

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

SECOND

Sunday

of

Advent

On that day,
a shoot shall sprout
from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots
a bud shall blossom.

Isaiah 11:1

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December 8, 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. 9-15, 2019**

Monday, December 9

7:00am - Church	Mass
8:00am - Church	Mass
7:00pm - Tobias Room	Parish Council
7:00pm - Raphael Room	St. Vincent de Paul
7:00pm - Cafeteria	Scouts

Tuesday, December 10

7:00am - Church	Mass
8:00am - Church	Mass
7:00pm - Church	Rosary Recitation
7:30pm - Tobias Room	Prayerful Scripture
7:30pm - Cafeteria	Cub Pack Meeting

Wednesday, December 11

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	Adult Choir
7:00pm - Parish Office	HSA
8:30pm - Gym	Men's Basketball

Thursday, December 12

7:00am - Church	Mass
8:00am - Church	Mass
2:00pm - School	Preschool Dance
3:00pm - School	K-5th Gr. Dance
3:15pm - School	Chess Club
6:30pm - Gym	Christmas Performance
7:00pm - Guardian Angel Rm.	Men's Prayer Group

Friday, December 13

7:00am - Church	Mass
4:15pm - Cafeteria	1st Gr. Girl Scouts

Saturday, December 14

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

Sunday, December 15

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

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

Rapture?

From the Gospel of St. Matthew 24:40-41

Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left.

One popular take on this Gospel passage and ones like it is to see this as “the rapture.” The rapture is an event that the Bible supposedly prophesies where the Lord will take the just to heaven. Those who are left behind on earth will suffer many calamities due to their sins and opposition of the just. This idea was the premise behind the famous “Left Behind” book series that for awhile was very popular.

Rapture, for its claim of being a Biblical idea, did not come into being until the 1800s. John Nelson Darby, an Anglican priest in Ireland, was the one who first proposed it. He began his service as a priest in rural Ireland and quit after parishioners were forced to swear an oath that the King of England was the true King of Ireland. Returning to Dublin, he studied with a group of companions. Their theology gradually diverged from the Anglican church that they all eventually left. Without a church to preach in, Darby wrote a book and began a book tour. His ideas were rejected in Ireland and England, but they were well received in Canada and in the United States, among other places.

The Catholic Church rejects the idea of rapture. The faith as received from the Apostles is clear: we look for a second coming of Christ where He will gather us all for the general judgement. There has never been an understanding from scripture or tradition that Christ will return, take some to Heaven, and then come back to judge.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

This Feast Day of Mary is important to us for a couple of different reasons. This unique grace given to Mary, to be conceived free from original sin, allows her to become Jesus’ mother. It is also important to us here in the United States because this Feast Day celebrates the patroness of our nation.

Almost always then, this day is a Holy Day of Obligation...except this year. December 8 falls on a Sunday, meaning the Second Sunday of Advent trumps the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. While the feast day transfers to tomorrow, Monday, December 9, the obligation to attend Mass does not transfer.

We do encourage you, however, to join us on Monday for this special feast by celebrating at our regular Mass times of 7:00am and 8:00am.

50 and Beyond Update

Thank you for your continued support of our 50 and Beyond Capital Campaign. This month, we will receive a distribution of \$21,429.98 from our donors who have contributed to the campaign this past quarter.

Continuing to receive these funds is important to the future of our parish. We are concluding our evaluation process for roof repair and these funds help to pay for this very crucial work. Thank you to all who continue to donate to this campaign!

In Gratitude

Thank you to Qi Franz, Mary Guenther, and Lisa Mitchell for organizing our Advent Wreath Making last weekend! It was my first time being at such an event, and it was great to see the number of young people and adults participating in this family and faith event.

Eucharistic Adoration

Our first week of Eucharistic Adoration went very well and we look for this to continue! Please check the signup list in the back of church as we have some slots next week that still need adorers of the Lord.

Alternatively, you can sign up for Adoration online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050945a4ab29a46-eucharistic1>.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Next Sunday and the following Sunday, we will have special times for Eucharistic Adoration from 4:00 - 7:00pm. This is an easy way to go to confession...there is no penance service. Simply come when you want, spend as much time as you would like in prayer, go to confession, and remain for a time in church afterward.

We are happy to welcome a visiting priest to SRA for the first hour (4:00 - 5:00pm) each Sunday, with the other two hours covered by Monsignor Stehly or me. Our visiting priests will be:

December 15: Fr. Kevin Schmittgens (Pastor of Holy Redeemer in Webster Groves)

December 22: Msgr. Joseph Simon (In residence at St. Gabriel the Archangel)

Donut Sunday is next Sunday on Gaudete Sunday!

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



Sunday, December 8

8:00am Shirley May Prasse
10:00am People of the Parish

Monday, December 9

7:00am Emily West
8:00am Joseph Grana

Tuesday, December 10

7:00am Ernie Winkelmann
8:00am Hodes Family, SI

Wednesday, December 11

7:00am Howard and Joan Pfeifer
8:00am Eileen Harbaugh

Thursday, December 12

7:00am Rod Wulfert
8:00am Lucille Domijan

Friday, December 13

7:00am Don Deachan

Saturday, December 14

7:00am Rebecca Cross, SI
4:30pm Jean Robertson

Sunday, December 15

8:00am People of the Parish
10:00am Marcia Matreci

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.

ALTAR SERVERS

SERVERS FOR DEC. 9-15, 2019

Monday, December 9

7:00am	Maggie Anstey	Ryan Pinkerton
8:00am	Brandon Young	Cillian Sheehan

Tuesday, December 10

7:00am	Nahima Ramirez	Dalila Ramirez
8:00am	Brandon Young	Cillian Sheehan

Wednesday, December 11

7:00am	Anna-Grace Guenther	Cate Guenther
8:00am	Brandon Young	Cillian Sheehan

Thursday, December 12

7:00am	Kallista Hiatt	David Hiatt
8:00am	Brandon Young	Cillian Sheehan

Friday, December 13

7:00am	Flora Borowiak	Gavin Smith
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Saturday, December 14

7:00am	Alex Atchison	Gavin Smith
4:30pm	Madalene Cierpiot	Matthew Franz
	Brendan Cierpiot	

Sunday, December 15

8:00am	Lydia Bick	Henry Cyr
	Jack Stein	
10:00am	Avery Bradshaw	Cillian Sheehan
	Ethan Bradshaw	

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, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." (Matthew 3:10)

Do we bear good fruit for Christ? Or do we spend our time, talent, and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter, and junk? Our time, our talent, and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts are we planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

MINISTERS/LECTORS FOR THE WEEKEND OF DEC. 14-15, 2019

LECTORS

4:30pm	8:00am	10:00am
Jerri Blassie	Barb Cramer	Frosty Hodes

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

November 24, 2019
(Envelopes Used)

	This Week	FY to Date
Regular Env. (73)	\$ 3,990.00	\$ 91,423.00
Loose Money	\$ 1,452.00	\$ 23,248.00
School Support	\$ 120.00	\$ 2,233.00
Building Fund	\$ 100.00	\$ 3,598.00
Holy Days	\$ 147.00	\$ 2,116.00
Online Giving (45)	\$ 2,232.00	\$ 47,868.00
Altar Flowers	\$ 10.00	
Military Services	(\$ 110.00)	
Human Development	(\$ 150.00)	
Hymnals	\$ 65.00	
Retired Religious	(\$ 135.00)	
Grand Total	\$ 8,511.00	
Total for Parish	\$ 8,116.00	\$ 172,311.00
Amount Needed	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 189,000.00
Difference	(\$ 884.00)	(\$ 16,689.00)
FYE 2019		(\$ 39,072.00)

Your Contributions to God and Parish

December 1, 2019
(Envelopes Used)

	This Week	FY to Date
Regular Env. (83)	\$ 4,954.00	\$ 96,377.00
Loose Money	\$ 859.00	\$ 24,107.00
School Support	\$ 140.00	\$ 2,373.00
Building Fund	\$ 530.00	\$ 4,128.00
Holy Days	\$ 140.00	\$ 2,256.00
Online Giving (45)	\$ 1,612.00	\$ 49,480.00
Altar Flowers	\$ 10.00	
Retired Religious	(\$ 25.00)	
Seminary	(\$ 35.00)	
Christmas Flowers	\$ 360.00	
Tithing	(\$ 50.00)	
Grand Total	\$ 8,715.00	
Total for Parish	\$ 8,605.00	\$ 180,916.00
Amount Needed	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 198,000.00
Difference	(\$ 395.00)	(\$ 17,084.00)
FYE 2019		(\$ 39,072.00)



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

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



With the blessing of our new hymnal, *Ritual Song*, a time of transition begins. You will notice that the books are indeed bigger and heavier than our previous ones. The song boards display numbers that list the hymns and also the readings. The Sunday readings number is at the very top along with the location of the Responsorial Psalm. Then, under the HYMNS sign, will be the numbers for the various hymns. When we change to a new Mass setting, that number will be listed too. Thanks for your patience as we move along.

Thank you as well for the over \$1,800 in remembrances to help pay for the hymnals and boards!

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
5 Packages Gourmet Mix	\$10 Each
8 Packages Salted Cashews	\$10 Each
9 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.

MORE DATES TO SAVE!

Sunday, January 26
Catholic Schools Week Begins

Friday, January 31
Grandparent's Day

Saturday, February 8
Black and Gold Dinner Auction

School News

From Mrs. Hayes, Principal

The virtue for the month of December is PATIENCE - waiting or enduring without complaint. December is a perfect month to spend a little more time praying for God's assistance in helping us grow in the virtue of Patience. Hopefully, as we grow in patience we are less bothered by the difficult times or little challenges of our day. Also, think about the times we can model patience for our children by waiting gracefully in the line at a crowded store or catching ourselves when we begin to complain about a situation. Patience is a virtue for all ages.

From Mrs. Schmidt, First Grade

Our first graders have enjoyed using their writing in a creative way for Thanksgiving. They disguised a turkey for Thanksgiving and wrote a story about their turkey. They also created their own list of foods that they think should be served on Thanksgiving. They really came up with some great ideas. Just recently they read a book

about wild turkeys and learned the difference between fact and fiction.

From Mrs. Knauer, Fifth Grade

The fifth graders have been studying the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We discussed where the Sacrament comes from and the meaning behind it. We are now going through each part of the Mass and discussing in-depth why we do and say the things we do during the liturgy. During math, the students have been working on their decimals unit. They have learned how to read, write, order and compare them. We are now working on solving problems that include decimals. In literature, the students have been very excited about "Book Club." Each student is expected to read a portion of the book and complete a job that they will share with the rest of the group. The jobs will help the students with asking questions, connecting text, summarizing, finding, and learning the meaning of interesting words, and visualizing.

WINTER OUTREACH A MINISTRY OF MERCY

A simple message, a difficult task... With hands reaching out in need from every direction this season, it is often difficult to find the time or energy to reach back. Please consider making a casserole or dessert for our December 14 commitment date, if you have not already done so. Remember, it can be made ahead of time and frozen for this date. May you find some peaceful time each Advent day to form a heart with your hands and meditate on all the blessings God allows to flow through your hands to others. God bless your hearts and hearths, which are working overtime right now.

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

LADIES' CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER AND PARTY

The Ladies' Club Christmas Party will be on Thursday, December 19, in 7:00pm 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:	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	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
Friday:	Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday:	Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

PRAYER FOR LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



We will be hosting a "Share Night" to benefit the SRA 8th Grade Mystery Trip and Graduation.

Tuesday, December 10, 5:00-8:00pm
10200 Big Bend Blvd.

Members of our class will help serve food!

Come join the fun and help support the St. Raphael 8th Grade Class!



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](https://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!

FROM ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." This is what Advent is all about, for we are called to help prepare the way by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our families, and in the needy. Is there a family that needs assistance? Please call the parish office to refer them to our conference so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

BLACK AND GOLD AUCTION NEWS!

Thank you to our 2018 SRA Auction Sponsors, LPMiceli and Schicker Ford! We are so fortunate to have amazing families like the Micelis and the Schickers in our St. Raphael Family. Thank you for sponsoring our 2018 SRA Auction. We could not have done it without you!

Interested in being a sponsor for the 2020 SRA Auction? Please contact Liz Berry at auktion@straphaelarchangel.org.

Tickets are on sale now! Visit blackandgold20.givesmart.com to get yours!



ADVENT WREATH MAKING 2019



THE VOCATION CHALICE



The St. Raphael Vocation Chalice Program will soon be one-year old. If you, as an individual, a couple, or a family, have not had the opportunity to take the Chalice home for one week to pray for vocations, please contact Maureen Ahrens at 314.353.8444 or e-mail at

reahrens40@att.net to be scheduled in the near future. To learn more about the program, ask a member of the SRA Serra Committee: Barb Cramer, George Kerry, Bob Ahrens, or Bart Saracino.



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

LIVE NATIVITY

"For Unto Us a Child Is Born..."

- Isaiah 9:6

See the Christmas story come to life with carolers, live animals, wise men, shepherds, angels, Mary & Joseph, and the baby Jesus.

December 14th from 5:30pm - 9:00pm

Follow the search light to Ascension Lutheran Church!

5347 Donovan Ave., St. Louis MO 63109

AscensionSTL.com | (314) 832-5600



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 #