

Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

November 19, 2023 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. John 15:5

Liturgies This Week

Mon NO Mass

Nov 20 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63;

Luke 18:35-43

Tues (Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Kenneth Helget

Nov 21 2 Maccabees 6:18-31; Luke 19:1-10

Wed (Lamb) 8:00am Mass +Arlene Gehlen

Nov 22 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31; Luke 19:11-28

Thur. (Spfld) 9:00am Mass +Elizabeth Gaertner

Nov 23 Sirach 50:22-24; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9;

Luke 17:11-19

Fri. (Spfld) NO Mass

Nov 24 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59; Luke 19:45-48

Sat. (Spfld) 5:30pm Mass +Bob Ferdinandt

Nov 25 1 Maccabees 6:1-13; Luke 20:27-40

Sun. (Spfld) 8:30am Mass –For the People

Nov 26 (Lamb) 10:30am Mass – Kenneth & Esther Benedict

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17;

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28; Matthew 25:31-46

Sacrament of Reconciliation

\$\dagger\$ Saturday 4:30—5:15pm at **St. Raphael**\$\dagger\$ Wednesday 7:15-7:45am at **St. Joseph**

♦Praver Chain

507-920-6709, 507-441-1049, 507-227-6606

♦Good Neighbor Thrift Store 723-5778

20 E. Central, Springfield, MN

♦ Office of Catholic Charities 866-670-5163

Baptism: Pre-baptism classes required - Contact AFC Office

Suggested Stipend for Sacrament of Baptism—\$25.00

Marriage: All Catholics are to contact the parish and

pastor at least 6 months before their wedding.

➤ Mass Stipend \$10.00

➤ Bulletin Deadline: Wednesday at 1:00pm

Church of St. Raphael & Area Office

20 W Van Dusen Street ~ 507-723-4137

Springfield MN 56087

Email: straphael@newulmtel.net

Prayer Chain

Karen Brandl 507-920-6709

Church of St. Joseph

400 W 2nd Ave, PO Box 458

Lamberton MN 56152

& St. Thomas Oratory, Sanborn MN

507-752-7269

Email stjoseph@centurylink.net

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,

This past Wednesday at St. Joseph's I spent the evening with the kids at religious education to hear confessions. There were some powerful moments of God's grace breaking through all sorts of hurts, or at least showing signs of the beginning of some deeper healing. It is always a joy to walk with people through the healing power of that sacrament, which goes much deeper than simply the forgiveness of sins but works to get at the root of sin so that the Lord can free us all from our afflictions that we can't free ourselves from.

For the parishioners of St. Raphael's, I want to draw your attention to a couple of matters. Our parish administrative council has discovered that we have some big projects on the horizon. First, the beautiful stained-glass windows in the church need major repairs. The lead that holds the windows together is the original metal from when the windows were made. That is over 100 years ago from what I have been told. Each window will need to be taken out, taken apart and put back together with brand new lead that should last another 125 years. At the same time, if you closely examine the walls in the church, you will see that there are hundreds of cracks in the paint all throughout the church. It seems that every twenty years the church has needed to be repainted and we are fast approaching 2025 and the twentieth anniversary of the last time the church was painted. There is also the playground project that has been in the works and continues to move forward. The council has recommended that we do a capital campaign to help us meet the needs of the repairs and projects. We'll keep you in the loop as information comes in, but I ask you to prayerfully consider what is coming. The ballpark estimate that I can give you at this time is \$600,000. That is only a rough estimate, but I wanted you to have an idea of what is coming down the road.

I would also like to encourage you to sign up for the parish pictorial directory if you have not done so yet. From what I have been observing it has been like pulling teeth to get people to sign up. I remember when I was a kid and my family had to go and get our picture taken at St. Joseph's in Silver Lake. My dad was so grumpy that he had to do it after milking cows, and I can only imagine how many of you are grumpy as well. Maybe we can move beyond the grumpiness that I have been listening to and prayerfully consider whether it is the good and charitable thing to do for the parish. On my dresser in my bedroom, I still have that photo of my family from our parish pictorial directory, and I cherish it. I know that there are others who are empty nesters now or are widows and maybe don't want to take your picture alone. These pictures are for everyone. If you are not in there, how can you expect me to learn your names and anyone else who is new to the parish? To belong to a parish is a reminder that we belong to a much larger family that we will spend eternity with in heaven. Maybe we can do a better job of belonging to God's family and not isolate ourselves to only our earthly families. This project was in the works before I got here so I don't understand all of what has transpired but I have felt a little embarrassed by the poor behavior I have come across and find myself questioning what is at the root of the resistance. If I am missing something, please fill me in.

Soon I will be putting together some confession opportunities as Advent quickly approaches. Remember that part of our liturgical year focuses on preparing for the second coming of Jesus Christ and being prepared to meet our Lord and Savior when he comes back to earth. The Church offers us that sacred time to refocus our gaze on life eternal and not simply living in the present, but the eternal now with Jesus Christ. Confession helps us heal from the wounds that we incur when we take our eyes off of Jesus and lower ourselves to living a more worldly existence. I pray it will be a rejuvenating and healing time for us all.

God's	blessings,

Fr. Jeremy

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

Nov 12	10:30am	Mass
Nov 15	8:00am	Mass
	6:30-7:30pm	Faith Formation Class grade 1-2 Reconciliation Grades 3-11
Nov 16	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
Nov 19	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	\$23,846.20	\$20,295.10
Student	\$250.00	\$96.20	\$99.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$961.60	\$1,341.55

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph	
Adult Envelope	\$1,145.00
Student Envelope	\$4.00
Loose Plate	\$11.00
Candles	\$13.00
Total	\$1,173.00

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on Wednesday, November 22, 2023, at Our Savior's Church, Lamberton, at 7:00pm.



EXCITING NEWS!!! Our Area Faith Community has determined it is time for our new pictorial church directory. Our dates for photography will be: November 20 & 21 in Lamberton and November 24 & 25 and November 28—December 2 in Springfield.

Sign up is now available online at <u>www.ucdir.com</u>, click on photography appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter <u>mn371</u> in the Church Code and enter <u>photos</u> in the password field. If your family consists of 6 or more people, please use 2 consecutive time slots.

This week we remember these people in our prayers. Dan Hensch and Michael & Kari Hensch

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Our Shepherd of the field:

Father Jeffrey Horejsi



~Please also pray for those in need ~

Bruce Olson Mary Arnoldi Pat Dauer

Barb Axford Linda Riley Bob Peterson

Brett Baumann Marcie Anderson

November 26 Ministries

Lector Pat Story
EMC Teresa Wenisch

Servers Celia Vogel & Max Vogel

Sacristan Cathy Graff

Ushers Pat Schroepfer & Doug Decock

Gift Bearers Mark Vogel Family

Money Counters Fred Berg & Teresa Wenisch

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, November 22

NO CLASSES—Thanksgiving Break



Please pray for the following students as they prepare for their upcoming Sacraments:

First Reconciliation/Communion – Scarlett Frasher

Confirmation – Maia Scheffler & Sydney Vogel

2023 Diocesan Ministries Appeal (DMA)

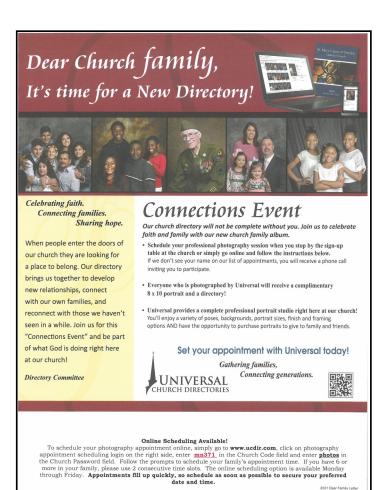
Today is Commitment Sunday for the 2023 Diocesan Ministries Appeal. Watching the video at mass, we are reminded of the good work the DMA is doing through important ministries that parishes are not able to provide on their own. Remember, in supporting the DMA, we contribute to those important ministries in the diocese, but we also support the projects in our parishes.

As you reflect on what your pledge should be, prayerfully keep in mind God's generosity to you. This year's theme, "One in Christ", reminds us that we are called communion as a diocesan family. He also invites us into his mission—to share our gifts to bring hope to others. Be assured that contributions to the DMA will be used only for the benefit of the ministries designated in the brochure and no other purpose.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$128,846.20	\$87,890.00
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$423.20	\$0.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$423.20	\$0.00

Last week's Parish Revenue	
Adult Envelopes	\$3,393.00
Loose Plate	\$395.55
DUF	\$100.00
Thanksgiving	\$100.00
Capital Improvement	\$60.00
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$1,031.99
Total Income	\$5,080.54



The 400 Club Winner this Week

#357 Donna Krueger

\$150.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group C~

November 23, 2023 Thanksgiving Day	
	9:00am
Servers	VOLUNTEER
	VOLUNTEER
Lector	Jim Miesen
ЕМНС	Jim Miesen
Accompanist	Julie Prechel
Song Leader	Julie Prechel
Rosary	VOLUNTEER
Head Usher	Mike Rothmeier
	VOLUNTEER
	VOLUNTEER
	VOLUNTEER

November 25 & 26, 2023				
	5:30pm		8:30am	
Servers	Servers VOLUNTEER		Brynn Wilhelmi	
	VOL	UNTEER	Blake Wilhelmi	
Lector	Max Meine		Denise Reiner	
ЕМНС	Max Meine Do		Den Barry Reindl	
Accompanist	Julie Prechel		Kathleen Goedtke	
Song Leader	Jack Hartjes		TBA	
Rosary	Jane Irlbeck		Jackie Roiger	
Head Usher	Steve Meine VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER		Mike Reiner	
			Luke Roiger	
			Brooklyn Sturm	
			VOLUNTEER	
Videographe	her Brayden Sturm		urm	

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

Nov 19	8:30am	Mass
		Coffee Connection
Nov 21	8:30am	School Mass
	9:15am	Adult Faith Formation in Holy Family Room
Nov 22		NO SCHOOL—Thanksgiving Break
		Parish Office CLOSED
		NO Faith Formation Classes— Thanksgiving Break
Nov 23		Happy Thanksgiving
		NO SCHOOL
	9:00am	Thanksgiving Day Mass
Nov 24	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
		NO MASS
		NO SCHOOL
		Parish Office CLOSED
Nov 25	5:30pm	Mass
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Nov 26	8:30am	Mass



The Parish Office will be CLOSED

Wednesday, November 22—Friday, November 24, 2023 for Thanksgiving.

~Good Neighbor Thrift ~

Monday-Friday 9:30am-4:00pm Saturday 9:00am-12:00pm

November 20-25

Closed November 23—Thanksgiving 50% off Board Games & Toys

Now accepting Fall/Winter Clothing Donations



St Raphael School will be selling rolls after Mass on Sunday, November 26, 2023.

Please remember in your prayers:

† Our Shepherd of the Field:

Father Steven Verhelst

Please pray for our parishioners this week~

Sun: Ricky & Angie Meine

Mon: Rita Meine

Tues: Roger & Janice Meine

Wed: Ronnie Meine

Thur: Steve & Maxine Meine

Fri: Jo Anne Meyer Sat: Robert & Salli Meyer

Weekly Candle Intentions (\$5.00 offering)

Special Intentions

♦ 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

*The Future Depends of Love—Épisode 8

Every Tuesday at 11:00am & Thursday at 7:00pm



NOTICE....St. Raphael Church and Gathering Space will be CLOSED for carpet cleaning from 8:00am Wednesday, November 22nd until 8:00am Thursday, November 23rd

(Thanksgiving Day). Please DO NOT enter the church or

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.

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.

~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!

Candy Bar Sales and Advent Calendars for Sale: We still have some candy bars in the office for sale for \$1.00 per bar. We have wafer, crisp, and almond varieties left! Seek out a St. Raphael Catholic School family or stop by the office to purchase some! We also have chocolate Advent calendars for sale for \$5.00 each. We have two different styles. To purchase one, please contact a St. Raphael Catholic School family or stop by the school office to get one! All proceeds from the candy bar fundraiser will go directly to support the school general budget. The Advent Calendar fundraiser goes to our PTT committee, which supports the school through classroom stipends, field trips, and student incentives and extras!

Upcoming School Masses: Please join us for school Masses at 8:30a.m.

Tuesday November 14: Grade 3 leads Tuesday November 21: Grade 2 leads Friday December 1: Grade 6 leads

Friday December 8: Grade 1 leads (Holy Day)

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Parent/Teacher conferences for our K-6th grade students were this past Thursday. We had a great turnout of amazing, supportive parents! We will host optional 3rd quarter conferences in February for our K-6th grade students and our Kindergarten Readiness conferences at that time as well! Thanks to the parents that provided a meal for our staff during conference night!

Apple Pies and Apple Crisps: Marie Gervais is once again making apple pies and crisps and selling them for \$10 each. All proceeds go to the school! If you would like to purchase one, please call the school office to make your order!

Christmas Program: Please save the date for our St. Raphael Catholic School annual Christmas program on Wednesday December 6th at 6:30p.m. Our Little Panthers Preschool and Kindergarten Readiness Preschool will be starting our program with singing some special songs all decked out in their Christmas best. Next, our K-2nd grade students will be putting on the small play "The Unfriendly Beasts." Our 3rd-6th grade classes will finish the evening with their play called "North Pole Musical." We are busily preparing for this event and we invite you to join us!

Blessings, Mrs. Beth Steffl



The school office is in need of winter hats, mittens, and gloves (child and small adult sizes) for our students to use at recess when they don't have the necessary warm clothes for the winter weather. If you can donate new or gently used items, please drop them off in the school office. Thank you!



We are taking orders for apple pies and apple crisps! Please call Trisha in the Office at 507-723-4135 to place your pie/crisp order! Cost is \$10.00 each.



There will be **NO school at St. Raphael** on November 22, 23, and 24, 2023 for Thanksgiving Break.

School Office Hours

Monday-Friday 7:30am—3:30pm

Hours may vary if school is closed. Please watch bulletin for notices.



Save the Date...

Please join us on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 6:30pm for our annual Christmas Program. All students from our preschool

classes through 6th grade will be performing for you in the school auditorium!

~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

The Church is in the midst of a National Eucharist Revival. There are many ways to get involved in this grassroots movement, but personal renewal has to come first. St. Raphael Catholic Church will be hosting a book study starting January 14 and a new video series starting January 30, look for more information on those in the coming weeks.

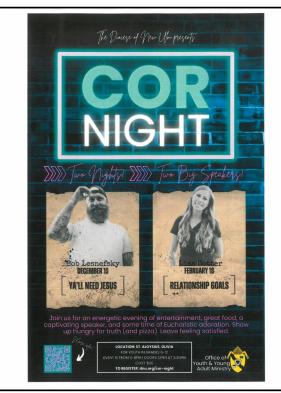
You can search "National Eucharistic revival Spark series" to receive nine days of prayer in your email address. These emails will ignite your desire for transformation and instill a vision for the healing grace God wants to unleash in our world. Each daily reflection is designed to create time to pause from our busy lives and recall the goodness of God. We are encouraged to move slowly through these nine days with openness, cultivating greater awareness of God's presence in your life. I plan to have each of the 9 "days" in the bulletin each week, the first being in the box below. I pray that they will ignite you to read and learn more!

There are a couple of great opportunities coming up for teens! Can't make them both – choose one!

I was at a teacher conference earlier this month and have been praying with the words given to us by Chad Bishop Zielinski, "You are made in the image of You have a God. purpose. God loves you." Such simple words but yet so good to ponder on.

I pray you have a blessed Thanksgiving.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl





Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, November 22

NO CLASSES Grades 1-12—Thanksgiving Break

Youth Choir Schedule

Wednesday, November 22

NO PRACTICE—Thanksgiving Break

NATIONAL Eucharistic

Introduction day of the Spark Series

Welcome! You are about to enter into nine days of prayer focused on preparing your heart for revival. As you walk with the Holy Spirit during this time, be open to how he wants to speak to you about encounter, healing, mission and mercy – all flowing from a love for the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith, in which Christ is truly, really, and substantially present.

If you miss any days, don't get discouraged and don't give up! Remember that our enemy wants to keep us from prayer, but Jesus is always waiting for us to return to him with open hearts. If at any point you are struggling to pray, tell Jesus about it. Ask for Mary's intercession, and if possible, try to go to an adoration chapel so you can be with Jesus in person. St. Raphael Catholic church as adoration on the first and third Friday of every month from 9:15-4pm.

Above all, expect God to work in amazing ways in your life as you surrender yourself more deeply to Him. We are excited for the spiritual fruit you will experience from this prayer journey!

~Upcoming Area Events~

Upcoming Area Events....

The Springfield Nativity Pageant is coming up Friday, December 8 and Saturday, December 9. A community choir will once again be a part of the pageant. All singers are encouraged to join the choir. Jeff Krueger will be the director this year. Some music changes have been made.

Nativity Choir rehearsals will be held Sunday, November 26 and Sunday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church (use the ramp entrance). These are evening rehearsals due to schedule conflicts. Music and choir robes, etc. will be available at the rehearsals. Rehearsals are important since we are adding three new selections this year.

Questions may be directed to Jeff at office.aps@newulmtel.net or 507-723-4321. Hope to see you there and have a large choir this year!!

Catholic Financial Life members & guests: A Night with Lorie Line \$25 reduced priced tickets for members & their guests at New Ulm High School on December 1, 2023 7:00 p.m. Contact Heather Hoffmann for tickets 612-756-1369 or heathersuehoffmann@gmail.com

The Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus will return to Springfield as part of its Christmas concert series on Monday, December 4. The holiday concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 303 North Cass in Springfield. A variety of secular and religious selections will be on the program. Refreshments will be served following the concert.

Springfield residents in the SW Minnesota Men's Chorus are Charles Tews, Gary Renner and Jeff Krueger. Other area residents include Nathan Hesse from Comfrey and Jim Gode from Sanborn. Wendy Johnson, Tracy, is the chorus director.

There is no admission charge for the concert. The performance is part of a series of Christmas concerts with performances on Saturday, December 2 in Currie, Sunday, December 3 in Lamberton and Tuesday, December 5 in Tracy.

You've celebrated a few anniversaries... maybe MANY. You've been through some ups and downs and you have learned a lot about each other. But what if there's more to your marriage than you've ever realized? Experience a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and discover the beauty of your relationship. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are Feb 16 -18, 2024 in WINDOM, MN and Apr 27-28, 2024 in Owatonna, MN. registration Early is highly recommended. For more information visit our website southmnwwme.org Miki at: contact at applications@southmnwwme.org or 507-227-8229.



