



SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

CATHOLIC CHURCH

OCTOBER 24, 2021 | THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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

WEEK DAY MASS

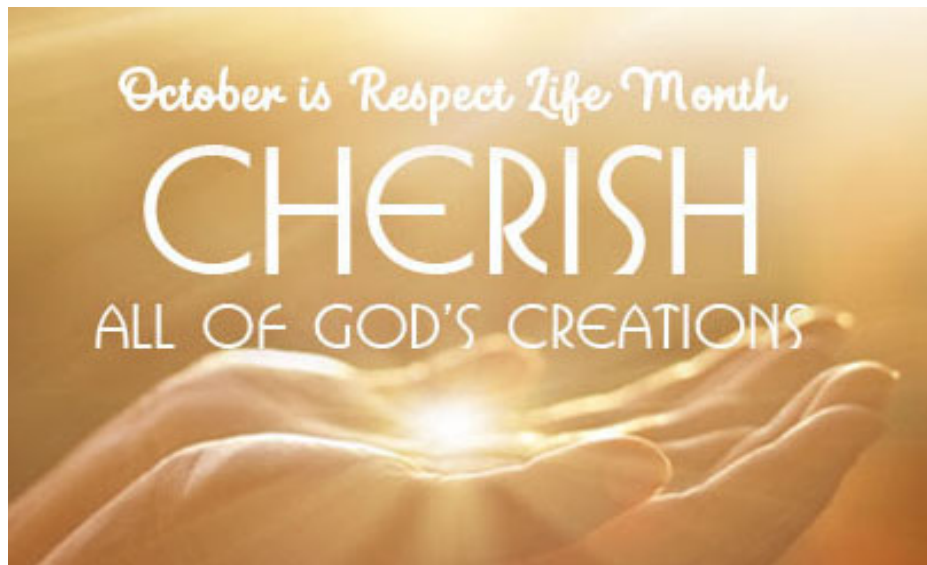
Mon. - Fri. | 7:00am
Mon. - Fri. | 8:00am

CONFESSION

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

CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

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

Lucy Adams, School Board
314.401.8485

Joseph Cyr, Finance Council
314.335.7322

Casey Kleekamp, HSA President
caseykleekamp@yahoo.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
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

OCTOBER 24, 2021 THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

READINGS FOR OCTOBER 24, 2021

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading I

Jer 31:7-9

Thus says the LORD: Shout with joy for Jacob, exult at the head of the nations; proclaim your praise and say: The LORD has delivered his people, the remnant of Israel. Behold, I will bring them back from the land of the north; I will gather them from the ends of the world, with the blind and the lame in their midst, the mothers and those with child; they shall return as an immense throng. They departed in tears, but I will console them and guide them; I will lead them to brooks of water, on a level road, so that none shall stumble. For I am a father to Israel, Ephraim is my first-born.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

R. (3) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the torrents in the southern desert. Those that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, they shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Reading II

Heb 5:1-6

Brothers and sisters: Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honor upon himself but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. In the same way, it was not Christ who glorified himself in becoming high priest, but rather the one who said to him: You are my son: this day I have begotten you; just as he says in another place: You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel

Mk 10:46-52

As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging. On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me." Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you." He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see." Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.



Sunday, October 24

8:00am People of the Parish
10:00am Dolores Stadler

Monday, October 25

7:00am Hodes Family, SI
8:00am Henry Givens

Tuesday, October 26

7:00am Stephen P. Schoemehl
8:00am A. Vincent Magee, Jr.

Wednesday, October 27

7:00am Thomas Dunsford
8:00am Jerry Jeggle, SI

Thursday, October 28

7:00am Jerry Carlson, SI
8:00am William R. Haine

Friday, October 29

7:00am Peter Harvatin
8:00am Carol Braun

Saturday, October 30

7:00am Bill and Mary Lou Schicker
4:30pm Charles Borth

Sunday, October 31

8:00am People of the Parish
10:00am Jim Schumacher

From St. Vincent de Paul Society

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus asks Bartimaeus: "What do you want me to do for you?" And He answers, "Master, I want to see." Let us ask Jesus for the grace to "see" our brothers and sisters who are poor and lonely. Last month, through your donations, our parish Society was able to bring God's love and mercy to 15 families, providing resources and compassion along with \$1,272 in utility bills aid, \$1,250 in rent assistance, \$300 in food vouchers, and \$500 in thrift store vouchers for a bed, couch, and housewares. Thank you for your donations which allow us to serve! God bless you!

Your Contributions to God and Parish

Oct. 17, 2021	This Week	Year-to-Date
(Envelopes Used)		
Regular Env. (45)	\$ 3,227.00	\$ 67,823.00
Loose Money	\$ 797.00	\$ 12,764.00
School Support	\$ 245.00	\$ 2,046.00
Building Fund	\$ 40.00	\$ 4,739.00
Holy Days	\$ 26.00	\$ 797.00
Online Giving (50)	\$ 2,803.00	\$ 44,853.00
Tithing	(\$ 5.00)	
Permanent Diaconate	(\$ 50.00)	
World Missions	(\$ 55.00)	
Grand Total	\$ 7,292.00	
Total for Parish	\$ 7,182.00	\$ 134,218.00
Amount Needed	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 144,000.00
Difference	<u>(\$ 1,818.00)</u>	<u>(\$ 9,782.00)</u>
FYE 2021		(\$ 15,462)

"And Jesus said to him, 'Go your way; your faith has made you well.' And immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way." (Mark 10:52)

Faith is believing in something even though you may not be able to see it physically. Many people think that miracles don't happen anymore. This is hard, but try to focus on the positive and not the negative things in your life. When you focus on your blessings instead of your hardships, miracles will seem common. You will see God's active presence in your daily life. You will begin to develop an attitude of gratitude.

Reflection From Pope Francis from the Synod on the Synod

Part 1: Encountering the Lord

The first is *encounter*. The Gospel passage begins by speaking of an encounter. A man comes up to Jesus and kneels down before him, asking him a crucial question: “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” (v. 17). So important a question requires attention, time, willingness to encounter others, and sensitivity to what troubles them. The Lord does not stand aloof; he does not appear annoyed or disturbed. Instead, he is completely present to this person. He is open to encounter. Nothing leaves Jesus indifferent; everything is of concern to him. Encountering faces, meeting eyes, sharing each individual’s history. That is the closeness that Jesus embodies. He knows that someone’s life can be changed by a single encounter. The Gospel is full of such encounters with Christ, encounters that uplift and bring healing. Jesus did not hurry along, or keep looking at his watch to end the meeting. He was always at the service of the person he was with, listening to what he or she had to say.

As we initiate this process, we too are called to become experts in the *art of encounter*. Not so much by organizing events or theorizing about problems, but in taking time to encounter the Lord and one another. Time to devote to prayer and to adoration – that form of prayer that we so often neglect – devoting time to adoration, and to hearing what the Spirit wants to say to the Church. Time to look others in the eye and listen to what they have to say, to build rapport, to be sensitive to the questions of our sisters and brothers, to let ourselves be enriched by the variety of charisms, vocations and ministries. Every encounter – as we know – calls for openness, courage, and a willingness to let ourselves be challenged by the presence and the stories of others. If at times we would rather take refuge in formality or presenting the proper image – the clerical and courtly spirit, where I am more *Monsieur l’abbé* than *Father* – the experience of encounter changes us; frequently it opens up new and unexpected possibilities. Following today’s Angelus, I will meet with a group of street people who came together simply because a group of people made an effort to listen to them, sometimes just to listen to them. And from that listening they succeeded in setting out on a new path. So often God points out new paths in just this way. He invites us to leave our old habits behind. Everything changes once we are capable of genuine encounters with him and with one another, without formalism or pretense, but simply as we are.

Weekly Devotion in Honor of the Year of St. Joseph

“I have a great love for St. Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table, I have an image of St. Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church! Yes! We know that he can do that. So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath St. Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words, I tell him: ‘Pray for this problem!’” - Pope Francis

Naming and Commendation Mass November 13

On Saturday, November 13, at 10:00am, we invite parents who have lost a child before birth to a special Mass of Remembrance. As part of the Mass, each family will be called up, be able to name the child, and pray with the community for the soul of the child or children who passed away before birth.

This is open to anyone in the parish, whether the child passed recently or decades ago. Everyone who personally knows this tragic loss can receive great healing from prayer and this Mass.

If you would like your child or children prayed for, please contact the parish office by Wednesday, November 10, so that we can prepare certificates for the Mass.



Join the Fun Run

SRA Giving Thanks 2021 5K Run

This year the Fun Run 5K will have both an in-person and a virtual option.

You can sign up here to support our school:

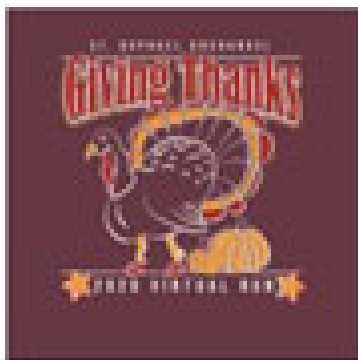
<https://runsignup.com/Race/MO/SaintLouis/SRAVIRTUAL`FUNRUN>

We will run the distance on November 20, this neighborhood and around our fabulous school.

Every participant will receive a shirt designed by one of our very own SRA students.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Daugherty at:

LJeep524@gmail.com.



DAILY READINGS

Sunday	Jer 31:7-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/ Heb 5:1-6/Mk 10:46-52
Monday	Rom 8:12-17/Ps 68:2 and 4, 6-7ab, 20 -21 [21a]/Lk 13:10-17
Tuesday	Rom 8:18-25/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4 -5, 6 [3a]/Lk 13:18-21
Wednesday	Rom 8:26-30/Ps 13:4-5, 6 [6a]/Lk 13:22-30
Thursday	Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5a]/Lk 6:12-16
Friday	Rom 9:1-5/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19- 20/Lk 14:1-6
Saturday	Rom 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29/Ps 94:12- 13a, 14-15, 17-18 [14a]/Lk 14:1, 7-11
Next Sunday	Dt 6:2-6/Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 [2]/ Heb 7:23-28/Mk 12:28b-34

LECTORS FOR THE WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 30 - 31

4:30pm
Matt Fuhr

8:00am
Judy Hof

10:00am
Frosty Hodes

ALTAR SERVERS

SERVERS FOR OCTOBER 25 - 31, 2021

Monday, October 25

8:00am Dalila Ramirez Nahima Ramirez

Tuesday, October 26

8:00am Anna-Grace Guenther Brandon Young

Wednesday, October 27

8:00am Christian Bernadt Cillian Sheehan

Thursday, October 28

8:00am Lydia Eddingfield Brendan Cierpiot

Friday, October 29

8:00am Henry Dirnbeck Charlie Dirnbeck

Saturday, October 30

4:30pm Ethan Bradshaw Claire Fuhr
Lucas Fuhr

Sunday, October 31

8:00am Ava Christlieb Dalila Ramirez
Nahima Ramirez
10:00am Christian Bernadt James Browning
Ryan Schneider

Save the Date! Advent by Candlelight, Presented by SRA Ladies' Club, Sunday, December 5

Do you want to be refilled and reset as we await our Savior's birth? Do you want to be prepared to celebrate Advent fully? Come and be blessed at Saint Raphael the Archangel Advent by Candlelight, the second week of Advent. Of course, things will be different this year, but we are grateful to be able to be refreshed together. We will gather in our beautiful church for a service full of prayer, readings, music, and speakers. Although we are unable to have table hostesses with food and drink this time, we are looking forward to a special evening in church. All ladies are welcome and encouraged to invite family and friends. Doors open at 6:00pm and service begins at 6:30pm on Sunday, December 5, 2021. More details to follow.

For more information, please contact Anne Browning at annabelle_lea@hotmail.com or Melissa Schneider at melissa.schneider2008@gmail.com.

This year you can order via a new Google form.

There will be paper order forms in the back of church as well.

If you would prefer your items shipped directly to you, please use the link below.

code: STRAPHMO001

St. Raphael or use the electronic payment link .

Fresh Holiday Evergreens • Personalized Customer Service • Quality Guarantee • Innovative Packaging



St. Vincent de Paul Society will be selling nuts again this year! Order forms will be coming in early November. So be sure to watch the bulletin. Thank you in advance for your support!

Azalea Brand

St. Raphael the Archangel
Mass Attendance Summary Report
Fall, 2021

On behalf of our parish leadership, I am providing this report to our parish community to facilitate a conversation about Mass attendance in our parish.

Since arriving at St. Raphael, I have tried to be more open and transparent about where we are as a parish community. To that end, we have provided each fall a comprehensive annual report on our parish finances and sacramental data for the past year, as well as have opportunities for conversations about where we are on these important indicators of our health and vibrancy, both formally and informally.

Our Sunday Mass attendance is another point of data the Archdiocese looks at to see the vibrancy of our community. While Mass attendance may not tell the full story, it gives an indication of the effectiveness of the primary parish mission of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Like most churches, both Catholic and not, our parish has seen a decline over the past ten years in attendance at Sunday Mass. In 2011, the average Mass attendance per Sunday was as follows:

Mass Time	4:30pm	8:00am	10:00am	Total
Attendance	219	129	228	576

In October of 2019 prior to the pandemic, our Mass attendance was as follows:

Mass Time	4:30pm	8:00am	10:00am	Total
Attendance	119	100	221	440

In the past weeks, our parish has conducted another Mass count. Here are our averages from this count:

Mass Time	4:30pm	4:30 Livestream	8:00am	10:00am	Total (In Person)	Total (In Person+Virtual)
Attendance	96	44	114	151	361	405

In the past 10 years, our parish has on average lost 215 persons (171 factoring virtual attendance) attending Mass on Sunday. It is a hard, sobering number to report to our community.

Two questions immediately arise. First, how many additional people did we lose because of the pandemic? Second, would we see better numbers if the mask mandate were lifted, as some are going to Mass elsewhere where there is no mask mandate?

Before the pandemic, we were losing approximately 17 persons per year at Mass. We should expect, then, around 34 fewer people at Mass to account for the two years of the pandemic. Our Mass attendance this year, then should be about 410 persons. This is just 5 persons off if we factor in those attending virtually each week at Mass. We can thus conclude that the pandemic has had some impact on our Mass attendance, but that our numbers would be roughly the same if the pandemic had never occurred.

While I am sure some families would return to Mass at St. Raphael should the mask mandate change, I did not notice a large drop-off of persons after the mask mandate was instituted by the city in July 2021. Thus, we cannot expect a change of the mask mandate to significantly alter our Mass attendance numbers.

The buck stops with the pastor. I share in the blame for not reversing this troubling trend in our community. As pastor, I am called to be the shepherd and evangelizer in our area. But I am not the only evangelizer or the sole person responsible to make sure everyone comes to Mass every Sunday. The Church makes it clear that the community shares in this responsibility to evangelize and outreach, encouraging the people to attend Mass.

In sharing this responsibility, I have heard some suggestions over the years. These range from the music played at Mass, to no music Masses, to shorter Masses on Sundays. We have tried some of these things and other parishes and churches have as well. Such things can help slightly with Mass attendance, but they do not drive the growth we need to see to get us back to 2011 levels.

We need to look deeper as a community as to why our Mass attendance continues to decline and what we can do not just to stop the decline, but to begin the turnaround.

One factor may be to adjust our Mass times so they are more friendly to the reality of families needing to get kids to multiple games and activities over the course of a weekend. This is merely a suggestion of where we may need to look; there is no plan even to begin to look at this possibility.

Perhaps we need to make different investments in order to offer options for grade school and high school-age students on the weekend so their experience is more dynamic and meaningful. This may help to attract families to attend Mass on Sundays.

Or perhaps we need to look at offering more occasions to grow in faith as adults by adding opportunities to interact with the Sunday readings. Having these, may drive more attendance with chances to really understand the readings and see how they connect with life today.

Beyond such formalized program ideas, perhaps we just need to be more intentional about inviting others to Mass. We often invite others to social events in our community. Why not Sunday Mass and some time for food and fellowship afterward, if possible? Could a simple invitation to Mass help start a new trend for someone in our community, an idea that could grow to affect others as well?

These are but a few ideas of what we could do help bolster our Mass attendance. We are only limited by our imaginations of what we could create to make Sunday worship more attractive for people in our community.

I continue to be impressed by our ability to invent and reinvent dynamic events every year that are great experiences of community, fun, and faith. Our parish leadership and I now call on that same creativity and resourcefulness to look at this issue and what we need to do to build Mass attendance. Together, I know we can and will do this.

As these conversations evolve, I encourage you to talk to me or to a member of our parish council or stewardship committee about your ideas and suggestions. These groups will continue to meet and, with your input, discern how we will move forward to make Sunday a “don’t-want-to-miss” worship experience.

Sincerely,

Fr. John, the Parish Council, and the Stewardship Committee

***Laudato Si'*: Praise be to you - Care for Our Common Home**

“In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, He does not leave us alone, for He has united Himself definitively to our Earth, and His love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. Praise be to Him!” - Pope Francis

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.



Roman Catholic Foundation
of
EASTERN MISSOURI

Conversations about illness, death and dying are never easy. Whether death comes suddenly or after prolonged illness, most of us are not comfortable discussing our medical wishes or end-of-life plans with our loved ones. However, being prepared ensures that your final wishes are followed. It is important for you and your loved ones to understand the Church's teachings on end-of-life decisions. Advance planning on your part keeps your family from having to make these difficult decisions.

This free seminar is for people of all ages and life situations: singles, parents of young families, those caring for aging parents and those facing illness or death. There will be no solicitation at this event.

*Plan with heart.
Invest for good.*

ST. GABRIEL THE ARCHANGEL HOST...

THE CONVERSATION:

*A Catholic Perspective
on End-of-Life Issues*

PRESENTED BY THE ROMAN CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 20, 2021

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. (lunch provided)

St. Gabriel the Archangel Church • Cafeteria
6303 Nottingham Avenue • St. Louis, MO 63109

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- *Principles of Catholic Bioethics,*

Fr. Peter Fonseca, M.A., MDiv., M.S.,

- Ordinary & Extraordinary Means of Preserving Life
- Quality of Life & the Dignity of the Human Person

- *Advance Directives & Estate Planning,*

Carl Markus, JD

Paule, Camazine & Blumenthal, P.C.

- *Charitable Legacy Planning,*

Michael Weisbrod, Roman Catholic Foundation

- *Funeral and Cemetery Planning,*

Msgr. John Shamleffer, St. Gabriel the Archangel Church

- Pastoral Care of the Sick & Dying
- Anatomical Donation & Cremation

"The program is well organized and easy to follow. It has created an awareness for me on these complicated subjects. I will recommend this program to my family and friends."

-Bill Doyle, St. Peter (Kirkwood) parishioner

To register, please visit

<https://rcfstl.org/conversation-fall2021/> or
call 314.918.2892.



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#