

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



First Sunday of

Advent

December 2, 2018

Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength
to escape the tribulations that are imminent
and to stand before the Son of Man.

Luke 21:36

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 3

7:00am - Church Mass
8:00am - Church Mass
3:00pm - Cafeteria 7th Gr. Girl Scouts
5:30pm - Gym 2nd Gr. Boys Bball.
6:30pm - Gym 3rd Gr. Boys Bball.
7:00pm - Parish Office Stewardship Meeting

Tuesday, December 4

7:00am - Church Mass
8:00am - Church Mass
1:00pm - Pietro's Fifty Plus Club Lunch
1:30pm - Parish Office Lectio Group
3:15pm - Church Children's Choir
3:30pm - Gym 4rd Gr. Boys Bball.
6:00pm - Gym 6th Gr. Boys Bball.
6:30pm - Cafeteria 2nd Gr. Cub Scouts
7:00pm - Church Rosary Recitation
7:30pm - Gym 7th Gr. Boys Bball.

Wednesday, December 5

7:00am - Church Mass
8:00am - Church Mass
8:40pm - Church Confessions
9:00am - Quilter's Room Quilters
3:15pm - Gym 4th Gr. Girls Bball.
4:45pm - Gym 5th Gr. Boys Bball.
6:00pm - Gym 5-6th Gr. Girls Bball.
6:00pm - Cafeteria Step Class
8:30pm - Gym Men's Club Bball.

Thursday, December 6

7:00am - Church Mass
8:00am - Church Mass
2:00pm - School Dance Class
4:30pm - Gym 3rd Gr. Girls Bball.
5:45pm - Gym PreK-2nd Gr. Bball.
7:15pm - Gym 7th Gr. Girls Bball.

Friday, December 7

7:00am - Church Mass
3:00pm - Gym 7th Gr. Girls Bball.
6:00pm - Tobias Room Justfaith
7:00pm - Church Mass-Immaculate Conception

Saturday, December 8

7:00am - Church Mass
8:00am - Tobias Room Justfaith
8:00am - Cafeteria Step Class
4:30pm - Church Mass and Caroling
6:00pm - Cafeteria GS Christmas Party

Sunday, December 9

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

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

Advent: A Time to Prepare for Christmas

This week, I taught a few classes and the subject of Advent came up. I made a connection for the students that during the Lenten Season, we usually give something up to prepare our hearts for Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection. But do we do anything to get ready for His birth, I asked them? The enthusiasm died down a bit and got the students thinking. I proposed to them that, instead of giving something up during Advent, we add something to our lives. This may be a new habit we want to start or replace a habit that is not really restorative with something that is.

This is not only for our school children to do. We are all called to get prepared for Jesus' coming this Christmas. So perhaps, instead of deciding what to give up, look to add something. It may be the best Christmas gift you get this season.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

This week, we will celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This is an important day for us as Catholics in America. The Immaculate Conception is the patroness of the United States. The holy day is also a feast of preparation for celebrating Christmas. In this feast, we proclaim our belief that, when the Father decided to send His Son to us, He also chose to create Mary, His mother, and uniquely prepared her for her role in salvation by preserving her from all sin. For this Holy Day of Obligation, Masses will be on Friday, December 7, at 7:00pm and Saturday, December 8, at 7:00am. Additional Masses on December 8 will be celebrated at St. Gabriel, if our times are not convenient.

Spiritual Cleaning for Christmas

As we get closer to Christmas, we make many different preparations in our homes. We decorate, buy and prepare many tasty foods, and clean to make sure our houses are perfect for the celebration of Christmas. As we make these preparations, let's take time to prepare our souls for Christmas as well. Many make it a time to receive the Sacrament of Confession, to clean our souls from the old year and to resolve to do better in the new year. This year, in addition to the normal times for confessions, we will have two special times:

Advent Penance Service (4 priests available) December 11, at 7:00pm in Church

"Last Call" Confessions (only I will be available) December 23, from 5:00-8:00pm in Church

Collection to Support California

This weekend, we will answer the call of Archbishop Carlson by taking up a collection to support the victims of the wildfires in California. We will have two collections today; envelopes are available in the pews if you would like your donation to be recorded for tax purposes.

Advent Visits by Fr. John

If you or someone you know would like a visit to bring Communion or to hear confession/receive the anointing of the sick, please give me a call. This period of preparation is a great time to receive these sacraments and calling soon will get the date on my calendar so I can make a visit before Christmas.

Eucharistic Adoration

Please do not forget to sign up for a time to adore our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament this Advent season. More information will be available during Mass or later in the bulletin.

On this First Sunday of Advent, we want to wish you a Happy and Blessed New (Church) Year!

I will see you in Church! And at the many events this weekend! - Fr. John #SRAstrong

Schedule of Services: Advent 2018

Masses for Advent are according to the regular schedule.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

Friday, December 7 7:00pm

Saturday, December 8 7:00am

Advent Family Reconciliation Service:

Tuesday, December 11 7:00pm

“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

FIFTY PLUS CLUB



The next Fifty Plus Club meeting is the Annual Christmas Luncheon at Pietro's. Please arrive no later than 1:00pm. If you have not made your reservation, please call Mary at 314.481.0902, by Monday, December 3, before noon. All are welcome.

FROM ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

As we begin Advent, we are called to “wait” in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. Wherever you live in our parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the parish office bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell. Your donation to our St. Vincent de Paul conference will help the poor celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 2

8:00am People of the Parish

10:00am David Braun

Monday, December 3

7:00am Roseann Saracino

8:00am Cody Alexander

Tuesday, December 4

7:00am Michelle Smelik

8:00am Betty Watkins

Wednesday, December 5

7:00am Kimling Family

8:00am Jerry Holschbach

Thursday, December 6

7:00am Ernie Winkelmann

8:00am Bill Goeddel

Friday, December 7

7:00am Trokey Family

7:00pm Christopher Cross, SI

Saturday, December 8

7:00am Pauline Zagroba

4:30pm Ralph M. Gagliano

SERVERS FOR DEC. 3-9, 2018

Monday, December 3

7:00am Rory Barnawell Isabella Pfeiffer
8:00am Andrew Kellar Gavin Smith

Tuesday, December 4

7:00am Sydney Browning Andrew Kellar
8:00am Andrew Kellar Gavin Smith

Wednesday, December 5

7:00am Liam McMorrow Justin Wingron
8:00am Andrew Kellar Gavin Smith

Thursday, December 6

7:00am Nahima Ramirez Gavin Smith
8:00am Andrew Kellar Gavin Smith

Friday, December 7

7:00am Flora Borowiak Andrew Kellar
7:00pm Mateo Switzer 1 Needed

Saturday, December 8

7:00am Avery Bradshaw Cillian Sheehan
4:30pm Lydia Bick Isabella Pfeiffer
Madalene Cierpiot

Sunday, December 9

8:00am William Hotze Jack Stein
Liam McMorrow
10:00am Thad Berta Addison Berta
Christian Concepcion

**MINISTERS/LECTORS FOR THE WEEKEND OF
DECEMBER 8-9, 2018**

LECTORS

4:30pm 8:00am 10:00am
Bob Ahrens Amy Ruggeri Joan Billing

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

“But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.” LUKE 21:28

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation of the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await His second coming. In this Advent season, use the sacrament of Reconciliation to strengthen your relationship with Jesus. It's never too late.

Your Contributions to God and Parish

November 18, 2018

(Envelopes Used)	This Week	FY to Date
Regular Env (87)	\$ 3,938.00	\$91,816.00
Loose Money	\$ 759.00	\$20,019.00
School Tuition Assistance	\$ 10.00	\$ 1,496.00
Building Fund	\$ 60.00	\$ 1,849.00
Holy Days	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,774.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,802.00	\$38,456.00
Catholic Campaign	(\$ 155.00)	
Thanksgiving	(\$ 145.00)	
[Retired Religious]	(\$ 119.00)	
Grand Total	\$ 6,988.00	
Total for Parish	\$ 6,569.00	\$ 155,476.50
Amount Needed	\$ 9,000.00	\$189,000.00
Difference	(\$ 2,431.00)	(\$33,524.50)

Your Contributions to God and Parish

November 25, 2018

(Envelopes Used)	This Week	FY to Date
Regular Env (82)	\$3,132.00	\$94,948.00
Loose Money	\$ 516.00	\$20,535.00
School Tuition Assistance	\$ 107.00	\$ 1,603.00
Building Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 1849.00
Holy Days	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,774.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,060.00	\$40,516.00
Catholic Campaign	(\$ 45.00)	
Thanksgiving	(\$1,240.00)	
Grand Total	\$ 7,100.00	
Total for Parish	\$ 5,815.00	\$160,872.50
Amount Needed	\$ 9,000.00	\$197,000.00
Difference	(\$ 3,185.00)	(\$ 36,127.50)

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:

December 15 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.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

The SRA St. Philip Neri contemporary choir will be singing Christmas carols at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows (OLS) in Belleville, IL in the Visitors' Center on Saturday, December 8, 2018 from 7:00 to 9:00pm. Come on over and sing along with us, have dinner at the Shrine Restaurant, participate in the numerous family activities, drive through the Way of Lights, etc. We look forward to seeing you there. Visit www.snows.org for additional details.

SAVE THE DATE - WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Saturday, February 9, 2019 after the 4:30 pm 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.

SRA HEAVENLY DUSTERS

Fr. John and the SRA Stewardship Committee are grateful to the seven parishioners who volunteered for this new committee, the SRA Heavenly Dusters. These parishioners will assist Mr. Bob in sprucing up our beautiful church on a weekly basis.



It is never too late to volunteer for this committee. If interested, please contact Mary Steck, who is heading up this team of volunteers. Mary's number is 314.229.0910. Thank you.

School News

Music: Mrs. Doty

It is that time of year for all the students to learn their Christmas songs for our program. The event is scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 7:00pm.

First Grade: Mrs. Schmidt

First grade had an amazing time visiting Eckert's Farm. We were able to pick our own apples and pumpkins. One of the employees at the farm gave us a great class on apple and pumpkin life cycles. The students had a great time using their pumpkins in various experiments at school before they took them home. In math, we are continuing to learn different ways to solve addition facts and soon will be learning strategies to solve subtraction facts. We just finished up short vowels and now are studying the sounds long vowels make.

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Woods

During math, our main focus has been on multiplication. The students are working hard on memorizing their facts quickly. In literature, the students have read a few short stories. With those stories, the students have worked on sequencing, personification, setting, mood, and main ideas.

Miss Schaaf: Math 6-8th Grade

In standard math, we have been working with decimals. We just finished dividing with decimals and solving equations containing them. We are currently moving into fractions. In challenge math with my sixth graders, we have worked with the four operations with decimals, and will be moving on to frac-

tions and mixed numbers. In challenge math with seventh grade, we have been covering work with fractions. Soon, we will incorporate fractions in equations. In pre-algebra, we just finished up examining number sequences and real numbers. Next, we will be exploring ratios and proportions. In algebra, we are finishing up graphs and functions. The next chapter will entail linear equations and their graphs.

Mrs. Runiewicz: Religion 7-8th Grade

During this last month, 8th grade religion has focused on the unity of the Church, witnessing to holiness, and the mystery of the Church. This month we will learn about the Marks of the Church: One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. We will learn about Mary as the perfect example of what holiness looks like. Seventh grade religion has been learning about the Nativity Narratives and the early life of Jesus. We have been studying the Sacraments of Initiation. We will move on to Jesus Christ the Truth, where we will learn from teachings and examples of Christ about how to live according to the Commandments, the Beatitudes, and his new law of love, the Gospel.

**A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO
OUR STUDENTS WHO MADE THEIR
FIRST CONFESSION ON WEDNESDAY!**

**KEEP YOUR LIGHT SHINING BRIGHTLY
IN OUR WORLD!**

USE AMAZON SMILE FOR YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING AND SUPPORT SRA!

Use Amazon Smile and a percentage of your amazon purchase will go to SRA!! You must use the amazon smile website - smile.amazon.com - to make your purchase. From this site you select SRA as your recipient, log into your account, and start spending! Prime members and non prime members can participate - everyone can help SRA earn extra money every time you buy!!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING!!!!

SRA's Girl Scouts will be caroling after the 4:30pm Mass on Saturday, December 8. They will be outside church on the Highfield side.



An Evening for the Divorced & Separated

FINDING COMFORT AND PEACE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 13

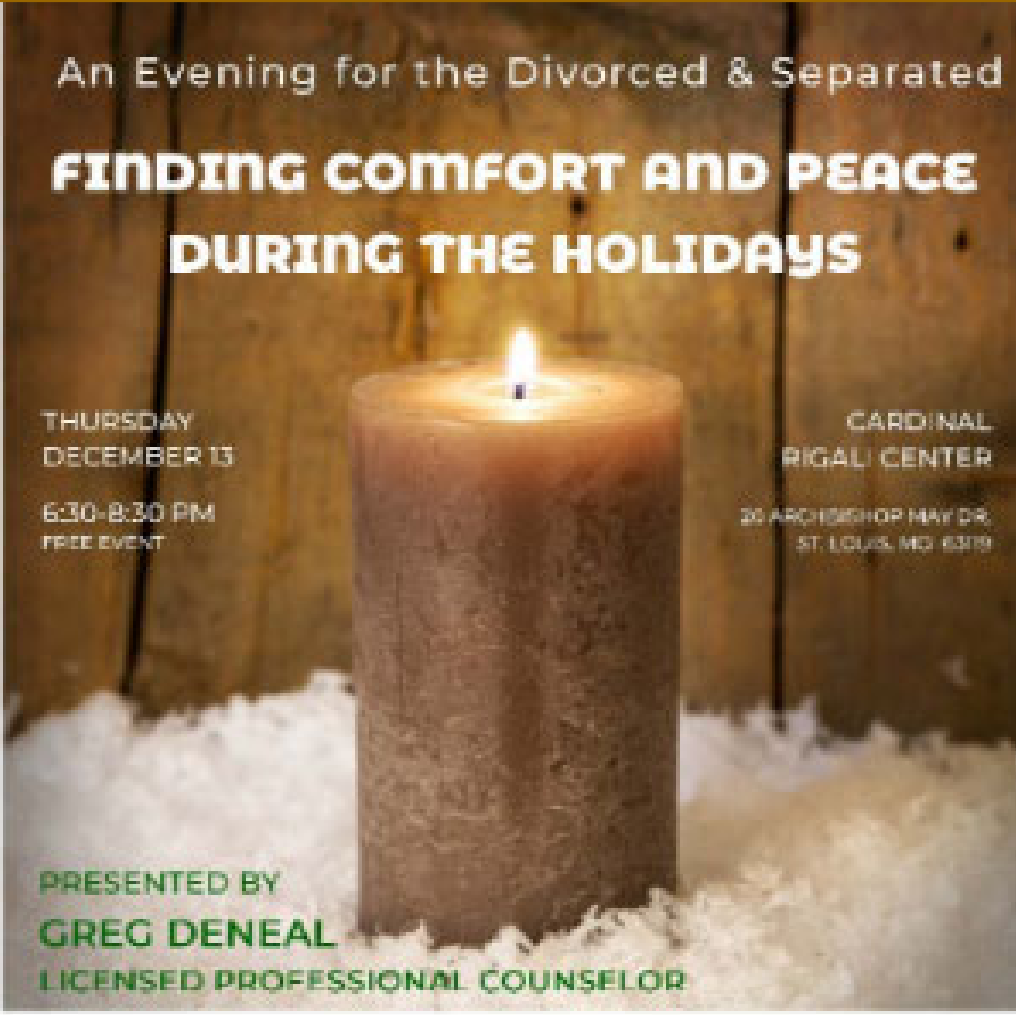
6:30-8:30 PM
FREE EVENT

CARDINAL
RIGALI CENTER

20 ARCHBISHOP MAY DR.
ST. LOUIS, MO 63119

PRESENTED BY
GREG DENEAL
LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR

PLEASE RSVP TO JULIE BOSTICK
juliebostick@archstl.org or 314.792.7180



MAGNIFICAT WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit finds joy in God my Savior... God who is mighty has done great things for me, holy is His name." - Luke 1:46-49

In these words of the Magnificat, Mary proclaimed to Elizabeth her gratitude for the wonderful action of God in her life. Please join us at the quarterly prayer breakfast for Catholic women of the archdiocese of St. Louis. Share together the spirit of gratitude and a woman's experience of the transforming love of Christ in her own life.

Come and bring a friend to rejoice in the presence of the Lord, December 8, 8:30 am registration, 9am - 12pm breakfast and speaker, Kim Stanley. The cost is \$20. For more information and registration, call the Catholic Renewal Center at 314.731.6100 or email catholicrenewal@archstl.org.



BUY SCRIP CARDS AND SUPPORT SRA!!



Time to order your SCRIP cards for December! Order forms and payment will be due to the school office on the first Friday of the month and orders will be ready for pick up or sent home with your student the following Friday. Payment must be cash or check (made out to SRA HSA).

Upcoming Fall turn-in dates: **December 7, 2018**

The list includes some of the most popular retailers; a complete list can be found at shopwithscrip.com.

Thank you for supporting SRA!! Contact Mary Anne Potts with any questions, maryannepotts@gmail.com, 314.482.1907.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

We all know the story of Juan Diego, to whom Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared in 1531. We know of the roses that fell from his cloak, or tilma, as Juan met with the bishop. As one of the numerous miraculous circumstances surrounding the appearance of Our Lady, that cloak, made of cactus fiber, should have disintegrated many years ago, but it is still whole and shows no sign of deterioration. We know that St. John Paul II canonized Juan Diego and declared Our Lady of Guadalupe the patroness of the Americas and of the unborn. As the feast of St. Juan Diego approaches (December 9), as does the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12), let us pray to heal the divisions in our country and to increase reverence for Life.

May the Lord bless and keep all of us. The St. Raphael ProLife Committee



Eucharistic Adoration

Please do not forget to sign up for a slot for Eucharistic Adoration, which begins this week! Signing up is quick and easy:

- You can sign up right after Mass today.
- You can visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040e44aba728a20-eucharistic>

The Eucharist will be exposed for Adoration in the Tobias Room from 3:00pm to midnight. You can visit anytime, but we need at least one person with the Blessed Sacrament always.

This is a wonderful opportunity to grow in holiness and intimacy with Our Lord this Advent Season! May God bless the time that you spend with Him.

For more information on Adoration, we will have speakers at the end of Mass today or please speak with Fr. John, Msgr. Stehly, or Deacon Jerry.

**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.

ST. PATRICK CENTER CHRISTMAS HELP

The St. Patrick Center Christmas Wishes program assists more than 500 individuals and families who have little or no money to purchase Christmas gifts for their children. Thanks to all who are sponsoring families this Christmas season! We currently need donations of \$20 Target gift cards for single clients in our Shamrock Club Day Treatment Program. To donate gift cards, contact Katie Joseph at

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.*

PAUSE & PRAY

*Advent
Taize
Service*



DECEMBER 16, 4 P.M.
ST. RICHARD

Music by St. Richard Chorale,
accompanied by harps, flute,
guitar, violin, and hand bells.

11223 Schuetz Road
St. Louis, MO 63146



**Saint Louis
LIFETEEN**

Attention all high schoolers! Please join us this Wednesday, December 5, 2018. We will be celebrating the most important thing we do as Christians - Mass! Afterward, there will be fellowship, games, and pizza! For more information, see saintlouis-lifeteen.org.



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 #