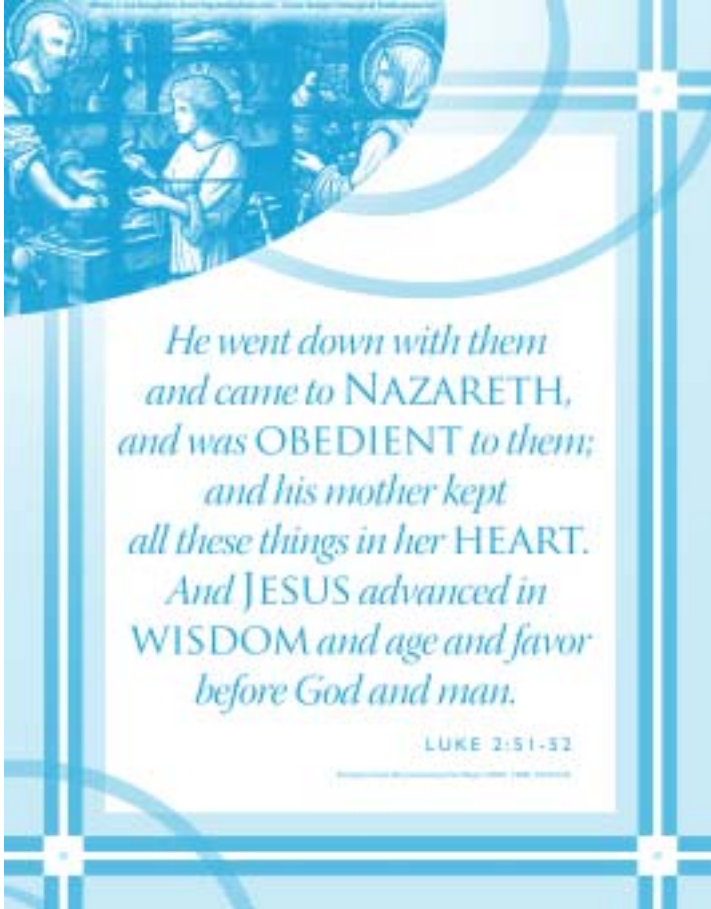




Sacred Heart PARISH

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



*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.*

LUKE 2:51-52

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 27, 2009

Jesus, Mary, Joseph – Be our guides!

TRUSTEES

Anita Stoering & Jeff Voit

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joe Foster, Paul Fread, Fred Haack, Lisa Hahn,
John Harambasic, Rich Kierzek, Dave Massman,
Leslee Midas & Jean Schott

LEADERSHIP CHAIRPERSONS

Faith Formation — Fred Haack
Finance — Jeff Knapek
Health & Wellness — Annette Jesh
Justice & Peace — David Fremo
School Advisory Council — Sue Oldakowski
Sister Parish — Duane Ackerman
Stewardship — Jackie Johnson

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday
(The Parish Office is closed on Holy Days of Obligation)

PARISH STAFF

Located at Church 251-8115

Father Ronald Weyrens, Pastor (Ext. *812)
Joan Krause, Director of Faith Formation (Ext. *818)
JoAnn Mo, Secretary (Ext. *814)
Maureen Otremba, Pastoral Minister (Ext. *817)
Beth Plumski, Co-Director of Music/Liturgy (Ext. *822)
Sarah Woeste, Co-Director of Music/Liturgy (Ext. *816)
Robert Zawacki, Business Manager (Ext. *811)

Gerry Kittok, Confirmation (251-2872, Ext. 8)
Patrick Flynn, Youth Minister (293-7988)

Located at School 251-2854

Erin Hattestad, School Principal
Julie Schmid, School Office
Jim Storms, Maintenance
David Walker, Custodian

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday ----- 5:00 p.m.
Sunday ----- 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. Mass interpreted for hearing impaired
Weekdays ----- Variable; see inside of bulletin for details
Holy Days ----- consult bulletin

BAPTISMS

Pre-Baptism classes, 1st Thursday every other month at
7:00 p.m. in the church (pre-registration requested).

WEDDINGS

Please contact the Parish Office at least six months in
advance.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Please call the office to set up an appointment for registering.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday—3:30 p.m. (other times by appointment)

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, SAUK RAPIDS

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 28, Holy Innocents, martyrs

8:00 am -Word & Communion Service

Tuesday, December 29, Thomas Becket, bishop

6:00 pm †Earl & Agatha Thelen Young

Wednesday, December 30, Sixth Day in Octave of Christmas

8:00 am †Lyle Bergner

Thursday, December 31, Sylvester I, pope

2:00 pm †Dianne Sauer (at Good Shepherd)

December 31/January 1, Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Thursday 5:00 pm †Sylvester Brda

Friday 9:10 am -For the Parish

Saturday, January 2, St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen, bishops & doctors

11:00 am -Wedding: Michael Holzem & Jane Janson

Sunday Eucharist, January 2/3, Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday 5:00 pm †Margaret Ihli

Sunday 8:00 am -For the Parish

10:00 am †Bernie Janson (Anniv)

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

Please Note: The Parish Office will be closed on New Year's Day, January 1.

Readings for the Week of December 27

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

Monday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Mt 2:13-18

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18

Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Marriage Banns



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

II Jason Frieler & Kelli Niess

Eternal Rest



Eternal Rest Grant Unto

**FRANCES WESENBERG
AND
MICHAEL VI ERZBA**

who were called home to be with our Heavenly Father. Please keep their family and friends in your prayers.

"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 first reading today provides a challenging blueprint for the good stewardship of our family relationships. How do I measure up?

The coming new year provides a good time to look at how blessed we are and to ask ourselves how we can say "thank you" to the Lord.

Income for the week ending December 21, 2009

Adult Collection.....	16,904.31
Children/Youth	47.70
Loose Collection.....	507.68
Improvements	405.00
Friends in Need.....	40.00
Holy Days	525.00
Religious Retirement	360.00
Christmas Flowers	70.00
Christmas	935.00

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.

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.

Please let us know if you are moving or leaving the parish so that our records can be kept current.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

A Message from Father Ron

From Safari: Seems like only hours since we were all together to celebrate Christmas and the mystery of the Incarnation. I hope you had a great celebration of Christmas. Thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending Christmas Cards, gifts, and goodies. I appreciate your love and care, and know that I love you also. It is good to be here.

On this feast of the Holy Family, our thoughts are directed toward family life. Patricia Sánchez writes, "Family is the incubator in which one learns a sense of compassion for others. Within the safety of family, the seeds of sympathy for the needs and sufferings of others can be planted, and if properly tended, these seeds can grow into the good habit of serving the needs of others. Most importantly of all, perhaps, is the sense of God that is first experienced within the family. Even without uttering a word, parents can communicate by attitude and by action a sense of God that will accompany the child into adolescence and adulthood.

Although a good and vital family is indeed one of life's greatest joys, if we are honest we must also admit that one of the greatest human tragedies is the dissolution of the bonds that create and sustain family. A variety of factors can threaten, stretch or sever these fragile bonds — death, divorce, abuse, alienation, war, natural calamities. Nevertheless, all is not lost to those whose first experiences of family have been less than what they might have been. In these instances, other families can become a source of edification and a place of welcome." (*December 2009, Celebration, p.41, The National Catholic Reporter Publishing Company, Kansas City, MO.*)

This week will also bring to a close 2009. In these final days of the year take some time to reflect on the year. Recall all the ways God has touched your life and given you hope in unexpected ways. Our God is a great God! Let us also pray that in 2010 we will continue to be God's instruments in this world, bringing God's love, forgiveness, welcome, and comfort to our family, friends, co-workers, and the strangers we meet on the safari.

Have a peace filled week and a Blessed New Year.
Ron

Thank You

Catholic Aid would like to thank everyone who donated items for the Giving Tree. The organizations that benefited from your generosity were Anna Marie's, Catholic Charities, Place of Hope, Birthline, and the VA. They were all very grateful for the gifts they received. Thank you, also, to all who helped set up, sort and distribute the gifts.

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Liturgy

Thank you to the musicians who spent many hours rehearsing for the Christmas liturgies! The music was fabulous!

Many thanks to those who helped decorate for Christmas. Setting up the trees is no small tasks! The Church & Gathering Space look beautiful!

The Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God will be celebrated with Mass on New Year's Eve at 5:00 pm and on New Year's Day at 9:10 am. Please note the time!☺ Ministers can sign up in the sacristy or through the web-terminal program.

Thank You

The handbells that were rung during the Christmas Masses were gifted to Sacred Heart as an honor gift. We hope you enjoyed this new sound and look forward to using them throughout the seasons.

Eucharistic Adoration



Participate in **Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, January 8** by spending time before the Blessed Sacrament in silent prayer from 6:30 until 11:30 am. Please pray for the needs and people of our parish.

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.

Cub Receipts

Please turn in Cub receipts for October, November and December (anything dated prior to that can no longer be accepted) by January 3. They can be placed in the kiosk in the Gathering Space. If you have any questions, contact Rita at 251-3952.

Prayers For Our Nation

Harvest Fellowship is inviting all the faith communities in Sauk Rapids to join them in a 24 hour prayer for our country. They are asking each faith community to open their church doors for their members to pray between 6:00am and 6:00pm on December 30 and 31. If you are interested in taking part in this prayer vigil, a sign up sheet for an hour of prayer is located next to the sacristy.

Faith Formation

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. Use the handout, "Make Yours a Holy Family" for prayer one day this week.

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 and add cash later.
3. Keep collecting until Feast of the Epiphany-Jan 3.
4. Bring your collected change to add to the Parish Family Christmas Jar in the Gathering Space.
The money collected will support projects to bring clean water to those in need.

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 in 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.

School News



The school offices will be closed until January 4th.

Heifer International: The families and staff at Sacred Heart School have been participating in an Advent Service Project. Students were asked to do extra chores or skip buying something this season and donate the money for our project, with our goal being \$500 to purchase a cow. We had a remarkable response. The students collected over \$1,100. We are excited to purchase a cow, water buffalo, 2 goats and some chickens through this program.

Health & Wellness

Body, Mind, Spirit: As we have just experienced the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, during this holy Christmas season, many among us struggle with the lethargy and depression that comes from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). When a group of Pilgrims were leaving northern Holland (from England), to come to the New World in 1620, their pastor told them these words: "God hath more truth and light yet to break forth...." During this Season of hope, may these words be true for you. Be encouraged that the days are lengthening, and that we too, have the opportunity for renewal, no matter what the season. Blessings of this holy season to you! From Your Parish Nurse

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.studio.org or call 252-4721.

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.

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.