



ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

VISITOR GUIDE

830 Westhaven Dr. Oshkosh WI 54904

920-233-8044 raphael.org

Mass Times: Sat 5pm / Sun: 8 & 10am, 5pm

Mon-Wed 8am / Thurs-Fri 7:15 am

Thank you for considering a visit to St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church to attend Mass, or have a quiet place to pray.

The following is a brief guide to what you can expect when you enter our Church, as well as some norms for Mass, and information behind the norms.

More information can be found by accessing the web links throughout the document (click/right click and open).

Feel free to print out this guide and/or info from the included links, and bring with you when you come. We are so glad to have you worship with us.

Come, Holy Spirit!

When you enter the sanctuary (main part of the Church), you will see a **Baptismal Font**. As you can guess, this is where people receive the sacrament of Baptism.

People also commonly bless themselves when they enter Church by gently dipping their hands in the water and making the sign of the cross. For a video on how to make the sign of the cross, [click here](#).



For more information on **Baptism**, [click here](#).

For information on the **Christian Initiation of Adults** (process before receiving Baptism as an adult), [click here](#).

To find out more about other Catholic Sacraments visit [this page](#). Scroll down to read "Sacraments of the

Church." You are always welcome to **contact our parish office** if you or you would like your child to receive a sacrament/s. (920-233-8044, parish.office@raphael.org)

To the left of the Baptismal Font, you will see our **Blessed Sacrament Chapel**.



This is a nice, quiet place to come and pray. Inside are candles which can be lit for your prayer intentions. More info on this practice from a Catholic perspective can be [read here](#). There is also a tabernacle inside this chapel.

A **tabernacle**, in simple terms, is a dwelling place for God. It houses the Eucharist- bread that has been consecrated to become Christ's Body. Catholics believe that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. So, when they receive the Eucharist, they are receiving Jesus into their bodies and becoming "living tabernacles."

People often sit in front of tabernacles, commonly referred to as "sitting in front of the Blessed Sacrament" because it is a way to be close to Jesus.



The **tabernacle** in the sanctuary (main part of the Church) is here (yellow arrow). The candle on top signifies that Jesus is present inside the tabernacle.



More information on the Eucharist and the Mass can be [read here](#)



When you **find the place you would like to sit**, it is common to **genuflect** and make the sign of the cross before entering your pew. More information on why Catholics genuflect can be [read here](#).

Inside your pew, you will find a **Seasonal Missalette**. Most of our hymns are projected on screens in the front right and left of the sanctuary. However, the Seasonal Missalettes are extremely helpful if you want to follow along with the Mass.



Pages for Easy Finding (Seasonal Missalette Dec 3-March 23, 2024)

- Greeting, Gloria, and Collect (prayer the Priest says): **pg 6**
- Sunday Readings by Date: begins on **pg 18**
- Nicene Creed: **pg 93**
- Liturgy of the Eucharist (when the bread and wine are offered and consecrated to become the Body and Blood of Jesus): **pgs 95-122**

A **General Order of Mass** can be [found here](#).

Receiving Eucharist (Guidelines found on back cover of Seasonal Missalettes)

Baptized Catholics can receive the Eucharist if they are not conscious of grave sin and have fasted for an hour. If a grave sin has been committed, the person needs to receive the sacrament of Confession before receiving the Eucharist again.



Non-Catholics can process in the line with their arms folded. They will then receive a blessing.

The words below are taken from [this article](#)

“It is true, we are united in our belief in Jesus Christ. However, there are other uniquely Catholic beliefs, which can’t be ignored, that make all the difference.

The Sacrament of the Eucharist has several names. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1331, we see it called “Holy Communion, because by this sacrament we unite ourselves to Christ, who makes us sharers in his body and blood to form a single body.”

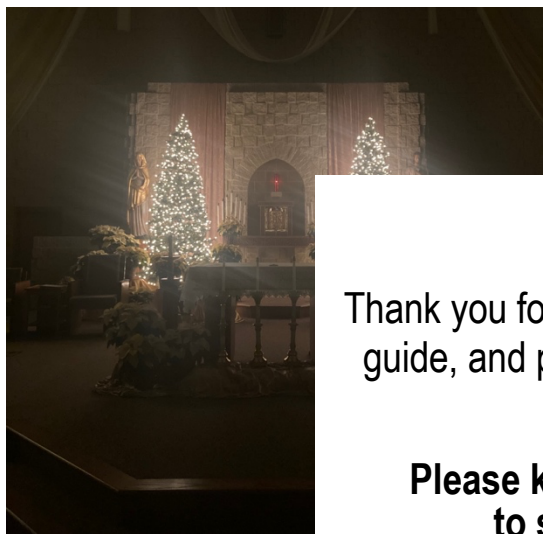
The Catechism also says, “In the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist ‘the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus and, therefore, the whole Christ is truly, really and substantially contained.’ ‘This presence is called ‘real’ ...” (CCC 1374) When the minister says, “The body of Christ,” that’s what he/she means. It’s not just a symbol of unity that we eat together because we share belief. By the Holy Spirit’s power, it becomes what the words of consecration say it is — the body of Christ. Jesus is truly present sacramentally in the host.

Beyond that, in responding “Amen,” you affirm belief in that Real Presence, which also affirms belief in everything the Catholic Church teaches and holds to be true.

But it goes much deeper still. CCC 1325 says, “The Eucharist is the efficacious sign and sublime cause of that communion ...” This sign is human and divine. Saint Augustine said regarding reception of the Eucharist, “Believe what you see, see what you believe, and become what you are: the body of Christ.” When you receive the body of Christ, you become the body of Christ.

Additionally, to receive worthily, your life, belief and intention must be in conformity with the sign. If those things don’t match up, it’s a contradiction and countersign. Saint Paul warned the Corinthians not to partake of the Eucharist unworthily. If anyone received without properly discerning, they brought judgment on themselves. (1 Cor 11:27-29)

So, as you can see, it’s not an insult but a safeguard.”



Thank you for taking the time to read this guide, and possibly use when you visit our Church.

Please know you are welcome to stop by and pray:

Mon-Thurs 8am-4:30pm

Fri 8am-1pm

Sat-Sun: before and shortly after weekend Masses

Sat 5pm

Sun 8 & 10 am, 5pm

You can also talk with our front desk ladies during **parish office hours** (Mon-Thurs 8am-4:30pm, Fri 8am-1pm) by calling

920-233-8044, emailing parish.office@raphael.org, or stopping in. Hours can change due to holidays, etc. There will be notice on the website and social media if this happens.

May God's blessings and peace always be with you.

