

December 3, 2023
1st Sunday of Advent



First 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 • sfrancissartell.org

St. Stephen

103 Central Avenue S • St. Stephen, MN 56375
320-251-1520 • churchofststephen.org

MASS TIMES

Monday, December 4	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	- Word & Communion
	8:30 am	Annunciation	† Members of the Pekarek & Skaja Families
Tuesday, December 5	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Edgar Wacha
	5:30 pm	St. Stephen	† BJ Legatt
	5:30 pm	Sacred Heart	- Living & Deceased Members of St. Monica's Society
Wednesday, December 6	8:00 am	Sacred Heart	† John Brunn & Lock Family
	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Marcella Piasecki
Thursday, December 7	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Luella Menke
	8:30 am	Annunciation	† David Petro
	6:30 pm	St. Stephen	† Roger Trobec
Friday, December 8	8:00 am	Sacred Heart	† Jan Handeland
	8:30 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Members of the Parish
	6:30 am	Sacred Heart	† Judy Whalen
	6:30 pm	St. Francis Xavier	† Wilfred "Bill" Traut
Saturday, December 9 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	4:00 pm	St. Francis Xavier	† Julie Klein
	5:00 pm	Sacred Heart	† For the Members of the Parish
	7:00 pm	St. Stephen	† Alice Hlebain
Sunday, December 10 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>*Livestreamed Mass</i>	8:15 am	*Annunciation	† Geno Brown
	9:00 am	*Sacred Heart	† Linda Neu
	9:30 am	*St. Francis Xavier	† Jackie Peckskamp-Keske
	10:00 am	St. Stephen	† Scott Monson

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 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

MINISTRY & LIFE PERSPECTIVES



From Safari...

Happy New Year!

Today marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. Think of the liturgical year as more of corkscrew than a circle.

With each new liturgical year, we are diving deeper into the mystery of faith. Mark the Evangelist will be our primary guide this Advent (my 69th Advent), and since the Gospel of Mark is short, the Bread of Life passage from chapter 6 of the Gospel of John are included. The Fourth Sunday of Advent is December 24th.

Advent can easily get lost in the hustle and bustle of Christmas. Through December 16th, Advent begins by focusing of the "will come". During these days we reflect on the glorious final coming of the Lord. More than a countdown to Christmas, this is a count up to the second coming, as Jesus warns us today, "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.

The final days of Advent, beginning with December 17th, invite us to reflect on the O Antiphons (O come, O come Emmanuel captures the O Antiphons in music) The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well.

Today's first reading and Gospel remind us that Advent is a time for repentance and new beginnings. Advent does not have the deep, penitential character of Lent, but it does call us to prepare for the second coming of the Lord. This prompts us to ask how ready we are if he comes today.

Marian Love notes, "Each year when Advent arrives we become more mindful of "the already but not yet" of Jesus' incarnation over the fullness of time. We remember and celebrate Christ's coming in history — God becoming incarnate through Mary as she says "Yes" to being the Mother of God's Son. We ponder the impact of God's Word becoming flesh, and how Jesus conveyed to us what the love of God can do...

(Ministry & Life Perspectives Continued)

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During this first week of Advent ask yourself, "How was the Incarnation evident in me this past year?"

Blessings on your Advent journey! Fr. Ron



LEADERSHIP

ONE
IN
CHRIST
Area Catholic Community



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

STEWARDSHIP AND EVANGELIZATION

LIVING A LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP



"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." - Mark 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.



In this first week of Advent, please remember the diocesan ministries that, through your generosity, continue to build the Kingdom of God here in Central Minnesota. Please keep them thriving by making a gift at www.stcdio.org/annualappeal.

DIOCESAN FESTIVAL OF FAMILIES

A NEW Diocesan event designed specifically for families!! On February 11, at Sacred Heart Sauk Rapids, the day will include a free carnival, parent sessions, a children's session, a teen session, Mass with Bishop Neary, and much more!! Register at: <https://stcdio.org/events/festival-of-families/>

BREAKFAST & BAKE SALE

All are welcome to Mayhew Lake for Breakfast and a Christmas bake sale after Mass on Sunday, December 3, put on by our Religious Education students. Breakfast served from 9:15am—10:00am

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."

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Part of the goal of the Eucharistic Revival is to rekindle a living Relationship with the Lord, specifically, calling people into a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. In light of that, the local Revival team designed an Advent prayer journal for 2023.



—To print out your copy of this Advent Prayer Journal, visit the Diocese of St. Cloud Website at <https://stcdio.org/eucharistic-revival/>

BAPTISM

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

Brynlee Joan Toren, daughter of Michael & Tiffany, who was baptized at Sacred Heart.



FUNERAL BLESSINGS

Remember in your prayers the family of Andrew Hovanes, who passed away on November 19th from Sacred Heart.

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



CEMETERY WREATHS

Attention those with loved ones at Assumption, Calvary, and Sacred Heart Cemeteries:

CHRISTMAS: Only Wreaths will be allowed from November 15th through to January 3rd.



Wreath stands are available (while supplies last). You can pick up a stand at the outside of the Assumption Cemetery office building or you can supply your own. Be sure to secure the wreath to the stand. All wreaths and stands not removed by January 3rd will be removed and disposed of by the Cemetery grounds crew. If you have any questions please call the Cemetery office at, 320-251-5511.

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.

BIRTHLINE PRESENTATION

YOU'RE INVITED!!! Come to hear the Executive Director of Elevate (Formerly Birthline) speak about the current challenges the agency faces and how you can help. The presentation will precede the regular 5:30 pm Mass, beginning at 4:30 pm, Tuesday, December 5th in the Parish Hall at Sacred Heart Church in Sauk Rapids. All Are Welcome!!! This presentation is sponsored by the St. Monica's Society of Sacred Heart.

BOX OF JOY THANK YOU

A big thank you to all who packed one or more Box of Joy that was awarded to Cross Catholic Outreach to distribute to children in other countries who may have never received a gift at Christmas. Fifty-one boxes were from Sacred Heart and fifteen from Annunciation.



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.

Young Adult Bible Study

Join us on Thursday, December 7th from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at Sacred Heart as we study the Acts of the Apostles. All are welcome to join the conversation!

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.



EAGLE SCOUT CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Alton Howard, Sacred Heart, for earning his Eagle Scout with Sacred Heart Troop 17. Alton's Eagle Scout project helped remove some of the invasive buckthorn plants at Bend in the River Regional Park.

ST. CLOUD AREA ADVENT RECONCILIATION

St. Michael; Tuesday, December 5 @ 6pm

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



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 Nov 18-19 and 26-27

Adult	\$ 3,981.00
Adult Online Giving Nov 11-24	1,260.00
Plate	600.00
Thanksgiving	1,250.00
Thanksgiving Plate	147.00
Children	1.00
Catholic Charities	30.00
Total	\$ 7,269.00
Weekly <u>Adult</u> income needed to meet budget:	\$3,150

Faith Formation/Youth Group News

Classes Dec 6: Grades 5-9 and Confirmation., 6:30-8pm. This weeks meal in the Hall will be Hamburger gravy and mashed potatoes, carrots, fruit, beverage and dessert.

The Youth Group will for grades 6-12 will meet from 8:00-9:30pm. 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.

St. Nicholas will be visiting St. Stephen Church after the 10am Mass on Sunday, December 3.

Slovenian Sausage Cook-off will be at Trobec's Bar on December 9 beginning at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$15. Come and vote for the best one.

Giving Tree items need to be turned in by next Sunday, December 10.

Winter Extravaganza will be held in the Parish Hall December 10 after the 10:00am Mass. 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.

Adoration will be on December 14 due to the Feast of Immaculate Conception Mass on December 7.

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).

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.

Holdingford Helping Hands Outreach

Senior Dining - Wednesday's at **The Rusty Nail** at noon followed by 500. Cost-\$6.00 per meal.

Monthly Lunch & Learn - 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 November 26, 2023

Adult Collection.....	\$10,063.20
Automatic Giving.....	\$5,434.18
Thanksgiving.....	\$309.00
Friends In Need.....	\$542.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$597.00

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

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Funeral Meal Volunteer Meeting There will be a meeting of anyone interested in helping prepare and serve the meals after funerals on Monday, December 4th at 10 am in Room D.

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!

Pew Cleaning Thank you to those who came to clean pews on Tuesday! We appreciate your help!

Thank You.

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. On Friday, December 8th, we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception here at Sacred Heart at 8:00 am and 6:30 pm. We also 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!

Teen Choir sings again in December Calling all teens! You are invited to sing for Mass on Sunday, December 17th at 9:00 am. We will rehearse for this Mass on Sunday, December 3rd from 6:00-7:00 pm. If you are interested in singing, or even playing an instrument with this group, contact Jill Kiffmeyer at jkiffmeyer@sacredheartsaukrapids.org or 320-251-8115 x122, or just come to rehearsal on the 3rd. Hope to see you there!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Grounded Youth Ministry

December Theme: Grounded in JOY

Upcoming Dates

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

Wednesday, December 6th (grades 6-8): 7:30 - 9:00 pm

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

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.

Castaway 2024 Registration for Castaway 2024 is out and available online or by the bulletin board! If you're in grades 9 - 12, make sure you don't miss out on this awesome retreat, March 22 - 24. Cost is \$90. 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 Frieler.

Foundation Adult Night is Wednesday, December 6th from 6:30-7:30 pm with guest speaker Christine Pinto, Associate Director of Faith Formation for the Diocese of St Cloud. Christine will facilitate a conversation with parents and grandparents on practical ways to keep Christ in the busy and hectic holiday season. Please join and invite others to join.

GIVING TREE

If you took a tag from the Giving Tree, please return the gift-unwrapped-(no gift bags please)-with the tags attached by Monday, December 4th. Thank you!!



ST. MONICA'S POT LUCK



Annual St Monica's potluck on December 5th at 4pm. Please bring a dish to share and a pack of diapers to be donated to Elevate.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 4; 5pm—Men's Group
- December 5; 4pm—Healing from Loss Room D
4pm—St. Monica's Society
- December 6; 9am—Wednesday Morning Bible Study
1pm—Prayer Blanket Group
7:30pm—Grounded (6-8)
- December 7; 6:30pm—Social Concerns
7pm—Young Adult Bible Study
- December 8; OFFICE CLOSED—Immaculate Conception
8am—Immaculate Conception Mass
6:30pm—Immaculate Conception Mass
- December 9; 3:30pm—Reconciliation
- December 10; 5:30pm—Grounded (9-12)

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.

ANNUNCIATION PARISH

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

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Income for Sunday, November 19th, 2023

Adult Sunday	\$3,300.00	Christmas Flowers	\$80.00
Visitor	\$157.00	Christmas	\$300.00
Votive Candles	\$7.20	Thanksgiving	\$200.00
All Saints	\$70.00	Catholic Charities	\$20.00
Youth	\$7.00	Building Fund	\$25.00
Total Income	\$4,166.20		

Income for Sunday, November 26th, 2023

Adult Sunday	\$3,064.00
Visitor	\$138.00
Youth	\$13.50
Votive Candles	\$1.00
Building Fund	\$50.00
Thanksgiving	\$635.00
Total Income	\$3,801.50
Weekly Income needed to meet yearly budget	\$3,037.00

Mass Schedule

Tues. December 7th, 2023 Immaculate Conception 6:30pm

Lector: Shirley Scapanski and Judy Kiffmeyer
Eucharist: Rita Knott
Servers: Noah & Kelsey Lentner
Greeters: Chuck Wocken, Mason & Carson Zwilling
Ushers: Jenny Zwilling, Peter Ackerman, Chuck Wocken, Lora Knafla

Sun. December 10th, 2023

Lector: Loren Popp and JoAnn Marshall
Eucharist: Brenda Carstensen-Boe(H), John Koenig(C), Karla Koenig(C)
Servers: Reid Kiffmeyer and Mariah Simmons
Greeters: Dustin, Zoey and Lucas Heck
Ushers: John & Barb Bemboom, and Dustin & Teresa Heck

Happy Birthday: Briana Ackerman, Steven Czeck, Sheldon Gravelle, Daryl Kuehn, Kelsey Miller, Madeline Montag, Carter Thell, Ava Krajsa, Jerome Bernard, Jerome Schubert, Eugene Pekarek.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Upcoming:

Sun. Dec. 3rd, Student Breakfast and Bake Sale after Mass
Wed. Dec. 6th, Rel. Ed Class @ 6:30pm with St. Nick/Reconciliation
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.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS Please call Lora @ 393-2701 by Dec. 8 if you are able to do your ministry for either Dec. 24 at 7pm or Dec. 25 at 8:15am.

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.

CHOIR REHEARSAL for Advent are Monday evenings at 6:30pm in the choir loft. Upcoming rehearsals are Dec. 4th & 18th. **All are Welcome!**

HOLY HOUR TODAY at 3pm at Mayhew Lake. ALL ARE WELCOME.

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	\$23,347.34
Excess (Deficit)	\$2674.26
YTD Collection Budget	\$459,283.35
YTD Collected	\$461,799.18
Excess (Deficit)	\$2515.83

CHURCH CLEANING

Looking for helpers...Thursday, December 21st 2:00pm is set for the cleaning day and time. 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 here at St. Francis Xavier. In order to be a server, you must participate in a training session. The next session will be 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. Please 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.

GIVING TREE

The giving tree is back again! Take a tag and buy a gift for those in need. Tape the tag to the bag and return by December 10. Thank you for your continued generosity.

COFFEE & COMMUNITY

Please join us for 1st Wednesday Coffee & Rolls on Wednesday, December 6, after the 8 am Mass.



GATHERING IN THE ARTS ART SHOW

Sunday, February 11, 2024, 1-4pm
Gathering Place

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

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.stfrancisartell.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.

2ND ANNUAL ADVENT FOR ALMSGIVING



Week Two

PB & J

Drop off in the Gathering Place now thru December 11.

YOUTH MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

Sunday, December 10—Service Sunday in Xavier Hall. Light lunch will be served and we will be working on seatbelt covers for cancer patients at CentraCare. Looking for some adults with sewing machines that will be willing to help out with this project. More details will be shared in Flocknote.

Sunday, December 10—TREMOR from 6-7:30 in the SFX Gathering Place.

Wednesday, December 20 - Aftershock for grades 6-12 from 6:30-8:30pm in the gathering place.

Thursday, December 28 (4pm) - Friday, December 29 (5am) - Lock in for grades 9-12 @ SFX. Registration deadline for this event is Wednesday, December 20. More details to come.

<p>COMMERCIAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SHEET METAL (320) 252 3992 www.sentra-sota.com</p>	<p>FREE AD DESIGN with purchase of this space CALL 800-950-9952</p>	<p>GDS GARAGE DOOR STORE POWERED BY API GROUP CALL US FOR ALL YOUR GARAGE DOOR NEEDS SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION (320) 251-7000</p>	<p>MOTORWORKS Auto Repair COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR We Service All Makes & Models Sauk Rapids 320-253-2262 Sartell 320-259-8539 St. Augusta 320-259-6113 www.motorworksauto.com</p>	
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