

# St Raphael

## & Sister Faith Communities

Queen of Angels - Nashua  
Holy Family - Glentana

St. Raphael - Glasgow  
St. Albert - Hinsdale

Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ- Year A  
December 25, 2022

412 3rd Avenue North • P.O. Box 471  
Glasgow, Montana 59230  
[www.straphaelparish.net](http://www.straphaelparish.net)  
406-228-9800

### Weekend Mass & Word/Communion Services

Date	Location	Time
Saturday, Dec 31	St. Raphael ☩	4:00 PM
Sunday, Jan 1	St. Raphael ☩	9:00 AM
	St Albert ☒	9:00 AM
	Queen of Angels ☒	11:00 AM
	Holy Family ☩	11:30 AM

☩ Mass

☒ Sunday Celebration in  
Absence of a Priest

## Christmas 2022

### Jesus Christ: Appearance of God's Grace and Glory [Titus 2:11-14]

*"Waiting for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ"*

Christmas is a celebration of both faith and traditions; faith in Jesus the incarnate Son of God and traditions of singing carols, building manger, trees with lights, special cuisines etc. that increase our joy and thankfulness. Paul writing to Titus says that the first coming of Christ was the manifestation of God's saving grace. By becoming man Christ linked our humanity eternally to God. In him humanity is invited to a new journey of faith and its finishing point is to share in the glory of Christ.

Paul speaks of the present age and the age to come. We are in the time in between the two appearances of Christ: first Christmas and the second coming of Christ. Paul here makes the amazing confession, calling Jesus God, 'our great God and Savior Jesus Christ! The present age is already permeated by the Savior leading us to a transformed existence in the age to come, the 'appearance of glory'. The present age is the age of the church, a 'people created for good works'! Good works flow from the redeemed heart and that is to make present our prayer, 'thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth'. Building the kingdom of

justice and love is our mission in the present age!

In Christ, grace that saves is available for all, because God's will is the wellbeing of all. Grace flows like a stream into the barrenness of human hearts; it is life rejuvenating presence of Emmanuel [Christ], God with us. The function of grace is to empower the 'saved', who accepted Christ to live justly and end a life of lawlessness or disorder. Christ the Savior is the source of grace and his grace disciplines, trains or educates the mind to acquire the mind of Christ. It is to live 'reverently' or with an awareness of one's dignity as Christian.

Paul encourages Christians to practice self-control, moderation and cleanse the heart of all hostility, hatred, divisions and stop transmitting negativity [what you do not transform, you transmit]. A heart trained by grace rejoices in a life of hospitality, service, and harmony; we become a source of healing and restoring grace for others.

**WISH YOU A BLESSED CHRISTMAS**

**Father Jose**

## Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father for December

### Volunteer and Not-For-Profit Organizations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

*Special Intentions: Pray the Rosary*

**Lord, please hear these prayer intentions of your faithful people...**

Glen Monson, Cindy Taylor, Larry Grant, Audrey Prescott, Paulette Knaff, Megan Schaefer, Roger Wagner, Joe Rennick, Cindy Christenson, Gary Smith, Shelley Welter, Larry Olson & all who are in need of our prayers....

## Weekly Calendar

Monday, Dec 26 **St Stephen**

Tuesday, Dec 27 **St John the Apostle**

No Mass

6:30 PM: Adoration & Rosary

Wednesday, Dec 28 **The Holy Innocents**

No Mass

No Religious Ed

No Youth Group

Thursday, Dec 29 **St Thomas Becket**

12:10 PM: Mass Intention: †Bunk Sullivan  
by Steve & Michele Page

Friday, Dec 30 **The Holy Family**

12:10 pm: Mass Intention: †Fern Vosen  
by Perry & Sheila Shorten

Saturday, Dec 31 **St Sylvester New Years Eve**

3:30 PM: Rosary

4:00 PM: Mass Intention: Larry Olson  
by Tom & Denise Quinlan

Sunday, Jan 1 **Solemnity of Mary**

8:30 AM: Rosary

9:00 AM: Mass Intentions: Needs of the Parish

## St. Raphael's Sacrificial Giving

<b>Last Weekend</b>	\$5,701
Nov Donations	\$15,757
Nov Expenses	\$15,915
Nov Totals	\$-158

**Fiscal Year 22-23**

Income: \$75,637

Expenses **\$75,141**

Total \$3,496

## Discussion Questions of the Week

**Life Question:** To whom is Jesus' birth important when it happens? How do you do homage to God in the presence of the lowly and disadvantaged?

**Gospel Question:** How is Jesus a gift to humankind?

**Youth Question:** What is a gift you are giving to others to celebrate Jesus' birthday? What am I thankful for this Christmas? What is your favorite Christmas activity?

## Christmas Flowers

Curt & LaVerne Beede	Jase Henderson
Mim & Jim Kruzik	John & Mary Humbert
Joan & Connie Beede	Liv. Oscar Peterson
Dan & Pauline French	Ihnat & French Families
Robert, Dorothy, Duke Speer	Greg Speer
Frank & Theresa Mattern	Carmella Abern
Albert Franzen	Bill Franzen
Ida Johnston	Monica Candee
Angie Matuska	Kritin Liebelt
Michael Liebelt	James Liebelt
Jane & Tim Hide	Beverly Copenhaver
Quinlan Family	Campbell Family
Dolores Huff	Rosalie Palazzo
Koni Karst McMahon	Lawrence Boucher

## Peace on Earth

Jesus comes back as a baby to tell us that God is not far away.

The angels are still singing: peace on earth to people he loves.

Let us ask your defenceless omnipotence

to bend down and to snuff out the arrogance of violence, to remove hatred from all hearts

and to put love there, to make it so that soon

no nation in the world will remember what war is. **Amen**

## Prayer for All the Sick

**Jesus our Lord,**

we ask you to have mercy on all who are sick. Give them your strength and love, and help them to carry this cross with faith. May their sufferings be one with yours, overcome the power of evil, and lead others to our Father in heaven. Lord Jesus, hear our prayer, for you are Lord for ever and ever. **Amen**



*Chiara Lubich  
Prayers &  
Blessings*

# Stewards Of the Week

The Knights of Columbus ,Crystal Laumeyer and Erin Hankins are the Stewards of the Week. The Knights made a fabulous breakfast for all the participants of the Advent program and the spectators. Crystal did an amazing job on the stage decorations. Erin Hankins decorated the tables, WOW they were incredible. We would like to thank all of you for your Stewardship!!!!

## New Year's Eve Party

All are invited to The First Annual New Years Eve Party on Dec 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 PM following Mass at the Parish Center. We will be playing Cribbage and Pinochle. Bring your favorite Appetizer and Hot Cider will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Taste of Portugal Dinner

The group of adults and young people who are going to World Youth Day in Portugal in July of 2023 are putting on a Taste of Portugal Dinner. It will be February 3rd at the Parish Center.

They will have 2 seatings 5:30 & 7 PM.

If you are interested please contact Kim Monson on Tuesdays and Fridays from 1-4 or by e-mail [faithformation@nemont.net](mailto:faithformation@nemont.net). More information to come.

## Gifts for Christmas

We wrapped 136 gift boxes for the children of Pretty Eagle Catholic Academy. They are under St. Labre school system. We had 6 ladies help stuff and wrap them. Terri took them on Tuesday the 20th. We had wonderful donations of items and money to buy things to fill them to the brim. Thank you everyone for supporting this wonderful Christian Service Project.

## WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE

### ENCOUNTER EXPERIENCE:

Today is born to us a Savior, a newborn babe who cannot yet speak, but whose life will change the world. How is he calling you to be a voice of change in this world? The WWME Experience is an opportunity to find your voice as a couple, to make small changes in your everyday lives. These small changes have the capacity to change this world, certainly the lives of your children and those closest to you. Take the leap of faith and register for the next Experience, Feb 3-5 in Billings followed by Elk Mountain April 21-23. For more information or to register call Dan and Clare: 406-697-3275 or visit our website: [wwme.org](http://wwme.org)

## Patron Saint of:

**St Stephen:** Altar Servers, bricklayers, casket makers

**St John:** love, loyalty, friendships, authors, booksellers, burn-victims, poison-victims, art-dealers, editors

## Liturgical Ministry Schedule

Saturday, Dec 31, 4:00 PM

Sacred Host	Deacon Ed Malone
Lector	Sheila Malone
Altar Servers	Heath Hankins, Colten Schaefer
Hospitality	Connie Cannon, Jan Hodges
Mass Coordinator	Connie Cannon
Jan 3-ValleyView	Kerry Kingsley
Sunday, Jan 1, 9:00 AM	
Sacred Host:	Deacon Ed Malone
Lector:	Audra Cornwell
Altar Servers	Jacob Seekins, RyLee Mix
Hospitality:	Madylon Cornwell & Family
Mass Coordinator:	Madylon Cornwell
Prairie Ridge	Wendy Glaser

## Word of Life 2022

“Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother.” Learn ten tips at [respectlife.org/support-her](http://respectlife.org/support-her).

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

“10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting”

## Quiet Moments of Reflection

Be humble in this life, that God may raise you up in the next. Be truly moderate and do not punish or condemn anyone immoderately. Be gentle so that you may never oppose justice. Be honorable so that you may never voluntarily bring disgrace upon anyone. Be chaste so that you may avoid all the foulness of lust like the pangs of death. **St Stephen**



## Living the Word - Dec 25

Now that the Christmas season has begun, change your prayer tablecloth from a purple cloth to a white one. If you recieved any Christmas cards that have beautiful pictures of the Nativity, display them as prayer cards on your table.

*Liturgy Training Publications*

## Parish Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday  
10:00am to 4:00pm

**Pastor:** Fr. Jose Valliparambil

Office Hours 9:30 to 11:00AM T-TH  
Office: 228-9800  
Rectory: 228-2962  
Email: vallijose@gmail.com

Director of Faith Formation & Youth Ministry:

Kimberly Monson

Office: 228-9800 Tues. & Fri PM

Email: FaithFormation@nemont.net

Secretary/Bookkeeper: Terri Ellsworth

Office: 228-9800

Email: straphael@nemont.net

Maintenance: Perry Shorten

## Donate to Haiti Project



## BLESSED GIFTS

St Raphael Parish  
Open Mon. thru Thurs.

from 10 am- 4 pm

Kim is in the store  
Tuesdays 10-Noon

## Councils & Commissions

Pastoral: Mary Fahlgren: 230-0148  
Finance: Glen Monson: 228-8385  
Stewardship.: Kim Monson: 228-9742  
Education: Nicole Cole: 263-1220  
OCIA: Deacon Ed Malone: 785-7080  
Liturgy: Karen Breigenzer: 367-5352  
Christian Service: Nancy Koessl: 228-2898  
PCCW: Sheila Malone 228-4016  
K of C: Jon Bengochea: 228-2384  
Prayer Chain: Liz B. 228-8527 or Deb Y. 228-8379  
Travel for Faith: Kim Monson: 228-9742

## Parish Departments

Website: Karen Breigenzer.: 367-5352  
Facebook Editor: Erin Hankins 263-1753  
Music: Mary Sugg: 263-7515  
Sacristan: Connie Cannon  
Haiti Project Parish: Sue Sather: 228-2606

Better are the blows of  
a friend than the flase  
kisses of an enemy.

**St Thomas Becket**

Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year

Mary Fahlgren  
523 2nd Ave S  
Glasgow MT 59230

25% of Sale Priced  
on items by  
Mary Fahlgren  
will be donated to  
the Haiti Project.

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Gallery

WheatgrassArts@gmail.com



228-8013  
238 2nd Ave South  
Glasgow, MT 59230



Romans 8:28 "We know that all  
things work for good for those who  
love God, who are called according  
to his purpose."

**Willows Restaurant**  
Open 6 A.M. to 10 P.M. Daily

Owner: Betty & Tracy Stone - parishioners

LPL Financial

Gary Wageman  
Financial Advisor

228-8261

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**Fred & Jeannie Compton,**  
R.Ph.'s, parishioners

St. Raphael's  
Adoration & Rosary  
Led by

**MEN'S Prayer Group**

Meets Every Tuesday  
night @ 6:30 in Church

**All Parish Members**

**WELCOME**

For info Contact: Deacon Ed

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# Contemplating with St. Joseph



My little boy. You are such a delight in my life with your tiny hands, your beautiful dark eyes and a cry so loud it makes your mother and me laugh with surprise sometimes. I hold you now curled up so peacefully against my shoulder and I marvel at the months we have had. What a beginning it was for our little family - the long journey to Bethlehem, your mother's birth pains beginning and finding a place for you to be born. Before we left home I had already built a wonderful, new cradle for you, but you decided to come while we were traveling! What a wondrous night that was.

In such a short time, we have become a family. I can hardly imagine a life before you and your mother. This morning when my beloved Mary was leaving for the well, I protested saying I couldn't bear to see you both leave at the same time, so she smiled with that look she has and left you here with me.

Yes, I am a carpenter, but I am also a storyteller, my son, as my father was and my grandfather before him. I will tell you many stories in your life, but none that fill me with awe as this one does: When it

was arranged that I should become betrothed to Mary, I was filled with happiness. Your mother was known in the town as a devout and pious young woman who lived a life according to the laws of the temple. But what I also knew is that she has always been full of life and music. For many years I walked past her father's house on the way to the synagogue, and I often heard her voice coming through the windows as she sang loudly and full of joy. Songs of the ancestors, songs of praise from the Psalms or sometimes I heard her making up songs as she does now around our house. No one could have asked for a more perfect wife and in the weeks after our betrothal, my heart was filled with praise and gratitude for the Father.

But it all changed one day when Mary came to my shop as I worked. I could see by the expression on her face that something was different. "Joseph," she said, I must tell you something that will be difficult for you to understand. I do not understand it myself, but I feel a great peace about it."

I drew her to the chairs in the corner of the shop and stretched out my hands to hold hers. "Mary, beloved, whatever it is, nothing you say can change my love for you." She looked at me with the same dark, piercing eyes I see in your face and tightened her grip in my hands. "Joseph, I am with child. I cannot say how it happened. I can only tell you that Gabriel, a messenger from the Lord, appeared to me and told me I would conceive a son. He said this son would be great and would be called Son of the Most High."

My head was dizzy and my heart felt empty and afraid. What was she saying? Mary was with child? But we had not been together as husband and wife. Then who? What was this she was saying? How could this be? I looked at her and could not speak.

"Joseph," she said again. "I know this is difficult. I myself can only believe in it because it came from God."

Suddenly, what she was saying hit me with great force. "What do you mean?" I exploded. "You are with child?!" I pulled my hands away as I filled with anger. "What of our plans?" I stammered and sputtered, unable to make sense of any of this. Did I not know this "faithful" young woman as I thought? And my reputation! I would be made a fool in the town! As I imagined the weeks and months ahead, my face burned with shame for her and for myself.





I looked at Mary in anger. But she sat quietly and her face seemed more peaceful than I could have imagined it. I looked into those wonderful eyes and they were filled only with a faithful contentment. "You are with child! Whose child?!!!" I demanded.

She reached for my hands again but I shook them away. "Joseph, please hear what I am saying. The messenger said I would be with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph," she said again, her voice in a whisper, "he said this child would be called holy ... the Son of God!"

"Leave!" was all I could say to her. "Leave me now and do not return," I said harshly. She looked heartbroken but I did not allow myself to feel her pain. She had humiliated me and made me a fool! She arose and walked to the door of the shop where she turned. "I have been with no man, Joseph. I am only the handmaiden of the Lord." She left quietly.

I could not work that day. I left my shop and walked for hours out beyond the edge of the date groves, kicking the dusty road ahead of me. I searched for comfort from the Psalms that flooded my heart.

You, Lord are you, LORD, are a shield around me; my glory, you keep my head high. Whenever I cried out to the LORD, I was answered from the holy mountain. Selah. Whenever I lay down and slept, the LORD preserved me to rise again.

I wept and walked and spent the day in prayer, begging God for some answer to all of this. I needed guidance. By the time it grew dark, I was tired and had made my decision. I would divorce her. I would do it quietly so she would not be stoned as the law called for, but she would not be my wife. I returned home in great sadness. I could not eat but only fell on my mat in exhaustion.

It was while I was sleeping that it happened. I often have dreams and I know that messengers from the Lord sometimes come to me in the night. That night as I slept, a messenger came to me. "Joseph, you must believe Mary," he said. "Your fears must not keep you from hearing this message from the Lord. Do not be afraid to take Mary, your wife, into your home. As she has told you, it is through the Holy Spirit that she has conceived and a son will be born, a son who will save his people from their sins."

I remember no more until the sun filled my room. When I awoke my heart felt great peace but it took me a moment to remember all that had happened since yesterday. I sat up suddenly. Mary! I must find Mary. I praised the Lord as I hurried through the town looking for Mary. She was in the back garden of her father's house, sitting quietly.

"Mary!" I called. She turned and gave me a beaming smile. "I knew you would come!" she said. "When I left your house yesterday I turned to the Lord again and asked that he send me help, some support in this difficult journey. Yet in my heart, Joseph, I knew it was to be you. Thank you for believing me."

I was ashamed as I told her the truth - I had not believed her but the Lord had sent me a messenger, too. He had repeated what Mary said. It was to be the Messiah! And Mary and I were to be with this long-awaited child on this earth. There was fear at the edges of my heart as I thought of this life, but I remembered that the angel had told me not to let my fears keep me from hearing what the Lord was calling me to. "Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will," I said softly, repeating a favorite prayer.



I looked at Mary - my Mary - and reached for her hand again. "We will be together in this, Mary. We will raise this son to be faithful and obedient to the laws and he will bring us great joy."

And so you have, my tiny one. I look at you sleeping so peacefully at times like this and I wonder about life before you. Sometimes your mother and I pray together and lift you up to your Father, asking him to bless you, for of course he does. Mostly we just try to remain faithful parents every day.

My dear son. I will always be proud to be called your father. I may not be here when your Heavenly Father fulfills his plans in you. As long as I can be here, we will live together as a family of faith. Every single day, no matter what trials and challenges come our way, let us trust in God's way for us. Let us be patient with each other, honest with each other. Let us support each other when we need it and strengthen each other with God's own loving patience. Let us learn God's ways by loving others, forgiving others and healing all who suffer. If you are to save your Heavenly Father's people from their sins, may God develop your heart to love as God loves.

But for this moment, I cherish this time holding you, sleeping against my chest. As I await the singing that is the sign of your mother's return from the well, I know the angel was right: I will put my fears aside. For now the future is simple: I will teach you as my father taught me: to be a carpenter and to be a story teller. Together, we will love your mother. Shalom, my son. Shalom each day.