

December 22, 2024
4th Sunday of Advent

Fourth Sunday of
ADVENT



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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 • sacredheartsaukrapsids.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, December 23	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	- Word and Communion
	8:30 am	Annunciation	† Dottie (Rajkowski) Thole
Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve	4:00 pm	St. Francis Xavier	† Robert & Jeanette Scheidecker
	4:00 pm	Sacred Heart	† Sylvester & Bernie Raymond
	4:00 pm	St. Stephen	- Betty Skaj
	7:00 pm	Annunciation	† Barney & Linda Molitor
	8:00 pm	St. Francis Xavier	† Cindy Segler
Wednesday, December 25 Christmas	10:00 pm	Sacred Heart	† Jacqueline Beumer
	8:15 am	Annunciation	† Charles Ringler
	9:30 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Max & LaVonne Villeneuve Family
Thursday, December 26	10:00 am	Sacred Heart	- For the People of the Parish
	10:00 am	St. Stephen	† Stanley & Mary Ann Legatt
	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	- Word and Communion
Friday, December 27	8:00 am	St. Stephen	† Stephen & Alice Hlebain
	8:00 am	Annunciation	† In Thanksgiving
	8:30 am	Annunciation	
Saturday, December 28 The Holy Family of Jesus	8:00 am	Sacred Heart	† Janet Holthaus
	8:30 am	St. Francis Xavier	- Int. of the Women of St. Monica's
	4:00 pm	St. Francis Xavier	- Special Intentions
Sunday, December 29 The Holy Family of Jesus	5:00 pm	Sacred Heart	† Dennis Burski
	7:00 pm	St. Stephen	† John Vouk
	8:15 am	*Annunciation	- For the People of the Parish
	9:00 am	*Sacred Heart	† Norb & Nancy Motzko
*Livestreamed Masses	9:30 am	*St. Francis Xavier	† Bernice Anderson
	10:00 am	St. Stephen	† Linda Douvier

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
If you have any of the above
pastoral needs, please contact your
Parish Office.

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

Daily reading can be found on page 3.

MINISTRY & LIFE PERSPECTIVES



What can one say about Christmas that is even remotely adequate to the mystery of God's eternal and all-powerful love come into the world as a Child?

Hymns, carols, artworks, nativity scenes, the very Christmas Scriptures themselves, provide an endlessly deep source of prayer and reflection. Yet they can get a bit lost in the midst of all the other beauties of Christmas: the tree, the presents, the family gatherings, the favorite once-a-year foods.

What stands out about the Lord's Birth that can give us lasting hope, so much more than our seasonal observances of traditions and customs?

In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI published the third volume of his masterful work, *Jesus of Nazareth*. The key point of this collection of deep faith and scholarly study is that the Bible tells us the truth about Jesus. More than just stories and myths from the past that can be explained merely in terms of ancient literature, the Bible allows us to know Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Savior. The scholarship is important for a more nuanced understanding, but faith does not rely on human intelligence: it speaks to our assurance that God exists and only in that light does human life and history make sense.

The third volume is *The Infancy Narratives*. It is short but profoundly inspiring. I want to share just a brief edited section as we come to the final moments of Advent and come to the Christmas Masses:

Is what we profess in the Creed true, then? – "I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God ... [who] by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the virgin Mary"?

The answer is an unequivocal yes. [The German theologian] Karl Barth pointed out there are two moments in the story of Jesus when God intervenes directly in the material world: the virgin birth and the resurrection from the tomb. ... These two moments are a scandal to the modern spirit. [In the worldview dominated by material science] God is "allowed" to act in idea and thoughts, in the

(Ministry & Life Perspectives Continued)

spiritual domain – but not in the material. [To modern thinking] that is shocking. He does not belong there. But that is precisely the point: God is God and he does not operate merely on the level of ideas and sentiments. In that sense, what is at stake in both the birth of Jesus and his resurrection is God's very divinity.

We are not dealing [in the birth or resurrection of Jesus] with the abstract, the cosmological, the irrational or the contradictory, but precisely with the positive – with God's creative power, embracing the whole of being. If God does not also have power over matter, then he is simply not God. But he does have this power, and through the conception and resurrection of Jesus Christ he has ushered in a new creation in the midst of the world we know, a radiant sign of hope that God does not fail to fulfill humanity's deepest longings for goodness, hope, and peace, though not in the ways we could have imagined.

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@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
Deacon	Steve Pareja 320-761-2503
Pastoral Associate	Sandee Kremers 320-252-1363, Ext. 403 skremers@stfrancissartell.org



“For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy.” (Luke 1:44)

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you “leap for joy?” If not, don’t blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.



Blessings to you in this fourth week of Advent as we contemplate the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”

Please take a moment to pray for the people of our diocese and all who serve to build the Kingdom of God here in Central Minnesota.

YEAR-END PRAYER FOR PEACE SERVICE

The Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls are offering two opportunities to join them in praying for peace at the end of the year.

The first is a vigil where you’ll be praying from home at the same time as a Franciscan Sister by selecting a time on Monday, December 30, 6 p.m. through Tuesday, December 31, 6 p.m. Register for a time slot by contacting Linda Dobosenski at ldobosenski@fslf.org or calling (320) 632-0680.

The second opportunity is joining the sisters in person for a service of prayer featuring readings, quiet time, and reflective music on Tuesday, December 31 at 7 p.m. in Sacred Heart Chapel, 116 8th Ave. SE, Little Falls. We will offer our prayers into the world by burning them at the end of the service. All are welcome to attend. No RSVP is needed—simply come!

DAILY READINGS

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

BAPTISM

We welcome the following children, baptized into our parish family and the Christian community:



Kace Timothy Kremers, son of Adam & Lindsay, from St. Stephen,

Melody Joy Fleck, daughter of Jonah & April, and Harper Marie Dymus, daughter of Matthew & Courtney, from Sacred Heart.

FUNERAL BLESSINGS

Remember in your prayers the family of Bernice Anderson, who passed away on December 3, James Stoffel, who passed away on December 8, from St. Francis Xavier, and Rosalie Wlaznak, who passed away on December 8, from Sacred Heart.



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

REAL CONVERSATIONS

Real Conversations – Staying present and engaged in difficult interactions

The Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls invite you to join them for a series of conversations held Tuesdays, January 28-March 18, 2025, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at St. Francis Convent, Little Falls, or by Zoom.

Have you ever been silenced in a difficult conversation, not knowing what to say? This series develops your ability and courage for staying in it, with compassion for all, including yourself.

Through a deep inner dive of noticing and reflecting on your thought patterns, reframing thoughts, understanding your intention for a relationship and grounding in your values, you’ll come away with increased confidence to speak truthfully and lovingly, letting go of fixing. You’ll be equipped to seek connection instead of division.

There is a course investment of \$49, with scholarships available. For more information and to register, contact Linda at ldobosenski@fslf.org or call 320.632.0680.

YEAR-END PRAYER FOR PEACE SERVICE

Catholic Men’s Conference set for Saturday, Feb. 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. John’s University in Collegeville. Keynote speaker will be Father Scott Traynor, JCL, a priest in the Diocese of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He is the Vicar for Lay and Clergy Formation. Bishop Patrick Neary will attend the conference and celebrate Mass at 4:00 p.m. Workshops will be available, including topics for young adults. Cost is \$40 or \$35/each for groups of 5, which includes morning refreshments and lunch. Cost for ages 15 – 22 is \$10. Registration deadline is Wednesday, February 12. Visit <https://stcdio.org/event/2025-catholic-mens-conference/> to register.



YOUNGLIFE

'Like Us' on Facebook

Be sure to go like our page on Facebook:
Granite City Wyldlife

Prayer Team Needed

Don't forget to join us for Prayer on
Wednesdays at Noon! Scan for Zoom
Link:



CANA DINNER

Save the date! Sacred Heart will once again be hosting the Cana Dinner on February 22nd. 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. Free childcare is available on site if needed. More details will be coming. Registration for this event will begin the first full week of January.

2025 TRAVEL TRIPS

"I'll be home for Christmas"...but before that, I want to see how Europe prepares for Christmas from December 5-15, 2025. Join Fr. Steve Binsfeld aboard an **Ama Waterways** river cruise ship through towns brimming with Christmas decor and holiday spirit. Your journey begins with a 2-night stay in Lucerne followed by a 7-night cruise down the Rhine. Do your Christmas shopping as you visit **great Christmas markets**. Enjoy restaurants, open-air wine gardens and special holiday street food at each stop: Basel, Breisach, Strasbourg, Rudesheim, Dusseldorf, Cologne and Amsterdam. View iconic landmarks and majestic mountains along the way. Amidst the Christmas traditions, we'll celebrate Advent with Mass each day. Give yourself a Christmas gift; register online at magitravelinc.com, call **Magi Travel at 952-949-0065** or email info@magitravelinc.com



NOT MUCH FOR GOING OVERSEAS? WANT TO STAY IN THE U.S. TO HAVE A GREAT EXPERIENCE?

Explore some of the great WINERIES and MISSIONS of Southern California with Fr. Steve Binsfeld **Sept 11-18, 2025** after flying into LA, staying at superior hotels in great locations: the Dutch town of Solvang, on Mussell Shoals Beach, in San Juan Capistrano and in San Diego's Seaport Village. Celebrate Mass in Santa Barbara, Santa Ines, San Buenaventura, San Gabriel Arcangel and San Juan Capistrano Missions and Christ Cathedral (formerly the "Crystal Cathedral"). Tour Hearst Castle and the Getty Villa Museum. Enjoy wine tasting at Roblar Winery, Newport Beach Winery, Oak Mt Wine Cave, and Mission San Diego de Alcalá Winery. Breakfast and dinner included most days in beautiful locations. Fly home out of San Diego with wonderful "SoCal" memories. Dates: **Sept 11-18, 2025**. For more info contact **Maureen** at: **JeriCo Christian Journeys, 1-877-453-7426**; email: maureen@jericochristianjourneys.com Web: www.jericochristianjourneys.com

ST. STEPHEN

Contact: Carol Hellmann 320-251-1520 Hours: 8am-1:30pm
ststephenchurchoffice@gmail.com
Fr. Ron Weyrens, Pastor

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

Financial Offering for Dec 7 & 8

Adult	\$ 2,605.00
Adult Online Dec 5-9	\$ 393.00
Plate	\$ 263.00
Religious Retirement	\$ 190.00
Immaculate Conception envelopes & plate	\$ 772.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 140.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,363.00

Ushers:

Dec 24: Mitch Pangerl, Gene & Karen Skaj
Dec 25: Steve Vouk, Matt Nienaber, Tim Rudser
Dec 28: Amanda DeYaeger, Dave Pogatchnik, Will Hellmann
Dec 29: Nancy & Tom Vouk, Ralph Barhorst

Christmas Decorating Help needed Monday, December 23:

Beginning at 7:30 AM, we will start decorating the church for Christmas. Many hands are needed to help put up the trees, string the lights, set up the manger, hang the wreaths and arrange the flowers.

Christmas Singing before Christmas Masses: The choir will be singing 30 minutes before the Christmas Eve & Christmas Day masses.

Faith Formation: No Classes until January 8.

All 2024 contributions must be received by December 29.

Ministry Schedule for January 11 - March 30: If there are dates you know you are unavailable, please call or email the parish office by December 30.



Christmas Flowers in Memory of:

Deceased members of Pantzke & Rutz families, Jim Anderson, Novak Day family, Stanley & Mary Ann Legatt, Margaret Robich, Roger Trobec, Donald Vouk, Dennis, Mary Jane & Sam Schuneman, James & Eleanor Maier, Steve Slivnik, Janis Paggen, Carola Frank, Kaye Rudser, Ron Schmitz, Tillman & Genevieve Knapp, Joe & Gertrude Hellmann, Clarence Justin, Bernard Legatt Jr., Everett Nathe, Loretta Pogatchnik, Dennis Smoley, Deceased members of Steve & Frances Supan family, Edwin & Virginia Kowitz, Charles & Lucille Nienaber family, Larry & Verdell Rudolph, Clarence & Martha Reichmann family, Anna Mae & Alex Smoley.



Well n Fit exercise class: A fun social time, while maintaining strength with chair, low impact cardio and balance exercises. **Fall/winter hours:** 9:30-10:30, Wednesday & Friday. Line dance after Wednesdays.

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: Thursday, January 16. Social at 11:30, meal at 12:00, followed by speaker & entertainment. Suggested donation is \$5.00.

St. Stephen AA and AL-ANON Meetings: 305 Main St E.
Tuesday's 7pm-Steps and Traditions meeting (aka 12X12)
Wednesday's 5:30pm-AL-Anon/AA Mixed meeting
Wednesday's 7pm-AA Big Book meeting
Saturday's 8pm-AA meeting

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 8, 2024

Adult Collection.	\$20,476.00
Automatic Giving.	\$5,931.87
Friends In Need	\$214.00
Christmas.	\$1515.00
Christmas Flowers.	\$1,000.00
Weekly adult collection needed to meet yearly budget	\$19,673

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Help needed: If you are free from 10am-12pm on December 23rd. We will move chairs from the parish hall to the gathering space to accommodate our larger Mass attendance for the Christmas Masses. We will have pizza after all chairs are moved as a thank you! This is a GREAT opportunity for confirmation students!

Winter Raffle Have you gotten your raffle ticket? If not, you can purchase one (or more) before or after Mass in the gathering space or stop in the office during the week, we have them there too! Mark your calendar for January 26th for our "whatever you can fit in a crockpot" challenge!

Christmas Decorating We will decorate for the Christmas season immediately after Mass on Sunday, December 22nd. This is a big job and help is needed with removing Advent decorations, setting up the Nativity scene and trees and putting up fabric, lights, wreaths, garland and poinsettias. Start out with a warm cinnamon roll and stay for the fun!!

Liturgical Ministers Needed We need many ministers to help with our upcoming Christmas liturgies. Signups will be online and near the sacristy for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and January 1st (the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Please sign up if you can help. Thank you!

Christmas Masses and Music Please join us for one of our Christmas Masses and the wonderful music beforehand! Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Mass prelude music will begin at 3:30. Christmas Eve 10:00 pm Mass prelude music will begin at 9:30 pm. Christmas morning 10:00 am Mass prelude music will begin at 9:40, and is ASL interpreted. Incense will not be used at any of the Christmas Masses. We hope to see you there!

THANK YOU

Catholic United Financial would like to thank everyone who donated gifts for the Giving Tree. Your generosity was very much appreciated by the organizations who received them. The gifts were donated to Anna Marie's, Elevate (Birthline), Catholic Charities, Place of Hope and the VA. We wish everyone a blessed Christmas season.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please add Gail Gruber Bengston, Patricia Olson, Steve Stockinger and Jayne Wruck 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Grounded Youth Ministry

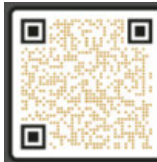
December Theme: Grounded in Humility

Breakfast & Bible Study Right after Mass today from 10:15 -11:15 AM. Come for breakfast and dive into God's Word! Gr. 6-12 are welcome!

4th Annual Waldo Hunt The fourth annual Waldo Hunt is set for Friday, December 27th. Join us for this all day adventure looking for Waldo at MOA and then service after. Cost is \$5 to help with transportation fees, students will need money for lunch and or if they want anything at MOA. Forms are available online and by the Youth Ministry Board. Contact Jason Prigge for any questions!

Jr. High Lock-In Grades 6-8 (and their friends), plan on joining us Saturday, January 25 - Sunday, January 26

at the St. Cloud YMCA for a lock-in like never before. Starts at 8 PM on Saturday and ends on Sunday at 6 AM. Cost is \$40, registration is online **only**. Scan the QR Code, use the website or contact Jason Prigge (jprigge@sacredheartsaukrapids.org).



Castaway 2025 Registration is now open for Castaway 2025 for grades 9-12! Castaway is March 28-30 in Detroit Lakes. Cost is \$100 (additional costs for shirts). Registration is online **only**. Scan the QR Code, use the website

YEAR END GIVING

As the end of the year is getting closer, many people begin thinking of year end gifts. Please keep Sacred Heart in mind for your charitable donations. For those who qualify, IRA roll-overs can possibly have some tax advantages. Please see your financial advisor or accountant for such possibilities. Another way to give regularly is by electronic giving. That can be set up for weekly, monthly or quarterly donations. Even one time gifts if you so choose. Go to the parish website at www.sacredheartsaukrapids.org to donate. It is easy to set up! Thank you for your commitment and generous support of Sacred Heart and our parish ministries.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 23; 10am—Chair moving Christmas-Help Needed
- December 24; 12pm—OFFICE CLOSURES
4pm—Mass
10pm—Mass
- December 25; OFFICE CLOSED CHRISTMAS
10am—Mass
- December 27; 8:45am—Where's Waldo Hunt
- December 28; 3:30pm—Reconciliation



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 8th, 2024

Adult Sunday	\$2,606.00
Visitors	\$305.50
Youth	\$25.00
Religious Retirement	\$300.00
Votive Candle	\$6.52
Thanksgiving	\$15.00
Building Fund	\$55.00
Christmas Flowers	\$40.00
Immaculate Conception	\$755.00
Christmas	\$100.00
Total Income	\$4,208.02
Weekly Income needed to meet yearly budget	\$3,037.00

Mass Schedule

Tues. December 24th, 2024, 7:00pm Mass

Lector: Shirley Scapanski & Gene Poser
Eucharist: Brenda Carstensen-Boe(H), Katie Lentner(C), Rita Knott(C)
Servers: Noah & Kelsey Lentner
Greeters: Volunteers
Ushers: Barb, Tom, Jeremy & Eric Brand.

Wed. December 25th, 2024, 8:15am Mass

Lector: Loren Popp & David Zimmer
Eucharist: Brenda Carriveau(H), Amy Krajsa(C), Lori Popp(C)
Servers: Ava & Brynn Krajsa
Greeters: Don & Karol Weyer
Ushers: Barb & John Bemboom, Dan Bemboom & Lawrence Thell.

Sun. December 29th, 2024, 8:15am Mass

Lector: JoAnn Marshall & Gene Poser
Eucharist: Lori Popp(H), Katie Lentner(C), Jean Bemboom(C)
Servers: Noah & Kelsey Lentner
Greeters: Dan Bemboom & Lane Piotrowski
Ushers: Randy & Julie Miller, Dan Bemboom, Lane Piotrowski, Dan Brenny.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Chase Fitch, Jeff Popp, Clarke Anderson, Thomas Brand, Ann Klein, Tom Lentner.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Dec. 25th & Jan. 1st. NO Religious Ed Classes.



AA MEETING at Annunciation Church Hall on Thurs., at 7pm. Meetings will be held every week. Call Lori for info. 320-406-8742. Everyone Welcome.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING: Mon. Jan. 6th at 6:30pm at Immaculate Conc. Church, Rice. 320-290-6311.

FESTIVAL OF FAMILIES: Sun. Feb. 2nd from 11am-4pm at St. Francis Xavier Church, Sartell. Sign up deadline is Jan. 27th stcdio.org/2025-Festival-of-Families

COLLECTION FOR THE POOR CLARES There will be a box in the entrance of church until TODAY, Sunday, Dec. 22nd.

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 Margaret Stang 320-249-9304

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

Weekly Collection Budget	\$21,346.15
Collected 12/8/2024.....	\$32,175.59
Excess (Deficit)	\$10,829.44
YTD Collection Budget	\$490,961.45
YTD Collected	\$475,116.48
Excess (Deficit).....	\$(15,844.97)

OFFICE CLOSED

The parish office will be closed on Tuesday, December 25 & Wednesday, December 26.
Merry Christmas!



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration December 24, 4-7 pm. Come and spend some quiet time with Jesus.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR

Merry Christmas and Blessings to you in the New Year from the staff at St. Francis Xavier. We are blessed to have a parish "family" that shares in so many things. Our work and worship and ministries are MORE because of all of you. Thank you for sharing your time and talents and treasures to help make St. Francis Xavier a welcoming and vibrant community.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM SFX SCHOOL

Christmas is a special time when we focus with hope, joy, peace and love to celebrate Jesus Christ coming into our lives. But Jesus not only comes into our lives as a baby on Christmas morning; he comes into our lives each and every moment of our day. Here at SFX School, Jesus is with us in the friendly smile of a teacher, the laughter of children playing together, and the helpful hands of our cooks and custodians. We are so thankful for the prayers and support of our parishioners throughout this year. On behalf of SFX School, I want to wish you a blessed Christmas of joy, peace and good health.

Heidi Schloe, Principal

3RD ANNUAL ADVENT FOR ALMSGIVING

Week 4 - Ramen Noodles, Mac & Cheese

Drop off in the Gathering Place now thru December 27.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOOD SHELF

Catholic Charities relies on local churches to keep the Food Shelf running. For over a decade, our church has participated in the Adopt-A-Month program, partnering with Catholic Charities to fight hunger. **January is our month.** Volunteers are crucial, and we need your help now more than ever. Many long-serving volunteers have retired, and recruiting new volunteers has been challenging, especially since COVID-19. With the growing demand for Emergency Services, your help is needed. Click on the QR code or use the link below to see available dates and times. If you need help with getting on the schedule, contact Tom Offerdahl in the parish office. Please consider dedicating a few hours this month to support the Food Shelf.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/adoptjan>



YEAR END GIVING

Please keep St. Francis Xavier Church in mind for year-end giving. Many people make extra gifts or give annually at this time of the year. Your gifts to St. Francis Xavier Church are greatly appreciated and help us to continue to provide a place of worship and many ministries. You can make a gift by credit card or bank debit by going to our website at www.stfrancissartell.org and clicking on the *Donate* Now button. You are always welcome to stop by the parish office or drop donation's off in the collection basket as well. Thank you for your generosity!

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.

CARDS

Join us for Card Group—All are welcome!

500 and Cribbage tables

1:00-3:00pm in Xavier Hall, St. Francis

2nd & 4th Thursday of the month starting in January 2025 - January 9 and 23rd



2025 CALENDARS

Church calendars are available at all entrances. Once per family please. Thank you to Williams Dingmann Funeral Home for providing them to our Parish.

LECTOR WORKBOOKS

The lector workbooks are available in the parish office. Each book is \$5 to help offset the cost.

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