



## St. Raphael Catholic School

*Nurturing the development of each child through faithful  
Catholic Education that stresses the love of Jesus Christ*

December 17, 2021

*Dear St. Raphael Families,*

*We are so blessed to have your children here at St. Raphael's. This Advent we have been preparing for the coming of Jesus and on Christmas we celebrate God's gift to us, His son, Jesus. It is a gift of love; one we are called to bring everywhere we go and to everyone we encounter. As you are finishing up last minute shopping and preparing for the Christmas and New Year celebrations, my hope is that you are reminded of Jesus's love for you.*

*In the chaos of these last few days preparing for the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, allow Him to illuminate your worth and all that you bring to the world. The love you show and share with your family, friends, and one another is the same love Jesus shows and shares with us. Thank you for your continued support of St. Raphael's where we are blessed to share the message of Jesus each day; its wonder, its joy, and its hope.*

*Warm Regards,  
Mike McGinty*

### **Important Dates**

December 20<sup>th</sup> - Last Day of Toy Drive  
December 20th - Red and White Day  
December 20th - 21st - Parent Drive Days - No Bus, Parent Drive Day  
December 22nd - 31st - Christmas Break  
January 3rd - Return to School  
January 17th - No Bus, Parent Drive Day  
January 28th - No School, Staff Development Day  
January 30th - PreK - 8th Grade Open House  
January 30th - February 4th - Catholic Schools Week  
February 21st - No School, Staff Development Day

### **Open Youth Room Tonight**

Middle school students (6th - 8th) are welcome at the last Open Youth Room of 2021 tonight at the Church of St. Raphael. Doors open at 6:00 PM for fun, fellowship, games and time with the Lord. Please pick your child up promptly at 9:00 PM.

### **Christmas Week Events-**

Monday 12/20 - Students can dress in Red and White or Christmas clothes.

Tuesday 12/21 - Students will go to 8:00 AM Mass, please dress in school uniform. They will participate in a Faith Family activity, decorate cookies and in the afternoon Christmas parties will be held in the classrooms.

Wednesday 12/22 - First day of Christmas break, no school until Monday, January 3rd.

### **Saints Annual Toy Drive Ends Monday!**

Student Council is still collecting toys until December 20<sup>th</sup>. We are still in need of toys, so we can help the children at Sharing and Caring Hands. Please consider donating a toy geared towards older children or teenagers, as this age group is oftentimes overlooked. If the goal is met, the students earn an Out of Uniform day. Our St. Raphael families are always so generous, please consider picking up a few toys while you are out Christmas shopping this weekend!

### **St. Raphael Traveling Statue**

*Please note: Fr. Hagen has given the traveling statues a special blessing and prayer intention that families pray for the selection process of a great principal for our beloved school.*

*What is it?* The traveling statue is a 20" statue replica of "Our Lady of Fatima." The prayer Icon is Our Lady Of Guadalupe, Pilgrim Queen Of the Family. Each St. Raphael family gets the opportunity to take Our Mother home for one week.

*Why do it?* It's a blessing to welcome Our Lady of Fatima into your household. While she is visiting your home, you and your family could either say a decade of the rosary at night together or pray the rosary - once each day she is with you - for the intentions of your own family and for our larger St. Raphael School family.

*Do we need to be Catholic to have the statue or icon visit our Home?* No, the statue and Icon are welcome to all St. Raphael School family homes.

*How does it work?* There are two statues traveling this year.

1) To request the statue, simply fill out a sign-up sheet with your family's information (i.e., phone number, email, and child's grade / teacher). The request form is attached in this newsletter email. We will also be sending home sign up sheets with students, and these sheets will also be available at the school office . Or you can contact the school office giving your information to be written down. A volunteer will contact you within a few days to confirm your date. You may also contact Nancy Ruddy at [Ruddy7@comcast.net](mailto:Ruddy7@comcast.net), or her phone: 763-744-6436.

2) The other statue will be sent home with an assigned student via their homeroom, beginning with the 8th grade class.

*On scheduled day:* Pick up your statue on Monday, between 7:00 AM and 3:30 PM – or ask for it to be sent home with your child(ren). We will log your name and confirm pick up time. The following Monday, return your statue back to the school office, and initial the log book to indicate your return.

Tote bag is provided for easy transportation of the statue. For all other questions, please contact Nancy Ruddy [Ruddy7@comcast.net](mailto:Ruddy7@comcast.net), or her phone: 763-744-6436, or Geri Cox: 763-232-0897.

### **2022-2023 Enrollment**

Enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year is beginning. Current families will be automatically re-enrolled. If your plans for the 2022-2023 school year are uncertain, or your child will not be returning to St. Raphael for the 2022-2023 school year, please click on this link and fill out the Continuous Enrollment Deferral Form: <https://srsmn.org/continuous-enrollment-deferral-2021-2022>. We will be gathering this information from now until January 15, 2022.

### **Saints Winter Sports**

Boys and Girls Basketball teams are working hard to prepare for their season. Coaches and teachers emphasize the importance of the student/players keeping their grades up to standard in order to participate. The boys' coach is Jason Finne and he can be reached at [jason.finne@srsmn.org](mailto:jason.finne@srsmn.org). The girls' coach is Seth Pugh and he can be reached at [seth.pugh@srsmn.org](mailto:seth.pugh@srsmn.org). All practice and games schedules are up to date on our school website under Athletics>>Sports Schedules.

### **Donations For Education (DFE)**

Please continue to collect traditional box tops or receipts (scanned through the app) from General Mills products, coke product codes, and Village/Country Hearth bread UPCs. Our next contest will be after the rake-a-thon.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school!

### **COVID Update**

Once again, there are no COVID cases to report. We are still seeing lots of colds, coughs, sore throats and stomach aches. Please continue to report your child's absence to the office and know for the safety of our school community, you may be asked that your child gets tested for COVID prior to returning to school. Should your child need a COVID test, one free option is at the Starlite Center in Brooklyn Park. They offer both the saliva and nasal swab tests, with no appointment required. Click <https://mn.gov/covid19/get-tested/testing-locations/index.jsp> for more information.

Our COVID policy is that we will evaluate each case individually and make an informed and prudent decision based on what we know. Each case will be handled differently based on the situation and circumstances.

As a reminder, if you do need to report a positive case of COVID, please contact Mr. Finne, our Associate Principal/COVID Response Coordinator as soon as possible by phone or email. Mr. Finne's contact info is [jason.finne@srsmn.org](mailto:jason.finne@srsmn.org) and his cell phone number is 651-488-6064.

