

SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020

Reading I

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?'"

"It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

R. (2a) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, "My kindness is established forever"; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

R. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations."

R. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

"He shall say of me, 'You are my father, my God, the Rock, my savior.' Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm."

R. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Reading II

Rom 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

Lk 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "how can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" (Continued on the next page.)

**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

**Mr. and Mrs. Ray and
Mary Anne Braun** Music Ministers

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 Summer Hours

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 Matt Fuhr 314.750.8691

Finance Council Joseph Cyr 314.335.7322

HSA President Emily Young 314.323.9336

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 (school only)

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

The church is open for private prayer:
Monday-Friday 8:00am - 2:30pm,
Saturday 8:00am - 4:30pm,
Sunday 9:00am - 10:00am.

PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

Tuesday mornings at 6:50am

ROSARY

Public praying of the Rosary is suspended.

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.

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.

And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.” Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Stewardship Alive!
By: David Baranowski,

Random acts of kindness are a good start on your path to holiness. But, Stewardship is next level. Why? Because Stewardship is a lifestyle based on gratitude and generosity. Stewardship is intentional and rooted in love, not random with no strings attached. The whole point is strengthening our relationship with God and each other.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

Prayer

- Don't have time for daily prayer? Say a quick prayer for people who annoy you. You'll be praying more than you imagined and your attitude toward them will change.
- Don't have time to read the Bible? There's an app for that. Start with daily Scripture readings. Remember, Scripture is one of the ways God talks to us.
- Don't have time to pray the Rosary? Start with three Holy Marys each day. You'll be looking for your Rosary in no time.
- Is everything falling into place for you, no major issues? Attend Mass on a day other than Sunday and receive the Holy Eucharist. Thank God for all He has given you. Remember, the word “Eucharist” means “thanksgiving.”
- Have you been hurt by what someone said recently? Go to Confession – receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, go and forgive the person that hurt you. We can't give what we don't have.
- Are you easily angered? Make a list of the top five things you are grateful to God for. When you feel your temperature rising offer the gratitude list

as a prayer to God. It is impossible to be angry and grateful at the same time.

Participation

- Are you lonely, bored or unsatisfied? Give away what you want to receive. If you want love, mercy, forgiveness, friendship – give them away and they will come back to you many times over.
- Are you overbooked, too busy, feel out of control? Then stop and rest. Even God took a day off. Has “being busy” become a “god” in your life that keeps you from things that are really important?
- When someone offers to help you with something, gladly accept it. You may not need it but it may help the other person. You may be the answer to a prayer.
- Can't figure out what you would like to get involved with at your parish? Instead, ask God what He would like you to do. If we want God's help, we have to invite Him into our lives.
- Do you enjoy working in parish ministry or performing other charitable works? If so, don't keep it to yourself. Share your joyful stories with others and invite them to join you. Your story may open the door for someone to meet Jesus.
- Do you spend a lot of time on social media, live streaming or cable TV? Then do a fast from media. Think “garbage in, garbage out.” Use the extra time doing charitable works in your parish or your community.

Generosity

- Do you think “I work hard, I earn my money on my own, God had nothing to do with it”? If so, remember who created you. Who gave you the talent and skill needed to get a job to provide for your family? God did. If you think about it, all of

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION OF ST. ALPHONSUS

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart, as though You have already come. I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Stewardship Alive (Continued)

“our” money is His.

- God and money run neck and neck as top priorities for many people. Where does God fall on your list? If not number one, you need to put the other “gods” behind God. The first commandment is the first commandment for a reason.
- Have you worked for years, received an annual raise, been given a promotion, or seen your family income increase over the years? Then why do you still give only \$20 a week in the Sunday offertory? Our giving should be proportional - when given more, we are called to give more.
- Don’t have enough money to give to your parish or other charity? Make a budget. You’ll be surprised how much you spend eating out. Most of us have more than we need and have plenty to share.
- Do you leave a bigger tip when going out to eat on Saturday night than what you put in the offertory basket on Sunday morning? We are called to give from our “first fruits” – our first and best, not our “leftovers.” Try putting charitable giving at the top of your expenses on your household budget.
- Do you have a good job, make good money, have all the toys you need but still feel empty? Give more money away. Archbishop Fulton Sheen said that you measure your generosity by what you have left, not by what you give.

HOLIDAYS AND HOLY DAYS
MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve (December 24)

7:00am (In church, no signup required)
 4:30pm (In church and gym, signup required)
 6:30pm (In church, no signup required)
 10:00pm (In church, no signup required)

Christmas Day (December 25)

8:00am (In church, no signup required)
 10:00am (In church, no signup required)

Vigil - Feast of Mary, Mother of God (December 31)

4:30pm

Feast of Mary, Mother of God (January 1)

8:00am
 10:00am

DAILY READINGS

- Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
- Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
- Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
- Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
- Friday: 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]
- Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
- Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

FROM ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during that night when darkness is the longest. Your gift to the Society brings light into darkness surrounding the hearts of those living in poverty, and brings them the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas.

ALUMNI

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@straphaelarchangel.org or you can call the parish office at 314.352.8100.



Mass INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 20

8:00am People of the Parish
10:00 Laurette Muehleisen Kuhl

Monday, December 21

7:00am Dorothine Hulford

Tuesday, December 22

7:00am Joann Ahrens

Wednesday, December 23

7:00am Sr. Suzanne Hulford, O.P.

Thursday, December 24

7:00am Kimling Family
4:30pm Delores Mayo
4:30pm Estella M. Duly
6:30pm Shawna Cleavenger
10:00pm People of the Parish

Friday, December 25

8:00am Nino Vitale
10:00am Joan Slay

Saturday, December 26

7:00am Georgianna Hogg
4:30pm August Saar

Sunday, December 27

8:00am People of the Parish
10:00am Daniel and Pade Liddy

Your Contributions to God and Parish

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

“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” – Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God’s call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ’s light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.



PRAYER NETWORK

Our prayer network continues its quiet work of praying for our parishioners who are ill, recovering from illness, and for special intentions as well. We also invite you to remember these petitions daily in your prayers. If you are interested in having an intention added to the prayer chain or to receive the list of intentions, please contact the parish office.

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.”

The SRA Class of 2021
would like to thank everyone
★ who supported our ★
Sprinkle from Kris Kringle
★ fundraiser!! ★



Did you know that Amazon will donate .5% of every purchase to our school at no extra cost to you? Just shop at [smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and choose St. Raphael the Archangel as your preferred charitable organization.



Prefer to shop in the app? Now your purchases can count too by following these steps!

1. If you are not already an AmazonSmile member, sign up on your web browser.
2. Make sure you have the latest version of the Amazon shopping app. You can find it in the App Store for iOS or Google Play for Android.
3. Open the app and find “Settings” in the main menu. Tap on AmazonSmile” and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

Stay safe shopping for Christmas this year AND give back to our school! It’s that simple.

ST RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
BLACK & GOLD AUCTION
FEBRUARY 13, 2021

Don't miss the 2021 SRA Black and Gold Auction! It may look a little different from last year's, but it will certainly be a good time in your own home!

When: Saturday, February 13, 2021

Where: Online!

What: Silent Auction with extra goodies such as an Auction Swag Bag for \$75 per household and dinner from Bartolino's Osteria for \$25 per person

Get your Auction Swag Bag tickets today - limited quantities available!

<https://blackandgold21.givesmart.com/>

BLACK & GOLD AUCTION NIGHT SPECIAL AT BARTOLINO'S OSTERIA

The Saracino family has graciously offered a dinner special from Bartolino's Osteria for Auction Night! For \$25 per person + tax + gratuity, you can choose one of the following menu options:

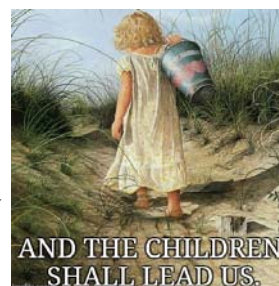
Steak Modiga, side salad, and side of pasta - or - Chicken Spedini, side salad, and side of pasta

To order your meal, please call Bartolino's Osteria at 314.644.2266. ***Please have your dinner orders placed for the Auction Night Special by February 5, 2021.*** Our auction falls on Valentine's Day weekend, so the restaurant needs ample time to plan accordingly. Meals need to be picked up on February 13, 2021, before 5:00pm. So delicious - don't miss out on this yummy deal! For more information about Bartolino's menu, please check their website: bartolinosrestaurants.com/osteria.

WINTER OUTREACH A MINISTRY OF MERCY

The following is an excerpt from an email that was received from a "Blessed Baker" that is truly heart warming.

"I want to have my granddaughter help me. We read a book, *"One Boy's Magic."* The week after we read it, she wanted to make cards for the homeless. She is in virtual Kindergarten and comes to my house everyday because I am helping her. She is just learning to write. So she wrote, "You are special. I care." on 9 index cards. Then she put a bottle of water and a snack and one of her cards in separate grocery bags and wanted to go "find some homeless people" to give them to. My husband and I actually drove downtown to where they have set up some tents and gave them these bags. It was very sweet. I know she will want to help me make some food for them."



It is a message like this that continues to energize this ministry, along with all of you who so generously give of your blessings. We continue to fill the homeless shelter with amazing food, coffee, socks, gloves, scarves and other warm clothes so that they may help us to help others. As the temperatures begin to drop, they are so grateful to all of you for helping them prepare to open their doors to our homeless brothers and sisters. Thank you for your witness of God's love in the world.

We will once again be at the far end of the OLS parking lot (toward Macklind) to make it easier for drop off.

Casseroles--Baked and Frozen

- Wrap securely in aluminum foil to prevent leakage and freezer burn
- Mark on top what kind of casserole it is & date it January 16, 2021

Desserts--Baked and Frozen

- Make sure they have a secure lid (no plastic lids) so they do not get smashed
- Wrap securely in aluminum foil to prevent leakage and freezer burn
- Mark on top what kind of dessert it is and date it 1/16/21.
- Remember to wear a mask when dropping off your dish...Thank You!

Please give your name to the person who takes your donation, so we know when all dishes have arrived. If anyone needs to drop off or have their donations picked up ahead of time, please call 314.374.1712.

SRA has several very generous families that are participating. Thank you!



Saint Raphael the Archangel

Black & Gold Dinner Auction

All donations must be received by January 25, 2021.

For more information call 314-352-8100

Ticket Information Coming Soon!



Donation Form

Donor _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Description (Quantity, Size, Color, Restrictions, Expiration Date, Etc.) _____

Value of Donation _____ Donor Signature _____

_____ Please arrange for SRA to pick up item(s) _____ Item(s) to be delivered to SRA

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SAINT RAPHAEL SCHOOL

Saint Raphael the Archangel is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.
Federal Tax ID # 43-0653561 NCEA 246242

QUESTIONS?

Contact the rectory office at 314-352-8100

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

- _____ TANGIBLE ITEMS TO DISPLAY
- _____ GIFT CERTIFICATE(S) PROVIDED BY DONOR
- _____ SRA TO CREATE CERTIFICATE(S) FOR DONATED ITEM(S)

CATALOG ITEM # _____ CATALOG SECTION _____

TO BE PACKAGED WITH _____

STORAGE LOCATION _____ SOLICITED BY _____

NOTES/SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS _____

School of St. Raphael the Archangel • 6000 Jamieson Avenue • St. Louis, MO 63109

auction@straphaelarchangel.org

Thank you for your support!



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: _____

E-mail: _____

Please check the appropriate item(s):

_____ New Parishioner

_____ New Phone/E-mail/Address

_____ Please Contact Me

_____ Please Do Not Publish #