



CHURCH OF ST. RAPHAEL

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - JANUARY 3, 2021



THE EPIPHANY OF THE
Lord



MISSION STATEMENT

Faithful to the Teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, St. Raphael Parish and School promotes the Universal Call to Holiness for all the People of God.

WORSHIP

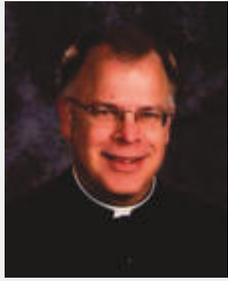
Weekday Masses
Monday - Saturday: *8:00 am
First Friday: 7:00 pm
Extraordinary Form Latin
Weekend Masses
Saturday: 5:30 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am, 10:30 am, and
*12:30 pm
* Masses also live-streamed.

CONTACT

Fr. Michael Rudolph, Pastor x 205
frmichaelrudolph@straphaelcrystal.org
Fr. Robert Altier, Parochial Vicar x 206
frrobertaltier@straphaelcrystal.org
Parish Email: info@straphaelcrystal.org
Parish Phone: 763-537-8401
Parish Office Hours
Monday-Thursday: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Friday: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation
Weekdays: 7:30 - 7:50 am
Saturday: 7:30 - 7:50 am,
8:30 - 9:30 am and 4:00 - 5:15 pm
Marriage
Please contact Fr. Rudolph.
Baptism
Please contact the Parish Office.



When we consider the whole area of moral theology we must understand that it is all about relationships, that is, how we relate to God and to one another. The Ten Commandments are among the foundational principles of moral theology and, as we would expect, are divided into love of God and love of neighbor. The first three commandments being about our

relationship with God and the latter seven being about our relationships with other people.

The fact that we believe in objective principles for moral theology is what sets Catholic morality apart from most other forms of moral teachings. In our society presently we are dealing with a true crisis in the fact that relativism has reached a zenith and has affected the way many of us think. This system, which says something is right or wrong because I have decided it is right or wrong, has undermined our ability to see the objective truths God has revealed.

Worse than that, relativism, or any form of subjective morality, not only denies the existence of objective moral norms but, worse, it rejects the One Who gives us those objective norms. So, before we can address the norms of the Ten Commandments, we have to go back much further, that is, to our creation. The first page of the Bible tells us that we are created in the image and likeness of God. This is where we receive our dignity. If God does not exist, or even if there is a god of some sort who has nothing to do with our existence per se, then we are merely the result of an evolutionary chain.

We are seeing the conclusions of this being played out before our very eyes. I spoke in a homily a few weeks ago about the "Great Reset." One of the aspects of this unfortunate set of ideas is something called "Transhumanism." In other words, part of this "reset" is intended to bring us to the next phase of evolution where something greater than human persons will come forth. The plan of these unfortunate souls is to unite human beings with computer technology to form some kind of superhuman hybrid.

In the meantime, these ideas also leave us with some horrifying conclusions. If we are just objects in the evolutionary process, then we have no inherent dignity. If we are going to evolve into a higher form of life, like everything else has, so they tell us, then we have no more dignity than any of the other entities from which we have come. This does not mean only monkeys, but if we are to believe the evolutionary thinkers, it goes all the way down to protozoa and ameba. Not only would these be our distant relatives, but we, like them, are just objects in an ever-evolving world of things. We are just things among things. We may have more abilities than some other things, but we are still united with and equal to, all the things from which we were derived.

So, for us, our belief in God is at the center of our understanding of human dignity. Scripture tells us God created man in His image and likeness, male and female He created them. Notice

there are no further distinctions, just male and female. If we are mere products of evolution one might look at some of the differences in size, form, and race and posit that one race is further evolved than another. Hitler bought into this idea with his Aryan Race suggesting that some people are more perfect, or in the present case, more highly evolved, than others.

Even with the clear teaching from both the Bible and the Church, issues of bigotry and prejudice have plagued the world. If we are not equal as human persons, then what is it that makes us unequal? In the relativistic ideas, any answer is correct. One person can be considered greater than another because of race, color, eye or hair color, abilities, etc. Just because one is more intelligent, more talented, more athletic, or whatever other category that may be considered, does not make that person more human or higher than another. While we are not equal in our abilities, we are absolutely equal in our personhood.

For this reason, the Church has always taught that bigotry is a mortal sin. Bigotry says one person is greater or lesser based on the color of their skin, the country of origin, the language they speak, etc. Not only did God make clear on the first page of the Bible that we are all equal, but the Church our Lord founded has been called Catholic from the first century. The term is not used in Scripture, but the first time we know it was used in writing was in the year 107 when St. Ignatius of Antioch used it in what seems to be a very familiar manner. The word Catholic means universal, that is, it is all inclusive.

St. Raphael is blessed to have people from most every continent and from many countries coming to Mass and worshipping together. We do not say to anyone that they do not belong here or that they are less than someone else. Some may point to the Church's teaching regarding people who are not married in the Church, people who are practicing a homosexual lifestyle, or people who are living in whatever kind of sin and suggest that the Church is being bigoted against these people. Actually, the Church is clear that *anyone* is welcome to come to Mass and pray, but we cannot support anyone who is living in a sinful lifestyle, nor can we allow such a person to receive the Sacraments.

We will address these issues in another column, but for now, we need to be clear about two points. First, the Church teaches that no one in the state of mortal sin, no matter what their mortal sin is, may receive Holy Communion. No one may receive absolution if they are not repentant of their sin. So, if someone is living in a manner contrary to the objective teachings of the Church, it is not the Church distancing herself from such persons; rather, the person has distanced himself or herself from the Church. This brings us to the second point which is to hate the sin and love the sinner. The Church condemns actions, not persons. We must live according to our dignity as persons made in the image and likeness of God and we must recognize and respect the dignity of every other person made in the image and likeness of God.

(continued on page 3)

The key to understanding these distinctions comes down to the objective moral norms. If I reject God’s Law, then I can make my own laws that are conformed, not to God, but to whatever I have in my own mind. That means I can justify anything I want to do or accept. The Church upholds the objective moral norms and, because God promised to write His law in our hearts, these norms are true for everyone, regardless of any kind of distinction we might want to make. We are all created equal and we are all created for truth and for charity. Charity does not say it is acceptable to sin. Charity says I will continue to love the sinner, but not condone or support the sinful behavior.

While this may sound reasonable, we must realize it is so only if there are objective standards of morality. To do good and avoid evil does not work if the definitions of good and evil can vary from person to person. Consequently, our recognition of and respect for the dignity of each person requires two objective principles that undergird this teaching: first, God is real, He is good, and He loves us; second; every human person is made in the image and likeness of God.



To the Church of St. Raphael-

On behalf of the entire West Metro Fire-Rescue District, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for all of your efforts related to the firefighter training provided at your donated structure (the convent). Your willingness to work with our staff over the last few years has provided excellent and unparalleled training that many fire departments can only dream of.

The St. Raphael’s fire training project has provided over 1,000 combined training hours. Over 150 firefighters from West Metro, Golden Valley, Maple Grove, Plymouth, Brooklyn Center, and Robbinsdale have participated in training at the convent.

These training opportunities provided us with a chance to improve our skills in ladder operations, ventilation, search and rescue, increased our fire ground communication, and work on our hose line management. These are topics we routinely cover, however, conducting them within realistic structures adds a whole new level.

Without community partners, such as yourself, we could not provide this type of hands-on training opportunities to our firefighters. Realistic training, with real life conditions is the only way to ensure that we are providing highly skilled firefighters within our communities.

Sincerely,

4251 Xylon Ave. North
New Hope, MN 55428
763-230-7001

Sean Watson
Assistant Fire Chief
West Metro Fire-Rescue District

SAINT OF THE DAY – SAINT GENEVIEVE OF PARIS

Genevieve was born around the year 422 and at the age of fifteen made a vow of consecrated virginity to the Bishop of Paris. She became famous for helping the poor and for the miracles done through her. She was also known for helping the people of Paris at a very difficult time in history, when various pagan tribes were invading the region and replacing Roman rule. For example, when the Franks laid siege to Paris, reducing many of its inhabitants to starvation, Genevieve led an expedition by boat up the Seine River to look for food and returned with corn to feed the hungry Parisians. Then when Childeric conquered Paris, he spared the lives of many captives at Genevieve’s request. Later, when Attila the Hun was reported to be advancing on Paris, Genevieve convinced the panic-stricken inhabitants to stay and avert the threat by prayer and fasting. Attila changed course and stayed away from Paris. Clovis, king of the Franks, listened to Genevieve’s advice, set captives free at her request, and himself became a Christian. (His Catholic wife, Saint Clotilda, had something to do with this as well.) The most famous miracle attributed to Genevieve’s intercession is the end of an epidemic of ergotism that took place in 1129. This illness was caused by eating rye bread contaminated with a dark violet fungus. It caused a burning sensation—resulting in it being called “burning fever”—as well as convulsions and gangrene leading to death. Neither physicians nor prayer and fasting seemed to be able to bring the epidemic to an end, but it ceased when a casket holding Genevieve’s bones was carried in a solemn procession to the cathedral. When Pope Innocent II visited Paris the following year, he ordered an annual festival to commemorate the miracle, which is still marked in churches in Paris, even though her shrine and most of her relics were destroyed in the French Revolution. Genevieve is the patroness of Paris and of the French security forces and is invoked against drought, excessive rain or flooding, and other disasters. Saint Genevieve of Paris, pray for us! (Excerpted and adapted with permission of the Publisher from *Butler’s Lives of the Saints, New Full Edition* ©Paul Burns 2003, Published by Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN.)

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Office: 763-537-8401

PRIESTS

Pastor

Fr. Michael Rudolph (x205)

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Robert Altier (x206)

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Business Administrator

Ginny Metzger (x202)

Part-Time Administrative Assistant

Sue Kubovec (x201)

Administrative Assistant/

Bulletin Editor

Marie Nachtsheim (x222)

Social Needs Coordinator

Bunny Arseneau (x214)

Crisis Pregnancy Hotline (x500)

PARISH TRUSTEES

Tony Pistilli

Jo Tolck

FAITH FORMATION

Director of Youth Ministry &

Confirmation Coordinator

Joseph Turner (x211)

Family Discipleship Director

Josh Stegman (x507)

RCIA Coordinator

Mary Jo Smith (x511)

WORSHIP

Prayer Line (x528)

Bulletin Prayers for the Sick

(x523)

Adoration Coordinators

Sharon Hedman 763-315-0202

Char Vecellio 651-336-6630

SCHOOL

School Office: 763-504-9450

School Principal

Paul Dull (x352)

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Mario Chavez, Scott Gregory, Sharon Hedman, Roselyn Lawrence, Jacob Nelson, Maricela Rodriguez Ocampo, Rose Pistilli and Mike Vecellio

Pastoral Council Meetings

If you would like a particular item on the next Parish Council agenda please contact Fr. Rudolph.

FINANCE COUNCIL

Steve Cheney, Kevin Hejna, Nancy Holovnia, and Shawn Horn

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

DECEMBER 13, 2020 CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions	\$22,501.28
Budget	\$16,623.00
Building Fund.....	\$1,102.00
Budget	\$1,419.00
Mr. J. Scholarship Fund	\$286.24

Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 3

3:00 PM Parish Holy Hour, Church

Monday, January 4

No Scheduled Events

Tuesday, January 5

9:20 AM School Students, Church

7:00 PM Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet - East Lower Level Outside or Inside Lower Level East Gathering Area

Wednesday, January 6

9:00 AM Cana Family Institute, Fr. Fenelon Room

9:20 AM School Students, Church

11:30 AM RCIA, Fr. Fenelon Rm.

7:00 PM Rite of Confirmation, Fr. Fenelon Room, Marian Hall

7:30 PM Adult Choir, Church Choir Loft

Thursday, January 7

12:30 PM School Students, Church

12:30 PM Little Flowers Girls Club, Marian Hall

6:30 PM Little Flowers Girls Club, Fr. Fenelon Rm.

7:00 PM St. Raphael Prayer Group, Marian Hall

7:00 PM Bell Choir, Church Choir Loft

Friday, January 8

No Scheduled Events

Saturday, January 9

No Scheduled Events

Sunday, January 10

2:00 PM IGNITE Faith Formation, Parish Campus

6:00 PM Core Team Meeting, Parish Campus

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

Please welcome our new parishioners!

Bryant and Rachel Le and family

Lorraine Hamilton

Cheryl Salim

PRAYER & WORSHIP

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	January 4
8:00 AM	+ Isabel Reinert
Tuesday	January 5
8:00 AM	+ Gene Reinert
Wednesday	January 6
6:30 AM	Special Intention
8:00 AM	+ Joan Anderson
Thursday	January 7
8:00 AM	+ William Condon, Sr.
Friday	January 8
8:00 AM	Ian Grundhauser
Saturday	January 9
8:00 AM	+ Ray Vecellio
5:30 PM	Bernard Smith
Sunday	January 10
8:30 AM	+ Tom Reinert
10:30 AM	St. Raphael Parishioners

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of January 3, 2021

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

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11
LPI



Welcome Newly Baptized!

Vivian Grace Sokhor

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration Contacts

Sharon Hedman 763-315-0202
Char Vecellio 651-336-6630

ADORATION OPEN HOURS

Every hour must be covered with at least one - preferably two committed adorers before the Blessed Sacrament can be continually exposed. Currently the Blessed Sacrament is exposed Monday-Friday from 5:00 am until 11:00 pm. The Blessed Sacrament is reposed on Saturdays and Sundays. If you have questions regarding Adoration please call Sharon Hedman at 763-315-0202. If you are interested in committing to a specific hour(s) or to get on a substitute list, please contact Char Vecellio at 651-336-6630.

Committed Adorers are needed for the hours below before the Blessed Sacrament can be exposed on Saturdays and Sundays.

**SUNDAY: 2:00 pm; 8:00 pm;
10:00 pm**

**SATURDAY: 7:00 am; 12:00 pm;
6:00 pm; 8:00 pm**

REMINDER: In the case of inclement weather or other emergency situations, please check the parish website for Adoration Chapel closure updates.



Prayer of the Angel of Peace at Fatima

Most Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit- I adore you profoundly. I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifferences whereby He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Evelyn Barron
Gladys Benton
Tom Bohlinger
Phyllis Bourgeois
Richard Bruins
Lara Bruno
Joel Carlson
Bailey Carrol
Judy Dancisak
Patricia Dancisak
Charles Dillinger
Carole Dionne
Rosie Domeier

Shanna Dykhoff
Andrew Eisenzimmer
Ed Elling
Delores Ess
Michael Gardner
Ruth Hacker
Robert Haekenkamp
Mary Hughes
Nichole Iverson
Mary Beth Goebel Komala
Janna McDonald
David McMillen
John Noe

Kathy Osga
Bridgette O'Brien
Renee Page
Bill Peters
Mary Lou Pfeifer
Danielle Scott
Lois Smith
Janice Stewart
Marilyn Sullivan
Nadine Svetc
Mary Lou Wensman
Jeff Woodruff



We could use more cantor/song leader candidates. Moves and pregnancies are again taking a toll on our faithful song leaders. A few have moved away and/or become pregnant so are either permanently or temporarily unable to serve.

If you have a good singing voice and some choral or vocal training, please consider this opportunity to serve.

Please contact Gene McMahon at 763-497-7370 or via email at genemcmahon2@gmail.com

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Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Would you like your 3-6 year old to be in a faith formation program? Let us know! We are interested in starting *The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* faith formation program where children can grow in their relationships with God here at St. Raphael's.



Designed by Maria Montessori, and further developed in the 1950's by Sophia Cavaletti and Gianna Gobi, *The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* is a unique program founded in both Sacred Scripture and Liturgy and rich with the spiritual teachings and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church.

Do you want to learn more? Are you already familiar with or trained in *The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* or are your children attending elsewhere? Let us know!

Please contact Teresa Burns at 763-447-9266 or teresa.vyhanek@gmail.com.

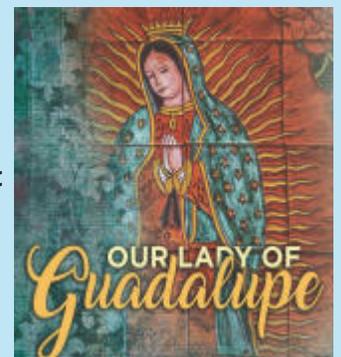
Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet Tuesday Evenings at 7:00 pm

Please join us in praying the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet for an end to the pandemic, for our families, for our country, for our president and all elected leaders, for our communities, for our Church and for the world.

We meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm outside in front of the Our Lady of Guadalupe statue located on the east side of the church - lower level. Please join us in front of the statue and observe social distancing. Or, you can also park in the East parking lot facing the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and pray from your car if you are more comfortable with that.

NOTE: We will pray inside in event of inclement weather or if it is too cold outside. Please enter through the lower level doors on the east side of the church near Marian Hall and join us in the upper level East Gathering Space.

Please come pray with us!



YOUTH MINISTRY

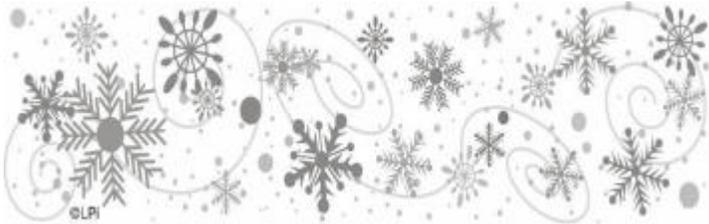
CONTACT

Questions? Please contact Joseph Turner
at 763-537-8401 (x 211) or
jturner@straphaelcrystal.org

Register for any youth events on the St. Raphael
youth website: www.straphaelyouth.com

OPEN YOUTH ROOM

**Due to Governor Walz's Executive Order 20-99,
Open Youth Room is suspended until
further notice.**



FAITH FORMATION

CONTACT & INFORMATION

**IGNITE Family Discipleship Program & Sacramental
Preparation:** Please contact Josh Stegman at:
faithformation@straphaelcrystal.org

Rite of Confirmation (ROC) Program: Please contact
Joseph Turner at: jturner@straphaelcrystal.org
Joseph can be reached at 763-537-8401 x 211 and Josh
can also be reached at 763-537-8401 x 507



RITE OF CONFIRMATION (ROC)

These nights are required for
all 8th graders.

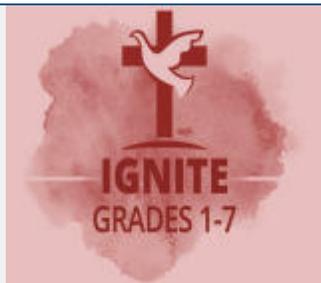
ROC Classes: Wednesday, January 6th
from 7:00-8:15 pm.

Marian Hall, JP II, Youth Room, Fr. Fenelon Room.

LIFE NIGHT Youth Group: 7:00 pm—Marian Hall

IGNITE Faith Formation
Sunday, January 10
2:00 - 4:00 pm
Marian Hall

Check-In 1:45-2:00 pm



Litany of Humility

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, **Hear me.**

From the desire of being esteemed,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being loved...

From the desire of being extolled ...

From the desire of being honored ...

From the desire of being praised ...

From the desire of being preferred to others...

From the desire of being consulted ...

From the desire of being approved ...

From the fear of being humiliated ...

From the fear of being despised...

From the fear of suffering rebukes ...

From the fear of being calumniated ...

From the fear of being forgotten ...

From the fear of being ridiculed ...

From the fear of being wronged ...

From the fear of being suspected ...

That others may be loved more than I,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be esteemed more than I ...

That, in the opinion of the world,
others may increase and I may decrease ...

That others may be chosen and I set aside ...

That others may be praised and I unnoticed ...

That others may be preferred to me in everything...

That others may become holier than I, provided that I
may become as holy as I should...

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Thank God First
Bl. Solanus Casey
Pray for us!

Please remember
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in your last will & testament.
Parish Office 763-537-8401

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