



## LENTEN NEWSLETTER

**Dear Parishioners** At times we need rules to help us do the things we may not be so eager to do. Perhaps that's why the Church teaches us that we are to participate in the sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year. Most of us remember the feeling of being freed from our sins after celebrating the sacrament. Let's use those memories to encourage us to take the opportunity to be reconciled with God and one another this Lent. Please see in this newsletter the many opportunities to celebrate Reconciliation, Stations and other events this Lent. Please pray for Jake & Courtney Tesch, and Austin Molitor preparing to be received into the church at the Easter Vigil.

*With you in prayer, fasting and almsgiving, Father Jeff Horejsi*

**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 and others.

**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. Through fasting our relationship to ourselves is reoriented toward God.

**ALMSGIVING:** Provides assistance to the poor among 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.

**PRAAYER:** 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.

## BISHOP PLUCKER LECTURE

*Featuring*  
**Monsignor James Shea**  
*President of University of Mary*

**Friday, March 6, 2026**

**6 p.m. Mass**  
**7-8 p.m. Lecture followed by refreshments**  
**No cost | No registration required**

Church of St. Catherine: 900 East Flynn Street, Redwood Falls

### **Save the Date!!**

**Ordination to the Diaconate for Brent Sundve will be Saturday, May 16th at 11:00 am at St. Philip. As most of you know, Brent has been studying for the priesthood, so he will be a "transitional deacon" rather than a permanent deacon. We are blessed to have this celebration in our AFC.**



Bishop Zielinski asks all parishioners to use this Prayer for Vocations. In 10 years, half of our priests will be retirement age, and we do not have enough men in seminary to begin to replace them. Thanks for helping with this great need.

### **Prayer for Vocations**

O Jesus, send laborers into your fields, which are awaiting holy apostles, saintly priests, heroic missionaries and dedicated sisters and brothers. Enkindle in the hearts of men and women the spark of a vocation. Grant that Christian families may desire to give to your Church helpers in the work of tomorrow. Amen. -Pope St. John XXIII

# Masses & Services

## Ash Wednesday Masses: February 18th

- Hilltop at 10:30 AM
- 12 Noon at St. Philip
- 5:30 PM at St. John (at church)
- 5:30 PM at St. Anthony
- 7:00 PM at Our Lady
- 7:00 PM at St. Philip



## Lenten Reconciliation Services

- March 4th at 6:30PM at St. Philip
- March 8th at 3:00PM at St. John
- March 11th at 6:30PM at St. John, Ed Center
- March 15th at 3:00 PM at St. Anthony
- March 18th at 6:45 PM at St. Anthony
- March 22nd at 3:00PM at St. Philip

March 25th at 6:45 PM at Our Lady

\*The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also available on Saturdays each week at 3:15 PM at St Philip's.

**Diocesan Chrism Mass, March 26th**  
at 7:00pm at the New Ulm Cathedral.



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



**Palm Sunday** (3/28 or 3/29) Normal Weekend Mass Times

**Holy Thursday** (4/2/26)

7PM at St. Phillip & St. Anthony

**Good Friday** (4/3/26)

12PM at St. Philip • 3PM at St. Anthony

3PM at Our Lady • 7PM at St. John's

**Easter Vigil** (4/4/26)

8:15PM at St. Phillip

**Easter Sunday** (4/5/26)

8AM at Our Lady • 8AM at St. Philip

10AM at St. Anthony • 10AM at St. John

12PM St. Philip (Spanish)

## Stations of the Cross & Soup Supper

Fridays during Lent at 6PM at one of our parishes with a soup supper to follow. Gathering together as members of our AFC is a wonderful way to pray for each other. Please join us as we pray, meditating on the Lord's suffering & death for us.



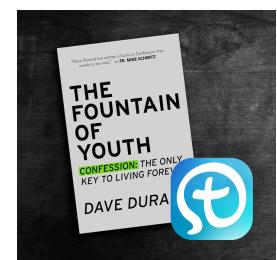
## Stations OF THE CROSS

February 20 @ St. John • February 27 @ Our Lady • March 6 @ St Philip •  
March 13 @ Our Lady • March 20 @ St John • March 27 @ St. Anthony's (no soup)

## Lenten Enrichment

### The Fountain of Youth | Confession: The Only Key to Living Forever

Join us for an interactive book study that you can do from the comfort of your own home. All you need is the book and the MyParish App! Books are available at all the parishes and you can download the app from your app store. **How It Works** Each week everyone will receive a message from the app detailing what you should read that week. You also can join the "Fountain of Youth" discussion group under the "groups" button in the app. Joining this group will allow you to dive deeper into the book. Reflection questions will be posted and you will have the opportunity to join in with your responses and highlights. **Why?** Sometimes our "good intentions" are not enough and we need community and accountability to follow through. Through guided reading and discussion, we'll reflect on God's mercy, forgiveness, and the healing power of reconciliation and many misconceptions about this sacrament. Even if you are not a reader join in! It's a short book!



**Lenten Reflection Booklets** Each parish has Lenten meditation/reflection booklets for you to pray with this Lent. Pick up yours today!

**Eucharistic Adoration** Spend some extra time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament this Lent. Attend at your parish or make a pilgrimage to another one! Find times and locations in the weekly bulletin.



### LENTEN RESOURCES

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



# Cana90

Strengthen your marriage this Lent! Cana90 from the Messy Family Project wants to enable married couples to work on their spiritual life, marriage, and family culture this Lent. Look up "Cana90" on the internet and scroll down to sign up for free daily emails to explore goals, meditations and fun family activities.

SCHOOL OF ST. PHILIP

# DISCOVERY DAY

featuring  
TRICIA & THE TOONIES



February 26, 2026 | 9:30-10:00 a.m.  
School of St. Philip  
Open to all 3 and 4-year-olds

School of St. Philip

225 East Third Street  
Litchfield, MN 55355  
320-693-6283  
[info@schoolofstphilip.org](mailto:info@schoolofstphilip.org)

## Kindergarten Roundup

April 9, 2026 • 8:30 - 11 a.m.

### Discover the Difference!

- Explore the classroom
- Meet the school staff
- Take a ride on our blue bus

Contact the school office for more information or to register to attend.

## 40 BAGS in 40 days CHALLENGE

Donate: April 18-23

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. @ Church of St. Philip

School of St. Philip

## SPRING SHOWCASE

Join us for a special evening to celebrate the incredible work of our students, see their creativity in action and discover the difference!

MARCH 19, 2026 • 6-7 PM

School of St. Philip: 225 E 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Litchfield, MN 55355




During the season of Lent, collect your no longer needed items for the School of St. Philip rummage sale.

## Rummage & Bake Sale

Friday, April 24 8am-6pm  
Saturday, April 25 8am-2pm

@ Church  
of St. Philip  
Litchfield

All rummage sale items are free will offering

## Service Projects



**Food Shelf** Lent is a great time to remember those in need of food. Our local area food shelves welcome your donations. Besides food items, monetary gifts will also be appreciated. Collection containers for your unexpired, non-perishable items are at St. Philip and St. Anthony.

**Place of Hope** Join us on the second Thursdays of each month at 2PM at the Place of Hope in St. Cloud to help prepare and serve meals to the homeless and those in need. Contact Jessie at the St. Anthony office to join in. Can't make it in person but still want to help? Monetary donations can also be given.

**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.

**Water for Life** Lent is a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, a tradition on that draws us closer to Christ as we unite in sacrifice. Join compassionate Catholics nationwide to bless nearly 600,000 people with clean water and sanitation! If you would like to donate, drop your donations in the collection basket or in the office marked "Water for Life". Visit [CrossCatholic.org/Lent](http://CrossCatholic.org/Lent).



Did you know that The Church of St. Philip has an Endowment Fund? An endowment fund is a great way for parishioners to donate to the Church. How does this work? The monies that are received into the Endowment Fund always remain in the fund. The interest from the Endowment is what we use for our Operating Budget to fund our ministries from Faith Formation to pastoral care to outreach to those in need. If you would like more information on how to give to the Endowment feel free to contact Fr. Jeff or Brenda.



 MyCatholicWill

## Protect what matters

The Diocese of New Ulm is proud to sponsor **FREE** access to [MyCatholicWill.com](http://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](http://MyCatholicWill.com/DNU)

Use Referral Code:  
**DNU**

## Upcoming Events

**St. Philip's:**  
**March 21st**  
**11:00 AM-7:00 PM\***

**St. John's:**  
**April 17th**  
**(@ the Ed Center)**  
**12:00-7:00 PM\***

**St. Anthony's:**  
**March 27th**  
**4:00-7:00PM\***

**\*or until fish is gone**

**SHEPHERD OF SOULS AFC**

**FISH FRY**

**FUNDRAISERS**



**EV-W Youth Ministry**  
**Breakfast/Silent Auction**  
**Sunday, April 12th 11AM-1PM**

Free-will offering. Proceeds to benefit to the EV-W Youth Ministry Program. Many Catholic items to bid on!

**Community Rosary/Potluck**



Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 6PM at St. Anthony's. Join us for a night of prayer, fellowship & food. Bring your rosary, a Lenten dish to pass and a friend! (you can also join us at 5:40 for the Stations of the Cross.)

**The Steps to the Priesthood with: Fr Joshua Bot**  
March 21<sup>st</sup> at St. Aloysius Church in Olivia

9AM Mass followed by a brunch and our speaker. To register send \$10 to Kathy Urban (140 Ford St, Glencoe, MN 55336) by March 13<sup>th</sup>. Sponsored by the Deanery 3 CCW. Call/text 320-296-0079 with questions.

The Church of St. Philip along with the Catholic Community Foundation will be hosting a

**Preparing for Heaven Seminar**

**Saturday, March 28th 5:00pm - 8:00pm**

Topics include: Life Eternal with the Sacraments Funeral, Burial, Cemetery Planning and Creating a Catholic Estate Plan through Charitable Giving.

RSVP to join us as (supper will be provided) call or email Brenda Grates  
bgrates@shepherdofsouls.org

320-693-3313 Ext. 100



*The Church of*  
**St. Philip's Gala**  
**Friday, April 10th at**  
**the Church Social Hall**

**Back by popular demand we will be hosting the**  
**Black & White Dueling Pianos.**

**Tickets will be \$50 per person.**

**Watch the bulletin for more information about**  
**when tickets will be available.**

**Save**  
**the**  
**date**



**Knights of Columbus Breakfast**



(St. Anthony / St. Anne / Holy Cross)  
Sunday, March 15th 8:30AM-12PM  
at St. Anthony's. Proceeds to benefit local religious ed programs.

**CHURCH OF OUR LADY**

**Rummage sale May 16th**



*Start collecting your unwanted items!*  
*Watch the bulletin for further details.*

**CHURCH OF OUR LADY**

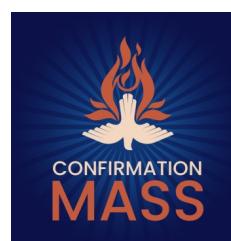
**Sausage & Pancake Supper**



**April 12th from 4-7 pm**



*Watch the bulletin for updates*



**AFC Confirmation**  
Save the date for this year's AFC Confirmation Mass. Mass will be on **April 19th at 2:00pm** at St. Philip's with Bishop LeVoir presiding.

**Anointing of the Sick Masses**

Friday, May 15th at  
St. Philip at 10am

Tuesday, May 19th at  
St. Anthony at 5:30pm

Both followed by a light meal.



Anyone with a grave illness (physical or mental), anticipating a serious surgery, or infirm due to age may receive this sacrament of healing.