

**\*\*Weekend Offerings \*\***

Envelopes (61)	\$2,512.06
Plate	\$ 185.00
Children (1)	\$ 1.00
Holy Day	20.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,738.06</b>
<b>Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>\$2,405.00</b>

**\*\* Church Donations \*\***

Candles	\$ 12.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 77.00
Faith Formation	\$ 35.00
Church Rental	\$ 500.00
Youth (Butter Braid)	\$ 270.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 894.00</b>

**\*\* Other Donations \*\***

Retired Religious	\$ 20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 20.00</b>

**Verne Friday**

Verne, aged 70, of Hopkins, died Dec. 13, 2008. He was married to Arleen for 42 years and had two daughters and four grandchildren. He grew up in Rush City and as a graduate of Albert Lea High School in 1956, he served the US Army and received a degree in accounting from Mankato State. He had a very successful professional career and retired in 2003 after 20 years with Steinel America as President and CFO. He was an active member of St. John the Evangelist and the Church of St. Patrick in Edina. Verne enjoyed caring for his yard, playing golf and spending time with friends. A memorial mass was held at the Church of St. Patrick in Edina. And the burial of his mortal remains took place in Calvary Cemetery, Rush City on December 18. May his soul rest in peace!

**The Greatest Good News**

On March 3, 1849 the United States Congress voted in favor of erecting the State of Minnesota. That good news arrived St. Paul by boat only on April 9. It was a time when news could be conveyed only through word of mouth and it took weeks and months to reach from one place to another. Situation is different in our generation; we've radios, TVs, cell phones, emails and text messaging for effective and instant communication. But is there any good news? Most times what we hear is depressing reports of crime, violence and anger.

Today we have good news, it's Christmas. Jesus Christ is born. God has become man, *Emmanuel*. News cannot get any better. He has brought abiding peace and lasting joy for all those of good will. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone" (Is 9:1). Millions are eagerly waiting for that news, desperately seeking that peace and hungering for that hope. Unfortunately, on the other hand, those who have that precious news are often times hesitant and reluctant to convey it.

The angels, shepherds and Magi of the Christmas story invite us to join the chorus announcing to the world, "Jesus Christ is born today, alleluia."

Fr Xavier

**Offering Envelopes**

All registered parishioners of Sacred Heart are provided with offering envelopes. Whatever be your offering, it needs to come in that envelope, so that your presence in this community may be felt. Loose change is dropped into the collection basket by visitors, not parishioners. Please make it a habit to use the envelopes.

Envelopes for your offering in the coming year are at the back of the church. In case you don't see a pack with your name, please sign your name on the sheet indicating that you need envelopes. We'll get them to you as soon as possible.

**Prayer Corner**

That the family may become more and more a place of training in charity, personal growth, and transmission of faith. (General intention of the Holy Father for January 2009 )



## This Week at Sacred Heart

### Sunday, Dec 28

10:00 a.m. Mary Petschl's Retirement Gathering  
6:30 p.m. Gambler's Anonymous

### Wednesday, Dec 31

5:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Mass

### Thursday, Jan 1

9:00 a.m. New Year's Day Mass

### Thanks to Mary Petschl

Mary Petschl has served the parish of Sacred Heart for the last thirteen years as Secretary and Book keeper. As of 31st of December, she is retiring from that position and the parish community is indebted to her for her deeply committed and dedicated services. She apparently has "loved every minute of it" She has met a lot of very nice people in Sacred Heart congregation. Mary and her husband Al have lived on Rush Lake for almost 20 years. They have been raising two grandsons since their daughter's death 10 years ago. They will be spending part of their winter in Florida but plan on remaining active members of Sacred Heart.

Please join us this weekend (Dec. 27 & 28) after all masses to show Mary Petschl our appreciation of her generous services. See you all in Wey Hall after Mass.

### Mass Intentions

#### For the Week of Dec 28 - Jan 3

Tues	8 a.m.	Mary Froelke †
Wed	8 a.m.	Mike Halpin †
	5 p.m.	Francel Hetznecker †
Thurs	9 a.m.	Orrin Olson †
Fri.	8 p.m.	John & Mary Winter †
Sat.	5 p.m.	Frances & Tony Debevec †
Sun	9 a.m.	Parishioners

Merry  
Christmas



### Saints of the Week

**Dec 29** *Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr, † 29 Dec. 1170; killed by order of Henry II; eight years chancellor of England; as archbishop of Canterbury defended the freedoms of the Church; canonized only three years after his death; considered the most famous martyr of the Middle Ages.*

**Dec 31** *Sylvester I, pope, † 335; as bishop of Rome (314-335), organized public worship and dedicated the Lateran basilica; represented at the Council of Nicea which condemned Arianism; one of the first non-martyrs venerated as a saint.*

**Jan 1** *Basil the Great, † 1 Jan. 379; hermit who became bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia; noted for his learning; foe of Arianism; wrote a rule on monasticism; source of Eucharistic Prayer IV; along with Gregory Nazianzen, Athanasius and John Chrysostom, considered one of the four great doctors of the Eastern Church*

*Gregory Nazianzen, † 25 Jan. 389 or 390; Patriarch of Constantinople; noted for his knowledge of sacred Scripture; called theologus for his outstanding teaching abilities and eloquence.*

**Jan 3** *The Most Holy Name of Jesus.* Through the particular efforts of St. Bernardine of Siena (20 May), devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus (= "Yahweh is salvation") was promoted through the inscription of the monogram of the Holy Name, IHS (an abbreviation of the Greek name for Jesus) and the addition of the name of Jesus to the Hail Mary. This observance has been newly included in the Universal Calendar of the recently revised *Missale Romanum, editio typica tertia*.

### Birthdays of the Week

**12-28** Joshua Skalsky, Delia Stai, **12-2** Robyn Sempel, **12-31** Pat Mihm, Jim Noon, Ellen Rothenbacher, **1-1** Judy Anderson, **1-2** Laura Hestbeck, Joseph Lasser, **1-3** Gary Dreissig, Haylie Gilbert, Kelly Wofford

Happy Birthday

**\*\* Next Week Liturgical Roles \*\***  
**Wednesday, December 31, 2008 5:00 p.m.**

**Lector:** Kevin Smith  
**Commentator:** Wayne Herberg  
**Communion:** Alice Peshia, Eileen Kost,  
Shanon Swanson  
**Gifts:** Drevecky Family  
**Ushers:** Dick Ordner, Tom Kost  
**Servers:** Heather Herberg, Samantha Herberg

**Thursday, January 1, 2009 9:00 a.m.**

**Lector:** JoAnne Lee  
**Communion:** Deacon Larry  
**Gifts:** Walz Family  
**Ushers:** Gary Weiden, Bill Peno  
**Servers:** Sarah Gamache, Heather Fisher

**Saturday, January 3, 2009 5:00 p.m.**

**Lector:** Lois Anderson  
**Commentator:** Rick Drevecky  
**Communion:** Mary Stenger, Ginny Thorn,  
Fern Vescio  
**Gifts:** Kay Family  
**Ushers:** Matt Stenger, Butch Anderson,  
Jim Thorn  
**Servers:** Blake Minke, Patrick Kasl

**Sunday, January 4, 2009 9:00 a.m.**

**Lector:** Brenda Dahl  
**Commentator:** Teri Jungels  
**Communion:** Lil Jungels, Debbie Karnick,  
Elsie Moore  
**Gifts:** Prudhomme Family  
**Ushers:** Don Belland, Joe Gamache,  
John Gamache  
**Servers:** Tom Jungels, Haylie Gilbert

**Food Drive Weekend**

The last weekend of every month is food drive weekend at Sacred Heart. Please remember that the number of the poor who visit our Rush City Food Shelf has been on the increase. All kinds of food items are welcome. Please be generous in your contributions for the food drive this weekend of Dec 27 & 28. God bless your generosity!

**Eucharistic Adoration**

We have Eucharistic Adoration every Wednesday, from 8:30 am to 12 noon. There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church. Wednesday, December 31 is an excellent opportunity to thank the Lord for the multi-various gifts of the year, in front of the Blessed Sacrament. All of you are welcome to the adoration in the church!

**2009 Calendars**

Thanks to the generosity of Jan Walz we have new church calendars at the back of the church. If you haven't picked up your copy yet, please do so as early as possible.

**Solemnity of Mary Mother of God**

January 1, 2009, New Year's Day, is the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, a holy day of obligation. We have an anticipatory mass on New Year's Eve, Wednesday, at 5:00 p.m. On the day of the feast the solemn Eucharist is at 9:00 a.m.

**Farewell, 2008**

A year is ending, 2008. As we look back we can see achievements and accomplishments. Some struggles and setbacks were inevitable. There has been growth and deepening in faith, while some opportunities were lost. There were times when we rejoiced together and others when we hugged each other in pain. Overall a good year is behind us and we thank the Lord for his continued providence. We thank each other for the time, treasure and talents that we have shared this past year. May God be praised. Have a Happy New Year !

**Those Who Need Our Prayers**

Joe Bergstad, Donald Dahl, John Gorman,  
Vivian Peltier, William Kalkbrenner, Dallas  
Erickson, Chris Johnson, and Elinor Capecci.



# Bible Study

The Bible Study group is not meeting Monday, December 29<sup>th</sup> but will resume our sessions on Monday, January 12 at 6:30 pm in the Parish House. We will continue our discussion of Matthew Chapter 26. Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

~Deacon Larry

## The Feast of the Holy Family

The Sunday after Christmas is always celebrated as the feast of the Holy Family. By becoming one like us, by being born into the human family, Jesus made holy the institution of marriage and family. The gospel this Sunday speaks of the joys and struggles of the family of Jesus, the child's obedience to the parents and his growth in wisdom and age.

The Church teaches that family is the first school of faith, a kind of mini-church into which God places each of us. It is the first place where we experience intimate and loving relationships and practice the art of giving and receiving love. So, naturally proper family relationships are central to a right relationship with God. Archbishop John Nienstedt in a recent letter has highlighted the importance of Christian marriage and its good for family and society, especially in the light of growing attacks on that sacred institution.

Our relationship with our parents, siblings and children reveal a lot about our disposition toward God. If relationships have been strained it is time for reconciliation. It will require some humility, trust and courage on our part to take the appropriate steps before the year closes on us.

Fr. Xavier

## Reminder for Faith Formation

We will have Christmas break for Faith Formation from December 24 through January 7, 2009. Our first class of the New Year will be January 14, 2009.

## RCIA

The RCIA group WILL NOT meet during the Christmas Season. We will resume our schedule on Monday, January 15 at 7:00 pm in the Parish House. We will reflect on the Scripture for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time **John 1: 35-42**. Our topic for the evening will be the Sacrament of Matrimony. Begin the New Year with us! All are welcome.

~Deacon Larry

## Theology on Tap

This program is coming to St. Paul at Dixie's on Grand (651-222-7345)! The Cathedral Young Adults (CYA) have organized the Winter 2009 "six-pack" of weekly sessions on Wednesday evenings, from January 7 to February 11. This program is aimed at serving the spiritual and community needs of all young adults, ages 18-39, single or married, in an informal setting, while remaining committed to the Catholic faith and teachings of the church. Please see more details on the bulletin board.

## Christmas Decorators

Our special thanks are due to all those who helped to clean and decorate the church and premises in view of Christmas. They were Joe Moore, Larry & Marilyn Walker, Erin Waters, Debbie & Mark Prudhomme, Connor Sherrill, Mary Petschl, Mackenzie Sherrill, Mike Donovan and Grace Shoeberl. Dan Weber helped to put up the lights outside, on the trees. Tom Kost contributed the beautiful Christmas tree. Thank you all for making this Christmas beautiful.

## Faith Formation Teachers' Gathering

The Faith Formation teachers (including Children's Liturgy of the Word and teacher assistants) will gather for a pot-luck meal and meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2009 in Wey Hall at 6:30 p.m. Teachers, please bring your teacher's manuals, planning calendars, and attendance rosters from the first half of the year. Thank you and see you there.

~ Debbie Prudhomme, DRE.