

December 10, 2023
2nd Sunday of Advent

second Sunday of
ADVENT



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ONE
IN
CHRIST
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 11	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	- Word & Communion
	8:30 am	Annunciation	† For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday, December 12	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Jerry Schwieters
	5:30 pm	St. Stephen	† Joe & Gertrude Hellmann
	5:30pm	Sacred Heart	-Living & Deceased Members of the Hudalla Family
Wednesday, December 13	8:00 am	Sacred Heart	† Irene Laudenschach
	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Rose Pearson
Thursday, December 14	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Erv & Monica Baltas
	8:00 am	St. Stephen	† Linda Emgebretson Vouk
	8:30 am	Annunciation	† Donna Poganski
Friday, December 15	8:00 am	Sacred Heart	† Sharon Casey Wippler
	8:30 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Terry Barrett
Saturday, December 16 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	4:00 pm	St. Francis Xavier	† Bob & Martha Koenig
	5:00 pm	Sacred Heart	† Pat Ihli
	7:00 pm	St. Stephen	† For the People of the Parish
Sunday, December 17 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>*Livestreamed Mass</i>	8:15 am	*Annunciation	† Roger Schackmann
	9:00 am	*Sacred Heart	† Sue Oldakowski
	9:30 am	*St. Francis Xavier	† Gene & Lynn Borgert
	10:00 am	St. Stephen	† Eddie Rudolph

PASTORAL SERVICES

Reconciliation
Saturdays

3:00 pm St. Francis Xavier
3:30 pm Sacred Heart
6:15 pm St. Stephen

Sunday

7:40 am Annunciation

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

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

DAILY READINGS

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: 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

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

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

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: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/

MINISTRY & LIFE PERSPECTIVES



Going to Confession

The Sacrament of Penance (or Reconciliation) is one of the seven sacraments given to the Church by Jesus to share divine mercy in our imperfect lives. Through confession of our sins and their absolution in this sacrament, we are forgiven and reconciled with God and with the community of the Church. Our relationships

with God and with others, damaged by our free choices to act against the virtue of charity, are healed by the grace of Christ's Cross and Resurrection, and applied to our very specific and personal needs for mercy.

There are four parts to the Sacrament of Penance: **contrition** (sorrow for our sins); **confession** (naming our sins); **penance** (a way of making some reparation for our sins); **absolution** (the sacramental forgiveness of our sins).

To make a good confession, we begin with a **sincere examination of conscience**. There are many different forms of this, but taking time to reflect on our life of faith and, identifying simply and humbly where we have made wrong choices is always a good practice. CS Lewis once wrote that if you struggle to name your faults, ask the people you live and work with; they will tell you.

Situations in our lives can be complex. Confession may be part of a more extensive spiritual conversation, but the confessor may invite you to set up an appointment to visit if more time is needed. This is not intended to dismiss or gloss over these complexities, but to allow sufficient time and attention to address them. Confession is primarily for the celebration of forgiveness, not extended spiritual direction.

It is naturally much more comfortable to talk about our successes and positive actions than our failures. Confession is not about shame or self-defeat, but a healing remedy. It looks to the past – “what I have done and what I have failed to do” – but it is oriented to the future: how I can be healed and improve as a disciple of Jesus.

Sometimes people shy away from confession because it's been a long time and they are uncertain how to do it. This is a simple outline (feel free to bring it along if you wish):

1) Begin with the **Sign of the Cross**. Father may say some words of welcome to confession.

2) Say: **“Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. My last confession was _____”** (name how long it has been since your last confession ... for example, “two months ago” or “before Easter” or “many years”).

3) Then say: **“My sins are _____”** Here, you name your sins simply. The confessor may ask for clarification if it is unclear – “I did some things wrong” – but never asks questions out of curiosity or that would implicate other people. When you have finished your confession, end by saying, “For these and all my sins, I am truly sorry.”

4) The confessor will give you a few words of advice and encouragement. He will then assign a penance to you – perhaps some prayers or good actions. He will then invite you to make an Act of Contrition.

(Ministry & Life Perspectives Continued)

5) Clearly and meaningfully, pray an Act of Contrition. There are many different forms that can be used; the most important thing is that you sincerely and intentionally express your sorrow for having sinned and your intention to do better in the future. One common form of the Act of Contrition:

O my God, I am sorry for all my sins because they displease You,

Who are all good and deserving of all my love.

With Your help, I will sin no more. Amen.

6) The confessor will pray the prayer of Absolution, granting you “pardon and peace” from “God, the Father of mercies.” He will conclude with words such as: “God has forgiven you; go in peace.” Respond: **“Thanks be to God”** and return to the church to pray in thanksgiving for God's mercy and perhaps to pray your penance.

As I often comment: God's mercy cannot erase our past, but it does open up a new future. What a great Christmas gift that will be.

Phishing

Periodically, a scam reappears where emails purporting to be from pastors or other parish staff ask recipients to supply gift cards or cash to someone, or state something like: “I am in need of immediate help, please call me” or some such message. Know for certain that these are not authentic messages, and do not come from your clergy or members of staff (for instance, many have come from a gmail account; I do not have any such account). We do not and will not ask for such financial help, donations, or other assistance in this way. Ignore and delete such messages with a clear conscience.

LEADERSHIP

ACC Pastoral Leadership

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

STEWARDSHIP AND EVANGELIZATION
LIVING A LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP



"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - Mark 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?



Blessings to you in this second week of Advent and thank you to those who have already supported diocesan ministries through the Appeal. As of November 20, the diocese has raised \$1,362,478 in gifts and pledges toward the goal of \$1,400,000, with gifts from 7,284 households. Every dollar raised goes directly to ministries that support our Catholic faith and is not used for any other purpose. Will you help these ministries meet their funding needs? Visit www.stcdo.org/annualappeal.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER SUBSTITUTES

"With cold & flu season upon us please remember to wash your hands often, cover your cough, and stay home if you are ill. Liturgical ministers should arrange for a substitute if they are experiencing symptoms."

GATHERING IN THE ARTS ART SHOW



Sunday, February 11, 2024, 1-4pm

**St. Frances Xavier
Gathering Place**

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

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL



The Festival of Families
Registration is now open!! Join other families from around the diocese for a day celebrating the family. Cost is only \$20 per family (no matter the size), and will include a free carnival, family

games, lunch, age-appropriate activities and Mass with Bishop Neary. Register now at: <https://stcdo.org/events/festival-of-families/>

—If you know of any events happening at other parishes around the diocese regarding the Eucharistic Revival, please contact Jill L @ 320-251-8115



BAPTISM

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

Presley Rae Christy, daughter of Tristan & McKenzie, and James Lorenz Reichert, son of Eric & Theresa, who were baptized at Sacred Heart.



And Lona Rae DeYaeger, Daughter of Andrew & Amanda, who was baptized at St. Stephen.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

I Alex Jacques & Katie Windschitl



ALASKAN MISSION TRIP

One in Christ will be going on a mission trip to Alaska on July 20th-26th, 2024. High schoolers and adults are invited to join us as we build solidarity with our Alaskan brothers and sisters. The cost is yet to be determined. An informational meeting will be on December 12th at 6:30 pm at Sacred Heart. Please contact Dcn Joe Kresky at 320-292-4857 or Karen Handeland at 320-761-5155 for more information.

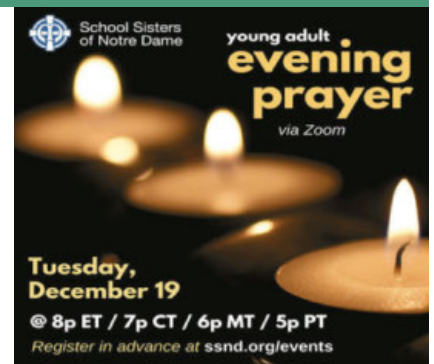


ADVENT HEALING MASS WITH THE CROSIERS

You are invited to join the Crosier Fathers and Brothers at the National Shrine of St. Odilia in Onamia on Sunday, December 17, 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

EVENING PRAYER FOR 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 19 at 7 p.m. CT**. Learn more and register for the Zoom link at ssnd.org/events/12-19-23/



YOUNG ADULT ACTIVITIES

Only a few more weeks remaining in the Young Adult Needs Assessment!! Your voice plays a vital role in ensuring we are listening and meeting your needs along with the needs of others when we consider ministry with Young Adults. If you are a young adult aged 18-39, please take the time to complete this 10-15 minute assessment. If you feel inclined, we also encourage you to share this assessment with your family and friends. Your submission will remain anonymous unless you leave your contact information for a follow-up.



If you are having difficulty completing the form, have any questions, or would prefer an in-person conversation, please contact Jason Prigge, Young Adult Minister for One in Christ, for any assistance.

Theology on Draft

Save the date for Thursday, December 14th for Theology on Draft! We'll be at Bad Habit Brewery in St. Joe from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. All are welcome!

Young Adult Christmas Gathering

All young adults (18-39) and kids are welcome to join in a Christmas open house at St. Stephen on Sunday, December 17th. You can either join us for 10 AM Mass or come at 11 am for cookie baking, fellowship, Christmas activities, and of course streaming the Noon game. Bring a dish to share along with other Young Adults in your life. Event will end at 3:00 PM. RSVP to Jason Prigge by Thursday, December 14th!

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETED MASSES

ASL interpreters are generally at Sacred Heart every Saturday evening for the 5:00 Mass. During the holidays we have some additional services interpreted.

Advent Reconciliation Service - Dec. 14th at 6:30 pm
Christmas Day 10:00 am Mass
New Year's Day 10:00 am Mass

ST. CLOUD AREA ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Holy Spirit; Tuesday, December 12 @ 6:30pm
St. Francis Xavier; Tuesday, December 12 @ 7pm
Sacred Heart; Thursday, December 14 @ 6:30pm
St. Peter; Saturday, December 16 @ 1pm
St. Augustine; Sunday, December 17 @ 2pm
St. Anthony; Monday, December 18 @ 6:30pm
St. Mary's Cathedral; Tuesday, December 19 @ 6:30pm



○ come - ○ come - Emmanuel

ST. STEPHEN

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

Fr. Ron Weyrens, Pastor

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

Financial Offerings for December 3 & 4

Adult	\$2,446.00
Adult online giving Nov 25-Dec 1	545.00
Plate	322.50
Children	1.00
Thanksgiving	50.00
Christmas Card to date	512.00
<u>Christmas Flowers</u>	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$3,896.50
Weekly <u>Adult</u> income needed to meet budget:	\$3,150

Faith Formation/Youth Group News

Classes Dec 13: Grades 1-4 and Confirmation 6:30-8pm.

This weeks meal in the Hall will be Enchiladas, fruit, beverage and dessert.

The Youth Group is collecting ADULT size socks for the residents of the Lincoln Center through December 19. Please put socks in the box labeled "Lincoln Center" located in the Annex.

Giving Tree items need to be turned this weekend.

Winter Extravaganza will be held in the Parish Hall this weekend after the 10:00am Mass Sunday. There will be crafts, games, story telling and refreshments. Santa Claus will be stopping by to visit with the children. Sponsored by City of St. Stephen, St. Stephen Lions Club & St. Stephen American Legion.

Vibrancy Committee will be meeting Tuesday, December 12, in the annex at 6:15pm.

Adoration will be Thursday, December 14. Church will be open from 8:30am - 4:00pm for you to come and spend quiet time in prayer.

Parish Christmas Card wishes/donations due by December 16. Place your Christmas greeting/donation in the collection basket.

Ministry Schedule for January 6-March 31: If there are dates you know you will be unavailable please call or email the office by **December 17**. Included with this schedule: Ash Wednesday (Feb 14), Good Friday (March 29) and Easter (March 31).

Mass Intentions: The parish office is now accepting Mass Intentions for 2024. To allow dates for everyone, please limit your requests to four intentions per person/couple. There are dates available in January.

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

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 - December 14 in St. Stephen Parish Hall. Social starts at 11:30. Suggested donation \$5.

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

SACRED HEART PARISH

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

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

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

Income for the Week of December 3, 2023

Adult Collection.....	\$10,158.71
Automatic Giving.....	\$5,451.24
Friends In Need.....	\$175.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$650.00
Christmas.....	\$200.00
Weekly adult collection needed to meet yearly budget \$19,673	

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Flower Fund 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!



Moving things around for Christmas We will be moving chairs for the Christmas Masses on December 17th from 10-12. If you are available to stay after 9am Mass to help, that would be amazing! This is a great opportunity for Confirmation students (current tenth graders) to get a service experience in before their classes even begin!

Would you like to be a gift bearer? During Mass, there's a little moment that often goes unnoticed. After the collection baskets are passed, there is a very meaningful part of the Mass when members of our parish carry the gifts of bread, wine, and the monetary offering to the priest. The entire congregation is represented by those who bear the gifts. Through this act, we return to God a small part of the many blessings that He has given to us. If you would like to bring up the gifts for a special Mass, please sign up on the sheet in the gathering space.

Liturgical Ministers Needed We have a few liturgies coming up where we will need musicians and liturgical minister help. We have our Advent Reconciliation service here on Thursday, December 14th at 6:30 pm. Please sign up on the web terminal or on the sheets near the sacristy if you can help. Thank you!

Liturgical Ministers Needed for Christmas We need many ministers to help with our upcoming Christmas liturgies. Signups will be available online and near the sacristy for Sunday, December 24th 9:00 Mass (4th Sunday of Advent) as well as 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 Decorating We will decorate our spaces for the Christmas Season immediately after Mass on Sunday, December 17th. 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.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Grounded Youth Ministry

December Theme: Grounded in JOY

Upcoming Dates

Grounded isn't an exclusive club, come join us!

Sunday, December 10th (grades 9-12): 5:00 - 7:00 PM

-Games, dinner, speaker and small group time

Wednesday, December 20th (grades 6-12): 7:30 - 9:00 PM

- Prayer, Christmas Activities (movie, crafts, cookies), large group games

Waldo Hunt 2023 It's time!! Save the date for our third annual Waldo Hunt at Mall of America on Wednesday, December 27th. Forms are available online and by the Youth Ministry board. Contact Jason Prigge to register or to learn more.

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

FAITH FORMATION

The First Reconciliation Retreat is rescheduled for Saturday, December 16th from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Frierler in the office or at sfrierler@sacredheartsaukrapids.org

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those people who came in on Tuesday and helped clean the pews in the worship space! Your help is GREATLY appreciated!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 11; 6:30pm—St. Arnold's Group
- December 12; 4pm—Healing from Loss Room D
- December 13; 9am—Christmas Pots
- 9am—Wednesday Morning Bible Study
- 1pm—Craft Group
- 6:30pm—Peer Ministry Meeting
- December 14; 9am—Christmas Trees Set Up
- 6pm—Book Buffet
- 6pm—Theology on Draft
- 6:30pm—SH Advent Penance Service
- December 16; 9am—First Reconciliation Retreat
- 3:30pm—Reconciliation
- 6pm—Blood Pressure Checks
- December 17; 10am—Christmas Decorating in Church & GS
- 10am—Set up GS for Christmas (Move Chairs)
- 10am—Blood Pressure Checks
- 11am—Young Adult Family Christmas

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please add Alex Euteneuer & Christopher Fuchs 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 3rd, 2023

Adult Sunday	\$3,410.00
Visitor	\$263.51
Youth	\$29.00
Votive Candles	\$4.00
Building Fund	\$665.00
Christmas Flowers	\$595.00
All Saints	\$100.00
Religious Retirement	\$10.00
November Breakfast	\$538.00
December Breakfast	\$1,092.00
Craft/Bakesale	\$698.00
Christmas	\$200.00
Total Income	\$7,704.51
Weekly Income needed to meet yearly budget	\$3,037.00

Mass Schedule

Sun. December 17th, 2023

Lector: Gene Poser & Lora Knafla
Eucharist: Deacon (H), Amy Krajsa(C), Lloyd Lyon(C)
Servers: Ava & Halle Krajsa
Greeters: John & Karla Koenig
Ushers: Renee & Tim Thell, Lawrence & Jane Thell



Happy Birthday: Shanna Czek, Nicole Miller, Brynn Ackerman, Myla Ackerman, Damon Strande, Lacey Brenny, Luke Brenny, Cynthia Petron, James Petron, Benett Kiffmeyer, Nicole Robinson, Anna Zeleny, Eric Brand, Jane Dietment, Cindy Gans, Zoey Heck, Kim Kosloski, Brett Leabch, Bryanna Martinson, Lane Piotrowski, Lisa Popp.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Upcoming:

Wed. Dec. 13th, Rel. Ed. Class @ 6:30pm
Wed. Dec. 20th, Rel Ed. Class/Decorating/Christmas Caroling @ 6:30pm
Wed. Dec. 27th, NO Religious Ed Classes.

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU? During the weeks of Advent look for the wooden cross where everyone is invited to tack up their prayer requests. Everyone needs prayer.



Everyone is encouraged to read the postings and to pray. Praying for each other connects us more deeply as people of Christ, and asks the Lord to take hold of our lives and situations.

Write your prayer request on a sticky and attach it to the wooden cross. If you are homebound, contact the parish secretary for help to post your prayer request. If you wish to talk with Prayer Line, Call Maureen at 320-339-6800 or Lucy at 320-393-2538.



COLLECTION FOR THE POOR CLARES There will be a box in the entrance of church for collecting items for the Poor Clares. Items needed: Stamps, envelopes, Kleenex, toiletries, canned vegetables, meatless soup, cleaning supplies, white thread, glue sticks, scotch tape, medicated cough drops, etc... box will be taken to the Poor Clares after the 8:30am mass on Dec. 21st. Thank You.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

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

Office Hours 8 AM-4:30 PM Monday-Thursday, 8-Noon Friday
Parish Nurses Julie Kouba 701-721-5083
Bev Wiehoff 320-492-0135
Karen Reinholz 320-260-6158
Prayer Line Dorothy Frank 320-333-7427

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

Weekly Collection Budget	\$20,673.08
Collected 11/12/2023.....	\$23,645.55
Excess (Deficit)	\$2972.47
YTD Collection Budget	\$479,956.43
YTD Collected	\$485,444.73
Excess (Deficit).....	\$5488.30

CHURCH CLEANING

Looking for helpers...Thursday, December 21st 2:00pm All should be completed by 4:00pm 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 hour 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.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Any youth in the fourth grade or older is invited to be an altar server, but you must participate in a training session. Join us on Monday, December 11 at 4:45pm and 6:30pm. Each training will last about one hour. You will be able to indicate which Mass you would like to serve at. Either at the Saturday, 4pm or Sunday, 9:30am. Call the parish office at 320-252-1363 to let us know you will be attending the training. Hope to see you there!

SING FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve 4pm Mass—Children from the parish in **grades 2-8** are invited to sing at the Christmas Eve 4:00pm Liturgy. Rehearsal will be December 10 & 17 following the 9:30 Mass. Email Jacque Windschitl at jwindschitl@sfx61.org if your child is interested.

PLACE OF HOPE



Giving back with LOVE!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for the Place of Hope on Tuesday, December 26. Contact Sandee Kremers for details at skremers@stfrancissartell.org

2ND ANNUAL ADVENT FOR ALMSGIVING



Week Three

Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta Mac & Cheese Cups

Drop off in the Gathering Place
now thru December 17.

ELECTRONIC GIVING AND YEAR END GIFTS

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

YOUTH MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

Wednesday, December 20 - Aftershock for grades 6-12. We will be caroling at Country Manor, Sartell this evening.

Thursday, December 28 (4pm) - Friday, December 29 (5am) - Lock-in for grades 6-12 @ SFX. Registration deadline for this event is Wednesday, December 20th for your name to be placed in the drawing for door prizes. The cost of the event is \$25 per person.

Service Sunday for January 7th will take place at Country Manor, Sartell from 1-3pm. We will be helping them take down their Christmas decorations.

Sunday, January 21st Youth Group for grades 6-12 (note grade change) at Xavier Hall from 6-8:30pm. Come and enjoy a fun evening of Faith, Food, Friends and Fun.

Middle School Lock-in for grades 6-8 will take place Saturday-Sunday, January 27-28 beginning at 7pm at Sacred Heart Church, Sauk Rapids for Mass. We will end our time at 6am at the St. Cloud YMCA.

Saturday, February 3rd Youth Group for grades 6-8 from 4-8pm (note time change) at Xavier Hall.

Castaway 2024 will take place Friday, March 22 – Sunday, March 24 at the Castaway Club in Detroit Lakes, MN for youth in grades 9-12.

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

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