

December 29, 2024
Feast of the Holy Family



THE HOLY FAMILY

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. - Lk 2:46

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1988, 1970 C.C.D. (S.L.P.)

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 30	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	- Word and Communion
	8:30 am	Annunciation	† Weston Lentner
Tuesday, December 31	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	- Word and Communion
	5:00 pm	Sacred Heart	† Imelda Stang
	5:24 pm	St. Stephen	† Jerry Mehr
Wednesday, January 1	8:15 am	Annunciation	† Donna Poganski
	9:25 am	St. Francis Xavier	- For the People of the Parish
	10:00 am	Sacred Heart	- Christina Joy & Joel Paul
Thursday, January 2	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	- Int. Tiara Sylvester
	8:00 am	St. Stephen	† Hugo Weyrens
	8:30 am	Annunciation	† Adrian Ackerman
Friday, January 3	8:00 am	Sacred Heart	† Bob Hennen
	8:30 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Jim Stoffel
Saturday, January 4 The Holy Family of Jesus	4:00 pm	St. Francis Xavier	† Hugo Weyrens
	5:00 pm	Sacred Heart	† Tim Kedrowski
	7:00 pm	St. Stephen	† James Honer
Sunday, January 5 <i>*Livestreamed Masses</i>	8:15 am	*Annunciation	† Souls in Purgatory
	9:00 am	*Sacred Heart	- For the People of the Parish
	9:30 am	*St. Francis Xavier	† Dec. Members of the Posch Family
	10:00 am	St. Stephen	† Norma Vouk

PASTORAL SERVICES

Reconciliation
Saturdays

3:00 pm St. Francis Xavier

3:30 pm Sacred Heart

6:15 pm St. Stephen

Sunday

7:40 am Annunciation

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

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: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Wednesday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3,5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:
4-7/ Lk 2:16-21

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Friday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Saturday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see
11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

MINISTRY & LIFE PERSPECTIVES



From Safari....

Due to early publication dates, it is mid-December as I write. A white Christmas is only a dream, as temps hover around freezing and a light mist is in the air. I am still working on the Christmas décor.

Hopefully as the bulletin is being handed out, the ground has a blanket of snow and you had grand Christmas celebrations. A new year is in our sight. Wednesday, we welcome 2025. As you prepare to enter 2025, reflect on this past year and remember all the ways God has been present in our life. From the wonders of creation to the gentle love received from a loved one, God has been at your side. May these memories reassure you that God will again be at your side in 2025.

Before we come to the New Year, we celebrate today the feast of the Holy Family. On writing on this feast, one spiritual writer comments, "It is so easy to domesticate the feast. See how wonderful the Holy Family is, how perfectly they live together. Don't we wish all our families were like theirs?"

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

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



(Ministry & Life Perspectives Continued)

Today's Gospel about Jesus being found in the temple, reminds us that family life for Joseph, Mary and Jesus wasn't always peaceful and wonderful. It can also remind us that Jesus came to create a much larger family than the holy trio. He was about his Father's business; he was sent to reconcile all people to God and to one another. Any healthy family finds its love spilling beyond the household to many others, and the more a family grows in love, the wider that circle of love becomes. How does the love of your family reach out beyond your home?

May God flood your life with countless blessings throughout 2025! Happy New Year!

Fr. Ron



LEADERSHIP

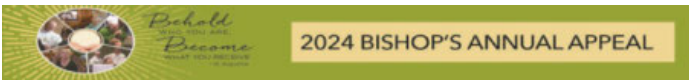
ACC Pastoral Leadership



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



“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” (1 John 3:1)
 During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received –being children of God! As God’s children, it’s in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.



Thank you so much for your support of diocesan ministries through your prayers and gifts in 2024. May you be blessed with peace and joy in the new year.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY AT ST. STEPHEN

Adult Bible study will begin in St. Stephen on January 19, 2025. We will be studying *“The Turning Point - A Study of the Gospel of John.”*

The Turning Point is a nine-session Bible study experience that’s perfect for people who want to get to know Jesus in the Scriptures but don’t know where to start. This study will introduce you to people and stories in the Gospel of John that you won’t find anywhere else in the Bible: the woman at the well; a man named Nicodemus; the woman caught in adultery; and Lazarus, the friend Jesus raised from the dead. You’ll read stories about Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana, Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, and Peter’s marvelous redemption after he denies Jesus three times. The people in these stories were transformed by their encounters with Jesus. By entering into their miraculous stories, you will encounter Jesus in a personal way and develop a deeper relationship with him that will transform your everyday life.

We will meet Sunday evenings at 7:00pm in the Church Hall. To sign up please call the St. Stephen church office at 320-251-1520. Cost of the workbook is \$15. Please register by January 5, 2025. Questions? Call Julie at 320-248-6823.

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!

BAPTISM

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



Harper Marie Dymus, daughter of Matthew & Courtney and
 Melody Joy Fleck, daughter of Jonah & April from Sacred Heart.
 And Alexandra Rose Thompson, daughter of Josef & Morgan, from St. Francis Xavier.

FUNERAL BLESSINGS

Remember in your prayers the family of Ben Paggen, who passed away on December 14, from St. Stephen, And Nancy Ehlen, who passed away on December 7, from St. Francis Xavier and
 Jeanne Hassing, who passed away on December 16, 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.

MEN’S CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

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 Alcala 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 14 & 15

Adult	\$ 3,145.00
Adult Online Dec 10-13	\$ 100.00
Plate	\$ 260.00
Religious Retirement	\$ 150.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 25.00
Children	\$ 10.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,690.00

Ushers:

Dec 31: Sandy Paggen, David Pogatchnik, Dan Warzecha
Jan 4: Tom Larson, Peter Schumer, Mitch Pangerl
Jan 5: Jake Rothstein, Merlin Berndt, Jim Schumer

Faith Formation: No Classes until January 8.

Adoration: The church will be open for Adoration on Thursday, January 2, from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. Come and spend some quiet time in prayer with Jesus.

Ladies Let's Gather will meet next Sunday, January 5, at 6 PM in the church annex. All women, middle school and up, are invited to attend. Each month we discuss a different woman from the Bible. No prep work or homework.

Blood Drive: January 20 from 12:00-6:00 pm in Parish Hall. Help is needed to sign people in - call the parish office.

Bible Study: The Turning Point-A Study of the Gospel of John, begins January 19. See page 3 for more information. Call the office to sign-up.

Christmas flower donation in memory of Ray Schultenover.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Giving Tree. Items were given to: Holdingford Helping Hands, St. Cloud Crisis Nursery, St. Cloud VA 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.

Holdingford Helping Hands Outreach:

Senior Dining: Wednesdays at Trobec's, January-March, at noon followed by 500. Cost-\$6.00 per meal.

Monthly Lunch & Learn: Thursday, January 16, in St. Stephen Parish Hall. 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)
Wednesdays 5:30pm-Al-Anon/AA Mixed meeting
Wednesdays 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 15, 2024

Adult Collection.	\$19,295.47
Automatic Giving.	\$6,377.52
Friends In Need	\$120.00
Christmas.	\$1,135.00
Christmas Flowers.	\$510.00
Holy Day.	\$185.00
Clergy Retirement.	\$187.00

Income for the Week of December 22, 2024

Adult Collection.	\$7,721.00
Automatic Giving.	\$5,881.87
Holy Day	\$20.00
Christmas.	\$1,145.00
Christmas Flowers.	\$120.00

Weekly adult collection needed to meet yearly budget \$19,673

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Takedown Christmas decorations will be taken down on Sunday, January 12th immediately following the 9:00 am Mass. Much help is needed with removing ornaments, fabric, lights and garland as well as taking down the nativity scene and trees and rearranging poinsettias. Please stay after Mass if you can help. Thank you!!

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!

CHOSEN-SEASON 2

We will be offering The Chosen, Season 2. Our first session will be Friday, January 3rd through Feb 8th from 6pm-8:30pm in room D. We will begin with a meal, watch an episode and then end with discussion. There is no fee to attend, we do ask for a free will offering to cover the meal. If you would like to attend, please email kathyjanku@gmail.com or call the office to sign up.

THANK YOU

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

Thank you to all the liturgical ministers, musicians, choirs, and decorators for their gifts of time, talent, and ministry this Christmas season!! Many people are needed to make sure our many liturgies are beautiful and prayerful, and it's wonderful to know we have so many faithful volunteers at Sacred Heart willing to give of themselves. God bless you all during the holiday season!

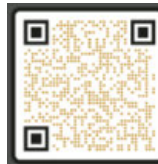
Thank you to all who participated in and made the St. Monica's Craft & Bake Sale so successful. Ginny Kroll & Julie Lutz

YOUTH MINISTRY

Grounded Youth Ministry

December Theme: Grounded in Humility

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. Lets fill that bus!!

FAITH FORMATION

ACC Winter Confirmation Retreat is Saturday, January 4th from 9:00 AM - 6:15 PM at Sacred Heart.

First Eucharist Parent Meetings at Sacred Heart are Tuesday, January 7th from 6:00 - 7:00 PM in Room B and Sunday, January 12th from 10:15 - 11:15 AM in Room B for 2nd Grade families. Parents only need to attend 1 of the meetings which will provide the home preparation materials along with important dates for First Eucharist preparation. If you have any questions, contact Scott Frieler at the parish office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 1; **OFFICE CLOSED**
- January 2; 7pm—YA Bible Study
- January 3; 6pm—Chosen
- January 4; 9:30am—ACC Confirmation Retreat
3:30pm—Reconciliation
- January 5; 5:30pm—Catechist Appreciation/Training

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.

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



ANNUNCIATION PARISH

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

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Income for Sunday, December 15th, 2024

Adult Sunday	\$3,043.85
Visitors	\$77.00
Youth	\$11.01
Religious Retirement	\$70.00
Votive Candle	\$1.00
Breakfast	\$1,130.00
Bake Sale	\$531.00
Building Fund	\$10.00
Christmas Flowers	\$70.00
Immaculate Conception	\$70.00
Christmas	\$200.00
Total Income	\$5,213.86

Weekly Income needed to meet yearly budget \$3,037.00

Mass Schedule

Sun. January 5th, 2025

Lector: Jenessa Strande and Shirley Scapanski
Eucharist: Lloyd Lyon(H), Rita Knott(C), Jason Zwilling(C)
Servers: Noah & Kelsey Lentner
Greeters: Chuck Wocken, Mason & Carson Zwilling, Spencer Ackerman
Ushers: Jenny Zwilling, Peter Ackerman, Chuck Wocken and Spencer Ackerman.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Jake Peck, Duane Thene, David Herbst, Breanna Skroch, Travis Albright, Lawrence Rajkowski, Jr., Jeff Wollak, Landon Bemboom, Joshua Hiemenz, Anthony Wocken, Scott Brown, Greg Marshall.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
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 at stdio.org/2025-Festival-of-Families

THANK YOU: Thank you to all those that came out for breakfast and the bake sale on Sunday, Dec. 8th to help support our Religious Education program. It was wonderful to have such a great turn out. Great time for visiting with lots of good food, delicious goodies and beautiful decorations for Christmas. Thank you to the teachers and religious ed youth for making this possible.



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 12/15/2024	\$22,010.43
Excess (Deficit)	\$664.28
YTD Collection Budget	\$512,307.60
YTD Collected	\$497,126.91
Excess (Deficit)	\$(15,180.69)

OFFICE CLOSED

HAPPY *New Year*

The Parish office will be closed January 1.

1ST WEDNESDAY COFFEE & ROLLS

We are moving the coffee and rolls from January 1 to January 8 due to the holiday. Please join us after Mass on Wednesday, January 8.

GATHERING IN THE ARTS ART SHOW

Sunday, February 16, 2025, 11:00am-4:00pm

St. Francis Xavier
School Gym

What you need to know:

Artist Fee: \$35 per 8 foot table or 8'x4' space - fee paid by 1/21/25. You will provide any materials needed for your own display

Setup in school gym door A on Saturday, December 15 from 1:30-3:30pm and/or Sunday 8-10:30am

If you wish to sell your wares, you will be responsible for all transactions and finances

Food vendors available

Interested in being part of the show? Contact Geri Blais at 320-255-7009 or gblais@gmail.com

GIVING TREE

The giving tree gifts have been delivered. Thank you everyone for your support and generosity again this year!

LECTOR WORKBOOKS

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

3RD ANNUAL ADVENT FOR ALMSGIVING

Week 2 we collected peanut butter and jelly. The organizations that we are giving to, use peanut butter as one of their main protein sources. It seems like a small thing, but this is actually a huge gift to them. Thank you for sharing the light of Christ through the giving of these items. May God bless you and your family abundantly in the New Year.



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 9th 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!

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.

SFX ROCKS SAVE THE DATE

Our school will be hosting its 14th annual SFX Rocks fundraising celebration featuring Andy Austin on Saturday, February 8, 2025. The evening will be filled with music, dancing delicious food and silent auction items. All of the money earned from this event will be used to support initiatives and school wide programming. More information to come including instructions and a link to purchase tickets.

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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.	(320) 251-5383  wipplerhardware.com 8 North Benton Drive Sauk Rapids
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