

# CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 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, David Stang	764-5339
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, John Schutz	764-6171
Cell phone	320-217-4531	Parish Council, Vicki Landwehr	764-6603
<b>*Bulletin Deadline is Thursday at 9am</b> <b>*Email: stnicholas@meltel.net</b> <b>*Website: www.churchofsaintnicholas.com</b> <b>*Usual Office Hours of Secretary are Monday and Thursday from 9:00 to 11:30am.</b>		Parish Council, Robert Kraemer	685-3715
		Parish Council, Marion Frank	764-9111
		Parish Council, Paul Ludwig	764-2336
		Parish Council, Angie Spitzley	453-2091
		Trustee, Mike Kuechle	685-3225
		Trustee, Mary Caskey	597-2854

**MASS SCHEDULE**

Dec 20	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	+Michael Rausch
Dec 21	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	+Val Dufner
Dec 22	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Late Advent Weekday	
Dec 23	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Late Advent Weekday	+Kelly Frank
Dec 24	Wednesday	{SA} 5:00 pm	Nativity of the Lord	
		{SN} 9:00 pm	Nativity of the Lord	People of the Parish
Dec 25	Thursday	{SA} 8:00 am	Nativity of the Lord	
		{SN} 10:00 am	Nativity of the Lord	Intention of the Celebrant
Dec 26	Friday	NO MASS	St. Stephen	
Dec 27	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	The Holy Family	+Dolores Bragelmann
Dec 28	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	The Holy Family	People of the Parish

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 24 at 9:00 pm	Jeff Theis Judy Schutz Rick Utecht	Nathan Utecht Derek Utecht	Laverne Ludwig Jack Rausch	Anita Neu
Dec 25 at 10 am	Brenda Kraemer Elmer Frank Greg Utecht	Sarah Kraemer Kathy Kraemer	Sy Schreiner Robert Kraemer	Mike Kuechle
Dec 27 at 7:30 pm	Louise Schutz Rita Schwartz Barb Walz	Lauren Johannes Volunteer	Art Faber Ron Steil	Cassey Lahr
Dec 28 at 10:00 am	Judy Schutz Trish Ludwig Mary Caskey	Luke Ludwig Maggie Ludwig	Paul Ludwig Elmer Frank	Doug Caskey

**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!



**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. 14, 2014

Adult	\$XXX (53 of 199 envelopes)
Youth	XXX (2 gifts)
Loose	XXX
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$XXXXX</b>
Human Development	\$XXX (1 gift)
Retired Religious	\$XXX (5 gifts)
Christmas	\$XXX (1 gift)

Stewardship Thought:

The earth is yours, Lord, and everything in it. The world & all its people belong to you. Let my whole life be an offering to you.

Christmas Flowers

\$XXX (3 gifts)

Solemnity of Mary


\$XXX (2 gifts)

Thanksgiving

\$XXX (2 gifts)

Immaculate Conc.

\$XXX (16 gifts)



**Gospel Connection:** A mom was working hard to make this Christmas "perfect" - after a less-than-perfect year: She and her husband separated, leaving her responsible for the children and their small farm in Maryland. She was feeling bitter, abandoned and exhausted from trying to make it all work. On Christmas Eve, the kids were working on last-minute projects and getting ready for church. She realized that the animals had not been fed yet, so she pulled off her heels and stuffed herself - still in her dress and pearls - into heavy-duty zippered coveralls. She put on her muddy barn boots, warm gloves and ski cap and headed outside. In the clear, night air she headed to the barn. And she began filling the troughs for the two Hereford steers, the gray Appaloosa mare, the rust-colored quarter horse; she climbed into the loft and broke apart a bale of hay; she then cracked the ice in the water trough. Soon the animals were enjoying their Christmas dinner. In the quiet dark of the barn, she could hear the slow *crunch-crunch* of the steers and horses munching their grain and flutter of pigeons hopping around for stray kernels of grain. The stamping of feet, swishing of tails and low throaty moos made a kind of music in the crisp night air. The rich scents of loamy earth, grain and hay flooded her nostrils. *What a wonderful place this barn is, she thought. Is that why you chose to be born in a barn, O God? Away from the hustle and bustle, surrounded only by the simple creatures of the earth? Away from the worries of the world?* She was filled with wonder and awe; her pain and anger and rejection melted; she felt in that barn a peace that had eluded her for a long time. She remembers of that moment: "I leaned against the rough timber of the door post for a long time, drawing in that feeling of being cared for, of being absolutely loved. I drew it in as hungrily as the animals devoured their feed . . . No, perhaps the glad tidings of that first Christmas in Bethlehem were not expressed in a pretty dinner table laid with fine china, a beautifully decorated house or a candlelight church service, or in anything else I could do. The good news was in the overpowering reality of Christ's birth, and the love that lit our darkness like the brightest star. On that Christmas Eve, he came to a barn once again, just to remind me of that love." [From "A Moment in the Barn" by Nancy McGuirk, *Guideposts*, December 2005.]

Christ's peace is present in our own barns and mangers; the love of God is the unseen but always present guest in our homes and hearths. As this exhausted and bitter mom discovers, the glad tidings of Christmas is heard in the quiet realization of God's presence in the noise and busyness of our lives. As you make your final preparations for your family's Christmas celebrations, take a moment and stop in the night quiet of your own "barn," and give thanks for the many ways God makes himself known there; embrace and be embraced in his love that heals your brokenness and restores your hope; and make room for him at your table in every season of the new year.


**Religious Education News:** The next class will not be until Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. **Thank you** to everyone that participated in our service project. It was a tremendous success! We completed 8 tie blankets, 7 food baskets were put together, and 9 boxes were filled with items that will be sent to our troops overseas. The RE students did such a nice job and they had a great time singing and also enjoying baked goodies! With all the goodies the RE families were so generous with, we had about 7 trays left over to take to the homeless shelter in St. Cloud. We would also like to **THANK** the Christian Women for donating the cost of the fleece for the blankets! Thank you again to all who contributed to this service project in any way.

**Parish Council:** Congratulations to the new members that were drawn this last weekend. We welcome Paul Ludwig and Angie Spitzley to the Parish Council! We would like to THANK Don Kuechle and Sue Stommes for their years of service on the Council! We would also like to THANK those men & women who accepted their nominations! The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Sharing Tree:** I want to give my person THANK YOU to everyone who helped in making our Sharing Tree a huge success. I could not do this project without the support of the entire parish. A special thank-you goes out to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, teacher & parents who helped set up the tree & all who boxed up the items. For those of you who donated cash, I spent the money at Mills Fleet purchasing additional toys/items focusing on kids 6 to 12. I know we have made many children's Christmas extra special this year. The Cold Spring Area Food Shelf was thrilled by all the items we donated. Merry Christmas to Everyone! Mary Caskey

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

**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.



**Thank you:** The Family of Judy & Gene Schutz would like to THANK all of you for your support and prayers since Judy's mother, Dolores Braegelmann, has passed. It is very much appreciated!

**Basketball Hoop:** Maybe some of you might have noticed that the backboard of the basketball hoop in our parking lot has been broken. Please use caution in that area until it can be cleaned up.

**Community Events:**

- Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>: 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. 14<sup>th</sup>: 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. 22<sup>nd</sup>: 1 Sm 1:24-28 / Lk 1:46-56  
Tuesday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 / Lk 1:57-66  
Wednesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 / Lk 1:67-79  
Thursday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>: Is 52:7-10 / Heb 1:1-6 / Jn:1:1-18  
Friday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 / Mt 10:17-22

**Confession Schedule:** A Penance Service will be held on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> at St. Anne at 8:30 am AND at 7 pm. Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at St. Nicholas at 8:30 am AND at 7 pm.