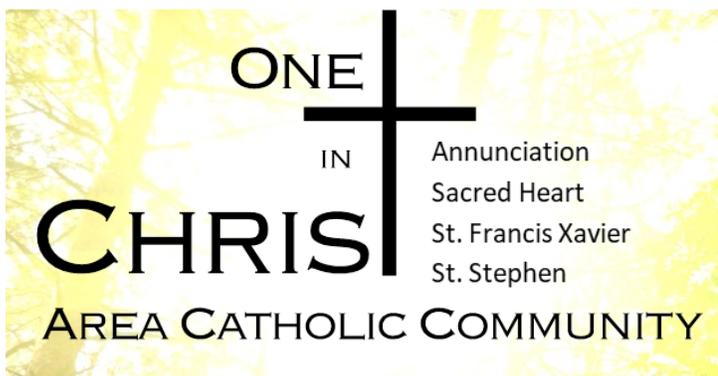
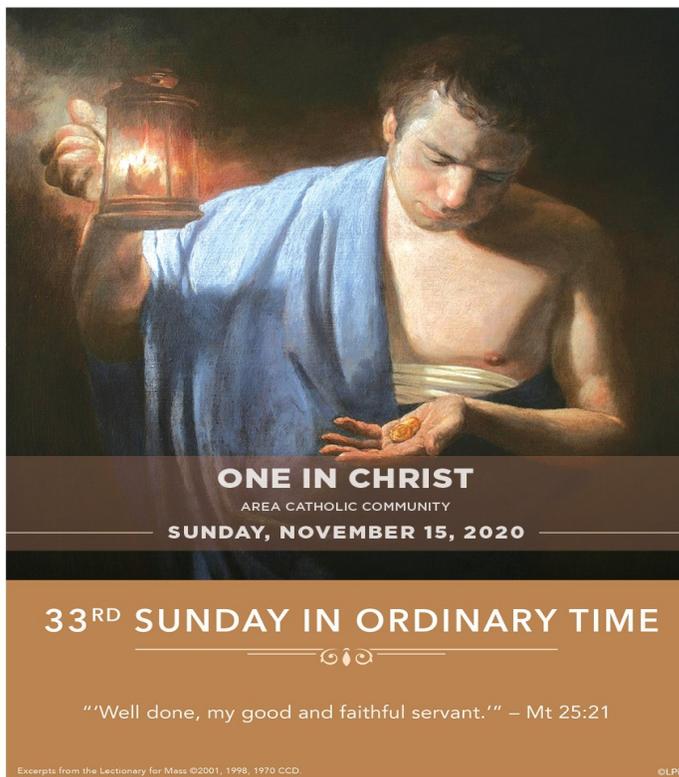


November 15, 2020

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



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>	<b>Nov 16</b>	8:00 am	<b>St. Francis Xavier</b>	Word & Communion
		8:30 am	<b>Annunciation</b>	† Lawrence & LaVigna Pekarek
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Nov 17</b>	8 am	<b>St. Francis Xavier</b>	† Rick & Sandy Karasch
		5:30 pm	<b>St. Stephen</b>	† Leo & Victoria Rausch
		5:30 pm	<b>*Sacred Heart</b>	Ben & Alice Supan's 60th Anniversary † Tom Roske
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Nov 18</b>	8 am	<b>*Sacred Heart</b>	Tom & Dorothy Koshiol (65th Anniversary)
		8 am	<b>St. Francis Xavier</b>	† Urban Theisen
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Nov 19</b>	8 am	<b>St. Stephen</b>	† Bernard, Lucille & Tom Huls
		8 am	<b>St. Francis Xavier</b>	† Jerome J. Tourand
		8:30 am	<b>Annunciation</b>	† Leona Levandowski
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Nov 20</b>	8 am	<b>*Sacred Heart</b>	† Bruce LeBert
		8:30 am	<b>St. Francis Xavier</b>	† Sandy Sexton
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Nov 21</b>	5 pm	<b>*Sacred Heart</b>	† Ken Malinkowski
		5 pm	<b>St. Francis Xavier</b>	People of the Parishes
		7 pm	<b>St. Stephen</b>	† Stephen Hlebain
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Nov 22</b>	8:30 am	<b>Annunciation</b>	† Joe Knott
		9 am	<b>*Sacred Heart</b>	People of the Parishes
		9:30 am	<b>*St. Francis Xavier</b>	† Loran Hall
		10:30 am	<b>St. Stephen</b>	† Gerald & Lorraine Ross

#### \*Livestreamed Masses

#### Tuesday & Thursday Masses at SFX

Fr. Tim Baltes 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!

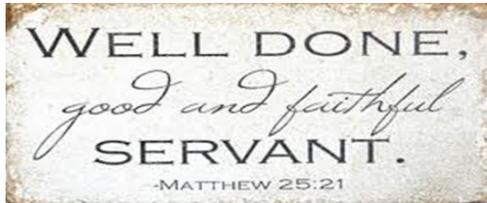
**Reconciliation**  
**Saturdays** 3:30 pm Sacred Heart  
4 pm St. Francis Xavier  
8 pm St. Stephen  
**Sunday** 7:50 am Annunciation

**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 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.



This familiar verse is from Matthew's Gospel that we read today, and perhaps you have heard it in a funeral homily or two. Did you know that it is presented to us by Jesus as he teaches the parable of the talents? And have you ever wondered why "the master" in this parable was so upset with the servant who buried the talent he was given, so that one day he could return that talent to him? The servant probably thought he did a good thing by hiding it, so it was not lost, but he learned the hard way, that is not what the master expected of him.

The master (God), gives each of his servants (us as his people) talents and God expects that we use our talent in such a way that it grows, multiplies, and becomes more than it was when received. Can you identify what "talent" (or gifts) God has given to you? What do you think God wants you to do with those gifts? What, in fact, have you done with them?

Perhaps your gift is music, perhaps compassion, maybe wisdom or the ability to be a good listener, an awesome parent or teacher. As a people of God, baptized into a life with Jesus Christ, we are called to use the gifts and talents God gave us to build up the Kingdom of God here on this earth. We are called to think about what we have been given, to identify it in our lives and then to share it with others for in doing so, we share God's love for his people. God desires that we are actively living our faith in Jesus Christ, that we are reaching out to others to make their lives better, and that we are sharing what we have been given for the good of all people.

Each one of us need to discern what God is calling us to, for we each have a mission and one day we will stand before God and offer our explanation of the good we have done, or not. Take time in prayer to think about the talents that you have been given by God and do an honest assessment of how you have used those talents to help others. Then, grateful for what you realize you have been given, make plans to commit to using those talents for good, the good of family, friends, and strangers. In doing so, you will reap rewards only attainable by participating in God's plan for your life.

You can bury your gift and do nothing, or nurture the talents you have been given and earn the pleasant sound of God, the ultimate Master, saying to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Have a blessed week,  
**Deb Rudolph**

DAILY READINGS

- Monday:** Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Rev 2:17]/Lk 18:35-43
- Tuesday:** Rv 3:1-6, 14-22/Ps 15:2-3a, . 3bc-4ab, 5 [Rev 3:21]/Lk 19:1-10
- Wednesday:** Rv 4:1-11/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 [1b]/Lk 19:11-28
- Thursday:** Rv 5:1-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [Rev 5:10]/Lk 19:41-44
- Friday:** Rv 10:8-11/Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131 [103a]/Lk 19:45-48
- Saturday:** Rv 11:4-12/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10 [1b]/Lk 20:27-40
- Sunday:** Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6 [1]/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46

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



Visit the link [thepopevideo.org](http://thepopevideo.org) for the November 2020 Pope video.  
 Translation: Artificial intelligence is at the heart of the epochal change we are experiencing. Robotics can make a better world possible if it is joined to the common good. Indeed, if technological progress increases inequalities, it is not true progress. Future advances should be oriented towards respecting the dignity of the person and of Creation. Let us pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind... we could say, may it "be human."

**HOMELESS OUTREACH** A number of people who are homeless are finding themselves living in tents and in their cars. If you could donate any of these supplies to help with their survival, please bring them into the church. Items needed include; winter coats of all sizes, mittens, hats, warm socks, long underwear, snowpants, sleeping bags, tents, space heaters, empty propane tanks, \$10-\$20 gas cards ( this is for people living in their cars to stay warm), new or slightly used bath towels. If you would like to donate financially to the outreach work that is assisting them you may send checks to Homeless Helping Homeless, P.O. Box 475, St. Cloud, MN 56302 For more information contact Harry Fleegel with Homeless Helping Homeless - [hfleegel@aol.com](mailto:hfleegel@aol.com) or 612-868-0465 or Molly Weyrens with the Central MN Catholic Worker - [centralmncw@gmail.com](mailto:centralmncw@gmail.com) or 320-316-3290.

Thank you for your generosity!

**GRIEVING DURING THE HOLIDAYS (Sunday, November 22, 1pm)**

Sacred Heart Church will host "Grieving During the Holidays" on Sunday, November 22 beginning at 1pm. This is an opportunity for those who have experienced loss (either recently or in the past) to talk about grief, self-care, and finding hope in God's promise of new life. The session will be led by Jim Otremba, LICSW, who will provide handouts and other resources. No registration is necessary; all are welcome.

**HEALING FROM LOSS (Beginning Tuesday, November 24)**

Have you suffered a significant loss? A death? Beginning Tuesday, November 24 from 4-5:20pm at Sacred Heart, Deacon Joe Kresky will facilitate four free sessions assisting with healing. For questions or to sign up, call or text Deacon Joe at 320-200-4454.



**REST IN PEACE**

Please remember in your prayers the families of Mary Lou Stang and Lucille Ross both from St. Francis Xavier. Please keep in your prayers the families of Romaine Connor who passed away on November 4, Jim Anderson who passed away on November 6 and Wanda Warrick who passed away on November 7 from Sacred Heart. Eternal Rest grant unto them.

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE**

I Samantha Frank & Blaine Athmann (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.

**Retrouvaille Marriage Help:**

Thinking about Separation or Divorce? Hurting? Angry? Feel helpless? Retrouvaille is a lifeline for troubled marriages. Couples learn the tools to rediscover each other and heal their marriage. 100% confidential.

When:

December 4-6, 2020  
 February 5-7, 2021

Where: Best Western Dakota Ridge Hotel  
 3450 Washington Dr, Eagan, MN 55122  
 800-470-2230

[info@tcr-mn.org](mailto:info@tcr-mn.org)  
<http://www.helpourmarriage.org>

## 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, November 8th, 2020
Adult Sunday .....	\$2,175.00
Visitor .....	\$35.00
Youth .....	\$0.25
Catholic Charities.....	\$220.00
Building Fund .....	\$60.00
All Saints.....	\$30.00
Thanksgiving .....	\$125.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$25.00
Religious Retirement.....	\$25.00
Christmas .....	\$300.00
New Years .....	\$25.00
Total Income .....	\$3,020.25

\*Weekly Income needed to meet yearly budget \$3,037.00

## SUNDAY 8:30 AM MASS

**Lectors:** Bob Rajkowski and JoAnn Marshall

**Eucharist:** Gene Poser

**Ushers:** Tom, Barb, Jeremy Brand and David Lentner.

### Happy Birthday:



Jacquelyn  
Beauchamp, Lane Nelson, Taija Tholl, Roger  
Athman, Max Reich, Robert Carstensen-Boe, Kylie  
Gravelle, Mary Hommerding, Ashley Keeville, Lee  
Popp, Renee Thell, Bob Hiemenz, Doug Walz.

## Other News

**Reminder:** The rosary will be prayed before  
weekday Masses at 8:05am. Everyone welcome to join in.

**We are Collecting:** Coats for the Knights of  
Columbus to hand out (see box in entrance of church)  
Coats need to be clean and in good repair. They will also  
take boots, gloves, caps and scarves.

**Deepest Sympathy:** our thoughts and  
prayers go out to the family of Michelle Brown who's  
funeral was here on October 31st. Eternal rest grant onto  
her Oh Lord and may perpetual light shine upon her.

**Commissioning Sun.** is next Sun., Nov.  
22nd. Please keep these students in your prayers as they  
make their final preparations for their upcoming  
Confirmation. Jayden Gerads, Benett Kiffmeyer, Timothy  
Kruger, Vince Popp, Anthony Scapanski, and Carter Thell.

November 15, 2020

Page 4

## 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

Oct 31/Nov 1 = 1,453.00

Nov 7/8 = 1,645.00

### Ministry Schedule for December

If there are dates you know you will be unavailable for  
December please let Carol know this week by calling  
the office or sending an email. There will be a sign-up  
sheet at the back of church for lectors and ushers again  
starting the weekend of Nov 21.

## FAITH FORMATION

November 18: Grades 5-9 and Confirmation

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, November  
17 at 7 pm in the Parish Hall. The agenda will be emailed out  
prior to the meeting.

### St. Stephen Advent Projects

**Giving Tree:** The Giving Tree helps bring a bit more  
Christmas joy to the less fortunate. To participate,  
please place your gift of clothing, toys, toiletries, or  
other useful items under the Giving Tree from November  
29—Dec 13. Gifts are needed for all ages—infant  
through adult. If you or someone you know could benefit  
from this project, call MaryLee Vouk at 251-4461 or  
Betty Pogatshnik at 252-6009. All calls will remain  
confidential.

**Parish Christmas Card:** The St. Stephen Parish Christmas  
Card is a tradition that began about 44 years ago as a  
way to extend Christmas wishes to others in the parish.  
To participate, just print your name(s) on an envelope  
marked "Christmas Card", enclose a donation of your  
choosing and drop it in the collection basket by Dec 13.  
If you cannot get to church, you may mail your 'card' to:  
St. Stephen Church, 103 Central Ave S., St. Stephen, MN  
56375 Please consider the cutoff date if mailing. Your  
name(s) will be included in the Parish Christmas card that  
will be distributed at all Christmas Masses. If you have  
any questions call Betty Pogatshnik at 252-6009.

### Upcoming events:

Nov 24—150th Anniversary meeting

## SACRED HEART PARISH

November 15, 2020

Page 5

**Contact:** JoAnn Mo — 320-251-8115, X114  
jmo@sacredheartsaukrapids.org  
**Faith Formation:** Jen Haman — 320-251-8115, X117  
jhaman@sacredheartsaukrapids.org

**Office Hours:** Monday – Closed  
Tuesday – 12-4pm; Thursday 8am-4pm  
Wednesday and Friday – 8:30am-4pm

## CHRISTMAS MASS RESERVATIONS

Due to the limited number of people that we can have in church, Sacred Heart will use [bookapew.com](http://bookapew.com) for Christmas Mass reservations. Please watch for more information coming soon.

## BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

We remember our loved ones who have gone before us during the month of November. Please feel free to enter your loved ones names into the Book of Remembrance located in the church.



## ADVENT GIVING TREE



Catholic United Financial will have the Giving Tree setup on November 21. The items on the tree will benefit Catholic Charities, Anna Maries, Elevate (Birthline), and Place of Hope. Due to Covid-19 we will not have individual tags on the tree. Instead we will have a list on the tree with the items needed for you to look at or take a picture on your phone. It will also be in the bulletin and on the parish website. If you have any questions, please call 320-255-0095.

### Giving Tree Needs List:

Baby clothing-Size Newborn to 12 months  
Pajamas - Womens and Childrens, any size  
Hats, Mittens, Gloves for all ages  
Socks for all ages  
Adults Backpacks  
Diapers Size 1-3, 6, Pullups, Baby wipes  
Personal care items  
Gifts for Teens  
\$10 or \$25 gift cards to Target, Walmart, Coborns,  
Holiday and Kwik Trip



## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 15; 6:30pm—Thomas Aquinas Study Group  
November 16; 7pm—KC's Meeting  
November 18; 9am—Bible Study  
November 18; 5:45pm—FF Grades 1-5 (virtual)  
November 18; 6:30pm—Maintenance Comm. Meeting  
November 18; 7:30pm—WNL (High School)  
November 19; 5:30pm—Parent/Baby Group  
November 22; 1pm—Grieving During the Holidays  
November 24; 4pm—Healing from Loss Support Group

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

### Income for week ending November 8, 2020

Adult Collection. . . . .	\$14,087.53
Children's Offering. . . . .	\$17.00
All Saints. . . . .	\$42.00
Christmas Flowers . . . . .	\$120.00
Friends in Need. . . . .	\$120.00
Improvements. . . . .	\$225.00

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

## CONFIRMATION



Congratulations to Haley Davis, Anne Howard and Tessa Schumann who were confirmed on November 8, 2020. May God continue to be with them on their faith journey.

## PHONE VISITATION OUTREACH

We are looking for volunteers to be part of telephone outreach to parishioners. Are you alive in your faith, sensitive to the needs of others, have good listening skills and respectful of confidentiality? If you feel called to this ministry or want to learn more contact Deacon Joe. There will be a training and information meeting on Thursday, November 12 at 6:30pm.

## FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

After much discernment and looking at the number of COVID cases in our area we are moving all of our faith formation sessions to a Zoom format. More information will be forthcoming on our Adult Learning Tracks. Each participating youth will need to have a device (smart phone, tablet, iPad, laptop, desktop with a webcam) for our monthly meetings. If you did not receive the links for the session or if you have any questions, please contact Jen or Philip at 251-8115.

## 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 Tuesday, December 1 at 6:30pm in Xavier Hall at St. Francis Xavier, Sartell. Sacred Heart parishioners, please contact the Sacred Heart Parish Office at 320-251-8115 to register.



## 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, Linda Midas, Michael Reinert, Joanne Roles, Pam Smoley, Ione and Jerry Torborg and Norma Vouk.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Collection Budget .....	\$19,230.77
Collected 11/8/2020.....	\$24,140.85
<b>Excess (Deficit) .....</b>	<b>\$4,910.08</b>
YTD Collection Budget .....	\$365,384.62
YTD Collected .....	\$341,738.16
<b>Excess (Deficit) .....</b>	<b>\$(23,646.46)</b>

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 jrennie@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>	sfrancisjcc@gmail.com
<b>Prayer Line Requests</b>	<b>Dorothy Frank</b> 320-333-7427
<b>Liturgy of Word for Children</b>	<b>Julie Jacobs</b> 320-291-2901
<b>Parish Nurses</b>	<b>Karen Reinholz</b> 320-260-6158 <b>Bev Wiehoff</b> 320-492-0135 <b>Julie Kouba</b> 701-721-5083
<b>Parish Trustee</b>	<b>Jeff Eikmeier</b> 320-250-0703
<b>Parish Trustee</b>	<b>Kathryn Kelly</b> 320-333-6002
<b>Pastoral Council Chair</b>	<b>Mark Kuhl</b> 320-266-1393

SFX SCHOOL

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

FOOD SHELF DONATIONS



Help those in need have a happier holiday season. We are collecting non perishable food for both Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army over the

next several weeks. Please drop off your donations in boxes left in both entry ways of the Gathering Place. Thank you for your Generosity.

SHARE THE SPIRIT

Look for the Share the Spirit Tree at St. Francis Xavier beginning November 21st and take one or more tags. If you are not able to attend Mass right now, consider a Cash Donation. You can call either Sue Heim or Judy Pohlkamp to find out how you can help the families our Parish has adopted. **Return gifts to SFX no later than December 5th.**  
Sue Heim - 255-9923  
Judy Pohlkamp -259-9483



Christmas Mass Reservations

**Yes! All will need a reservation this year to attend Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.**



St. Francis Xavier parish is committed to protecting the safety and well-being of parishioners and visitors while adhering to both MN State and Diocesan mandates in regard to the Coronavirus. Therefore, to ensure proper distance for seating and not having to turn people away at our doors, we will take reservations for Christmas Masses

beginning December 1st using on-line sign-up at:  
<https://bookapew.com/app/mn/sfx>

Two Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 p.m. This Mass will be livestreamed  
8:00 p.m.

Two Christmas Day Masses

8:00 a.m.  
10:00 a.m. This Mass will be livestreamed

If you do not have access to a computer, call the parish office to make your reservation. You will need to give your name, current phone number and the number of people to be seated with you.  
**Please Note:** Reservations are NOT for a specific pew. They will be used to ensure we do not exceed the number we can safely accommodate. Once that number is reached for a particular Mass, reservations for that Mass will then be closed. **We are currently limited to 250 people in attendance, therefore we strongly encourage watching from home via livestream.**

**Make Plans Now, Then Make Your Reservation beginning December 1st.**

ADORATION

Nov. 23 from 4-7pm.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



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 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.**

God gives us the gift of His very self and asks us to invest it. Investing God's greatest gift of Himself wisely, allows God's kingdom to grow and flourish. God trusts us with this pearl of great price in hopes that it will produce abundant fruit. While God's gift of self is realized in the gifts of faith, hope, and love, they are not meant to be solely for personal benefit. They are intended to be shared and are at the heart of Jesus' blueprint for happiness, the Beatitudes.

When we properly invest God's greatest gift, His most treasured possession, we invest in the wellbeing of all of our brothers and sisters and the world in which we live. We take up most seriously our call to be stewards and properly manage, not only our own affairs, but the affairs of those around and before us. God has put tremendous confidence in us. Do we have that same confidence in God?

We often go the extra mile and put in the additional effort when it comes to those concerns closest to us: our families, friends, careers, home and securities. But when it comes to things that are not as close to us, we can become lax and less conscientious. Tending to God's treasure requires a great deal of focus and persistent hard work. It demands that I see the bigger picture, God's picture, in which self-sacrifice is a given as we labor for the establishment of God's kingdom, God's vision. Fear and a lack of trust can loom large, however. We are afraid of letting go of what is "mine" and apprehensive of jeopardizing what we have in order to venture into something bigger and more promising.

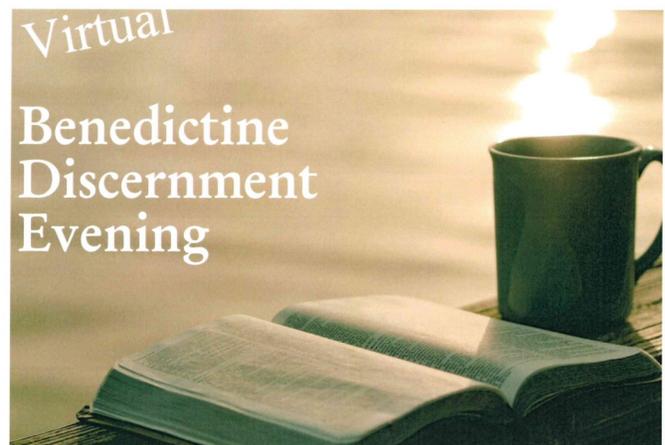
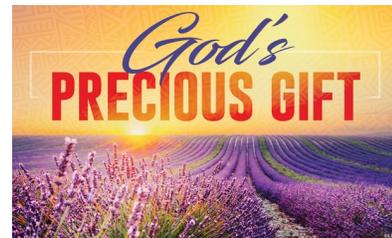
Fear and a lack of trust serve no purpose in God's kingdom. They benefit neither the person nor God. What is required is a courageous resolve that produces the fortitude necessary to stay the course and do what God is asking. Doing all in our power to cultivate the seeds of faith, hope, and love in our world, working diligently to put all of our relationships in proper order, becoming attentive to systems and ideologies that hurt and oppress people, being mindful of injustice, and laboring on behalf of the poor and the needy are at the core of what each of us is asked to do. It is how we invest God's most precious gift wisely. If persistent, alert and attentive, then life will gradually improve around us, there will be greater peace and we will experience joy.

©LPI

## Angels and Demons: What do Scripture and Tradition Say about Them?

Movies and the Internet show no shortage of information on angels and demons. Bookstores have whole racks devoted to the topic. While much of what we see and read keeps us entertained, the media's presentation of the spiritual and diabolical worlds is all too often unconnected to the Christian message. In this presentation and in light of Christ's absolute victory over sin and death, Fr Michael Patella will outline the Christian understanding of the devil, angels, demons, ghosts, and spirits in Scripture and Tradition. He will also discuss the inherent problems and dangers that arise today with the undue attention many give to the occult.

**Friday, November 20, Webinar presentation from 9:00-11:00 a.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.**



"Listen" is the first word of the Rule of Benedict, and is at the heart of discernment. Join other women, and Benedictine Sisters from across the Midwest for a series of five evenings in November and December. You'll discover how the Benedictine vows and our values of community, hospitality, prayer and service can help us hear and understand where God is moving in our lives. **Questions:** Please contact Sister Stefanie MacDonald, OSB-vocation@smmsisters.org. **Learn more and Register here:** <https://bit.ly/35h6GRW>

**When:** Wednesdays- Nov. 25th, Dec. 2nd, Dec. 9th, Dec. 16th, & Dec. 23rd  
**6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Where:** Virtual

