

“We, though many, are one body in Christ and individually members one of another.”
—Romans 12:5



The Messenger

Lent 2012

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Getting Our House In Order

Mark 1:14-15 (1st Sunday of Lent)

...Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Traditionally, Lenten penance has unfolded in 3 interrelated practices: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (practicing charity). Each of these practices is aimed at a key relationship in our lives: to God (prayer), to ourselves (fasting), and to others (almsgiving). Lent is a time to look at our whole selves and all our relationships. We probably usually don't think of having a relationship to ourselves, but Lent is truly about getting our own house in order.

Our relationship to God: Lent is a time for us to assess our baptismal, covenantal relationship with God. It is our time to face evil and choose to live in righteousness. Let us not squander our opportunities to say yes to God. **Question:** What is one new thing I can do to say yes to God?

Our relationship to Ourselves: Lent is our time in the desert to face our temptations and open ourselves to the Spirit who is always present to guide us and comfort us. If we journey well and purposefully, when we come to the glory of Easter morning we will see that the journey has brought us a joy that far outweighs any personal sacrifices we might have made along the way. But the best thing of all is that as we embrace conversion, we ourselves begin to take on the glow of the transfigured Christ. **Question:** What do I need to change in myself to encounter Jesus and come to know him better?

Our relationship to Others: Like Jesus, we must learn that by dying to self (which often takes the form of following Jesus in service of others) we share in his glory. Dying to self means that we live counterculturally: not for ourselves and our own gain but for the happiness and salvation of others. **Question:** How can I serve others better?

Our Lenten penitential practices (prayer, fasting, almsgiving) are our concrete ways to enter into the dying and rising mystery of Christ. Like Christ, we become living signs of God's love and fidelity. The witness of our lives is a living sign of our covenantal relationship with God, a relationship with love and mercy.

(Source: *Living Liturgy 2012*, Liturgical Press, Collegeville)

Lent & Easter Liturgy Schedule

Reconciliation

Mar 22 **10:30am, St. Anastasia**
Mar 25 2pm, Holy Trinity, Winsted
4pm, St. Anastasia
4pm, Holy Family, Silver Lake
6pm, St. Pius X, Glencoe

The Easter Triduum

April 5 **Holy Thursday**
7pm Mass, St. Anastasia
7pm Mass, St. Boniface
April 6 **Good Friday**
3 & 7pm Service, St. Anastasia
7pm Service, St. Boniface
April 7 **Easter Vigil**
8:30pm, St. Anastasia
April 8 **Easter Sunday**
7:30 & 10am Masses, St. Anastasia
9:15am Mass, St. Boniface





Pat & Jim Riley, enjoying one of their many adventures.

God Is Never Off Duty!

Pat Riley, St. Anastasia parishioner and long-time writer for The Messenger, passed away on Dec 25, 2011, at the age of 73.

Here is a segment of the last article she wrote back in November for The Messenger. There wasn't enough room to include it at that time. We'd like to share it here as a remembrance of Pat's giving heart that she shared with her parish.

I'm here, Lord, with a full load of frustrations, more than I need at the moment! As I bask in your ways, worry seems to dissipate. A day at a time is all we ever have to worry about, no, a moment at a time is much better. As I pray and lean into God, I learn what it means that He is God, ready to help us in all matters.

Just when we cry, "I can't take it anymore," Jesus is there to say, "I know, I care, I did, you can."

I want you, dear Lord, to rule over my life. Let me strive first for your kingdom and trust you for everything else. Bad news doesn't change who God is; rather, it challenges us to trust who he is.

Wisdom and common sense in the context of faith are powerful allies in a troubled world. Little faith panics; growing faith prays. May my fear evaporate completely as I come to God right now. What a relief to know that God is never "off duty!"

Parishioner News & Area Faith Calendar

Newly-Registered

Bob, Katie, Alex & Josh Heitman
Stacy Olson
Scott, Elizabeth & Avery Pearson-Russell
Carla Reinowski
Nancy Schulz
Tanya Shorter
Aaron, Alicia & Caden Thorson

Baptisms

McCoy Ira Kenney, child of Mike & Sherry
William Andrew Madden, child of Andrew & Trista
Caden Michael Thorson, child of Aaron & Alicia
Laynee Jean Weseloh, child of Timothy & Lisa

Funerals

Eleanor Ewert
Alyce Klinkner
Harold Ludowese
Patricia Riley
Mary Schmeling

Weekly Calendar Items

SN STA RE Classes, 9:45am
SN STA Confirm. Class, 9am
M STA RE Classes, 6:30pm
M&TH STA Gentle Exer., 10am
T Euch. Ador., 8:30am-11pm
W EDGE-3pm; LifeTeen-6:30pm
W STB RE Classes, 6:30pm
W RCIA, 7pm

MARCH

- 1 Soup & Presentation at STA 7pm, Welcoming Comm Mtg 7:15pm, Home & School Mtg
- 2 5:30pm, Rosary
1st Reconciliation at STA
- 3 9am, 1st Reconciliation at STA Youth Ski Trip
- 4 Cath. Un. Fin. Coffee/rolls after 7:30am Mass
STB Potluck Luncheon
- 6 7pm, Education Mtg
- 7 7pm, KC Meeting
- 8 STA School Tubing Event
Soup & Presentation at STA
- 9 No School
- 10 9am, STB 1st Comm Retreat 10am, Chrism Mass Practice
- 11 Daylight Savings Time Begins
NO RE or Confirm Classes
- 12-16 Spring Break, NO School
- 12 NO RE
- 14-16 STA Rummage Sale
- 14 NO Edge/LifeTeen
6:30pm, KC Squires Mtg
- 15 Soup & Presentation
7pm, Chrism Mass Practice
- 17 **St. Patrick's Day**
- 18 NO Confirm Class
- 20 Spring Begins!
5pm, STA Maint Comm Mtg
7pm, STA Admin Council Mtg
7pm, Chrism Mass Practice
- 22 10:30am, Senior Penance Svc
Soup & Presentation
Kindergarten Info Mtg
- 24 Foundations & Together in Ministry Classes
9am, Preschool Open House
1pm, Confirmation Interviews
- 25 4pm, STA Penance Svc

- 27 STA Staff Retreat
- 29 Chrism Mass at STA
- 31 9am-12pm, Private Shower 1-7pm, Cath. Un. Fin.
Fundraising Dinner

APRIL

- 1 **Palm Sunday**
- 2 5:30pm, Rosary
- 4 7pm, KC Meeting
- 5 7:15pm, Home & School Mtg
- 6 **Good Friday, NO School**
- 8 **Easter Sunday, NO RE**
- 9 NO School, NO RE
Parish Office Closed
- 10 7pm, Liturgy Committee
- 11 2-Hour School Late Start
7pm, STB 1st Comm Practice
- 12 7pm, STA Cemetery Comm
- 14 One Homeless Night
- 15 9:15am, STB 1st Communion
- 17 7pm, STA Admin Council
- 19 7pm, Pray & Stitch
7pm, Crow River Rehearsal
- 20 Grandparents' Day at STA
7pm, Crow River Concert
- 21 9am, 1st Comm Practice STA
- 22 Junior High Youth Rally
2pm, 1st Communion at STA
- 27 7pm, Cath. Un. Fin. Bingo
- 28 Foundations & Together in Ministry Classes
- 29 Confirmation Final Breakfast

MAY

- 1-2 School Accreditation Visit
- 2 5:30pm, Rosary
7pm, KC Meeting
- 3 7:15pm, Home & School Mtg
8:15pm, Confirm Practice
- 6 Confirmation at 11am Mass

- 6/7 Last RE Classes at STA
- 7-11 STA Gr 6 to Camp Foley
- 8 7pm, Liturgy Comm Mtg
- 9 2-Hour School Late Start
Closing for Edge/LifeTeen
7pm, Last RCIA Meeting
- 10 CCW Spring Banquet
- 11 Kids' Garage Sale
- 12 **Mother's Day**
- 15 5pm, STA Maint. Comm Mtg
7pm, STA Admin Council Mtg
- 16 STB RE Closing
- 18 STA School Track Meet
- 20 9:15am, STB Baccalaureate
- 28 **Memorial Day**
NO School
Parish Office Closed

JUNE

- 2 1:30pm, Rosary
- 5 Gr 6 Graduation Mass & Brunch
- 6 Last Day of School at STA!
7pm, KC Meeting
- 7 6pm, Fall Festival Meeting
7:15pm, Home & School Mtg
- 19 7pm, STA Admin Council Mtg
- 20 Summer Begins!

JULY

- 2 5:30pm, Rosary
- 4 **Independence Day**
Parish Office Closed
- 5 6pm, Fall Festival Meeting
- 12 7pm, STA Cemetery Comm
- 13-22 Youth Mission Trip
- 17 7pm, STA Admin Council Mtg
- 7/27-8/3 BWCA Trip

A Job Well Done

Congratulations! Job well done! I can't believe we did it! Well, I can believe it, because I knew we could if we wanted to. It's nice to see that we really wanted to.

St. Anastasia Parish has already given over \$246,000 to the Capital Campaign and pledged a total of over \$616,000, which is 78% of our goal of \$793,829. We have already received our parish share of the \$246,000, which is \$123,000, for our special projects.

This is really a wonderful project. It is a way that we insure a Catholic presence in our world on two fronts. It is helping our local parish insure its future and growth by updating buildings and giving us a better financial foundation for the future. It is also building a worthy and noble place for the head of the diocese, our new pastoral center. All of us are proud of our church buildings where we worship God. It is more than a building, it is a sign of God's presence in our community of faith. Likewise, the Diocesan Pastoral Center is a sign of the Catholic Church in the New Ulm Diocese. Most of us are proud to see our Cathedral in New Ulm, or the St. Paul Cathedral, or the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. We are proud of them even though they aren't in our home town. We are proud of them because they are signs of our Catholic faith and heritage. So to, it is wonderful to play a significant role in building a worthy and noble place that will be a sign of the spiritual health of the Catholic Church in our diocese.

Even though we have done very well, we have fallen short of our goal, and so has the diocese. So, if you didn't get a chance to be a part of this wonderful project, or want to do more at this time, it is not too late. We here at St. Anastasia believe we can raise another \$100,000 for the project from those who have not yet given, and those who want to do more. Envelopes for this project can be found in the church and at the parish office. If you are homebound, call our parish office and we will get an envelope to you.

It is always amazing what we can accomplish when we pray and work together, with all of us doing what we can for the common good. God Bless You All!



Fr. Jerry Meidl
Pastor

St. Anastasia's special projects include: replacing the roof on the south wing of the parish center, general landscape renewal, parish office renewal, worship space improvements, adding to the cemetery's perpetual care fund, covering the 2011 DMA goal, growing the parish's Education Endowment fund and establishing some operating reserves.

At left is an architectural rendering of the new Diocesan Pastoral Center to be built in New Ulm.

Charity As A Means To Salvation

Experts from the 2012 Lenten Message of the Holy Father Benedict XVI are given below:

"The Lenten season offers us once again an opportunity to reflect upon the very heart of Christian life: charity. This is a favorable time to renew our journey of faith, both as individuals and as a community, with the help of the word of God and the Sacraments. This year I would like to propose a few thoughts in the light of a brief biblical passage drawn from the Letter to the Hebrews: "Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works".



The Pope's Lenten Message continues on page 11



St. Boniface Church

551 Main Street
Stewart, MN 55385
Phone: 320-562-2344
Sunday Mass: 9:15am
Weekday Masses: see
weekly bulletin

Parish Sacraments

**Baptism—McCoy Ira
Kenny, child of Mike
& Sherry Kenney**

**Funerals—Eleanor
Ewert, Alyce Klinkner**

St. Boniface RE Calendar

Classes are Wed eve-
nings, 6:30pm

Feb 29—Living Stations of
the Cross at St. A's

Mar 4—Potluck Hot Dish
Luncheon after Mass

Mar 7—Senior Classes

Mar 10—1st Holy Com-
munion Retreat, 9am

Apr 4—Group Service
Project—package food
at Food for Kidz

Apr 11—1st Communion
Practice, 7pm

Apr 15—1st Communion
at 9:15am Mass

Apr 22—JH Youth Rally

May 2—Senior Classes

May 3—Confirmation
Practice at St. A's,
8:15pm

May 6—Confirmation at
St. A's 11am Mass

May 16—Closing Mass &
End of the Year Party

May 20—Baccalaureate

News from St. Boniface

It is early February and so far we cannot complain about our winter unless you are a skier or snowmobile enthusiast. It has made it easier for all of us to come and go about our errands.

Soup, Sandwiches, & Baked Goods

Since the first of the year, St. Boniface celebrated its annual Soup & Sandwich Luncheon along with the CCW ladies holding their Bake Sale on Super Bowl Sunday. A good crowd attended, enjoying three varieties of soup and building some tasty sandwiches. The Bake Sale had many treats for sale to enjoy later in the day. The next event will be the first Sunday in March when we get together for our annual Potluck Hot Dish Sunday.

Sacraments

In addition to the Sunday Super Bowl events, we also celebrated the Baptism of McCoy Ira Kenney, infant son of Mike and Sherry Kenney, making for an eventful day with his family.

Since the first of the year we have had a funeral in January for Eleanor Ewert, who grew up in the Stewart area, and on February 4 for Alyce Klinkner, a long-time member of St. Boniface who died suddenly in Mesa, Arizona. Alyce was an active lady at St. Boniface and will be missed by everyone.

Lent Opportunities

Lent will begin the later part of February, with Easter in early April. Our attention will turn to the various programs and other opportunities during Lent

to prepare for Easter. Last year, St. Anastasia hosted six weeks of Thursday Mass at 5pm followed by a Soup Supper and Presentation of the Mass changes. This program is continuing this year with presentations on various other topics.

Also during Lent, Bishop LeVoir is scheduled to travel to a parish in each region in the New Ulm Diocese to celebrate the Way of the Cross. Bishop LeVoir chose St. Boniface, and came on Friday, Feb 24, at 7pm to pray the Way of the Cross with parishioners of Region VI.

All the folks at St. Boniface wish everyone a prayerful and spiritual Lent as we all prepare for Holy Week and a Blessed Easter. We also look forward to an early Spring.

Until next time,

—Milli Navara

St. Boniface Religious Education News

Congratulations to the St. Boniface second graders, Emily Chatfield & Hope Holter, who received the sacrament of Reconciliation on Jan 28. We pray they continue to experience God's forgiveness and love as they prepare for First Holy Eucharist on Sunday, April 15.

Please keep all our Confirmation students in your prayers as they are preparing for Confirmation on Sunday, May 6, at St. A's 11am Mass. The students have met several times with their sponsors to share faith experiences, and are working on their letter to Bishop LeVoir requesting Confirmation. The St. Anastasia and St. Boniface Confirmation students will perform the "Living Stations of the Cross" on Wed, Feb 29, 7pm, at St. A's. Come join them on this spiritual journey that will reflect the events of Jesus' journey to Calvary. Very well done—a must see.

Our Religious Education students, along with the St. Boniface CCW, held a soup and sandwich fundraiser, bringing in \$481 to help keep heat and electricity in local families' homes. God bless all who helped and donated, and please pray for the families out of work and struggling to make ends meet.

All are invited to join the St. Boniface RE students during Lent as they pray the Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm on Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 21, & 28.

This Lent, we look for ways to serve others as Jesus did. The RE students will be packaging food at "Food for Kidz" on Wed, April 4, from 4-8pm. Please come help and pray for them, and all who will receive nourishment from the food they package. May they come to know God's love through others.

The Diocesan Junior High Youth Rally is set for Sun, April 22, at Kerkoven. This is a day of fun, inspiration, music, Mass with the Bishop and a dance. Please encourage all 6-8 graders to participate. We will be leaving around 9:30am and returning around 6pm. Watch the bulletin for more info.

God Bless and may this Lent be spiritually filled.



Karen Maiers
St. Boniface Director
of Religious Education

The Catholic Practices of Fasting & Abstaining

Let's review the Catholic Practices of fasting and abstaining from meat during Lent.

Fasting

Catholics aged 18-58 are morally obliged to observe a day of fast on both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. A fast is defined as eating one normal meal and two smaller meals (which if combined would be no bigger than the normal meal). Abstaining from meat is part of the fast. Eating any food between meals would break the fast, but liquids are allowed (milkshakes, malts, smoothies, and other food-like drinks are not liquids).

Abstaining from Meat

Beginning at age 14, Catholics are morally obliged to abstain from eating meat on Fridays during the season of Lent.

Why Fridays? From the very dawn of Christianity, all Fridays have been held in great esteem because Jesus died on the cross on Friday. Every Friday is a mini Good Friday, and as such the Church (still) teaches that Fridays are to be a day of penance. Prior to a few decades ago, every Catholic was required to abstain from meat on all Fridays, all year long. While the universal practice of abstaining from meat on Fridays outside of Lent was lifted, the requirement to do some form of penance on all Fridays remains. So if you choose to eat meat on a Friday outside of Lent, what are you doing as a penance in place of abstaining from meat?

Eucharistic Adoration

My Dad, rest his soul, used to tell us kids, "Just going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car." Dad did have a unique way of keeping us 6 kids in line.

We all know that Catholics go to Mass to receive the Holy Eucharist. What an awesome gift! But there is a lot going on during Mass and sometimes our mind will wander and it's hard to concentrate on why we are there. Not so at Adoration.

Have you tried Adoration yet? It is so easy and rewarding. Just drop in to the day chapel sometime on Tuesdays between 8am and 11pm. Just go in and say, 'Hi, Lord, it's me'. It is so easy to just kneel or sit there and have a conversation with Him. You can say the rosary or read a psalm or just relax and let Him talk to you.

Then to really get some benefit from the visit, call Rosie Jonas at 587-3095 or Marie Bagan at 234-6707 and have them assign

a time slot for you, or tell Donna in the parish office to jot down your name and suggested time. That commitment is so rewarding.

Work shifts? no problem, just check your schedule for a couple months ahead. Knowing that you have a time slot for a visit with your best friend can make your life so much fuller.

Try it, and tell Him Dolores sent you. I need all the credits I can get.

—Dolores Brunner

Why meat? Throughout history, meat has been seen as a luxury, especially around the Mediterranean Sea region where Christianity was established. As a way to observe the penitential nature of all Fridays, Christians would abstain from those foods which were seen as luxurious. Thus, on Fridays, the meals would consist of only the normal day-to-day fare.

So, if all Fridays are supposed to be a day of penance, how does LobsterFest, ShrimpFest, or an All You Can Eat Fish Fry keep in the spirit of penance? I would say they don't. (Certainly attend the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry, just refrain from the All You Can Eat aspect of the event.) I challenge you to keep your Friday meals as simple and penitential as possible. Remember, fish is allowed, but it is not required to be eaten.

Exceptions to the Rule

When the following Feast Days fall on a Friday, the obligation to abstain from meat is lifted (think about it, you can't fast when celebrating a feast!): March 19 (The Solemnity of St. Joseph), March 25 (The Solemnity of the Annunciation). While not Holy Days of Obligation, your presence at mass would help to keep the solemn aspect to these days.

Those who are excused from fast or abstinence (besides those outside the age limits) include those of unsound mind, the sick, the frail, pregnant or nursing women according to need for meat for nourishment, and manual laborers according to need.



Fr. Zach Peterson
Associate Pastor

Why is fish not a meat?

Fish was allowed because it was the staple source of protein in the diet of those living around the Mediterranean Sea. There was nothing luxurious about this abundant food source as it was what was eaten in the normal course of their life.





Patti Cogley (l) & Coletta Wortz (r)
St. A's RE Co-Directors

St. Anastasia RE Calendar

Mar 2/3—First Reconciliation

Mar 4/5—First Communion Parent Mtg

Mar 11/12—NO RE

Mar 18/19—Reconciliation gr 3-4 Sun, gr 3-6 Mon

Mar 25—Reconciliation for gr 5-6

April 8/9—NO RE

April 21—First Communion Practice, 9am

April 22—First Communion, 2pm

May 6/7—Last RE Classes

Helping Students Get Their House In Order

Once again from the office of the Dynamic Duo, Religious Education Coordinators, Coletta Wortz and Patti Cogley, comes words of awe and wonder at what God has planned

for us this year. Over a year has passed since we began our adventure and we are not as new to the job as last year, but we continue to find aspects of this job that were unexpected. It is amazing and wonderful to pray, sing, teach, and journey with the little ones of our parish and to come to know our families more closely! Now we are ready to challenge the students to step it up a notch and **Get our House in Order** by setting goals that will affect their lives of faith and will help them grow closer to God.

Goal 1

Prayer- We want to make sure every child has a base line of traditional prayers in their heart, so one of our goals is to go around and test the children to see where they are with their memorized prayers. We will make a little report for parents at the end of the program and will use the information in showing how they grow from year to year. Each grade level will have a goal of mastery on given prayers and exposure to others.

Goal 2

Beliefs of the Church- We wanted to look at the basic knowledge of the beliefs of the Church our youth hold. We found a wonderful game that will help us learn and observe

what we will need to add in our teaching. Gwen DeGolier, our mentor teacher has also created several games so the youth can have fun learning about our faith. We will be inviting each class to have opportunities to have game time with parent volunteers to go through the games and to add a fresh perspective to learning.

Goal 3

Church Etiquette, Reverence, and Behavior- After having some prayer services and times for reconciliation we have observed that many youth don't know how to enter the church and genuflect. They were challenged to know how to kneel in the pew and how to be a leader in their faith. We hope to provide opportunities for more adoration and small prayer services that take them into the church.

2nd Grade Journey

The journey for our second grade class has begun. They are now preparing for First Reconciliation on Friday, March 2, and Saturday, March 3. This sacrament will be followed by

First Communion on April 22. Watch for a new tradition that will be seen over the weekend masses of April 21 & 22. The second grade class will be making banners for their First Communion and each will be on display that weekend so all can pray for them and all can be proud of the gift we have in our youth.

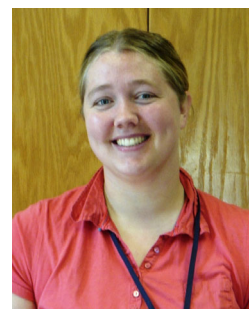
These are each big tasks, and with your prayer and help we can succeed. Yet, know that so much of our learning comes from watching our parents, grandparents, friends, and others in the parish as they celebrate their faith each week at mass.

We are all teachers of the faith and we show how to be reverent when we are reverent. So thank you for helping us do our job by witnessing through your own worship. We are so blessed to be a part of this parish and honored to serve you side by side as God leads us closer to him.



Kids' Depot News

We have so many exciting things coming up in Kids Depot! Our Preschool & Daycare Open House will be Sat, March 24, 9am-12pm. Registration will open to the public on this day. As a member of St. Anastasia or St. Boniface, you will have an opportunity to register beginning March 5. Remember, registration is on a first come basis and spots fill quickly. Kid's Depot, St. Anastasia School, the RE programs at St. Anastasia & St. Boniface and parish staff at St. Anastasia/St. Boniface have been working and collaborating to bring the best possible programming to all ages of our Area Faith Community. So stop in and see all that your preschool has to offer. If you would like to schedule a private tour, please contact Jessica Gabrielson at 587-4760 x4. We will also be having a booth at the *We Care About Kids* event at the Hutchinson Mall on Sat, April 21, from 10am-2pm. This is a fun event for kids of all ages and their families. See you there!



Jessica Gabrielson
Director of
Kids' Depot

The Kids' Depot program includes year-round childcare for children ages 33 months to 12 years and a 9-month preschool program for 3, 4 & 5 year olds. The program is committed to providing love and care to all who enter. The child is the number one priority at all times. Included in the daycare and preschool programs are Christian songs, bible stories and prayers at mealtime and snack times to complete the Christian atmosphere. Many school-aged children attend the Latch Key program before and after school. This program is open Monday through Friday, 6:45am – 6pm on school days, non-school days as well as school days with late starts.

Kids' Depot Calendar

Mar 24—Open House,
9am-12pm

April 21—We Care
About Kids, Hutchin-
son Mall, 10am-2pm

St. Anastasia Cemetery Q&A

A number of questions regarding the cemetery layout, prices, and memorials have been recently brought up:

How much are cemetery prices going to increase?

The St. Anastasia Cemetery Committee decided to raise prices about 5-10% in 2012.

When does the 2012 price increase become effective?

The earliest the new prices will become effective is May 1. But the start date could be as late as June or July 1. The current price list will remain in effect until the new effective date is published. That date will be determined at the April Cemetery Committee meeting.

What is the layout of the tombstones and markers in the North cemetery?

The first row of grave sites on the North side of the North driveway will be placed in an

arch to follow the curvature of the North driveway. The upright markers in the first row would be facing the old cemetery. (In the future, if we need to add graves South of the South driveway, these would also follow the curvature of the South road and face towards the old cemetery.) The second and third rows of graves in the North cemetery need to be flat markers. The first row with upright markers are more expensive since cutting grass and trimming costs more for upright markers.

Are there going to be more Black Hills memorials available? What about other types of memorials?

We are going to add six Black Hills Spruce at the front of the cemetery next to Hwy 15. Three would be placed on the Northeast corner and three on the Southeast corner. These trees would be set 20-25 feet apart, and will be about 5 feet

tall so they match the tallest Black Hills Spruce planted in 2007. Taller trees cost more, especially if we need to hire to do machine planting. There are also wild flower/native grass memorials still available. Long range, we have discussed creating a rosary-shaped memorial and cremation site, but have not determined when and where.

Is the cemetery going to straighten markers again?

The Cemetery Committee is planning to straighten markers this spring while the ground is soft. It will cost \$25-\$50 to raise and level a flat marker. The cost to straighten and add a concrete foundation under an upright marker depends on the size. The last time an upright marker was lifted and a concrete footing poured, the cemetery charged \$175. Contact Roger Vacek if you would like to have a marker leveled or a concrete base installed.



Roger Vacek
St. Anastasia
Cemetery Manager

Contact Roger for sales
or other cemetery
inquiries: 587-8736.

St. Anastasia Cemetery Committee Members:

Tracy Fenske-chair
Renee Bryan-treasurer
Roger Ruzicka
Roy Tupa
Harold Nohner
Shirley Troska
Roger Vacek-cem mgr



Sr. Lucille Hass
AREA Coordinator of
Adult Faith Formation
& Social Concerns

Our Area
Social Concerns
Committee

Sandy Jerabek
Diane Sweely
Sharon Nistler
Jody Stoffels
Lori Dahlberg
Janet Hall
Amy Wehseler
Sr. Lucille Hass



CCW Calendar

Mar 3—Morning of Reflection, Holy Trinity
Mar 12—Region VI Spring Gathering, St. Pius X
Mar 14-15—Rummage Sale in St. A's gym
Apr 28—New Ulm Diocesan Convention, Holy Redeemer

Let's Focus on Love

Valentine's Day is over, and we all had the opportunity to send "special messages" to those we love. For some of us, a few of those we love are deceased, and we most likely prayed in a special way for them. Love does not end with death. It is such an innate character that it is with us forever. You have heard it said that there are three virtues...faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of these is love.

A New Approach to Lent

Lent is upon us, and instead of concentrating on "what can we do to deprive ourselves," let us take a new approach and find ways and practices that will exhibit how much we love ourselves. God is Love and those who abide in Love abide in God. Prayer is "raising our minds and hearts to God." The three Lenten practices are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. I challenge us this year to find ways to actively integrate prayer in our lives. There will be a variety of opportunities offered in the Area Faith Community. Continue to check the weekly bulletin for updates. We always have available inspirational reading materials.

The Busy Ladies of the CCW

The Council of Catholic Women are busy, busy ladies. At St. Anastasia we have 12 units with about 75 ladies in each unit. Each unit has 3 callers who call for workers and for food donations. They can put together a funeral lunch with just a few days notice. They work hard at Rummage Sales to raise money to donate to many worthy causes right here at St. Anastasia School and Parish, worthy charities in our community, national and international. They sell coffee from San Lucas Mission, they sell Valentines for San Lucas, they are knitting and crocheting, they are praying the Rosary – you name it our ladies are involved.

Mass & Soup Suppers

Thursdays during Lent at St. Anastasia, we will again have our Mass and Soup Supper, followed by a presentation. This year, our presentations will focus on current topics of interest. Some of them have hit the media almost daily these past few weeks and months. Come and hear input on these topics: Eucharistic Adoration, Roman Missal Revisions, Immigration, Sacrament of Marriage, and What Makes Us Catholic?. The presentations will begin around 6:15pm and end by 7pm. By now you have probably received a detailed schedule.

Let's focus on Love this Lent and see what surprises God has in store for us.

Adult Education Calendar

M & TH, Gentle Exercises, 10-11am, St. A's hospitality area

W, Sunday Mass is aired on HCV-TV Channel 10, 6:30pm

W, RCIA, 7pm St. A's parish office

Feb 21, 28 Mar 6, 22, April 3—Jesus' Life-Giving Death Bible Study, 1-2:30pm

Feb 27, Mar 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2—Jesus' Life-Giving Death Bible Study, 6:30-8pm

Feb 27, Mar 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2—Psalms Bible Study, 1-2:30pm

Self-Renewal

We also get to take some time off for ourselves too – March 3 there is a Lenten morning of reflection being offered at Holy Trinity in Winsted. March 12 is our Region VI Spring Gathering at St. Pius X in Glencoe – Mass at 6pm, followed by dinner and a speaker talking on the upcoming Marriage Amendment. Then on April 28 we have our New Ulm Diocesan Convention at Holy Redeemer in Marshall. This is a special day just for us – lots of vendor booths to visit, silent auction items to bid on, door prizes, interesting speaker, lunch and an inspiring

Mass. Watch for more information in the bulletin for these special events, or call Marie Bagan 234-6707, or Rosie Jonas 587-3095.

Please take advantage of these wonderful opportunities – take some time for yourself.

Rummage Sale

The Spring Rummage Sale is March 14-16 in the school gym. We will take donations starting March 10.

—Lori Dahlberg

Food for Thought

Some “food for thought” adapted from the *LifeTeen Lenten Companion*.

When you ask most Catholics about Lent, you’ll probably be told about how we’re not supposed to eat meat on Fridays or how we’re supposed to give up foods and drinks that we love. You might even hear about how we’re not supposed to say the “A” word at Mass (you know, the one that rhymes with “shmalleluia”). Obviously, though, if that’s all there was to Lent, the Church wouldn’t go to all the trouble she does encouraging us to make some bigger changes in our lives.

Lent is more than just a season before Easter. Lent is a forty-day journey for your mind, body, and soul. Our souls can direct our minds. Our minds influence what we do with our bodies. What we do with our minds and bodies have an effect on our souls. They’re all interconnected; the question is whether your soul leads your body or whether your body leads your soul. Lent is a great time to make sure that our souls, minds, and bodies are working in the right order.

That’s one reason why we spend an entire season looking at our lives: where we’ve come from, where we are, and where we are going. This time of reflection often reveals the need to change some things and to repent for our sins.

What It Means to Repent

When we repent for a sin, we express sincere regret, and even remorse, for what we did. To repent, or to be “penitent,” means that you not only realize and admit the reality and effects of sin in your life, but that you also sincerely want to stop that sin, turn away from it, and conquer it with the help of God’s grace. Repenting is an action, not just a thought. It’s deciding to go 180 degrees in the other direction. It’s like a spiritual U-turn. You’ll notice that when you go forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, the prayer often uttered as the ashes are placed upon your forehead is, “Turn away from sin, and return to the gospel” (Mark 1:15).

The first action of repentance, the “turning away from sin,” is a ninety-degree movement to the right. You are no longer trapped by sin...but merely turning ninety degrees has left you “better off,” but not free. It’s in the next ninety degrees that we fully comprehend repentance. The second action is a “returning to the gospel.” It’s in this movement that we forsake the lies and the false securities of the sin and turn completely away from the darkness. It’s in this movement that we face God’s magnificent light with our whole existence. Now, this full 180-degree movement of repentance is not easy. Repentance requires humility and sincerity, and often sacrifice. As you know, during Lent we are challenged to make sacrifices in our lives. The sacrifices can be big or small and are supposed to help us grow in holiness.

Why Do We Sacrifice?

Have you ever wondered why we “sacrifice” things to God anyway? Have you ever asked why God wants us to sacrifice to him? Since God is the Creator of all things, it means that absolutely everything is a gift from the Creator: every drop of rain, blade of grass, piece of fruit, animal, and person. When God asks us, His creation, for a sacrifice – like an animal in Abel’s case – it’s not because He needs it. He asks us because we need it. We, as His creation, need to remember *WHOM* our blessings come from. We need to show the Creator that we love Him more than the things He created. By sacrificing things back to Him, we not only show our reliance on God, but we also show Him that we are more in love with the One who gives us the blessings than we are with the blessings themselves.

There is nothing you can do to make God love you more. And there is nothing you can do to make God love you less. He loves you perfectly. Going to church doesn’t make God love you more. Rather, going to church helps us to love God and our brothers and sister in Christ more. Praising God doesn’t make God love you more. Rather, praising God helps us to focus less on ourselves and more on God. Serving the poor, giving money (tithing) to the Church, resisting temptation and sin, fasting or making other sacrifices doesn’t make God love you more. But it does please Him, since all those things help us to grow in love and become more like Christ.

Lent is not only a time to give things up but also to “add things on;” a time to spend more time and put more energy into prayer, acts of service, spiritual reading, exercise, and other activities that will help us grow in both healthiness and holiness.



Kirk Hendrickson
AREA Director of
Youth Ministry

EDGE/LifeTeen Calendar

EDGE classes are on
Wednesdays, 3-4:30pm
LifeTeen classes are on
Wednesdays, 6:30-8pm

Feb 24/25—30 Hour Fam-
ine

Feb 29—Living Stations,
7pm

Mar 3—Youth Ski Trip to
Powder Ridge

Mar 7—OnCall/
Carpenter’s Tools
Concert: Edge/
LifeTeen at 6:30pm

Mar 14—Spring Break,
NO EDGE/LifeTeen

Mar 28—Reconciliation
during EDGE/LifeTeen

Apr 14/15—One Home-
less Night

Apr 18—Unity Gathering:
Bright Light Parade
Concert

Apr 22—JH Youth Rally

May 6—Confirmation at
I am Mass

May 9—Closing Mass for
EDGE/LifeTeen



Jody Stoffels
Principal
St. Anastasia School

School Calendar

Mar 2-3—First Reconciliation

Mar 9-16—No School, Spring Break

Mar 22—Kindergarten Informational Mtg

Mar 24—Preschool Open House

April 6—No School, Good Friday

April 9—No School, Easter Monday

April 11—2-Hr Late Start

April 11-20—Iowa Tests for Gr 2-6

April 20—Grandparents' Day

April 22—First Communion

May 1-2—Accreditation Team Visit

May 7-11—Gr 6 to Camp Foley

May 9—2-Hr Late Start

May 11—Kids Garage Sale

May 18—All School Track Meet

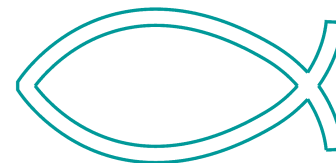
May 28—No School, Memorial Day

June 5—Gr 6 Graduation Mass & Brunch

June 6—Last Day of School for K-Gr 5!

Pray, Fast, Share

Students at St. Anastasia School will enrich their Lenten experience this year with Stations of the Cross each Wednesday morning led by Fr Zach. On Wednesdays, we will not have solid food during our snack break. Each Thursday, the first grade will lead the school in the Divine Mercy Chaplet. During Lent, students in each grade will also take a close look at a mission sponsored by the Church and pray for this year's RCIA candidates. Lenten Reconciliation for grades 2-6 will be March 6/7. As students pray, fast, and share this Lent, they will decorate a classroom FISH, an early symbol of our Church.



Accreditation

St. Anastasia School is accredited through the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (MNSAA). On May 1 & 2, a team of school administrators and teachers will visit our school and give us feedback on our self-evaluation and on our strategic plan for improvement. Team members will interview school staff members, students, parents, priests, the parish administrator, and other parishioners. This visit is part of a 7-year re-accreditation cycle. We appreciate your cooperation with this process!

Registration for St. Anastasia School

St. Anastasia School is currently trying to plan for next year. We encourage all parish members to consider the school for their children. We pride ourselves on a strong educational program; our students have a long tradition of success in high school academics and in extracurricular activities. Even more important, they develop a strong background in our religious beliefs and experience many opportunities for prayer and service to others.

We are trying to keep tuition rates at an affordable level. Don't let money be the reason that you choose not to send your child to St. Anastasia. It is not our policy to turn away any child for financial reasons. Tuition grants are available for those who need them. At the same time, we encourage families who do have the means at this time to consider helping to pay the tuition for someone who cannot afford it.

At this time, we have 22 families who intend to enroll their children in kindergarten for 2012-13. The kindergarten meeting will be Thursday, **March 22**.

We hope that families with students in the public school transitioning from first to second grade will consider St. A's. If you are interested in more information about St. Anastasia School, please contact the school office at 587-2490. Registration materials for current students will be sent out in March.

Coming Soon: New School Website

Thanks to a gift from MITGI of Hutchinson, St. Anastasia School is in the process of developing a new school website. We hope to have it up and running by May 1. Thank you to all the website committee members, who are working hard to create this website.



Thank you to Mae

In February, Mae Beatrez retired as head cook at St. Anastasia School. Mae cheerfully shared her talents, time, and tasty recipes with us for 21 years as head cook. Before that, she was our assistant cook for several years. Thank you, Mae, for everything you have done for us. We wish you well in your retirement.

At St. Anastasia School, we work to guide each other to develop our minds and hearts to become successful and productive individuals having a full appreciation of our roles as followers of Christ and servers to others.

The Pope's Lenten Message, continued from pg 3

(1) Let us be concerned for each other: responsibility towards our brothers and sisters.

"Concern for others entails desiring what is good for them from every point of view: physical, moral and spiritual. Contemporary culture seems to have lost the sense of good and evil, yet there is a real need to reaffirm that good does exist and will prevail, because God is 'generous and acts generously'. The good is whatever gives, protects and promotes life, brotherhood and communion. Responsibility towards others thus means desiring and working for the good of others, in the hope that they too will become receptive to goodness and its demands. Concern for others means being aware of their needs.

"Being concerned for each other' also entails being concerned for their spiritual well-being. Here I would like to mention an aspect of the Christian life, which I believe has been quite forgotten: fraternal correction in view of eternal salvation. Today, in general, we are very sensitive to the idea of charity and caring about the physical and material well-being of others, but almost completely silent about our spiritual responsibility towards our brothers and sisters. This was not the case in the early Church. ... Christ Himself commands us to admonish a brother who is committing a sin. ... The Church's tradition has included 'admonishing sinners' among the spiritual works of mercy. It is important to recover this dimension of Christian charity. We must not remain silent before evil. I am thinking of all those Christians who, out of human regard or purely personal convenience, adapt to the prevailing mentality, rather than warning their brothers and sisters against ways of thinking and acting that are contrary to the truth and that do not follow the path of goodness. Christian admonishment, for its part, is never motivated by a spirit of accusation or recrimination. It is always moved by love and mercy, and springs from genuine concern for the good of the other. ... In a world pervaded by individualism, it is essential to rediscover the importance of fraternal correction, so that together we may journey towards holiness. ... It is a great service, then, to help others and allow them to help us, so that we can be open to the whole truth about ourselves, improve our lives and walk more uprightly in the Lord's ways".

(2) Being concerned for each other: the gift of reciprocity.

"The Lord's disciples, united with Him through the Eucharist, live in a fellowship that binds them one to another as members of a single body. This means that the other is part of me, and that his or her life, his or her salvation, concern my own life and salvation. Here we touch upon a profound aspect of communion: our existence is related to that of others, for better or for worse. Both our sins and our acts of love have a social dimension. This reciprocity is seen in the Church, the mystical body of Christ: the community constantly does penance and asks for the forgiveness of the sins of its members, but also unflinchingly rejoices in the examples of virtue and charity present in her midst. ... Christians can also express their membership in the one body which is the Church through concrete concern for the poorest of the poor. Concern for one another likewise means acknowledging the good that the Lord is doing in others".

(3) To stir a response in love and good works: walking together in holiness.

"These words of the Letter to the Hebrews urge us to reflect on the universal call to holiness. ... The time granted us in this life is precious for discerning and performing good works in the love of God. In this way the Church herself continuously grows towards the full maturity of Christ. Our exhortation to encourage one another to attain the fullness of love and good works is situated in this dynamic prospect of growth.

"Sadly, there is always the temptation to become lukewarm, to quench the Spirit, to refuse to invest the talents we have received, for our own good and for the good of others. All of us have received spiritual or material riches meant to be used for the fulfillment of God's plan, for the good of the Church and for our personal salvation. The spiritual masters remind us that in the life of faith those who do not advance inevitably regress.

"In a world which demands of Christians a renewed witness of love and fidelity to the Lord, may all of us feel the urgent need to anticipate one another in charity, service and good works. This appeal is particularly pressing in this holy season of preparation for Easter.

"As I offer my prayerful good wishes for a blessed and fruitful Lenten period, I entrust all of you to the intercession of the Mary Ever Virgin and cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing."



"We are one Body in Christ."

The Messenger comes out 3 times a year, and reports news relevant to the Area Faith Community of St. Anastasia & St. Boniface.

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460 Lake St SW
Hutchinson, MN 55350
Phone: 320-587-6507
Fax: 320-234-6756

Church of St. Boniface
551 Main St
Stewart, MN 55385
Phone: 320-562-2344

The area parish office is located at St. Anastasia, and is open Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm.

Weekend Masses

Sat, 4:30pm, St. A's
Sun, 7:30am, St. A's
Sun, 9:15am, St. B's
Sun, 11am, St. A's

Check the weekly bulletin or our website for daily Mass times.

We are on the Web!
www.stanastasia.net

Search on Facebook for "The Area Faith Community of St. Anastasia and St. Boniface" and become a fan of our Facebook page!

If you have moved or are planning to move, please contact the parish office and let us know, so we can update our records. Thank you very much!