

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKENDS

Saturday at 4:30pm

Sunday at 8:00am & 10:00am

WEEKDAYS

Monday through Saturday 7:00am

Monday - Thursday 8:00am

CONFESSIONS

15 minutes before 7:00am Mass on

Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday

Saturday 3:45pm to 4:20pm

Confessions also available by
appointment.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

Tuesday mornings at 6:50am

ROSARY

Tuesday at 7:00pm in Church

BAPTISM

Please contact the parish office to make
arrangements.

MARRIAGE

Please contact the pastor at least six
months prior to the intended date.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC

Please contact the parish office.

SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

CATHOLIC CHURCH



Fourth Sunday of

Advent

December 23, 2018

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit,
cried out in a loud voice and said,
“Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”

Luke 1:41-42

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

“We, the parish of Saint Raphael the Archangel, celebrate Jesus as the center of our life. Through our active participation in the Eucharist, we strive to recognize Jesus in our daily lives and the lives of others. Our commitment is to grow as a parish family, and live this through our religious, educational, social and civic involvements, witnessing to all, our faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

CLERGY & STAFF

Fr. John Mayo Pastor
frjohn@straphaelarchangel.org

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

Deacon Gerald J. Geiser Retired Deacon

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

Mrs. Julie Hayes School Principal
hayes@straphaelarchangel.org

Mrs. Linda Mechler School Secretary
secretary@straphaelarchangel.org

Mrs. Qi Franz Cafeteria Manager
franz@straphaelarchangel.org

CONNECT WITH US!

Parish Office 314.352.8100
Fax 314.353.6603

School 314.352.9474
Fax 314.351.7477

Website straphaelarchangel.org
Facebook and Twitter @SRAtoday
Instagram straphaelarchangel
MyParishApp Text 'App' to 88202

Parish Council Terri Borowiak 314.351.0606
School Board Mike Young 314.780.2954
Finance Council Joseph Cyr 314.335.7322

A PRAYER BEFORE HOLY MASS

Heavenly Father: I, your unworthy servant, come to worship You in this Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. By Your grace, kindly help me to listen attentively, pray devoutly, and receive worthily the Sacred Body and Blood of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. May Your Holy Spirit open the eyes of my heart to perceive more fully the great Mystery that takes place on the sacred altar. At this Holy Mass, I wish to pray in particular for the following intentions: (*here name them*). Amen.

Monday, December 24-Christmas Eve

7:00am - Church Mass
4:30pm - Church Mass
10:00pm - Church Midnight Mass

Tuesday, December 25-Christmas Day

8:00am - Church Mass
10:00am - Church Mass

Wednesday, December 26

7:00am - Church Mass
3:15pm - Gym 4th Gr. Girls Bball.
4:45pm - Gym 5th Gr. Boys Bball.
6:00pm - Gym 5-6th Gr. Girls Bball.
8:30pm - Gym Men's Club Bball.

Thursday, December 27

7:00am - Church Mass
2:00pm - School Dance Class
3:30pm - Gym 4th Gr. Boys Bball.
4:30pm - Gym 3rd Gr. Girls Bball.
5:45pm - Gym PreK-2nd Gr. Bball.
7:15pm - Gym 7th Gr. Girls Bball.

Friday, December 28

7:00am - Church Mass
3:00pm - Gym 7th Gr. Girls Bball.

Saturday, December 29

7:00am - Church Mass
8:00am - Cafeteria Step Class
4:30pm - Church Mass

Sunday, December 30

8:00am - Church Mass
10:00am - Church Mass

Fr. John's Digital Quill for Spiritual Musings and Parish News

A Reflection on Our Lady of Guadalupe

When people look at you, what do they see?

Certainly, this question inspired our mothers to teach us essential life lessons, such as to comb our hair, brush our teeth, wipe our face, and so on. This concern goes farther. I remember a couple of weeks ago, I was going out to lunch with a priest friend after Sunday Masses. As I went to change, I pulled out a Cardinals pullover I had worn several times before. The thought, before I put it on, was what was he going to think? After all, I had worn it so many times before, what would he think if I wore it again? Now this is a good friend of mine and a brother priest...why would he care? But the thought was there.

This concern for what people think affects us in many more ways than our appearance. For instance, we may want to do something good for someone but stop, wondering what will people think? Or if we are in a circle of friends and the topic turns to certain people...we know we should not gossip or say anything bad. Perhaps even a good deal of sage advice comes to mind. But in that moment, caution does not seem wise and we find ourselves joining in the gossip.

The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe has been carefully studied scientifically over the years. One fascinating item scientists have discovered is that, when they enhance and enlarge Mary's eyes, one can actually see St. Juan Diego. Mary looked directly at Juan Diego when she made her request to him to go and see if the bishop would build a church on Tepeyac Hill. When he was met with skepticism, he went back to Mary, asking that she choose someone else, someone better known than he. Mary, her eyes still on Juan Diego, responded that he was her trusted ambassador. What an expression of confidence!

Further, after Juan Diego got home from seeing the bishop a second time, his uncle was ill. He cared for him all the next day. Concerned he was near death, Juan Diego left to get a priest. Coming up to the hill, Juan began to walk around it, hoping to avoid Mary so that he could complete his important mission. Mary came to him, and when he began to explain why he could not help her, she responded:

Let not your heart be disturbed.
Do not fear any sickness or anguish.
Am I not here, who is your Mother?
Are you not under my protection?
Am I not your health?
Are you not happily within my fold?
What else do you wish?
Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything.

This is when Juan Diego gathered the roses, taking them to the bishop, convincing him to build the church.

Very carefully consider these words of Mary. She looks at us with the same eyes that looked on Juan Diego. Does she not, then, trust us as well? Are we not under her protection? Do we need anything more than this?

To teach us these truths, the only begotten Son of God descended from His heavenly throne and was born on Christmas Day.

When people look at me, what do they see?

"Last Call" Confessions - December 23

On Sunday from 5:00-8:00pm, I will be in the confessional for anyone who would like to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas. We will have some aids available to help you to prepare and to receive the sacrament. There is no formal program; you can just come in, receive the sacrament, pray a bit, and then leave. I ask that you use the Highfield side door, as the other doors will be locked.

Eucharistic Adoration

Please do not forget that we will not have adoration on Christmas Day, but we will resume our time with Jesus from 3:00-Midnight on Wednesday, December 26 and Thursday, December 27.

End of the Year Contributions

If you have an end of the year contribution, we ask that you bring it to the parish office no later than noon on December 30. This will give our parish staff sufficient time to deposit and record it for tax purposes. Thanks!

On behalf of Msgr. Stehly, Deacon Geiser, and our entire staff here at St. Raphael the Archangel, we wish you and your families a Blessed celebration of Christmas this year!

I will see you in Church! - Fr. John #SRAstrong

Schedule of Services: Advent 2018

Masses for Advent are according to the regular schedule.

Today "Last Call" Reconciliation Sunday, December 23 5:00-8:00pm

Schedule of Services: Christmas Season 2018

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24 4:30pm and 10:00pm

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25 8:00am and 10:00am

Weekend of December 29-30 (Feast of the Holy Family) Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

Feast of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Monday, December 31 4:30pm Tuesday, January 1, 2019 8:00 and 10:00am

ADVENT PRAYER WEEK 4
LOVE

Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen.

FROM ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

Jesus was born during the time of year when darkness is the longest. The Savior of the world comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines there. Through your gift to the Society, "Light" has shown, bringing real, lasting, and deep joy to the hearts of the poor who live in dark places in our streets and neighborhood.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for everyone's generosity. The SRA St. Vincent de Paul Society raised \$382 through the nut sale!

ATTENTION, SRA ALUMNI!

SRA is continuing to look for all alumni. Therefore, please send your name, address, and e-mail address to Jennifer Delf at alums@strapharelarchangel.org or you can call the Parish Office.



Sunday, December 23

8:00am Rose LaFata
10:00am Joann Ahrens

Monday, December 24

7:00am Sr. Suzanne Hulford, O.P.
4:30pm People of the Parish
10:00pm Nancy Geiser

Tuesday, December 25

8:00am Roger Kreitler
10:00am Ralph Gagliano

Wednesday, December 26

7:00am Mary Ellen Tayon

Thursday, December 27

7:00am Sharon Backer

Friday, December 28

7:00am Pauline Zagroba

Saturday, December 29

7:00am Lucille Karr
4:30pm People of the Parish

SERVERS FOR DEC. 24, 2018 - JAN. 1, 2019

Monday, December 24-Christmas Eve

| | | |
|---------|---------------------|---------------|
| 7:00am | Need 2 Servers | |
| 4:30pm | Eva Thompson | Mia Thompson |
| | Flora Borowiak | Josh Abbott |
| 10:00pm | Madalene Cierpiot | Andrew Kellar |
| | Anna-Grace Guenther | Cate Guenther |

Tuesday, December 25-Christmas Day

| | | |
|---------|----------------|---------------|
| 8:00am | Need 2 Servers | |
| 10:00am | Mateo Switzer | Need 1 Server |

Wednesday, December 26

| | | |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 7:00am | Christian Concepcion | Madalene Cierpiot |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------|

Thursday, December 27

| | | |
|--------|----------------|----------------|
| 7:00am | Nahima Ramirez | Rory Barnawell |
|--------|----------------|----------------|

Friday, December 28

| | | |
|--------|-------------------|----------------|
| 7:00am | Isabella Pfeiffer | Justin Wingron |
|--------|-------------------|----------------|

Saturday, December 29

| | | |
|--------|---------------------|---------------|
| 7:00am | Alex Atchison | Jack Stein |
| 4:30pm | Sydney Browning | Cate Guenther |
| | Anna-Grace Guenther | |

Sunday, December 30

| | | |
|---------|---------------|------------|
| 8:00am | Josh Abbott | Abby Delf |
| | Gavin Smith | |
| 10:00am | Henry Cyr | Joey Raymo |
| | Liam McMorrow | |

Monday, December 31-New Year's Eve

| | | |
|--------|----------------|---------------|
| 7:00am | Flora Borowiak | Mateo Switzer |
| 4:30pm | Mia Thompson | Eva Thompson |

Tuesday, January 1-New Year's Day

| | | |
|---------|---------------|---------------|
| 8:00am | Jack Stein | Need 1 Server |
| 10:00am | Mateo Switzer | Need 1 Server |

HOLIDAY MASSES LECTORS

December 24, Christmas Eve

| | |
|---------|---------------|
| 4:30pm | Jerri Blassie |
| 10:00pm | George Kerry |

December 25, Christmas Day

| | |
|---------|----------------|
| 8:00am | Barb Cramer |
| 10:00am | Dennis Matreci |

December 31, New Year's Eve

| | |
|--------|---------------|
| 4:30pm | Jerri Blassie |
|--------|---------------|

January 1, New Year's Day

| | |
|---------|----------------|
| 8:00am | Linda Hiette |
| 10:00am | Dennis Matreci |

**MINISTERS/LECTORS FOR THE WEEKEND OF
DECEMBER 29-30, 2018**

LECTORS

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 4:30pm | 8:00am | 10:00am |
| George Kerry | Kevin Liddy | Frosty Hodes |

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Bob Ahrens | Lorraine Gurley | Joe Zulich |
| Maureen Ahrens | Sue Lawton | Dan Harbaugh |
| George Kerry | Amy Ruggeri | Amy Schisler |
| Margie Auer | Rosita Koehler | Anna Skidmore |
| Matt Fuhr | Christy Connor | |
| Tony Mariani | Kerry Deacon | |

Due to the early publishing dates for the bulletin, the Weekly Offertories for the next few weeks will be off the normal schedule.

“For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy.” (Luke 1:44)

When you hear the Scripture readings each Sunday, do you “leap for joy”? If not, don’t blame the lector or priest; rather look inside yourself. Do you prepare for Mass each week or do you just show up and expect to be entertained? We are called to be active participants, not passive by-standers.

GIVING LIKE THE MAGI

Archbishop Robert Carlson has asked Catholics throughout our Archdiocese to pray one simple prayer. *“Lord, what do You want me to do with all the gifts You have given to me?”*

Later on, he asked us all to pray, *“Lord, how would You like me to become more fully involved in the life of Your Church?”*

If you find it difficult to remember to pray about stewardship – asking God how He wants you to share the gifts He has given you – you might want to let one of the Magi be your reminder. They brought their gifts and laid them before Jesus. May we learn from them such generosity with our gifts.

WINTER OUTREACH - A MINISTRY OF MERCY

With gratitude to all the SRA parishioners who make this ministry possible year after year, we are encouraged by our Catholic Social Teachings: ***“Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.”*** Our Parish Community is truly committed to making St. Louis Winter Outreach a faith 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)

As winter approaches, many homeless “brethren” will be spending their days and nights on the streets of St. Louis. In an effort to give them some comfort, **we are asking for help in providing meals** during the coldest months. **Drivers are also needed to deliver the meals to Americorps Shelter** (1315 Ann Street) on our assigned Saturdays:

January 19

February 16



Please consider assisting the Ministry of Mercy by providing one or more of the following:

9 x 13 Casserole (Meat, Vegetable or Breakfast)

Dessert - 12 to 24 Servings

Food is to be dropped off at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall by 1:00 pm. If needed, arrangements can be made to pick it up from your home. If you would like more information, would like to share a dish, and/or be a driver, please contact Mary Ellen Mueller at 314.374.1712 or email maryem@brick.net.

Upcoming Events

Monday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God (Holy
Day of Obligation)

Sunday, January 6

Fellowship Sunday

Saturday, January 12

Snowflake Ball

Saturday, February 2

Trivia Night

Saturday, February 9

Wedding Anniversary Mass
and Dinner

SAVE THE DATE - WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Saturday, February 9, 2019 after the 4:30pm Mass, there will be a reception for couples who are celebrating a milestone anniversary.

If you will be married this coming year (2019) for 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55 or 60-plus years, please call the parish office at 314.352.8100 or email us at parish@straphaelarchangel.org with your wedding date. We will place you on our list for an invitation. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

REMINDER!

As we wind down 2018, this is a friendly reminder to update your personal information. It is important to keep this information updated as we often send out important notices and emails, such as Flocknotes, etc.

Please let the parish office know of any changes you may have had to home telephone numbers, cell numbers, email addresses, home addresses, etc. Thank you.

School News

SNOWFLAKE BALL

The Girl Scout Leaders of St. Raphael the Archangel are hosting the bi-annual Father-Daughter Snowflake Ball. All girls in school or parish in grades K through 8th grade are welcome to attend.

Saturday, January 12, 2019
6:30 - 8:00pm
St. Raphael Gym
Appetizers and Desserts
Dancing
Photo Booth
\$35.00 per Family

Payments should be dropped off at school or the parish office. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Videmschek at: dvidemschek@stjosephacademy.org.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2018



CHRIST-BEARERS TO THE WORLD

As we greet this last Sunday in Advent, we think of Mary, awaiting the birth of Jesus. Because Mary bore Jesus, she is called Theotokos, a Greek word meaning God-bearer. Christ still comes to us hidden in weakness. He comes wounded by death and risen to life. He comes to call the lowly blessed and to make the little ones leap for joy. We who have received Him through water and word, bread and wine, are called to be Christ-bearers in the world.

"Come, Lord Jesus," we pray. "Come to us. Come through us." Help us, Emmanuel, to be Life-bearers to the world, to protect Life from conception to natural death. Bless us all in the St. Raphael community. Thank you, Lord Jesus.



The St. Raphael ProLife Committee

MEN OF
prayer

MEN OF
action

Please Support Your Future Priests this Christmas

DECEMBER 24 - 25, 2018



KENRICK-GLENNON
SEMINARY



EXPLORING MIGRATION: A FAITH JOURNEY

St. Margaret of Scotland Living Justice Ministry is offering a faith-filled program. What does our faith journey and the Gospel call us to as we experience what is going on with our sisters and brothers in our country regarding refugees, human trafficking and immigration? These are complex issues that are reshaping the cultural, economic, and political landscape of our world and yet we are called to respond in faith with dignity and love.

This eight-session, faith-filled program provides you with a chance to explore immigration, refugees and human trafficking and to discover more about our Catholic teachings, our values, our God, and the millions of people who are on the move in every part of the world.

The program begins with prayer and has time to share, to discuss the readings from the two books in the program, view and discuss videos, talk with special guests and ultimately discern what this means for me as I live my faith-life. Each session lasts a little over 2 hours, beginning Thursday, January 24, and continuing for a total of eight consecutive sessions.

The program is from January 24, 2019 to March 14 at St. Margaret of Scotland School (3964 Castleman). Registration is required. You can register on [WeShare](http://www.stmargaretstl.org/) on the St. Margaret of Scotland webpage: <http://www.stmargaretstl.org/>. The group is limited to 15 people. Registration is on-line and the fee is \$15. We will use two paperbacks. You will receive more information upon registering. If you have any questions or if you would like to participate but require financial assistance to do so, please contact Astrid Homan at 636.399.0366; astrid@frontier.net.

WEDDING BANNERS II

There is a promise of marriage between Grace Bueckendorf and Joseph Wright to take place at St. Raphael on Saturday, January 5, 2019.



MARCH FOR LIFE 2019

Missouri Life Caravan is now accepting registrations for a bus trip to the annual March for Life in Washington, DC, Thursday-Saturday, January 17-19, 2019. Join thousands of others for this huge pro life gathering. This trip is open to anyone ages 7 and up (chaperones not provided). You will depart from locations in the St. Louis area. No hotel is provided. Cost is \$125 if received by December 21. Cost after that is \$220. Registration deadline is January 2, 2019. For registration and bus information, please call 314.434.4900 or email mrl.eastern@yahoo.com. Web site is easternregionmrl.org.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Ladies' Club Christmas families! We were able to give gifts, gift cards, and money for utilities to the St. Vincent de Paul family of 6, and gifts and 2 therapeutic pillows (not pictured) for the two children at the Family Forward group home. Everyone's generosity was amazing and both agencies were so grateful for everything.



Saint Louis LIFETEEN

Attention, all high schoolers! There will be NO Life Teen this Wednesday, December 26. We look forward to seeing everyone in the new year! For more information, see saintlouislifeteen.org.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. LOUIS MARIAN CONFERENCE

Event will be held at the Renaissance Hotel January 11-13, 2019. Confirmed speakers are Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke, Dr. Gregory Thompson, Peggy Schneier, Fr. Vincent Lampert, Mary Loy McCall, Fr. Tom Sullivan, Bishop Robert Hermann, and Fr. Charles Becker. For additional information, please call 314.401.1707 or visit the web site at stmarianconference.net.

GREAT ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Paul VI Institute of Catechetical and Pastoral Studies offers courses to adults seeking a greater understanding of the Catholic faith. Classes are offered online and in classrooms at various locations. Sampling of classes: Catechism II; Teaching Religion to Children; and Foundations of Catholic Morality; etc.

For more information, please call 314.792.7454 or go to archstl.org/paul6.

ADVENT PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

Heavenly Father, your Son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your Son. Amen.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
- Tuesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
- Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
- Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
- Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
- Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Friday: 1 Jn 1:5 -- 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18
- Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
- Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

WELCOME TO ST. RAPHAEL'S PARISH FAMILY!

If you are new to our community, we extend to you a heartfelt welcome. Please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket or drop it off at the parish office. You can also call us at 314.352.8100.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please check the appropriate item(s):

New Parishioner

New Phone/Email/Address

Please Contact Me

Please Do Not Publish #