



Lent begins Wednesday, February 14th  
Ash Wednesday Masses  
in our Area Faith Community

Church of St. Philip

12:00pm Mass & 7:00pm Mass (with Spanish Elements)

Church of St John

8:00am Mass at Church & 5:30pm at the Education Center

Church of Our Lady

7:00pm Mass



OPERATION RICE BOWL

We encourage every family to participate in this year's Operation Rice Bowl

Campaign to help feed the needy of the world.

"The Word Among Us"

Make Time this Lent for Reading the Scriptures



This magazine has the daily scripture readings and a meditation for each day of lent. Copies are available at the entrances of the Church.

Return Service Requested

SHEPHERD OF SOULS AFC  
Churches of St. Philip, Our Lady, St. John  
821 East 5th Street  
LITCHFIELD, MINNESOTA 55355

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Church of St Philip, Litchfield  
Church of St John, Darwin



Church of Our Lady, Manannah

**WHAT IS LENT?** Lent is the annual preparation for Easter observance calling us to reform our lives and to open our hearts to the spiritual blessings God has promised to bestow on us. Lent begins Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday evening when the Triduum begins.

**WHAT MUST I DO?** According to the Church's Canon Law, all healthy Catholics from age 18 to 59 are required to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and to abstain from meat on all other Fridays of Lent.

Youth 14 and older are also to abstain from meat on those days. "Fasting" means that no more than one main meal is eaten daily, while in the same day no more than two partial meals are eaten which together don't equal the one main meal.

**WHAT SHOULD I DO?** Take the necessary steps to get yourself on the road to conversion and spiritual renewal. To help you do this, the three main Lenten disciplines urged are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We are invited during Lent to practice these disciplines often. But these aren't just chores we must do because the Church strongly urges them; they are above all opportunities to grow in faith and in love for God.



**WHY PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMS?** The Lenten basic practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are rooted in Jesus' original guidance about how to be his disciples that we find in the Sermon on the Mount. The Catechism of the Catholic Church also reminds us that Jesus here outlines for us the new law which, if we embrace and implement it, will lead us more surely to the interior renewal and growth in holiness and perfection that Jesus expects of us as his disciples.

**SHOULD I SET GOALS?** Absolutely. Reflect prayerfully about your Lenten resolutions before making them. Then make yourself a list. But be modest. You may be setting yourself up for disappointments if you set unrealistic goals. And doing a little with love and devotion is spiritually more beneficial than trying to do much but doing it halfheartedly.

THE THREE BASIC LENTEN DISCIPLINES.

**FASTING:** Expresses our desire to find happiness in God rather than in the satisfaction of our physical needs. The control we gain over our appetites helps us recognize more deeply that all true and lasting pleasure comes from God. Knowing this we are freed to gratefully accept food and savor it, or to avoid or limit foods that we know are unhealthy for us. Through fasting our relationship to ourselves is reoriented toward God.

**ALMSGIVING:** Provides assistance to the poor among us and helps us and helps us recognize God as the true source of our security. Property and wealth exercise less control over us when we give away or share our wealth out of love for God and for others. Almsgiving is a way of bringing our relationship to others into the orbit of Christ's love.

**PRAYER:** Changes our relationship to God. Through prayer, we admit our need for a power that is greater than ourselves. We acknowledge our limitations and let go of the drive to control everything. In the process, we open ourselves to all that God has to offer us.

Please Join us as we gather together to pray

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

& LENTEN SUPPER

Each Friday of Lent at 6:00pm.



We once again have planned to schedule "Stations" for each Friday during lent to be held at one of our Parishes each week, along with a soup supper to follow. Gathering together as members of our AFC Parishes is a wonderful way to get to know one another. Please join us each Friday during Lent as we pray and enjoy a simple meal together. If you would like to help with your parish's soup supper call your parish office.

Our Schedule is as follows.

- February 16th @ Church of St John, Darwin
- February 23rd @ Church of St Philip, Litchfield
- March 2nd @ Church of Our Lady, Manannah
- March 9th @ Church of St. John, Darwin
- March 16th @ Church of St. Philip, Litchfield
- March 23rd @ Church of Our Lady, Manannah

Individual Confessions will be held from 5:00pm to 6:00pm each of these Fridays before Stations!



*Dear Members of the Shepherd of Souls Area Faith Community, As a church we begin the beautiful season of lent. Our Lenten Newsletter provides a schedule of ways we may enter into this Season of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. I have included Pope Francis Lenten Message to the Church for all of us to read and reflect upon. May this Season of Lent fill our hearts with God's Love. Fr. Joe Steinbeisser 2018 Lenten Message of His Holiness Pope Francis*

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Once again, the Pasch of the Lord draws near! In our preparation for Easter, God in his providence offers us each year the season of Lent as a "sacramental sign of our conversion".<sup>[1]</sup> Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life. With this message, I would like again this year to help the entire Church experience this time of grace anew, with joy and in truth. I will take my cue from the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew: "Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold" (24:12). These words appear in Christ's preaching about the end of time. They were spoken in Jerusalem, on the Mount of Olives, where the Lord's passion would begin. In reply to a question of the disciples, Jesus foretells a great tribulation and describes a situation in which the community of believers might well find itself: amid great trials, false prophets would lead people astray and the love that is the core of the Gospel would grow cold in the hearts of many.

*False prophets*  
Let us listen to the Gospel passage and try to understand the guise such false prophets can assume. They can appear as "snake charmers", who manipulate human emotions in order to enslave others and lead them where they would have them go. How many of God's children are mesmerized by momentary pleasures, mistaking them for true happiness! How many men and women live entranced by the dream of wealth, which only makes them slaves to profit and petty interests! How many go through life believing that they are sufficient unto themselves, and end up entrapped by loneliness! False prophets can also be "charlatans", who offer easy and immediate solutions to suffering that soon prove utterly useless. How many young people are taken in by the panacea of drugs, of disposable relationships, of easy but dishonest gains! How many more are ensnared in a thoroughly "virtual" existence, in which relationships appear quick and straightforward, only to prove meaningless! These swindlers, in peddling things that have no real value, rob people of all that is most precious: dignity, freedom and the ability to love. They appeal to our vanity, our trust in appearances, but in the end they only make fools of us. Nor should we be surprised. In order to confound the human heart, the devil, who is "a liar and the father of lies" (Jn 8:44), has always presented evil as good, falsehood as truth. That is why each of us is called to peer into our heart to see if we are falling prey to the lies of these false prophets. We must learn to look closely, beneath the surface, and to recognize what leaves a good and lasting mark on our hearts, because it comes from God and is truly for our benefit.

*A cold heart*  
In his description of hell, Dante Alighieri pictures the devil seated on a throne of ice,<sup>[2]</sup> in frozen and loveless isolation. We might well ask ourselves how it happens that charity can turn cold within us. What are the signs that indicate that our love is beginning to cool? More than anything else, what destroys charity is greed for money, "the root of all evil" (1 Tim 6: 10). The rejection of God and his peace soon follows; we prefer our own desolation rather than the comfort found in his word and the sacraments.<sup>[3]</sup> All this leads to violence against anyone we think is a threat to our own "certainties": the unborn child, the elderly and infirm, the migrant, the alien among us, or our neighbour who does not live up to our expectations. Creation itself becomes a silent witness to this cooling of charity. The earth is poisoned by refuse, discarded out of carelessness or for self-interest. The seas, themselves polluted, engulf the remains of countless shipwrecked victims of forced migration. The heavens, which in God's plan, were created to sing his praises, are rent by engines raining down implements of death. Love can also grow cold in our own communities. In the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, I sought to describe the most evident signs of this lack of love: selfishness and spiritual sloth, sterile pessimism, the temptation to self-absorption, constant warring among ourselves, and the worldly mentality that makes us concerned only for appearances, and thus lessens our missionary zeal.<sup>[4]</sup>

*What are we to do?*  
Perhaps we see, deep within ourselves and all about us, the signs I have just described. But the Church, our Mother and Teacher, along with the often bitter medicine of the truth, offers us in the Lenten season the soothing remedy of prayer, almsgiving and fasting. By devoting more time to *prayer*, we enable our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception,<sup>[5]</sup> and then to find the consolation God offers. He is our Father and he wants us to live life well. *Almsgiving* sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbor as a brother or sister. What I possess is never mine alone. How I would like almsgiving to become a genuine style of life for each of us! How I would like us, as Christians, to follow the example of the Apostles and see in the sharing of our possessions a tangible witness of the communion that is ours in the Church! For this reason, I echo Saint Paul's exhortation to the Corinthians to take up a collection for the community of Jerusalem as something from which they themselves would benefit (cf. 2 Cor 8:10). This is all the more fitting during the Lenten season, when many groups take up collections to assist Churches and peoples in need. Yet I would also hope that, even in our daily encounters with those who beg for our assistance, we would see such requests as coming from God himself. When we give alms, we share in God's providential care for each of his children. If through me God helps someone today, will he not tomorrow provide for my own needs? For no one is more generous than God.<sup>[6]</sup>

# Parish & Lent Events

**Wednesday, February 14th - Ash Wednesday**  
8:00am - Mass at St. John  
12:00pm - Mass at St. Philip  
5:30pm - Mass at St. John's Ed Center  
7:00pm - Mass at Our Lady  
7:00pm - Mass at St. Philip  
**Friday, February 16**  
6:00pm Stations and Soup Supper at St. John  
**Saturday, February 17**  
4:00pm Spaghetti Supper at St Philip  
**Tuesday, February 20**  
9:00am - Adoration following Mass at St Philip  
**Friday, February 23**  
6:00pm - Stations & Soup Supper at St Philip  
**Sunday, February 25**  
4:00pm - Sausage Supper at Our Lady  
**Wednesday, February 28**  
7:00pm - Penance Service at Our Lady  
**Friday, March 2nd**  
6:30am - Adoration prior to Mass at Our Lady  
9:30am - Adoration following Mass at St. John  
6:00pm - Stations and Soup supper at Our Lady  
**Sunday, March 4th**  
11:00am - KC Pancake Breakfast at St John  
4:00pm - Penance Service at St Philip  
**Tuesday, March 6th**  
9:00am - Adoration following Mass at St Philip  
**Wednesday, March 7th**  
6:15pm - Penance Service at Education Center  
**Friday, March 9th**  
6:00pm - Stations and Soup supper at St John  
**Saturday, March 10th**  
9:00am - Coffee Talk - St. Gertrude  
**Tuesday, March 14th**  
7:00pm - Penance Service at St Philip  
**Friday, March 16th**  
11:00am - St. Philip KC Fish Fry  
6:00pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Philip  
**Sunday, March 18th**  
4:00pm - Penance Service at Our Lady  
**Tuesday, March 20th**  
7:00pm - Penance Service at St John  
**Thursday, March 22nd**  
7:00pm - Chrism Mass at Holy Trinity in New Ulm, MN  
**Friday, March 23rd**  
6:00pm - Stations and Soup Supper at Our Lady  
**Sunday, March 25th - Palm Sunday**  
8:00am - Mass at St. Philip  
8:30am - Mass at Our Lady  
10:00am - Mass at St. John  
10:30am - Mass at St. Philip



**Thursday, March 29th - Holy Thursday**  
7:00pm - Mass of the Lords Supper at St. Philip  
**Friday, March 30th - Good Friday**  
12:00pm - Good Friday Service at St. Philip  
3:00pm - Good Friday Service at Our Lady  
7:00pm - Good Friday Service at St John  
7:00pm - Good Friday Service (in Spanish) at St. Philip  
**Saturday, March 31st - Easter Vigil**  
8:00pm - Easter Vigil Mass at St. Philip  
**Sunday, April 1st - Easter Sunday**  
8:00am - Easter Mass at St. Philip  
8:30am - Easter Mass at Our Lady  
10:00am - Easter Mass at St. John  
10:30am - Easter Mass at St. Philip  
12:00pm - Easter Mass (in Spanish) at St. Philip  
**Wednesday, April 11th**  
4:00pm - Food for Kidz packaging night at St. Philip's  
**Friday, April 13th**  
5:00pm - Comic Relief Comedian - at St. Philip



**Men's Catholic Enrichment "Band of Brothers"**  
A Saturday Morning Video Enrichment Program for Men of our Parishes to gather for Coffee, Enrichment and Discussion. The Group Meets the 2nd and 4th Saturday's of the month at St Philip's Church.

**BISHOP LUCKER LECTURE**  
Tuesday, March 20th, 2018 at 7:00pm  
Church of St. Catherine  
900 E. Flynn Street  
Redwood Falls, MN  
Free Admission / Sponsored by the Diocese of New Ulm  
**"The Role of Healing in Evangelization"**  
Many Catholics today think of miraculous healings as something relatively rare, found mainly in the lives of great saints or at shrines like Lourdes. Yet Scripture shows that healings are meant to be a normal part of the life of the Church, especially in the context of evangelization. Scripture professor Mary Healy will explain the implications for ordinary Catholics of the Church's mandate to be a "field hospital" in a world filled with people in need of healing.  
Featuring **Dr. Mary Healy**, professor of Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit and an international speaker.



RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is the process by which our Church prepares adults for Baptism and the other Sacraments of Initiation, Confirmation and Holy Communion. Their journey begins with reviewing basics of the Catholic Faith, then continues as they grow closer in relationship to God and grow into becoming faithful followers of Jesus in the Catholic Church. The process is more intense during Lent as the candidates prepare for receiving the sacraments at the Easter Vigil. After Easter, we will continue to meet and talk about living out our faith.

This Lent, we have two people preparing for Confirmation and Holy Communion, Candidates LeNora Kleinhuisen and Kaitlyn Lecher. We have had a Rite of Welcome as our Candidates prepare for the Easter Sacraments. We will also bless them as they are sent forth to be called to continued conversion and preparation by Bishop LeVoir at the Cathedral in New Ulm on the first Sunday of Lent. These two people are growing in their faith. We pray for them and offer our support as Church. Please pray for them as they prepare for Confirmation, and Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil.

RCIA Prayer

Lord, we pray for those who journey with you as they prepare for the Rites of Christian Initiation for adults.

Strengthen their faith. Open their hearts to fullness of your love. Deepen their understanding.

Set our hearts on fire for the kingdom of God so together we may grow in holiness.

We ask this through Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life for all. Amen.

BEST LENT EVER

Dynamic Catholic

DON'T GIVE UP CHOCOLATE FOR LENT

This year, do something different. Join our parish for BEST LENT EVER, a free email program from Dynamic Catholic that will help you have a life-changing Lent. Each day, you'll receive an email with.....

- Inspirational Video
Practical Tips
Encouraging stories

Sign up at: DynamicCatholic.com/40days



School of St. Philip Registration

We are now open for registration for the 2018-2019 school year. You can find registration information on our website www.shepherdofsouls.org/school or you can stop in at the school office. We offer 3-year-old preschool through 5th grade. Our Catholic school provides an excellent academic education in an atmosphere where Christian values are taught, modeled, and reinforced. We welcome students of all ages and all faith traditions.

This is a great time of year for new families to come in and visit, see our students in action, and meet the teachers. Please contact Mrs. Kramer to schedule a visit. Mrs. Michelle Kramer, Principal



Fasting weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us and becomes an important opportunity for growth. On the one hand, it allows us to experience what the destitute and the starving have to endure. On the other hand, it expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. Fasting wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbour. It revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger.

I would also like my invitation to extend beyond the bounds of the Catholic Church, and to reach all of you, men and women of good will, who are open to hearing God's voice. Perhaps, like ourselves, you are disturbed by the spread of iniquity in the world, you are concerned about the chill that paralyzes hearts and actions, and you see a weakening in our sense of being members of the one human family. Join us, then, in raising our plea to God, in fasting, and in offering whatever you can to our brothers and sisters in need!

The fire of Easter

Above all, I urge the members of the Church to take up the Lenten journey with enthusiasm, sustained by almsgiving, fasting and prayer. If, at times, the flame of charity seems to die in our own hearts, know that this is never the case in the heart of God! He constantly gives us a chance to begin loving anew. One such moment of grace will be, again this year, the "24 Hours for the Lord" initiative, which invites the entire Church community to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation in the context of Eucharistic adoration. In 2018, inspired by the words of Psalm 130:4, "With you is forgiveness", this will take place from Friday, 9 March to Saturday, 10 March. In each diocese, at least one church will remain open for twenty-four consecutive hours, offering an opportunity for both Eucharistic adoration and sacramental confession.

During the Easter Vigil, we will celebrate once more the moving rite of the lighting of the Easter candle. Drawn from the "new fire", this light will slowly overcome the darkness and illuminate the liturgical assembly. "May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds", and enable all of us to relive the experience of the disciples on the way to Emmaus. By listening to God's word and drawing nourishment from the table of the Eucharist, may our hearts be ever more ardent in faith, hope and love.

With affection and the promise of my prayers for all of you, I send you my blessing. Please do not forget to pray for me.

From the Vatican, 1 November 2017

Solemnity of All Saints

1 Roman Missal, Collect for the First Sunday of Lent (Italian).

2 Inferno XXXIV, 28-29.

3 "It is curious, but many times we are afraid of consolation, of being comforted. Or rather, we feel more secure in sorrow and desolation. Do you know why? Because in sorrow we feel almost as protagonists. However, in consolation the Holy Spirit is the protagonist!" (Angelus, 7 December 2014).

4 Evangelii Gaudium, 76-109.

5 Cf. BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter Spe Salvi, 33.

6 Cf. PIUS XII, Encyclical Letter Fidei Donum, III.

7 Roman Missal (Third Edition), Easter Vigil, Lucernarium.

Food for Kidz

An International Food Relief Program

Hunger is the world's number one health risk. Natural disasters, war the poverty trap, lack of infrastructure and indifference cause hunger. Indifference has no explanation.

Will you join us in making a difference by purchasing an M & M Tube, filling it with quarters & placing it in the Large M & M tube in the narthex.

Volunteers will be packaging meals on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 from 4-8 p.m. at St.

Philip's. Our goal is to package 106,000 meals, thus needing to raise \$16,000.

M&M Minis can be picked up in the St. Philip's parish office for \$1.00 per tube.



Everyone is welcome to join us on "FAT TUESDAY"

2.13.18 for our next WINE Event at

Church of St. Philip

7:00pm social and program at 7:30pm

Join us as Alyssa Bormes, Catholic Educator, Author, Speaker and Radio Host through humor, analogy, and an innate gift of storytelling ignites us in newfound sense of wonder in the Church. No RSVP is needed everyone is welcome to join us.



CHRISM MASS

The Annual Diocesan Chrism Mass will be held on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 7:00pm at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm, MN. Each year the Bishop and Priests of the Diocese, along with the faithful, gather to celebrate this liturgy where the Bishop Blesses the Oils of the Sick, Catechumen, and Chrism that are used in our Parishes here in the Diocese of New Ulm. Parishioners from our area faith community are encouraged to attend. Representatives from each parish are needed to receive the Holy Oils for each of our Parishes. If you are willing to attend the Diocesan Chrism Mass on March 22nd in New Ulm and represent the parish, please contact Fr. Joe or Fr. Brian to volunteer. Thanks!



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY Saturday, March 24, 2018

Our Lady: 4:00pm

St John: 5:00pm

Sunday, March 25, 2018

Our Lady: 8:30am

St John: 10:00am

St. Philip: 8:00am, 10:30am, 12pm (Spanish)

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HOLY THURSDAY March 29, 2018

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 7:00PM

at the Church of St. Philip

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GOOD FRIDAY March 30, 2018

Passion & Communion Services

Our Lady @ 3:00pm

St John @ 7:00pm

St. Philip @ 12:00pm, 7:00pm (Spanish)

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EASTER VIGIL March 31, 2018

8:00pm at the Church of St. Philip

EASTER SUNDAY April 1, 2018

Our Lady @ 8:30am

St John @ 10:00am

St. Philip @ 8:00am & 10:30am 12:00pm (Spanish)



Coffee Talk at St. Gertrude's

Please join us on Saturday mornings at 9:00am at the Church of St. Gertrude, Forest City. There will be a presentation speaker each month. Bring your friends and your favorite mug to enjoy baked goodies, coffee, juice, fellowship, door prizes.

February 10th, March 10th, April 14th

CHURCH OF OUR LADY MANANNAH

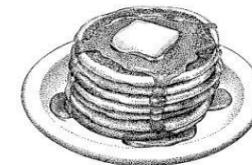
Sausage & Pancake Supper

With Beverages and Desserts

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 25, 2018

SERVING FROM 4:00P.M TO 7:00 P.M



Adults - \$8.00 Children 6-12 - \$4.00

Children 5 & under - free

Cash Bingo

St. John's KC Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 4th and April 8th

serving after the 10:00 am Mass. There will be an opportunity to make a free will donation.

Join us for food, fun & comic relief

Friday, April 13, 2018

Church of St. Philip Social Hall

Door open at 5:00pm / Dinner at 6:30pm

Comedian John Bush (new this year) will be entertaining us beginning at 8:00pm.



Mark it on your calendars and plan to join us. More information will be coming to you in your mail

watch for more information and tickets sales.

St. Philip's Youth

Spaghetti & Lasagna Dinner

Saturday, February 17, 2017

Serving 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Tickets \$10 Adults / \$5.00 children (3-12)

To purchase advance tickets contact Brenda at 320.693.3313 ext. 100

We are looking for youth and/or parents to help serve the dinner. If you are able to help. Please contact Karen at 320.69.3313. ext. 104



Area Lenten Reconciliation Services

Date Time Place

Wednesday, February 28th

7:00pm Our Lady, Manannah

Sunday, March 4th

4:00pm St Philip, Litchfield

Wednesday, March 7th

6:15pm St John's, Education Center

Wednesday, March 14th

7:00pm St. Philip, Litchfield

Sunday, March 18th

4:00pm Our Lady, Manannah

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also celebrated on Saturdays each week. Check the bulletin for other times of individual reconciliation!

Individual Confessions will also be held from 5:00pm to 6:00pm each of Friday before Stations and on Saturdays at the regular confession hour.

Check out our new AFC website created for our AFC parishes going online Ash Wednesday. Parish's upcoming events, bulletins, newsletters, google calendar with mass schedule, etc. are posted.

www.shepherdofsouls.org

Daily Lenten Reflections

Experience the Catholic Faith in a whole new way this Lent with FORMED! Lenten video reflections from Bishop Donald Hying, delivered right to your email every day.

Watch, Read, and Reflect for 10 minutes a Day

\*Watch a beautiful video reflection from Bishop Hying's ECHO series, \* Read an inspiring passage from Catechism \* Reflect on how God's truth applies to your daily life.

Watch on formed.org (AFC access code FQ9PPK)