

Area Faith Community Lenten Newsletter 2012

Church of St Philip, Litchfield

Church of St John, Darwin



Church of Our Lady of Manannah

Church of St Gertrude, Forest City

Lent begins Wednesday February 22nd with Ash Wednesday Masses

at

Church of St. Philip

12:00pm Mass

Tuna Casserole Luncheon to follow

6:30 pm Mass in English

8:00pm Mass in Spanish

Church of St John

7:00pm Mass at Education Center

Church of St Gertrude

8:00am Mass

7:00pm Distribution of Ashes

Church of Our Lady

7:00am — 11:00am — 7:30 pm Mass



Good Shepherd and Seeker of Souls

Area Faith Communities

A new journey of collaboration and service begins with our Four Area Parishes beginning this Season of Lent. Fr. John Pearson, who has served as Pastor of the Church of St. John and Sacramental Minister of St. Gertrude is unable to return to active ministry do to an injury he incurred in mid-December. After 2 1/2 months of hospitalization and rehabilitation, Fr Pearson will be moving to an efficiency apartment at the Villa Marie Home in Sleepy Eye where he will continue to do rehab and therapy.

Fr Joe Steinbeisser has been appointed the Parochial Administrator of St. John's and Sacramental Minister at the Church of St Gertrude as well as continuing his duties as Pastor of St Philip's. in his absence. Mgrs. Garvey, Pastor of Our Lady of Manannah will assist Fr. Steinbeisser with sacramental duties in the Area Faith Communities as needed. Michael McNeil continues to be the Parish Administrator of St. Gertrude's.

The Diocesan Plan for Parishes calls for our 4 parishes to collaborate together and begin to work as one Area Faith Community. Our AFC Pastoral Councils will continue to meet together and discuss ways in which we can support the mission and ministry of the church in our 4 area parishes.

Beginning the First Sunday of Lent, Mass schedules will change in all four Parishes of the Area Faith Communities. Msgr. Garvey will celebrate the Masses at Our Lady and the Sunday Mass at St. Gertrudes. Fr. Steinbeisser will celebrate the Masses at St. Philip and the Sunday Mass at St. John's. Fr. Joe and Msgr. Garvey will rotate saying the Saturday Night Mass at St. John.

Parishioners are encouraged to attend the Mass that best fits their Sunday Schedule. All Parish Envelopes will be forwarded to the parishioners home parish. During this time of change and transition we continue to pray for all members of our Faith Communities and pray for continued healing for Fr. Pearson.

Fr Joe Steinbeisser

Mgrs. Francis Garvey

Michael McNeil

NEW WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE IN THE AREA PARISHES

Church of St. Philip

SATURDAYS @ 5:30PM

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

SPANISH MASS @ 12:00PM

Church of St John

SATURDAYS @ 7:00PM

SUNDAYS @ 8:00AM

Church of St Gertrude

SUNDAYS @ 10:45AM

Church of Our Lady

SATURDAYS @ 4:00PM

SUNDAYS @ 9:00AM



Lent is a forty-day period before Easter.

It begins on Ash Wednesday. We skip

Sundays when we count the forty days,

because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection.

Lent begins on 22 February 2012 and officially ends at sundown (Holy Thursday) with the beginning of the mass of the Lord's Supper.

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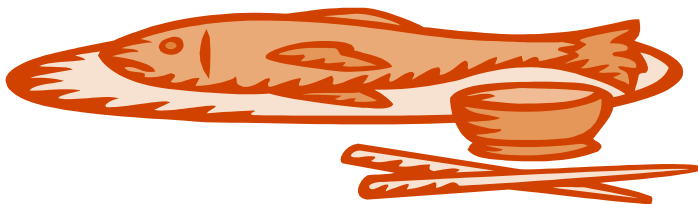
Lenten Obligations !!!!

All Fridays through the year and the time of Lent are penitential days and times throughout the entire Church.

Abstinence from eating meat or another food according to the prescriptions of the conference of bishops is to be observed on Fridays throughout the year unless they are solemnities; abstinence and fast are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on the Friday of the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

All persons who have completed their fourteenth year are bound by the law of abstinence; all adults are bound by the law of fast up to the beginning of their sixtieth year. Nevertheless, pastors and parents are to see to it that minors who are not bound by the law of fast and abstinence are educated in an authentic sense of penance.

The Church, therefore, has two forms of official penitential practices - three if the Eucharistic fast of one hour before Communion is included.



Abstinence The law of abstinence requires a Catholic 14 years of age until death to abstain from eating meat on Fridays in honor of the Passion of Jesus on Good Friday. Meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl. Also forbidden are soups or gravies made from them. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, reptiles and shellfish are permitted, as are animal derived products such as margarine and gelatin which do not have any meat taste.

On the Fridays **outside of Lent** the U.S. bishops conference obtained the permission of the Holy See for Catholics in the US to substitute a penitential, or even a charitable, practice of their own choosing. They must do some penitential/charitable practice on these Fridays. For most people the easiest practice to consistently fulfill will be the traditional one, to abstain from meat on all Fridays of the year.

During Lent abstinence from meat on Fridays is obligatory in the United States as elsewhere.

Fasting The law of fasting requires a Catholic from the 18th Birthday (Canon 97) to the 59th Birthday (i.e. the beginning of the 60th year, a year which will be completed on the 60th birthday) to reduce the amount of food eaten from normal. The Church defines this as one meal a day, and two smaller meals which if added together would not exceed the main meal in quantity. Such fasting is obligatory on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The fast is broken by eating between meals and by drinks which could be considered food (milk shakes, but not milk). Alcoholic beverages do not break the fast; however, they seem to be contrary to the spirit of doing penance.

Those who are excused from fast or abstinence Besides those outside the age limits, those of unsound mind, the sick, the frail, pregnant or nursing women according to need for meat or nourishment, manual laborers according to need, guests at a meal who cannot excuse themselves without giving great offense or causing enmity and other situations of moral or physical impossibility to observe the penitential discipline.

Before all else we are obliged to perform the duties of our state in life. Any deprivation that would seriously hinder us in carrying out our work, as students, employees or parents would be contrary to the will of God.



Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. All churches that have a continuous history extending before AD 1500 observe Lent. The ancient church that wrote, collected, canonized, and propagated the New Testament also observed Lent, believing it to be a commandment from the apostles. (See *The Apostolic Constitutions*, Book V, Section III.)

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Church of St Gertrude, Forest City



OPERATION RICE BOWL

We encourage every family to participate in this year's Operation Rice Bowl Campaign to help feed the needy of the world.


Rice Bowl containers will be handed out in the Parishes and can be found at the entrance of the Church.

Please consider purchasing a tube of M&M's for \$1.00. Then fill the tube with quarters and return to church.

(Each tube holds 54 quarters or \$13.50.)

HELP provide nutritious meals to hungry Kids around the world and in our own communities. On April 18, 2012 we will come together as a community to package the fully nutritious meals through the Kids Against Hunger Program. Before we can do that we MUST raise the funds to cover the cost of the meals we hope to package.

Each meal packaged cost .15cents and we hope to package 95,000 like we did in 2010. Please HELP us raise \$14,250 so we can accomplish our Goal.

 Purchase a tube of M&M for one dollar and provide 2 meals. Return the tube full of quarters and provide 90 meals.

[LOOK FOR THE GIANT M&M CONTAINER](#)



Annual Lenten KC Fish Fry

The Knights of Columbus Council
#2029

invite you to join them for their
annual fish fry on Friday, March 16, 2012

Serving from 11am to 7:00pm

At the Church of St Philip Social Hall

Church of Our Lady — Manannah
Sausage (Smoked & Fresh)
& Pancake Supper



Cash Bingo

With Beverages and Desserts

Sunday, February 26, 2012

Serving from 4:00pm to 7:00pm

Adults—\$8:00 Children 6-12—\$4:00

Children 2-5 __ \$1:00

St. Gertrude's of Forest City

Men's group



will be serving their

annual Pancake & sausage supper

with homemade potato salad,

Sunday March 25th, 4-7pm.

Adults \$7,

Children under age 12 with adult \$3,

children under 6 free.

Includes Parish bake sale of pies, breads
and all varieties of sweets.

St. John's KC Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 4, serving from 9am-11am.
There will be an opportunity to make a free
will donation. Net proceeds of the breakfast
will given for Vocations.



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Please Join us as we gather to pray **The Way of the Cross**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS & LENTEN SUPPER

Friday's During Lent

Friday, February 24, 7:00pm Region Stations of the Cross with Bishop LeVoir

Church of St. Boniface, Stewart, MN

Friday, March 2, 6:30pm Stations & Soup Supper, Church of St. John, Darwin

Friday, March 9, 6:30pm Stations & Soup Supper, Church of St. Gertrude, Forest City

Friday, March 16, 6:30pm Stations, Church of St Philip, Litchfield

Friday, March 23, 7:00pm Stations & Mass Church of Our Lady of Manannah

Friday, March 30, 6:30pm Stations at All 4 area Churches



This Lent we encourage Parishioners to join together as we pray the Way of the Cross. Each Friday of Lent we hold the Stations of the Cross at one of our Area Parish Churches followed by a Lenten Supper. We begin the Season of Lent by gathering at the Church of St. Boniface in Stewart for a Regional Gathering to pray the Stations Led by Bishop LeVoir.

The following Fridays of Lent we will gather at one of our Four Parishes in our Area Faith Communities to pray together and share in a simple Lenten Supper and fellowship. We hope everyone in our Four Area Parishes will come together in prayer and fellowship.

**** Our Lady of Manannah will have Eucharistic Adoration each Friday with Benediction at 7:00pm followed by Stations and Mass.

St. Gertrude's Community Formation Night March 14th 6pm- 8pm: is open to all members and friends of the St. Gertrude's faith community – young, old, with kids or without. The night begins with a pasta meal followed by a program by Br. Paul-Vincent Niebauer, OSB of Saint John's Abbey in Collegeville. He will share about his life in a community of Catholic Benedictine men, seeking God through a common life of prayer, study, and work, giving witness to Christ and the Gospel, in service to the church and the world.

Take a night off from cooking and join the religious education program for fun and interesting night.



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Area Lenten Reconciliation Services

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
Sunday March 3	5:00pm	St. Philip Litchfield
Wednesday March 14	7:00pm	Our Lady of Manannah
Wednesday March 14	7:00	St John, Ed Center
Wednesday March 21	7:00	St Philip, Litchfield
Sunday March 25	4:00pm	St Anastasia, Hutchinson
Monday March 26	7:00pm	St John Darwin
Tuesday March 27	7:00pm	St Gertrude, Forest City
Sunday April 1	4:00pm	Our Lady of Manannah



The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also celebrated on Saturdays at the Church of St Philip and the Church of Our Lady!

Check the local bulletin for other times of individual reconciliation!

Area Faith Community

Lenten Reflection Day

Sunday March 11, 2012

3:00 pm Reflection

We will view and Discuss Fr Robert Barron's

Video on the Eucharist

5:00pm Penance Service

6:00pm Supper

Our Area Faith Community Pastoral Council will be hosting an afternoon of Prayer and Reflection on Sunday March 11, 2012 from 3:00pm to 6:00pm at the Church of St. Philip.

The day will include Spiritual enrichment, Reconciliation Service and a light supper.

Everyone in our Area Faith Community is encouraged to attend !

Sowing Seeds of Hope in a Distracted World

Sunday, March 18
St. Catherine's, Redwood Falls
(900 East Flynn Street)
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

FREE!

Featured Speaker Jim Ennis
Executive Director
National Catholic Rural Life Conference



What does the call to the "New Evangelization" mean for regular, Church-going Catholics? What are some of the common challenges and distractions that affect the faith life of people living in rural communities? How are some Catholics bringing the truth of Christ to the culture in rural communities around the country?

*Come, hear about ways Catholics are making an impact in their communities!
Open to the public. Refreshments will be served.*



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306 North Holcombe Avenue
LITCHFIELD, MINNESOTA
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Church of Our Lady of Manannah Webshite:	http://www.coolparish.org/
Church of St Philip Website	http://www.thechurchofstphilip.org/
Church of St Gertrude Website	http://www.forministry.com/USMNRKATHSGCCS
Church of St John Website	http://www.stjohnscatholic-darwin.com/

Find Our Parish Bulletin Online



On Palm Sunday, we celebrate the first joy of the season, as we celebrate Our Lord's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem where he was welcomed by crowds worshipping him and laying down palm leaves before him. It also marks the beginning of Holy Week... **HOLY THURSDAY** is the most complex and profound of all religious observances. It celebrates his last supper with the disciples, a celebration of Passover...

GOOD FRIDAY On Good Friday, each member of the Church tries to understand at what cost Christ has won our redemption. In the solemn ceremonies of Holy Week we unite ourselves to our Savior, and we contemplate our own death to sin in the Death of our Lord.

EASTER SUNDAY Easter is the principal feast of the ecclesiastical year. Leo I (Sermo xlvii in Exodum) calls it the greatest feast (festum festorum), and says that Christmas is celebrated only in preparation for Easter. It is the centre of the greater part of the ecclesiastical year.