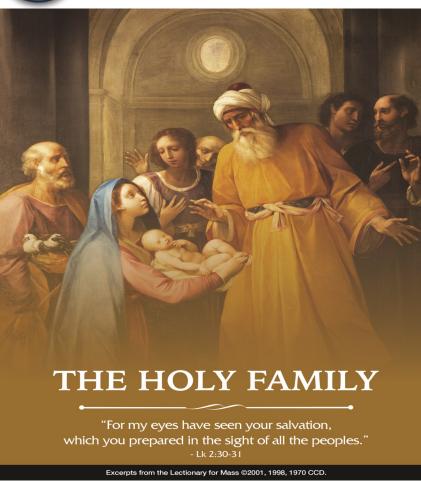
SHEPHERD OF SOULS AREA FAITH COMMUNITY



DECEMBER 31, 2023



AFC MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

St. Philip, Litchfield4:00pm

Sunday

St. Philip, Litchfield 8:00am Our Lady, Manannah 8:00am

St. John, Darwin10:00am St Anthony, Watkins10:00am

St. Philip, Litchfield (Spanish)...12:00pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday

St. Philip 3:15 - 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



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 Osborne320-894-8618Deacon John Hansen320-221-4987Deacon Phil Henneman763-220-2549

PARISH STAFF ST. PHILIP'S

693-3313 Ext. 100 Brenda Grates, Parish Administrator, 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 693-3313Ext 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

<u>PARISH STAFF ST. JOHN'S</u>

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!



Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. God never misses a chance to gift us with the things we need the most. In sending His Son into a family we are given a model to follow in our own lives. He shows us a how to be unconditionally loving right from the start! I am grateful for all the wonderful work of families.

Wishing all families, a blessed New Year.,

Andrea Dietrich
School of St. Philip - Principal
320-593-4774/adietrich@schoolofstphilip.org

PASTOR'S LETTER

Happy New Year to everyone! Because the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God falls on a Monday (Jan. 1) this year, there is no obligation to attend Mass, but we offer two Masses for those who would like to celebrate this wonderful feast.

Please put the next Encounter Night of Adoration and Reconciliation on your calendar—January 12th at St. Anthony from 7-8pm with refreshments to follow.

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 \$25,924. St. Anthony's goal is \$20,300. We are at \$8,865. St. John's goal is \$18,072. We are at \$22,694. Our Lady's goal is \$12,502. We are at \$8,215. 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.

Peace be with you, Fr. Jeff Horejsi

May GOD be with you through the New Year and fill your life with COMFORT, LOVE, and CHEER. May this day and the days ahead, hold many BLESSINGS for you and yours.



Happy New Year!
From:
Fr. Jeff,
Fr. Mike and
all our Area
Faith Community Staff.

St Anthony Church Cleaners:

Church Cleaners: December 31-January 13

Kevin & Nettie Holtz, Chad & Amber Huberty and Roman & Marty Huberty and families.

Call Theresa at 764-7251 to unlock.

St Anthony Mass Ministries,

St. Anthony's Mass Ministries will no longer be listed in the bulletin. Please pay special attention to your paper schedules or the online schedule that can be found on St. Anthony's website.



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

www.dingmannfuneral.com



Congratulations

Joseph Wraspir & Kayla Kipf. Who were united in marriage at the Church of St. Anthony. May God Bless them!

Bulletin Announcements: Please have your bulletin announcements to Julie at jschmitz@shepherdofsouls.org. By noon on Monday. Thank you!

MASSES & INTENTIONS

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Monday, January 1 - Mary, Mother of God

Tuesday, January 2

Wednesday, January 3

Hilltop Care Center, Watkins 10:30 am...... † Iris Donnay St. Philip. Litchfield 6:30 pm Family Mass...... Faith Formation Students

Thursday, January 4

Friday, January 5

Our Lady, Manannah 8:00 amVocations to the Priesthood St. Philip, Litchfield 8:30 amFor Family (G)

Saturday, January 6

St. Philip, Litchfield 4:00 pm† Harlan

Sunday, January 7

St. Philip, Litchfield 8:00 am	† Jerry Eischens
Our Lady, Manannah 8:00 am	Laabs Family
St. John, Darwin 10:00 am	† Jim & Sharon Jungles
St. Anthony, Watkins 10:00 am	† Marvin & Theresa May
St. Philip, Litchfield 12:00 pm (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, Gunnar Pitts. Prayer Line phone number 593-8944.

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

St.J: Ednel Diedrich, Alec McLean, Marlys Roehl, Troy Kotila, Kim (Elke) Jack, Kathy Thissen, Robert 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, Helena Posusta, David & Margaret Backus, Jeff Peller, Cindy Schmidt. 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 17, 2023							
OFFERINGS	St. John		Our Lady		St. Philip	St. Anthony	
Youth & Children Envelope	\$0.00		\$26.00		\$0.00	\$6.00	
Adult Envelope	\$17,737.00		\$4,096.00		\$7,530.04	\$2,340.00	
ACH (Auto payment)	\$380.00		\$100.00		\$3,205.00	\$710.00	
Loose Plate Collection	\$179.51		\$137.00		\$2,936.00	\$181.00	
TOTAL SUNDAY OFFERING	\$18,296.51		\$4,359.00		\$13,671.04	\$3,237.00	
Weekly Amount needed for budget	\$3,726.00		\$2,216.00		\$8,365.33	\$3,077.00	
This Week's Difference	\$14,570.51		\$2,143.00		\$5,305.71	\$160.00	
YEAR TO DATE SUNDAY OFFERING	\$91,191.72		\$53,915.00		\$232,460.77	\$91,219.00	
Year to Date Budget Needs	\$93,150.00		\$55,400		\$209,133.25	\$76,925.00	
YEAR TO DATE DIFFERENCE	(\$1,958.28)		(\$1,485.00)		\$23,327.52	\$14,294.00	

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, JANUARY 1



TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

StP 8:30 am....Rosary

StP 9:00 am ... Adoration Begins

StP 9:00 am....Mission Quilters

StP 9:00 amBible Time

StP 5:45 pm... Benediction

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

StJ 8:30 am....Quilting

StA 6:30 pm ... Faith Formation Class Grades 7-10

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

StP 6:30 pmFaith Formation Family Mass

OL 6:45 pm....Teacher Gathering, No Faith

Formation Class Gr 3-11

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

St. Philip Tuesday, January 2 & January 16

Adoration begins at 9:00 am, Benediction 5:45 pm

Our Lady, Friday, January 5

Adoration Begins 7:00 am, Benediction 8:00 am

St. John, Friday, January 5

Adoration Begins 1:00 pm, Benediction 7:00 pm

Everyone is welcome to come and pray!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

AFC 2:00 pmAll Staff meeting

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

OL 7:00 am....Adoration Begins

OL 8:00 am... Benediction

StP 8:00 am...Rosary

StJ 1:00 pm....Adoration Begins

StA 6:00 pm....Community Rosary/Potluck @ Ethel &

Ron Donnay Residence

StJ 7:00 pm.... Benediction

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

StA 7:30 am....Men's Group @EV

AFC 9:00 am... Coffee Talk @ StP

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

OL 8:45 AMSunday School

OL 9:00 am....Coffee & Rolls

StP 9:15 am ...Sunday School

StJ 10:00 am.. Children's Liturgy

StJ 11:00 am...KC Breakfast

StP 11:20 am...Spanish Rosary

StP 1:00 pm..... Ėpiphany Meal @ StP Social Hall

AFC 6:30 pm....Confirmation Class @ StP



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD January 1, 2024

9:00am - St. John's and 9:00am Our Lady

No obligation to attend Mass this year.

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation Schedule for this week St. Philip—Wed, Jan 3

6:30 pm Faith Formation Family Mass <u>Sunday School</u>—for Preschool– Gr 3 meet every other Sunday 9:15-10:15

Our Lady - Wed, Jan 3

No Faith Formation Class 6:45 pm Teacher's Gathering <u>Sunday School</u>—Preschool to Gr 2 after Communion until 9:45 am

St. John - Wed, Jan 3

6:30 pm Faith Formation Class Gr K-11

St. Anthony - Wed, Jan 3

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

Jan 17 - Classes for 7th-10th graders 6:30-8pm Jan 24 - Class ONLY for 11th graders and parent (s) hosted in **Eden Valley** 6:30-8pm (note the location change)

AFC Confirmation Class—Sunday, Jan. 7th

6:30–8:00 PM in the St. Philip Social Hall. This class is for 11th grade candidates and sponsors from St. Philip, St. John, and Our Lady parishes. If a sponsor is unavailable, a parent/guardian may attend in their place. Candidates should bring their Mass journals to class!

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

Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction

January 14th 11am-1pm St. Anthony, Watkins

- Take a break from cooking and enjoy a family meal
- Support the youth, including those going to the Eucharistic Congress
- Free will donation
- Bid on items from Catholic organizations



Shepherd of Souls Youth Nights

Our next youth night will be held Monday, Jan. 15, 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! Bring a friend!

First Reconciliation - Second graders will be making their First Reconciliation on Saturday, January 13th from 9am-Noon at Assumption Church in Eden Valley. A First Communion Meeting will also be part of this day for these families. Please keep these students, parents and families in your prayers as they prepare for these grace filled sacraments.

Youth Night Recap - Youth night was a hit again! The students wrapped presents for families in need and played Christmas Jeopardy. The Knights of Columbus provided pizza for our hungry students, Heidi Dollerschell gave a great talk on respecting God, others, and yourself, and we ended the night in Adoration! Thank you parents for bringing your children again! The next night, January 24th at St. Anthony, will be a big one with two guests! See you there!

Bake Sale Thank You



Thanks to all who participated in the Youth Bake Sale! Without the adults and students who baked treats, the volunteers selling after Mass, the generous parishioners who bought the tasty goodies, the bake sale wouldn't have been very successful. The youth program generated over

\$950 between St. Anthony's and Assumption from the bake sale. Thank you!

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.

All Proceeds benefit EVW Youth Ministry



"The Body of Christ "AMEN!

The shepherds "found Mary and Joseph, and the Infant lying in the manger." A manger is a feeding trough for animals. The Baby Jesus, "the Bread of Life", was found "wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." In the 5th century St. Cyril of Alexandria explained, "The setting of Christ's birth points us to the Eucharist. Since through sin man becomes like the beasts, Christ lies in the trough where animals feed, offering them, not hay, but His own Body as life-giving Bread." The manger foreshadows the Holy Eucharist when Jesus Himself becomes food for humanity. As you gaze at the Nativity scene this Christmas, dwell upon the beautiful gift of the Holy Eucharist.

Encounter Night at St. Anthony's

Join us on Friday, January 12th for an hour of Adoration, confession and live praise & worship music! This starts at 7PM and is followed by fellowship and refreshments in the parish hall. All are welcome, hope to see you there for this chance to "encounter" Jesus in a special way!

Bible Study - All are invited to St. John's in Darwin to attend a six session Bible Study entitled: Biblical Roots of the Mass by Brant Pietre. We will begin after the 8:00am Mass at 9:05 am on Thursday, January 4th, 2024. Please plan to stay after coffee and rolls for some enrichment and fellowship. No homework or book purchase! We hope you can make it!

St. Anthony Pageant Thank You - What a GREAT Christmas Pageant! Thank you to the volunteer families and coordinators that set aside time for this pageant. This was a great time to reflect and enter more fully into the Christmas Season. High five to the student actors did a wonderful job fulfilling their roles. I felt as if I was right there, in the stable, beside the manger 2000 years ago. The music, singers and audience filled the church with an angelic melody. The cookies and hot cocoa afterward helped to celebrate the season gathered together as a faith community. Also thanks to the servers and clean up crew (many hands made the work not seem like work at all). My prayer for this coming year is that we all may find more room in our heart for Jesus.

Our Lady Coffee & Rolls— Please join us on Sunday, Jan. 7 for Coffee & Rolls after Mass in the Parish Center. Come enjoy some fellowship! St. Theresa's Circle will be serving - if you belong to this circle we ask that you help with serving & clean up.

St. John KC Pancake Breakfast -The James A. Hansen Knights of Columbus invite you to a pancake breakfast at St. John's following the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday, January 7. All proceeds will benefit Birthright Crisis Pregnancy Center in Hutchinson. Your generous free-will offering will be matched up to \$1,000 by the K of C. St. John Quilters will have a quilt Raffle.

Rosary Night & Potluck: Join us for a time of prayer and fellowship (and delicious food!) at the next rosary night on January 5th at 6PM at the Ethel & Ron Donnay residence (11974 145th St, Watkins). Bring your rosary and a dish to share!



Women's Area Faith Coffee Talk Saturday, January 6, 2024, 9:00 am St. Philip's Social Hall

Speakers will be Jim Watt and Tom Mathias—they will share their experiences with Jail Ministries

Come for a time of Fellowship, coffee, treats and door prizes!! Bring your friends and your favorite coffee mug!

Sponsors: Family Fare & Thrivent Financial

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. 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.

2024 Cabin Fever Reliever: Save the date for this years' 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.

Discipleship Quads - Hopefully you've had the chance to read the quad testimonies and are feeling the call to form your own! Perhaps, your New Years' resolution is to pray better this year or to grow in your faith?! I can't think of a better way to do this than to start/join a quad! If you need more convincing, you can still check out the display at St. Anthony's for more information. Be sure to read all the past testimonies/quotes in full and also those from EV for more inspiration. If you have any questions or are looking for help in starting a quad ask Jessie in the St. Anthony office.

Needed—St. John Church is in need of Valentine themed mugs for their parish project, Mugs for the Elderly! They are needed by mid January. Please place in the box at the back of St. John Church. Thank you!

Make a New Year's resolution to grow in your faith!

Join us to learn more about "Jesus and the Eucharist" Produced by the National Eucharistic Revival Team together with the Augustine Institute

When: Wednesday evenings, starting Jan 3, 2024 - April (Following St. John's Faith Formation schedule and snow cancelations)

Time: 5:45-6:15 light meal, 6:30-7:45 prayer, video and discussion

(Faith Formation classes for the students are also during this time.)

Where: St. John's Education Center No Homework! Come when you can!

Do you purchase Our Family Brand items??

If so the School of St. Philip collects the Our Family UPC Code.

Please cut those off the Our Family brand item labels and be sure to turn them into any of the Parish Offices or just drop in the collection.



Every little bit helps.

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(320-266-3112) Pat Droege (320-275-9148)

Have a blessed day!

Download Our New AFC App!

Our new Shepherd of Souls AFC app is now available to download for iPhone and Android smart phones. Stay connected with our parish throughout the week with instant notifications, an easy-to-access event calendar, and the ability to quickly reply to or share messages via Facebook or Twitter. Also enjoy a bunch of additional features like prayers, daily readings, helpful reminders to silence your phone before Mass or Confession, and much more. Help foster a stronger parish life at Shepherd of Souls AFC and better engage the New Evangelization. Download our app today

at <u>myparishapp.com</u> or search your phone's app store for myparish.

St. Anthony Church Project Update

As we continue to focus on the repair of our church roof and the exterior of our renovation project, the Church Interior committee would like to thank all who participated in the church interior rendering feedback. This feedback will be used to guide the interior renovation phase **after the roof and tuck-pointing projects are completed.**

The roof of our church is in poor shape and deteriorating rapidly. We encourage everyone to submit a pledge form or make a donation to the roof project soon. Pledge forms are located next to the church rendering sample in the parish center. All funds collected are being **prioritized to the roof project** so that it can be completed as soon as possible.

Here are the tally results of the church interior feedback forms received:

Rendering #1: 27% Rendering #2: 73%

Latin: 20% English: 74% No Preference: 6%

New Furniture: 36% **Current Furniture: 53%**No Preference: 11%

These results match rendering feedback option #2. This rendering is displayed in the parish center. Thank you again to all who participated and have already made pledges and donations!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism - Call a Priest & Complete Baptism Program

<u>First Eucharist & Confirmation</u> - Complete Preparation Program

Marriage - Call a Priest or Parish Office 6 months prior to proposed wedding date.

RCIA - Call the Parish Office