



# Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

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

**March 31, 2024  
Easter Sunday**

*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 1	<b>No Mass</b> <i>Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15</i>
Tues Apr 2	(Spfld) <b>8:30am Mass</b> +Eleanor Grandzol <i>Acts of the Apostles 2:36-41; John 20:11-18</i>
Wed Apr 3	(VVNH) <b>1:30pm Mass</b> +Kenneth Jahnke <i>Acts of the Apostles 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35</i>
Thur. Apr 4	(Sanb) <b>8:00am Mass</b> +David Geis <i>Acts of the Apostles 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48</i>
Fri. Apr 5	(Spfld) <b>8:30am Mass</b> –Barry & Karen Reindl Family <i>Acts of the Apostles 4:1-12; John 21:1-14</i>
Sat. Apr 6	(Spfld) <b>5:30pm Mass</b> +Bob Ferdinandt <i>Acts of the Apostles 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15</i>
Sun. Apr 7	(Spfld) <b>8:30am Mass</b> –For the People (Lamb) <b>10:30am Mass</b> +Ken Arnoldi <i>Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31</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](mailto:straphael@newulmtel.net)

## **Prayer Chain**

Karen Brandl 507-920-6709

## Church of St. Joseph

400 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, PO Box 458

Lamberton MN 56152

**& St. Thomas Oratory, Sanborn MN**

507-752-7269

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

## **Deacon**

Dcn. Barry Reindl Phone: 507-276-8553

[barkmr7@gmail.com](mailto:barkmr7@gmail.com)

## **Parish Secretary**

Raquel Kieper 723-4137

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

## **Parish Bookkeeper**

Connie Vogel 723-4138

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

## **Faith Formation/Youth Ministry**

Karen Reindl

[mrsreindl@straphaelpk-6.com](mailto:mrsreindl@straphaelpk-6.com)

## **School Principal**

Beth Steffl 723-4136

[mrssteffl@straphaelpk-6.com](mailto:mrssteffl@straphaelpk-6.com)

## **School Secretary**

Trisha Ludewig 723-4135

[straysschooloffice@newulmtel.net](mailto: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.

This bulletin article is a little bit strange for me to write this year. I have not been in the custom of writing articles every week at the former parishes that I served, and I am realizing that writing about Easter before it happens is not something that I enjoy or am really all that comfortable with as it distracts from being in the moment during Holy Week. So, I ask your pardon for not doing so and hope that the Easter message in the homily will suffice. For now, I just really look forward to celebrating the Triduum with you and entering into the most sacred mysteries of our faith with you. What an honor to walk with you and the Lord remembering so much of what he did for us and how we can return our worship to him and offer our hearts right back as we receive the totality of his once again.

One of the things that you'll notice on Holy Thursday and throughout the Triduum is that people from all the parishes in our AFC will be participating in the liturgies in some way, shape or form. It's clearly not the ideal to share a priest like we do, but this is nothing new for us in our rural parishes. As your pastor it's a way to bring everyone together and that I very much look forward to doing.

Something to put on the radar for St. Raphael parishioners... there is a possibility that we will have the opportunity to upgrade our organ from the current 12 ranks that we have to an organ with 42 ranks (I can't explain this in detail other than to say that the difference means it is cathedral worthy). It's possible that this would be a gift, but some expenses would come with installation, labor etc.... I will be visiting with a couple of choir members from St. Raphael who presented this opportunity, who know organs and have done a lot of work on them. We'll dig into this possibility and see if there is something to present to the rest of you. For now, I wanted you to be in the loop simply to take this to prayer and we can leave it in the Lord's hands to show us what he desires.

Thank you to the parishioners at St. Joseph's who moved the clergy parking sign to the back parking lot to free up some more handicapped parking out front. Make sure you take notice and use it. I'm over the hill, but not that far over yet where I need such a space.

A reminder to all St. Raphael parishioners and school families to please consider filling out the online survey for the capital campaign feasibility study. I value your input and the information you give will really help us in making decisions on how to move forward with the proposed projects. It never crossed my mind that a capital campaign would be something that would come up in my first year here. Not having years of experience under my belt in this area means I need your input more than you might think.

A reminder that the second week of Easter most of the priests of the diocese go on retreat with the bishop every year. I asked Bishop Zielinski what his intentions were for us priests and he told me that he wants all of us to join him. In a roundabout way what I am saying is that if you don't like that I will be gone... take it up with the boss (meant to be said in such a way that you are laughing right now). I pray that it will be a blessed time with true growth spiritually in our relationship with the Lord and as a fraternity of priests.

Be assured of my prayers for all of you during this most sacred time.

Fr. Jeremy

# ~Church of St. Joseph~

## Meetings and Activities

Mar 31	8:30am	Mass—Easter Sunday
Apr 3	1:30pm	Mass—Valley View Nursing Home
	6:30-7:30pm	Faith Formation Classes
Apr 4	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
Apr 7	10:30am	Mass

## **St. Joseph Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024**

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
<b>Adults</b>	62,000.00	\$46,500.09	<b>\$48,927.85</b>
<b>Student</b>	\$250.00	\$187.59	<b>\$234.00</b>
<b>Loose Plate</b>	\$2,500.00	\$1,875.12	<b>\$2,618.65</b>

## **Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph**

Adult Envelopes	\$3,581.09
Student Envelopes	\$9.00
Loose Plate	\$83.00
Easter Flowers	\$45.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,718.09</b>

**This week we remember *these* people in our prayers.**  
*Jack & Jodene Reiner and Linda Riley*



**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 7 Ministries**

**Lector** Doreen Kronback  
**EMC** Diane Arnsdorf  
**Servers** Koyer Alms & Kinley Alms  
**Sacristan** Cathy Graff  
**Ushers** Pat Schroepfer & Jason Axford  
**Gift Bearers** Katie Alms Family  
**Money Counters** Marg Weber & Fred Berg

## **Weekly Faith Formation Schedule**

**Wednesday, April 3**

6:30-7:30pm Faith Formation Classes

**NUDCCW convention on April 27, 2024** in Glencoe. Contact our CCW President, Katy Wille by April 3 if you wish to attend. Closer to the time we will discuss ride share options.

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.

Please bring your old palms from last year and place in basket in entrance of church.

Rice Bowls can be placed in basket in church entrance.



@AshleyKiczek

# ~Church of St. Raphael~


Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$251,250.09	<b>\$253,243.95</b>
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$825.24	<b>\$10.00</b>
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$825.24	<b>\$55.00</b>

Last week's Parish Revenue	
Adult Envelopes	\$3,573.00
Children's Envelope	\$55.00
Loose Plate	\$205.45
2nd Collection	\$625.00
Teacher Support	\$120.00
Parish Gift	\$100.00
Easter Flowers	\$290.00
Easter	\$1,005.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$5,973.45</b>


The 400 Club Winner this Week		
#367	Jim Boyle	\$400.00

~ Serving next Funeral will be Group E ~


April 6 & 7, 2024		
	5:30pm	8:30am
Servers	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	TJ Reindl
	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>
Lector	Jack Hartjes	Jim Miesen
EMHC	Jack Hartjes	Dcn Barry Reindl
Accompanist	Julie Prechel	<b>TBA</b>
Song Leader	Christa Schilling	Lori Kretsch
Rosary	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	TMIY Group
Head Usher	George Tauer	Bracey Learner
	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	Brayden Sturm
	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	Brooklyn Sturm
	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>
Videographer	Christina Reindl & Aubrey Schilling	



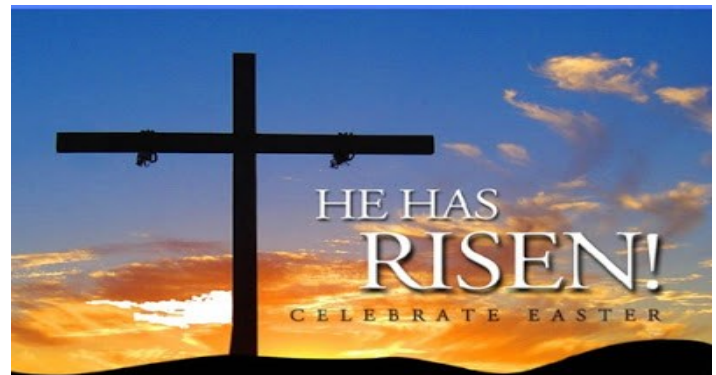
**The Parish Office will be CLOSED**  
Friday, March 29, 2024 and Monday,  
April 1, 2024 for Easter Break.



**There will be a Cemetery Committee Meeting** on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 8:00pm in the gathering space.



Please remember in your prayers **Luella Nachreiner**, who recently passed away. We extend our prayers and sympathy to her family and friends. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

# ~Church of St. Raphael~

## Meetings & Activities

Mar 31	10:30am	Mass—Easter Sunday
April 1		<b>NO School</b>
		<b>Parish Office Closed</b>
April 2	8:30am	Mass
	4:00-5:30pm	Atrium
April 3	5:15-7:00pm	Children's & Praise & Worship Choirs Practice
	7:15-8:15pm	Faith Formation Classes grades 7-12—Service Night
	8:00pm	Cemetery Committee Mtg in gathering space
April 5	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
	8:30am	School Mass
April 6	5:30pm	Mass
	4:30-7:30pm	Men's Dinner Drive Thru Event
April 7	8:30am	Mass
	9:45am	Children's & Praise & Worship Choirs Practice

*Please remember in your prayers:*

✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:

*Father Steven Verhelst*

*Please pray for our parishioners this week~*

Sun: Ukie Schablin

Mon: Jon & Christa Schilling Family

Tues: Harriet Schmit

Wed: Donna Schmitz

Thur: Leo & Mary Schmitz

Fri: Tim & Lisa Scholten Family

Sat: Renae Scholten

*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 8**

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.

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.

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. 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. All women 18 years and older are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## ~Good Neighbor Thrift ~

April 1-5

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

**50% off Puzzles & Board Games**

Thank you to all who helped with our Spring & Summer turn over for the store. It's very much appreciated.

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.*

Greetings!

Happy Holy Week! Thank you all for your support and prayers for me at the students and staff of St. Raphael Catholic School. I pray that you have a Happy Holy Week and blessed Easter.

**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!

**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.

**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 April 5--6th grade leads  
Friday April 12--5th grade leads  
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:

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*

### 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**

You can register online through the diocesan website [www.dnu.org/safeenvironment](http://www.dnu.org/safeenvironment) by clicking on the large red button in the left margin of the main Safe Environment web page.



There will be **NO school at St. Raphael** on Monday, April 1, 2024 for Easter Break.

## ~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

Happy Easter!

As we are changing our calendars to April, please note that the Celebration of Faith fundraiser has been changed to Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

There are NO elementary classes this Wednesday, April 3, 2024. Teens will have their service night.

April 10th everyone will have classes as usual.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

### Weekly Faith Formation Schedule

#### Wednesday, April 3

**NO** Classes for Elementary grades 1-6  
7:15-8:15pm Faith Formation Classes grades 7-12—  
**SERVICE NIGHT**

### Youth Choir Schedule

#### Wednesday, April 3

5:15-7:00pm **BOTH** Children's & Praise & Worship  
Choir Practice

#### Sunday, April 7

9:45am **BOTH** Children's & Praise & Worship Choir  
Practice

### 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.



### Celebration of Faith

Burger/Hotdog Meal

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

5:00-7:00 p.m.

St. Raphael School Gymnasium

Menu: Burgers, hotdogs, chips & 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".



REJOICE! HE IS RISEN

May the promise of the  
Easter season bring you  
great joy and abundant  
peace in the love and  
promise of the Lord.

Happy  
Easter

## DRIVE THRU ONLY MEN'S DINNER

Saturday, April 6, 2024

4:30pm-7:30pm

Sausage, Homemade Sauerkraut,  
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Bun, Cookie

Meal Price      \$ 14.00



Delivery inside city limits

★ Call 723-4139 by 6:30pm to place your order

Meal Pick up

★ Available behind the North East corner of school

Sponsored by Catholic Order of Foresters St. Thomas Court 766  
Up to \$1500 in matching grant funds

**Church of St. Raphael**  
**Springfield, MN**



**Southwest Minnesota  
Men's Chorus  
Spring  
Dinner Show Series**

*Melody  
of Spring*

**Sunday, April 7 – 7PM**  
The Caboose, Tracy

**Monday, April 8 – 7PM**  
Springfield Area Community Center  
Springfield

\$30.00 per person ~ Advance tickets only  
Tickets available from Springfield Advance-Press [507-723-4225]  
F&M Bank - Springfield [507-723-4800]  
Tracy Insurance Agency - Tracy [507-629-3084]  
Knakmuhs Agency - Walnut Grove [507-859-2154]  
Balaton Dental Clinic [507-734-2251] or Chorus Members

Interested in taking part in the Eucharistic Revival in a big way? All are encouraged to join our diocesan pilgrimage to the Star of the North Congress in Bemidji, MN May 17-19, 2024. Pick up locations are scheduled for Redwood Falls, Darwin, Winsted, Willmar, and Watkins. Visit <https://www.dnu.org/diocesan-events/2024/5/17/3-day-pilgrimage-to-bemidji-lake-itasca-and-watkins> to learn more and register by April 1.

### Address Update

Many people have moved recently and we do not have correct mailing addresses for our parishioners. Please share your new address with us so we can keep communicate up to date.

Name

New Address

Turn in to the Parish Office or drop in the Sunday Collection.

Thank you

Springfield Area  
Chamber of Commerce Invites  
You To The

## SPRIT OF SPRINGFIELD & BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARDS BANQUET

to honor  
**Floyd and Susan Rogotzke  
&  
St. John's Circle of Care**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10TH, 2024  
SPRINGFIELD AREA COMMUNITY CENTER  
\*6:00 PM RECEPTION & CASH BAR \*6:30 PM DINNER  
\*PROGRAM TO FOLLOW

ADVANCE TICKET SALES  
\$35 Per Person

Through April 5th  
(tickets will NOT be sold at the door)  
purchase tickets at:

Chamber Office  
F&M Bank

SouthPoint Financial Credit Union  
Springfield Advance-Press

spfdchamber@newulmtel.net  
507-723-3508