

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2014



PARISH STAFF		PARISH ORGANIZATION LEADERS	
Fr. Thomas Olson	398-2229	Christian Women, Anita Neu	685-3287
Brenda Kraemer, Secretary	764-7345	Men's Society, Lee Bautch	597-3255
Sandy Stang, Parish Nurse	764-2030	Catholic United, Barb Walz	685-7376
Julene Faber, Musician	685-7211	Prayer Line, Sue Frank	stfrank@meltel.net OR 764-9112
Melanie Pauls, Musician	309-5043	Ministry Scheduler, Annette Stang	764-5339
Mat & Barb Walz, Rel. Ed Coordinators	685-7376	Parish Council, Don Kuechle	453-3120
Cell phone	320-217-4531	Parish Council, Sue Stommes	597-3454
		Parish Council, John Schutz	764-6171
		Parish Council, Vicki Landwehr	764-6603
		Parish Council, Robert Kraemer	685-3715
		Parish Council, Marion Frank	764-9111
		Trustee, Mike Kuechle	685-3225
		Trustee, Mary Caskey	597-2854

*Bulletin Deadline is Thursday at 9am
 *Email: stnicholas@meltel.net
 *Website: www.churchofsaintnicholas.com
 *Usual Office Hours of Secretary are Monday and Thursday from 9:00 to 11:30am.

MASS SCHEDULE

Dec 13	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	3 rd Sunday of Advent	Special Intention E.J.
Dec 14	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	3 rd Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish
Dec 15	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Advent Weekday	
Dec 16	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Advent Weekday	+Arnold Wehsele
Dec 17	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	Late Advent Weekday	
Dec 18	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Late Advent Weekday	+Carol Fuchs
Dec 19	Friday	NO MASS	Late Advent Weekday	
Dec 20	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	4 th Sunday of Advent	+Michael Rausch
Dec 21	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	4 th Sunday of Advent	+Val Dufner

Weekend Masses at St. Anne's in Kimball are Saturday at 5:00 pm and Sunday at 8:00 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday at 7:00 pm at St. Nicholas.

Weddings: Engaged couples should see the pastor at least 6 months before the planned wedding date.

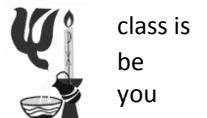
Anointing of the Sick: Call the parish office for homebound or hospitalized.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

	Eucharistic Ministers	Servers	Ushers	Lector
Dec 20 at 7:30 pm	Art Faber Barb Walz Judi Schreiner	Damian Lincoln Connor Lincoln	Elmer Vossen Ralph Schreiner	Judi Schreiner
Dec 21 at 10 am	Lee Bautch Leo Klaers Mike Kuechle	James Gathje Katherine Gathje	Peter Stang-Walz Jerry Boeckmann	Shirley Kuechle

Confession Schedule: A Penance Service will be held on Sunday, December 21st at 4:00 pm at St. Nicholas and 7 pm at St. Anne with 2 priests available. Other Confession times will be on Monday, December 22nd at St. Anne at 8:30 am AND at 7 pm. Tuesday, December 23rd at St. Nicholas at 8:30 am AND at 7 pm.

Baptismal Class: The next Baptismal Class will be held on January 22, 2015 at 7 pm at St. Anne's Church. This class is for all expectant parents who have never taken this class OR you have not taken this class in our parish before. It should be taken BEFORE the birth of your child. Both parents are expected to attend. Call St. Anne's to register at 398-2211. If you know of someone who should take this class, please tell them!



class is
be
you

Dear Parishioners,

May Christmas Peace fill your home and our Parish! In Bethlehem, on the first Christmas, God entered our world in our human form to be with us as helper and friend. "God so loved the world that he gave his own Son . . ."

There was no room at the Inn; may we make room for the Christ in our hearts and homes. Angels came to announce the great joy of our Savior's birth; may we be good messengers of his Gospel. Shepherds came to adore the newborn Christ; may we make haste to give adoration at each Sunday Mass. Wise men brought gifts; may we be a gift to God in the faithful service of our lives. King Herod tried to kill the Christ; may we always protect Christ's people and church. The Holy Family became refugees in Egypt; may we always be willing to help the afflicted. Come to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord Jesus and may the peace and joy of Christ be your special gift. ~ Fr. Tom



Stewardship of Treasure Dec. 7, 2014

Adult	\$XXX (50 of 199 envelopes)
Youth	XXX (3 gifts)
Loose	XXX
TOTAL	\$XXXXX
Energy Needs	\$XXX (2 gifts)
Retired Religious	\$XXX (1 gift)
All Saints	\$XXX (1 gift)

Stewardship Thought: We came from dust and to dust we will one day return. Every blessing we have comes from you, Lord. Let us prove to be good & faithful stewards of all our time, talents and treasures.

All Souls	\$XXX (1 gift)	Votive Stand
Thanksgiving	\$XXX (2 gifts)	\$XXX
Immaculate Conc.	\$XXX (2 gifts)	



Gospel Connection: A young American woman had just arrived in northeastern Japan to teach English in a small school. Within her first 15 minutes of driving in Japan for the first time, she rear-ended a car driven by a pregnant Japanese woman, who had to be taken to the hospital. The American teacher, who had to communicate with police through a translator, was terrified. She returned to her apartment, awake all night haunted by countless "what ifs." The next morning, the teacher received a message from the woman. She wanted the teacher to know that she and her baby were fine, that she wanted no money, and that she felt very badly for the teacher who was new to the country and had to be so afraid and scared. The relieved teacher was in utter disbelief at such gracious and compassionate forgiveness. Three months later, a more experienced and cautious teacher was driving to school when a fisherman collided into the side of her car. After the fisherman stammered an apology and offered money, she told him the story of her first accident. She refused to accept any money from him - to accept it would uproot the goodness she had experienced from the young mother three months before. Perhaps, the teacher later thought, this fisherman might someday be wronged through no fault of his own and pass on what she was able to give from what she received: the intangible gift of forgiveness. [Jessica Adler, writing in *The Christian Science Monitor*.]

The "way of the Lord" is made straight through a small Japanese town; a young teacher becomes a "prophet" of the forgiveness and kindness she has experienced. We are called to "testify" to the light we have seen in the compassion and forgiveness of others, to become the means to straighten the roads we travel that have been become crooked and dangerous by injustice and greed; we have been entrusted by God to transform our deserts into God's vineyard of mercy and peace.

Religious Education News: There will be class on Wednesday, December 17th. It will be our Christmas Community Service project and we will meet in the Church basement. We will be organizing boxes of items to send to soldiers abroad, among other things. Please bring your items for the boxes. Flyers should have been sent home with students, or please check the website for ideas! We will also be working on tie blankets and food baskets. Also, for treats to enjoy while we are working on these projects, 1st to 8th graders are asked to bring homemade cookies, bars, and candies. Those in grades 9th to 11th grade should bring chees, crackers, lunch meat, or a fruit bowl. Please be generous! **Everyone is welcome to attend this evening!**

Parish Council Drawing: Parish Council Drawing is THIS WEEKEND. One man and one woman will be drawn at each weekend Mass. There were 41 men and 35 women nominated; of these 8 men and 9 women accepted their nominations. The names in the drawing are those that accepted their nomination.



Sharing Tree: If you were unable to bring back your donation for our Sharing Tree, you can still deliver your donation to the Rocori Area Food Shelf at 217 Main Street, Cold Spring. Their phone number is 685-8785. Please be aware that they have moved from out of the basement at the State Bank in Cold Spring to their own building!

Troops Service Project: **To all Parishioners:** The Rel. Ed. students are helping with Care Packages for the Troops. They are asked to bring in items that will be boxed up and sent to troops overseas. *If any other parishioners want to donate items to this project*, please contact Betty Lutgen to set up when/where you can drop the items off. The RE kids will pack the box(s) this Wednesday night (Dec 17) at their Christmas Party. Some ideas of items that troops really appreciate and that travel well: individual flavored water packets, Keurig containers, game/puzzle books, dice, salty snacks, beef jerky, sunflower seeds, microwave popcorn, decks of cards, stationary/envelopes, tea bags, lip balm, etc. This is a very short list with lots of other possibilities. The troops also enjoy short letters so the kids were asked to write a letter if they wanted to and they would be included too. So if you can help with making a soldier's Christmas season brighter, we would really appreciate any help. Thanks



Incense will be used: Incense will be used during the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses.

Thank you: A huge THANK YOU goes out to Jim Wenner of Wenner Funeral Home for providing the calendars for 2015. Fr. Tom will be blessing them at this weekend's Masses. Please, one per family. They will be in the back of church to pick up.

Caps of Love: Thank you for all of the CAPS! Continue to bring in all of your hard plastic caps! We are making good progress!

Tree Donation: We are looking for someone to donate our real tree for the alter this year. The tree should be 8 to 10 feet tall. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Annette Stang at 764-5339.



Community Events:

- Sunday, Dec. 14th: Christmas Breakfast at St. Wendelin's Parish in Luxemburg, MN. Serving Egg bake, sausage, etc. from 8:30 am to Noon. There will be a bake sale and raffle. Visits with Santa will be from 10 am to 11:30.
- Sunday, Dec. 14th: Advent Healing Mass at the National Shrine of St. Odilia in Onamia, MN. Celebrate Mass with the Anointing of the Sick. Mass at 9:30 am. Coffee & rolls will be served after Mass. All are welcome!
- March 20-22, 2015 is the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend in Baxter, MN. For registration contract Alan & Missy at applications@northmnwwme.org or 888-455-3496. Learn how to renew your marriage & draw closer to God!

Readings for the Week: Monday, Dec. 15th: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a / Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday, Dec. 16th: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 / Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday, Dec. 17th: Gn 49:2, 8-10 / Mt 1:1-17

Thursday, Dec. 18th: Jer 23:5-8 / Mt 1:18-25

Friday, Dec. 19th: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a / Lk 1:5-25