

Why Go To Confession?

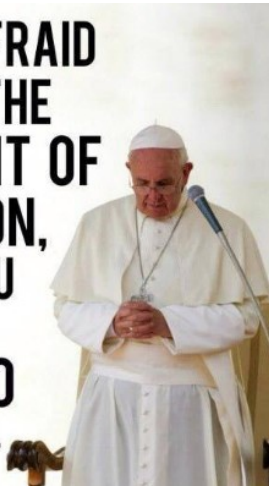
Sin causes a three-fold damage in relationships:
1. With God 2. With Others 3. With Ourselves
Confession reconciles and heals us with God and the community!

21 reasons to Go to Confession!

1. God commanded we confess our sins to one another in the Bible. (James 5:16)
2. It is the ordinary way to have our sins forgiven.
3. We receive grace to resist sin through the Sacrament, as well as forgiveness.
4. We learn humility by having to confess to another person.
5. There is built-in accountability.
6. Our relationship with the rest of the Church is healed.
7. We receive counsel from the priest.
8. We can be comforted hearing the words of absolution.
9. All are sins are wiped away.
10. Helps give you the strength to forgive others.
11. It doesn't cost anything.

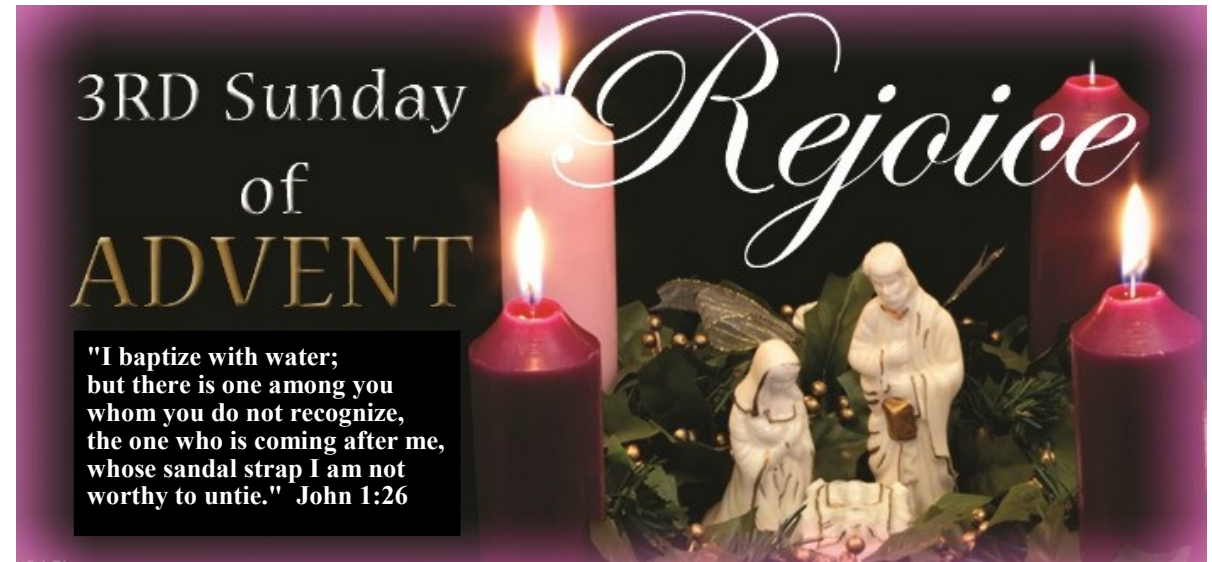
12. We may not be positive that we have "perfect" contrition without it.
13. Helps us go deep within and think about how we can improve.
14. It feels good emotionally.
15. When we realize (again) we are sinners, it is easier to be patient with others.
16. Always confidential – what is said in the confessional stays in the confessional.
17. No more guilt.
18. We are better prepared to receive the Eucharist.
19. Forgiveness is a necessary part of growing in holiness.
20. Our consciences can be better formed.
21. If we have mortally sinned, then Confession brings us back into the family of God – The Church as well as restores sanctifying grace in our souls!

**DON'T BE AFRAID
TO GO TO THE
SACRAMENT OF
CONFESSION,
WHERE YOU
WILL MEET
JESUS WHO
FORGIVES YOU.**
Pope Francis



Questions about Confession? For the answer to questions like, "Is the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) necessary to have your sins forgiven or can you go straight to God?" or, "Why do we need this Sacrament?" go to: <http://www.aggiecatholicblog.org/2015/03/21-reasons-to-go-to-confession-why-catholics-confess-sins-to-priests/>

St. Philip Neri Catholic Church A Discipleship Parish



**"I baptize with water;
but there is one among you
whom you do not recognize,
the one who is coming after me,
whose sandal strap I am not
worthy to untie." John 1:26**

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**"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks
in all circumstances; for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you"
– 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16 – 18**

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with

God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations.

St. Philip Neri Prayer Chain - Contact Janet Christmann Bitz at 754-2295 or janetbitz14@gmail.com

CCD - Grades K-6 on Sundays at 11:00 AM and Grades 7-12 on Wednesdays at 7:30-8:45 PM.

Confessions: 1/2 hr before every Mass, 1 hour before Saturday Mass, OR by appointment.

Weddings: Contact Fr. Pfeifer at least 6 months prior.

Baptisms: Contact Fr. Pfeifer before Godparents are chosen.

December 17, 2017
Third Sunday
of Advent

Mon., Dec 18 7 PM +Evie & +Lawrence Mertes by Deacon Gary & Jeanne Schu- macher
Tue., Dec 197 PM +Agnes Gross (Death) by The Family
Wed., Dec 208 AM +Pete Horner by Steve Engel- hardt
Thurs., Dec 218 AM +Joey Hilzendegeer by Janet Dewald
Fri., Dec 22.....8 AM +Bernhard (Birth) & +Katie Wei- gel by The Family
Sat., Dec 235 PM +Leo & +Kenegunda Unser by Tony & +Rita Wangler & Family
Sun., Dec 2410 AM Our Parishioners
Sun., Dec 24 Care Center 8:45 AM +Lanny Henning by Char Hen- ning Helper: Phyllis Johnson
Sun., Dec 24.....4 PM +Roy Pfeifer by Fr. Neil Pfeifer & Family
Mon., Dec 25.....Midnight Our Parishioners
Mon., Dec 25.....10 AM Deceased Family Members by Ann Sperle & Family
Mon., Dec 25 Care Center 8:45 AM +Fr. Jack Cosentino Helper: Phyllis Johnson

Parish Announcements

Finance Council Mtng Wed., Dec. 20th 4 PM in St. Michael Rm.

Advent Reconciliation Service on Sun., December 17th at 7:30 PM. Three priests will be available.

Extra Confession Times (in addition to before each Mass) – Every day Tuesday, Dec. 19 through Friday, Dec. 22nd at 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM and Saturday morning, Dec. 23rd, from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM. These times will be canceled if there is a funeral.

Get your **2018 parish calendar** in the entryway. These calendars highlight Feasts & Saint days, Holy Days, and Liturgical Seasons.

Thank you to the Hispanic community in our parish who organized a beautiful **Our Lady of Guadalupe** celebration for our parish. It was a beautiful turnout for the Eucharistic Procession, Mass, and Meal. A special thank you to this committee for the beautiful Our Lady of Guadalupe image that was donated to our parish.

St. Philip's next Youth Night is Dec. 20th for grades 7-12 – The students will be able to go to Adoration, go to confession (2 priests), and will get to spend time with their mentors.

Life in the Spirit Seminar - Jan. 5, 6, and 7, 2018 at Little Flower Parish in Rugby. Learn to live in the power of the Holy Spirit and deepen your relationship with the Lord. Call or text 701-208-0461.

KC Info: (1) Free throw contest Dec. 22nd @ 10:30 AM in the school gym. Any brother knight able to help contact Danny Schmidt 471-6135. **(2) Fruit baskets** also delivered Dec. 22nd, meet at Del's at 4:30 PM. **(3) KC meeting** moved to Tues. Dec., 26th at 8 PM.

There are a few prints of the **St. Boniface Church** left if anyone would like to purchase one as a Christmas gift. \$60 each (50% off). Contact Cheryl Weigel at 332-6663.

Daily Advent Challenge – This week spend ten minutes a day and open the Bible and read God's love letter: His Word written to you. He has the recipe for salvation for those who fall in love with him.

St. Philip Neri Advent Essay Contest – All entries due this Sunday the 17th. Winner in each of the five age groups will be awarded a White Maid gift certificates: Grade 1-2 Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-10, and Grade 11-Age 110. Theme: "What does it mean to me to keep Christ in my Christmas preparations?"

Baby Jesus Christmas Ornaments - \$10 for 1, \$7 for each additional. Ornaments can be purchased for deceased or living family members, godchildren, grandparents, siblings, or whatever intention you would like. They are for you to own after Christmas. Last weekend of sales!

Congratulations to **John and Grace Jangula** who are celebrating their 30th anniversary at the Saturday Night Mass this week.

Stewardship of Treasure
This Week: \$ 3,305.91

Mass Times - We are obligated to go to one 4th Sunday of Advent Mass (Dec. 23rd-24th) and one Christmas Mass (Dec. 24th-25th).
4th Sunday of Advent Mass Times - Sat., Dec. 23 at 5 PM & Sun., Dec. 24 at 8:45 AM (at Care Center) and 10 AM at the Church.
Christmas Mass Times - 4 PM on Sun., Dec. 24th *Children's Mass*; 12 AM *Midnight Mass*; 8:45 AM Mon., Dec. 25th at the Care Center, and 10 AM at the Church *Christmas Day*. **(Going to one of the Sunday Masses does not fulfill both obligations.)**

For those who are attending Midnight Mass, the choir would like to invite you to come and join them at the church to sing along with your favorite **carols starting at 11:30 PM** on Dec. 24. There will be no rosary at midnight Mass.

Incense will be used at the 4 PM Children's Christmas Eve Mass, the midnight Mass, and 10 AM Christmas Day Mass. If you struggle with incense, please sit towards the back of the church.

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection – Thanks to all who participated and gave to the generosity of this collection. This year we collected \$422 for our senior religious who have served the church.

Bible Timeline class will continue after Mass on Monday evening as we begin the book of Exodus. Because New Year's Day is the first Monday of the Month in January, we will meet the third (15th) and fifth (29th) Monday nights of that month.

Annulment and Marriage Validation – If you are divorced and would like to remarry, or divorced and remarried, or married and it is not recognized or blessed by the Catholic Church, please call Fr. Pfeifer to learn about getting your marriage blessed in the church. In the Catholic Church, marriage is a sacrament where God gives grace to those who are open to receive it.

Consider Making a Year-End Gift to our Parish. This time of year, we may consider giving back some of our wealth or assets to God and His Church with a special year-end gift of cash or appreciated assets such as shares of stock. For info, contact the office. Year-end donations need to be at the parish office by Fri., December 29, 2017 to reflect your 2017 donations. Thanks for your generosity!

Regardless of the trials you face during the **Christmas season**, the gift you need most is the One who longs to live in your heart. Despite the tough circumstances you're facing, God's plan is the best plan for your life; He loves you too much to think otherwise. No matter the ache or the longing, the sorrow or the suffering, the birth of Jesus brought hope and healing to the entire world. For this, we can celebrate with **JOY!**

St. Philip Neri
Catholic Church

Saturday, Dec. 23rd

<u>Sacristan</u>	Phyllis Johnson
<u>Rosary</u>	Paul Haegele
<u>Lectors</u>	Rick Regner, Phyllis Johnson
<u>Ushers/ Gift Bearers</u>	Curt C. Family; John & Sally Johs
<u>Servers</u>	Charmiane Haas, McKinzie Haas, Sabrina Haas
<u>EMHC</u>	Angelica Revolorio, Jenny Weigel, Jackie Weigel

Sunday, Dec. 24th

<u>Sacristan</u>	Dawn Becker
<u>Rosary</u>	Nick Breidenbach
<u>Lectors</u>	Richard Gross, Mitch Leier
<u>Ushers/ Gift Bearers</u>	David Becker Family; Deran Piatz Family
<u>Servers</u>	Anna Bitz, Yikealo Breidenbach, Jada Schwartz, William Kleppe, Kaydra Kleppe
<u>EMHC</u>	David Becker, Jackie Grunefelder, Mary Schwartz