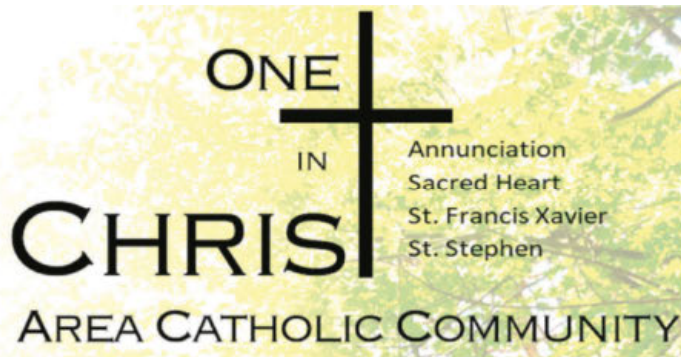


December 19, 2021
4th Sunday of Advent

4th Sunday OF ADVENT



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 • stfrancissartell.org

St. Stephen

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

MASS TIMES

Monday Dec 20 Weekday	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	Word & Communion
	8:30 am	Annunciation	† Jerome Diederich
Tuesday Dec 21 St. Peter Canisius	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	Word & Communion
	5:30 pm	St. Stephen	† Kathleen Vouk
	5:30 pm	Sacred Heart	† Marcel Tadych
Wednesday Dec 22 Weekday	8:00 am	Sacred Heart	† Don Kuefler
	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Marian Theisen
Thursday Dec 23 St. John of Kanty	8:00 am	St. Stephen	† Jerry Pantzke
	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	Word & Communion
	8:30 am	Annunciation	† Henry & Adelaide Philippi Families
Friday Dec 24 Christmas Eve	4:00 pm	Sacred Heart	For Peace in the World
	4:00 pm	*St. Francis Xavier	† Robert Scheidecker
	6:00 pm	St. Stephen	† Nikki Nathe
	7:00 pm	Annunciation	† Jeff Rajkowski
	8:00 pm	St. Francis Xavier	† Cindy Segler
Saturday Dec 25 Christmas Day	10:00 pm	Sacred Heart	For the People of the Parishes
	8:00 am	St. Stephen	For the People of the Parishes
	8:15 am	Annunciation	† Dan Slimmer
	8:30 am	*St. Francis Xavier	† Al Then
	10:00 am	Sacred Heart	For the People of the Parishes
Sunday Dec 26 The Holy Family	10:30 am	St. Francis Xavier	Int. Judy Kedrowski
	8:15 am	Annunciation	† Marie Bemboom & Delores Jochum
	8:30 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Shirley Nord
	9:00 am	Sacred Heart	For the People of the Parishes
	10:00 am	St. Stephen	† Linda Douvier
	10:30 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Royce Nies

*Livestreamed Mass

PASTORAL SERVICES

Saturdays	3:30 pm	Reconciliation Sacred Heart
	4 pm	St. Francis Xavier
	7:50 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.



MINISTRY & LIFE PERSPECTIVES



From Safari....

We are on the final stretch of Advent. (This year we are blessed with second longest Advent possible, 27 days.)

First, it's good to remember that the infancy narratives were the last part of the Gospels to take shape; the passion/death/resurrection narratives were the first. Only after people began to imitate Jesus' dying and rising actions did they begin to reflect on his birth and infancy. (from Celebration 2012)

Now back to Advent. One of the central figures of Advent is Mary. Luke's account of the annunciation is proclaimed at least three times throughout Advent. The account not only speaks of Mary's holiness but also our call to holiness.

The gospel writer Luke, places Mary's importance not on being the mother of God, but rather that she does what Jesus expects all his followers to do: hear God's word and carry it out. Take for instance from the annunciation scene itself where Mary says, "Let it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). Notice how freely Mary says yes to God. You hear no fear, no pride, no false humility in her voice.

In these last days of Advent we are invited to reflect, how do I hear God's word and carry it out? What, if anything is holding me back responding to God's word in my life? What might be causing my fear, my pride, my false humility --- what others are thinking about me, the sacrifice that is being asked of me, my self reliance?

Fr. Ron



DAILY READINGS

Monday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a /Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Friday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 /Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52



2021 Advent Reconciliation Services

Holy Spirit	Monday, Dec. 20	6:30 p.m.
St. Mary's Cathedral	Tuesday, Dec. 21	6:30 p.m.
St. Stephen	Saturday, Dec. 18	11:00 a.m.





STEWARDSHIP

Hospitality is one of the 4 pillars of Stewardship as a lifestyle.

As a community of believers we are hospitality to each other, inspired by the love of Christ in each of us, the Holy Spirit. John 20.21 [Jesus] said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me so I send you."

I grew up in a household of 8. My parents would often say, "All I want is a little peace and quiet." Where do you go to find peace? Have you received the peace of Christ from another person? Was it not offered or were you too busy and missed it?

God is ever present. God cares. May the peace of Christ be with you today and always. Share the peace of Christ in hospitality today.

BAPTISMS

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

Brynn Sawyer Coulter, daughter of Alexander & Paige, baptized at St. Francis Xavier.



BANNS OF MARRIAGE



II Mackenzie Dockendorf & Nick Jensen
St. Stephen.

YOUNG ADULT ADVENT PRAYER EXPERIENCE

Are you in the age range of 18 - 39? Single, married, or have a family? These events are for you (and we would welcome "experienced young adults")! Join us tomorrow night, Monday, December 20th at Sacred Heart at 7:00 PM for a history of the 'O' Antiphons and Eucharistic Adoration. We will gather in Room B. Light refreshments to follow.

REST IN PEACE

Remember in your prayers the family of David Nettleton who passed away November 20th from St. Francis Xavier.

Eternal Rest grant unto him.



SPIRIT OF IRELAND TOUR

Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland
April 19-30, 2022

Join Fr. Steve Binsfeld, now retired and living in Speltz House, in exploring the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Highlights include Blarney Castle, Ring of Kerry, Knock, Belfast, the Shrine of St. Patrick, ending in Dublin with Trinity College and "Book of Kells." For more information, call **Magi Travel** at 952-949-

0065, visit www.magitravelinc.com or email Fr. Steve Binsfeld - frsteve@stmaryalexandria.org

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

September 12-23, 2022

Join Fr. Steve Binsfeld on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Spend 4 nights on the Sea of Galilee, visiting the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth, the neighborhood of the Holy Family and sites of Jesus' public ministry: Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Way of the Cross with Jesus' tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Visit Bethlehem and Shepherds Field and Ein Karem—place of the Visitation and John the Baptist's birth. Celebrate Mass every day in a site sacred to our faith. For more information, call **Magi Travel** at 952-949-0065, visit www.magitravelinc.com or email Fr. Steve Binsfeld at frsteve@stmaryalexandria.org

DONATION DRIVE FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

In addition to the request for Hygiene, School, Cleaning, Linen, and Kitchen Supplies requested for Afghan Refugees, we are also requesting any Financial Donation you are able to provide to support these families setting into their new homes in the St. Cloud area.

To the attention of Sacred Heart Social Concerns and Dcn Joe Kresky - 320.251.8115



COMMUNITY EVENTS



For Sale

2021 Pro Life Across America Christmas Cards
10 Cards & Envelopes
Donation \$8.50

Available in the Parish Office at St. Francis Xavier.

JR. HIGH MISSION TRIP

Spots are filling fast for our Jr. High Mission Trip to Duluth! Dates are June 5 - 10, 2022, cost is \$325. Applications and details can be found at: oneinchristacc.org/youthministry or by contacting your youth minister. Applications and a \$50 **non-refundable** deposit are due Wed. December 15th!

GOSPEL MEDITATION

St. Augustine tells us that a “Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps.” As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life’s necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world’s ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes. Why doesn’t God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world’s ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God’s vessel so that God’s greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God’s fix for the world’s difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God’s instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

©LPi

LESSONS & CAROLS

Celebrate Advent with the choirs of St. Mary’s Cathedral and Cathedral High School with scripture and music on Sunday, Dec. 19, at 2:00 pm at St. Mary’s Cathedral. Bring your baby Jesus to be blessed.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A TEC RETREAT



TEC IS BACK!

After a 22 month pandemic-related break, Central Minnesota Together Encountering Christ (TEC) is open again for youth/adult three-day

TEC retreats. Join the excitement of our return and register for a TEC retreat today. We anticipate high demand for our first several retreats so do not delay in your sign-up.

If you find yourself...

wanting to find God again after taking some time away.

looking to strengthen your faith, as life has thrown some challenges your way.

longing to be with people again and to form some new friendships based on trust and a common commitment to our faith.

Or simply needing time away from home or work/school to focus on yourself.

A TEC retreat may be just the thing you need. Get ready for perhaps the best three days of your life. Check out the video and testimonies, get additional information, and register for a TEC retreat by visiting www.cmtec.org. Be one of the first to register for our winter 2022 TEC retreats.



In this fourth 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 TV MASS

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.

ST. STEPHEN

Contact: Carol Hellmann 320-251-1520

Fr. Ron Weyrens, Pastor

Office Hours: M-F 2:00 - 6:00 pm

ststephenchurchoffice@gmail.com

Faith Formation: Danna Gasperlin 320-251-5066

Financial Offerings - Dec. 11 & 12

Adult..... not available

Plate.....

Children.....

TOTAL \$

Weekly Adult & Online needed for budget: 2,500.00

No 7:00 PM Saturday evening Mass on December 25

Faith Formation menu for December 22 will be Hamburger gravy and mashed potatoes. Every meal comes with a drink (juice and water), fruit and a dessert. Free-will offerings are accepted.



Christmas flower donations are in memory of:

Sura & Puchalla families

Jerry Pantzke

Novak Day family

Clarence Justin

Victor Palmersheim

Dennis Smoley

Stanley & Mary Ann Legatt

Shawn Kissner

James & Eleanor Maier

Cyrilla Skroch

Tillman & Genevieve Knapp

Carole Frank

Joe & Gertrude Hellmann

Alice Supan

Fiedler family members

Deceased members of Steve & Frances Supan family



Year End Giving—the end of the year is fast approaching. Please have contributions for 2021 turned in by December 31.

Do you have a medical/nursing background?

We are looking for someone to help with doing blood pressure checks after Mass the last weekend of the month. Please call the office for more information.

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



Starting January 5 - Well n Fit

exercise classes with Lorene Deford.

Wednesday & Friday mornings from

9:30-10:30 in the Parish Hall.

Upcoming Events:

Jan 1 & 2 - Blood pressure checks after Mass

Jan 11-Vibrancy meeting 6:15 pm

Jan 18-Finance meeting 7:00, Parish Council at 7:30 pm

Helping Hands Outreach

Senior Exercise class in the Parish Hall, Wednesday & Friday mornings from 9:30-10:30.

Senior Dining - Every Wednesday at Rusty Nail at noon followed by cards. Cost is \$6.00 per meal.

ANNUNCIATION PARISH

Contact: Cindy Gans 320-252-1729

annunciation@cloudnet.com

Fr. Tom Knoblach, Pastor

Faith Formation: Shirley Scapanski 320-259-4941

thekids@cloudnet.com

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

Financial information not available at time of printing.

Mass Schedule

Fri. December 24th, 2021, 7:00pm Mass

Lector: Gene Poser

Eucharist: Rita Knott(H), Gene Poser©, Brenda Carstensen-Boe©

Servers: Noah & Cole Lentner

Ushers: Lora Knafla, Clarice Lyon, Dan Bemboom, Dan Brenny.

Sat. December 25th, 2021, 8:15am Mass

Lector: Judy Kiffmeyer

Eucharist: Amy Krajsa(H), Lori Popp©, Anita Montag©

Servers: Ava & Halle Krajsa

Ushers: Randy & Julie Miller, Jeff & Lisa Popp

Sun December 26th, 2021, 8:15am Mass

Lector: Loren Popp

Eucharist: Lori Popp

Servers: Reid Kiffmeyer & Mariah Simmons

Ushers: Tom, Barb, & Jeremy Brand, and Dave Lentner.



Happy Birthday: Janene Hiemenz, Chase Fitch, Chad Nellis, Jeff Popp.

Religious Education:

Wed. Dec. 22nd & 29th, No Religious Ed Classes

Wed. Jan. 5-19, Religious Ed Classes at 6:30pm

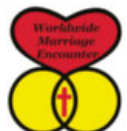
Collection for Poor Clares There will be a box in the entrance of church for collecting items. Items needed: Stamps, envelopes, Kleenex, toiletries, canned vegetables, meatless soup, cleaning supplies, white thread, glue sticks, scotch tape, medicated cough drops, etc. Box will be taken to the Poor Clares after Mass TODAY. Donations can also be dropped off at the Poor Clares in Sauk Rapids.

Confessions at Annunciation:

Sun's from 7:45am-8:05am and Thurs. Dec. 23rd from 3:30pm-4:30pm.

Note: contributions for 2021 must be in the office no later than Dec. 31st, 2021 at noon to be included in your 2021 contribution statement. Thank you.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter "Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands." The next Weekends are Feb 11-13, 2022 in Buffalo, MN and Feb 18-20, 2022 in WINDOM, MN. For more info, call Brent & Tracy Chessen at 612-756-8720 or visit them at northmnmwme.org.



SACRED HEART PARISH

Contact: Jill Lieser — 320-251-8115, X114
parish@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
Fr. Tom Knoblach, Pastor

Office Hours: Monday – Closed
Tuesday-Friday 8:30am-4pm

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

Income for week ending December 5, 2021

Financial information not available at time of printing.

YEAR END AND ELECTRONIC GIVING

Please remember Sacred Heart Parish as you consider charitable donations at the end of the year. For parishioners who have reached the age that Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from your IRA are being done, please consider gifting Sacred Heart. There may be tax benefits for such a donation. Please see your accountant or financial advisor to verify and for more information about how to make such a contribution. Thank you to all who continue to support Sacred Heart Parish and the many ministries that take place here.

If you have any questions regarding electronic giving, please contact Dana in the parish office – 320-251-8115.

INCENSE USE

Incense will not be used for our Christmas Eve or Day liturgies. Incense will be used during the Masses for Epiphany on January 1st & 2nd.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 19; 10am—Christmas Decorating
1pm—Christmas Caroling Youth and YA
- December 20; 6:15pm—Handbell Rehearsal
6:30pm—Advent Study
7pm—Men's Group
7pm—KC Meeting
7pm—YA Adult Prayer-Room B
- December 21; 6:15pm—Choir Rehearsal
7pm—Sacred Heart Men's Club
7:30pm—Choir Rehearsal
- December 22; 3:00pm—Reconciliation
5:30pm—Kids Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm—Kids Choir Caroling 6:45-7:15
- December 24; 4pm—Mass (Choir)
10pm—Mass (Vocal & Bell Choir)
- December 25; 10am—Mass (Kid's Choir)
- December 26; 9am—Mass (Kids Choir)

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you know of anyone who needs our prayers and wants to be put on the following prayer list, please call 320-251-8115: Jerome Mehrwerth and JoAnn Mick.

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.

WNL

No WNL for the next couple of weeks - have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of your friends here!

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Last chance to get those Christmas cards! All Christmas Cards are a free-will offering which benefits the Youth Ministry program at Sacred Heart.

WALDO HUNT/PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT

All Waldo registration is due **tomorrow!!** For more up to date information and current happenings with the Waldo Event, please email Jason

(jprigge@sacredheartsaukrapids.org OR text | call him - 320.281.9486).

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH—A PRAYER

As we come once more to the Christmas mystery, we can appreciate St. Joseph more deeply through the Year of Joseph now concluding. The Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* (The Heart of a Father) concludes with a prayer we fittingly make our own in this holy season:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

And we might adapt a familiar Marian prayer as well: "Pray for us, O carpenter father of Nazareth, patron of the Church, and faithful guide of your family, that we might be made worthy of the promises of Christ."

IMELDA STANG'S 90th BIRTHDAY

Please join us to celebrate Imelda Stang's 90th birthday. There will be an open house in the parish hall on January 2nd from 1-5. All are welcome to attend. -- Imelda and her family

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

Weekly Collection Budget	\$19,230.77
Collected 12/5/2021	\$30,576.50
Excess (Deficit).....	\$11,345.73
YTD Collection Budget	\$442,307.71
Collected	\$456,169.54
Excess (Deficit)	\$2,516.10

HEALTH & WELLNESS TEAM

Tips to Prevent Holiday Stress & Depression

Learn to say NO – saying yes when you should say no can leave you feeling resentful and overwhelmed. Friends and colleagues will understand if you can't participate in every project or activity. If it's not possible, try to remove something else from your agenda to make up for the lost time.

Don't abandon healthy habits – don't let the holidays become a free-for-all. Over indulgence only adds to your stress and guilt. Try these suggestions:

- +Have a healthy snack before holiday parties
- +Get plenty of sleep
- +Incorporate regular physical activity each day

Take a breather – make some time for yourself. Spending just 15 minutes alone, without distractions, may refresh you enough to handle everything you need to do. Find something that reduces stress by clearing your mind, slowing your breathing and restoring inner calm. Some options might include:

- +taking a walk at night and stargazing
- +listen to soothing music
- +getting a massage
- +reading a book

Seek professional help if you need it – despite your best efforts, you may find yourself persistently sad or anxious, plagued by physical complaints, unable to sleep, irritable and hopeless, and unable to face your daily routine. If these feelings last, talk to your doctor or a mental health professional. We all need some extra help and support sometime!

If you need help talk to someone. Contact the Parish Office to set you up with our Parish Nurses, Friends in Faith or the Pastoral Associate. We have many resources available to us and we are happy to help you!

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT



THANK YOU



The 2021 Candy and Cookie sale was a huge success for a total of \$1,360.09.

Thank you to the bakers, shoppers and volunteers for making this happen.

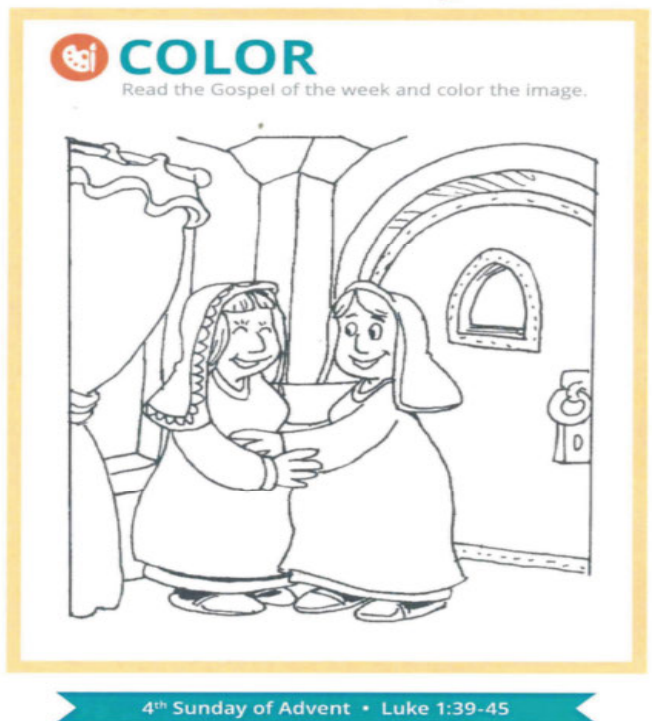
A special thank you to David Gouker who donated plants to be sold during our sale. A total of \$94.59 was collected as a Free Will offering. And also a big thank you to Ronald Anderson for purchasing all the leftover goodies and donating them to the Poor Clares. Thanks to Greg and Donna Cooley for volunteering to deliver them to the Poor Clares.

Gathering in the Arts Board

Year End and Electronic Giving

Please remember St. Francis Xavier Parish as you consider charitable donations at the end of the year. For parishioners who have reached the age that Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from your IRA are being done, please consider gifting St. Francis Xavier. There may be tax benefits for such a donation. Please see your accountant or financial advisor for verify and for more information about how to make such a contribution. Thank you to all who continue to support St. Francis Xavier Parish and the many ministries that take place here.

If you have any questions regarding electronic giving, please contact Tom Offerdahl in the parish office – 320-252-1363, ext. 1105 or email toffedahl@stfrancissartell.org.



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