



SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 26, 2021 | FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY




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

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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



THE HOLY FAMILY

He went down with them
and came to Nazareth, and
was obedient to them; and
his mother kept all these
things in her heart. And
Jesus advanced in wisdom
and age and favor before
God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. GLP

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

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hager@straphaelarchangel.org

Robert Schlueter, Maintenance

Julie Hayes, School Principal
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Kathy Shaver, School Secretary
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Qi Franz, Cafeteria Manager
franz@straphaelarchangel.org

DECEMBER 26, 2021 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 26, 2021

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Reading I

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother. My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins - a house raised in justice to you.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored.

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table.

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you from Zion; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Reading II

Col: 3:12-21

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

Gospel

Lk 2:41-52

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.



Sunday, December 26 - Feast of the Holy Family

8:00am People of the Parish
10:00am Marcia Matreci

Monday, December 27

7:00am Daniel and Pade Liddy

Tuesday, December 28

7:00am Virginia Schaper

Wednesday, December 29

7:00am Thanks to the Sacred Heart

Thursday, December 30

7:00am Raymond Karasek

Friday, December 31 - New Year's Eve

7:00am Hodes Family, SI

Saturday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary

7:00am Rosemary Heitert
4:30pm People of the Parish

Sunday, January 2

8:00am Bill and Mary Lou Schicker
10:00am Sr. Marguerite Luddon, CDP

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (1 JOHN 3:1)

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received – being children of God! As God's children, it's in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members, and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people who are different from you, those that you may not like, or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

Your Contributions to God and Parish

Due to early publishing deadlines, the Weekly Offertory information for Sunday, December 19, 2021, was not available when the bulletin went to print.

From St. Vincent de Paul Society

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, and so we can celebrate that we all belong to the Holy Family of God, which makes us brothers and sisters to each other. At Christmas this year, through your gifts, the Society was able to bring joy and hope to our "brothers and sisters" who are poor by assisting many families, providing food and payments for utility and rent bills. Thank you!

Prayer to the
Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate the splendour of true love,
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again
experience violence, rejection and division:
may all who have been hurt or scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may the approaching Synod of
Bishops make us once more
mindful of the sacredness and
inviolability of the family, and
its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer.
Amen.

~ Pope Francis

FR. JOHN'S DIGITAL QUILL FOR SPIRITUAL MUSINGS AND PARISH NEWS

In Gratitude

On behalf of Msgr. Stehly, Deacon Jerry, and myself, thank you. Thank you for the numerous cards and greetings this Christmas Season. May God reward your generosity in your thoughtfulness toward us and may the Lord bless you and your families this Christmas Season!

Eucharistic Adoration

Due to the Christmas Holiday, we will cancel Eucharistic Adoration this week and will resume Eucharistic Adoration next Wednesday, January 5, 2022.

Mass Schedule Next Weekend

Typically, there is a "Last Mass of the Year," which is one of my personal favorites, on December 31, at 4:30pm.

Due to January 1 falling on a Saturday, though, the Feast of Mary, Mother of God, is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

The only Mass on December 31 is at 7:00am, which will be the last Mass of this calendar year at St. Raphael. We will have one Mass for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God at 7:00am on January 1, 2022. Confessions will precede Holy Mass as normal on January 1.

Unlike last weekend with Christmas, the Feast of Mary, Mother of God does not trump the Sunday celebration of the Epiphany. The Saturday evening Mass on January 1 will thus count for the Sunday obligation. Our Mass schedule then for next Sunday will return to normal at 4:30pm on Saturday, January 1, and 8:00 and 10:00am on Sunday, January 2. We will also have confessions before the 4:30pm Mass from 3:45-4:20pm.

A Grateful Look Back

2021 was a year filled with God's graces here at St. Raphael.

Late in January, we began Catholic Schools Week differently. Instead of having an Open House with tours to prospective families, we gave more individual tours. Such a change due to the pandemic was blessed as we opened school with a higher enrollment than that of 2020.

In February, we had a virtual Black and Gold Dinner Auction. We livestreamed from the church, and

many people joined the fun remotely in different ways. Although different from what we were used to, we were together in spirit as a community.

We focused on the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Lent. Our Lenten Project for the Father Dickson's Cemetery doubled our financial goal, and we had two successful work days concluding with Mass.

We welcomed Archbishop Rozanski for the first time to our parish in April as he celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation with our 7th graders. The celebrations of First Holy Communion and graduation were held in May, and we successfully concluded our first year of in-person learning after the pandemic.

In June, we renewed our parish Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart, celebrated Corpus Christi Sunday, and I went door-to-door again offering blessings to families and to homes.

In August, we re-opened school again a bit more normally and welcomed servers back to Mass. We also had our 5th graders start serving shortly after the start of the year.

Our parish held a study of *Laudato Si* and is currently studying the *Acts of the Apostles*. Our Men's Club once again held its Golf Tournament in October and the Ladies' Club had a wine tasting in November and a modified but very successful Advent by Candlelight in December.

This fall also saw the return of sports to St. Raphael. Our students played soccer and volleyball this past sports season and are practicing for the start of basketball season right after the new year.

We are slowly returning to more in-person events, with our Parish Picnic, Donut Sundays, Men's Club, Ladies' Club, Knights of Columbus, and leadership committees moving to more in-person meetings.

This Advent, we prayed for healing in our parish community, between our priests and our parish, and between our parish and the Archdiocese.

(continued on page 9)

GUEST COLUMN: START WITH THE END IN MIND
BY DAVID BARANOWSKI
ARCHDIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF PARISH STEWARDSHIP AND
LEADERSHIP FORMATION

When planning a trip, baking a cake, or starting an exercise routine, we usually visualize the end result and make the proper preparations to achieve the desired result. Successful companies do this all the time. They plan, prepare, adjust, and allocate resources to achieve their goal. If you want to be successful, one of the things you should do is start with the end in mind.

Management guru and author of the book *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, Dr. Stephen Covey, lists starting with the end in mind as the second habit of highly effective people. Effective people have the ability to envision in their minds the end result before they actually begin doing anything.

Maybe more of us should apply this concept to our relationship with the Holy Trinity.

In the first book of the Bible, *Genesis*, we are told that “God created mankind in His image.” The very first sentence of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that “God freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life.” We were created by God to know and love Him. We know that we were created and we know why we were created. However, do we keep “the end in mind” - eternal life with God in Heaven - as we make our daily decisions on how to live our lives and to use the gifts that God has entrusted to each of us?

St. John the Baptist is depicted in many works of art with his finger pointing. Why? He is pointing to Jesus – the Lamb of God. In John’s Gospel, St. John the Baptist says “He (Jesus) must increase; I must decrease.” These words are a clear and concise daily reminder for us to start with the end in mind.

St. Paul in his *Letter to the Colossians* reminds us to “think of what is above, not of what is on earth.” Unfortunately, too many people set their sights too low; they don’t reach for Heaven. And, unfortunately, too many people are focused inward on their own desires and not open to what God, the Creator, created each of us to do.

Starting with the end in mind doesn’t make things any easier, but it does keep us focused on the goal - Heaven. God has given each of us a plan. Let’s be open to what God may be calling us to do and invite others to share in God’s love, mercy, and forgiveness.

Every decision we make either moves us closer to God or moves us farther away. Start with the end in mind and experience the joy and peace that God wants for each one of us here on earth and eternally with Him in Heaven.



DAILY READINGS

Sunday	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
Monday	1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Tuesday	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
Wednesday	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
Thursday	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
Friday	1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
Saturday	Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Next Sunday	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Laudato Si' - Care of our Common Home

In the heart of the 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 Earth, and His love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. Praise be to Him." Pope Francis, *LS*

LECTORS FOR THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 1 - 2, 2022

4:30pm	8:00am	10:00am
Laura Geiser	Matt Maxfield	Denise Howard



Mass Intentions

Mass Intentions

The 2022 calendar for Mass Intentions is now available. Please contact the parish office to schedule Masses. Intentions are \$10 per offering.

ALTAR SERVERS

SERVERS FOR DEC. 27 - JAN. 2, 2022

Monday, December 27

Tuesday, December 28

Wednesday, December 29

Thursday, December 30

Friday, December 31

Saturday, January 1

4:30pm	Christian Bernadt	Paddy Meier
	Christian Concepcion	

Sunday, January 2

8:00am	Jake Anstey	Addison Pfeiffer
	Lydia Eddingfield	
10:00am	Hannah Kratky	Jude Potts
	Helen Potts	

From Pope Francis's Angelus Message December 27, 2020

A few days after Christmas, the liturgy invites us to turn our eyes to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. It is good to reflect on the fact that the Son of God wanted to be in need of the warmth of a family, like all children. Precisely for this reason, because it is Jesus' family, the family of Nazareth is the model family, in which all families of the world can find their sure point of reference and sure inspiration. In Nazareth, the springtime of the human life of the Son of God began to blossom at the moment he was conceived by the work of the Holy Spirit in the virginal womb of Mary. Within the welcoming walls of the House of Nazareth, Jesus' childhood unfolded in joy, surrounded by the maternal attention of Mary and the care of Joseph, in whom Jesus was able to see God's tenderness (cf. Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*, 2).

In imitation of the Holy Family, we are called to rediscover the educational value of the family unit. It requires being founded on the love that always regenerates relationships, opening up horizons of hope. Within the family one can experience sincere communion when it is a house of prayer, when affections are serious, profound, pure, when forgiveness prevails over discord, when the daily harshness of life is softened by mutual tenderness and serene adherence to God's will. In this way, the family opens itself up to the joy that God gives to all those who know how to give joyfully. At the same time, it finds the spiritual energy to be open to the outside world, to others, to serving brothers and sisters, to cooperation in building an ever new and better world; capable, therefore, of becoming a bearer of positive stimuli; the family evangelizes by the example of life. It is true that there are problems, and at times arguments in every family. "Father, I argued...." But we are human, we are weak, and we all quarrel within the family at times. I will tell you something: if you quarrel within the family, do not end the day without making peace. "Yes, I quarreled," but before the end of the day, make peace. And do you know why? Because a cold war, day after day, is extremely dangerous. It does not help. And then, in the family there are three words, three phrases that must always be held dear: "Excuse me." "Thank you," and "Sorry." "Excuse me." so as not to be intrusive in the life of others.

"Excuse me: may I do something? Do you think I can do this? Excuse me." Always, not being intrusive. "Excuse me," the first phrase. "Thank you": so much help, so much service that we do for one another within the family. Always say thank you. Gratitude is the lifeblood of the noble soul. "Thank you." And then, the hardest one to say: "I am sorry." Because we always do some bad things and often someone is offended by this: "I am sorry," "I am sorry." Do not forget the three phrases: "Excuse Me," "Thank You," and "I am sorry." If there are these three phrases in a family, in a family environment, then the family is fine.

May the Virgin Mary, whom we now address with the Angelus prayer, grant that families throughout the world be increasingly fascinated by the evangelical ideal of the Holy Family, so as to become leaven of a new humanity and of a concrete and universal solidarity.

And today I entrust each family to the Lord, especially those most tried by life's difficulties and by the scourges of misunderstanding and division. May the Lord, born in Bethlehem, grant them all the serenity and strength to walk together in the way of goodness.

And do not forget these three phrases that will help so much to achieve family unity: "excuse me" — not to be intrusive, to respect others — "thank you" — to mutually thank each other within the family — and "sorry" when we do something bad. And this "sorry" — or when we quarrel — please say it before the day ends; make peace before the day ends.





BOY SCOUTS GIFT WRAPPING CONTEST!

Did you know SRA offers students Gr. 2-8 the opportunity to take band lessons?



WINTER OUTREACH - A MINISTRY OF MERCY

Encouraged by our Catholic Social Teachings: *“Option for the Poor and Vulnerable,”* many parish communities are committed to St. Louis Winter Outreach as a Ministry of Mercy.

“As long as you did it to one of these the least of my brethren, you did it to me.” (MT 25:31-46)

As winter approaches, our homeless “brethren” will spend cold days and nights on the streets of St. Louis. In an effort to give them some comfort, **we ask your help in providing meals** to an overnight shelter during the coldest months. Drivers are also needed to deliver the meals to Americorps Shelter, 1315 Ann Street, on the following days.

DATES: SATURDAYS (1:00pm drop off)

JANUARY 8, 2022

FEBRUARY 12, 2022



Please consider joining our Ministry of Mercy by providing one or more of the following:

9 x 13 Casserole (Meat, Vegetable, or Breakfast)

Dessert - 12 to 24 servings

Food items may be store-bought. All dishes must be brought baked, frozen, wrapped, and marked. Food is to be dropped off at Our Lady of Sorrows Parking Lot at 1:00pm. If needed, arrangements can be made to drop off or have picked up from your home ahead of time.

For more information, to share a dish, and/or be a driver, please contact Mary Ellen Mueller at 314.374.1712 or email maryem@brick.net.

Continued from Father John on page 4.

I may have missed a few things, but it is clear to see that the Lord is doing some great things in our community. For these and all of the other events that happen daily in our community, we give thanks to God.

I also want to thank everyone for participating in our community and helping to make it what it is: a vibrant community grounded in faith.

Happy New Year

On behalf of Msgr. Stehly and I, Deacon Jerry, and our entire parish and school staff, may the Lord bless you and your families with the blessings of health, peace, and joy as we begin the new year of 2022.

I will see you online or in church! -Fr. John
#SRAstrong



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Holiday Update

Please note, due to the upcoming New Year's holidays, the bulletins are due to the publisher earlier than normal. Therefore, please submit any bulletin items as soon as possible.



SAVE THE DATE!

February 13, 2022, at 2:30pm

Join Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski at the Cathedral Basilica to celebrate the sacrament of matrimony on World Marriage Day! Additional details will be provided in January.

Our Parish Mission Statement

We, the parish of Saint Raphael the Archangel, celebrate Jesus as the center of our life. Through our active participation in the Eucharist, we strive to recognize Jesus in our daily lives and the lives of others. Our commitment is to grow as a parish family, and live this through our religious, educational, social, and civic involvements, witnessing to all, our faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



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: _____

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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#



NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE

Friday, December 31, 2021

6:30 PM - Doors Open

7:30 PM - Dinner is Served

8:30 PM - 12:30 AM - the music of:

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For tickets or further information call:

Sandy (314) 544-2162 after 3 pm or the Parish Office (314) 892-7500

Or email smaevents2017@yahoo.com

Tickets go on sale November 2, 2021

*** Limited Seating Available ***

**** Masks Are Highly Recommended ****



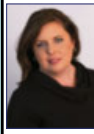
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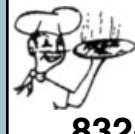
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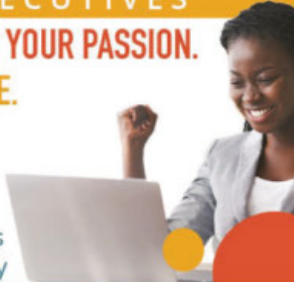


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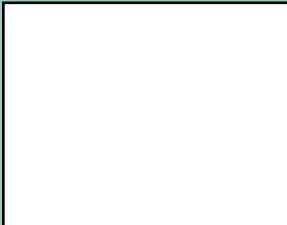


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