

October 25, 2020

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time



30<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." - Mt 22:37

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11/19

# ONE IN CHRIS AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Annunciation  
Sacred Heart  
St. Francis Xavier  
St. Stephen

## 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

### PASTORAL SERVICES

<b>Monday</b> Weekday	<b>Oct 26</b>	8 am	St. Francis Xavier	Word & Communion
		8:30 am	Annunciation	† Rich Rajkowski & Alvin Jochum
		8:30 am	St. Stephen	† Mary Hlebain
<b>Tuesday</b> Weekday	<b>Oct 27</b>	8 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Sylvester J. Stang
		8:30 am	St. Stephen	† Math Hudovernik
		5:30 pm	*Sacred Heart	† Lori Scherping
<b>Wednesday</b> SS. Simon & Jude	<b>Oct 28</b>	8 am	*Sacred Heart	† Rita Kampa
		8:30 am	St. Stephen	† Clarence, Mike, Mary & Kayla Schuneman
		8 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Leon Schnobrich
<b>Thursday</b> Weekday	<b>Oct 29</b>	8 am	St. Stephen	NO MASS ON THURSDAY
		8 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Isaiah Moorefield
		8:30 am	Annunciation	† Raymond Brand
<b>Friday</b> Weekday	<b>Oct 30</b>	8 am	*Sacred Heart	† John Adelman
		8:30 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Urban Theisen
<b>Saturday</b> Blessed Virgin Mary	<b>Oct 31</b>	5 pm	*Sacred Heart	† Ken Malikowski
		5 pm	St. Francis Xavier	† Rita Fasen
		7 pm	St. Stephen	For the People of the Parishes
<b>Sunday</b> All Saints Day	<b>Nov 1</b>	8:30 am	Annunciation	For the People of the Parishes
		9 am	*Sacred Heart	† Rich Esselman
		9:30 am	*St. Francis Xavier	† George & Rose Opatz and Paul & Eleanor Solarz
		10:30 am	St. Stephen	† Martin & Cecilia Legat (Mass of Remembrance)

<b>Saturdays</b>	<b>Reconciliation</b>	3:30 pm	Sacred Heart
		4 pm	St. Francis Xavier
		8 pm	St. Stephen
<b>Sunday</b>		7:50 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.

Viewers in the St. Cloud Diocese can watch the Mass on KSTC-45 at 11 am each Sunday via cable, satellite or antenna (check your cable provider for channel number). Charter Communication airs the Mass on Channel 17.

**Bulletin announcements are due in the parish office by noon on Mondays. Thank you!**  
Please contact your Parish Office for more information.

#### Tuesday & Thursday Masses at SFX

Fr. Tim Baltus has graciously accepted an invitation to say Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier as he is able. Please **carefully** watch the bulletin Mass schedule each week to confirm. Thank you, Fr. Tim!

#### \*Livestreamed Masses

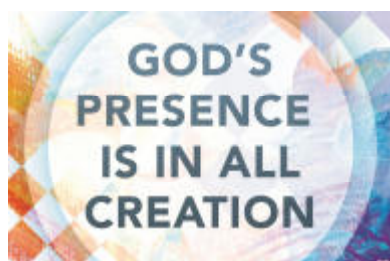
For some reason, it is easier to genuflect in reverence to the presence of Christ in the tabernacle of a church, than to genuflect in reverence to the same presence of Christ in another person's soul. We wrongly believe that God divides himself, placing himself in one place in preference to another. It doesn't work that way. Love of God and love of neighbor are intimately and inseparably connected because the essence and spark of God's very presence is in all creation. God's presence is just as real in the one who is good, as in the one who is bad, and the one who is just, and the one who is unjust.

Our brains get in the way of truly contemplating the awesomeness of this truth. We like to separate things into boxes, the sheep from the goats and the deserving from the undeserving. But, with God there are no distinctions such as this. Our human classifications, subdivisions, and definitions hold no power or have any weight in God's eyes. Sadly, we relate to God and to each other as if they do.

We cannot be deaf to the world's pain. It is not about having, hoarding, accumulating, acquiring, securing, storing, protecting, owning, claiming, or any of the other human terms we use to distinguish mine from yours. We put so much power in these words and that power, even though we may not always realize it, can cause those words and the distinctions they carry to wound and hurt others. We have the whole order of things wrong, but we are so set on preserving this order that we are absolutely afraid to do it any other way. We go through hoops trying to convince ourselves why the perils of the person seeking a new place to call home are not our perils that we turn our back and justify closing our doors. It makes perfect sense to us. Yet, it makes no sense in terms of our faith. It doesn't square with any of the words found in Sacred Scripture or in any time-tested teaching of the church.

We have it all reversed. We know that we do because when Jesus speaks about such things and the words of the Old Testament prophets ring out again, we start to feel uncomfortable and anxious. What we do, directly or by omission, to one of the least of these little ones we do to God. It is quite possible that some of what we are doing personally, economically, politically, globally, and even religiously is doing more harm than good. Let's ponder that a bit.

©LPi



## DAILY READINGS

<b>Monday:</b>	Eph 4:32—5:8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Eph 5:1]/Lk 13:10-17
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Eph 5:21-33/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [1a]/Lk 13:18-21
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5a]/Lk 6:12-16
<b>Thursday:</b>	Eph 6:10-20/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10 [1b]/Lk 13:31-35
<b>Friday:</b>	Phil 1:1-11/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [2]/Lk 14:1-6
<b>Saturday:</b>	Phil 1:18b-26/Ps 42:2, 3 5cdef/Lk 14:1, 7-11
<b>Sunday:</b>	Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 6]/1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a



## LEADERSHIP



## ACC Pastoral Leadership

<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Fr. Tom Knoblach</b> 320-251-8115, Ext. 112 pastor@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Fr. Ron Weyrens</b> 320-252-1363, Ext. 1101 (days) Ext. 1102 (night/weekends) rweyrens@stfrancissartell.org
<b>Sacramental Minister</b>	<b>Fr. Doug Liebsch</b> dougliebsch@gmail.com
<b>Deacon</b>	<b>Joe Kresky</b> 320-251-8115 jkresky@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
<b>Deacon</b>	<b>Terry Jancik</b> 320-251-8115 tjancik@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
<b>Deacon</b>	<b>Steve Pareja</b> 320-761-2503
<b>Pastoral Associate</b>	<b>Deb Rudolph</b> 320-252-1363, Ext. 1103 drudolph@stfrancissartell.org

## The Journey of Loss and Grief

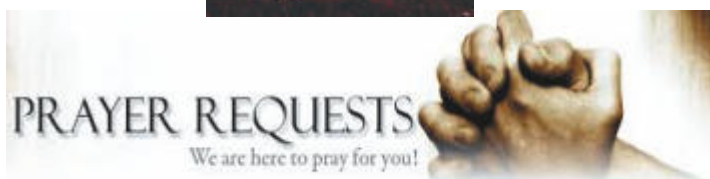
When Jesus' friend Lazarus dies, the Gospel of John tells us that "Jesus wept" (Jn 11:35). We experience many losses in our lives and the death of someone we love is just one of them. We also lose relationships, roles, bodily functions, and communities. Grief is a normal response to loss, yet grief is chaotic and hard, so much so that we want to avoid it. But grief is the only way through loss. How can we better understand the journey of grief and how to take it in a faithful way? How does God call us to grieve and, finally, recover from our grief?

**Thursday, November 5, Webinar presentation from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Event is Free. Registration is required (register at least five days in advance of the event); please visit [www.collegevilleMN.com/theologyday](http://www.collegevilleMN.com/theologyday), call 320-363-3560, or email [theologyday@csbsju.edu](mailto:theologyday@csbsju.edu) to register.**



### Red Cross Blood Drive @ SFX:

Sign up to donate blood on Tuesday, November 10 in the Gathering Place at St. Francis Xavier Church. To make an appointment or for more info, call or email Greg at 320-250-9137 or [schlossergregory@gmail.com](mailto:schlossergregory@gmail.com).



Please remember to continue to pray for all those affected by illness, their caregivers and public officials working to keep us safe. **Please pray** • for Pope Francis, all Bishops, priests, deacons and religious • for legal protection for unborn children • for a friend with long term illness • for an end to COVID-19 • for the leaders of our country and the world • for all pregnant women • for all those with long term illness • for those mourning the loss of a loved one • for an end to violence • for those suffering from the wildfires • for my parents in heaven • for all Parish Prayer Line requests and those who have recently received prayer blankets.

**Please visit your Parish website for those in your Parish needing prayers.**

## BAPTISMS



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

**Avery Rose Daniel**, daughter of Jace & Gina, baptized at St. Francis Xavier

**Dakota Rose Margl**, daughter of Devyn & Isabella, baptized at Sacred Heart.

## REST IN PEACE

Please remember in your prayers the family of Vi Bidinger from Sartell, who passed away on October 14th.

Please keep in your prayers the family of Gary Chaika from Sacred Heart who passed away on October 17. Eternal Rest grant unto them.

## BANNS OF MARRIAGE

I Branton Stowell & Greta Egerman (SFX)



### Share the Spirit

For many local families, it's difficult to find joy in the holiday season while struggling to provide a wonderful holiday experience. Our community neighbors have been hit particularly hard this year and with your support, you can help ease this worry for families in need by participating in Catholic Charities Share the Spirit program. Share the Spirit matches families experiencing hardship during the holiday season with individuals and organizations who wish to help. All sponsored families are nominated by area social workers or education professionals. When you sponsor a family, you receive a list of three wants and three needs for each household member. Families of all sizes are available for Share the Spirit sponsorship. We ask that donors spend about \$70 per family member, which includes \$60 for gifts and \$10 for a grocery gift card."

To sponsor a Share the Spirit family, visit [ccstcloud.org/share-the-spirit](http://ccstcloud.org/share-the-spirit) and complete and submit the online donor form. Gift-wrapped items are to be delivered to the former Save-A-Lot at 3316 W Division St, St. Cloud, on Thursday, December 10, between the hours of 8am and 5pm. You will receive information about your family via email on or around November 16, 2020. Or look for the Share the spirit Tree at St. Francis Xavier beginning November 21st and take one or more tags. Return gifts to SFX to be delivered December 10th.

## ANNUNCIATION PARISH

**Contact:** Cindy Gans 320-252-1729  
annunciation@cloudnet.com  
Faith Formation: Shirley Scapanski  
320-259-4941 • thekids@cloudnet.com

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Income for	Sunday, October 18th
Adult Sunday .....	\$3,076.97
Visitor .....	\$7.00
Youth .....	\$25.00
Votive Candles.....	\$0.75
World Mission .....	\$215.00
Building Fund .....	\$10.00
Reimb. from Benton Co Bond for Concrete...	\$500.00
Misc. donations.....	\$198.00
Total Income .....	\$4,062.72
*Weekly Income needed to meet yearly budget \$3,037.00	

## SUNDAY 8:30 AM MASS

**Lectors:** Maggie Stamm & David Zimmer  
**Eucharist:** Amy Krajsa  
**Ushers:** Peter Ackerman, Jenny Zwilling, Chuck Wocken and Randy Miller



**Happy Birthday:** Jeff Montag,  
Morgan Molitor, Daniel Piotrowski, Richard Erkens Jr., Cole Lentner.

## Other News

**Needed** someone to clean church weekly and the hall monthly (2X a month during rel. ed). **This is a paid position, with flexible hours** and averages between 2-4 hours per week. Please call the parish office if you are interested.

Also: We are in need of a person to do misc. maintenance when needed. This is a non-paid position.

**Congratulations** to our Confirmation Students who received the Holy Spirit through Confirmation on Sun., Oct. 18th, at St. Anthony's.

*May they be strengthened in their Christian faith and renewed in their baptismal commitment.*

Jackson Ackerman	Allyson Carstensen-Boe
Carter Lyon	Gina Popp
Jordan Petron	Trista Thell
David Stamm	Andrew Wollak
Hannah Waytashek	

Also a big Thank you to their Sponsors and their Catechists: Jean Bemboom & Lloyd Lyon.



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## ST. STEPHEN PARISH

**Contact:** Carol Hellmann  
320-251-1520  
ststephenchurchoffice@gmail.com  
Office hours 2-6 pm  
Faith Formation: Danna Gasperlin  
320-251-5066 • ststephenfaith@gmail.com

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

### Income for October 17 & 18, 2020

Contributions .....	\$1,694.28
World Mission .....	\$327.00

### Parish Mission

Well, it's finally here! Come One! Come All! Our parish mission begins Sunday night at 7 PM. Be renewed! Be expectant! Be there!  
Join us Sun-Wed evening at 7 PM as Bill Wegner, from Good News International, leads us on a "Journey with Jesus". Bill will also speak after the 8:30 Mass each morning, Monday-Wednesday. Please see the revised Mass schedule for this week. Diocesan procedures regarding COVID-19 will be followed: Masks are to be worn, hand sanitizer will be available, every other pew will be closed and social distancing between households in the same pew is required.  
Additional seating and live streaming will be available in the hall. For those not comfortable coming in person, sessions will be available via live stream on our Facebook page: St. Stephen Church

## FAITH FORMATION

### Faith Formation Classes

October 28: No Class –Plan on attending our Parish Mission

### Faith Formation Teacher Needed

We are looking for a teacher, or co-teachers, to teach our 8th graders this coming year. Please contact Danna at 320-251-5066.

### Parish Council Seeking Candidates

Three current members will have terms expiring in December. The Council acts as an advisory board and meets every two months. Terms are for three years. If interested in 'getting on board' and becoming a candidate, or if you wish to nominate someone, please call Betty Pogatshnik, at 252-6009 by November 17. All nominees will be contacted. Those in acceptance will have their names entered in the election process.

## SACRED HEART PARISH

Contact: JoAnn Mo  
320-251-8115, ext. 114  
jmo@sacredheartsaukrapids.org  
Faith Formation: Jen Haman  
320-251-8115, ext. 117  
jhaman@sacredheartsaukrapids.org

**ALL Masses at Sacred Heart are livestreamed.  
Go to [www.sacredheartsaukrapids.org](http://www.sacredheartsaukrapids.org) and click on  
LIVESTREAM**

### Office Hours:

Monday – Closed

Tuesday – 12-4pm; Thursday 8am-4pm

Wednesday and Friday – 8:30am-4pm

Friday, October 30 is Staff Day; the Parish Office will be closed until 2pm.

## ALL SOULS MASS

We will remember those of our parish community who have died over the past year in an All Souls Remembrance Mass at 6:30pm, Monday, November 2. Please join us as we remember family and friends “who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.” If you have any questions about this liturgy, contact Jill in the office at 320-251-8115 x122.



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

Youth group for 9-12th and 6-8th grade will meet on separate nights through the Fall  
**9-12th Grade** - 7:30-9:00pm - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays;  
Oct 28, Nov 4, Nov 18, Dec 2, Dec 16  
**6-8th Grade** - 6:30-8:00pm - 2nd Wednesdays;  
Nov 11, Dec 9  
Hope to see you there! Contact Philip for more info at 320-281-9518.

## BAPTISM PREP

Parents expecting the birth of a child, please call and register for a baptismal prep session; the earlier the better! The next session will be held on Monday, November 9 at 6:30 pm in Room D. To register, please contact the Parish Office at 320-251-8115.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 25; 7pm—Living Rosary  
October 27; 6:30pm—Finance Council Meeting  
October 28; 9am—Morning Bible Study  
October 28; 7:30pm—Wednesday Night Live (9-12 gr.)  
October 30; Staff Day; Office closed until 2pm  
October 31; 6-7:30pm—Trunk & Treat  
November 1; 6:30pm—Thomas Aquinas Study Group

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## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

### Income for week ending October 18, 2020

Adult Collection.....	\$13,204.51
Children's Offering.....	\$5.80
Friends in Need.....	\$30.00
World Mission Sunday.....	\$330.00
Mission Co-op (Crosiers).....	\$526.00

Weekly adult collection needed to meet yearly budget \$16,346

## LIVING ROSARY

Come together to pray a socially distanced **Living Rosary for the end of COVID-19** on Sunday, October 25 at 7pm at Sacred Heart Church. Please visit [www.oneinchristacc.org](http://www.oneinchristacc.org) for more information or to sign up to lead one of the prayers.



## TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk or Treat is on for this October 31st with a few changes! Come to the Sacred Heart Parking lot from **6-7:30pm** on the 31st with your costume (including your mask!) and visit our decorated trunks! Hot cider and cocoa will be available as well. If you would like to decorate your trunk, contact Philip - 320-281-9518.



## COAT DRIVE

The KC Council 5548 is again sponsoring a “Coat Drive” for the community. There is a box available in the Gathering Space for your donations. Also needed are boots, gloves, caps and scarves. Please have the coats clean and in good repair.



Also, if anyone is in need of a coat or other winter attire, please contact 320-492-7993 or 320-252-0126.

## FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

So, what's new with Faith Formation at Sacred Heart? Our students in first thru fifth grades will do their learning in a distance/at home format with our online version of St. Mary's Press *Discover* curriculum. Middle School and High School will meet in person (families who request will be able to join class via Zoom) the first Wednesday of the month beginning on November 4. Our Faith Formation informational meeting was held on Wednesday, October 21 and can be viewed on [youtube.com/sacredheartsaukrapids](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sacredheartsaukrapids).

## PRAYER REQUESTS

If you know of anyone who needs our prayers and wants to be put on the following prayer list, please contact 320-251-8115. Sandi Hinkemeyer, Ed Maier, Dave Massman, Linda Midas, Michael Reinert, Pam Smoley, Ione and Jerry Torborg, Norma Vouk and Grace Wolter.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Collection Budget .....	\$19,230.77
Collected 10/18/2020.....	\$18,211.00
<b>Excess (Deficit) .....</b>	<b>\$(1,019.77)</b>
YTD Collection Budget .....	\$307,692.31
YTD Collected .....	\$291,834.56
<b>Excess (Deficit) .....</b>	<b>\$(15,857.75)</b>

PARISH STAFF

<b>Business Manager</b>	<b>Adam Vonderahe</b> 320-252-1363, Ext. 1105 avonderahe@stfrancissartell.org
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	<b>Becky Dingmann</b> 320-2521363, Ext. 1100 bdingmann @stfrancissartell.org
<b>Office Assistant</b>	<b>Jane Rennie</b> 320-252-1363, Ext. 1106 jrennie@stfrancissartell.org

FAITH FORMATION & PARISH MINISTRIES

<b>Faith Formation Gr. 1-5</b>	<b>Shelby Vaske</b> 320-252-8761, Ext. 1420 svaske@stfrancissartell.org
<b>Faith Formation Gr. 6-12,</b>	<b>Confirmation &amp; Youth Ministry</b>
	<b>Melissa Fox</b> 320-252-8761, Ext. 1411 youthmin@stfrancissartell.org
<b>FF Secretary</b>	<b>Jane Rennie</b> 320-252-8761, Ext. 1405 sfxreled@stfrancissartell.org
<b>FF Board Chair</b>	<b>Karen Atkinson</b> 320-251-6077
<b>Liturgy Director</b>	<b>Mark Levandowski</b> 320-251-1363, Ext 1110 mlevandowski@stfrancissartell.org
<b>Choral Director</b>	<b>Beth Plumski</b> 320-493-9551 bplumski08@gmail.com
<b>Social Justice Concerns Committee</b>	stfrancisjcc@gmail.com
<b>Prayer Line Requests</b>	Dorothy Frank 320-333-7427
<b>Liturgy of Word for Children</b>	Julie Jacobs 320-291-2901
<b>Parish Nurses</b>	Karen Reinholz 320-260-6158 Bev Wiehoff 320-492-0135 Julie Kouba 701-721-5083
<b>Parish Trustee</b>	Jeff Eikmeier 320-250-0703
<b>Parish Trustee</b>	Kathryn Kelly 320-333-6002

SFX SCHOOL

<b>Pastoral Council Chair</b>	<b>Bob Detloff</b> 320-252-8185
<b>Principal</b>	<b>Bonnie Van Heel</b> 320-252-8761, Ext. 1302 bvanheel@sfx61.org
<b>School Secretary</b>	<b>Deb Bearson</b> 320-252-8761 dbearson@sfx61.org

St. Francis Xavier Cemetery

The water supply has been turned off in the cemetery. As we prepare for winter, we ask that you please clear items off of gravesites and remove pots from plant stands. All items must be removed from the cemetery by **November 1st** so that nothing ends up getting buried under the snow. Winter burials require snow blowing and hidden objects can damage equipment and be dangerous to workers. Any items left after November 1st will be removed by cemetery personnel and may be discarded. **Please note, it is suggested but not required that plant stands be removed.** Thank you.

ADORATION

Oct 26 from 4-7pm

Nov 9th this date only from 3-6pm  
(the church is needed after 6pm)

Nov. 23 from 4-7pm.



YOUTH MINISTRY

**PUMPKINS NEEDED:** We will hold our first Aftershock Mission Ministry night on Wednesday, October 28 for grades 6-12 (watch emails for more details) We will carve pumpkins and are in need of pumpkins! Pumpkins of all sizes are welcome, as long as we can carve it. If you have some extras from your garden we would gladly use them. Pumpkins may be dropped off on the bench outside of the main office by October 27th. Thank you in advance.

**PRAYER PARTNERS:** We still have several Prayer Partner Packets left in the gathering area. It is our goal to have every young person prayed for by name each day. If you would be willing to take a packet and pray for 3 of our young people, please let Melissa Fox know (320-761-2217 or [youthmin@stfrancissartell.org](mailto:youthmin@stfrancissartell.org)) and I will mail one to you.

Pumpkins Take 2:

Pumpkins will be available after each Mass this weekend on Oct. 24-25 for free-will donations. All proceeds are used to fund Pro-Life billboards in the St. Cloud area.

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





WOW! What a rollercoaster we have all been on! I don't think anyone thought - back on March 13th when we moved our fish fry to a drive thru-that this is where we would be when back to school time came this fall.

This year has been, and will continue to be, one like no other. That seems to be the theme for 2020. But, does it have to be? What if we could change the current theme? What if we shifted our mindset and found positive things to love about 2020 instead of the anxiety and stress? How long would our list be? Would it include more time with family, perhaps, or learning a new hobby? Reconnecting with an old friend or being able to enjoy the quieter times around the dinner table? Each year, we choose a theme that becomes our school's motto, of sorts. From the beatitudes, to the fruits of the spirit, these themes help us to live our faith each and every day. This year, our theme centers around **What Would Jesus Do?** and the beautiful response **He Would Love First!** Again, it's what we need more of each and every day. It reminds me of a favorite Beatles song, "All We Need is Love".

There is a LOT to love about SKD! We are starting our seventh week of school. While many things have changed, our cleaning procedures, wearing masks, social distancing; the things that our families love the most have remained: a dedicated staff that is second to none, high academic excellence, an emphasis on the whole child, and creating our SKD community, a home away from home. A family filled with love. We love our staff! They are the heart and soul of our school. This amazing group of people has never worked harder or with more love than this year. Every day, it seems, a new challenge arises and the staff at SKD finds creative solutions each and every time. They are also essential workers and are making a huge difference in our world. We love having new members join our team, bringing new and creative ideas. Theresa Slivnik is one of our kindergarten teachers this fall. Theresa subbed for us last winter and spring and graduated from the College of St. Benedict in December. Emily Schimerowski joined our fifth grade team. Emily graduated from St. Cloud State University this spring. Joining our sixth grade team is Erin Hacker. Erin is also a spring graduate of the College of St. Benedict. Katie Randolph has joined our team to help in our preschool rooms and our lunch program. Katie has subbed and volunteered at SKD. Holly Cecko has moved from the office and Sunset program to teaching phy-ed. We love having our classroom and halls filled with children's voices, laughter and energy. We are excited to be in-person learning with students five days per week. While we are prepared and offering distance learning options, nothing compares to face-to-face learning. We love the continued support from the members of our parishes and our families. Without your prayers and support, SKD would look very different. Please know that we hold each and every one of you up in daily prayer.

As we continue through these fall days and into winter, we continue to share peace, hope and love!

*"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love".*

1 Corinthians 13: 7, 13

**Erin Hatlestad**, Principal, St. Katharine Drexel

**Love God, Love Neighbor**



Sounds easy right? And simple. Maybe too simple to be the Greatest Commandment given by God. The people of the time were expecting Jesus to answer about one of the Ten Commandments, but again, Jesus teaches anew! So, what about the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses? Are they no longer important?

They are not only important but a blueprint for life as they provide humanity with the ultimate lesson about our relationship with God (the first three) and with others (the last seven). These commandments have guided God's people for millennia and they continue to guide us today. Although we may not be able to recite them verbatim, most people have a good sense of what they are and what is expected in applying them to our lives.

But Jesus, in a sense, trumps those commandments naming the greatest of all commandments:

*Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment, the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments. Matthew 22.40*

What did he mean, the whole law and the prophets depend on these? Jesus was speaking to the Jewish leaders of the day who were questioning him, trying in a sense, to "trip him up". The Jews lived by the Law written in the Torah and they knew the Prophets well. In fact, their religious beliefs were grounded by the Law and the Prophets. Loving God with all your being was part of the prayer that the Jews recited multiple times each day. Jesus was reminding them that love is the most important commandment of all!

And remember St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians?

*If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. 1 Corinthians 13.1-3*

The Word of God teaches that love is essential to a life with Christ. We are nothing, our actions are nothing, our words just noise if we do not love God with our whole being and our neighbor as ourselves. This is anything but simple, rather, it is extremely challenging and something that we must pay attention to every moment of our lives. We, as Christians, must continually ask ourselves; how am I loving God and others this day? It must become our mantra, reminding us that without love, we accomplish nothing.

*Be with us Lord as we live in love with you and all your people. Amen.*

Have a wonderful week,  
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