ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

830 S Westhaven Drive, Oshkosh, WI 54904
920 233 8044 | parish.office@raphael.org | raphael.org

November 28, 2021

Mass Schedule

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am
5:00pm

Sunday **9:00 am on WOSH 1490AM**
Facebook livestream (@straphaelcatholicchurch) or go to raphael.org/media/live for links to our Facebook and YouTube pages

Weekday Masses

Monday - Wednesday	8:00 am
Thursday & Friday	7:15 am

Reconciliation

Saturday	3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Tuesday	4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Wednesday	8:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

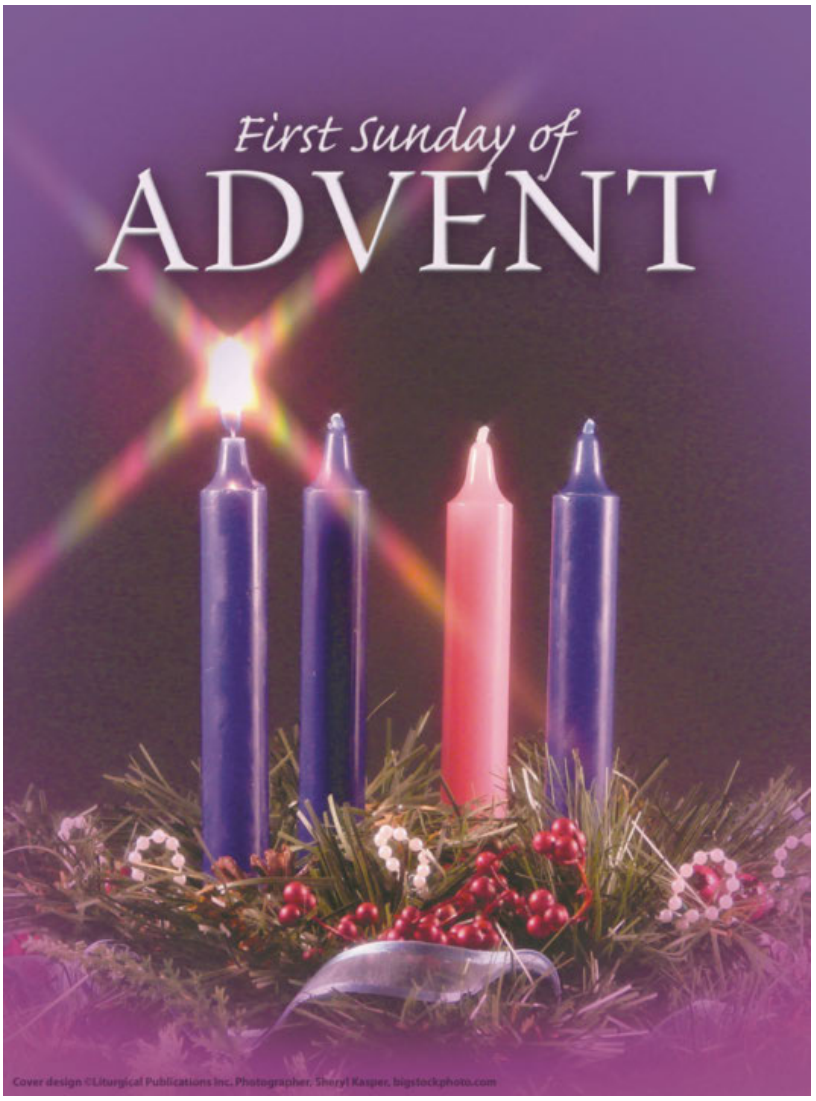
Our Catholic School: Lourdes Academy
www.lourdes.today 426-3626

PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor	Fr. Tom Long
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Kevin Ripley
Pastoral Associate	Betty Schwandt
Deacons	Greg Grey, John Ingala, Mark Leafgren

Please make your donations online at:
raphael.org/give

PLEASE REMEMBER St. Raphael Parish in your Will and Estate Planning.



MISSION OF ST. RAPHAEL

As friends and followers of Jesus, we are devoted to fostering households and communities of discipleship through the mission and ministry of the Catholic Church.

Thank you for your support!

one by one

LOURDES ACADEMY

ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC PARISH

St. Jude the Apostle

FROM THE PASTOR

Happy Advent! Today as we begin Advent, we do so with great hope. Advent is a time to remember that God is always with us. No matter what is going on in our lives, the Lord is with us.

I love this time of year, as the days get darker and colder. it reminds me to look for light and warmth. It is not a coincidence that we celebrate Christmas, and thus Advent, during these days.

It is easy to give in to doom and gloom. We cannot do that as Christians, however! Jesus tells us in today's gospel: "Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand."

During the Sundays of Advent, this message of hope comes to us in stages:

- The first Sunday of Advent, we are reminded that Jesus will come again at the end of time, and so we are to never lose hope.
- On the second and third Sundays of Advent, John the Baptist reminds us that something important is happening: God is coming. God will make changes to our world, and within us as well.
- The fourth Sunday of Advent we always turn to Mary, who quietly prepares us to celebrate the feast of the Incarnation – the Word becoming flesh – at Christmas.

Let us allow God to renew our hope this Advent. Let us root ourselves in God's love for us, a love that will always be there, calling us to ever greater hope.

Happy Advent!

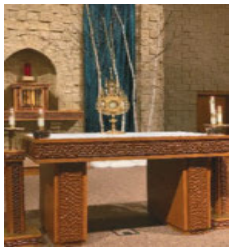
Gratefully,

Fr. Tom

Looking ahead:
Immaculate Conception of Mary Holy Day Masses
Tuesday, December 7 at 4:30 pm
Wednesday, December 8 at 8:00 am, 4:30 pm, 6:00 pm

Holy Hour!

Holy Hour this Thursday



Our monthly Holy Hour will be **Thursday, December 2** from 3:30 to 5:30pm. All are invited to gather in church to pray for all or part of this time.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 3:30, and Benediction begins about 5:20. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available during Holy Hour.

First Sunday of Advent

This weekend is the First Sunday of Advent. Please remember to set up and prepare your Advent wreath.

Holiday Sparkle

St. Raphael Seniors Christmas Holiday Dinner will be held Thursday, ***December 9, 2021*** in Good Samaritan Hall. This event will start with a Social at 5:00pm with dinner to follow. Dinner will be catered by The Roxy. ***Cost is $15*** *per person* and tickets will be available after all Masses (except 5:00 pm Sunday Mass) this weekend, November 27/28 and December 4 & 5. Entertainment this year will be the Gospel Four. For more information, please call the parish office at 233-8044.

The Christmas Trees are Here!

Sunday 8:30 am to 6:30 pm
Mon - Fri 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am to 6:30 pm

Go to raphael.org/volunteers and use the link at the top of the page to sign up online.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Saturday, November 27 Christmas Tree Sales
3:30 pm Confessions
5:00 pm Mass
Sunday, November 28 Christmas Tree Sales
Morning Masses at 7:30, 9am, 11am
5:00 pm Mass
6:00 pm No Aftershock
Monday, November 22 Christmas Tree Sales
8:00 am Mass
6:30 pm Scouts
Tuesday, November 30 Christmas Tree Sales
8:00 am Mass
4:30 pm Grades 1-5 RE Classes
4:30 pm Middle School EDGE
4:30 pm Reconciliation
6:15 pm Catholicism 101
Wednesday, December 1 Christmas Tree Sales
8:00 am Mass
9:30 am Women's Spirituality
4:30 pm Grades 1-5 RE Classes
6:15 pm Middle School EDGE
8:00 pm High School RE Classes
8:00 pm Confirmation Class
8:00 pm Reconciliation
Thursday, December 2 Christmas Tree Sales
7:15 am Mass
3:30 pm Holy Hour of Adoration
6:00 pm Mixed Choir Rehearsal
6:00 pm Baptism Class
Friday, December 3 Christmas Tree Sales
7:15 am Liturgy of the Word w/Communion
Saturday, December 4 Christmas Tree Sales
3:30 pm Confessions
5:00 pm Mass
Sunday, December 5 Christmas Tree Sales
Coffee and Donuts after Morning Masses
Morning Masses at 7:30, 9am, 11am
9:00/11:00am Pre/K RE Classes
5:00 pm Mass
6:00 pm Aftershock

The intercessory prayer team will be available to pray with you after the 5pm Mass on Saturday and 7:30am and 9am Masses on Sunday mornings.

The intercessory prayer team will pray with you for special intentions that you might have for yourself, family, friends, or to pray with you to thank God for His many blessings.

STEWARDSHIP OF SHARING
WEEK ENDING 11/14/2021

Praying at Mass		**1,172**
Envelope Collection	**$**	**11,604**
Loose Collection	**$**	**1,083**
EFT	**$**	**1,217**
On-Line Giving	**$**	**4,356**
Total Weekly Collections	**$**	**18,260**

Year to date giving (actual)	**$**	**440,638**
Year to date giving (budgeted)	**$**	**455,000**

STEWARDSHIP OF SHARING
Week ending 11/21/2021

Due to an early deadline for the bulletin, Stewardship of Sharing and Weekend Mass Numbers will be updated next week.

Christmas Mass Times

Friday, December 24
Christmas Eve: 4, 7 & 10 pm

Saturday, December 25
Christmas Day: 8:30 & 10:30 am
NO 5pm Mass

Sunday, December 26
8:30 am, 10:30 am and 5pm

This week's Memorial Candle is burning in loving memory of
Stephen Szabo

This week's Sanctuary Candle is burning in loving memory of
Dolly Pahlow

Every so often someone will call and request a Prayer Shawl. Prayer Shawls are knit and/or crocheted by women in our parish. Each is crafted with prayer, soft yarn (provided, along with a variety of patterns) and love. **If you would like to request a Prayer Shawl, please call the office at 920-233-8044.**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RE UPDATES:

- RE Advent Masses to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will take place on December 7/8. In lieu of class sessions for the week, weekly class families are asked to attend one of the following Masses:
- Tuesday, December 7 @ 4:30 pm
- Wednesday, December 8 @ 4:30 OR 6:00 pm
- There will be an RE Advent Service Project and Celebration on December 14/15. Families are welcome to attend. A letter was sent on November 18 to families with details.

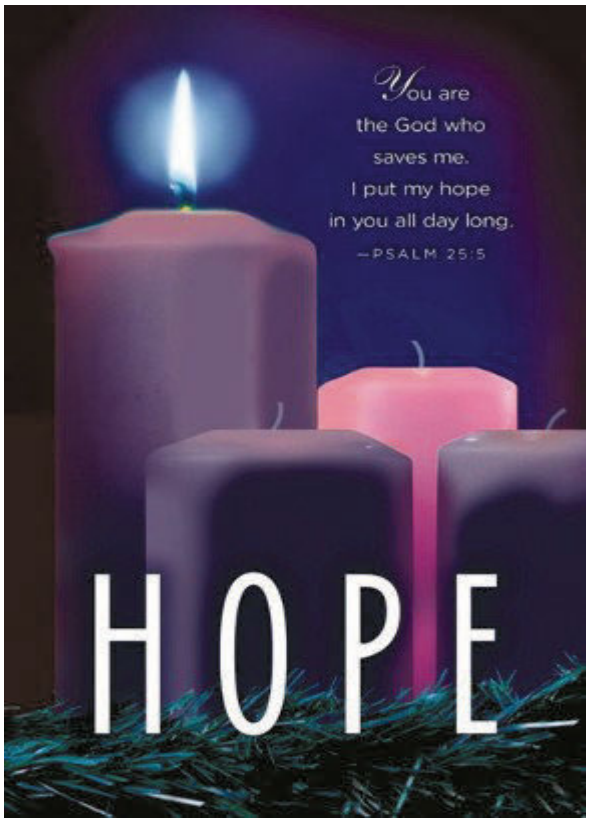
December is the month dedicated to the Nativity and the Coming of Christ. Here are some things to do with your family this month:

November 28 is the First Sunday of Advent. Here are some things you can do as a family to prepare for the coming of the Newborn King

- Light the first candle of your Advent Wreath. The first candle is known as the Hope Candle. Say the following prayer:

Heavenly Father Advent is a time for remembering and reflecting on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Father, I pray that you will turn our hearts toward you as Christmas approaches. Let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season this year and miss the chance to celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy, love that you sent to us on that first Christmas.

- Perform an act of kindness for a friend or a family member without letting them know what you have done. Offer a prayer that they grow closer to Jesus each day.



The Lourdes High School Music Department Presents
Ye Twenty-Seconde Annuale Madrigal Dinner

When:
Friday, December 3 at 7pm or Saturday, December 4 at 7pm

Where:
Bill Behring Commons, Lourdes Academy
110 North Sawyer Street, Oshkosh, WI 54902

Cost:
Lords/Ladies $26 each. Reservations are required by November 30.

Forms are available at the Lourdes Academy Office or on the Lourdes Academy website.

Our $10 million goal has been reached!

Reaching our goal is now a reality...Surpassing it is our hope.

Reaching our goal is now a reality...Surpassing it is our hope.

In order to expand Catholic education and strengthen the Catholic faith in the Oshkosh community for generations to come, Lourdes Academy and the Oshkosh parishes partnered together to raise a total of $10 million through the *one by One* campaign. Overwhelming community-wide support from alumni, parishioners, families and friends has brought us to our goal. Our vision will now become a reality.

With gratitude for our generous donors and the prayers that inspired their kindness, we celebrate this overwhelming accomplishment and give glory to God. But our efforts cannot stop here. Other faithful friends of Lourdes Academy and our Catholic parishes have not yet finalized nor begun considering their gift decisions. They, too, must be given the opportunity to share in the joy of giving! Their support to surpass our goal will help us realize greater assurance and broadened opportunities.

The *one by One* campaign bulletin messages going forward will highlight details to be accomplished, opportunities to be realized with additional funds, formal celebrations and ground-breaking beginnings. Thank you for your faith in our efforts, your generosity and your continued prayers that will impact the Oshkosh Catholic community for generations to come.

MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC PARISH

St. Jude the Apostle

ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

LOURDES ACADEMY
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Diocese of Green Bay

Reflecting on the Scriptures

In days to come, the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills. All nations shall stream toward it; many peoples shall come and say: "Come, let us climb the LORD's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths." For from Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and impose terms on many peoples. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!
----Is. 2: 2-5

I love Advent! Isaiah proclaims, *"Let us walk in the light of the Lord!"* Amen! The light of Christ provides a fresh lens through which to see all things. I love these verses of Isaiah as Christ's presence has a profound effect on how we deal with hurt, anger, threats, violence, and hatred. I am faced with a profound decision to return hurt with hurt, to allow anger to turn into resentment, bitterness or even violence. Then there are the dark corners of sin that can grow in size as I continue to feed them. For as Christ shines light and love in our lives, we have a choice to respond in love, compassion, and peace—both inwardly and outwardly. Christ stopped the cycle of violence by not returning threats, violence, and hatred to those who treated him in this manner.

The Scripture readings of Advent and Advent time invite me to birth Christ's love into my life in the present moment, and to recognize his action in my life. Not only do I see His love acting in my days, but I also invite him to transform me into being a kinder, nonjudgmental, thoughtful, loving, forgiving servant of Christ and one another. Jesus was birthed into this world—the Incarnation—2000 years ago AND, he comes to me NOW in the very fabric of my days. I pray for both awareness of his action and my availability to the action of the Holy Spirit. "Open my eyes, Lord."

As I begin Advent**,** I light one candle on the Advent wreath to illumine the dark areas in my life and in the world. My longing and my hope are present in the light. I want---no, I *long* to--- experience Christ's coming to me now, each day, to help me live my life with meaning and purpose.

May this Advent be filled with grace as I identify the darkness, things that keep me enslaved, areas where I have lost hope, and the struggles I am fighting within and also in relationships*. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* to my heart; enter with light and love. This Advent I invite Christ to be born in my life in the way in which I most need. Until I feel my need for a Savior, I am at risk of missing the gifts of this season of Advent altogether.

Lord Jesus, help me to see the ways I am enslaved, the battles within, the places I've lost hope, and the darkness within. May I desire your light and allow you to illumine them. Create the desire inside that only you can fill. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen

Betty Schwandt - Pastoral Associate

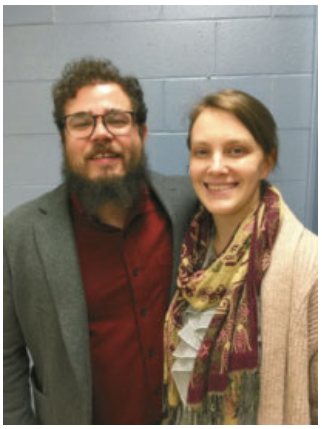
Hospital Visits

Are you or a loved one in the hospital and would like a visit? Please call the parish office at 233-8044 and let us know so we can arrange for one of the priests or our Pastoral Associate to come see you!

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30 to 4:30 pm
Tuesday 4:30 to 5:30 pm
Wednesday 8:00 to 8:30 pm

Giving Tree Envelope Donations for our Sister Parish in Jackson, Kentucky



The annual Giving Tree drive for our sister parish, Holy Cross, located in Jackson, Kentucky started on Thanksgiving Day.

We have been in contact with Josh and Ellen van Cleef the Administrators at Holy Cross and the following is a note we received requesting our support.

This year's Giving Tree will help support the children of Breathitt County. From your generosity in past years, we have extended the Boots and Blessings program to our three county elementary schools, working with their Family Resource Centers to touch the lives of children in need. Children receive muck boots they can use year round in the snow and rain as well as thick socks. This year, we are aiming to help 75-100 children. Any extra funds raised will be used to help provide "bereavement baskets" to comfort local children after the death of a parent, and to empower family-focused programming at Holy Cross. Thank you, once again, for your generosity!

The process for the Giving Tree will be similar to prior years. Instead of removing a tag from the tree, you will decorate the tree with ornaments. Whether you make a donation or not, please take an ornament from the basket in the Gathering Space, write a blessing or a message to the children and place it on the tree. These ornaments will then be given to the children when they receive their boots or gift basket. In the past, the messages have proven to be very uplifting.

Envelopes and ornaments are available in the Gathering Space. Thank you in advance for your kind words and generosity.

Marriage Information

Getting Married?
Congratulations! We would like to help prepare you for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Please call the parish office at least six months prior to your desired wedding date to begin preparation. Marriage preparation prepares you and your future spouse to live a sacramental marriage that is free, faithful, permanent, and fruitful. The grace of God gives strength to live out the sacrament.

Already married but not married in the Church?
You may call to meet with one of our priests to discuss the possibility of entering into the Sacrament of Matrimony in addition to your civil marriage. This would be a new step in your relationship, asking the grace of God to be at work, and binding you and your spouse to vows before God.

Previously married?
If you have been married and divorced, you may want to discuss the possibility of an annulment. An annulment process looks at whether the prior marriage had conditions missing for it to be a sacramental marriage. The annulment process is concerned mainly with the personal and spiritual aspects of marriage. It does not “erase” the civil contract, and it does not render children illegitimate. It merely states that after thorough investigation, the Church has decided that a marriage, as the Church understands marriage, was not valid. Deacon John Ingala, Fr. Tom, Betty Schwandt and Tanya Hielke from our parish are trained to assist people in this process. Please call the parish office to set up a time to discuss this with one of them. If an annulment is granted, the person is then free to enter into a sacramental marriage.

Remember to Support Our Advertisers

WORKING WITH THE SCRIPTURES

"Happy New Year!" But today is just the 1st Sunday of Advent. Isn't it a little early to wish someone a Happy New Year? Well, not really. Liturgically speaking, the 1st Sunday of Advent (Nov. 28 this year) is the Church's New Year's Day. So then why does the Gospel focus on "dismay" and "fright" instead of on celebration? That certainly doesn't sound like any way to begin a New Year! Well, perhaps Luke is suggesting that we consider celebrating Christmas a little differently this year and use Advent more as an opportunity to prepare for Christmas than just a time for Christmas shopping. Looked at from that angle, Luke seems to be reminding us that before we can celebrate we must first overcome dismay and fright.

"I feel like a new man." "It's like I have a new lease on life." You might expect to hear this from someone who has joined a 12-step group, been welcomed into a warming shelter, or realized the dream of owning his or her own home through the generosity of Habitat for Humanity. But when we listen *differently* we find that it's the person who *works* at the shelter who is speaking and it's the person who *works* for Habitat for Humanity who has found a new lease on life.

Luke describes the signs that will precede the coming of the Son of Man. "The powers of the heavens will be shaken." Victims of fire and famine can certainly relate to that. "When will the Son of Man come?" The answer is, He's already here. Every time we turn on the news and see firefighters searching for survivors of devastating wildfires or rescue workers distributing food in war torn countries the Son of Man is present, if only we will open our eyes. We don't have to work in a shelter or for Habitat for Humanity, we only have to see things differently and be "*vigilant*" for opportunities to recognize Christ present in our homes, our workplaces, our communities and our world.

This year, let's celebrate Christmas a bit differently – *right where we are.* "Happy New Year!"

Vinal Van Benthem, ofs

Father Ripley's Believe It or Not!

You may know that the stain-glassed windows in our church are from the old St. Martin Catholic Church up in Tonet, WI. Because of that, our chapel with the St. Martin window is named after the same saint. Did you know that there is a strong connection between St. Martin and Advent and Christmas?

St. Perpetuus was the bishop of Tours, France, back in 480. He declared that his local church should fast for three days a week from the feast of St. Martin of Tours to the solemnity of the Nativity (Christmas). That made it a period of 40 non-Sundays, just like Lent. This practice eventually spread to England and then to Italy. Around the tenth century, the number of Sundays observed in this preparation for Christmas was reduced to four.

Wearing purple should remind us that it is indeed a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, although we don't focus as much on that as during Lent. Believe it or not, but in taking Advent seriously, the Eastern churches fast from meat, fish, dairy products, olive oil, and wine until Christmas Eve. One thing we can personally fast from is too much Christmas music or decorations ahead of schedule. ;)

Please pray for:

John Willems
who died on November 14

Gary Weich
who died on November 16

Cynthia Baudhuin
who died on November 17

Make Your IRA Charitable Rollover Gift

Did you know you can reduce your taxes by making a gift from your IRA directly to charity? If you are 70 1/2 years old or older, you can make a charitable gift up to $100,000 directly from your IRA. This direct distribution can be made to a qualified charity such as your parish, a Catholic school, the Bishop's Appeal, a diocesan ministry, the Catholic Foundation, or another Catholic charity.

An IRA charitable rollover gift is an easy way to help fulfill our Church's mission and reduce your taxable income. Your gift will qualify for your required IRA minimum distribution. Also, you will not have to pay federal income tax on the amount given directly from your IRA to a charity. Qualified direct distributions made from your IRA are not subject to income tax.

In past years, a distribution from your IRA would have been taxed as ordinary income. However, Congress passed a law several years ago making the IRA charitable rollover permanent. Here is how the IRA charitable rollover works:

1. You must be 70 1/2 years of age.
2. Your gift must come from an IRA (not a TSA or 401k).
3. Your gift is a direct transfer to a qualified charity such as the Catholic Foundation.
4. The maximum amount you can transfer is $100,000.

To qualify as an IRA charitable rollover, your gift must be made by December 31, 2021.

It is also important not to withdraw funds prior to making your gift. Instead, distribute the funds directly from your IRA to the qualified charity.

We encourage families interested in making an IRA charitable rollover gift to speak with their financial advisor. For more information about how you can benefit from an IRA charitable rollover, please contact your IRA administrator and/or tax preparer. Please consider a charitable rollover gift from your IRA to St. Raphael Parish, the Catholic Foundation, the Bishop's Appeal, or other Catholic charity. Make your gift as soon as possible to avoid any processing delays at the end of December, and don't miss the opportunity to make your IRA charitable rollover gift this year! For information about how your gift benefits the Church, contact:

Anne at St. Raphael Parish office, 920-233-87044, anne.glowcheski@raphael.org
or the Catholic Foundation at 920-272-8197 or **catholicfoundation@gbdioc.org**.

The following children was baptized at St. Raphael this weekend:

Chase Sawyer and Lincoln Norbert
children of Ryan & Meredith Ottman

Welcome, Little Ones!

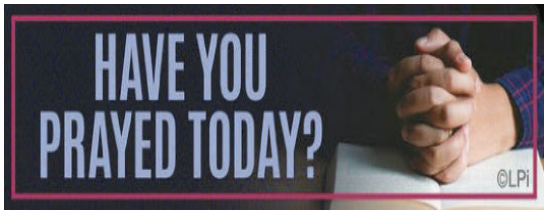
JOINING OUR PARISH - If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Raphael Parish, ask a parish staff person, deacon or priest before or after Mass for a New Parishioner Folder, or call the parish office. After reviewing the folder, set up an appointment to meet with Fr. Kevin or Fr. Tom. We would love to welcome you as a parish member!

Baptism Preparation Classes

Infants accept the faith through the faith of their parents. St. Raphael the Archangel Parish offers group sessions to prepare parents for the baptism ceremony and for leading their children in a life of faith. Sessions are held twice per month, all year round. Please call or email to register for the Baptism Preparation group session and to schedule your child's baptism.

Contact Jill Eaton at 920-233-8044, ext 222 OR jill.eaton@raphael.org to get signed up today.

Timothy & Joni Groll



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 27

5:00 pm Dolly Pahlow †
Richard Moeller †

Sunday, November 28 1st Sunday of Advent

7:30 am Dave Reabe †
Bea Galow †
9:00 am John Kautzer †
Annamay Vanden Heuvel †
11:00 am Terry Stierna †
Bob Newhouse †
5:00 pm For our Parishioners

Monday, November 29

8:00 am Ginny Howe †

Tuesday, November 30 St. Andrew

8:00 am John Willems †

Wednesday, December 1

8:00 am Ed & Rose Braunsky †

Thursday, December 2

7:15 am Anthony & Adrienne Holland

Friday, December 3 St. Francis Xavier

7:15 am Liturgy of the Word w/Communion

Saturday, December 4

5:00 pm James Keliher †
Frances Brooks †

Sunday, December 5 2nd Sunday of Advent

7:30 am Sharon Yearwood †
Wendy Yearwood †
9:00 am Al & Dot Delikat †
Pat Busha †
11:00 am David Augustian Coleman
5:00 pm For our Parishioners

relevant radio Bringing Christ to the world through the media

Parish Leaders:

Trustee-Secretary: Ed Jeziorny
Trustee-Treasurer: Ken Wolf
Finance Council Chair: Jerry Stephens
Parish Council Chair: Laura Lemancik

Readings for the week of November 28, 2021

Sunday:	Jer 33:14-16, 1 Thes 3:12 - 4:2, Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b], Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
Monday:	Is 2:1-5, Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9, Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Rom 10:9-18, Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10], Mt 4:18-22
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a, Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd], Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6, Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a], Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24, Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a], Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26, Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d], Mt 9:35 - 10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday:	Bar 5:1-9, Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3], Phil 1:4-6, 8-11, Lk 3:1-6

LOURDES ACADEMY
Our children. Our faith. Our future.

Lourdes Academy, our Catholic School

John Dinegan	President
Amy Geffers	Elementary School Principal
David Mikesell	Middle & High School Principal

Parish Staff (email staff: First.last@raphael.org)

Business Manager……Mark Lindekugel
Coordinator of Liturgy/Music……Karen Moehn
Director of Religious Education……Jessie Adrians
Coordinator of Social Communication……Sara Erickson
Executive Secretary……Deb Ransbottom
Facilities Manager……Howard Frank
Youth Ministry Grades 6-12…… …..Michael Wilms
Religious Education Secretary……Anne Glowcheski
Accounts Receivable……Anne Glowcheski
Administrative Assist…… ..Jill Eaton
Pastoral Care Facilitator…… Jill Eaton
RE Coordinator (Gr. 1-5)……Jenifer Jensen
RE Coordinator (Gr 6-12)…… .Michael Wilms
Sunday School Coordinator……Ruby Kilde
Family Outreach Coordinator……Kathy Baehman
Youth Ministry Assistant……Kathy Baehman

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