


[www.oneinchristacc.org](http://www.oneinchristacc.org)


# Advent



**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE DUE IN  
THE PARISH OFFICE BY 8:00AM ON  
MONDAYS. THANK YOU!**

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR PARISH OFFICE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION.

**Annunciation** 9965 Mayhew Lake Road NE • Sauk Rapids, MN 56379 • 320-252-1729  
**Sacred Heart** 2875 10th Avenue NE • Sauk Rapids, MN 56379 • 320-251-8115  
**St. Francis Xavier** 219 2nd Street N, PO Box 150 • Sartell, MN 56377 • 320-252-1363  
**St. Stephen** 103 Central Avenue S • St. Stephen, MN 56375 • 320-251-1520

## Mass Schedule and Intentions

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Monday, December 15</b>   | 8:00am <b>St. Francis Xavier</b> + W & C<br>8:30am <b>Annunciation</b> + Joe Knott  |
| <b>Tuesday, December 16</b>  | 8:00am <b>St. Francis Xavier</b> + No Mass / No W&C<br>5:30pm <b>Sacred Heart</b> + Tom Roske<br>5:30pm <b>St. Stephen</b> + Scott Monson   |
| <b>Wednesday, December 17</b>  | 8:00am <b>Sacred Heart</b> + Jeanne Hassing<br>8:00am <b>St. Francis Xavier</b> + Richard Maidl   |
| <b>Thursday, December 18</b>   | 8:00am <b>St. Stephen</b> + Rose & Al Then<br>8:00am <b>St. Francis</b> + Curt Harren<br>8:30am <b>Annunciation</b> + Elaine Winter   |
| <b>Friday, December 19</b>   | 8:00am <b>Sacred Heart</b> + Gary Thorsten<br>8:30am <b>St. Francis Xavier</b> + Sue Scipioni   |
| <b>Saturday, December 20</b><br>4th Sunday of Advent                           | 4:00pm <b>St. Francis Xavier</b> + Ray & Barb Raymond<br>5:00pm <b>Sacred Heart</b> + Ray Leyendecker<br>7:00pm <b>St. Stephen</b> - For the People of the Parish                                       |
| <b>Sunday, December 21</b><br>4th Sunday of Advent<br><br>*Livestreamed Masses | 8:15am * <b>Annunciation</b> + Susan Brenny<br>9:00am * <b>Sacred Heart</b> + Patrick Smith<br>9:30am * <b>St. Francis Xavier</b> + Lil & Jack Flynn<br>10:00am <b>St. Stephen</b> + Ben & Janis Paggen |

### Reconciliation

#### Saturday:

3:00pm St. Francis Xavier  
3:30pm Sacred Heart  
6:15pm St. Stephen

#### Sunday:

7:40am Annunciation

### Adoration

**First Thursday** at St. Stephen 8:30am-4pm

**Second and Fourth Tuesday** at St. Francis Xavier 4-7pm

**First Friday** at Sacred Heart 8:30am-11am

### Pastoral Needs

Please contact your parish office for Anointing of the Sick, Home Bound Communion, Pastoral Visitation, Prayer Requests, Marriage and Baptism Preparation.

## Daily Readings

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

**Thursday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

**Friday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

**Saturday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

**Next Sunday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

## Ministry & Life Perspectives



From Safari.....

Veronica was a spunky little lady. At eighty five, she swam laps every day in the pool. She loved people and they loved her. An academic she studied everything from Thomas

Merton to Ira Progoff. She spent time as a spiritual director and helping out where she could. Her hearing impairment allowed her hearing aid to become a means of instantaneous centering. Finger to ear, she would switch off the hearing aid --- and that, quite simply, was that. She then found herself alone with God.

She died unexpectedly, when the car she was a passenger in, collided with a logging truck. Her funeral celebrated a life lived right. As her casket left the chapel, everyone stood --- rich, poor, black, white, Mexican, Catholic, Protestant, and Moslem --- and spontaneously applauded. It was as if a voice could be heard saying, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.' She didn't preach but the way she lived her life spoke volumes of who she was and whom she served. Her witness prepared the hearts of others to receive God.

John's disciples asked Jesus, "Are you the one to come or should we look for another." Jesus answer was not yes or no. He didn't launch into a long explanation starting with Abraham. Or give a seminar on the type of messiah he was. Rather he replies, go tell John what you see and hear --- the blind regain sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.

We are reminded today that actions often speak louder than words. If people inquired whether you were a Christian, what response would be given? Do your actions speak volumes of who you are and whom you serve? Would people say of you --- She never speaks ill of anyone; He will do anything for anybody; She always greets you with a smile; He is a person of prayer; she comforts the grieving, brings hope to the despairing, and loving care to the sick and lonely.



## Ministry & Life Perspectives (cont.)

Advent calls us to greatness. Greatness does not come from headlines, pictures in the newspaper, awards, or having streets and buildings named in your honor. Greatness comes in our actions of service. Service is being obedient to God's call and mission in our life. A call and mission we each receive through baptism.

Through our service we prepare the way for God to enter into the hearts of another as Veronica did, as John the Baptist did. We prepare the hearts of those who are blind so they can see God's goodness. We prepare the hearts of those who are burdened by fear, anxiety, and sinfulness so they can hear God's words -- do not be afraid, do not worry, you are forgiven, and you are loved. We prepare the hearts of those who are dead through our lively faith so that they can be energized the Holy Spirit.

Continued blessings on your Advent days!

Fr. Ron

*Actions  
speak  
Louder  
than  
Words*

## ACC Pastoral Leadership

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Pastor</b>                  | <b>Fr. Tom Knoblach</b><br>320-251-8115, ext 112<br><a href="mailto:pastor@sacredheartsaukrapids.org">pastor@sacredheartsaukrapids.org</a>                          |
| <b>Parochial Administrator</b> | <b>Fr. Ron Weyrens</b><br>320-252-1363, ext 401 (days), ext 402 (nights/weekends)<br><a href="mailto:rweyrens@sfrancissartell.org">rweyrens@sfrancissartell.org</a> |
| <b>Deacon</b>                  | <b>Joe Kresky</b><br>320-251-8115<br><a href="mailto:jkresky@sacredheartsaukrapids.org">jkresky@sacredheartsaukrapids.org</a>                                       |
| <b>Deacon</b>                  | <b>Terry Jancik</b><br><a href="mailto:tjancik@sacredheartsaukrapids.org">tjancik@sacredheartsaukrapids.org</a>   |
| <b>Deacon</b>                  | <b>Steve Pareja</b><br>320-761-2503   |
| <b>Pastoral Associate</b>      | <b>Sandee Kremers</b><br>320-252-1363, ext 403<br><a href="mailto:skremers@stfrancissartell.org">skremers@stfrancissartell.org</a>                                  |



# ONE IN CHRIST AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Baptisms

We welcome the following children, baptized into our parish family and the Christian community: Josie Marie Elliott, daughter of Anthony & Sarah, from Sacred Heart.



### Funeral Blessings

Remember in your prayers the family of Phyllis Then, who passed away on November 24 from St. Francis.



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

### ACC Events

**Tabernacle for Toksook Bay** As a capstone to our ACC's Jubilee Year of Hope plans, our One in Christ ACC is raising funds for a tabernacle to replace the damaged one in the church in Toksook Bay, Alaska. The total cost for the tabernacle is \$6000. This gift will be an enduring witness to our unity in the One Body of Christ through the Eucharist. Checks can be made payable to Sacred Heart with Tabernacle included on the memo line. Place cash or check in an envelope marked "Alaska Tabernacle" and drop it off or mail it to your parish office, or drop it in the regular weekend collection. Donations will be accepted until February 15, 2026. Any funds raised that exceed the cost of the tabernacle will be sent to the Diocese of Fairbanks for their ministry needs. Thank you.

### Rosary Before Mass at Sacred Heart

**Introducing the Rosary Before Saturday Masses** During the Advent and Christmas seasons, beginning on November 29, Rooted in requests from the faithful of the parish, we will pray the Rosary before the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass. The Rosary will begin at 4:30 p.m. and conclude no later than 4:50 p.m. Saturday has long been the traditional day to honor Mary and to ask her intercession for the many needs of our lives, our Church, and our world. The Rosary before Mass is a custom observed in many parishes, though of course not itself a part of the liturgy. It is rather intended as a preparation, in the spirit of Mary's own openness to the Word, to calm our spirits to receive Christ in Word and Sacrament at the Mass itself. We will consider extending this devotional custom past the Christmas season if it finds support and good participation.

### Fellowship Event:

The next fellowship event will be held on January 18th in the basement of Annunciation church. The event will begin with Mass at 8:15. We are focusing on those people involved with funeral lunch helpers, funeral Mass helpers, St Monicas, The knights of Columbus, and Men's Club. Deacon Terry will be the speaker and the topic will be on Luke: 38-42--Martha and Mary, the balance of ways to honor the presences of Jesus and the needs of the Body of Christ. There will be muffins and juice/coffee served. No need to RSVP, and if you are not part of one of these groups and would like to come please do so.

### Young Life WyldLife (Gr. 6-8)

#### Summer Camp

Stay tuned... Summer Camp info is coming out soon and you seriously won't want to miss out on the best week ever!!

#### Year End Giving

If you'd like to support the mission of Granite City Wyldlife in their efforts to share the Gospel with Middle Schoolers through Friday Night Parties, Summer/Fall camp, please consider making a year end donation. Donations can be made at:

[granitecity.younglife.org/](http://granitecity.younglife.org/). Thank you for sharing your gift with teens so they may know that they are known, seen, heard, loved and cared for.

#### Follow Us on Social Media

Be sure to go like our page on Facebook: Granite City Wyldlife  
Follow Us on Instagram: gcwyldlife

### News and Events From Around the Diocese



St. Francis Music Center  
proudly presents

# Christmastime

Please join the St. Francis Community Chorale, Youth Choir, and Brass Ensemble for an uplifting Christmas concert of joy and hope!

**Sunday, December 14, 2025**  
**2 P.M. • Sacred Heart Chapel**  
116 8th Avenue SE, Little Falls, MN 56345

**Directed by Barb Stumpf**  
Accompanied by Vicki Spofford

**Admission is free. Everyone welcome!**  
Free-will offering gratefully accepted.

### St. Cloud Metro Advent Reconciliation Service Schedule

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Holy Spirit.....          | Sunday, Dec. 14, 1pm                           |
| St. Michael.....          | Tuesday, Dec. 16, 6:30pm                       |
| Sacred Heart.....         | Thursday, Dec. 18, 6:30pm<br>(ASL Interpreted) |
| St. Peter.....            | Saturday, Dec. 20, 1pm                         |
| St. Mary's Cathedral..... | Tuesday, Dec. 23, 6:30pm                       |



## News and Events From Around the Diocese



*"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." James 5:8*

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.



Blessings to you in this third week of Advent that calls us to remember the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus. As you celebrate this season, please consider supporting diocesan ministries with a year-end gift. To donate, visit [www.stcdio.org/annualappeal](http://www.stcdio.org/annualappeal) or mail to: Bishop's Annual Appeal, P.O. Box 1538, St. Cloud, MN 56302.

**Kids Hope Shop**...Place of Hope is once again collecting donated items for our annual **Place of Hope "Kids Hope Shop"** scheduled for December 16th. To make this possible, we need donations of new unwrapped gifts for all ages! They can be brought to the blue Door #4 at Place of Hope-511 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N St. Cloud. Please bring donations to Place of Hope-NOT to your parish.



**Stearns County Jail** in St. Cloud is looking for ministry volunteers at the jail. Monday nights at 7:00 pm is "Let's Talk". The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday morning ministries are needed for Mass. If this is an area you would like to use your talent and volunteer for, please call Karen Kierzek at 320-253-1799

**Movie Night** Please join us to watch "The Christmas Blessing", the heart-warming sequel to "The Christmas Shoes". This story reminds us that life, love, and family are gifts to be cherished. This FREE movie will be shown Monday, Dec. 15 at 6pm at St. Peter's Church of St. Cloud. Refreshments provided. Please enter door 4. Thank you!"



Friday, December 12, 2025 • 7 P.M.

Sacred Heart Chapel

116 8th Avenue SE, Little Falls, MN 56345

Presented by

St. Francis Sonata, Mezzo, and Maestoso Orchestras

Directed by Melissa von Iffer

St. Francis Chamber Orchestra

Directed by Amanda Jansen

St. Francis Brass Ensemble

Admission is free. Everyone welcome!

Free-will offering gratefully accepted.

## St. Stephen

Fr Ron Weyrens, Pastor

**Contact:** Carol Hellmann 320-251-1520 Hours: 8am-1:30pm

[ststephenchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ststephenchurchoffice@gmail.com)

**Faith Formation:** Danna Gasperlin 320-251-5066

NEW Email: [director.ststephenfaith@gmail.com](mailto:director.ststephenfaith@gmail.com)

### Financial Offering for Nov. 29 & 30

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Adult                        | \$ 1,465.00 |
| Online Giving November 22-28 | 518.00      |
| Plate                        | 353.00      |
| TOTAL                        | \$ 2,336.00 |
| Thanksgiving to date         | \$914.00    |

### Ushers:

Dec 20: Will Hellmann, David Pogatchnik, Sandy Paggen

Dec 21: Tim Rudser, Matt Nienaber, Jake Rothstein

**Faith Formation:** A teacher is needed for grade 7. Contact Danna Gasperlin if you would like to share your faith with our 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

**December 17 Classes:** Grades 5-9 and Confirmation. Italian Chicken with rice will be served in the Parish Hall before classes.

**Youth Group** for anyone in grades 6-12 will meet from 8:00-9:30.



**Help Needed** next Sunday, December 21, after Mass to bring up the trees and creche for Christmas. If you are able to help for a few minutes, head downstairs and will be directed on where to bring the boxes.

**Help needed** on Monday, December 22, to decorate the church for Christmas. Men and women, young and old are invited to help set up the trees, put on the lights and set up the creche for Christmas.

Decorating will begin at 7:30 am. Whether you can help for a half hour or a couple hours, your help is greatly appreciated.

**Individual Reconciliation:** Fr. Ron will be here at noon on Friday, December 19, for individual confessions.

**Parish Christmas Card:** If you haven't submitted your name/wish for the Parish Christmas Card, you can drop your envelope off at the parish office until Wednesday, December 17. The Parish Christmas Card will be handed out at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. All donations received will be sent to an organization that helps those in need.

**Christmas Flowers:** Donations to the Christmas Flower fund in memory of a loved one can be placed in the collection basket. Names received after December 7 will be printed in future bulletins.

### Well n Fit Exercise Class - All level of fitness welcome!

St. Stephen Parish Hall on Wednesdays & Fridays

A fun social time for everyone, while maintaining strength with chair, low impact cardio, and balance exercises.

There will be line dancing following the Wednesday classes.

WINTER Class Hours: 9:30-10:30 AM

**Holdingford Helping Hands Outreach-Senior Dining-Everyone**

**invited.** Wednesdays at **Rusty Nail** in St. Stephen. Meal served at noon followed by cards (500). Suggested meal donation is \$6.00.

**St. Stephen AA and AL-ANON Meetings:** 103 Main St E.

Tuesdays 7pm-Steps and Traditions meeting (aka 12X12)

Wednesdays 5:30pm-AI-Anon/AA Mixed meeting

Wednesdays 7pm-AA Big Book meeting

Saturdays 8pm-AA meeting



# Sacred Heart

Fr Tom Knoblach, Pastor

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am-4pm

## Financial Offering

### Income for the Week of Nov 30, 2025

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Adult Collection  | \$15,164.78 |
| Automatic Giving  | \$5,268.58  |
| Friends In Need   | \$1,470.00  |
| Holy Days         | \$65.00     |
| Christmas         | \$525.00    |
| Christmas Flowers | \$300.00    |

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

## Stewardship

**Liturgical Ministers Needed for Christmas** We need many ministers to help with our upcoming Christmas liturgies. Signups will be available online and near the sacristy for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and January 1st (the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Please sign up if you can help.



**Christmas Decorating** We will decorate our spaces for the Christmas Season immediately after Mass on Sunday, December 21 st . This is a big job and help is needed with removing Advent decorations, setting up the nativity scene and trees, and putting up fabric, lights, wreaths, garland, and poinsettias. Start out with a warm cinnamon roll and stay for the fun!

**Teen Choir sings again in December!** Teen Choir sings again for Mass on Sunday, December 21st at 9:00 am. We will rehearse for this Mass at 8:00 am that morning. If you are interested in singing or playing an instrument with this group, or would like to see the music in advance, contact Jill Kiffmeyer at 320-251-8115 x122 or at jkiffmeyer@sacredheartsaukrapids.org or just come to rehearsal the morning of the 21st . Hope to see you there!

**Christmas Flower Fund donations** Envelopes will be available in the gathering space if you would like to donate to our Christmas flower fund. The funds collected cover the cost of poinsettias, plants, fabric, candles, and other decorating supplies used throughout the year. Thank you for your generosity!

**Winter Raffle:** Winter Raffle tickets are now on sale!

\$100 tickets, we are only selling 250 tickets so the church once again can make \$20,000 from this one fundraiser. Tickets are sold before and after Masses or in the office during business hours until they are sold out!



**St. Monica's scholarship to Cathedral High School** is \$500 again this year. Please submit a letter of application stating why you chose CHS to the Sacred Heart office by January 1st. You will be notified by January 15th if you are selected.

## Prayer Requests

Please add Gloria Anderson, Jeff Crane, Jeanne Eveslage, Gerry Maleska and Jayne Wruck to your prayers. If you know of anyone who needs our prayers and wants to be put in the prayer corner, please call 320-251-8115.



## Youth Ministry

### Grounded Youth Ministry December theme Grounded in Empathy

- Sun. December 14th (Grades 9-12) | 5-7 PM
- Wed. December 17th (Grades 6-12) | 6:45-8:30 PM
  - Christmas Party | PJ Night

**Teen Choir** Calling all teen musicians! We need you! Come join us on Sunday, December 21st for 9 AM Mass. We'll meet in the Church to do a quick practice. If you'd like the music in advance, please contact Jason or Jill. All vocalists and musicians welcome!

**Turkey Bowl 2025** Thanks to St. Cloud State University and their flexibility for the fifth annual Turkey Bowl. Congratulations to our Young People who secured their first ever Turkey Bowl win!! The final score was 63-56 - an absolutely incredible game. Thanks to the many family, friends, and supporters who came out to enjoy this Thanksgiving tradition.

**The Grounded Podcast** Exciting news - we're launching a Podcast, The Grounded Podcast! Join us weekly (or bi-weekly) for stories and conversations about life that connect us to our faith. The Grounded Podcast can only be found on Spotify. We hope you enjoy it! Link to access:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/6taeQXnYfwDpL865Xuu3AQ?si=LfCNmUiTwqSwY852q3huA>

**Fifth Annual Waldo Hunt** The fifth annual Waldo Hunt is set for Tuesday, December 30th. Join us for this all day adventure looking for Waldo at MOA and then service after. Cost is \$5 to help with transportation fees, students will need money for lunch and or if they want anything at MOA. Forms are available online at ([linktree.com/groundedym](http://linktree.com/groundedym)).

**Jr. High Lock-In 2026** The Jr. High Lock-In will take place Saturday, January 24th - Sunday, January 25th at the St. Cloud YMCA. The event starts with Mass at 8 PM on Saturday and ends Sunday morning at 6 AM. Cost is \$40, all middle school friends are invited! Registration is available online: [linktree.com/groundedym](http://linktree.com/groundedym). Contact Jason Prigge if you would like to help out!

## Thank You

Catholic United Financial would like to thank everyone who donated gifts for the Giving Tree. Your generosity was very much appreciated by the organizations who received them. The gifts were donated to Anna Marie's, Elevate (Birthline), Catholic Charities, Place of Hope and the VA. We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas Season.

## Knights Wives & Widows Christmas Party

The Sacred Heart Knights of Columbus are having their Wives & Widows Christmas Party at Molitor's, on Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be a 5:30pm social and 6:00 pm supper. We will have an open menu and wives and widows eat free. All members welcome. Please RSVP to Tony @ 320-333-1900. If interested in a white elephant gift exchange, just bring a gift.

## Upcoming Events

Please see the Sacred Heart web page for upcoming events

## Annunciation

Fr. Tom Knoblach, Pastor

Contact: Cindy Gans 320-252-1729  
cindyg@annunciationmayhewlake.com

Faith Formation: Karen Handeland 320-259-4941  
karenh@annunciationmayhewlake.com

### Weekly Collection Budget

#### Income for Sunday, November 30, 2025

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Adult Sunday      | \$8,310.50 |
| Visitors          | \$143.00   |
| Youth             | \$30.00    |
| Christmas Flowers | \$20.00    |
| Thanksgiving      | \$640.00   |
| Votive Candles    | \$12.30    |
| Total Income      | \$9,155.80 |

Weekly Income needed to meet yearly budget \$3,0370

### Mass Schedule

#### Sun. December 21st, 2025

**Lector:** Bob Rajkowski and Shirley Scapanski

**Eucharist:** Deacon(H), Brenda Carstensen-Boe(C), Lori Popp(C)

**Servers:** Ava Krajsa and Brynn Krajsa

**Greeters:** Scott and Tammy Brown

**Ushers:** Dustin & Teresa Heck and John & Barb Bemboom

**Happy Birthday** Benett Kiffmeyer, Nicole Robinson, Anna Zeleny, Eric Brand, Jane Dietman, Cindy Gans, Zoey Heck, Kim Kosloski, Brett Leabch, Bryanna Martinson, Lane Piotrowski, Lisa Popp, Jennifer Melby, Barb Bemboom, Janene Hiemenz, Axle Brenny, Colin Jurek.

**Cemetery Crucifix Update** Work is continuing to replace our cemetery crucifix that was damaged by a storm in July. Two crucifix options have been selected for the parishioners of Annunciation to choose from. A display board will be in the entryway of the church, along with a ballot box and ballots on the weekends of Dec. 21, 28, and Jan. 4. Please vote once for the crucifix you prefer. As you may recall, we are not filing an insurance claim as the deductible is high and it would impact our rates. Proceeds from the breakfast after Mass on Dec. 14th will be donated for the replacement cost of the crucifix.

**Liturgical Ministers** If you can help out with Christmas Eve Mass or Christmas Day ministries please call Lora at 393-2701 ASAP.

**Christmas Play** Will be here after Mass on Sunday, Dec. 21st at 9:45am. Come to Mass, stay for coffee afterwards and enjoy the Christmas play by our Religious Ed Students.

**Youth Group** Will meet on Sunday, Dec. 21st from 5pm-7pm. This is for students in grades 6-12th. Wear your ugly Christmas Sweaters. Everyone Welcome.

#### ACC Advent Reconciliation Services

Sun. December 14th, 3:00pm here at Annunciation  
Thurs. December 18th, 6:30pm at Sacred Heart

**Collection for the Poor Clares** We will be collecting for the Poor Clares until Sunday, Dec. 21st. Items needed: Personal items, meatless soups, tuna, stamps, envelopes, etc...

**NOTE** Contributions for 2025 must be in the office no later than Dec. 31st, 2025 at noon to be included in your 2025 contribution statement. Thank you.

## St. Francis Xavier

Fr. Ron Weyrens, Pastor

**Contact:** Becky Dingmann 320-252-1363  
bdingmann@stfrancissartell.org

Tom Offerdahl, Business Manager  
tofferdahl@stfrancissartell.org

**Office Hours:** 8:00 AM-4:30 PM Monday-Thursday, 8-noon Friday

**Parish Nurses:** Julie Kouba 701-721-5083  
Bev Wiehoff 320-492-0135  
Karen Reinholz 320-260-6158

**Prayer Line:** Margaret Stang 320-249-9304

### Weekly Collection Budget

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Weekly Collection Budget | \$21,346.15       |
| Collected 11/30/2025     | \$23,045.44       |
| <b>Excess (Deficit)</b>  | <b>\$1,699.29</b> |
| YTD Collection Budget    | \$469,615.40      |
| YTD Collected            | \$471,702.99      |
| <b>Excess (Deficit)</b>  | <b>\$2087.59</b>  |

### Office Closed

The office will be closed December 24 & 25.  
Merry Christmas!



### Stewardship of Time, Talent & Treasure

Thank you for the continued support of St. Francis Xavier Parish by sharing your time, talents & treasure. Your gifts enable us to continue to minister to the people of our parish and community. From the USCCB Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, who is a Christian steward? One who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord. As we come to the end of the calendar year, if you're thinking of any special year-end financial gifts, keep St. Francis in mind. As we continue to provide ministries and sacraments and worship and more, the need for funds continues to grow. Your gifts of treasure pay the bills to keep the lights on, programs running and staff paid. Thank you. One way to insure regular and consistent contributions is through electronic giving. Donations can be set up for weekly, twice a month, monthly or other periodic giving. Electronic giving can be made by credit card or bank debit, and your gift makes it to the parish even if you are traveling or unable to make it to Mass. There are forms in the entryways to the gathering place or in the parish office. A PDF of the form is attached to the weekly Xavier Connection that goes out by Flocknote. Another option that is open to retirees is through qualified charitable distributions. This can be done by a direct transfer from your IRA to SFX (or charity of your choice). See your financial advisor or tax specialist to learn if this is a good option for you. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Offerdahl in the parish office - 320-252-1363. St. Francis Xavier is blessed to have support from so many. Thank you.



## Seeking Help in the Sacristy

Help is needed for cleaning the purificators. They are the white cloths used to wipe the chalice during the distribution of the precious blood. The volunteer who does this can set their own schedule. It is a job that needs to be done about once a week. Thank you to Sue Butkowski who has done this for the past few years. She has some things come up in her life and needs to pass this on. Please contact Tom Offerdahl in the parish office - 320-252-1363.

## Cemetery News

If you place something on a gravesite for Christmas, please have it removed by January 6th. Any items remaining after that date will be removed and discarded. Thank you for following the rules/guidelines of our cemetery.

## Church Cleaning for Christmas

Church cleaning for Christmas will take place on Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00pm. We have scrub pails and cleaning cloths and other needed supplies. We wipe down the pews and kneelers to make them shine and be ready for Christmas worship. If you are able to share some time in this ministry it will be greatly appreciated. Usually there is enough help that we can get things done in hour. Questions, please call Tom Offerdahl at 320-252-1363, ext. 405. Thanks for helping!

## Advent Almsgiving

Week 1 (Nov. 30-Dec 6) Cereal & Spices  
Week 2 (Dec. 7-Dec 12) Peanut Butter & Jelly  
Week 3 (Dec. 14-Dec. 19) Fruit Snacks & Breakfast Bars  
Week 4 (Dec. 19- Dec. 24) Ramen, Pasta Sauce & Pasta  
**Please bring in only the items specified for the week to the Gathering Place and put on the tables by the parish office.**



## Youth Ministry

- Sunday, December 21st: **Aftershock** for grades 6-12 | 4:30-9:00pm | SFX Gathering Place
- **SAVE THE DATE** for the **Middle School Lock-in** at the St. Cloud YMCA! Dates are January 24-25, 2026, and its open to youth in grades 6-8. More details will be available after the New Year! Any questions, see Jennifer.

\*\*\* Watch flocknote for more details\*\*\*

## Sing at Christmas Eve Mass

Children from the parish in grades 3-8 are invited to sing at the Christmas Eve 4:00pm Liturgy. Rehearsal will be December 14 and 23 following the 9:30 Mass. Please send and email to Jacque Windschitl at [jwindschitl@sfx61.org](mailto:jwindschitl@sfx61.org) if your child is interested.



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