

SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 10, 2023 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT




WELCOME!

VISIT OR CONTACT US


6047 Bishops Place
Saint Louis, MO 63109

314.352.8100
straphaelarchangel.org

Mon.-Thu. | 7:30am-4:00pm
Fri. | 7:30am-12:00pm

 @SRAtoday

 @SRAtoday

 straphaelarchangel

SCHOOL INFORMATION

6000 Jamieson Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63109

314.352.9474 | 314.351.7477 (Fax)
Mon.-Fri. | 7:00am-3:00pm

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday | 7:00am, 4:30pm
Sunday | 9:00am

WEEKDAY MASS

Mon. - Fri. | 8:00am

CONFESSION

Monday - Friday | 7:30am
Saturday | 3:30pm
Other | By Appointment

CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Mon.-Fri. | 8:00am-2:00pm
Saturday | 8:00am-4:30pm



PARISH CLERGY

Fr. Thomas Molini, Pastor
thomasmolini@archstl.org

LAY LEADERSHIP

Brian McCarthy, Parish Council
brianmccarthy@peaknet.net

Ellen Pendry, School Board
schoolboard@straphaelarchangel.org

Joseph Cyr, Finance Council
314.335.7322

Sara Wright, HSA President
sara.y.wright@gmail.com

PARISH STAFF

Ray and Mary Anne Braun, Music Ministers
Braun@straphaelarchangel.org

Diane Halbert, Parish Office Manager
halbert@straphaelarchangel.org

Mickey Janos, Admn. Assistant
janos@straphaelarchangel.org

Pam Hager, Parish Support Staff/
Child Safety Coordinator
hager@straphaelarchangel.org

Robert Schlueter, Maintenance

Julie Hayes, School Principal
hayes@straphaelarchangel.org

Kathy Shaver, School Secretary
secretary@straphaelarchangel.org

Qi Franz, Cafeteria Manager
franz@straphaelarchangel.org

Sarah Henderson, Youth Minister
hendersons@stgabrielstl.org

DECEMBER 10, 2023 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Fr. Molini's Notes

Advent – a time of comfort

Our readings this weekend speak to us of comfort, a call to rely on the comfort found only in the reliance upon the mercy of God. We are introduced to John the Baptist who speaks in the desert a promise of healing and fulfillment. Where in our lives are we in need of fulfillment? This is not a promise of mere satisfaction, but of fulfillment where sins are forgiven, relationships are healed, people are united, and lives of holiness are accessible to us all. This is the message that John proclaims in the most unlikely place – a desert. With all the appearance of barrenness, emptiness, and want, John speaks to fulfillment. May we hope with the prophecy of John, trusting that in God we will find forgiveness and fulfillment in the day of the Lord. May our Advent preparations make ready our lives to receive the grace of the “One mightier than I who is coming....”

Advent Opportunities – shared opportunities for the area

The Giving Tree: A “giving tree” has been set up at St. Raphael and St. Gabriel, if you would like to donate to those in need this season. Take an ornament and return the gift by December 17 at St. Raphael and December 20 at St. Gabriel. Thanks for your generosity.

Rorate Coeli Mass: An ancient practice honoring the Blessed Mother during Advent, Mass will be offered at St. Gabriel on Friday, December 15, at 7:00pm. See page 6 for further details.

Archangel Youth Ministry Christmas Party: High Schoolers are invited to the “Sun, Sand, and Santa” party on December 17, at 6:45pm in Gabriel House.

Advent “Novena”: This is an old custom to prepare for the coming feast of Christmas. Each evening, from December 17 through 23, a formulary of prayers, canticles, psalms, and antiphons highlight the approach of the Savior at Christmas, using many of the prophecies from the Old Testament. Join us for some or all of the evenings at St. Gabriel. See page 6 for times.

Christmas Mass Schedule

St. Raphael: Christmas Eve (December 24) at 4:30pm and Christmas Day (December 25) at 9:00am

St. Gabriel: Christmas Eve (December 24) at 4:00pm, 6:00pm, and 11:00pm
Christmas Day (December 25) at 6:30am and 10:00am



This weekend's Sacred Scripture readings:

Ritual Song: No. 1094

Pray Together: Page 27



Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 10

9:00am

People of the Parish

Monday, December 11

8:00am Marcia Matreci

Tuesday, December 12

8:00am Thomas McKenna

Wednesday, December 13

8:00am Elsa Straub

Thursday, December 14

8:00am Don Deachan

Friday, December 15

8:00am Thomas McKenna

Saturday, December 16

7:00am Eugene Mariani

4:30pm People of the Parish

Sunday, December 17

9:00am Ernest J. Winkelmann

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." Mark 1:3

We are all called to live holy lives. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are we helping others get to Heaven?

Your Contributions to God and Parish

Dec. 3, 2022 (Envelopes Used)	This Week	Year-to-Date
Regular Env. (52)	\$ 8,285	\$ 99,524
Loose Money	\$ 559	\$ 24,336
School Support	\$ 30	\$ 3,545
Building Fund	\$ 245	\$ 4,065
Holy Days	\$ 10	\$ 1,240
Online Giving (51)	\$ 3,107	\$ 73,785
Christmas	\$ 50	
Seminary	(\$ 25)	
Retired Religious	(\$ 10)	
Camp. H. Dvpt.	(\$ 5)	
Christmas Flowers	\$ 485	
Grand Total	\$ 12,811	
Total for Parish	\$ 12,771	\$ 208,546
Amount Needed	\$ 10,000	\$ 230,000
Difference	<u>\$ 2,771</u>	<u>(\$ 21,454)</u>
FYE 2023		<u>\$ 5,826</u>

From St. Vincent de Paul Society

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist prepares the people for the coming of the Lord. He is the perfect example of a humble man, even though he was given a task by Our Heavenly Father. May we be humble as Jesus asks us to clothe the poor. May we take time to think about the tiny fingers we clothe with mittens and the mothers' hands we clothe with gloves. How fortunate we are to have your beautiful support in this winter season.

Donate your vehicle and help the St. Vincent de Paul Society!

- Running or not - Free towing - Tax deductible

A vehicle donation from you gives hope to those in need. We have an easy process for free pickup. To learn more, please call or visit us online at 800.322.8284 or svdpusacars.com.



SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 16 AND 17, 2023

Saturday, December 16

4:30pm Lucas Feldman Julia Panka
Clara Thompson

Sunday, December 17

9:00am Gavin Eddingfield Adriana Kurtovic
Volunteer Needed

DAILY READINGS

Sunday	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday	Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-
Tuesday	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
Wednesday	Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/ Mt 11:28-30
Thursday	Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15
Friday	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

LECTORS/MINISTERS FOR THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 16 AND 17, 2023

LECTORS

4:30pm Denise Howard
9:00am Steve Kratky

Extraordinary Ministers

4:30 pm Mary Steck
Elena Switzer
Christy Connor
9:00am Barb Cramer
Heather Hays
Dennis Matreci

Monday, December 11

8:00am Church Mass
4:30pm - Gym Basketball Practice
8:00pm
7:00pm Parish Office Parish Council

Tuesday, December 12

8:00am Church Mass
3:15pm Cafeteria Girl Scout Meeting
4:00pm - Gym Basketball Practice
9:00pm
6:30pm School HSA

Wednesday, December 13

7:30am Church Rosary
8:00am Church Mass
3:15pm Cafeteria 5th Gr. Girl Scouts
4:45pm - Gym Basketball Practice
8:30pm
8:30pm Gym Men's Basketball

Thursday, December 14

8:00am Church Mass
2:00pm Cafeteria Dance Class
7:00pm Gym Christmas Program

Friday, December 15

7:30am Church Rosary
8:00am Church Mass
3:30pm Gym Basketball Practice
4:45pm Gym Basketball Games

Saturday, December 16

7:00am Church Mass
1:00pm Gym Basketball Games
4:30pm Church Mass

Sunday, December 17

9:00am Church Mass - Donut Sunday
9:30am Parish Off. OCIA
1:00pm Gym Basketball Games
5:30pm Gab. Hs. AYM Youth Mass & Christmas Party

Early Bulletin Publishing Deadlines

Please note: due to the upcoming holidays and holy days, the bulletins need to go to the publisher much earlier than usual. Therefore, please send any bulletin items to the parish office as soon as possible before your event. Thank you.

Get Ready to Smile and Say “Cheese”!!!

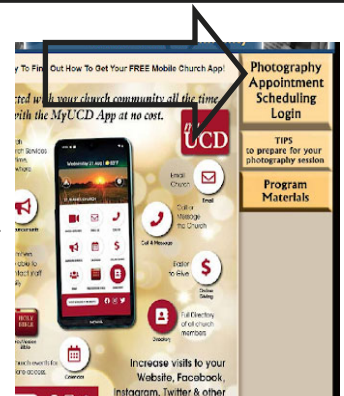
It's time for a new SRA parish pictorial directory (for SRA parishioners).

Each individual or family photographed will be included in the SRA parish pictorial directory, will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and directory, and will have the option to purchase additional photo keepsakes. (There is no charge for the photo session; the only charge to you will be for additional photos you decide to purchase.)

St. Raphael has arranged for a professional photographer (through Universal Church Directories) to take your individual or family photo (pets can be included!) right here in the lower level. Appointments are now available for January 8, 9, and 10, 2024; appointment times are from 2:00pm to 8:30pm each day. You will view your proofs immediately following your appointment right here onsite; the entire process will take about 45 minutes.

You may go online at www.ucdir.com and click on “Photography Appointment Scheduling Login”; then enter mo303 in the Church Code field and the Church Password is photos. After both of this weekend Masses, we will have SRA volunteers to help with the appointment scheduling if that is more convenient for you. However, so that you can get the time that is best for you, don't wait to schedule your appointment.

If you have any questions, please contact our SRA parishioner, Linda Hiette, at lindahiette@gmail.com or 314.852.5059. Thank you.



Saint Raphael the Archangel

Advent Angel Giving Tree

Sponsoring Peter & Paul Community Services:
Garfield Place Apartment residents

- Take an angel from the tree in church
- Place gift under tree by December 17 at 9am Mass
- Do NOT wrap the gift
- Attach the angel tag to the gift
- Be blessed!

Thank you!

Rorate Coeli Mass During Advent with Fr. Madden

Would you like to participate in an ancient Advent tradition? Do you like candlelight? Are you, at least, indifferent to using Latin? If the answer is “yes” to these questions, then please join us for the Rorate Coeli Mass on Friday, December 15, at 7:00pm at St. Gabriel with Fr. Mark Madden. This tradition stems from a votive Mass to Our Lady during Advent, traditionally celebrated in monasteries and convents. The name “Rorate Coeli” comes from the entrance antiphon and translates to “Drop down, ye heavens.” Two aspects of this Mass are: it is celebrated in the dark of night and illuminated by candlelight. The Mass will be celebrated in Latin. If you are a bit rusty or have never learned or spoken Latin before, there is an opportunity to brush up and prepare for the Mass by attending a couple of classes at 4:00pm, Sunday, December 3 and 10, in the St. Gabriel Rectory basement. Enter the side door on Tamm. Do not fear if you can’t pick it up or are unable to make the classes; you’re still invited to attend and participate in the Mass as much as you are able. Reception to follow in the cafeteria. We hope to see you there and then.



Congratulations to our second graders who made their First Confession on Tuesday, November 28, 2023. May God bless them!

Advent “Novena”: This is an old custom to prepare for the coming feast of Christmas. Each evening, from December 17 through 23: Sunday at 6:30pm, weekdays at 7:00pm, and Saturday at 6:00pm. This is a formulary of prayers, canticles, psalms, and antiphons highlighting the approach of the Savior at Christmas, using many of the prophecies from the Old Testament. Join us for some or all of the evenings at St. Gabriel.

Fr. Tony Ritter is going to be the celebrant for the Archdiocesan Monthly Pro-life Mass and Rosary on Saturday, December 16, 2023. Mass is at 8:00am at the Cathedral Basilica followed immediately by the Rosary. All people are invited as we come together to pray for an end to abortion in our country.

Unite to celebrate and pray for life at the
Archdiocese of St. Louis
Monthly Pro-Life Mass & Rosary!



JOIN US 8 a.m.
Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis

LEARN MORE: 314-792-7598
prolife@archstl.org • STLRespectLife.org



Auction Donation Blitz and Blues Raffle!

**The 2024 Black and Gold Auction is
Saturday, February 3, 2024!**

Please consider donating to the Auction while holiday shopping!



Donations brought to the rectory by December 21 will be entered into a drawing to win four Blues tickets donated by a friend of SRA! (mutually agreeable date) The winner will be announced on December 27!

*Check out our wish list on Facebook by searching:
"St. Raphael the Archangel Black and Gold Auction"*

Donation drop-off at rectory (courtyard entrance) - 314.352.8100:

Monday-Thursday 7:30am – 4:30pm & Friday 7:30am – 12:00pm

Please fill out the donation form and raffle ticket form for any donated items.

Forms are available in the parish office.

Questions: please contact Mark Pfeiffer - auktion.st.rafael@gmail.com

Donation Blitz – Blues Raffle Ticket

(Please also submit "Donation Form")

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Item Donated: _____

Value: _____



ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT RAFFLE

- Dr. Catherine Saracino is graciously donating a complete orthodontic treatment to be raffled at the Black and Gold Auction! Tickets are **one for \$25 or five for \$100**. The winner will be drawn during the Live Auction! (Need not be present to win)

-The auction will provide a school lunchtime pizza party to the class with the highest average of tickets sold per student, so please note the grade of the student selling each ticket.

-Cash /check can be delivered or mailed to the rectory (6047 Bishops Pl. St. Louis, MO 63109), or purchased on the auction website at <https://blackandgold24.givesmart.com/>.

Treatment Details:

*Patient must schedule initial consultation within first three months, but patient will not be required to begin treatment until he/she is ready.

Includes:

*All diagnostic records (photos, scans, x-rays),

*Traditional braces or Invisalign,

*All appointments up to 24 months of treatment time,

*One set of clear retainers after treatment.

See more at: <https://saracinoorthodontics.com/> and thank you to Dr. Catherine Saracino and the Saracino family!

SRA LADIES' CLUB



Ladies' Wine Tasting

**with Matt Maxfield, Certified Cicerone, CSW, CSS
Thursday, January 18 at 7pm in SRA Cafeteria**

**Cost: \$30 per person - bring a friend!
includes light appetizers**

**Must send cash, check payable 'SRA Ladies' Club' or PayPal
@SRALadiesClub by January 10th to reserve your spot**

Questions to Rachel.Flavine@gmail.com 314-496-8303



SEEK24 is returning to St. Louis this coming January, and St. Raphael has purchased a Parish Pack of 6 tickets for 6 individuals to attend all 5 days of programming for only \$290 each! This saves you over \$100! If you don't know what SEEK is, please use the link below to visit the website and learn more about this amazing opportunity!

<https://seek.focus.org/>

You can also watch the promo video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGIVjXAWRSI&t=1s>

If you know anyone who attended SEEK23 last year, I'm sure they were not disappointed, myself included. If you don't think you'll be able to utilize the 5 Day Event Pass, there are other purchase options available that you can find on the website (link above). If you know you will utilize all or most of the 5 Day Event Pass, please contact Sarah Henderson (hendersons@stgabrielstl.org) so I can give you the information you need to register with our Parish Pack. As stated above, we only have 6 tickets at the \$290 price, so get them while you can! If there is interest, we do have the ability to purchase additional Parish Packs for a limited time. Scholarships are also available through St. Raphael.

ARCHANGEL YOUTH MINISTRY (AYM)



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Dec. 31 New Year's Eve No AYM	<i>Happy New year</i>				1	2
3 AYM <i>Life Teen Night</i>	4	5	6 St. Nicholas Day	7	8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9
10 AYM <i>Life Teen Night</i>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Youth Mass/ Social Night Christmas Party! Sun, Sand & Santa	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve No AYM	25 Christmas Day <i>MERRY CHRISTMAS</i>	26	27	28	29	30

LIVE NATIVITY 2023

Ascension Lutheran Church is excited to host our Live Nativity 2023! As our St. Louis Hills neighborhood becomes a premier place for looking at Christmas lights, Ascension has the opportunity to share the Light of Christ and proclaim our Savior's birth to our community. The date for our Live Nativity is Saturday, December 16, from 5:00 to 9:00pm. The Nativity will feature costumed characters, story boards highlighting Christmas Bible readings, radio broadcast, live animals, multiple angel choirs, a star-like spotlight, and cookies with hot chocolate.

