pm Friday, March 8 at 5:30pm Friday, March 15 at 5:30pm Friday, March 22 at 5:30pm

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.



Save the date...our Drive Thru Only Men's Sausage Dinner will be Saturday, April 6, 2023.

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.

The 400 Club Winners this Week

#347 Pat & Amy Vogel \$65.00

David Feirer #152 \$65.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group D ~

March 9 & 10, 2024

	5:30pm		8:30am
Servers	Triston Groebner		Oliver Ludewig
	VOI	LUNTEER	Andrew Reindl
Lector	Pat Da	uer	Jim Miesen
ЕМНС	Pat Dauer		Dcn Barry Reindl
Accompanist	Julie Prechel		Sharon Pieschel
Song Leader	Adult Choir		ТВА
Rosary	VOLUNTEER		Jackie Roiger
Head Usher	Mike I	Reiner	Mark Roiger
	Steve Meine VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER		Luke Roiger
			VOLUNTEER
			VOLUNTEER
Videographer		Christina R	eindl

Spring is in the Air

Vendor/Crafter Fair Mark your calendars

Find us on Facebook for event updates: https://fb.me/e/2SHxH6bG6

Saturday March 2nd, 2024 **9AM-2PM**

K Your & Date

Springfield Area Community Center 33 S Cass Ave Springfield, MN

Over 20 Vendors/Crafters with Great gift ideas for Easter, Birthdays, Graduation, Anniversary, Mothers Day, and more. Lunch Available 10:30 AM-1 PM

Proceeds benefit St. Raphael School PTT

~Church of St. Raphael~

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Mar 3	8:30am	Mass	
Mar 5	8:30am	Mass	
	4:00-5:30pm	Atrium	
Mar 6	5:00-6:00pm	Children's Choir Practice	
	6:00-7:00pm	Faith Formation Classes grades 1-6	
	-	Praise & Worship Choir Practice	
	7:15-8:15pm	Faith Formation Classes grades 7-10	
Mar 8	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You	
	8:30am	Mass	
	5:30pm	Stations of the Cross	
Mar 9	5:30pm	Mass	
Mar 10	8:30am	Mass	

Meetings & Activities



The Parish Office will be CLOSED Monday, March 11, 2024 and Friday, March 15, 2024.



Church of St. Mary

417 S. Minnesota Avenue, New Ulm, MN

<u>Keynote Speaker</u> Gabrielle Cohrs Rohlik

Title: *"Finding Resilience: Nurturing Hope and Sisterhood in Times of Adversity"*

In times of trials and tribulations, when hope seems elusive, the essence of resilience shines brightest. In this speech, we delve into the depths of the human spirit, exploring how resilience is not merely a quality to possess, but a journey to embark upon. Join us as we embrace the journey of resilience, forging bonds of sisterhood that withstand the tests of time, and emerge stronger, united in faith and love.

Sign-up Today!

Registration: \$15.00

Please contact your parish president to register for the evening by Wednesday, March 13.

*Parish Presidents: Please call or text Arlyce Anderson at 507-317-0617 on Thursday, March 14 with the number attending from your parish.

5:00 PM - Registration 5:30 PM - Mass 6:15 PM - Meal 7:00 PM - Meeting & Speaker



Please remember in your prayers: Our Shepherd of the Field: 슈 Father Steven Verhelst Please pray for our parishioners this week~ Sun: Greg & Linda Roiger Mon: Gretchen Roiger Tues: Jon & Sheila Roiger Wed: Justin & Carrie Roiger Family Thur: Lenis & Roxy Roiger Mark & Jackie Roiger Family Fri: Sat: Michael Roiger Weekly Candle Intentions (\$5.00 offering) Special Inten Special Inten Special Inten 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
 *Remembering Jesus: A Catholic Approach to
 Alzheimer's Disease—Episode 4
 Every Tuesday at 11:00am & Thursday at 7:00pm

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.

~Good Neighbor Thrift ~ Mar 4—8 50% off Bedding & Curtains

Accepting Spring/ Summer Clothing

Springfield Area Food Shelf is open Tuesday evenings 4:30-7:00 PM and Thursday mornings 9:00-11:30 AM. We are looking for volunteers to help with various jobs - call Shari Koll at 507-227-0386 to volunteer.



YouTube

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

507-233-5318 (local).

It is the mission of St. Raphael Catholic School to bring students to a deeper relationship with Jesus while providing excellent education.

Greetings!

Catholic United Financial Raffle: Thank you to everyone who helped sell tickets and to everyone who supported the fundraiser by purchasing tickets! It was a great success! Every penny from this fundraiser stays right here at St. Raphael Catholic School and goes to the general operational budget of the school! The total number of tickets sold was 1,013 and the total raised for this fundraiser was \$10,130.00.

I Love to Read Month: This is our last week of "I Love to Read" month. This is a time during the school year where we take some extra time to focus on the importance of reading. During the next month, we will have a weekly "mystery reader," this is a guest that reads a book to the students. It has been so much fun! Our committee also planned a special activity to go along with the book. During the month, all students have a daily personal reading goal, and a collective school-wide goal for minutes read during the month. If the students reach the school-wide goal, there is a fun activity attached with it that is a surprise!

Godly Virtues: Our Godly virtue that we are emphasizing this month at school is honesty-being trustworthy and true. 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.

Kindergarten Roundup: We had a great turnout for our Kindergarten Roundup event this week! We look forward to welcoming new families to St. Raphael Catholic School. If you couldn't make it to the event, but you are still interested in any of our preschool through sixth grade programs, please contact the school office for more information or to schedule a tour!

Preschool Open House: We will be hosting a Preschool Open House on Wednesday March 13th at 5:00-6:00pm for any students and their parents interested in our 3-year old Little Panthers program or our 4-year old Kindergarten Readiness program. Families will tour the school, check out the classrooms, hear information about preschool and the school, and get registration information. We invite all who are curious or interested in enrolling to attend!

Spring is in the Air: There will be a vendor event March 2nd from 9AM-2PM at the Springfield Community Center, with lunch that is served from 10:30-1:00. This event is being organized by Diana Windschitl. All the proceeds from this event will go to St. Raphael Catholic School PTT Organization, the funds will go to benefit the students and school. Come and enjoy!

Calendar Change: There is a calendar change! On the original school calendar, there was no school Thursday March 14th. There will now be school on Thursday March 14th. This has now been changed to no school on Friday March 15th. Teachers will be attending a Faith Formation Day in Redwood Falls with Dr. Sri as the keynote speaker.

Upcoming School Masses:

Friday March 8-Mrs. Anderson/Grade 2 Tuesday March 12-Mrs. Nachreiner/Staff Mass Friday March 22-Mrs. Vogel/Staff Mass

Upcoming Dates:

March 11: No School, Teacher In-service March 15: No School, Teacher Faith Formation Day March 12: Stations of the Cross @ 2:15 for staff and students gr 3-6 March 13: Preschool Open House March 25: Stations of the Cross @ 8:30 am for staff and students gr 3-6

Blessings,

Mrs. Beth Steffl

Elementary update:

First graders will be looking at the geography of Israel, Jerusalem and the cenacle as they are preparing for Easter. Second graders will be learning about the gift of the Holy Eucharist as they prepare for their first Holy Communion on Sunday, April 21. Third graders will finish their unit on the Sacraments of the Catholic Church with the Sacraments of Vocation; Marriage and Holy Orders. With each of the 7 Sacraments they looked at the outward sign and they looked each up in the Bible to read a bit about where the Sacrament comes from. Fourth Grade has entered the New Testament and are beginning to make the connections between some Old Testament events and how they are fulfilled in the New Testament. Fifth grade, after leading us with the Stations of Cross will study the Sorrowful Mysteries and what the Old Testament Lamb of God is so they can better understand Jesus as the New Testament Lamb of God. Sixth grade will take a closer look at "Holy Week" for the month of March. Starting with the entrance into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), Last supper (Holy Thursday), Crucifixion (Good Friday) and finally the Resurrection (Easter Sunday). It is the Greatest True Story every told!

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, March 6

6:00-7:00pm Faith Formation Classes grades 1-6 7:15-8:15pm Faith Formation Classes grades 7-10

Youth Choir Schedule

Wednesday, March 6

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



Senerosity This week, be aware of when someone else is in a hurry. Don't concern yourself with the reason, just help them get to where they are going a little faster. Allow them to go in front of you in line or wait a bit longer at the stop sign for example.

Symbols: Washing the Feet of the Poor

Mark your calendars! Totus Tuus will be here this Sunday, July 14-Thursday summer July 18. Elementary students will have their time M-Th during the day and teens will meet Sunday-Thurs in the evenings. More information to come!

Saint Oswald of Worcester D. 925–992

Is your life working?

Whether it's working great or barely getting along, there are probably parts you need to work on. So what keeps you from working on them?

FÉAST DAY: FEBRUARY 29

For most of us, it's simply that we're just too busy.

Busy is not your friend. Jesus tells us to judge a tree by its fruits. What are the fruits of "busy?" They are usually: stress, overwhelm, anxiety, fatigue, burn out, and discouragement.

We don't want to be busy. But we still want to accomplish great things in our lives and fulfill our responsibilities. What if there was a way to do many things in a day, without feeling busy? And to do them with joy?

Saint Oswald of Worcester found that way. Every day, he had a long to-do list, but he did it all with joy. How? He slowed down and focused on one task at a time, without thinking about the next ten things he had to do.

Oswald was the Bishop of Worcester in the 960s. He accomplished so much that his superiors wanted to see what else he could do. So they made the rare decision to make him Archbishop of York in 972 while he was also Bishop of Worcester.

No doubt his to-do list was now a mile long, but Oswald countered the constant temptation to feel "busy" by prioritizing his quiet prayer life. No matter how many things he had to do, Saint Oswald of Worcester prayed every day, multiple times a day. When he returned to his tasks, this prayer time helped him to slow down and focus on one thing at a time. In our modern world, it seems each one of us has an endless list of things to do. But that doesn't mean we have to feel busy. We can prioritize our daily prayer time, slow down our pace of life, and focus on one thing at a time. That is a joyful way to live. Dynamic Catholic: Saint of the Day

~Upcoming Area Events~

The Minnesota FoodShare/March Campaign brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help keep over 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. Minnesota FoodShare has distributed over \$18 million to March Campaign participating food shelves via the Minnesota FoodShare Food-Fund. 100% of donations received by Minnesota FoodShare during the March Campaign go into the Food-Fund. 2024 MARCH CAMPAIGN WILL RUN February 26, 2024 to April 6^{th.} Please consider making a monetary donation or food donation to the Springfield Area Food Shelf during this campaign. Collection boxes have been placed in the local churches in Springfield/Comfrey as well as the local Springfield Market. Please do not put money donations in the collection boxes. Adults \$16.00 Mailing address is PO Box 15, MN 56087 If you have questions, please call Shari Koll at 507-227-0386, you may also leave a message on the food shelf phone 507-723-3663 Deanery 3 Council of Catholic Women Presents: Diocese of New Ulm **Healing Ministry** The Diocese of New Ulm has a prayer team specifically trained to help you find healing spectructury trained to help you that healing in those areas of your life where you have been wounded and lead you to experience spiritual healing, peace and freedom. Join Deacon Mike McKeown as he speaks about this healing through Jesus Christ, at our Spring Gathering to be held at

St. Boniface in Stewart, Mn. Saturday, March 9th, 2024

8-9a.m. Reconciliation with Fr. Bob Mraz 8:30a.m. Holy Rosary Led by Lisa Stifter 9:00a.m. Holy Mass with Monsignor Lozinski 9:45a.m. Brunch served by St. Boniface's CCW and Speaker Deacon Mike McKeown

Parish CCW Presidents: please RSVP to Ruthann Hansen, CCW Deanery 3 President @320-286-0079 or LaMae Maiers @ 320-583-1302 by Wednesday, March 6th. \$10 Donations to Fr. Bruno's Water Project. All are Welcome! Walk-ins Welcome!



DINE IN & TAKE OUT FOOD

Rolls, Coffee and Juice served in the Morning. BBQ, Hot Turkey or Egg Salad Sandwich, Chips, Applesauce, Pickles, Bar & Beverage starting at 10:00.

Handicap Accessible. Everyone Welcome.