



# Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

[www.vineandbranchesafc.org](http://www.vineandbranchesafc.org)

October 1, 2023  
26th 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 Oct 2	<b>NO Mass</b> <i>Zechariah 8:1-8; Matthew 18:1-5, 10</i>
Tues Oct 3	(Spfld) <b>8:30am Mass</b> +Delores Frericks <i>Zechariah 8:20-23; Luke 9:51-56</i>
Wed Oct 4	(VVNH) <b>1:30pm Mass</b> <i>Nehemiah 2:1-8; Luke 9:57-62</i>
Thur. Oct 5	(Sanb) <b>8:00am Mass</b> +Frank & Isabelle Gall <i>Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Luke 10:1-12</i>
Fri. Oct 6	(Spfld) <b>8:30am Mass</b> +Linda Lang <i>Baruch 1:15-22; Luke 10:13-16</i>
Sat. Oct 7	(Spfld) <b>5:30pm Mass</b> +Ray & Loretta Roiger <i>Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29; Luke 10:17-24</i>
Sun. Oct 8	(Spfld) <b>8:30am Mass</b> –For the People (Lamb) <b>10:30am Mass</b> +Ken Arnoldi <i>Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43</i>

## Church of St. Raphael & Area Office

20 W Van Dusen Street ~ 507-723-4137

Springfield MN 56087

Email: [straphael@newulmtel.net](mailto:straphael@newulmtel.net)

**Prayer Chain**–Karen Brandl 507-920-6709

## Church of St. Joseph

400 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, PO Box 458

Lamberton MN 56152

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

Email [stjoseph@centurylink.net](mailto:stjoseph@centurylink.net)

**Prayer Chain**– Sue Imker 507-829-1846

## **Pastor**

Fr. Jeremy Kucera Phone: 507-828-5247

[fatherjeremykucera@gmail.com](mailto:fatherjeremykucera@gmail.com)

## **Deacon**

Dcn. Barry Reindl Phone: 723-5952

[barkmr7@gmail.com](mailto:barkmr7@gmail.com)

## **Parish Secretary**

Raquel Kieper 723-4137

[straphael@newulmtel.net](mailto:straphael@newulmtel.net)

## **Parish Bookkeeper**

Connie Vogel 723-4138

[cvogel@newulmtel.net](mailto:cvogel@newulmtel.net)

## **Faith Formation/Youth Ministry**

Karen Reindl

[mrsreindl@straphaelpk-6.com](mailto:mrsreindl@straphaelpk-6.com)

## **School Principal**

Beth Steffl 723-4136

[mrssteffl@straphaelpk-6.com](mailto:mrssteffl@straphaelpk-6.com)

## **School Secretary**

Trisha Ludewig 723-4135

[straysschooloffice@newulmtel.net](mailto: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'd like to encourage everyone to keep our farmers in your prayers at this time of year so that they stay safe and are blessed with a fruitful harvest and fair prices.

A few teenagers shared with me how busy they are these days and that they find it difficult to be at home much. I don't know about the rest of you, but it seems to me that this can be quite harmful to a person. Has anyone ever wondered why some people are so busy (I am not reflecting on this to be that old man priest who simply wants to complain about life today and longs for the days of yesteryear that were simpler and not as complicated)? Or for that matter why does it seem that so many people regardless of age are so busy (farmers during harvest I am not referring to you)?

Something that I was taught about the spiritual life is that busyness is not a virtue. It can actually be a form of sloth or laziness. Our faith teaches us that busyness can be a simple form of running away from God. If we don't take the time in quiet prayer to invite Jesus into what is bubbling under the surface in our hearts, minds, and souls, we'll probably try to find some way to numb that pain or shut it down. One of the ways that I've noticed as a priest that people deal with that pain is by using distractions like work or being involved in too many things. We can use busyness to run away from hurt, to bury hurt, to ignore hurt, to pretend that I don't need help with stuff. Maybe some people reading this are trying to fill voids within with worldly things like work and extracurricular activities?

Better yet, it was St. Augustine who famously said, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in you Lord". As a young man he tried and tried and tried to deal with the pain and void he experienced within on his own terms and in varying ways. But God eventually broke through with the help of Augustine's mother, St. Monica, crying for his conversion for decades. In order to share his conversion with us he beautifully wrote:

*Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you they would not have been at all. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace.*

I guess my prayer is that anyone who finds themselves in a space like St. Augustine was in, that you'll also discover the Lord as St. Augustine did. Maybe give Jesus a chance to break through by slowing down a bit and not run away from the pain anymore, but engage it in quiet prayer with Him.

Here's a website for a retreat center if you need to step away from being too busy and allow God to breakthrough:

<https://broom-tree.org/>

God's blessings,

Fr. Jeremy

# ~Church of St. Joseph~

## Meetings and Activities

Oct 1	10:30am	Mass
Oct 4	1:30pm	Mass—Valley View NH
	6:30-7:30pm	Faith Formation Class
Oct 5	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
Oct 8	10:30am	Mass

This week we remember *these people in our prayers.*  
*Amber & Joel Demuth and Brenda & John Derickson*

**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	“Pickle” Riley

<b>St. Joseph Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024</b>			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
<b>Adults</b>	62,000.00	\$15,550.03	<b>\$12,251.00</b>
<b>Student</b>	\$250.00	\$62.53	<b>\$346.00</b>
<b>Loose Plate</b>	\$2,500.00	\$625.04	<b>\$797.75</b>

## October 8 Ministries

<b>Lector</b>	Pat Story
<b>EMC</b>	Teresa Wenisch
<b>Servers</b>	Maia Scheffler & Hadynn Jenniges
<b>Sacristan</b>	Cathy Graff
<b>Ushers</b>	Bill Schaffran & Mike Hubert
<b>Gift Bearers</b>	Mike Hubert Family
<b>Money Counters</b>	Marg Weber & Katy Wille

<b>Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph</b>	
Adult Envelope	\$945.00
Student Envelope	\$4.00
Loose Plate	\$39.00
Cemetery	\$60.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,048.00</b>

## Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

**Wednesday, October 4**

6:30-7:30 Faith Formation Classes

**CCW dues are now payable for this year.** Please give your \$10.00 to Cathy Graff. You can put them in the regular collection in an envelope labelled CCW or put them in Cathy's mailbox. They can also be mailed to PO Box 234.

There will be a **CCW meeting** on Monday, October 9, 2023 at 7:00pm in the church basement. All members are welcome to attend.

Father Jeremy has a new email address. If you need to reach him via email, please use **fatherjeremykucera@gmail.com**

Thank you

**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.

*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.



**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.

# ~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$83,750.03	<b>\$57,877.00</b>
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$275.08	<b>\$0.00</b>
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$275.08	<b>\$0.00</b>

Last week's Parish Revenue	
Adult Envelopes	\$3,261.00
Loose Plate	\$267.35
Playground Donation	\$260.00
Rolls Sold	\$165.00
Pies Sold	\$50.00
Thrift Store Donation	\$25.00
Catholic University	\$5.00
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$443.69
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$4,477.04</b>

The 400 Club Winners this Week		
#286	Karen Reindl	\$65.00
#144	Pat Sturm	\$65.00


~ Serving next Funeral will be Group B~

October 7 & 8, 2023		
	5:30pm	8:30am
Servers	Cole Jensen	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>
	Brett Jensen	TJ Reindl
Lector	Bev Fults	Laura Bast
EMHC	Bev Fults	Dcn Barry Reindl
Accompanist	Children's Choir	Praise & Worship
Song Leader	Children's Choir	Praise & Worship Choir
Rosary	Jane Irlbeck	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>
Head Usher	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	Steve Meine
	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>
	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>
	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>
Videographer	Christina Reindl	



**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 Lambertton and November 24 & 25 and November 28—December 2 in Springfield. Sign up is now available online at [www.ucdir.com](http://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.

**~Good Neighbor Thrift ~**  
 Monday-Friday 9:30am-3:30pm  
 Closed Saturdays  
**October 2-6**  
**25% off Picture Frames**  
 Now accepting Fall/Winter Clothing Donations



**The 400 Club** ~ Please show your support for the 400 Club. Our loyal sellers are out and about selling tickets. **There are also tickets available in the Parish Office.** Please be supportive of this worthy fundraiser.

**October is Respect Life Month and October 1 is Respect Life Sunday.** In 1973, the United States Council of Catholic Bishops designated October as Respect Life Month. It is a time to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life and how we can build a culture of life from conception to natural death.

**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.

# ~Church of St. Raphael~

## Meetings & Activities

Oct 1	8:30am	Mass
		Coffee Connection
Oct 3	8:30am	Mass
Oct 4	5:00-6:00pm	Children's Choir Practice
	6:00-7:00pm	Praise & Worship Choir Practice
	6:00-7:00pm	Faith Formation grades 2-6
	7:15-8:15pm	Faith Formation grades 7-10
Oct 6	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
	8:30am	School Mass
	9:30am-4:00pm	Adoration
	1:00pm	Steeple Chase
Oct 7	5:30pm	Mass
Oct 8	8:30am	Mass
		Coffee Connection

**The Eucharistic Miracles Display is a traveling museum-like exhibition featuring the Eucharistic Miracles as chronicled by Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2006).**

Blessed Carlo was a teenager from Italy who developed a website dedicated to the documented and scientifically scrutinized occasions when the Holy Eucharist changed in its physical appearance, reminding us that the bread and wine of the Mass truly become the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Eucharistic Miracles Display will travel across the Divine Mercy AFC Oct 10th - 26th.

**The schedule is as follows:**

St Michael's, Morgan - Oct 10 - 15th  
 St Mary's, Sleepy Eye - Oct 16. - 22nd  
 St Paul's, Comfrey - Oct 23rd - 26th

Please stop by and view the display during these times.

**We would like to extend a special invitation to St Michael's Hour of Adoration Sunday October 8, 2023 from 7:00 - 8:00 PM followed by a video called "Dare to Believe" in the church social hall.**

Please join us - all are welcome - bring the whole family!! Refreshments will be served.

*Please remember in your prayers:*

✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:

*Father Jeremy Kucera*

***Please pray for our parishioners this week~***

Sun: Cherie Lang

Mon: Christopher Lang

Tues: Dan (Chopper) Lang

Wed: Daniel Lang

Thur: Diane Lang

Fri: Eugene & Connie Lang

Sat: Fred & Karen Lang

*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



### Check out Channel 8-Cablecast

**\* St. Raphael Sunday Mass**

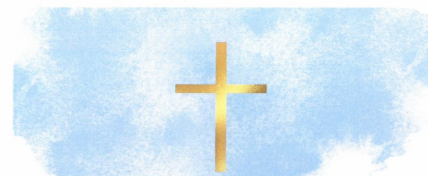
Every Tuesday at 5:00 pm & Friday at 5:00 pm

**\*The Future Depends of Love—Episode 1**

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.



PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER  
**SHARING YOUR GIFTS**  
 AS A MEMBER OF ST. RAPHAEL CCW

WE ARE IN NEED OF A **VICE PRESIDENT**  
 OR **TWO CO-VICE PRESIDENTS**. THIS  
 POSITION INVOLVES FIVE MEETINGS PER  
 YEAR. NO PREVIOUS CCW EXPERIENCE  
 IS REQUIRED, ONLY A WILLINGNESS TO  
 SERVE OUR PARISH.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS  
 POSITION, PLEASE CONTACT  
 SARAH BOETTGER (507-227-5597) OR  
 MARIAH PIETIG (507-822-2634)



# ~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.*

**Steeple Chase-October 6, 2023 at 1:00p.m.:** Our schools' annual 5K fun run/walk, the Steeple Chase, is coming up soon on Friday October 6th! It will work differently this year by having the event during the school day to get all of our students involved. T-shirts are now available on [deluxeprint.biz](http://deluxeprint.biz). The walk/run will be open to school families, parishioners, and members of the community. If you would like to join us, simply show up at the front of the school just before 1:00p.m. on Friday, October 6th. This year it will not be a timed race, rather a walk of celebration for our school! All shirt profits, pledges, and sponsorship money will go to the St. Raphael PTT Organization, which then allocates all the money to the school to support students and teachers. The PTT organization sponsors classroom stipends, classroom extras, furniture purchases, field trips, first communion celebrations, Kindergarten and 6<sup>th</sup> grade graduations, and more!

**Emmaus Day this week:** This week we were blessed to have Father Brendan Rolling and Father Tanner Thoofit will be visit our school to speak to the students about Vocations and how they can serve God in their daily life. They will be visited each classroom and joined us for lunch. We enjoyed their visit and learning about vocations.

### **Upcoming School Masses:**

Friday September 29: Grade 2 leads- Feast of St. Raphael, St. Gabriel and St. Michael  
October 6: Grade 1 leads  
October 13: Grade 6 leads  
October 27: Grade 5 leads

**Grandparents Day:** We will be hosting Grandparents Day at school on Wednesday October 18th! We invite grandparents of our K-6th grade students to come and join us for a morning of fun activities that include a living rosary, BINGO, recess and lunch!

**Mrs. Steffl away at Conference:** I will be at CSCOE's (Catholic School Center of Excellence) conference in Brainerd, MN October 11-13th. This is a conference for Principals and Catholic School leaders. They have a variety of keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and time to visit one-on-one with specialists that can help me plan and strategize upcoming projects for our school. I am excited to attend and hope to bring back many useful thoughts and ideas for St. Raphael.

**Upcoming Field Trips:** Our 3-6th grade students will be attending the Children's Holy Field trip in New Ulm on October 11th. Students from other Catholic schools in the Diocese meet to pray the Rosary together. The K-3 grade classes will be going to Iverson's Tree Farm for a fall field trip on Tuesday October 17th! Our 4-6th grade students will be visiting the SMSU Planetarium on October 24th to culminate their learning on earth and space in their classroom science classes.

Blessings,

*Mrs. Beth Steffl*

### **School Office Hours**

Monday-Friday 7:30am—3:30pm

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



**Register today for our 11th annual Steeple Chase!**

Friday, October 6, 2023 at 1:00pm

You may purchase an event t-shirt by visiting <http://deluxeprint.biz>. All shirt profits will go to the St. Raphael PTT Organization, which then allocates all the money to the school to support students and teachers.

**Parking-lot notice:** Our school children are outside for recess each day Monday-Friday 10:30-11:00am. We are asking parishioners not to drive or park in the north parking lot during those times (we do not want any accidents to occur during the kids' play time). If you need to enter the church, please park on Van Dusen Street and use the south gathering space entrance.

Thank you.

## ~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

This Wednesday we welcome the first graders as they begin their year of faith formation on October 4.

Students in grades 6 will lead the rosary for the kids in grades 2-6 and grade 9 will lead the Rosary for the teens in class on October 4. We will all meet in the gathering space and be dismissed to the school auditorium/gym. After the rosary we will divide up by grades to complete the VIRTUS lessons.

For the rest of October grade 1 will be learning about creation. Grade 2 will begin the 10 commandments. Grade 3 will talk about the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Fourth grade will finish the book of Genesis. Fifth grade will be introduced to the Holy days of obligation and discuss who a Saint is. Sixth grade salvation history will read and discuss through Genesis chapter 5.

Wednesday, October 11 will be a service night for the teens.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

### Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

#### Wednesday, October 4

6:00-7:00pm Faith Formation classes grades 1-6  
7:15-8:15pm Faith Formation classes grades 7-12

### Youth Choir Schedule

#### Wednesday, October 4

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

**The confirmation retreat is set for Sunday, October 29** starting at 1pm for those in grades 9 and 10 and those who have not attended a confirmation retreat before in grade 11.

Please eat lunch before coming, we will have snacks and supper at the retreat. The retreat will end at 7:30pm. Please invite your sponsor or a parent to join us at 5:30pm for Mass and supper.

### 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

FORMED

**We would like to invite all parishioners to use the resource of FORMED.** The Area Faith Community has an account and we invite you to log on and view the resources available.

To log in please follow the following steps:

- Go to [formed.org](http://formed.org) on your computer/device
- On the top right side, click on "sign up"
- Click on Sign up as a parishioner
- In the Create a New Account box—type in Vine and Branches AFC. Click on the drop down for Springfield, MN, then click NEXT
- Type in your name and your email address

Everyone can create an account for themselves and their family. Formed.org has some fantastic resources for the whole family all year round, whether it is a family movie night, kids programming, a bible study, or audio talks.



**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).

**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.



**If you or someone you know** are interested in receiving Meals on Wheels, please contact Diane Johnson at 507-227-1056 to be placed on the list.

## ~Upcoming Area Events~

### Upcoming Area Events....

**St. Michael Catholic Church, Morgan**, is hosting their annual Roast Beef Dinner on Sunday, October 8, 2023. This is a DRIVE THRU ONLY event. 10:30am-12:30pm. Cost is \$15.00.

### Upcoming VIRTUS Training Sessions

✠A new VIRTUS Training Session has been added for **Monday, October 2, 2023, from 6:00-9:00 pm at Church of St. Mary, Willmar.**

✠A new VIRTUS Training Session has been added for **Wednesday, October 4, 2023, from 6:00-9:00 pm at Cathedral High School library, New Ulm.**

✠A new VIRTUS Training Session has been added for **Thursday, October 12, 2023, from 6:30-9:30 pm at St. Peter's School, Canby.**

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



### CATHOLIC PARISHES CELEBRATE COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (CCW) SUNDAY

The most Reverend Monsignor Douglas Grams has proclaimed Sunday, October 8, 2023 as Council of Catholic Women Recognition Sunday in the Diocese of New Ulm.

The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) is an organization of concerned women established by the Bishops of the United States 100 years ago to offer women the opportunity to increase their knowledge of the Church, strengthen their leadership skills, and deepen their spirituality through prayer and service.

The year 2023 marks the 66th anniversary of the Diocese of New Ulm. The Council of Catholic Women has been a vital force in the Catholic life of the Diocese of New Ulm since the time of formation. Msgr Eugene Lozinski, the New Ulm Diocesan CCW Spiritual Advisor, believes that when women give themselves to prayer as they begin the many projects that the CCW offers through their commission and committee structure, they become more closely united with Christ.

The activities of CCW are meant to help women become better Christians. CCW exists to help the work of Christ become more evident and visible in the world by helping women to grow spiritually as individuals, as well as building up families and parishes. When women become actively involved in CCW, they are building up the Body of Christ. By inviting and encouraging other women to become involved in CCW, they are helping them grow in holiness.

The Council of Catholic Women of the Diocese of New Ulm continues to encourage affiliates to work in our parishes to create a spirit of unity through prayer, enrichment and service in fulfilling the three-fold mission of Christ.

The mission statement of the National Council of Catholic Women is carried out in our New Ulm Diocese: ***Supporting, empowering, and educating members in spirituality, leadership and service; reaching out with Gospel values to meet the needs of Church and society.*** The work is carried out on the national, providence, diocesan, deanery, and parish levels through the work of commissions and committees. Spirituality, Service, Leadership, Legislation, Reverence Life, Scholarship and Historian are all active commissions and committees in the New Ulm Diocese.

Council of Catholic Women (CCW) Recognition Sunday is the day to highlight the activities and leadership carried out by Catholic Women. All parishes are encouraged to celebrate Council of Catholic Women Recognition Sunday on October 8, 2023

# 40 DAYS FOR LIFE.

## Opening Rally

**Thursday, September 28**  
6 - 8 PM  
St. Augustine Church  
442 2nd St SE  
St. Cloud

Author of *Scalpel and the Soul*, Dr. Haywood Robinson will share the story of his conversion from abortion doctor to director of medical affairs & education for 40 Days for Life.

*Join us for Prayer + Fasting + Peaceful Witness*

**Monday - Friday 7 AM - 7 PM**  
**Sep 27 - Nov 5, 2023**  
at  
Planned Parenthood  
451 East St Germain St  
St. Cloud

You can protect mothers & children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray & fast for an end to abortion!

*Learn more ... Get involved ... Sign up for prayer ... visit*

<https://signup.com/go/SKyavGJ> or scan & register

Opening Rally - Thursday, Sep 28 6 PM St. Augustine Closing Rally - Saturday, Nov 4 10 AM - Noon @ vigil site then St. Augustine

Contact: *Judy* [judy4life@meltel.net](mailto:judy4life@meltel.net) or *Jan* [hoelscherhorj@charter.net](mailto:hoelscherhorj@charter.net)  
320-453-7592 320-253-1779