



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

November 5, 2023
31st 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 Nov 6	NO Mass <i>Romans 11:29-36; Luke 14:12-14</i>
Tues Nov 7	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Carl & Mary Bates (VVNH) 1:00pm Mass <i>Romans 12:5-16b; Luke 14:15-24</i>
Wed Nov 8	(Lamb) 8:00am Mass +Milton Navratil <i>Romans 13:8-10; Luke 14:25-33</i>
Thur. Nov 9	(Sanb) 8:00am Mass +Giles Riley <i>Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17; John 2:13-22</i>
Fri. Nov 10	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Chaplain Mary Pauluk <i>Romans 15:14-21; Luke 16:1-8</i>
Sat. Nov 11	(Spfld) 5:30pm Mass +Gerald Juenemann <i>Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Luke 16:9-15</i>
Sun. Nov 12	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Eugene Tauer (Lamb) 10:30am Mass –For the People <i>Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13</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,

What a cold few days that we have been having lately. Seeing some snow on the ground so early reminded me of the terrible snowstorm that took place on Halloween in 1991 when I was first learning how to drive in high school. That was a bad one if any of you remember that snownami.

I want to thank our religious education leaders and teachers at St. Joseph's, St. Raphael's parish and school for the hard work that you've been putting in since I got here. It has been a joy to be with you shuffling back and forth and I look forward to what the Lord will do for us as the days go by. It was a joy to be with the kids to celebrate All Saints Day and to see them having fun at school. I pray that we adults will learn to be more childlike in our ability to rejoice and celebrate the great festivals of our faith like they have a tendency to show us.

The homeschool group that gathers in our diocese at the school in Leavenworth invited me over for their party on the 31st. It was fun to learn about their group and to see the kids dressed up as their favorite saints and give their little speeches about them. I noticed that all the teenage boys either picked saints who were warriors or died a warrior's death (the martyrs). Keep up the good work in growing up protectors of the faith in the future boys.

Celebrating All Saints Day this past week got me thinking a little bit about holy days of obligation in the Catholic Church. For those of you who have been around for a long time you've probably noticed a substantial change throughout the years with how people view the solemnity. I may be too young to really understand the changes over the past 75 years, but I'd like to share with you some observations I've had and see if this is some food for thought...

What are Holy Days of obligation and what does that mean? Let's briefly look at the Catechism:

- a. **2180** The precept of the Church specifies the law of the Lord more precisely: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass."¹¹⁷ "The precept of participating in the Mass is satisfied by assistance at a Mass which is celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the holy day or on the evening of the preceding day."¹¹⁸
- b. **2181** The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor.¹¹⁹ Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.
- c. **2182** Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to his Church. The faithful give witness by this to their communion in faith and charity. Together they testify to God's holiness and their hope of salvation. They strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

But if they are so important, why do so few people go to them? I think that is a question that many of us should be asking ourselves. I mean if we are being honest, the holy days may not seem all that important to someone looking in from the outside. And yet, the Church is saying that if you miss mass on these holy days, it is a grave sin and that means the sin is so serious it can become a mortal sin if the three requirements of a mortal sin are met (aka a complete severance of our relationship with God).

So, again, what gives? I wonder if maybe part of the problem is that we have lost the ability to celebrate these holy days properly. The Church is showing us that they are to be so important to us, and yet I wonder if we have lost sight as to why they are supposed to be so important. Over time I pray that the Holy Spirit will lead us into a renewal, a renewal of learning how to truly celebrate important solemnities... to share big meals together, have a cold beer, smoke a good cigar and truly take time away from the busyness of life and remember who we are, where we come from and where we are going. I simply can't imagine my life without the heroes, the saints, that I have come to know and love. They have meant so much and continue to mean so much to me. When I need a big brother or sister, I turn my prayers to them seeking help and guidance. Our relationship with them remains, even though there is a veil separating us right now. That is something I need to celebrate, that I need to remember and be grateful for. Maybe we'll start small in the future but grow in our ability to go all out with the important stuff as time goes by.

God's blessings,

Fr. Jeremy

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

Nov 5	10:30am	Mass
Nov 7	1:00pm	Mass—VVNH
Nov 8	8:00am	Mass
	6:30-7:30pm	Faith Formation Classes
Nov 9	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
Nov 12	10:30am	Mass

This week we remember *these* people in our prayers.
Darla Gilb and Darrel & Cathy Graff

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	\$21,461.58	\$17,266.00
Student	\$250.00	\$86.58	\$86.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$865.44	\$1,208.25

November 12 Ministries

Lector	Cathy Graff
EMC	Pat Story
Servers	Maia Scheffler & Kinley Alms
Sacristan	Teresa Wenisch
Ushers	Jim Imker & Vern Hillesheim
Gift Bearers	Katie Alms Family
Money Counters	Cathy Graff & Kylie Jenniges

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph	
Adult Envelope	\$685.00
Student Envelope	\$14.00
Loose Plate	\$88.50
World Mission	\$25.00
Total	\$663.00

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, November 8

6:30-7:30pm Faith Formation Classes

We have Mass intention availability at both St. Joseph and St. Thomas. If you would like to have a Mass said in honor or in memory of your loved one, please contact Raquel at the Parish Office, at 507-723-4137 to reserve a date.



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 www.ucdir.com, click on photography appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter **mn371** in the Church Code and enter **photos** in the password field. If your family consists of 6 or more people, please use 2 consecutive time slots.



Wabasso Public Library's

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Sunday

November 5

10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Wabasso Community Center

Crafts • Clothing • Housewares • Jewelry
 BBQ • Hot Turkey • Homemade Desserts

1 Sandwich Plate \$8
 2 Sandwich Plate \$10

Lunch served
 11:00 AM -
 1:00 PM

Silent Auction
 Closes at
 1:00 PM

Book Sale at
 the Library
 11:00 AM -
 1:00 PM.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$115,961.58	\$81,147.00
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$380.88	\$0.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$380.88	\$0.00

Last week's Parish Revenue

Adult Envelopes	\$4,708.00
Loose Plate	\$218.00
DMA 2022—4th Payout	\$215.00
All Saints Day	\$90.00
World Mission	\$33.00
Church Memorial	\$10.00
School Memorial	\$555.00
Daycare Donation	\$500.00
Candles	\$55.00
Coffee Connection	\$30.00
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$751.04
Total Income	\$7,165.04

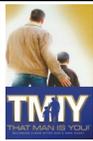
~ Serving next Funeral will be Group C ~

November 11 & 12, 2023

	5:30pm	8:30am
Servers	Kallen Riederer	Oliver Ludewig
	Zoie Riederer	Paul Goedtke
Lector	Bev Fults	Mariah Pietig
EMHC	Bev Fults	Dcn Barry Reindl
Accompanist	Julie Prechel	Julie Prechel
Song Leader	Julie Prechel	Adult Choir
Rosary	Jane Irlbeck	VOLUNTEER
Head Usher	Keith Riederer	Mike Reiner
	Jill Riederer	VOLUNTEER
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Videographer	Noah Riederer	



The Parish Office will be **CLOSED** for Monday, November 6, 2023.



That Man is You meets in the Church Basement on Friday mornings from 6:30—7:30am. All men ages 18 and up are welcome!

The **2023-2024 CCW Booklets** are now available for pickup in the gathering space.

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 weekend is Nov 17-19, 2023 in WINDOM, 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.

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.

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families, and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

Directory Committee

- 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 **ms371** 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

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

Nov 5	8:30am	Mass
		Coffee Connection
Nov 6		NO SCHOOL at St. Raphael
		Parish Office CLOSED
Nov 7	8:30am	School Mass
	9:15am	Adult Faith Formation in Holy Family Room
	4:00-5:30pm	Atrium
Nov 8	1:00pm	Administrative Council Mtg
	4:30-7:00pm	Spaghetti Supper
	5:00-6:00pm	Children's Choir Practice
	6:00-7:00pm	Praise & Worship Choir Practice
	6:00-7:00pm	Faith Formation grades 1-6
	7:15-8:15pm	Faith Formation grades 7-10
Nov 9	6:30pm	Adult Faith Formation in Holy Family Room
Nov 10	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
	8:30am	Mass
	11:00am	Veteran's Day Program
Nov 11	5:30pm	Mass
Nov 12	8:30am	Mass
		Coffee Connection

~Good Neighbor Thrift ~

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

November 6-11

**November 7—Holiday Open House
4:00-7:00pm**

50% off Storewide

Sign up for Door Prizes & Treats

Now accepting Fall/Winter Clothing Donations

Please remember in your prayers:

✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:

Father Steven Verhelst

Please pray for our parishioners this week~

Sun: Janel Matter

Mon: John Matter

Tues: Lennis Matter

Wed: Mark Matter

Thur: Paul & Susan Matter

Fri: Scott & Nancy Matter Family

Sat: Bryce & Kristina McVicker 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 6**

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



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 questions.



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!

Candy Bar Sales: They're going fast!!! If you would like to purchase candy bars, please check with a St. Raphael Catholic School family or come in to the school office to get your chocolate fix! The varieties we have left in the office are crisp and almond. They are on sale for \$1.00 each. All the proceeds go to the school.

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

Tuesday November 7: Staff leads

Tuesday November 14: Grade 3 leads

Tuesday November 21: Grade 2 leads

Faith Formation Day for Teachers: There is no school on Monday November 6th. The teachers will be traveling to St. Aloysius in Olivia, MN for a Faith Formation day. Mary Hasson is the Keynote speaker. She is the Kate O'Beirne Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington D.C. She is an attorney and policy expert, in support of Catholic teachings. The breakout session topics include Virtues in Practice, Catholic Social Teaching, Catholic Identity Standards in Mathematics, Sexual Identity, Eucharistic Adoration with Children, Discipleship in Ministry, and Theology of the Body. Teachers will attend the Keynote speaker, learn about Diocesan Policy, attend Mass, have lunch, and attend breakout sessions.

Spaghetti Supper: Let us cook for you! The staff of St. Raphael Catholic School will be cooking a delicious spaghetti supper on Wednesday November 8th from 4:30-7pm. It is a dine in or carry out meal. We will be serving spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic breadsticks, coleslaw, a cookie and beverage for \$10 per meal. We hope to see you there! All proceeds go to the school!

Parent/Teacher Conferences: School will be dismissed early on Thursday November 16th at 1:20p.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences for K-6th grade students are that evening from 3:00-8:00p.m. Our Kindergarten Readiness preschool students will have conferences in the spring. There will be no school on Friday November 17th for staff or students.

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!

Veterans Day Program: Our St. Raphael students will be putting on a Veterans Day program on Friday November 10th at 11:00a.m. We are partnering once again with the American Legion and they will be joining us for this special event. Our students will prepare poems, songs, decorations, and remarks. We invite everyone to join us for this special event!

Save the Date: Please save the date for our St. Raphael Catholic School annual Christmas program on Wednesday December 6th at 6:30p.m.

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!

*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.

School Office Hours

Monday-Friday 7:30am—3:30pm

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



There will be **NO school at St. Raphael** on Monday, November 6, 2023.

~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

“Presence The Mystery of the Eucharist.”

Tuesdays at 9:15am (November 7, 14) in the Holy Family Room

Gathering 4 = Biblical Foundations of the Eucharist (Jewish and pagan)

Gathering 5 = Biblical Foundations of the Eucharist (Protestant and Secular) will be Tues. Nov. 14

Thursday November 9 at 6:30pm in the Holy Family Room (Last week)

Gathering 5 = Biblical Foundations of the Eucharist (Protestant & Secular)

Please join us if you like or look for this program on FORMED.

Elementary Update: For our first week of November we attended the All Saints day Mass. The rest of the month grade 1 will learn about the Good Shepherd and liturgical year. Grade 2 will focus on the Forgiving Father. Grade 3 will learn about the apostles. Grade 4 will be entering the book of Exodus with Moses and the 10 commandments. Grade 5 will be learning the meaning of the prayers of the rosary; Hail holy Queen and Apostles creed. Grade 6 will be finishing the book of Genesis. All elementary students will enjoy an “Advent” event being put on by grades 11 and 12 on November 29.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, November 8

6:00-7:00pm Faith Formation Classes grades 1-6

7:15-8:15pm Faith Formation Classes grades 7-10

Youth Choir Schedule

Wednesday, November 8

5:00-6:00pm Children’s Choir Practice

6:00-7:00pm Praise & Worship Choir Practice

Parents of second graders: The parent meeting is next Tuesday, November 14 at 6pm in the church basement.

Upcoming VIRTUS Training Sessions

✠A new VIRTUS Training Session has been added for **Tuesday, November 7, 2023, from 6:00-9:00 pm at Cathedral High School, New Ulm, in the Library.**

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.



WANTED:



Piano Accompanist for the Children’s Choir and Praise and Worship Choir!



Accompanist needed for service rehearsals Wednesday evenings and 2 services per month during the months September—May.

5:00-6:00 Children’s Choir

6:00-7:00 Praise and Worship Choir

This is a paid position. Please contact Lori Kretsch for more details: 507-276-5160

Enkindle, Rekindle, and Deepen a Living Relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist

The U.S. Catholic Bishops Secretariat of Evangelization and Catechesis has launched a **Heart of the Revival** weekly email newsletter for ongoing inspiration and information as we journey forward toward the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress.

CATHOLICS OF ALL AGES ENCOURAGED TO SIGN-UP!

It’s the simplest way to stay connected to what the National Eucharistic Revival is all about.

Visit the Diocese of New Ulm website, dnu.org to sign-up for the newsletter, learn of various upcoming Eucharistic Revival events, and more.



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



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).

~Upcoming Area Events~

Upcoming Area Events....

Church of St. Catherine, Redwood Falls, is hosting a Hot Dish Supper on Monday, November 6, 2023, 5:00-6:30pm. Adults \$10.00, Students grades 1-6 \$5.00. Menu consists of Hot dish, salad, dessert, beverage. Take outs available. Proceeds to go toward \$500 to Share the Spirit. Sponsored by St. Catherine's CCW.

**Lunch with the
Springfield Area Lions Club**

**Sunday November 5th
11:00-1:00**



Springfield Area Community Center

**Smoked Pork Sandwich, Wild Rice Soup
Chips, Cookie, Beverage**

Also at the Community Center

21st Annual Holiday Extravaganza
Vendors and Crafters to help you get holiday shopping done.
10-2



Proceeds benefit
Operation Christmas Joy
Springfield Scholarship Program
and Other Community Projects.

TAKE OUTS AVAILABLE

**21st Annual
Holiday Extravaganza**

**Sunday November 5th
10am-2pm**

Springfield Area Community Center
**Over 25
Vendors & Crafters with
Great gift ideas for everyone!**



Springfield Area Lions
Serving Lunch 11 am - 1 PM
Take outs available



We're Back!
**Divine Providence
Auxiliary Fundraiser**

**Sunday, November 5th
Bazaar & Country Store
8:30am - 2:00pm**

Roast Beef Dinner is back!!

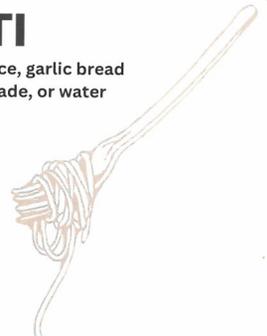
served 10:30am - 1:00pm

Dine-in or Take-outs available Price: \$15.00

Delicious
SPAGHETTI

Serving: Spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread sticks, coleslaw, cookie, lemonade, or water

**\$10
PER MEAL**



**Wednesday, November 8, 2023
4:30pm-7:00pm
St. Raphael School Gym
Springfield, MN**

DINE- IN OR TAKE OUT

All proceeds benefits St. Raphael School