



Sacred Heart
PARISH

2875 10th Avenue NE, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Parish Office: 251-8115

School Office: 251-2854

Fax Number: 252-0710

Confirmation: 251-2872

Website: www.sacredheartsaukrapids.org

Email: parish@sacredheartsaukrapids.org

The Nativity of the Lord Mass Schedule

December 24, 2009 Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m.

Praise Choir

(preludes begin at 3:30 p.m.)

6:30 p.m.

Tailored for children

Sacred Heart Parish Children's Choir

(preludes begin at 6:00 p.m.)

December 25, 2009 Christmas Day

12:00 Midnight

Festival Choir

(preludes begin at 11:30 p.m.)

9:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart Parish Choir

(preludes begin at 9:15 a.m.)

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, SAUK RAPIDS

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 21, Late Advent Weekday

8:00 am -Word & Communion Service

Tuesday, December 22, Late Advent Weekday

6:00 pm †Eldon Lockhart

Wednesday, December 23, John of Kanty, pr.

8:00 am †Gordon Oothoudt

2:00 pm †Madeline Gohman (at Good Shep.)

Thursday, December 24, Vigil of Christmas

4:00 pm †Raymond Rymer

†Jamie & Donald Schwegman

6:30 pm †Don Kuefler

Friday, December 25, Nativity of the Lord

Midnight -For the Parish

9:30 am -Intentions of the Flower Memorials

Sunday Eucharist, December 26-27, Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday 5:00 pm †Rita Cruser

†Eugene Bender

Sunday 8:00 am †Collette Haakonson

†Jean Templin

10:00 am -For the Parish

6:00 pm (at St. Mary's Cathedral)

Please Note: Incense will be used at the Midnight Mass and 9:30 am Mass on December 25.

The Parish Office will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, December 24 and 25.

Readings for the Week of December 20

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/
Lk 1:67-79

Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or
1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22,
24-28/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or
1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Marriage Banns



The following couple is preparing for marriage.
Please keep them in your prayers.

I Jason Frieler & Kelli Niess

Advent Vespers



Sacred Heart Parish & St. Mary's Cathedral will be working together to provide for **Advent Vespers**. Vespers will be held at St. Mary's Cathedral at 4 pm today.

"Stewardship as a way of life"



Be the "Heart"
of Sacred Heart!

As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them in loving justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

Talent, Time & Treasure

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

We are all stewards—managers of the many gifts God has bestowed upon us. Our challenge as Christians is to make good use of those gifts.

Income for the week ending **December 13, 2009**

Adult Collection.....	14,818.31
Children/Youth	42.18
Loose Collection.....	461.85
Improvements	941.00
Friends in Need.....	165.00
Holy Days.....	910.00
Religious Retirement	1,995.00
Christmas Flowers	507.00
Christmas.....	535.00

Year End Giving

As we reach the end of the year it is a time to reflect and give thanks for the blessings we have received. It is also an opportunity to share of our time, talent and treasure with others, the parish and charities. Giving opportunities at Sacred Heart include: Catholic Education and other Ministry Expenses, and Memorial/Honor Giving; examples – Sacred Heart Statue, Bell Tower, and Stained Glass. To discuss giving opportunities, including an IRA Charitable Donation, please call the Parish Office, 251-8115.

RCIA

Our next session is December 20, 7pm at the Janson House (yellow brick house next to our parking lot). RCIA is for those who are interested in joining the Catholic Church or seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation as an adult. Contact Fr. Ron at 251-8115.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

As part of your preparation for Christmas, consider celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Individual Reconciliation:

Dec. 22 - 3pm, 4pm, 5pm
Other Times by Appointment

Communal Reconciliation

Dec. 22, 7pm at St. Mary

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A Message from Father Ron

From Safari: Come to Mass on Christmas and you are ready to hear the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. However, the reading assigned to the last Mass on Christmas Day is from the first chapter of the Gospel of John. In part the reading proclaims, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

This reading from the Gospel of John gives us some insight into the mystery of the Incarnation. the "Word" in the gospel refers to the Son of God. Jesus is the Word made flesh. Jesus who is both God and human. The gospel writer John invites us to view God becoming human not as an afterthought, an event to make up for original sin and human sinfulness, but rather as God's longing to have an intimate relationship with humans. From such a view God is gracious, sharing divine life and love with us. The incarnation is much like a parent sharing their love with their children.

Kenneth Overberg, reflecting on the Incarnation writes, "The emphasis of Jesus as the first thought can free us from those images (a religious conviction that believed violence, sacrifice saves) and allows us to focus on God's overflowing love. This love is the very life of the Trinity and spills over into creation, grace, Incarnation, and final flourishing and fulfillment.

What a difference this makes for our relationship with God! We are invited into this divine dance. Life and love, not suffering and death, become the core of our spirituality and our morality." (Kenneth R Overberg, S.J.; *Catholic Update*, St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2002)

Have a Blessed and Joyous Christmas! Ron

School News



The kindergarten and 1st grade Christmas program is on Monday, December 21 at 6:30pm at the church. The 2nd-6th grade program is on Tuesday, December 22 at 12:30 and 7:00pm at Cathedral High School.

Knights of Columbus



Congratulations to Fr. Ron Weyrens, Chaplain for our Sacred Heart Knights of Columbus Council, as being selected as the December Knight of the Month. Thank you Fr. Ron for all your spiritual guidance and commitment to Sacred Heart Church and the Knights of Columbus.

Please patronize those businesses which advertise on the back of our bulletin!!

Liturgy

Liturgical Ministers: Please finalize your plans for Christmas Mass and sign up to help. You can sign up on the web terminal or on the sheets near the sacristy.

Deck the Halls! Christmas Decorating will be on Sunday, December 20th following the 10am Mass. Many hands are needed with the trees, garland, poinsettias, and setting up the crèche.

Take Advantage of the Charitable IRA Rollover

You can give up to \$100,000 per year from a Traditional IRA or Roth IRA account without having the donated amount count as taxable income, if:

- Made on or after the date the IRA owner attains age 70 ½
- For 2009 your gift must be completed before December 31, 2009
- Your IRA custodian transfers the funds DIRECTLY to Sacred Heart.

Contact your IRA custodian or your tax professional for more information.

Baptism Preparation



The next Baptism Preparation Class is scheduled for **Thursday, February 4** at 7:00 pm at church. If you have not taken this class in the last three years, please plan on attending this 1 1/2 hour class prior to the birth of your child. Call the Parish Office at 251-8115 to register. Please plan accordingly. Please do not bring your children.

Lost

Lost after the 10am Mass on December 6: a woman's 3/4 length black leather jacket, size 10. If you happened to take it by mistake, please contact the Parish Office at 251-8115.

Cub Receipts

Please begin turning in Cub receipts for October, November and December (anything dated prior to that can no longer be accepted). They can be placed in the kiosk in the Gathering Space. If you have any questions, contact Rita at 251-3952.

**Christmas
Greetings**

From the Parish Staff

Faith Formation

THE MESSIAH IS COMING! In these final days of Advent we make our final preparations to welcome the Messiah and celebrate the Incarnation; God with skin on. Watch for ways that you see God present this week in your daily lives. How can you help make God present to others by what you say and do?



JOURNEY IN FAITH TAKE HOME MATERIALS are available on the table in the Gathering Space. Pick some up for yourself, your children, or your grandchildren as a way to continue the learning and the conversation about Christmas; our celebration of the Incarnation.

MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN...WITH CHRISTMAS JARS

1. Find a clear glass jar (mason jar).
2. Collect loose change daily in the jar. No change? - write an IOU.
3. Keep collecting until Feast of the Epiphany-Jan 3.
4. Bring your filled jars to the church building and fill the Parish Family Christmas Jar.

More information and details are on the website www.christmasjars.com.

Youth Ministry Notes (from Patrick)



6th, 7th, and 8th graders!!! The Winter Spectacular is coming!! On January 10th hundreds of young people from around central Minnesota will gather at St. John's for amazing day of fun. The event runs from 10:00 am until 4:00pm. It will include all sorts of great indoor and outdoor activities, food, and it will end with Mass in the Abbey church. Sign up information is available at the parish office or on the kiosk on your right as you enter church. You can also contact me for more information. Don't miss it.

Ski/Snowboard trip!! To Spirit Mountain we will go! On Saturday, January 30th we are heading out to Spirit Mtn. for a day and evening on the slopes. Put it on your calendar. More specific information will be coming out soon.

If you want to be included on an email list or if you need more info about anything related to youth ministry, please feel free to contact me (Patrick Flynn) at 293-7988 or e-mail me at pflynn@csbsju.edu.

Thank You

Thank you for the cards, prayers and visits while I was in the hospital. They were much appreciated.
Gerry Feld

Cards



The card group will NOT meet this Tuesday. Join us for the next 500 card group meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 1:00pm in the Gathering Space. Everyone is welcome!

Notes of Interest

Save a marriage. Are you, or someone you know, living in the pain of a marriage in trouble? Retrouvaille can help. The next program starts January 22nd. Call 255-5314 or check the website www.savingmarriages.org for more information. Register in advance by January 8th.

NEEDED: MARRIED COUPLES for the St. Cloud Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program who are willing to share their faith, gifts and talents with engaged couples preparing for marriage. The growth you have experienced in your marriage can be a profound example for couples seeking marriage today. Sharing this growth with the engaged is a very rewarding and vital ministry. We provide training and materials. Your total commitment is 3-4 hours a year. For more information, interested couples may contact Angie Loecken at the Office of Marriage & Family at aloecken@gw.stedio.org or call 252-4721.

Tickets are now on sale for Catholic Charities annual Mardi Gras celebration. The celebration will be taking a "journey to Asia" on Saturday, January 30. It begins at 5:30 pm at the St. Cloud Civic Center. The event benefits Catholic Charities Emergency Services, the area's largest food shelf, and DOMUS Transitional Housing, a facility for homeless women and their children. Catholic Charities offers two different tickets for the Mardi Gras celebration. The Gourmet Banquet ticket, \$75 per person, includes the sit down dinner, along with everything the evening has to offer - auction, entertainment, appetizers and more. The Sampler ticket, \$35 per person, includes everything but the sit down dinner. For more information about this event and tickets call 320.650.1665 or visit www.ccstcloud.org/mardigras.

Join the Church of St. Peter for Vespers each Sunday of the Christmas season! This meditative evening prayer of the Church includes sung psalms, hymns, scripture, and prayerful silence. It will be at 4:00 pm in the church (930 31st Ave. N, St. Cloud) on 12/27, 1/3, and 1/10. All are welcome.

Sacred Heart is in need of a parish host/hostess for funeral lunches. Please call 251-8115 if you can help.

Prayer Corner

Please call your Prayer Chain Requests (calling tree) to 251-8961 or 252-3401



If you know of anyone who needs our prayers and wants to be put on the following prayer list, please call 251-8115

Brian Amberg, Gerry Feld, Joyce Fleck, John Gebhardt, Norbert Notch, John Schad, Bev Schmidtbauer, Angie Studer and for those who have received prayer blankets.