

Vine & Branches **Area Faith Community**

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

May 21, 2023 The Ascension 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. Iohn 15:5

Liturgies This Week

No Mass Mon May 22

Acts of the Apostles 19:1-8; John 16:29-33

(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Kathleen Huntimer Tues Acts of the Apostles 20:17-27; John 17:1-11a May 23

(Lamb) 8:00am Mass +Bobby Frericks Jr. Wed Acts of the Apostles 20:28-38; John 17:11b-19 May 24

(Sanb) 8:00am Mass +Delores Frericks Thur. *Acts of the Apostles 22:30; 23:6-11;* May 25 John 17:20-26

(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Willis Cornelius Fri. Acts of the Apostles 25:13b-21; John 21:15-19 May 26

(Spfld) 5:30 pm Mass + Albert & Leona Meidl Sat. Acts of the Apostles 28:16-20, 30-31; May 27 John 21:20-25

(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Edward Hammerschmidt Jr. Sun.

May 28 (Lamb) 10:30am Mass –For the People *Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11;*

Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20

Sacrament of Reconciliation

\$\text{\text{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

♦Praver 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

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

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.

Saint Augustine, in his *Sermon for the Ascension*, speaks about how Jesus makes himself one with the Church: "He is our head and we are His Body. No one ascended into heaven except Christ because we also are Christ: He is the Son of Man by His union with us, and we by our union with Him are sons of God." Jesus so unites Himself to the Church, that where He, the head, has gone, the body will follow. **The Ascension commemorates that Jesus departs from the Earth in order to create space in the very heart of God for His Church.**

Jesus makes space for us with God. There would be not place in Heaven for us without Jesus. I think that this is something we so tragically forget—we do not "deserve heaven" for anything we've done. We do not "earn the right" to go to heaven and to share eternal life with God. We are but mortal creatures, and death is our only natural right: but with Jesus, who Ascends to Heaven, everything changes. There is now a place for us, members of Jesus' Body, with God! That's why, as important as the Resurrection is, the Ascension is what makes the Resurrection meaningful for us. Without Jesus' Ascension, we would have share in Heaven. Jesus, out of His Goodness, offers us Eternal Life in Himself—not because of our merits, but on account of His Mercy.

This Sunday we commemorate and meditate upon this great mystery. There is no hope for us but in Jesus who opens the way to Heaven for us! Our Christian lives are filled with hope that, as we cooperate with the grace given to us by God and so imitate Jesus in our thoughts and actions, we can grow as members of His Body on earth and share in His life eternally.

This coming weekend, we will celebrate the Baccalaureate Mass for our graduating seniors of the parish of St Joseph. While the Red Rock district still has a few more days left to their academic year, kids in the Springfield district are free for the summer already! I offer my sincere congratulations to our graduates (and soon-to-be graduates) of St Joseph and St Raphael parishes: I pray for our high-school and college youth each day that they would grow not merely as capable and efficient workers, but as young men and women formed with love of God and neighbor, a sense of duty and service to their communities and fellows, and with the desire to pursue what is good—not merely what is convenient or self-beneficial. Please, join me in this prayer as our graduates make this transition into the next chapter of their lives; and let us continue to pray for and support our young people out our parish, and to encourage them in their faith.

Please note: in two weeks, we will be thrilled to host "A Night in Havana," our most important event to support our St Raphael Catholic School. This event has not only been successful in the funds it has obtained for the school, but it has been a great source of community-building for our parish, school, and our whole AFC. The event will be the evening of Saturday, June 3rd. Because of this, there will **not be an evening Mass that Saturday!** We will have our usual Sunday Masses (8:30 am—St Raphael; 10:30 am—St Joseph) as well as a **Sunday-evening Mass** (at St Raphael). I look forward to seeing many of you there.



~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

May 21	10:30	Mass
May 24	8:00am	Mass
May 25	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
May 28	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	\$53,077.10	\$65,182.86
Student	\$300.00	\$265.42	\$188.95
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$2,211.68	\$2,248.92

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph		
Adult Envelope	\$1,220.00	
Student Envelope	\$4.00	
Loose Plate	\$53.00	
Total	\$1,277.00	

Letting the Past Go

We may worry when we see change on the horizon—perhaps a new job is taking us to a new town, and our whole family will be uprooted. This kind of change requires letting go of what is familiar and comfortable. But if we can't let go, we won't be able to experience the new, good things God wants to give us. The words of the angels are helpful when we are in this situation: no matter what lies ahead, Jesus will be with us.

Prayer: Beckon us closer to you, Almighty God, so we may have strength to welcome the new gifts you offer us.

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

This week we remember these people in our prayers.

Justin & Jenna Stafford and Lynn & Pat Story



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

May 28 Ministries

Lector Jeff Strock
EMC Teresa Wenisch

Servers Joseph Strock & Adeline Wenisch

Sacristan Teresa Wenisch

Ushers Jim Imker & Tom Anderson

Gift Bearers Volunteers

Money Counters Fred Berg & Teresa Wenisch

Sign up sheets for annual church cleaning are now out on the cry room table. You are encouraged to sign up on your own, with a friend or as a family. Our goal is to complete all tasks by June 14th. Cleaning supplies are available in the church basement or you may bring your own if you prefer.

Please contact Beth Schaffran or Anita Vogel if you have any questions or notice that any cleaning supplies need to be restocked. Thank you for your help!



~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$296,346.26	\$297,416.98
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$973.36	\$556.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$973.36	\$10.00

Last week's Parish Revenue		
Adult Envelopes	\$3,901.50	
Loose Plate	\$103.45	
Raffle Barrel Donation	\$300.00	
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$945.76	
Total Income	\$4,744.21	



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

~Good Neighbor Thrift ~ New Store Hours

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

May 22-27

May 25th—Last Thursday of the Month 50% off Clothing



Congratulations to our 2023
Kindergarten graduates: Kaizley
Cook, Kason Jensen, Adelyn
Landkammer, Brantley McVicker,
Suttyn Plotz, McCoy Roiger, and
Deklan Yokiel.

Congratulations to our 2023 6th Grade graduates:

Xander Bigelow, Isabella Groebner, Sylvia Hovland, Molly Jacobs, Brett Jensen, Delayna Johnson, Amelia Kieper, Kyla Peichel, Conner Schmitt, Zoey Swing, and Bryson Vogel.

The 400 Club Winner this Week

#193 Neil & Alissa Roiger

\$150.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group F~

May 27 & 28, 2023				
	5:30pm		8:30am Riley Arnsdorf	
Servers	VOLUNTEER			
	VOLU	NTEER	Carson Arnsdorf	
Lector	Pat Dauer		Laura Bast	
ЕМНС	Pat Dauer		Laura Bast	
ЕМНС	Bev Fults		Donna Krueger	
ЕМНС	VOLUNTEER		VOLUNTEER	
Accompanist	TBA		TBA	
Song Leader	TBA		TBA	
Rosary	Jane Irlbeck		VOLUNTEER	
Head Usher	Dale Lindmeier		Steve Meine	
	VOLU	NTEER	VOLUNTEER	
	VOLU	NTEER	VOLUNTEER	
VOLUNTEER		NTEER	VOLUNTEER	
Videographer		V	DLUNTEER	



Spring Cemetery Clean-up will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 5:00pm. Lunch will be provided afterwards.

~The Cemetery Committee

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.



Rhubarb is needed! If you have some Rhubarb that you would be willing to donate, please bring it to the Parish Office Monday—Thursday 8:00am-12:00pm.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

May 21	8:30am	Mass
May 22	1:00pm	Craft Ladies
May 23	8:30am	Mass
May 24	5:00pm	Cemetery Clean-up
May 26	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
	8:30 am	Mass
May 27	5:30pm	Mass
May 28	8:30am	Mass



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



The Parish Office will be CLOSED Monday, May 29, 2023, in observance of Memorial Day.

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 4

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: William & Allissa Cook Family

Mon: Bailey Cords
Tues: Liola Cornelius
Wed: Roger & Mary Crowe

Thur: Christopher Dauer & Brittany Portner Family Fri: David Dauer & Kellie Schumacher Family

Sat: Duane & Pat Dauer

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.



~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: Congratulations to our sixth grade students who celebrated with a special Mass and a reception this week. Congratulations to Xander Bigelow, Isabella Groebner, Sylvia Hovland, Molly Jacobs, Brett Jensen, Delayna Johnson, Amelia Kieper, Kyla Peichel, Conner Schmitt, Zoey Swing, and Bryson Vogel. We wish them all well on the next chapter of their journey. May God richly bless each one of them!

Last Week: This is our last week of school. Thank you for all your support! It has been a wonderful year. I will be working steadily in the office until after our A Night in Havana night. After the event, I will be working part time in the office and taking some time off for vacation and to be with my family.

We are Hiring for Multiple Positions: We are currently hiring for three elementary school teachers. 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. To apply for a teaching position, 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!

New Teacher: I have hired Mrs. Jennifer (Schwint) Anderson as one of our new teachers! I am so excited about bringing her to St. Raphael!. She has been teaching for 20 years, has a passion for helping students learn, and also has a Special Education degree. She will be a wonderful asset to our school. In order to best fit our current needs, she will begin next school year as our second grade teacher and Mrs. Nachreiner will move to first grade for next year. I am still on the hunt for other wonderful educators to bring on board. I will continue to update everyone as we continue to plan for next school year.

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.

~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

Lifelong Faith Formation

Children + Youth + Adult



This weekend we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord. What is this?!? On Easter Sunday we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead but then he actually appears to his apostles for the next 40 days before ascending to heaven. The number 40 means preparation, something new is coming. 40 years of Israelites wandering in the desert before entering the promised land, 40 days Jesus is in the desert praying and being tempted by the devil before starting his ministry, 40 days of lent we prepare to celebrate Easter. This weekend we celebrate the Ascension – Jesus returning to heaven after his resurrection. The preparing was done now it's time to await the new.

In the past few years we were able to take advantage of the free lunch offered by the public school lunch program during Totus Tuus. This year however, it is a "dine in only" program and the logistics of getting 20+ kids grades 2-6 up to the school and back in a timely manner is out of the question. I humbly ask for donations to help offset this unexpected cost. If you are able to donate, monetarily, toward the Totus Tuus program for this added expense, our VBS would greatly benefit from it. Thank you for your donation, large or

~Mrs. Karen Reindl



St. Raphael Vacation Bible School called Totus Tuus is a School called Totus Tuus is a program lead by four young by adults sponsored 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

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

If you know someone who needs a bit of comfort and blessing in their life, grab a prayer shawl from the chair near the back of church. Shawls are blessed and have a miraculous metal attached to foster spiritual well-being.

Prayer shawls are crafted by the prayer shawl group, which also makes blankets

for baptismal gifts. Supplies for this ministry are donated by Council of Catholic Women (CCW). If you would like to join the Prayer Shawl group, they meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:00pm in the gathering space.

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 <u>riverbendtec.org</u>

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!

~Upcoming Area Events~

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

- Greg Roiger 507-227-4265
- 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.

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.



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.

Sunday, June 11, 2023

Diocesan Pastoral Center: 1421 6th St. N. • New Ulm Cathedral of the Holy Trinity: 605 N. State St. • New Uln

Schedule

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

3:00 - 3:45 PM: Shuttle from the Catheral 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





Catholic Charites provides personal, marriage, and family counseling. Inperson sessions are now available. Call

866-670-5163 (toll free) or 507-233-5318 (local).

