



Shepherd of Souls Area Faith Community **Called to be the Loving Face of Christ**

Dear Parishioners of Shepherd of Souls Area Faith Community -

Advent is a time of waiting for the coming of Christ into our darkness. Perhaps our waiting for the end of the Coronavirus helps us appreciate the longing we have for the Lord. For the first three Sundays of Advent we focus on Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Our scriptures encourage us to long and prepare for Christ's return. Many of us recognize the need to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Having God remove whatever barriers we have placed in the way of our relationship with God or others is a blessing to us. Due to the Coronavirus, we will not have Advent Penance services, but rather times for the individual celebration of Reconciliation. Please see the schedule in this newsletter.

Please note that our Christmas Eve schedule is changed for this year. Due to the need to social distance, we will have less seating available. **Due to limited seating we are asking our parishioners to sign up to reserve a place for in person seating at one of the Christmas Masses.** You may sign up at www.shepherdofsouls.org, or call your parish office. If you choose to stay home and watch our mass it will be available on our website www.shepherdofsouls.org by clicking on the Mass Video link. Or you can listen to mass on your radio in the St. Philip's church parking lot by tuning your car radio to FM 87.9 at our 3pm Christmas Eve Mass. Father will then bring communion out to the parking lot following Mass for those who would like to receive communion. If you have any questions regarding the Christmas Masses please call the parish office.

Our new Breaking Bread Songbooks will be made available Nov. 28 & 29 to take home with you after Mass and bring back for the next Mass. We ask that you try to keep your book in good shape so that if we are able to share books again, yours can be used that way in church.

Here are some great free online resources for families for Advent <https://formed.org/advent> you can sign up for adult as well as kids reflections. Christmas <https://www.rclbenziger.com/christmas-season>.

Advent blessings, Fr. Jeff Horejsi



**Solemnity of The Immaculate
Conception of the Blessed
Virgin Mary Masses**

Monday, Dec. 7th, 7:00 pm at St. John,
Darwin

Tuesday, Dec. 8th, 12:00 Noon at St. Philip, Litchfield,
and 7:00 pm at Our Lady, Manannah



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24th

3:00pm St. Philip's, Litchfield

4:00pm Our Lady, Manannah

5:00pm (English with elements of Spanish)

St. Philip's, Litchfield

6:30pm Ed Center, St. John

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25th

8:30am Our Lady, Manannah

10:00am Ed Center, St. John

10:30am St. Philip's, Litchfield

Watch Mass on our Website at

www.shepherdsouls.org

Listen on the radio in the parking lot at
Church of St. Philip

Tune into FM 87.9

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD



Thursday, December 31st

4:00pm St. Philip's, Litchfield

5:30pm St. John's, Darwin

Friday, January 1st

9:00am Our Lady, Manannah

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. Due to the Coronavirus, we will not have Communal Reconciliation services, but rather times to celebrate the sacrament individually. The following is a schedule of times when the sacrament will be offered in our parish and Area Faith Community.

Individual Reconciliation times

Sunday, December 6th at 4:00pm at Our Lady

Sunday, December 13th at 4:00pm at St. John

Sunday, December 20th at 4:00pm at St. Philip's

In addition to these times, we offer the sacrament a half an hour before the Saturday evening liturgies, and at St. Philip from 4:00—5:00 pm on Dec. 1st and 15th.



Our Giving Tree, located in the gathering area at St. Philip's Church, this year has ornaments with groceries or ornaments for donations for children in need of funding to do extra curricular activities. These donations can be brought back and placed in the collection basket or given to the Brenda in the parish office. Watch the parish bulletin for more information regarding this wonderful way our parish offers to donate to those in need.

We also have families available to be adopted. If you are willing to adopt a family please call Brenda at 320.693.3313 Ext. 100 to get the list of family members.

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 tax laws and many 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 31st 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. Gifts of cash qualify for up to one-half of your adjusted gross income (AGI). 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 2020 giving.

For more information about giving gifts of cash, please contact the parish office.

The Fulfilment of All Desire – A live Advent Mission with Dr. Ralph Martin is available online and free of charge.

You can register at:

<https://www.renewalministries.net/advent-mission/>

**Volunteers
needed!**

AFC Christmas Ministries - If you are available to volunteer for Lector, Usher or Eucharistic Minister for the Christmas Masses in the Area Faith Community please contact Julie at the Parish Offices or at jschmitz@shepherdofsouls.org



A Blessing of a manger scene:

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:
Our help is in the name of the Lord.
R/. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, **Luke 2:1** (lines 1-8) or **Isaiah 7:10** (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

The leader prays with hands joined:

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Savior was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.

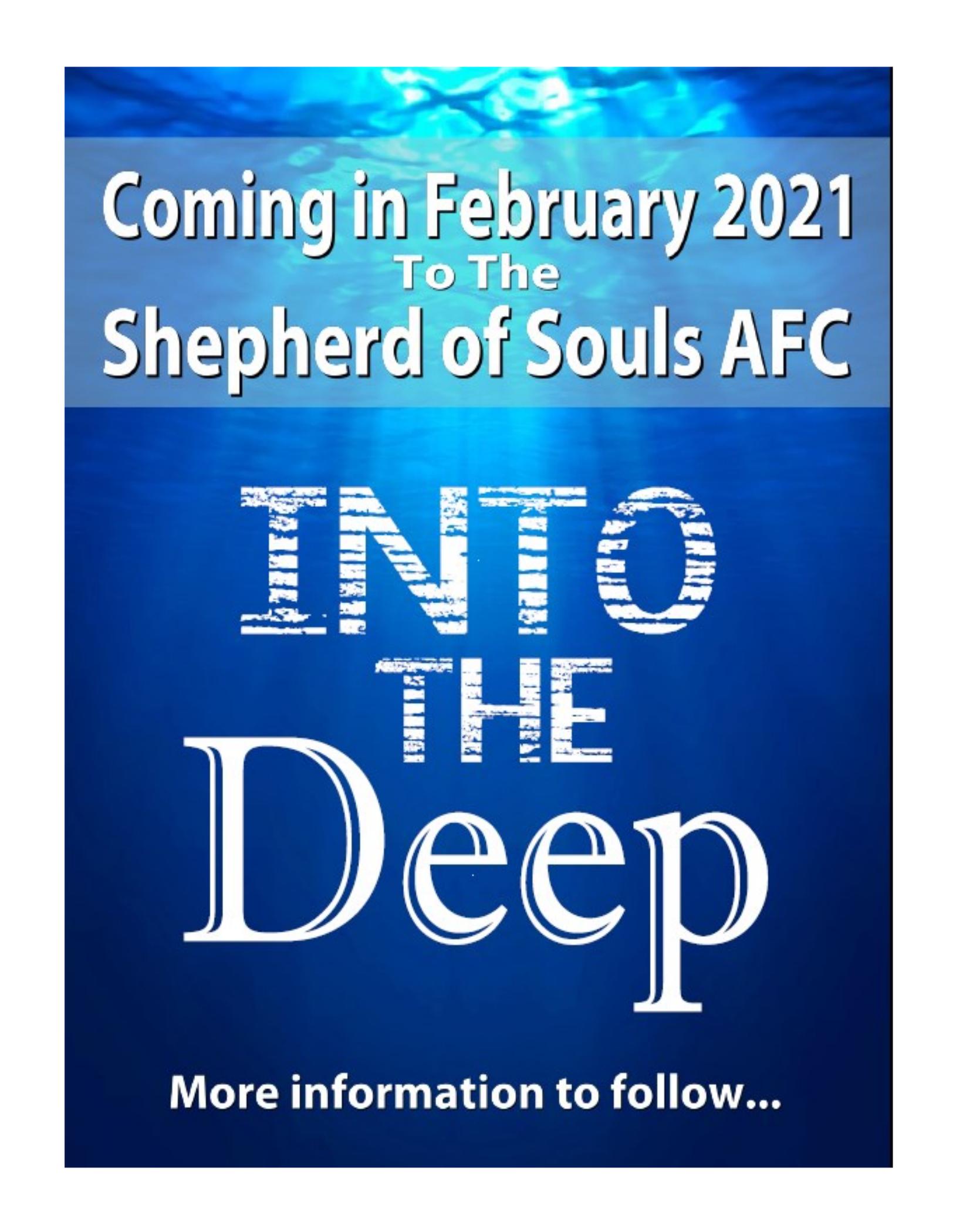
Lord,
bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.
R/. Amen.

Save the Date for our AFC Parish Mission

Into the Deep

Deacon Ralph Poyo will be here for the Masses on the weekend on February 6 & 7th. He will invite us to the Mission February 8 - 11 in the evenings.





Coming in February 2021
To The
Shepherd of Souls AFC

INTO
THE
Deep

More information to follow...