

November 8, 2020

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



ONE IN CHRIS AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------|---------------------|---|
| Monday | Nov 9 | 8:00 am | St. Francis Xavier | Word & Communion |
| <i>The Dedication of</i> | | 8:30 am | Annunciation | 51st Wedding Anniv.—Dave & JoAnne Zimmer |
| <i>Lateran Basilica</i> | | | | |
| Tuesday | Nov 10 | 8 am | St. Francis Xavier | † Pasquale Serrano |
| <i>St. Leo the Great</i> | | 5:30 pm | St. Stephen | † Chris Platz |
| | | 5:30 pm | *Sacred Heart | † Russell Fuchs |
| Wednesday | Nov 11 | 8 am | *Sacred Heart | † Loretta Plafcan |
| <i>St. Martin of Tours</i> | | 8 am | St. Francis Xavier | † Tony Fischer |
| Thursday | Nov 12 | 8 am | St. Stephen | † Joe & Julie Traut |
| <i>St. Josaphat</i> | | 8 am | St. Francis Xavier | † Don Pallansch |
| | | 8:30 am | Annunciation | † Eleanor Brambrink |
| Friday | Nov 13 | 8 am | *Sacred Heart | † Peter Skudlarek, Jr. |
| <i>St. Frances Xavier Cabrini</i> | | 8:30 am | St. Francis Xavier | † Leroy & Margaret Lochner |
| Saturday | Nov 14 | 5 pm | *Sacred Heart | Living and +Deceased members of Catholic United Financial |
| <i>Weekday</i> | | 5 pm | St. Francis Xavier | † Harold Grundman |
| | | 7 pm | St. Stephen | † Stana Meyer |
| Sunday | Nov 15 | 8:30 am | Annunciation | People of the Parishes |
| <i>33rd Sunday</i> | | 9 am | *Sacred Heart | † Leona Willenbring |
| <i>In Ordinary Time</i> | | 9:30 am | *St. Francis Xavier | Deceased members of the Schueller & Cooley Families |
| | | 10:30 am | St. Stephen | For the People of the Parishes |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 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.

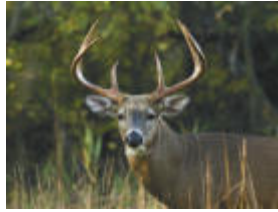
Viewers in the St. Cloud Diocese can watch the Mass on KSTC-45 at 11 am each Sunday via cable, satellite or antenna (check your cable provider for channel number). Charter Communication airs the Mass on Channel 17.

Bulletin announcements are due in the parish office by noon on Mondays. Thank you!
Please contact your Parish Office for more information.

*Livestreamed Masses



With firearm deer hunting season right around the corner, many are preparing by sighting in their



firearms, organizing equipment, preparing deer stands and sharing deer hunting stories.

The reasons for deer hunting vary with each hunter. For many hunters I have encountered, including myself, the joy of being surrounded by God's creation, goodness and peace have been expressed as a key reason.

When you immerse yourself in God's wonderful creation while hiking, camping, fishing, canoeing or deer hunting, there is a tremendous opportunity to open yourself to encountering God through God's fingerprints left all around us.

"Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea and what fills it resound; let the plains be joyful and all this is in them. Then let all the trees of the forest rejoice before the Lord". Psalm 96:11-12

Hunting and just being outdoors creates space to grow in gratitude for God's goodness, love and the care God has for each one of us. This time allows space for a deeper appreciation of our interconnectedness with God's creation, and therefore the welfare of humanity that is woven into care for creation.

Pope Francis reminds us in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home*, "Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God." n119

Care for God's Creation is also a central theme of Catholic Social Teaching that when we protect our environment, we are taking a pro-life position, especially toward those who are most effected by climate change.

My prayer for all of us this hunting season is to be safe, have fun, enjoy stories of the deer that got away and strengthen relationships, especially with our creator as we are gifted with time to reflect in gratitude for the gifts that God has bestowed on us. A grateful heart leads to a joyful and peaceful mind in Christ.

In Christ,
Dcn Joe

DAILY READINGS

- Monday:** Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 [5]/1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/
Jn 2:13-22
- Tuesday:** Ti 2:1-8, 11-14/Ps 37:3-4, 18 and 23, 27 and 29 [39a]/Lk 17:7-10
- Wednesday:** Ti 3:1-7/Ps 23:1b-3a, 3bc-4, 5, 6 1]/Lk 17:11-19
- Thursday:** Phlm 7-20/Ps 146:7, 8-9a, 9bc-10 [5a]/Lk 17:20-25
- Friday:** 2 Jn 4-9/Ps 119:1, 2, 10, 11, 17, 18 [1b]/Lk 17:26-37
- Saturday:** 3 Jn 5-8/Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 18:1-8
- Sunday:** Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1a]/1 Thes 5:1-6/Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21

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 |



Lord, we ask your continued blessing on all men and women who honorably served our nation in the Armed Forces. As a nation and a people of God, we are indebted to them for their commitment to fight for and uphold the freedom we all enjoy. For those who have been hurt in body or mind, comfort them with your grace and grant them your peace. In your name Lord, we pray. Amen.

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.

Scams

Perhaps you have received an email or text allegedly from me or another priest or staff member of a parish, asking for you to contact them about "an important matter" or to purchase gift cards or other items to help someone at my request.

These are scams. Do not reply and do not provide any cash, gift cards, or other items. We will not make such requests and will not conduct our ministries this way. Delete these messages, texts, or other communications with a clear conscience.

We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause. Many of our clergy, and even Bishop Kettler, have had our address books and lists compromised. It is one of the unfortunate consequences of our connected world.

Know of my prayers for you each day in these challenging times. Fr. Tom

REST IN PEACE

Please remember in your prayers the family of Larry Rudolph from St. Stephen who passed away on Oct. 26. Please keep in your prayers the family of David Massman from Sacred Heart who passed away on October 31. Eternal Rest grant unto them.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Ill Branton Stowell & Greta Eggerman (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 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. Or look for the Share the Spirit Tree at St. Francis Xavier beginning November 21st and take one or more tags. Return gifts to SFX to be delivered December 10th.

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

<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 1st, 2020 |
|--|----------------------------|
| Adult Sunday | \$1,448.63 |
| Visitor | \$2.00 |
| Youth | \$14.00 |
| Restoration of Mary Statue..... | \$500.00 |
| Building Fund | \$310.00 |
| All Saints..... | \$1,507.00 |
| Total Income | \$3,781.63 |
| *Weekly Income needed to meet yearly budget \$3,037.00 | |

SUNDAY 8:30 AM MASS

Lectors: Maggie Stamm & David Zimmer
Eucharist: Amy Krajsa
Ushers: Peter Ackerman, Jenny Zwilling, Chuck Wocken,
and Randy Miller.

Happy Birthday: Randy Miller, Allyson Carstensen-Boe, Austin Molitor, Corey Molitor, Charlie Bemboom, Wendy Brand, Jake Lubbesmeier, Cathleen Lesna, Brandon Doege.

Other News

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

All Souls During the month of Nov. we remember our loved ones who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. Those from years past or those not from this parish, their names can be written in the book of Remembrance which is located by the Tabernacle.



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.

Thank You: to all those who planned, worked on and donated towards the new concrete, electrical, painting of light poles and sign in front of church (you know who you are). The area around this will need a bit more work come spring, but what has been done so far is a great improvement and very much appreciated.

Also—Thank you to those who donated blood at Shepherd of the Pines on Oct. 26th. 68 units were collected and very much needed.

November 8, 2020

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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

Income for October 29 & Nov 1, 2020

ContributionsUnavailable

Last Call -

The last day to submit items for the 150th Anniversary Parish Memory Book is November 15. If you have pictures, articles or recipes you would like to submit to the Memory Book please call the office for contact info.

FAITH FORMATION

November 11: Grades 1-4 and Confirmation

55 Alive Driving class

Save 10% on your car insurance if you are 55 or older and take this class. Refresher Class—Thursday, November 12 from 5:30—9:30 pm at St. Stephen Church Hall. Cost \$18. Classes will be in person and require face masks. Initial Class—Anyone who has not taken a class of this type can start the process via Zoom. Register at STSE.biz If you do not have access to a computer, contact Helping Hands at 320-746-9960.

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 2561-4461 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 17—Parish Council meeting
Nov 24—150th Anniversary meeting

Contact: JoAnn Mo
320-251-8115, ext. 114
jmo@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
Faith Formation: Jen Haman
320-251-8115, ext. 117
jhaman@sacredheartsaukrapids.org

ALL Masses at Sacred Heart are livestreamed.
Go to www.sacredheartsaukrapids.org and click on **LIVESTREAM**

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

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 Monday, November 9 at 6:30 pm in Room D. To register, please contact the Parish Office at 320-251-8115.



THANK YOU

A sincere THANK YOU to those from Annunciation and Sacred Heart parishes who volunteered and served at the Food Shelf last month. Dave and Sandy Jacobson, Pat Burski, John Houghton, John and Linda Harambasic, Joan Krause, Sandy Krebsbach, Sheila Paschke, Nancy Gerads, Henry and MaryAnn Padgett, John and Ginny Gammell, Sandy Bloch and Karen Kierzek. You stepped forward in difficult times and made a difference. May God bless you abundantly!

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Women's Book Club will meet in Room D on Thursday, November 12 at 6pm. New members are always welcome. For more information or if you have any questions, contact Anita at 320-380-1120.



RCIA

Are you an adult who would like to be confirmed Catholic? RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation) will begin soon. Contact Deacon Joe at 320-200-4454 for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 8; 6:30pm—Thomas Aquinas Study Group
- November 9; 6:30pm—Baptism Preparation Class
- November 11; 9am—Bible Study
- November 11; 6:30pm—WNL (Middle School)
- November 12; 6pm—Women's Book Club
- November 12; 6:30pm—Phone Visitation Orientation
- November 14; 2:30pm—Wolke/Vandermay Wedding
- November 15; 6:30pm—Thomas Aquinas Study Group

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Income for week ending November 1, 2020

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Adult Collection..... | \$26,833.54 |
| Children's Offering..... | \$1.00 |
| All Saints..... | \$362.00 |
| Christmas Flowers..... | \$96.00 |
| Friends in Need | \$21.00 |
| Improvements..... | \$11.00 |
| Mission Co-op..... | \$30.00 |

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

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.

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 into the Book of Remembrance located in the church.

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

After much discernment and looking at the number of COVID cases in our area, we are moving our middle school and high school faith formation sessions to a Zoom format. More information will be forthcoming on our Adult Learning Tracks. Because this is very short notice we have emailed the links to our families who have registered for Faith Formation for the session on Wednesday, November 4 beginning at 6pm. 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.

COAT DRIVE

The KC Council 5548 is sponsoring a "Coat Drive." There is a box available in the Gathering Space for your donations. Also needed are boots, gloves, caps and scarves. Please have the coats clean and in good repair.

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. Jim Anderson, Sandi Hinkemeyer, Ed Maier, Linda Midas, Michael Reinert, Joanne Roles, Pam Smoley, lone and Jerry Torborg and Norma Vouk.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Weekly Collection Budget | \$19,230.77 |
| Collected 10/18/2020..... | \$13,787.25 |
| Excess (Deficit) | \$(5,433.52) |
| YTD Collection Budget | \$346,153.85 |
| YTD Collected | \$317,597.31 |
| Excess (Deficit) | \$(28,556.54) |

PARISH STAFF

Parish Office Hours Mon-Friday 8:00 am-Noon, 1:00 pm-4:30 pm

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Business Manager | Adam Vonderahe 320-252-1363, Ext. 1105 avonderahe@stfrancissartell.org |
| Parish Secretary | Becky Dingmann 320-2521363, Ext. 1100 bdingmann @stfrancissartell.org |
| Office Assistant | Jane Rennie 320-252-1363, Ext. 1106 jrennie@stfrancissartell.org |

FAITH FORMATION & PARISH MINISTRIES

| | |
|--|--|
| Faith Formation Gr. 1-5 | Shelby Vaske 320-252-8761, Ext. 1420 svaske@stfrancissartell.org |
| Faith Formation Gr. 6-12, | Confirmation & Youth Ministry |
| | Melissa Fox 320-252-8761, Ext. 1411 youthmin@stfrancissartell.org |
| FF Secretary | Jane Rennie 320-252-8761, Ext. 1405 jrennie@stfrancissartell.org |
| FF Board Chair | Karen Atkinson 320-251-6077 |
| Liturgy Director | Mark Levandowski 320-251-1363, Ext 1110 mlevandowski@stfrancissartell.org |
| Choral Director | Beth Plumski 320-493-9551 bplumski08@gmail.com |
| Social Justice Concerns Committee | stfrancisjcc@gmail.com |
| Prayer Line Requests | Dorothy Frank 320-333-7427 |
| Liturgy of Word for Children | Julie Jacobs 320-291-2901 |
| Parish Nurses | Karen Reinholz 320-260-6158 Bev Wiehoff 320-492-0135 Julie Kouba 701-721-5083 |
| Parish Trustee | Jeff Eikmeier 320-250-0703 |
| Parish Trustee | Kathryn Kelly 320-333-6002 |
| Pastoral Council Chair | Mark Kuhl 320-266-1393 |

SFX SCHOOL

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

ADORATION

Nov. 23 from 4-7pm.



10 Cards and envelopes.
\$8.50

Pro-Life Christmas Cards are available for purchase in the Parish Office. Front of Card is Holy Family, by Margaret Werlinger. Inside reads: As we adore the Christ child, let us remember that each "little one," born and unborn, is a precious gift from God. Wishing you all the blessings of this Holy Christmas season now and throughout the New Year.

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.



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 those suffering from the wildfires • for my parents in heaven • 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.

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, call 320-363-3560, or email theologyday@csbsju.edu to register.



VETERANS DAY

WE HONOR YOUR SACRIFICE

Are you Prepared?



There are many things that we prepare for in life; the birth of a baby, starting college or a new job, a marriage, a move to another place. We also prepare daily in the making of meals, preparing for school or work, or maybe a vacation. Certainly, we understand that preparing calls for action on our part.

So it is with us as we prepare to meet the Lord. As our Church nears the end of a liturgical year with the Feast of Christ the King on November 22nd, we begin to hear in the Gospel the need to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus Christ. In parables we learn how important it is to remain vigilant and

committed that we might be prepared to meet Jesus when he comes, for we know not the hour.

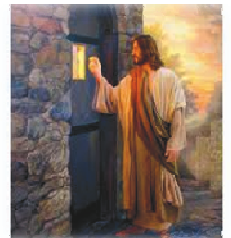
I understand theologically that as a Church we are preparing for the Second Coming of Christ, the Parousia, but I most often think of meeting the Lord at the moment of death, something we will all experience. Thinking about it prompts a number of questions; Will I be prepared? Am I living my life in such a way that I will be proud to meet the Lord? Will the Lord know me as a committed follower, or will he not recognize me? Will he know my heart and my voice, familiar to him through my prayers?

We might do well to think about this, our relationship to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Is God a part of my daily life? Do I pray in thoughts and words often? Do I understand and appreciate that all I have is from God - life, love, happiness? Do I trust God enough to turn to him for all my needs? Am I actively living as a Christian who understands my role in caring for and loving all people?

Take time in the coming weeks to think about how you might focus on being prepared to meet the Lord. Like the ten virgins in today's Gospel: Will you be one of the five who were prepared when the bridegroom came, or one of those who were not allowed to enter because of a lack of planning. It is time to actively prepare.

We all belong to God and God never ceases calling us to himself. Think about this: If you knew that when you heard a knock at your door, it was Jesus standing there, would you be prepared enough to open it?

Jesus, we pray, be with us as we prepare our hearts for your coming.



Have a blessed week,
Deb Rudolph

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nicknovakhomes@gmail.com

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Dr. Anna Malikowski, O.D. Parishioner

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