

December 15, 2024
3rd Sunday of Advent



Cover design © liturgical Publications Inc. Photography: Sheryl Kasper, litstockphoto.com

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, December 16	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	- Word and Communion
	8:30 am	Annunciation	† Larry Mohs
Tuesday, December 17	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	- Word and Communion
	5:30 pm	Sacred Heart	† Jim Nierengarten
	5:30 pm	St. Stephen	† Dec. Members of the Carl & Angela Knettel Family
Wednesday, December 18	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Jennifer Kampa
	8:00 am	Sacred Heart	† Ron Schmitz
Thursday, December 19	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	- Word and Communion
	8:00 am	St. Stephen	† Loretta Pogatchnik
	8:30 am	Annunciation	† Donna Poganski
Friday, December 20	8:00 am	Sacred Heart	† Mary Jo Omann & Carol Kittock
	8:30 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Jan Roering
Saturday, December 21 4th Sunday of Advent	4:00 pm	St. Francis Xavier	† Celeste Gall
	5:00 pm	Sacred Heart	† Chris Stock & Johnathan Sanchez
	7:00 pm	St. Stephen	- For the People of the Parish
Sunday, December 22 4th Sunday of Advent	8:15 am	*Annunciation	† Dec Members of the Gans & Kennedy Families
	9:00 am	*Sacred Heart	† Elaine Krueger
	9:30 am	*St. Francis Xavier	† Lil & Jack Flynn
	10:00 am	St. Stephen	† Donald & Rita Stangler
*Livestreamed Masses			

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

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc,
8-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt
1:1-17

Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:
18-25

Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/
Lk 1:5-25

Friday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20
-21/Lk 1:39-45

Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb
10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

MINISTRY & LIFE PERSPECTIVES



From Safari,

The Third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, marking the half-way point through the Sundays of Advent.

Colorful lights and inflatables dot the evening landscape. These joyful scenes are reminders of God's love, as we recall the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. During the day time most inflatables are a deflated puddle, reminiscent of the wicked witch melting in the Wizard of Oz. But as evening comes, they come to life once again.

Reflecting further on joy, I recall that during my seminary days it was customary at dinner time to honor those celebrating birthdays. Shortly after the singing of the traditional happy birthday tune, the choruses of the birthday dirge began plaque and famine in the air, people dying everywhere but happy birthday.

In a dirge today, we might proclaim, "War and terror abound in the world, but rejoice always! Cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's, but rejoice always! Corporate greed, a dog-eat-dog world, but rejoice always! Crack cocaine, shootings at parties, but rejoice always! How is joy possible in our world today?"

A sociologist once asked an Afro-American minister about black people who seemed to have so little to sing about and who knew little joy due to prejudice in which they grew up: "Why do they sing so much?" The minister responded, "they sing for sheer joy because, despite disappointments and difficulties in their daily lives, they know they "have a title to a mansion on high" and the sure promise of a sharing in eternity with God. That knowledge proves to be so deliciously overwhelming that they have to sing about it. Their joy does not seek to make sense of reality but it transcends what passes for reality.



(Ministry & Life Perspectives Continued)

Joy is possible in our world today because God is in our midst. Authentic joy convinces us that if all our energies are centered on Christ then we can be at peace. Gospel joy is not dependent on everything going well in life. One can have cancer and still be filled with joy. You can read about war, violence, and drugs and still be filled with joy. How is this possible?

Joy flows from the comfort of knowing God is faithful. Isaiah reassures the Jewish people that Jerusalem will be rebuilt not because they merited it but because God is faithful. Jesus was born in Bethlehem not because we merited but because God is faithful. The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles because God is faithful. I am reminded of one my favorite quotes, "when your car is stalled, there God is, He won't start your car, but he will sit with you in the snowbank and hold your hand."

The message of Advent: God is forever faithful in the good and bad times.

Fr. Ron



LEADERSHIP

ACC Pastoral Leadership

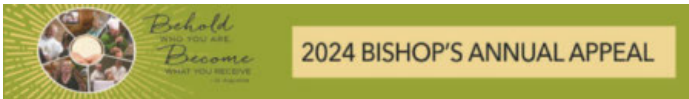


Pastor	Fr. Tom Knoblach 320-251-8115, Ext. 112 pastor@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
Pastor	Fr. Ron Weyrens 320-252-1363, Ext.401 (days) Ext. 402 (night/weekends) rweyrens@stfrancissartell.org
Deacon	Joe Kresky 320-251-8115 jkresky@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
Deacon	Terry Jancik tjancik@sacredheartsaukrapids.org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



“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.” (Philippians 4:6)

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God – He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God’s image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous with all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.



Blessings to you in this third week of Advent as we remember the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus. As you celebrate this season, please consider supporting diocesan ministries with a year-end gift. To donate, visit www.stcdio.org/annualappeal or mail to: Bishop’s Annual Appeal, P.O. Box 1538, St. Cloud, MN 56302.

ST. CLOUD METRO RECONCILIATION SERVICES

- Sunday, Dec. 15 @ 1:00 pm.....St. Michael**
- Monday, Dec. 16 @ 6:30 pm.....St. Anthony**
- Tuesday, Dec. 17 @ 6:30 pm.....St. Mary’s Cathedral**
- Thursday, Dec. 19 @ 6:30 pm.....Holy Spirit**
- Saturday, Dec. 21 @ 1:00 pm.....St. Peter**

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. (You do not have to attend the prayer vigil to attend the prayer service.) Refreshments served afterward. No RSVP is needed—simply

MONDAY NIGHT MOVIE

"The Christmas Shoes" (2002) is a heart-warming, family-friendly movie based on the familiar Christmas song about a boy’s gift to his dying mom and the timely generosity of a kind stranger.

It will be shown at 6pm on Dec. 23 in the library at St. Peter’s church (930 31st Avenue North, St. Cloud). Please enter door 4. Refreshments will be provided.

BAPTISM

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



Kendall Mae Kenning, daughter of Nicholas & Kristen,
and Charlotte Anne Henry, daughter of Maurice Henry & Allison Chapman, from St. Francis Xavier.

Delilah Marie Hiemenz, daughter of Joshua,
and Rori Irene Anderson, daughter of Michael & Jenna, at Annunciation.

FUNERAL BLESSINGS

Remember in your prayers the family of Armella Schimnich, who passed away on December 2, from Sacred Heart.



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

ADVENT HEALING MASS

You are invited to join the Crosier Fathers and Brothers at the National Shrine of St. Odilia in Onamia on Sunday, December 15, at 9:00 a.m., for an Advent Healing Mass. The Mass will include the Anointing of the Sick and the ritual of blessing with the Relic of St. Odilia. Coffee and rolls will be served following the Mass. All are welcome! For further information call 320.532.3103 or email onamia@crosier.org

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.



FESTIVAL OF FAMILIES

Register now for the second annual DIOCESAN FESTIVAL OF FAMILIES at St. Francis Xavier in Sartell, from 11AM - 4:00 PM. There will be something for the whole family: Parent, teen and children’s sessions, carnival, prizes, service projects, and Mass. Bring your whole family for only \$25! Registration link :<https://stcdio.org/event/2025-festival-of-families/>

YOUNG ADULTS

Christmas Gathering

The day after Theology on Draft, Friday, December 13th join us at Sacred Heart at 6 PM for evening prayer and a Christmas gathering to follow. Childcare is available and provided. Come join us for a fun evening of fellowship. If you have questions about childcare or would like to RSVP a spot, please contact Jason Prigge.

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:



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



EVENING PRAYER FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Online Evening Prayer with Young Adults

Young adults ages 18+ are invited to pray online together with other young adults and School Sisters of Notre Dame from across the U.S. and Canada on **Tuesday, December 17 at 8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT**. Learn more and register for the Zoom link at ssnd.org/events/12-17-24/.

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 Nov. 30 & Dec 1

Adult	\$ 2,001.00
Adult Online Nov 23-Dec 4	\$ 963.00
Plate	\$ 632.00
Thanksgiving envelopes & plate	\$ 756.00
Children	\$ 1.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,353.00

Ushers:

Dec 21: Schefers family

Dec 22: Ralph Barhorst, Merlin Berndt, Jim Schumer

Faith Formation - Youth Group. Contact Danna Gasperlin:

December 18 classes for grades 5-9 & Confirmation. A smorgasbord of items will be served for supper. Come and check it out and see if there is something you like.

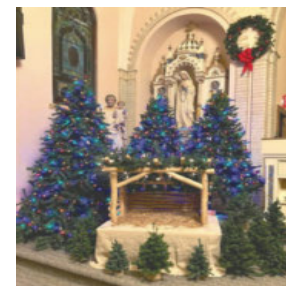
Youth Group for grades 6-12 will meet from 8:00-9:30 PM

Individual Confessions Thursday, December 19 at: 7 AM, Noon, 3 PM, 4 PM, 5 PM and 6 PM. Fr. Ron will remain in the confessional at the times listed until no one else comes.

End of Year Contributions: If you want to make a contribution to St. Stephen Church for your 2024 financial records, all 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. Included in this schedule is Ash Wednesday on March 5 (Mass at 6:40 PM)

Christmas Decorating Help needed:



Sunday, December 22: The boxes for all the Christmas decorations will be brought upstairs following the 10:00 AM Mass. If you have a few minutes, please come downstairs to help carry the boxes upstairs.

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.

Thank you to everyone who donated items to the Giving Tree. The items were given to St. Cloud Area Crisis Nursery, St. Cloud VA, Helping Hands and Toys for Tots.



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.

Holdingsford 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, December 19. 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 1, 2024

Adult Collection.....	\$11,485.35
Automatic Giving.....	\$5,871.87
Friends In Need	\$105.00
Children's.....	\$21.25
Christmas Flowers.....	\$30.00
Weekly adult collection needed to meet yearly budget	\$19,673

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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 9:40 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

Huge thank you to those who helped prepare and serve a meal at Place of Hope on December 1st. It was a great success with meals served to those seeking support from Place of Hope and the Lincoln Center. This effort nicely supports the week 1 Advent theme, "Sent to Serve" that was presented to us in the recent Advent letter from Fr. Ron and Fr. Tom. This theme helps us to prepare for the Jubilee year in hope, by living an Advent of Mission.

Thank you so much to all of those who met after Mass to help clean the pews in preparation for Christmas! Many hands made light work. What a Mission of Service for all of those who will be celebrating this Christmas here with us at Sacred Heart!

Thank you to all who supported us when we lost Jerry. We are incredibly grateful to Fr. Tom, Dcn. Joe, Jill, the Resurrection Choir and all who helped with the lunch.



With Gratitude, The Family of Jerry Hovanes

YOUTH MINISTRY

Grounded Youth Ministry December Theme: Grounded in Humility

Upcoming Grounded Dates:

Wednesday, December 18th | Gr. 6-12 | 6:30-8 PM

*PJ Night

*Christmas Party

Teen Choir + Rehearsal Grades 6-12, bring those voices it's Teen Choir again. Rehearsal is tonight at 6 PM in the Church - we sing at 9 AM on December 22nd. Questions? Talk to Jill Kiffmeyer or Jason Prigge!

Breakfast & Bible Study Right after Teen Choir on Sunday, December 22nd 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 or contact Jason Prigge (jprigge@sacredheartsaukrapids.org). Lets fill that bus!



MAGNIFICAT

The time is coming to order or renew your Magnificat subscriptions. If you do not have one yet, but would like one, we have been blessed to be able to have them brought to Sacred Heart and set out by the sacristy. A subscription for the Feb 2025-Jan 2026 year is due to Jill by **Dec. 18th**. Please bring your renewal slip, or sign up for a new subscription in the office with Jill L. Each subscription is \$35 and can be written out to St. Augustine's Church.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Envelopes will be available in the gathering space if you would like to make a donation to our Christmas flower fund. The funds collected cover the cost of poinsettias, plants, fabric, candles, and other decorating supplies used throughout the year. Thank you for your generosity!



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.

ANNUNCIATION PARISH

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

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

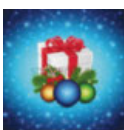
Income for Sunday, December 1st, 2024

Adult Sunday	\$2,190.00
Visitors	\$128.10
Youth	\$128.00
December Rent for House.....	\$1,200.00
Votive Candle	\$11.00
Thanksgiving	\$920.00
Building Fund	\$190.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$485.00
Baptism Stole Fee.....	\$40.00
Total Income	\$5,292.10
Weekly Income needed to meet yearly budget	\$3,037.00

Mass Schedule

Sun. December 22nd, 2024

Lector: David Zimmer
Eucharist: Amy Krajsa(H), John Koenig(C), Karla Koenig(C)
Servers: Ava Krajsa and Brynn Krajsa
Greeters: Scott Brown and Tammy Eveslage
Ushers: Jeff Wollak, Renee & Tim Thell, and Lawrence Thell.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Benett Kiffmeyer, Nicole Robinson, Anna Zeleny, Eric Brand, Jane Dietman, Cindy Gans, Zoey Heck, Kim Kosloski, Brett Leabch, Bryanna Martinson, Lane Piotrowski, Lisa Popp, Jennifer Melby, Barb Bemboom, Janene Hiemenz, Axle Brenny, Colin Jurek.

CONGRATULATIONS:

to Delilah Marie Hiemenz, daughter of Joshua Hiemenz who was received into our Catholic Faith through the waters of Baptism on Sat. Nov. 30th here at Annunciation.



and to Rori Irene Anderson, daughter of Michael and Jenna who was received into our Catholic Faith through the waters of Baptism last Sunday, Dec. 8th during Mass here at Annunciation. Many Blessings to them and their families.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Dec. 18th—Rel. Ed. 6:30pm Decorating church for Christmas.
Dec. 25th & Jan. 1st. NO Religious Ed Classes.

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE: TODAY, Here at Annunciation at 3:30pm.

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 stdio.org/2025-Festival-of-Families

COLLECTION FOR THE POOR CLARES There will be a box in the entrance of church until 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 12/1/2024.....	\$13,884.06
Excess (Deficit)	\$(7,462.09)
YTD Collection Budget	\$469,615.30
YTD Collected	\$442,940.89
Excess (Deficit).....	\$(26,674.41)

OFFICE CLOSED

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



COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION

Communal Reconciliation services will take place on Dec. 21 at 12:00pm at SFX.

SING FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Children from the parish in grades 2-6 are invited to sing at the Christmas Eve 4:00pm Liturgy. Rehearsal will be December 15th and & 22nd following the 9:30 Mass. send email to Jacque Windschitl at jwindschitl@sfx61.org if you child is interested.

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.

LECTOR WORKBOOKS

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

2025 CALENDARS

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

3RD ANNUAL ADVENT FOR ALMSGIVING

Week 3 - Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta
Drop off in the Gathering Place now thru December 20.



GIVING TREE

For those who have taken a tag from the giving tree, thank you! Tape the tag to the bag and return by December 15. Bins are in the gathering place. Thank you for your continued generosity. Any questions, call Judy Pohlkamp 224-8757 or Deb Rickers 309-1073.



CHURCH CLEANING

Looking for helpers...Thursday, December 19th @ 2:00pm is set for the cleaning day and time. All should be completed by 4:00 at the latest. We generally get enough helpers that work is completed in about an hour, so come and share some time as you are able -30 minutes or an hours or longer if you wish or until the work is done. We have the supplies here, bring your own rubber gloves if you prefer. Thanks for helping make our church shine for Christmas! Call Tom in the parish office @ 320-252-1363 for more details.

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



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 donations off in the collection basket as well. Thank you for your generosity!

ADVENT FOR ALMSGIVING-WEEK 1

Week 1 of the Advent for Almsgiving was a huge success. We collected over 450 boxes of cereal for Catholic Charities, Pathways for Youth and the Salvation Army. Thank you for bringing the Hope, Love, Joy and Peace during this Advent season to those in need. We have 2 weeks left!
Week 3: spaghetti sauce and pasta (12/14 - 12/20)
Week 4: ramen noodles and mac and cheese (12/21-12/27)



 COMMERCIAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SHEET METAL (320) 252 3992 www.sentra-sota.com	 ON YOUR SIDE SINCE 1973 • Siding • Gutters • Roofing • Decks • Windows & Doors 50 Years in Business 320-252-9086 TonysLifetimeExteriors.com	WE'RE HIRING! AD SALES EXECUTIVES BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION. WORK WITH PURPOSE. • Paid training • Some travel • Work-life balance • Full-Time with benefits • Serve your community Contact us at careers@4lpi.com or www.4lpi.com/careers	 COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR We Service All Makes & Models Sauk Rapids 320-253-2262 Sartell 320-259-8539 St. Augusta 320-259-6113 www.motorworksauto.com
Cornerstone Insurance Agency Auto - Home - Farm - Life - Commercial www.cornerstoneinsurances.com ST. STEPHEN, MN • 320-202-8920 	 MIDWEST MACHINERY CO	 Mark Skudlarek Realtor/Owner (320) 290-1264 mjskudlarek@yahoo.com Over 32 years experience in assisting buyers and sellers.	 Erickson Electric Company, Inc. Commercial • Industrial • Residential New Construction • Remodeling Electric Vehicle Charging 3308 Southway Dr. • St. Cloud, MN 56301 (320) 251-1501 Fax (320) 251-1504
 (320) 251-5383 wipplerhardware.com 8 North Benton Drive Sauk Rapids	 INSURANCE AVENUES One Agency, Three Locations AVON SAUK RAPIDS FOLEY 320-251-2552 • insuranceaves.com		

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

 Family Owned & Operated Since 1979 Portable & Luxury Restrooms Septic Pumping - Hydro Vac Services (320) 393-2787 • RICE, MN NelsonSanitation.com	 MIMBACH FLEET SUPPLY Employee Owned Since 1996 3355 Quail Rd NE, • Sauk Rapids, MN 56379 (320) 252-1682	 catholicmatch® Minnesota CatholicMatch.com/MN	 SUPPORT OUR PARISH Local business ads sponsor the printing of our bulletin. 4lpi.com/adcreator
 stangl & jaskowiak 1428 2nd Street N, PO Box 660 Sauk Rapids, MN 56379 320-252-9972 www.stjsk.com	 KIFFMEYER PLUMBING 320-253-3159 Sauk Rapids, MN www.kiffmeyerplumbing.com		



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

One in Christ Catholic Community, MN

B 4C 02-0482

Omann Insurance Agency
Sartell • 253-6822
GRINNELL MUTUAL

BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES
DONLAR CONSTRUCTION
www.donlarcorp.com

320 251 5933
mstrack@strackco.com
strackco.com
715 15th Avenue NE • St Joseph, MN 56374

STRACK construction, inc

Miller-Carlin FUNERAL HOMES
St. Cloud • Albany • Holdingford • Upsala
252-7004

BEST Fleets
When you work with Brenny, you help us help your community!
320-363-6999
www.brennytruck.com

320-443-4142
H&S TREE TRIMMING
Licensed & Insured

Hyytinen-Trobec Family Dental
Jeffrey G. Hyytinen, DDS • Paul M. Trobec, DDS
320.393.2215 • www.hyytintrobectofamilydental.com

Family owned since 1954
RED'S TRANSFER & STORAGE, INC.
(320) 251-2833
www.redstransfer.com

DALE GRUBER CONSTRUCTION
320-251-4956
DaleGruberConstruction.com

MAHOWALD
More Than Insurance

320.251.3751
Mahowald.net
f in

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS
Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!
CONTACT ME Joey Crouse
jcrouse@4Lpi.com • (800) 950-9952 x8368

Grass Fed BEEF FOR SALE
QUARTERS - HALVES - WHOLE - STEAKS
Family Raised - Non-GMO - No Soy or Corn
MICHAEL & ASHLEY JACOBS, Parishioners
(320) 333-4937

CENTRAL MN'S LARGEST CATHOLIC RETAILER
ST. CLOUD BOOKSHOP
23 7th Ave S, Downtown St. Cloud
(320) 252-1152 • stcloudbookshop.com

More Than a Trophy Store!
(320) 252-4321
BentonTrophy & Awards, Inc.
bentontrophy.com
800 Industrial Dr. S. Suite 205 • Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Cornerstone ag services | Our focus is crop insurance.
5 Central Ave. N. St. Stephen, MN 56375
(320) 257 - CROP(2767)

Place Your Ad Here and Support our Parish!
Instantly create and purchase an ad with
AD CREATOR STUDIO
4lpi.com/adcreator

Heim's FEEDS
A Tradition of Milling Excellence
Since 1900

HEIM MILLING COMPANY
32311 COUNTY ROAD 1
ST. CLOUD, MN 56303
Feed Manufacturers and Distributors
Phone 1-800-462-6488 / 320-251-7033

St. Stephen Tree & Steam
Tree Removal, Trimming, Hedges, Stump Grinding,
Steam Cleaning of Dirty Siding,
Concrete Moldy Retaining Walls, Ice Dam Removal
28 Years Experience
320-360-6148

K.yes
AM180 • FM93.5
Proudly Airing Relevant Radio™

Erkens Water
320-685-8762
Softeners • Iron Filters
Drinking Water

LYON SHEET METAL & HEATING
RESIDENTIAL-COMMERCIAL
Heating & Air Conditioning
BRYANT SALES-SERVICE INSTALLATION
Free Estimates • 24 Hr. Service
235 Stearns Dr. • Sauk Rapids
252-1371

Ryan Voeller, Member Advisor
320-470-1984
rvoeller@catholicunited.org
INSURANCE • CREDIT UNION • CHARITABLE GIVING • RETIREMENT • PLANNING
Catholic United Financial

Ellen C. Morris, D.D.S.
Mikala Gaffke, D.D.S.
Riverside Dental
Sartell • 253-8241

PineCone Vision Center
Comprehensive Eye Care
2180 Troop Drive
(320) 258-3915
www.pineconevisioncenter.com

Residential | Commercial
BD EXTERIORS
ROOFING | SIDING | BUTTERS
License #BC326161 • Licensed | Bonded | Insured
Because you want it DONE RIGHT
320-229-2855 • bdxteriors.com

SAINTS TO LAKES GARAGE DOOR
ROYALTON, MN-USA
SALES, SERVICE & INSTALLATION
OWNER PAUL KNETTEL 320-630-2217

DOES YOUR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION NEED A NEWSLETTER?
Engaging, ad-supported print and digital newsletters to reach your community.
Visit lpicommunities.com

OUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
Scan to contact us!

MCSI
Minnesota Computer Systems, Inc.
Technology is POWER
Print | Fax | Copy | Scan | Supplies | IT Services
(320) 251-4484
mcsionline.net

Underground Sprinklers Installation and Service
Rapid Rain, Inc.
(320) 252-1188 • Jason Schlichting

Fran Altman
Broker Associate
(320) 260-2233
2680 West St Germain Str
St Cloud MN 56301

KRAMER FINANCIAL
INVESTING WITH A PLAN
James Kramer III, MBA, CFP®
1260 32nd Ave N • St. Cloud
KramerFinancial.org • 320.253.8256
Investments. Carefully Selected. Thoughtfully Combined.
Securities offered through LPL Financial. Member FINRA/SIPC.

ADT-Monitored Home Security
Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust
• Burglary • Flood Detection
• Fire Safety • Carbon Monoxide
833-287-3502

LOCAL BANKING BIG BENEFITS
St. Joseph
St. Cloud West
Downtown St. Cloud
St. Stephen
320-363-9778
mycenturybank.com

DICK'S NUISANCE ANIMAL CONTROL
320.252.5259
Travis@DNACstcloud.com
DNACstcloud.com

G&J AWNING
CANVAS • METAL
1802 13th Ave NE • Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
320-255-1733 • 800-467-1744
www.gjawning.com

ChemDry
Locally Owned & Operated for over 25 years
By - Jeff & Tracy Swenson
of St. Cloud
We are your Healthy Home Specialists. We Clean:
Wood & Vinyl Flooring • Carpet • Upholstery
Granite Counter Top Renewal
www.chemdryofstcloud.com CALL TODAY 320-252-9799

IF YOU LIVE ALONE
MDMedAlert!™ As Low As \$19.95/mo.
✓ Ambulance/Police
✓ Family/Friends
✓ GPS & Fall Alert
800.808.9294
md-medalert.com

centrasota oral surgeons
Michael J. Schiff, D.D.S., Parishioner
Wisdom Teeth • Dental Implants • Extractions • Anesthesia
320-252-3611 | centrasotaoms.com

WE HAUL FOR YOU
PROFESSIONAL MOVERS FOR YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS
DOUG LEGATT
320.250.2855
www.wehaulforyou.com

Midway Iron & Metal
"Proud to be Family & American Owned!"
SCRAP METAL RECYCLING (320) 258-3003 NEW METAL SALES

Brenny Custom Cabinets, Inc.
2793 65th Ave. NE
(320) 253-8340
Custom Cabinetry & Counter Tops
Residential & Commercial work
www.brennycabinets.com

GRANITE CITY Roofing
Pat O'Neill, President
(320) 253-4441
Saint Cloud, MN
Pat.gcr@outlook.com
Protecting Your Overhead Investment
www.granitecityroofing.com

WILLIAMS DINGMANN FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES
www.williamsdingmann.com
320-251-1454

McDowall company
MASTERING THE ELEMENTS™
MCDOWALL.CO.COM
• COMMERCIAL HVAC
• COMMERCIAL ROOFING
• ARCHITECTURAL EXTERIORS
• SERVICE & SUPPORT

ADS DESIGNS
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SOLUTIONS
(320) 248-5580
www.adsdesignsmn.com

DG Homes & Remodeling
DG Homes-Remodeling.com
320.251.9416
Building since 1981 Lic #BC63099

KELM & REUTER, P.A.
ATTORNEYS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE™
(320) 251-1423
www.kelmreuter.com

PETRON Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.
3883 155th St N.E. • Rice, MN 56367
Jim Petron • (320) 393-2692
Free Estimates

LAURIN'S
LAWN & LANDSCAPING
(320) 492-4068
www.laurinslawn.com

TRAUT
• Wells • Pumps • Softeners • Lawn Sprinklers
251-5090

ADS DESIGNS
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SOLUTIONS
(320) 248-5580
www.adsdesignsmn.com