

SHEPHERD OF SOULS AREA FAITH COMMUNITY



DECEMBER 17, 2023



AFC MASS SCHEDULE

4th Sunday of Advent:
Please note the change of Mass times
and locations for this weekend only.

Saturday, December 23rd

4:30pm - Church of St. John
4:30pm - Church of Our Lady

Sunday, December 24th

8:00am - Church of St. Philip
10:00am - Church of St. Anthony
12:00pm - Church of St. Philip (Spanish
Mass)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday Dec 23

St. John 3:45 pm
Our Lady 3:45 pm

Thursday

St. John After 8:00am Mass
St. Anthony After 8:30am Mass
(3rd, 4th & 5th Thursday)

Friday

Our Lady After 8:00am Mass

Or Please call A Priest for an Appointment

NEW MEMBER REGISTRATION

To register as members of any of our four parishes go
to www.shepherdofsouls.org
and click on "I'm new". If you prefer, you may call the
office of the church you wish to register at.

AFC Mission Statement

Our Mission is to proclaim and celebrate Jesus Christ
as the center of our lives and to make
disciples for Jesus through building community,
serving our Brothers and Sisters, sharing our faith
and celebrating sacraments.

WATKINS CHURCH OF ST ANTHONY

201 Central Ave S | Watkins, MN 55389 | 320-764-2755

LITCHFIELD CHURCH OF ST. PHILIP

821 East 5th Street | Litchfield, MN 55355 | 320-693-3313

DARWIN CHURCH OF ST. JOHN

106 N. 4th Street | Darwin, MN 55324
320-693-9496 | 320-275-2915

MANANNAH CHURCH OF OUR LADY

57482 CSAH 3 | Grove City, MN 56243
320-693-8900 | 320-453-7526

WWW.SHEPHERDOFSOULS.ORG

WELCOME!

©LPI

OUR STAFF

PARISH STAFF

| | |
|--|--|
| Fr. Jeff Horejsi, Pastor AFC, | 693-3313, ext. 101 Office 320-221-4120 Cell Phone |
| Fr. Mike Doyle, Sr Associate Pastor AFC, | 693-3313, ext 108 Office 320-808-6847 Cell Phone |
| Deacon Roger Osborne | 320-894-8618 |
| Deacon John Hansen | 320-221-4987 |
| Deacon Phil Henneman | 763-220-2549 |

PARISH STAFF ST. PHILIP'S

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Brenda Grates, Parish Administrator, | 693-3313 Ext. 100 |
| Andrea Dietrich, School Principal | 693-6283 |
| Mary Roers, School Secretary | 693-6283 |
| Karen Kulzer, DRE: Preschool - Grade 5 | 693-3313 Ext. 104 |
| Nathan Stewart, Gr 6-11, AFC Confirmation | 693-3313 Ext 109 |
| Dave Eischens, Maintenance | 320-221-1045 |
| Julie Schmitz, Secretary (Wed) | 693-3313 ext. 107 |
| Monica Schreiber, Event Coordinator | 693-3313 Ext 106 |
| Church Kitchen | 693-3313 Ext. 102 |

PARISH STAFF ST. JOHN'S

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Julie Schmitz Secretary (Tue & Thu) | 693-9496/275-2915 |
| Karin Colberg, Bookkeeper | 320-221-0267 |
| Deacon John Hansen, Religious Ed Coordinator | 320-221-4987 |
| St. John's Education Center | 320-286-2800 |

PARISH STAFF CHURCH OF OUR LADY

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Julie Schmitz, Parish Secretary (Mon & Fri) | 693-8900/453-7526 |
| Deb McCann, Faith Formation Coordinator | 693-8900/453-7526 |
| Jerry Moudry, Custodian/Maintenance | 693-8900/453-7526 |

Parish Staff Church of St. Anthony

| | |
|---|----------|
| Jessica Teicher, Secretary/Bookkeeper | 764-2755 |
| Bonnie Meyer, Faith Formation Coordinator | 453-5765 |
| Stephani Donnay-Peters, Asst Faith Formation Coor | 453-5765 |
| Sam Mettler, Youth Ministry | 764-2755 |

Greetings from the
School of St. Philip!



As we come to the third week in the Advent Season our hearts are starting to give way to JOY. Joy from sharing our songs and decorating our homes, school, and church. Joy from doing kind things for others; Christmas Card making, and friendly notes to deployed soldiers. Joy from the daily practice of sharing Bible passages and working on loving others like Jesus. Joy because Jesus came into our lives as a little child to save us. Children grasp this JOY quickly and easily; it is one of the reasons I enjoy working with them. In Matthew's gospel we are reminded to become childlike to obtain the gift of heaven. In this third week of Advent, embrace a little JOY and share it with others- I think you will be pleased with the results.

Blessing on your week, Andrea Dietrich
School of St. Philip - Principal
320-593-4774/adietrich@schoolofstphilip.org

PASTOR'S LETTER

Please remember that our Mass schedule for next weekend is significantly different from the normal one. Please remind your family members & friends.

The Advent Reconciliation schedule in this bulletin.

It is time to give an update on how our parishes are doing in meeting the goals our Diocese has given us for the DMA. St. Philip's goal is \$43,325. We are at \$21,430. St. Anthony's goal is \$20,300. We are at \$4,500. St. John's goal is \$18,072. We are at \$18,799. Our Lady's goal is \$12,502. We are at \$6,325. Thank you to all who have given to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. Your contributions to the DMA reach individuals and families across the diocese. If you have not had the opportunity to make your pledge or gift yet, envelopes are available in the back of church. You may return your pledge in the collection basket or simply drop it in the mail. You may also make your pledge or gift online at <https://www.dnu.org/dma/>. Either way, your gift will be counted toward our parish goal. Be assured that your gift will only be used to support those ministries designated in the DMA brochure - ministries that are vital to our diocesan church - as well as our own parish project: St. Philip—Outdoor Youth Area; St. Anthony—Capital Campaign; St. John—Education Center new outside doors and new TV and mount in church; Our Lady—Tuition for Our Lady students attending the School of St. Philip.

St. Gertrude's is planning on creating a memorial area at the entrance to the cemetery where the church bell, the bench, large rock, and outdoor crucifix that had been in the front of church will be placed. We hope that this will help all those who miss the church.

Peace be with you, Fr. Jeff Horejsi

Mass Times - 4th Sunday of Advent:

**Please note the change of Mass times
and locations**



Saturday, December 23rd

4:30pm - Church of St. John
4:30pm - Church of Our Lady

Sunday, December 24th

8:00am - Church of St. Philip
10:00am - Church of St. Anthony
12:00pm - Church of St. Philip (Spanish Mass)

St Anthony Church Cleaners:

Church Cleaners: December 17-30:
Lynn & Karon Hokanson, Dan & Misty
Hokanson & Bonnie Holthaus and fam-
ilies
Call Theresa at 764-7251 to unlock.

St Anthony Mass Ministries,

Sun 10:00 am (12/24/23)
Altar Servers: Brennen & Kellen Huber-
ty
Rosary Leader: Betty Donnay
Ushers: Tammy Winter, Cory Meierho-
fer, Brad Landwehr, Derreck Hennen
EMHC: Lori Dockendorf
Lectors: Chad Dockendorf/Michelle
Kramer
Children's Liturgy: Kaila & Christy
Coffee & Rolls: Kevin & Erin Donnay
Greeters: Margi Schreifels & Volunteer



Our Condolences to the
Family of Ann Tacheny.
May Ann rest in eternal
peace. The obituary can be
found at

www.johnsonhagglund.com

Baptized in Christ

Congratulations to Daniel &
Courtney Nielsen as they
baptize their child David
James Nielsen at the
Church of St. John.

MASSES & INTENTIONS

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS**Monday, December 18**

No Mass

Tuesday, December 19

St Philip, Litchfield 6:00 pm † Val Bazzani
St Anthony, Watkins 6:00 pm † Walter Donnay

Wednesday, December 20

Hilltop Care Center, Watkins 10:30 am † Mike & Arletta Turner

Thursday, December 21

St. John, Darwin 8:00 am † Tom Crowe
St. Anthony, Watkins, 8:30 am † Gerald Schreder

Friday, December 22

Our Lady, Manannah 8:00 am † Deceased Priests
St. Philip, Litchfield 8:30 am † Joe Lenz (KC)

Saturday, December 23– Note Mass time change & locations

St. Philip, Litchfield 4:00 pm No Mass
St. John, Darwin 4:30 pm (3:45 pm Reconciliation) † Kate & Ray Hughes
Our Lady, Manannah 4:30 pm (3:45 pm Reconciliation) † Fran Tintes

Sunday, December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent

St. Philip, Litchfield 8:00 am † Mary Loch
Our Lady, Manannah 8:00 am No Mass
St. John, Darwin 10:00 am No Mass
St. Anthony, Watkins 10:00 am † Robert Donnay
St. Philip, Litchfield 12:00 pm (Spanish) People of the Parish

Sunday, December 24—Christmas Eve

St. Philip, Litchfield 4:00 pm † Jerry Eischens
St. Anthony, Watkins 4:00 pm † Earl & Donna Dockendorf
Our Lady, Manannah 6:00 pm † Richard & Pat Lindmark
St. John, Darwin 6:00 pm † Mary Thissen

Monday, December 25—Christmas Day

St. Philip, Litchfield, 9:00 am † Delores Speiser
St. Anthony, Watkins, 9:00 am † Jerry Oster
St. Philip, Litchfield 10:30 am (Spanish) People of the Parish

Mass live streaming on our website using Facebook Live every Saturday at 4:00 pm St. Philip, Sunday at 8:00 am at St. Philip & Our Lady, Sunday 10:00 am at St. John. You can follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069068800296> The video will remain on our website after the mass is over.

Please pray for those who are sick in the Parish especially...

St.P: Todd Wheeler, Isaac Buhr, Beckie Schaefer, Dan Curran, Jasper Kargas, Antonio Franco, Sylvia Johnson, Jon Laney, Jan Paulson, Jordan Munson, Robin, Caitlin Pitts, Karen Marsh, Shirley Buck, Mary Knutson, Tim Kapperman, Kay Grams, Philip Johnson, Dale Andersen, Darlene Putney, Addie Fairbairn, Carol Huhner, Peg Shaw, Roberta Meyer, Jeremy Munson, Carole Becker, Jim Knott, Virginia Ourada, Marge Hanson, Pat Aaker, Jodi Henricksen Winkles, Summer Franco, Florence Rezek, Cordelia Lewandoski, Julie Eck, Pat Munson, Larry Hoffman. Prayer Line phone number 593-8944.

OL: Prayer Line: Mary Kalkbrenner, George Pfeffer, Dolores Wiechmann, McKenzie Knisley Family, Mary Hansen, Josephine Valiant, Berkley Johnson, Rosie Boyer, Art Haag, JoAnn Topp. Prayer line phone number 693-8900.

St.J: Ednel Diedrich, Alec McLean, Marlys Roehl, Luis Larios, Troy Kotila, Kim (Elke) Jack, Kathy Thissen, Patrick Ecklund, Jacob Schmitz, Kathy Eggert, Mary Jo Edwards, Janice Crowe, Lori Ficker, Judy Haverkamp, Wes Edwards, Jessee Steuck, Clarence Vorlicek, Mary Levinski, Phyllis Levno, Dale LaPlante, Reiden Cichoska, Tony & Lena Marelic, Betsy Wright, Helana Posusta, David & Margaret Backus, Jeff Peller. Prayer Line Phone Number 693-9496.

St.A: The Jackie Boulton Family, Ron Welle, the Ley Family, Ellen Libbesmeier, Carol Huberty, Tom Huberty and Patrice Canfield, Joyce Manske. Prayer Line phone number 764-2755.

And all those who have asked for our prayers of healing of their friends and relatives.

Stewardship

Due to early bulletin deadlines over the Holidays we will not have current weekend collection numbers each week.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTIONS and OFFERINGS FROM THE WEEKEND OF: December 3, 2023

| OFFERINGS | St. John | Our Lady | St. Philip | St. Anthony |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Youth & Children Envelope | \$0.00 | \$13.00 | \$0.00 | \$6.00 |
| Adult Envelope | \$2,760.00 | \$1,355.00 | \$10,444.50 | \$1,932.00 |
| ACH (Auto payment) | \$720.00 | \$210.00 | \$1,140.00 | \$705.00 |
| Loose Plate Collection | \$146.00 | \$254.00 | \$774.00 | \$274.55 |
| TOTAL SUNDAY OFFERING | \$3,626.00 | \$1,832.00 | \$12,358.50 | \$2,917.55 |
| Weekly Amount needed for budget | \$3,726.00 | \$2,216.00 | \$8,365.33 | \$3,077.00 |
| This Week's Difference | (\$100.00) | (\$384.00) | \$3,993.17 | (\$159.45) |
| YEAR TO DATE SUNDAY OFFERING | \$69,036.95 | \$47,139 | \$212,193.14 | \$81,727.00 |
| Year to Date Budget Needs | \$85,698.00 | \$50,968.00 | \$192,402.59 | \$70,771.00 |
| YEAR TO DATE DIFFERENCE | (\$16,661.05) | (\$3,829.00) | \$179,790.55 | \$10,956.00 |

Every Parishioner is a Gift to the Parish and the Church. Your Financial Contributions and the Gift of your time and talents in serving the needs of our Parish and Area Faith Community is a Blessing!

Any donations can be mailed or made online at <https://www.shepherdofsouls.org/donate> Please specify the name of the parish or fund you are donating to in the comments area.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

AFC 6:45 pm.... Youth Night @ St. Philip

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

StP 8:30 am....Rosary
StP 9:00 am....Mission Quilters
StP 9:00 am.... Bible Time
StP 9:00 am....Adoration Begins
StP 5:45 pmBenediction
StP 6:30 pm...Encounter Jesus

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

StJ 8:30 am....Quilting
StP 4:00 pm...Faith Formation Service Project Night
StA 6:30 pm....Advent Reconciliation
StA 6:30 pm .Faith Formation Class Gr 7-10
StA 6:30 pm .. Faith Formation EV & Wat 11th Gr w/ parents @ St. Anthony
StJ 6:30 pm....Faith Formation Class Gr K-11
StP 6:30 pm....Faith Formation Class Gr 7-11
OL 6:45 pm... .Faith Formation Christmas Program & lunch

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

StP 8:00 am.....Rosary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

StA 7:30 am....Men's Group @EV
StA 8:00 am... Women's Group
StP 8:00 am... Band of Brothers Bible Study

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

OLNo Sunday School
StP 11:20 am..... Spanish Rosary



Eucharistic Adoration

He is waiting for you to come spend time praying. Eucharistic Adoration will be

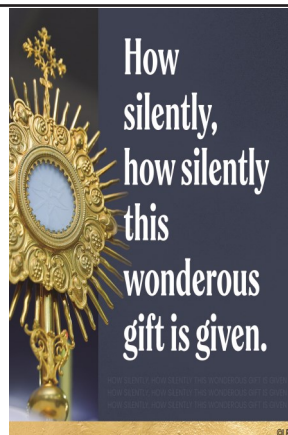
St. Anthony, Every Thursday -Friday

Thursday 9:00 am to Friday 9:00 am

Tuesday, December 19- St. Philip

9:00 am Adoration Begins,
5:45 pm Benediction

Everyone is welcome to come and pray!



Christmas Adoration at Church of St. Anthony, December 24, 11 pm-December 25, 1 am

..and the Word became Flesh. Join us for a time of candlelit Eucharistic Adoration in the church. Take a break from the holiday bustle to encounter Jesus in the quiet stillness of the late evening hour. Come and go anytime during these two hours.

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation Schedule for this week

St. Philip—Wed, Dec 20

Cookie Project Night

4:00 pm- Sort & box cookies

6:00 pm - Families invited to help deliver cookies. Followed by fellowship in Social Hal.

Sunday School—for Preschool– Gr 3 meet every other Sunday 9:15-10:15

Our Lady - Wed, Dec 20

6:45 pm Faith Formation Christmas Program followed by lunch & fellowship.

Sunday School—Preschool to Gr 2 after Communion until 9:45 am—No Sunday School on Sun, Dec 24th

St. John - Wed, Dec 20

6:30 pm Faith Formation Class Gr. K-11

St. Anthony - Wed, Dec 20

Dec 20: Advent Reconciliation Service

7th-10th graders 6:30-8pm

Class for 11th grade w/parent(s) hosted in Watkins 6:30-8pm

Dec 27 - No Classes

Jan 3 - 7th-10th graders 6:30-8pm

Jan 10 - 7th-10th graders 6:30-8pm

For more information refer to the AFC Google Calendar at www.shepherdofsouls.org

Catechist Needed - St. Philip's is looking for a long-term substitute catechist for our 6th grade faith formation class, beginning in January and continuing through the first week of April. Catechists receive detailed lesson plans and materials well in advance of class dates, and all set-up needs are taken care of prior to arrival. If you are interested, or would like more information, contact Nathan Stewart, Parish Catechetical Leader, Gr. 6-11.

Shepherd of Souls Youth Nights - A reminder that our first youth night is coming up on Monday, Dec. 18, 6:45-8:15 PM, in the St. Philip Social Hall. Open to all youth in grades 5-12. Come join us for games, activities, snacks, social time, and prayer!

Our Lady Faith Formation Christmas Project - The Our Lady Faith Formation classes will be adopting a family in need for Christmas. The family are members of our parish and have run on hard times. Instead of gifts for teachers and students we ask families to donate money or gift cards to stores around Litchfield. Any money given will be put into gift cards for groceries and household supplies. You can bring the donations to Faith Formation and give to their teachers or put in the offering plate marked Deb: Faith Formation. We need all donations by December 20. Thank you for your help with this project.

From the St. Anthony Faith Formation Office

Thank You: For the **teachers** that prepare for their classes and allow the Holy Spirit to use them as an instrument to spread the Love of Christ. • For the **classroom helpers** for being an extra presence in the room and also for your watchful eyes and ears to hear the silent cry of those students that may need help but don't know how to ask for it. • For the **speakers** who educate the listeners and guide them to encounter a deeper personal relationship with Christ. • For the **daycare helpers** and those that facilitate **children's liturgy**, you do a wonderful job giving personal attention to those in attendance. • For those that prepare the **meals and snacks**, it is said the way to every person's heart is through their stomach; meals offer a great opportunity for community building. • For those that have the heart and passion to be **in attendance** to help where needs arise; your presence is appreciated. • To those that support the Faith Formation program with your **prayers** including special prayers for the students in a sacramental year. • For all those that financially support the youth. Through your **donations** we are able to offset costs, offer additional opportunities and support local non-profit organizations as we offer works of Mercy. May God bless you all!!



St. Philip's Cookie Project

Share Your Christmas Joy
Make The Season Brighter For Others!

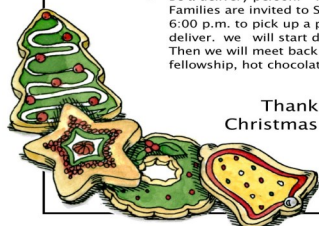
St. Philip's parishioners are once again putting together Christmas cookie packages and delivering them to our home bound and parish families who are in need of a little extra holiday cheer this year.

We are asking each family to contribute to this project in any way you are able.

Ways you can get involved

- Bake some Christmas cookies or special treats and deliver them to St. Philip's Social Hall the weekend of December 16-17.
- Come help sort and box the cookies on the afternoon of December 20th. We will start at 4 p.m.
- Be a delivery person! The evening of December 20th, Families are invited to St. Philip's Social Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m. to pick up a package of Christmas cookies to deliver. we will start deliveries at 6:00 pm to local homes. Then we will meet back at the Social Hall to share fellowship, hot chocolate and treats!

Thank you for sharing your
Christmas Cheer and Good Wishes
with others!



National Eucharistic Congress Youth Trip -

This summer, July 16th-22nd, St. Anthony/Assumption along with the Diocese of New Ulm are taking a group of current 8th-12th grade students to Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis for an opportunity of a lifetime! The first Eucharistic Congress in 50 years is bringing Jesus in the Eucharist to thousands of people from around the world! The youth track will be very similar to Steubenville. There will be great music, speakers like Fr. Mike Schmitz, and so much more! The overall cost is estimated to be \$1,000 to \$1,500 before any fundraising is done. Jesus is waiting for you; come, see and let your life be changed! Spots are limited! Contact Sam evwyouthministry@gmail.com for any questions and to register.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec 24th

4:00pm St. Philip's, Litchfield

4:00pm St. Anthony, Watkins

6:00pm St. John, Darwin

6:00pm Our Lady, Manannah

"Come early to the Christmas Eve Mass you are attending to sing Christmas carols before Mass."

Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec 25th

9:00 am St. Philip, Litchfield

9:00am St. Anthony, Watkins

10:30pm (Spanish) St. Philip, Litchfield

Watch Mass on our Website at
www.shepherdofsouls.org



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**
DIOCESE OF NEW ULM

"The Body of Christ" AMEN!

In Old Testament times wine was consumed commonly because the sanitation of water was unreliable. It was also used in celebrations. Wine symbolized God's abundant blessings. As Psalm 104 states: "You bring bread from the earth and wine to gladden our hearts." Even yet today in Jewish homes, four servings of wine are consumed at the Passover. The "cup of blessing at the end of the Jewish Passover meal adds to the festive joy of wine, an eschatological dimension:" referring to the last sobering things - death, judgment, the resurrection of the body, heaven, purgatory, hell.

What is the symbolism of bread at the Nativity?

REVIVAL STARTS IN YOUR OWN HEART

You are invited to spend some time with Jesus!

The 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at St.

Philip's December date Dec 19

All are invited to "**Encounter Jesus**"

The day begins with the **Rosary** at 8:30 a.m.

Adoration from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. **Mass** at 6:00

p.m. **Supper, Film Clip and Discussion** from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

You and your family are welcome to take part in any or all activities throughout the day! Children are welcome!

Jesus is waiting to spend time with you!

Memorial Candles - If you had a loved one that passed away this past year and there is a Memorial Candle for them please feel free to pick it up at the Church.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Sacrament of Reconciliation Advent is a time for all of us to open our hearts to the coming of Christ. One special way we can do this is by taking time to examine our lives and turn to God for help and assistance. The following is a schedule of times when the sacrament will be offered in our Area Faith Community.

Communal Reconciliation Services

Sunday, December 17 at 4:00pm at St. Anthony

Wednesday December 20th at 6:30 at St. Anthony

In addition to these times, we offer the sacrament 45 minutes before the Saturday evening liturgies, and during the week as listed in the bulletin.

Shepherd of Souls AFC Christmas Programs

St. Anthony Christmas Pageant - Join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus at the St. Anthony annual Christmas pageant. The Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 17th, at 3:00pm in the church of St. Anthony (followed by a penance service at 4PM). Join us afterward in the social hall for fellowship, cookies, and hot chocolate!

St. John Christmas Program - Join us Sunday, December 17 at the 10:00 am Mass.

Our Lady Christmas Programs—Join us Sunday, December 17 at the 8:00 am Mass for the Sunday School Program and Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 pm for the Faith Formation Christmas Program with a lite lunch & fellowship after.



Christmas Flower Memorials - Remember your loved ones this Christmas season by giving to the Christmas Flower Funds. Donation envelopes can be found in your envelope packets or you can submit your donation in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" and include the names of those to be remembered and who the memorial is from. Thank you!

New St. Anthony Circle officers: if you were unable to attend our Christmas party, your information is in your folder on the table in the handicapped addition entrance.

Rosary Night & Potluck: Join us for the next rosary night on January 5th at 6PM at YOUR HOUSE?? Contact Jessie in the St. Anthony's office to volunteer to host!

St. Anthony Money Counters- We are seeking a few more individuals to help count the Sunday collection. This counting is typically done on Monday mornings and takes about an hour. Frequency would depend on the number of volunteers but would likely be no more than 1-2 times a month. Contact the St. Anthony office if interested. Thank you!

Frozen Bouja For Sale - St. Anthony's Catholic Order of Foresters has some frozen bouja for sale. To purchase, contact Kevin Donnay at 320-398-6370.

Prayer Shawl - The Shepherd of Souls AFC Prayer Shawl Ministry creates prayerfully made and blessed shawls to be distributed to anyone who needs a God hug. Any knitters/crocheters who are interested in joining this Ministry should contact Mary Bolek (507-828-1586) or Karla Wolter (320-693-9262). If you would like to receive a shawl, you may also contact Diane Springer (320-266-3112) Ann Konietzko (320-693-6036), Pat Droege (320-275-9148) Have a blessed day!

Blood Drive at St. Anthony's - The Red Cross has scheduled a blood drive in Watkins at the St. Anthony Church Parish Center from 12-6 pm on Tuesday, December 26. Yes, the day after Christmas. To make an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767, visit redcrossblood.org, or click on the Blood Donor App. Walk-ins are welcome. This gift will not cost you anything, but will be worth a lot to the ones in need of blood.

March for Life Bus - The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a bus to the March for Life rally in St. Paul on Monday, January 22nd. The bus will depart:

- 7:53 St. Philip's Church
- 8:15 St. John's Church
- 8:38 St. John's Education Center

The bus will arrive at the Cathedral in time for the prayer service, then to the Capitol for the rally. Return time will be approximately 3:30. Please bring your own food and drinks. To reserve a seat on the bus, call or text Tony Lorber at 320-248-6863.

Early Bulletin Deadlines - With the Holidays coming up we will be having early bulletin deadlines. The deadline for the **December 24th** bulletin was on Wednesday, December 12th @ noon. The Deadline for the **December 31st** bulletin will be on Wednesday, December 20th @ noon. Please have your bulletin announcements to Julie by these deadlines.

Scrip Program at the School of St. Philip - Still looking for Christmas Gift ideas?? The School of St. Philip is part of the Scrip Program. It allows people to purchase gift cards from local and national retailers that can be used in the same way as a gift card. They are purchased at face value with a small percentage donated to our school by the participating retailers. You will find gift cards for restaurants, department stores (i.e. Walmart), gas, and even online retailers like Amazon. Gift cards can be purchased at St. Philip School or St. Philip church office. Gift cards are available all year for purchase.



All are invited to join Bishop Zelinski for an Advent Prayer Service Sunday, December 17 at 1:00 pm Church of St. Peter,

1801 W Broadway Ave, Saint Peter, MN

All parishioners, especially those with children, are invited to attend an Advent Prayer Service with Bishop Chad Zielinski. This service is designed to help us focus on Advent and prepare for the true meaning of Christmas, centered on the birth of Jesus. Families are encouraged to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their home nativity set. The figure will be blessed by Bishop Zielinski individually as families come forward in procession. There will be a blessing on families and expectant mothers as they prepare for Jesus' birth in their hearts. A "swaddling clothes" collection (blankets, sleepers, layette items, etc.) and cash donations will be taken for babies in need.

A reception with refreshments will follow the service.

Discipleship Quads - "I have been in two Quad groups and I don't regret a thing... Together we learn and talk about our Catholic faith and how to apply it to our everyday lives, our family, our jobs and the people we encounter every day. If you long for friends who want to travel with you in your faith journey this is the way to form those relationships of trust, understanding and connection. Just say yes and just trust in God that He will make the time for you to do this, because the truth is, He does." -Heidi Schoenecker. A discipleship quad is a group of 4 people of the same gender that meet weekly for about a year to learn about the faith, study scripture and to grow in prayer. See the display across from the office in the parish center at St. Anthony's for Heidi's entire quad testimony, sample books and more information about Discipleship Quads. You can also ask Jessie in the St. Anthony office for more information.

January Coffee Talk - The January Coffee Talk will be on Saturday, January 6 at 9:00 am at St. Philip. Speakers will be Jim Watt and Tom Mathias—they will share their experiences with Jail Ministries

2024 Cabin Fever Reliever: Save the date for this year's Cabin Fever Reliever at St. Anthony's for February 10th, 2024. Tickets for the night (\$50 each) are now on sale! Also, new this year is a 50/50 raffle with a chance to win up to \$10,000! \$100 a ticket with only 200 tickets sold. Need not be present to win.

"Building Disciples, Sharing Gifts" Program - Thank you for your generous support of our "Building Disciples, Sharing Gifts" Program! Several weeks ago, we began this important parish-wide program and we are starting to see signs that our offertory collections are growing through the generosity of **YOU**, our faithful parish community. Next week we will be publishing in the bulletin a report with important highlights from our program. Thank you so very much to all who participated. Your generosity shows your willingness as faithful stewards to be a part of the ongoing missions of Church of St. Philip.