

December 17, 2023
3rd Sunday of Advent

Third Sunday of
ADVENT



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ONE
IN
CHRIS
Annunciation
Sacred Heart
St. Francis Xavier
St. Stephen

AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
oneinchristacc.org

Annunciation

9965 Mayhew Lake Road NE • Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
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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 18	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	- Word & Communion
	8:30 am	Annunciation	† Delores Jochum & Marie Bemboom
Tuesday, December 19	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	† LeRoy & Margaret Lochner
	5:30 pm	St. Stephen	† Mary Hlebain
	5:30 pm	Sacred Heart	† Tom Roske
Wednesday, December 20	8:00 am	Sacred Heart	† Gary Thorsten
	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Cheryl Longnecker
Thursday, December 21	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Word & Communion
	8:00 am	St. Stephen	† Donna Peternell
	8:30 am	Annunciation	† Cesarina Manganelli
Friday, December 22	8:00 am	Sacred Heart	† Don Kuefler
	8:30 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Marian Theisen
Saturday, December 23 4th Sunday of Advent	4:00 pm	St. Francis Xavier	† Theresa Larson
	5:00 pm	Sacred Heart	- For the Members of the Parish
	7:00 pm	St. Stephen	† Pat & Mary Kroll
Sunday, December 24 4th Sunday of Advent *Livestreamed Mass Christmas Eve	8:15 am	*Annunciation	† Donna Poganski
	9:00 am	*Sacred Heart	† Delores Robak
	9:30 am	*St. Francis Xavier	† Anthony & Veronica Robotcek
	10:00 am	St. Stephen	† Linda Douvier
	4:00 pm	Sacred Heart	† Sylvester & Bernie Raymond
	4:00 pm	St. Francis Xavier	† Robert Scheidecker
	6:00 pm	St. Stephen	† For Families Dealing with Cancer
	7:00 pm	Annunciation	† Kathy, Al & Betty Janson
	8:00 pm	St. Francis Xavier	† Cindy Segler
	10:00 pm	Sacred Heart	† Rich Kuklock

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

Find the Daily Readings for the week on pg 3.

MINISTRY & LIFE PERSPECTIVES



From Safari,

Today is known as Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, marking the half-way point through the Sundays of Advent. (This year it's closer to two thirds of the way through the season, as Christmas is 8 days away.)

Colorful lights and inflatables dot the evening landscape. These joyful scenes are reminder of God's love, as we recall the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. During the day time most inflatables are a deflated puddle, reminiscent of the wicked witch melting in the Wizard of Oz. But as evening comes, they come to life once again.

Like the inflatable, only God's breath gives us life. Joy is the breath of God in our lives. As Isaiah writes, I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul.

Reflecting further on joy, I recall that during my seminary days it was customary at dinner time to honor those celebrating birthdays. Shortly after the singing of the traditional happy birthday tune, the choruses of the birthday dirge began plaque and famine in the air, people dying everywhere but happy birthday.

In a dirge today, we might proclaim, "War and terror abound in the world, but rejoice always! Cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's, but rejoice always! Corporate greed, a dog-eat-dog world, but rejoice always! Crack cocaine, shootings at parties, but rejoice always! How is joy possible in our world today?"

A sociologist once asked an African-American minister about black people who seemed to have so little to sing about and who knew little joy due to prejudice in which they grew up: "Why do they sing so much?" The minister responded, "they sing for sheer joy because, despite disappointments and difficulties in their daily lives, they know they "have a title to a mansion on high" and the sure promise of a sharing in eternity with God. That knowledge proves to be so deliciously overwhelming that they have to sing about it. Their joy does not seek to make sense of reality but it transcends what passes for reality.

(Ministry & Life Perspectives Continued)

Joy is possible in our world today because God is in our midst. Authentic joy convinces us that if all our energies are centered on Christ then we can be at peace. Gospel joy is not dependent on everything going well in my life. I can have cancer and still be filled with joy. I can read about war, violence, and drugs and still be filled with joy. Joy flows from the comfort of knowing God is faithful. Isaiah reassures the Jewish people that Jerusalem will be rebuilt not because they merited it but because God is faithful. Jesus was born in Bethlehem not because we merited but because God is faithful. The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles and us because God is faithful. I am reminded of one my favorite quotes, "when your car is stalled, there God is, He won't start your car, but he will sit with you in the snow bank and hold your hand."

Fr. Ron

LEADERSHIP

ACC Pastoral Leadership



Pastor	Fr. Tom Knoblach 320-251-8115, Ext. 112 pastor@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
Pastor	Fr. Ron Weyrens 320-252-1363, Ext.401 (days) Ext. 402 (night/weekends) rweyrens@stfrancissartell.org
Deacon	Joe Kresky 320-251-8115 jkresky@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
Deacon	Terry Jancik tjancik@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



“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. “Rejoice always” means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. “Pray constantly” means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. “Give thanks in all circumstances” means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.



Blessings to you in this third week of Advent as we remember the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus. As you celebrate this season, please consider supporting diocesan ministries with a year-end gift. To donate, visit www.stcldio.org/annualappeal or mail to: Bishop’s Annual Appeal, P.O. Box 1538, St. Cloud, MN 56302.

Pope Pius XII MOVIE

All are welcome to watch "Pius XII, Under the Roman Sky", a drama depicting the life and struggles of Pope Pius during World War II, on Monday, December 18 at 6pm. This movie will be shown for FREE at St. Peter's church (930 31st Avenue North, St. Cloud) with refreshments provided.

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 **Vatican International Exhibit of the Eucharistic Miracles of the World** will be coming to our ACC. This exhibit includes 126 historically documented Eucharistic miracles that have occurred in various countries since the Last Supper. These are visible proof of Jesus Christ’s Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. This is meant as a quiet, prayerful and reflective experience for all who participate. Due to the size and requirements of the exhibit it will be displayed at Sacred Heart. Viewing times are **Jan. 19th 9-noon, Jan. 20th 2-5, Jan. 21st 10-2, Jan. 24th 5-8 pm**. All are welcome, including members of other faiths. Free admission. For more information call 320-251-8115.



BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Il Alex Jacques & Katie Windschitl



FUNERAL BLESSINGS

Remember in your prayers the family of Gerald Schlichting, who passed away on November 30, Gail Kiekow, who passed away November 30 and Grace Lytle, who passed away on December 2, from Sacred Heart.



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

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 Dan Joe Kresky at 320-292-4857 or Karen Handeland at 320-761-5155 for more information.



PAINTING THE WORD WITH WOMEN & WINE +18

Painting the Word will take place January 28th from 6pm to 7:30pm at Sacred Heart in Sauk Rapids. Women 18+ are invited to participate in a creative process of painting scripture. Come ready to meet new friends. No artistic ability is needed. Wine will be offered to those 21 and up; a nonalcoholic alternative will be offered. This event is free thanks to the Building Bridges Thriving Mission Grant! Contact Karen Handeland at 320-761-5155 to sign up.



DAILY MASS READINGS

- Monday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
- Tuesday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
- Wednesday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
- Thursday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
- Friday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
- Saturday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
- Next Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

YOUNG ADULT ACTIVITIES

Young Adult Needs Assessment

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 Christmas Gathering

Today is the day, 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 pm Mass. During the holidays we have some additional services interpreted.

Christmas Day 10:00 am Mass
New Year's Day 10:00 am Mass

ST. CLOUD AREA ADVENT RECONCILIATION

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

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING

Faith Formation/Youth Group News

Classes Dec 20: Grades 5-9 and Confirmation 6:30-8pm.

This weeks meal will be Chili and Chicken & gravy, fruit, beverage and dessert.

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

Call or email today! Ministry Schedule Jan 6-Mar 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).

The Vibrancy Committee will be hosting Fellowship after the 5:30pm Mass on Tuesday, December 26. This is the Feast of St. Stephen. Join us in celebration of our patron saint.

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.

Prayer Line: If you or someone you know needs prayers, please call the office to have your prayer request added to the Prayer Line.

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 - January 18 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

Financials not available at time of printing.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) Join us for CLOW today at 9:00 AM. All young people in PreK - grade 3 are invited to partake in CLOW. There will be **no CLOW on Sundays December 24th and December 31st.**

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!



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.

Kid's Choir Our Kid's Choir is hard at work singing and practicing bells and chimes for the Christmas season! They will sing for Mass on Christmas Day at 10:00 am, with preludes starting at 9:40 am. They will also sing on January 7th at 9:00 am for the Epiphany. New members are always welcome to join. Please contact Jill Kiffmeyer for more information.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please add Alex Euteneuer, Christopher Fuchs and Phil Goerger 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Grounded

December Theme: Grounded in JOY

Upcoming Dates

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

Wednesday, December 20th (grades 6-12): 7:30 - 9:00 PM
-Prayer, Christmas Activities (movie, crafts, cookies), Large Group Games

Waldo Hunt 2023 Last call to sign up for the Waldo Hunt at Mall of America! Waldo is on Wednesday, December 27th, we will also be going to Feed My Starving Children in the afternoon. 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!

THANK YOU

Catholic United Financial would like to thank everyone who donated gifts for the Giving Tree. Your generosity was very much appreciated by the organizations who received them. The gifts were donated to Anna Marie's, Elevate (Birthline), Catholic Charities, Place of Hope, and the VA. We wish everyone a blessed Christmas season.



MUSIC AT CHRISTMAS MASSES

The Adult Choir & Bells of the Heart will lead music ministry during the 4:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. The 10:00 pm Mass will be more peaceful with traditional carols led by an accompanist and cantor. Kid's Choir will lead music on Christmas Day Mass at 10:00 am.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 18; 5pm—Men's Group
7pm—KC Meeting
- December 19; 7pm—Sacred Heart Men's Club
- December 20; 9am—Wednesday Morning Bible Study
4-5pm—Reconciliation
6:45pm—Kid's Choir Christmas Party
7:30pm—Grounded (6-12)
- December 21; 1pm—Card Making
3-4pm—Reconciliation
- December 23; 3:30pm—Reconciliation

ANNUNCIATION PARISH

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

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Due to the bulletin schedule the financial stewardship for Dec. 10th and 17th will be in the next couple of weeks bulletins.

Mass Schedule

Sun. December 24th, 2023 8:15am

Lector: Jill Brenny & Dave Zimmer
Eucharist: Gene Poser (H), Anita Montag©, Lora Knafla©
Servers: Reid Kiffmeyer & Cole Lentner
Greeters: Don & Karol Weyer
Ushers: Tom, Barb, & Jeremy Brand, David Lentner

Sun. December 24th, 2023 7:00pm

Lector: Jill Brenny & Dave Zimmer
Eucharist: Brenda Carstensen-Boe(H), Rita Knott(C), Katie Lentner(C)
Servers: Noah & Cole Lentner
Greeters: Dan Bemboom
Ushers: John & Barb Bemboom, Dan Bemboom, Davis Lentner

Sun. December 25th, 2023 8:15am

Lector: Jenessa Strande & Judy Kiffmeyer
Eucharist: Brenda Carriveau (H), Amy Krajsa(C) Anita Montag (C)
Servers: Ava & Halle Krajsa
Greeters: John & Karla Koenig
Ushers: Tom, Barb, & Jeremy & Eric Brand



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Jennifer Melby, Chelsey Schenavar, Barb Bemboom, Janene Hiemenz, Axle Brenny, Colin Jurek, Chase Fitch, Chad Nellis, Jeff Popp.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Upcoming:

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.

NOTE: Contributions for 2023 must be in the office no later than Dec. 29th, 2023 at noon to be included in your 2023 contribution statement. Thank you.

ALSO, PLEASE NOTE: Over the Christmas weekend we will not have someone to shovel snow on the sidewalks. If you can help, please do so.

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

Not available at publication.

OFFICE CLOSED

The parish office will be closed on Monday, December 25 & Tuesday, December 26. Merry Christmas!



CEMETERY NEWS

Many families like to decorate gravesites for Christmas. Rules are relaxed for this, but be sure to secure items and then plan on removing items by the weekend of January 6th & 7th. Items left on the gravesites after that will be removed and discarded.

GRIEF GROUP

Grief Group for Wednesday, December 20 is cancelled. Contact Sandee Kremers with questions. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 3.

2ND ANNUAL ADVENT FOR ALMSGIVING

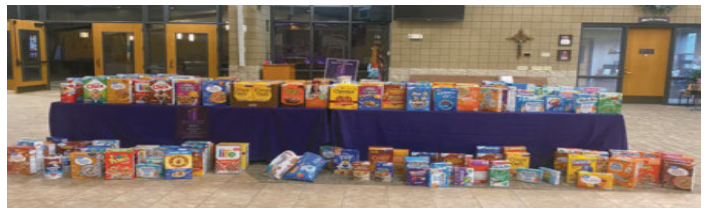


Week Four

Soup, canned & dried Ramen Noodles

Drop off in the Gathering Place now thru December 26.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! We collected 239 boxes of cereal, 66 boxes of fruit snacks and 9 assorted oatmeal and we still have more coming in. It was all put together in bags to be delivered by the Morning Mass Coffee Group and was delivered by Maurus Karboviak. Thanks to all who helped with Week One. Happy Advent!



PLACE OF HOPE

Giving back with LOVE!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED along with Christmas Cookies, bars or pies! Please drop off **ONLY** on Tuesday December 26 before Noon for the Place of Hope. Contact Sandee Kremers for details at skremers@stfrancissartell.org

Thank you to this fine group of people who prepared and served a meal at Place of Hope on Tuesday, Nov. 28. We served 165 people. Please keep all of the homeless in your daily prayer. We will be serving meals the fourth Tuesday of each month. It's a wonderful experience for all. Contact Sandee Kremers if you would like to sign up for one of the meals. God bless!



CRAFTERS NIGHT

Join us for our first Crafters night on Friday, January 12th, 2024 from 5pm-10pm in Xavier Hall. Bring your own craft projects to work on- quilting, sewing, scrapbooking, card making etc. This is a great time to get to know new people and work on craft projects you don't get to at home. Please RSVP to Melissa Fox at mfox@stfrancissartell.org or 320-252-8761.

YOUTH MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

Thursday, December 28 from 4-11 pm - 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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