

FOURTH SUNDAY OF

# Advent

DECEMBER 18, 2022

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,  
which means "God is with us."

MATTHEW 1:23

Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord tells Ahaz to ask for a sign in today's first reading. God longs for Ahaz, king of Judah, to remain faithful. The people of Judah faced great suffering at this time as the threats of war and government overthrow loomed large. God wants Ahaz and the people to keep their trust in the divine strong. God offers the child Emmanuel as a sign to affirm: "God is with us." God also longs for our faithfulness and trust. These practices take time. To continue deepening our relationship with God, we need not be nervous to ask God for a sign of the divine presence truly with us.

In a dream, a messenger of God tells Joseph in the gospel not to fear what he cannot understand, not to disown the mystery but enter into it. Joseph wakes up and succeeds where we often fail: he does something about the dream. Obedient to God's word, he responds for the first of many times, "as the angel of the Lord had commanded." This biblical dreamer is also a person of action. Joseph offers the hospitality of his love and lineage to Mary and to the stranger-child whom she carries in her womb. He is the radically blessed poor man, ready to surrender the right to choose a name for the child, and generously offering to Jesus, "he who saves," a paternity not of his own flesh. What on-lookers might consider a scandal, Joseph and Mary believe is the action of the Holy Spirit, who continues to do "scandalous" things in our midst.

Joseph trusts in God's outrageous plan for his family despite every reason to give up. A virgin impregnated by the Holy Spirit is going to give birth to the savior of the world? God asks Joseph to believe in the most far-fetched reality - and to buck societal expectations for marriage and family life. God asks big things of us too. How can we ready our hearts so that, when the time comes we, too, can answer God's call?

Familiar stories accompany us in the days leading up to Christmas. Let us listen with fresh perspectives and awe at the miracles being proclaimed: The Savior is born into this world; his mother, Mary, conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit; Joseph heard God's messenger speaking in his dreams. It is often said these late December days are a magical time of year. But what happened with Mary and Joseph is no illusion. Let us marvel at God's goodness as we approach the birth of Christ.

*Living Liturgy, pp. 18 & 19*

## Christmas Mass Schedule

**Christmas Eve: 4pm – A, 6pm – A, 8pm – B, 10pm- A**

**Christmas Day: 7am – A, 9am – B, 11am – A**

What is Awaken?

Awaken is a video-based parish evangelization system that's designed to provide people with a personal encounter with Jesus and His Church. It is a, step-by-step process with participants over a series of 12 sessions that present the kerygma - the basic gospel message - through engaging videos, personal testimonies, and small groups. Beginning Monday, January 16, 2023 and going for 12 weeks.



Light of the World  
EVANGELIZATION MINISTRIES

## CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

### Prayer for Generosity

Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, save that of knowing that I do your will.

— Saint Ignatius of Loyola

### Readings for the Week

**Mon:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

**Tue:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

**Wed:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

**Thu:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

**Fri:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

**Sat:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

**Sun:** Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27-29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

*St. Anastasia Catholic Church*  
460 Lake St SW Hutchinson, MN  
55350

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

## This Week's Area Worship Schedule

DATE/TIME	LOCATION	INTENTION
<i>Eucharistic Adoration: 6am on Mondays until Noon on Friday.</i>		
<b>MONDAY, December 19</b> 5pm, Mass	St. Anastasia	+ Ricky Roskammer + Ann Lewandowski
<b>TUESDAY, December 20</b> 7am, Mass	St. Anastasia	+ Fr. Dick Gross
<b>WEDNESDAY, December 21</b> 5pm, Mass 7pm, Mass	St. Anastasia St. Boniface	++ Dick & Marie Richards Don & Milly Swedzinski
<b>THURSDAY, December 22</b> 9am, School Mass	St. Anastasia	+ Robert Shamla
<b>FRIDAY, December 23</b> 7am, Mass	St. Anastasia	+ Fr. Denny Becker
<b>SATURDAY, December 24</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i> 9am, Mass/Rosary/Confession 4pm, Mass 6pm, Mass 8pm, Mass 10pm, Mass	St. Anastasia St. Anastasia St. Anastasia St. Boniface St. Anastasia	+ Bob Cady + Genny Lhotka ++ Margaret Back, Ron Dostal Tom Maiers Family ++ Leonard, Dolores Lewandowski ++ Agnes & Jim DeMeyer
<b>SUNDAY, December 25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i> 7am, Mass 9am, Mass 11am, Mass	St. Anastasia St. Boniface St. Anastasia	+ Mary Ann Stacken ++ Melvin & Martin Klinkner + Ann Lewandowski + David Troska

## Calendar of Events

**MONDAY, December 19**

**TUESDAY, December 20**

7pm, Administration Council St. Anastasia Hospitality Area

**WEDNESDAY, December 21**

3:15-4:00pm Open Gym St. Anastasia Gym  
6:30pm, Faith Formation 6th-8th St. Anastasia School  
7:30pm, Youth Group St. Anastasia Youth Room/Gym/Church

**THURSDAY, December 22**

10am, Card Ministry St. Anastasia Parish Office

**FRIDAY, December 23** —School Christmas Break-January 2, 2023

**FRIDAY, December 23**

Parish offices Closed

**SATURDAY, December 24**

*Christmas Eve*

**SUNDAY, December 25**

*Christmas Day*

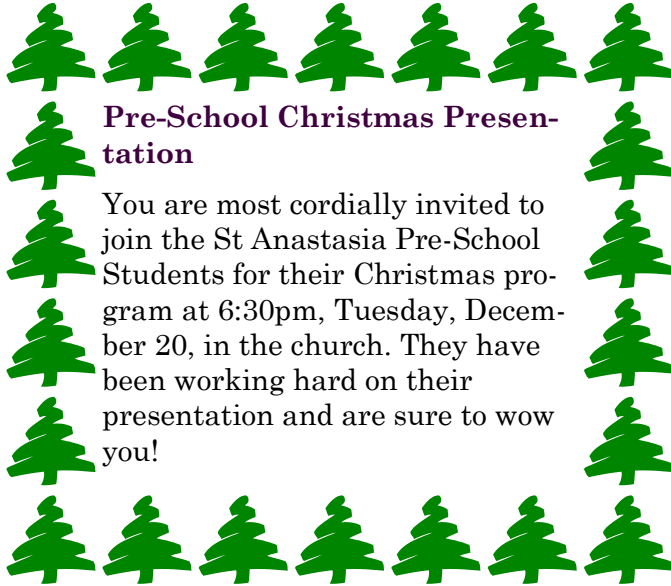
**MONDAY, December 26**

Parish Offices Closed



The Roman Catholic Area Faith Community of  
St. Anastasia & St. Boniface

# Community News



## Pre-School Christmas Presentation

You are most cordially invited to join the St Anastasia Pre-School Students for their Christmas program at 6:30pm, Tuesday, December 20, in the church. They have been working hard on their presentation and are sure to wow you!

## Faith in Action – Support Vocations Program

With the Parish donations and the Knights of Columbus matching fund, we have provided a total of \$2,578 in support of the vocations program.

Contributions to our seminarians are as follows:

- Brent Sundve** – St. Philip, Litchfield \$1,000  
St. Paul Seminar – Pre-Theology II
- Lucas Baker** - St. John the Baptist, Mankato \$500  
St. John Vianney Seminary – College Senior
- Nolan Meyer** – Holy Redeemer, Marshall \$500  
St. John Vianney Seminary – College Senior
- Diocese of New Ulm** – Office of Vocations \$578  
To help train for ministry in the diocese

Total: **\$2,578**

Thank you for your support.

**CHAP MINISTRIES**– Thank you to all who donated to the Adopting a Senior program for our area. There will be many happy residents this Christmas and we appreciate your generosity. Merry Christmas!

**Common Cup**  
Collecting Ramen Noodles, Personal Care items, Laundry soap, dryer sheets.



*Real Life Catholic* host Chris Stefanick is a consultant to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth. He is an internationally acclaimed author and speaker who has devoted his life to inspiring people to live a bold, contagious faith. *Real Life Catholic* takes the viewer on a soul stirring journey that shows how amazing Faith makes everyday life.

Dec 20,23	Cajun Catholic # 6
Dec 27,30	Life in L.A. #7
Jan. 3, 6	Kauai Catholic # 8
Jan. 10,13	Death with Dignity #9
Jan. 17,20	God's Country # 10



You are invited to celebrate the season with Crow River Habitat for Humanity! Stop by the Crow River Habitat for Humanity office on Thursday, December 22, and let us say "thank you" for supporting our work in 2022!

Between 10 am to 2 pm, we will be hosting an open house with snacks and drinks. Come anytime and learn about our plans for 2023, including our next home build here in Hutchinson.

We cannot do this work without the generous donors and wonderful volunteers that have partnered with us. We are so grateful for you and your generosity. Thank you! We hope to see you on the 22nd!

## YEAR-END GIVING

The end of the year is not far away, and it is time to start thinking of strategies to maximize the tax benefits of year-end giving. Federal tax laws and many state laws make it possible to reduce or eliminate taxes on gifts to charities like your parish, diocese, schools and other ministries. Remember that only gifts made by December 31st can help reduce the amount of taxes you owe next April. Please consult **your professional tax advisor for tax strategies for your personal situation.**

A **Charitable Remainder Trust** is designed for individuals with highly appreciated assets like farm land or stock. Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRTs) offer donors extra tax advantages while allowing the donor to set the life income rate they would like to receive (generally 5% to 7%). As a donor, you can designate your parish to benefit from your gift after your lifetime. There are many variations of these trusts, and we work with Catholic charitable foundations that can walk you through various alternatives. These foundations also offer the expertise of attorneys who work with every day to insure competent investment advice. A **Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)** provides an immediate tax deduction while providing a predictable stream of income during your life or other period of time you choose. You can name your parish to be the beneficiary of your CGA after your lifetime.



Just a reminder: SCRIP is available for sale after weekend masses and during regular business hours at the St A's parish office.

SCRIP allows you to purchase gift cards for hundreds of local/national merchants. You always receive a card for the full value of your purchase. In addition the parish receives a small rebate from each of the vendors. The proceeds go to support the educational programs of St A's, including all Religious Education classes. The profit you generate can be applied to the tuition of any student you choose or to the Education Fund.

## PRAYER OF THE WEEK

### OUR FASCINATING FAITH

#### *Las Posadas* (December 16–24)

Of the many Latin American traditions for the celebration of Advent and Christmas, the tradition of *Las Posadas* seems to be the best known. It originated in the last half of the eighteenth century when the boisterous *Misas de Aguinaldo* were no longer celebrated in Mexico. To replace these Masses, the laity decided to celebrate in their own homes by taking what they had seen dramatized in the churches: the journey of the Galilean immigrants, Joseph and Mary of Nazareth, when they were looking for an inn (*posada*) in Bethlehem of Judea. Like the “O Antiphons” of the official liturgy, these *posadas* were celebrated on nine consecutive nights.

The journey of Joseph and Mary from inn to inn sadly continues every day in the fearful and tired steps taken by so many immigrants in this country. Like the Holy Family, Latin American families look for hospitality with the hope of finding a new life for their sons and daughters. Unfortunately, many citizens of the United States behave like the people of Bethlehem, preferring to close their door in the face of the immigrants rather than welcoming them. Perhaps that is the reason that the tradition of *Las Posadas* has taken on so much importance among the Latinos in the United States. We know firsthand what Joseph and Mary experienced two thousand years ago. We have to ask ourselves: When will the human heart change? When will we open the doors of our heart to our immigrant Lord?

—Friar Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## CHRISTMAS CHILDREN

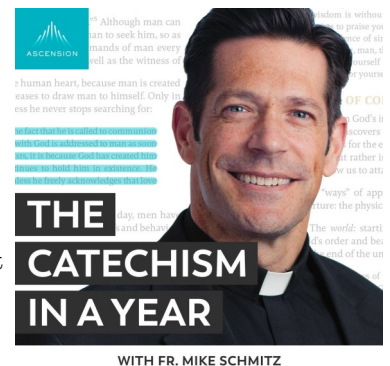
It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas.

—Charles Dickens

The Catechism in a Year (with Fr. Mike Schmitz)

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear>

Also, the Bible in a Year podcast is not being taken down. People can start at any point of the year. The podcast is not being re-done each year but is a repeat of 2021.



# School News

Advent is a special time of year here in the school. It gives the students an opportunity to slow down, quiet their minds, and welcome Jesus into their hearts. We take time for weekly prayer services and daily adoration. During our first prayer service we bring all of our classroom Advent wreaths to the church and Father Paul blesses them, as well as our larger community wreath in the main hallway. Throughout the weeks we do special projects to remind us to prepare our hearts for Jesus. One activity done with our saint partners is to color paper ornaments with the different names for Jesus, and then hang them on the trees in the school lobby. For our service project we collected items for the Adopt a Senior program through CHAP Ministries.



**Pre-School Christmas Presentation**

You are most cordially invited to join the St Anastasia Pre-School Students for their Christmas program at 6:30pm, Tuesday, December 20, in the church. They have been working hard on their presentation and are sure to wow you!

*It's ADVENT – Please COME QUIET YOUR HEART AND MIND*

Please come to Praise God, give Thanks to Him, Ask for Forgiveness or seek an answer by: Praying the Rosary / Reading passages from Scripture / Reading the life of a saint & praying with him/her . . . . .OR just sit quietly and just “be” in the presence of Jesus !

*“Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest gift after the Sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us.”...St. Alphonsus Liguori*

ADORATION OPEN TIMES AVAILABLE:

**Wednesday: 1:00-2:00 A.M. /4:00P.M.**

**Thursday: 1:00 A.M**

**ADORATION: Monday 6:00 A.M. to Friday NOON**

***For Christmas and New Years Adoration we will be closing on Thursday, December 22 at 5pm. We will remain closed between Christmas and New Years. We will re-open again on Tuesday, January 3rd at 6am. Thank you for your commitment to Adoration.***

saint snippets

St. Peter Canisius

Dutch Jesuit priest who reformed universities and attracted many back to the Catholic faith; known as the Second Apostle of Germany

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December 21

If you have too much to do, with God's help you will find time to do it all.

## Please Keep In Your Prayers

Nicole Glesener Barb Olson Jenny Trettin  
 Clinton Gruett Roger Steintl Terry Bisbee  
 Delores & Martin Muetzel Cristy Wallstrom  
 Roseanne Genz Bruce Bjerkelund Tom Donohoo  
 Jen Schnichels Bev Wangerin Janelle Woller  
 Bonita Quast Brenda Popp Donna Conrad  
 Special Intention Robyn Chrast Lois Pollei Irene Beeler  
 DJ Kirking Cathy Plath Gerald Plath Margaret Seekon  
 Janet Hall Bob Schmit LeRoy Reinert



For peace in our world For those who serve our country  
 Names will be listed for one month. If you would like to continue  
 your prayer request after that time please contact the office and ask  
 for reinstating.



The Capital Campaign is for the remodeling of the church.  
 Please write out a separate check than your weekly offering  
 check as they go into 2 separate accounts, but still  
 write the check out to St. Anastasia not to Capital Campaign.  
 Thanks for your assistance in this process.

## Stewardship

### St. Anastasia

**Contributions unavailable due to early  
 bulletin deadlines**

December 4 Contributions \$24,539.00

### Capital Campaign

Pledges Received \$1,509,332.

Contributions Received \$1,326,882.28

CC Fund Balance \$ 271,213.61

### TRY ONLINE GIVING AT ST A'S!

Online Giving is a secure way to give to the  
 parish. Manage your account and donations  
 by computer, tablet, or smart phone. Go to  
 www.stanastasia.net, and click on the  
 Online Giving icon. You can download the  
 free App in the App Store, Google Play Store,  
 or go to OLGapp.com. Register by entering  
 our church ID of 78.

### St. Boniface

December 4 Contributions \$1,261.00



## Christmas Offering

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The virgin shall  
 conceive,  
 and bear  
 a  
 Son

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**Are you new to St. Anastasia? Want more information?  
 Please provide some contact information for us  
 to reach out to you!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



I would like more information on:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education Classes                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Opportunities     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> St. Anastasia School                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Eucharistic Adoration       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confession                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Masses                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like a call or visit from Father Paul |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> I'm Updating My Information |

## General Information

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at 3pm on Saturday at St. Anastasia or by appointment.

### Marriages

Contact the Area Faith Office at least 6 months in advance of the planned wedding date. Couples complete a premarital inventory and are required to attend an approved pre-marriage program.

### Baptisms

Contact Fr Paul Wolf, 320-587-6507, to schedule a baptism and the necessary preparation. The pre-Baptism program helps parents take an active role in their child's Baptism. It provides reflection and instructions for parents as they assume their new responsibility as the primary teachers of their child.

### Hospital Visitation

If you, or anyone you know, is hospitalized or ill at home, notify the Area Faith Office to arrange for visitation.

### Prayer Requests

You may list your prayer intentions in the Book of Communal Prayer in the Eucharistic Chapel.

### Prayer Chain

St. A's has a prayer chain that prays for any needs you have. Anyone can call with a prayer request, and anyone can be a part of the prayer chain. If you would like to participate or ask for prayer support, call Janet Hall at 320-455-7927 email 3furballmom@gmail.com.

### New Parishioners

Please register! Call or stop by the Area Faith Office.

### RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation)

Considering becoming fully Catholic? Call Fr Paul Wolf, 320-587-6507.

### Area Bulletin Deadline

**Tuesdays, 11am**, at St. Anastasia.

### KC Picnic Shelter Rental at St. A's

Call Mark Lewandowski, 320-583-0357.

### Adoration Hotline

For the latest changes to the Adoration schedule call 320-484-7126.

*The Area Faith Office is open Mon-Fri, 7:30am-4:30pm  
320-587-6507.*

## Area Faith Community Leadership

<b>STA Administrative Council</b> Chair: Jim Fahey	<i>usually meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month</i> Dec. 20, 7pm	St Anastasia	parish office
<b>STB Administrative Council</b> Chair: Mark Maiers	TBA, 9am	St Boniface	church basement
<b>Cemetery Committee</b> Chair: Jeff Lehn	TBA, 3pm	St Anastasia	parish office
<b>School Advisory Committee</b> Chair: Berit Spors	<i>usually meets on the 1st Tuesday each month</i> Jan 3, 6:30pm	St Anastasia	hospitality area
<b>Home &amp; School Association</b> Chair: Gina Jennissen	TBA, 6:30pm	St Anastasia	library
<b>Worship &amp; Outreach Committee</b>	TBA, 7pm	St Anastasia	parish office
<b>Maintenance Committee</b>	TBA 5pm	St Anastasia	parish office
<b>Social Concerns Committee</b>	TBA, 6pm	St Anastasia	parish office
<b>STA Council of Catholic Women</b>	TBA, 10am	St Anastasia	hospitality area
<b>STB Council of Catholic Women</b>	TBA, 6pm	St Boniface	basement
<b>Knights of Columbus</b> Grand Knight: Paul Mraz	Jan 4, 7:30pm	St Anastasia	cafeteria
<b>Knights of Columbus Squires</b>	Jan 4, 5:30pm	St Anastasia	cafeteria

## Area Faith Community Staff

Fr. Paul Wolf, Pastor	507-829-0965 (cell)	pwolf@stanastasia.net
<b>St. Anastasia Parish Staff</b>		
Cindy Meier, Administrative Assistant	320-587-6507	Admin@stanastasia.net
Bobbi Ludewig, Secretary	320-587-6507	bludewig@stanastasia.net
Jon Skoog, Facilities Manager	320-552-1264	
<b>St. Boniface Staff</b>		
LaMae Maiers, Administration		
Merri Schaufler, Contributions/Admin.	320-562-2245	
<b>St. Anastasia School</b>		
Betty Jodzio, Principal	320-587-2490	principal@stanastasia.net
Marilyn Schreiner, Secretary	320-587-2490	secretary@stanastasia.net
<b>Kids' Depot Daycare &amp; Preschool</b>		
Michelle Nies, Director	320-587-4760	depot@stanastasia.net
<b>Religious Education &amp; Youth Ministry</b>		
RE Dir, St Anastasia	320-587-6507	religioused@stanastasia.net
Karen Maiers, RE Dir, St Boniface	320-833-6020	karenmaiers1@gmail.com
Jake Burmis, YM Director	320-587-6507	youthmin@stanastasia.net
<b>St. Anastasia Cemetery</b>		
Mike Schall, Manager	1 mile north of Hutchinson on Highway 15 320-583-7199	mgschall@mediacombb.net
<b>St. Boniface Cemetery</b>		
Terry Maiers, Co-Manager	1 mile south of Stewart on City Rd 7 320-894-8758	
Adam Tanata, Co-Manager	320-583-4345	

**TO REPORT ABUSE:** If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a member of the clergy (priest, deacon or bishop), and you need to talk with someone about abuse, exploitation, or harassment, please contact the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator or the Bishop's Delegate in Matters Pertaining to Sexual Misconduct, 1421 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; phone: (507) 233-5313.