



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

April 28, 2024
5th 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 29	No Mass <i>Acts of the Apostles 14:5-18; John 14:21-26</i>
Tues Apr 30	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Theresa O'Meara Rodriguez <i>Acts of the Apostles 14:19-28; John 14:27-31a</i>
Wed May 1	(VVNH) 1:30pmm Mass +Eileen Pulkrabet <i>Acts of the Apostles 15:1-6; John 15:1-8</i>
Thur. May 2	(Sanb) 8:00am Mass +Jeremy Radtke <i>Acts of the Apostles 15:7-21; John 15:9-11</i>
Fri. May 3	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Marge & Roman Roiger <i>1 Corinthians 15:1-8; John 14:6-14</i>
Sat. May 4	(Spfld) 5:30pm Mass +Dan Irlbeck <i>Acts of the Apostles 16:1-10; John 15:18-21</i>
Sun. May 5	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Carol Steffl (Lamb) 10:30am Mass –For the People <i>Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17</i>

Church of St. Raphael & Area Office

20 W Van Dusen Street ~ 507-723-4137
Springfield MN 56087

Email: staphael@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
staphael@newulmtel.net

Parish Bookkeeper

Connie Vogel 723-4138
cvogel@newulmtel.net

Faith Formation/Youth Ministry

Karen Reindl
mrsreindl@staphaelpk-6.com

School Principal

Beth Steffl 723-4136
mrssteffl@staphaelpk-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,

During these past couple of weeks there has been quite a bit going on in our parishes. Budget and cemetery meetings, wrapping up religious education, 1st communion at St. Raphael last weekend and St. Joseph's this weekend, getting ready for the end of the school year, plays, concerts and Havana night coming up next month. Thank you to everyone who has been helping out and putting so much effort into our parishes and school.

If you have not done so yet, mark down May 31st in your calendars for the Havana night fundraiser for St. Raphael school. I had the opportunity to visit with the ladies working so hard this past Monday and it was pretty impressive how much love and dedication that they have been putting into it. It sounds like it should be a fun night for all with some good food, beer, froofy tropical drinks and everything else included in the evening.

This past week I had a couple of priests visit me from my seminary days as guys are starting to reconnect with our 20-year anniversary right around the corner. It's been good to catch up with the fellas. There were joys and sorrows shared. It kind of dawned on me how grateful I am to my classmates for saying yes to God and the priesthood. One classmate shared with me some of the challenges in his new assignment that I found appalling, although I can't say that it shocked me. His first weekend at his new parish an old man in the congregation stood up at the beginning of mass and shouted for everyone to hear that they didn't want him there. Maybe we can take some time this week and just pray for the priests out there who are being persecuted and rejected who have given their lives to God and the Church.

God's blessings,

Fr. Jeremy



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~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

Apr 28	10:30am	Mass—First Holy Communion
May 1	1:30pm	Mass—Valley View Nursing Home
May 2	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
May 5	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	\$51,269.33	\$61,671.85
Student	\$250.00	\$206.83	\$255.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$2,067.44	\$2,843.65

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph	
Adult Envelopes	\$1,214.00
Student Envelope	\$5.00
Loose Plate	\$70.00
Easter	\$75.00
Diocese	\$122.00
Candles	\$28.00
Total	\$1,514.00

This week we remember *these people in our prayers.*
Mike & Robyn Schroepfer and Pat & Marlene Schroepfer

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

May 5 Ministries

Lector Tasha Frasher
EMC Emily Scheffler
Servers Celia Vogel & William Frasher
Sacristan Jeff Strock
Ushers Jason Axford & Vern Hillesheim
Gift Bearers Jeremiah Frasher Family
Money Counters Cathy Graff & Fred Berg

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.

 Congratulations to Scarlett Frasher as she receives her First Holy Communion.

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

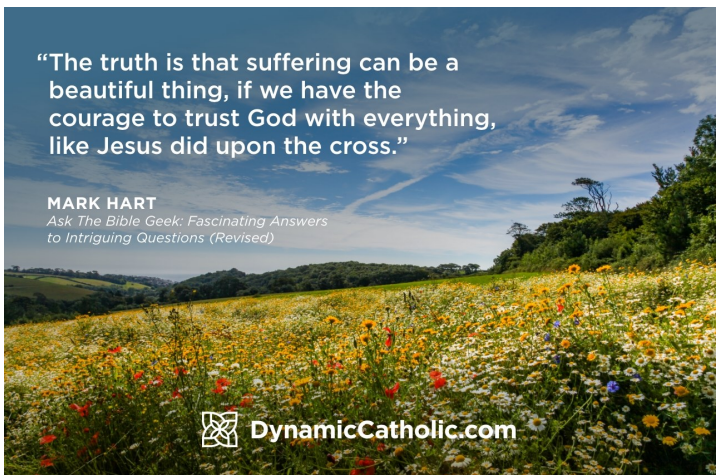
Many people no longer have a land line phone number and we do not have a cell phone number to contact parishioners.

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

Name _____

Cell Phone # _____

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



~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$277,019.33	\$274,247.95
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$909.88	\$30.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$909.88	\$115.13

The 400 Club Winners this Week

#118	Alivia Halter	\$65.00
#244	Rolf Flaig	\$65.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group E ~

Mary 4 & 5, 2024

	5:30pm	8:30am
Servers	Cole Jensen	Kallen Riederer
	VOLUNTEER	Zoie Riederer
Lector	Denise Reiner	Dan O'Callaghan
EMHC	Cathy Ochs	Dcn Barry Reindl
Accompanist	Sharon Pieschel	Youth Choir
Song Leader	Lori Kretsch	Youth Choir
Rosary	VOLUNTEER	TMIY Group
Head Usher	Mike Reiner	Keith Riederer
	Terry Ochs	Jill Riederer
	Cathy Ochs	VOLUNTEER
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Videographer	VOLUNTEER	

Last week's Parish Revenue	
Adult Envelopes	\$4,632.00
Loose Plate	\$405.06
Easter	\$500.00
Capital Improvement—Playground	\$725.00
Red Heart Envelope	\$20.00
Adopt a Student	\$200.00
School Memorial	\$25.00
Candles	\$260.00
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$408.98
Total Income	\$7,176.04

Cemetery Update: The hand pump well behind the statue on the east side of the cemetery is working again! Thank you to Randy Sturm, Bob Sturm, Arland Roiger, Nick Dauer, Duane Dauer, Nick Vogel, Mike Krueger, Larry Allen, Kent Salonek and Randy Baier for their help in getting it going again!

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.



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.



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 28	8:30am	Mass
	9:00-11:00am	Rome Pilgrimage Teens Fundraiser Breakfast
	4:30pm	Book Study: The Jewish Roots of Mary chapter 4
Apr 30	8:30am	Mass
	4:00-5:30pm	Atrium
May 1	5:00-6:00pm	Children's Choir Practice
	6:00-7:00pm	Praise & Worship Choir Practice
May 3	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
	8:30am	School Mass
	9:30am-4:00pm	Adoration
May 4	5:30pm	Mass
		CUF Roll Sale after Mass
May 5	8:30am	Mass—Baccalaureate
		CUF Roll Sale after Mass
	4:30pm	Book Study: The Jewish Roots of Mary chapter 5

There will be a **Fall Festival planning meeting** on **May 7 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Family Room. All parishioners are welcome to attend and provide suggestions and new ideas. The Fall Festival date is September 8, 2024.



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.



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

Please remember in your prayers:

✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:

Father Steven Verhelst

Please pray for our parishioners this week~

Sun: Bernice Sturm

Mon: Chris Sturm

Tues: Pat & Beth Sturm

Wed: Randy & Paula Sturm Family

Thur: Richard & Alicia Sturm

Fri: Bob & Sharon Sturm

Sat: Ron & Sharon Sturm

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 12**

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 29-May 3

City Wide Garage Sale—May 2-4

25% off all Clothing

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

Saturday 9:00-12:00

Questions about donations—call 723-5778

Raffle Tickets for the 150th Anniversary Quilt will be on sale after **most** weekend Masses starting April 27th. You may also purchase them at the Parish Office. They are \$10.00 each. They will also be available to purchase at our Celebration on June 22, 2024. The Quilt is hanging in the Gathering Space. Thank you, The 150th Committee.

~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. The committee began sending out sponsor letters in March and has been following up with them. **To date, we have received \$26,950 in sponsorships (these sponsorships come from our beloved local businesses as well as many out of town businesses) and \$9,365 in raffle ticket sales! (Many of these are tickets sold by our school families as well as purchased by our alumni all over the country!) This is a total of \$36,315 so far that has been raised for the school! I will continue to update everyone on our totals! Our goal for the fundraiser is \$130,000 to be put toward the school. This will go toward our general budget, school endowment, and specific needs of the 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! **St. Raphael families have sold 355 BIG Ticket raffle tickets in the first two weeks of sales! Way to go! Our goal is to sell 980 BIG ticket raffle tickets before the end of school!**

Thank You! This week we celebrated Administrative Professionals Day! We want to recognize the hard work that our office staff do each and every day to support our school and parish! Thank you to our school secretary, Trisha Ludewig, our parish secretary, Raquel Kieper, and our Business Manager, Connie Vogel. We appreciate you!

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!

Upcoming School Masses:

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 ~

Reminder that the camp scholarship is due to the parish office before May 1. If you are attending a diocesan summer camp, Camp Beloved or Camp Greatness, please fill out a scholarship form located on the faith formation table in the gathering space.

Baccalaureate Mass will be next Sunday, May 5. Seniors, please wear your gown, no cap in Church. We will meet in the Church basement at 8:15pm and walk into church together at 8:20am.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 will be the first night of 2024/2025 Faith formation classes.

Youth Choir Schedule

Wednesday, May 1

5:00-6:00pm Children's Choir Practice

6:00-7:00pm Praise & Worship Choir Practice

~Pilgrims of Hope Spotlight~

Kallen Riederer, grade 8 and Zoie Riederer, grade 9, the children of Keith and Jill Riederer, are attending the Jubilee pilgrimage. Kallen is going to dig deeper into his faith and he feels going to Rome will be a great way to help with that. It is a Jubilee year which only happens every 25 years so he feels it is a trip of a lifetime. He is especially excited to see the Eucharistic Miracle, Pompeii and other landmarks and sights.

Zoie Riederer feels that going to Rome will be a great and wonderful adventure. It will allow her to have a deeper relationship with Jesus and her catholic faith. She feels the Jubilee year is a wonderful time to go to Rome and to see the Eucharistic landmarks in Rome too. Seeing the Colosseum in real life will be amazing. Also seeing the Miracle of Orvieto, the Body and Blood displayed there will be an amazing experience to see.

ST. RAPHAEL BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

9AM-11AM

SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Menu: Cheese Omelet, sausage, applesauce
blueberry muffin, coffee or juice for \$10



PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT ROME PILGRIMAGE TEENS



Catholic United Financial Matching Grant

Cinnamon & Caramel Roll Sale

Saturday, May 4, 2024

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 5, 2024

8:00-10:00 am

St Raphael Church Gathering Space

Springfield MN



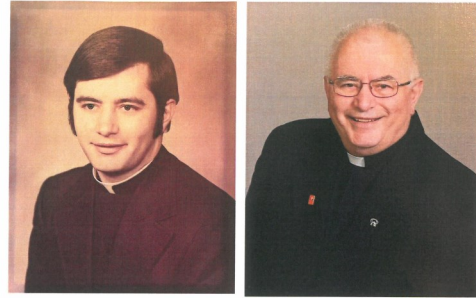
Sponsored by: St. Boniface Catholic United Council #035

All proceeds benefit St. Raphael Religious Education

"This event is eligible for a matching grant from Catholic United Financial of up to \$1000".



Join Fr. Denny Labat to celebrate his 50th anniversary of ordination as a priest!



Where: Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, 503 W. Lyon St., Marshall, MN

When: Sunday, May 26, 2024

Mass at 2:30PM (priests welcome to concelebrate)

Open house reception will follow in Carlin Hall (church basement) 3:30 to 6:00pm

Upcoming VIRTUS Training Sessions

✝ A new VIRTUS Training Session has been added for **Tuesday, April 30, 2024, from 6:00-9:00pm at St. John's Education Center in Cokato.**

✝ 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.



Summer Fun
is coming to our parish
for grades 1-6 & grades 7-12!

Games! Skits! Sacraments!

Totus Tuus
is a summer youth program which features 4 missionaries who host a fun daytime program for grades 1-6 and a youth group for grades 7-12 in the evening

Details
Grades 1-6
July 15-18 from 9am-2pm daily
Grades 7-12
July 14-18 from 7:30-9:30pm daily
at St. Raphael Catholic Church basement
\$5/person to those who register before July 1. Registration forms are available on the Faith Formation table or contact Karen Reindl at straphaelp-6.com

Diocese of New Ulm

You're Invited

"A NIGHT IN HAVANA" FUNDRAISER

ST. RAPHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Friday May 31st, 2024

5PM - MIDNIGHT
21+ ONLY
FREE ENTRY

LINGEN DAIRY FOOD TRUCK
SERVING CAJUN CUISINE
5PM - 8PM
RAFFLES - LIVE MUSIC - GAMES
LIVE & SILENT AUCTION - HAVANA BAR