

November 28, 2021, First Sunday of Advent



*Saint Raphael's Parish
Poultney, Vermont*

"I am Raphael, One of the Seven Angels who stand
and serve before the Glory of the Lord."
Tobit 12:15

*Saint Anne's Parish
Middletown Springs, Vermont*

Saint Anne,
Teach me to Love
Thy Daughter
Mary



Rev. Steven P. Scarmozzino, Administrator
fathersteven1997@icloud.com

Parish Website
straphael.vermontcatholic.org

St. Raphael's and St. Anne's Rectory and Parish Office
21 East Main Street, Poultney Vermont 05764
Office Phone: **802-287-5703**...Office Email: straphael@vermontcatholic.org

Parish Office
PHONE or Email THE RECTORY AT ANYTIME.

Parish Secretary, Bookkeeper, Faith Formation Coordinator
Michelle Davenport

Week-End Mass and Confession Schedule		
Saturday	Confession, St. Raphael	3:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Saturday	Vigil Mass, St. Raphael	4:00 p.m.
Sunday	Mass, St. Anne	8:00 a.m.
Sunday	Mass, St. Raphael	10:00 a.m.

St. Raphael's Weekday Masses...8:30 a.m.,...Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Collections have been meeting Projection overall
Many thanks and please keep giving generously
In support of our Parishes

ONLINE GIVING...straphael.vermontcatholic.org

SACRIFICIAL GIVING	
St. Raphael Offertory	November 21
Received	\$ 1,332.00
Projected	\$ 1,347.00
Excess of Projection	
Deficit of Projection	\$ 15.00

St. Anne's Offertory	November 21
Received	\$ 60.00
Projected	\$ 318.00
Excess of Projection	
Deficit of Projection	\$ 258.00

St. Raphael's	\$
St. Anne's	\$

ONLINE GIVING...straphael.vermontcatholic.org

From The Bishop's Appeal office

Please consider a gift to the appeal by visiting:
bishopsappealvt.org

Christ Our Hope **Campaign**

Please Note that Campaign Materials
Are available in the vestibule of the Church.
Please remember that a portion of your gift
returns to the Church for needs and
improvements.

Please Note:

We have resumed "Winter Hours"
For the Saturday Evening Vigil Mass

4:00 p.m.
Confessions 3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Christmas Raffle

We will raffle a Christmas Money Wreath
Worth \$ 100.00

\$ 5.00 each/3 for \$ 10.00

Volunteers Needed to Assist
Contact: Joyce Roberts
muffmeadows@comcast.net

Call Father Steven at the rectory to arrange a Mass.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 4:00 p.m.	November 27
Janice, J. William, Mabel Maynard	
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	November 28
Pro Populo	
Sunday 10:00 a.m.	November 28
Louis Masse and Family, by Estate	
Monday 8:30 a.m.	November 29
The Holy Souls	
Tuesday	November 30
No Announced Mass Scheduled	
Wednesday 8:30 a.m.	December 1
Respect Life, by Irene DeMatties	
Thursday 8:30 a.m.	December 2
Louis Masse & Family, by Estate	
Friday 8:30 a.m.	December 3
The Holy Souls	
Saturday 4:00 p.m.	December 4
Janice, J. William, Mabel Maynard	
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	December 5
Monique & Gary Gonthier, by Solange Martineau	
Sunday 10: a.m.	December 5
Pro Populo	

Call the Rectory to Arrange a Mass
The donation can be mailed to the rectory.

IF A MASS NEEDS TO BE CANCELLED FOR ANY
REASON, THE INTENTION WILL BE TRANSFERRED
OR FULFILLED PRIVATELY

Dear Friends

A Blessed First Sunday of Advent...!

THE PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Pastoral Council has met in recent weeks to discuss parish life, set some goals, and make recommendations to achieve them. First, it is to be noted that Mass attendance is thin. It usually decreases this time of year as summer residents depart and our residents depart for warmer climates. That being noted...attendance is down. However, not unexpectedly.

When I arrived this time of year...two years ago...St. Anne's averaged 17 persons at Mass Sunday morning and St. Raphael averaged 45 persons Saturday evenings and 60 persons on Sunday morning. At this time, St. Anne's averages 10 Sunday morning and St. Raphael's averages 75 at a near even split of 38/37 Saturday evening and Sunday morning. This means that attendance is 71% of what it was and 29% down at St. Raphael's. St. Anne's is 59% of what it was and 41 % down. While these figures seem daunting for us, they are not out of the ordinary. In speaking with local pastors as well as other pastors in the diocese...they report attendance between two thirds to three quarters post Covid...i.e., between 66% - 75% of what they were...down 44% - 25%. This places St. Raphael's right in the middle of area trends and St. Anne's a little below. The chart below may be of some help.

November	2019	2019	2021	2021
	St. A	St. R	St. A	St. R
Saturday	---	45	---	38
Sunday	17	60	10	37
Totals	17	105	10	75
% down from 2019		41%		29%

What these figures and area trends tell us is that one quarter 1/4 to one third 1/3 of our people have not returned to Mass on a continual basis. Further, online data supports such a drop. Most of us, on some level, knew this would be the case. The Covid experience has left the world questioning its practices and reforming its choices...in all spheres...work, recreation, and education. It is no surprise that these changes have affected Church life. People work remotely, study remotely, and socialize online. And, while some experiences have gone back to "normal", they...too, are only a percentage of what they used to be. Infection trends and outbreaks cause concern at the workplace and in our schools. Our schools move in and out of quarantine. Is it any surprise people now "worship" remotely...? So, what do we do? What can we do? These are the questions that I must face as your Shepherd and that we must face and for which we have to vision as a Pastoral council.

Answer? What we need to do is respond accordingly...based on data and our experience from what

we observe. The Pastoral Council came to this observation. While Covid is certainly not "over" from nearly two years ago, some things are less of a question. Two years ago, people did not know what they would or needed "to do or not do". For many if not most...that is clearer. It appears that those who want to be vaccinated will be vaccinated...those who do not, won't. Those who wish to retain a mask will retain a mask...those who choose not to, won't. Those who wish to stay at home will stay at home...those who do not, will go out. While this will vary somewhat, what we have determined is that people have made decisions. What does this mean for our parish?...just what it means for the world. We have to go forward as things are.

This means that the people who come must be ministered to and have their needs provided...spiritually and socially. To this end we are returning to our parish devotions and social events such as monthly coffee hours and a Christmas Party to start. People may distance, wear a mask, and to be sure...precautions will be taken. However, the Council recommends that it is time to begin some modest gatherings. It is not about the numbers in attendance, but the fellowship experienced. And all agree that it has been too long without some fellowship. More will come on this...

We also feel we need to provide some outreach to the homebound. We have assured people that we are here and have chosen not to be intrusive to this point, but it is time to extend further personal outreach for some who may feel it is time for a visit. We also need to "check-in" with parishioners who have not returned...to this end we will be making some phone calls to provide continued assurances. In the beginning of things and for some time I issued parish-wide emails. After a while no one responded anymore...so not wishing to be intrusive, I stopped...perhaps I need to outreach in that area again.

Finally, this last piece is not to "get people back". You know my posture on this. People must remain in their comfort zone and choose for themselves their level of participation. However, these efforts are to offer assistance and to remind people that we are here...praying for and with them. Perhaps some individuals who have made their choice to return to the world...will make their choice to return to their Church. That would certainly be a good thing.

Well...enough for now. I have committed myself to writing more...and I am trying to do that. I pray you had a Blessed Thanksgiving, and that Advent is a time for the renewal of many things for us. I thank again the committed members of the Council for their time, energies, and ideas directed on behalf of the vitality of our community.

Peace, Fr. Steven

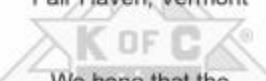
Durfee
Funeral Home
and cremation service



119 North Main Street
Fair Haven, VT
(802) 265-8085

DIRECTOR
Christopher Book

Knights of Columbus
Council 810
Fair Haven, Vermont



We hope that the
Lord will Bless all
the community of
St. Raphael's Parish
in Poultney, Vermont

Vivat Jesus

Marcie VanBuren, Owner

Marcie's Hair Studio

Tue: 12-7 • Wed - Fri: 9-5
Sat: 9-12



1181 East Main Street
Poultney, VT 05764
802-287-2404

Roberts - Aubin Funeral Home

Walter Ducharme
Owner/Funeral Director

Onsite crematory at our Middlebury, VT location.
Peace of mind knowing your loved one never leaves our care.
Serving all faiths. Traditional and Cremation Services.

266 Allen Ave., Poultney **802-287-5511**

ADT-Monitored Home Security

Get 24-Hour Protection
From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide



SafeStreets



1-855-225-4251

**AVAILABLE FOR
A LIMITED TIME!
ADVERTISE HERE NOW!**

Contact **Kelly O'Brien-Carnevale**
to place an ad today!
kcarnevale@4LPI.com or
(800) 477-4574 x6333

We've Missed You!

Welcome Back to Mass



Stay connected to our faith community no matter where you are.
by signing up to get our bulletin delivered straight to your email!

www.ParishesOnline.com

WE'RE HIRING

AD SALES EXECUTIVES

BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION.
WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Paid Training
- Some Travel
- Work-Life Balance
- Full-Time with Benefits
- Serve Your Community



Contact us at careers@4lpi.com
www.4lpi.com/careers

PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE
MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM

\$29.95/MO
BILLED QUARTERLY

PLUS
SPECIAL
OFFER



CALL NOW!
1.877.801.7772
WWW.24-7MEDALARM.COM

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!



Ad info. 1-800-477-4574 • Publication Support 1-800-888-4574 • www.4lpi.com

St. Raphael, Poultney, VT

04-0754

