

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKENDS:

Saturday at 4:30 pm

Sunday at 8:00 am & 10:00 am

WEEKDAYS:

Monday through Saturday 7:00 am

Monday - Thursday 8:00 am

No 8:00 am Mass for Summer

HOLY DAYS AND HOLIDAYS:

Check Bulletin For Mass Times

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Friday of each month (with exposition) following 7:00 am Mass concluding at 2:00 pm with Benediction

Subsequent Tuesday of each month (without exposition) 7:00 am to 2:30 pm

PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

Tuesday mornings at 6:50 am

CONFESSIONS

15 minutes before 7:00 am Mass on Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday; and 3:45 pm to 4:20 pm on Saturday

ROSARY

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in Church

SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

SECOND SUNDAY

OF Advent

A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low.

Isaiah 40:3-4



DECEMBER 10, 2017

PARISH INFORMATION

Registration of New Members: Please call the Parish Office to register.

Baptism: Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements for Baptismal instructions and to arrange a Baptismal date.

Marriage: Please contact the Pastor at least six months prior to the intended date to begin the Church process of marriage preparation.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.): Please call the Parish Office for information.

**ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH
6047 BISHOPS PLACE • SAINT LOUIS, MO 63109**

CLERGY & STAFF

Rev. Robert J. Reiker Pastor
reiker@straphaelarchangel.org

Msgr. Dennis Stehly Priest-In-Residence
dennisstehly@archstl.org

Deacon Ron Holmes Permanent Deacon
and Pastoral Associate
holmes@straphaelarchangel.org

Deacon Gerald J. Geiser Retired Deacon

Ty Taylor Seminarian

Mateo Salam Seminarian

Dr. Nancy Deacon Music Director
musicdirector@straphaelarchangel.org

Mrs. Diane Halbert Parish Office Manager
halbert@straphaelarchangel.org

Mrs. Mickey Janos Admin. Assistant
janos@straphaelarchangel.org

Mr. Robert Schlueter Maintenance

Mr. Howard Adams Maintenance

Mrs. Julie Hayes School Principal
hayes@straphaelarchangel.org

Mrs. Linda Mechler School Secretary
secretary@straphaelarchangel.org

Mrs. Amy Ruggeri Cafeteria Manager

Parish Office 314.352.8100
Fax 314.353.6603

School 314.352.9474
Fax 314.351.7477

Website
straphaelarchangel.org

Facebook
Saint Raphael the Archangel Parish and School

Twitter
@SRAtoday

MyParishApp
Text 'App' to 88202

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Monday, December 11th

3:10 pm - Cafeteria	6th Gr. Girl Scouts
7:00 pm - Cafeteria	Cub Scout Meeting
7:00 pm - Tobias Room	Parish Council
7:00 pm - Guardian Angel	St. V. de Paul
Gym Closed for Program Setup	

Tuesday, December 12th

1:30 pm - Parish Office	Bible Study
7:00 pm - Church	Rosary Recitation
7:00 pm - Gym	School Christmas Prg.

Wednesday, December 13th

9:00 am - Quilters' Room	Quilters
6:00 pm - Cafeteria	Step Class
7:00 pm - Church	Adult Choir
7:00 pm - Tobias Room	R.C.I.A.
8:30 pm - Gym	Men's Club Basketball

Thursday, December 14th

2:00 pm - Trophy Room	Pre-K Dance
3:00 pm - Trophy Room	K-6 Dance
3:15 pm - Art Room	Chess Club
3:30 pm - Gym	1st & 2nd. Gr. Girls Bball.
6:00 pm - Tobias Room	Liturgy Committee
7:00 pm - Church	Contemporary Music
7:00 pm - Guardian Angel	Men's Prayer Group
7:00 pm - Cafeteria	Ladies' Club Party

Friday, December 15th

7:00 am - Church	Mass
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Saturday, December 16th

4:30 pm - Church	Mass
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Sunday, December 17th

8:00 am - Church	Mass
10:00 am - Church	Family Mass and Fellowship Sunday

THIS WEEK IN THE CAFETERIA

Monday, December 11	Tuesday, December 12	Wednesday, December 13	Thursday, December 14	Friday, December 15
Spaghetti and Meatballs	Taco Tuesday	Hamburger & Tater Tots	Chicken Strips, Buttered Noodles, Carrots	Pretzels with Cheese & Fruit

FATHER BOB'S COLUMN

ADVENT CONTINUES – THE COMING OF THE LORD IS CLOSER! PREPARE THE WAY!

The Prophet Isaiah shares with us the God's message that he wants someone to comfort his people who are crying out with so many needs- spiritual, physical, emotional. We are so often included in that group of God's people who need comfort. So what is God going to do about it? The Almighty has the prophet advise us that there will be a voice in the dessert, not in the mainstream of society, who will challenge us to "make straight a highway for our God." And then we shall experience the glory of the Lord.

This message was not meant just for the people of Israel, but also for us here at St. Raphael in 2017. The voice in the dessert turns out to be St. John the Baptist who in the gospel today "proclaims a baptism of repentance," and announces that one greater than he is coming. Indeed that message of hope will come true again when we celebrate in our Christmas liturgy the birth of Jesus the Savior, still mysteriously changing our world and our lives.

Now during this Advent season with its meager two weeks left, we need to straighten out the crooked, sinful entrance into our heart and soul, so that Jesus can be revealed to us anew at Christmas. The parish Christmas letter, that was just sent out, includes opportunities next week for you to repent of your sins as John the Baptist encourages us and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas. (Confession times are in that letter or on page 6 of today's bulletin.)

ADVENT WREATH – SECOND SUNDAY – TWO CANDLES

Here is a prayer you can use this week: *"Come Jesus, come. Give power to light and to good in our life. Come where falsehood, ignorance of God, violence and injustice predominate in our world. Come Lord Jesus, give power to the good in the world and help us be bearers of your light, peacemakers, witnesses of the truth. Come, Lord Jesus!" AMEN!* {from Pope Benedict XVI}



TUESDAY, DEC. 12th, FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

When the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared in 1531 to a poor native-American at Tepeyac, Mexico, her face was that of woman of mixed blood, a *mestiza*, and her garments bore many symbols of the native Aztec culture. She identified herself as Mary, mother of the true God, and so made a new "visitation" to these people, some of whom were new converts to Christianity. She intended to remain with them through a mysterious sacred image of herself imprinted on St. Juan Diego's *tilma*, or cloak, made of cactus cloth that seldom lasts more than 20 years. But now almost 500 years later, it is still on display high over the main altar in the great basilica of Guadalupe, near Mexico City.

Here in our St. Raphael Church, we have a replica of that sacred icon of Mary displayed in our main vestibule. The old faded image was replaced a month ago by a new, more vivid and quite detailed painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe. For Tuesday's Mass we will display in the sanctuary this new image of Mary and bless it at both the 7am and 8am Masses.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron of Mexico and honored throughout all the Americas.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ST. RAPHAEL BOY SCOUTS AND CUB SCOUTS!

Recently Troop and Pack 500 were re-chartered by the local Boy Scout District and were commended for all the hard work of everyone involved in scouting at SRA. The number of scouts in both units has been growing with about 60 boys as members. Our SRA scouts are known for their great camping experiences and their expertise in outdoor activities. Every member of the Boy Scouts attended summer camp this year, and a good percentage of the Webelos did too. Both Troop 500 and Pack 500 achieved Gold Status in the BSA evaluation program, the highest ranking possible. Congratulations to the scout leaders and all the scouts for this accomplishment!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *Give a little - take a little, Never mind a frown - Make your smile a welcomed thing all around the town.*

SERVERS FOR DEC. 11/17, 2017

Monday, December 11th

7:00 am Grace Goeddel William Hotze
8:00 am Henry Cyr Jack Stein

Tuesday, December 12th

7:00 am Cate Guenther Ellie Guenther
8:00 am Samantha Koziacki Abby Delf

Wednesday, December 13th

7:00 am Addison Berta Thad Berta
8:00 am Alex Atchison Anna Mersinger

Thursday, December 14th

7:00 am Gillian Neal Mateo Switzer
8:00 am Rory Barnawell Mady Shine

Friday, December 15th

7:00 am Jane Dubbert William Hotze

Saturday, December 16th

7:00 am Flora Borowiak Jack Stein
4:30 pm Alex Atchison Andrew Kellar
Isabella Pfeiffer

Sunday, December 17th

8:00 am Lydia Bick Grace Goeddel
Christian Concepcion
10:00 am Jane Dubbert William Madden
Sean Madden

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 10th

8:00 am Ralph Raskas
10:00 am Marcia Matreci

Monday, December 11th

7:00 am Frank Schlueter
8:00 am Hodes Family SI

Tuesday, December 12th

7:00 am James Harold Cobb
8:00 am Tate Mitchell

Wednesday, December 13th

7:00 am Darren Deachan SI
8:00 am Pietro DiMartino SI

Thursday, December 14th

7:00 am Ralph Raskas
8:00 am Rebecca Cross SI

Friday, December 15th

7:00 am Ruthann Alberti

Saturday, December 16th

7:00 am Bob Abel
4:30 pm Sr. Suzanne Hulford, O.P.

WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 16/17

4:30 pm 8:00 am 10:00 am
LECTORS:

Kathy Steck Mary Reck Frosty Hodes

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Bob Ahrens	Lorraine Gurley	Joe Zulich
Maureen Ahrens	Sue Lawton	Dan Harbaugh
George Kerry	Amy Ruggeri	Mary Alice Goedeker
Margie Auer	Rosita Koehler	Amy Schisler
Matt Fuhr	Christy Connor	Anna Skidmore
Tony Mariani		John Rooney
		Jennifer Stein

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR DEC. 2/3 2017

Sunday Collection	\$ 5,777
Online Giving	\$ 1,107
Weekly Total Collection	\$ 6,884
Weekly Budget Goal	\$ 9,000
Fiscal Year-To-Date Goal	\$189,000
Fiscal Year-To-Date Actual	\$164,422
Shortfall	\$ 24,578



Tuesday, December 12
Sunday, December 17

School Christmas Program
Family Mass & Fellowship Sunday

ADVENT GIVING TREE

Please take an “angel” or two to help the less fortunate. Again this year, as in past years, our St. Vincent de Paul Society is working with Peter and Paul Community Services. PPCS offers various programs to provide supportive services to those who are homeless, especially those who are living with mental illness or HIV/AIDS. They offer the following programs: emergency shelters; meal programs; permanent support housing; transitional housing and many other services. Please remove a tag or two and return the gift no later than 11:00 am on Sunday, December 17.

The tag should be attached to the unwrapped gift and placed under the Advent Tree. Also, there is a “gift bag” under the tree to hold any gift cards.



LADIES’ CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

All ladies are welcome to attend the Ladies’ Club Christmas Party. Join us Thursday, December 14 at 7pm in the school cafeteria. Please bring a new, wrapped gift of at least a \$25 value to participate in the gift exchange. Dinner and drinks provided!



In 1531, on December 9, Juan Diego encountered the apparition of a young woman surrounded by light, on the hill of Tepeyac, northwest of what is now Mexico City. He understood that she was the Mother of God. She asked that a church be built there in her honor. Juan Diego carried her request to the bishop who asked for a sign of her authenticity. The Lady told Diego to gather flowers from the top of the hill - where there should have been no flowers on that rocky ground in winter. To the contrary, he found

roses, which the Lady arranged for him in his cloak, or tilma. When Diego returned to the bishop and opened his cloak, the roses fell out to reveal the image of Our Lady on the fabric. In 1999, Pope Joan Paul II declared Our Lady of Guadalupe the Patroness of the Americas and the Protectress of the Unborn, putting the Culture of Life under her protection. In 2002, John Paul II canonized Juan Diego. The tilma, or cloak, of Juan Diego, on which the image is preserved, should have disintegrated within 30 years, since it was made of cactus cloth. But it has maintained its structural integrity across nearly 500 years.

May Our Lady of Guadalupe protect us and all of her children, especially the unborn.

The St. Raphael ProLife Committee

SPIRITUAL AND LITURGICAL OPPORTUNITIES TO FULLY CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) – extra times

- + Wednesday, December 20th, 4:00pm-7:00pm
- + Thursday, December 21st, 7:30am-8:00am and 8:30am-9:00am
- + Saturday, December 23rd, 7:30am-8:00am and 2:00pm-4:00pm

4th Sunday of Advent

- + Saturday, December 23rd, 4:30pm Mass
- + Sunday, December 24th, 8:00am and 10:00am Masses

Christmas Masses

- + Sunday, December 24th, 4:30pm Christmas Vigil Mass (Christmas Eve) and 10:00pm Christmas “Midnight Mass”
- + Monday, December 25th, 8:00am and 10:00am Christmas Day Masses

New Year’s Weekend

- + Saturday, December 30th, 4:30pm Mass - Feast of the Holy Family
- + Sunday, December 31st, 8:00am and 10:00am Masses – Feast of the Holy Family
- + Sunday, December 31st, 4:30pm – Holy Day Vigil Mass – Solemnity of Mary
- + Monday, January 1st, 8:00am and 10:00am – Holy Day Masses – Solemnity of Mary



FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

In today’s Gospel John the Baptist urges us to “Prepare the way of the Lord.” We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need. Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please have them call the Parish Office. The Parish Office will then refer that information to our Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor celebrate Christmas.

REFLECTION FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: ‘Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”’ John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” Mark 1:1-8

CHANDELIER CLEANING - RECORD TURNOUT!

Thank you to everyone who turned out to assist with the chandelier cleaning last week. Many hands did make for light work at this record turnout!



WINTER OUTREACH: A MINISTRY OF MERCY

Encouraged by the example of Pope Francis, who lives out our Catholic social teachings of *“Option for the Poor and Vulnerable,”* southside parishes continue to be committed to making St. Louis Winter Outreach a faith-filled Ministry of Mercy.

“As long as you did it to one of these the least of my brethren, you did it to me.” (MT 25:31-46)

While St. Louis is making great strides to provide resources for the homeless, many still spend their days and nights on the streets. Winter is particularly hard for them. In an effort to reach out to our “brethren” needing warmth and food, **we are asking for help to provide meals** during the coldest months.

Drivers are also needed to deliver meals to Americorps Shelter, 1315 Ann St., on our assigned evenings. Anyone is welcome to serve/visit with shelter guests on these evenings:

	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
December	7	8	9
January	11	12	13
February	8	9	10



Will you please provide one of the following:

- 9 x 13 Hot Casserole (any kind)
- Dessert for 24

Together we can make a bountiful meal.

Food is to be dropped off at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall entrance at 6:00pm. If needed, arrangements can be made to pick it up from your home.

If you would like more information about this ministry, like to share a dish, and/or be a driver, please contact Mary Ellen Mueller at 314.374.1712 or Barbara Favre at 314.303.9941.



Francis

51st WORLD DAY OF PEACE JANUARY 1, 2018

“We must also turn this contemplative gaze to the cities where we live, ‘a gaze of faith which sees God dwelling in their houses, in their streets and squares . . .’ When we turn that gaze to migrants and refugees, we discover that they do not arrive empty-handed. They bring their courage, skills, energy and aspirations, as well as the treasures of their own cultures; and in this way, they enrich the lives of the nations that receive them. . . . A contemplative gaze should also guide the discernment of those responsible for the public good, and encourage them to pursue policies of welcome, ‘within the limits allowed by a correct understanding of the common good’— bearing in mind, that is, the needs of all members of the human family and the welfare of each.” - *Pope*



COOKIES WITH SANTA DECEMBER 3, 2017



Recurring gifts help bring consistency to the weekly offertory. Go to: straphaelarchangel.org/give/online-giving. It's quick and easy!

ROSARY RECITATION

Recitation of the Rosary will help you get to know Mary better, which in turn gets you to know Jesus better. SRA invites any and all to pray the Rosary each week on Tuesday evenings, at 7:00pm in the Church.

May Mary hold your hands and help you along the great and sublime paths.

Covenant Network

For inspiration and encouragement in your spiritual life, listen to AM 1080 WRYT, Catholic radio. Live programs include Called to Communion, the Journey Home, the Daily Mass, the Holy Rosary, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. For a program schedule and a free CD, please call 314.752.7000.



RETREAT AT IL RITIRO “PRE-CHRISTMAS FRANCISCAN HERMITAGE RETREAT”

Silent Retreat – Based on St. Francis of
Assisi Hermitage Retreats

December 19-21, 2017

Tuesday 5:30 pm – Thursday 11:00 am
Facilitator: Sr. Marlene Geppert, O.S.F.

Place: IL Ritiro Franciscan Retreat Center
7935 St. Francis Lane
Dittmer, MO 63023

Registration Fee: \$30, lunch is included. To register, please call 636.274.0554 or email at il.ritiro@gmail.com.

SUNDAY READINGS-BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is held on Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 pm in the Lower Level of the Parish Office. Studying the Bible is something everyone can do, therefore, enabling a person to help others through difficult times and encourage them.

Can you help?

This month, **December 2017**,
the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood
are hosting a

Gift Card Drive

to support their February 17, 2018
Annual Dinner Auction



- Unused gift card taking up space in your wallet?
- Buy a gift card for the Sisters while you're Christmas shopping!
- Visit our website, donate, and we will buy one for you!

Thank you so much for your support!

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood
Mission Advancement Office
204 N. Main St.
O'Fallon, MO 63366

Something SOLID

discover
the reasons
behind our
catholic
faith

CRASH COURSE ON
CONTEMPORARY APOLOGETICS

LED BY
FATHER AUGUSTINE WETTA, O.S.B.

- ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
- EVERY 2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
- FROM SEPT 14 - APRIL 12 | 7PM - 8PM
- PRIORY HIGH SCHOOL | ROOM #111

CLASSES ARE FREE. NO RESERVATION REQUIRED



Saint Louis LIFETEEN

ATTENTION ALL SRA EIGHTH GRADERS AND HIGH SCHOOLERS

Please join us this Wednesday, December 13 from 7-9pm at Bishop DuBourg as we continue to enter into and explore the ways that the Lord is drawing near to us during this time of Advent. See saintlouislifeteen.org for more information.

ATTENTION, EIGHTH GRADERS

Save the date for LUKE 18
February 16-18, 2018
More information available at
saintlouislifeteen.org/luke18

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

What can I get my spouse for Christmas? Give each other something really special this year. How about a gift filled with romance and excitement? This special gift is a weekend to remember - a Marriage Encounter weekend. The next weekend is February 2-4. Find out more by going to stl-wwme.org or calling 314.649.7317

CHRISTMAS TREE LOT ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH SCOUT TROOP 336

Boy Scout Troop 336 of St. Michael's Parish in Shrewsbury is selling Christmas trees in the MacKenzie Pointe Shopping Center. Hours are 6pm to 9pm, Monday through Friday, and 9am to 9pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Your patronage is appreciated by our Scouts.



FOLLOW THE STAR TO ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH'S LIVE NATIVITY

Ascension Lutheran Church will have the true meaning of Christmas on display Saturday, December 16 from 5 pm to 9 pm. The live nativity will feature cattle, sheep, a camel, as well as shepherds, wise men, Mary and Joseph, and Jesus. The evening will include an angel choir, Christmas cookies and hot chocolate and the Christmas message being broadcast over the radio. Ascension Lutheran Church is located at 5347 Donovan Ave. For more information, please call 314.832.5600 or visit AscensionSTL.com.

Bishop DuBourg High School

CAVALIER SOCCER



WINTER SKILLS CAMP

WED-FRI, DECEMBER 27th—29th
FLOYD HACKER GYMNASIUM @ BISHOP DUBOURG

BOYS 5TH—7TH GRADE
9:00—10:30AM

GIRLS 5TH—7TH GRADE
10:30AM—12:00PM

\$30/player (includes camp t-shirt)

Campers will have the opportunity to train with Cavalier coaching staff and players!

*Camp will max out at 20 players per slot. Register today to reserve your spot!

REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.CAMPCAVALIER.ORG

