



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

September 10, 2023
23rd 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 Sept 11	NO Mass <i>Colossians 1:24-2:3; Luke 6:6-11</i>
Tues Sept 12	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Harold Ryan <i>Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 6:12-19</i>
Wed Sept 13	(Lamb) 8:00am Mass <i>Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 6:20-26</i>
Thur. Sept 14	(Sanb) 8:00am Mass <i>Numbers 21:4b-9; Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17</i>
Fri. Sept 15	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Philip Clennon <i>1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14; John 19:25-27</i>
Sat. Sept 16	(Spfld) 5:30pm Mass +Alfred & Sandy Windschitl <i>1 Timothy 1:15-17; Luke 6:43-49</i>
Sun. Sept 17	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass –For the People (Lamb) 10:30am Mass +Tom Benedict <i>Sirach 27:30-28:7; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35</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

Email stjoseph@centurylink.net

Prayer Chain– Sue Imker 507-829-1846

Pastor

Fr. Jeremy Kucera Phone: 507-828-5247

fatherjeremykucera@hotmail.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**

✠Wednesday 6:30-7:30 pm at **St Raphael**

◆**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,

This past week I have been observing quite a few people getting ready for the St. Raphael's parish festival on September 10th. There is so much that I do not know yet, but I want to thank everyone for their help. I have never been assigned to a parish that has made this such a priority.

On Tuesday morning I met with Karen Reindl to go over our proposed faith formation calendars between St. Joseph's and St. Raphael's. It looks like we're close to having the first half of the year coordinated (there's only one remaining scheduling conflict as to where I will be). My desire is to split my time 50/50 on Wednesdays between the two parishes.

So far, we have had one parishioner from St. Joseph's step forward to express interest in the job opening up at the parish to help fill in sister's shoes with administrative duties. If anyone else is interested in applying, please let me know soon.

Turning back to Canon Law and a pastor's responsibilities...

Can. 529 §1. In order to fulfill his office diligently, a pastor is to strive to know the faithful entrusted to his care.

Therefore he is to visit families, sharing especially in the cares, anxieties, and griefs of the faithful, strengthening them in the Lord, and prudently correcting them if they are failing in certain areas. With generous love he is to help the sick, particularly those close to death, by refreshing them solicitously with the sacraments and commending their souls to God; with particular diligence he is to seek out the poor, the afflicted, the lonely, those exiled from their country, and similarly those weighed down by special difficulties. He is to work so that spouses and parents are supported in fulfilling their proper duties and is to foster growth of Christian life in the family.

This is a really important part of a pastor's life and one which I desire to fulfill to the best of my ability. One of the things that I have noticed throughout the past nineteen years as a priest is that a priest can seem to be the last one to know if there is a sick parishioner in need of the sacraments. Please talk to your children and families about your desires to have a priest help you in times of sickness and preparing for death. There have been so many instances of people recovering after be anointed. It is truly a healing sacrament for body, mind and soul.

How would you like to be known? Are there desires that you have in how I could get to know you better and visit you?

§2. A pastor is to recognize and promote the proper part which the lay members of the Christian faithful have in the mission of the Church, by fostering their associations for the purposes of religion. He is to cooperate with his own bishop and the presbyterium of the diocese, also working so that the faithful have concern for parochial communion, consider themselves members of the diocese and of the universal Church, and participate in and sustain efforts to promote this same communion.

This one interests me. I have never been assigned to a parish that is so close to the diocesan headquarters. I wonder how the people of this area view their relationship to the diocese and universal church. In my experience, one of the difficulties we face in our diocese is parochialism where there is not so much a connection to the diocesan and global Church, but only our small parishes. We are a part of something so much bigger. Maybe with the new 2025 jubilee approaching for the Catholic Church to celebrate worldwide we'll make an AFC pilgrimage to Rome to help fulfill this canon and grow in our communion with the larger Church. If there is serious interest in doing something like this, please let me know.

God bless,
Fr. Jeremy

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

Sept 10	8:30am	Mass
Sept 13	8:00am	Mass
Sept 14	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
Sept 17	10:30am	Mass

This week we remember *these* people in our prayers.
Bob & Tracie Berg and Fred Berg
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

St. Joseph Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	62,000.00	\$11,923.10	\$7,931.00
Student	\$250.00	\$48.10	\$25.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$480.80	\$630.00

September 17 Ministries

Lector	Jane Zimmermann
EMC	Emily Scheffler
Servers	Celia Vogel & Max Vogel
Sacristan	Cathy Graff
Ushers	Kevin Zimmermann & Pat Schroeffer
Gift Bearers	Katie Alms Family
Money Counters	Kylie Jenniges & Cathy Graff

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph

Adult Envelope	\$1,021.00
Student Envelope	\$0.00
Loose Plate	\$75.00
Hawaii Special Collection	\$50.00
Total	\$1,146.00

Faith Formation registration for Grades 1-11 is now open. Pick up a form in the entry way and return to Emily Scheffler or Kiki Hubert along with payment by Weds. September 13. Youth grades 7-11 will clean ditches on Wed, Sept. 13 starting at 6:15. All classes will begin the following Wednesday, Sept. 20 from 6:30-7:30. Questions can be directed to Emily (828-2701) or Kiki (227-5632).




Gladys (Peterson) Morin passed away on May 11, 2023. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2023 from 11:00am-2:00pm at Center Point Church, 810 3rd Ave., Mt. Lake, MN.

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.

“The best way we can encourage others to fully embrace the dream of becoming the-best-version-of-themselves is to walk that path ourselves.”

MATTHEW KELLY
Building Better Families

 Dynamic Catholic

~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$64,423.10	\$43,861.00
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$211.60	\$0.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$211.60	\$0.00

Last week's Parish Revenue	
Adult Envelopes	\$7,565.00
Loose Plate	\$437.00
Maui Collection	\$25.00
All Saints	\$20.00
Rolls Sold	\$30.00
Fall Festival Donation	\$300.00
Candles	\$78.30
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$686.38
Total Income	\$9,141.68

The 400 Club Winners this Week		
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#138	Dylan Reinhart	\$65.00
#300	Richard Nachreiner	\$65.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group I~

September 16 & 17, 2023		
	5:30pm	8:30am
Servers	Kallen Riederer	VOLUNTEER
	Zoie Riederer	Paul Goedtke
Lector	Jack Hartjes	Paul Pieschel
EMHC	Jack Hartjes	Dcn Barry Reindl
Accompanist	TBA	Sharon Pieschel
Song Leader	Denise Reiner	Denise Reiner
Rosary	Jane Irlbeck	VOLUNTEER
Head Usher	Keith Riederer	Mike Reiner
	Jill Riederer	VOLUNTEER
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Videographer	Noah Riederer	



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.

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.

~Good Neighbor Thrift ~

Monday 9:00am-12:00pm
Tuesday-Friday 9:00-5:00pm
Saturday 9:00am-12:00pm

September 11-16
75% off Pillows & Pictures
Now accepting donations

Fall Festival Parking

The north parking lot of the church and school will be unavailable on Sunday, September 11 due to the Fall Festival activities. Please park on the side streets or on the south side of the church.

Thank you

The Knights of Columbus have 2 tables for the Hero For Life Banquet on September 21, 2023, 5:30-8:30pm, at the Sleepy Eye Event Center. Please contact Nick Dauer at 507-822-6251 or Duane Feser at 651-331-9945 to reserve your seat at the table for no charge.

There will be a **CCW meeting** on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 6:30pm in the Gathering Space. All members are welcome to attend.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

Sept 10	10:30am	Mass—Fall Festival
	10:00am-4:00pm	Fall Festival
Sept 12	8:30am	Mass
	6:00pm	Cemetery Board Meeting
Sept 13	6:00pm	Mass—Faith Formation
	6:00-7:00pm	Faith Formation grades 2-6
	7:15-8:15pm	Faith Formation grades 7-10
Sept 14	6:30pm	CCW Meeting
Sept 15	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
	8:30am	School Mass
	9:30am-4:00pm	Adoration
Sept 16	5:30pm	Mass
Sept 17	8:30am	Mass
		Coffee Connection after Mass
	1:00pm	Cemetery Sunday—in the Church

Upcoming VIRTUS Training Sessions

✠A new VIRTUS Training Session has been added for **Wednesday, September 13, 2023, from 6:00-9:00 pm** at **St. Anne School, Wabasso.**

✠A new VIRTUS Training Session has been added for **Sunday, September 24, 2023, from 1:00-4:00 pm** at **Church of St. Aloysius, Olivia.**

✠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.**

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.



For Sale: 1974 Chevrolet 3/4 ton pickup with hoist. If interested contact Bob Sturm at 507-227-9358 or Mike Krueger at 507-227-5594. All offers will be accepted until September 20, 2023.

Please remember in your prayers:

✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:

Father Jeremy Kucera

Please pray for our parishioners this week~

Sun: Phyllis Juenemann

Mon: John & Roseanne Kaseforth

Tues: Delaine Kelly

Wed: Korey & Raquel Kieper Family

Thur: Matt & Kathy Kirschstein Family

Fri: Nick & Raina Klisch Family

Sat: Dale & Becky Knutson Family

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

***Real Life Catholic—Episode 8**

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



HELP WANTED: Help is needed in crocheting or knitting stocking caps and headbands for a community service project this fall for Faith Formation. Yarn and patterns will be provided if needed. Please contact Karen Brandl at 507-920-6709 if you have questions or are willing to help.



ST. RAPHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

FALL FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

Mass at 10:30 AM

Outdoor food festival, silent and live auctions, kids games and activities, beer garden, Raffle drawings, and so much more!

~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!

Upcoming Field Trips: Our K-3 classrooms will be taking a pumpkin patch field Trip to Iverson Tree Farm on Tuesday October 17th! Our 3rd and 4th grade classrooms will be going to Lambertton to the Southwest Research and Outreach Center for their Fall Field Days on September 21st! We are so excited to give our students these fun opportunities!

Emmaus Day: Father Brendan Rolling and Father Tanner Thooft from our Diocese will be coming to visit our classrooms on Thursday September 28th to talk to our students about vocations. We are thrilled to host them!

New Breakfast Program: With the new Minnesota legislation, all students get free lunch and breakfast. Our food Manager Erin Meine has done an amazing job getting our new breakfast program up and running. When students arrive at school, they immediately go down to the cafeteria for breakfast! Students are already in a good routine of coming downstairs for breakfast and everything is running very smoothly.

Daycare Update: We will open next Monday September 11th! We welcome Mrs. Maggie Vogel to the Daycare team! She will be working just a few hours a week after school hours. We are so thrilled to finally see this project to completion and begin serving families in this way. Thanks so much to Katie Pierson who has done so much work to get our daycare up and running. She has done a phenomenal job! We plan to host an Open House this fall so that donors and parishioners can see the hard work we've put into the project.

Steeple Chase--Change in Date: Our schools' annual 5K fun run/walk, the Steeple Chase, is moving from the weekend of the fall festival to Friday October 6th! It will work differently this year by having the event during the school day to get all of our students involved. Right now, t-shirts are being designed for our 11th annual Steeple Chase. Businesses will be once again asked to sponsor this event and the names of their businesses will go on the backs of the shirts if they have a \$50+ donation. Students will be asked to get pledges for the walk/run as well. The walk/run will be open to school families, parishioners, and members of the community. We invite everyone to join us! We will have more information on the time and how to register very soon!

Join us for our upcoming school Masses: The students or staff lead our Friday 8:30AM Masses during the school year, join us!

Friday September 15- grade 4
Friday September 22- grade 3
Friday September 29- grade 2

Blessings,

Mrs. Beth Steffl

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.

School Office Hours

Monday-Friday 7:30am—3:30pm

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

~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

Our first night of faith formation classes is completed and we are off and running.

Father and I met with the junior and senior class teens and their parents to discuss what is planned for them in this year of their confirmation. The main point of the meeting was to emphasize the fact that confirmation is not a graduation. It is a sacrament that should embolden to grow deeper and more faithful in their life as a Catholic.

Reminder to **Kindergarten** parents to register for a free education packet to complete at home.

Grade 1 students will have their first night of classes on Wednesday, October 4.

See you at the Fall Festival!

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, September 13

Reconciliation

6:00-7:00pm Faith Formation classes grades 2-6

7:15-8:15pm Faith Formation classes grades 7-12

Children's Choir and Praise & Worship Choir will be starting Wednesday, September 20. Please mark your calendars and watch the bulletin the next few weeks for more information!

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 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.

WANTED:



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



Join us, share your musical talents, with these wonderful and gifted young people God has blessed St. Raphael's with!!

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

We sing Contemporary Christian and Sacred music.

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



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....

St. Catherine's Catholic Church, Redwood Falls, is hosting its annual Fall Festival celebration on Sunday, September 10. Menu consists of roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, glazed carrots, summer salad and homemade pie. Meal will be served 11:00am-1:00pm. Many games will be available as well as the Country Store, Silent Auction Baskets and a lunch stand.

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Montevideo, is hosting its annual Fall Festival celebration on Sunday, September 17, 2023. Grilled pork chop dinner with baked potato, green beans, creamy coleslaw, dessert served 11:00am-1:00pm for \$15.00. Also available are the Country Store, Cookie Walk, Piñatas, Kids Activities, Online Silent Auction.

St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Fairfax, is hosting a Beef or Turkey Commercial Supper on Wednesday, September 20, from 4:30-7:00pm. This is a Catholic United Financial Matching Grant event.

St. Anne's Catholic Church, Wabasso, is hosting their annual Dinner and Festival on Sunday, September 24, 2023. Mass at 10:00am. Menu consists of Turkey and Trimmings served from 11:00am—1:00pm. Bingo, Silent Auction, Country Store, Beer Stand, Games. Raffle drawing at 1:00pm.

13th annual
HERO FOR LIFE BANQUET

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US
September 21, 2023 5:30-8:30
Sleepy Eye Event Center 110 12th Ave. NE, Sleepy Eye



Keynote Speaker

We are looking forward to welcoming, Vaunae Hansel, the Executive Director of Elevate Life, as our keynote speaker. Her passion is to equip Pregnancy Resource Centers like ours who serve women who find themselves in unexpected pregnancy. Vaunae has experienced the devastation of her personal abortion story and found healing, forgiveness and peace through Christ and an Abortion Healing Ministry. We hope you will join us to hear her story and learn more about the mission and work of First Choice Pregnancy Services.


RSVP VIA:
CALL (507)-359-9800
SCAN QR CODE




OR GO TO WWW.CONSIDERYOUROPTIONS.ORG (DONATE/EVENTS TAB)

**Council of Catholic Women
- Deanery 1
Fall Gathering**

Tuesday, September 19, 2023
St. Raphael Catholic Church
20 W Van Dusen St., Springfield



Keynote Speaker
Mary Warner
Title: "Little Dresses for Africa"



Agenda
4:30 PM - Registration
5:00 PM - Mass
5:45 PM - Dinner
6:30 PM - Meeting
7:00 PM—Speaker Announcements


Sign-up Today!
Registration: \$10.00

Please register with your parish CCW President by Sunday, September 10. Parish Presidents: Please call Sharon Illikman at 354-3145 by Monday, September 11, with the number of women coming from your parish.

**Catholic United Financial
Matching Grant**

Pillow Cleaning
By Carlson's Fluff & Puff Pillow Cleaning Service


Thursday, September 28th 6-8 pm
Friday, September 29th 7:30 am-3 pm
St Raphael Church Gathering Space
Springfield, MN



New Ticking of your Choice
On the Spot Cleaning
Returned Same Day

Proceeds benefits St. Raphael Religious Education

Catholic United is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial services company, connecting people of faith, protecting their future and generously impacting parishes, schools and communities.



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