



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.” - Lk 1:35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPi

Advent is a season of surprises. God’s Spirit shows up in a myriad of unexpected places: in a raggedy man dresses in camel’s hair, in the hope of the long suffering Israelite people, in the blind who can now see, in the deaf who can now hear, in the dead who are now raised. There is perhaps no greater surprise in human history than when God’s Spirit appears to a young, poor, unwed woman in Nazareth and asks her to carry God’s Son. God finds Mary to be full of grace. She holds none of the characteristics that society deems favorable, yet she is entirely worthy in God’s eyes.

Mary’s story can inspire us to also see ourselves as worthy in God’s eyes. It can be easy to doubt our worth, particularly during the holiday season. Perhaps you are struggling to find meaning after a divorce, a family dispute, or a layoff. Maybe you are deep in the throes of a mental health crisis, cannot afford the gifts you want to give, or are feeling lonely while everyone else looks merry and bright.

Mary empathizes with your pain. She asked similar questions. And in the end, the young girl from Nazareth trusted in God’s almighty power. She believed that indeed nothing is impossible for God. She believed God could lift up the lowly and bring the holiest of holies to life within her. On this last day of Advent, spend some time in prayer with Mary. We ask her to intercede for us so that we might come to see ourselves as worthy. *Living Liturgy, p. 19*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS: The Journey

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, “Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?” I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn’t go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS, ©LPi



Readings for the Week

Mon: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 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, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tue: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Wed: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thu: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18

Fri: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Sat: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Sun: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk

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>		
SUNDAY, December 24	Christmas Eve	
4pm	St. Anastasia	1 & d John Griep Family
7pm	St. Boniface	+ Richard Navara
10pm	St. Anastasia	++ Leonard & Dolores Lewandowski
MONDAY, December 25	Christmas Day	
7:30 am	St. Anastasia	Diane Kostecka
10:30 am	St. Anastasia	+ Ann Lewandowski
TUESDAY, December 26	<i>St. Stephen, the First Martyr of the Church</i>	
7am, Mass	St. Anastasia	+ Thomas Whalen
10am, Mass	Harmony River	+ Gerry Cummins
WEDNESDAY, December 27	<i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>	
5pm, Mass	St. Anastasia	+ Clarence Junczewski
THURSDAY, December 28	<i>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>	
7am, Mass	St. Anastasia	+ Joe Wesley
FRIDAY, December 29	<i>St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr</i>	
7am, Mass	St. Anastasia	++ Mark & James Madson
SATURDAY, December 30		
9am, Mass	St. Anastasia	+ Clarence Junczewski
3pm, Confessions	St. Anastasia	Day Chapel
4:30pm, Mass	St. Anastasia	++Ricky Roskammer, Bernard Funk
SUNDAY, December 31	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph	
7:30am, Mass	St. Anastasia	++ Harry Farenbaugh, Dorothy Lindenberg
9:00am, Mass	St. Boniface	Jeannine Maiers
10:30am, Mass	St. Anastasia	For our Area Faith Community
SUNDAY, December 31	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - Eve	
4:30pm, Mass	St. Anastasia	+ Thomas Whalen
MONDAY, January 1	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - Day	
8am, Mass	St. Boniface	+ Milli Navara
10am, Mass	St. Anastasia	++Jason Waldner, Gary Gilman

Calendar of Events

MONDAY, December 25	Church Office Closed	
TUESDAY, December 26		
Wednesday, December 27		
NO Religious Education	St. Anastasia	School & Church
NO Youth Groups	St. Anastasia	Youth Room
THURSDAY, December 28		
10am, Card Ministry	St. Anastasia	
FRIDAY-MONDAY, December 29-January 1	NO SCHOOL: Christmas Break	
MONDAY, January 1	Parish Office Closed	St. Anastasia



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 except for the regularly schedule evening, 7:30pm Mass, it is canceled.

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

NEW WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE
(starting the weekend of January 6/7)
Saturday: 4:30pm - St. Anastasia, 6:30pm - St. Boniface
Sunday: 9am & 7:30pm - St. Anastasia



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.**



St A's Christmas Flower Memorials have been donated in the name of:

For the Farenbaugh family; William, Rosella and Steve Quast; Andy Bogatzki; Erpelding family members; Alex Doering; Joe Ritchey; Bob & Carol Cogley; Leo & Betty Cogley; John & Kitty Ortmeier; Donald Ludewig; Paul Troska; Erma Troska; Nick Troska; Melvin Schmeling; Lorretta Schmeling; Sharon Dusoski; Henry Dusoski; Helen Dusoski; David Troska; Ralph Krebsbach; Clint Glesener; Denny Drazkowski; Farenbaugh Family; Kristin Bjerkelund-Brown; Elroy & Myrtle Buesgens; Kathleen Ferrara; Matthew Beussman; Donald & Irene Vorbeck; Leonard & Dolores Lewandowski; Milton & Dorothy Schantzen; Ed Vasko; Cleo & Ed Karl; Bruce & Christopher Karl; Joshua Schultz; Bryn Engstrom; Kruszka & Patterson Family; Robert Schmid; Dick Roskammer; Rick Roskammer; Gerry & Jan Urban; David Troska; Paul Troska; Brent Markgraf; Elmer & Myrtle Dressel & Family; Clarence & Ilene Servaty & family; Tom Neisen; Dean Ruffcorn; Mr. & Mrs. William Kostecka; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Koktan; The Poor Souls in Purgatory; Craig Dauer; Ralph Krebsbach; Henry & Helen Dusoski; Kathy Andreen; Tom Stafford; James & Bessie Stafford; Philip & Agnes Egan; Bernard Funk; Lloyd & Barbara Funk; Paul & Margaret Maiers

Religious Education/Youth/Adult Formation

Adult Gatherings with Hospitality and Formation.

Our parish is ever changing and welcoming new members and saying good-bye to friends. We would like to address some of these changes with gatherings. We are not exactly sure what these gatherings will look like as they develop but it is an opportunity for us to become more aware of the changing dynamic of our parish. To this end, we are proposing a number of gatherings: “Young Adult: Single and Married,” “New Parishioners,” and expanding our “GriefShare” group, which meets weekly for thirteen week to include a “GriefShare” social to include all who have lost a loved one recently to many years.

Young Adult: All young adults in their 20’s and 30’s, single and married, are welcome to join us for pizza and beverages at Main Street Sports Bar from 6pm-8pm on Thursday, January 18. We will continue gathering once a month for fun social events and activities, further spiritual growth as a community, and prayerful support to live a Christian life. Please contact Elli Burmis (faithformation@stanastasia.net) or Jake Burmis (youthmin@stanastasia.net) for more information. We hope to see you there!

New Parishioner. Potluck, bring a dish to pass or serve, deserts are always welcomed! All ages and families, new and old parishioners. Hospitality Area. 3rd Thursdays of the Month at 6pm, starting January 18. Informal gathering of new and old parishioners, with introductions so we can get to know each other and support the new members in our community. Social activities, formational understandings of the church, support to live a Christian life, and prayer.

GriefShare Social. Potluck, bring a dish to pass or serve, deserts are always welcomed! All ages, anyone who has lost a loved one (spouse, child, parent, or friend). Hospitality Area. 4th Thursday of the Month at 6pm, starting January 25. Social gatherings and support for one another.

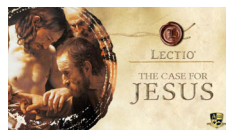
ALPHA coming in January –
Wednesday, January 3 at 6:30pm.



Lectio: Mary with Dr. Brant Pitre – Tuesdays at 5pm, starting January 9.



Lectio: The Case for Jesus with Dr. Brant Pitre – Thursdays at 5pm, starting January 11.



A Bible Study on the Mysteries of the Rosary. Mondays at 4 & 7pm, starting January 8.

GriefShare, those who have lost a Loved One Support Group. Mondays at 1pm, starting January 8.



The Chosen, Mondays 6pm, starting January 8.

That Man Is You - TMIY, Fridays 6am, starting January 12



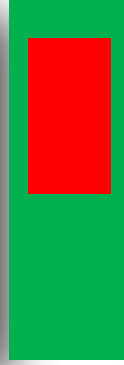
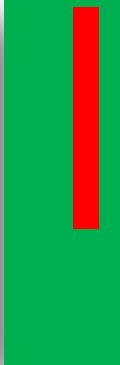
On December 10, St. Anastasia high school students travelled to St. Aloysius in Olivia, MN for COR Night, a Diocesan youth ministry event featuring a special guest speaker, praise and worship music, Adoration, and Reconciliation.

Throughout the Advent Season, 1-8 grade Faith Formation students have been creating tie blankets and collecting items for the food shelf as part of their Christmas service projects.



School News

Snow makes the holiday spirit come alive. Students have been enjoying their outside December weather even without snow. Here at school the students have gotten into the holiday spirit by spending time at Advent prayer services praying the Rosary and spending time with their Saint Partner Families. Students have been excited about the Christmas program as well. We also had some fun dress up days to lead us up to Christmas break. There will be no school Friday, December 22 to Monday, January 1, 2024. School resumes Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Enjoy your Christmas holiday with family and friends! Blessings to you all.



Capital Campaign Update

Christmas is the time for families to gather and celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. It is also a special holiday for children of all ages who believe in the miracle and magic that Christmas represents. As you consider the children and grandchildren in your family, please consider adopting "Anastasia" as another member of your family this Christmas season. Your commitment or contribution to help improve St. Anastasia's home will move us closer to raising enough financial support to begin planning for the second priority in our facility master plan, the school and church office remodeling. Thank you and

Calling all Liturgical Ministers to a: **Eucharistic Retreat:** *A Biblical walk through the mass. There are 3 opportunities:*

January 13th at St. Mary, Sleepy Eye

March 16th at Holy Family, Silver Lake

April 13th at St. Joseph, Montevideo

The days each start at 8am- 4:30pm For more information contact the Office of Worship at worship@dnu.org or by calling 507-233-5320.



Thanks all who partnered with St. Anastasia and Chap Ministries!!

Over a hundred presents were delivered to Harmony River Nursing Home this year for Christmas.

Adoration Moments

For Christmas and New Years Adoration we will be closing on Friday, December 22 at Noon. We will remain closed between Christmas and New Years. We will re-open again on Tuesday, January 2nd after the 7am Mass. Thank you for your commitment to Adoration.



March for Life

The area Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a bus to the March for Life rally in St. Paul on Monday, January 22nd.

The bus will depart:

· 7:53 St. Philip's Church - Litchfield

· 8:15 St. St. John's Church - Darwin

· 8:38 St. John's Education Center - Cokato

The bus will arrive at the Cathedral in time for the prayer service, then to the Capitol for the rally. Return time will be approximately 3:30. Please bring your own food and drinks.

To reserve a seat on the bus, call or text Tony Lorber at 320-248-6863.

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.



The Parish &
 School staff
 would like to
 wish you all a
 Merry
 Christmas and
 a Blessed New
 Year!

Stewardship

St. Anastasia

December 10 Contributions	\$13,938.00
Current Capital Campaign	
Pledges	\$ 1,095,960.00
Pledge Amount received	\$ 325,811.89
Unpledged amount received	\$ 79,579.00
Actual Money	\$ 405,390.89
Pledges Need	\$ 1,904,040.00
Actuals Need	\$ 2,594,609.11

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 10 Contributions	\$ 790.00
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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-4:00pm 320-587-6507.

Area Faith Community Leadership

STA Administrative Council Chair: Jim Fahey	<i>usually meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month</i> January 16, 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> January 9, 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	St Anastasia	parish office <i>usually meets on the 2nd Thursday each month</i>
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, Co-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.