

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH

702 BELTRAMI AVE. NW, BEMIDJI, MN 56601

218-444-4262 email: rector@stphilipsbemidji.org



St. Philip's Church

218-444-4262

www.stphilipsbemidji.org

Parish Staff

Pastor:	
Fr. Chuck Huck	441-4901
Parochial Vicar:	
Fr. Don Braukmann	441-4902
Deacon/Bookkeeper:	
Deacon Kermit Erickson	441-4903
Director of Stewardship & Development:	
	441-4906
Director of Music & Liturgy:	
Aana Freihammer	441-4905
Director of Preschool & Elementary Faith Formation/Safe Environ. Coordinator:	
Kris Jensen	441-4944
Parish Administrative Assistant:	
Robb Naylor	441-4904
Director of Youth Ministry/Middle & High School Faith Formation:	
Luke Alexander	441-4908
Campus Ministry/Adult Faith Formation:	
Blake Quick	441-4907
Parish Office Coordinator:	
Tammy Johnson	441-4900
Facility Maintenance Supervisor:	
Larry Mack	
Maintenance Support Staff:	
Greg Allen	
Jim Shaw	

St. Philip's School Staff

218-444-4938

Principal:	
Carol Rettinger	ext. 4941
School Office Staff:	
Jean Patnode	441-4940
Kerry Frauenholtz	441-4942
Camille Moreno	441-4943
Marcy Quick	441-4940

Sister Parish

St. Charles Pennington

Saturday at 4:00 PM

(Fishing Opener to Labor Day)

Newman Catholic Ministries

BSU/NWTC

Events held at various locations on BSU campus. All sacramental events take place at St. Philip's Church.

St. Philip's Clothing Depot

218-444-3835

Tuesday through Saturday
9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Manager:

Norma Himmelright

Diocese of Crookston

Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Louann McGlynn
218-281-7895

Second Sunday of Advent Greetings,

December 4, 2016

Our Advent theme is óstewardship of prayerô. Jesus defines a óstewardô as someone who is in charge or control of a valuable possession. We may not think of ourselves as a óstewardô but God has entrusted us with the gift of life. We live it out minute by minute every day.

Every day we are renewed with 1440 minutes that we can use however we wish. This last weekend it was fun playing with the 1440 marbles. It is our intention to leave the marbles on display throughout Advent season. As a personal visual feel free to empty the vases and refill according to the time you spend in conversation with God, your spouse, or your children. Use the vases for some other activities where you spend your time. A question that was raised in the homily was how many minutes are wasted or how many could be used in a better way. We are challenged to be like the people in Isaiah's time streaming towards the house of God and receiving direction from Him. Life is smoother when we are participating in God's plan.

As a reminder: prayer by definition is a conversation with God: there are times we praise God, thank God, worship God, question God, are angry with God, and ask him ówhat is the plan here Lord!ô

This week you will receive in the mail a stewardship of prayer card. You are invited to consider the types of prayer that are listed and also look closely at the intentions that are listed. For each family member please fill out the form and return half of it here to the altar. It will serve as a sign of our commitment and our accountability that we will increase the amount of time we spend in conversation with God. Prayer will bear fruit when it helps us be on the same page as God's plan. Here is a novel idea: ótouch base with God for five seconds before every activity.ô Please remember adoration times and the Monday through Friday at 8:05 to 8:15 AM community morning prayer in the chapel. Extra copies of the stewardship of prayer form will be available so that each member of your family can make their own commitment. Walk them to the Altar and put them in the basket.

We congratulate our almost 50- 2nd graders on receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Now it is our turn to celebrate Reconciliation on Friday December 9 from 7 AM to 8 PM Just as we did in Lent: we have invited priests from the deanery to be here every hour throughout the day! We have invited all parishes in our deanery to attend. God's love and mercy is bountiful. It helps us to be ready to celebrate Christmas with clean hearts, pure hearts, and joyful hearts.

Here is a wonderful prayer to cut and use dailyö Lord Jesus Christ, We gather in your name as did your apostles before us. And we live, as they did, in anxious times, painfully aware sin's presence in the world: a world in need of your Father's mercy and love. As your disciples, we also live in hope, confident that your light is breaking through the changing moods of life - healing, embracing, and transforming as your presence moves deep within us.

Help us see this time of prayer as a moment of grace: a time when we open our hearts to you in prayer, discover your Truth in our discussions, and serve as blessings to one another. Make us better stewards of the great wealth of gifts you have bestowed upon us. Show us how to teach others to open their hearts to those who hunger, thirst, or who are strangers. Refresh our minds, renew our faith, and inspire us to proclaim your Gospel with a new energy in word and in deed for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. Amen.

It is Advent. Let us Be Hopeful, Be Ready, Be Joyful, and Be Loveë

Blessings, *Fr Chuck*

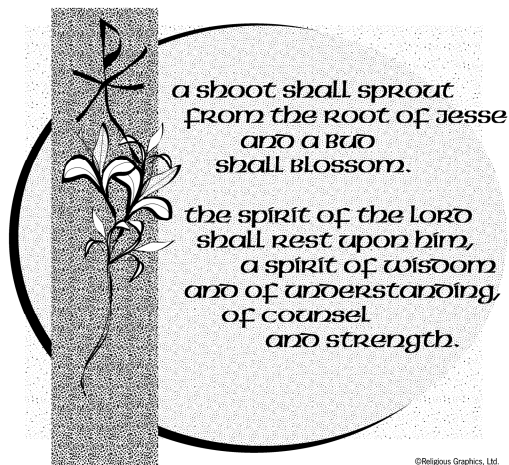
Your Parish Representatives:

Parish Council Members: Ben Baird, Sarah Bofferding, Kevin Erpelding, Anita Froelich, Jim Gorham, Cynthia Haskin, Brent Rud, Mary Scofield, Drew Weaver

Finance Council Members: Jeff Cwikla, Amy Haskell, Claude Sand

School Council Members: Jaclyn Bergerson, Tiffany Fankhanel, Christine Louvar, James Marcotte, Trudy Peterson, Laura Schwindt

Trustees: Hank Krigbaum, Shannon Schmidt



Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2016

Our God will come to save us.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MASS INTENTIONS

For December 5 to 11

Monday, Dec 5

8:30 AM Mass: +Deacon John Schuiling

Tuesday, Dec 6

6:30 PM Mass: Special Intentions for Karen Merschman

Wednesday, Dec 7

8:40 AM Mass: +Etta Mooney

6:30 PM Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass: +Genny Eisenrich

Thursday, Dec 8 Immaculate Conception of Mary

8:40 AM Mass: For the People

10:30 AM Anointing Mass (Neilson Place): +Jayne Ramsayer

10:30 AM Communion Service (Goldpine)

6:30 PM Mass: +Buster Spaulding

Friday, Dec 9

8:30 AM Mass: Special Intentions for Brian Himmelberger

Saturday, Dec 10

5:30 PM Mass: Special Intentions for Hank & Angel Krigbaum

Sunday, Dec 11

7:30 AM Mass: +Mary Ann Dahl

9:00 AM Mass: For the People

11:00 AM Mass: +Helene Ovsak

6:30 PM Mass: Special Intentions for Robert Maas

DAILY READINGS

For the Week of December 5 to 11

Monday, Dec 5

X Is 35:1-10

X Ps 85:9-14

X Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, Dec 6

X Is 40:1-11

X Ps 96:1-3,10-13

X Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday, Dec 7

X Is 40:25-31

X Ps 103:1-4,8,10

X Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, Dec 8

X Gn 3:9-15,20

X Ps 98:1-4

X Eph 1:3-6,11-12

X Lk 1:26-38

Friday, Dec 9

X Is 48:17-19

X Ps 1:1-4,6

X Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, Dec 10

X Sir 48:1-4,9-11

X Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19

X Mt 17:9a,10-13

Sunday, Dec 11

X Is 35:1-6a,10

X Ps 146:6-10

X Jas 5:7-10

X Mt 11:2-11

Monday, Dec 5

8:05 AM Community Morning Prayer (Chapel)

9:00 AM to 9:00 PM Adoration (Chapel)

5:30 PM March for Life Planning Mtg (St. Elizabeth Rm)

5:45 PM Bible Study- *The Prophets* (St. Kateri Rm)

Tuesday, Dec 6

6:00 AM to 9:00 PM Adoration (Chapel)

8:05 AM Community Morning Prayer (Chapel)

10:00 AM Bible Study- *The Prophets* (St. Kateri Rm)

3:15 PM Little Flowers (Social Hall)

5:00 PM Folk Group Practice (Church)

6:00 PM KC Board Mtg (Social Hall)

7:00 PM Pastoral Council Mtg (St. Kateri Rm)

7:00 PM Men's Basketball (Gym)

7:00 PM Newman Movie Night (St. Elizabeth Rm)

7:30 PM Marian Devotions (Chapel)

Wednesday, Dec 7

8:05 AM Community Morning Prayer (Chapel)

9:40 AM Rosary (Chapel)

6:00 PM Family Faith Night

Thursday, Dec 8

8:05 AM Community Morning Prayer (Chapel)

12:00 PM to 9:00 PM Adoration (Chapel)

6:30 PM RCIA & Beyond- *The Eucharist & the Mass* (St. Kateri Rm)

7:30 PM Christmas Choir Rehearsal (Church)

Friday, Dec 9

7:00 AM to 8:00 PM Advent Reconciliation Day

8:05 AM Community Morning Prayer (Chapel)

1:30 PM Bible Study- *The Psalms* (St. Kateri Rm)

5:00 PM to 9:00 PM Adoration (Chapel)

Saturday, Dec 10

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM Birthday Party for Jesus (Social Hall)

4:30 PM Reconciliation (Chapel)

Sunday, Dec 11

8:35 AM Rosary (Chapel)

9:00 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word (St. Greg/Grt Rm)

9:00 AM Preschool Sunday School (Pre-K classrooms)

10:15 AM Rosary (Chapel)

10:15 AM RCIA & Beyond- *The Eucharist & the Mass* (St. Kateri Rm)

Anointing Masses will be held at the nursing homes during the month of December. Be sure to check the weekly bulletin under the *Mass Intentions* section to see which facility is hosting the anointing Mass each week. Also, join us for the Immaculate Conception of Mary liturgies: Wed., Dec. 7 at 6:30 PM, Thurs., Dec. 8 at 8:40 AM or 6:30 PM. Or, Thurs. at Neilson Place at 10:30 AM.

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

Parents or prospective parents who wish to present a child for Baptism are asked to attend a baptism preparation class. The next session will be on **December 4**. Please call the Parish Office at 444-4262 to register, or for more information.

St. Philip's extends best wishes to **Norm Ricard and Jill Masten**, who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage on November 26th!



St. Philip's extends condolences to the families of **Marjorie Johnson** and **Joann Bordwell**, mother of Julie Maus. May they find rest and peace, and may their families find comfort in God's love.

PARISH LIFE

Agassiz Valley TEC 40th Anniversary

If you have participated on an Agassiz Valley TEC weekend please join us as we celebrate our 40th anniversary! Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 15, 2017 at St. Michael's Church in Mahanomen. The celebration will begin at 3:00 PM with time catch up with old friends. Mass will be at 4:00 PM with supper at 5:00 PM followed by a program and praise & worship. If you would like more information or would like to get your name in the TEC database please contact Terry Steen by e-mailing sjchurchlady@yahoo.com.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

If anyone is interested in learning more about Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to contact Monica Arel at 243-3880. Adoration hours are Monday 9AM - 9PM, Tuesday 6AM - 9PM, Thursday noon - 9PM, and Friday 5PM - 9PM.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Your donation works for aging religious. "I read that roughly 95 percent of donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious aid senior religious," a donor writes. "That's wonderful when we truly want our donations to *work*." Your gift works for elderly religious by helping to furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please support next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, and give to those who have given a lifetime.

The new St. Philip's 2017 Calendars are now available in the Narthex. Be sure to take one as quantities are limited.

FAMILY FAITH NIGHT, *A Night with Our Lady*

On December the 7th (Vigil of the Immaculate Conception) at 6:00 PM St. Philip's will be presenting a panel discussion about Mary! Talking about her role with the people of our parish, and how you can have a special relationship with Our Lady. You're not going to want to miss this wonderful opportunity, and then join us for Mass directly after! Stay for light refreshments following Mass. All are welcome! Bring your family! For more information contact Blake Quick at (218)-441-4907 or email bquick@stphilipsbemidji.org.

THE ADVENT GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree is an opportunity for adults, children, individuals, families, or groups to do something for others during the Advent season. Local service organizations have provided us with lists of items that will brighten the lives of their clients during the holiday season and you are invited to participate.



To do this, choose one or more of the ornaments from the Giving Tree. Purchase the item/items listed on the ornament. Do not wrap; rather, tape the ornament to the item/items. Bring the gift to St. Philip's and place it under the Giving Tree. All items need to be returned by Tuesday, December 21, so that they may be distributed during the Christmas season.

Thank you for bringing a gift to Jesus.

St. Philip's Mission Statement:

To Accomplish God's Work

NEWMAN NEWS

NEWMAN MOVIE NIGHT!!!! DECEMBER 6TH!!!!

For Greater Glory! The story of the Cristiadas in Mexico and the fight for religious freedom! Popcorn, pop, snacks and fellowship. Relax before Finals, kick back and enjoy the movie! BE THERE!!!! VIVO CHRISTO REY!!!

Christmas Flowers for St. Philip's Church are supplied, in part, through the generous donations given by parishioners in memory of deceased loved ones, or in honor of the living.



If you wish to make a memorial, please use your Christmas Flower Offering envelope in your packet of offertory envelopes. Or place your donation in an envelope clearly marked **Christmas Flowers**. Please indicate the name of the deceased person/(s) your gift is in memory of or the name of the living person(s) your gift is in honor of.

Please place your envelope in the collection basket or turn it in to the parish office as soon as possible. All memorials will be published in the parish bulletin after the Christmas season.

St. Mary's Mission Appeal

You may view the lively and colorful **2016 St. Mary's Mission Appeal Video** on the Diocese of Crookston website at www.crookston.org/smma or you can swipe your smart phone over this QR code and it will take you to the video:

(If you need a QR READER on your smart phone, go to the APP store on your phone, type "FREE QR READER" in your browser and you can very simply install a QR reader for this video and lots of other fun things.)



PRAYER AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Thank you to all who continue to gather so faithfully at the local Planned Parenthood office for prayer each month. Our next gathering is Saturday, December 17th from 10-11 AM. All are welcome as we stand before our community and pray for the voiceless.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

Goals

- Weekly goal to meet budget: \$ 16,355.00
- Increase needed weekly to meet the Roof/AC project over 36 months: \$ 1,722.00
- Increase needed weekly for maintenance escrow account over 5 years: \$ 1,126.00
- New weekly goal total: \$ 19,203.00**

Week #22	Envelopes	\$ 21,569.00
Actual Contributions	EFT Env.	\$ —
(received the	Loose Plate	\$ 632.29
weekend of 11/27/2016)	Children's	\$ 41.25
	Total	\$ 22,242.54

STEWARDSHIP ~ A HABIT OF THE HEART

Last Week's Mass Attendance

Nov 26	5:30 PM	228
Nov 27	7:30 AM	153
Nov 27	9:00 AM	333
Nov 27	11:00 AM	264
Nov 27	6:30 PM	101

St. Philip's Mission Statement:

To Accomplish God's Work

Servants of Shelter ~ Opportunity to Volunteer

In response to homelessness in Bemidji, Servants of Shelter was formed by several churches in Bemidji to provide safe nighttime shelter to the homeless, as well as three meals a day. Each week, the shelter moves from church to church and can host up to 20 homeless people at a time. All of the guests go through a background clearance so that volunteers and guests can be given the best assurance of personal safety.

Each year for many years, St. Philips has served as a host to the Servants of Shelter program during the week of Christmas. We work around the school calendar so that we can host while St. Philip's School is not in session. This year, we have an opportunity to host from the evening of December 26 through the morning of January 2.

Guests arrive at 4:00 each afternoon and leave at 8:30 in the morning. We schedule our volunteers for **four hour shifts**, and have two volunteers on each shift. That means that we need no less than 8 volunteers each day of the shelter, plus people to provide meals. We are proud to say that we have a long list of parishioners that have filled shifts over the years, and we consistently receive a yes when we call them to work each year. However, we always need a new group of volunteers to cover this great ministry.

If you are willing/able to volunteer, please contact **Kay at 556-3031 or Paula at 368-1081**. We will do everything we can to find a shift that works well for you.

"Whatsoever you do for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you do for me." Mathew 25:40

ST. PHILIP'S SCHOOL

Class Notes:

December 3/4

- It's the second week of Advent. The theme for our Advent Prayer this year is "Names of Jesus". We have prayer services on Mondays and Fridays (until the last week) in the gym at 8:35 AM. You are cordially invited to pray with us.
- On Thursday of this week, December 8, we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Students from Mr. Johnson's fourth grade will be the Holy Day's Mass ministers. For this feast, Masses are also scheduled Wednesday and Thursday evening at 6:30.
- We have sixty-five students in grades 4 - 8 competing in the first oral round of our Geography Bee. Join us for this exciting contest on Wednesday, December 7, at 9:45 AM.
- Students will have the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday, December 9. This Day of Reconciliation, from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM is available to all.
- Looking for a family Advent project? Select a Tub of Love or an ornament from the Giving Tree.
- Mid-term grades for the second quarter will be sent home next week.
- Our Christmas Program is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21. There will be two performances that day. Get in the spirit of the season!
- Go online to complete your Safe Environment Certification for 2016-2017. If you were certified during the 2015-2016 school year, you need to again be recertified this year. Please go to: www.crookston.org and following the prompts for Safe Environment. [You may have to "refresh" your cache once or twice.] This certification must be done annually and BEFORE you volunteer.

"Tubs of Christmas Love"

St. Philip's Church is again filling, "Tubs of Christmas Love" during Advent. The food and gifts collected will be shared with local low-income families or those experiencing hardship.

- ✦ From Nov 26th - Dec 11th there will be green/red plastic "Christmas Tubs" near the Advent Giving Tree that will serve as Christmas Baskets.
- ✦ The lid on each tub will have a label identifying the number of family members, ages of the children and may have some other specific information.
- ✦ The tub can be filled with items appropriate for a holiday meal, and/or a gift certificate for perishable food including items such as turkey, pie, etc. A family game or small gift items could also be included.
- ✦ Simply take a tub, fill it, and return it to the tree (on weekends) or to the parish office (during the week). Keep the label attached to the lid. **Return the filled tub by December 12th.**
- ✦ Please detach, and fill out the information slip on the side of the label, and drop in the box or collection plate.
- ✦ Feel free to partner with another family or your workplace to fill one!

Bi-Cap, CEP, Headstart, Hope House, and Churches United (reaching out to smaller organizations in the community) have provided the names this year.



Jesus was not condemned by the power of wicked people. He was condemned because of the silence of good people. Silence always helps the oppressor, never the victim. Let us pray that we may never be silent about abortion, but rather will clearly speak up to save babies from death. - Fr. Frank Pavone, *Priests for Life; Pro-Life Meditation on the 4th Sorrowful Mystery of the Rosary*

Next parish hour of prayer at Planned Parenthood: Saturday, December 17, 10-11 AM.

Marriage Tip of the Week

brought to you by www.foryourmarriage.org

"Both husband and wife should try to renew their love day after day, and that is done through sacrifice, with smiles, and also with ingenuity." – St. Josemaria Escriva

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Northwest Minnesota Ministry



Looking for the perfect gift for your spouse this year? How about a weekend away together?

A Marriage Encounter Weekend is a private weekend away from life's distractions that allows a husband and wife to focus on each other. The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends** are Mar 10-12, 2017 in Baxter, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: northmnwwme.org or contact Alan & Missy at applications@northmnwwme.org or 888-455-3496.

RETRouvaille

Save a marriage. Are you or someone you know, living in the pain of a marriage in trouble? *Retrouvaille* can help. The next program starts Jan. 27, 2017. Call 320-255-5314 or check the website www.helpourmarriage.org for more information. Preregistration is required. Space is limited.

Interested in joining a Bible Study?

✠ *Entertaining Angels*, is a fascinating study on many types of angels, including the fallen angels (demon), and the three Archangels. Some of these sessions cover demons and their evil effects in the world. *Entertaining Angels* is the best choice to study the good angels. **This study will begin on Thursday, January 5 at 3:15 PM.** Materials do need to be ordered, so please contact Blake if interested.

See Blake for more details, 218-441-4907 or email at bquick@stphilipsbemidji.org

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Do you know of someone who is ill or homebound that may like a visit from us? We would love to call on them, so please be our eyes and ears so that these folks don't fall through the cracks! Often times, the only way we are notified of a need is through friends and neighbors of the person who is reluctant to notify us themselves. If you know of someone, call Blake Quick at the Parish Office, 441-4907 and we will arrange for a visit. Thanks to you for caring about your parish family!

LOCAL BAZAARS ETC...

An "I's" Have It Sale.

Do your Christmas shopping at Bethel Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 10 from 9 AM to 3 PM. Shop for glassware, vintage items, plants, toys, jewelry, collectibles, and craft items. Free gift wrapping! 5232 Irvine Ave NW.

SNOWBIRDS... Don't forget to let us know when you leave for your winter homes and when you plan on returning to Bemidji. We would be happy to send you our weekly bulletins; simply give us a call with your mailing address and the dates you will be gone 444-4262. Thank you & safe travels!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AWARD!

Dan DeCrans, the State Warden of the Minnesota Knights of Columbus attended the recent meeting of the Bemidji KC's to present the prestigious Star Council Award to the council for the 2015-2016 year. The "Star Council Award" is given to councils where they have met their goals set forth by the Supreme Office in New Haven, Connecticut. All the goals were not only achieved but were surpassed in every category! The goals were in membership, insurance growth and activities within six service programs: church, community, council, culture of life, family and youth. The last time this award was given the Bemidji Council was in 1999. There are almost 300 KC councils in the state of Minnesota and just 22 councils have achieved this award for 2015-2016. Congratulations to our KC's for their dedication to the Church, to families and to service.



Have you ever wanted to own a timeshare?

The parish has received a "Point Condo" timeshare from an estate. It is located at Breezy Point Resort near Pequot Lakes Minnesota. Unit number 508, week 38. If you are interested please contact Fr. Chuck or Deacon Kermit for more information.

Adoration Etiquette

Following the opening of adoration guidelines: Jesus is placed in the monstrance at the beginning of the time for adoration. When we enter the chapel we either genuflect or bow toward the monstrance with Jesus in it. Many times people will stop for 10, 15 or 30 minutes during the time a regularly scheduled adorer is present. Occasionally the regularly scheduled person needs to leave and the next scheduled person has not arrived. If this happens to you simply take the veil (it is on the small table next to the altar) and place it over the monstrance with Jesus in it. When the next adorer arrives they can remove the veil and continue adoration. The last adorer of the evening will follow the guidelines for reposition of the Blessed Sacrament. These instructions can be found in the adoration book on the bookcase in the chapel. Thank you for taking time to visit with Jesus.

**prepare the
way of the Lord!**

Red Lake to Park Rapids, Fosston to Laporte to Blackduck
Calling all Catholics to Bemidji for an opportunity to experience
God's Grace through Reconciliation.

Advent Reconciliation Day

Friday, December 9th from 7am-8pm

St. Philip's Catholic Church

2 priests will be available every hour in the Chapel Reconciliation Room to hear individual confessions. Reconciliation aids available in the confessional to assist. Enter through the north parking lot, use Door #2. Questions: Call 218-444-4262

Events of the Day:

7:00am Reconciliation begins

8:00am Community Liturgy of the Hours

8:30am Mass

5:00pm-9:00pm Adoration

8:00pm Reconciliation ends

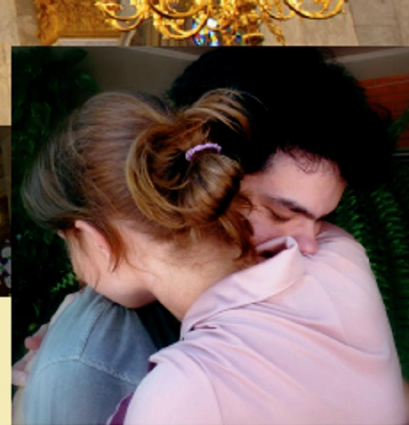


"When was the last time you made your confession... if much time has passed, do not lose another day... Jesus receives you, he receives you with so much love. Be courageous and go to Confession!"

-Pope Francis

Penance and Reconciliation

Reconciled to Right Relationship, Called to Heal and Restore



The new life in Christ that begins in Baptism may be weakened or lost through sin. Sin ruptures not only our relationship with God but also with our brothers and sisters.

By the nourishing light of the Holy Spirit, we are able to prepare for the Sacrament of Penance by examining our consciences to identify those ways in which we are not in right relationship with God and with others. This examination also challenges us to recognize our own participation in the “structures of sin” that degrade others’ lives and dignity.

Through the Sacrament of Penance, God offers mercy and forgiveness. In response to this gift, we are called to become vehicles of Christ’s love, making amends and restoring justice and the bonds that have been broken. Healed and forgiven, we are sent to work for peace, justice, and love in our communities and world.

Sin damages our relationship with God and neighbor.

In the Gospels, Jesus teaches that love of God and love of neighbor are intimately connected (Mt 22:38-39; Mk 12:29-31). When we sin against those in need by failing to act compassionately toward them, we ignore Christ himself (Mt 25:31-46). In the words of Pope Benedict XVI, “Closing our eyes to our neighbor also blinds us to God” (*Deus Caritas Est* [God Is Love], no. 16). Sin ruptures our relationship with God and also with other members of the Body of Christ (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* [CCC], no. 1440). Take a moment to consider ways that you have broken any of the Ten Commandments: Are there any false “gods” (e.g., material things, pleasure, etc.) that you place above God and other people? Have you treated family members or others with disrespect? Have you lied, gossiped, cheated, or stolen?

Sin is never an individual affair.

Sin damages our relationships with others and all of creation. Thus, sin is never a purely individual affair and has social dimensions (Pope Benedict XVI, *Sacramentum Caritatis* [Sacrament of Charity], no. 20; Pope John Paul II, *Reconciliatio et Paenitentia* [Reconciliation and Penance], no. 15).

Sin becomes manifest in unjust structures.

The collective actions (or failures to act) of individuals create “structures of sin,” which “grow stronger, spread, and become the

source of other sins” (Pope John Paul II, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* [On Social Concern], no. 36). For example, widespread poverty, discrimination, denial of basic rights, and violence result from many peoples’ actions (or failures to act) because of greed, racism, selfishness, or indifference (*Reconciliatio et Paenitentia*, nos. 2, 16). We are all called to consider how we contribute to structures of sin in our personal, economic, and public choices. For example, do we take into account the treatment of workers when we make purchases? How do our consumption choices contribute to environmental degradation? Are we aware and informed? Do we take the time to educate ourselves about issues that affect the community and advocate on behalf of those who are poor and vulnerable?

We are called to examine our consciences and admit our failings.

The Sacrament of Penance challenges us to examine our hearts inwardly and then express outwardly the ways we have failed to love God and neighbor—through both personal sin and social sin.

Examining our consciences teaches us how to “look squarely at our life” to see how well we are living the Gospel (Pope Benedict XVI, Address to participants in the Course on the Internal Forum organized by the Tribunal of the Apostolic Penitentiary, March 25, 2011). Only in recognizing our failings can our hearts be converted to God so that we can receive his forgiveness and allow his grace to heal us and our relationships.

We receive God's forgiveness and mercy.

The Sacrament of Penance allows us to receive forgiveness of sins and be reconciled with God, self, the Church family, and the human family—restoring our broken communion. Through Penance, we return to right relationships (*Sacramentum Caritatis*, no. 20).

We work to repair the harm we have done.

Reconciliation absolves us of our sin, but it does not repair the damage that was caused. We must do what is possible to repair the harm. The *Catechism* provides these examples: return stolen goods, restore the reputation of someone slandered, and pay compensation for injuries (no. 1459). We must work to repair the relationships with God and our neighbors that sin has impaired. We must also consider how we can work to transform the structures of sin

that threaten human life and dignity. By making amends and working to build a more just community, we can repair the damage and also restore our own spiritual health.

The whole Church community plays a role in reconciliation.

We do not engage in the act of reconciliation alone. While the priest is the minister of the Sacrament of Penance, the whole Church community participates in the work of reconciliation (*Ordo Paenitentiae*). When we gather each Sunday, we call to mind our sins and intercede for one another. We hear the Word of God, which challenges us to reflect gospel values in our lives and relationships. As the Body of Christ, we also challenge one another to live lives of holiness, justice, and love. The Church is an instrument of conversion, calling all its members to love and reconciliation with God and neighbor.

We are called to be forgivers and peacemakers.

Having received the undeserved gift of forgiveness, we are called to extend the same forgiveness and mercy to others. We take up the task of being instruments of reconciliation in our communities and world, working for peace, justice, and love.

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Take a moment to reflect on how sin has damaged your relationship with others.

- What false “gods” do I place above God and people?
- After leaving Mass, do I continue to glorify God by the actions in my life?
- How have I failed to love others in my family, workplace, or community?
- Do I hold any views that are prejudiced or biased or that perpetuate stereotypes?
- Have I responded to the needs of the poor and those whose rights are unfulfilled?
- Do my personal, economic, and public choices reflect a genuine concern for others and the common good?

- Have I stood up to protect the dignity of others when it is being threatened?
- Am I aware of problems facing my local community and involved in efforts to find solutions?
- Do my purchasing choices take into account the well-being of those producing what I buy?
- How do I protect and care for God’s creation? Are there ways I could reduce consumption?

Adapted from *Questions to Examine Conscience in the Light of Catholic Social Teaching* in the “Resources and Tools” section at www.usccb.org/jphd.

You are invited to Jesus Birthday Party

For Preschool and Elementary Children and their Families



Where: St. Philip's Church

When: Saturday, December 10th

9:00 to 11:30 (Come when you can)

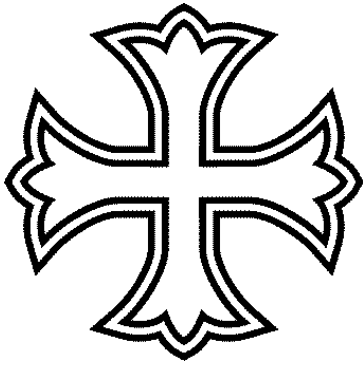
Cost: Free – No Charge (Just a Smile!)

9:00 to 11:30 --- Christmas Crafts and Activities

10:30 --- Christmas Carols and Reading of the Christmas Story

11:00 --- A Birthday Cake for Jesus

Contact Kris Jensen – 444-4262 for additional information



**Congratulations
to the following children who
celebrated God's love and
forgiveness in the
Sacrament of Reconciliation
for the first time:**

Sean Ryan Aylesworth
Raeghan Dale Baird
Riley Joe Bannor
Aubrey Bellino
Camden William Bentfield
Ivy Blumenshein
Noah Patrick Brink
Jack Aric Burlingame
Samantha Rose Buxton
Kyla Mae Frank
Jack F. Galloway
Matthew Haack
Ayden Homer-Lardinois
Gavin William Jaschke
Abigail Jenkins
Leo Owen Kueber
Garrett Larson
Karley Marie LaZella
Catherine Lock
Annabel Christine Louvar
Grace Lucas
Evan Lee Lundin
Henry McCrady
Mali Mackayla McLean
Jack Mischke

Leo Donald Morehart
Jack Norgaard
Jude Nyhusmoen
Reagan Nyhusmoen
Jack Kenneth Okerlund
Elizabeth Marie Peterson
Logan Quick
Isabella Frances Reiersen
Braelyn Carol Rupert
Bailey Rupp
Derayanii Mendoza Sandoval
Desiree' Mendoza Sandoval
Dulce Maria Mendoza Sandoval
Samuel James Schoneck
Hayden Seitz
Lucielle Solheim
Elise Mary Spaeth
Dominic St. Germain
Sophie Mae Stittsworth
Jill-Ann Walter
Elle Lynn Wille
Ella Willford
Tatum Winter
Reid Zeman

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of December 10/11

	Dec 10, 5:30 PM Third Sunday of Advent	Dec 11, 7:30 AM Third Sunday of Advent	Dec 11, 9:00 AM Third Sunday of Advent	Dec 11, 11:00 AM Third Sunday of Advent	Dec 11, 6:30 PM Third Sunday of Advent
SACRISTAN	Flavia Sagedahl	Jennifer Leisenheimer	Jim Gorham	Maryhelen Chadwick	HELP NEEDED
LECTOR	Robb Naylor Germaine Cheslock	Cynthia Haskin Elizabeth Upgren	Mike Beard Sue Hendricks	Patty Nagle Karen Merschman	HELP NEEDED
INTERCESSOR	Amy Buckanaga	Carol Schneider	Mary Walter	Ernie Rall	HELP NEEDED
ALTAR SERVER	Adair Wizner Helen Bartlett Evelyn Cordts	Aaron Hoefer Kiera Hoefer Erin Myhrer	Sophia Morin Josef Lalli Elena Peterson	Nathaniel Gourneau Westin Gourneau Paulo Tinsay	Charlie McCalip Jonathan Quandt Elizabeth Quandt
CAPTAIN	Robb Naylor	Brad Arel	Stephen Steele	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
EMHC	Mary Dufault Kell Lovell Cyndy Scanlan Heidi Hiscock Susie Dahle Flavia Sagedahl HELP NEEDED	David Hoefer Jennifer Leisenheimer Pat Gavin Joan Klobe Mary Zigan HELP NEEDED HELP NEEDED	Dan Walter Joe Bofferding Amy Bofferding Pat Welch Theresa Steele Leslie Downs Stephanie Downey Doug Gish Louise Gish	Kimberley Gourneau Judy Selby Luke Alexander Carol Rettinger Patty Nagle Gary Johnson Rena Donaghue Nicole Kieson HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED HELP NEEDED HELP NEEDED HELP NEEDED
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Would you like to become involved in liturgical ministries at St. Philip's? Call/Email Aana Freihammer afreihammer@stphilipsbemidji.org / 218-441-4905.

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