

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKENDS

Saturday at 7:00am and 4:30pm

Sunday at 8:00am and 10:00am

WEEKDAYS

Monday through Friday at 7:00am

Monday through Thursday at 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

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Sunday of Advent

The desert and the
parched land will exult;
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.
They will bloom with
abundant flowers,
and rejoice with joyful song.

Isaiah 35:1-2

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Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (c) 2001, 1968, 1997, 1990, 1970, CCD.

December 15, 2019

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."

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

CLERGY & STAFF

Fr. John Mayo	Pastor
	frjohn@straphaelarchangel.org
Msgr. Dennis Stehly, VG	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

OFFICE HOURS

Parish Office Monday-Thursday 7:30am-4:00pm
Friday 7:30am-12:00pm
School Office Monday-Friday 7:30am-3:30pm

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

LAY LEADERSHIP OF OUR PARISH

Parish Council	Dan Meshoto	314.452.1017
School Board	Todd Berta	314.352.8420
Finance Council	Joseph Cyr	314.335.7322
HSA President	Jennifer Delf	314.323.6073

**THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH
DEC. 16-22, 2019**

Monday, December 16

7:00am - Church	Mass
8:00am - Church	Mass
3:00pm - Cafeteria	8th Gr. Girl Scouts
3:30pm - Gym	3rd Gr. Girls Basketball
5:00pm - Gym	1st & 3rd Gr. Boys Bball.
6:30pm - Gym	4th Gr. Boys Bball.
7:00pm - Tobias Room	School Board
7:00pm - Cafeteria	Scouts
7:30pm - Gym	8th Gr. Boys Bball.

Tuesday, December 17

7:00am - Church	Mass
8:00am - Church	Mass
3:15pm - Church	DeAngelis Choir
3:30pm - Gym	5th Gr. Girls Bball.
5:00pm - Gym	Pre-K - 2nd Gr. Bball.
6:30pm - Gym	3rd Gr. Boys Bball.
7:00pm - Church	Rosary Recitation
7:00pm - Cafeteria	Men's Club Meeting
7:30pm - Tobias Room	Prayerful Scripture

Wednesday, December 18

7:00am - Church	Mass
8:00am - Church	Mass
9:00am - Quilter's Room	Quilters
3:30pm - Gym	1st Gr. Girls Bball.
4:30pm - Gym	5th Gr. Boys Bball.
6:00pm - Gym	6th & 7th Gr. Girls Bball.
6:00pm - Cafeteria	Step Class
6:30pm - Small Conf. Room	RCIA
7:00pm - Church	Adult Choir
8:30pm - Gym	Men's Basketball

Thursday, December 19

7:00am - Church	Mass
8:00am - Church	Mass
2:00pm - School	Preschool Dance
3:00pm - School	K-5th Gr. Dance
3:00pm - Cafeteria	5th Gr. Cub Scouts
3:15pm - School	Chess Club
3:30pm - Gym	7th Gr. Boys Bball.
5:00pm - Gym	5th Gr. Boys Bball.
6:00pm - Church	SPN Choir
6:30pm - Gym	4th Gr. Girls Bball.
7:00pm - Cafeteria	Ladies' Club Meeting
7:30pm - Gym	3rd Gr. Girls Bball.

Friday, December 20

7:00am - Church	Mass
6:00pm - Cafeteria	Ath. Uniform Pickup

Saturday, December 21

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

Sunday, December 22

8:00am - Church	Mass
10:00am - Church	Mass
1:00pm - Cafeteria	Chess Team

FR. JOHN'S DIGITAL QUILL FOR SPIRITUAL MUSINGS AND PARISH NEWS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

This Sunday and next Sunday from 4:00-7:00pm, visiting priests, Msgr. Stehly, and I will be taking turns sitting in the confessional. These open times for confession, I pray, will be a time of grace for our parish to come before the Lord seeking forgiveness for our sins.

Certainly in light of the last 20 years, we can have serious doubts about the necessity of this sacrament. The scandals in the priesthood have certainly obscured the image of Christ in the priesthood. If we cannot clearly see Christ working through the priesthood, the sacraments, especially this sacrament, lose their value and meaning. For if Christ is not working in this sacrament, then who is this sinner to listen to my sins and offer advice and absolution?

Nowhere in scripture can we find a prophecy that God will leave the Church or the priesthood. God continues to choose redeemed sinners, calling them to his side to be priests. We know the pain of seeing a priest fail to be faithful. But we know the joy of experiencing a priest alive with Christ and allowing Him to shine through his person. Through such a priest we know Christ is alive and continues to work in the world today.

This reality is what I have encountered often in the confessional. Words that I do not have come forth, a question opens a place in someone's heart for Christ to enter, or someone can talk and feel unburdened by the sharing. Christ is alive and working in the sacraments, especially this one.

If it has been some time since your last confession or you would just like to go again before Christmas, I encourage you to take some time this week or next to receive the sacrament.

How to Go To Confession

1. Examine your conscience well so you know what to confess. If it has been a while, cover the points you feel necessary from the past and then include what is happening now.
2. After greeting the priest, make the Sign of the Cross and say, "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned; it has been (insert best guess of time) since my last confession."
3. Say your sins. You can even have a list to read! At the end express forgiveness for all of your sins.
4. The priest will give some advice and a penance.

5. Pray an Act of Contrition.
6. Father will give you absolution.
7. You are done!

Schedule for Confessions

4:00-5:00pm: Fr. Kevin Schmittgens (Pastor, Holy Redeemer)
5:00-6:00pm: Msgr. Dennis Stehly
6:00-7:00pm: Fr. John Mayo
(Remember you can come anytime from 4:00-7:00pm, go to confession and then leave when you are ready.)

From the Hip-Hip and Hooray Department

Congratulations to our 2nd Graders who made their First Reconciliation earlier this month. They did a great job!

Also, congratulations to all of our students who did such a great job with our School Christmas Program on Thursday evening!

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.

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!

In Gratitude

Thank you to our Girl Scouts who sang Christmas songs so well last week after 4:30pm Mass. They sounded great!

Also, thank you to our HSA for the wonderful Cookies with Santa last Sunday. I hope everyone got enough icing and sprinkles on their cookies!

Lastly, thank you to our Ladies' Club for hosting our Advent by Candlelight. It was a great evening to reflect on the seasons of our lives as we approach Christmas.

Donut Sunday is Today (12-15) after 8:00 and 10:00am Mass!

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



Sunday, December 15

8:00am People of the Parish

10:00am Marcia Matreci

Monday, December 16

7:00am Lucille Karr

8:00am Bill Goeddel

Tuesday, December 17

7:00am Steve Harbaugh

8:00am Ernie J. Winkelmann

Wednesday, December 18

7:00am Roger Kreitler

8:00am Nancy Geiser

Thursday, December 19

7:00am Mary Mahoney

8:00am Hodes Family, SI

Friday, December 20

7:00am Robert Hoeynck

Saturday, December 21

7:00am August Saar

4:30pm Dorotheine Hulford

Sunday, December 22

8:00am Joan Ahrens

10:00am People of the Parish

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.

ADVENT GIVING TREE

Our Giving Tree has been on display with gift suggestions. Gifts are due today after the 10:00am Mass. This year our St. Vincent de Paul Society is working with Peter & Paul Community Services. They offer various programs to provide supportive services to those who are homeless, especially those who are living with mental illness or HIV/AIDS. Thanks to all who participate in this Holy Season of giving to those in need.

IN MEMORIAM

In your charity, we ask that you pray for the repose of the soul of Logan Warnecke, who passed away last week and whose funeral service was held here on Saturday, December 14. Logan is an alumni of St. Raphael the Archangel School, class of 2012.

May his soul, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL
SOCIETY NUT SALE**

The Society still has nuts available for your last-minute baking/gift needs!

12 Packages Pecan Halves	\$12 Each
3 Packages Pecan Pieces	\$11 Each
6 Packages Walnuts	\$ 8 Each
3 Packages Gourmet Mix	\$10 Each
8 Packages Salted Cashews	\$10 Each
7 Packages Praline Pecans	\$ 9 Each

If you would like to purchase any extra nuts, please contact the Parish Office at 314.352.8100 or stop by.

ALTAR SERVERS

SERVERS FOR DEC. 16-22, 2019

Monday, December 16

7:00am	Addison Berta	Thad Berta
8:00am	Liam McMorrow	Lucas Feldman

Tuesday, December 17

7:00am	William Hotze	Claire Fuhr
8:00am	Liam McMorrow	Lucas Feldman

Wednesday, December 18

7:00am	Charlie Dirnbeck	Steven Irons
8:00am	Liam McMorrow	Lucas Feldman

Thursday, December 19

7:00am	Christian Concepcion	Rory Barnawell
8:00am	Liam McMorrow	Lucas Feldman

Friday, December 20

7:00am	Lydia Eddingfield	Isabella Pfeiffer
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Saturday, December 21

7:00am	Alex Sullivan	Jack Stein
4:30pm	Flora Borowiak	Claire Fuhr
	Gavin Smith	

Sunday, December 22

8:00am	Lucas Feldman	Cate Guenther
	Anna-Grace Guenther	
10:00am	Aidan Switzer	Mateo Switzer
	Samantha Koziacki	

MINISTERS/LECTORS FOR THE WEEKEND OF DEC. 21-22, 2019

LECTORS

4:30pm	8:00am	10:00am
George Kerry	Mary Reck	Barb Cramer
December 24		December 24
4:30pm		10:00pm
Matt Fuhr		Laura Geiser
	December 25	December 25
	Kevin Liddy	Mary Reck

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	

Your Contributions to God and Parish

December 8, 2019

(Envelopes Used)

	This Week	FY to Date
Regular Env. (81)	\$ 4,277.00	\$ 100,654.00
Loose Money	\$ 4,609.00	\$ 28,716.00
School Support	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,373.00
Building Fund	\$ 26.00	\$ 4,154.00
Holy Days	\$ 477.00	\$ 2,733.00
Online Giving (44)	\$ 2,542.00	\$ 52,022.00

Altar Flowers	\$ 10.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 110.00
Seminary	(\$ 60.00)
Tithing	(\$ 20.00)
Hymnals	\$ 20.00

Grand Total	\$ 12,151.00	
Total for Parish	\$ 12,071.00	\$ 192,987.00
Amount Needed	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 207,000.00
Difference	\$ 3,071.00	(\$ 14,013.00)
FYE 2019		(\$ 39,072.00)

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." (James 5:8)

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE OF MASSES



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday, December 15, 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Sunday, December 22, 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Christmas Season Masses

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24,

4:30pm and 10:00pm

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25,

8:00am and 10:00am

Weekend of December 28-29

Regular Mass Schedule

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday, December 31, 2019, 4:30pm

Wednesday, January 1, 2020, 8:00am and 10:00am



WINTER OUTREACH A MINISTRY OF MERCY

Encouraged by our Catholic social teachings, *Option for the Poor and Vulnerable*, our parish community is 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 for me.” (MT 25:31-46)

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



January 18, 2020

February 22, 2020

Please consider joining our Ministry of Mercy by providing one or more of the following: 9 x 13 casserole (meat, vegetable or breakfast). Also desserts for 12 to 24 servings. Food is to be dropped off at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall by 1:00pm. If needed, arrangements can be made for pick up. 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 e-mail at maryem@brick.net. GOD’S WORK THROUGH OUR HANDS

DATES TO SAVE!

Friday, January 10

Alpha Resumes

Saturday, January 18

Snowflake Ball

Sunday, January 26

Catholic Schools Week Begins with Open House

Friday, January 31

Grandparent’s Day

Advent By Candlelight



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SECOND GRADERS ON THEIR FIRST RECONCILIATION !

LADIES' CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER AND PARTY

The Ladies' Club Christmas Party will be on Thursday, December 19, at 7:00pm in the cafeteria. This will be a "potluck" dinner so bring your favorite appetizer, dish, or dessert. Beer and wine provided.

If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a NEW, wrapped \$20 gift.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday:	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Thursday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Friday: Is	7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Saturday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Sunday: Is	7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

PRAYER FOR LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Almighty God, strengthen the resolve of your faithful people to prepare for the coming of Christ by works of justice and mercy, so that when we go forth to meet Him, He may call us to sit at His right hand and possess the kingdom of heaven.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever, Amen.

FROM ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that the "good news" can be seen, touched, felt, and heard through the lives of God's people. We are now charged to take up the ministry of Jesus, but we can't just ask people to take our word for it; our actions must speak for us. Since Christmas is a time of love and gift giving, please share in Jesus' ministry by giving a donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who are poor can know the good news of Jesus. It will be a real gift.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

For those celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries in 2020, please mark your calendars for a Mass and reception on Saturday, February 22, 2020. If you were newly married in 2019 or if you will be married this coming year (2020) for 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 or 60-plus years, please call the parish office at 314.352.8100 or e-mail to parish@straphaelarchangel.org with your wedding date. We will place you on the invitation list.

USE AMAZON SMILE FOR YOUR SHOPPING AND SUPPORT SRA!

Amazon Smile gives you the power of buying on Amazon, while a small percentage helps SRA!

1. Visit smile.Amazon.com
2. Be sure St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church is selected as your charity of choice.
3. Shop Amazon like normal and make your purchases.
4. Enjoy the feeling of having your shopping done AND recognize that SRA benefits from your purchase as well at no additional cost to you!

Christmas Mass for the Homebound

Will someone you know be unable to join us at church this Christmas? Heart of the Nation will celebrate Christmas Mass on TV.

Wednesday, December 23
10:00am
KPLR, Channel 11

Cookies With Santa



UPCOMING FIAT EVENTS

Refresh and nourish your spirit by attending the next Fiat meeting on Thursday, December 19. The morning begins with Rosary at 8:00am and Fr. Schumer will speak from 8:15am until 9:00am. Fr. Schumer is Vice-Rector for Cardinal Glennon College and Asst. Professor of Sacramental and Liturgical Theology. Events are held at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, 5200 Glennon Drive. For more information, please go to kenrick.edu/fiat.



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH CHRISTMAS TREE LOT BOY SCOUT TROUP 336

MacKenzie Point Shopping Center
Monday - Friday 6:00-9:00PM
Saturday - Sunday 9:00AM-9:00PM

ATTENTION, SEPARATED, DIVORCED, WIDOWED OR REMARRIED OF ALL AGES

You are invited to the next meeting of the South County Separated, Divorced, Widowed, or Remarried Catholics (SCDC) on Thursday, December 19, at 7:00pm at St. Catherine Laboure, 9740 Sappington Rd. Our entertainment at this meeting will be Rick Zelle playing Christmas music; plus we will have a potluck dinner for \$3 unless you bring a dish! For more information, please call Michelle Wack at 314.540.7440 or Bill DeCoursey at 314.895.0733.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE

Tuesday, December 31, 2019
St. Matthias Parish Center
800 Buckley Rd.

The Scott Laytham
And
Karl "Trickee" Holmes Duo

\$30 Per Person
BYOB or Beer/Wine Available - \$2.00 Per Drink
Ticket Information:
Sandy at 314.544.2162 or
Parish Office 314.892.7500 or
smaevents2017@yahoo.com



WELCOME TO THE ST. RAPHAEL 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 #