



Annunciation Sacred Heart St. Francis Xavier St. Stephen

AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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, June 23	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	- Word & Communion
	8:30 am	Annunciation	† Marie & Louie Bemboom
Tuesday, June 24 The Nativity of St. John the Baptist	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Jochum Family
	5:30 pm	Sacred Heart	† Elaine Krueger
	5:30 pm	St. Stephen	† Cyril & Mary Ferche
Wednesday, June 25	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	- Ints. Of Theresa Villenueve
	8:00 am	Sacred Heart	† Bernice & Odell Goulet
Thursday, June 26	8:00 am 8:00 am 8:30 am	St. Francis Xavier St. Stephen Annunciation	† Clarence Rueter † Lloyd Pogotchnik - Thanksgiving
Friday, June 27 The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	8:00 am	Sacred Heart	† Gary Thorsten
	8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	† Diann Opatz
Saturday, June 28	4:00 pm	St. Francis Xavier	† For the People of the Parish
Immaculate Heart of the Blessed	5:00 pm	Sacred Heart	† JoAnn Schmitz
Virgin Mary	7:00 pm	St. Stephen	† Loretta Pogatchnik
Sunday, June 29 Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary *Livestreamed Masses	8:15 am 9:00 am 9:30 am 10:00 am	*Annunciation *Sacred Heart *St. Francis Xavier St. Stephen	† Audra Popp † Armella Middendorf † Margaret Henning † Dec Members of the Trobec Family

PASTORAL SERVICES

Reconciliation Saturdays

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

7:40 am Annunciation

Anointing of the Sick
Home Bound Communion
Pastoral Visitation, Prayer Requests,
Marriage and Baptism Preparation
If you have any of the above
pastoral needs, please contact your
Parish Office.

Bulletin announcements are due in the parish office by 8:00 am on Mondays. Thank you! Please contact your Parish Office for more information.

DAILY READINGS

Monday: Gn 12:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20 and 22/Mt 7:1-5

Tuesday: <u>Vigil</u>: Jer 1:4-10/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab and 17/1 Pt 1:8-12/Lk 1:5-17 <u>Day:</u> ls 49:1-6/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15/Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80

Wednesday: Gn 15:1-12, 17-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 7:15-20

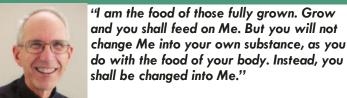
Thursday: Gn 16:1-12, 15-16 or 16:6b-12, 15-16/Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4α, 4b-5/Mt 7:21-29

Friday: Ez 34:11-16/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Rom 5:5b-11/Lk 15:3-7

Saturday: Gn 18:1-15/Lk 1:46-47, 48-49, 50 and 53, 54-55/Mt 8:5-17

Next Sunday: Vigil: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Gal 1:11-20/Jn 21:15-19 Day: Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19

MINISTRY & LIFE PERSPECTIVES



I have shared these words from St. Augustine's Confessions (VII.10) before, but

they are worth recalling as a simple but deep summary of the meaning of the Eucharist for us: "you shall be changed into Me."

Augustine understood these words in a moment of prayer, spoken to him by Jesus as part of his long search for truth. What Augustine found was not ideas and concepts and theories, but a living Person, the Word made flesh, Truth itself. And that Word comes not only to the mind, but to the body in the mystery of the Eucharist. That most basic need of life – to eat – is the path Jesus uses to enter our souls.

You shall be changed into Me. This is the inner meaning of our sharing in the Eucharist, to enter into such a perfect Communion of life that we not only consume the Body of Christ, we become the Body of Christ, the Church.

In a time marked with public violence, the dismissal of the value and dignity of human lives, the upending of families and communities in political turmoil, and so much more, does the Eucharist make a difference?

The Church has celebrated the Eucharist from the very beginning, and Eucharistic devotion is already evident in the New Testament. Those were also very often times of persecution, turmoil, division, a mixture of fear and hope. To gather for Mass was at times to risk arrest or martyrdom. Why did our ancestors take that risk? Because they believed in the power of the Cross and Resurrection, the hope of eternal life, the nearness of the One who had conquered fear and death. Far from a pious ritual, it was a declaration in a troubled world that God, who will judge the living and dead, is among us and will not abandon the world to chaos.

This hope is grounded in the freedom of each person to allow God to refashion our human brokenness and willfulness by the presence of Christ's love: "you will be changed into Me." The sorrows and troubles of the world are real and serious. But Jesus is also here, in this world, in our midst. Hope — the strength to persevere in the face of adversities — is born of this reality. We receive the Lord not only for ourselves, but so we carry that Presence as members of his Body into the needs of the world.



(Ministry & Life Perspectives Continued)

The Eucharist is, simply, Jesus. It is not a "what" but a "who" — not an object but a Person, present in redeeming love and mercy. Just as the baby in a manger or an accused criminal on a cross did not look like we would expect God's appearance to be, so the appearance of bread and wine do not obviously reveal to human eyes the presence of God. But it is truly Jesus.

When the risen Jesus appeared to the Apostles on the lakeshore, he invited them: "Come, eat your meal. So, he says to us: "Come to Me, come to this sacred Communion that makes you live now in joyful hope and will join you to Me in perfect peace forever. You shall be changed into Me. Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord; Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.""



LEADERSHIP

ACC Pastoral Leadership





Pastor Fr. Tom Knoblach

320-251-8115, Ext. 112 pastor@sacredheartsaukrapids.org

pastor@sacredheartsaukrapids.org - - ...

Pastor Fr. Ron Weyrens

320-252-1363, Ext.401 (days) Ext. 402 (night/weekends) rweyrens@stfrancissartell.org

Deacon Joe Kresky

320-251-8115

jkresky@sacredheartsaukrapids.org

Deacon Terry Jancik

tjancik@sacredheartsaukrapids.org

Deacon Steve Pareja

320-761-2503

Pastoral Sandee Kremers

Associate 320-252-1363, Ext. 403

skremers@stfrancissartell.org



"They all ate and were satisfied. And when the leftover fragments were picked up, they filled twelve wicker baskets." (Luke 9:17)

The story of the Loaves and Fishes shows us that when you share what you have, even if it doesn't seem like that much, miracles can happen! Do not think that your gift is too small or insignificant! Each of us has a role in God's plan; you just need to place your trust in the Lord. Nothing is impossible with God. You just may be the answer to someone else's prayer.



Please support our diocese's mission to be Christ's heart of mercy, voice of hope, and hands of justice through your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Every dollar raised goes directly to diocesan ministries like vocations and parish faith formation and is not used for any other purpose. Visit www.stcdio.org/annualappeal.

FUN, FOOD & FUND DAY-DCCW

How is your garden growing? Plan to attend the St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's annual Fun, Food & Fund Day fundraiser. This year's theme is "Hope Plants the Garden; Faith Makes It Grow" to be held Thursday, June 26, 2025 at St. James Parish in Randall. Registration fee is \$20 by 6/10; \$25 after 6/10 & at the door. www.stclouddccw.org



MONDAY NIGHT MOVIES

Monday Night Movies will continue with the following selection:

"Samson" (2018) is a drama about the life and times of the Old Testament judge gifted with superhuman strength from God.

It will be shown at 6pm on June 23 in the library at St. Peter's church (930 31st Avenue North, St. Cloud). Please enter door 4. Refreshments will be provided.

Motorcycle Blessing June 29, 2025

Following the 10:00 AM Mass

St. Stephen Church 103 Central Ave S, St. Stephen, MN

Park in the East parking lot across from church.

BAPTISM

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

Hank Melvin Janson, son of Ryan & Sarah, and Landon John LaBine, son of Samuel & Christina, from Sacred Heart.



Wyatt Raymond Salzl, son of Grant and Megan, Elsie Mae Jarnot, daughter of Samuel & Emma, Sadie Katharine Pfeil, daughter of Kevin & Allison and Beau Thomas Schwinghammer, son of Matthew & Cassie from St. Francis Xavier.

ALASKAN MISSION

Keep in prayer our upcoming mission to our Yupik brothers and sisters in Alaska. A team will be sharing the One In Christ love during the last 10 days in July. Also, we are seeking donations to purchase something for the parishioners of Toksook Bay to kneel on during Mass as they have no kneelers and have been kneeling on the floor which is difficult for the elders. Contact Dcn Joe with questions.

ACC SUMMER SOFTBALL

Come cheer on your favorite team on Monday nights at 6:05 & 7:10 PM at Whitney Park (just behind the YMCA).

Monday, June 23rd

- 6:05 PM @ Field 8 v. Holy Angels
- 7:10 PM @ Field 3 v. Archangels

Monday, June 30th

- 6:05 PM @ Field 3 v. Mississippi Saints
- 7:10 PM @ Field 3 v. Affordable Lawn Service

RETREATS

July 18-20, 2025 – Men and Women's Silent Weekend Retreat - "Don't Run from Problems, Run to Emmaus" Presented by Fr. Matt Linn, SJ

What keeps you from feeling really good right now? Whatever the difficulty someone has found a way to grow in it and we can too. If we share hearts with Jesus at Emmaus, our heart becomes His heart so we grow in life and love as Jesus did in every moment. Whatever we face, we are promised "God works in all things for the good of those who love Him..." Rm 8:28. And whatever we fear in the future no longer will be an overwhelming fear but rather another opportunity to share hearts and grow again. So run to this Emmaus retreat and all your life will run with infinite Life. Includes Mass, personal prayer time, Reconciliation. Suggested Donation of \$325 includes \$50 deposit at registration; includes 2 overnights, private accommodations and 5 meals; Register online at www.kingshouse.com or call 763-682-1394.

Are you as excited about going to Mass to be with Jesus as your dog is when seeing it's full dog dish? **CENTRAL**MINNESOTA TEC is a weekend Catholic retreat program sponsored by the St. Cloud Diocese and is designed to help you on your faith journey. When the program started, it was for High School juniors and seniors with adult chaperones, but after a few, the adults wanted in ALSO! The next retreat is scheduled for June 27-30, 2025, at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, Minnesota. Cost of the weekend is \$125 (compare with 3 days at a motel including 3 meals and snacks!). Go to cmtec.org for more information and to register for retreats.

YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adult Mass and Meal

Mass and Meal this month will be at St. Francis Xavier, Saturday, June 28th starting with 4 PM Mass. This is a great opportunity to catch up with old and new friends. We'll meet in the Gathering Space and go from there. Everyone is responsible for their own meal!

Young Adult Bean Bag Tournament

We hope to see you at Sacred Heart on Friday, July 11th for our annual Bean Bag Tournament. Bring the whole family, kids can play on the playground and we'll have

several boards out to play bags. We'll be grilling out, feel free to bring something to share and bring your own beverage. Starts at 6:30 PM - see you there! Register your duo using the QR code:



Theology on Draft

Thank you to all who attended Theology on Draft this year. We look forward to starting up again on Thursday, September 11th! In the meantime, help us plan for the upcoming TOD season by taking this short survey: https://forms.gle/ARtv6jBasQ5GL7dE9

YOUNG LIFE

Club Update Don't miss any upcoming Clubs! 6:15-7:45 PM
*Wednesday, July 16th -LIONS PARK in ST. CLOUD
*Wednesday, August 20th -MUNICIPAL PARK in SAUK RAPIDS

Donations

If you'd like to make a donation to our Wyldlife Area for either club supplies or for camp, please contact Jason via phone or email. We sincerely appreciate your contribution to our efforts making sure middle schoolers are known, loved and cared for.

Come See Us

SummerTime by George:

- Wed, June 25th
- Wed. July 9th & 30th
- Wed. August 13th

<u>Coborn's</u> - Sauk Rapids (**Brat sales**) Weekend of: July 18th & 19th

Follow Us on Social Media

Be sure to go like our page on Facebook: Granite City Wyldlife

Follow Us on Instagram: gcwyldlife Skit Characters from Club: gcinstagrandparents

Committee Members Needed

Are you a go-getter? Are you good at planning and visioning? Perhaps you are good at fundraising - if you answered yes to at least one of these questions, we need you on the Granite City Wyldlife committee. Contact Jason Prigge ASAP to learn more.

Join Us for Prayer

Don't forget to join us for Prayer on Wednesdays at Noon! Scan for Zoom Link:



ST. STEPHEN

Contact: Carol Hellmann 320-251-1520 Hours: 8am-1:30pm ststephenchurchoffice@gmail.com Fr. Ron Weyrens, Pastor Faith Formation: Danna Gasperlin 320-251-5066

ststephenfaith@amail.com

Financial Offering for June 14 & 15

Adult envelope	es	-	\$ 1,706.00
Adult Online G	iving June 7-13		\$ 423.00
Plate			\$ 290.00
Peter's Pence			\$ 30.00
Total			\$ 2.449.00

Ushers:

Jun 28: Peter Schumer, Karen Skaj, Dan Warzecha Jun 29: Jim Schumer, Steve Vouk, Tim Rudser



Motorcycle Blessing will be next Sunday, June 29, after the 10:00 am Mass. Park motorcycles in the East parking lot.

<u>Cemetery Committee</u> will meet on Tuesday, June 24, 6:30 pm at the cemetery entrance. Headstones will be inspected first followed by a meeting in the annex.

Funeral Lunch Group Contact person needed: The 'South End' funeral lunch group needs to have person who will contact the family to go over the funeral lunch, purchase some groceries for the lunch and line up workers to help prepare and clean up after the meal. Please contact the parish office with any questions or to take over the roll of Lead Contact person.

<u>Prayer Line</u>: If you or someone you know needs our prayers, contact the parish office to add your request to the Prayer Line.

Festival News: Our first Festival meeting was held June 10. We have a new chairperson for the Children's Games - Bailey Boulton (and her family). Thank You Bailey (and family) for agreeing to chair this stand. The Silent Auction stand would like to have 'themed' gift baskets available this year besides all of the handcrafted items. Some examples: family game night, handy man (tools), movie night, sports basket, baking basket, etc. Use your imagination on putting a basket together. If you are donating a prize for the Grand Raffle, have your donation to the parish office by July 8 so that we can get the ticket prepared and sent to the printers. If you have a larger item that you will bring on Labor Day, contact the parish office to let us know what you are donating.

The next <u>festival meetings</u> will be on Tuesdays, July 8 and August 12, at 7:00 pm in the annex. Watch for sign-up sheets in church in the coming weeks for stands needing help in the stands on the day of the festival.

Area Festivals from The Central MN Catholic website:

June 28: St. Martin Parish begins at 11:00 am. Mass at 5:00. June 29: Immaculate Conception in St. Anna and St. Stanislaus in Sobieski - both begin with Mass at 10:00 am.

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

A fun social time, while maintaining strength with chair, low impact cardio, and balance exercises. Classes are Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:00-10:00 AM in the Parish Hall

Holdingford Helping Hands Outreach - Senior Dining: Wednesday's at Rusty Nail, April-June, at noon followed by 500. Suggested meal donation is \$6.00. Everyone welcome.

St. Stephen AA and AL-ANON Meetings: 305 Main St E. Tuesdays 7pm-Steps and Traditions meeting (aka 12X12) Wednesdays 5:30pm-Al-Anon/AA Mixed meeting Wednesdays 7pm-AA Big Book meeting Saturdays 8pm-AA meeting

SACRED HEART PARISH

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

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

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

Income for the Week of June 15, 2025

Adult Collection	
Automatic Giving\$6,5	346.05
Children\$	17.00
Holy Days	25.00

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

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Festival: Thank you to those of you who have picked up and returned your festival tickets. If you have not picked them up, please do so. If you would like more tickets, we have those available in the office. Please keep an eye out for our donation and volunteer letter that will be coming out in early July. We really depend on donations from all parishioners (time, talent and treasure) to make the festival a success!



FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART

Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – hang on, this gets a little technical. The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is always observed in the universal Church on the Friday after Corpus Christi (the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ). For some time, as the Church's norms permit, the parish has observed its patronal feast on the following Sunday. This year, however, that Sunday date falls on June 29, the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul, which takes precedence. Why does that matter? Only to say that we will observe the Sacred Heart this year on its actual date of Friday, June 27, with the 8:00 a.m. Mass, followed by Adoration of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m., concluding with Benediction at 11:00 a.m.

Also, since the First Friday of July is the Fourth, we will not have Adoration that day, but rather on July 11.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Free blood pressure checks will be available in the Hospitality Suite after Masses on the 3rd full weekend of the month. Upcoming dates are June 21/22 and July 19/20.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please add Rosie Hennen, Julie Hipp, Richard & Vi Lockhart, Linda Midas, Brenda Schmitt and Jayne Wruck to your prayers. If you know of anyone who needs our prayers and wants to be put on the prayer list, please call 320-251-8115.

Sacred Heart also has a prayer chain. Please call 320-492-9361, 320-252-3401 or the Parish Office At 320-251-8115 if you have a prayer request.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Come hang out with us on the 3rd Sunday of every month this Summer. Grades 6-12 along with their friends are invited from 6-8 PM on the following days:

- •Sunday, June 22nd Pizza Olympics Wear your Red, White and Blue as we celebrate the second annual Pizza Olympics! Compete in pizza based activities, cheer on the winning delivery driver and enjoy pizza. See you there!
- •Sunday, July 20th TBD
- •Sunday, August 17th Water Night

Save the Dates

- Friday, June 27th Selling Ice Cream at Sauk Rapids parade
- Wednesday, August 13th Annual Mystery Tour

FMSC / Valleyfair Grades 6-12, join us on Wed. July 9th for Feed My Starving Children and Valleyfair from 10:15 - 8:30 PM. Cost is \$45/ person, friends are most welcome. Permission Slips are online and by the Youth Ministry board. Contact Jason Prigge to sign-up or for any questions!

FAITH FORMATION

Online Registration is open for the 2025-26 Faith Formation program at Sacred Heart. Faith Formation is open to parish families with children in K-Confirmation. (Confirmation prep usually begins in 10th grade.) To assist with preparation for the upcoming year, families are asked to register by Monday, August 11th. Registrations received after Aug 11th may have to pay a material fee if additional materials are needed. If you have any questions, contact Scott Frieler at the Faith Formation office.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION-ADULTS

ARE YOU SOMEONE OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...

Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic? Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?

Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

We offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of the Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Contact Dan Joe Kresky with questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 23; 9am—VBS Begins—Please Pray for Participants and Volunteers this Week

June 24; 6:30pm—ACC Planning Council Meeting

June 25; 8:30am—Festival Envelope Stuffing

June 28; 3:30pm—Reconciliation 4pm—Young Adult Mass and a Meal (SFX)



ANNUNCIATION PARISH

Contact: Cindy Gans 320-252-1729

cindyg@annunciationmayhewlake.com

Faith Formation: 320-259-4941

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Income for Sunday, June 15th, 2025

Adult Sunday	\$1,925.75
Visitors	\$119 <i>.75</i>
Youth	\$7.00
Votive Candle	\$22.50
Funeral Lunch	\$80.00
Building Fund	
Total Income	\$2,175.00

MASS SCHEDULE

Sun. June 29th, 2025

Lector: Lori Schaefer and Gene Poser

Eucharist: Brenda Carstensen-Boe(H), Amy Krajsa(C), Lora

Knafla(C)

Servers: Ava Krajsa and Nora Fitch

Greeters: John & Karla Koenig, Wyatt Montag and Ben

Larson

Ushers: Tom & Barb Brand, Jeremy Brand and David Lentner



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Mary Novak, Chuck Wocken, Noah Czech, Kyle Miller, Jasmine Brenny, Joshua Puhalla, Justin Puhalla, Steven Scapanski, Benjamin Larson, Steven Slimmer, Peggy Janson, Carter Novak, Tom Roettger, Logan Simmons, Tom Dietman, Mark O'Keefe, Craig Solt.

MAYHEW LAKE SOFTBALL SCHEDULE:

Wed. June 25th - 6:30pm at Graham Methodist

Wed. July 2nd - No Games

Wed. July 9th - 6:30pm at Mayhew Lake

Wed. July 16th - 6:30pm at Graham

Methodist

Wed. July 23rd - 6:30pm at Mayhew Lake





NEED VOLUNTEERS Looking for a few people willing to water the flowers outside of the Church, Rectory and Hall 1-2x's a week from June thru September. For more information or if interested please contact Amy Krajsa. Call or text: 320-293-6549. Thank you.

TO ANNUNCIATION PARISH: Thanks again for the opportunity to serve the Church of Annunciation. Thank you for the beautiful plaque, the generous gift cards and for the reception after mass. God has blessed me beyond measure to be a part of this church. From the bottom of my heart, Thank you!!



Shirley Scapanski.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Contact: Becky Dingmann — 320-252-1363

bding mann@stfrancissartell.org

Fr. Ron Weyrens, Pastor

Tom Offerdahl, Business Manager

Office Hours 8 AM-4:30 PM Monday-Thursday, 8-Noon Friday

Parish Nurses Julie Kouba 701-721-5083

Bev Wiehoff 320-492-0135

Raren Reinholz 320-260-6158
Prayer Line Margaret Stang 320-249-9304

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

Weekly Collection Budget	\$21,346.15
Collected 6/15/2025	
Excess (Deficit)	
YTD Collection Budget	\$1,068,013.30
YTD Collected	\$1,043,864.35
Excess (Deficit)	\$(24,148.95)

OFFICE CLOSED

The parish office will be closed on Friday, July 4.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION



Eucharistic Adoration June 24, 4-7 pm. Come and spend some quiet time with Jesus.

ELEVATE BUTTERFLY/LANTERN RELEASE

We are excited about our 4th Annual Butterfly and Lantern Release Memorial and Picnic. At ELEVATE, we are a family that cares about our community. We value life at every stage from its beginning to its end. Join us as we honor and celebrate lives at our Memorial Service. If someone is unable to attend, that's perfectly okay, we'll gladly release your memorial on their behalf. Individuals can purchase a butterfly and/or a lantern to be released before the Memorial Service. Call or text us at 320-252-4150 with questions.

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

Liturgy of the Word for Children is looking for volunteers to help in the 2025-2026 season. If you enjoy working with young children and love sharing stories about Jesus and your love for Him, this ministry is for you! If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about this ministry, please contact Jennifer at jkaweesa@stfrancissartell.org.

Time Commitment: September - May | Sunday morning during the 9:30am Mass | Rotating schedule

CEMETERY PLANT STANDS

We have approved, single pole plant stands available at the parish office. They are made locally and we sell them for what we pay for them - \$65.00. They are made for approximately a 10" pot. They can hold larger or smaller pots by some "squeezing" or "stretching" the brackets on the stand. Questions, call the parish office at 320-252-1363.

CEMETERY NEWS

Our cemetery has been in existence just about as long at the parish — so about 75 years. It is the final resting place for many of our parish members. Many veterans go to the cemetery at Ripley. Other parishioners are buried "back home" or at some previous parish where arrangements were made. If you are interested in some pre-planning and picking out your final resting place, please call Tom in the parish office to set up a time to meet or to learn more. We have a handful of options for you depending on if you are looking at a traditional burial or a cremation. Choosing your final resting place is a first step in planning to make things easier for when death occurs. And, like just like everything else, doing something now will mean savings against future price increases due to increasing maintenance costs. Reach Tom at 320-252-1363, ext. 405. St. Francis Xavier is also going digital. At 75 years old the cemetery record book and the map are getting very hard to read. Time has a way of "fading" things. Our cemetery records are being photographed and digitized to save content and make it accessible going forward. The cemetery itself is getting photographed and mapped out for people to find whoever they are seeking. The map will be accessible by our website and by an app. It will show photos of graves sites along with maps to walk you right to the site you are seeking. We have a staff person who does most of the yardwork at the cemetery. He is respectful of gravesites and decorations, but we have rules that limit and guide decorating. We are thankful for all who abide by the regulations. We have a cemetery committee that includes dedicated volunteers who help with planning and maintaining the look of our cemetery. They volunteer their time for everything from cleaning up decorations that are out of compliance or at the end of the fall when it needs to be cleared until springtime. Cemetery committed members also help with debris pick-up in the wooded area as well as placing bronze memorials on the columbarium's. Thank you to Merv Cihlar, Dan Kurowski, Jim Miller, Bob Pogatshnik, and George Reisdorf. After Memorial Day and at the end of the season (just after November 1) there are major clean-up duties. The rest of the year, there are small chores that come up. It is not an overwhelming responsibility. Again, contact Tom if you are interested in sharing your time in this way.

AFTERSHOCK

Aftershock Youth Ministry Needs Your Help! Our youth ministry is growing and flourishing, and we need your support to continue offering engaging and meaningful experiences for our young people! We're looking for volunteers to help with a variety of roles, including: Prayer Team, Kitchen Team, Music Ministry, Mentors, Events Team, Speaker, Mission Trip Team, Service Team, Retreat & Companions Why volunteer? Make a difference in the lives of young people. Develop your own spiritual gifts and leadership skills. Connect with other adults in a supportive and faith-filled community. How to get involved: Enter this link https://forms.gle/nLCkDNDmFEhFqrPk8 to access the sign-up to provide your contact details and your interest. Role descriptions are also provided.

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