



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

May 14, 2023
6th Sunday of Easter

*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 May 15	No Mass <i>Acts of the Apostles 16:11-15; John 15:26-16:4a</i>
Tues May 16	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Betty Kieper <i>Acts of the Apostles 16:22-34; John 16:5-11</i>
Wed May 17	(Lamb) 8:00am Mass +Robert Frericks <i>Acts of the Apostles 17:15, 22-18:1; John 16:12-15</i>
Thur. May 18	(Sanb) 8:00am Mass +LeRoy & Margaret Fox <i>Acts of the Apostles 18:1-8; John 16:16-20</i>
Fri. May 19	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Carl & Mary Bates <i>Acts of the Apostles 18:9-18; John 16:20-23</i>
Sat. May 20	(Spfld) 5:30 pm Mass +Edward & Veronica Groebner <i>Acts of the Apostles 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28</i>
Sun. May 21	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass –For the People (Lamb) 10:30am Mass +Ken Arnoldi <i>Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20</i>

Church of St. Raphael & Area Office

20 W Van Dusen Street ~ 507-723-4137

Springfield MN 56087

Email: straphael@newulmtel.net

Church of St. Joseph

400 W 2nd Ave, PO Box 458

Lamberton MN 56152

& **St. Thomas Oratory, Sanborn MN**

Email stjoseph@centurylink.net

CCW Prayer Chain– Sue Imker 507-829-1846

Pastor

Fr. Garrett Ahlers Office Phone: 723-4141

gahlers@dnu.org

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

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** \$10.00

►**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.

A.M.D.G.

This time of year is nuts. The school year is steadily coming to its close, and with it the many rituals and ceremonies that usher in its conclusion. Graduations, receptions, baccalaureate services, and parties salute our graduates; exams, papers, last-ditch efforts for extra credit, and final deadlines unite them with their peers. There are performances in theatre and music; ball games, track and golf meets, and soccer games abound; and all of this is merely in regard to our students, who are at this point nearly haggard with the exertion of this “final push.” Then there are the rest of us (for I really doubt that any of our kids are reading this column): we are rushing off to all of these events while praying for the patience to stay focused in our work (despite the glowing warmth outside our windows beckoning us to slide into summer holiday). Our farmers and those who tend the land are antsy and anxious to—at last!—break ground and start the planting...all the while knowing that, in a few months time, we will find ourselves saying: “**now** is when we could use a little of that rain we had back in May...”

Yes, it is a crazy time of year. But I characteristically find it also a season of nostalgia. I look at our students and can't help but remark on how much they have changed since the start of the school year. I think back to the many sacraments and Masses that I've celebrate this year—Baptisms and First Communions, Confirmations and Weddings; funerals and obsequies for our beloved departed; Masses, at times plain and unadorned, else solemn and filled with singing and incense and grandeur. I think of all that has happened in our community, our parish, our school, and in the lives of so many of you, my friends and parishioners.

And then, the nostalgia of what has passed with sound and fury this year gives way to gratitude. We have been so greatly blessed in this year. There is no one among us who has not experienced trials and humiliations—what we commonly call, at the teaching of our Lord, the Cross. But even these Crosses are occasions for us to trust that the Lord provides—“take my yoke upon you and learn from me...for my yoke is easy, and my burden light”—and He does, giving us grace upon grace.

There is plenty of time for us to fret, and plenty of occasions for us to lose ourselves in our “busy lives” and in the chaos that will continue to unfurl for the next several weeks. But I hope that we can find space for gratitude: to give thanks not in some generic way, as though some inanimate force determining our lives has caused us to be really lucky. We are grateful to God who provides for us because He loves us. One of my great heroes, St. Ignatius of Loyola, insisted on the importance of gratitude: according to him, it is the fundamental virtue in the Christian life. He was so passionate about this, he even wrote: “It seems to me, in light of the divine Goodness, [...] that ingratitude is one of the things most worthy of detestation before our Creator and Lord [...], out of all the evil and sins which can be imagined. For it is the failure to recognize the good things, the graces, and the gifts received. As such, it is the cause, beginning, and origin of all evil and sins.”

Those are pretty strong words: but I think Father Ignatius is quite right. Only with gratitude do we come to recognize” the good things, the graces, and the gifts that we have received” from God. And when we are at last aware of these things, we are able to respond to God in faith and fidelity.

There is a lot going on these days: I invite you to give a close read to our bulletin this week to see all that is going on at our parish and school! Let's keep one another in our prayers as we close out this week and as we prepare for the week ahead. Keep our young people in your prayers, especially, as they wrap-up the academic year and dive into their much-coveted summer. God bless!

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

May 14	10:30	Mass
May 17	8:00am	Mass
May 18	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
May 21	10:30am	Mass

This week we remember *these* people in our prayers.
Robert Jr. & Patricia Simonson and Amy Skalbeck



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	Betty Fleege
"Pickle" Riley		

St. Joseph Contribution Budget July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$60,000.00	\$51,923.25	\$63,962.86
Student	\$300.00	\$259.65	\$184.95
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$2,163.60	\$2,195.92

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph

Adult Envelope	\$845.00
Student Envelope	\$0.00
Loose Plate	\$61.00
Votive Lights	\$24.00
Total	\$930.00

May 21 Ministries

Lector	Aiden Holman
EMC	Jeff Strock
Servers	Sydney Vogel & Hadynn Jenniges
Sacristan	Jeff Strock
Ushers	Vern Hillesheim & Mike Hubert
Gift Bearers	Graduates
Money Counters	Doreen Kronback & Pat Story

The Advocate

We know the feeling of falling down and being unable to lift ourselves back up. Often the Spirit works through others in our lives, individuals who lift us up in times of pain with their physical presence, healing voice, or compassionate hearts. The Spirit also works through us when those around us are troubled. When have you experienced the Holy Spirit as an Advocate? When have you been an Advocate, carrying the burdens of others?

Prayer: Come, Holy Spirit, and strengthen us with your grace in the midst of the challenges of daily life. May your presence be for us a balm, bringing relief to our frail and wounded hearts.

Blessing for Mother's Day

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you give life and care for your Church.

Bless these women, as we celebrate this day in their honor. May they be strengthened in their ongoing sacrifice and generosity of sharing their gift of motherhood each in their unique vocation as women.

Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor and appreciate them with a spirit of profound respect.

May the example of Mary, mother of Jesus, inspire them to live their vocation of motherhood as Christian women calling their children to faith.

Guide and protect them in challenging times and help them to continue to trust in you all the days of their life.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WAFER, the area food shelf located in Wabasso is looking for volunteers. It would be bagging groceries for clients. WAFER is open Thursdays from 9:30-11:30. A schedule is made—you would probably work 1 to 2 times every 2 months. If you have questions, contact Sue Imker—507 829 1846 or send an email to: waferwabasso@gmail.com. High school kids (grade 10-12) are also welcome—works for "Community service" THANK YOU

~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$289,903.95	\$293,515.48
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$952.20	\$556.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$952.20	\$10.00

The 400 Club Winners this Week

#264	Clarence Wenisch Jr.	\$65.00
#364	Jalen Pietig	\$65.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group E~

May 20 & 21, 2023

	5:30pm	8:30am
Servers	Kallen Riederer	Mya Reese
	Zoie Riederer	Paul Goedtke
Lector	Max Meine	Jim Miesen
EMHC	Max Meine	Jim Miesen
EMHC	Jill Riederer	Donna Krueger
EMHC	Bev Fults	VOLUNTEER
Accompanist	Julie Prechel	TBA
Song Leader	Julie Prechel	TBA
Rosary	Jane Irlbeck	Jim Miesen
	Steve Meine	Arland Roiger
Head Usher	Keith Riederer	Cher Roiger
	Jill Riederer	Jason Reese
	Noah Riederer	VOLUNTEER
Videographer	Jada Reese	

Last week's Parish Revenue	
Adult Envelopes	\$4,027.00
Youth (grades 7-12)	\$0.00
Loose Plate	\$462.00
Diocesan United Fund	\$10.00
Ascension	\$20.00
Catholic Communications	\$5.00
Adopt a Student	\$10.00
Red Heart Envelope	\$60.00
Teacher Support	\$135.00
Adult Choir Robes	\$500.00
Men's Dinner Profit	\$5,122.12
Thrift Store Support	\$35.00
Total Income	\$10,386.12



St. Raphael School & Parish is looking for cash donations for the purchase of 7 canopy outdoor tents, along with a new table top raffle barrel. Each tent is approximately \$140 and the raffle barrel is \$300.

These items will be used for all outdoor parish & school fundraisers. If you are able to help us out, please place your contribution in a marked envelope "Tents/Barrel" and place in the weekend collection basket or stop by the office. Thank you

There will be a **CCW meeting** on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 6:30pm in the Gathering Space. All members are welcome to attend.



Spring Cemetery Clean-up will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 5:00pm.
~The Cemetery Committee

~Good Neighbor Thrift ~

New Store Hours

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

May 15—20

50% off Women's Shorts, Capris, Pants and Men's Shorts

Congratulations to Patti Telford, winner of our Plant Giveaway last week.

Custodial Assistant Opening



St. Raphael Church is looking for flexible, part-time (6 hours per week) custodial help with regular cleaning responsibilities.

If interested, please call Greg Roiger (507)-723-4134.



St Raphael School will be selling rolls after Mass on Sunday, May 14, 2023.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

May 14	8:30am	Mass
May 15	1:00pm	Craft Ladies
	5:30pm	PTT Meeting in school basement
May 16	8:30am	6th Grade Graduation Mass
May 18	1:10pm	Last Day of School—school out at 1:10pm
	6:30pm	CCW Meeting
May 19	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
		Teacher Inservice Day
	8:30 am	Mass
	9:30am-4:00pm	Adoration
May 20	5:30pm	Mass
May 21	8:30am	Mass



Congratulations to Olivia Diane Johnson, daughter of Thomas & Elizabeth Johnson, as she recently received the Sacrament of Baptism and was welcomed into the Holy Catholic Church and the St. Raphael Parish Community!

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 3**
Every Tuesday at 11:00am * Thursday at 7:00pm

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:



† Our Shepherd of the Field:
Father Jeremy Kucera
Please pray for our parishioners this week~
Sun: Mark & Linda Brown
Mon: Mark & Michelle Buerkle Family
Tues: Daniel Christensen Family
Wed: Jeff & Doreen Christensen
Thur: Jordan & Tabitha Clark Family
Fri: Dean & Lois Clausen
Sat: Mark & Bev Clennon
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



The Prayer Chain Committee for St. Raphael parish is encouraging our parish members to call in their prayer intentions for our **St. Raphael Church parishioners**, so they can be added to our prayer chain list. The call can be for a death, for a sick person, for a special intention, or for a specific intention other than illness or death. The call should have the approval of a family member. We also need more people to pray for the intentions of the caller. Please call Karen Brandl 507-920-6709 for help with this project.

JOIN US FOR A

"A NIGHT IN HAVANA"

SATURDAY, JUNE 3RD, 2023
4 PM - 11 PM
St. Raphael Catholic School Parking Lot

Purchase your meal tickets and raffle tickets today from any St. Raphael student or in the school office!

~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.

Congratulations: Hats off to our kindergarten class who led their first Mass this past Friday and celebrated their kindergarten graduation. Congratulations to Kaizley Cook, Kason Jensen, Adelyn Landkammer, Brantley McVicker, Suttyn Plotz, McCoy Roiger, and Deklan Yokiell. We are so proud of you for all of your accomplishments this year!

Little Panthers and Kindergarten Readiness: Our Little Panthers and Kindergarten readiness classes completed their last days of school this week! They marked the occasion by performing a short but fun concert for their parents highlighting some of their favorite preschool songs and then going out to the playground afterwards.

Thank you: Thank you to the mighty team of volunteers that helped make our Jungle Book performances EPIC! Thanks to all who made vines, cut leaves, and decorated our hallways, gym, and stage. It was absolutely unbelievable! Thank you to all who helped make costumes, applied makeup, fixed hair, took pictures, and supported our performances in any way. We have the BEST staff, parents, and volunteers. I loved working together with all of you to create a fun experience for our students and community. Thanks to the Pieschel Family Foundation for grant funds that made the performance possible. Thanks also to Redwood RAC, Sons of the American Legion, St. Raphael PTT, and other generous donors who funded our new sound system that was used for the first time during our performances of The Jungle Book Kids.

We are Hiring for Multiple Positions: We are currently hiring for two upper elementary teaching positions and two lower elementary positions and a school secretary. Qualified teaching applicants should have a Minnesota teaching license or be eligible for one, have a passion for passing on the faith, love working with kids, and be a team player. School secretary applicants must be team players, organized, friendly and welcoming, flexible, be competent with computer skills, and be able to communicate well. To apply for all positions, please send a cover letter, resume, and two letters of recommendation to the school or to mrssteffl@straphaelpk-6.com.

Save the Date: Save the date for St. Raphael's fun and exciting fundraiser, 'A Night in Havana' on Saturday June 3, 2023. We will have our meat raffles, gift card raffles, and our big ticket raffle once again! We will also have our silent and live auctions, a delicious smoked rib and meatball dinner, specialty drinks, live music, games, and more. Meal and raffle tickets go on sale soon! Make sure you put this date on your calendar and plan to attend. It is sure to be a good time!

Sixth Grade Graduation: The Sixth grade class will have a special Mass honoring their graduation on Tuesday May 16th at 8:30am with a reception to follow.

Minnesota Zoo: The 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classes will be taking a field trip to the Minnesota Zoo on Wednesday May 17th.

K-6 Last Day- May 18th: May 18th will be our last day of school for the year for grades K-6. There is no bussing on that day and so parents will need to transport their children to school and from school that day. We will be going down to Riverside Park late in the morning and staying to have play time and a pizza picnic lunch in the park (weather permitting.) School will be dismissed early at 1:10.

Blessings,

Mrs. Beth Steffl

~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

Lifelong Faith Formation

Children + Youth + Adult



As the faith formation year has come to a close I feel so grateful!

First always, to God for His guidance and strength when He stretches me outside of my comfort zone.

I want to thank Father Garrett for his support and willingness to listen to my ramblings of a new idea and encouraging me to implement them.

To Mrs. Beth Steffl for her trust and flexibility. She is an amazing fountain of encouragement and a great example of leadership!

Thank you to the 17 amazing catechists willing to volunteer each week to share the faith with their students. You are helping make saints!

I want to thank the parents for making sure that their children attended faith formation classes each and every week – what a year with last minute cancellations due to storms, thank you for being so understanding!

I want to thank the students for being respectful and participating in your learning. Remember, this is *your* faith! *You* need to build it!

I want to thank the teens who were willing to help where needed and got their paper work in – makes my job SO much easier. Your willingness to try new things is inspiring!

I also want to thank my family for their support. From driving two cars every week for me to get here early, to “volunteering” to help where ever I needed them to be and everything in between.

I think it has been a great year and I look forward to starting again on September 6.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Throughout this Holy Season of Easter, we will have the opportunity to receive Holy Communion from the Chalice during Mass.

When the Eucharist is offered under both forms—the Consecrated Host or the Chalice—one is never obliged to receive from the Chalice. **However**, if you choose not to receive from the Chalice, please make sure to reverence the Eucharistic Presence of Our Lord by **bowing to the Chalice** as you pass by after having received the Consecrated host. Thank you!

You attended NET and loved it...now try TEC, Together Encountering Christ!

Riverbend TEC is a 3-day Catholic retreat experience at Holy Redeemer School, in Marshall, MN, focused on the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. The weekend begins with registration at 9:30am on the June 24, 2023 and ends at 4:30pm on June 26, 2023. A Riverbend TEC weekend seeks to facilitate spiritual growth and a personal encounter with Christ through music, discussions, talks, prayer, Scripture, liturgy, and celebration. The retreat is open to youth age 16 to adults.

To register visit riverbendtec.org

Visit www.dnu.org/liturgy-matters to learn about the Mysteries of the Sacred Liturgy, the Mass. These are reflections on the Sacred Liturgy by Bishop Chad W. Zielinski



St. Raphael Vacation Bible School called Totus Tuus is a program lead by four young adults sponsored by the Diocese. Youth in grades 1-6

participate in games, Mass, skits and learning starting Monday, July 17- Friday, July 21 from 9am-2pm each day. Teens in grades 7-12 will enjoy games, adoration and small groups for an engaging, meaningful and enjoyable week. They will meet each evening from 7:30-9:30pm July 16-20. Registration forms are located on the Faith Formation table in the gathering space or email to request a form mrsreindl@straphaelpk-6.com

~Upcoming Area Events~

St. Raphael Catholic Cemetery Burial Plots and Columbarium Niches can be purchased by calling:

- Greg Roiger
507-227-4265
- Mike Krueger, Chair:
507-227-5594
- Raquel Kieper,
Sec/Treas.:
507-723-4137



Springfield Area Food Shelf is open Tuesday evenings 5:00-7:00 PM and Thursday mornings 9:30-11:30 AM. We are looking for volunteers to help with various jobs - call Shari Koll at 507-227-0386 to volunteer. Please consider making a donation to the food shelf this Christmas season. Springfield Area Food Shelf, PO Box 15, Springfield, MN 56087.

St. Johns Circle of Care Foundation is hosting our 3rd Annual Trigger Tournament at the Springfield Sportsman's Club Sunday May 21st from 8am to 4pm. Join us for a great Pulled Pork lunch, raffle and a fun day at the Sportsman's Club. Lunch is \$10 per person and will be served from 10:30am to 3:00pm. Raffle tickets are still available and can be purchased at St. Johns, F&M Bank, SouthPoint Financial or at the Sportsman's Club.

DIOCESE OF NEW ULM



CORPUS CHRISTI EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

LED BY BISHOP CHAD ZIELINSKI

Join the Diocese of New Ulm's Eucharistic Procession on Corpus Christi, Sunday, June 11 at 4:00 pm beginning at the Diocesan Pastoral Center and ending at the Cathedral.

A shuttle will be available from the Cathedral to the Pastoral Center from 3:00-3:45 pm. There will be an opportunity for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 3:00 pm in the Pastoral Center Chapel. Please bring non-perishable food to the Pastoral Center for the Food Shelf.

After the procession, there will be prayers and Benediction at the Cathedral. Barbecue to follow in Washington Park, across from the Cathedral.

Schedule

3:00 PM: Opportunity for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Diocesan Pastoral Center

3:00 - 3:45 PM: Shuttle from the Cathedral parking lot to the Diocesan Pastoral Center

4:00 PM: Eucharistic Procession from the Pastoral Center to the Cathedral ending with Benediction and a Blessing

After the Procession: Barbecue in Washington Park

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023

Diocesan Pastoral Center: 1421 6th St. N. • New Ulm

Cathedral of the Holy Trinity: 605 N. State St. • New Ulm



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

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.



Join in celebration for the Feast of

Fatima

A message of peace. A call to prayer.

May 13, 2023

8 am - 11 am

Holy Family Church - Silver Lake, MN

Details online here: www.dnu.org/local-events



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).