

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2015



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
*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 11:30 am.		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


Nov 28	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	First Sunday of Advent	+Tom Decker
Nov 29	Sunday	{SN}10:00 am	First Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish
Nov 30	Monday	{SA}8:00 am	St. Andrew	
Dec 1	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Advent Weekday	+Dolores Braegelmann
		{SN} 5 – 8 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Dec 2	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	Advent Weekday	
		{SA} 9 – 7 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Dec 3	Thursday	{SN} NO MASS	St. Francis Xavier	
Dec 4	Friday	NO MASS	Advent Weekday	
Dec 5	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	Second Sunday of Advent	+Alfred Theis
Dec 6	Sunday	{SN}10:00 am	Second Sunday of Advent	+St. Nicholas
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 visits.
Our website has important information, including the weekly bulletin! www.churchofsaintnicholas.com

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES				
	Eucharistic Ministers	Servers	Ushers	Lector
Dec 5 at 7:30 pm	Louise Schutz Rita Schwartz Art Faber	Damian Lincoln Connor Lincoln	Allen Stommes Tom Landwehr	Cassey Lahr
Dec 6 at 10:00 am	Judy Schutz Elmer Frank Kelly Bautch	Andrew Bautch Michael Bautch	Peter Stang-Walz Ron Stang	Lee Bautch

Sharing Tree: The 7th grade religious education class is sponsoring our Sharing Tree. This year our church will be donating toys and non-food items to the Area Cold Spring Food Shelf. The Food Shelf is sponsoring a Toys for Tots program with toys going to local children. The tags on the tree are marked for various ages of children 12 and under and items for the food shelf (in particular non-food items such as bar soap, shampoo, laundry soap, etc.). You are more than welcome to also donate healthy food items. Cash received will be used to purchase additional toys and needed food items for families during the holidays. **All items need to be turned in by December 6th. We will be boxing up the toys and other items after Mass – all are welcome to help, particularly 7th graders and their families.** We appreciate any help you can give to make Christmas special this year for area families. Mary Caskey (597-2854).



 **Our Sympathy:** Our sympathy to the family and friends of Elmer Hechtel, who died and was buried this past week. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Advent Reflection: If Jesus were coming today, would he look at our actions and say, “Well done”? What have we done for the least of our brothers and sisters, and thus for Him?

Advent: The Kingdom of God is Near: what if you made this Advent season radically different? This is a very busy time of year. But, as Jesus reminds us in this week’s Gospel, the Son of Man is coming. There is no set date in stone to remind us. We have to live like we are ready, all of the time. Running from commitment to obligation doesn’t leave much room for joy and praise, peace and prayer. So this Advent, start your planning with a blank slate. Will Christmas still come even if you don’t exchange presents with your siblings? Who says you have to have a tree? What are your Advent essentials?

Stewardship of Treasure November 22, 2015

Adult	\$XXX	(41 of 162 envelopes)
Youth	XXX	(3 of 45 envelopes)
Loose	XXX	
TOTAL	\$XXXXXX	


Energy Needs

Thanksgiving

\$XXX (2 gifts)

\$XXX (6 gifts)

Stewardship Thought: Lord, we give because we are so thankful for all you have given us. Please multiply our efforts and use our gifts to grow your kingdom.



Gospel Connection: The new film *The Martian* is one of the most compelling movies of the year. Mark Watney is part of a six-person mission to Mars. During a raging windstorm, the astronauts have to evacuate the planet. In the chaos to get to the launcher, Watney is struck by a piece of debris and blown away. The crew can't find him and are forced to leave him behind. But Watney survives. And so begins an intense scramble on both Mars and Earth to bring Mark Watney home. As the story unfolds, we become caught up, first, with the preciousness - and limits - of time. Every single item Mark has on Mars is carefully measured: every drop of water, every potato he is able to grow, every bit of power - and every minute. Mark meticulously rations every necessity in terms of days and weeks and months in order to survive on the Martian surface. On Earth, meanwhile, NASA engineers and scientists go to work to bring Mark home, constantly aware of time. Every moment of the 400 days needed to get a rescue mission together is critical - and there are only certain windows of time when such a rescue can be launched. Every day and every detail of preparation take on urgency. And we also become aware of the power of hope. Mark is utterly alone on this cold, lifeless, red rock. But Mark never loses hope. He approaches every new crisis as an exercise in problem-solving. His challenge is to get his fear and despair under control long enough to think through each situation. Back on Mother Earth, NASA scientists and engineers work long hours and concoct crazily innovative solutions, taking huge risks in the process. And Mark's crew mates selflessly commit to another 533 days in space in order to "slingshot" their spacecraft around Earth to return to Mars and rescue Mark. Everyone in the film is convinced that humankind survives because we possess the ability to work together to solve problems. As the director of NASA flight operations reminds the team cobbling the rescue mission together, one human life is priceless, well worth moving heaven and earth for.

The preciousness of time and of hope that never wavers is the call of this Advent season. These first four weeks of the liturgical year point to the reality that our lives, measured in a finite period of days, find their meaning and purpose in seeking the things of God: compassion, peace, reconciliation and justice. And Advent also calls us to embrace a spirit of hope: that, in imitating the selflessness of the Christ who comes at Christmas, we can realize the Kingdom of God in our own time and on our own "planet"; that the light of God's Messiah illuminates our vision enabling us to see our world and ourselves as God sees us: as a people formed and bound by the unimaginable and unconditional - but very real - love of God.

Religious Education: The next class will be on Wednesday, December 2nd. There will be confessions for Grades 3-7. The next week (December 9th) there will be confessions for Grades 8-11.

Choir at St. Nicholas: It's that time of year again for choir to begin at St. Nicholas! Melanie would love to have you in the choir loft during Sunday Mass! Just come and join her. Melanie generally holds practice a half hour before Mass begins.

Donations: If anyone has a 8 to 10 foot pine tree that they would like to donate for Christmas decorations, it would be greatly appreciated! Also, if you would like to make donations for Christmas flowers, please include your donation in a separate envelope in the collection basket during Mass.



Parish Council Nominations: The following men and women have graciously accepted their nomination for the Parish Council: Darlene Ludwig, Shirley Lutgen, Sandy Stang and Cassie Lahr for the women, and Steve Stang, Jerry Boeckmann, Jeff Theis and Roger Utecht for the men. There were a total of 34 women and 37 men nominated. One women and one man will be chosen by random draw at each weekend Mass.

Quarterly Meetings: The Quarterly Meetings are scheduled for **Sunday, December 6th**. Catholic United Financial will meet at 7:30 pm and the Christian Women and Men's Society will meet at 8:00 pm. The Lunch Committee will be Brenda Kraemer and Jan Lahr bringing a desert.

Christian Women's Organization: The CW would like to invite all women of our parish who are not yet part of the organization to join this group. As a group, we meet 4 times per year to discuss any issues concerning our parish. At this time, we set dates for cleaning the church and parish grounds, hold 2 breakfasts, organize funerals and deciding the need and payment of kitchen item purchases. We would welcome any and all new ideas to make the CW a more active part of our church community. We will have inductions into the CW at our December 6th meeting. Please give Anita Neu (685-3287) or Judi Schreiner (764-9080) a call with any questions or if you would like to join our group. The CW organization has been a vital part of our church community for over 100 years and we would like to keep it active for many more years!

Catholic Charities: Make God's Love Visible: At Catholic Charities, we believe: *No one should be without food. *No one should be without a safe place to live. *No one should be without someone to lean on, and most importantly, *NO ONE SHOULD BE WITHOUT HOPE. Visit www.ccstcloud.org for more information.



Banns of Marriage: Ryan Frank and Kaitlyn Pladson will be married here at St. Nicholas on Saturday, December 12th.

Readings for the Week: Monday, Nov. 30th: Rom 10:9-18 / Mt 4:18-22
 Tuesday, Dec 1st: Is 11:1-10 / Lk 10:21-24
 Thursday, Dec 3rd: Is 26:1-6 / Mt 7:21, 24-34
 Wednesday, Dec 2nd: Is 25:6-10a / Mt 15:29-37
 Friday, Dec 4th: Is 29:17-24 / Mt 9:27-31

- Community Events:**
- Sunday, December 6th: Holiday Extravaganza at Sts. Peter & Paul School in Richmond from 9 am to 12:125 pm. Includes omelet breakfast, cookie/cake walk, silent auction and a visit from Santa!
 - Sunday, December 6th: St. Boniface Catholic United Financial Matching Grant Breakfast and Raffle from 9 am to Noon in the St. Boniface Parish Center in Cold Spring. Breakfast menu is sausage, ham, scrambled eggs, fried potatoes and all trimmings.