

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2019



KENRICK-GLENNON
SEMINARY

YOUR

FUTURE

PRIESTS

Seminary Christmas Collection
December 24-25, 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. 23-29, 2019**

Monday, December 23

7:00am - Church	Mass
8:00am - Church	Mass
3:30pm - Gym	3rd Gr. Girls Bball.
5:00pm - Gym	1st & 3rd Gr. Boys Ball.
6:00pm - Parish Office	Finance Council
6:30pm - Gym	4th Gr. Boys Bball.
7:00pm - Guardian Angel Rm.	St. Vincent de Paul
7:00pm - Cafeteria	Scouts
7:15pm - Parish Office	Development Comm.
7:30pm - Church	So. City Men's Recl.
7:30pm - Gym	8th Gr. Boys Bball.

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

7:00am - Church	Mass
4:30pm - Church	Mass
9:40pm - Church	Hymns and Carols
10:00pm - Church	Mass

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day

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

Thursday, December 26

7:00am - Church	Mass
3:30pm - Gym	7th Gr. Boys Bball.
5:00pm - Gym	5th Gr. Boys Bball.
6:30pm - Gym	4th Gr. Girls Bball.
7:30pm - Gym	3rd Gr. Girls Bball.

Friday, December 27

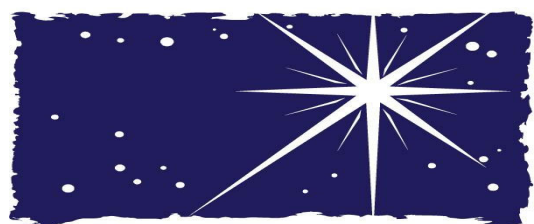
7:00am - Church	Mass
3:30pm - Gym	7th Gr. Girls Bball.

Saturday, December 28

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

Sunday, December 29

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



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

Happy Advent!

We are a mere couple of days away from Christmas. Certainly this weekend, there will be many parties and celebrations to mark our annual celebration of this holiday.

Consider, though, that how we end is just as important as how we begin. I remember sitting and watching Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Finals and holding my breath until the final minute and a half. Even though we had a lead, I feared the team would sit on that lead and end up losing the game because of this change in attitude.

Perhaps we have had a good Advent Season this year. Perhaps we lament that we have not done more to prepare for Jesus' coming. Wherever we are on that continuum, ending this season of preparation well is important.

Ending well will help us to be prepared for whatever grace God wants to give us through celebrating Jesus' birth this year. It will mean that we are watching, prepared to experience Jesus' birth with Mary and Joseph and to be by the shepherds' side as they hear the good news.

How can I end this Advent well and be spiritually prepared for Jesus' birth?

Sacrament of Reconciliation

This evening, we will have this sacrament available for anyone who would like to receive it prior to Christmas. From 4:00-5:00pm, Msgr. Joseph Simon, in residence at St. Gabriel the Archangel, will be available for confessions. From 5:00-7:00pm, either Msgr. Stehly or I will be available.

The last scheduled time for confessions is Christmas Eve morning (12/24) from 6:45-6:55am. If there are more confessions than that time allows, I will return to the confessional after Mass until everyone who would like to receive the sacrament has had the opportunity to do so.

If neither of these times works for you, please contact Monsignor or me for an appointment to receive the sacrament.

Eucharistic Adoration

We will not have Eucharistic Adoration this week on Tuesday or Wednesday due to Christmas. We will adore the Lord on Thursday, December 26 from 3:00-10:00pm.

Eucharistic Adoration will not end this year with the coming of the New Year! We will continue Eucharistic Adoration each Wednesday from 3:00-10:00pm beginning on January 8. There is a signup list near the sign-in table in the chapel/Guardian Angel Room. Please continue to sign up and drop by to spend time with Our Lord.

Advent Visits by Fr. John

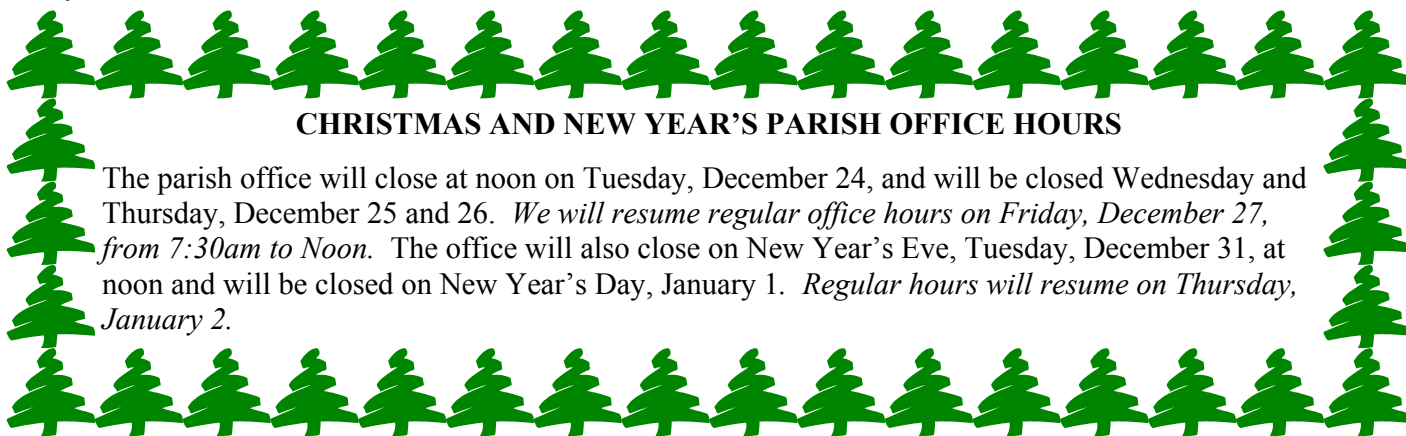
If you or someone you know would like a visit to bring Communion or to hear confession/receive the anointing of the sick, please give me a call. This period of preparation is a great time to receive these sacraments and calling soon will get the date on my calendar so I can make a visit before Christmas.

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!

On behalf of Msgr. Stehly, Deacon Geiser, and our entire staff here at St. Raphael the Archangel, we wish you and your families a Blessed celebration of Christmas this year!

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



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will close at noon on Tuesday, December 24, and will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, December 25 and 26. *We will resume regular office hours on Friday, December 27, from 7:30am to Noon.* The office will also close on New Year's Eve, Tuesday, December 31, at noon and will be closed on New Year's Day, January 1. *Regular hours will resume on Thursday, January 2.*



Sunday, December 22

8:00am Joan Ahrens
10:00am People of the Parish

Monday, December 23

7:00am Rose LaFata
8:00am Sr. Suzanne Hulford

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

7:00am Fr. Charles Burgoon
4:30pm Judy & Neil Svetanics

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day

8:00am Maureen Mabry Hizer
10:00am Paul Sokolich

Thursday, December 26

7:00am Benjamin Brumley

Friday, December 27

7:00am Robert Hoeyneck

Saturday, December 28

7:00am Kathy Harbaugh Fitzgerald
4:30pm Liz Rayborn

Sunday, December 29

8:00am People of the Parish
10:00am Caleb Reidhead

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.

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.

THE VOCATION CHALICE

Please consider taking the Vocation Chalice into your home for a week. During that week, the host family will be asked to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious Life. To learn more about the program, contact a member of the St. Raphael Serra Committee: Barb Cramer, George Kerry, Bob Ahrens, or Bart Saracino. To sign up for a week, please call Maureen Ahrens at 314.353.8444 or email at reahrens40@att.net.



**PRAYER FOR LIGHTING THE
ADVENT WREATH CANDLE
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

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.

ALTAR SERVERS

SERVERS FOR DEC. 23-29, 2019

Monday, December 23

7:00am	Lydia Eddingfield	Claire Fuhr
8:00am	Liam McMorrow	Lucas Feldman

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

7:00am	Volunteers Needed	
4:30pm	Eva Thompson	Cate Guenther
	Anna-Grace Guenther	Flora Borowiak
10:00pm	Madalene Cierpiot	Andrew Kellar
	Volunteer Needed	

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day

7:00am	Alex Sullivan	Volunteer
10:00am	Matthew Franz	Volunteer
	Volunteer Needed	

Thursday, December 26

7:00am	Nahima Ramirez	Dalila Ramirez
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Friday, December 27

7:00am	Christian Concepcion	Lydia Eddingfield
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Saturday, December 28

7:00am	Ryan Pinkerton	Isabella Pfeiffer
4:30pm	Madalene Cierpiot	Ryan Pinkerton
	Brendan Cierpiot	

Sunday, December 29

8:00am	Josh Abbott	Joey Raymo
	Jio Raymo	
10:00am	Flora Borowiak	Claire Fuhr
	Charlie Dirnbeck	

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." (Matthew 1:24)

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

MINISTERS/LECTORS FOR THE WEEKEND OF DEC. 28-29, 2019

LECTORS

4:30pm	8:00am	10:00am
Matt Fuhr	Amy Ruggeri	Denise Howard

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.

PRAYER FOR STEWARDSHIP

*Lord Jesus, create in us new hearts.
Pour your spirit upon us so that we may
do the will of the Father.*

NEEDED: EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Do you love the Eucharist? Do you love to serve?

If so, we ask that you prayerfully consider becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

Training is available and is quick and easy. Please contact Fr. John if you are interested.

REMEMBER TO SUPPORT SRA!

1. Visit [smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).
2. Select St. Raphael the Archangel as the organization you will support.
3. Make your purchase as normal.
4. We receive a percentage of your purchase.
5. You feel good for helping us while making a purchase you need!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

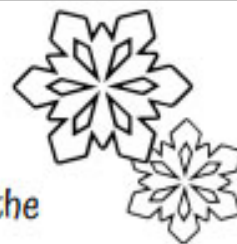
Please consider joining our Ministry of Mercy by providing one or more of the following: 9 x 13 casserole (meat, vegetable or breakfast). Also desserts for 12 to 24 servings. Food is to be dropped off at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall by 1:00pm. If needed, arrangements can be made for pick up. If you 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



Friday, January 10
Saturday, January 18
Sunday, January 26

Friday, January 31
Saturday, February 8

Alpha Resumes
Snowflake Ball
Catholic Schools Week Begins
with Open House
Grandparent’s Day
Black and Gold Dinner Auction



All girls of St. Raphael the Archangel School or Parish
in kindergarten through 8th grade please join us
with your father or special someone for a glamorous evening at the

Father Daughter Snowflake Ball

Date: Saturday, January 18, 2020

Time: 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Place: St. Raphael the Archangel School Gymnasium



Appetizers and Desserts

\$35.00 per family

Photo Booth and Dancing



Glamorous Evening Attire

Sponsored by the Girl Scouts of St. Raphael the Archangel School

Please return reservation form and money
in an envelope to the school office marked
Snowflake Ball by Friday, January 10th.
Please make your check payable to **SRA**.

For further information, please contact
Donna Videmschek at 314.306.2668 or
dvidemschek@stjosephacademy.org.

*Father Daughter
Snowflake Ball*



Reservation Form

Family name: _____

Number attending: _____

ALPHA IS CONTINUING AT SRA! AND YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN!

Alpha is a chance to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. If you're less than satisfied with the way your life is going... If you long for a more meaningful relationship with God... If you have more questions than answers... then Alpha is for you! Join us for a great meal and conversation with others as we delve into the meaning of life and faith. Our first session was fun and informative and you're not too late to come and see for yourself...what have you got to lose?

Our next session is Friday, January 10, 6:30 - 9:00pm in the lower level of the parish office, for adults of all ages, backgrounds, and religious orientation. Feel free to invite a friend to come with you! Free childcare is available. Dinner is only for adult participants; children should eat before coming or bring their own meal; juice and snack will be offered. To register, please call, text or email Mary Reck 314.326.6996 or mjreck@gmail.com.



at

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: 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]

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY NUT SALE

Holiday baking is over, but nuts always make a good, healthy snack and Super Bowl will be here before you know it!

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.

FROM ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus will be named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." The mystery of the birth of Jesus is supremely a mystery of love. May each Christmas find us more and more like him: more humble, more holy, more happy, and more full of God. During Advent, please pray for the poor and suffering, that through the help of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, they may find Emmanuel and come to know that "God is with us."



CARDINAL RIGALI CENTER
20 ARCHBISHOP MAY DRIVE
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63119
P) 314.792.7841
F) 314.792.7842
ARCHSTL.ORG

ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Christmas 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Rejoice! The weeks of Advent waiting are over, and Christ is born!

We rejoice in our Savior's birth—remembering the great gift of faith He has given us through the mystery of His incarnation and the saving power of His death and resurrection.

Each year, the people of the archdiocese are asked to make a special gift on Christmas Day to support our seminarians at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. These men are responding to Christ's call to follow Him as they discern a vocation to the holy priesthood. This year, more than 140 men have dedicated themselves to living, growing, and serving in His love as they prepare for a life of parish ministry. God-willing, these men will bring the faith given to us by Christ 2000 years ago to future generations.

This Christmas, I ask you, once again, to pray for vocations and for all our priests and seminarians. I also ask you to be generous in your donation to the Christmas collection at your parish, which helps ensure that our seminarians receive the education and formation they need to grow closer to Christ each day. Your support is a source of inspiration for the seminarians and helps to build up the Church in St. Louis. Together, we can encourage our future priests to walk the path of holiness as they seek to configure their hearts to the Heart of Jesus Christ.

Please be assured of my prayers for you during the season of Christmas. May the Lord of life come into your hearts and homes in a special way during this holy time of year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson
Archbishop of St. Louis

SCHOOL NEWS

From Mr. Spurgeon, STREAM Coordinator

The 8th grade class is well into its final pieces of learning about the various different cells. Students are currently in the process of drafting a comic strip that must tell a story about the unique qualities and adaptations of both plant and animal cells. This synthesis of information requires students to bring together all they know of both cells and apply it in a more abstract way! Some comic strips I've already seen are off to an excellent start.

The 7th grade class is moving forward into the comic strip activity with the 8th graders as well. The students are expected not only to show me unique qualities and adaptations, but to create an illustrated and engaging story. I am really excited by the ideas I have already seen or talked about with students.

The 6th graders just finished some microscope work to actually identify plant and animal cell parts. From here they are joining the two upper grades on

beginning their work on the comic strip activity. Once again, this is another group to bring interesting and fun ideas into the activity.

The 5th graders are all but finished with the Earth, Sun, and Moon unit and will be taking a test in the coming weeks over all they have learned. Students have been expected to know the rotation, revolution, and tilt of the Earth and Moon. With looking at those, students are expected to know what those words mean and how they affect us every day.

The 4th graders have moved through learning about states of matter and physical and chemical changes. Moving forward they will have a test in the near future over the material covered. Recently in class we also experimented with how vinegar and salt create an acid that removes the tarnish from old pennies (pre-1982) and how those copper particles can adhere to steel nails. It was a fun and exciting experiment for the students to do.



SRA GIRL SCOUTS SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS



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 #