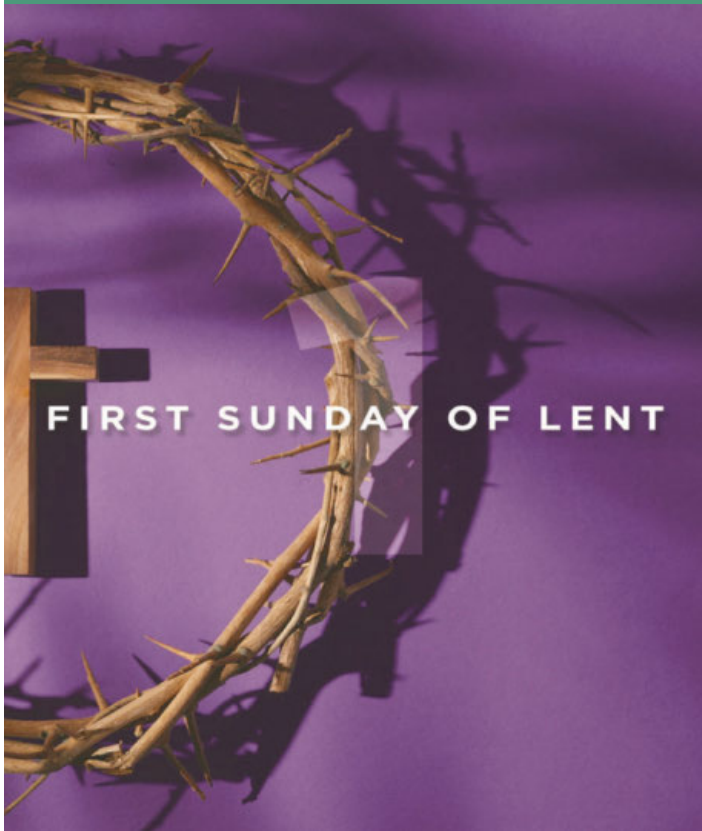


February 18, 2024
1st Sunday of Lent



ONE
IN
CHRIS

Annunciation
Sacred Heart
St. Francis Xavier
St. Stephen

AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
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320-252-1729 • oneinchristacc.org

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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, February 19 | 8:00 am 8:30 am | St. Francis Xavier Annunciation | - Word and Communion † Shirley Maier |
| Tuesday, February 20 | 8:00 am 5:30 pm 5:30 pm | St. Francis Xavier Sacred Heart St. Stephen | † Art & Nancy Kiffmeyer † Cecelia Joyce † Pat & Mary Kroll |
| Wednesday, February 21 | 8:00 am 8:00 am | Sacred Heart St. Francis Xavier | † Agnes Gall & Anna Popp † Jim Schmitz |
| Thursday, February 22 | 8:00 am 8:00 am 8:30 am | St. Francis Xavier St. Stephen Annunciation | -St. Monica's Christian Women † James "Jim" Anderson - Suffering from Loneliness & Despair |
| Friday, February 23 | 8:00 am 8:30 am | Sacred Heart St. Francis Xavier | † Patricia Soyka † Max Villeneuve |
| Saturday, February 24 2nd Sunday of Lent | 4:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm | St. Francis Xavier Sacred Heart St. Stephen | † Jack McCann † Elaine Krueger † Ron Justin |
| Sunday, February 25 2nd Sunday of Lent *Livestreamed Mass | 8:15 am 9:00 am 9:30 am 10:00 am | *Annunciation *Sacred Heart *St. Francis Xavier St. Stephen | † For the Members of the Parish † Yvonne Schlichting † Don Moran † George & Viola Dullinger |

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**
If you have any of the above pastoral needs, please contact your Parish Office.

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: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46 | Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26 |
| Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15 | Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48 |
| Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32 | Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10 |
| Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19 | |

MINISTRY & LIFE PERSPECTIVES



I shared these words a few years back in the Central Minnesota Catholic magazine, but I believe they may still speak to us this Lent as we seek to grow in communion with God and one another.

About 30 years ago, Peter Egan wrote a column in the car magazine *Road and Track* titled “Murphy’s Law in the Garage.” It was a wry look at all the things that go wrong with amusing – or alarming – consistency, depending on one’s point of view. “Any spring is 5% stronger than the person trying to stretch it.” “Having greasy hands makes the phone ring.” “Any fastener dropped rolls to the exact geographic center of the vehicle.” And this one: “Any toolbox you can lift will be missing the one tool you need.” Adapted for Lent, we might say: “Any Lenten resolution you can keep without fail is not what you really need to work on.”

Physical fitness is assessed by strength, endurance, and flexibility. The same can be applied to spiritual fitness. Forty days is a long time; what we might have the strength to do in short bursts often proves inconsistent long-term; and some things come easier for us than others. Sincere attempts at improving as disciples of Jesus reveal where we lack strength, endurance, or flexibility: we grow weak, give in, and struggle with change.

This would be discouraging if Lent was simply a self-improvement program, in which we honed our own virtues and sought our own ends. Because Lent is instead a penitential season that opens us to God’s healing grace, we may be humbled by our imperfections, but we need never surrender to discouragement.

As a time of preparation to share in the Paschal Mystery, we are united with the whole of that pattern of the Cross: the suffering, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. Failing in a truly worthy Lenten program or practice, when we are sincerely trying to change, is one of the surest signs that we are engaging the season at its core, so that God may also raise us to a new share in the life of grace.

What we learn from our failures is that we need a Savior, a Redeemer – that on our own, no matter how worthy our goals or how sincere our intentions, we just cannot save ourselves. We need someone stronger, wiser, greater than we are to do for us what we cannot do. That awareness, born from our failures at natural virtue and the insufficiency of our own resources, opens us to grace.

(Ministry & Life Perspectives Continued)

This does not mean we simply give up and put forth no effort at all. St. Paul captures this tension between our effort and God’s grace when he writes: “Work out your salvation in fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12). Cooperating with God’s grace, we recognize both how fragile we are and how enduring God’s mercy is. ***Failing does not teach us not to try at all, but not to try without God.***

Thus our Lenten failures can bring us to the heart of the Gospel message, again in St. Paul’s words: “Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:7-8).

Lent means most to us when we ask, not “How do I want to change?” but rather, “Jesus, how do you want me to change?” We live these forty days relying on God, not our own power. As even Jesus did on the road to Calvary, we may stumble and fall. He humbled himself, even to death on the Cross, “but God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name” (Philippians 2:9-10) – the name Jesus, which means “God saves.” His name is His mission, and while we too may be humbled in this season, we need never be discouraged or despair. ***We often fail; but God always saves.***

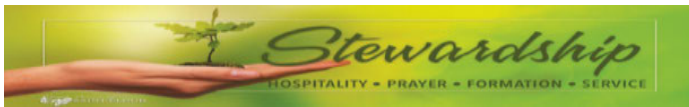


LEADERSHIP

ACC Pastoral Leadership

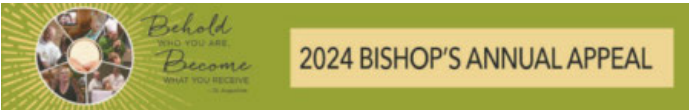


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|---------------------------|--|
| Pastor | Fr. Tom Knoblach 320-251-8115, Ext. 112 pastor@sacredheartsaukrapids.org |
| Pastor | Fr. Ron Weyrens 320-252-1363, Ext.401 (days) Ext. 402 (night/weekends) rweyrens@stfrancissartell.org |
| Deacon | Joe Kresky 320-251-8115 jkresky@sacredheartsaukrapids.org |
| Deacon | Terry Jancik tjancik@sacredheartsaukrapids.org |
| Deacon | Steve Pareja 320-761-2503 |
| Pastoral Associate | Sandee Kremers 320-252-1363, Ext. 403 |



“After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God...” - Mark 1:14

Have you ever thought about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to go to Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that He was proclaiming? It took great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, living a stewardship lifestyle takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that He will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.



May this season of Lent provide you added time for prayer and reflection. We ask you to please take a moment to pray for the Bishop's Annual Appeal and the vital ministries it supports.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION OPPORTUNITIES

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Christ Church Newman Center | February 27, 6:30pm |
| Sacred Heart | February 29, 6:30pm |
| St. Paul | March 5, 6:30 |
| St. Joseph (WP) | March 7, 6:30pm |
| St. Francis Xavier | March 12, 7pm |
| St. Augustine | March 14, 6:30pm |
| Holy Spirit | March 19, 6:30pm |
| St. Peter | March 23, 1pm |
| St. John Cantius | March 24, 1pm |
| St. Anthony | March 25, 6:30pm |
| St. Mary's Cathedral | March 26, 6:30pm |


SCUBA-VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

Where kids will dive into a friendship with God! Registration materials are available at all 4 parishes for students and volunteers. VBS is open to kids ages 4 through entering 5th grade. Students in 6th grade and older can volunteer to help in various ways throughout the week. Lots of volunteers are needed both the week of VBS and leading up to VBS. See the volunteer form for more information on how to get involved.



EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Teaching Mass with Fr Tom
at Annunciation Parish in Mayhew Lake
March 6 starting at 6:30 pm.



—To find out more information on the Eucharistic Revival, visit the Diocese of St. Cloud Website at <https://stcdio.org/eucharistic-revival/>

FUNERAL BLESSINGS

Remember in your prayers the family of Karel Fleck, who passed away on February 8th, Kevin Kjorsvik, who passed away on February 10th and Bernie Wesenberg, who passed away on February 12th from Sacred Heart.



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

ALASKA MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

One In Christ Alaskan Mission Trip Fish Fry Fundraiser/ Meat Raffle at the Sauk Rapids VFW - Friday, March 8th from 5:00-8:00pm. Thirty five missionaries are reaching out as the Body of Christ to a remote Yupik village "Toksook Bay" on the west coast of Alaska. Come help us be the hands and feet of Christ.



MOVIE AND DISCUSSION

Adults are invited to join us at Sacred Heart for a movie and discussion. We will be watching "A Man Named Otto", March 17th from 12-3:30pm. Please be aware this movie has content about suicide and may be triggering for some. We will be serving a light lunch. Feel free to bring a snack to share. RSVPs are welcome for planning but not necessary. Please contact Dan Joe with questions or to sign up at 320-292-4857.

ST. PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEY PILGRIMAGE

JOIN FR. STEVE BINSFELD & FOLLOW ST PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEY SEPTEMBER 15-29, 2024

Walk the stones where Saint Paul walked through Athens and Corinth. Then set sail on a 9-night Celebrity Cruise through the Greek Isles continuing the journey as we visit six ports of call: Santorini, Ephesus, Mykonos, Volos, Thessaloniki, and Kavala. Enjoy both private group tours and free time in Athens and on the cruise. Learn of the spiritual, historical, and cultural significance of Greece and Paul's missionary journey. Mass is celebrated every day, especially in Corinth, Thessaloniki and Ephesus. This quality, customized tour is done through Magi Travel. Space is limited on this pilgrimage so sign up today! Call **Magi Travel** 952-949-0065 or visit the web at www.magitravelinc.com and click on Greece, then Fr. Steve Binsfeld

YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adult Mass & Meal

Young Adult Mass & Meal will take place on Saturday, February 24th beginning with 5:00 PM Mass at Sacred Heart. This is the perfect opportunity to meet other Young Adults (18-39) old and new. Meet the Young Adult Team in the Gathering Space after Mass. **Everyone is responsible for their own meal.**

Praise Night

It is our turn to host the next Young Adult Praise night at Sacred Heart! Young Adults (18-39) - please bring a friend, partner, spouse, kids, family, etc. to our next Praise Night on Sunday, February 25th from 4:00 - 6:00 PM at Sacred Heart for Praise & Worship and much more! If you have children, please bring them, there will be plenty of activities and ways for them to participate in prayer and afterwards. No need to RSVP, please just join us for prayer and fellowship. Questions? Contact Jason Prigge!

YOUTH ACTIVITY

Youth Ministry Metro Night

Grades 6 - 12, join us for the first Metro Night of 2024 on Friday, February 23rd from 7-9 PM at St. Francis Xavier in Sartell. All are welcome to meet new friends, pray and of course play blacklight games. Contact your Youth Minister for more information!

GRIEF: MIND, BODY & SPIRIT

Healing the broken hearted and binding up their wounds.

Psalm 147:3

Grief is a normal and natural reaction to loss in your life (death of a loved one, job, mind, health, divorce etc.) Each person has their own timetable and style of grieving. Come and explore grief this Lent at St. Francis Xavier Church, Sartell, MN. Attend one session or all. **All are Welcome!**

Tuesdays in Lent – February 20 & 27, March 5, 12, 19

5:30-6:00 pm Soup & Sandwich Dinner

6:00-7:00 pm Guest Speaker

7:00-7:30 pm Social & Discussion

Guest Speakers include Deacon Steve Pareja, Bethany-Tollefson, DNP, MSN, RN, PHN, Hannah Warzecha, APRN, CNP, Liz Fiedler, APRN, CNP, Roland Brunner, RN. Questions or to register contact Sandee Kremers.



DUELM KC BREAKFAST

Duelm Knights of Columbus Breakfast, Sunday Feb. 18th at the St Lawrence Parish Hall, Duelm. Serving pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, caramel rolls, fruit & beverage from 8:30 am - 12pm.

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 February 10 & 11

| | |
|--|------------|
| Adult | \$1,995.00 |
| Adult online giving Feb 2-9 | 488.00 |
| Plate | 223.50 |
| Ash Wednesday | 50.00 |
| Central MN Catholic Magazine | 100.00 |
| Easter Flowers | 20.00 |
| Total | \$2,876.50 |
| Weekly <u>Adult</u> income to meet budget: | \$3,150 |

Faith Formation/Youth Group News

Classes February 21st: Grades 5-9 and Confirmation. A Chicken Alfredo meal will be served in the Parish Hall before classes.

Youth Group will meet in the Parish Hall from 8:00-9:30pm. Students in grades 6-12 are welcome to come.



Bishop's Annual Appeal

Envelopes for the Bishop's Appeal can be dropped in the collection basket if you didn't mail yours in.

Old Palms If you have old palms, you can drop them off in the baskets at the main entrance and in the annex.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Friday evenings during Lent at 6:30pm.

Blood Pressure Checks will be available next Sunday, February 25, in the annex after Mass.

Do you want to learn to quilt? The St. Stephen Quilting Ladies are looking for more quilters. The ladies would teach anyone that wants to learn the art of quilting and assembling the quilts. These quilts are the quilts that are sold at the Labor Day Festival. For more information contact Liz at 320-251-5062 or Barb at 320-251-0462 or join us on Mondays.

Senior Refresher Driving Class will be held in St. Stephen Parish Hall on Thursday, March 21, from 5:30-9:30pm. Please contact Holdingford Helping Hands at 746-9960 or go to <http://www.stse.biz/> to register.

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.

Holdingford Helping Hands Outreach

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

Monthly Lunch & Learn - March 21 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 February 11, 2024

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Adult Collection..... | \$14,439.00 |
| Automatic Giving..... | \$5,389.73 |
| Central MN Catholic..... | \$540.00 |
| Friends in Need..... | \$20.00 |
| Easter Flowers..... | \$139.00 |

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

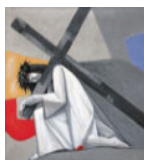
STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Children’s Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) CLOW will continue to meet regularly on Sunday mornings at 9 am. CLOW is for young people in grades PreK - grade 3. If a child is in PreK, a parent or older sibling are to accompany them to CLOW.

As this ministry continues to grow, we are in need of helpers each Sunday. Helpers don’t have to prepare anything but simply be present to assist in activities or walk children to and from Mass or Bathroom, etc. Please consider helping so we can be safe environment compliant. Contact Jason Prigge.

Stations of the Cross We will again pray the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 6:30 pm. If you, your family, or a group you are part of would like to lead Stations of the Cross, please contact Jill Kiffmeyer in the office as soon as possible. If you would like to help as a lector, musician, or AV operator, please sign up using the online terminal. Thank you!

- February 23 – St. Arnold’s Group– Traditional
- March 1 – Catholic United Financial– Traditional
- March 8– Knights of Columbus- Traditional
- March 15–
- March 22–



Homebound Communion Ministers and Visitation

Ministers Needed Seeking individuals who desire to serve the homebound through your caring presence and Holy Communion. Beside sharing the precious Body of Christ, community members are hungry for the presence of Christ through a friendly visit and a listening ear. We are in need of support after the 2pm Monday Mass at Good Shepherd. Contact Dcn Joe for questions or opportunities to serve.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and Keep in Prayer Catechumens and our future Elect to Mariah DelCastillo, Austin Tice, Aaron Mumbleau and Adriana Alvarado who will be sent to the Cathedral of Saint Mary for the Rite of Election taking place on Sunday, February 18th, 2024 at 3pm. Please keep Mariah, Austin, Aaron and Adriana in prayer as they journey closer to the waters of life during the Easter Vigil seeking Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Grounded Youth Ministry

February Theme: Grounded in Love

Upcoming Dates

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



Wednesday, February 21st (grades 5-12): 7:30 - 9:00 pm

Grounded Small Group Leaders We are now seeking 2-3 people to be Small Group Leaders for our 5th Graders! 5th Grade meets regularly on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 7:30 - 9:00 pm starting in February. Training and resources available, contact Jason Prigge ASAP!

Teen Choir Teen Choir rehearses on Sunday, February 25th from 6-7 pm. You don’t need to be an amazing singer to join! Bring a friend - we sing at 9 am Mass on Sunday, March 3rd.

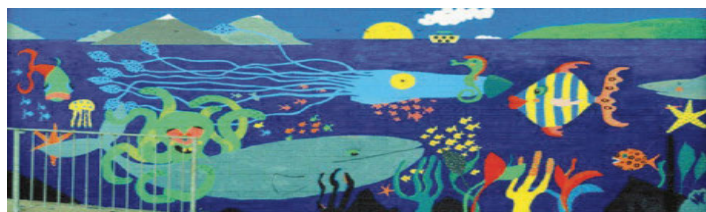
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School for our ACC will be June 23rd-28th at St. Francis Xavier. Morning and evening sessions available. Registrations will begin in March!!

Plans are being made for a great VBS session this summer. Supplies are needed: Med & large boxes, fake greenery, blue fabric/bed sheets, any fish or sea creature stuffed animals, old scuba gear, 2 liter bottles cleaned out with lids, dowels of various sizes and old pool noodles.

Donations can be dropped off at the parish anytime.

Questions? Please contact Melissa at St. Francis Xavier– 252-1363



UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 19; Office Closed-President’s Day
5pm—Men’s Group
7pm—KC Meeting
- February 20; 7pm—Sacred Heart Men’s Club
- February 21; 9am—Wednesday Morning Bible Study
1pm—Craft Group
7:30pm—Grounded (5-12)
- February 23; 6:30pm—Stations of the Cross
- February 24; 3:30pm—Reconciliation
5pm—Young Adult Mass & a Meal (SH)
6pm—Cana Dinner
- February 25; 10am—Parent/Child Group
4pm—Young Adult Praise Night

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please add Phyllis Bautch, Kohlton Kjorsvik, Donna Lardy and Jayne Wruck 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.

SFX SCHOOL

Greetings SFX Faith Community,

We are excited for all the learning opportunities awaiting us in 2024. St. Francis Xavier School has much to offer the families of our community.

1. Our Catholic school partners with parents to form children in the virtues of faith, hope and charity, and our world needs renewal of these virtues. Children are proof that God is good and with us.
 2. Our Catholic school is small and committed to developing the whole child through academic excellence, spiritual growth, and community service.
 3. We work with our families to adjust to changing economic situations.
 4. Our Catholic school teachers and staff model to our students how to rely on their faith to persevere through challenges that may emerge.
 5. Our Catholic school is purposefully planning for possibilities to improve our instruction and strengthen our community. We offer personal tours of our exceptional school.
- If you or someone you know are interested in enrolling as a SFX and want to know more about our programs, please contact the school office at (schooloffice@sfx61.org) or call 252-9940.
Heidi Schloe, Principal

YOUTH MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

Aftershock:

February 21st grades 6-12 at SFX from 6:30-8:30pm.

Youth Group Nights:

February 3rd grades 6-12 from 4-8pm (note time change from original calendar) at Xavier Hall.

February 25th TREMOR for grades 4-5 from 5:30-7:30pm in the Gathering Place of SFX.

****Watch Flocknote for more information and details on these events****

CRAFTERS NIGHT

Mark your calendars, our next crafters night will be Friday, February 16th from 5-9pm. Please RSVP to Melissa if you plan to attend by noon on the 16th.

We host a Crafters Day on Saturday, March 2nd starting at 9AM. Cost is \$20.00 lunch and snacks will be provided. We will work as long as people want to stay.

Crafters nights (or days) are a time for people to come together and work on their own craft projects, to meet new people and to have fun!

Questions, please reach out to Melissa Fox 320-761-2217 or mfox@stfrancissartell.org

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