



# SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

MAY 16, 2021 | THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



### WELCOME!

#### VISIT OR CONTACT US

6047 Bishops Place  
Saint Louis, MO 63109  
314.352.8100 | 314.353.6603 (Fax)  
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 | 8:00am, 10:00am

#### WEEKDAY MASS

Mon.-Fri. | 7:00am  
Mon.-Fri. | 8:00am

#### CONFESSION

Tues., Thu., Sat. | 15 minutes before  
7:00am Mass  
Saturday | 3:45pm-4:20pm  
Other | By Appointment

#### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Mon.-Fri. | 8:00am-2:30pm  
Saturday | 8:00am-4:30pm  
Sunday | 9:00am-10:00am



### PARISH CLERGY

Fr. John Mayo, Pastor  
frjohn@straphaelarchangel.org

Msgr. Dennis Stehly, VG,  
Priest-In-Residence  
dennisstehly@archstl.org

Gerald J. Geiser, Deacon (Retired)

### LAY LEADERSHIP

Dan Meshoto, Parish Council  
314.452.1017

Matt Fuhr, School Board  
314.750.8691

Joseph Cyr, Finance Council  
314.335.7322

Emily Young, HSA President  
314.323.9336

### PARISH STAFF

Ray and Mary Anne Braun, Music  
Ministers

Diane Halbert, Parish Office  
Manager  
halbert@straphaelarchangel.org

Mickey Janos, Admn. Assistant  
janos@straphaelarchangel.org

Pam Hager, Parish Support Staff  
hager@straphaelarchangel.org

Robert Schlueter, Maintenance

Julie Hayes, School Principal  
hayes@straphaelarchangel.org

Linda Mechler, School Secretary  
secretary@  
straphaelarchangel.org

Qi Franz, Cafeteria Manager  
franz@straphaelarchangel.org

MAY 16, 2021 THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

# READINGS FOR MAY 16, 2021: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

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## READING I

**ACTS 1:1-11**

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

When they had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel”? He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them.

They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.”

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**PS 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9**

**R. (6) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All you peoples, clap your hands, shout to God with cries of gladness, For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome, is the great king over all the earth.

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; the LORD, amid trumpet blasts. Sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise to our king, sing praise.

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

For king of all the earth is God; sing hymns of praise. God reigns over the nations, God sits upon his holy throne.

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

## READING II

**EPH 1:17-23**

Brothers and sisters: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

## GOSPEL

**Mk 16:15-20**

Jesus said to his disciples: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.



### **Sunday, May 16**

8:00am Eugene Hogg  
10:00am People of the Parish

### **Monday, May 17**

7:00am Jost Family  
8:00am Edwin Banta

### **Tuesday, May 18**

7:00am Laura Majac  
8:00am Mary Jane Simon

### **Wednesday, May 19**

7:00am John Gubser  
8:00am Eleanor T. Podolski

### **Thursday, May 20**

7:00am Mary Fassi  
8:00am James Barnes

### **Friday, May 21**

7:00am Doris Callahan  
8:00am John A. Powers

### **Saturday, May 22**

7:00am Bill and Mary Lou Schicker  
4:30pm Sharon Soest

### **Sunday, May 23**

8:00am Delores Roberts  
10:00am People of the Parish

### **From St. Vincent de Paul Society**

Today, as we celebrate the feast of the Ascension, we are reminded that Christ's saving work on earth continues through his disciples...and now through us. When we give to the needy, God indeed pours his love, peace, and joy into our hearts, our lives, and into the hearts of those who are poor.

*"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God." -1 JOHN 4:15*

How strong is your faith? When you have an opportunity to either defend or clarify a question about our Catholic faith, do you do it? Or, do you remain silent so that others don't think you are weird? Pray for the courage to be strong in all circumstances and joyfully to share your witness with others.

## **Your Contributions to God and Parish**

<b>May 9, 2021</b>	<b>This Week</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
<b>(Envelopes Used)</b>		
<b>Regular Env. (49)</b>	\$ 5,269.00	\$ 199,161.00
<b>Loose Money</b>	\$ 728.00	\$ 46,013.00
<b>School Support</b>	\$ 300.00	\$ 8,004.00
<b>Building Fund</b>	\$ 335.00	\$ 10,698.00
<b>Holy Days</b>	\$ 6.00	\$ 8,034.00
<b>Online Giving (50)</b>	\$ 2,748.00	\$ 122,068.00
<b>Tithing</b>	(\$ 45.00)	
<b>Permanent</b>		
<b>Diaconate</b>	(\$ 2.00)	
<b>Retired Religious</b>	(\$ 1.00)	
<b>Grand Total</b>	\$ 9,434.00	
<b>Total for Parish</b>	\$ 9,386.00	\$ 400,027.00
<b>Amount Needed</b>	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 405,000.00
<b>Difference</b>	<u>\$ 386.00</u>	<u>(\$ 4,973.00)</u>
<b>FYE 2020</b>		(\$ 37,795.00)

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

### Stewardship Weekend...Knights of Columbus

This weekend, we will hear from a representative of our SRA Knights of Columbus Council. Through such groups, we become a stronger parish family when we share our time and talent.

If you are interested in sharing your time and talent with SRA committees, there are many to choose from. Please see the parish directory for opportunities, or contact one of the Stewardship Committee members for further details.

### Graduation Weekend Next Weekend

Next weekend, the St. Raphael the Archangel Class of 2021 will graduate from our school. Due to the reduced numbers allowed to be in church as a result of the pandemic, our graduates will have a special Mass next weekend at 11:15am. To accommodate this third Mass, next weekend only the 10:00am will have no music. This will allow us to finish this Mass sooner than usual so we can greet our graduates and their families and begin their special Mass on time.

Because we cannot have the graduation at the 10:00am Mass, we ask that no one other than those invited attend the 11:15am Mass. We know you want to show your support for our graduates as they leave our school to begin their high school careers, but we need to ask that you express that support in a way different from attending the graduation Mass.

Thank you for your understanding and congratulations to our soon-to-be graduates!

### Corpus Christi Weekend– June 5-6

The weekend of June 5-6 will be the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. Typically, this would be the weekend for us to process as a parish community around the property. However, due to social distancing protocols, we will have to cancel this procession again this year.

We do want to honor our Lord present in the Most Blessed Sacrament this weekend, though. From the end of 8:00am Mass until 9:50am, we will have Eucharistic Adoration in the church. We encourage you to consider coming to the 8:00am Mass and staying a bit or coming a bit early to the 10:00am Mass to spend some time with Our Lord. At 9:50am, we will have Benediction.

I will see you online or in church! -Fr. John #SRAstrong

### ***Weekly Devotion For the Year of St. Joseph***

#### *The Fourth Joy and Sorrow of St. Joseph*

Most faithful St. Joseph, great was your grief when, at the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, you heard Simeon's prophecy of the future sufferings of Jesus and Mary. But how great was your joy when Simeon foretold that Jesus would be the Light for the revelation to the gentiles and the glory of His people.

By this sorrow and this joy, we pray that you assist [name(s)] that, through the light and the power of the Sorrowful Mother, they may see their salvation, and praise and thank God for the grace of a happy death.

*Recite seven Our Fathers and seven Hail Marys.*

### **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.

Parish Council Nominations Are Open!


I would like to thank the current members of our Parish Council for all of their hard work and help in navigating these times for our community during the pandemic: Dan Cierpiot, Barb Cramer, Linda Hiette, Brian McCarthy, Dan Meshoto, and Mary Niemeyer. They truly deserve our appreciation for their service.

Last year around this time, we did open up nominations for the Parish Council. Unfortunately, we did not receive any nominations for the council. We closed the nominations at the end of the summer and have been functioning with three slots left open on the council.

Is God calling you to serve on our Parish Council? Do you have in mind someone who would be good to serve on the council?

The Parish Council meets once per month for about an hour. We discuss the current news in the parish and also discuss the future direction of the parish and how we can help to bring about that vision. The members provide an invaluable service to me as the pastor and to our community by providing necessary feedback to what is going on in the community so we can continue to grow to be a parish truly rooted in Christ.

I encourage you to nominate yourself or someone you know to serve on the Parish Council. Nominations can be submitted to the parish office by filling out the form below and dropping it off at the office or putting it into the collection basket. You can also e-mail any self-nominations or nominations to [parish@strpahaelarchangel.org](mailto:parish@strpahaelarchangel.org).



Parish Council Nomination Form  
St. Raphael the Archangel

I would like to nominate the following individuals to serve on the St. Raphael the Archangel Parish Council:

Please return via the Offertory collection or to the parish office. Thank you!

Our 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.



# DAILY READINGS

Sunday	Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/ Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/ Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1- 13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk
Monday	Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab [33a]/Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday	Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10- 11, 20-21 [33a]/Jn 17:1- 11a
Wednesday	Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68: 29- 30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab [33a]/Jn 17:11b-19
Thursday	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Jn 17:20-26
Friday	Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1- 2, 11-12, 19-20ab [19a]/ Jn 21:15-19
Saturday	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7 [7b]/Jn 21:20-25
Next Sunday	Day: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 [cf. 30]/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12 -13 or Gal 5:16-25/Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

## For Sale

We have approximately 50 beige, metal chairs for sale for \$2.00 each. They are located in the lower level of the parish office. They are being sold on a first come, first sold basis. If you are interested, please contact the parish office.

## Annual Catholic Appeal

If you have not yet contributed to the Annual Catholic Appeal, please consider doing so now. If you have an ACA pledge card, fill it out and drop it into the collection basket or drop it off at the parish office. If you do not have a card, call the parish office or Fred Hodes (314.752.8742) and we will fill out a card for you.

Thanks to all who have already contributed.

The ACA Committee

### APRIL YOUTH CLUB RAFFLE WINNERS

1st Place \$100	Richard Messmer
2nd Place \$50	Beverly Raymo
3rd Place \$50	Kathleen Ferguson

### MAY YOUTH CLUB RAFFLE WINNERS

1st Place \$100	Leo Miceli
2nd Place \$50	Teri Neal
3rd Place \$50	Bob Gavin

## 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.

*Note from Fr. John: This article was originally printed in the Saint Louis Review on April 30, and was written by Archbishop Rozanski. I include it in this bulletin, as it contains information about when the Mass mandate will be put into effect. Additionally, the spiritual points he makes about our need to return to the Eucharist are ones we need to hear as we discern when we will return to a regular celebration of Mass in person. I invite you to read our Archbishop's reflections with an open heart and to prayerfully consider his thoughts.*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Here's an idea: let's continue to do Thanksgiving, Christmas, and family birthdays by Zoom for the coming year. Even when it becomes safe to gather again, it's more convenient, requires less preparation, and avoids family tensions if we do it virtually rather than in person.

Of course, that's a terrible idea! We've made do with virtual gatherings this past year. But we know from experience: it's just not the same. We're all eager, when it's safe for the most vulnerable, to get back to family gatherings.

The question is: are we as eager to get back to Mass in person as we are to return to other family gatherings — even if it's not convenient, requires more preparation, and sometimes walks into some tension?

I pose that question because I want to issue an invitation. As we start the month of May, we start to look ahead to summer. The best medical information I'm receiving is that I'll be able to lift the dispensation from attending Mass sometime this summer. That requires some preparation on our part, just as any summer plans do. I invite us all to start thinking ahead to that time.

This week we hear St. Paul say: "I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received." He then tells us, in words, what he considers to be the most important thing: the dying and rising of Jesus. St. Paul organized his whole life around sharing the most important thing.

That's what Sunday Mass is for us as Catholics. It's the most important thing because it's a sharing, through the Eucharist, in the dying and rising of Jesus — and that's something we want to participate in physically, not virtually! St. Paul told us in words. We tell the world, with our actions, whether or not we consider that to be the most important thing.

If we're happy to go to the grocery store in person, and happy that our children can go to school in person, and happy to attend athletic events in person, we should be happy to return to Mass in person!

Looking back, it's important to clarify this: We did not suspend public Masses in order to preserve our own health. That would have been understandable fear. It would also, ultimately, have been a public declaration that we considered our physical health to be more important than the spiritual health — indeed, eternal life! — that we receive from the Eucharist. That would have been a counter-witness to the faith. If that was anyone's motivation, it requires repentance.

No, we did it precisely as an act of charity, to care for others, especially the most vulnerable. Like a parent who goes without sleep to nurse a sick child, we knew that, for a time, we could subsist on a spiritual communion.

But we can't do that forever. As the threat to the lives of the vulnerable wanes, it's time to return to our normal practices.

When we cut a flower and put it in a vase of water, it lives and blooms beautifully for a short while. But soon enough, and inevitably, it withers and dies. Our souls are like flowers, and the Eucharist is their native soil. We can survive on a spiritual communion for a time. But God made us as a composite of body and soul. He feeds us, physically, in the Eucharist. And He wants us to rise, body and soul, with Jesus. It's up to us to say yes to the invitation. Without the Eucharist, our souls will be like the cut flower living and blooming for a short while but, soon enough and inevitably, withering and dying.

So let's think ahead. When the time is right, I invite everyone to return to the Eucharist with eager hearts.



### Our Lady's Inn Shower Thank You

Many, many thanks to all of you who donated gifts to the SRA Mother's Day Shower for Our Lady's Inn. We were able to present the Inn with a great number of needed items - including a lovely crocheted coverlet. The staff at the Inn expressed gratitude for your exceptional generosity. Many thanks to Fr. John, Mr. Bob, the Baur family, and the Neal family for their assistance in making the shower such a success. May the Lord bless us all as we strive to build a Culture of Life. The SRA ProLife Committee

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### Just Faith Sacred Land Opportunity

*"We live in a society that has forgotten its sacred connection to the Earth. As the climate crisis advances, we must actively discern our responsibility not only to this planet, but to the marginalized communities disproportionately affected by it. The program challenges not only our personal accountability, but explores ways we can advocate for sustainable practices that impact the community around us."*

Several members of southside parishes will meet virtually for 8 weeks, beginning on Thursday, May 20, from 6:00 to 8:00pm, to study Just Faith's program "Sacred Land."

The Just Faith Network is designed for people who are seeking:

- a deeper faith,
- a greater sense of purpose, and
- an understanding of how to make a difference in the world.

In "Sacred Land," small groups learn:

- how food and farming practices affect climate,
- how health and spiritual well being affect communities.



Participants engage in reading, prayer, and thoughtful dialogue. We hope you will accept this invitation. Together we can build a healthy and thriving world for future generations. For more information, please contact: Barbara Favre at [barbara.j.favre@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barbara.j.favre@sbcglobal.net) or Jane Siebel at [owlobervedU2@gmail.com](mailto:owlobervedU2@gmail.com).



## SCHOOL NEWS AND UPDATES

*From Ms. Molly: Pre-K A*

What a crazy month with the weather and the kids getting anxious for summer, but the Angels are hanging in there. We learned about the ocean, outer space, owls, and earth. We have been working on our Bible stories and learning to be a good shepherd to all. We have taken walks around the neighborhood and enjoyed the playground during these beautiful days. As always, we work hard on all skills, numbers, and alphabet.

*From Mrs. Schmidt: 1st Grade*

The first grade class is enjoying the spring weather. The past couple of weeks we were able to enjoy Willmore Park. We just finished writing about what kind of animal teeth we would like if we could choose them. The students also read books about their animal and came up with three facts about their animal. Finally, for the first time this year, they typed their own facts on Google Docs and learned how to share their documents with me. We have less than five weeks of school and there is so much we still want to do. The first graders love school!

*From Ms. Susan Polson: 3rd Grade*

Third grade led the Angelus this month over the public address system. It is fun to hear our voices saying the prayers. We have begun going to Mass in church with fourth grade. Our class got to lead Stations of the Cross for the primary students twice during Lent. We also made the Sacrament of Reconciliation! We had a good time in class reading our parent's homework. We wrote a spelling story using our twenty list words. We love to read plays and this month it was "Robin Hood" and "Chicken Little" in our literary magazine, *Storyworks*.

### Updated Summer Camp Pricing!

- Registration fee now only \$15 per child
- Multiple child discount of 10% off after first full-price tuition
- Sessions are from June 7—July 23, 2021
- Register today at <https://sraschool.org/student-life/summer-camp>

**Our Explorer Club (3-5 year olds) program is full. Do not miss signing up for our Adventure Club (6-8 year olds)!**



## 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.



Thank you for your generous support for St. Raphael the Archangel on Give STL Day!

We surpassed our \$5,000 goal by 88 dollars.

May the Lord bless your generosity to our school!

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### 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

\_\_\_\_\_ Please Contact Me

\_\_\_\_\_ New Phone/E-mail/Address/Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_ Please Do Not Publish Phone#