



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

February 18, 2018
1st Sunday of Lent

*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.	Feb. 19	No Mass (Spfd) <i>Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18; Matthew 25:31-46</i>
Tues.	Feb. 20	8:30am NO Mass (Spfd) <i>Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15</i>
Wed.	Feb. 21	10:00am Word & Communion (SJLH) 6:15pm Mass (Lamb) <i>Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32</i>
Thurs.	Feb. 22	8:00am Mass (Sanb) <i>1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19</i>
Fri.	Feb. 23	8:30am Mass +Marie Lang (Spfd) <i>Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26</i>
Sat.	Feb. 24	5:30pm Mass +Albert & Leona Meidl (Spfd) <i>Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48</i>
Sun.	Feb. 25	8:30am Mass +Colleen Sullivan (Spfd) 10:30am Mass -AFC (Lamb) <i>Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10</i>

- ♦ 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

Church of St. Joseph

PO Box 458 ~ 507-752-7269
Lamberton MN 56152
& St. Thomas Oratory, Sanborn MN
Email stjoseph@centurylink.net

Pastor

Fr. Phil Schotzko~ Office Phone: 723-4141
phil.schotzko@newulmtel.net

Pastoral Associate

Sister Shirley Steines 507-752-7269
Parish Phone 507-752-7269
CCW Prayer Chain– Sister Shirley Steines

Parish Secretary

Marie Amsden & Mary Beth Hoffmann 723-4137
mamsden@newulmtel.net & mbfh66@gmail.com

Parish Bookkeeper

Connie Vogel 723-4137, fax 723-5409
cvogel@newulmtel.net

School Principal

Jennifer Fischer 723-4136
straysprincipal@newulmtel.net

School Secretary

Bev Krueger 723-4135
straysschooloffice@newulmtel.net

Faith Formation/Youth Ministry

Erin Hauth 723-4138
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

Lenten Reflection



Do you remember your earliest reaction to the ancient tradition of ashes being smeared on foreheads at the beginning of Lent? Whether that was a part of your particular history or tradition or not, you got to admit that this is an amazing, even shocking, ritual gesture. In a culture that is compulsively squeaky clean, taking daily showers and washing hands regularly, we deliberately smear dirt on our faces and leave it there for all to see! What are we thinking?

Ritual action of this sort goes beyond rational thought. It attempts to express the inexpressible or unthinkable. Most days we cannot endure the thought of our bodily existence rapidly passing away. Our body-self-consciousness hides the fact that our bodies are up to 60% water and most of the rest can be reduced to ashes that will fit in a Kleenex box. What is at the core of our mysterious essence? What remains or is transformed in the process of dying and rising? Lent encourages us to hold these questions in our mind and to shape our lives in such a way that they more clearly reflect our tentative answers.

Sometimes, in the Catholic tradition, the words “*repent and believe the Good news*” are used in the distribution of ashes. “*Repent*” is a call to change what is based solely in this passing world. We seek to leave behind the accumulation of things, the struggle for prestige, or desire to exercise power. Instead, we look to relationships and values that are not limited to life on earth. For example, we fast from some mundane pleasures and give our energy to forging love bonds that are eternal.

The “*believe the Good news*” is the fixing of our heart and mind on the hope that Christ’s resurrection brings. One of my homily resources put it this way: “*Lent celebrates death and resurrection as a single, inseparable mystery.*” Ashes certainly remind us of death, but how do we get from ashes to Easter? That, I believe, is the journey of faith guided by the shining example of Christ who did not avoid the cross. Somehow, in the defining moment of love revealed in his willing sacrifice, a future without limits is opened up to us. That is “*Good news*” to believe in.

Have a Great Lent!

Fr. Phil Schotzko

From Sister Shirley

Lenten Message of Pope Francis

The following is just a portion of the 2018 Lenten Message of Pope Francis. Hopefully this section will inspire you to go on line for his complete message.

“*What are we to do?* By devoting more time to prayer, we enable our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception, and then to find the consolation God offers. He is our Father and he wants us to live well.

Almsgiving sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbor as a brother or sister. What I possess is never mine alone. How I would like almsgiving to become a genuine style of life for each of us! How I would like us as Christians, to follow the example of the Apostles and see in the sharing of our possessions a tangible witness of the communion that is ours in the Church!

Fasting weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us and becomes an important opportunity for growth. On the one hand, it allows us to experience what the destitute and the starving have to endure. On the other hand, it expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. Fasting wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and to our neighbor. It revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger.”

Fasting

Prayer

Almsgiving

Fast from gossiping Spend 10 minutes reading the Bible Put your change in the Rice Bowl

Sister Shirley

~Church of St. Joseph~

Ministry Schedule Sunday Feb. 25, 2018

Ushers Kevin Zimmermann, Mark & Jan Benedict
Jason Axford

Lector Jane Zimmermann

Gifts Mark & Jan Benedict

EMC Kris Redman, Diane Arnsdorf,
Kathy Valentin

Servers Lydia Nelson, Elizabeth Strock

Counters Kris Redman, Diane Arnsdorf

Video Charly Furth

This week we remember these people in our prayers.

Florence Kaufenberg and Julie & Brad Kircher

Our Shepherd of the field: Msgr. John Richter



~Please also pray for those in Need ~

Dolores Berg	Steve Prokosch	Pat Dauer
Kathleen Stillo	Kay Weisbrich	Millie Bellig
Ken Arnoldi	Mary Arnoldi	Jack Reiner

Coming Events

Feb. 18	10:30am	Mass
Feb. 21	6:15pm	Mass
	6:45pm	Faith Formation Classes Reconciliation (Gr.3-8)
Feb. 22	8:00am	Mass at St. Thomas Discussion Group

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph	
Adult Envelopes	\$1,370.00
Student Envelopes	15.00
Loose Plate	125.00
Votive Lights	8.00
Ash Wednesday	30.00
Total Income	\$1,548.50

St. Joseph- Contribution Budget July 1, 2017- June 30, 2018			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$60,500.00	\$38,394.51	\$44,928.12
Student	\$900.00	\$571.23	\$504.71
Loose Plate	\$4,200.00	\$2,665.41	\$4,866.75

The **NUDCCW** is again offering a monetary scholarship to anyone active in a parish ministry. Application forms can be obtained from Mary Arnoldi (752-7657), Applications must be signed and mailed in to the main office by March 1st, 2018

★ **Mark your calendars for Omelet Breakfast, Sunday, April 22**

Lenten Schedule

Wed. Feb. 21	6:15pm	Mass
Wed. Feb. 28	6:15pm	Mass
Wed. Mar. 7	6:45pm	Way of the Cross



God bless you for your prayers and expressions of sympathy on the death of my sister, Gwendola Till. The wake is Sunday, February 18th and the funeral is Monday, February 19, at Sacred Heart Church in Maquoketa, Iowa. Thanks also for your prayers for my niece Sue Schmidt.

The cancer was contained in the uterus and she does not need any treatments. She is most grateful for the power of your prayers.

Sr. Shirley

Our Area Faith Community Youth Mission Trip to St. Louis, MO! is selling **Dunkin' Donuts as a fundraiser. 1 dozen donuts for \$12.00.** Lots of flavors, mix and match. See posted flyer . Any questions, contact Jeff Strock.

Order yours today!



~Church of St. Raphael~

Prayer Corner



Please remember in your prayers:

✠ Our Shepherd of the Field: Rev. Anthony Hesse

Please pray for our parishioners this week~

Sun: Shawn & Wende Davis

Mon: Dotty De Lambert

Tues: Dan & Lana Domeier

Wed: Rita Drusch

Fri: Richard Dua

Sat: Albert & MaDonna Ebnet

Weekly Candle Intentions (\$2.00 offering)

·Special Intention

Check out Channel 8 –Cablecast

* St. Raphael Sunday Mass

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

* Marriage Works in Christ: Vocation of Marriage, Episode 1

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

Good Neighbor Thrift Store

February 20-24 50% off all Books.
Last Thursday of the Month February 22,
Clothing 50% off.



Baptism

Congratulations to Weston Edward Dauer, child of Nick & Crystal Dauer as he received the Holy Waters of Baptism last weekend. We welcome him to our family at the church of St. Raphael.



Please remember in your prayers, *Mary Ann Savage*, whose funeral was Saturday. We extend our prayers and sympathy to her family and friends.

NUDCCW Scholarship Program for 2017-2018 has Applications Available in the Church Office. All applications must be received in our Parish Office by February 22, 2018 in order for the application to be signed and sent in to the main office by March 1, 2018. For more information and applications please contact the parish office.

Creative Things to Give Up for Lent

When was the last time you had a really memorable Lent? So often, we just give up something like chocolate like we always have, without giving it much thought. And we don't really stick to it. Or if we do manage to get to Easter without eating said chocolate, we realize we haven't really grown spiritually since the beginning of Lent. And isn't that actually the point?

Below are two lists. One is a list of things to give up for Lent, and the other is a list of life-giving habits. I invite you this Lent to pick one from each list. **Just one from each list.** Give something up, then fill the gap.

Things to give up for Lent:

- * Don't eat what you want.
- * Give something away-every day
- * Don't interrupt people
- * Stop Complaining
- * Don't waste downtime

What to do for Lent:

- * Spend time in the classroom of silence
- * Do The Best Lent Ever
- * Read the Gospels
- * Sit in a church with Jesus
- * Do an act of love every day.

So, what two habits are going to lead you to your best Lent ever this year?

*By Jennifer Miller
Dynamic Catholic*

40 DAYS FOR LIFE.

February 14—March 25

Prayer, fasting, and constant vigil to end abortion.

Visit www.40daysforlife.com

Look at the Results

13,998 Lives saved from abortion!
(since 2007)

170 abortion workers quit their jobs!
90 Abortion facilities closed!

**24 Hours of Adoration will be held March 8-9.
Look for sign up sheets in the Gathering Space**

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings and Activities

Feb. 19		NO School
	3:30-5:00pm	NO Level 3 Atrium
Feb. 21	3:30-4:45pm	K-6 FF/ Level 2 Atrium
	7:15-8:30pm	7-11th FF
Feb. 22	3:30-4:45pm	Level 1 Atrium
Feb. 23	11:30	Stations of the Cross w/ Fr. Phil
Feb. 26	12:15	Stations of the Cross w/ school children
	3:30-5:00pm	NO Level 3 Atrium
	7:00pm	Prayer Shawl Group- Gathering Space
Feb. 28	1:30pm	Administrative Council Meeting
	3:30-4:45pm	K-6 FF/ NO Level 2 Atrium
	7:15-8:30pm	7-11th FF
Mar. 1	3:30-4:45pm	NO Level 1 Atrium
Mar. 2	9:00am- 4:00pm	Adoration

Last week's Parish Revenue	
Adult Envelopes	\$2,854.00
High School Gr. 7-12	-0-
Children through Gr. 6	59.00
Loose Plate	168.40
DUF	45.00
Fuel & Heat	50.00
Red Heart	100.00
Coffee Connections	12.00
Adult Education Income	90.00
CD Income	118.60
Parish Memorial	24,370.75
CHWC Income	536.00
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	435.87
Total Income	\$28,839.62

~Serving next Funeral will be Group E~

The 400 Club Winners this Week	
#319 Edna Petersen	\$150.00

Contribution Budget July 1, 2017- June 30, 2018			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$255,000.00	\$161,827.05	\$174,374.79
Gr. 7-12	\$1000.00	\$634.59	\$168.00
Pre K-6	\$2000.00	\$1,269.51	\$1,073.62

Mission of Love



The mission of San Lucas is asking for Messages of Love along with a donation to buy school supplies and food for families that are struggling to get by.

You may pick up a Valentine and make your donation in the parish office or drop your own message with a donation in the collection or drop box in the hallway leading to school. We will forward them to San Lucas.

February 24 & 25, 2018		
	5:30pm	8:30am
Servers	Paul Goedtke	TJ Reindl
	Chase Groebner	Noah Vogel
	Triston Groebner	<i>Volunteer</i>
Lector	Joseph Goedtke	Barry Reindl
EMC	Jack Hartjes	Barry Reindl
	Dale Lindmeier	Elizabeth Mohr
	Scott Jones	Alice Fasnacht
Accompanist	Erin Hauth	Kathleen Goedtke
Song Leader	& friends	David Goedtke
Rosary	Donna Ebnet	Hilary Mohr
Head Usher	*Dale Lindmeier	*Mike Vogel
	David Roiger	Dale Knutson
	Rich Dauer	Tori Roiger
	Pat Lang	Justin Roiger
Communion SJLH	Dan & Julie Lassegard	
Videographer	Julieann Reindl	

~Faith Formation & Youth Ministry~

CHWC Mission Trip Fundraisers to St. Louis, MO

Buy a Mile: There are envelopes in the gathering space for anybody who would like to buy some mileage to help us cover the costs to go to St. Louis, MO July 8-14. So far there are 40 people signed up for this mission trip and we will be traveling 10 hours by a coach bus! The trip costs about \$12/ Mile.

Dunkin' Donuts Fundraiser: CHWC participants will be selling Dunkin' Donuts by the dozen!



Each dozen costs \$12. Mix and match flavors or get a dozen of the same kind! Contact Erin or any CHWC participant to place your order. And don't worry if you give up sweets for Lent- you can still eat them every Sunday since Sundays are not included in the count for 40 days of Lent because every Sunday is to be a mini Easter of the celebration of Christ's Resurrection!

Flavors: Strawberry Frosted, Chocolate Frosted, Blueberry Glazed, Double Chocolate, Cinnamon, Toasted Coconut, Boston Crème, Jelly, Glazed, Sugared, Maple Frosted, Vanilla Frosted

Orders must be placed by February 20th and will be ready to be picked up in St. Raphael's gathering space Saturday, February 24th from 6:30-7pm or Sunday, February 25th from 9:30-10am.

~St. Raphael School~

Our **Cadillac Dinner** is quickly approaching. This is our biggest fundraising event of the year and all of us at school want it to be a success. Please support our school by coming to this dinner and having a wonderful evening out. Tickets are available in the school office.



Mark your calendar for our next **Spaghetti Dinner** is fast approaching.

It is this **Wednesday, February 28th in the gym.** Come and join us for a delicious dinner!

Last Wednesday was Ash Wednesday, and all the students attended Mass together. As part of our Lenten journey, we will be praying the **Stations of the Cross weekly.** This will be done on **Mondays at 12:15.** We will be praying our first Stations of the Cross on **February 26th.** Everyone is welcome to join us.

There is no school on Monday, February 19th due to Presidents Day. Last Friday the students were dismissed early.

The **St. Raphael School children** will be **Selling Rolls** after the following **Sunday 8:30am Mass's** upcoming weekends:

- ◆ **February 18**
- ◆ **March 18**
- ◆ **April 22**



Spaghetti Dinner

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

St. Raphael School Auditorium
Springfield, MN

Serving: Spaghetti with meat sauce,
garlic toast, coleslaw,
cookies, coffee or milk

Adults ~ \$6.00

Children (5-10) ~ \$3.00

Preschool (under 5) ~ \$1.00

Household ~ \$25 feeds your family

All proceeds benefit St. Raphael School



St. Raphael School is looking for an enthusiastic candidate for the position of **Assistant Cook.** This position is temporary.

How to apply: St. Raphael School in Springfield, MN will be accepting applications for a part time (3-4 hours a day) assistant cook position. Interested applicants can fax, email, or send a resume to: Mrs. Jennifer Fischer, Principal, 20 West Van Dusen, Springfield, MN 56087; Fax: 507-723-5409, email: straysprincipal@newulmtel.net

~Vine & Branches AFC Information~

Lenten Experiences

Stations of the Cross ~ Monday's

With the School Children

February 26 th		12:15pm
March 5 th		12:15pm
March 12 th		12:15pm
March 19 th		12:15pm
March 26 th		12:15pm

Stations of the Cross ~ With Fr. Phil Schotzko

February 23 rd		11:30am
March 9 th		11:30am
March 23 rd		11:30am

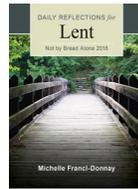
Area Lenten Reconciliation Services

✠ Sunday, March 11	4:00pm	Springfield
✠ Wednesday, March 14	7:15pm	Springfield/7-11th Faith Formation
✠ Sunday, March 18	5:00pm	Sleepy Eye
✠ Sunday, March 25	4:00pm	Wabasso

Don't forget to sign up for the **Best Lent Ever** emails from Dynamic Catholic at: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever>
This is a go along to the book *Perfectly Yourself*, that you received at Christmas time.



Encounter Lent. In Iraq, we encounter Majd and his family, people forced to flee violence, searching for stranger in our midst? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.



Daily Reflections for Lent books are available at the church entrances. Pick one up to enrich your lent. The daily reflections start on Ash Wednesday February 14th.

Black and Indian Mission Collection is this weekend.



This Collection has for the last 131 years, changed the landscape of evangelization and education efforts for Native Americans, Alaskan Americans and African Americans throughout the United States. History tells us that lasting change to a community can only come through faith, hope and charity. Continue to support this mission of faith and hope by your most generous charity.

The Council of Catholic Women will be **collecting**



items for the Girls Heartland Ranch during Lent.

Heartland Girls Ranch is a working ranch for girls from Minnesota, who have been sexually exploited or trafficked. It is located in Benson, MN. Donations needed are for Spring items including outside games like croquet sets, Frisbees, bocce/ball, soccer balls, outside dice games etc. to promote healthy exercise. Summer T shirts (S,M,L,XL), Socks, Tennis shoes, Sandals, Caps, Sun Hats or Visors, Sunscreen & lib balm, makeup, female hygiene supplies, sunglasses, scrap book supplies. Monetary Donations are welcome as well. Please see the table in the upper bell tower area for more information and to drop off donations.

The Council of Catholic Women would like to thank all the women who attended the "Sparkle & Dine" 2nd Annual event on Monday evening. A big thank you to all hostesses and a **SPECIAL** thank you to the Pieschel Foundation for allowing us a gifted speaker who presented her testimony and talk about the Unending Love of Christ, and special music for the event.



Sparkle & Dine Committee

~Upcoming Area Events~

Sunday, March 4, the men of **St. Mary's Church in Sleepy Eye** will host their **Annual Sausage & Sauerkraut Dinner**. Dinner will be served from 10:30am until 2:00pm in the St. Mary's school cafeteria. Menu: Country Sausage, Old-fashioned Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Applesauce, Bread, Ice Cream, & Beverages. The cost for dinner is \$12.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children 6-12 and \$1.00 for pre-school. Take-outs for adults are available starting at 9:30am.

Loved the Wedding, Invite me to the Marriage. Love, GOD

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend can help you do that! Marriage Encounter is 44 hours away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones — where married couples can focus just on each other. The next available **Weekends** are April 13-15, 2018 in HUTCHINSON, MN and Feb 23-25, 2018 in Rapid City, SD. 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.

St. Raphael Catholic School
6th Annual
Cadillac Dinner
Saturday, March 10, 2018
Springfield Area Community Center
Complimentary Social Hour: 6-7pm
Dinner Served at 7pm

Ticket Price: \$45.00

Includes Complimentary Social Hour & Dinner
(Catered by Tommy's Steakhouse: Prime Rib, Broccoli Cheese Stuffed Chicken Breast, Wild Rice, Baby Baker Potatoes, Green Beans, Dinner Roll, Salad & Cupcakes)

ENTERTAINMENT
American Bootleg
(until 11pm)

\$500 Cash Raffle Prize, Silent Auction, Beef & Pork Bundles,
Games & Door Prizes

For tickets please call St. Raphael School 507-723-4135

All Proceeds benefit St. Raphael Catholic School.
Thank you for supporting our wonderful school!

2018 **BISHOP LUCKER LECTURE**
The Role of Healing in Evangelization

Tuesday
March 20
7:00 p.m.

Church of St. Catherine
900 E Flynn Street
Redwood Falls, MN

FREE ADMISSION - NO REGISTRATION

featuring
Dr. Mary Healy
Professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary - Detroit, Michigan
Member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission

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(64) Ways to Practice Non-Violence (Used by the permission of *A Season for Non-Violence-Los Angeles*)

Days 24 - 46 focus on Interpersonal change. In order to create a peaceful world, we must learn to practice nonviolence with one another in our day-to-day interactions

Mindfulness Be aware of the motivation behind your action, the intention behind your words, and the needs and experiences of other people. By doing so, you are making life more beautiful for others.

Graciousness When you are out driving today, slow down and let the other car pull in front of you. Stop and let pedestrians cross the street. Hold the door open for someone else to enter first.

Kindness Participate in random and senseless acts of kindness. Perform 3 acts of kindness today.

Dialogue A healthy society is one in which those who disagree can do so with honor and respect for other people's opinions. "Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others." - Desiderata. Today, speak up but do not enter into the spirit of argument.

Unity Today, look for 3 ways to see beyond outer differences in opinions, appearances or goals. Find the meeting point of underlying unity that exists in diversity.

Openness "He who builds himself a fence, fences out more than he fences in." (Turkish proverb) Today, be open to understanding ideas and people that you have previously opposed.

Accountability Today, take responsibility for how you contribute to a conflict and make a different choice that can lead to a peaceful resolution.