

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH

702 BELTRAMI AVE. NW, BEMIDJI, MN 56601
218-444-4262 email:rector@stphilipsbemidji.org



FROM THE PASTOR

Happy Advent! We begin the journey to Christmas. I need to ask up front for patience during this time of transition to the new Roman Missal...our book of prayer. Old habits will be hard to break for you in the pews and for the priest(s) behind the altar! What a great opportunity, however, to grow in our faith. Words mean something. Words matter. We will be VERY aware of how we use words for some time to come as we learn new lines. I want to thank the musicians who have worked hard in preparing us for the musical changes involved. Now it is a matter of getting down the spoken word. Enclosed in the bulletin this week are some terms and their definitions...words in the Missal which may be foreign to us.

It isn't too soon to be planning a retreat experience for yourself this winter. I have been involved with the Cursillo retreats for many years, it has been a life changer for me. As a pastor, I also notice a difference in the parish when folks have attended a Cursillo. The parish is stronger, more vibrant, and people step forward to be involved. Cursillo is Spanish meaning "short course." It is a 3+ day (Thursday night until Sunday afternoon) time of study, rest, fellowship and prayer which will rejuvenate the hardest of souls. Cursillo changed my life. It would be great to see 20 men and 20 women attend the next weekends in March. The men will gather March 1-4. The women, March 15-18. Both weekends are at Sand Hill Bible Camp south of Fosston. What a great Lenten gift to yourself! For more info, contact me or email the Spiritual Director for Cursillo in the Diocese of Crookston, Fr. Chuck Huck (who served here just a few years ago!) at: frchuck@rlccatholic.org

Hope you noticed the list of volunteers who help with our Religious Formation Program in last week's bulletin. Over 70 names! Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our kids!

Plan ahead...Christmas Masses are 5pm and 10pm on Saturday, Dec. 24st and 10am on Christmas morning. This is NOT the usual weekend schedule!

Mass Times

Sunday Mass
Saturday: 5:30 PM
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Weekday Masses

Monday, Thursday, Friday &
Saturday: 8:30 AM
Tuesday: 12:10 PM
Wednesday: 8:40 AM
(at 8:30 AM June, July & August)

Friday Care Center Masses

10:30 AM
Havenwood: 1st & 3rd Fridays
Neilson Place: 2nd Friday
Goldpine: 4th Friday
Baker Park: 5th Friday

Reconciliation

Saturday: 4:00 PM
Sunday Mornings: before all Masses

Adoration

Monday: 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM
Tuesday: 6:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Rosary for Peace

Sunday: 10:15 AM

Marion Devotions

Tuesday: 7:30 PM & Saturday: 8:10 AM

School Council Members:

Roben Beyer
Bill Maki
Shannon Seibel
Michael Yavarow

Parish Council Members:

Joann Gardner, *Chair*
Wanda Baumgartner
Barry Cervenka
Gary Gregg
Hank Imsande
Brent Rud
Jesse Westrum
Theresa Wilander

Finance Council Members:

Nick Berg, *Chair*
Eileen Bretschneider
Troy Hendricks
Daniel Johnson

Trustees:

Jon Hunt
Susan Lucas

St. Philip's Church

218-444-4262

FAX 218-444-1381

www.stphilipsbemidji.org

Parish Staff

Pastor:

Fr. Don Braukmann ext. 102

Parochial Vicar:

Fr. Craig Vasek ext. 106

Parish Administrator:

Terry Jones ext. 108

Bookkeeper:

Kermit Erickson ext. 103

Director of Music & Liturgy:

Janet Weaver ext. 104

Director of Preschool, Elementary, &

High School Religious Formation:

Kris Jensen 218-444-5849

Director of Youth Ministry/Middle

School Religious Formation:

Paula DeClusin ext. 107

Events Coordinator:

Maryhelen Chadwick ext. 105

Secretaries:

Rose Johnson ext. 100

Tammy Johnson ext. 101

Facility Maintenance:

Supervisor: Larry Mack

Maintenance Support Staff:

Greg Allen & Jim Shaw

St. Philip's School Staff

Principal:

Carol Rettinger 444-4938

School Secretaries:

Suzy Bormann

Heidi Fladeboe

Denise Kern

Sister Parishes

St. Charles Pennington

Summer only

Holy Spirit Newman Center

BSU/NWTC

Mass Sunday—7:00 PM

Tuesday—9:00 PM

1701 Birch Lane NE

218-444-4762

Barry Cervenka, Coordinator

Diocese of Crookston

Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Louann McGlynn

218-281-7895

lmcglynn@crookston.org

St. Philip's Clothing Depot

218-444-3835

Tues, Wed, Thurs 9:30 AM-3:00 PM

Manager:

Norma Himmelright

The First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2011

Show us, O God, your love!

THIS WEEK
IN THE PARISH

Monday, November 28:

8:30 AM Mass:+Wayne & +Barbara
Nessman by Julie Huewe &
Grandchildren

7:00 PM Nightlights/Kateri

9:00 AM to 9:00 PM Adoration/Chapel

Tuesday, November 29 :

6:00 AM to 9:00 PM Adoration/Chapel

12:10 PM Mass:+Dick Struthers

by Wayne & Carolyn Dondelinger

7:00 PM Life First/Social Hall

7:30 PM Marian Devotions/Chapel

9:00 PM Mass (HSNC): Special intentions
for Reaghan Hemmerbeck by her
Family

Wednesday, November 30:

8:40 AM Mass: +Milton Knutson
by Gina Rypkema

6:30 PM Religious Formation: Elementary-
Middle School-High School

Thursday, December 1:

8:30 AM Mass +John Pulczynski
by Brent & Amy Magnuson

6:30 PM RCIA/Social Hall

7:00 PM Prayer Group/Chapel



Friday, December 2:

8:30 AM Mass: +Marilyn Hensrud
by Don & Family

10:30 AM Mass (Havenwood):

+Madonna Brunreau by Lillian Huderle &
John Huderle

12:00 PM Prayer for Peace/Kateri

Saturday, December 3:

8:30 AM Mass:+Kenneth Bahr by the Kern
Family

4:30 PM Reconciliation/Chapel

5:30 PM Mass: +Frank & +Florence
Abbott by Ralph & Ellen Vanasek

Sunday, December 4:

7:30 AM Mass: Special Intentions for Bob
& Dottie Moen by John Ovsak

9:00 AM Mass: +John Pulczynski
by Pat & Judy Dooley

11:00 AM Mass: For the People

7:00 PM Mass (HSNC): +Jack Reynolds
by Alice & Tom Thompson



BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28 ~ DECEMBER 4

Monday, November 28:

Is 2:1-57 • Ps 122:1-9

• Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday, November 29:

Is 11:1-10 • Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17

• Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday, November 30:

Rom 10:9-18 • Ps 19:2-5

• Mt 4:18-22

Thursday, December 1:

Is 26:1-6 • 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27a

• Mt 7:21,24-27

Friday, December 2:

Is 40:1-5,9-11 • Ps 27:1,4,13-14

• Mt 9:27-31

Saturday, December 3:

Is 30:19-21,23-26 • Ps 147:1-6

• Mt 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8

Sunday, December 4:

Is 40:1-5,9-11 • Ps 85:9-14

• 1 Pt 3:8-14 • Mk 1:1-8

Stewardship of Financial Resources:

Fiscal Year July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

Contributions received the weekend of

11/20/11 – Week #21

Envelopes	\$	12,199.50
EFT	\$	3,504.83
Loose Plate	\$	642.60
Children's	\$	35.89
Total	\$	16,382.82

Fiscal Year to Date: - Week #21

Amount Contributed

Envelopes	\$	309,838.00
Loose Plate	\$	19,892.09
Children's	\$	982.58
Total	\$	330,710.67

(96.63% of budget)

Stewardship: A Habit of the Heart.

INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS:



Parents or prospective parents who wish to present a child for Baptism are asked to attend a baptism preparation class.

The next session will be December 4th. Please call the parish office at 444-4262 to register or for more information.

St. Philip's Catholic Community welcomes through the waters of baptism **Cecilia Mae Shellenberger**, daughter of Jonathon & Lindsey Shellenberger, **Temperance Jane Braaten**, daughter of Benjamin & Samatha Braaten and **Christopher Michael Illies**, son of Michael & Jennifer Illies. May they be filled with the Holy Spirit!!



Render your heart
and not
your garments.
Return to the
LORD
your God...
Joel 2:13



Reconciliation Opportunities at St. Philip's Church

Individual Reconciliation
(Chapel)

Saturdays at 4:30 PM
Sundays before all Masses



St. Philip's extends condolences to the family of **Florine Brune** and to Bob and Marion Evans and to Les Evans on the death of their daughter and sister, **Bobbie Ann Evans**. May they find rest and peace with our Lord, Jesus Christ and may their families find comfort in God's love.

YOUNG ADULT BOWLING

Frassati of Bemidji is sponsoring a young adult night on the 3rd of December.

Come bowling, and bring friends!!!
7:30 – 9:30PM at Bemidji Bowl – the lanes are paid for.
—You just have to rent some shoes.

Check **FRASSATI OF BEMIDJI** on Facebook for more information

St. Philip's School 52 Club Winners



November 23	Flavia Sagedahl	#50	\$25
November 27	Pflegler Family	#634	\$50

Winners will receive their checks in the mail.
For more information and a list of to-date winners check St. Philip's website at:
www.stphilipsbemidji.org

NOTICE TO EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS!

Starting this weekend, those Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who are distributing the Body of Christ will come forward at the usual time but will go to the organ side of the sanctuary and line up at the bottom step of the sanctuary. Those distributing the Blood of Christ will line up on the altar server side at the bottom step as well. Once the Priest has consumed the Blood of Christ, all EMHC's come up to their regular place at the altar and the rest of the Communion Rite is as usual.



Christmas Choir Practice!
This Sunday, Nov. 27
5:30-7:30 pm
In the church

ST. JUDE'S CIRCLE MEMBERS

St. Jude's Circle members and their guest are cordially invited to attend our annual Christmas Party. It will be held at Sparkling Waters on Wednesday, December 7th, 2011. Social hour is from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm with dinner starting at 6:00 pm. Entertainment will be provided by Don Fradenburgh. Please join us for great fun and friendship. If you have any questions or need a ride please call Sharon Zarrett at 751-1606.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*Hail, favored one!
 The Lord is with you.
 Luke 1:28*



On December 8 the church celebrates the mystery of Mary who was free from the corruption of sin – even from the moment of her conception. Masses for this holy day of obligation will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 8:40 AM and 7:00 PM

Please call the Rose or Tammy at 444-4262 if you can help with your liturgical ministry at the 7:00 PM Mass.

SIDE NOTE FROM FR. DON:

Here are three GREAT websites to check out:
www.foryourmarriage.org is for Catholic couples with more info than you can use on how to live a faithful, passionate, Catholic marriage.
www.e5men.org is for Catholic men, married or single. Awesome!
www.dads.org is for, surprise, surprise, Catholic Dads!



O Come Let Us Adore Him!

St. Philip's Church Christmas Eve Choir

The St. Philip's Choir is a group of fun and friendly men, women and youth (grade 9 and up) who love to sing and traditionally provide the music for the 5:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve.

We are looking for new voices to praise the newborn King of Kings through song and worship. No experience is necessary, and if you don't read music we can help you. We need singers in all voice parts. If you are interested in singing in this choir on Christmas Eve, practice begins this Sunday, November 27, from 5:30-7:30 pm in the church.

If you are interested in singing in this choir on Christmas Eve or if you would like more information, please contact Janet Weaver, Director of Music and Liturgy, at 444-4262 or send email to jweaver@stphilipsbemidji.org

RELIGIOUS FORMATION 444-5849

Helping Our Children and Youth Grow in Their Catholic Faith



November 30 ~ Religious Formation Classes

6:30 – 7:45 p.m. Elementary RF

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. the EDGE and High School RF

December 4 ~ Preschool Sunday School

If your child will be absent from RF class, please notify the RF Office.



Just a reminder ~ FIRST RECONCILIATION PRAYER PARTNER CARDS are due to the Religious Formation Office or Parish Office by November 30th. Questions contact Kris.

Many thanks to all the parents who helped with First Reconciliation Activity Morning. We had a fun, faith-filled morning!!

★ Thank You! ★
THANK YOU!

CLASS NOTES

Happenings at St. Philip's School

- ❖ Join us for our first Advent prayer service for the season on Monday, November 28th. For the first 3 weeks of Advent, join us on Mondays and Fridays in the school gym at 8:35. For the 4th week of Advent we will meet on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday in the gym. Our theme is "Journey to Bethlehem with Mary", with our first week focusing on the presentation of Mary at the temple. All are welcome to attend.
- ❖ Thank you to all of those who helped with the Sweet Sale distribution this past week. For those of you who purchased a delicious item...Thank you and enjoy!
- ❖ The classroom round of this year's Geography Bee for students in grades 4th - 8th will be held on Thursday, December 1st. The first oral round will be held on December 16th at 2:00.
- ❖ Here is a date for your calendar...Wednesday, December 21st is the St. Philip's Christmas Program.

Advent prayer services at St. Philip's school will have a new look this year.

NEW: MORE HOURS FOR ADORATION! HEART SPEAKS TO HEART

(promotion of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament)

*Expanded hours of Adoration have begun.



Come spend time with Jesus in the Eucharist. The new hours are: MONDAY 9AM-9PM; TUESDAY 6AM-9PM.

Here is just one comment from someone who spent time in the chapel: "I enjoy the quiet time to reflect and pray. It's such a good time to be near God and dwell on what really is important in life."

QUOTE FROM A SAINT: "Behold the source of every good, Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament, Who says, *If any man thirst, let him come to Me.* [John, vii. 37] Oh, what torrents of grace have the Saints drawn from the fountain of the Most Blessed Sacrament! For there Jesus dispenses all the merits of His Passion, as it was foretold by the Prophet: *You shall draw waters with joy out of the Saviour's fountains.* [Isa. xii. 3]"

NIGHTLIGHTS

Nightlights, a support group for anyone who has a loved one with mental illness will hold its monthly meeting on Monday November 28th at 7:00 PM in the Kateri Room.

Robin Wold, director of Hope House, will be present to discuss the services which Hope House provides to the Bemidji community. Everyone is welcome.

MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Thank you to the following for delivering Meals-on-Wheels: Jan & Don Pohl, Steve Christlieb, Moe Webb, Dick Robinson, Kell Lovell & Marsha Stebe. Your willingness to give of your time is greatly appreciated. St. Philip's next scheduled week will be January 30-February 3, 2012.

ST. PHILIP'S CLOTHING DEPOT NEWS

Hours: 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday
10:00-2:00 first & third Saturday

NEW HOURS

Starting October 15th until April 15th, the Clothing Depot will be open on the first and third Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. . This is to allow those in the community that can not shop with us during the week, an opportunity to take advantage of our great prices and unique community based shopping on the weekend.

Old man Winter is here and with the cold temperatures and snow is a need for warmer clothing. The Clothing Depot can keep you warm and be easy on your budget as well. Of course Christmas is just around the corner and we are sure to have just the right item, on our shelves, for you.

Thank you for all of your donations and patronage throughout the year. Proceeds from St. Philips Clothing Depot go directly into the community and support a wide range of worthy organizations.

We are always happy to meet new people and of course, happy to have new volunteers at the Clothing Depot. You can volunteer to fit your schedule. There is no minimum (or maximum) time requirement. If you would like to join our team, please come in and see Norma at the Clothing Depot during business hours to be placed on a schedule that works for you. Volunteering is fun and rewarding!

"Tubs of Christmas Love"

St. Philip's Church is again filling, "Tubs of Christmas Love"

The food and gifts collected will be shared with local low-income families or those experiencing hardship.

- ✦ From November 27 -December 11 there will be red plastic "Christmas Tubs" near the Advent Giving Tree that will serve as Christmas Baskets.
- ✦ The lid on each tub will have a label identifying the number of family members, ages of the children and may have some other specific information.
- ✦ The tub can be filled with items appropriate for a holiday meal, and/or a gift certificate for perishable food including items such as turkey, pie, etc. A family game or small gift items could also be included.
- ✦ Simply take a tub, fill it, and return it to the tree (on weekends) or to the parish office (during the week). Keep the label attached to the lid. **Return the filled tub by December 18th.**
- ✦ Please detach, and fill out the information slip on the side of the label, and drop in the box or collection plate.

Bi-Cap, CEP, Headstart, & Fr. Bill Mehrkens have provided the names.



Christmas Flowers for St. Philip's Church will be supplied, in part, through the generous donations given by parishioners in memory of deceased loved ones, or in honor of the living.

If you wish to make a memorial, please use your **Christmas Flower Offering** envelope in your box of offertory envelopes. Or place your donation in an envelope clearly marked as **Christmas Flowers**. Please indicate the name of the deceased person(s) your gift is in memory of or the name of the living person(s) your gift is in honor of.

Please place your envelope in the collection basket or turn it in to the parish office as soon as possible. All memorials will be published in the parish bulletin after the Christmas season.



St. Philip's School 52 Club Raffle Ticket Sale Volunteer Sign-up

St. Philip's School families have the opportunity to sell 52 Club raffle tickets after weekend Masses. There are only five weekends available for families to sell tickets.

November 26 & 27

December 3 & 4

December 10 & 11

December 17 & 18

January 7 & 8

Two families may sell tickets after each Mass. Sign-up will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. A family may sell at only one Mass, unless no one reserves the other volunteer times.

Volunteers should contact Maryhelen Chadwick at 218-444-4262 or mchadwick@stphilipsbemidji.org to reserve a time.

LIFE FIRST COMMITTEE

The Life First Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 29th at 6:30pm. All are welcome. The group will be discussing the upcoming Pro-Life March in January, the Crisis Pregnancy Center, 40 Days for Life and educational opportunities for the parish on life issues.

PRO-LIFE ACTION COALITION MEETING

You are needed!

Monday, December 5

6:30 p.m.

Mount Zion Church

414 Lincoln Ave SE, Bemidji

*Efforts discussed within this group
are supported and relayed to the
Life First Committee of St. Philip's.*

ALL ARE WELCOME! PLEASE HELP SPREAD
THE WORD!

Advent Giving Tree

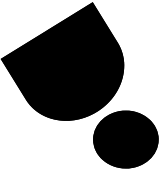




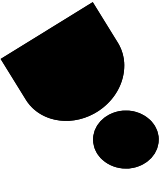





Jesse Tree symbols have been placed on the tree in the Narthex. The tree with ornaments will remain there for the Sundays of Advent. The ornaments list items needed by local charities or non-profit organizations.

You are invited to choose an ornament and purchase that item as part of your Christmas giving. The *unwrapped* gift with its ornament tag should be placed under the tree by December 18th.

The ornaments on the tree are symbols that trace the genealogy of Jesus. The symbols can include an apple (Adam and Eve), branches (Jesse), coat of many colors (Joseph), stone tablet (Moses), hammer (Joseph), tent (Sarah), star (Star of David), dove (Noah), heart (Mary), tree (Abraham), or crown (King Solomon). See if you can determine the connection between the symbol that you choose and Jesus' lineage.

Thank you to Karen Williams' class for making all the ornaments – a big job!

 <p>PURGATORY</p>	<p>RANDOM ACT</p> 		<p>TEPEYAC AVENUE</p>	<p>RANDOM ACT</p> 	
 <p>ROCKY VINE AVENUE</p>		<p>ROCKY VINE AVENUE</p>		<p>COVERCREST AVENUE</p>	

GENEROPOLY

“A FUN GAME TO CHALLENGE YOUTH TO EMBRACE THE VIRTUE OF GENEROSITY, AS CONTRASTED TO THE SIN OF GREED”

JOIN US FOR A GAME OF “GENEROPOLY” AS WE GATHER AFTER 11AM MASS IN SOCIAL HALL FOR LUNCH, GAME AND PRAYER. ALL 9TH-12TH GRADERS ARE WELCOME!

Sunday, December 11th
St. Philip's Youth Event

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH

SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL ADVENT LITURGIES

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY

Thursday, December 8, 2011 8:40 AM

Thursday, December 8, 2011 7:00 PM



DAYS OF GRACE

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Individual reconciliation on the hour every hour
10:00 AM - 7:00 PM, and following Mass

Saturday, December 17, 2011

Individual reconciliation on the hour every hour
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, then continually until 5:00 PM

SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Saturday, December 24, 2011 5:00 PM [♫]
& 10:00 PM [♫]

Sunday, December 25, 2011 10:00 AM [♫]

[♫] *Congregational Christmas caroling will begin one half hour before each Mass.*

***NOTE: 10:00 AM IS THE ONLY MASS ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**



ADVENT 2012

Advent begins the weekend of November 26/27 along with the introduction of the new Roman Missal. A few dates to keep in mind for the coming holidays includes Thanksgiving Day when Mass will be celebrated at 8:30am. There will be two "Days of Grace" during Advent providing times to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation along with our regular times (4:30 Saturday's and before and after the 7:30am and 9am Masses on Sundays). The first Day of Grace will be Thursday, December 8th, the Holy Day of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. A priest will be available after the 8:40 Mass that morning and on each hour until Mass at 7pm. The second Day of Grace will be Saturday, December 17th from 9am to 5pm, on the hour. A neighboring priest will also be available at some point during that day...to be determined. Christmas is on a Sunday this year but we will NOT be having the usual weekend Mass schedule for that weekend. Mass on Saturday, December 24th will be at 5pm and 10pm. The Mass on Christmas morning (Sunday) will be at 10am. Plan ahead!



The Advent Season marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. The four weeks of Advent lead us to the celebration of Christmas. Advent's familiar sights and sounds stir in us a readiness to receive our Savior, while sharpening our sense of the world's need for redemption and of the great mystery of God's becoming human for us.

Advent is a Latin word meaning **the coming**. The season of Advent is a time to prepare to celebrate the three comings of Christ: His lowly birth in the past, his mysterious coming to the Christian community in the present, and his promised return as our Judge at the end of time.

Advent was originally celebrated as a kind of "Lent" during the forty days before the feast of Christmas. Gradually, Advent developed its own distinctive character, retaining a penitential dimension but emphasizing the joy-filled hope in the coming of the Lord.

Today these two aspects continue side by side. During the first part of Advent, the prophecies of Isaiah and John the Baptist remind us that we are waiting for God's coming among us and so we have some preparing to do. Beginning about December 17, the excitement of the liturgical pace heightens as we focus more directly on the events leading up to Jesus' birth.

These twin perspectives give richness to our observance of Advent, leading us to introspection and renewal, and to the exuberant joy and celebration of Christmas.

Advent has many opportunities to prepare ourselves for the genuine joy our celebration of Christmas is meant to bring. Advent is a time to **slow down and practice the art of waiting patiently**. Advent is a time to relish looking forward, a time to reinvigorate the spirit, and a time to recall the reason **why** we celebrate.

Let us focus on Advent as a time to recall that it is Jesus who is the reason for our hope, the spur to our repentance, the source of our love and the cause of all our joy. Let us take time from our busy schedules and hectic days to sit with our God in a few minutes of reflective prayer each day. To help you prepare and wait eagerly, joyfully, and hopefully the coming of Christ we have made some devotional materials available in the narthex including:

Daily meditations and devotions for adults

Daily devotions for children and their families

Prayers for young children

Spending time with God each day will help our Advent be rewarding as we re-discover the true "**reason for the season**"

"Lord, our God,

*Help us to prepare for the coming of Christ
your Son.*

*May he find us waiting, eager in joyful
prayer."*

(From the Liturgy of the Hours)

Prepare In Joyful Hope

Advent



The Advent Season marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year, the four weeks of Advent lead us to the celebration of Christmas. Advent's familiar sights and sounds stir in us a readiness to receive our Savior, while sharpening our sense of the world's need for redemption and of the great mystery of God's becoming human for us.

Advent is a Latin word meaning *the coming*. The season of Advent is a time to prepare to celebrate the three comings of Christ: His lowly birth in the past, his mysterious coming to the Christian community in the present, and his promised return as our Judge at the end of time.

Advent was originally celebrated as a kind of "Lent" during the forty days before the feast of Christmas. Gradually, Advent developed its own distinctive character, retaining a penitential dimension but emphasizing the joy-filled hope in the coming of the Lord.

Today these two aspects continue side by side. During the first part of Advent, the prophecies of Isaiah and John the Baptizer remind us that we are waiting for God's coming among us and so we have some preparing to do. Beginning about December 17, the excitement of the liturgical pace heightens as we focus more directly on the events leading up to Jesus' birth.

These twin perspectives give richness to our observance of Advent, leading us to introspection and renewal, and to the exuberant joy and celebration of Christmas.

As Christians we need to rediscover the meaning and power of Advent. We can no longer be captivated by the countdown of "20, 19, 18 shopping days until Christmas". We need to begin seeing what a rich experience Advent can be when separated from the mad rush to buy, buy, buy. Advent is loaded with opportunities to prepare ourselves for the genuine joy our celebration of Christmas is meant to bring.

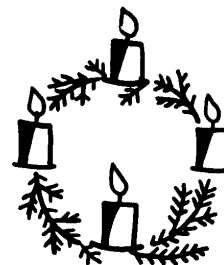
Advent is a time to *slow down and practice the art of waiting patiently*. Advent is a time to relish looking forward, a time to reinvigorate the spirit, to recall the reason *why* we celebrate.

Let us focus on Advent as a time to recall that it is Jesus who is the reason for our hope, the spur to our repentance, the source of our love and the cause of all our joy. Let us take time from our busy schedules and hectic days to sit with our God in a few minutes of reflective prayer each day. This will help our Advent be rewarding as we re-discover the true "**reason for the season**".

For these reasons we are making this Advent Calendar and other suggestions available. You are invited to participate in as many of these opportunities that you would like to.

Advent is a season of longing. The texts and songs we proclaim are full of words of desire and hope and longing and expectation. But for what do we long? The Gospel message cries out in lament over the evils that afflict God's people, yearns in hope for the power of God to set us free, and reaches out to share that hope by confronting evil and fostering change wherever possible.

The "call" for us to "shop till you drop" can also be a reminder to find ways to give to the poor with whom Christ identified Himself. The parties and feasts can remind us to share God's gifts not only with friends and family but with all who are hungry.



The Symbols of Advent

Advent Color: The predominant liturgical color of Advent is purple/blue. The ancient tradition of these colors symbolizes the emphasis on repentance. They also bring about a sense of joy-full anticipation.

Advent Wreath: The Advent wreath is probably the most popular symbol of Advent. Its bright candles are symbols of the Light of the World who overcomes the darkness and warms a wintry world. The candles, lit one each week most often consist of three purple or blue candles and one pink. The pink one, lit on the third Sunday in Advent, is the "Rejoice" candle.

Prayers and Blessings

Blessing of an Advent Wreath

Lord, source of all energy and light, the ancients saw the sun as a great fire wheel rolling across the sky. May our Advent wreath, this small wheel of green, be for us a symbol of the sun and of the Son of God. May its ever-greenness be a sign of life and of light in the midst of the darkness of winter. May the candles that burn brightly upon it remind us of Your Son, Jesus, who is the light of the world. Grant, Lord, that this our Advent wreath may be for us and for all who visit our home a sign of faith in a world grown cold with disbelief, a symbol of hope in a time of gloom and despair and a flaming image of love in a winter of mistrust and hate. May all who look upon this symbol of Advent be encouraged to prepare their hearts for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. May this green wreath with its bright candles help us to prepare for the real Christmas which happens within our hearts. May, then, your blessing -- Father of Light, Son of Glory and Spirit of Love -- be upon this Advent wreath and upon our home. Amen+

Blessing for Lighting a Candle on the Wreath

Lord God, you who sent into the world your beloved Son as a light that shines in the darkness, invest this wreath, our Advent symbol, with the power of Your energy and light. With each of these candles that is lighted, may we rekindle within ourselves the desire to prepare a way for the birth of Christ. With each new candle that is lighted, may the flame of Christ's coming grow brighter and brighter so that this Christmas may see a fresh and ever-green coming of the Lord of Light into each of our hearts and into our whole world. (Light candle) We pray, then, that the richness of God's blessing rest upon this Advent wreath, upon our home and upon each of us as we light this candle in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen+

St. Nicholas Blessing Prayer (December 6)

St. Nicholas, holy patron of children, Bishop of the East, we invite you to come among us and to grant us your holy blessing.

Help us in this busy, busy season not to miss the miracle of the coming of Emmanuel in the days of preparation as well as on the feast itself. Help us not to be blind to the gifts of getting ready.

Protect us from insincerity. May every greeting we send be signed with love, friendship and prayer. May our greetings, so written, be fun to open and treasures to keep.

Kind St. Nicholas, protect us from shopper's fatigue. Show us how to take delight in the market place, now transformed in beauty, lights and music. Save us all from anxiety over what to give so that we may concentrate on how to give.

Stand by the stepladder as we decorate our homes, trees and lives. May our decorations not be mute but rather singing symbols, sacred signs of the evergreen coming of the Lord of Life.

Help us to remember that mistletoe, holly, and all other ornaments of the season were sacred signs to ancient believers.

But, most of all, jolly saint of toys and sweets, help us stay youthful, humorous, playful and dream-filled as we prepare together for the coming of Christ with Advent longing.

St. Nicolas, pray for us. Amen+

Blessing prayer for a Christmas Tree.



Lord of the forest, maker of trees, we honor you as we dedicate this tree. May it be a sign of Christmas in our home. Green as life are its needled leaves; open and inviting are its outstretched branches; strong as love is its trunk.

May all trees be for us Christmas trees and trees of life as they become incarnations of God in our own Garden of Eden. As Christ died upon the tree of the cross that we might be gifted with life, may we then remember that the gifts soon to be placed about this tree are but reflections of the gifts that came at the foot of the tree of the cross.

As sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, let us rejoice in this tree of life; may the spirit of kindness and love rest upon it. May the spirit of Christmas ride in its branches, this season and for all seasons. Amen+

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 3~ December 4

	Dec 3, 5:30 PM	Dec 4, 7:30 AM	Dec 4, 9:00 AM	Dec 4, 11:00 AM
Sacristan	Betty Lindy	Al & Jane Foley	Jim & Carolyn Gorham	Doris Swedmark
Usher	Glenn Aagard Dave Hiscock Andy Mack Dick Robinson	Matt Dockendorf Jim Gavin Bob Murray Jim Schneider	Del Hager Mike Headlee Paul Nistler John Schmitt	Jim Clarke Barbara Fitzgerald Cy Murphy Randy Nyberg
Greeter	Eugene Teigland Sue Teigland	Rosemary Petersen Marian Qvern	Al Bennington Denise Kern	Cathy Hedstrom Mary Kinsella
Altar Server	Marae Locke Madison Maki Lauren Weaver	Elijah Lash Gabriele Lash HELP	Andrea Bunich Madisen Erpelding Joshua Kern	Alexander Froelich Caitlin McCollum Georgia Nyberg
Lector	Connie Anderson-Aagard Joe Czapiewski	Pam Murray Carol Schneider	Sue Bruns Kevin Erpelding	Mary Lou Peters Ernie Rall
Intercessor	Bill Maki	John Bloberger	Mike Beard	Dick Rossman
Captain	Flavia Sagedahl	Leonard Branch	Stephanie Downey	Susie Balstad
EMOHC	Mary Dufault Heidi Hiscock Betty Lindy Kell Lovell Jodi Maki Tamara Ripplinger HELP	Al Foley Jane Foley Pat Gavin Roslyn Hanson Fran Petersen Darlene Stepaniak	Ben Baird Mary Bjerke Lorie Erpelding Rachelle Hayes Tom Kern Cathy Lalli David LaZella Shannon Schmitt Mary Varriano	Maryhelen Chadwick Paulette Kassa Chris Nyberg Barb Nyberg Carol Rettinger Tony Schussman Doris Swedmark HELP HELP
Hospitality		Todd & Pat Bartels	Pat Schnell Mark & Nancy Studer Angela Vincent	Gail Haubrich Don & Carol Rettinger Karen Schaar

ALL MINISTERS are asked to please call the parish office at 444-4262 or email to rector@stphilipsbemidji.org by **December 15** to let us know dates when you are **not** available to do your ministry for the month of **January**.

If you are a snowbird and you take part in a weekend ministry, please be sure to let us know when you will be leaving and when you will be returning.

Attention Hospitality helpers... A reminder to please check in with the sacristan when it's your week to do coffee. This way substitutes can be found if necessary. Thank you!

 <p>Olson-Schwartz FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE Kirk & Michelle Malkowski, Owners 3330 Irvine Ave NW 751-3159 www.olsonschwartzfuneralhome.com</p>	<p>RICARD REPAIR SERVICE Call "NORM" for all your repair needs! RESIDENTIAL APPLIANCES HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING 218-759-0800</p>	<p>Catholic United Financial  Brian Ahern, Sales Representative Cell 218-766-7409 • Tel 218-224-3297 bahern@catholicunited.org</p>	<p>VACUUM & SEW CENTER OF BEMIDJI Best Prices On New & Used "We Sell The Best & Repair The Rest!" 219 3rd Street N.W. Bemidji, MN 56601-3111 Lucy & Knute Naastad (218) 759-1907</p>
<p>FIRST NATIONAL BANK BEMIDJI Member FDIC www.fnbbemidji.com</p>	<p>BEMIDJI CHRYSLER CENTER 755 Paul Bunyan Dr. • Bemidji 751-8006 • 1-877-755-5337</p>	<p>KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Bemidji Council 1544 Terry Belanger, Grand Knight 755-9850 Paul Nistler, F. S. 586-2602</p>	<p> PAT L. KNOER 700 Bemidji Avenue Bemidji, Minnesota www.patknoer.com Phone: 751-3872</p>
<p> FRONTIER ELECTRIC OF BEMIDJI-INC. RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL Licensed - Bonded - Insured Jeff Frenzel, Owner 218-766-7788</p>	<p>Kurt Davis Bobcat, Inc. 218-759-9047 Basements/Septics/Rip-rap God made heaven, we move earth!</p>	<p> DR. MIKE HEADLEE mikeheadlee@gmail.com 218.333.8811 223 Third Street NW Bemidji, MN 56601</p>	<p> Will special order Fontanini® Nativities & Religious Specialty Items. Terry & Trish Jones bravo@paulbunyan.net 766-6108</p>

 <p>SECURITY BANK USA MEMBER FDIC</p> <p>www.SecurityBankUSA.com</p>	 <p>DOWNS INSURANCE AGENCY Jerry Downs (218) 751-7737 In front of the Mall</p>	 <p>PLUMBING HEATING 3403 Bemidj Ave. N Bemidj, MN 56601 Master Plumber #255095 (218) 751-0710 Fax: (218) 751-0073</p>	<p>WIEBOLT ELECTRIC For all your Wiring, Networking & Communication Needs. Free Estimates 218-444-WIRE (9473)</p> <p>Serving Your Family For Generations</p>  <p>218-751-1222 218-751-1223 Dondelinger, Inc. Car Law News Pat. Right</p>
 <p>David M. Kaha Reid R. Ovide Kimberly Wilton Chad Lamold 751-4623</p> <p>Bemidji Appraisal Service www.bemidjiappraisal.com</p>	 <p>Paul Sumsky Painting & Decorating Interior/Exterior Stain/Finishing Wall Coverings 218-586-3533</p>	 <p>751-1564</p> 	<p>ACE The helpful place. Bemidji, MN</p>
<p>Haskell Law Firm, PLLC James W. Haskell, Attorney 751-4060</p>	<p>MURRAY SURVEYING, INC. 751-5898</p>	<p><i>"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." -Psalm 23:1</i></p>	<p>ACE The helpful place. Bemidji, MN</p>
<p>SPARKY'S CONSTRUCTION INC. Excavating Contractor 444-8181</p>	<p><i>"I am the way, the truth and the life; no man comes to the Father but by me." -John 14:6</i></p>	<p>TODAVICH ELECTRIC LICENSED - BONDED - INSURED ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING, NETWORKING & TELECOMMUNICATIONS • 218-751-1600 19301RWEAVE NW TO MYTODAVICH PRESIDENT/OWNER</p>	<p>www.dondelingerbemidji.com Dondelinger Bemidji, MN (218) 751-1220</p>
 <p>410 Beltrami Ave. Bemidji, MN 751-1430 Paul Bunyan Mall Bemidji, MN 56601 751-3874 Diamond Specialists Since 1935</p>	<p>MARK'S FRAME HOUSE MARK LaFOND Certified Picture Framer Complete Custom Framing Mon-Fri 9:30-5:30 2701 Bixby Ave. NE 751-0525</p>	<p>LLOYD'S Complete home furnishings... Featuring: Simmons • Flesteel Best Chairs • Amish Dining & Bedroom 751-3769 104 3rd St. Bemidji</p>	 <p>"The Finest in Cakes, Pastries & Breads" 317 Main Street Bemidji, Minnesota 56601 (218) 751-2018</p>
<p>clarity glass RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL 444-GLASS LUMICO</p>	<p>RE/MAX Outstanding Agents. Outstanding Results.</p>	<p>Richard Rude Architectural 4111 Technology Drive NW Bemidji, MN 56601 751-5316</p>	<p>SLIM'S BAR & GRILL A great place for a great burger! 142 Anne St NW Ultra Preise-Manager Bemidji, MN 56601 218-444-SLIM</p>
 <p>444-9050</p>	<p>Al Snider 556-0777 Sue Snider 556-7497 602 Beltrami Ave. www.sniderteam.com</p>	<p>Century 21 For Quality Service Call 218-751-1228 1-800-766-1228 Dickinson Realtors www.century21dickinson.com Email us at c21dickn@paulbunyan.net 1085 Paul Bunyan Dr NW, Bemidji, MN 56601</p>	<p>Southside Restaurant "Specializing in Home Cooking" 1101 W. 1st St. Bemidji, MN Tel: 218-751-3133 www.southside1101.com 218-444-3133</p>
 <p>444-9050 PATRICK PFAFFEL</p>	<p>Charlie Ward 751-3502 Huggins Heating Huggins Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Inc. 1832 Bemidji Ave. N Bemidji, Minnesota 56601</p>	<p>Paul Bunyan COMMUNICATIONS TV INTERNET PHONE 444-1234 PAULBUNYAN.NET</p>	<p><i>"Then they recounted what had happened on the road and how they had come to know him in the breaking of the bread." -Luke 24:35</i></p>
 <p>HONDA 218-444-HONDA 877-82-HONDA Located in the west half of Bemidji Chrysler</p>	<p>Nei Bottling, Inc.  pepsi</p>	<p>Tony's Body Shop, Inc. Complete Collision Repair Tony Nistler 586.2825 (shop) 766.4210 (cell) 11041 Birchmont Beach Road NE</p>	<p>JOHN CARLSON AGENCY INC. 1408 Bemidji Ave N Bemidji MN 56601 Phone: OFF: 218-751-9770</p>
<p>\$2.99 Touchless Wash with fill on self service island and soap (minimum 7 gallons)</p> <p>KENNY'S Your Full Service Station 423 Bemidji Ave. 751-3428</p>	<p>www.bemidjisportscentre.com GET SERIOUS ABOUT RUN!  1826 Anne Street NW • Bemidji 218-751-4477</p>	<p>FREE Estimates  CARDINAL Drywall Specialists Call Gerry at 218-760-5108 Bemidji, MN HANGING • TAPING • TEXTURING • PAINTING</p>	<p>DICK'S NORTHSIDE SERVICE For All Your Vehicle Needs 100 Paul Bunyan Dr NW • 751-2979</p>

Please Patronize These Advertisers... Their Sponsorship Makes Our Bulletin Possible.