



# St. Raphael Messenger

"We, the family of St. Raphael the Archangel, wish to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ as a welcoming community through worship, education, and service to others."

ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, 31530 BEECHWOOD, GARDEN CITY, MICHIGAN 48135

[WWW.STRAPHAEL-GC.ORG](http://WWW.STRAPHAEL-GC.ORG)

December 31, 2006



## Thoughts from Fr. Scott

The Feast of the Holy Family! This weekend we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. What an awesome time for us to celebrate this wonderful day. I firmly believe that the family is an institution too often overlooked in our society. We need to take time and reflect upon the mystery contained in this feast. We need to see Jesus, Mary and Joseph as an example of love and togetherness that motivates us to know peace and tenderness in our own families. This feast should give us pause in our very busy schedules and allow us to appreciate our families even more. Let us celebrate this feast with great joy!

I wish to thank the many people who have worked so hard to make this Christmas season an enjoyable and prayerful event. First, I thank the many folks who worked so

*(Continued on page 3)*

*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



## This Week

### MONDAY, Jan. 1

Office Closed

*Happy New Year!!*

No Religious Ed Classes tonight  
No "Circle of Hope: Mtg. tonight

### TUESDAY, Jan. 2

8:30 PM - AA Meeting

7:00 PM Baptism Class

### WEDNESDAY, Jan. 3

8:30 AM Mass

No Breakfast with Bible this week

2:45 PM - Scrip Sales

### THURSDAY, Jan. 4

7:45 AM - Scrip Sales

8:30 AM Mass

2:45 PM - Scrip Sales

7:00 PM - Choir Practice

### FRIDAY, Jan. 5

7:45 AM - Scrip Sales

8:30 AM Mass

2:45 PM - Scrip Sales

### SATURDAY, Jan. 6

8:30 AM 1st Saturday Mass

3:00 PM Confessions

4:30 PM MASS

### SUNDAY, Jan. 7

8:00 AM Mass

10:00 AM Mass

12:00 PM Mass

**SCRIP SALES AFTER ALL WEEKEND MASSES**

"ST. RAPHAEL, PATRON OF OUR PARISH, PRAY FOR US"

**ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
31530 Beechwood  
Garden City, MI 48135  
[www.straphael-gc.org](http://www.straphael-gc.org)

**PARISH OFFICE . . . . . 734-427-1533**

Rev. Scott Thibodeau.....Pastor  
Rev. Mr. Fred Burrell.....Deacon  
Sr. Ritamary Pyzick, OSF.....Pastoral Minister  
Pat Rybak.....Christian Services Director  
Margaret Furioso.....Music Minister  
Julie Ryan.....Youth Minister  
John Garland.....Business Mgr.  
Kathy Kowalczyk.....Admin. Assistant  
Fran Arsenault.....Receptionist

**RELIGIOUS FORMATION . . . 734-425-5550**

Mrs. Carol Bregand.....Director  
Joann Kathan.....Secretary

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL . . . . . 734-425-9771**

Mrs. Jeanine Kenny.....Principal  
Pat Jonca.....Secretary

**PARISH COUNCIL**

Eleanor Sutherland	Cindy Dunn
Patrick Moynahan	Bob Hamann
Irene Pattock	Dennis Lenhart
Skip Rodgers	Carol Walewski
Tim Lazorka	Frank Audia

Lisa Lezotte.....Secretary  
Catelyn Rosetto.....Youth Rep.  
Meghan Milligan.....Youth Rep.  
Joe Campanella.....Stewardship  
Shirley Wells.....Worship  
Beth Audia.....Vicariate  
Deacon Fred Burrell.....Vicariate  
Dorothy Corey.....Christian Service

**COMMISSIONS**

Joanne Shankin.....Stewardship  
Suzanne Provagna.....Worship

**WEEKEND LITURGIES**

Saturday: 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon

**HOLYDAY LITURGIES**

Consult schedule in bulletin

**WEEKDAY LITURGIES**

Monday Thru Friday: 8:30 A.M.  
Perpetual Help Devotions: After  
Tuesday Morning Mass

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturday: 3:00 P.M.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

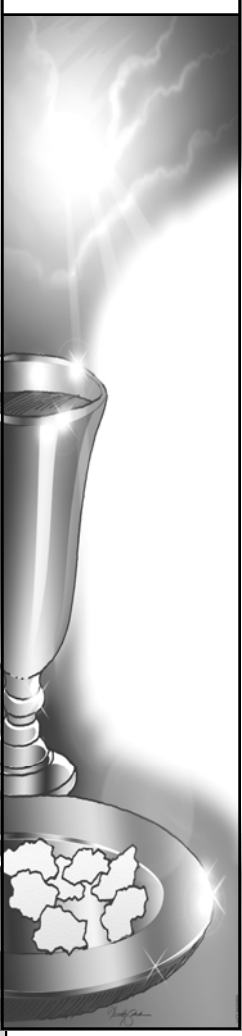
Infant Baptisms are held on the second Sunday of each month. Please contact the parish office to make arrangements at least one month prior to the desired date of Baptism. Couples may make arrangements for Baptisms prior to the birth of the child.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**

Couples seeking to be married at St. Raphael should contact the parish priest at least six months prior to the desired date of marriage. Both members of the party must be free to marry, at least one must be baptized Catholic and a registered member of the St. Raphael community. Only the parish priest may confirm a date for a wedding at St. Raphael.

**PARISH ORGANIZATIONS**

**Athletic Director**  
Gary Ryan.....728-7281  
**Booster Club**  
Ken Barnes.....261-5965  
**St. Vincent de Paul**  
Contact Parish Center Office



**VIGIL LIGHT DEC. 25-31, 2006**  
IN MEMORY OF  
AL KARWAN & DECEASED MEMBERS  
OF THE KARWAN FAMILY

**MONDAY, JANUARY 1**  
8:30 NO MASS TODAY

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 2**  
8:30 AM +Russell Evans

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3**  
8:30 AM +Lawrence Reinhart  
Marilyn Wankel

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 4**  
8:30 AM +Jean Oldenburg

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 5**  
8:30 AM Increase in Priestly Vocations

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 6**  
8:30 AM Mass  
4:30 PM +Frank & Maria Gebauer  
+Lucille Rector

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7**  
8:00 AM +Pete Cafferty  
+Christine Kolassa  
Margaret & Robert Smitt  
10:00 AM +Ed Sulkowski  
Alex Sczech  
Souls in Purgatory  
12:00 PM Andrea & Ben Rossi



**AN UPDATE REGARDING  
ST. RAPHAEL PICTORIAL DIRECTORY  
APPOINTMENTS CAN BE MADE ONLINE  
FROM JAN. 2 TO JAN. 13, 2007 AS FOLLOWS:**

Login: [www.signup.olanmills.com](http://www.signup.olanmills.com)

Use the church contract number: 15163

Photos will be taken from March 16 to March 29, 2007

The site is self-explanatory. You will receive confirmation by email after you make the appointment.

**THERE WILL BE SIGNUPS IN THE RESURRECTION ROOM FROM  
JANUARY 20-21 TO FEBRUARY 17-18.**

The photographs in the directory will be at no cost to you. Olan Mills will have packages that you can purchase.

# Please Remember



# In your Prayers

Eva Angelovic  
 Frances and John Cinka  
 Katherine and John Citko  
 Phyllis DeKeyser  
 Ann Derda  
 Peyton Domzalski (infant)  
 Paige Doutre  
 Don Fick  
 Mary Fodor  
 Carole Guck  
 Vivian Hecmanczuk  
 Gene Hynek  
 Harry Judycki  
 Ruth Ann Kelley  
 Darlene and Steve Kogowski  
 Frank Krawczyk  
 Helen and Ed Kubik  
 Walter Kunka  
 John Lardin  
 Virginia Maciak  
 Darcy Waldron Martin  
 Elizabeth McCausland  
 Kim McHugh  
 Genevieve Mijal  
 Anna Pondell  
 Kathy Rodgers  
 Kellie Sobas Ryan  
 John Sprietzer  
 Paige Taggart  
 John Todoroff  
 Shane Trupiano  
 Charles Varkoly  
 Fred and Betty Williams  
 Joe Wroblewski  
 Mary Zarzycki

And ALL the sick of our parish and families, that they may be healed. Let us also remember all those who give them care.

hard at decorating our Church. We should all agree that the Church looks very beautiful and fitting for Almighty God. We had so many people turn out to help decorate that it was enjoyable and moved very quickly. Your attention and dedication were truly uplifting to me. Secondly, thanks to Florence Kolpacke who decorated the gathering area and made it look so wonderfully welcoming. Thanks to all who worked so hard on the decorations. Third, thanks goes to our sacristans, especially Diane Prouty our head sacristan, who worked so hard throughout the Christmas season making our Church such a delightful place to celebrate Mass. Finally, I thank all of our maintenance personnel and John Garland for working so diligently during this time as well. Without their extra effort we would not be able to move so easily around our parking lots and grounds. They also did a fantastic job in assisting with the decorations for the Church. In short, I wish to thank any and everyone who did anything to make our Church look so special during the Christmas season; the parish family is most grateful for your effort.

I want to thank everyone who sent along a greeting or gift to me during Christmas. I am always overwhelmed by your love and support. Thank you for thinking of me and keeping me in your prayers. I am truly grateful that I have this opportunity to be your Pastor and servant. Thank you once again for all the many gifts, cards and great wishes.

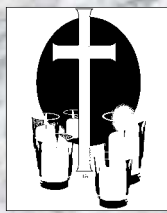
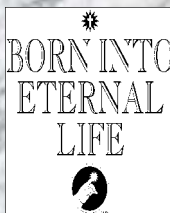
I pray and trust that everyone had a wonderful Christmas celebration and I want to wish everyone a very happy and blessed New Year! I believe that our faith journey is leading us closer to God and that we are on the right track to witness to Christ. May God continue to bless our efforts and make our New Year a very prosperous and joyous event. Please note: because January 1<sup>st</sup> falls on a Monday, it is not a day of obligation this year. We will not have a Mass on New Year's Day but will resume our normal mass schedule on Tuesday January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*God Bless and have a great week!*  
**Fr. Scott**

**Thought for the week:** Who better to ask the intercession of, for our country and families, than Mary, the Mother of God?

*The entire St. Raphael Community  
 extends their sincerest sympathy to the  
 families of:*

*Jean Oldenburg  
 Josephine Purgatori  
 Charles Canfield*



“He gave power to become children of God.” If you think you may be called to share the Good News of the Father’s love as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, call the Vocation Office at 313-237-5875, or email to: vocations@aod.org.

### Prayer for the New Year



Dear Lord, at the beginning of this New Year,  
 I remember that you are a God of beginnings and endings.  
 You created the world, with all its eternal patterns.  
 Winter begins in frost, and ends in Spring's thaw.  
 Spring begins in new, green life, ending in Summer's heat.  
 Summer begins in sunshine, and ends in Autumn's breezes.  
 And Autumn's color leads to the white of Winter again.

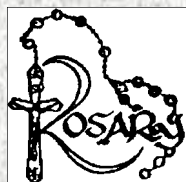
As another year ends and begins in our lives, help us to remember that you have made a world of cycles.  
 When fortune turns to trials, or hardship turns to joy, help me take delight in the life I've received from you.  
 Remind me that I will one day pass from this world and enter a new life like those who've gone before me.  
 Amen.

## Christian Service



**Shelter items needed:** We are still collecting items for the shelter, which runs January, February and March. Some of the items needed are: socks, deodorant, disposable razors, shaving cream, bar soap, wash cloths, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes. If you would like to donate any of these items please drop them in the St. Vincent de Paul baskets in the gathering area or at the Parish Office during office hours.

### St. Raphael Parish Family Prays for World Peace and Vocations, 24/7



Our St. Raphael Parish family perpetual rosary is now well on its way. Together we're begging God, through the intercession of His Blessed Mother, for World Peace and for Vocations to the Priesthood.

Thank you and God Bless you for volunteering to pray the rosary as a parish family, once a week, for these two very special intentions: World Peace and Vocations.

We need you to be part of this prayer endeavor. There are still slots available. Anything worthwhile is challenging. We invite more of you to join our parish family in this endeavor. There is strength in numbers.

Won't you join us and pray a rosary once a week, jointly with your parish family, as we together storm heaven for World Peace and for Vocations?

You may choose to do so as a family, as an individual, as a class or as any group. The rosary can be said in church, at home, at school, at work, in the car or wherever. You may now sign up for your half-hour at the Parish Office. We hope that you are able to be part of this parish prayer.

Again, thank you and God Bless all of you who are already praying the rosary for World Peace and for Vocations to the Priesthood, as part of our St. Raphael Parish Family.

### Readings for the Week of December 31, 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Next Sunday
1Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 Lk 2:41-52	Nm 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21	1 Jn 2:22-28 Jn 1:19-28	1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Jn 1:29-34	1 Jn 3:7-10 Jn 1:35-42	1 Jn 3:11-21 Jn 1:43-51	1 Jn 5:5-13 Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38	Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

## Youth Information Page

### RELIGIOUS FORMATION

In the midst of the Christmas Season the Catechists and staff of the Religious Formation Program wish all the families in the parish a very Happy and Holy New Year. May you all be blessed with a renewed appreciation of the gift of Family. If you are traveling, come home safely. If you are staying home, take plenty of time to relax; enjoy each other.

Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, for pre-school and Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> for grades 1-8.

Remember to check your Catholic websites for scripture preparation and other Christmas resources for the family.

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Christmas Pageant is only possible through the help of many children, teens and parents. One special teen, Tommy Brama, brings all his lighting expertise and equipment in, unpacks, rehearses with us and re-packs all his equipment for each rehearsal and the actual performance. Ms. Wendy Bennetts shares her skill for direction and costuming. For the past three years, she has taken time out of a busy work schedule to be present and work with the children at every rehearsal. Mrs. Sallie Quinn also helped with the direction this year. Mrs. Margaret Furioso brings her special gift of music to each performance. The children and teens give their time and talent to practice the readings, singing, and performance each year and their parents drive them back and forth. There are many others whose names do not appear but who have our gratitude for all their contributions toward helping to make this event special and meaningful for our parish family. Many thanks to all who helped in anyway.

### FIRST EUCHARIST

Parents/Guardians who will be preparing a young person to celebrate their First Eucharist in the spring, are invited to a meeting for Parents on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, in the Resurrection Room at 6:00 p.m. We will focus on the Sacrament, provide a calendar of events, answer questions, and share materials to be used at home



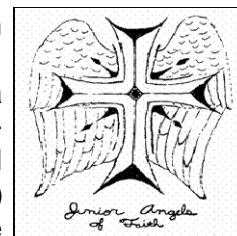
### YOUTH GROUP



Soon it will be 2007-a new calendar year. Have you thought of a "new year's resolution" yet? Why not resolve to get involved with the youth programs at St. Raphael? We have our "Circle of Hope" youth group that is for teens in grades 9-12 and meets on most Monday nights from



7PM-9PM in "Hope Haven" (the youth room located in the basement of the parish office building). We will not be meeting this Monday, January 1 since it is New Year's Day, but all high school teens are invited to a MOVIE night on Tuesday, January 2 from 6PM-9PM We will be watching *Pirates of the Caribbean II*. There will be popcorn, snacks and drinks. Since this is on a night that we do not normally meet, I need you to contact me via phone or e-mail if you are coming by New Year's Day-Monday, January 1, 2007. If I do not hear from anyone by then, I will cancel the Movie Night. Our "Circle of Hope" meetings will resume on Monday, January 8 from 7PM-9PM in Hope Haven.

We also have a youth program that is just for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. It is important for them to have a sense of community at their parish. For that reason St. Raphael has "**Angels of Faith**" (AOF) events. "AOF" is a special name given to all the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders for they certainly are a wonderful group of people! "AOF" events are fun and service oriented events for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. It is a great way for them to build a strong community of faith and have fun with friends!



The youth programs at St. Raphael are an outstanding way to meet new friends, grow in your faith, pray and talk with other teens your age and to have fun! You are always welcome to bring a friend with you. I would love to meet some new faces this year! I encourage you to come to our next meeting what have you got to lose?

May God bless you,  
Julie Ryan  
Phone (h) 734-722-9277  
E-mail: julryan77@hotmail.com

 <b>LITURGICAL MINISTERS</b> January, 6 & 7, 2007			
	 Lectors	 Eucharistic Ministers	 Servers
Saturday Jan. 6 4:30 p.m.	Dee Sulkowski	D. Prouty R. Chateauvert C. Dixon S. Shea M. Domanski	Kelsey McHugh Meghan McHugh Jordyn Castle
Sunday Jan. 7 8:00 a.m.	Jim Murphy	S. Wells P. Wilkins J. Kolassa T. Wilkins K. Dee	Dennis Gadulka Tyler Trombley Chase Wickett
Sunday Jan. 7 10:00 a.m.	Alyssa Provagna	D. Sears J. Rybak P. Rybak D. Fulan P. Troschinetz H. Batchik	Joshus Spencer Eric Williams Jarrett DeHetre
Sunday Jan. 7 12:00 p.m.	Wendy Murtagh	J. Maier J. Rollins M. Chevalier B.J. Maier T. Aula D. Ajlouny	Julie Freda Stephanie Freda Jordyn Ostrowski

**Answering the Prayer of Jesus: "... that they all may be one."**

**by Fr. Clarence Williams, CPPS**

What a good start to the New Year this picture of the Holy Family holds for us! It is good for us to realize that they were holy because God loved them, not because they were the perfect family. It is too bad that we forget that Jesus was a teenage runaway. How we undervalue the Gospel as real. It is certainly more real than our "reality TV." We need to see Jesus in the teenagers who are troubled today. They, too, are often gifted, and searching to find their destiny in life. Yes, like Jesus they can cause us all grief, just as Joseph and Mary wandered around the big city in search of their son. Their fears were the same as ours today. Would he be alive? How was he surviving on the streets? Would he be victimized by others? Would he become a victim of child trafficking? Not very much has changed in 2,000 years. Teenagers still confront their parents on their independence. And teenagers still need to grow. "And Jesus advanced (in) wisdom and age and favor before God and man. "

### Feast of the Holy Family

Luke 2:41-52



Christian comedian Jeff Allen successfully mixes his faith with his humorous look at everyday life. On his web page, he invites the public to relate funny family stories. One such story involved a boy at school and a homework assignment. On the board, the teacher wrote that the class should all read "Pg. 13" in their books that evening. The boy raised his hand and said he couldn't do the homework because his parents don't allow anything PG-13 in their home.

Family miscommunications have been taking place for as long as there have been families. Thinking they had lost their son, Joseph and Mary searched for three days, only to find him with the teachers in the temple, listening and asking questions like a young man much older than his 12 years. Jesus was surprised at their concern, explaining that he was in the house of his Father. Though the Gospel of Luke says they did not understand what he meant, it also says Mary kept these things in her heart, as mothers always do.

We are taught in The Catechism of the Catholic Church that the Christian family is considered a community of faith, hope, and charity. Our family community is both a sign and an image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit (CCC 2204-5). By having children and raising them in a holy and prayerful home, we are reflecting God's work of creation. A strong family will remain that way with the love of God.