

December 27, 2020

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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

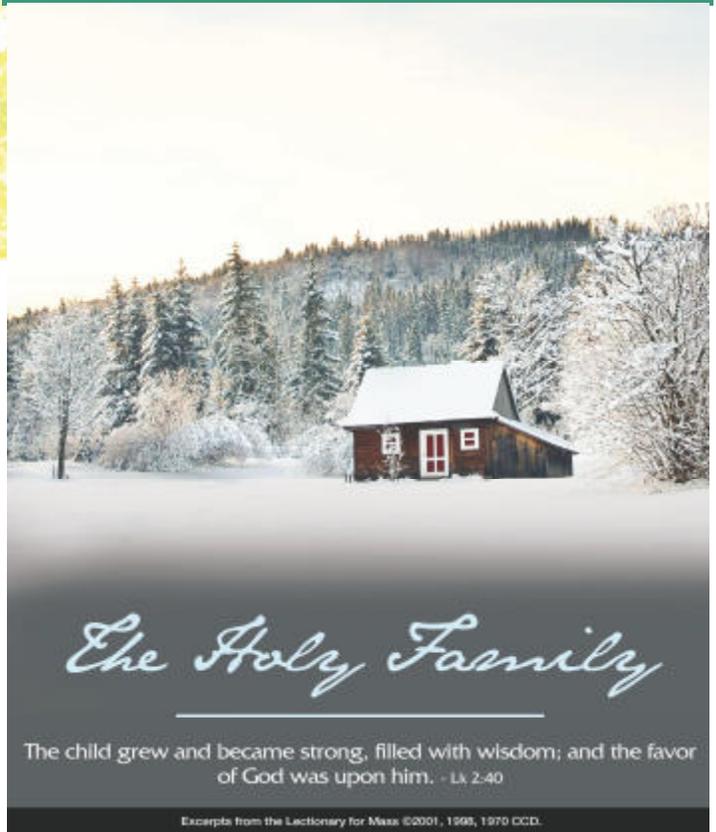
2875 10th Avenue NE • Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
320-251-8115 • sacredheartsaukrapids.org

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

Monday <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	Dec 28	8:00 am 8:30 am	St. Francis Xavier Annunciation	Word & Communion † Harry & Gidget Skaja
Tuesday <i>St. Thomas</i>	Dec 29	8 am 5:30 pm 5:30 pm	St. Francis Xavier St. Stephen *Sacred Heart	NO MASS † Stephen Slivnik † Carol Kittok
Wednesday <i>Weekday</i>	Dec 30	8 am 8 am	*Sacred Heart St. Francis Xavier	† Norbert & Nancy Motzko † Mark Hannig
Thursday <i>Weekday</i>	Dec 31	5 pm 5 pm 5:20 pm	*Sacred Heart St. Stephen St. Francis Xavier	† Christmas Flower Memorials † John Vouk † Rita Traut
Friday <i>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</i>	Jan 1	8:21 am 8:30 am 9 am 10 am	St. Francis Xavier Annunciation *Sacred Heart St. Stephen	† Vern Rech † Joe Knott <i>People of the Parishes</i> <i>People of the Parishes</i>
Saturday <i>St. Basil the Great</i>	Jan 2	5 pm 5 pm 7 pm	*Sacred Heart St. Francis Xavier St. Stephen	† Lisa Novak <i>People of the Parishes</i> † Roger Trobec
Sunday <i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>	Jan 3	8:30 am 9 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	Annunciation *Sacred Heart *St. Francis Xavier St. Stephen	<i>People of the Parishes</i> † Roger Weber † Leona Gruber † Stephen Hlebain Family

Reconciliation	
Saturdays	3:30 pm Sacred Heart 4 pm St. Francis Xavier 8 pm St. Stephen
Sunday	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 11am 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.

*Livestreamed Masses

Please Note Mass Times on New Year's Eve & New Year's Day

MINISTRY & LIFE PERSPECTIVES



Merry Christmas Everyone!

In addition to celebrating one of the greatest mysteries of our faith on December 25th, we have celebrated the Feast of St. Stephen on the 26th and now today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

I went to the Holy Land during seminary. To be completely honest I am not the biggest of travelers. I enjoy staying in MN, spending time with my own family, and doing what MN offers: hunting and fishing. Looking back of course I am very grateful for the gift of being able to experience the places Jesus walked, especially Jerusalem. As I was preparing for the trip I told people close to me that I would be going to many places that correspond to events in the New Testament, and I asked where they would like me to pray for them. For whatever reason, of all the places he could choose (you know, like anything with Jesus), my younger brother Joe asked if I would pray for him where St. Stephen was stoned to death. I don't really fully know why a 12 year old would ask this, but I do know that there is a place just outside Jerusalem where St. Stephen gave his life because he would rather die than compromise his faith in Jesus Christ. There is something that drew my younger brother to this fact and there is something that also causes me to pause: To give my whole life for someone is a faith that I want!

One of the most challenging messages I have received was from a sermon by St. John Henry Cardinal Newman called "Ventures of Faith." In this sermon (which by the way is longer than my homilies, Not sure about Deacon Joe's -insert winky face-) he asks: Have you ever really risked anything based completely on the truth of Christ's life? Immediately I would like to say 'yes,' as of course many of us would like to. I am a priest, you are faithful christians, etc. Perhaps a more immediate portrayal of this question is: *Today what have you risked or ventured because of the fact of Jesus Christ?*

As we consider the event of Jesus Christ; how Mary and Joseph responded to him, and how St. Stephen responded to him, we ask for a faith that has risked something- everything. We ask for a faith that enables us to give ourselves to him today!

Fr. Doug

DAILY READINGS

- Monday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
- Friday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28
- Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



LEADERSHIP



ACC Pastoral Leadership

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



Stewardship . . . an invitation to give back to God.

What was it like inside your head the last time you were invited to volunteer?

Are you asking me? (*Surely not me.*)

When? (*Surely not now.*)

Where did this idea come from? (*I don't really feel like it.*)

I don't think I have the talent for that. (*Ask somebody else.*)

OK (grudgingly). I'll try. (*Maybe I won't show up.*)

What would you have today if you only had what you thanked God for yesterday?



Being fully present to those in our lives with whom we care for, love, and interact can be a challenge, particularly in these stressful times. Compassionate care for self and others requires that we operate from a place of balance so that we can be fully present to those with whom we interact.

This new, six-week workshop focuses on two parts of the mindful presence process: personal stress management and compassionate care. Each week we will explore an aspect of the Mindful Presence Model with hands-on practices designed to manage stress and, most importantly, develop the skills to be deeply compassionate to others in our lives.

This workshop is offered via Zoom jointly by:
Whitney Senior Center and Central MN Council on Aging.

Mondays; January 4 - February 8, 2021

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

To register: <https://form.jotform.com/whitneysc/MindfulPresence>

More information contact:

Paula.woischke@ci.stcloud.mn.us
320-255-7265

This workshop is facilitated by Dr. Steve Hoover, CMCOA Healthy Aging Coordinator. Dr. Hoover has taught mindfulness for over 10 years as well as, stress management while a professor at St. Cloud State University. The *Mindful Presence: Compassionate Care for Self and Others* model has been designed by Dr. Hoover to incorporate both the stress management components of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction and the latest research on compassion.



REST IN PEACE

Please keep in your prayers the families of Scott Monson who passed away December 11 from St. Stephen, David Kimmes who passed away December 12 from Sacred Heart, Joshua Fiedler who passed away December 9, Jennifer Hanson who passed away December 10, Carol Partch who passed away December 13, and Joyce Nierengarten who passed away on December 12 all from St. Francis Xavier. Eternal Rest grant unto them.

BAPTISMS

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

Genevieve Rose Roubal, daughter of Robert & Eugenia, baptized at St. Francis Xavier.



Stella Jean Schmitz, daughter of Christopher & Casey, baptized at Sacred Heart.

NEW YEAR'S EVE LIVING ROSARY

Sacred Heart Parish will host a second Living Rosary event on New Year's Eve at 6:00pm. All are welcome to join in leading the prayers. Find the sign up on the One In Christ Area Catholic Community website: www.oneinchristacc.org.



Christ is born! Our mission is to be **His** heart of mercy, voice of hope, and hands of justice. The ministries supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal are at the heart of this mission. They provide assistance, education and pastoral care to people throughout our diocese. Please consider a gift at www.stclaudio.org/appeal.

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, December 13th, 2020

Adult Sunday	\$2,665.11
Visitor	\$10.00
Youth	\$17.00
Funeral Lunch	\$10.00
Building Fund.....	\$20.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$30.00
Religious Retirement.....	\$346.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$150.00
Votive Candles.....	\$2.00
Total Income	\$3,250.11

SUNDAY 8:30 AM MASS

Sunday, Jan. 3rd, Mass

Lectors: Dave Zimmer and Maggie Stamm

Eucharist: Jean Bemboom

Ushers: Tom, Barb and Jeremy Brand and David Lentner



Happy Birthday: Thomas Brand,
Ryan Symanietz, Jake Peck, Duane Thene,
David Herbst, Breanna Skroch.

Other News

Prayer of Consecration to the Holy Family

O Lord Jesus, you lived in the home of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth.

There you grew in age, wisdom and grace as you prepared to fulfill your mission as our Redeemer.

We entrust our family to you.

O Blessed Mary, you are the Mother of our Savior.

At Nazareth you cared for Jesus and nurtured him in the peace and joy of your home.

We entrust our family to you.

O Saint Joseph, you provided a secure and loving home for Jesus and Mary,

and gave us a model of fatherhood while showing us the dignity of work.

We entrust our family to you.

Holy Family, we consecrate ourselves and our family to you.

May we be completely united in a love that is lasting, faithful and open to the gift of new life.

Help us to grow in virtue, to forgive one another from our hearts,

and to live in peace all our days.

Keep us strong in faith, persevering in prayer, diligent in our work,

and generous toward those in need.

May our home, O Holy Family, truly become a domestic church where we reflect your example in our daily life. Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

ST. STEPHEN PARISH

Contact: Carol Hellmann 320-251-1520
ststephenchurchoffice@gmail.com

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

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Financial Offerings - St. Stephen

Dec 13 = 1,878.00

Parish Council meeting

The next Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, January 19, at 7:30 pm. The Parish Council agenda will be emailed out to you prior to the meeting.

Upcoming Events

150th Variety Show 2021

The 150th Variety Show that was being planned for January 31, 2021, has been postponed. The committee has decided to wait until later in spring 2021 to hold this event.

Singing Slovenians 2021

April 24 at 7 pm Mass and

April 25 at 10:30 am Mass

150th Anniversary Celebration 2021

June 13, 2021

Thank You!

The Giving Tree Committee extends a BIG Thank You to all those who brought gifts for our Advent 'Giving Tree' project. Quite a number of families experienced a joyous Christmas because of your overwhelming generosity. Also, Thank You from the Food Shelf Committee for all the items that were donated to help those in need.

May God bless you all and may the New Year be one of Hope and Promise for everyone.



SACRED HEART PARISH

Contact: Parish Office — 320-251-8115, X114
parish@sacredheartsaukrapids.org

ALL Masses at Sacred Heart are livestreamed.
Go to www.sacredheartsaukrapids.org and click on
LIVESTREAM

We invite you to pray the following prayer together in your home. Even for those distanced or with children and grandchildren elsewhere, this prayer can bring you together spiritually and ask for the help of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in the struggles and joys of families today. As St. John Paul II said, God willed that the salvation of the world should come through the life of a family; may you also experience the nearness of Jesus in your own families.



Prayer of Consecration to the Holy Family

○ Lord Jesus, you lived in the home of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth. There you grew in age, wisdom and grace

as you prepared to fulfill your mission as our Redeemer. We entrust our family to you.

○ Blessed Mary, you are the Mother of our Savior. At Nazareth you cared for Jesus and nurtured him in the peace and joy of your home. We entrust our family to you.

○ Saint Joseph, you provided a secure and loving home for Jesus and Mary, and gave us a model of fatherhood while showing us the dignity of work. We entrust our family to you.

Holy Family, we consecrate ourselves and our family to you.
May we be completely united in a love that is lasting, faithful
and open to the gift of new life.
Help us to grow in virtue, to forgive one another from our hearts,
and to live in peace all our days.
Keep us strong in faith, persevering in prayer, diligent in our work,
and generous toward those in need.

May our home, O Holy Family, truly become a domestic church
where we reflect your example in our daily life. Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Income for week ending December 13, 2020

Adult Collection	\$20,748.51
Children's Offering	\$20.00
Christmas	\$2,840.00
Christmas Flowers	\$50.00
Friends in Need	\$840.00
Improvements	\$243.00
Religious Retirement	\$265.00
Holy Day	\$207.00

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

YEAR END GIVING

We are so grateful for all our generous parishioners who support us with regular giving as well as year-end giving. If you have any questions about making a special year-end donation, feel free to contact Dana in the office. Thank you!

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. Mary Esselman, Pat Jones, Lisa Knettel, Isabella Margl, Linda Midas, Joanne Roles, Jerry Torborg and Norma Vouk.

YOUNG ADULT ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Join a group of young adults as we open up the Sunday Gospel and spend time in fellowship with each other. Sundays at 6:30pm on Zoom. Contact Philip at 320-281-9518 for details on how to join.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Plan to participate in Eucharistic Adoration on **Friday, January 8** by spending time before the Blessed Sacrament in silent prayer from 9am until 11am. At 11am, the rosary will be recited followed by Benediction. Please pray for the needs and people of our parish.



Thank you to all who helped decorate, the liturgical ministers and musicians who helped make our Christmas Masses so festive.

Wishing you a Happy and Blessed New Year!
The Sacred Heart Parish Staff



UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 27; 10am—RCIA
- December 31; 5pm—Holy Day Mass (Livestreamed)
- December 31; 6pm—Living Rosary
- January 1, 2021; 9am—Holy Day Mass (Livestreamed)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



Celebrating the Whole Season of Christmas - Part I

Well, here we are, the weekend after Christmas. Holiday shopping is a thing of the past, our guests have returned to their homes, the gifts have been opened and the house is a little quieter (for most). The next thing on the

list – take down the tree. **HOLD EVERYTHING!** Christmas is not over; it has only just begun!

The liturgical season of Christmas is the second shortest season we celebrate as a Church. The Triduum (Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday) being the shortest. Christmas begins on the eve or vigil of the birth of Christ and officially ends with the Baptism of the Lord on January 10, 2021. This season is filled with important celebrations. With a little more of Christmas vacation for our schools, it is a great time to teach our children and/or grandchildren about these important feasts and solemnities and may be a good review for us all.

Note: There is a hierarchy or order of the importance of the liturgies we celebrate in the Church. These are defined in this way:

A **Solemnity** is of the highest order and celebrates events, beliefs, and personages of greatest importance and universal significance in salvation history.

Feast Days are of lesser significance. **Memorials**, which can be obligatory or optional, are of the least significance as prescribed by the Church.

The Solemnity of Christmas, we know well. We commemorate the birth of Jesus, a child in a manger, who became for all, our Savior. Jesus was sent to earth by his Father, our Creator, to save us all from sin. This baby grew up, became an incredible teacher, and taught the world to love God and one another. Jesus would give his life for us, dying on the Cross and rising to New Life on Easter. Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics and like a Sunday, we can attend Mass on the Eve (Vigil) or on the day.

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus – This is celebrated on the first Sunday following Christmas as we honor the new family into which Jesus was born: Mary, his Mother, Joseph, his earthly Father and of course, Jesus. On this day, Jesus and his parents received a blessing in the Temple by Simeon, who, by the Holy Spirit, recognized this baby as the long-awaited Messiah. Think of the joy that Mary and Joseph experienced as they welcomed their little one. Welcoming a new baby into a family is one of the happiest and most sacred of all times for it celebrates life – a gift from God. Say a prayer to the Holy Family today and one for your family as well.

The Feast of Holy Innocents is celebrated on December 28th and commemorates the slaughter of innocent children by King Herod who was seeking to eliminate the child Jesus. He was concerned that the people were honoring a new king. The children who died are considered by the Church to be among the first martyrs; one who dies for their beliefs. Their blood shed forebears the blood Jesus would shed on the cross to save all people. Say a prayer on this day for all children that they may be kept safe and protected and let us pray for the unborn, that their innocent lives be protected.

To be continued next week . . .

Have a wonderful week!
Deb Rudolph

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Collection Budget	\$19,230.77
Collected 12/13/2020.....	\$19,450.00
Excess (Deficit)	\$219.23

YTD Collection Budget	\$461,538.46
YTD Collected	\$444,593.76
Excess (Deficit)	\$(16,944.70)

During the holiday season, we extend a warm welcome to the visiting families and friends of our members, and to all our guests joining us in person or virtually. No matter where you are worshipping, consider making your seasonal contribution this year online, by text or through the GivePlus mobile app. These eGiving tools are a fast and secure way to support us from the pew or in your living room.

We offer convenient eGiving options that help you make donations on a one-time or recurring basis, including online giving on our website, the free GivePlus mobile app, and Text-to-Give by texting the dollar amount you wish to give (i.e. \$50) to **844-257-8581**. We highly recommend this method of giving for anyone who wishes to support the church. Visit our website at <https://www.stfrancissartell.org/> and click on Donate/Payments button at the top of the page to learn more. Thank you to all who contribute to your Parish community. Your gifts help us to continue to minister to the people of our parish and the greater community.

SFX SCHOOL NEWS

Advent is a special time when we focus with hope, joy, peace and love to celebrate Jesus Christ coming into our lives. But Jesus not only comes into our lives as a baby on Christmas morning; he comes into our lives each and every moment of our day. Here at SFX School, Jesus is with us in the friendly smile of a teacher, the laughter of children playing together, and the helpful hands of our cooks and custodians. This past week our preschool students prepared a Christmas Story play which was recorded for their families. Teachers in grades K-6 daily read from the Advent Storybook, preparing children to be ready to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas. The Christmas break begins for students next week. On behalf of SFX School, I want to wish you a blessed Christmas of joy, peace and good health.

Bonnie Van Heel, Principal

ADORATION



Adoration will be held from 4-7pm on Mon 12/28. Let us take some time to be with Jesus during this beautiful season of Christmas.



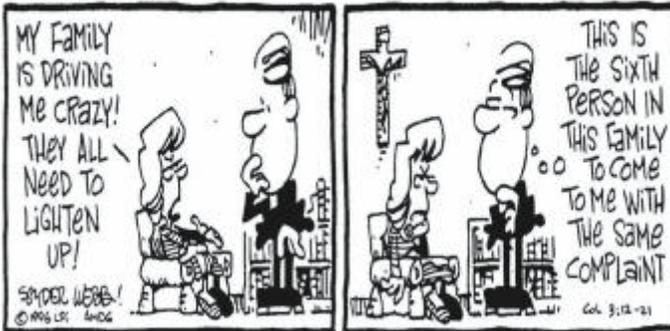
Please remember to continue to pray for all those affected by illness, their caregivers and public officials working to keep us safe. **Please pray** • for Pope Francis, all Bishops, priests, deacons and religious • for legal protection for unborn children • for favorable medical tests • for the leaders of our country and the world • for all pregnant women • for all those lost to COVID • for those mourning the loss of a loved one • for an end to violence • 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.

SFX 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 9th and 10th**. Items left on gravesites after that will be removed and discarded.

The Holy Family



SFX PARISH STAFF

Parish Office Hours Mon-Friday 8:00 am-Noon, 1:00 pm-4:30 pm

Business Manager Adam Vonderahe
320-252-1363, Ext. 1105
avonderahe@stfrancissartell.org

Parish Secretary Becky Dingmann
320-252-1363, Ext. 1100
bdingmann@stfrancissartell.org

Office Assistant Jane Rennie
320-252-1363, Ext. 1106
jrennie@stfrancissartell.org

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who made the Share the Spirit Tree at St. Francis Xavier a very special and rewarding experience for both the givers and the receivers.

It took a lot of coordination and time to make this a smooth event. Packages were delivered December 9th.

Sue Heim
Judy Pohlkamp
Christmas Blessings to All!



*Join us for our next
Socially Distanced
Living Rosary
As we pray for world
peace*

*Thursday December 31, 2020
6:00 P.M.
Sacred Heart Church Sauk
Rapids*

FAITH FORMATION & PARISH MINISTRIES

Faith Formation Gr. 1-5	Shelby Vaske 320-252-8761, Ext. 1420 svaske@stfrancissartell.org
Faith Formation Gr. 6-12,	Confirmation & Youth Ministry Melissa Fox 320-252-8761, Ext. 1411 youthmin@stfrancissartell.org
FF Secretary	Jane Rennie 320-252-8761, Ext. 1405 jrennie@stfrancissartell.org
FF Board Chair	Karen Atkinson 320-251-6077
Liturgy Director	Mark Levandowski 320-252-1363, Ext 1110 mlevandowski@stfrancissartell.org
Choral Director	Beth Plumski 320-493-9551 bplumski08@gmail.com
Social Justice Concerns Committee	stfrancisjcc@gmail.com
Prayer Line Requests	Dorothy Frank 320-333-7427
Liturgy of Word for Children	Julie Jacobs 320-291-2901
Parish Nurses	Karen Reinholz 320-260-6158 Bev Wiehoff 320-492-0135 Julie Kouba 701-721-5083
Parish Trustee	Jeff Eikmeier 320-250-0703
Parish Trustee	Kathryn Kelly 320-333-6002
Pastoral Council Chair	Mark Kuhl 320-266-1393

SFX SCHOOL

Principal	Bonnie Van Heel 320-252-9940, Ext. 1302 bvanheel@sfx61.org
School Secretary	Deb Bearson 320-252-9940 dbearson@sfx61.org

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Emily Steil, D.D.S.
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