Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018

Sacred Heart PARISH

Sauk Rapids, Minnesota

Striving to be a Grateful Parish

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Monday, December 17, Late Advent Weekday
8:00 am -Word & Communion Service

Tuesday, December 18, Late Advent Weekday
5:30pm †Evelyn Gartner

Wednesday, December 19, Late Advent Weekday
8:00 am †Sr. Eileen Kosel

Thursday, December 20, Late Advent Weekday
8:00 am †Norbert & Nancy Motzko
2:00 pm †Mike & Julie Soroko *(at Good Shepherd Chapel)*

Friday, December 21, Late Advent Weekday
8:00 am †Joseph Plaisance

Sunday Eucharist, December 22/23
Fourth Sunday of Advent
5:00 pm -For the Parish
8:00 am †Mary Jo Bozych
10:00 am †Don Kuefler
6:00 pm *(at St. Mary's Cathedral)*

DAILY READINGS

Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Thursday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

This holiday season, our parish prayerfully considers donation to the Catholic Charities food shelf in St. Cloud. These donations can be dropped off at Sacred Heart, where they will be donated to Catholic Charities.

About a month ago, the Sacred Heart staff volunteered their morning at the food shelf. **We were struck by the lack of personal and child care items that were available to their patrons.** Please consider donating much needed items such as diapers, toothbrushes, or soap. If you are making a financial donation, you can write in "personal care items" on the check memo or leave a note in the envelope.
Thank you for your generosity.

Please support those businesses that advertise in our bulletin!

GOD IS GOOD! STEWARDSHIP OFFERINGS

INCOME FOR THE WEEK ENDING
DECEMBER 9, 2018

Adult Collection	$15,646.25
Children/Youth	$60.60
Loose Collection	$563.59
Friends in Need	$120.00
Christmas Flowers	$180.00
Improvements	$90.00
Christmas	$1,790.00
Immaculate Conception	$1,317.00
Religious Retirement	$1,004.00

YEAR END GIVING

Wherever you look Christmas lights are glowing, gifts are being bought and cookies being made, the hustle and bustle of Christmas is all around. The church is also preparing for Christmas through the season of Advent, a time of getting ready for Christmas in a different fashion. In either case one thing is certain, the year 2018 is drawing to a close. We ask that you please remember Sacred Heart in your year end gifts. We certainly welcome gifts for our education endowment, and other special projects but contributions are most needed in our regular Sunday giving and Capital Campaign. Thank you for your continued generosity.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Sunday, December 16, 3:30pm
Holy Spirit (St. Cloud)

Tuesday, December 18, 6:30pm
St. Mary's Cathedral (St. Cloud)

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

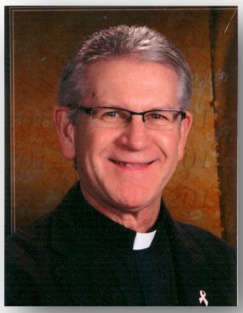
Liturgical Ministers are needed for our Christmas and New Years Masses. Please sign up through the web-terminal program or on the sheets near the sacristy.

FLAG WAVERS AND GIFT BEARERS

If you are interested in being a flag waver for the Christmas liturgies, please contact Jill in the Parish Office. Also needed are gift bearers for the Christmas and New Year liturgies.

Church Cleaning on Monday, December 17 beginning at 8:30am

FOOTSTEPS ON THE JOURNEY



Share your clothes!
Share your food!
Be honest!
Be satisfied with your wages!

Different groups of people asked John the Baptist what they should do, and he told them: share, be honest, be satisfied. Prepare the way of the Lord! John the Baptist continues to challenge us to make straight the way of the Lord, and to share the Good News.

The third Advent candle glows rose this weekend — we are at the halfway point (and beyond) of the Advent season. John the Baptist might tell us the same things today as he did to those first followers: and he would ask us to be more patient, more merciful, more just. He would probably also ask people to stop whining and to make sure that people were given care, first and foremost.

ACCs: STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES — Speaking of Advent patience and waiting, we are now waiting for the next step in the planning process for our entire diocese, and the formation of **Area Catholic Communities.** We are starting to refer to them as "**ACC**s" — more alphabet soup in our church talk. Information, comments and parish meetings have added a wealth of suggestions to this process. There are also some crazy rumors out there, and I will not dignify them by naming them! We are committed to keeping everyone informed as we move forward. We might need John the Baptist to tell us to "Be patient. Stop whining!"

Bishop Kettler has called a meeting of all diocesan priests and pastors for January 30. Nothing has been decided yet, and the process is still a work-in-progress. A reminder: we are being asked to form an ACC with our neighbors Annunciation, Mayhew Lake and Immaculate Conception, Rice. Stay tuned, and keep praying for the Holy Spirit!

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES — At Masses these last two weekends, we called our young 11th-grade disciples to Confirmation in the spring, and three other adults who have asked to complete their initiation: **Shyanne Gerdes, Blair Headley and Ryan Welsh**. They will be sealed with the Holy Spirit on January 13, the Baptism of the Lord and are on different formational process. Keep them in your prayers!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE — Many of you have shared your concerns about our modified Christmas Mass schedule this year. We thought and prayed long and hard before making the change to one Vigil Mass, a Mass during the Night, and a Mass of the Day. We looked at our attendance and the availability of liturgical ministers and musicians in making the decision. Let's celebrate the Lord's birth:

Dec. 24—4:00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas
Dec 24—10:00pm—Mass During the Night (formerly Midnight)
Dec. 25—10:00am—Mass of the Day—Children's Mass

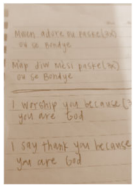
Happy Advent days! The Lord is coming!

—Fr. Ralph G. Zimmerman

WHAT'S WHAT

This past week Jovani, the interpreter from our last two mission trips to Haiti came to visit us in Minnesota. He spent nearly a week with us before heading to training for Praying Pelicans in Rochester, Minnesota. Praying Pelicans is the organization Sacred Heart uses to set up and implement our mission trips to Haiti. Praying Pelicans sets up all our ground transportation, housing and programing once we land in Haiti. They provide staff and interpreters so we can be the hands and feet of Jesus in Haiti.

Jovani had never seen snow before in his life. When he landed, he had a long sleeve t- shirt on and a backpack. Several members of Sacred Heart rallied around him and provided him with some sweaters, a jacket and some winter boots. Jovani got to experience many "firsts" — ice skating with the help of a couple students on Lake Geno here at Sacred Heart, Moonlight bowling, Cherry Berry, being hit with a snow ball and many other things.



Jovani was introduced at all Masses last weekend. He taught us the song shown here in the picture. This little song was something we learned on the last trip and is a very prayerful. It was great to have Jovani here and we look forward to connecting with him this July on our 2019 Les Cayes, Haiti Mission trip. The site we will serve this summer will be a different area of Haiti from our past trips and we are excited to work where God has called us to be.

Putting on the gloves and serving in the kitchen for JIF is a great thing. We have many awesome volunteers who cook, serve, and clean up, and do dishes for the JIF meals. It takes a small army to make it all happen. Thank you to all our great JIF kitchen volunteers for all you do!

Thank you to the Resurrection Choir for helping us pray at the Sacred Heart Funerals.

FAITH FORMATION

We Need YOU! Do you have a passion for sharing the Good News with others? Are you a creative, faith-filled person with a vision for the future of our Catholic faith and a desire to help others make a deeper connection to Jesus? Or are you just curious to find out what happens behind the scenes for Faith Formation at Sacred Heart? The Sacred Heart Faith Formation Team is looking for new members for its Faith Formation Committee and Design Team. Interested in finding out more before you commit? Call Jen in the Parish Office to come audit a meeting to see what we are all about. Wondering what you might be getting into if you join? Here are the "job descriptions" for members of these teams:

Members of the Faith Formation Committee participate in periodic meetings to help evaluate and direct the faith formation programs in the Parish, participate in Faith Formation events, and work to develop, evaluate, collaborate on, and implement faith formation at Sacred Heart Parish with the goal of helping people deepen their communion with Jesus Christ. This committee has the task of visioning for the future to frame the direction of faith experiences of Sacred Heart Parish and the wider community. Committee members are expected to be active and fully-engaged members of the faith community and share their passion and gifts for whole community catechesis.

Members of the Design Team work to design the monthly Journey In Faith intergenerational sessions using various resource materials. These members share a passion for spreading the Good News in creative and engaging ways. Some individual preparation and small group meetings may be required. Team members are also expected to be active and fully-engaged members of the faith community and share their passion and gifts for whole community catechesis.

THE POPE VIDEO

Visit the link on our website for the December Pope video.
Translation: If you want to share your faith through the word, you have to listen much and carefully. Let us imitate the style of Jesus, who adapted himself to the people He had in front of Him so as to bring God's love to them. Let us pray that people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time, in their dialogue with people's hearts, and above all, by listening much.

Lord, as I put up my Christmas tree, help me to decorate my life, too. For every ornament I hang, let me bring a kindness to someone — for each bright, colored light, a smile and a laugh to another — so that my life, as much as my tree, will radiate Your joy.

YOUTH NEWS

Upcoming Wednesday Night Live: December 19 from 6:30-8:30pm.
December 27: Feed My Starving Children and trip to MOA - Registrations are due Friday, December 21 to Philip.

HOME VISITATIONS MINISTRY

As you may know one of the greatest concerns we face as a parish community is loneliness among our homebound church members. Loneliness seriously affects many aspects of our lives. Sacred Heart is seeking individuals who feel called to provide a caring presence and a living reminder of God's love to our homebound community members. **Training will take place on Thursday, December 20 at 6:30pm.** Please contact Deacon Joe more information.

HOSPITAL VISITS

Parishioners who enter the St. Cloud Hospital through the Emergency Room **often do not show up** on the parish list when our volunteers visit those who are in the hospital. Please let Deacon Joe know if there is someone that would like a visit.

MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club will be meeting at 7pm on Tuesday, December 18 in Room C.

REST IN PEACE

IRENE FISCHER, MARCELLUS THEISEN AND MONICA KREMER

were called home to be with our Heavenly Father. Please keep their families and friends in your prayers. Eternal rest grant unto them.

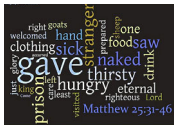
Please call your Prayer Chain Requests (calling tree) to 251-8961 or 252-3401

If you know of anyone who needs our prayers and wants to be put on the following prayer list, please contact 251-8115.

Loretta Bruner, Brian Dupay, Peggy Killoren, Gerry Maleska, Judy Nelson, Patricia Olson, Cynthia Schauland, Cathy Sigler, Bill Spaeth, Patty Vadies, Ken Winkelman, Judy Yurik, Larry Zins and for those who have received prayer blankets.

Just a reminder, KYES (1180 AM) is Central Minnesota's Catholic Talk Radio Station.

CHURCH OF THE WEEK



Jesus sleeps on the floor of Sacred Heart from March 18-24, 2019. That's right – Jesus!

Sacred Heart moves back into the Church of the Week (COTW) rotation this year as we partner with Place of Hope and other churches in housing the homeless of the St. Cloud area. Just as the gospel of Matthew, chapter 25, exhorts us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, and shelter the homeless, we are told we are actually caring for Jesus when we do these acts of mercy. COTW does all this for our human family, new friends, Jesus!

How can I get involved? Soon, we will be forming a task force/planning committee to get ready for the coming of Jesus in the form of women, children, and men who just happen to be homeless. Although we will not be hosting our guests until March in our Parish Hall, we are beginning to enlist volunteers in all areas. For questions or if interested in the planning committee, staying overnight during the week, helping with the meals for each night, providing snacks, visiting, praying, etc. contact Deacon Joe.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES

Hearing assistance devices are located at the audio/visual station at the back of the church. The device allows the users to individually adjust the volume of the priest, lector and musicians to a comfortable level. The user wears either an ear-bud or headphones. If you have any difficulty hearing during Mass, you may want to try one of these devices.

LENDING LIBRARY

A Lending Library is located in the sitting area outside of the Parish Office. The bookshelf in that area contains a variety of reading material that you are welcome to read here or to take home and return when you are finished. We will operate on an honor system so please return the books you borrow. If you have books you would like to donate, you can leave them in the Parish Office and we will decide what we can use.

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

St. Benedict's Senior Community is seeking volunteers to assist with Catholic ministries. The primary need at this time is eucharistic ministers. You do not need to have any prior experience in eucharistic ministry as SBSC will provide training and commissioning. Eucharistic ministers arrive at 8:30am, round the floors distributing Communion, and serve during the 10amMass. The current needs are for Thursday mornings and/or one Sunday a month. If you are unable to make a weekly commitment, any amount of time would be a welcome help. If interested in another ministry, other opportunities include rosary leaders (daily at 3:45pm) and chapel attendants (setting up for Mass, escorting residents in and out of the chapel and tending to their needs during Mass). For more information, contact Rebecca Calderone, director of pastoral care, at 320-252-0010 ext. 30276 or at rebecca.calderone@centracare.com.

The Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls invite the public to attend a festive Christmas Eve Mass at Sacred Heart Chapel, St. Francis Convent, Little Falls, on Monday, December 24, 7:30pm. Christmas hymns will begin at 7pm. Fellowship follows Mass. On Christmas Day, the Franciscan Sisters invite you to join them for Christmas Mass at 8:30am. Christmas blessings to you from the Franciscan Sisters!

SACRED HEART PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Striving to be a grateful parish following Christ by loving God, and loving our neighbors as ourselves through our words, deeds and thoughts.

Christmas Decorating

Sunday, December 23rd

11:15am

Christmas decorating will be on Sunday, December 23rd following the 10:00 Mass. Help is needed with:

- Setting up the nativity scene
- Setting up & decorating the tree
- Putting up fabrics, lights, wreaths, garland and poinsettias

If you're strong. . . Or creative. . .

We need you!

Please gather near the kitchen for instructions.

Grab a cookie before we begin. A light lunch will be available afterwards.

Questions? Contact Jill 251-8115 x122

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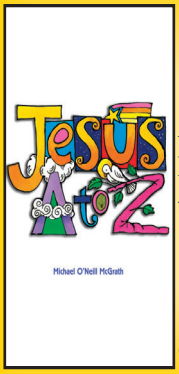

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PARISH CALENDAR

Subject to Change — Please visit our web site for the most up to date information

Monday, December 17	Tuesday, December 18	Wednesday, December 19	Thursday, December 20	Friday, December 21	Saturday, December 22	Sunday, December 23
8:00am Word/Communion 8:30am Church Cleaning 4:00pm Cub Scouts in Room D 5:30pm KC Xmas Dinner in Parish Hall	5:00pm Girl Scouts in Rm D 5:30pm Mass 6:15pm Praise Choir in Church 7:00pm Men's Club in Room C	8:00am Mass 5:45pm Bell Choir in Music Room 6:00pm Kid's Choir in Church 6:30pm WNL 7:15pm Mixed Choir in Music Room	8:00am Mass 10:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm FF Design Team 2:00pm Mass at Good Shepherd 6:30pm Home Visitation Min. Training	8:00am Mass 8:30am SKD Mass at St. Aug's	3:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Mass	8:00am Mass 9:00am Adult Confirmation Class in Room D 10:00am Mass 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous in GS

PARISH OFFICE HOURS — WELCOME!

8:00am — 4:00pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
11:00am — 7:00pm Tuesday

PARISH STAFF

Heather Conklin, Ministry Coordinator (320-251-8115, Ext. 129)
hconklin@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
Jen Haman, Director of Faith Formation (320-251-8115, Ext. 117)
jhaman@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
Cynthia Hogenson, Bell Choir Director
chogenson@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
Jill Kiffmeyer, Music/Liturgy Associate (320-251-8115, Ext. 122)
jkiffmeyer@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
Deacon Joe Kresky, Pastoral Minister (320-200-4454)
jkresky@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
JoAnn Mo, Parish Secretary (320-251-8115, Ext. 114)
jmo@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
Philip Shefveland, Youth Minister (320-281-9518)
pshefveland@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
Tim Stanoch, Director of Communication/Finance (320-356-0021)
tstanoch@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
David Walker, Custodian; (320-251-8115)
dwalker@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
Sarah Woeste, Director of Music/Liturgy (320-251-8115, Ext. 116)
sarahwoeste@sacredheartsaukrapids.org
Father Ralph G. Zimmerman, Pastor (320-251-8115, Ext. 112)
rzimmerman@sacredheartsaukrapids.org

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LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday—5:00pm
Sunday—8:00am, 10:00am
10:00am Mass interpreted for hearing impaired
Weekdays and Holy Days—Variable; see inside of bulletin for details

BAPTISM

Congratulations! Baptism Preparation will need to be completed prior to Baptism. The next session is on January 8, 2019, at 6:30pm. Please contact JoAnn in the Parish Office to register.

MARRIAGE

Congratulations! Please contact JoAnn in the Parish Office at least six months in advance.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

God heals! Please contact Fr. Ralph in the Parish Office.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome! Please contact Heather to register as a new parishioner.

RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS)

God is calling! Please contact Deacon Joe.

PENANCE (RECONCILIATION)

God forgives! Saturday—3:30 pm; other times by appointment

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Find us at: 2875 10th Ave NE Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

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