

SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2020

Reading I

Is. 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

Responsorial Psalm

PS 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Reading II

2 PT 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

Gospel

MK. 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. (Gospel 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.

Gospel (Continued)

John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

This week, we will celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This feast is important for a couple of reasons.

First, it marks the proximate beginning of God's plan of salvation through Mary's conception in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. This conception was unique, because Mary was preserved from the stain of original sin. God kept this from her so that she would be able to be the mother of His Son, whose coming we await this Advent season.

Second, it is important for us in the United States, since Mary under this title is the patroness of our country. While it is good every year for us to gather to pray to Mary on this feast, with the ongoing pandemic and the changes in leadership due to the election, it is an especially good year to ask Mary's intercession for our country.

While this is normally a Holy Day of Obligation, because of the pandemic and the dispensation it is not a holy day of obligation this year. We will still celebrate the Mass as if it were a feast day. The Mass times will be:

- December 7: 7:00pm
- December 8: 7:00am, 8:00am (school only), 7:00pm

Except for the 7:00pm Mass on December 8, all of the Masses will be live-streamed for the feast.

Classes will be held for the school on December 8. However, the parish office will be closed for the feast day.

Eucharistic Adoration

We will have Eucharistic Adoration each Wednesday of December from 3:00-9:00pm. Please see the Signup Genius link on Flocknote to sign up or

contact the parish office.

Extended Confession Times

On Saturday, December 12, and Saturday, December 19, we will offer extended confession times in preparation for Christmas. One of the parish priests will be available beginning at 2:00pm in the confessional near the organ and a priest will be hearing confessions until 4:20pm on each of these days. There is no formal service as part of these days...simply come in and go to confession! We do ask that you keep your social distance as you pray before and after confession and as you wait in line to receive the sacrament.

Sunday Evening Prayer

Join us in the church or on our YouTube channel at 5:30pm on Sunday as we pray evening prayer together and reflect on St. Joseph!

Christmas Eve 4:30pm Masses

The Masses at 4:30pm on Christmas Eve are beginning to fill up! If you have not done so already, please sign up by calling or e-mailing the parish office. Your RSVP is essential so you can guarantee your place at this first Mass of Christmas.

Normally, we have close to 800 people in church for this Mass. This year with the pandemic, we simply cannot allow this number. We are asking people who did not sign up to attend one of the other Masses on Christmas. Thank you for your understanding and your help in this matter!

Happy Advent! I will see you online or in Church! - Fr. John #SRAstrong

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.

LARGE-PRINT MISSALETTES



The new, large-print edition of the *Pray Together* missalettes for November through March are now available. If you would like one, please stop by the parish office to pick one up. The office hours are Monday - Thursday from 7:30am until 4:00pm and Friday from 7:30am until noon.

FROM ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our families, and in the lives of the needy.

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving and we thank you for your generous donations this past year, which have enabled us to share your goodness with many people. Unfortunately, our account is nearly depleted because of so many Covid-impacted cases. May we count on you again? Please give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

ADVENT GIVING TREE



Our Advent Giving Tree this year will once again sponsor Peter & Paul Community Services. In addition to their meal program, P&P offers various supportive services to those who are homeless, many who are living with mental illness, addiction, or HIV/AIDS. Due to current events, the "gifts" to the Giving Tree will only be monetary. All money collected will be used by P&P to provide those in transitional housing with gift cards to purchase needed household and personal items.

Kindly place your donation in an envelope marked "Peter and Paul Community Services." You can put it in the collection basket, drop it off at the parish office, or mail it to the parish office. Checks should be payable to "St. Raphael" and are due NO LATER than December 16.

We are grateful for your continued generosity, allowing us to provide needed support to this organization that is working hard to improve and change lives for the better. Thank you to all who are able to participate in this Advent Season of giving to those in need.

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.

HOLIDAYS AND HOLY DAYS MASS SCHEDULE

Immaculate Conception Vigil (December 7)
7:00pm

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
7:00am
8:00am (In school, students only)
7:00pm

Christmas Eve (December 24)
7:00am (In church, no signup required)
4:30pm (In church and gym, signup required)

Christmas Eve (December 24) (Continued)
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



Sunday, December 6

8:00am People of the Parish
10:00 Logan Warnecke

Monday, December 7

7:00am Cramer Family
8:00am Rosemary Doerr
7:00pm People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 8

7:00am Frank Bahr
8:00am Ursula Rudoff
7:00pm James Becker

Wednesday, December 9

7:00am Joan Hulford
8:00am Nino Vitale

Thursday, December 10

7:00am Marcia Matreci
8:00am Steve and Eileen Harbaugh

Friday, December 11

7:00am John Kevin Lorson

Saturday, December 12

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

Sunday, December 13

8:00am Rose Lafata
10:00am Don Deachan

Your Contributions to God and Parish

Your Contributions to God and Parish

November 22, 2020

(Envelopes Used)	This Week	FY to Date
Regular Env. (57)	\$ 2,403.00	\$ 90,050.00
Loose Money	\$ 283.00	\$ 17,418.00
School Support	\$ 59.00	\$ 3,069.00
Building Fund	\$ 95.00	\$ 4,035.00
Holy Days	\$ 85.00	\$ 1,953.00
Online Giving (51)	\$ 2,416.00	\$ 52,787.00
Catholic Campaign - Human Dev.	(\$ 340.00)	
Grand Total	\$ 5,681.00	
Total for Parish	\$ 5,341.00	\$ 169,679.00
Amount Needed	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 189,000.00
Difference	(\$ 3,659.00)	(15,662.00)
FYE 2020		(\$ 37,795.00)

November 29, 2020

(Envelopes Used)	This Week	FY to Date
Regular Env. (54)	\$ 2,778.00	\$ 92,828.00
Loose Money	\$ 448.00	\$ 17,866.00
School Support	\$ 210.00	\$ 3,279.00
Building Fund	\$ 450.00	\$ 4,485.00
Holy Days	\$ 85.00	\$ 2,038.00
Online Giving (53)	\$ 2,636.00	\$ 55,423.00
Catholic Campaign - Human. Dev.	(\$ 175.00)	
Tithing	(\$ 20.00)	
Seminary	(\$ 50.00)	
Thanksgiving	(\$ 265.00)	
Grand Total	\$ 7,117.00	
Total for Parish	\$ 6,607.00	
Amount Needed	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 198,000.00
Difference	(\$ 2,393.00)	(\$ 18,055.00)
FYE 2020		(\$ 37,795.00)

Last Week!



Time is running out! This beautiful, handmade quilt will be raffled after the 10:00am Mass next Sunday, December 13. If you still need tickets, please contact the parish office at 314.352.8100.

DAILY READINGS

- Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
- Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9, 10-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4; Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
- Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

WINTER OUTREACH A MINISTRY OF MERCY

Encouraged by our Catholic Social Teachings: "Option for the Poor and Vulnerable," many parish communities are committed to St. Louis Winter Outreach as a 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)

As winter approaches, our homeless "brethren" will spend cold days and nights on the streets of St. Louis. In an effort to give them some comfort, we ask your help in providing meals to an overnight shelter during the coldest months. Drivers are also needed to deliver the meals at 1:00pm to Americorps Shelter (1315 Ann Street) on the following days.

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 12, 2020 JANUARY 16, 2021 FEBRUARY 13, 2021

Please consider joining our Ministry of Mercy by providing one or more of the following:

9 x 13 Casserole (Meat, Vegetable or Breakfast) Dessert (12 to 24 Servings)



All dishes must be brought baked, frozen, wrapped and marked, and may be store-bought. Food is to be dropped off at Our Lady of Sorrows Parking Lot at 1:00pm. If needed, arrangements can be made for pick up from your home ahead of time. For more information, to share a dish and/or be a driver, please contact Mary Ellen Mueller at 314.374.1712 or email maryem@brick.net.

SRA ST. VINCENT de PAUL CONFERENCE UPDATE

These unprecedented times have impacted many with health concerns, job loss, financial strain, loneliness, and worry. As a result, the requests for help from our neighbors have grown as well. Thanks to your ongoing donations, we have been able to provide needed financial support, allowing families to stay in their homes, keep their utilities running, and put food on their tables. In addition, we are connecting our neighbors with other agencies who have stepped up with COVID relief funding and resource support.

Since the start of the pandemic in March, we have pledged:

- \$16,635 in Rent Payments
- \$11,508 for Utilities
- \$3,050 in Food Vouchers

These costs far exceed what we have historically budgeted and spent; and, although our funds have depleted significantly, we fully trust in God that we will be able to continue to respond to those in need.

What can you do to help?

Please keep our neighbors in your prayers.

- Check on your neighbors too - a phone call can go a long way.
- Consider making a donation to our local food pantries which are in dire need. Our school children continue to collect food. Each month deliveries are made to the Affton Food Pantry.
- Continue to provide financial support to SVdP if you are able.

We are grateful for your ongoing support and generosity that allow us to serve as SVdP Vincentians. Thank you.

"The pandemic provides a great opportunity for us to remember our three pillars: Spirituality, Friendship, and Service. Let us remember our fellow Vincentians and our neighbors in our prayers. Let us be a friend to the lonely, the sick, and the suffering. Let us serve our neighbors to the best of our ability."
St. Louis SVdP Council Leadership



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://smile.amazon.com) 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.



While we cannot celebrate our Auction in person this year, we still hope to provide a memorable night!

This year, for the purchase price of \$75, your ticket will arrive to your home in the form of our Auction Gift Bag! Each gift bag will include:

- An SRA Auction Wine Tote Bag
- Two SRA Auction Wine Tumblers
- An SRA Auction corkscrew/bottle opener
- A cozy SRA throw blanket
- Two bottles of wine (your choice of red or white)

Our auction page will go live very soon so you can customize your package. We will deliver your SRA swag the day of the Auction.

We have an extremely limited amount of this SRA gear. Purchase your package early to join in the fun!



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 #