



## St. Raphael Catholic School

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

January 6, 2022

Dear Parents and friends of St. Raphael Catholic School,  
Happy New Year and welcome back to school. I hope that your Christmas was filled with much love, family time, and friendship. I am pleased to inform you that over the break we hired Mrs. Tricia Lyngen as a K-8<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish teacher. Starting next week students will begin attending Spanish classes. In addition to teaching Spanish, Mrs. Lyngen will also be teaching 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade religion. We are very excited to have Mrs. Lyngen join us. Please see her introduction included in this newsletter below. Best wishes for a joyous 2022!

Sincerely,  
Mike McGinty, Principal

### Epiphany Prayer

Heavenly Father, inspire us more with  
your gentle Spirit and direction  
just as you did with the Wise Men who  
traveled far to see your glory in the  
Christ Child.

You are the light of the world.  
Guide us with your radiance as we re-  
flect your goodness in our lives.  
May God's love, found in the Trinity  
of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
always surround us on our journey.

### **Important Dates**

January 14th - Middle School Retreat  
January 17th - Parent Drive Day - School is in session!!  
January 28th - No School - Staff Development  
January 31st - February 4th - Catholic Schools Week  
February 21st - No School - Presidents' Day  
March 2nd - Ash Wednesday  
March 4th - End of Trimester 2  
March 9th - VFW Steak Fry  
March 10th - Parent/Teacher Conferences

March 11th - No School - Staff Development

March 21st-25th - No School - Spring Break

### **COVID Update from Mr. Finne, COVID Response Coordinator**

With the uptick in cases around the country and the metro area, we felt it prudent to give you an update about COVID in our school. Over the Christmas break we had some students and staff test positive for COVID. All of those students and staff stayed in quarantine and did not come to school. There have been no cases of exposure in our school upon our return from break. We will continue to be vigilant and look for any signs or symptoms of COVID in our community. Parents, please continue to keep your children home if they appear sick, and have them tested. If you need help with securing a test, please contact Mr. Finne or Mrs. Teixeira, or refer to the testing information below. If there were a positive case in a classroom, rest assured we will contact the families to let them know of a possible exposure. As always, if you wish to send your students to school with a mask, your wishes will be honored.

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. 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.

### **New Spanish and 4th/5th Grade Religion Teacher**

Tricia Lyngen is our new 4th and 5th grade Religion teacher and K-8 Spanish Teacher. We are thrilled to welcome her to St. Raphael Catholic School. She was previously a Theology Teacher at DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis.

*"Hello! I am Tricia Lyngen, and I am an alumna of the College of St. Benedict where I ran track and cross country and studied Communication, Spanish, and English. I then went to the Saint John's School of Theology where I obtained an MA in Theology majoring in Spirituality and minoring in Systematics. I have another MA in Education from St. Mary's University. I have a graduate certificate in English as a Second Language, and I completed my Advanced Pastoral Spanish certificate from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis with an immersion experience in San Cristóbal de las Casas in Chiapas, Mexico.*

*I am excited to teach your children! I feel so welcomed and at home at St. Raphael's. I am a Benedictine Oblate through Saint Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph. I am also a Spiritual Director who was trained at the Spirituality Center at Saint Benedict's.*

*I am married to C.J. Lyngen, and we have two College of Saint Benedict Bennie daughters, Leah CSB 2023, and Lucy CSB 2024. In my spare time I enjoy running, cooking, gardening, watching sports, reading, praying, and hiking."*

### **2022-2023 Enrollment**

Enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year will begin next week. Current families are automatically re-enrolled. If you are unsure of your plans for next year, you can defer the automatic enrollment. Look for communication on the process some time next week. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Teixeira in the school office.

### **NWEA Testing**

Kindergarten - 8th grade students will be taking the Winter NWEA tests this month beginning January 18th and will continue for 3 weeks. Testing will finish by January 28th. NWEA tests are assessments that measure growth and proficiency in math, reading and language usage. Each class will have a different testing schedule. Look for more information from classroom teachers about when your child will be testing. Please make sure your child gets a good night's rest, and eats a healthy breakfast before the assessments. Also, emphasize they do not need to stress out about them, they just need to do their best. This [link](#) will take you to practice tests so your student knows what to expect and parents can also see what the assessments look like.

### **3-on-3 Men's Basketball Tournament**

This weekend, St. Raphael is hosting a 3-on-3 men's basketball tournament, with proceeds supporting St. Raphael's Athletic Association. Come cheer on the players and enjoy concessions. Admission is Free Will Offering. Games will be played in the gym - Friday, January 7th: 7PM - 10 PM and Saturday, January 8th: 10AM - 4 PM. Please enter through the Game Entrance.

### **Middle School Retreat**

Our 6th - 8th grade students will be attending an all day Middle School Retreat in Marian Hall on Friday, January 14th. Lunch will be provided. Our middle school religion teacher, Mrs. McClure, has put together a wonderful day of prayer, adoration, and learning for our students

### **Astronomy Class Rescheduled**

Due to a conflict, the astronomy class scheduled for this evening has been rescheduled for next Thursday, January 13th from 7:00 - 9:00 PM.

### **Catholic Schools Week**

This year, Catholic Schools Week is January 31st - February 4th. Students and staff alike look forward to this week of fun, which celebrates the beauty of Catholic School. Each day there will be a themed clothing day as well as games and special activities. Stay tuned for more specific information in the next few weeks.

### **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!

