



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

March 17, 2024
5th 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 Mar 18	No Mass <i>Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; John 8:1-11</i>
Tues Mar 19	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Edward Tauer <i>2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a</i>
Wed Mar 20	(Lamb) 8:00am Mass +David Geis <i>Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8:31-42</i>
Thur. Mar 21	(Sanb) 8:00m Mass +Bernie Radtke <i>Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59</i>
Fri. Mar 22	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Tom & Elaine Miesen <i>Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42</i>
Sat. Mar 23	(Spfld) 5:30pm Mass +Matthew Raymond Krueger <i>Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56</i>
Sun. Mar 24	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass –For the People (Lamb) 10:30am Mass +Dorothy Geis <i>Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1-15:47</i>

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

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: 507-430-4349

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,

This weekend, March 16th and 17th, we will be having a short informational meeting after the masses at St. Raphael's about the feasibility study that is beginning as we look into the possibility of starting a capital campaign. I have referred to it briefly throughout this past year. In case you missed those little tidbits here is what we are facing:

1. Re-leading our stained-glass windows in the church. The lead is over 100 years old and is in need of being replaced.
2. The church has been repainted about every 20 years and it is that time again. If you look closely all throughout the church, especially in the front of the church, you will see cracks in the paint everywhere.
3. The school playground project in order to bring it up to code for the kiddos, especially those little ones in our vibrant daycare.
4. Working towards increasing the school endowment.
5. Other miscellaneous needs will be investigated.

People will be invited to participate in the study either by a personal interview or online. I wanted to make sure that everyone had a chance to share their thoughts, feelings and desires. However, we can't interview everyone personally and had to settle for an online option as well.

On another note, at the meeting this weekend I would also like to take the time to let everyone know about the financial situation of the parish and school. This year we are operating at about a 125-150k deficit. The size of this deficit is not normal. I have been informed that there have been many times throughout the years where we have experienced some budget shortfalls. We have also been very fortunate in the past in that St. Raphael's has received some very generous bequests that have helped out in balancing the budget. Unfortunately, we cannot count on that year after year. All of us have also experienced the effect of the rise of inflation in our lives. The cost of goods has gone up and medical expenses have been rising which in turn has impacted parish wide salaries and benefits. Moving forward I believe that we need to work towards a balanced budget. We are in the process of working towards this by:

1. Appealing to parishioners for an increase in your yearly giving.
2. Appealing to school families to increase our tuition. We have been at the low end in our diocese and will need to bring it up over the next few years.
3. Looking at cutting expenses in the school.
4. Looking at cutting expenses in the parish.

This will not be a fun process, but everyone on the parish administrative board feels that it is our mission to do our very best to keep our school open and viable. But with that will come some difficult discussions and decisions. At the same time this is not all doom and gloom in the least. We know that many other people and churches have been impacted in the same way we have. These problems will be faced, and solutions can be found. Hopefully this will draw us all closer to the Lord and remind us of what Jesus said in John 15:5, "without me you can do nothing". If we remember to always turn to him and rely upon him for everything we'll be just fine.

God's blessings,
Fr. Jeremy

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

Mar 17	10:30am	Mass
Mar 20	8:00am	Mass
	6:30-7:30pm	Stations of the Cross with Classes to follow
Mar 21	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
Mar 24	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	\$44,115.47	\$43,711.76
Student	\$250.00	\$177.97	\$225.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$1,778.96	\$2,422.65

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph

Adult Envelopes	\$505.00
Student Envelope	\$5.00
Loose Plate	\$86.00
Candles	\$12.00
Total	\$608.00



The Way of the Cross

*A dramatic presentation of the
Passion of Jesus the Christ*

Depicted in SHADOW THEATRE

Church of St. Joseph
400 2nd Ave.
Lamberton, MN

8:00 PM
Friday March 29, 2024

All are welcome!

This week we remember *these* people in our prayers.
Jeff & Michelle Pankonin and Bob Peterson

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

March 24 Ministries

Lector Cathy Graff
EMC Jeff Strock
Servers Maia Scheffler & William Frasher
Sacristan Teresa Wenisch
Ushers Larry Weber & Jason Axford
Gift Bearers Jeremiah Frasher Family
Money Counters Fred Berg & Kylee Jenniges

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, March 20

6:30-7:30pm Stations of the Cross with Faith Formation
Classes to follow.

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.

**St. Thomas Hosting
VALLEY VIEW BIRTHDAY PARTY
March 19, 2023
2:00 p.m.**

We'll play bingo with the residents and serve lunch.
We are no longer allowed to bring desserts from home so
will purchase treats and some bingo prizes.
Please let Judi know if you are able to assist. Thanks.
507-920-3337

~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$238,365.47	\$244,287.95
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$782.92	\$10.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$782.92	\$0.00

Last week's Parish Revenue	
Adult Envelopes	\$4,796.00
Loose Plate	\$217.00
Easter	\$100.00
School Memorial	\$75.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$55.00
Thrift Store Donation	\$20.00
Fuel & Heat	\$105.00
Adopt a Student	\$1,100.00
Coffee Connection	\$5.00
Candles	\$25.00
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$417.26
Total Income	\$6,915.26

Lenten Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 15 at 5:30pm
Friday, March 22 at 5:30pm

Lenten Adoration and Confession

Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 7:00pm

Join us for Adoration and Confession. We will have 3 visiting priests here to help with confession.



Save the date...our Drive Thru Men's Sausage Dinner will be Saturday, April 6, 2024.

In order to make this project a success; we need the help of all parishioners. Cash Donations are needed for the dinner. Due to the fact that we do not have a federally inspected locker nearby, we are accepting cash donations to help pay for the meat. Please contact Randy Sturm 507-220-4874 or Michael Vogel 507-920-5694 by **Sunday, March 24, 2024** if you are able to help. There will be at \$1500 matching grant from the Catholic order of Foresters.

The 400 Club Winners this Week

#324 Edna Petersen \$65.00
#346 Kay Voge \$65.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group E ~

March 23 & 24, 2024 Palm Sunday

	5:30pm	8:30am
Servers	Isabella Groebner	VOLUNTEER
	Triston Groebner	Paul Goedtke
	VOLUNTEER	TJ Reindl
Lector	Bev Fults	Jim Miesen
Lector	VOLUNTEER	Paul Pieschel
EMHC	Bev Fults	Dcn Barry Reindl
Accompanist	Sharon Pieschel	Kathleen Goedtke
Song Leader	Lori Kretsch	Adult Choir
Rosary	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Head Usher	Terry Ochs	Arland Roiger
	Cathy Ochs	Cher Roiger
	VOLUNTEER	Mike Reiner
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Videographer	Elliott Maleska	

As people may or may not know, St. Raphael is currently considering a capital campaign to raise the funds needed to make improvements to our church and school.

As a preliminary step to this effort, we're conducting a Fundraising Feasibility & Planning Study to obtain member feedback and assess our financial potential.

There are a few ways you are invited to participate:

Informational meetings where we'll share our plans and welcome your comments, questions and suggestions. The meetings will be held this weekend after each service. Everyone is invited to attend.

Our Fundraising Consultant will interview some of our members this week.

Beginning on Saturday, March 23rd at 7pm we will open an Online Survey which is available through Monday, April 1st at 7pm. Go to <http://walsh.st-raphael.alchemer.com/s3/> where you can read about the project, and then complete and submit the survey questionnaire online.

Your feedback is important to us. So please plan to participate if you can.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

Mar 17	8:30am	Mass
		Rolls sold after Mass
Mar 19	8:30am	Mass
	4:00-5:30pm	Atrium
Mar 20	5:00-6:00pm	Children's Choir Practice
	6:00-7:00pm	Faith Formation Classes grades 1-6
	6:00-7:00pm	Praise & Worship Choir Practice
	7:15-8:15pm	Faith Formation Classes grades 7-10
Mar 21	6:30pm	CCW Meeting
Mar 22	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
	8:30am	Mass
	9:30am-4:00pm	Adoration
	5:30pm	Stations of the Cross
Mar 23	5:30pm	Mass
Mar 24	8:30am	Mass
		Rolls sold after Mass

The 63rd Annual New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Convention will be held on **Saturday, April 27, 2024**, at the **Church of St. Pius X in Glencoe, MN**. The theme for the convention is **"Be an Instrument of Salvation."**

Our keynote speaker in the morning is Kelly Wahlquist. Kelly is the founder of the national women's ministry WINE: Women In the New Evangelization and the Director for the Catechetical Institute at The Saint Paul Seminary in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. The title of her talk is "Being Women in the New Evangelization." In the afternoon Leonard and Yazmin Gutierrez will present on evangelization. Leonard is our Diocesan Director of Evangelization, and both served as FOCUS missionaries.

Join other women of the Diocese for Mass and the presentation of the NUDCCW Woman of the Year, along with lunch, silent auction and various exhibits and booth displays to fill the day. All who attend are sure to be spiritually enriched. Early bird registration deadline is April 15th. To register contact Mariah Pietig 507-822-2634 or Sarah Boettger 507-227-5597 or on the New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women website at nudccw.org. Grow in your faith and connect with other faith filled women from the diocese! All women 18 years and older are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please remember in your prayers:

✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:

Father Steven Verhelst

Please pray for our parishioners this week~

Sun: Mike & Ann Rothmeier

Mon: Shawn & Trisha Rummel Family

Tues: Jared Ryan

Wed: John & Pat Ryan

Thur: Neil & Jody Ryan

Fri: Shawn Ryan

Sat: Chad & Annette Salonek

Weekly Candle Intentions (\$5.00 offering)

Special Inten Special Inten Special Inten DGF

✠ 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 6**

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 ~

Mar 18—22

Monday/Tuesday \$5 Bags

Wednesday/Thursday \$3 Bags

Friday \$0.50 Bags

Accepting Spring/ Summer Clothing

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.



We would like to welcome Douglas &

Theresa Buster, to St. Raphael Parish

Community. We are happy to welcome you to our parish family.

~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!

Teacher In-Service: This week the teachers and I spent Monday working on our schools' curriculum and finishing up grades and report cards for the end of the third quarter! One major area of our School Strategic Plan for Improvement is to update our curriculum, make sure we have all the resources we need, and make sure what we are teaching aligns with our schools' curriculum standards and Minnesota State Standards. We worked specifically on Social Studies and this year have also been working on Math. Over the course of the next seven years, we will be updating all of the areas of the curriculum that we teach which include religion, language arts, math, science, social studies, physical education, art, music, and technology.

Godly Virtues: In March, we will be focusing on respect, which is acknowledging the dignity of all people. 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.

Preschool Open House: This week we welcomed new families with preschool-age students to our school for an open house! The parents and students made a snack, listened to a story, sang songs and played games with our preschool teacher, Mrs. Hovland. After that, the children stayed in the gym with Mrs. H. for some gross motor activities while Mrs. Steffl talked to parents, toured the preschool rooms, and talked about the preschool day! It was a fun time and we are so excited to share information about our preschool programs!

Now Enrolling: 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!

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.

Upcoming School Masses:

Friday March 22--Mrs. Vogel/Staff Mass

Tuesday March 26--Mrs. Steffl/Staff Mass

Friday April 5--6th grade leads

Friday April 12--5th grade leads

Friday April 19--4th grade leads

Friday April 26--1st 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:

March 25: Stations of the Cross @ 8:30 am for staff and students gr 3-6

March 28-April 1: No School, Easter break

May 8: Spring Program 6:00PM

May 31: A Night in Havana Fundraiser 5 PM-Midnight

Blessings,

Mrs. Beth Steffl

~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

It's hard to believe that we only have a few more classroom days for faith formation left this year! Classes will be March 20 and 27 and then April 3 there will not be any classes for elementary students. Teens will have their second service project night of the year. April 10 is the Celebration of Faith Fund raiser meal and concert so no classes for elementary and teens. Then the next two weeks, April 17 and 24, will be the end of the year.

First graders are focusing on the events just before and after Easter. Second graders are busy filling these few weeks remaining with learning about the Holy Eucharist. They will be making their first Holy Communion on Sunday, April 21. Third graders are busy learning how to be an altar server. Fourth graders are finishing the God's Plan in Scripture books. Fifth graders are learning the sorrowful and then glorious mysteries of the Rosary. Sixth graders are finishing the New Testament.

Chrism Mass will be held in New Ulm this coming Thursday, March 21 starting at 7pm. This is the Mass where the oils used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Anointing of the Sick are mixed and blessed by the Bishop and then each parish brings some of that oil to their own Churches. I especially encourage those expecting babies and teens in grades 9 and 10 to consider attending this Mass. You will be receiving this very oil!

Baccalaureate Mass will be on Sunday, May 5 at 8:30am.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

Wednesday, March 20

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

the
generosity
habit

by Matthew Kelly:

This week, refrain from judging people. Give people the benefit of the doubt. Assume that they have the best intentions.

Youth Choir Schedule

Wednesday, March 20

5:00-6:00pm Children's Choir Practice
6:00-7:00pm Praise & Worship Choir Practice



The Way of the Cross is a popular devotion among Christians. It is a spiritual pilgrimage to the holy places of Jerusalem depicted in the scenes of Jesus' passion and death. A dramatic presentation of the Passion of Jesus the Christ will be presented in Shadow Theatre on Friday March 29th beginning at 8:00 pm at the Church of St. Joseph, Lamberton. Shadow theatre uses shadows, cast by live actors, onto a lighted screen. Sacred music will begin at 7:30. **All are welcome!**



Celebration of Faith

Burger/Hotdog Meal

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

5:00-7:00 p.m.

St. Raphael School Gymnasium

Menu: Burgers, hotdogs, chips, cookie & 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".



St. Raphael's Rome Trip Tastefully Simple Fundraiser

tastefullysimple.
INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT
Diana Windschitl #0027650

To order you can go to
<https://www.tastefullysimple.com/p/11511936>
OR
use your mobile device and scan the QR Code to
get to the fundraiser & shop online.



Perfect time to stock your cupboards, and get great gifts for someone or for yourself. Help St. Raphael raise some \$\$\$\$. You can help them reach their goal.



Online Catalog.

Fundraiser runs March 2—March 27th, 2024
St. Raphael Parish Rome youth attendees earn the profits from your online order.

~Upcoming Area Events~

Please join us at 6 East on Saturday, March 16, 2024 from 5:00-8:30pm for a fun fundraising event for the St. Raphael Faith Formation students attending the 2024 Rome Jubilee Year Pilgrimage Trip.

We will have an Irish Menu & Irish Beverages.

In addition to a fun Irish themed evening out, you can meet the students planning to attend the Pilgrimage and visit with them and find out their "why".

Reservations are recommended but not required.
You can contact 6 East at 723-3278.

Council of Catholic Women - Deastery 1 Spring Gathering

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Church of St. Mary

417 S. Minnesota Avenue, New Ulm, MN

Keynote Speaker
Gabrielle Cohrs Rohlik



Title: "Finding Resilience: Nurturing Hope and Sisterhood in Times of Adversity"

In times of trials and tribulations, when hope seems elusive, the essence of resilience shines brightest. In this speech, we delve into the depths of the human spirit, exploring how resilience is not merely a quality to possess, but a journey to embark upon. Join us as we embrace the journey of resilience, forging bonds of sisterhood that withstand the tests of time, and emerge stronger, united in faith and love.

5:00 PM - Registration
5:30 PM - Mass
6:15 PM - Meal
7:00 PM - Meeting & Speaker

Sign-up Today!

Registration: \$15.00

Please contact your parish president to register for the evening by Wednesday, March 13.

*Parish Presidents: Please call or text Arlyce Anderson at 507-317-0617 on Thursday, March 14 with the number attending from your parish.



Catholic United Financial Matching Grant

Cinnamon & Caramel Roll Sale

Saturday, March 23, 2024

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 24, 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".



The Diocese of New Ulm

CHRISM MASS

Cathedral of the Holy Trinity
Thursday, March 21, 2024
7PM
Annual Consecration of Holy Oils & Renewal of Priestly Promises

Flowers for Easter

If you who would like to donate flowers for our Easter environment in honor of or in memory of your loved ones, please complete the form below and return it in the collection basket.

☐ **St Joseph Lambertton**

☐ **St Raphael Springfield**

In honor / memory of

(Please Print)

By _____ Amount _____