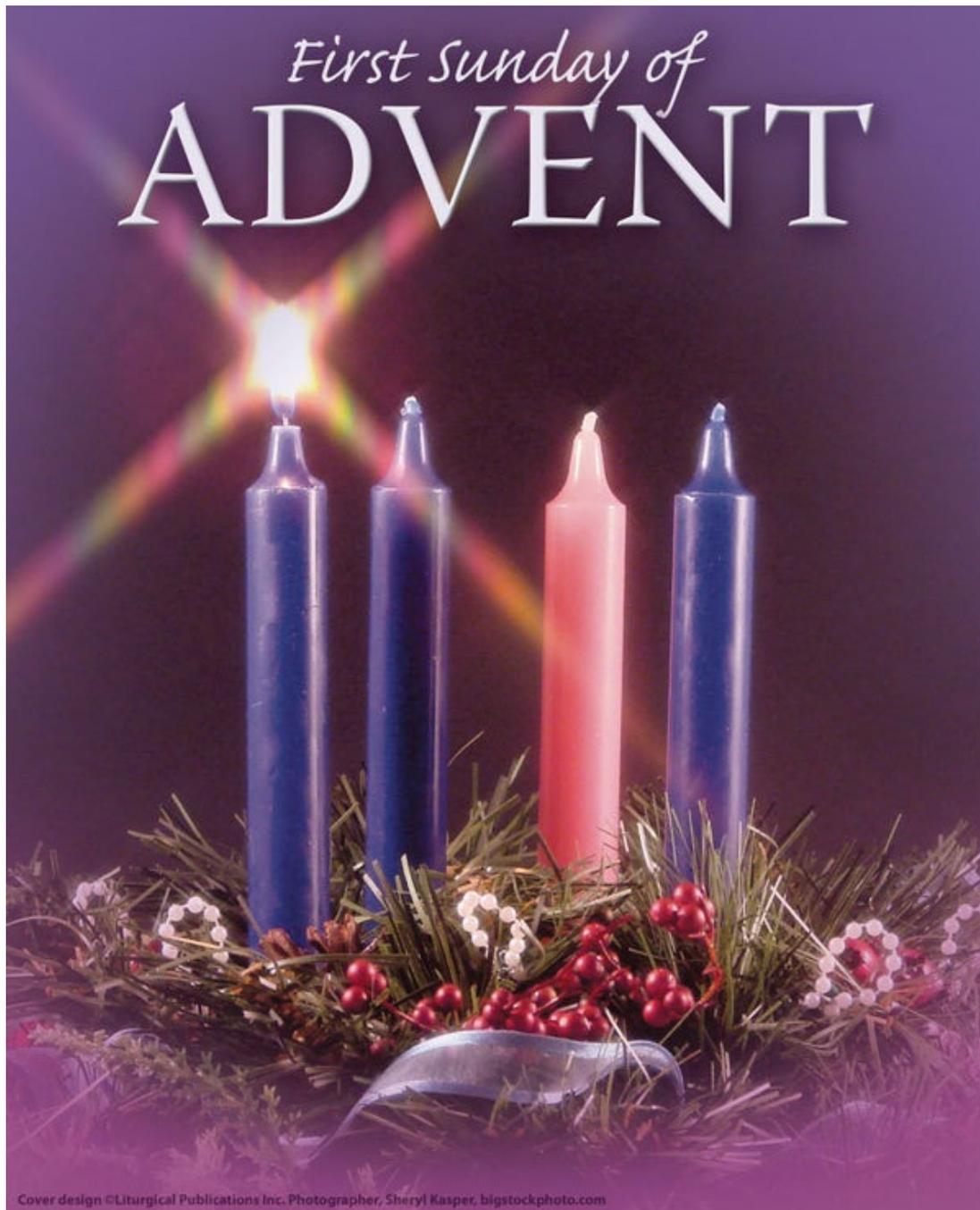


St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church

December 3, 2023



PARISH ADDRESS

40000 North U.S. Highway 45
Old Mill Creek, Illinois 60046-7464
phone 847.395.3474 fax 847.395.3552
email rectory@straphaelcatholic.org
www.straphaelcatholic.org

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Matthew Kowalski, *Pastor*
Dr. Gregory K. Webster, *Deacon*
Bob Ochsner, *Deacon*
John Haderlein, *Deacon*
Dr. Mark Mrowiec, *Operations Director*
Ms. Annette Wynn, *Coordinator of Religious Ed.*
Mr. Alex Fries, *Music Director*

Dear St. Raphael Parishioners,



A Season of Getting Ready: There was a very nice popular song on the radio, way back when your pastor was a child. The song is entitled “People Get Ready”, and it was strongly influenced by southern gospel music traditions. It has been re-recorded several times because it is so good. Each year when Advent begins I remember those lyrics, even though it is not an Advent or Christmas song. Old fashioned gospel music isn’t sophisticated, but expresses a simple trust and love of God.

As we start Advent, we might have so many things that we want to get ready. Things like shopping, decorating, baking, etc., are going on all around us during this season. It’s almost too easy to get caught up in a frantic pattern of activity. Whenever you feel too busy or over-worked, it’s a time to pause and set your priorities. Not everything we want to do is equally important. How important to you is your relationship with God?

Advent is a time of *spiritual* preparation, more than anything else. Christians are people who live in waiting for the return of our true Lord. The Catholic Church knows that we cannot live in constant readiness all the time, so we use this special time of the year to renew our spirit. The first coming of Jesus was a small event unnoticed by the world, but His second coming will be different.

Immaculate Conception, December 8: Holy Day Masses will be Friday at 8:30 am and 7 pm. I will say the Masses that day. Fr. Jelinek will take the Wednesday am Mass this week.

On Saturday, December 9th there will be **no** 8:30 am Mass, however, there will be a communion service instead.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: The 11 am Mass usually has the highest attendance of all the Sunday Masses. Although we are fortunate enough to have a deacon at almost every Sunday Mass, I have noticed that Communion distribution is taking longer at 11:00. I think we may be ready to add Extraordinary Ministers at this Mass time. If any parishioner has been thinking about this important ministry, I recommend contacting us after the end of Christmas season.

Catholic Social Media: You might have seen warnings in the news about the bad influence of internet social media: Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc. Some young people can get addicted to it and suffer bad effects from this. I advise all parents to learn enough about this modern medium, to tell if your children are using it in a healthy way or not.

Yet there is also a good side to social media: it can be a way to spread the Gospel. There are many Catholic or Christian videos on Youtube (which controls most online video content). Some of these videos are good enough to inform even clergy with Theology degrees. But other videos might give false information or be misleading. I plan to share some of the good sources in future columns here.

God bless,

Fr. Matthew

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Immaculate Conception

A Holy Day of Obligation

Friday, December 8, 2023

8:30 am & 7:00 pm Mass



4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23, 2023

4:00 pm—4th Sunday of Advent Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 24, 2023

9:00 am—4th Sunday of Advent Mass

Vigil of Christmas

Sunday, December 24, 2023

4:00 pm, 6:00 pm & 10:30 pm - Christmas Eve Mass

The Nativity of The Lord Christmas Day

Monday, December 25, 2023

9:00 am & 11:00 am - Christmas Mass

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30, 2023

4:00 pm - Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 31, 2023

9:00 am & 11:00 am - Mass

Feast of The Solemnity of Mary

The Holy Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 2024

8:30 am - Mass

Feast of The Epiphany of The Lord

Saturday, January 6, 2024

4:00 pm - Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 7, 2024

9:00 am & 11:00 am - Mass

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, December 9 - 3:00-3:45 pm

Tuesday, December 12 - 7:00-8:00 pm; Holy Hour with Adoration and Confession In English & Spanish

Saturday, December 16 - 2:30 - 3:30 pm

Monday, December 18 - 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 20 - Noon - 2:00 pm

Simbang Gabi Mass December 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Nativity Pageant December 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Doors open at 5:40 pm

St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church

Knights of Columbus Christmas Tree Sale

The Archangel's Council is selling Christmas Trees and Wreaths again this year. This is a great time to join the Knights. All men ages 18 and older are welcome! Come help out our primary fund raiser for the year and get to know the other men of St. Raphael. Here are the key dates:

December 2 & 3 and 9 & 10

Tree and Wreath Sales 8:00 am—6:00pm

December Planning Meeting will be December 2 at the Tree Lot (time permitting).

Fresh, fragrant and full Christmas Trees and Wreaths will be available at the corner of RT.173 and RT.45.



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. Oplatki can be purchased in the narthex after Mass.



St. Raphael The Archangel Mass Schedule and Times

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

Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Friday, December 8

Immaculate Conception of Mary, A Holy Day of Obligation, Mass at 8:30 am and 7 pm

Tuesday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mass at 8:30 am; 7-8pm Adoration and Confession (in English & Spanish)

St. Raphael the Archangel Office Hours

The Church Office is open Monday - Thursday from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm and closed on Fridays.

Confession : Saturday afternoons from 3-3:40 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.

WEDDING BANNS



III Caitlin Fortier and Thomas Miller

St. Raphael the Archangel Religious Education Calendar

Wednesday, December 6: Advent Penance Service Grades 3-8, St. Raphael Church, 6:30-7:30 pm;
No Class Grades K-2

Sunday, December 10: Family Mass Grades 6 and 3 Assisting, St. Raphael Church, 11:00 am

Wednesday, December 13: Class at Milburn Middle School, 6:30-7:30 pm

Wednesday, December 20 and 27: No Class – Christmas Break; Classes resume January 10, 2024

For more information about our Religious Education Program, please contact:
Annette Wynn, Coordinator, at Religiouseducation@straphaelcatholic.org



Religious Education Service Opportunities—Students will obtain service project credits.

Angel Tree Gift Delivery: Angel Tree gifts for Catholic Charities will be collected at the church for delivery on **Sunday, December 3rd**; assist with packing cars at St. Raphael and unloading cars at Catholic Charities. Parents can volunteer their cars for the delivery. Contact Mrs. Forster or Mrs. Hutchings (email: eforster@comcast.net or irus1@sbcglobal.net)

Cookie Walk—Saturday and Sunday December 10 and 11: Students can bake 6 dozen cookies and help with setup on Saturday; participate by volunteering at the time of the Cookie Walk after Masses; assist with cleanup on Sunday afternoon. To volunteer contact Mrs. Cherry (email: dawny328@hotmail.com).

Gift Bags for Seniors: Students can fill a gift bag provided by Open Arms Food Pantry with toiletries and which would include a Christmas card from the student. Gift bags should be delivered to the parish office no later than **Monday December 11**. Student should contact Annette Wynn to obtain a gift bag and participate in this project. (email: religiouseducation@straphaelcatholic.org).



Share in the Care—Retirement Fund for Religious, December 10, 2023

Since the Catholic Bishops of the United States established the collection in 1988, we have seen its positive impact on the lives of countless senior religious. However, despite the Church’s sustained support, many communities still struggle to provide for their aging members. With rising eldercare costs and a growing population that needs care, we must remain steadfast in supporting them in light of the constantly changing nature of their retirement needs. We urgently need your help to ensure our women and men religious enjoy a safe and modest retirement. We are grateful for the prayers, generosity and advocacy of all who share our mission to support elderly religious. With your help, we can continue to support those who have devoted their lives to serving God

Come let us adore him

St. Raphael's is proud to host the third annual Interfaith Nativity Pageant!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH AT 6:00PM
ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCH ANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
40000 US-45, LAKE VILLA, IL 60046

Doors Open at 5:40PM and refreshments will follow!
We are also collecting hats and gloves for the
HOUSE OF PEACE
in Lake County if you would like to donate to this cause!

Family Faith Formation Group Events

Our “Fill My Cup” (social) event will be at St. Raphael the Archangel Church (Fellowship Hall) on Sunday, **December 3rd from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**. We will **celebrate Christmas** with music, games and fun!

We’ll have the usual types of engaging activities, but families are also welcome to bring a favorite game. **It would be appreciated if each family would bring a snack to share.**

Sharing the Christmas Spirit
Join us Sunday, **December 10** at our service event, “Make A Difference” here at St. Raphael the Archangel Church in the Fellowship Hall after each Mass. Stop by to support ARS by buying HOMEBAKED cookies at the Cookie Walk then proceed to the Family Faith Formation Group for Christmas crafts and activities. For more information or to be added to our email list, contact Donna at:

FamilyFaithFormationGroup@gmail.com



2023 Purgatorial Society Prayer Requests

Tanya Dornik; The Dornik Family; The Leskovec Family; Frida Pirim

Altar and Rosary Sodality News



ARS will be having a Christmas Social on **Monday, December 11** in the church Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm with a dinner catered by Hollywood Roadhouse; cost \$10 per person. Let JoAnn Osmond or the rectory know if you are able to attend. This will take the place of our regular December business meeting.

CALLING ALL BAKERS

Altar and Rosary will be holding our Cookie Walk again this year. We are looking for volunteers to bake 6 dozen of your favorite **HOMEMADE** Christmas Cookies. Please sign up at the table in the narthex. Cookies should be dropped off on Saturday, **December 9** between noon and 2 pm. The Cookie Walk itself will be an hour before and after Mass on December 9 and 10.



St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church

Saturday / Sunday Collections

Building Fund

			Over / (Under)	
Sunday	Donations	Budget	Budget	Donations
Jul 02	\$6,183.00	\$5,010.00	\$1,173.00	\$736.00
Jul 09	\$5,848.00	\$5,010.00	\$838.00	\$679.00
Jul 16	\$7,389.00	\$5,010.00	\$2,379.00	\$838.00
Jul 23	\$5,293.00	\$5,010.00	\$283.00	\$1,264.20
Jul 30	\$5,202.00	\$5,010.00	\$192.00	\$707.00
July	\$29,915.00	\$25,050.00	\$4,865.00	\$4,224.20
Aug 06	\$5,986.00	\$5,075.00	\$911.00	\$1,394.20
Aug 13	\$4,049.00	\$5,075.00	-\$1,026.00	\$570.00
Aug 20	\$6,584.00	\$5,075.00	\$1,509.00	\$325.00
Aug 27	\$5,773.00	\$5,075.00	\$698.00	\$1,661.00
August	\$22,392.00	\$20,300.00	\$2,092.00	\$3,950.20

Thank you for your generosity!

Sound System Update

After a lot of recent direct and indirect feedback, I am writing again to give an update on the church's sound system. As Father Kowalski mentioned in the bulletin, good "sound" starts at the source – the human speaker – with good diction, projection, and proper microphone placement. Even the best sound systems can only reinforce what is being received. However, even with the best of these, acoustically complex spaces like St. Raphael will always have "pockets" where it is still hard to understand. This is especially true if the listener already has degraded hearing, or there are other noises occurring simultaneously.

Last year, when we were having some issues with the microphones, I gave a reminder that we have several "assistive listening" devices available for checkout. These devices work with headphones or hearing aids to give the user a "direct feed" of the sound system, right in their ear!

These wireless devices receive a direct signal from the sound system, so that you may hear what would normally go through the speakers in a pair of headphones. You may bring your own wired headphones, or use the ones provided. One device can accept two pairs of headphones. If you have a telecoil equipped hearing aid or a cochlear implant, there are accessories available to utilize those as well. In fact, our own Deacon Greg uses one of these hearing aid "loops", and is very pleased with the results! If you are interested in using one of these devices, please see an usher before Mass to check one out. If you have any questions, or wish to purchase your own device, do not hesitate to ask me after any Mass, or contact the parish office.



In other news – I have been experimenting with announcements made from the choir loft, so that they may be more easily heard. The choir has its own sound system, because the sound delay from the *back-to-front-to-back* of church is very disorienting for anyone speaking/singing in the loft, nearly a half second delay. The goal is that any spoken announcements made will come through the main system (and assistive listening devices), while music will remain only from the choir system or naturally without reinforcement. Your continued feedback is appreciated as we work to improve the sound quality in the church!

Thank you!

Alex Fries, Director of Music

2023 Annual Catholic Appeal November Update – 92% of our 2023 Goal Reached

The Annual Catholic Appeal is an invitation for every Catholic family to respond with a generous heart. Your gift will provide inspiration, education, and services to the less fortunate in our Archdiocese and throughout the world. The 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal is open during the entire year for donations to support these ministries. You may contribute through our regular collection, online at our St. Raphael website, or scan the QR code here. There is still time to fulfill your pledge.

Our 2023 Parish Goal: \$23,027
2023 Amount Pledged: \$22,130
Amount Paid: \$21,220
Last Year's Collection: \$24,850



Thank you for your generosity toward this important ministry.

Mass Intentions

Week of December 3, 2023

Requested by:

Saturday, Dec 2, 2023	8:30 am	The Siron Family	Evelyn Ong
	4:00 pm	† Harold & Sophie Boutell	The Boutell Family
Sunday, Dec 3, 2023	9:00 am	The People of St. Raphael	The Robak Family
	11:00 am	† Eugeniusz Berdychowski	
Monday, Dec 4, 2023	8:30 am	† Marion Henderson	Marietta Centko
Tuesday, Dec 5, 2023	8:30 am	† Betty Laky	The Laky Family
Wednesday, Dec 6, 2023	8:30 am	† Ken Clark	Open Arms Family
Thursday, Dec 7, 2023	8:30 am	Emily Allen	Kimberly Allen
Friday, Dec 8, 2023 Immaculate Conception Holy Day Obligation	8:30 am	The People of St. Raphael	Gisella Dorog-Leyson
	7:00 pm	† Marietta Dorog	
Saturday, Dec 9, 2023	8:30 am	Communion Service	The Mariani Family
	4:00 pm	† Norbert & Tina Solarz	
Sunday, Dec 10, 2023	9:00 am	The People of St. Raphael	The Ken Gunther Family
	11:00 am	† Gabrielle Anne Zambo	

In Loving Memory of our recently deceased parishioner

Patricia Maravola (Mother of Leslie Maravola)
May God's perpetual light shine upon her.

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

Clarence Frounfelker
Wayne Francke
Bill Hutchings
Tom Tomasello, Jr.

Belen Kling
Fr. Art Mattox
Frank Wihtelich
Richard Biel

Mary Lou Biel
Residents of Rolling Hills

St. Raphael the Archangel Serving in the Armed Forces

The names of active duty military personnel from the St. Raphael community are listed below. We keep them in our thoughts and prayers as they protect our country and freedom. Please notify the parish office if you would like to add someone to the list or if your service person is no longer active in the military.

Captain Nicholas A. DeSilvia, U. S. Air Force
1 LT Mary Claire Lindroth, U.S. Army
SFC Robert L. Ochsner III, U.S. Army
1 LT Sarah Ochsner, U.S. Army

Worship & Spiritual Life Schedule Mass Times for December 9-10, 2023

Mass Times	4:00 pm Saturday	9:00 am Sunday	11:00 am Sunday
Clergy	Fr. Jim Merold Dcn John Haderlein	Fr. Matthew Kowlaski Dcn Greg Webster	Fr. Matthew Kowalski Dcn. Bob Ochsner
Lector	Marie Huml	Matthew Jerina	Religious Ed Student
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Brian Bulicek	Steve Laky	Melissa Tebben
Altar Servers	3 Open	O. Fillipp E. Marry T. Marry	R. Edran J. Simutis N. Simutis
Ushers	Brian Bulicek Joseph Costa Paul Pavelski 1 Open	Peter Dadvivas Bob Foster Tom Heinrich Catherine Laky	Rich Josten Rafael Muzones 2 Open
Fellowship	No Fellowship	No Fellowship	No Fellowship

Events for the Week of December 3, 2023

Sunday Dec 3	Monday Dec 4	Tuesday Dec 5	Wednesday Dec 6	Thurs Dec 7	Friday Dec 8	Saturday Dec 9	Sunday Dec 10
8am-6pm KofC Tree/ Wreath Sale	8:30 am Mass	8:30 am Mass 7 pm Bible Study	8:30 am Mass 9:30 am Bible Study	8:30am Mass 6:30 pm OCIA	Immaculate Conception Day of Obligation Masses 8:30 am & 7 pm	8:30 am Communion Service 8 am - 6 pm KofC Tree/ Wreath Sale 3-3:40 Confession 4 pm Mass Cookie Walk After Masses	8am-6pm KofC Tree/Wreath Sale 9am Mass 10am Choir Practice 10 am Parish Rosary- Church 11 am Family Mass 12 pm Choir Practice 6 pm Pageant Prac- tice Cookie Walk & FFF Activities After Masses
9am Mass			6:30pm- Religious Ed Confession Gr 3-8 Church (No Class Gr K-2)				
10 am Choir Practice							
10 am Parish Rosary-Church							
11 am Mass							
12 pm Choir Practice							
2pm– FFF Christ- mas Party -Fellowship Hall							
6 pm Pageant Practice							



Peace in the Womb Christmas Caroling Saturday, December 9th at 10:00 a.m.

In the Christmas story, hope enters the world through the birth of a child, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. Join us as we sing carols and share this Christmas hope where it's needed most: the abortion facility right here in our community.

Event: Peace in the Womb Christmas Caroling

When: Saturday, December 9th at 10:00 am.

Where: Waukegan Planned Parenthood, 1601 N. Lewis Ave. in Waukegan, Illinois

More Info: Contact Leslie at (847)951-1064 or hazfam6@comcast.net

ST. BEDE SCHOOL 38399 N. Wilson Rd. Ingleside, IL 60041 - 847-587-5541 - www.stbedeschool.com NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE Congratulations! Personalized Instruction Engagement Campaign Winner... CONGRATULATIONS St. Bede Students and Teachers! We are PROUD of you!

Order a Poinsettia for the Altar! We are taking orders for poinsettias to decorate the altar and worship area. Your Name: _____ Your Email: _____ Your Loved One's Name(s): _____ In Honor In Memorial _____

YAML Young Adult Ministry Join us Every Wednesday for Mass at 7 pm and /or Eucharistic Adoration from 8-9 pm At Marytown followed by fellowship at Culver's Marytown: 1600 W. Park Ave, Libertyville Culver's: 803 E. Park Ave, Libertyville Information: Email YAMLakeCounty@gmail.com