



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

October 15, 2023
28th 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 16	NO Mass <i>Romans 1:1-7; Luke 11:29-32</i>
Tues Oct 17	(Spfld) NO Mass <i>Romans 1:16-25; Luke 11:37-41</i>
Wed Oct 18	(Lamb) NO Mass <i>2 Timothy 4:10-17b; Luke 10:1-9</i>
Thur. Oct 19	(Sanb) 8:00am Mass +Steven Schmidt <i>Romans 3:21-30; Luke 11:47-54</i>
Fri. Oct 20	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Joan (Don) Richert <i>Romans 4:1-8; Luke 12:1-7</i>
Sat. Oct 21	(Spfld) 5:30pm Mass –Barry & Karen Reindl Family <i>Romans 4:13, 16-18; Luke 12:8-12</i>
Sun. Oct 22	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Gavin Ludewig (Lamb) 10:30am Mass –For the People <i>Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22:15-21</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 pray that all are well during the harvest season being in full swing. You can sure smell it in the air! Thank you for all of the birthday wishes and presents and treats. Maybe we need to slow down the goodies though.

This past week a number of you came up to me and were pretty upset about the change of the football game to Wednesday night in Springfield. I'm not going to use this space to start a battle. Rather, what I would like to do is try and put this situation into a broader context for reflection for all of our parishes (I am thinking that St. Joseph's runs into the same kind of tensions). Let's see what you think of a prophecy I came across that was given in 1969...

The future of the Church can and will issue from those whose roots are deep and who live from the pure fullness of their faith. It will not issue from those who accommodate themselves merely to the passing moment or from those who merely criticize others and assume that they themselves are infallible measuring rods; nor will it issue from those who take the easier road, who sidestep the passion of faith, declaring false and obsolete, tyrannous and legalistic, all that makes demands upon men, that hurts them and compels them to sacrifice themselves. To put this more positively: The future of the Church, once again as always, will be reshaped by saints, by men, that is, whose minds probe deeper than the slogans of the day, who see more than others see, because their lives embrace a wider reality. Unselfishness, which makes men free, is attained only through the patience of small daily acts of self-denial. By this daily passion, which alone reveals to a man in how many ways he is enslaved by his own ego, by this daily passion and by it alone, a man's eyes are slowly opened. He sees only to the extent that he has lived and suffered. If today we are scarcely able any longer to become aware of God, that is because we find it so easy to evade ourselves, to flee from the depths of our being by means of the narcotic of some pleasure or other. Thus our own interior depths remain closed to us. If it is true that a man can see only with his heart, then how blind we are!...

Let us go a step farther. From the crisis of today the Church of tomorrow will emerge — a Church that has lost much. She will become small and will have to start afresh more or less from the beginning. She will no longer be able to inhabit many of the edifices she built in prosperity. As the number of her adherents diminishes, so it will lose many of her social privileges. In contrast to an earlier age, it will be seen much more as a voluntary society, entered only by free decision. As a small society, it will make much bigger demands on the initiative of her individual members... the full-time ministry of the priesthood will be indispensable as formerly. But in all of the changes at which one might guess, the Church will find her essence afresh and with full conviction in that which was always at her center: faith in the triune God, in Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, in the presence of the Spirit until the end of the world. In faith and prayer she will again recognize the sacraments as the worship of God and not as a subject for liturgical scholarship.

The Church will be a more spiritual Church, not presuming upon a political mandate, flirting as little with the Left as with the Right. It will be hard going for the Church, for the process of crystallization and clarification will cost her much valuable energy. It will make her poor and cause her to become the Church of the meek. The process will be all the more arduous, for sectarian narrow-mindedness as well as pompous self-will will have to be shed. One may predict that all of this will take time. The process will be long and wearisome... But when the trial of this sifting is past, a great power will flow from a more spiritualized and simplified Church. Men in a totally planned world will find themselves unspeakably lonely. If they have completely lost sight of God, they will feel the whole horror of their poverty. Then they will discover the little flock of believers as something wholly new. They will discover it as a hope that is meant for them, an answer for which they have always been searching in secret.

And so it seems certain to me that the Church is facing very hard times. The real crisis has scarcely begun. We will have to count on terrific upheavals. But I am equally certain about what will remain at the end: not the Church of the political cult, which is dead already, but the Church of faith. It may well no longer be the dominant social power to the extent that she was until recently; but it will enjoy a fresh blossoming and be seen as man's home, where he will find life and hope beyond death.

What you just read was from a 1969 German radio broadcast, by Father Joseph Ratzinger who would become Pope Benedict XVI. I pray that this is good food for thought and prayer.

God's blessings,

Fr. Jeremy

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

Oct 15	10:30am	Mass
Oct 18		NO Mass
Oct 19	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
Oct 22	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	\$17,884.65	\$13,671.00
Student	\$250.00	\$72.15	\$59.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$721.20	\$1,001.75

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph

Adult Envelope	\$785.00
Student Envelope	\$8.00
Loose Plate	\$115.00
Utility	\$15.00
Total	\$923.00

This week we remember *these* people in our prayers.
Dennis & Julie Erickson and Jim & Jeanne Eykyn

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	"Pickle" Riley

October 22 Ministries

Lector	Doreen Kronback
EMC	Jeff Strock
Servers	Sydney Vogel & Kinley Alms
Sacristan	Jeff Strock
Ushers	Doug Decock & Gordy Wille
Gift Bearers	Katie Alm Family
Money Counters	Kylie Jenniges & Cathy Graff

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

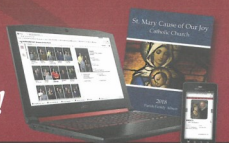
Wednesday, October 18

NO Faith Formation Classes—MEA Break

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.

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.

*Dear Church family,
It's time for a New Directory!*



**Celebrating faith.
Connecting families.
Sharing hope.**

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

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!



UNIVERSAL
CHURCH DIRECTORIES

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 **mb371** 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

There is no better time than right now to nurture your inner life, discover your spiritual needs, and feed your soul.

MATTHEW KELLY
I Heard God Laugh

Dynamic Catholic

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

Oct 15	8:30am	Mass
		Coffee Connection
Oct 17		NO Mass
	4:00-5:30pm	Atrium
Oct 18	12:30pm	School Dismissal —MEA
Oct 19		NO School—MEA
	6:30pm	Adult Faith Formation in Holy Family Room
Oct 20	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
		NO School—MEA
	8:30am	Mass
Oct 21	5:30pm	Mass
Oct 22	8:30am	Mass
		Coffee Connection

Please remember in your prayers:

✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:

Father Steven Verhelst

Please pray for our parishioners this week~

Sun: Steve Lang Family

Mon: Steve & Gina Lang

Tues: Dan & Julie Lassegard

Wed: Bracey & Annie Lerner Family

Thur: James & Marion Lewis

Fri: Dale & Barb Lindmeier

Sat: Dave & Judy Lipetzky

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 3**

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.

Congratulations to Nick Dauer, 2023 Recipient of the Catholic United Financial Church Community Award. Thank you for all you do for our church and community Nick!

Congratulations to Emma Vogel, daughter of Jordan and Katlyn Vogel, as she recently received the Sacrament of Baptism and was welcomed into the Holy Catholic Church and the St. Raphael Parish. Community!

worldwide
marriage encounter

St. Mary's Parish
Alexandria, MN
October 28-29

To apply or for more info,
visit WWME.org or call **507-227-8229**

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Connecting families.
Sharing hope.

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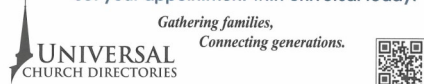
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2021 Dear Family Letter

~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!

Steeple Chase: Thanks again to all who supported our 11th annual Steeple Chase in any way-participating, donating prizes, sponsorships, or just cheering us on! We appreciate the support! Once all the sponsorships and pledges are in, I will let everyone know how much profit was made. As for the event itself, we had a cool but wonderful day and we had a great time supporting our school!

Candy Bar Sales: This week we officially began our annual candy bar sale! 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! We have milk chocolate, dark chocolate, almond, caramel, crisp, and wafer bars on sale for \$1.00 each. All the proceeds go to the school.

Shoe Drive: Thanks to all who helped support, donated shoes, or volunteered for our shoe drive. We received \$1,106.00 that went directly to our school's general budget for this shoe drive. Thanks again to Raquel Kieper who organized this fundraiser/service project and spent many many hours on it! We appreciate all your hard work!

Mrs. Steffl at Conference: This week Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, I attended CSCOE's Unconference at Madden's Resort in Brainerd, MN. We celebrated Mass, prayed, had many dynamic keynote speakers and breakout sessions and had time to network with other school leaders. It was fantastic!

Children's Holy Field Trip: This Wednesday our 3rd-6th grade classes went on the Children's Holy Field Trip. They prayed the Rosary with other Catholic School Students from around the New Ulm Diocese. Afterwards, they went to a park to eat and play, and then met the Sisters of Schoenstatt on the Lake in Sleepy Eye before returning to school at the end of the day.

Iverson Tree Farm: The K-3rd grade students will be going on a field trip to Iverson Tree Farm for a day of fall fun on Tuesday October 17th.

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!

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

Friday October 13: Grade 6 leads

Friday October 27: Grade 5 leads

Wednesday November 1: Grade 4 leads

End of the Quarter: It is the end of the first quarter on October 18th. Students will be dismissed at 12:30 that day. There is no school on Thursday October 19th or Friday October 20th for the Education Minnesota break.

All Saints Day: K-6 students and staff will celebrate All Saints Day with a special Mass at 8:30a.m. on Wednesday, November 1st. The staff and students will also be celebrating with an All Saints Day party organized by Mrs. Reindl in the afternoon.

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.

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 ~

Reminder that there are not any faith formation classes next Wednesday, October 18. Enjoy the long MEA weekend!

All are invited to join the Study titled “Presence The Mystery of the Eucharist.” Choose which time works best for you;

Thursdays at 6:30pm (October 19, 26, November 2, 9) in the Holy Family Room.

Tuesdays at 9:15am (October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 14) in the Holy Family Room.

This study is being offered through the Augustine Institute program, Formed.

Gathering 1 = God is with us, (Tuesday October 17)

Gathering 2 = The story of the Eucharist (Thurs. October 19, Tues. October 24)

Gathering 3 = Bread for the Journey (Thurs. Oct. 26 and Tues. Oct. 31)

Gathering 4 = Biblical Foundations of the Eucharist (Jewish and pagan) (Thurs. Nov. 2 and Tues. Nov. 7)

Gathering 5 = Biblical Foundations of the Eucharist (Protestant and Secular) (Thurs. Nov. 9 and Tues. Nov. 14)

Please contact Karen Reindl to register. My email is mrsreindl@straphaelpk-6.com

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, October 18

NO Faith Formation Classes—MEA Break

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.

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 Mary's, Sleepy Eye - Oct 16. - 22nd

St Paul's, Comfrey - Oct 23rd - 26th

Please stop by and view the display during these times.

Youth Choir Schedule

Wednesday, October 18

NO Choir Practices—MEA Break

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

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).

