



## St. Philip's Snippets

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**Advent begins this weekend. Advent is the preparation for the arrival of Jesus. It is the focus of the four weeks leading up to Christmas. While December is so very busy, we are encouraged to make and take time to focus on Christ's coming to the world.**

**Our school will be celebrating Advent with morning prayer on both Mondays and Fridays during December at 8:30 am, along with other individual classroom learning and events.**

A few ideas for Advent/Christmas:

1. On a table in the narthex (social hall) are free **Advent devotionals** for your family. There are several different ones available.
2. Ascension Press has an **Advent program** this year titled, "Rejoice! Advent Meditations with Mary". They offer 4 minute emailed Advent Reflection Videos each week of Advent, along with an intro video and an option to purchase an "Advent Meditations with Mary" journal. Check it out at <https://shop.ascensionpress.com/collections/rejoice>
3. We have no affiliation with this blog, but find it is an excellent Catholic/Christian resource. If you are looking for **gifts and stocking stuffers with a religious theme**, click on this link: <https://www.showerofrosesblog.com>  
The latest post at the time of this printing lists multiple gift ideas along with a 25 gift-giveaway at the end.
4. Go to sites like Amazon to order **Advent wreaths/candles** for your home.

5. Thursday, December 6th is the **Feast of St. Nicholas**. Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint's feast. In the English-speaking countries, Saint Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus—further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop. (Excerpt taken from [www.franciscanmedia.org](http://www.franciscanmedia.org)) Children often put out a shoe the **night of December 5, and in the morning find gold chocolate coins or other goodies inside.**



## Birthday Party for Jesus

You are invited to a birthday party for Jesus. It will be held in the Social Hall of St. Philip's on Saturday, December 1st from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. (Come when you can)

There is no cost and the party is for preschool and elementary age children and their families.

The schedule is:

1:00-2:30 pm: Christmas Crafts and Activities

2:30 pm: Christmas Carols and Reading of the Christmas Story

2:45 pm: A Birthday Cake for Jesus



## The Advent Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is an opportunity for adults, children, individuals, families, or groups to do something for others during the Advent season. Local service organizations have provided us with lists of items that will brighten the lives of their clients during the holiday season, and you are invited to participate. To do this, choose one or more of the ornaments from the Giving Tree located in the Narthex. Purchase the item listed on the ornament. Do not wrap, rather tape the ornament to the item/items. Bring the items to the parish office no later than Monday, December 17th so that they may be distributed during the Christmas season.

The agencies listed on the next page are who we are helping out this year.

## Advent Giving Tree Agencies We Are Helping:

**Northwoods Pregnancy Care Center** is an organization dedicated to helping women, men and families facing not only unexpected and challenging pregnancies, but everyday parenting challenges.

**Churches United** is a church guided ministry that provides emergency short-term assistance for those who need immediate help and have nowhere else to turn. Services provided include financial aid for: food, gas, rent, and utility bills. Our assistance extends to individuals and families through counseling and referrals to other community agencies and resources.

**Support Within Reach** is a private, non-profit, community service organization serving residents and those impacted by incidents of sexual violence in Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard, and Itasca Counties.

**Village of Hope** promotes self-worth and independence through the provision of temporary shelter and supportive services for families experiencing homelessness.

**The Mission at Housing Matters**, is to see that every disabled person who is experiencing long term homelessness receive a stable living environment, in the community of their choosing, whether this is living alone, with other family members, or the best possible housing option that is right for them.

**Family Advocacy Center** operates a medical-model family violence center to serve the needs of Northern Minnesota. It is the only assessment center that currently exists in this region of the state. It serves the needs of child sexual and physical abuse, adult sexual assault and domestic violence under one roof.

**Northwoods Battered Women's Shelter, Inc.** primarily serves Beltrami and Cass counties. NBWS is a domestic violence shelter and advocacy program with a vision of a community free of domestic violence in which safety is a basic human right. NBWS provides emergency crisis shelter and advocacy to victims/survivors of intimate partner violence; this includes shelter services to women and their children and short-term safe housing to men and their children.

**Hope House** provides community support services to people with serious and persistent mental illness so they can live in the community in the least restrictive setting, function at their best level and reduce the need for involuntary hospitalization.

## Preschool Sunday School is Changing!!

Registration for Preschool Sunday School is no longer required - we are moving to a drop-in format. Preschool Sunday School will be held most Sundays (we will have a calendar available and will publish dates in the bulletin and web site) during the 9:00 a.m. Mass. The class will be limited to the first 20 preschool children (children aged 3 by September 1, 2018 - children who are five years-old and not in Kindergarten) who are signed in by a parent at the lower level of the school. We will start taking children at 8:50 a.m. Parents must come and pick up their children as soon as Mass is over. The cost - one dollar or an item to be donated to the Food Shelf per child for the Sunday he/she attends. Money collected will be donated to the Food Shelf. Please contact Kris Jensen for additional information - 441-4944.



Preschool Sunday School

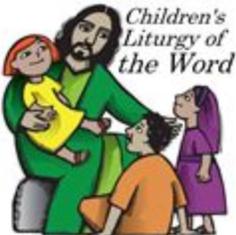
### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN in KINDERGARTEN OR 1<sup>st</sup> GRADE

What is Children's Liturgy of the Word?

It is the Liturgy of the Word suitably adapted to make it relevant to the lives and experiences of young children. It gives them the opportunity to understand the Gospel message at their own level.

Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place during the 9:00 a.m. Mass, starting in October. Schedule can be found on the Parish Web site – [www.stphilipsbemidji.org](http://www.stphilipsbemidji.org)

Children should be present at the beginning of Mass. The children leave when the priest invites them to participate in Children's Liturgy of the Word, after the Opening Prayer. Children return at the Offering. For more information contact Kris Jensen – 441-4944



## Looking for a great way to share your faith on a Sunday morning?

**Preschool Sunday School** (held during the 9:00 a.m. Mass) has openings for **Substitute Catechists** (teachers) and **Catechist Assistants** - assist a Sunday or two or the whole year - **great opportunity for school volunteer hours** or for Middle School or High Schoolers.

A **Preschool Coordinator** is also needed, **this is a paid position**.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** (held during the 9:00 Mass) needs a few **Leaders**. Leaders are assigned a weekend a month (or less depending upon how many leaders we have) to lead a group of Kindergarten and First graders who attend the 9:00 Mass in making the Sunday Gospel reading relevant to their lives and experiences. Children's Liturgy of the Word leaders must be available at the beginning of Mass to lead the students out of Mass following the opening prayer and return the children to Mass after the Prayers of the Faithful. **A great opportunity for school volunteer hours!** For more information on Preschool Sunday School or Children's Liturgy of the Word, contact Kris Jensen at 441-4944.

Share  
Your  
Faith!

## Middle School Speech Team

**Hey, Middle School Students!** If you're looking for an after-school activity that will enhance your speaking skills, and develop strengths that last a lifetime, consider joining the **BMS Speech Team**. (No, you do NOT have to speak in front of a huge audience.) We'll help you select one of the 13 categories that's right for you. Fees and forms apply, but no physical is necessary. Come to one of our two informational meetings: Monday, Dec. 3rd or Thursday, Dec. 6th from 3:30-4:30 in Kappa Room 710 at the Middle School. Practice begins on December 10th. (Excerpt from Bemidji Middle School Bulletin)





## Volunteer Opportunities:

### This Weekend:

This Saturday evening and Sunday morning & evening before and after each Mass, Hurley's will be in St. Philip's Social Hall selling religious items. They are looking for help during this event. Tasks include set-up, Mass Guardians (watching the items during Mass), sales and pack /clean up. Helping out will count towards volunteer hours.

Click this link (or cut & paste it into your browser) to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B44AFAC2BA5FC1-hurleys>

### In December:

We are in need of lunchroom monitors, especially in the month of December while our college student is on break. Monitors are in the cafeteria with the students, helping open cold lunch items, answering student questions, letting the students know when it's time to go, etc. There is more than one monitor at a time, so you will not be working alone. Time will count towards volunteer hours. Times are from 11:35 am - 1:30 pm. You can pick a set day or days of the week, or call ahead of time to let us know what day will work. Safety Environment Certification is required. Contact the school office to volunteer. (444-4938) Thank you!

### Tuesday & Sunday Evenings:

On Tuesday and Sunday evenings, the Newman Club (St. Philip's college/young adult group) gathers for Mass and a meal. Volunteers are needed to supply and cook the meal for about a dozen people.

Sign up at:(click on or copy and paste to your browser)

[https:// www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B44AFAC2BA5FC1-meals](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B44AFAC2BA5FC1-meals)

OR - contact (leave a msg for) Nancy at [ngoodman@stphilipsbemidji.org](mailto:ngoodman@stphilipsbemidji.org) or 218-441-4907.



Students are invited to eat breakfast at school each day from 7:50 -8:15 am. The cost for breakfast is \$1.75 and if you qualify for free and reduced price meals, you also qualify for the breakfast program with no additional paperwork. Daily breakfast options include your choice of cold cereal with milk, breakfast pizza/bites, French toast sticks, yogurt, juice, fruit and milk. Breakfast is not served after 8:15 am.



### St. Philip's Children's Choir sings this Sunday!

If you haven't made your weekend plans, St. Philip's Children's Choir sings this Sunday at 9 a.m. Mass. The choir is made up of 30 children from St. Philip's school and parish. They have worked hard, and they really sound wonderful!



### Upcoming Events:

**\*Monday, Dec. 3:** All School Advent Prayer. 8:30 am in the gym.

**Wednesday, Dec. 5:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Mid-Term.

**Thursday, Dec. 6:** St. Philip's Booster Club. 5:45 pm.

Continued...

\*Friday, Dec. 7: All School Advent Prayer. 8:30 am in the gym.

\*Saturday, Dec. 8: 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation at St. Philip's Parish.

\*Monday, Dec. 10: All School Advent Prayer. 8:30 am in the gym.

Thursday, Dec. 13: Advent Day of Grace at St. Philip's Parish. 7 am - 7 pm.

Friday, Dec. 14: 1<sup>st</sup> Oral Round of the Geography Bee. 10 am in the church.

\*All School Advent Prayer. 8:30 am in the gym.

\*Monday, Dec. 17: All School Advent Prayer. 8:30 am in the gym.

Math Counts meet at Bemidji Middle School.

Friday's With the Father Dinner Theatre.

Wednesday, Dec. 19: Grades K-8th School Christmas Program. 1:00 pm & 6:30 pm.

KPREP/Pre-K M-W-F Christmas Program. 10:15 am in the church.

\*Thursday, Dec. 20: All School Advent Prayer on Thursday this week. 8:30 am.

KPREP/Pre-K T-TH Christmas Program. 10:15 am in the church.

Friday, Dec. 21 - Tuesday, Jan. 1: Christmas Vacation.

Wednesday, Jan. 2: School Resumes.

Thursday, Jan. 3: Booster Club. 5:45 pm in the cafeteria.

Friday, Jan. 4: Geography Bee Finals. 9:30-11:30 am in the church.

Friday, Jan. 11: United Catholic Financial Raffle Kick-Off.

\*NET Retreat for Middle School grades.

Monday, Jan. 14: Math Counts Competition at St. Philip's. 1:00 pm.

Wednesday, Jan. 16: 1st oral round of Spelling Bee. 10 am in the church.

Friday, Jan. 18: No School. Teacher Inservice.

Monday, Jan. 21: No School. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observed.

\*Indicates a new event added to the calendar since last week.