



# Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

[www.vineandbranchesafc.org](http://www.vineandbranchesafc.org)

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
2nd Sunday of Advent

*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. Dec. 10 No Mass  
*Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26*
- Tues. Dec. 11 8:30am Mass +Ernest Vogel (Spfd)  
*Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14*
- Wed. Dec. 12 8:00am Mass (Lamb.)  
10:00am Mass +Bill Vogel (SJLH)  
*Revelation 11:19a;12:1-6a,10ab;  
Luke 1:39-47*
- Thurs. Dec. 13 8:00am Mass +Julie Brown (Sanb)  
*Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15*
- Fri. Dec. 14 8:30am Mass +Robert Luther (Spfd)  
*Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19*
- Sat. Dec. 15 5:30pm Mass +Marilyn Rothmeier (Spfd)  
*Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a,10-13*
- Sun. Dec. 16 8:30am Mass - AFC (Spfd)  
10:30am Mass +Louie Seifert (Lamb)  
*Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke  
3:10-18*

- ♦ Mass Stipend \$10.00

### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

- † Saturday 4:45pm at St. Raphael
- † Sunday 10:15am at St. Joseph

**Baptism:** Pre-baptism classes required- Contact Fr. Phil

**Marriage:** All Catholics are to contact their pastoral leader at least 6 months before their wedding

- ♦ Prayer Chain 723-6636, 723-5757, 723-5651, 723-5670
- ♦ Good Neighbor Thrift Store 723-5778
- ♦ 20 E Central, Springfield, MN
- ♦ Office of Catholic Charities 866-670-5163

**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](mailto:straphael@newulmtel.net)

## Church of St. Joseph

400 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, PO Box 458 ~ 507-752-7269

Lamberton MN 56152

& St. Thomas Oratory, Sanborn MN

Email [stjoseph@centurylink.net](mailto:stjoseph@centurylink.net)

### **Pastor**

Fr. Phil Schotzko~ Office Phone: 723-4141

[phil.schotzko@newulmtel.net](mailto:phil.schotzko@newulmtel.net)

**Deacon** - Dcn. Barry Reindl

### **Pastoral Associate**

Sister Shirley Steines 507-752-7269

Parish Phone 507-752-7269

**CCW Prayer Chain**– Sister Shirley Steines

### **Parish Secretary**

Mary Beth Hoffmann & Marie Amsden 723-4137

[straphael@newulmtel.net](mailto:straphael@newulmtel.net)

### **Parish Bookkeeper**

Connie Vogel 723-4137, fax 723-5409

[cvogel@newulmtel.net](mailto:cvogel@newulmtel.net)

### **School Principal**

Beth Steffl 723-4136

[straysprincipal@newulmtel.net](mailto:straysprincipal@newulmtel.net)

### **School Secretary**

Bev Krueger 723-4135

[straysschooloffice@newulmtel.net](mailto:straysschooloffice@newulmtel.net)

### **Faith Formation/Youth Ministry**

Erin Hauth 723-4138

[straysfaithformation@gmail.com](mailto:straysfaithformation@gmail.com)

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.

### *From the Pastor ~*

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the 2nd Sunday of Advent. It seems that Christmas is already rushing upon us and the question is have we shifted our interior gears (or attitude) in anyway that will make this Advent/ Christmas different...better than ever?



My mom always said Christmas comes whether you are ready or not. True, but when it comes don't you want to recognize the "visitation" of the Divine to our humble corner of the world? I am obviously not talking about the turning of the calendar on Christmas Eve. I am talking about the many ways that the Nativity is a metaphor that points to all the ways that God is "Born Again" in our lives. Eventually, we are meant to understand that this is not just a yearly "visitation" by rather, a coming and parking permanently in our hearts, in our families and in our faith communities. In fact, this celebration of the Incarnation, the "in-fleshment" of God changes our senses so that we realize that God was there all the time.

Perhaps I am running on ahead a bit as we still are in Advent...short as it is. However, it doesn't really have to be long. It doesn't take much time to STOP! To stop and see, to stop and listen, to stop and notice, to taste and smell and touch what is from God and in fact is Holy. It is all around us and within us.

The Sunday readings are strongly encouraging us to "take off our robes of mourning and misery" and "put on the splendor of glory from God." Joy is meant to be our core experience as God's people who know we are walking in the light of God's glory...who know we are loved.

This delight in being so wonderfully beloved of God comes not from being worthy. It had nothing to do with being perfect or ready with cultural expectations of decorations, appropriate gifts, clothes and food. It comes rather to those with a child-like openness to wonder and the simple ability to take our eyes off ourselves and see the love in the eyes of those that God uses to gaze on us with love.

I realize this is not easy. We are so often stuck in worry about other's expectations of us or our harsh judgment of ourselves. We think we have to earn God's love somehow. However, that is the Wonder of this season. It celebrates the free gift of God sharing God's own nature and presence with us. It is here all the time but when we are attuned to it, we can be surprised and amazed by grace...the Love of God made manifest.

*~Fr. Phil Schotzko*

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### *From Sister Shirley~*

#### **Happy Second Week of Advent!**

Hopefully this first week of Advent you have given a gift to yourself – a quiet time to reflect on how God has touched your life through the presence of others. Our response for the psalm for this Sunday is: "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy." As we pray this response this Sunday let us remember all the "God touches" we have received from others.

As we celebrate this second week of Advent I encourage you to respond to the reflection for this second Sunday of Advent from, **The Word Among Us.** Last Sunday Father Phil invited us to stand tall and look up during the blessing. The reflection for this Sunday invites us to not just look up but to look out at the people around us.

Blessings of peace and love as you welcome all the people around you.

Hopefully you have marked your calendar for Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas Program presented by our young people of the Faith Formation Program. You are invited to join us for a light lunch following the program.

## ~Church of St. Joseph~

December 16, 2018	
	<b>10:30am</b>
<b>Servers</b>	Isaac Kronback Caleb Kronback
<b>Lector</b>	Anthony Axford
<b>EMC</b>	Diane Arnsdorf Jeanne Eykyn Jackie Imker
<b>Usher</b>	Tom Anderson Jason Axford Austin Axford Jim Imker
<b>Gifts</b>	Maia & Emily Scheffler
<b>Counters</b>	Joann French Doreen Kronback
<b>Video</b>	Charly Furth

This week we remember these people in our prayers.

*Sharon & Pete Furth and Dorothy Geis*



**Our Shepherd of the field:**

*Msgr. Doug Grams*

~Please also pray for those in Need ~

Dolores Berg	Pat Dauer	Mary Arnoldi
Kathleen Stillo	Jim Berg	Kay Weisbrich
Dorothy Dietl	Ken Benedict	Carol Kretsch
Shirley Simonson	Dean Kronbach	

### Coming Events

Dec. 9	10:30am	Mass- 2nd Sunday of Advent
	4:00pm	Reconciliation Service- St. Raphael
Dec. 11	6:30am	Bible Study
Dec. 12	8:00am	Mass Lambertton
	6:45pm	Faith Formation Classes
Dec. 13	8:00am	Mass at St. Thomas/ Discussion Group
Dec. 14	3:00pm	Decorate Trees for Christmas
Dec. 16	10:30am	Mass- 3rd Sunday of Advent/ Christmas Program following
Dec. 22	7:00pm	Mass at St. Thomas
Dec. 24	6:00pm	Christmas Eve Mass

St. Joseph- Contribution Budget July 1, 2018- June 30, 2019			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
<b>Adults</b>	\$60,500.00	\$27,423.13	<b>\$27,662.36</b>
<b>Student</b>	\$900.00	\$398.13	<b>\$296.20</b>
<b>Loose Plate</b>	\$4,200.00	\$2,432.71	<b>\$2,191.22</b>

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph	
Adult Envelopes	\$1,040.00
Student Envelopes	6.00
Loose Plate	81.00
Christmas Flowers	150.00
Adult Education	10.00
Ministerial Association	40.00
Omelet Breakfast	20.00
Funeral Stipend	125.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,472.00</b>

St. Joseph's CCW will meet  
**Monday, December 10 at 7:00 pm.**  
Please bring a \$5.00 gift for our gift exchange.  
Thank You and hope to see many of you there.  
~Sue Imker, President



If anyone would like to assist us in putting up the Christmas trees and decorating them, please join at 3:00 pm on Friday, December 14th. We appreciate your help. **Thanks.**

# ~Church of St. Raphael~

## Prayer Corner



*Please remember in your prayers:*

✠ Our Shepherd of the Field: Fr. Bernard Steiner

*Please pray for our parishioners this week~*

Sun: Dean Roiger

Mon: Delores (Dee) Roiger

Tues: Duane & Janice Roiger

Wed: Gary & Patricia Roiger

Thurs: George L Roiger

Fri: Gregory & Linda Roiger Family

Sat: Gretchen Roiger

*Weekly Candle Intentions (\$2.00 offering)*

·Special Intention ·Special Intention VM

·Special Intention YM



### Check out Channel 8–Cablecast

\* **St. Raphael Sunday Mass**

Every Tuesday at 5:00 pm & Friday at 6:00 pm.

\* **The Future Depends on Love- Episode 4**

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



Please remember in your prayers, **Phyllis**

**Roiger**, who died this past week. Her funeral was this past Thursday. We extend our prayers and sympathy to her family and friends.

## Good Neighbor Thrift Store

**December 11-15**

**50% off Kid's Room and Books.**

Jingle Bell tickets with purchase until Wednesday December 12. Drawing will be held December 13. Looking for volunteers who can help with delivering donations. Please contact us at Good Neighbor Thrift for more details



**Looking for volunteers to stay after Church on December 16<sup>th</sup>** to bring up Christmas decorations and start some initial decorating.



**Give a gift that makes a difference -**

Thank you to all who choose a person from St. John's Circle of Care. **Please make sure to return your gifts to St,**

**Raphael or the nursing home by December 17, 2018**

**St Raphael School will be selling rolls after Masses Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup>, Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.**



**Aging religious need your help.** Senior Catholic sisters,



brothers, and religious order priests minister for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care and more for tens of thousand of elderly religious. Please be generous.

# ~Church of St. Raphael~

## Meetings and Activities

Dec. 9	4:00pm	Reconciliation Service at St. Raphael
Dec. 10	1:00pm	Craft Ladies Meet
	3:15-5:00pm	Level 3 Atrium
	7:00pm	Prayer Shawl Group- Gathering Space
Dec. 12	3:30pm-4:45pm	K-6 FF/ Level 2 Atrium
	7:15pm-8:30pm	FF grades 7-11
Dec. 13	3:15-4:45pm	Level 1 Atrium
Dec. 17	1:00pm	Craft Ladies Meet
	3:15-5:00pm	Level 3 Atrium

## The 400 Club Winners this Week

#52	Leo Schmitz	\$65.00
#160	Mike & Kaye Richert	\$65.00

*~Serving next Funeral will be Group E~*

Contribution Budget July 1, 2018- June 30, 2019			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
<b>Adults</b>	\$255,000.00	\$112,788.55	<b>\$107,483.22</b>
<b>Gr. 7-12</b>	\$750.00	\$331.89	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Pre K-6</b>	\$2000.00	\$884.81	<b>\$612.15</b>

## Last week's Parish Revenue

Adult Envelopes	\$3,715.02
High School Gr. 7-12	~0~
Children through Gr. 6	43.00
Loose Plate	97.00
DUF	87.00
Christmas flowers	290.00
Thanksgiving	5.00
Immaculate Conception	20.00
Religious Retirement	500.00
Kitchen Rent	630.00
Holy Family Rent	50.00
Outside Tuition	3,252.00
School Subsidy	289.89
Designated Gift	3,975.00
Capital Improvement	40.00
Christmas	25.00
Coffee Connections	10.00
Votive Candle	11.55
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	875.13
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$13,915.59</b>

## December 15 & 16, 2018

	5:30pm	8:30am
<b>Servers</b>	Skyla Dauer	Mitchel Streich
	Hazel Dauer	Ely Streich
	Noah Riederer	Abbey Rasset
<b>Lector</b>	Jack Hartjes	Isaac Rasset
<b>EMC</b>	Jack Hartjes	Jim Miesen
	Laura Bast	Dec. Barry Reindl
	Dale Lindmeier	Mariah Pietig
<b>Accompanist</b>	Sharon Pieschel	Julie Prechel
<b>Song Leader</b>	TBD	Adult Choir
<b>Rosary</b>	Julie Lassegard	Jim Miesen
<b>Head Usher</b>	*David Roiger	*Mike Reiner
	Keith Riederer	Jake Veenstra
	George Tauer	Mason Kretsch
	Dale Lindmeier	Mason Rummel
<b>Communion SJLH</b>	Jack & Marleen Hartjes	
<b>Videographer</b>	Nick Dauer	

## ~Faith Formation & Youth Ministry~

◆ We are looking to purchase a wireless projector that can be mounted to the church basement ceiling for our High School Faith Formation! We are at maximum capacity for seating for our grades 7-11 youth and we'd love to free up some more space by having a mounted projector. This will also make playing video clips or PowerPoints much easier with not having to transport and set up a projector every week. The cost for a new projector that can be used wirelessly and a ceiling mount is expected to be around \$600. If you are interested in donating to this cause, you can contact Erin with more information, or write out a check to St. Raphael's, putting "New Projector" in the memo and put it in the drop box or the weekly collection. Thank you!

### ◆ Senior Visitation Ministry

Are you a member of St. Raphael's Parish and wish to feel more connected with the church members around you? St. Raphael's has started a new ministry where members of our Parish will visit you at your home and be a friend to help you feel more connected and involved in the church community! If you are interested in being visited, please call Doty deLambert at 507-491-6571 or Erin Hauth at 723-4138.

If you are a parishioner interested in being involved in this ministry, call the numbers above or email Dotty at [varm-land42@yahoo.com](mailto:varm-land42@yahoo.com).

✚ The 2019 CHWC Mission Trip will be doing the **That's My Pan! Fundraiser**. You will be able to place your orders until December 7th to ensure that you get these pans by Christmas if you are ordering them as gifts!

If you would like to see a brochure and place an order, you can contact Erin, or you can go online to [thatsmypan.biz/CHWCMissionTrip](http://thatsmypan.biz/CHWCMissionTrip). Thank you for your support!



## ~St. Raphael School~

Greetings!

This week has been a whirlwind! We had an incredible turnout for our Christmas program on Wednesday evening. Our preschool classes presented some fun Christmas songs first. They were accompanied by Erin Hauth on her guitar. Next, the kindergarten, first and second grade classes presented a musical called *Little Lambs in Bethlehem*. It was a twist on the story of the nativity about a bunch of little lambs who got lost and are trying to get to Bethlehem to see baby Jesus. The third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade classes performed a musical called *Elfis and the Sleigh Riders*. The musical shared the importance of getting along with and working together with the people around us. The students did an excellent job as always! Thank you so much to the entire school staff for helping out with this huge event! Thank you also to the families that helped take the chairs and stage down afterward. Your help is greatly appreciated!

**Free money for our school? Yes, please!** Download the **Shoparoo** app on your smartphone or iPad and sign up for an account! Make sure you select St. Raphael School as your designated school. Anytime you do **any** shopping **anywhere**, snap a photo of the receipt on the app and submit it. We received a \$55.62 check from Shoparoo this fall from the handful of families (only 7) that are participating. Imagine how much money we could raise if all our school supporters participated? Where does the money come from you ask? The founders at Shoparoo are partnered with major consumer brands that pay for market research. When you use Shoparoo, your receipt data remains anonymous but collects information for important market research.

**Welcome!** Please welcome Ms. Denise Gicker to our St. Raphael school family! Ms. Gicker has been hired by the Springfield Public School District to be our onsite Title I teacher. Title I, which focuses on helping students who need a little extra help in reading and math, is funded by a federal grant under ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). We are so excited to have her here! Ms. Gicker graduated from Minnesota State University in Mankato and is a licensed teacher. Denise has over ten years of experience working with and mentoring students in the Lower Sioux Community in a preschool program and in an after school program. She has three small children of her own and lives here in Springfield. She will be working with our students one-on-one and in small groups in the afternoon four days a week!

Thank you so much to all who came to eat at our Catholic United Financial spaghetti supper last week! We had a wonderful turnout! Thank you especially to the school staff who worked and donated cookies and to the Catholic United Financial volunteers who came to help! We also want to thank the school and church families that donated ground beef for the spaghetti sauce! Our profits were \$724 after expenses. It was a great success!

**Blessings,**

**Mrs. Beth Steffl, principal**

## ~Vine & Branches AFC Information~

**Famous Pancake Breakfast, Sunday December 9th from 8:30am- 11:30am** at the St. Catherine Catholic Church in Redwood Falls MN. Scrambled eggs, sausage, Pancakes made from scratch!

The Church of the Japanese Martyrs in Leavenworth is having a **Catholic United Financial Matching Grant Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**, serving from 9:30am - 12:30pm. On the menu are pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, applesauce, coffee, chocolate milk and juice.

**Annual Sausage Feed Dinner Sunday December 9th from 4:30 to 7:30pm** at the Clements Legion Hall in Clements MN.

The end of the year is not far away, and it is time to start thinking of strategies to maximize the tax benefits of year-end giving. Federal tax laws and many state laws make it possible to reduce or eliminate taxes on gifts to charities like your parish, diocese, schools and other ministries. **Remember that only gifts made by December 31st can help reduce the amount of taxes you owe next April.** Please consult your professional tax advisor for tax strategies for your personal situation.

### Gifts of Cash

The most popular way to give to charity is still by cash or check. Gifts completed by December 31st will qualify for tax deductibility for the current tax year. Gifts of cash qualify for up to one-half of your adjusted gross income (AGI). You must receive an acknowledgement for gifts of \$250 or more. For more information about giving gifts of cash, please contact the parish office at 723-4137.

**Save the Date  
Sparkle & Dine 2019**

**Will be held Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
at the Springfield Area Community Center.  
Check the Gathering Space for registration forms.**

**NUDCCW Scholarship Program** for 2018-2019 has Applications Available in the Church Office. All applications must be received in our Parish Office by February 21, 2019 in order for the application to be signed and sent in to the main office by March 1, 2019.

For more information and applications please contact the parish office.



**Assistance is needed for manual labor to take down the set from the Nativity Pageant. If you can be of assistance please come to the Community Center on Sunday December 9th at 1:00pm. Many Thanks**

### CCW for Heifer International during Advent

St. Raphael Council of Catholic Women is sponsoring a fundraising project for Heifer International, an organization that gives animals to people to help them help themselves out of hunger and poverty.



The offspring of these animals are then passed on to other families in the village and so on. The CCW's goal is to purchase a Joy to the World Basket which includes 2 sheep, 4 goats, 1 heifer, and 2 llamas for \$1500.

Individuals can also purchase animals separately to give as gifts for the holidays. \$20 can buy flock of Chicks, Ducks or Geese. A hive of honey bees is \$30. \$60 will buy a trio of rabbits. \$120 buys a pig, sheep or goat, \$500 for a heifer.

Give a gift that keeps on giving. For more information, call Shelley Olson 507-227-5826 or put a donation in the collection basket marked Heifer. **Checks made payable to Heifer International.** Cards for gifts are available in the Gathering Space.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"Prepare the way of the Lord."  
Is 40:3



Shalom Hill  
Windom, MN  
February 8-10  
Apply/details:  
SouthMNWWME.ORG  
(507) 227-8229



~Upcoming Area Events~

# Advent Prayer Service



All families, especially those with children, are invited to attend an Advent Prayer Service with Bishop John M. LeVoir on **Sunday December 9**. The service is at 4:00pm in Hutchinson at the Church of St. Anastasia. This service is designed to focus on Advent and prepare for the true meaning of Christmas, centered on the birth of Jesus. Families are encouraged to bring the Baby Jesus from their home nativity set. The figure will be blessed by Bishop LeVoir individually as families come forward in procession. A "swaddling clothes" collection and cash donations will be taken for babies in need.

**Advent Reconciliation Service for St. Raphael's**  
Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm  
**Other Area Reconciliation Services**  
 † Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm at St. Mary in Sleepy Eye



### Christmas Holy Day Mass Times:

- \* Christmas Eve- 4:00pm at St. Raphael, Children's & Youth choirs will sing.
- \* Christmas Eve- 6:00pm at St. Joseph
- \* Christmas Eve- 9:00pm at St. Raphael
- \* Christmas Day- 9:00am at St. Raphael Adult choir will sing.

Listen weekly during this Advent and Christmas season to Bishop LeVoir's Messages.

Visit [www.dnu.org/bishop/](http://www.dnu.org/bishop/)



## Flowers for Christmas

You are welcome to make a donation for our Christmas environment in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Please complete the form below and return it in the collection basket or parish office.

**St. Raphael**                       **St. Joseph**

**In memory of:**    (or)     **In honor of:**                      **Please Print**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

