

Shepherd of Souls Area Faith Community

Called to be the Loving Face of Christ



Dear Parishioners of the Shepherd of Souls AFC,

ADVENT NEWSLETTER

Advent is a gift to us to prepare ourselves to celebrate the great feast of Christmas, one of our most holy days of the Church year. During Advent we contemplate the Second Coming of Jesus at the end of time. What needs to change in our life to be ready? Christ comes to us each day and especially at Christmas. I encourage you to prepare for welcoming Christ by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The schedule for the two Sunday and four Wednesday evening communal penance services is also included. We also offer the sacrament 45 minutes before the Saturday evening liturgy.

Masses for the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be Dec. 8th. In the past when this Solemnity has fallen on Monday or Saturday, there has not been an obligation. However it has been re-evaluated, and because it is our national patroness' feast day it remains an obligation.

Everyone is invited to the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sunday, Dec. 14th at the Noon Mass in Spanish at St. Philip. The homily will also be in English. We are planning to have a Mariachi band for Mass and to play during the Potluck meal to follow in the Social Hall. Following the Mass, we are planning to have some youth dance in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The Jubilee Year of Hope closing Mass will be Sunday, December 28th at 10am at the Cathedral in New Ulm.

The Holy Day of Obligation for Mary, Mother of God will have Masses Dec. 31st and Jan. 1st.

May God bless your Advent and Christmas seasons,
Fr. Jeff Horejsi

SAVE THE DATE

VATICAN UNVEILED
Hosted by the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

QR Code

Come see the largest collection of papal artifacts outside of Rome.

Order tickets at archspm.org/vaticanunveiled

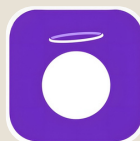
MALL OF AMERICA®
JAN. 10 - FEB. 1, 2026

ADVENT RESOURCES

Here are some great free online resources for families for Advent:



Formed



Hallow



Amen



MyParish



The **FORGE Conference 2026** is an event for any man looking to succeed against the threats of the modern world. This event will empower current and future fathers to flourish in their day-to-day lives. Come to Des Moines for world-class speakers, deep formation, sacramental grace, and brotherhood with 1000+ other men! Speakers include Dr. Edward Sri, Jason Evert, Matthew Breuninger, Ph.D., Paul J. Kim, Ricky Stanzi (former University of Iowa Quarterback), Bishop William Joensen, Ph.D. and more! The conference is on Saturday, February 28th, from 8:00 AM until 3:30 PM. For more information on the conference you can check out their website at <https://myforge.org/conference/>.

Advent & Christmas Masses, Penance Services & Programs

PENANCE SERVICES

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 AFC.

-Wednesday, November 19th

at 6:45pm at Our Lady

-Sunday, November 30th

at 3:00pm at St. Anthony

-Wednesday, December 3rd at 6:30pm

at St. John's Education Center

-Sunday, December 7th

at 3:00pm at St. Philip

-Wednesday, December 10th

at 6:30pm at St. Anthony

-Wednesday, December 17th

at 6:30 at St. Philip

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



January 11th, 2026
St. Edward's, Minnesota
Experience the Healing
Power of Reconciliation.



Christmas Cookie Project

Share Your Christmas Joy
Make The Season Brighter For Others!

Ways to get involved

- Bake some Christmas cookies or special treats and deliver them to St. Philip's Social Hall the weekend of **December 6-7**.
- Come sort and box the cookies on the afternoon of **December 10th**. We'll start at 4 p.m. in the Kitchen at St. Philip's
- Be a delivery person! The evening of **December 10th**, Families are invited to St. Philip's Social Hall at 5:30 p.m. to pick up a package of Christmas cookies to deliver to a homebound person or family. Then we will meet back at the Social Hall to share fellowship, hot chocolate and treats!



...AND THE WORD *became Flesh*

JOIN US FOR A TIME OF CANDLELIT
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION IN THE CHURCH



DECEMBER 24 11 PM-12 AM

CHURCH OF ST. ANTHONY, WATKINS

Take a break from the holiday bustle to encounter Jesus in the quiet stillness of the late evening hour. Come and go anytime during this hour.

UPCOMING HOLY DAY MASSES

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday, December 8th:

12:00pm at St. Philip, Litchfield

5:30pm at St. Anthony, Watkins

7:00pm at St. John, Darwin

7:00pm at Our Lady, Manannah

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th:

4:00pm St. Philip, Litchfield

4:00pm St. Anthony, Watkins

6:30pm Our Lady, Manannah

7:30pm St. John, Darwin

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th:

9:00am St. Philip, Litchfield

9:00am St. Anthony, Watkins

Noon (Spanish) St. Philip, Litchfield

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

December 31st, 2025 Vigil

5:00pm at St. Philip, Litchfield

5:30pm at St. Anthony, Watkins

January 1st, 2026

9:00am at St. John, Darwin

9:00am Our Lady, Manannah

***Watch Mass on our Website at**
www.shepherdofsouls.org



Advent LESSONS & CAROLS

December 14, 2025 at 3PM at the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Marshall. Prepare your heart for the coming of Christ with this beautiful time of prayer, scripture and carols. Featuring the Our Lady of the Prairie Choir.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Church of Our Lady:

-Wednesday, December 17th

Faith Formation Christmas Program

7:00 pm in the Parish Center. Light lunch & fellowship to follow.

-Sunday, December 21st

Sunday School Christmas Program,

9:00 am in the Parish Center.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Each year we celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe at a noon Spanish Mass at St. Philip. Everyone is invited on Sunday, December 14th. A Mariachi band will play for the Mass and in the social hall for the Potluck meal to follow.



St Philip School



4:00-6:00 PM | Come and go family fun event
School of St. Philip 225 E 3rd Street | Litchfield, MN
Crafts, story time, treats, and pictures with the legend himself, St. Nick!

ST. NICHOLAS FRIDAY | **5** | DECEMBER

WE SING OF CHRISTMAS

Thursday, December 18th
Concerts at 1:00 and 6:00
Church of Saint Philip--Litchfield



Everyone is welcome!

Catholic Schools Week

SPAGHETTI Dinner FUNDRAISER

Saturday, January 24, 2026

4:30-6:30 p.m. Church of St. Philip

821 East 5th Street, Litchfield

All proceeds benefit the school of St. Philip.



Menu

Spaghetti
Garlic Bread
Salad
Brownie

\$12 5 and under free



ADVENT BOOKS

Fountain of Youth @ All Parishes

REDISCOVER AN AUTHENTIC, JOY-FILLED LIFE

The Fountain of Youth is a real-talk, down-to-earth conversation about what it means to be human. What holiness looks like in a fallen world. How to leave behind the baggage and rise again.

Slow Down to the Speed of Joy @ St Philip's

BUSY IS NOT YOUR FRIEND. Only a toxic friend leaves you feeling anxious, overwhelmed, discouraged, exhausted, stressed, inadequate and resentful. It's time to take our lives back from this tyrant. Matthew Kelly provides us with the practical insights and timeless wisdom necessary to banish busy and urgent from our own lives.*Thank you to those who donated to make these books available!



'SEEDS OF FAITH' 4TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

\$50

Tickets are available at the School of St. Philip or Church of St. Philip office

SOCIAL HOUR: 5 P.M.

DINNER: 6 P.M.

SHOW: 7:30 P.M.

Featuring Pat Balder & Glen Everhart



SONG BLAST DUELING GUITARS

is going BACK TO THE 80'S

Saturday, January 31, 2026

Litchfield Eagles Club
389 CSAH 34
Litchfield, MN

Proceeds from this event benefit the scholarship fund and curriculum for the School of St. Philip!

Featuring a LIVE auction!

STEFFES

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

This event is made possible through a Catholic Schools Center of Excellence matching grant.

\$25 Tickets may be available at the door for the show only based on availability.



Believe it. Achieve it!

320-693-6283

@events@schoolofstphilip.org

SCRIP PROGRAM AT THE SCHOOL OF ST. PHILIP



The Scrip Program includes gift cards that 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, gas, and even online retailers like Amazon. We have a supply on hand, but if you know that you will be making major purchases in the near future, you can plan ahead and place an order. Just call Brenda at 320.693.3313 ext. 100 or Mary Roers at the School 320.693.6283. Jessie also has some on hand at St. Anthony's. These work great for Christmas presents!

RSVP NO LATER THAN
MONDAY NOVEMBER 24TH

Shepherd
of Souls
AFC

Ladies Night Out

Thursday December 11th
Doors open at 5:00

Tickets are \$25.00 &
can be purchased at
St. Philip's
Parish office.

Proceeds raised
will benefit
The Meeker County
Food Shelf &
Caring & Sharing
Hands

Enjoy a memorable evening
featuring the beautiful music of the
season by the **Kingery Family**

TICKET
SALES
BEGIN
NOV. 30!

Church of St. Anthony *Cabin Fever Reliever*

Saturday,
February 7, 2026

201 Central Ave., South, Watkins



5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Social Hour

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Dinner

**8:00 p.m. Black & Whyte
Dueling Pianos Show**

Cost: \$60 per person, includes dinner and
show.

VIP seating available for \$100 additional per
table. All tickets must be prepaid.

Limited seating.

Tickets available at: Citizens Bank,
St. Anthony Parish Office, or by calling or
texting Kathy Kramer at 320-224-6858.
Contact Kathy for table reservations.

**50/50 Raffle Ticket for sale starting
Nov. 30 with the winners drawn the
evening of Dueling Pianos.**

Need not be present to win this one.

**All proceeds from this event will go toward
church improvements.**

YEAR END *GIVING*

The end of the year is not far away, and it is time to start thinking of strategies to maximize the tax benefits of year-end giving. Federal and state laws make it possible to reduce or eliminate taxes on gifts to charities like your parish, diocese, schools and other ministries. Remember that only gifts made by December 31 can help reduce the amount of taxes you owe next April. Please consult your professional tax advisor for tax strategies for your personal situation. The most popular way to give to charity is still by cash or check. Gifts completed by December 31st will qualify for tax deductibility for the current tax year. You will receive an acknowledgement for gifts of \$250 or more. If you are a registered member you will receive a statement in January indicating your 2025 giving. Our parishes appreciate your generosity to help us with our ministry.

We all need to protect our families from the unexpected. But you might not have completed the most basic piece of estate planning – a Last Will and Testament. You can do that TODAY for FREE as a gift from the Diocese of New Ulm. Get started right now by going to MyCatholicWill.com/dnu. In as little as 20 minutes this simple, guided process will help you establish guardians for your children, ensure your funeral and burial are conducted in accordance with your wishes and ensure your assets are directed to the people and organizations you care about most. Don't delay. Go to: MyCatholicWill.com/dnu



 MyCatholicWill

Protect what matters

The Diocese of New Ulm is proud to sponsor **FREE** access to
MyCatholicWill.com to help you gain peace of mind, write your will and
protect your family from the unexpected.



To Create Your Will for Free go to:
MyCatholicWill.com/DNU



Use Referral Code:
DNU