

December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent



ST. RAPHAEL the ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH ADDRESS

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Mr. Alex Fries, *Music Director*

Dear St. Raphael Parishioners,



The rose-colored vestments this Third Sunday of Advent remind us that this special season is now over half gone. While Covid precautions have reduced the amount of socializing this year, the time is still flying by. All of us are wondering what it will be like to celebrate Christmas in times of social distancing and limits on the size of gatherings. Even the Vatican has cancelled the public gatherings normally held this time of year in St. Peter's Square. Pope Francis will be livestreaming the liturgies, and as usual they will be telecast.

The National Catholic Register recently ran a good editorial titled, "Covid Can't Mute the Splendor of the Season." They mention the Church has shown that public Masses can be held safely, even in times of pandemic. At St. Raphael, we have been following the required rules for safety, and they appear to be working. This is no guarantee that we will be absolutely safe in the future, but it is evidence that churches can use to defend their rights. There have been recent court decisions defending the right of churches to meet, as long as they take reasonable precautions to protect public safety. Public health is certainly a serious issue, but churches also have a role in society that is essential. The common good requires us to find a balance between freedom and safety.

Online registration for 4 PM Christmas Eve Mass is filling up quickly. I expect as you read this, 4 PM will be completely filled. The signup numbers for 10:30 PM and Christmas morning are considerably lower. I encourage you all to consider attending a later Mass. A second Mass will be added on Christmas morning if the other times fill up.

Once again I remind all parishioners and friends that Christmas attendance is strictly limited. We cannot fit in last-minute arrivals this year. I worry that just as the Holy Family found no room at the inn in Bethlehem, we will be turning people away on Christmas Eve. I can hardly imagine a more awkward situation! Please help by getting the word out to your fellow parishioners, and any Catholics in the area. Once a Mass time has reached full capacity, we will use all means of communication to inform you. The website and our electric sign on US 45 should have the most up-to-date information.

Yours in the Lord,

Fr. Matthew Kowalski

Updated Confession Schedule

Tuesday, December 15 6 to 8 pm
Thursday, December 17 4 to 6 pm
Saturday, December 19 2:30 to 3:30
Monday, December 21 Noon to 2pm

Visiting priests will be here on
December 16, 17 and 21.

*Confessions for Religious Education Families **only**
will be on Wednesday, December 16, for which
there is a separate sign-up online.*

Christmas Eve Mass Schedule

4:00 pm and 10:30 pm only; 25% capacity limit.
Online registration for 4 PM Christmas Eve Mass is
filling up quickly. The signup numbers for 10:30 PM
and Christmas morning are considerably lower.
Please consider attending a later Mass.

There will be no possibility of walk-ins or overflow
seating! Our need for volunteer ushers/sanitizers is
the limiting factor. Please sign-up.

Once signups reach capacity, we will stop listing the
Mass publicly, (e.g. on the website or our electric
sign). The Archdiocese encourages all to attend
Mass during the Christmas Octave if you cannot get
a seat on the 24th.



The Knights of Columbus would like to thank the
parishioners who supported our 2020 Christmas
Tree Lot. We had a very successful year and sold
out after two weeks.

Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

**St. Raphael The Archangel
Current Mass Schedule and Times**

Weekday: 8:30 am (Monday-Saturday am)
Saturday: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am

Reservations are required for Mass on
Saturday at 4:00 pm and Sunday at 9:00 am.

Confession

Saturday afternoons from 3:00 pm—3:45 pm

Baptism

Registered parishioners should contact the parish
office at 847-395-3474.

Marriage Preparation

Registered and supporting members should call
the office. A date should not be set until consulting
the pastor.

Oplatki Available at St. Raphael

One of the most cherished and most widely
preserved Christmas customs among Christians is
the use of Oplatki. The significance of the Oplatki
Christmas wafer is that it shadows the Eucharistic
Meal that we participate in at each Mass. The
charge per envelope, which consists of 4 wafers
and a Christmas letter explaining the tradition and
meaning of the wafer, is \$5.00. Providing parishes
with Oplatki is one of the basic means of financial
support for the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict.
Any donation for the Sisters beyond the purchase
of the Oplatki would be greatly appreciated.
Please call the parish office (847.395.3474) to
order.



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ARS: The Altar & Rosary Sodality Women's Group News



Angel Tree

The Altar & Rosary Sodality (ARS) Women's Group once again thanks all the parishioners who participated in our annual "Angel Tree". These photos show some of these gifts and boxes prepared for the program conducted by Catholic Charities, through which St. Raphael the Archangel assisted 150 children and seniors to have a Christmas they might not have had without your help!

ARS Women's Group will not be meeting in December due to the virus, but does plan to meet via Zoom on Monday, January 25 at 7 p.m. All ladies of the parish are welcome!



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Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support St. Raphael Church by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com at no extra cost to you—no fees! Once you have joined, simply pick your charity by clicking on search, type in St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church in Lake Villa, Illinois, then select. Remember to always start smile.amazon.com. Tell your relatives and friends!! This is not restricted to parishioners!

Mass Intentions

Week of December 13, 2020		Intentions for:	Requested by:
Saturday, December 12, 2020	8:30 am 4:00 pm	The Siron Family † Kathy Zak	Evelyn Ong Mitzie and John Wolowic
Sunday, December 13, 2020	9:00 am	Parishioners of St. Raphael The Archangel † Carol Geske	Altar & Rosary Sodality Women's Group
Monday, December 14, 2020	8:30 am	† Mary Ellen Gardino	The Osmond Family
Tuesday December 15, 2020	8:30 am	Sean Foley	Linda Foley
Wednesday, December 16, 2020	8:30 am	† Jane Donahoe	William Donahoe
Thursday, December 17, 2020	8:30 am	† Timothy Osmond	JoAnn Osmond
Friday, December 18, 2020	8:30 am	Kevin Foley	Linda Foley
Saturday, December 19, 2020	8:30 am 4:00 pm	† Dorothy DeRue † Bart J. Berry	JoAnn Osmond Annette Wynn
Sunday, December 20, 2020	9:00 am	Parishioners of St. Raphael The Archangel	
		† Thomas A. Berry † Luigi Borelli	Annette Wynn Rob Borelli

Please pray for those in our parish and community who are sick:

Lynn (Lenny) Graham; Bonnie Parkman
Marcy Novak; Paula Emmerth; Bob Geske
Residents of Rolling Hills



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7:00 PM



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Interested in applying for a Tax Credit Scholarship? On January 13, 2021, Empower Illinois will open it's portal to begin the process.

SAVE THE DATE!

All children deserve a chance to succeed and now through February 28, 2021, your donation to the Tax Credit Scholarship program through Empower Illinois, can have 3X's the impact. Take advantage of the 2 for 1 matching gift program to schools run by the Archdiocese of Chicago. For more information, please visit www.archchicago.org/tcs.



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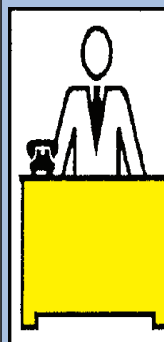


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