

December 8, 2024
2nd Sunday of Advent



Cover design: Liturgical Publications Inc., Photographs: Cheryl Kagan, Instagram.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 • 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

Sunday, December 8	6:30 pm	St. Stephen	† Robert Ferche
Monday, December 9	8:30 am	St. Francis Xavier	- Int. LaVonne Villeneuve
	8:30 am	Annunciation	† Clara Knettel
	6:30 pm	Sacred Heart	† Lowell Witte
	6:30 pm	St. Francis Xavier	† Linda Dingmann
Tuesday, December 10	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Jackie Peckskamp-Keske
	5:30 pm	Sacred Heart	† Irene E. Laudendach
	5:30 pm	St. Stephen	† Scott Monson
Wednesday, December 11	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Bob & Pat Koenig
	8:00 am	Sacred Heart	† Rosalia Radle & Minnie Wood
Thursday, December 12	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	- Word and Communion
	8:00 am	St. Stephen	† Stephen & Alice Hlebain
	8:30 am	Annunciation	- For a Return to the Sacraments
Friday, December 13 St. Nicholas	8:00 am	Sacred Heart	† Imelda Stang
	8:30 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Daniel Booth
Saturday, December 14 3rd Sunday of Advent	4:00 pm	St. Francis Xavier	† Terry Barrett
	5:00 pm	Sacred Heart	† Sharon Casey Wippler
	7:00 pm	St. Stephen	- For the People of the Parish
Sunday, December 15 3rd Sunday of Advent	8:15 am	*Annunciation	† Delores Jochum & Marleen Bemboom
	9:00 am	*Sacred Heart	† Tom Roske
	9:30 am	*St. Francis Xavier	† Jerry Schwieters
	10:00 am	St. Stephen	† Eddie Rudolph
*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: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6,
11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt
18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt
11:28-30

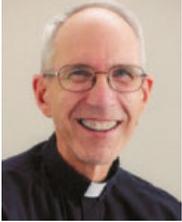
Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt
13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-
19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk

MINISTRY & LIFE PERSPECTIVES



Alice was a precocious three year old with a large family who surrounded her with love. Maybe ten years ago now, Alice came to Mass on the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. In the homily, I invited us to reflect on what Mary must have been like ... conceived without sin, never knowing the

inner conflict we so often experience between our ideals and our weaknesses, our desire to be good and our temptations that tug at our hearts.

I described how Mary must have seemed to those around her: inspiring for her sincere and unalloyed faith in God; her consistent goodness; her gentle and confident focus on God. Mary was reliable, serene, peaceful. She had a balance and poise even when things went wrong and problems and sorrows visited. She was wise but not preachy, a genuinely interested good listener, a hard worker who did not draw attention to herself.

After Mass, her mother told me Alice tugged on her sleeve and said: "He's talking about me!"

(Note: this is the same Alice who saw her reflection in a store window and announced to her family with irrepressible awe: "I'm adorable!")

At age 3, Alice certainly had a good healthy self-image, and it reflects too on the positive love around her in her family. But sooner or later, for all of us, that self-image is colored with an awareness of our weaknesses, imperfections, and failures from time to time. We recognize that we don't always live up to our own ideals, and that the world around us is also flawed. We know all too well St. Paul's experience in his Letter to the Romans:

What I do, I do not understand. For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate. ... I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want. ... when I want to do right, evil is at hand. For I take delight in the law of God, in my inner self, but I see in my members another principle at war with the law of my mind, taking me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Miserable one that I am! Who will deliver me from this mortal body? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Paul says nothing here about Mary or the grace we celebrate in her Immaculate Conception, but his words explain it in an unexpected way. Mary did not ever have that "law of sin" – our human weakness because of the original sin that has become part of our history. And she too was saved by Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(Ministry & Life Perspectives Continued)

This gift was given to her, not because of her goodness, but for the sake of the goodness to come in her life. It was a preparation for her role as Mother of God in the flesh. Yet precisely because we observe her freedom from sin from her very conception – from the first instant of her human life, still in the womb of her mother Anne – it assures us that the grace of God given to her did not make her radically different from us. Rather, she is radically the same. She is our sister in our common human nature; but she is our Mother in the order of grace. These are hard concepts to put in simple words. Mary is full of grace – full of God's life and goodness. But we also can be filled with his grace. If Mary could share in the redeeming work of her Son some thirty years before he came to live among us in time, so we can share in that redemption 2000 years later. God's grace is not bound by place or time.

If it all still seems opaque, think back to three-year-old Alice. The innocence of a child at the beginning of life is the holiness we aspire to in glory. God desires us to know his love so deeply that reflecting on Mary's faith, hope, and love, we can also say: "He's talking about me!" And some day, we pray that we can see ourselves through Jesus' gaze of saving love and know in words free of all ego and pride: "In that love, I'm adorable."

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



“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value...” (Philippians 1:9-10)

During the Christmas shopping season, it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But is that “gift” truly an expression of your love for the other person. Or are you just fulfilling your “obligation” to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them and learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less “stuff” and spend more time with those you love.



Blessings to you on this second week of Advent. We are very grateful to those of you who have already supported diocesan ministries through the Appeal. As of November 18, the Bishop’s Annual Appeal for 2024 has raised total cash and pledges of \$1,385,474 toward our goal of \$1,450,000 (98.96%). This was made possible through the generous donations of 7,583 people throughout the 16 counties of our diocese. Will you help these ministries meet their funding needs? Visit www.stcdio.org/annualappeal.

A TESTIMONY THAT NEEDS TO BE SHARED

A story that changed one life and it can change yours too!

Saturday, December 14 at St. Francis Xavier, Xavier Hall 8:30-10:00am.

Julie Bruns, a parishioner from St. Francis Xavier Parish Sartell, will be sharing her story from being transformed to being transfigured during the National Eucharistic Congress. Julie is on fire for Jesus and would like to ignite a fire in your soul to draw closer to Jesus through the Eucharist. Come and join in her joy and passion and make it yours to share too!

Contact Sandee Kremers with questions or to sign up 320-252-1363.

THE CHOSEN-SEASON 4-SARTELL

Viewing & Discussion Group Dec 11

8:45 am in Xavier Hall -St. Francis Xavier Room
On the first Wednesday of the month we will start at 9:30 am due to morning Mass hospitality for birthdays and anniversaries.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION-ADULTS

Interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or becoming Catholic? We invite you to O.C.I.A.

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (O.C.I.A.) formally called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.), is a process of faith formation that recognizes the uniqueness of each Individual’s faith journey. For adults who have not been baptized or were baptized in another Christian tradition and desire to explore becoming Catholic and for adults baptized in the Catholic faith and seeking to be Confirmed? We also invite you to inquire into the process of helping you to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church and receive the tremendous blessings that all the sacraments of initiation provide. Interested or Have Questions? Contact Fr. Ron Weyrens, Fr. Tom Knoblach, Deacon Joe Kresky, Deacon Terry Jancik or Sandee Kremers.

FUNERAL BLESSINGS

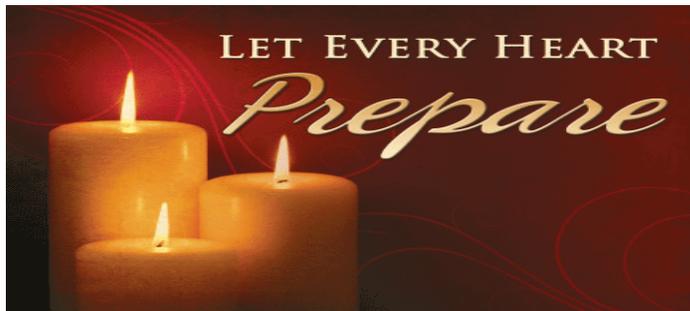
Remember in your prayers the families of Kevin Baron, who passed away on November 22, Viola Schloeder, who passed away on November 23, Jerry Hovanes, who passed away on November 24, and Dolores Weyer, who passed away on November 25, from Sacred Heart.



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

ST. CLOUD METRO RECONCILIATION SERVICES

- Tuesday, Dec. 10 @ 6:30 pm.....St. Paul
- Tuesday, Dec. 10 @ 6:30 pm.....St. Stephen
- 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 come!



YOUNG ADULTS

Theology on Draft

Our final Theology on Draft of 2024 will take place Thursday, December 12th from 6-8 PM at Crooked Pint in Waite Park. Come join Patrick and Shelly Flynn in the conversation about marriage, dating and relationship vocations.

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:



FRAUD PREVENTION TRAINING

Protect yourself and your loved ones from fraud and scams by becoming informed! Join us on Wednesday, December 11th at 9am. Speaker is Brent Bukowski, Assistant Chief of Police. Snacks and beverages will be provided. For more information contact Dan Joe Kresky.

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



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. 23 & 24

Adult	\$1,931.00
Adult Online Nov 16-22	\$ 748.00
Plate	\$ 177.00
Children	\$ 13.00
TOTAL	\$2,869.00

Ushers:

Dec 8 6:30 PM: Carol Hellmann, _____, _____
Dec 14: Karen & Gene Skaj, Dan Warzecha
Dec 15: Jake Rothstein, Nancy & Tom Vouk

Winter Extravaganza in the Parish Hall beginning at 11:05 AM this Sunday. Fun for all ages: story telling, crafts and games, refreshments and a visit from Santa Claus. Sponsored by City of St. Stephen, St. Stephen Lions Club & American Legion.

Vibrancy Committee will not be meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 14. Thank you for all you do!!

Communal Penance Service with individual confessions will be Tuesday, December 10, at 6:30 PM.

Faith Formation - Youth Group. Contact Danna Gasperlin:

December 11 classes for grades 1-4 & Confirmation. Supper will be served before class.

Giving Tree & Toys for Tots: If you have an item for the Giving Tree or Toys for Tots, call the parish office by Monday. All items will be delivered this week.

Parish Christmas Card: The deadline to have your Christmas wishes included in the Parish Christmas Card is next Sunday. The Parish Christmas Card will be handed out at Christmas.



Christmas Flowers: If you would like to donate to the Christmas Flowers in memory of a loved one, use the envelope in your packet or print their name on paper, put it in an envelope marked Christmas Flowers, include a donation of your choice and drop it in the collection basket. Names must be received by December 9 to be in the December 22 bulletin. Names received after that will be published in later bulletins.

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)



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, 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

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 November 24, 2024

Adult Collection. \$20,369.75
Automatic Giving. \$5,871.87
Friends In Need \$333.00
Children's. \$10.00
Christmas Flowers. \$958.00
Weekly adult collection needed to meet yearly budget \$19,673

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Winter Raffle Tickets are now on sale. ONLY 250 tickets are sold, ticket prices are \$100. You can purchase tickets before or after Masses or in the office during the week.

Mark your calendars for January 26th when we draw for the winner of the raffle and have our "Anything you can fit in a crock pot" 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!!

Homebound Communion and Visitation Ministers Needed Seeking individuals who desire to serve the homebound through your caring presence and Holy Communion. Beside sharing the precious Body of Christ, community members are hungry for the presence of Christ through a friendly visit and a listening ear. Contact Dcn Joe with questions.

Urgent- Audio Visual Helpers Needed! We are blessed with the ability to project our music, prayers, and camera images for things such as baptisms, on the screens in church as well as livestream our Masses for those who are homebound. We have a group of wonderful AV volunteers who run our slides and sound for Masses, as well as our cameras for livestreamed Masses. We need 2-3 people every Sunday, and 1-2 people every Saturday. This requires these volunteers to help every other weekend. We need additional people to come forward and learn this ministry. While it may look complex, it is actually quite easy to learn. Please reach out to Jill K or Vicki if you are interested to see if this is something you could help with. AV is a great way for teens, young adults, or even couples to volunteer.

WIDOWS/WIDOWERS GROUP

THIS WEEK!!! The meetings will be held on the 2nd Tues. of the Month from 1-3pm. We will have coffee & goodies and will play cards, dominoes, cribbage or just visit & get to know people who are going through grief & understand what we are all feeling. For more information, please call Linda Massman at 252-4689 or Marion Kuklock at 252-9560.

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!



YOUTH MINISTRY

Grounded Youth Ministry December Theme: Grounded in Humility

Upcoming Grounded Dates:

Sunday, December 8th | Gr. 9-12 | 5-7 PM

Wednesday, December 11th | Gr. 6-8 | 7:30-9 PM
****Ugly Sweater Night

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 next Sunday at 6 PM in the Church - we sing at 9 AM on December 22nd. Questions? Talk to Jill Kiffmeyer or Jason Prigge!

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



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 —Let's fill that bus!!



FAITH FORMATION

First Reconciliation Parent/Child Retreat is Saturday, December 14th from 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM at Sacred Heart for registered 2nd Sacred Heart 2nd Graders. If you have not yet registered your 2nd grader for First Sacraments at Sacred Heart, please contact Scott Frieler ASAP.

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.

THE GIVING TREE

If you took a tag from the Giving Tree, please return the gift unwrapped (no gift bags please) with the tag attached by Monday, December 9th. Thank you for your generosity!!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please add Gail Gruber Bengston, Fay Matthies, 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, November 24th, 2024

Adult Sunday	\$4,001.00
Visitors	\$157.00
Youth	\$8.00
Selling of old oven	\$1,000.00
Votive Candle	\$4.70
Thanksgiving	\$125.00
Building Fund	\$50.00
Christmas Flowers	\$30.00
Total Income	\$5,375.70
Weekly Income needed to meet yearly budget	\$3,037.00

Mass Schedule

Mon. December 9th, 2024

Lector: John Koenig
Eucharist: Karla Koenig
Ushers: Tom & Barb Brand, John & Barb Bemboom

Sun. December 15th, 2024

Lector: Bob Rajkowski and Lora Knafla
Eucharist: Deacon(H), Katie Lentner(C), Anita Montag(C)
Servers: Mariah Simmons and Kelsey Lentner
Greeters: Dustin, Zoey and Lucas Heck
Ushers: John & Barb Bemboom, Dustin & Teresa Heck



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Jerome Schubert, Eugene Pekarek, Shanna Czeck, Nicole Miller, Brynn Ackerman, Myla Ackerman, Damon Strande, Lacey Brenny, Luke Brenny, Cynthia Petron, James Petron.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Religious Education Classes will be Wed. Dec. 11th—6:30pm
Reconciliation for grades 3-10
Dec. 18th—Rel. Ed. 6:30pm Decorating church for Christmas.
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.



BREAKFAST on **Sunday, December 8th, TODAY**, after Mass. Breakfast will be made and put on by the Religious Education Teachers with proceeds going to the Religious Ed Program. Please come and enjoy a good meal and good community.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION TO THE

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: Monday, December 9th. Mass times:

Annunciation: 8:30am
Sacred Heart: 6:30pm
St. Francis Xavier: 6:30pm



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

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

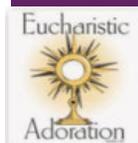
Parish Nurses Julie Kouba 701-721-5083
Bev Wiehoff 320-492-0135
Karen Reinholz 320-260-6158

Prayer Line Margaret Stang 320-249-9304

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

Weekly Collection Budget	\$21,346.15
Collected 11/24/2024.....	\$19,191.06
Excess (Deficit)	\$(2,225.09)
YTD Collection Budget	\$448,269.15
YTD Collected	\$429,056.83
Excess (Deficit).....	\$(19,212.32)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Eucharistic Adoration December 10, 4-7 pm.
Come and spend some quiet time with Jesus.

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION

Communal Reconciliation services will take place on December 10 at 6:30pm in St. Stephen and December 21 at 12:00pm at SFX. Additional priests will be available for individual confession at St. Stephen.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Pro-Life Christmas Cards are available to purchase in the parish office. \$10 for 10 cards.

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.

3RD ANNUAL ADVENT FOR ALMSGIVING

Week 2 - Peanut Butter & Jelly
Drop off in the Gathering Place now thru
December 13.



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



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 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.



FAIR TRADE

Please mark your calendar for the weekend of December 14th & 15th. Shelby Vaske will be here with tables full of Fair Trade items for sale after mass this weekend. Crafts, clothing, children's items, wood products, jewelry, coffee, tea and chocolate will be available. Fair Trade items make great Christmas gifts and they support farmers and artisans and families in less economically developed countries by paying them a fair price for the goods they produce.

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.

<p>COMMERCIAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SHEET METAL (320) 252 3992 www.sentra-sota.com</p>	<p>ON YOUR SIDE SINCE 1973 • Siding • Gutters • Roofing • Decks • Windows & Doors 50 Years in Business 320-252-9086 TonysLifetimeExteriors.com</p>	<p>WE'RE HIRING! AD SALES EXECUTIVES BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION. WORK WITH PURPOSE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid training • Some travel • Work-life balance • Full-Time with benefits • Serve your community <p>Contact us at careers@4lpi.com or www.4lpi.com/careers</p>	<p>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</p>	
<p>Cornerstone Insurance Agency Auto - Home - Farm - Life - Commercial www.cornerstoneinsurances.com ST. STEPHEN, MN • 320-202-8920</p>	<p>MIDWEST MACHINERY CO</p>	<p>Mark Skudlarek Realtor/Owner (320) 290-1264 mjskudlarek@yahoo.com Over 32 years experience in assisting buyers and sellers.</p>	<p>Commercial • Industrial • Residential New Construction • Remodeling Electric Vehicle Charging 3308 Southway Dr. • St. Cloud, MN 56301 (320) 251-1501 Fax (320) 251-1504</p>	<p>(320) 251-5383 wipplerhardware.com 8 North Benton Drive Sauk Rapids</p>
<h1>SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!</h1>				<p>One Agency, Three Locations AVON SAUK RAPIDS FOLEY 320-251-2552 • insuranceaves.com</p>

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



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

320.251.3751
Mahowald.net
f in

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

RED'S TRANSFER & STORAGE, INC.
Family owned since 1954
(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
Since 1975
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

THE LIQUOR SHOPPE ON 25TH
Serving the St. Cloud area since 1973
532 25th Ave. North • St. Cloud, MN 56303
320-251-5685 theliquorshoppe.com
Long Time Parishioner

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

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.

LOCAL BANKING BIG BENEFITS
St. Joseph
St. Cloud West
Downtown St. Cloud
St. Stephen
320-363-9773
mycenturybank.com

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

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

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

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

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.gr@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™
COMMERCIAL HVAC
COMMERCIAL ROOFING
ARCHITECTURAL EXTERIORS
SERVICE & SUPPORT
MCDOWALL.CO.COM

FREE AD DESIGN
with purchase of this space
CALL 800-950-9952

DG Homes & Remodeling
DG Homes-Remodeling.com
320.251.9416
Building since 1981 Lic #BC633099

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

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