

## MASS SCHEDULE

### WEEKENDS:

Saturday at 4:30 pm

Sunday at 8:00 am & 10:00 am

### WEEKDAYS:

Monday through Saturday 7:00 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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

## FIRST SUNDAY

# OF Advent

Watch therefore: you do not know  
when the lord of the house is coming,  
whether in the evening, or at midnight,  
or at cockcrow, or in the morning.

Mark 13:35



DECEMBER 3, 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 4th**

6:00 pm - Gym	3rd Gr. Boys Bball.
6:30 pm - Cafeteria	1st Gr. Cub Scouts
7:00 pm - Parish Office	Stewardship Meeting
9:00 pm - Gym	Men's Club Soccer

**Tuesday, December 5th**

1:00 pm - Pietro's	Fifty Plus Club Lunch
1:30 pm - Parish Office	Bible Study- CANCELLED
3:15 pm - Church	De Angelis Choir
7:00 pm - Church	Rosary Recitation

**Wednesday, December 6th**

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 7th**

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. Bball.
5:00 pm - Cafeteria	1st Gr. Girl Scouts
7:00 pm - Church	Mass - Feast of the Immaculate Conception

**Friday, December 8th**

Feast of the Immaculate Conception	
7:00 am - Church	Mass
8:00 am - Church	Mass

**Saturday, December 9th**

4:30 pm - Church	Mass
------------------	------

**Sunday, December 3rd**

8:00 am - Church	Mass
8:30 am - Cafeteria	Girls Scouts Meeting
10:00 am - Church	Mass

**THIS WEEK IN THE CAFETERIA**

Monday, December 4	Tuesday, December 5	Wednesday, December 6	Thursday, December 7	Friday, December 8
Chicken Sandwich & Corn on the Cob	Chicken Noodle Soup & Turkey Sandwich	Pigs in a Blanket	Toasted Ravioli, Salad & Garlic Bread	Mozzarella Sticks & Salad

## FATHER BOB'S COLUMN

### HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL! ADVENT BEGINS THE NEW CHURCH YEAR TODAY!

The days are shorter and the evenings darker now. Today we light the first of four Advent Wreath candles, and we listen to the Lord in the Gospel who warns us to be watchful and alert for the Coming (“Advent”) of the Lord. In the first reading, the Prophet Isaiah, who happens to be upset with our sinfulness and religious shortcomings, issues a strong call for religious renewal on the part of us sinners who are searching for God.

However, we are encouraged by the reality that God is always ready to forgive and invites us to spiritual transformation this Christmas season. There is a parallel in the look of our front yards being transformed from the dreariness of late fall to the joyful look of Christmas lights and decorations. In these next three weeks (It is a short Advent this year!), light up your prayer lives with some extra brightness and decorate your day-to-day lives with some extra kindness and good deeds for others around you. Have a blessed Advent!

### ADVENT WREATH – WHAT’S IN YOUR HOME?

Setting up and praying with an Advent Wreath in your home is a simple way to make room in your busy life for some Advent prayer. All you need is some kind of greenery or wreath and four candles, three purple and one rose-colored. Place it on your table where you dine, or in another place of honor where your family can pray together. There are several different versions of the prayers to be said at the Advent Wreath. Here is one you can use after lighting the first candle:

*Leader: Loving God, you sent Jesus to live with us and be one with us.*

*Bless us as we prepare to celebrate his birth.*

*All: We will show love for one another this Advent.*

*Leader: Bless and strengthen our family.*

*All: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus. Be with us!*



### ADVENT BOOKLET TO TAKE HOME

Pick up a booklet of daily Advent meditations (one per family) to use to promote extra prayer and spiritual growth during this holy season. There are also some booklets for the children.

### LITURGICAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

1. At Sunday Mass (and Saturday evening), join in the entrance procession with the celebrant and servers and go to the Advent Wreath in the sanctuary. Then one of you can light one candle (or two, or three, or four, depending on which Sunday of Advent). Just come to the back of church 5 to 10 minutes before Mass.
2. Volunteer to bring up the Offertory Gifts (bread and wine) during the Preparation of the Gifts. We have a new system. There is a white plaque/cross with a chalice and host on it sitting on the Gifts Table in the center aisle. If it is there, that means you and your family can come and pick it up and hold on to it until the Offertory. If it is NOT there, that means someone already picked it up and will bring up the gifts. Then, just try again next week.

### FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS – THIS Wednesday, December 6th

Keep alive in your household the old tradition of being ready for good ol’ St. Nick to drop off at your door some kind of special treat for any children who have been good. Who knows? St. Nicholas might even leave something for us older “children.”

A bishop in Armenia named Nicholas, many centuries ago, was known to pitch some coins through the window for families that needed something to help their children. St. Nicholas, pray for all of our children!

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** *Laugh a little - sing a little as you go your way! Work a little - play a little, do this every day!*

**SERVERS FOR DEC. 4-10**

**Monday, December 4th**

7:00 am Lydia Bick William Hotze  
8:00 am Abby Delf Mady Shine

**Tuesday, December 5th**

7:00 am Addison Berta Thad Berta  
8:00 am Cate Guenther Ellie Guenther

**Wednesday, December 6th**

7:00 am Alex Atchison Jane Dubbert  
8:00 am Samantha Koziacki Mateo Switzer

**Thursday, December 7th**

7:00 am William Madden Sean Madden  
8:00 am Avery Bradshaw Anna Mersinger  
7:00 pm Grace Goeddel Andrew Kellar  
Eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

**Friday, December 8th**

7:00 am Flora Borowiak Lydia Bick  
8:00 a.m. Eva Thompson Mia Thompson  
Feast of the Immaculate Conception

**Saturday, December 9th**

7:00 am Addison Berta Thad Berta  
4:30 pm Jack Stein Mady Shine  
Isabella Pfeiffer

**Sunday, December 10th**

8:00 am William Madden Sean Madden  
Lucille Schlichting  
10:00 am Joey Raymo Gavin Smith  
Christian Conception

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, December 3rd**

8:00 am Marcia Matreci  
10:00 am People of the Parish

**Monday, December 4th**

7:00 am Marjorie Mueller  
8:00 am Ralph Raskas

**Tuesday, December 5th**

7:00 am Roger Kreitler  
8:00 am Hodes Family SI

**Wednesday, December 6th**

7:00 am Richard Krus  
8:00 am George Maledy

**Thursday, December 7th**

7:00 am Roger Kreitler  
8:00 am Marilyn Chappuis  
7:00 pm Bertram Lawrence  
Eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

**Friday, December 8th**

7:00 am Bernice Heede  
8:00 am Michael Cross SI  
Feast of the Immaculate Conception

**Saturday, December 9th**

7:00 am Ernie Winkelmann  
4:30 pm People of the Parish

**WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 9/10**

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

Ron Goedeker	Kevin Liddy	Denise Howard
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
	Tony Mariani	Lori Ashmore Ruppel
		Matt Fuhr
		Anna Skidmore

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NOV. 25/26 2017**

Sunday Collection	\$ 5,106
Online Giving	\$ 2,037
<b>Weekly Total Collection</b>	<b>\$ 7,143</b>
<b>Weekly Budget Goal</b>	<b>\$ 9,000</b>
<b>Fiscal Year-To-Date Goal</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>
<b>Fiscal Year-To-Date Actual</b>	<b>\$157,538</b>
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>\$ 22,462</b>

Note: Because of the increases in Offertory gifts and pledges in our Stewardship effort, our new Weekly Budget Goal is now \$9,000.



Sunday, December 3  
Tuesday, December 12  
Sunday, December 17

Advent by Candlelight  
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.*



### LESSONS AND CAROLS- CANCELED

Due to the timing of Advent by Candlelight and Lessons and Carols being so close this year, it was decided to reconsider it for next year.

### CHANDELIER CLEANING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can you help make our church shine for the upcoming holidays? Join your fellow parishioners to clean the chandeliers on Monday, December 4 after the 8:00 am Mass. The chandeliers lower so no need to worry about getting on a ladder. Please bring along a bucket and cleaning cloths to help with the process. Many hands make light work, so we hope to see you there.

### ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL FIFTY-PLUS CLUB

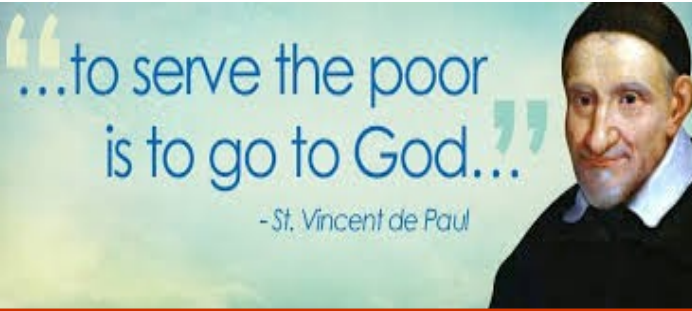
There is no meeting for December but there will be a Christmas Lunch on December 5 at 1:00pm at Pietro's. Pietro's is located at 3801 Watson Road, 314.645.9263. Hope to see you there!



**FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

As we begin Advent, we are called to “Be watchful! Be alert!” as we stand in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives.

Your donation to our St. Raphael Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will help the needy in our parish boundaries to celebrate the grace of God’s love this Christmas.



**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE**

Eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
Thursday, December 7, 7:00pm

Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
Friday, December 8, 7:00am and 8:00am



Join us at  
**Culver’s Share Night**  
**Monday, December 4**  
**5 – 8 pm**



No flyer needed! A portion of the evening’s sales (dine-in and drive-through) go toward the SRA 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mystery Trip.

Bring the little ones – a balloon artist will be on hand as well!

**Culver’s in Crestwood**  
**10200 Big Bend Rd, St. Louis, MO 63122**

**ADVENT SERVICE BY  
CANDLELIGHT  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 7:00PM  
CHURCH & CAFETERIA  
EVERYONE WELCOME!  
MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN**



Elizabeth Westhoff

Please join us as we step away from the traditional women-only Advent By Candlelight that we have offered for the past several years and enjoy an even more relaxed evening to begin the Advent season.



This is an opportunity that requires no effort and no preparation; just come as you are and rest in the beautiful music, the uplifting prayers and the inspirational message of the season. We welcome as our guest speaker, Elizabeth Westhoff, Director of Communications for the Archdiocese of Saint Louis. Elizabeth has been described as “effervescent and irrepressible” and she is always an engaging speaker.

We will gather in church at 7:00pm in a candlelight setting for the music, prayers and message and then move to the cafeteria for more candlelight and to share refreshments. All you table hostesses from the past, please invite your friends and family to this evening without the stress of table decorations and food preparation. Husbands, sons, brothers, fathers - everyone is welcome! This is a FREE event, but we do take up a collection for Our Lady’s Inn, a shelter for pregnant women and their children, if you would like to contribute that evening.

If you have any questions about the evening or would like to volunteer to bring some cookies to share, please call Sue Brandt, 314.704.5304. Hope to see you there!

**Love Among Us:  
A Christmas Concert with the Daughters of St. Paul**

The Daughters of St. Paul are back in St. Louis for their annual Christmas Concert! Join us for “Love Among Us: A Christmas Concert with the Daughters of St. Paul” on Wednesday, December 6 and Thursday, December 7, at 7 pm at Chaminade College Preparatory School, 425 South Lindberg Blvd.



Be taken up into the spirit of Christmas with the Sisters' unique renditions of Christmas favorites as well as contemporary inspirational songs in the annual family concert celebrating Christ's birth. Come and be filled with hope, joy, and peace with the sounds of the Daughters of St. Paul Choir! Tickets \$15 per person. Information online: [Pauline.org/STLconcert](http://Pauline.org/STLconcert) or call 314.965.6935.



St. Raphael the Archangel PTA Presents the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

## **COOKIES WITH SANTA**

**Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 11am to 1pm**



**Bring your list and visit with Santa Claus!  
Held in the cafeteria following 10am mass.**

**KIDS get to decorate cut-out cookies & make a  
Merry Christmas craft too!**

Just \$10 per child (\$20 max per family). Please RSVP by November 30<sup>th</sup>

**Don't forget to bring your cameras for Festive Photo Ops!**

**PLEASE CONTACT Lori Stawizynski: [loristaw76@yahoo.com](mailto:loristaw76@yahoo.com)-**



**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!

**First Sunday of Advent**

To God our Father, who has given us the grace to wait in graceful hope for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray: Show us your mercy, Lord.

Sanctify us in mind and body,  
 - keep us without sin until the coming of your Son.  
 Make us walk this day in holiness,  
 - and live upright and devout lives in this world.  
 May we be clothed in our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 - and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Lord, help us to stand watchful and ready, until your Son is revealed in all his glory.

**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.



# Saint Louis LIFETEEN

## ATTENTION ALL SRA EIGHTH GRADERS AND HIGH SCHOOLERS

Kick off your Advent season right by joining us this Wednesday, December 6 from 7-9pm at Bishop DuBourg for a Mass and social. See [saintlouislifeteen.org](http://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](http://saintlouislifeteen.org/luke18)

## IMMACULEE RETREAT

St. Gianna, 450 E. Highway N., Wentzville, will host speaker Immaculee Ilibagiza. Retreat starts Friday, December 8. Doors open at 4:00pm. Cost for both days is \$57 per person, or \$76 for two. Retreat runs from 5-9pm on Friday and concludes at 12:30pm on Saturday, December 9. You can register online at [immaculee.com/collections/retreats](http://immaculee.com/collections/retreats) or for information, you can call Rita Schulte at 636.327.3639.

## 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](http://AscensionSTL.com).

## 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.



## 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](mailto:il.ritiro@gmail.com).



