



Vine & Branches Area Faith Community

www.vineandbranchesafc.org

May 5, 2024
6th Sunday of Easter

*I am the vine, you are
the branches.
Whoever remains in
me and I in him will
bear much fruit,
because without me
you can do nothing.
John 15:5*

Liturgies This Week

Mon May 6	No Mass <i>Acts of the Apostles 16:11-15; John 15:26-16:4a</i>
Tues May 7	(Spfld) No Mass <i>Acts of the Apostles 16:22-34; John 16:5-11</i>
Wed May 8	(Lamb) No Mass <i>Acts of the Apostles 17:15, 22-18:1; John 16:12-15</i>
Thur. May 9	(Sanb) 8:00am Mass +Rosie & Jerome Fromm <i>Acts of the Apostles 18:1-8; John 16:16-20</i>
Fri. May 10	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass +Theresa O'Meara Rodriguez <i>Acts of the Apostles 18:9-18; John 16:20-23</i>
Sat. May 11	(Spfld) 5:30pm Mass +Bernice Manderfeld <i>Acts of the Apostles 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28</i>
Sun. May 12	(Spfld) 8:30am Mass –For the People (Lamb) 10:30am Mass –Mothers who have lost children <i>Acts of the Apostles 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; 1 John 4:11-16; John 17:11b-19</i>

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: 507-276-8553

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

✠ Saturday 4:30—5:15pm at St. Raphael

✠ Tuesday after Mass at St. Raphael

✠ Wednesday after Mass at St. Joseph

✠ Sunday before Mass at St. Joseph (when Father can get there in time)

◆ Prayer Chain

507-920-6709, 507-441-1049, 507-227-6606

◆ Good Neighbor Thrift Store 723-5778

20 E. Central, Springfield, MN

◆ Office of Catholic Charities 866-670-5163

Baptism: Pre-baptism classes required - Contact AFC Office

Suggested Stipend for Sacrament of Baptism—\$25.00

Marriage: All Catholics are to contact the parish and pastor at least 6 months before their wedding.

► **Mass Stipend \$10.00**

► **Bulletin Deadline:** Wednesday at 1:00pm

The Mission of the Vine & Branches Area Faith Community empowered by the Holy Spirit is to bear fruit that will last as Jesus commanded: by celebrating and proclaiming our Catholic faith as disciples of Jesus using our God-given gifts; by reaching out to and welcoming all people; and by centering our lives on the Eucharist, sacraments, scripture, service and the teaching of the Church.

Hello everyone,

I'll bet that our farmers out there are torn on the weather depending on who got their corn in yet or not. We're all probably grateful for the rain that has been given to us recently. I keep hearing that our fields are pretty dry when it comes to subsoil moisture. Yet, that itch to get crops planted sooner rather than later at this time of year pops up. This is part of what I love about rural life. It teaches us that we are not in control and are not God.

Today (Thursday, May 2nd) we are celebrating the feast day of St. Athanasius and I want to share a little bit about him and how important he is to us even today. At the beginning of the 4th century there was a man named Arius who started teaching that Jesus was not divine and of the same substance as the Father. This led to a big battle over the nature and identity of Jesus, and we call it the heresy of Arianism. Eventually there was a need for the first ecumenical council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. to address this teaching and get to the bottom of the matter (the answer came in the form of the Nicene Creed that we pray every Sunday at mass).

What we find in the life of the Church is that from century to century there are various interpretations of the Sacred Scriptures and Tradition. Some of them are wrong and the consequences can be very detrimental to our relationship with God and the Catholic Church. Thus, when Jesus laid the foundation for the beginning of the Church and how the Holy Spirit would lead and guide the apostles into the fullness of the truth throughout the ages we were given the roadmap to how God would lead and guide us through difficult times when answers were needed (Please refer to the 15th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles to read about the first council of the Church, the Council of Jerusalem – it is very interesting).

Today, I am finding that it is still very, very difficult in the Church. There are many false teachings everywhere. But the thing that I really notice is that although the Holy Spirit has led the Church and provided answers to many of the big questions/problems of today there is a lack of receptivity to the answers. I suppose there can be a number of reasons for this. There is the fallout of the Enlightenment and the rise of relativism where so many people now think that they can define what is and is not objectively true. There are the scandals of Bishops and their public sins especially from the sex abuse crisis and a paralyzing fear gripping so many that led in part to the crisis and that leads to other problems today.

Now, we are all sinners, and I am not pointing this out just to pick on the failures of bishops but to give context to why I brought up St. Athanasius. In his time, the Council of Nicaea happened just 12 years after Christianity was legalized in the Roman Empire. That means there were bishops at the Council who suffered mightily and were tortured because they stayed faithful to Jesus and the Church during the persecutions. There were other bishops present who failed to stay faithful during the persecutions and caved in to the emperor and worshipped false gods to save their lives. This was a cause of great pain during the council, and I don't know how I would have handled sitting next to a brother bishop who caved in while I was missing an eye or limb because I stayed faithful. Fear, fear, fear. In every age. This time is nothing new in the life of the Church where we are dealing with the fallout of the failures of our bishops. People are struggling with confidence in God and the Church because of it. So how are we doing in believing what we profess in the Nicene Creed every Sunday? Maybe we need to take a good, hard look at where our struggles are in this area and pray about them and talk to God about them. I think that is a good start to the healing needed in the Church and restoring our faith in God and the Church.

God's blessings,

Fr. Jeremy

~Church of St. Joseph~

Meetings and Activities

May 5	10:30am	Mass
May 8		NO Mass
May 9	8:00am	Mass—St. Thomas
May 12	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	\$53,653.95	\$63,001.85
Student	\$250.00	\$216.45	\$274.00
Loose Plate	\$2,500.00	\$2,163.60	\$2,952.65

Last Week's Parish Revenue-St. Joseph	
Adult Envelopes	\$1330.00
Student Envelope	\$19.00
Loose Plate	\$109.00
Total	\$1458.00

This week we remember *these* people in our prayers.
Delores Schwanke and Brad & Mary Senst

Our Shepherd of the field:

Father Jeffrey Horejsi



~Please also pray for those in need ~

Bob Peterson Mary Arnoldi Pat Dauer
Brett Baumann Linda Riley Marcie Anderson
Shane Blair

May 12 Ministries

Lector Pat Story
EMC Gordy Wille
Servers Koyer Alms & Riley Alms
Sacristan Teresa Wenisch
Ushers Larry Weber & Jim Imker
Gift Bearers Katie Alms Family
Money Counters Diane Arnsdorf & Marg Weber

If you have Religious articles such as crosses, rosaries, etc and no longer have a need for them but do not want to throw them away, there is a box under the church mailboxes that you can put them in.



Congratulations to Scarlett Frasher, daughter of Jeremiah & Tasha Frasher who made her First Communion last Sunday. Thank you to Emily Scheffler for being her Religious Ed Instructor.

NEW GUTTERS NEW GUTTERS NEW GUTTERS

If you have not noticed, we now have gutters on the east and west side of church. Hopefully this will solve our "ice" problem!

Update

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

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

Name _____

Cell Phone # _____

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



St. Joseph's Cemetery Board met Tuesday, April 16. Burial lot rate increases were discussed. One lot holds 1 casket and 1 cremains or 2 cremains.

The new rates, effective immediately, will be:

St. Joseph's parishioners: 1 lot—\$400.00

Non Parishioners: 1 lot—\$600.00

If you are interested in purchasing, please contact: Sue Imker—507-829-1846

~Church of St. Raphael~

Contribution Budget July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Received to Date
Adults	\$335,000.00	\$289,903.95	\$280,597.03
Gr. 7-12	\$1,100.00	\$952.20	\$30.00
Pre K-6	\$1,100.00	\$952.20	\$115.13


The 400 Club Winners this Week

#99	Wayne Walgenbach	\$65.00
#215	Mike Platz	\$65.00


~ Serving next Funeral will be Group E ~

May 11 & 12, 2024		
	5:30pm	8:30am
Servers	VOLUNTEER	Riley Arnsdorf
	VOLUNTEER	Andrew Reindl
Lector	Bev Fults	Paul Pieschel
EMHC	Bev Fults	Dcn Barry Reindl
Accompanist	Sharon Pieschel	Julie Prechel
Song Leader	TBA	Julie Prechel
Rosary	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Head Usher	VOLUNTEER	Bracey Lerner
	VOLUNTEER	Carson Arnsdorf
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Videographer	Elliott Maleska	


Last week's Parish Revenue	
Adult Envelopes	\$6349.08
Loose Plate	\$165.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$80.00
Capital Improvement—Playground	\$10.00
Red Heart Envelope	\$10.00
Good Neighbor Thrift Store	\$563.03
Total Income	\$7177.11




Congratulations to Davison Alex McVicker, son of Bryce & Kristina McVicker, as he recently received the Sacrament of Baptism and was welcomed into the Holy Catholic Church and the St. Raphael Parish.



Mark your calendars! Saturday, June 22, 2024 at 4:00pm, Bishop Chad Zielenski will be here to celebrate Mass and the 150th anniversary of St. Raphael's parish.




Prayer Before the Blessed Sacrament
Every 1st and 3rd Friday we have Adoration Prayer in church from 9:30am-4:00pm. We are in need of more people to take an hour here or there or sub when someone can't make it. Call Amy Schmitz 507-920-9804 to give your name and number and talk about when you wish to offer your Prayers for Adoration.



St. Raphael 150th Anniversary Donation

If you who would like to make a monetary donation towards our 150th Anniversary, please complete the form below and return it and your donation in the collection basket.



Name _____

Address _____

Amount _____

You will receive credit on your 2024 tax contribution statement for your donation.

~Church of St. Raphael~

Meetings & Activities

May 5	8:30am	Mass
		CUF Roll Sale after Mass
	4:30pm	Book Study: The Jewish Roots of Mary chapter 5
May 7		NO Mass
	6:30pm	Fall Festival Meeting in church basement
May 8	10:00am	School Spring Play
	6:00pm	School Spring Play
May 10	6:30-7:30am	That Man is You
	8:30am	Kindergarten Graduation Mass
May 11	5:30pm	Mass
May 12	8:30am	Mass
	4:30pm	Book Study: The Jewish Roots of Mary chapter 6

Please remember in your prayers:

✠ Our Shepherd of the Field:

Father Steven Verhelst

Please pray for our parishioners this week~

Sun: Amber Swing

Mon: Dennis & Chris Tauer

Tues: George & Michelle Tauer

Wed: Martha Tauer

Thur: Mary Ann Tauer

Fri: Paul & Pam Tauer

Sat: Eleanor Teicher

Weekly Candle Intentions (\$5.00 offering)

Special Intentions Special Intentions

✠ 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

***Battle Ready—Episode 1**

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

Father Jeremy will be away May 6—May 8 for Clergy Days.

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



We would like to welcome David & Lacy Krueger and their son, Reed, to St. Raphael Parish Community. We are happy to welcome you to our parish family.

St. John Lutheran Home Auxiliary Dues are \$5.00 and should be sent to: Mary Hoffmann, 711 W. Wilson Street, Springfield, MN 56087.

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 ~

May 6-11

All Bath Towels are 50% off

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

Saturday 9:00-12:00

Questions about donations—call 723-5778

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

~St. Raphael School~

It is the mission of St. Raphael Catholic School to bring students to a deeper relationship with Jesus while providing excellent education.

Greetings!

Save the Date: Our largest fundraiser of the school year is coming up on Friday May 31, 2024 from 5 PM- Midnight. This year marks our fourth annual "A Night in Havana" event. It is an adults only night out with many fun ways to entertain yourself for the evening! The event is free to attend and open to the public. It takes place in the parking lot of the church and school. This year, we will have a food truck that is available to purchase your meal, you can purchase drinks at our own Havana bar, bid on the silent and live auction items, purchase raffle tickets, and enjoy free live music by local bands Chris and Chris and The Blue Ringers. Come and join us for this fun fundraising event! All proceeds benefit St. Raphael Catholic School. The committee began sending out sponsor letters in March and has been following up with them. **To date, we have received \$29,450 in sponsorships (these sponsorships come from our beloved local businesses as well as many out of town businesses) and \$15,470 in raffle ticket sales! (Many of these are tickets sold by our school families as well as purchased by our alumni all over the country!) This is a total of \$44,920 so far that has been raised for the school! I will continue to update everyone on our totals! Our goal for the fundraiser is \$130,000 to be put toward the school. This will go toward our general budget, school endowment, and specific needs of the school!**

On Sale Now!!!: Raffle tickets are now available for purchase from students and the school office through the event on May 31st. We will once again be having a meat raffle, gift card raffle, and big ticket raffle--we will be giving away a 2024 Polaris Ranger! If you would like to purchase tickets, please see a St. Raphael Catholic School family or come to the school office! Thank you for all your support! **St. Raphael families have sold 456 BIG Ticket raffle tickets in the first two weeks of sales! Way to go! Our goal is to sell 980 BIG ticket raffle tickets before the end of school!**

K-6 Elementary School-Now Enrolling: We are now enrolling students going into K-6th grade for the 2024-2025 school year. We offer a comprehensive faith-based education which includes daily prayer, weekly Mass, formal religion classes, language arts, math, science, social studies, technology, physical education, music, and art. Call the school office for a tour or to get more information 507-723-4135.

Preschool-Now Enrolling: *Although we will have a different teacher, we plan to keep doing what we do best at St. Raphael Catholic School--bringing students to a deeper relationship with Jesus while providing them with excellent education!!! I am confident we will find an excellent candidate and continue the legacy of an awesome preschool program at St. Raphael.* Registration is open for the Little Panthers Preschool program (must be 3 years old before September 1, 2024) and our Kindergarten Readiness program (must be 4 years old before September 1, 2024). 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 must 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!

Now Hiring a Preschool Teacher: We are looking for an awesome preschool teacher! Ideal candidates would have education in teaching and/or child development along with experience working with young children. Preferred candidates would have a passion for passing on the faith, love children, and be a great communicator. Working hours are 7:45 am-11:15 am Monday-Friday during the school year. Interested candidates can send a cover letter, personal resume', and two letters of recommendation to: Mrs. Steffl at principal@straphaelpk-6.com.

Now Hiring a 6th Grade Teacher: We are looking for a fantastic 6th grade teacher! Ideal candidates would have an education in teaching and have a Minnesota teaching license or be eligible for one. Preferred candidates would have a passion for passing on the faith, love children, be a great communicator, and a team player. This is a full time+ position during the school year. Interested candidates can send a cover letter, personal resume', and two letters of recommendation to Mrs. Steffl at principal@straphaelpk-6.com.

Godly Virtues: In May, we will be focusing on **diligence** which is doing your best and working hard until you are finished. 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.

Upcoming School Masses:

Friday May 10--Kindergarten leads (Kindergarten Graduation)

Tuesday May 14--6th grade leads (6th Grade Graduation)

Upcoming Dates:

May 8: Spring Program 6:00PM

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

Blessings
Mrs. Beth Steffl

~Youth & Adult Faith Formation ~

Congratulations to our High School Seniors!

They were honored at Mass this Sunday, May 5. I pray that you seek God's guidance all the days of your life! May He bless your futures!

WHAT IS A PILGRIMAGE? A pilgrimage is not purposeless wandering. It is a journey with a higher purpose and that purpose is to honor God. A pilgrimage has moral and spiritual significance to the pilgrim. Generally, it involves embarking on a journey to a shrine or site that the pilgrim considers important in light of his or her faith and religious convictions. There is much to see, discover and learn from visits to these religious locations. There is also a rich, inner transformation that can be had from a pilgrimage. It is a great opportunity to bond with people who share in our beliefs. We can grow stronger together as one spiritual family as we deepen our understanding of the lives of different religious figures. Please continue to pray for those preparing for the Jubilee pilgrimage.

~Mrs. Karen Reindl

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

Catechesis of The Good Shepherd

Our school year in the Atrium has come to an end this week. We had a full class of 3-6 year olds who met every Tuesday to learn about The Good Shepherd's love and to follow the liturgical year in the church. The children's ability to grasp scripture and understand our Catholic faith never ceases to amaze me.

Thank you to the parents who were dedicated to bringing their children every week, and to all who helped with or in the Atrium this year, especially classroom helpers Lilly Swing and Addison Lang.

The Atrium also received some generous donations to update some of the materials the children work with, as most are over 30 years old! Thank you to Elizabeth Hauth and Tom Johnson, who made a donation in memory of their daughter, Marlys Johnson, and thank you to the family of Roger and Diane Hauth, who gave funds in memory of Olivia Binder. A lot of new materials were built and added to the Atrium, but there is still a lot of updating to be done. Any monetary donations to continue building and updating materials are welcomed and appreciated.

If anybody is interested in helping with or signing their child/ren up for the Catechesis of The Good Shepherd program next school year 2024-2025, please contact catechist Erin Cowan at 507-766-0207. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 is a Montessori-based religious formation program for Catholic children ages 3 -6.

Catholic United Financial Matching Grant

Cinnamon & Caramel Roll Sale

Saturday, May 4, 2024

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 5, 2024

8:00-10:00 am

St Raphael Church Gathering Space

Springfield MN



Sponsored by: St. Boniface Catholic United Council #035

All proceeds benefit St. Raphael Religious Education

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



You are cordially invited to

ST. RAPHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
SPRINGFIELD, MINNESOTA

150th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, June 22, 2024

Mass 4:00 p.m. • Celebrant Bishop Chad Zielinski

Complimentary Meal to Follow

Brief Program around 6:30 p.m. | Music to follow

Please RSVP by June 1, 2024
507-723-4137 or straphael@newulmtel.net

*Bloom into
Spring
CCW Salad
Luncheon*



Tuesday, May 7, 2024

St. Catherine Catholic Church
900 East Flynn – Redwood Falls

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

*Delicious
Salads &
Desserts!*

ADULTS - \$10.00
CHILDREN - \$4.00
(Age 6 - 12)
5 & under - Free

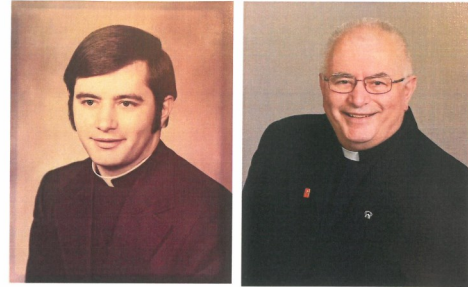


Take-outs available!
Proceeds will go to:
Choices Pregnancy Center &
St. Catherine Youth Group



Sponsored by: Council of Catholic Women

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



Where: Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, 503 W. Lyon St., Marshall, MN
When: Sunday, May 26, 2024
Mass at 2:30PM (priests welcome to concelebrate)
Open house reception will follow in Carlin Hall (church basement) 3:30 to 6:00pm

Upcoming VIRTUS Training Sessions

✠A new VIRTUS Training Session has been added for **Wednesday, May 29, 2024, from 6:00-9:00pm at Church of St. Mary, Arlington.**

You can register online through the diocesan website www.dnu.org/safeenvironment by clicking on the large red button in the left margin of the main Safe

**PROMISE TO
PROTECT**

**PLEDGE TO
HEAL**



Skits!

Sacraments!

Games!

Totus Tuus

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

Details

Grades 1-6
July 15-18 from 9am-2pm daily
Grades 7-12
July 14-18 from 7:30-9:30pm daily
at St. Raphael Catholic Church basement

\$5/person to those who register before July 1. Registration forms are available on the Faith Formation table or contact Karen Reindl at straphaelpk-6.com



You're Invited

"A NIGHT IN HAVANA" FUNDRAISER

5PM - MIDNIGHT
21+ ONLY
FREE ENTRY

ST. RAPHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Friday May 31st, 2024

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