

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

They shall beat their swords
into plowshares and their
spears into pruning hooks;
one nation shall not raise
the sword against another.

Isaiah 2:4

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December 1, 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. 2-8, 2019**

Monday, December 2

7:00am - Church Mass
8:00am - Church Mass
7:00pm - Parish Office Stewardship Meeting
7:00pm - Cafeteria Scouts

Tuesday, December 3

7:00am - Church Mass
8:00am - Church Mass
1:00pm - Pietro's Fifty Plus Club Lunch
3:15pm - Church DeAngelis Choir
6:30pm - Cafeteria 3rd Gr. Boy Scouts
7:00pm - Church Rosary Recitation
7:30pm - Tobias Room Prayerful Scripture

Wednesday, December 4

7:00am - Church Mass
8:00am - Church Mass
9:00am - Quilter's Room Quilters
6:00pm - Cafeteria Step Class
6:30pm - Small Conf. Room RCIA
7:00pm - Church First Reconciliation
8:30pm - Gym Men's Basketball

Thursday, December 5

7:00am - Church Mass
8:00am - Church Mass
2:00pm - School Preschool Dance
3:00pm - School K-5th Gr. Dance
3:00pm - School 5th Gr. Cub Scouts
3:15pm - School Chess Club
5:00pm - Gym Kdg. Girl Scouting Mtg.

Friday, December 6

7:00am - Church Mass

Saturday, December 7

7:00am - Church Mass
8:00am - Cafeteria Step Class
4:00pm - Cafeteria Girl Scout Party-
Post Christmas Caroling
Mass
4:30pm - Church St. Louis Hills
7:00pm - Gym Christmas Party

Sunday, December 8

8:00am - Church Mass
10:00am - Church Mass
11:00am - Cafeteria Cookies with Santa
6:00pm - Gym Advent by Candlelight

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

Happy New Year (of Grace)

Happy New Year!

Today begins the New Year of Grace 2020. Can you believe that nearly 2,020 years ago Jesus was born to free us from sin and death so that we may be adopted sons and daughters of the Father?

As happens with a New Year, Advent is a time to make resolutions. Not the typical ones you may be thinking of, involving exercise or planning, but spiritual resolutions of prayer, inspiration, and conversion.

Resolution of Prayer

Hopefully by now, you will have received your Advent copy of *The Word Among Us*. Resolve now to take a few minutes each day to sit down, read the readings and reflections, and ask yourself how what is there can be applied to your daily living. Even though you hear the readings at Mass today, do not put off this resolution until tomorrow. Begin by reading from there today!

Also, be sure to sign up for an hour of prayer sometime this Advent or Christmas Season in our new Adoration Chapel. You can sign up on the list in the back of the church or by visiting the SignUpGenius page at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050945a4ab29a46-eucharistic1>.

Resolution of Inspiration

On December 1, the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis will host Dr. Lawrence Feingold, who will speak as part of the Archdiocesan Advent Faith Formation program. He will speak on Jesus' birth and what it means that we are members of His body. The event begins at 1:15pm today and includes a meal, his talk, and an offering for those in need.

Next Sunday, December 8, our ladies will gather in the gym for the annual Advent by Candlelight. We are pleased to welcome Kathie Hammell, our speaker. If you have not signed up yet for this event, please do so today!

Also, there are a couple of inspiring digital programs as well.

One program is by Dynamic Catholic, who is again hosting its Best Advent Ever program. Each day you receive an email with a short video that leads to prayerful reflection. You can receive these emails daily by visiting <https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever> and signing up.

Another program is by Formed. This program not only features a daily email for adults, but also one for kids as well, with a daily video with Brother Francis. If you are interested in receiving these short video reflections, please visit <https://formed.org/advent>.

Resolution of Conversion

Advent is also a great time for us to visit the Sacrament of Conversion, better known as the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In addition to the regular times for confession this Advent, we are trying something akin to what Msgr. Breier did while he was pastor. On December 15 and December 22 from 4:00 - 7:00pm each day, we will have a priest available for confession, instead of having a special Advent Penance Service. There will be no special service; simply come in, take time to prepare to go to confession, receive the sacrament, spend some time in prayer, and then you are done!

The first hour each night from 4:00 - 5:00pm, we will have a visiting priest available for confession. The other two hours Msgr. Stehly or I will be in the confessional. We will print a schedule before these times so that you know who will hear confessions and when.

In Gratitude

A few months back, we took up a collection to help those affected by flooding in the St. Louis area. Recently, we received a note thanking us for the over \$2,400 we collected to help those affected. Thank you for your generosity to those in need!

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



ALTAR SERVERS

SERVERS FOR DEC. 2-8, 2019

Monday, December 2

7:00am	Christian Concepcion	Charlie Dirnbeck
8:00am	Steven Irons	Jack Delf

Tuesday, December 3

7:00am	Lydia Eddingfield	Isabella Pfeiffer
8:00am	Steven Irons	Jack Delf

Wednesday, December 4

7:00am	William Hotze	Brandon Young
8:00am	Steven Irons	Jack Delf

Thursday, December 5

7:00am	Addison Berta	Thad Berta
8:00am	Steven Irons	Jack Delf

Friday, December 6

7:00am	Madalene Cierpiot	Brendan Cierpiot
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Saturday, December 7

7:00am	Rory Barnawell	Matthew Franz
4:30pm	Cillian Sheehan	Steven Irons
	Liam McMorrow	

Sunday, December 8

8:00am	Andrew Kellar	Jio Raymo
	Joey Raymo	
10:00am	Abby Delf	Jack Delf
	Charlie Dirnbeck	

Sunday, December 1

8:00am People of the Parish
10:00am Benjamin Brumley

Monday, December 2

7:00am Robert Hoeynck
8:00am Maureen Mabry Hizer

Tuesday, December 3

7:00am Roseanne Saracino
8:00am Hodes Family, SI

Wednesday, December 4

7:00am Ralph Raskas
8:00am Peggy Bartoni

Thursday, December 5

7:00am Michael Berta
8:00am Stan Domijan

Friday, December 6

7:00am Charles Clemente

Saturday, December 7

7:00am Robert Hoeynck
4:30pm Robert Kalkbrenner

Sunday, December 8

8:00am Shirley May Prasse
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 is now on display with gift suggestions. Please take an "angel" or two to help the less fortunate. 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. Please remove a tag or two and return the gift(s) no later than 11:00am on Sunday, December 15. The tag should be attached to the unwrapped gift and placed under the Advent Giving Tree. Thanks to all who participate in this Holy Season of giving to those in need.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." (Matthew 24:42)

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation of each day as a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when we start to look at each day as a gift, we realize all the little miracles that happen daily and grow in gratitude for all that we have been given. We begin to see God's active presence in our lives.

As we approach the end of the calendar year, we are grateful for your generosity throughout the year. You help to make our parish and school possible.

If you are considering end-of-year giving, please consider St. Raphael among those receiving your generosity this year.

Also, if you are making donations from a retirement account or an investment, please speak to your investment or tax advisor on how a donation from these instruments to SRA may help your tax situation.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE OF MASSES



Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 9,

7:00am and 8:00am

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation)

Advent Reflections

Archdiocesan Afternoon of Reflection

Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis

Sunday, December 1, 1:15pm

Advent by Candlelight

Sunday, December 8, 6:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

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

Christmas Season

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

MINISTERS/LECTORS FOR THE WEEKEND OF DEC. 7-8, 2019

LECTORS

4:30pm

8:00am

10:00am

Ron Goedeker

Mary Reck

Linda Hiette

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

Due to early publishing deadlines, the Weekly Offertory information was not available when the bulletin went to print.

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





St. Raphael the Archangel HSA presents the 4th Annual

COOKIES WITH SANTA

December 8, 11:00am to 1:00pm

Bring your list and visit with Santa Claus

In the cafeteria following 10:00am Mass

Kids get to decorate cut-out (nut-free) cookies

And make a Merry Christmas Craft too!!

Just \$12.00 per child (\$30 max per family)

Please RSVP by Dec. 3

Don't forget your camera for festive photo ops

Please contact HSA@straphaelarchangel.org with questions

MORE DATES TO SAVE!

Sunday, December 8
Sunday, December 8
Sunday, January 26
Friday, January 31
Saturday, February 8

Cookies with Santa
Advent by Candlelight
Catholic Schools Week Begins
Grandparent's Day
Black and Gold Dinner Auction

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 6:00PM - ST. RAPHAEL GYM

Advent by Candlelight is an invitation for women to step away from hectic Christmas activities and focus on the inner preparation, which is the purpose of the Advent season. In that way, we ready our hearts and homes to receive the gift of the infant Jesus.

The evening opens with the hostess greeting her guests and general visiting among all those present. Then it continues with a short prayer service, followed by sharing of light hors d'oeuvres or dessert provided by each hostess for her particular table, and concludes with a guest speaker who never fails to inspire us.



We are very excited this year to have Kathie Hammell as our speaker. Kathie has worked in some aspect of youth ministry in St. Louis for 20 years and is a theology instructor and campus minister at Chaminade. Her hope is to build a Courageous Catholic Culture.

Please consider being a table hostess and treating your friends, relatives or neighbors to this special event. The duties of a table hostess include reserving a table, inviting up to 7 more guests (8 people per table), decorating your table and providing table settings and light appetizers / desserts for your guests. More detailed information will be given to each hostess.

We encourage hostesses to keep their food very simple to support our desire to offer a less stressful, more peaceful, and enjoyable evening among friends.

This is a FREE event, but we will take up a collection for our parish if you would like to contribute that evening.

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT RESERVATION

Name _____ Phone _____
 Email _____

_____ I would like to be a Table Hostess. I want to invite others to sit with me. The people listed below will automatically be registered to be seated at my table. (Hostess information will be sent to you.)

_____ Hostess

_____ Guest

_____ Guest

_____ Guest

_____ Guest

_____ Guest

_____ Guest

_____ Guest

_____ I would like to register as an individual and would like to be placed at any table where there is room.

If possible please seat me with _____

Please return reservation form to Rachel Flavin, 5940 Highfield Rd., 63109, or e-mail your res-

fiftyplus

FIFTY PLUS CLUB

The next Fifty Plus meeting is Tuesday, December 3, with lunch at 1:00pm at Pietro's Restaurant, 3801 Watson Road. Bring a friend! If you plan to attend and haven't responded, please call the Parish Office at 314.352.8100. All are welcome.

FROM ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

There is an Advent spirit in the heart of every human person. It is one of longing, of yearning for a fulfillment that somehow lies beyond ourselves; for we long for the coming of the Lord. When you give to SVdP, you discover the true meaning of Christmas: helping those who are suffering and poor who long for the coming of the Lord. The St. Raphael conference for the Society wishes to thank you for the donations given at the Thanksgiving Day Masses. The money collected will help provide food, warmth, and housing for many families during the month of December. We also thank the school families for filling twelve large boxes with canned goods and boxed-food items, which we distributed to neighbors we have had the privilege of assisting this year. All were so grateful! God bless you.

PRAYER FOR LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT



All powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming and call us to His side in the kingdom of heaven, where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Help SRA As You Christmas Shop!

SCRIP CARDS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!!!!!!

SCRIP
before
you shop

Support the SRA Home and School Association by purchasing SCRIP gift cards!! By purchasing gift cards through this program, a percentage of the sale goes back to the school. The next order is due Friday, December 6. You can pick up the cards at school on the following Friday, December 13. Orders will be placed monthly during the school year. Turn in order forms and checks (made out to SRA HSA) to the parish or school office. For a list of retailers, the web site is shop-withscrip.com.

amazonsmile

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 for no additional cost to you!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1
Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

BLACK AND GOLD AUCTION NEWS!

Now on to AUCTION NEWS!

The Black and Gold Auction is Saturday, February 8, 2020! It will be a night to remember so don't miss it! Stay tuned for Ticket information! We'll have VIP tables available again, delicious food by Bartolino's, and wonderful items for bidding.

We will kick off the 2020 Auction with a ***Donation Blitz and Blues Raffle!*** Take advantage of those Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and probably all of November SALES! While you're out Christmas shopping, grab an item to donate to the Auction! Bring your donation(s) to the Parish Office between **Monday, December 2, and Thursday, December 12**, and each \$25 (value) donation will receive 1 raffle ticket for 4 tickets to a BLUES game this season! Lower bowl seats! More information to come, including donation-idea lists. We will draw the winner on Friday, December 13, and announce via Facebook and Flocknote. Winner will be contacted directly by phone or email.

Stay informed on all things Black and Gold Auction by visiting our *NEW* Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/St-Raphael-the-Archangel-Black-and-Gold-Auction>

Thank you!
Black and Gold Auction Committee

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:

December 14, 2019

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

Winter Wonderland

ST. LOUIS HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD



Holiday Party

DECEMBER 7, 2019

ST. RAPHAEL'S GYMNASIUM

TICKETS:	DINNER,	7 PM
\$35 PER	BEER, WINE	UNTIL
PERSON	& SODA	11 PM

RESERVE
TICKETS
TODAY!

PURCHASE ONLINE: STLHILLS.COM
BY MAIL: SLHNA Holiday Party
PO Box 190314 | St. Louis, MO 63119
Please include check and guest names



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

Please Contact Me

New Phone/Email/Address

Please Do Not Publish #