



SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 17, 2023 THIRD 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 17, 2023 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Fr. Molini's Notes

Advent... "I am not worthy"

This Sunday's Gospel sharpens our understanding of John's ministry as one calling people to repentance and conversion. He firmly grasped his vocation in this prophetic role and, even when challenged by religious figures of the time, he neither diminished nor exalted his role. He realized his place in God's plan for salvation and embraced it, recognizing his value as called by God, but he was not the fulfillment of the promise.

Crowds of peoples flocked to hear him and receive his baptism. He was the talk of the town. Disciples were forming about him. And in full humility he knew it was not about him but another. "I am not worthy to untie his sandal strap," a duty relegated to the lowest servant in a home. Advent directs our attention to Another, and, while urging us to claim our place in God's plan of salvation as a child of God, like John we are called to humility. Do we make room in our hearts and lives for Another, for Christ whose image may be found in the poor in need of food, the homeless needing a place to live, the ill needing assistance, the estranged family member needing forgiveness and understanding? Advent asks us to embrace the humility that looks beyond ourselves with faithful purpose. We each have a particular vocation in the plan of salvation, a vocation of dignity as a member of Christ's Body to share God's message of hope. We are also called to humbly hear that message first in our hearts and allow our hearts to be configured to the loving heart of Christ who is the Savior of us all. Lord, may I proclaim Your love with humility, so others listening to me may hear Your Word.

Christmas Novena

For years, St. Gabriel has celebrated the Christmas Novena, a traditional practice to prepare for the Solemnity of Christmas. Several evenings are dedicated to prayer, recalling the various prophecies about the coming of Christ. While customarily nine nights, our "Novena" will begin on December 17, and continue through December 23. Please join us for this traditional Christmas preparation. On the weekends we will begin after the evening Mass; during the week, we will begin at 7:00pm.

Sunday, December 17 – 6:30pm

Monday – Friday, December 18-22 – 7:00pm

Saturday, December 23 – 6:00pm

(To allow for more access to Reconciliation, Confessions will be heard on Wednesday from 7:00pm until all are heard.)

Seminary Christmas Collection

St. Louis is fortunate to have its own seminary for the formation of priests. While the need for more priests is clear, it is also important to have a reliable environment in which to foster their formation. Kenrick-Glennon Seminary has served St. Louis and many dioceses of the Midwest for over 120 years. Your support helps maintain the quality of programs and maintenance of the campus. Please share generously through the Christmas Seminary Collection. Envelopes are in the packets mailed to your homes. If you donate electronically, please make a special gift to the Seminary. In addition, some envelopes are available in the back of church. Thanks for your support.

Christmas Schedule:

St. Raphael: December 24 – 4:30pm December 25 – 9:00am

St. Gabriel: December 24 – 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 11:00pm

December 25 – 6:30am and 10:00am

New Year's Day

Since the First falls on a Monday, it is not a holy day of obligation in the United States. All are still encouraged to celebrate the New Year with Holy Mass.

St. Raphael: January 1 – 8:00am

St. Gabriel: January 1 – 6:00am and 8:00am



Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 17

9:00am Ernest J. Winkelmann

Monday, December 18

8:00am Anita Toczykowski

Tuesday, December 19

8:00am Mary Mahoney

Wednesday, December 20

8:00am Karen Divis

Thursday, December 21

8:00am Thomas McKenna

Friday, December 22

8:00am Joann Ahrens

Saturday, December 23

7:00am Rose Lafata

4:30pm Bill and Mary Lou Schicker

Sunday, December 24

9:00am People of the Parish

4:30pm Hager and Saar Families

Monday, December 25

9:00am People of the Parish

This weekend's Sacred Scripture readings:

Ritual Song: No. 1097

Pray Together: Page 31

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." – 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means to place our trust in God; He will provide all that we need. "Pray constantly" means to shape a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means, even in bad situations, to thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

Your Contributions to God and Parish

Due to early publishing deadlines, the Weekly Offertory information for December 10 was not available when the bulletin went to print.

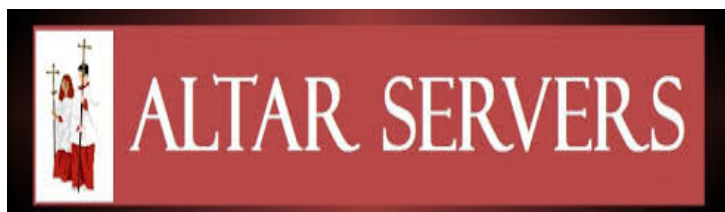
Nut Sales

Extra nuts for the holidays are available for sale. If interested, please contact Patti Webers at 314.496.8836.



From St. Vincent de Paul Society

In today's Gospel, John answers the Pharisees' question by saying, "I baptize with water, but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." Let's take a few minutes to contemplate those last nine words. What if we choose to treat those less fortunate as if we are not worthy to untie their sandal straps? Let's lift them up with our prayers and generous gifts. Ask the Lord to give us direction, understanding, patience, strength, and most of all, a great portion of love to pour onto those suffering individuals. During this time of Advent, we ask Our Lord Jesus Christ to help us find the way.



SERVERS FOR DECEMBER 23, 24, AND 25, 2023

Saturday, December 23

4:30pm Sophia Bradshaw Katelyn Feldman
Lucas Feldman

Sunday, December 24

9:00am Adriana Kurtovic Anna Wright
Volunteer Needed

4:30pm Hannah Kratky Jude Potts
Helen Potts

Monday, December 25

9:00am 3 Volunteers Needed

DAILY READINGS

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
Monday	Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Friday	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
Saturday	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
Next Sunday	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Lectors

Saturday, December 23

4:30pm - Kevin Liddy

Sunday, December 24

9:00am - Krissy Sullivan 4:30pm - George Kerry

Monday, December 25

9:00am Gerry Unger

Extraordinary Ministers

Saturday, December 23

4:30pm Tony Mariani Pam Hager Brian McCarthy

Sunday, December 24

9:00am Krissy Sullivan John Rooney Marilyn Unger

4:30pm Tony Mariani Dan Harbaugh John Rooney

Monday, December 25

9:00am Gerry Unger Marilyn Unger Dennis Matreci

Monday, December 18

8:00am Church Mass

4:30pm Gym Basketball Practice

8:00pm

7:00pm School School Board

Tuesday, December 19

8:00am Church Mass

3:15pm Cafeteria Kindergarten Daisy Troop

4:00pm - Gym Basketball Practice

9:00pm

4:30pm Cafeteria 1st Gr. Girl Scouts

6:00pm Fireplace Rm. Finance Council

7:00pm Cafeteria Men's Club

Wednesday, December 20

7:30am Church Rosary

8:00am Church Mass

4:45pm - Gym Basketball Practice

8:30pm

8:30pm Gym Men's Basketball

Thursday, December 21

8:00am Church Mass

2:00pm Cafeteria Dance Class

5:00pm Gym PreK - 2nd Gr. Basketball Clinic

7:00pm Cafeteria Ladies' Club

Friday, December 22

7:30am Church Rosary

8:00am Church Mass

3:30pm Gym Basketball Practice

4:45pm Gym Basketball Games

Saturday, December 23

7:00am Church Mass

1:00pm Gym Basketball Games

4:30pm Church Mass

Sunday, December 24

9:00am Church Mass

9:30am Parish Off. OCIA

4:30pm Church Mass

Monday, December 25

9:00am Church Mass

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”!!!

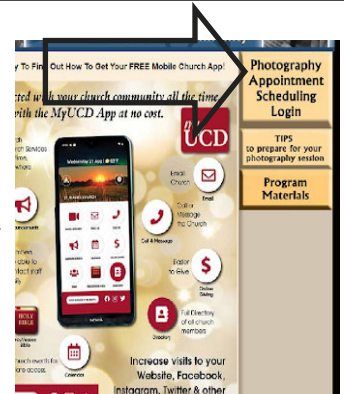
It's time for a new SRA parish pictorial directory (for SRA parishioners).

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!

We would like to welcome the following new members to our church. We hope you know that we are here for you. There are several committees and clubs that you might like to join where you can meet other parishioners. As a faith community, we like to help others in our area and those less fortunate than we are. Please join us at Mass, and we hope you will consider joining us in future church activities. Again, welcome to St. Raphael the Archangel Parish; we are happy to have you join us.

Jackie Bangert
Chuck and Dolores Rezek
Steve and Stephanie Bush
Michael and Meggie Schildz



Donut Sunday

Today is Donut Sunday! Please join your fellow parishioners for a donut after the 9:00am Mass. If you attend 4:30pm Mass, please return on Sunday for a donut and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you! This Donut Sunday is hosted by the Men's Club.

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.

WINTER OUTREACH - A MINISTRY OF MERCY

Encouraged by our Catholic Social Teachings:

"Option for the Poor and Vulnerable." Will you be one of God's chosen to support 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 comfort, we invite 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 the following days.

DATES: SATURDAYS (1:00pm dropoff)

JANUARY 13, 2024

FEBRUARY 17, 2024

Please consider joining our Ministry of Mercy by providing one or more of the following: 9x13 Casserole (meat, vegetable or breakfast) Dessert-12 to 24 servings (Food items may be store-bought)

All dishes must be baked, frozen, wrapped, and marked with kind of dish and date. Food is to be dropped off at Our Lady of Sorrows parking lot at 1:00pm. If needed, arrangements can be made to drop off or pick up ahead of time. If you have questions, please contact Barbara Favre at 314.303.9941.

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 the parish office (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.raphael@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

THIS SUNDAY!!!!



A festive poster for an AYM Christmas Party. It features a cartoon Santa Claus with a red hat and white beard on the left. The background is a mix of blue, yellow, and green with snowflake and star patterns. A green Christmas tree is in the bottom left corner. A volleyball is on the right. The text is in various colors and fonts, including red, green, and yellow.

AYM
CHRISTMAS PARTY!
Sun, Sand & Santa!

Join us for the 5:30pm Youth Mass and stay for the Beach inspired Christmas Party!

**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 17TH**
GABRIEL HOUSE
6:45PM - 8:15PM

Open to ALL High School Teens

***DINNER, GAMES AND PRIZES!**
***SUMMER CHRISTMAS CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES ARE ENCOURAGED!**

Contact: Sarah Henderson | Youth Minister
hendersons@stgabrielstl.org

ARCHANGEL YOUTH MINISTRY (AYM)



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Dec. 31 New Year's Eve No AYM	Happy New year				1	2
3 AYM Life Teen Night	4	5	6 St. Nicholas Day	7	8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9
10 AYM Life Teen Night	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 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27	28	29	30

PROUD SPONSORS OF THE BLACK & GOLD DINNER AUCTION!

YOU SPEAK, WE LISTEN

Schicker Automotive Group

- St. Louis
- Union
- Washington
- Cape Girardeau
- Jackson

LINCOLN

Ford

DODGE

RAM

CHRYSLER

Jeep

LPMICELI INCORPORATED

Offering world class protection for your Auto, Home, Health, Business, and Life Insurance.

Tina: 314-832-6667 personal
Leo: 314-802-7201
 commercial and life/health

Lpmiceliinc.com