DECEMBER 29, 2013 - THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

MASS SCHEDULE

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

**Reconciliation**
Saturday ........................................... 4:00 pm

**WEEKDAY**
Thursdays & Fridays .............................. 7:15 am

**PARISH TELEPHONES**
Church Office .................................... 920-233-8044
Fax .................................................. 920-233-2360
Office Hours 8:00 am - 4:30 pm (Monday - Friday)

Schedule of Holiday Masses

**New Year’s Eve** 5:00 pm

**New Year’s Day** 11:00 am

The staff of St. Raphael Church would like to wish everyone a joyous Christmas season.

The office will close at noon on Tuesday, December 31 and will reopen Thursday, January 2 with normal business hours.

*Happy New Year!*
Dear Parishioners...

Have you noticed the beautiful trees in the church with the Angel ornaments? These were donated by parishioners and their families throughout the years as part of our tradition here at St. Raphael. If you or your family donated one a few years ago, feel free to look for it on the trees. As you look over our collection of angels, note the similarities, that they are winged creatures, and appreciate the differences, in size, shape, color and material.

In our gospels we have been hearing a lot about angels. On the 4th Sunday of Advent, we heard about the angel Gabriel with a message for Joseph, to take the Virgin Mary into his home. On Christmas we heard about the angels that appeared to the shepherds proclaiming the good news that a savior had been born, and there appeared a host of angels praising God singing, “Glory to God in the highest and peace to those on whom his favor rests.” On the Feast of Holy Innocents, we hear of the angel of The Lord, appearing to Joseph, telling him to take the child Jesus and Mary and flee to Egypt.

As heavenly messengers from God, angels are creatures of good, spirits of love, and messengers of the savior Jesus Christ. Just as the angels shared messages from God in ancient times, allow them today to share anew the Christmas message as we hear it proclaimed, and to guide us through life from here to eternity. For we will next encounter angels at the empty tomb on Easter Sunday when we gather to joyfully exclaim that Jesus has risen from the dead and shows us the way to eternal life.

Perhaps this is a good time to pray with your family, teaching them the Angel of God prayer:

"Angel of God, my guardian dear,  
To whom God’s love commits me here,  
Ever this day be at my side, to light and guard,  
to rule and guide."

Blessings on you and your family on this Feast of the Holy Family,

Fr. Doug    Fr. Michael    Betty

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Holiday Mass Times

**New Year’s Eve**

4:30 pm    St. Jude (Sacred Heart)
5:00 pm    St. Raphael
6:30 pm    Most Blessed Sacrament (St. Peter)

**New Year’s Day**

7:00 am    Most Blessed Sacrament (St. Mary)
7:30 am    St. Jude (St. Vincent)
9:00 am    St. Mary, Winneconne
9:00 am    Most Blessed Sacrament (St. Peter )
11:00 am    St. Raphael

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Parish Leadership

Rev. Doug LeCaptain ............... Pastor
Rev. Michael Warden .........Parochial Vicar
Betty Schwandt ..........Pastoral Associate

Business Manager - Mark Lindekugel

Deacons - Greg Grey, John Ingala

Spiritual Director - Sr. Anne Marie Lom

Trustees - Josh Adrians, John Thiel

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Parish Staff

Administrative Assistant .......................... Jill Eaton
Coordinator of Social Communications .......... Sara Erickson
Coordinator of Music and Liturgy ..................... Karen Dean
Coordinator of Stewardship .......................... Sr. Sylvia Egan
Executive Secretary .................................. Deb Ransbottom
Facilities Management .............................. Mike Sheridan
High School Youth Ministry ......................... Tanya Heilke
Financial Department .............................. Anne Glowcheski, Mark Lindekugel
Religious Education Dep......................... Jessie Adrians, Kelly Vidmar
Religious Education Secretary ........................ Ann Olig
WHAT’S HAPPENING

Sunday, December 29
3:55 pm   No Confirmation Class
5:00 pm   Mass

Monday, December 30
8:30 am   NO RU Support
6:30 pm   NO Scouts
6:30 pm   NO RCIA

Tuesday, December 31 No RE Classes
Parish Office CLOSED at Noon
8:00am   Mass at Fran Courts
5:00 pm   Mass

Wednesday, January 1, 2014
Happy New Year!
Parish Office CLOSED
9:30 am   Mass at Fran Courts
11:00 am  Mass

Thursday, January 2
7:15 am   Mass
4:30 pm   Worship Environment Planning Mtg
7:00 pm   Adult Choir
7:00 pm   No Men’s Choir

Friday, January 3
7:15 am   Mass

Saturday, January 4 Epiphany
New Member Information Weekend
9:00am   Confirmation Retreat

Sunday, January 5 Epiphany
New Member Information Weekend
Coffee & Donut Hole Sunday
9:00/11:00 am Pre/K RE Classes
3:55 pm   Confirmation Class
5:00 pm   Mass

Parish Office Hours

The staff of St. Raphael Church would like to wish everyone a joyous Christmas season.

The office will close on Tuesday, December 31 at 12:00 noon and will reopen Thursday, January 2 with normal business hours.

Happy New Year!

Stewardship of Sharing

Week ending 12/22/2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budgeted Expenses:</th>
<th>$ 26,420</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offertory Collections:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Envelopes</td>
<td>$ 30,354</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loose Collection</td>
<td>$  1,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer)</td>
<td>$ 13,841</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$  3,292</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$ 48,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus</td>
<td>$ 22,160</td>
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</tbody>
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Collections received on Wednesday, January 1, 2014 will not qualify as a charitable contribution deduction in 2013, even if the check was actually written in 2013 or was back-dated to 2013. The IRS requires donations to be received by the charity on or before December 31, 2013 to qualify as a deduction for 2013.

Join us on Saturday, February 8th at 6:00 pm for “An Evening in Italy”, an adult’s only dinner featuring Italian cuisine. After dinner enjoy a glass of wine while watching some entertainment. Tickets for this dinner are $25.00 each and are available at the Parish Office. Free childcare is provided during event. We hope you can join us for “An Evening in Italy”! Contact Karen Stepanek at 233-8044 or email karen.stepanek@raphael.org for more information.

Purchase your tickets for a chance to win a 1999 Lexus LS 400 donated by Tony’s Auto Collision Center! Tickets are 1 for $5.00 or 5 tickets for $20. The winning ticket will be drawn at the “An Evening in Italy” dinner on February 8, 2014. Tickets are available in our Parish Office.

Snow Removal Help Needed

Your help is greatly needed to shovel snow at church on weekends during the winter months. Please call the parish office as soon as possible at 233-8044.

Remember to bundle up!!!
Prayer and Pins

**What:** Celebrate Mass, eat pizza, and bowl at Oshkosh Lanes

**Who:** All Middle School students grades 6-8

**When:** Sunday, January 5, 4:45-7:45

**Details:** We will meet at St. Raphael for 5pm Mass. After Mass we will go to Oshkosh Lanes for pizza and bowling.

**What to bring:**
- A heart for Jesus
- Permission slip (available in Kiosk 85 or online at [http://www.raphael.org/#/welcome/upcoming-events](http://www.raphael.org/#/welcome/upcoming-events)).

$12 to cover the cost of the event.

**Registration forms are due Monday, December 30th.**

**Prayer and Pins Registration Form**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name: (please print)</th>
<th>Grade:</th>
<th>School:</th>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent name: (please print)</th>
<th>Parent phone number</th>
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<tr>
<th>Parent e-mail:</th>
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Is your parent able to be a driver/chaperone for this event?  Circle one: Yes  No

Questions: Call Jessie Adrians 233-8044 or e-mail Jessie.adrians@raphael.org

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF**

No Religious Education Classes this week!

Classes will resume January 7/8, 2014

- **First Eucharist parent meetings will be January 14/15 at 4:15 and 5:30. (attend ONE!)**

- **Grade 9/10 Retreat will be January 19, 1-8 pm at St. Raphael.**

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**Christmas Flower Offering**

Jim & Jackie Burns in loving memory of Stanley & Theresa Burns, Peter & Harriet Sitzberger, Marilyn Nichelson

Elizabeth Pitz in loving memory of Ceal & Gil Pitz

Kelly & Matt Diker in loving memory of William Nies

Tom & Lorel Werner in loving memory of Lorraine Morden, Rhoda & Clifford Werner

Dan & Dolores Lynch in loving memory of Gregory Lynch, Laura Hinze, & the deceased members of the Lynch & Flash Families

Doris Malkowski in loving memory of the deceased members of the Malkowski & Emond Families
Reflecting on the Scriptures (Sir. 3:2-14, Ps. 128:1-5, Col 3:12-21, Matt. 2:13-23)

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. - Col. 3:

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. Joseph and Mary began as a family under duress; traveling 90 miles on foot and donkey to pay taxes. A pregnant woman on a work animal near full term in pregnancy. Mary and Joseph were both under scrutiny due to Mary’s pregnancy which began outside the covenant of marriage. Can you imagine a mother birthing her precious in a place reserved for the animals? And Joseph, following the instruction of the angel of the Lord in a dream that the Holy Spirit conceived the child Jesus, took Mary into his home. Joseph trusted in God and what was unfolding, and was present to Mary in patience with what was unfolding.

As we all know, while our families are sources of love and joy, they are also sources of stress and conflict. Families are gifts that help us to grow in holiness, for they call us to grow in ways that can be painful. We learn love, forgiveness, sharing, discipline, example, acceptance, and how to treat one another.

Paul’s letter to the Colossians offers all of us the tools we need to care for each other. It is clear that Paul was intimately connected with family as he notes other important family skills, like “bearing with one another” which seems like an apt phrase on the harder days. May we "let the word of Christ dwell in [us] richly". When we share a home, we not only have to forgive each other, but be aware that we need forgiveness from each other, prompted by the example of God’s deep loving forgiveness for us all.

Paul tells us to “to put on love” as a garment in all that we do. It has always struck me that many are kinder and more loving to people who are not family than people who are. While we often think of the patience it takes to deal with imperfections of our family members, especially those we live with, it is good to be reminded that our own faults and imperfections challenge the patience of the people we love. It is in this that we help one another to grow in holiness!

Underpinning it all is thankfulness. Gratitude for all God has blessed us with gives us perspective—and peace in our hearts. Our family teaches us many of the basic things we need to learn in life such as forgiveness, sharing, and being patient. Not the least of these is patience that bears all things—and leads us to love like Jesus. May we always see with the eyes of Christ the gift that he has given in family—support, love, lessons, opportunities to learn to share and have patience so that we can take those gems of understanding out into a world that can at times be selfish, impatient, not so kind, and ungrateful. Our families on this earth are gifts to help us in this world and point us toward the relationship we have as children of God.

Lord Jesus, like us, you had an earthly family. Help us to grow in faith with their help and to bear with one another so that we grow in holiness. Help me to respect and respond lovingly to the needs of my family. Make me more like you, Lord. Thank you for the gift of earthly family, and most of all my family in Christ.

Betty Schwandt - Pastoral Associate

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

- The Rosary Team will meet on Friday, January 10 for Mass at Fr. Carr’s Place 2B, 6:30 pm, then making Rosaries until 8:30 pm. Rosaries will be sent to missions and soldiers overseas.

- High school youth will gather on Sunday, January 12 for the 5:00 pm Mass, then activity after until 8:00 pm. The planning team will meet one hour prior to Mass.

- There will be an all-day Hebrew Scripture class offered on January 18 from Noon to 6:00 pm for any high school student who needs to complete this requirement. Contact the RE office to register! 233-8044

- The High School RE Retreat for grades 9 & 10 is scheduled for Sunday, January 19 from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Registration forms can be found on the parish website under high school RE or in the kiosk located in the parish Gathering Space. Deadline for registration is January 13.

- The AFTERSHOCK Book Club meets every second Sunday of the month at noon for discussion. This month’s book: Divergent
Thank you from the Newman Center

During the week of December 8-13, the students of UWO had final exams. To assist our students with a place to study, the Newman Center stayed open until 2:00 am most nights. In addition, we also provided a warm meal for dinner and snacks. More than studying and eating happened at the Newman Center. We prayed with many students before their finals. Some sought out the counsel of the Church in areas of life unrelated to classes. New students came through the doors and found a warm welcome. Good Christian friendships were begun and strengthened among our students. It was a good week.

Thank you! Throughout finals week, many people from the area parishes brought in food and snacks. Our students were well feed. Your ministry of bringing food has helped the mission of the Catholic Church at UWO.

Thank you! - Father Jason Blahnik

Bible Study and Breakfast Group
Fr. Carr’s Place 2B Chapel
Second Saturday of the Month at 8:00 am

The January Bible Study will be on January 11, 2014.
For more information, please contact Al Eisma at 203-5056.

Kevin Konitzer and Cindy Sproehlich will be married this week at St. Raphael Church. Please keep them in your prayers as they make a commitment to each other in married love.

Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones, a social support group for those who have lost a loved one, meets for dinner every second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm.
The next gathering will be on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at Benvenuto’s Restaurant in Oshkosh. Please call Sheila Fink at 376 - 3644 if you plan on attending or would like more information about Stepping Stones. Please join us for support and sharing.

WORKING WITH THE SCRIPTURES – (Lk. 2:13-15, 19-23)

There is wisdom in placing this Feast of the Holy Family immediately after Christmas and before New Year’s Day. Whether around the Thanksgiving Day table, the Christmas tree, or the TV when our favorite football teams were playing, hopefully many of us have been able to spend time during this season with our families.

Unfortunately, however, that’s not the case for everyone. Some people may not have been able to travel over the holidays due to illness or cost. Some families may have a son or daughter in the military serving on the other side of the world who could not be with them. Or maybe they simply had no family to be with. Families are made up of people and, unfortunately, sometimes circumstances beyond our control leave us disappointed or even fearful.

Mary and Joseph must have felt a bit of that same disappointment and fear. We don’t know exactly how old Jesus was when his family fled to Egypt but we are told that Herod ordered the death of all male children under one year old. Any parent who has ever had to travel any distance with a toddler would have some idea of what it must have been like. Add to that the fact that this family wasn’t sure when, or even if, they would be able to return home.

Christmas isn’t always Norman Rockwell perfect but for young families seeking asylum in a foreign land, separated from home and family out of fear for their lives, it must hold an even deeper loneliness than for those who may have lost a loved one but who can, at least, remain in their own home. Hopefully none of us will ever find ourselves in this position. But if we do we can be assured that God will never leave us alone. And if, as we gather around the Thanksgiving Day table or the Christmas tree, we miss the presence of someone we love, we take comfort in knowing that Jesus understands. A human child with a human family, Jesus assures us that, even when things are difficult, every family is a holy family …

Vinal Van Benthem

Thought of the Day... “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”
Thank you to everyone who gave their time, energy, enthusiasm and expression of faith to prepare and minister for our parish celebrations of Christmas, 2013:

Parish Maintenance Personnel and Volunteer Assistants
Outdoor Environment Team
Worship Environment Team
Volunteers who helped decorate the church
Plant and Flower Care Team
Candle Care Team
Linen Launderers
Greeters & Ushers
Sacristans
Cantors, Choirs and Ensembles
Music Directors
Instrumentalists
Lectors
Altar Servers
Communion Ministers
Multi-media Team
Homily Reflection Team
Priests and Deacons
Liturgy Coordinator
RE Staff & volunteers
Parish Office Personnel
and the Gathered People of God

Thanks to all who joined together to give praise to God this Christmas.
## Parish Life

### Mass Intentions

**Saturday, December 28**  
5:00 pm  John Sawitski †

**Sunday, December 29**  
7:30 am  Donald Raddatz †  
9:00 am  Geneviere Galica †  
11:00 am  Sharon Yearwood †  
Thomas Martin †  
5:00 pm  For our Parishioners †

**Monday, December 30**  
8:00 am  At Franciscan Courts †

**Tuesday, December 31**  
5:00 pm  Gordon Drexler †

**Wednesday, January 1**  
11:00 am  Tom Carroll †

**Thursday, January 2**  
7:15 am  Betty Durant †

**Friday, January 3**  
7:15 am  Peter Becich †  
Diane Becich Palos †  
Lucia Palos †

**Saturday, January 4**  
5:00 pm  Raymond Zelhofer †  
Mike DeLao †

**Sunday, January 5**  
7:30 am  Ralph & Cecilia Rusheski †  
Marlene Hetzel†

9:00 am  Shirley Laine †  
11:00 am  Elizabeth Hegedus †

5:00 pm  For our Parishioners †

### Readings for the Week of December 29, 2013

**Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14, Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17, Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

**Monday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17, Lk 2:36-40

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21, Jn 1:1-18

**Wednesday:** Nm 6:22-27, Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28, Jn 1:19-28

**Friday:** 1 Jn 2:29-3:6, Jn 1:29-34

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10, Jn 1:35-42

**Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6, Mt 2:1-12

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### Save the Date

**Living Christ Retreat (a three day event)**  
February 27 and 28, 2014 (evening)  
and March 1, 2014 (morning)  
at St. Raphael Church

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### Stewardship of Time & Talent

#### Liturgical Roles

**JANUARY 4 & 5, 2014**

**GREETERS**

5:00 pm  E. Miller, P. Hamblin, M. McCourt,  
(2 needed)

7:30 am  B. & J. Baier, P. & B. Cernohous

9:00 am  B. Oberkrieser Family, D. Kudlas,  
M. & C. Vanden Heuvel

11:00 am  P. Noe Family, P. Spiering,  
T. & V. Sorensen

5:00 pm  **4 NEEDED!**

**USHERS**

5:00 pm  T. Eaton, J. McCourt, R. & A. Vandersee

7:30 am  C. Zaniewski, E. Wilke, C. Hayes,  
P. Cernohous

9:00 am  C. Sina, J. Wenig, T. Donovan,  
M. Brefczynski,

11:00 am  C. Miller, A. Langenfeld, S. Hawi,  
D. Schmidt

5:00 pm  C. Meyer, (3 needed)

**SERVERS**

5:00 pm  Hana Eaton, Gwendolyn Gruber,  
Jacqueline Gruber

7:30 am  Madeline Main, Sierra Dodge,  
Alaina Dodge

9:00 am  Christina Pecore, Grant Pecore,  
Theo Brefczynski,  
M. Brefczynski

11:00 am  C. Schmidt, J. Gonzalez,  
Laura/Claire Chier

5:00 pm  Alana Berger, Madeline London  
(1 needed)

**LECTORS**

5:00 pm  C. McCabe, J. Sosinski

7:30 am  A. Shukis, J. Skroski

9:00 am  L. Lemancik, E. Michels

11:00 am  T. Chier, C. Byron

5:00 pm  M. Buyarski, (1 needed)

**SACRISTANS**

5:00 pm  P. Blackmore

7:30 am  J. Vande Hei

9:00 am  P. Florek

11:00 am  D. Newhouse

5:00 pm  B. Meyer

**MUSICIANS**

5:00 pm  Annemarie/Adrienne Gruber & Sisters

7:30 am  Kathryn/Jen/Megan

9:00 am  Adult Choir/Elizabeth/Kathryn

11:00 am  Luke/Denise/Leah & Sydney/Katie K

5:00 pm  Ekklesia