



For the next two Sundays, the gospels encourage us to encounter Christ through the ministry of John the Baptist. The great prophet, clothed in camel's hair and munching on locusts, prepares the way of the Lord with a singular focus. John does not worry about the appearance. He does not worry about upsetting those in power - as evidenced by his eventual beheading at the hands of Herod. As the son of a priest, John could have proclaimed his message from the ritzy steps of the temple. Instead, John humbly preaches from the banks of the Jordan River. He goes to the place where the Israelites made their journey into the promised Land and made another promise: The Mighty One is coming. Prepare your hearts.

John exemplifies humility. Mark notes that "people of the whole Judean countryside and the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to meet him," yet John never loses his focus on Jesus. He knows God did not call him to preach the good news of John. Rather, the Baptist uses his popularity to point the way to Jesus the Christ, whose good news will bring salvation to the world.

The prophet Isaiah assures the returning exiles of God's faithfulness in today's reading. The people suffered greatly and even lost faith that God would rescue them. Hard times can do this to people. Difficulties can lead to doubt. Yet Isaiah's promise that God will carry the people to safety and lead them with care like a shepherd who tends to their sheep. *Living Liturgy, p. 9*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS: **Jubilation to Share**

Sometimes you have something to share with people that causes you to well up inside with excitement to the point of going crazy. A pregnancy test, a pay raise, a college acceptance, a wedding or engagement are all examples of moments in life when we might be bursting at the seams to tell somebody the good news. When we finally get the chance to tell somebody, joy just seems to flow through us with ease. We literally want the entire world to share in our jubilation.

When was the last time you shared with a friend or loved one how much your faith in Jesus means to you? You don't feel the same motivation to share? Are you not overwhelmed with a desire to spread the Good News?

Don't feel bad. You are not alone. As Christians, we often fail to grasp the powerful implications of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We can become complacent and lose sight of what matters the most. That is when sharing with others about our faith seems uncomfortable.

Faith is a gift. As everyday stewards we are called to share with others what God has given us. Advent is a great time to grow in our faith and love of the Lord. The more we cultivate our faith and the closer we draw to Him, the more we will want to share about Him. We might not have the impact of John the Baptist in the course of human history, but our proclamation of the Gospel to another might be the gift that changes their history. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



Readings for the Week

Mon: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26

Tue: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/ Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

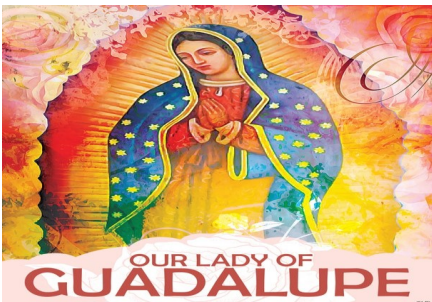
Wed: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thu: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

Fri: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

Sat: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sun: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



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

Office Hours: M-Fr 7:30am-4:00pm

Phone: 320-587-6507

Emergencies: 507-829-0965

E-mail: stanastasia@stanastasia.net

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>		
<i>Please note: Mass will be in the Hospitality Area due to Christmas Program set up.</i>		
MONDAY, December 11 5pm, Mass	St. John Damasus I, Pope St. Anastasia	+ Tom Callier
TUESDAY, December 12 7am, Mass 10am, Mass	Our Lady of Guadalupe St. Anastasia Harmony River	+ Fr. Mike Byron + Mary Nessel
WEDNESDAY, December 13 5pm, Mass	St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr St. Anastasia	+ Clarence Juncewski
THURSDAY, December 14 7am, Mass	St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor St. Anastasia	+ Terry Bisbee
FRIDAY, December 15 9am, Mass	St. Anastasia	+ Joshua Schultz
SATURDAY, December 16 9am, Mass 3pm, Confessions 4:30pm, Mass	St. Anastasia St. Anastasia St. Anastasia	+Henrietta Blazinski Day Chapel ++ Bernard Funk, Ralph Fischer
SUNDAY, December 17 7:30am, Mass 9:00am, Mass 10:30am, Mass 7:30pm, Mass	Third Sunday of Advent St. Anastasia St. Boniface St. Anastasia St. Anastasia	+ Terry Bisbee, Diane Kostecka Stanley Nowak ++ Dominic & Lillian Novak For our Area Faith Community

Calendar of Events

MONDAY, December 11		
TUESDAY, December 12 4:30pm, Gala Committee 6:30pm, Home & School	St. Anastasia St. Anastasia	Parish Conference Room Library
Wednesday, December 13 6:30pm, Religious Education 7:30pm, Youth Groups	St. Anastasia St. Anastasia	School & Church Youth Room
THURSDAY, December 14 12n, Finance Council 1:30 & 6:30pm, St. Anastasia School Christmas Program	St. Anastasia	Parish Conference Room
FRIDAY, December 15 6am, TMIY 9am, School Mass	St. Anastasia St. Anastasia	Hospitality Area Church
SATURDAY, December 16 8:30am, Christmas Market	St. Anastasia	Gym
SUNDAY, December 17 2pm, Confessions 6pm, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)	St. Anastasia	Church



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

Community News

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve (Sunday,
December 24)
4pm - St. Anastasia
7pm - St. Boniface
10pm - St. Anastasia



Christmas Day (Monday, December 25)
7:30 am - St. Anastasia
10:30 am - St. Anastasia

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and
Joseph (Weekend of December 30/31)
Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Sunday, December 31: 4:30pm - St. Anastasia
Monday, January 1: 8am - St. Boniface
10am - St. Anastasia

CHAP MINISTRIES ADOPT A SENIOR FOR CHRISTMAS

Adopt a Senior is a Program designed to bring Smiles & Joy to Residents of Long Term Care Facilities in McLeod County. We will be collecting gifts from the cards found on the table for residents of Harmony River this year. Please take a card on the table in the gathering area. After selecting a Gift for a Senior, please wrap the gift. Tape the greeting card to the gift and place the gift on the table in the gathering space and we will get them over to Harmony River. Please help us make the lives of those in Harmony River a little happier at Christmas. Please bring them back to the church by December 17, 2023.

Greg St. Hilaire~ Founding Director of CHAP Ministries 928-792-3100

Scrip~ Joann Fabrics gift cards are not available at the present time. If you would like to special order any gift cards for Christmas please have your order in by Monday, December 11 so that we can get them ordered in time for Christmas.



Common Cup will be collecting Ramen Noodles for the Backpack program.

Diocesan Ministries Appeal 2023 (DMA): Thank you to all who have given to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. Your contributions to the DMA reach individuals and families across the diocese, providing family and crisis counseling, emergency assistance, religious and spiritual formation, and supporting our seminarians. If you have not had the opportunity to make your pledge or gift yet, envelopes are available in the back of church. You may return your pledge in the collection basket or simply drop it in the mail. You may also make your pledge or gift online at <https://www.dnu.org/dma/>. Either way, those ministries designated in the DMA brochure—ministries that are vital to our diocesan church— as well as our own project— **additional funds for the cemetery.**

Retirement Fund for Religious

Support a lifetime of service. Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need- usually for little or no pay, Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation make a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously.

Flower Memorials



If you would like to enhance the environment of St Boniface or St Anastasia by donating money for flowers please put your contribution in an envelope marked "Flowers" and drop it in the collection basket at either church. Please include the name(s) of the loved ones you wish to have remembered at this special time. We would need the names for the bulletin by December 11th due to early bulletin deadlines.

Religious Education/Youth/Adult Formation

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

Gifts of Cash. The most popular way to give to charity is still by cash or check. Gifts completed by December 31st will qualify for tax deductibility for the current tax year. Gifts of cash qualify for up to one-half of your adjusted gross income (AGI). You must receive an acknowledgement for gifts of \$250 or more.

Gift of Grain. Farmers can qualify for income and self-employment tax savings on raised grain if the unsold grain is gifted to your parish. The grain must be delivered to an elevator and the actual storage ticket should be given to the parish. In order to qualify for the tax savings, it's critical that the parish sells the grain and not the person gifting the grain.

Securities and Appreciated Assets. Gifts of stock, bonds, mutual funds, and certain other property that have increased in value can result in even greater tax savings than gifts of cash. If you have owned such investments for longer than one year you can generally donate them to your parish and deduct their full current value, even if it far exceeds your original cost. Congress has provided that in addition to regular tax savings, you also do not have to pay capital gains tax when these assets are given to a qualifying charity. You can also give assets to your parish that have decreased in value. You may receive a tax deduction of the incurred loss. The total amount of your loss and the charitable deduction may actually be more than the current value of the donated asset.

Donor Advised Fund. Did you have an event that resulted in higher taxable income this year? Maybe it was the sale of a business, company stock, or other appreciated asset. Or maybe your income is just higher this year. A donor advised fund can allow you to receive a charitable deduction for your giving this year, while providing you the flexibility to use it for charitable giving over time.

Gifts from Retirement Plans. Retirement plan assets can be a practical source from which to make charitable gifts to your parish. If you are over 70 1/2 and are required to take withdrawals from a Traditional IRA, you may want to consider making a charitable gift using all or a portion of your mandatory withdrawal amount. This way of giving may result in little or no tax impact when you report the amount withdrawn along with an offsetting charitable deduction. 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.

Life Insurance. If you own life insurance policies that you no longer need, the cash value of these policies may be another source from which to make gifts to your parish, and they may result in significant state and/or federal estate tax savings. You can also name your parish as beneficiary of your life insurance or annuity.

As announced last weekend, the first weekend in 2024, January 6 & 7, we will have a new mass schedule: St. Anastasia will have Mass Saturday afternoon at 4:30 pm, Sunday morning at 9 am, and Sunday evening at 7:30 pm. St. Boniface will need to determine when it will have Mass: 6:30 pm or after on Saturday evening, or 7 am or 11 am on Sunday morning.

Ministers (Lectors, ushers, servers, Eucharistic Minister), what Mass will you prefer as we make these changes: 4:30pm (Saturday) or 9am or 7:30pm (Sunday).

School News

Rehearsals for our Christmas program have begun. On Thursday, December 14 we will hear and see all about *"The Mystery of Simon Shepherd"*. Performances are at 1:30 and 6:30 pm. Please join us!

Do you ever wonder if your children pick up on those events and/or activities you do every year that turn into family traditions? Well they remember! Fourth grade students shared their Christmas Traditions this week in class (to see all they are hanging on school wall near lunch room). They are great memories. Here is a snip it:

"On Christmas Eve my family recreates a photo."

"We always put out cookies and milk, carrots and corn for Santa."

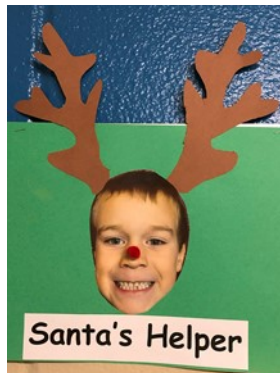
"I get an ornament every year when we decorate the tree!"

"The day we put up our tree I set up my train set around our tree."

We go to North Dakota and we play the White Elephant game.

We listen to Christmas music.

We play board games.



PUZZLE
Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

Mary	Judea	baby
town	home	Spirit
country	Elizabeth	blessed

Myra M a r y
belssde _____
Ezilabeht _____
cuntory _____
byba _____
tnow _____
hemo _____
Siptir _____
Jedua _____

MISSION
Say a special prayer for missionary families.
People all around the world need Jesus.



Adoration Moments

ADORATION provides a place for serenity, peace and calm to a hurting world, a place to lose and renew yourself in a simpler and quieter world for just an hour.

We all find ourselves struggling with everyday life in some shape or form. Find one hour each week to unload all the distractions we have in our lives!

* JESUS is waiting in the Day Chapel for us.

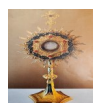
PLEASE HELP FILL THESE OPEN TIMES IN THE CHAPEL FOR ADORATION:

MONDAY: **7:00 A.M sub- Jan, Feb-March/ NOON/8:00pm**
sub -Jan, Feb-March
WEDNESDAY: 9:00AM/ 4:00 P.M.
THURSDAY: 1:00 A.M. /11:00 P.M.
FRIDAY: Midnight

PARISH OFFICE 320-587-6507

ADORATION HOTLINE 320-484-7126

ADORATION HOURS: Mon. 6:00AM to Fri. Noon



Please Keep In Your Prayers

Nicole Glesener Jenny Trettin Bonita Quast
 Brenda Popp Robyn Chrast Lois Pollei
 Donna Conrad Marilyn Stevens Phyllis van der Hagen
 Nellie Czech Gladys Homan Cathy Plath
 Tom Donohoo Deb Kalenberg Virgil Voigt Deb Mundt
 For peace in our world For those who serve our country



Names will be listed for one month unless we are told otherwise. If you would like to continue your prayer request after that time please contact the office and ask for reinstating.



Stewardship

St. Anastasia

Financials not available because of early bulletin deadline.

Current Capital Campaign

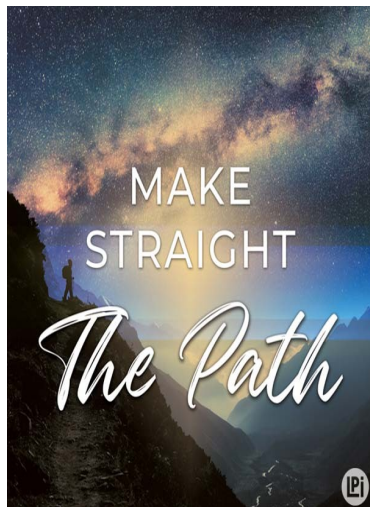
Pledges	\$ 1,044,560.00
Pledge Amount received	\$ 301,374.38
Unpledged amount received	\$ 64,919.00
Actual Money	\$ 366,293.38
Pledges Need	\$ 1,955,440.00
Actuals Need	\$ 2,663,706.62

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

Financials not available because of early bulletin deadline.



**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-4:00pm 320-587-6507.

Area Faith Community Leadership

STA Administrative Council Chair: Jim Fahey	<i>usually meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month</i> December 19, 7pm	St Anastasia	parish office
STB Administrative Council Chair: Mark Maiers	TBA, 9am	St Boniface	church basement
Cemetery Committee Chair: Jeff Lehn	TBA, 3pm	St Anastasia	parish office
School Advisory Committee Chair: Berit Spors	<i>usually meets on the 1st Tuesday each month</i> January 2, 6:30pm	St Anastasia	hospitality area
Home & School Association Co-Chairs: Nicole Tanata Denise Schwecke	<i>usually meets on the 2nd Tuesday each month</i> December 12, 6:30pm	St Anastasia	library
Worship & Outreach Committee	TBA, 7pm	St Anastasia	parish office
Maintenance Committee	TBA 5pm	St Anastasia	parish office
Social Concerns Committee	TBA, 6pm <i>usually meets on the 2nd Thursday each month</i>	St Anastasia	parish office
STA Council of Catholic Women	TBA, 10am	St Anastasia	hospitality area
STB Council of Catholic Women	TBA, 6pm	St Boniface	basement
Knights of Columbus Grand Knight: Paul Mraz	January 3, 7:30pm	St Anastasia	cafeteria
Knights of Columbus Squires	January 3, 5:30pm	St Anastasia	hospitality area

Area Faith Community Staff

Fr. Paul Wolf, Pastor	507-829-0965 (cell)	pwolf@stanastasia.net
St. Anastasia Parish Staff	320-587-6507	
Cindy Meier, Administrative Assistant		Admin@stanastasia.net
Bobbi Ludewig, Secretary		bludewig@stanastasia.net
Jon Skoog, Facilities Manager	320-552-1264	jon.skoog@stanastasia.net
St. Boniface Staff		
LaMae Maiers, Administration	320-583-1302	
Merri Schaufler, Contributions/Admin.	320-562-2245	
St. Anastasia Worship & Music		
Kirk Hendrickson	320-587-6507	music@stanastasia.net
St. Anastasia School		
Betty Kloss, Principal	320-587-2490	principal@stanastasia.net
Marilyn Schreiner, Secretary	320-587-2490	secretary@stanastasia.net
Kids' Depot Daycare & Preschool		
Michelle Nies, Director	320-587-4760	depot@stanastasia.net
Religious Education & Youth Ministry		
Elli Burmis, RE Dir, St Anastasia	320-587-6507	faithformation@stanastasia.net
Karen Maiers, RE Dir, St Boniface	320-833-6020	karenmaiers1@gmail.com
Jake Burmis, YM Director	320-587-6507	youthmin@stanastasia.net
St. Anastasia Cemetery		
Mike Schall, Manager	1 mile north of Hutchinson on Highway 15 320-583-7199	mgschall@mediacombb.net
St. Boniface Cemetery		
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.