



# The Bemidji Catholic Community

## The Church of St. Philip

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Release Date: Sept. 6, 2021

### **2021 St. Philip's Block Party goes hybrid**

Sanford Bemidji Medical Center officials recently asked St. Philip's Block Party Committee to consider modifying this community event in response to high Covid-19 levels and staffing shortages. Hospital officials expressed concern about the timing of the event, which coincides with an anticipated spike in cases in our area and could contribute to overwhelming their systems.

Considering this request, concern for volunteers and attendees, and with low volunteer levels, the committee has decided to hold the online silent auction and 50/50 raffles as scheduled and plan a fellowship event (Drive-in Bingo or something else) when there is less risk. Outdoor events will not take place Sept. 11.

The goal of the St. Philip's Block Party is to promote fellowship, serve the community, and raise funds for St. Philip's ongoing activities and programs that support its mission, "to Accomplish God's Work."

"Ignoring this request and potentially putting people at risk for an event that can be modified would contradict our call to serve others," Maryhelen Chadwick, director of stewardship and communication said, "Many have generously donated items and put in countless hours to support this event. We hope people will embrace the opportunity to help us raise funds by bidding online or buying \$5.00 50/50 raffle tickets in the Parish Office or after weekend Masses."

There are more than 80 wonderful baskets in the Silent Auction donated by local businesses and parishioners. Online ([www.stphilipsbemidji.org](http://www.stphilipsbemidji.org)) bidding begins Tuesday, Sept. 7 and ends Sunday, Sept. 12 at approximately 12:30 p.m. Winners of the 50/50 drawing will be selected at approximately 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12. Plans for a future event will be released as soon as possible.

Questions should be directed to Maryhelen Chadwick at 218-444-4262 or [mhchadwick@stphilipsbemidji.org](mailto:mhchadwick@stphilipsbemidji.org).