

Vine & Branches **Area Faith Community**

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

April 21, 2024 4th 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 Acts of the Apostles 11:1-18; John 10:1-10 Apr 22 8:30am Mass +Gary Reese Tues (Spfld) Acts of the Apostles 11:19-26; John 10:22-30 Apr 23 (Lamb) 8:00am Mass +Joyce Schmidt Wed Acts of the Apostles 12:24-13:5a; John 12:44-50 Church of St. Joseph Apr 24 8:00am Mass +Vicky Subeck Thur. (Sanb) 1 Peter 5:5b-14; Mark 16:15-20 Apr 25 8:30am Mass +Emil Haas (Spfld) Fri. Acts of the Apostles 13:26-33; John 14:1-6 Apr 26 5:30pm Mass +Curt Vogel (Spfld) Sat. Acts of the Apostles 13:44-52; John 14:7-14 Apr 27 8:30am Mass +Bennett & Shirley Juenemann Sun. (Spfld) 10:30am Mass –For the People (Lamb) Apr 28 Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31; 1 John 3:18-24;

Sacrament of Reconciliation

[♣]Saturday 4:30—5:15pm at **St. Raphael**

John 15:1-8

Tuesday after Mass at St. Raphael

†Wednesday after Mass at **St. Joseph**

\$\frac{1}{2}\Sunday before Mass at **St. Joseph** (when Father can get there in time)

♦Praver 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

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

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

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 you are all enjoying the change of seasons and are grateful for the blessing of rain we've received. I am sure that the farmers are very happy to get this much needed jolt for the planting season getting underway. Farmers, you're in my prayers that you have a safe planting season. Watch those wedding rings around the equipment.

Now, for morel mushroom season coming up... Lord may there be the perfect weather needed for an abundant harvest of the most delicious morsels you've created on the face of the earth. Amen.

This past week I had an administrative council meeting at St. Joseph's in Lamberton and they asked me a question that I want to run past all of you. How do you like our weekend mass times? Some of the council members at St. Joseph's were wondering about the possibility of switching to the 8:30 mass time and St. Raphael's taking the 10:30 mass time either full time or during change of seasons. I told them that I would open the floor to everyone and if there is enough interest I will proceed further with the conversation.

St. Raphael's recently received the results from our capital campaign feasibility study. The results of the study will be available soon for everyone to look at on our website if you would like. I have not had the chance to share this information with the parish administrative council yet. We will listen closely to what you have shared and prayerfully discern the next step. Thank you to everyone who participated.

I want to extend my deepest condolences to Jane Irlbeck and her family on the tragic loss of her son Dan. Please keep him and his family in your prayers. Dan's daughter is currently in the country of Jordan. Let's pray that she is able to get home safe with the current missile and drone attacks that have been happening in the middle east.

Thank you to Lori Kretsch and her helpers for the concert put on for our AFC. I wish I could have been here for it.

Congratulations to all of the little ones receiving their first communion. May you be ever close to Jesus in this sacrament where he will strengthen and heal you.

God's blessings,

Fr. Jeremy



~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

| Apr 17 | 8:30am | Mass |
|--------|-------------|--|
| Apr 24 | 8:00am | Mass |
| | 6:30-7:30pm | Faith Formation Classes—Ditch Cleaning |
| Apr 25 | 8:00am | Mass—St. Thomas |
| Apr 28 | 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 | \$50,077.02 | \$60,457.85 | |
| Student | \$250.00 | \$202.02 | \$253.00 | |
| Loose Plate | \$2,500.00 | \$2,019.36 | \$2,773.65 | |

| Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|--|
| Adult Envelopes | \$1,300.00 | |
| Student Envelope | \$9.00 | |
| Loose Plate | \$47.00 | |
| Total | \$1,356.00 | |

CCW will be hosting a Mother's Day supper at 6:30pm in the church hall prior to our May 13th meeting. Please watch for a note in your mailbox and plan on coming. We will be having you RSVP for supper service numbers. Remember, all women of St. Joseph's are members to the Council of Catholic Women.

Update

Many people no longer have a land line phone number and we do not have a cell phone number to contact parishioners.

Please share your cell phone number with us so we can keep communication up to date.

| Name | | |
|------|--|--|
| - | | |
| | | |

Turn in at the Parish Office or Sunday collection. Thank You.

Cell Phone #

This week we remember these people in our prayers.

Lee & Beth Schaffran and Kurt & Emily Scheffler

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

April 28 Ministries

Lector Cathy Graff **EMC** Emily Scheffler

Servers Sydney Vogel & Alaina Wenisch

Sacristan Jeff Strock

Ushers Larry Weber & Gordy Wille

Gift Bearers Larry & Marg Weber

Money Counters Teresa Wenisch & Katy Wille

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, April 24

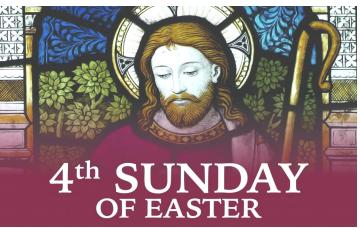
6:15-7:30pm cleaning of ditches and church grounds

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.

Congratulations to Jim & Sue Imker who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, April 20th.



~Church of St. Raphael~

| Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 | | | |
|--|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| | Annual Budget | Budget to Date | Received to Date |
| Adults | \$335,000.00 | \$270,577.02 | \$269,615.95 |
| Gr. 7-12 | \$1,100.00 | \$888.72 | \$30.00 |
| Pre K-6 | \$1,100.00 | \$888.72 | \$115.13 |

| Last week's Parish Revenue | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|--|
| Adult Envelopes | \$2,846.00 | |
| Youth Envelope | \$20.00 | |
| Loose Plate | \$128.00 | |
| Easter | \$550.00 | |
| Capital Improvement—Playground | \$225.00 | |
| School Gift | \$10.00 | |
| Coffee Connections | \$17.00 | |
| Candles | \$62.11 | |
| Good Neighbor Thrift Store | \$439.81 | |
| Total Income | \$4,297.92 | |



Please remember in your prayers **Daniel Irlbeck**, son of Jane Irlbeck, who recently passed away. We extend our prayers and sympathy to his family and friends. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.



Mark your calendars! Saturday, June 22, 2024 at 4:00pm, Bishop Chad Zielenski will be here to celebrate Mass and the 150th anniversary of St. Raphael's parish.

The 400 Club Winner this Week

#395 Jerry Kretsch

\$150.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group E ~

| April 27 & 28, 2024 | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
| | 5:30 | pm | 8:30am | |
| Servers | VO | LUNTEER | VOLUNTEER | |
| | vo | LUNTEER | VOLUNTEER | |
| Lector | Jack F | Iartjes | Max Meine | |
| ЕМНС | Jack F | Iartjes | Den Barry Reindl | |
| Accompanist | Julie Prechel | | Kathleen Goedtke | |
| Song Leader | Christa & Aubrey | | TBA | |
| Rosary | VOLUNTEER | | Jackie Roiger | |
| Head Usher Terry | | Ochs | Steve Meine | |
| | Cathy | Ochs | Luke Roiger | |
| | VOLUNTEER | | VOLUNTEER | |
| | VOLUNTEER | | VOLUNTEER | |
| Videographer | | Elliott Maleska | | |



Prayer Before the Blessed Sacrament

Every 1st and 3rd Friday we have Adoration Prayer in church from 9:30am-4:00pm. We are in need of more people to take an hour here or there or sub when someone can't make it. Call Amy Schmitz 507-920-9804 to give your name and number and talk about when you wish

to offer your Prayers for Adoration.

| \$150\bar{\bar{\bar{\bar{\bar{\bar{\bar{ | |
|--|-----------------|
| YEARS | If you who wo |
| ANNIVERSARY | please complete |

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.

| 150 |
|-------------|
| YEARS |
| ANNIVERSARY |

| Name | |
|---------|--|
| Address | |

| Amount | | |
|---------|--|--|
| AIHOUHH | | |

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

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

| | | S CO TICCITICES |
|--------|------------------|--|
| Apr 21 | 10:30am | Mass—First Holy Communion |
| | 4:30pm | Book Study: The Jewish Roots of Mary chapter 3 |
| Apr 23 | 8:30am | Mass |
| | 4:00-5:30pm | Atrium |
| Apr 24 | 1:00pm | Administrative Council Mtg |
| | 6:00-7:00pm | Faith Formation Classes grades 1-6 |
| | 7:15-8:15pm | Faith Formation Classes grades 7-10 |
| Apr 25 | | Parish Office Closed |
| Apr 26 | 6:30-7:30am | That Man is You |
| | 8:30am | School Mass |
| Apr 27 | 5:30pm | Mass |
| | | Rolls sold after Mass |
| Apr 28 | 8:30am | Mass |
| | 9:00- 11:00am | Rome Pilgrimage Teens Fundraiser Breakfast |
| | 4:30pm | Book Study: The Jewish Roots of Mary chapter 4 |



The Parish Office will be CLOSED Thursday, April 25.



St Raphael School will be selling rolls after Mass on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

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: Justin & Beth Steff Family

Mon: Sue Steffl

Tues: Tom & Lee Steffl
Wed: Linus & Mary Stifter
Thur: Cliff & Renita Streich
Fri: Dan & Jackie Streich Family

Sat: Jeff Streich

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 11

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

► YouTube

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 22-26

Monday 9:00-3:00; Tuesday-Friday 9:30-4:00

April 25th—Last Thursday of the Month 50% off All Clothing

Ouestions 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.

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. What is done with the funds raised from "A Night in Havana"? Last year, \$90,000 of those funds went directly to the general school budget. This helps keep our tuition as low as possible for families, as well as be able to pay our staff a living wage. \$14,150 of those funds went toward our playground project and have been set aside for that purpose. \$20,000 of those funds were set aside in an investment which will help the sustainability of our 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 are now taking their third and final NWEA tests for the school year. 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. It also helps me, as the administrator see strengths and weaknesses in our curriculum. Then, we use the data to make any changes necessary.

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 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 ~

Congratulations to the Second graders of St. Raphael Catholic Church who received Jesus, body, blood, soul and divinity in the Most Holy Eucharist on Sunday morning! Case Anderson, JD Dauer, Kiersten Hart, Huck Jensen, Colson Meine, Ian Nachreiner, Cooper Peichel, Luella Pietig, Aspen Platz, Damian Platz, Harper Plotz, Autumn Roiger, Joseph Schilling, Alyce Weilage, Everley Vogel and Kaleb Vogel.

This Wednesday, April 24, is the last evening of classes for Faith Formation this year. I want to thank the parents for entrusting your child(ren) to us, you are the first teachers of the Catholic faith. I want to thank, with a very grateful heart, all of the dedicated Catechists! Atrium = Erin Cowan, Grade 1 = Karen Brandl and Connie Augustin, Grade 2 = Bev Krueger and Lauren Vogel, Grade 3 = Katie Dauer and John Olcott, Grade 4 = Mary Maleska and Mary Mathiowetz, Grade 5 = Pat Dauer, Grade 6 = Jim Miesen, Grade 7 = Jill Riederer and Bob Sturm, Grade 8 = Sheena Dauer, Grade 9 = Nick and Crystal Dauer, Grade 10 = Dan O'Callaghan and Deacon Barry Reindl. Thank you to the parents in grades 11 and 12 who volunteered to attend with the teens this year – it was great to have you!

Totus Tuus is coming this summer July 14-18. Parents were emailed a registration form. Anyone needing a registration they are located on the Faith Formation table in the gathering space.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, April 24—Last Night of Class

6:00-7:00pm Faith Formation Classes grades 1-6 7:15-8:15pm Faith Formation Classes grades 7-10

Youth Choir Schedule

Wednesday, April 24

NO Practices this week

~Pilgrims of Hope Spotlight~

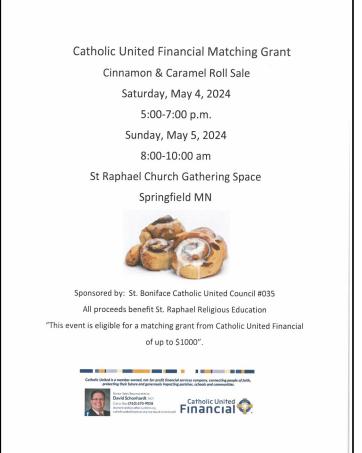
Christina Reindl, grade 8 and TJ Reindl, Grade 11 along with their parents Deacon Barry and Karen Reindl, are attending the Jubilee pilgrimage. Christina is looking forward to going on the Jubilee Pilgrimage because she feels like this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to see places where miracles have happened, where Saints are buried, as well as the usual stuff. She is particularly excited that this is a Jubilee year because it will be a particularly festive occasion.

TJ wants to see Pope Francis, St. Peters and to walk through the Jubilee doors of Mercy. He is looking forward to the city of Assisi and the Chapel where the Eucharistic miracle happened.











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.





Catholic Charites provides personal, marriage, and family counseling. In-person sessions are now available. Call 866-670-5163 (toll free) or

507-233-5318 (local).

Springfield Area Food Shelf is open Tuesday evenings 4:30-7:00 PM and Thursday mornings 9:00-11:30 AM. We are looking for volunteers to help with various jobs call Shari Koll at 507-227-0386 to volunteer.