



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

September 17, 2023
24th 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 18	NO Mass <i>1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 7:1-10</i>
Tues Sept 19	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Tom & Elaine Miesen <i>1 Timothy 3:1-13; Luke 7:11-17</i>
Wed Sept 20	(Lamb) 8:00am Mass +Jim Wenisch <i>1 Timothy 3:14-16; Luke 7:31-35</i>
Thur. Sept 21	(Sanb) 8:00am Mass +Bernie Radtke <i>Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Matthew 9:9-13</i>
Fri. Sept 22	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Mike Pieschel <i>1 Timothy 6:2c-12; Luke 8:1-3</i>
Sat. Sept 23	(Spfld) 5:30pm Mass +Rita Drusch <i>1 Timothy 6:13-16; Luke 8:4-15</i>
Sun. Sept 24	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Bernard & Theresa Brey (Lamb) 10:30am Mass –For the People <i>Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a; Matthew 20:1-16a</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**

◆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,

Thank you to everyone to helped with the parish festival at St. Raphael's. I was going to write a personalized note of thanks to everyone until I found out that Connie was already doing that. So, I am extending my gratitude this way instead.

For everyone who has been preparing to get faith formation running and off the ground in our parishes I want to extend my gratitude and let you know that I am praying for you.

This past week we remembered September 11TH and how our world changed that day and the tragic loss of so many lives. May all who have been deeply affected by what transpired that day, and the years that followed, receive the healing love, forgiveness, mercy, and compassion of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Zielinski is scheduled to have celebrated mass with the kids of our school on September 15th and to have visited with them afterwards. I hope he has as good of a time with the kiddos as I did visiting every classroom last week. Those kindergartners may be a tough bunch for a bishop!

Picking up where we left off with Canon Law last week...

Can. 530 The following functions are especially entrusted to a pastor:

1/ the administration of baptism;

2/ the administration of the sacrament of confirmation to those who are in danger of death, according to the norm of can. 883, n. 3;

3/ the administration of Viaticum and of the anointing of the sick, without prejudice to the prescript of can. 1003, §§2 and 3, and the imparting of the apostolic blessing;

4/ the assistance at marriages and the nuptial blessing;

5/ the performance of funeral rites;

6/ the blessing of the baptismal font at Easter time, the leading of processions outside the church, and solemn blessings outside the church;

7/ the more solemn Eucharistic celebration on Sundays and holy days of obligation.

When I look at the importance of what is listed above, it makes more sense to me that one of the ways that pastors are looked at is as a shepherd (and the Latin word of pastor literally means 'shepherd'). There is a certain quality to presiding over the various sacraments and liturgies listed above that taps into a shepherding role. It taps into that deep instinct of how a pastor watches over, provides for and protects a flock. Of course, there is so much more in the mystery of the priesthood than being a good shepherd, but that is what comes to mind for me with this canon as I write this article.

There is something else to bring to mind as well. We don't have any other priests in our AFC that may also have certain sacraments and liturgies delegated to them as our larger AFC's in our diocese do. However, we do have Deacon Barry and I can delegate baptisms and weddings to him to celebrate and witness. There are also visiting priests that will help fill in for me if I am away from our parishes and I delegate the celebration of sacraments and liturgies to them as well if I am not able to be present.

I hope you found this canon a little bit interesting.

God bless,
Fr. Jeremy

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

Sept 17	10:30am	Mass
Sept 20	8:00am	Mass
Sept 21	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
Sept 24	10:30am	Mass

This week we remember *these people in our prayers.*
Terry & Susan Brown and Steve & Judy Churchill

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	\$13,115.41	\$10,211.00
Student	\$250.00	\$52.91	\$332.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$528.88	\$685.00

September 24 Ministries

Lector	Anita Vogel
EMC	Gordy Wille
Servers	Koyer Alms & Riley Alms
Sacristan	Teresa Wenisch
Ushers	Bill Schaffran & Mike Hubert
Gift Bearers	Emily Scheffler Family
Money Counters	Diane Arnsdorf & Fred Berg

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph

Adult Envelope	\$2,280.00
Student Envelope	\$7.00
Loose Plate	\$55.00
Catholic University	\$338.00
Total	\$2,680.00

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 a envelope labelled CCW or put them in Cathy's mailbox. They can also be mailed to PO Box 234.

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).

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 Red Cross Lamberton community blood drive will be Thursday, Sept. 28 2023, from noon to 6 PM at the Lamberton Legion. If you are interested in donating and would like an appointment for that day, please contact Deb Furth @ 507-227-3293, Jan Benedict at 507-221-1966, or make your appointment on-line at www.redcross.org. We would appreciate your donation as there is a blood shortage and all donations are very much appreciated.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$70,865.41	\$51,088.00
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$232.76	\$0.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$232.76	\$0.00

Last week's Parish Revenue	
Adult Envelopes	\$7,227.00
Loose Plate	\$309.00
Capital Improvement	\$10.00
Red Heart Envelope	\$10.00
DUF	\$10.00
Catholic University	\$283.00
Adopt a Student	\$10.00
Thrift Store	\$10.00
Teacher Support	\$10.00
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$686.79
Total Income	\$8,565.79

The 400 Club Winner this Week

#157 Vanessa Lang \$150.00


~ Serving next Funeral will be Group I~

September 23 & 24, 2023		
	5:30pm	8:30am
Servers	Cole Jensen	Austin Landkammer
	Brett Jensen	Evelyn Landkammer
Lector	Max Meine	Kathy Hillesheim
EMHC	Max Meine	Dcn Barry Reindl
Accompanist	Julie Prechel	Kathleen Goedtke
Song Leader	Julie Prechel	David Goedtke
Rosary	Jane Irlbeck	Jackie Roiger
Head Usher	Steve Meine	Luke Roiger
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Videographer	Christina Reindl	


~Good Neighbor Thrift ~

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

September 18-23
50% off Kitchenware
Now accepting donations



The Kitchen is in need of clear clamshell containers, like ones used for rolls. Drop off on desk outside school front entrance.



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.

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.

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.



Thank you to all who helped with Fall Cemetery Clean Up. Greg Roiger, John Olcott, Duane Dauer, Nick Dauer, Korey Kieper, Randy Sturm, Bob Sturm, Mike Krueger, and Steve Meine.

~The Cemetery Committee

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

Sept 17	8:30am	Mass
	1:00pm	Cemetery Sunday—in the church
Sept 19	8:30am	Mass
	4:30— 8:30pm	CCW Deanery 1 Event
Sept 20	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
Sept 21	5:30-8:30pm	1st Choice Pregnancy Banquet— Sleepy Eye
Sept 22	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
	8:30am	School Mass
Sept 23	5:30pm	Mass
Sept 24	8:30am	Mass
		Rolls sold after Mass

Please remember in your prayers:

✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:
Father Jeremy Kucera

Please pray for our parishioners this week~

Sun: Ken & Shari Koll
 Mon: Joe & Karen Kral
 Tues: Clayton & Lori Kretsch
 Wed: Jeff & Diane Kretsch
 Thur: Jerold Kretsch
 Fri: James & Donna Krueger
 Sat: Matt & Vicky Krueger

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 9**
 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.



Thank You

The Adult Choir wishes to thank all who gave so generously towards our choir robes and stoles campaign. We wore them for the first time for Fall Festival. We are very grateful for your support.

Coffee Connection will begin on October 1 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.



~Words of Thanks~

Thank You

With the changing of the seasons upon us, it is now time to begin to give thanks! We would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make our fall festival another great success. There were so many people that shared their time, talent and treasure with us. God also blessed us with a beautiful day to gather outdoors with family and friends. We are truly *Thankful, Grateful & Blessed* by the support of our community and parish family!

Connie Vogel & Donna Krueger,
Festival Chairpersons

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.

Join us on Sunday, September 17, 2023 for Cemetery Sunday at 1:00pm in the church. Please note this years location change.

~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.

Day Care Update: The day care is now open! We began this past Monday September 11th. We are so thrilled to be up and running with our new program. Thanks to Katie Pierson for all the hard work she did to get it ready for our newest members of the St. Raphael Catholic School family.

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!

Upcoming Masses: Each week on Friday at 8:30 a.m. the students participate in leading a Mass in the Church. Students in grades 3-6 help by being song leaders, servers, and videographers. 2nd grade students bring up the gifts. Each class takes turns speaking the readings, announcements, and prayers. Join us for these special Masses. **We have a special visitor this Friday, September 15th, our Bishop of New Ulm, Bishop Chad, will be joining us for Mass and visiting our school afterwards!**

Friday September 15: Grade 4 leads--Bishop Chad visits

Friday September 22: Grade 3 leads

Friday September 29: Grade 2 leads

Upcoming Field Trips: The 3rd and 4th grade students will be going to the Fall Field Days at the Southwest Research and Outreach center in Lambertton on September 21st, and the K-3 grade classes will be going to Iverson's Tree Farm for a fall field trip on Tuesday October 17th!

Emmaus Day: Father Brendan Rolling and Father Tanner Thooft will be visiting our school on Thursday September 28th to speak to the students about Vocations and how they can serve God in their daily life. They will be visiting each classroom for about a half hour each and will join us for lunch. We look forward to their visit.

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.



St Raphael School will be selling rolls after Mass on Sunday, September 24, 2023.

~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

Thank you to the many volunteers that it takes to make our parish festival a success. Our teens put in a total of 104 recorded hours setting up and taking down tables, working games and food stand and generally going wherever they were needed. Thank You!

I want to share with you the general focus of each faith formation class. First grade is a simple introduction to our Catholic Faith using the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd material as much as possible. Second grade is the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. Third grade will be learning about the apostles, the beatitudes and how to serve, at Mass and each other. Fourth grade will be doing the GPS (God's Plan in Scripture) timeline. Fifth grade will be learning about the Rosary, its prayers and mysteries. Sixth grade will be doing Salvation History Timeline. Seventh grade will do a basic overrun of all of these subjects. Eighth grade is Theology of the Body for middle school and ninth grade is Theology of the Body for high school. Tenth grade is year one of Confirmation preparation which includes completing the Diocesan Requirements for Confirmation. Eleventh and twelfth graders will be gathering to plan and carry out an "Advent event" for the elementary students in November.

I am most grateful for the dedicated Catechists that we have here at St. Raphael Catholic Church! Erin Cowan, Karen Brandl, Connie Augustin, Lauren Vogel and Bev Krueger, Katie Dauer & John Olcott, Mary Maleska, Mary Mathiowetz, Pat Dauer, Jim Miesen, Jill Riederer, Sheena Dauer, Nick & Crystal Dauer, Deacon Barry Reindl and Dan O'Callaghan. If you see any of these dedicated people, please thank them for their commitment to our children.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, September 20

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!

Reminder to parents of teens in grades 9 and 10 that there is a parent and teen meeting on Wednesday, September 20 at 7:30pm in the school auditorium/gym.

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

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.

~Upcoming Area Events~

Upcoming Area Events....

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.

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.

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



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




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.


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"



<https://www.facebook.com/photos/?fbid=646798427792088&url=644798427792088>

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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