

December 31, 2023
Feast of the Holy Family



THE HOLY FAMILY

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (2001), 1990, 1970 CCD, GLPI

ONE
IN
CHRIS

Annunciation
Sacred Heart
St. Francis Xavier
St. Stephen

AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
oneinchristacc.org

Annunciation

9965 Mayhew Lake Road NE • Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
320-252-1729 • oneinchristacc.org

Sacred Heart

2875 10th Avenue NE • Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
320-251-8115 • sacredheartsaukrapids.org

St. Francis Xavier

219 2nd Street N, PO Box 150 • Sartell, MN 56377
320-252-1363 • stfrancissartell.org

St. Stephen

103 Central Avenue S • St. Stephen, MN 56375
320-251-1520 • churchofststephen.org

MASS TIMES

Monday, January 1 Mary, Mother of God	8:24 pm	St. Francis Xavier	† David & Marlene Robertson
	8:30 am	Annunciation	† Audra Popp
	10:00 am	Sacred Heart	† For the Members of the Parish
	10:00 am	St. Stephen	† Jerome Supan
Tuesday, January 2	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Word & Communion
	5:30 pm	Sacred Heart	† Harvey Walker
	5:30 pm	St. Stephen	† BJ Legatt
Wednesday, January 3	8:00 am	Sacred Heart	† Roland & Rita Simones and Lawrence & Mary Rahm
	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Anthony & Veronica Robotcek
Thursday, January 4	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Erv & Monica Baltes
	8:00 am	St. Stephen	† Leonard & Alma Yamry
	8:30 am	Annunciation	† Joe Knott
Friday, January 5	8:00 am	Sacred Heart	† Jacqueline Beumer
	8:30 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Tom Bearson
Saturday, January 6 Epiphany	4:00 pm	St. Francis Xavier	† Diane Goughan
	5:00 pm	Sacred Heart	† Lisa & Gladys Novak
	7:00 pm	St. Stephen	† For the People of the Parish
Sunday, January 7 Epiphany *Livestreamed Mass	8:15 am	*Annunciation	† Geno Brown
	9:00 am	*Sacred Heart	† Elaine Krueger
	9:30 am	*St. Francis Xavier	† Urban Frank
	10:00 am	St. Stephen	† Norma Vouk

PASTORAL SERVICES

Reconciliation
Saturdays

3:00 pm St. Francis Xavier

3:30 pm Sacred Heart

6:15 pm St. Stephen

Sunday

7:40 am Annunciation

Anointing of the Sick
Home Bound Communion
Pastoral Visitation, Prayer Requests,
Marriage and Baptism Preparation

Bulletin announcements are
due in the parish office by
8:00 am on Mondays.
Thank you! Please contact
your Parish Office for
more information.

DAILY READINGS

Readings on page 3.

MINISTRY & LIFE PERSPECTIVES



From Safari...

Should auld acquaintance be forgot.....

As we prepare to enter 2024, it is good to look back through the past year and remember all the ways God has been present in our lives. From the wonders of creation to the gentle love received from a loved one, God has been at our side. May these memories reassure us that God will again be at our side in 2024.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. Regardless of the shape or size of your family, family is essential for the good of our world. Family is the training ground for learning actions of love --- feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, welcoming the stranger. It is gathering around the table of the Lord that families are strengthened. What are the best qualities about your family? What do you treasure most? What are you most grateful for that came from your family? What positives in your family do you want to repeat with the family you will have?

Lawrence Mick writes, "It is so easy to domesticate the feast. See how wonderful the Holy Family is, how perfectly they live together. Don't we wish all our families were like theirs?"

But this feast does not occur within Christmas because we love perfect families. It is a reminder that Christ came to experience our human life in its fullness, not springing fully formed into the world, but needing to grow and learn and develop, just as we all do.

If we recognize that Christ was born in human flesh in order to draw all people into unity with God and with one another, then this feast takes on a much broader scope. It celebrates the whole human family, not just the "nuclear family" we love to idealize. If celebrating the Holy Family merely reinforces our natural instinct to love those closest to us, then it hardly deserves to be a major feast.

(Ministry & Life Perspectives Continued)

Today's Gospel should remind us that family life for Joseph, Mary and Jesus wasn't always peaceful and wonderful. It can also remind us that Jesus came to create a much larger family than the holy trio. He was about his Father's business; he was sent to reconcile all people to God and to one another. Any healthy family finds its love spilling beyond the household to many others, and the more a family grows in love, the wider that circle of love becomes." (*December 2018, Celebration, p.31, The National Catholic Reporter Publishing Company, Kansas City, MO*)

Blessings on your Christmas Days! (Seven swans a-swimming on Sunday)

Fr. Ron



LEADERSHIP

ACC Pastoral Leadership

Pastor	Fr. Tom Knoblach 320-251-8115, Ext. 112 pastor@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
Pastor	Fr. Ron Weyrens 320-252-1363, Ext.401 (days) Ext. 402 (night/weekends) rweyrens@stfrancissartell.org
Deacon	Joe Kresky 320-251-8115 jkresky@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
Deacon	Terry Jancik tjancik@gmail.com
Deacon	Steve Pareja 320-761-2503
Pastoral Associate	Sandee Kremers 320-252-1363, Ext. 403 skremers@stfrancissartell.org

STEWARDSHIP AND EVANGELIZATION
LIVING A LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP



"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." - Colossians 3:13

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.



The Diocesan TV Mass has been a lifeline for the homebound. Other diocesan ministries continue their work in support of faith formation, family life, Catholic schools, multicultural ministries, evangelization and vocational discernment. Will you help keep these ministries strong? Visit www.stcdio.org/annualappeal.

PAINTING THE WORD WITH WOMEN & WINE +18

Painting the Word will take place January 28th from 6pm to 7:30pm at Sacred Heart in Sauk Rapids. Women 18+ are invited to participate in a creative process of painting scripture. Come ready to meet new friends. No artistic ability is needed. Wine will be offered to those 21 and up; a nonalcoholic alternative will be offered. This event is free thanks to the Building Bridges Thriving Mission Grant! Contact Karen Handeland at 320-761-5155 to sign up.



EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL

The **Vatican International Exhibit of the Eucharistic Miracles of the World** will be coming to our ACC. This exhibit includes 126 historically documented Eucharistic miracles that have occurred in various countries since the Last Supper. These are visible proof of Jesus Christ's Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. This is meant as a quiet, prayerful and reflective experience for all who participate. Due to the size and requirements of the exhibit it will be displayed at Sacred Heart. Viewing times are **Jan. 19th 9-noon, Jan. 20th 2-5, Jan. 21st 10-2, Jan. 24th 5-8 pm**. All are welcome, including members of other faiths. Free admission. For more information call 320-251-8115.



Check out the information about the CANA Dinner 2024 on page 4.

—To find out more information on the Eucharistic Revival, visit the Diocese of St. Cloud Website at <https://stcdio.org/eucharistic-revival/>

BAPTISM

We welcome the following child baptized into our parish family and the Christian community:
Jackson Donald Swedziak, son of, Kyle & Michelle, who was baptized at St. Stephen.



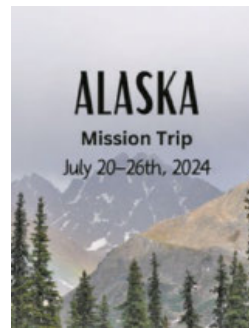
FUNERAL BLESSINGS

Remember in your prayers the family of James Nierengarten, who passed away on December 16, from Sacred Heart.

Eternal Rest grant unto him Oh Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.



ALASKAN MISSION TRIP



One in Christ will be going on a mission trip to Alaska on July 20th-26th, 2024. High schoolers and adults are invited to join us as we live out our call as missionary disciples. Please contact Dcn Joe Kresky at 320-292-4857 or Karen Handeland at 320-761-5155 for more information. The deadline for signing up is soon approaching.

GATHERING IN THE ARTS ART SHOW

Sunday, February 11, 2024, 1-4pm

St. Frances Xavier
Gathering Place

Artists and Crafters! Are you interested in joining our art/craft fair? For information, contact Geri Blais at 320-255-7009



DAILY READINGS

- Monday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42
- Friday:** 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1: 7 -11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
- Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

YOUNG ADULT ACTIVITIES

Young Adult Needs Assessment

Thank you to all of the young adults and parishioners who have taken and shared the Needs Assessment. The Young Adult Team will be evaluating responses from the assessment in the coming months. More to come soon! If you are a Young Adult (18 - 39) and still would like to share your thoughts, we are still very committed to keep listening to you, please contact Jason Prigge to set-up an in person conversation.



Young Adult Bible Study

All are welcome to join for conversation and wrapping up the final two chapters of ACTS on Thursday, January 4th at St. Francis Xavier in Sartell. We'll be meeting in Xavier Hall from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. No need to have previously attended, anyone 18-39 welcome!

CEMETERY WREATHS

Attention those with loved ones at Assumption, Calvary, and Sacred Heart Cemeteries:

CHRISTMAS: Only Wreaths will be allowed from November 15th through to January 3rd.



Wreath stands are available (while supplies last). You can pick up a stand at the outside of the Assumption Cemetery office building or you can supply your own. Be sure to secure the wreath to the stand. All wreaths and stands not removed by January 3rd will be removed and disposed of by the Cemetery grounds crew. If you have any questions please call the Cemetery office at, 320-251-5511.

CANA DINNER 2024

Please join us at Sacred Heart on February 24th for our Cana Dinner as part of our Eucharistic Revival. We will begin with Mass at 5pm followed by social time, dinner, speakers and reaffirmation of vows. This is an event that is focused on marriage, but is not limited to married couples. Childcare is available on site if needed. \$25 per couple or \$12.50 for an individual. Please call your parish office to RSVP by February 20th or if you have questions.



ST. STEPHEN

Contact: Carol Hellmann 320-251-1520 Hours: 8:30-2:00
ststephenchurchoffice@gmail.com

Fr. Ron Weyrens, Pastor

Faith Formation: Danna Gasperlin 320-251-5066
ststephenfaith@gmail.com

Financial Offerings for December 16 & 17

Adult	\$ 1,919.00
Adult online giving Dec 9-22	1,260.00
Plate	1,190.00
Children	1.00
Immaculate Conception	50.00
Christmas	130.00
Religious Retirement	90.00
Total	\$4,640.00
Weekly <u>Adult</u> income needed to meet budget:	\$3,150



Christmas flowers also in memory of: Ben & Alice Supan
Flower donation total: \$510

Thank You To those who purchased items for the **Giving Tree**. The three organizations that received your donations were Holdingford Helping Hands, the St. Cloud VA, and Terebinth Refuge. Every organization was amazed by the generosity of our parishioners.

To everyone who signed their name and donated to the **Parish Christmas Card**. Your donations of \$1,344 has been sent to The Salvation Army this year.

To everyone that donated to the **Sock Drive** for the Lincoln Center in St. Cloud. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

To everyone that helped in any way to help make this Christmas season a time of joy. From helping bring up the Christmas decorations, setting up the trees and manger, arranging the flowers, decorating the outside of church, providing music for our liturgies, helping in any way with the Masses. Thank you!

Adoration will be Thursday, January 4. Church will be open from 8:30am - 4:00pm for you to come and spend quiet time in prayer.

Congratulations to Karen Skaj, Tim Rudser and Aaron Soderholm on being selected as new Parish Council members.

Faith Formation/Youth Group News

Classes January 3: Grades 1-4 & Confirmation. Lasagna will be served in the Parish Hall before class. Meal includes fruit, dessert and beverage.

Well n Fit exercise class: Wednesday & Friday mornings at St. Stephen Parish Hall, 9:30-10:30am. Wednesday class followed by half-hour line dance.

Holdingford Helping Hands Outreach

Senior Dining - Wednesday's at **The Rusty Nail** at noon followed by 500. Cost-\$6.00 per meal.

Monthly Lunch & Learn - January 18 in St. Stephen Parish Hall. Social starts at 11:30. Suggested donation \$5.

Feet First Clinic - Call Helping Hands to for more info or to set up an appointment. 320-746-9960.

SACRED HEART PARISH

Contact: Jill Lieser — 320-251-8115, X114
parish@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
Fr. Tom Knoblach, Pastor

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30am-4pm

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

Income for the Week of December 17, 2023

Adult Collection.....	\$9,166.93
Automatic Giving.....	\$6,197.16
Christmas.....	\$3,485.00
Improvements.....	\$ 130.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$245.00
Weekly adult collection needed to meet yearly budget \$19,673	

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Takedown on Sunday, January 7th immediately after the 9:00 am Mass. Much help is needed with removing ornaments, fabric, lights, and garland as well as taking down the nativity scene and trees and rearranging poinsettias. Please stay after Mass if you can help. Thank you!



Kids Choir Kids Choir will sing again for Mass on Sunday, January 7th at 9:00 am for Epiphany. We will also begin preparations for the Festival of Families Mass on February 11th, which is a diocesan event being held here at Sacred Heart, as well as Ash Wednesday and Lent. New members are always welcome to join. Please contact Jill Kiffmeyer for more information.

Homebound Communion Ministers and Visitation Ministers Needed Seeking Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion for the communion routes after Monday Mass at Good Shepherd. Wonderful opportunity to bring Jesus to individuals hungry for God's life-giving presence.

Glove and Paper Product Drive Homeless Helping Homeless is open again and is in need of supplies! From now until Jan 14th, the Social Concerns Team is collecting napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, hand warmers, and warm gloves. Please drop off items in designated areas in the gathering space or by the parish office at Sacred Heart Church. Donations are appreciated from any parish in our ACC. For more information contact Dcn Joe at 320-292-4857.



THANK YOU'S

Musicians: Thank you to the accompanists, cantors, instrumentalists, choir members, Bells of the Heart members, and all who made our Christmas liturgies so beautiful.

A huge thank you to all who donated to our Christmas flower fund! The funds collected will cover the cost of flowers, plants, fabric, candles, and other decorating supplies used throughout the year. Thank you for your generosity!

Thank You.

Saint Monica's Society would like to thank everyone who donated to or attended the craft and bake sale. All of the proceeds went to the Poor Clare Sisters.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Grounded Youth Ministry

January Theme: Grounded in the "Storm"

Upcoming Dates

Grounded isn't an exclusive club, its for everyone - come join us! Activities to be printed next week, stay tuned to see what's happening!

Wednesday, January 3rd (grades 6-8): 7:30 - 9:00 PM
Wednesday, January 17th (grades 6-12): 7:30 - 9:00 PM
Sunday, January 21st (grades 9-12): 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Wednesday, January 24th (**5th grade only**): 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Castaway 2024 Did you hear the news?! Due to generous donations, we are able to ask for \$25 DOWN with a max total of \$90 for Castaway 2024! God is so good. Thank you to those who have donated so our young people can experience God's love for them. If you're in grades 9 - 12, you won't want to miss it, March 22 - 24. Forms are online or near the bulletin board. Questions? Ask Jason Prigge!

Jr. High Lock-In Registration for the Jr. High Lock-In is online and by the Youth Ministry board. Don't miss the 2nd annual Winter Spectacular on Saturday, January 27 - Sunday, January 28 starting with 7 PM Mass at Sacred Heart and ending at 6 AM at the YMCA! Cost is \$40, contact Jason Prigge for more information.

Winter Youth Day Save the date for Monday, January 15th from 3:00 - 5:00 PM at Sacred Heart. Details coming in the new year!

FAITH FORMATION

ACC Winter Confirmation is Saturday, January 6th at St. Francis Xavier in Sartell. Please watch your emails for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 1; **Office Closed**
10 am—Mass
- January 3; 9am—Wednesday Morning Bible Study
1pm—Prayer Blanket Ministry
7:30pm—Grounded (6-8)
- January 4; 12pm—**Office Closed**
7pm—Young Adult Bible Study
- January 5; 7am—Breakfast & Bible Study
8:30am—Eucharistic Adoration
11am—Rosary & Benediction
- January 6; 3:30pm—Reconciliation
- January 7; 10am—Christmas Take Down
10:45am—Eucharist Orientation
5:30pm—Catechist Appreciation & Training

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please add Alex Euteneuer, Christopher Fuchs and Phil Goerger to your prayers. If you know of anyone who needs our prayers and wants to be put on the prayer list, please call 320-251-8115.

Sacred Heart also has a prayer chain. Please call 320-492-9361, 320-252-3401 or the Parish Office at 320-251-8115 if you have a prayer request.

ANNUNCIATION PARISH

Contact: Cindy Gans 320-252-1729
cindyg@annunciationmayhewlake.com
Faith Formation: Shirley Scapanski 320-259-4941
shirleys@annunciationmayhewlake.com

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Income for Sunday, December 17th, 2023

Adult Sunday	\$8,398.66
Visitor	\$124.10
Youth	\$13.00
Votive Candles	\$3.35
Building Fund	\$5.00
Christmas	\$100.00
Confirmation Retreat	\$40.00
Immaculate Conception	\$60.00
Christmas Flowers	\$10.00
Total Income	\$8,754.11
Weekly Income needed to meet yearly budget	\$3,037.00

Mass Schedule

Sun. January 7th, 2024 8:15am

Lector: Karla & John Koenig

Eucharist: Jason Zwilling (H), Rita Knott(C), Anita Montag(C)

Servers: Reid Kiffmeyer and Mariah Simmons

Greeters: Chuck Wocken, Mason & Carson Zwilling, Spencer Ackerman

Ushers: Jenny Zwilling, Peter Ackerman, Chuck Wocken, Spencer Ackerman, Lora Knafila



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Travis Albright, Darcy Popp, Lawrence Rajkowski, Jr., Jeff Wollak, Landon Bemboom, Joshua Hiemenz, Scott Brown, Gregory Marshall, Donna Burczyk, Corina Schlichting.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Upcoming:

Wed. Jan. 3rd, NO Religious Ed Classes.

Wed. Jan. 10th, Religious Ed Classes at 6:30pm

KOINONIA: Jesus isn't just the reason for the season... He's the reason for every day of our lives. Central MN Koinonia is a weekend Catholic retreat program sponsored by the St. Cloud diocese and is designed for adults to help you on your faith journey. Retreats are held at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, MN. The next English retreat will be held March 1-3, 2024, cost of the weekend is \$70.00. Go to www.centralmnkoinonia.org for more information and to register for the retreats.

FROM THE FAMILY OF GENO BROWN: the family would like to thank everyone for their generous donation during this difficult time.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: The next weekends are Feb. 9-11, 2024 in Buffalo, MN and Feb. 9-11th, 2024 in Mandan ND. For more information, call Miki Schultz at 507-227-8229 or visit them at northmnwwme.org.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Contact: Becky Dingmann — 320-252-1363
bdingmann@stfrancissartell.org
Fr. Ron Weyrens, Pastor
Tom Offerdahl, Business Manager

Office Hours 8 AM-4:30 PM Monday-Thursday, 8-Noon Friday

Parish Nurses Julie Kouba 701-721-5083
Bev Wiehoff 320-492-0135
Karen Reinholz 320-260-6158

Prayer Line Dorothy Frank 320-333-7427

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

Weekly Collection Budget	\$20,673.08
Collected 11/12/2023	\$33,564.93
Excess (Deficit)	\$12,891.85
YTD Collection Budget	\$521,302.59
YTD Collected	\$542,354.69
Excess (Deficit)	\$21,052.10

OFFICE CLOSED



The Parish office will be closed January 1.

COFFEE & COMMUNITY

Please join us for 1st Wednesday Coffee & Rolls on Wednesday, January 3, after the 8 am Mass.



SFX ROCKS SAVE THE DATE

Our school will be hosting its 13th annual SFX Rocks fundraising celebration featuring the Maiden Dixie Band on Saturday, February 10th, 2024. The evening will be filled with music, dancing, delicious food, libations and silent auction items. All of the money earned from this event will be used to support technology initiatives and school-wide programming. More information to come including a link to purchase tickets.

PLACE OF HOPE

We are looking for volunteers to cook and serve at Place of Hope on Tuesday, January 23.

Please contact Sandee Kremers for more information or to volunteer.



CEMETERY NEWS

Many families like to decorate gravesites for Christmas. Rules are relaxed for this, but be sure to secure items and then plan on removing items by the weekend of January 6th & 7th. Items left on the gravesites after that will be removed and discarded.

FAITH FORMATION

There will not be Middle School Faith Formation on January 3, 2024. Classes will resume on January 10th.

ADVENT FOR ALMSGIVING



Thank you to everyone who participated in Advent for Almsgiving!

We provided 4 pickup truck loads of food for Pathways4Youth, Salvation Army and Catholic Charities. A special thank you goes to our "Table of Wisdom" who packed all of the food on Mondays and to Maurus Karboviak who collected boxes and bags needed to pack all of the donations and for delivering every Monday!

YOUTH MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

Service Sunday Events:

January 7th at Country Manor 1-3pm. We will help them take down Christmas decorations. We will meet at the Chapel and learn where we go from there.

February 11th Sacred Heart in Sauk Rapids from 10am – 3pm. We will help with the Diocesan Family Rally event.

Aftershock:

January 17th grades 6-12 at SFX from 6:30-8:30pm.

February 21st grades 6-12 at SFX from 6:30-8:30pm.

Youth Group Nights:

January 21st grades 6-12 (note grade change from original calendar) at Xavier Hall from 6:00-8:30pm.

February 3rd grades 6-12 from 4-8pm (note time change from original calendar) at Xavier Hall.

February 25th TREMOR for grades 4-5 from 5:30-7:30pm in the Gathering Place of SFX.

Diocesan Events:

Registration Deadline is Wednesday, January 17th for the Middle School Lock-in for grades 6-8 on January 27-28 beginning at 7pm at Sacred Heart. We will end our time at 6am at the St. Cloud YMCA.

Castaway 2024 Friday, March 22–Sunday, March 24 at the Castaway Club in Detroit Lakes, MN for youth in grades 9-12. If you are interested in learning more about this retreat experience, please contact Jennifer before Wednesday, January 31st!

****Watch Flocknote for more information and details on these events****

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