

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

1st Sunday of Advent OF ADVENT November 29, 2020

November 29, 2020

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Monday St. Andrew	Nov 30	8:00 am 8:30 am	St. Francis Xavier	Word & Communion † Rich Rajkowski & Alvin Jochum	S
Tuesday	Dec 1	8 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Debbie Weaver	
Weekday		5:30 pm	St. Stephen	† Donald Vouk	S
		5:30 pm	*Sacred Heart	† Ed & Glenyce Bretz	3
Wednesday	/ Dec 2	8 am	*Sacred Heart	† Janet Kampa	
Weekday		8 am	St. Francis Xavier	Int. Gertrude Villeneuve	
Thursday	Dec 3	8 am	St. Stephen	† In Thanksgiving-Supan Family	
		8:30 am	Annunciation	† Eleanor Brambrink	If ne
St. Francis Xo	avier	8 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Regina Lahr	С
Friday	Dec 4	8 am	*Sacred Heart	† Dennis Burski	_
Weekday		8:30 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Mary Jo Bozych	
Saturday	Dec 5	5 pm	*Sacred Heart	† J.B. Vouk	
Weekday		5 pm	St. Francis Xavier	† Deceased Roubal Family Member	rs
		7 pm	St. Stephen	† Lawrence Rudolph	
Sunday	Dec 6	8:30 am	Annunciation	People of the Parishes	
2nd Sunday o	of Advent	9 am	*Sacred Heart	† Loretta Plafcan	
		9:30 am	*St. Francis Xavier	People of the Parishes	
		10:30 am	St. Stephen	† Edwin & Virginia Kowitz	
		2 pm	St. Francis Xavier	Confirmation Mass	

*Livestreamed Masses

PASTORAL SERVICES

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.

MINISTRY & LIFE PERSPECTIVES



Happy New Year!

With this first Sunday of Advent we begin a new liturgical year. The evangelist Mark will be our primary guide this liturgical year, with a sprinkling from the evangelist John in Advent, Easter, as well as, an extend block in August.

The liturgical year can seem like a paddle wheel, where here we are again stopping on the four weeks of Advent. Let me suggest a corkscrew movement to the liturgical year. With each passing liturgical season we are coming to a deeper understanding of our faith and what it means to be a disciple and follower of Jesus Christ.

Advent has two purposes. It first of all directs our mind and heart to await Christ's second coming, as it is a season to prepare for Christmas, when Christs' first coming is remembered. We are called to be joyful and strong in the faith as we live between the times.

Mark kicks off Advent with Jesus saying, "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." (Mark 13:33) This proclamation seems worn and tired this year. Since March with emergence of the pandemic, we have been watchful and alert! The COVID refrain is well ingrained -- wear a mask, wash hands frequently, and maintain physical distance. Yet as I write, the COVID numbers are rising significantly and as you read this, we are in the second week of announced restrictions by Governor Walz.

It is unfortunate that discussions and action plans regarding COVID-19 became politicized. There will be some who will say God sent this pandemic because of our sinfulness, our corrupt society. Rather than focus on the "whys", let's focus on what can we continue to do as we walk this dark valley of the pandemic. There is the common sense action of wearing a mask, physical distancing, and hand washing. There comes a time when our individual freedoms need to give way to what is good for our neighbor.

Most importantly prayer needs to be at the center of our response. Let's give thanks that the death rate from COVID has lessened and that two vaccines are soon to be administered. Let's also lift in prayer all those who have COVID-19, especially in the hospital, asking for God's healing love. And we also lift in prayer all those attending to the sick and other essential workers.

Advent is a season of hope, reminding us that in the darkest of time Jesus comes to us. Jesus comes and walks with us, easing our burdens and anxieties, filling our hearts with hope. Christian hope is not wishful thinking but rather confidence in God's promises. Over and over in scripture we are remind that God loves us and actively seeks us out when we are lost. Some psalms to add to your Advent prayer --- Psalms 16, 24, 42, 80, 130, and 146. O come O come Emmanuel.

Fr. Ron

DAILY READINGS

Monday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11

[10]/Mt 4:18-22

Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, Tuesday:

17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

[6cd]/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9,

19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Friday:

[1a]/Mt 9:27-31

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, Saturday:

3-4, 5-6 [cf. ls 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1,

5a, 6-8

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, Sunday:

13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

LEADERSHIP



ACC Pastoral Leadership

Pastor Fr. Tom Knoblach

320-251-8115, Ext. 112

pastor@sacredheartsaukrapids.org

Fr. Ron Weyrens **Pastor**

320-252-1363, Ext.1101 (days) Ext. 1102 (night/weekends) rweyrens@stfrancissartell.org

Sacramental Fr. Doug Liebsch

Minister dougliebsch@gmail.com

Deacon Joe Kresky

320-251-8115

jkresky@sacredheartsaukrapids.org

Terry Jancik Deacon

320-251-8115

tjancik@sacredheartsaukrapids.org

Steve Pareja Deacon

320-761-2503

Deb Rudolph

Pastoral Associate

320-252-1363, Ext. 1103 drudolph@stfrancissartell.org



TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE

The Sauk Rapids Fire Department will have its annual Toys for Tots drive from 10am until 2pm on Saturday, December 5. Toys can be dropped off at the Sauk Rapids Fire Hall, 408 North Benton Drive. For information or if you have questions, contact Brian at 320-237-1201.

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT

Help our elders. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Our mission is to be His heart of mercy, voice of hope, and hands of justice. The ministries supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal are at the heart of this mission. They provide assistance, education and pastoral care to people throughout our diocese. We are Church together. Please consider a gift at www.stcdio.org/appeal.

REST IN PEACE

Please keep in your prayers the family of Laura Fasen who passed away on November 16. Also keep in your prayers Evelyn Karboviak who passed away on November 17 from St. Francis Xavier. Eternal Rest grant unto them.

BAPTISMS

We welcome the following children, Baptized into our parish family and the Christian community:

Claire Victoria Tschida, daughter of Brendon & Catherine, baptized at Sacred Heart.



Harrison Lyle Traut, son of Jeremy & Nicole

Cora Lynn Voss, daughter of Ryan & Sara. Reagan Marie Gruber, daughter of Brett & Kristin, all baptized at St. Francis Xavier.

The First Sunday of Advent



"May your mercy, Lord, be upon us; as we put our hope in you."

Psalm 33.22

This week, let us take time to contemplate how we experience HOPE in our lives. What does it

mean to you to "put your HOPE in" Jesus? Talk to one another and then to God about what you HOPE for in this life and beyond. To HOPE is to trust. Replace the word trust for HOPE in the verse above. Does that help you better understand? Thank God in prayer each day this week for the gift of HOPE that comes from knowing Jesus.

Jesus, you are our Hope!







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 15th, 2020
Adult Sunday	
Visitor	
Youth	\$10.00
Catholic Charities	\$40.00
Building Fund	\$10.00
Donation for Renovation	of Mary Statue\$575.00
Donation for front of chu	rch proj\$250.00
Christmas Flowers	\$25.00
Total Income	\$2,341.00

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

SUNDAY 8:30 AM MASS

Lectors: Loren Popp & Jenessa Strande

Eucharist: Jean Bemboom

Ushers: Randy & Julie Miller, Dan Bemboom & Dan

Brenny.



Happy Birthday: Preston Mescall, Brynn Krajsa, Alexis Ripley, Carol Sondrol, Rita Kainz, Briana Ackerman, Steven Czech, Sheldon Gravelle, Daryl Kuehn.

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.

Advent Reconciliation Services:

Sunday, Dec. 6th at 6:30pm at St. Francis Xavier, Sartell Thurs. Dec. 10th at 7:00pm at Sacred Heart, Sauk Rapids Sunday, Dec. 13th at 3:00pm at Annunciation, Mayhew Lk

Upcoming Mass Schedule:

er for more information.

Wed. Nov. 25th, Thanksgiving: 7:00pm Here
Mon. Dec. 7th, Immaculate Conception: 6:30pm Here
(No Morning Mass on Dec. 7th)
Thurs. Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve: 7:00pm Here
(No Morning Mass on Dec. 24th)
Fri. Dec. 25th, Christmas: 8:30am Here
REMINDER: to reserve a pew for Christmas Mass. See fly-

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

Nov 16-\$1,732.00

ADORATION

First Thursday Adoration will be on December 5th beginning after 8 am Mass until 4:00 pm

ST. NICK

On December 6 after the 10:30 am Mass a short story about St. Nick will be read by St. Nick's helpers. Following the story his helpers will hand out goodie bags to everyone. All are welcome.

PARISH COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Are you interested in being a part of the Parish Council? The terms of three current members expire in December. The Council acts as an advisory board and meets every two months. If you are interested in becoming a member, or wish to nominate someone else, please contact Betty Pogatshnik at 252-6009. All nominees will be contacted and those accepting the nominee will have their names entered in the election process.

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.

SACRED HEART PARISH

Contact: JoAnn Mo — 320-251-8115, X114 parish@sacredheartsaukrapids.ora Faith Formation: Jen Haman — 320-251-8115,X117 ihaman@sacredheartsaukrapids.org

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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION



Plan to participate in Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, December 4 by spending time before the Blessed Sacrament in silent prayer from 8:30am until 11am. At 11am, the rosary will be recited followed by Benediction. Please pray for the needs and people of our parish.

CHRISTMAS MASS RESERVATIONS

Christmas Mass times are as follows: December 24th: 4pm at Sacred Heart, 7pm at Annunciation, 10pm at Sacred Heart; December 25th: 8:30am at Annunciation, 10am at Sacred Heart. All Masses at Sacred Heart will be



livestreamed. Reservations are required for attendance at Christmas Masses and can be made beginning December 1st at https://bookapew.com/app/mn/sha. More details are available at www.sacredheartsaukrapids.org/ christmas-masses.

ADVENT WREATH

You are encouraged to have an Advent Wreath in your home. When you watch Mass from home you can have your Advent Wreath lit as a way to connect with the assembly in church.



LITURGICAL MINISTERS NEEDED

Liturgical Ministers are needed for our Immaculate Conception Mass on December 8th at 5:30pm and our Advent Reconciliation Service on December 10th at 7pm. Please sign up through the web-terminal program or on the sheets in the sacristy if you are able to help. Thank you!



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1; 4pm—Healing from Loss Support Group December 1; 6:30pm—Baptism Prep Class at St. Francis Xavier, Sartell

December 2, 5:45PM—Faith Formation Grades 6-12 (virtual)

December 2, 7:30pm—WNL

December 4; 8:30am—Eucharistic Adoration December 4; 11am—Rosary and Benediction

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Income for week ending November 15, 2020

Adult Collection	\$11,600.26
Children's Offering	.\$5.00
All Saints	.\$42.00
Christmas Flowers	.\$226.00
Friends in Need	\$243.00
Improvements	.\$84.00

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

Youth group for 9-12th and 6-8th grade will meet on separate nights through the Fall

9-12th Grade - 7:30-9:00pm - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays; Dec 2. Dec 16

6-8th Grade - 6:30-8:00pm - 2nd Wednesdays;

Hope to see you there! Contact Philip for more info at 320-281-9518.

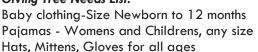
ADVENT GIVING TREE

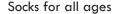


Catholic United Financial has set up the Giving Tree. The items on the tree will Giving benefit Catholic Charities, Anna Maries, Elevate (Birthline) and Place of Hope. Due

to Covid-19 we will not have individual tags on the tree. Instead we have a list on the tree with the items needed for you to look at or take a picture on your phone. Please return gifts unwrapped (no gift bags) by Monday, December 7. You can return them to the parish office during office hours as well as on the weekends. If you have any questions, call 320-255-0095.

Giving Tree Needs List:





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



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, Lisa Knettel, Linda Midas, Dorine Laudenbach, Joanne Roles, Ione and Jerry Torborg and Norma Vouk.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



We Wait in Joyful Hope

"Joyful Hope" seems fleeting these days as we continue to live with a virus that threatens our health, body, mind, and spirit. However, as Christians we know that true hope,

the hope that all will be well, is a hope rooted in God's plan for our salvation and his unconditional love for all people.

Can you imagine that our ancestors, the Hebrews of the Old Testament, lived thousands of years, generation upon generation, waiting for the Savior that they had come to expect through the words and vision and wisdom of the prophets? I wonder if we, modern day humanity, have the ability to wait so faithfully. And yet we do wait. We as a people of God, followers of Jesus, continue to wait for the "Parousia", the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, promised by his very Word. We too, have waited for generations. Though we call to mind the memory of an infant lying in a manger, we know by faith that what we wait for today is Jesus to come again.

"So too, you must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

Matthew 24.44

Today, our beloved Catholic Church begins a New Liturgical Year – Happy New Year! How fitting it is that our Church year always begins with our waiting for Jesus. For in Jesus and through Jesus we are saved. God sent his own Son, that we might all receive the gift of mercy and forgiveness for sins, our failure to live the gift of love. We find hope in the promise that Jesus will return. We find hope in the reality of our life in Christ gifted to us in our baptism and we wait in joyful hope that even after we have passed from this earth, we will be raised to a new and eternal life with Jesus.

Hope is defined as a feeling of trust, an expectation, an anticipation. We trust that Jesus is coming, we wait expectantly, and we are filled with anticipation of what his coming will mean for us. We anticipate good, we expect joy, we prepare to know love eternal. On this First Sunday of Advent, we focus on HOPE. Take time this week to think about how you live in hope each and every day. What do you hope for – for yourself – for your family – for our world? Offer your hope to Jesus in prayer and trust that he hears you.

Advent Blessings, **Deb Rudolph**

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Collection Budget	\$19,230.77
Collected 11/15/2020	\$17,303.00
Excess (Deficit)	
YTD Collection Budget	\$384.615.38
YTD Collected	\$259,041.16
Excess (Deficit)	\$(25,574.22)

DRIVE-THRU COMMUNION

Our offering of drive-thru communion has been well received and is going well. Please arrive by 10:45 to ensure you receive the Body of Christ before the Eucharistic Ministers leave. If you are serving as a Eucharistic Minister, please remain in the entryway until at least 10:45.

As we move into winter, we may need to cancel drive-thru communion on any given Sunday for the safety of all if weather conditions dictate, such as temperatures or wind chills below zero. This may be a late decision, and will be communicated by email, text and/or announcement at the 9:30 livestreamed Mass.

TOYS FOR TOTS

There are collection boxes in the Gathering Place for Toys for Tots. The Marine Corps Reserve "Toys for Tots" program can accept **new toys only** with an approximate value of \$15 or more, for newborn children up to 16 years of age. Cash donations are welcome! Make checks payable to "Marine Toys for Tots", a 501(c)3 organization.

COATS FOR KIDS

The KC Coats for Kids donation box is in the Gathering Place awaiting your donation of winter coats, hats, gloves, etc. which will be distributed to families in need. Donated items should be clean and in good condition (new or gently used). Adult coats may also be donated.

CHRISTMAS MASS RESERVATIONS

Christmas Masses at SFX will be December 24th at 4pm (Livestreamed) and 8pm, and December 25th at 8am and 10am (Livestreamed). Reservations are required for attendance at Christmas Masses and may be made beginning December 1st at https://bookapew.com/app/mn/sfx/.



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 an end to COVID-19 • for the leaders of our country and the world • for all pregnant women •for kindness • for those who do not yet know Jesus • for those mourning the loss of a loved one • for the many who may be hungry right now • 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.



SFX 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







HOPE, LOVE, JOY, PEACE,

@I Pi

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT





Advent Reconciliation Services St. Cloud

Newman Center	Tuesday, December 1	6:30 p.m.
St. Michael	Thursday, December 3	6:30 p.m.
St. Francis Xavier	Sunday, December 6	6:30 p.m.
Sacred Heart	Thursday, December 10	7:00 p.m.
St. John Cantius	Thursday, December 10	7:00 p.m.
St. Peter	Saturday, December 12	1:00 p.m.
Holy Spirit	Sunday, December 13	1:00 p.m.
St. Anthony	Monday, December 14	6:30 p.m.
St. Paul	Tuesday, December 15	6:30 p.m.
St. Augustine	Thursday, December 17	6:30 p.m.
St. Mary's Cathedral	Tuesday, December 22	6:30 p.m.



FAITH FORMATION & PARISH MINISTRIES

Faith Formation

Gr. 1-5

Shelby Vaske 320-252-8761, Ext. 1420

Faith Formation Gr. 6-12,

svaske@stfrancissartell.org Confirmation & Youth Ministry

Melissa Fox

320-252-8761, Ext. 1411 youthmin@stfrancissartell.org

FF Secretary

Jane Rennie

320-252-8761, Ext. 1405 irennie@stfrancissartell.org

FF Board Chair

Karen Atkinson

320-251-6077 Mark Levandowski

Liturgy Director

320-252-1363, Ext 1110 mlevandowski@stfrancissartellorg

Choral Director

Beth Plumski 320-493-9551 bplumski08@gmail.com

Social Justice Concerns Committee

stfrancisicc@gmail.com

Prayer Line Requests Liturgy of Word for Children Julie Jacobs
Parish Nurses Karen Reinho

Dorothy Frank 320-333-7427 320-291-2901 320-260-6158 Karen Reinholz Bev Wiehoff 320-492-0135

Julie Kouba 701-721-5083

Parish Trustee Parish Trustee **Pastoral Council Chair**

320-250-0703 320-333-6002 320-266-1393 Jeff Eikmeier Kathryn Kelly Mark Kuhl

SFX SCHOOL

Principal

Bonnie Van Heel 320-252-9940, Ext. 1302 bvanheel@sfx61.org **Deb Bearson**

School Secretary

320-252-9940 dbearson@sfx61.org