



# SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 3, 2023 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### WELCOME!

#### VISIT OR CONTACT US

6047 Bishops Place  
Saint Louis, MO 63109

314.352.8100  
[straphaelarchangel.org](http://straphaelarchangel.org)

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

[f](#) @SRAtoday

[t](#) @SRAtoday

[i](#) 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](mailto:thomasmolini@archstl.org)

#### LAY LEADERSHIP

Brian McCarthy, Parish Council  
[brianmccarthy@peaknet.net](mailto:brianmccarthy@peaknet.net)

Ellen Pendry, School Board  
[schoolboard@straphaelarchangel.org](mailto:schoolboard@straphaelarchangel.org)

Joseph Cyr, Finance Council  
314.335.7322

Sara Wright, HSA President  
[sara.y.wright@gmail.com](mailto:sara.y.wright@gmail.com)

#### PARISH STAFF

Ray and Mary Anne Braun, Music Ministers  
[Braun@straphaelarchangel.org](mailto:Braun@straphaelarchangel.org)

Diane Halbert, Parish Office Manager  
[halbert@straphaelarchangel.org](mailto:halbert@straphaelarchangel.org)

Mickey Janos, Admn. Assistant  
[janos@straphaelarchangel.org](mailto:janos@straphaelarchangel.org)

Pam Hager, Parish Support Staff/  
Child Safety Coordinator  
[hager@straphaelarchangel.org](mailto:hager@straphaelarchangel.org)

Robert Schlueter, Maintenance

#### Welcome to St. Raphael the Archangel Parish

If you are new to our community, we extend to you a heartfelt welcome. To register, please visit our website: [straphaelarchangel.org](http://straphaelarchangel.org). Click on About, scroll down, and click on Join Our Parish, or call 314.352.8100.

DECEMBER 3, 2023 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## DECEMBER 3, 2023 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Fr. Molini's Notes

Advent – a common call to holiness

The beginning of the liturgical year, that is the year of recalling the history of salvation in our common prayer, is a reminder that all are called to be holy. We begin the season of Advent by looking to our final goal, to be One with God in His Kingdom. Created in the image of God (He is the potter, we are the clay), we are called to be alert and ready for His call to respond. John the Baptist and our Blessed Mother are prominent in this season as images of those responding to God's call in distinct ways, both proclaiming the coming of Christ and testifying by the example of their lives.

Advent is our opportunity to respond to God in distinct ways. As we share the common call to holiness, how distinct is my identity? Only I can respond to God in my way, in my life, in my desire for life with Christ. I pray that each of us can be distinct in our choice to live in holiness, uniting our efforts at the one Sacrifice of the Mass. Let us use this holy season to live holy lives, proclaiming Christ in our actions and sharing Christ in our charity.

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 unwrapped gift by December 17 at St. Raphael and December 20 at St. Gabriel. Thanks for your generosity.

Sunday Evening Prayer: The celebration of "Evening Prayer (Vespers)" will begin weekly on December 3, the First Sunday of Advent. This collection of psalms, readings, and prayers is a part of the Liturgy of the Hours, the prayer offered by priests, deacons, religious, and many members of the laity each day. Join us each Sunday at 5:00 pm at St. Gabriel.

Advent by Tailgate: On December 3, at 6:00pm, men are invited to St. Joan of Arc for an evening of fellowship and reflection, focusing on Advent.

Women's Evening of Prayer: On Monday, December 4, at 7:00pm, women are invited to an evening of prayer and reflection on Advent and the coming of Christ at St. Gabriel Church.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: December 8 is the annual celebration of Mary, our Blessed Mother, who was spared from original sin, allowing her a perfectly free choice to participate in God's work of salvation. Masses will be offered on December 7, at 5:00 pm at St. Raphael. On December 8, Masses will be offered at 6:30am at St. Gabriel, at 8:00 am at both St. Raphael and St. Gabriel, at 12:00 noon at St. Gabriel and at 6:00pm at St. Gabriel.

Advent by Candlelight On December 10: ladies are invited to this Advent evening of reflection, led by Virginia Herbers. Call the St. Raphael parish office to check on availability as an individual or as a host for a table of guests.

Continued on page 6.



This weekend's Sacred Scripture readings:

Ritual Song: No. 1091

Pray Together: Page 21

**Sunday, December 3**

9:00am

Roseann Saracino

**Wednesday, December 6**

8:00am

Thomas McKenna

**Saturday, December 9**

7:00am

Eugene Mariani

4:30pm

Joe Grana

**Monday, December 4**

8:00am

Marcia Matreci

**Thursday, December 7**

8:00am

Steve and Eileen Harbaugh

5:00pm - Vigil

People of the Parish

**Sunday, December 10**

9:00am

People of the Parish

**Tuesday, December 5**

8:00am

Thomas McKenna

**Friday, December 8**

8:00am

Steve Neyloon

**Your Contributions to God and Parish**

| <b>Nov. 19, 2022</b><br>(Envelopes Used) | <b>This Week</b>  | <b>Year-to-Date</b> |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Regular Env. (36)</b>                 | \$ 2,968          | \$ 85,879           |
| <b>Loose Money</b>                       | \$ 1,192          | \$ 23,037           |
| <b>School Support</b>                    | \$ 35             | \$ 3,395            |
| <b>Building Fund</b>                     | \$ 5              | \$ 3,795            |
| <b>Holy Days</b>                         | \$ 0              | \$ 1,230            |
| <b>Online Giving (53)</b>                | \$ 3,132          | \$ 66,266           |
| <b>Retired Religious</b>                 | (\$ 5)            |                     |
| <b>Human Devpt.</b>                      | (\$ 20)           |                     |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                       | \$ 7,557          |                     |
| <b>Total for Parish</b>                  | \$ 7,332          | \$ 186,118          |
| <b>Amount Needed</b>                     | \$ 10,000         | \$ 210,000          |
| <b>Difference</b>                        | <u>(\$ 2,668)</u> | <u>(\$ 23,882)</u>  |
| <b>FYE 2023</b>                          |                   | <u>\$ 5,826</u>     |

**Your Contributions to God and Parish**

| <b>Nov. 26, 2022</b><br>(Envelopes Used) | <b>This Week</b> | <b>Year-to-Date</b> |
|--|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Regular Env. (36)</b>                 | \$ 5,360         | \$ 91,239           |
| <b>Loose Money</b>                       | \$ 740           | \$ 23,777           |
| <b>School Support</b>                    | \$ 120           | \$ 3,515            |
| <b>Building Fund</b>                     | \$ 25            | \$ 3,820            |
| <b>Holy Days</b>                         | \$ 0             | \$ 1,230            |
| <b>Online Giving (55)</b>                | \$ 3,412         | \$ 70,678           |
| <b>Retired Religious</b>                 | (\$ 40)          |                     |
| <b>Campaign for Human Dvpt.</b>          | (\$ 50)          |                     |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                       | \$ 9,747         |                     |
| <b>Total for Parish</b>                  | \$ 9,657         | \$ 195,775          |
| <b>Amount Needed</b>                     | \$ 10,000        | \$ 220,000          |
| <b>Difference</b>                        | <u>(\$ 343)</u>  | <u>(\$ 24,225)</u>  |
| <b>FYE 2023</b>                          |                  | <u>\$ 5,826</u>     |



### SERVERS FOR DECEMBER 9 AND 10, 2023

#### Saturday, December 9

4:30pm Mark Boeckmann Julia Panka  
Sophia Bradshaw

#### Sunday, December 10

9:00am Jake Anstey Henry Dirnbeck  
Isa Hogrebe

## DAILY READINGS

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Sunday      | Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37 |
| Monday      | Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11                          |
| Tuesday     | Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24                              |
| Wednesday   | Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37                                |
| Thursday    | Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27                      |
| Friday      | Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38               |
| Saturday    | Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8                 |
| Next 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             |

### LECTORS/MINISTERS FOR THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 9 AND 10, 2023

#### LECTORS

4:30pm Linda Hiette  
9:00am Dennis Matreci

#### Extraordinary Ministers

4:30 pm Margie Auer  
Kevin Liddy  
George Kerry  
9:00am Dan Harbaugh  
Lisa Murphy  
Amy Schisler

#### Monday, December 4

8:00am Church Mass  
4:45pm Gym 4th Boys Basketball  
5:30pm Gym 6th & 7th Gr. Boys Basketball  
7:15pm Gym 7th Gr. Girls Basketball  
7:15pm Parish Off. Stewardship

#### Tuesday, December 5

8:00am Church Mass  
3:15pm Cafeteria Kindergarten Daisy Troop  
4:30pm Gym 5th Gr. Girls Basketball  
6:00pm Gym 3rd Gr. Girls Basketball  
7:00pm Gym 8th Gr. Boys Basketball

#### Wednesday, December 6

7:30am Church Rosary  
8:00am Church Mass  
3:15pm Cafeteria 3rd Gr. Cub Scouts  
4:45pm Gym 3rd Gr. Boys Basketball  
6:00pm Gym 4th Gr. Boys Basketball  
7:00pm Gym 8th Gr. Girls Basketball  
8:30pm Gym Men's Basketball

#### Thursday, December 7

8:00am Church Mass  
2:00pm Cafeteria Dance Class  
5:00pm Gym PreK-2nd Gr. Basketball  
5:00pm Church Vigil Mass  
5:30pm Cafeteria 4th Gr. Girl Scouts  
6:00pm Church Choir Rehearsal

#### Friday, December 8

7:30am Church Rosary  
8:00am Church Mass  
3:30pm Gym 4th Gr. Girls Basketball  
4:45pm Gym Basketball Games

#### Saturday, December 9

7:00am Church Mass  
10:00am Gym Basketball Games  
4:30pm Church Mass  
5:30pm Church Girl Scout Caroling & Post Event

#### Sunday, December 10

9:00am Church Mass  
9:30am Parish Off. OCIA  
6:00pm Gym Advent By Candlelight





# girl scouts

## Girl Scout Christmas Caroling

SRA Girl Scouts will be singing Christmas carols outside the church after the 4:30pm Mass on Saturday, December 9. They will then go caroling in the neighborhood, so listen for the music!

## Youth Club Raffle Winners November, 2023

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1st Place \$100 | Bart Saracino   |
| 2nd Place \$50  | Joanne Kreidler |
| 3rd Place \$50  | Nick Janos      |

## 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”!!!



Don't be left out! 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.

Please see the insert in this bulletin for scheduling information. You may go online at [www.ucdir.com](http://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](mailto:lindahiette@gmail.com) or 314.852.5059.

Thank you.

## Fr. Molini's Notes Continued

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.

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.

### 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

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.

### 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.

### New and Expectant Parent Network (N.E.X.T.)

The SRA New and Expectant Parent Network (N.E.X.T.) exists to support parents who are expecting or have recently given birth to or lost a child. The Network is always willing to accept new members and referrals or requests for our support. This includes meal delivery for about four to six weeks, prayers, and any baby supplies needed for the family. We are also in contact with our sister parish, Most Holy Trinity, to offer the same support to members in need at this parish. Thank you.

## ST. RAPHAEL ADVENT ANGEL GIVING TREE

Our Advent Angel Giving Tree is back this year, and we will once again sponsor Peter & Paul Community Services. In addition to their meal program, P&P offers various services to those who are un-housed, many of whom are living with mental illness, addiction, or long-term medical conditions. Our parish will provide gifts for residents of the Supportive Housing program: Garfield Place Apartments. GPA provides clients with a permanent place to stay while also providing supportive services, including a nurse, occupational therapist, and educational classes on topics such as financial literacy and healthy eating. In addition, we will provide gifts to participants in the Positive Directions programs who are living with HIV. Positive Directions helps to provide resources to keep people healthy and housed. Please return your gifts NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, at the 9:00am Mass. DO NOT wrap your gift - but DO attach the tag to the gift so we can be sure it gets to the correct person. 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. The tree will be in church the week of Thanksgiving.



## 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 rectory

Questions: contact Mark Pfeiffer - [auction.st.raphael@gmail.com](mailto:auction.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!

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## **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](mailto:Rachel.Flavine@gmail.com) 314-496-8303**





**From St. Vincent de Paul Society**

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us, "Be Watchful! Be alert!" May our offerings be pleasing to Our Lord, Jesus. May we serve with love and compassion those who need a warm home and a hot meal during the upcoming cold winter. Our prayers and gifts help the poor celebrate this beautiful Advent Season.

*"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." Mark 13:33*

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Let's start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Let's take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling us right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

## 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)**

**DECEMBER 9, 2023**

**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.

## ARCHANGEL YOUTH MINISTRY (AYM)



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