



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

April 14, 2024
3rd Sunday of Easter

*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 Apr 15	No Mass <i>Acts of the Apostles 6:8-15; John 6:22-29</i>
Tues Apr 16	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +LaVerne Woidylla <i>Acts of the Apostles 7:51-8:1a; John 6:30-35</i>
Wed Apr 17	(Lamb) 8:00am Mass +Jim & Terry Wenisch <i>Acts of the Apostles 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40</i>
Thur. Apr 18	(Sanb) 8:00am Mass +Dorothy Geis <i>Acts of the Apostles 8:26-40; John 6:44-51</i>
Fri. Apr 19	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Nick Wenisch <i>Acts of the Apostles 9:1-20; John 6:52-59</i>
Sat. Apr 20	(Spfld) 5:30pm Mass +Gerald & Angie Roiger <i>Acts of the Apostles 9:31-42; John 6:60-69</i>
Sun. Apr 21	(Lamb) 8:30am Mass –For the People (Spfld) 10:30am Mass +Albert Helget <i>Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18</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: 507-276-8553
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**
- ✠ Tuesday after Mass at **St. Raphael**
- ✠ Wednesday after Mass at **St. Joseph**
- ✠ Sunday before Mass at **St. Joseph** (when Father can get there in time)

◆ 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,

Here's something I learned about how to pray at the end of the day. I pray it helps. It is called a discernment examen. It takes only five to ten minutes and goes like this:

- Relax in the presence of God; be aware of His loving presence in and all around you.
- Thank Him for everything He has loved into your life since yesterday's examen.
- Beg to be given "the mind and heart of Christ," to see reality as Jesus sees it.
- Reflect prayerfully over your day; go through the day with our Lord, checking the "we" (what you and Jesus experienced together) against the "I" (you alone). Jesus lives in us so we can say (as St. Paul writes), "I live not myself alone but Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:19). This means that in reality your life is a "we" (you and He) not just an "I".

As you reflect over the day then, see everything about which you can say "we" (even if you were not conscious of His presence at the time). For example, "We ate breakfast, we drove to work, we cleaned the house, we spent time with people, we rested, etc."

See what you cannot say "we" of, but have to say "I". For example, "I blew up at the kids, I cussed at the slow traffic, I rashly judged a man, I reacted selfishly, etc."

As we prayerfully reflect over our day in this way, God sensitizes us to the ways in which He touches us and is present to us all during the day. In other words, He enables us to "discern" or diagnose His touch from all the other movements and urges in our lives.

The focus of our attention is on God and His presence — not just on us. That's why I call it a "discernment examen." This helps us become more aware of His presence and more peacefully be and work and rest with Him in the days to come.

- Renew in love your sorrow for ever disappointing or offending our Father and say to Him: "God, my Father, I offer Jesus, Your Son, to You who lives in me, and with Him I offer You myself and all creation, to please and praise You, to love and thank You, to expiate for my and everyone's sins, to purify the good we do badly, and to make up for the good we should have done but failed."

If we let Jesus redeem our day and our whole lives in this way, He will.

- Accept an invitation from our Lord to spend some time alone with Him in prayer tomorrow. Make it a date with a definite place and length of time. And accept any invitation He gives to repair any damage or behave better the next time we face the kind of situation which occasioned our fall.

- End by praying the Our Father slowly.

God's blessings,

Fr. Jeremy

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

Apr 10	10:30am	Mass
Apr 17	8:00am	Mass
	6:30-7:30pm	Faith Formation Classes
Apr 18	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
Apr 21	8:30am	Mass

This week we remember *these* people in our prayers.
Terry & Robin Roiger and Bill & Sara Schaffran

Our Shepherd of the field:

Father Jeffrey Horejsi



~Please also pray for those in need ~

Bob Peterson Mary Arnoldi Pat Dauer
 Brett Baumann Linda Riley Marcie Anderson
 Shane Blair

St. Joseph Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	62,000.00	\$48,884.71	\$59,157.85
Student	\$250.00	\$197.21	\$244.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$1,971.28	\$2,726.65

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph

Adult Envelopes	\$7,875.00
Loose Plate	\$107.00
Easter	\$100.00
Candles	\$2.00
Rice Bowl	\$90.05
Easter Flowers	\$20.00
Total	\$8,194.05



Congratulations to Cole & Brittany Pankonin, who were married on April 6, 2023. May the Lord bless them as they begin to live out their vocation of Christian marriage!

April 21 Ministries

Lector	Jane Zimmermann
EMC	Anthony Axford
Servers	Otto Hubert & Adeline Wenisch
Sacristan	Diane Arnsdorf
Ushers	Jim Imker & Kevin Zimmermann
Gift Bearers	Jared Wenisch Family
Money Counters	Cathy Graff & Doreen Kronback

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, April 17

6:30-7:30pm Faith Formation Classes

If you have Religious articles such as crosses, rosaries, etc and no longer have a need for them but do not want to throw them away, there is a box under the church mailboxes that you can put them in.



Please pray for Scarlett Frasher as she prepares for her Holy Communion.

NUDCCW convention on April 27, 2024 in Glencoe. Contact our CCW President, Katy Wille by April 3 if you wish to attend. Closer to the time we will discuss ride share options.

Please bring your old palms from last year and place in basket in entrance of church.

Rice Bowls can be placed in basket in church entrance.

"My beauty comes from loving Christ. God made me as I am, to know and serve him. I am beautiful inside, as you are, because I am loved by God."

LISA HENDEY
The Sign of the Carved Cross

DynamicCatholic.com

~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$264,134.71	\$266,769.95
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$867.56	\$10.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$867.56	\$115.13

The 400 Club Winners this Week

#329	Dale Lindmeier	\$65.00
#265	Duane Dauer	\$65.00


~ Serving next Funeral will be Group E ~

April 20 & 21, 2024


	5:30pm	10:30am
Servers	VOLUNTEER	Cole Jensen
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Lector	Bev Fults	Mariah Pietig
EMHC	Bev Fults	Dcn Barry Reindl
Accompanist	Sharon Pieschel	Kathleen Goedtke
Song Leader	TBA	Adult Choir
Rosary	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Head Usher	Dale Lindmeier	Mike Reiner
	VOLUNTEER	Mike Rothmeier
	VOLUNTEER	Jaden Walter
	VOLUNTEER	Alexis Walter
Videographer	Elliott Maleska	

Last week's Parish Revenue

Adult Envelopes	\$9,084.00
Loose Plate	\$326.85
DUF	\$5.00
Capital Improvement	\$450.00
Christmas	\$250.00
Thanksgiving	\$50.00
Holy Days	\$100.00
School Memorial	\$563.00
School Gift	\$10.00
Playground Donation	\$1,695.00
Easter	\$493.00
CCW Donation	\$30.00
Faith Formation	\$25.00
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$804.54
Total Income	\$13,886.39




We have Ring Sausage available for purchase for \$7.00 per ring. Contact the Parish Office at 723-4137 if you would like to pick some up.



We would like to welcome Joel & Wilson Hoffmann and their children, Gracyn and Ellie, to St. Raphael Parish Community. We are happy to welcome you to our parish




A special Thank You to Maureen Miesen for her time and talent in creating our new children's coloring bags!



St. Raphael 150th Anniversary Donation

If you who would like to make a monetary donation towards our 150th Anniversary, please complete the form below and return it and your donation in the collection basket.



Name _____

Address _____

Amount _____

You will receive credit on your 2024 tax contribution statement for your donation.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

Apr 14	8:30am	Mass
	9:45-11:30am	Children's & Praise & Worship Choirs Practice
Apr 16	8:30am	Mass
	4:00-5:30pm	Atrium
Apr 17	5:00-7:00pm	Faith Formation Burger Meal
	7:00pm	Children's & Praise & Worship Choir Concert
Apr 19	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
	8:30am	School Mass
	9:30am-4:00pm	Adoration
Apr 20	5:30pm	Mass
Apr 21	10:30am	Mass—First Holy Communion



Join us for a new Men's Bible Study group on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm. We will meet at 6 East and begin at 7:00pm. First meeting is set for Tuesday, April 16th. Everyone is welcome! Come have a beer and enjoy an evening of fellowship!

St. John Lutheran Home Auxiliary Dues are \$5.00 and should be sent to: Mary Hoffmann, 711 W. Wilson Street, Springfield, MN 56087.

NUDCCW Convention 2024 Saturday, April 27, 2024 at Church of St. Pius X in Glencoe, MN Theme: Be an Instrument of Salvation. Register by contacting Mariah Pietig 507-822-2634 or Sarah Boettger 507-227-5597 by April 14th.



Please remember in your prayers:


✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:
Father Steven Verhelst

Please pray for our parishioners this week~

Sun: Dan & Shelley Shoen
 Mon: Cleve Simonson
 Tues: Paul & Katie Simonson
 Wed: Eileen Solyntjes
 Thur: Doug & Lucy Sondag
 Fri: Alicia Sprenger Family
 Sat: Chad & Kelly Sprenger Family

Weekly Candle Intentions (\$5.00 offering)
 Special Inten Special Inten

✠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

***Remembering Jesus: A Catholic Approach to Alzheimer's Disease—Episode 10**
 Every Tuesday at 11:00am & Thursday at 7:00pm


To view the Mass videos online, visit our YouTube channel and subscribe.



<https://www.youtube.com> and search for St. Raphael Catholic Church. You will see a picture of our church.

~Good Neighbor Thrift ~
April 15-19
 Monday 9:00-3:00; Tuesday-Friday 9:30-4:00
50% off Kitchenware
 Questions about donations—call 723-5778

If you know someone who needs a bit of comfort and blessing in their life, grab a prayer shawl from the chair near the back of church. Shawls are blessed and have a miraculous metal attached to foster spiritual well-being.



Prayer shawls are crafted by the prayer shawl group, which also makes blankets for baptismal gifts. Supplies for this ministry are donated by Council of Catholic Women (CCW).

~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!

Save the Date: Our largest fundraiser of the school year is coming up on Friday May 31, 2024 from 5 PM- Midnight. This year marks our fourth annual "A Night in Havana" event. It is an adults only night out with many fun ways to entertain yourself for the evening! The event is free to attend and open to the public. It takes place in the parking lot of the church and school. This year, we will have a food truck that is available to purchase your meal, you can purchase drinks at our own Havana bar, bid on the silent and live auction items, purchase raffle tickets, and enjoy free live music by local bands Chris and Chris and The Blue Ringers. Come and join us for this fun fundraising event! All proceeds benefit St. Raphael Catholic School.

On Sale Now!!!: Raffle tickets are now available for purchase from students and the school office through the event on May 31st. We will once again be having a meat raffle, gift card raffle, and big ticket raffle--we will be giving away a 2024 Polaris Ranger! If you would like to purchase tickets, please see a St. Raphael Catholic School family or come to the school office! Thank you for all your support!

NWEA Testing: Our students will be taking their third and final NWEA tests for the school year starting next week. NWEA is a standardized testing tool that helps us monitor student growth as well as pinpoint areas of strength and areas of challenge. This helps our teaching staff know what students are ready to learn! The spring NWEA tests help parents and teachers see the growth that has been made since the fall and what areas to target for the remainder of the school year.

K-6 Elementary School-Now Enrolling: We are now enrolling students going into K-6th grade for the 2024-2025 school year. We offer a comprehensive faith-based education which includes daily prayer, weekly Mass, formal religion classes, language arts, math, science, social studies, technology, physical education, music, and art. Call the school office for a tour or to get more information 507-723-4135.

Preschool-Now Enrolling: *Although we will have a different teacher, we plan to keep doing what we do best at St. Raphael Catholic School--bringing students to a deeper relationship with Jesus while providing them with excellent education!!! I am confident we will find an excellent candidate and continue the legacy of an awesome preschool program at St. Raphael.* Registration is now open for the Little Panthers Preschool program (3 year olds) and our Kindergarten Readiness program (4 year olds). Our Little Panthers program meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8-11 AM and our Kindergarten Readiness program meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8-11 AM. The cost is \$13.50 per day for each of our preschool programs. Students who are eligible for our program must be 3 years old before September 1, 2024 (Little Panthers) and 4 years old by September 1, 2024 (Kindergarten Readiness.) Students must also be potty trained and be able to use the bathroom independently. To register for the 2024-2025 school year, stop in to the school office to get a registration form and return it with your \$25 registration fee. You can also call the school office and we would be happy to mail a registration form out to you!

Godly Virtues: In April, we will be focusing on **forgiveness** which is pardoning those who offend you. We read this over our morning announcements every day and use it in the classrooms as we teach our students to follow Jesus. It has been fun to listen to students and staff and see how they bring the Godly virtues that we have learned so far into their day-to-day lives.

Upcoming School Masses:

Friday April 12--5th grade leads
Friday April 19--1st grade leads
Friday April 26--4th grade leads
Friday May 3--2nd & 3rd grade lead (May Crowning)
Friday May 10--Kindergarten leads (Kindergarten Graduation)
Tuesday May 14--6th grade leads (6th Grade Graduation)

Upcoming Dates:

May 8: Spring Program 6:00PM
May 31: A Night in Havana Fundraiser 5 PM-Midnight

Blessings,

Mrs. Beth Steffl

~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

Come join us this Wednesday, April 17 for the Celebration of Faith Fundraiser to support the faith formation program here at St. Raphael Catholic Church. Faith formation offers Catholic faith education from Baptism through adulthood. Come have a meal and support the faith formation program then go to the Children's and Praise and Worship concert which starts at 7pm in the Church.

Next Sunday, April 21 the second graders will receive the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist for the first time at 10:30am Mass

Totus Tuus is returning to St. Raphael's July 12-19. Parents were emailed a registration form this past week. If you did not get one they are also located on the Faith Formation table in the gathering space.

Anyone attending Camp Beloved or Camp Greatness can apply for a St. Raphael scholarship. These scholarship forms are located on the faith formation table in the gathering space and are due before May 1, 2024.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, April 17

NO Faith Formation Classes

Attend our Celebration of Faith Burger Meal 5:00-7:00pm and then head over to church to enjoy our Youth Choir Concert at 7:00pm.

Youth Choir Schedule

Sunday, April 14

9:45-11:30am Children's & Praise & Worship Choirs Practice

Wednesday, April 17

7:00pm Children's and Praise & Worship Choir Concert

~Pilgrims of Hope Spotlight~

Kyla Peichel, grade 7, and her mom, Gretchen, are attending the Jubilee Pilgrimage. Kyla feels like this pilgrimage is a once in a lifetime opportunity. She is looking forward to seeing where the history of our stories began and happened. Not to mention seeing the sights that Rome has. She feels that this is an experience that would be so educational, spiritual, and altogether life changing.



Celebration of Faith

Burger/Hotdog Meal

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

5:00-7:00 p.m.

St. Raphael School Gymnasium

Menu: Burgers, hotdogs, chips & drink

\$8.00 per meal

Dine in or take out

Following the meal join us in St. Raphael Catholic Church for the Children's Choir and Praise & Worship Choir Concert at 7:00 pm

Sponsored by: St. Boniface Catholic United Council #035

All proceeds from the meal benefit St. Raphael Faith Formation Program

"This event is eligible for a Grant for Good from Catholic United Financial of up to \$500".

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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The Church of St. Raphael's presents

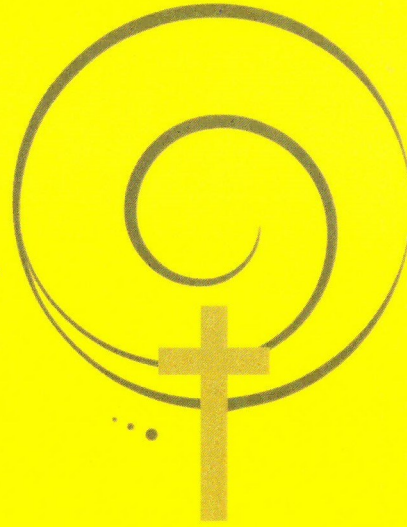
Gratitude

The Children's Choir
and The Praise & Worship Choir
In Concert

Wednesday, April 17 ~ 7:00 p.m.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. RAPHAEL
Springfield, Minnesota

Led by Lori Kretsch and Nick Dauer



Meal available preceding the concert | Serving 5:00-7:00 PM | St. Raphael School Gymnasium

Be an Instrument of Salvation

2024

New Ulm Diocesan Council of
Catholic Women Convention

Saturday, April 27, 2024
Church of St. Pius X
1014 Knight Ave. N., Glencoe, MN



Kelly Wahlquist, keynote speaker, is a wife, mother of three, inspiring Catholic author and speaker residing in Minnesota. She is the founder of WINE: Women In the New Evangelization and the Director for the Catechetical Institute at The Saint Paul Seminary.

Yazmin and Leonard Gutierrez will speak on evangelization. Yazmin served as a FOCUS missionary at the University of Oklahoma and Benedictine College. Leonard is the New Ulm Diocesan Director of Evangelization and was FOCUS missionary and Team Director at University of Oklahoma and Benedictine College.



Program of the Day

- 7:30 Registration & Breakfast
Silent Auction begins & Vendors open
- 8:00 Rosary
- 8:30 General Assembly
- 9:00 Keynote Speaker
Kelly Wahlquist
- 10:15 Business Meeting
- 10:45 Woman of the Year
- 11:00 Mass
- 12:15 Lunch
- 1:30 Yazmin & Leonard Gutierrez
- 2:30 Divine Mercy Chaplet
Eucharistic Exposition & Benediction
- 3:00 Door Prize Drawings

Contact your CCW President, Parish Office, or the NUDCCW website (NUDCCW.org) for a registration form.

\$40 if registered before April 15
\$50 if postmarked after April 15
\$10 for Kelly Wahlquist presentation only

Upcoming VIRTUS Training Sessions

†A new VIRTUS Training Session has been added for **Monday, April 22, 2024, from 6:00-9:00pm at Church of St. Mary, Willmar.**

†A new VIRTUS Training Session has been added for **Wednesday, May 29, 2024, from 6:00-9:00pm at Church of St. Mary, Arlington.**

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.



Address Update

Many people have moved recently and we do not have correct mailing addresses for our parishioners. Please share your new address with us so we can keep communicate up to date.

Name

New Address

Turn in to the Parish Office or drop in the Sunday Collection.

Thank you