



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

November 26, 2023

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

*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 Nov 27	NO Mass <i>Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20; Luke 21:1-4</i>
Tues Nov 28	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Marge & Roman Roiger <i>Daniel 2:31-45; Luke 21:5-11</i>
Wed Nov 29	(Lamb) 8:00am Mass +David Geis <i>Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Luke 21:12-19</i>
Thur. Nov 30	(Sanb) 8:00am Mass -Alan & Paula Roiger <i>Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22</i>
Fri. Dec 1	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Glenn Schmitz <i>Daniel 7:2-14; Luke 21:29-33</i>
Sat. Dec 2	(Spfld) 5:30pm Mass +Carl Pattersen <i>Daniel 7:15-27; Luke 21:34-36</i>
Sun. Dec 3	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Eugene & Gladys Lang (Lamb) 10:30am Mass -For the People <i>Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37</i>

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

✠Saturday 4:30—5:15pm at **St. Raphael**

✠Wednesday 7:15-7:45am at **St. Joseph**

◆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** \$10.00

►**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.

Hello everyone,

I imagine that by the time you read this you will have already celebrated Thanksgiving. I pray that it will be/was a very blessed time with your family and friends.

I've been pondering what I am thankful for this year and there are the usual's, but something else comes to mind that I want to share with the rest of you. As we go through this change in our society with the ever-increasing numbers of baby boomers retiring, I am noticing it is getting more and more difficult to get normal things done that are so important to our way of living. I'm talking about the blue-collar workers who keep everything moving and working. Maybe we can all do a better job of being grateful for these hard workers and we can prayerfully consider inviting other kids to discern taking up the different types of trades that are so important to us.

There were a number of you that I saw at the school musical on Saturday evening. This town puts on quite the production. I had fun thinking about the core of the story as it was unfolding but was not able to stay all the way until the end or I would have been worthless for mass the next day because it takes time to fall asleep after something like that. What I was able to enjoy until halfway through the second act showed the power of fear and control and how destructive it can be. Fair enough, the pastor in the story had been through some difficult times in his town and wanted to protect the kids from ever going through another tragedy. All of that is good. It seemed that he took things too far when it became apparent that he decided to "take" control from God and play God in the community by limiting the freedom of people and denying something that can be very good... to dance. Why did he do this? I think maybe because sin was brought into that which is not necessarily bad in and of itself and it led to terrible consequences. It seems he was maybe trying too hard to protect them by making it a crime to dance. Doesn't that sound like the trap we adults can fall into when we realize we go too far and try to play God in order to control and protect those we are responsible for? God gives us the freedom to sin and make mistakes and maybe we can do a better job of not living in fear and allow people to make mistakes as well, while not neglecting our responsibilities. It seems like a fine line to me, and it is not always so easy to make the right choices in leading and guiding and protecting. I think a key in the story was how his daughter mentioned how her dad used to be a pastor that was full of fire in a good way and how it seemed to have gone out. Have you ever noticed that when we are rightly interpreting and doing the will of God in our lives that it leads to joy and greater freedom within, and people are drawn to that goodness? Have you noticed that when we are not living out of that freedom that fear creeps in and it sucks the life out of us, and we then have the tendency to drain the life out of others around us like the pastor was doing? At least that is how I saw it from what I was able to take in.

Hopefully I will see you or will have seen a bunch of you at the football game after Thanksgiving. I pray that they play a good game and that everyone stays healthy.

God's blessings,

Fr. Jeremy



~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

Nov 26	10:30am	Mass
Nov 29	8:00am	Mass
	6:30-7:30pm	Faith Formation Class grade 1-11
Nov 30	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
Dec 3	10:30am	Mass

This week we remember *these people in our prayers.*
Bernell Hillesheim and Vern & Carol Hillesheim

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	

St. Joseph Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	62,000.00	\$25,038.51	\$21,780.10
Student	\$250.00	\$101.01	\$108.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$1,009.68	\$1,391.55

December 3 Ministries

Lector	Jeff Strock
EMC	Pat Story
Servers	Maia Scheffler & William Frasher
Sacristan	Jeff Strock
Ushers	Larry Weber & Vern Hillesheim
Gift Bearers	Jared Wenisch Family
Money Counters	Pat Story & Doreen Kronback

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph	
Adult Envelope	\$1,485.00
Student Envelope	\$9.00
Loose Plate	\$50.00
Campaign for Human Devel	\$100.00
Cemetery Funds	\$150.00
Total	\$1,794.00

December 7 Ministries

Lector	Emily Scheffler
EMC	Jeff Strock
Servers	Sydney Vogel & Oliver Hubert
Sacristan	Cathy Graff
Ushers	Jim Imker & Mike Hubert
Gift Bearers	Mike Hubert Family
Money Counters	Marg Weber & Kylie Jenniges

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, November 29

6:30-7:30pm—Faith Formation Classes grades 1-11



The Red Cross Lambertton community blood drive will be Thursday, Nov. 30 2023, from noon to 6 PM at the Lambertton Legion. If you are interested in donating and would like an appointment for that day, please contact Deb Furth @ 507-227-3293, Jan Benedict at 507-221-1966, or make your appointment on-line at www.redcross.org. We would appreciate your donation as there is a blood shortage and all donations are very much appreciated.



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

First Reconciliation/Communion – Scarlett Frasher
Confirmation – Maia Scheffler, Mercedes Myers, Reese Berg & Sydney Vogel



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It's EASY and FREE to register!

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3. Enter your name and email
4. Enjoy and share with others in our local community!

After you sign up, download the free FORMED app from App Store or Google Play.

Learn more at formed.org

FORMED THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$135,288.51	\$96,613.91
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$444.36	\$0.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$444.36	\$0.00

The 400 Club Winners this Week

#396	Cindy Reese	\$65.00
#381	Kay Krueger	\$65.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group C~

December 2 & 3, 2023		
	5:30pm	8:30am
Servers	Blake Wilhelmi	VOLUNTEER
	VOLUNTEER	TJ Reindl
Lector	Bev Fults	Max Meine
EMHC	Bev Fults	Dcn Barry Reindl
Accompanist	Children's Choir	Praise & Worship
Song Leader	Children's Choir	Praise & Worship
Rosary	Jane Irlbeck	TMIY Group
Head Usher	Terry Ochs	Steve Meine
	Cathy Ochs	Duane Roiger
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Videographer	Christina Reindl	

Last week's Parish Revenue	
Adult Envelopes	\$8,723.91
Loose Plate	\$375.00
Immaculate Conception	\$20.00
Thanksgiving	\$120.00
Christmas	\$30.00
Retirement for Religious Fund	\$5.00
Poverty Line	\$140.00
School Gift	\$3,106.45
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$465.78
Total Income	\$12,986.14

Dear Church family,

It's time for a New Directory!




Celebrating faith. Connecting families. Sharing hope.

Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

- Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at the church or simply go online and follow the instructions below. If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.
- Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!
- Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church! You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Set your appointment with Universal today!

Gathering families, Connecting generations.





Online Scheduling Available!
To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to www.ucdir.com, click on photography appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter **mn371** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family, please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday. **Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.**

©2021 Dear Family Letter

Upcoming VIRTUS Training Sessions

✠ A new VIRTUS Training Session has been added for **Sunday, November 26, 2023, from 6:00-9:00 pm at St. Anne's School, Wabasso (meeting room).**

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



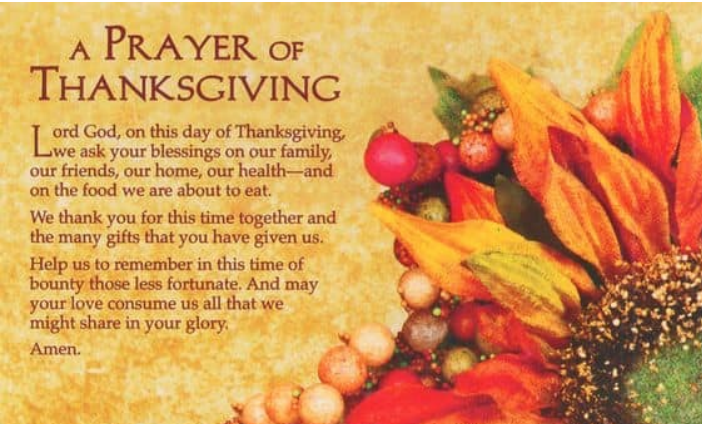
A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, on this day of Thanksgiving, we ask your blessings on our family, our friends, our home, our health—and on the food we are about to eat.

We thank you for this time together and the many gifts that you have given us.

Help us to remember in this time of bounty those less fortunate. And may your love consume us all that we might share in your glory.

Amen.



~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

Nov 26	8:30am	Mass
		Rolls Sold After Mass
Nov 28	8:30am	Mass
	4:00-5:30pm	Atrium
Nov 29	5:00-6:00pm	Children's Choir Practice
	6:00-7:00pm	Faith Formation Classes grades 1-6
	6:00-7:00pm	Praise & Worship Choir Practice
	7:15-8:15pm	Faith Formation Classes grades 7-10
	8:15pm	Youth Group
Dec 1	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
	8:30am	School Mass
	9:30am-4:00pm	Adoration
Dec 2	5:30pm	Mass
Dec 3	8:30am	Mass
		Coffee Connection



Coffee Connection has begun and we are looking for people willing to help serve coffee and treats on Sundays after mass. You can find the sign up sheets in the Gathering Space on the counter by the sink. Contact Vicki Roiger 507-822-1504 if you have

~Good Neighbor Thrift ~

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

November 27-December 2
November 30—Last Thursday of the Month
50% off All Clothing

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: Jeremy & Sara Meyer Family

Mon: Jaden Mickelson

Tues: Larry & Rhonda Mickelson Family

Wed: Zachary & Courtney Mickelson Family

Thur: Dan & Maureen Miesen

Fri: Jim & Deb Miesen

Sat: Cody & Addyson Milbrath Family

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—Episode 9**

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.



Mark your calendars! Saturday, June 22, 2024 at 4:00pm, Bishop Chad Zielenski will be here to celebrate Mass and the 150th anniversary of St. Raphael's parish.

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!

A Thankful Heart: I am thankful for the community of St. Raphael Catholic Church and School every day! This time of year, I pause to reflect more upon our school, the vibrant community of people that surround it, and my role as teacher and principal of St. Raphael Catholic School. Thank you all so much for your support of St. Raphael Catholic School. We may be a small school, but the work we do here is incredibly important. The school, preschool, and daycare impacts the lives of 88 children and their families. This not only impacts the Springfield and surrounding communities, but also the future of the Catholic faith. This is not a commitment I take lightly, and I am thankful for all of your thoughts, prayers, and financial contributions. I pray that you and your families have a restful and blessed Thanksgiving in the company of your loved ones.

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 only one style left. 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.

Friday December 1: Grade 6 leads

Friday December 8: Grade 1 leads (Holy Day)

Friday December 15: Grade 5 leads

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! We will also be presenting a matinee at 1:00p.m. on the afternoon of December 6th. Our K-6th grade students will perform for the matinee performance at 1:00p.m. Our preschool students will not perform at the matinee, but will be included in the 6:30p.m. performance. Doors will open at 6:00p.m. that evening.

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!

School Office Hours

Monday-Friday 7:30am—3:30pm

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

*Taking
Orders
Now!*

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.



Save the Date...

Christmas Program 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 ~

Teens in grades 9-12 have an opportunity to attend NET Lifeline on Saturday, December 2 – expand yourself to others in the diocese and Minnesota wide! See the flier in the bulletin. Permission slips are on the Faith Formation table – hurry because we only have 12 spots on the bus reserved!

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Vine and Branches AFC invites you to

NET Ministries Lifeline


Saturday, December 2 2023	Cost: FREE to those who sign up before Nov. 30	Leave from Sleepy Eye St. Mary's parking lot at 3:15pm. We will return to SESM at 12am
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AT THE NET CENTER IN
WEST ST. PAUL, MN

9-12th GRADE
PRAISE AND WORSHIP
PRESENTATION by
David Calavitta
MASS
ADORATION

David Calavitta

David's passion is to lead people to a life-changing encounter with the beauty and presence of Christ. He has worked with various parish youth and young adult ministries for over 20 years and, in 2012, began traveling around the country sharing his love for Christ and the Church. He currently serves as the director of Creative Marketing for Life Teen International



Youth from Springfield, Lambertton, Sleepy Eye and New Ulm enjoying NET retreat, Lifeline together!

We have only 12 spots on the bus so gather your friends!

Contact Karen Reindl at
mrsreindl@straphaelpk-6.com

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, November 29

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

Youth Choir Schedule

Wednesday, November 29

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



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**

Day 1 Spark series

Reflection: We all need revival. The root word itself – revive – means “to live again”. “The Eucharist is God’s response to the deepest hunger of the human heart, the hunger for authentic life, for in the Eucharist Christ himself is truly in our midst, to nourish, console and sustain us on our journey.” (Pope Francis)

Revival is not just for this moment. It is for every moment. Revival begins personally. When we embody the renewal as it has taken place in us and bring it to other people, we become missionaries. Use this time to pray for revival and the courage to invite others to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist so they can experience new life as well. True revival is always the work of God. We can’t fake it or manufacture it, nor can we force it. We can choose how to respond. Jesus is calling us something deeper. Do you desire it?

PRAYER: Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that revival begins in me. I give your permission to revival the places in my heart and in my life where I need your spiritual nourishment so that my love for you may be revived and I may be more closely united with you. Give me a heart that desires revival for others and the courage to share who you are. Amen.

CHALLENGE: Just as the Holy Spirit brought newness of life at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit has been given to use to offer us the new life. Spend 10-15 minutes in silence, asking the Holy Spirit to bring revival to you. It may be as simple as repeating, “Come Holy Spirit.” Be open to how the Spirit may make Christ known to us at this time.

~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. 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.

TAKE AND BAKE
APPLE PIES
& APPLE CRISP

Proceeds benefit St. Raphael School



\$10 A PIE
\$10 CRISP(8X8)

You can call the office and place an order or stop in and pick one up! They will be available anytime the school is open until our apple supply is depleted!

CALL TODAY: 507-723-4135

St. Raphael School
Advent Calendar
Sale



\$5.00 EACH

- * There are 2 different pictures available, each with a bible verse and chocolate candy behind every door.
- * To purchase, contact one of our students or the school office

Thank you for supporting our school. **507-723-4135**