

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2016



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	764-5339
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
Brenda Kraemer, Rel. Ed Coordinator	685-3715	Parish Council, Robert Kraemer	685-3715
		Parish Council, Marion Frank	764-9111
		Parish Council, Paul Ludwig	764-2336
		Parish Council, Angie Spitzley	453-2091
		Parish Council, Roger Utecht	253-9547
		Parish Council, Sandy Stang	764-2030
		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 11:30 am.			

MASS SCHEDULE

Nov 26	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	First Sunday of Advent	+Tommy Decker
Nov 27	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	First Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish
Nov 28	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Advent Weekday	
Nov 29	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Advent Weekday	+Theis Family
Nov 30	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	St. Andrew	
Dec 1	Thursday	{SN} NO MASS	Advent Weekday	
Dec 2	Friday	NO MASS	Advent Weekday	
Dec 3	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	Second Sunday of Advent	+Schwartz Family
Dec 4	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	Second Sunday of Advent	Parents who have lost a child

****There will be no WEEKDAY Mass on Thursday, December 1st. Fr. Tom will be at a Catholic Charities event.****

Weekend Masses at St. Anne's in Kimball are Saturday at 5:00 pm and Sunday at 10:00 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 3 at 7:30 pm	Louise Schutz	Emily Utecht Rachel Utecht	Allen Stommes Art Faber	Cassey Lahr
Dec 4 at 7:30 pm	Marion Frank Elmer Frank Kelly Bautch	Andrew Bautch Michael Bautch	Jerry Boeckman Ron Stang	Lee Bautch

Sharing Tree: The 7th Grade religious education class will sponsor our Sharing Tree again this year. This year, our church will be donating toys and non-food items to the Cold Spring Area Food Shelf. The Food Shelf is sponsoring a Toys for Tots program with toys going to local children. The tags that will be on the tree in the back of Church 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 as well. Cash received will be used to purchase additional toys. Older children like hood sweatshirts, slippers, bathrobes, curling irons, footballs, sleds, etc. All items need to be turned in by December 11th. We will be boxing all items up after Mass that day. We appreciate any help you can give to make Christmas special this year for area families!



Advent: God Comes Among Us: Of the sacred seasons of the Church Year, Advent is the first, observed during the first four weeks of each new Church year and leading to the celebration of Christmas. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of God into our world and our lives. Celebrating Advent focuses on themes of promise and fulfillment, darkness and light, hope and joy in anticipation of God's presence with us. Advent is celebrated not only by thanking God for Christ's first coming as a baby, but also for his presence among us today through the Holy Spirit, and in anticipation of his final coming at the end of time. The word "advent" comes from the Latin *adventus* meaning "arrival" or "coming", particularly of something having great importance.



Stewardship of Treasure November 20, 2016

Adult	\$XXX (37 of 162 envelopes)
Youth	XXX (1 of 45 envelopes)
Loose	XXX
TOTAL	\$XXXXX

Thanksgiving	\$XXX (2 gifts)
All Saints Day	\$XXX (3 gifts)
Energy Needs	\$XXX (1 gift)



Gospel Connection: As well as being a theologian, Paula Gooder is also a mom. She weaves those two perspectives together in her book *The Meaning Is in the Waiting*: "As I waited for the birth of my baby, I discovered that waiting can be a nurturing time, valuable in its own right. Until then, I had assumed that waiting could only be passive, that it involved sitting around, drumming my fingers, completely powerless to do anything until the moment of waiting passed and I could be active again. How wrong I was. The waiting of pregnancy is about as active an occupation as one can hope to engage in . . . One of the other things I learned during pregnancy was that learning to savor the time of waiting allows us also to appreciate the event when it comes. The loss of an ability to wait often brings with it the inability to be fully and joyfully present now. Instead, we are constantly looking backward to better times we used to know and forward to better times that may be coming. The more we do this, the more we miss the present . . . It [also] becomes hard to appreciate the future moment even when it does come . . . We live forever in the future, so that, when the future becomes the present, we are ill-equipped to deal with it and have lost the ability to be fully present, right now. One of the many reasons we wait in Advent is to hone our skills of being joyfully and fully present now. After a month of doing this, Christmas Day can gain a depth and meaning that would otherwise fly past in a whirl of presents and mince pies."

The season of Advent calls us to such "pregnant waiting": not passive, disengaged "waiting" for we don't know what but waiting that anticipates the future in the present that realizes that we make our futures now. The experience of waiting enables us to realize what we appreciate, value and cherish; waiting teaches us how to be present and attentive to family and friends; waiting opens up our vision and spirits to realize the love of God in our midst. This Advent season calls us to embrace the wisdom to be realized in "pregnant" waiting: to slow down and see the goodness of God around us that we rush by too quickly to see, to behold Christ in every moment of compassion, forgiveness and joy we experience in the everyday Advent of our lives.

Religious Education: CONFIRMATION classes will meet on Monday, November 28th. All other classes will meet on Wednesday, November 30th. All classes begin at 7 pm. Thank you to all of the students who participated in Thanksgiving Mass! Second Grade Reconciliations Interviews with Fr. Tom will take place on Saturday, December 3rd at 9:00 am at St. Anne's. Please keep our second graders in your prayers as they prepare for this sacrament!

Quarterly Meetings: The next Catholic United Financial, Christian Women's and Men's Society Meetings will be held on Sunday, December 4th beginning at 7:30 pm in the Church basement. Please mark your calendars!

Annual Diocesan Appeal Update: St. Nicholas Parish had a goal of \$5,946.00. So far, we have reached \$5,093.00 or 86% of our Goal. Within the last couple of weeks, you should have received a follow-up letter from the Diocese. Please respond so the Parish can again reach our goal. Thank you to all who have thus far responded.

Make God's Love Visible: Catholic Charities *Make God's Love Visible* campaign is happening throughout the Diocese of St. Cloud. Catholic Charities is not supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal. **We couldn't have made it without you!** Catholic Charities asked us to say thank you for all the support you've given this year, but they didn't want you to take their word for it. A note from one of their clients: "I just wanted to say "thank you" for the help with gas, clothes and food. I just got a job and wanted to personally pass thanks to you guys. We couldn't have made it without you!" There is still time to help people in need. Visit ccstcloud.org.

Anniversaries in 2017: Couples celebrating the milestones of their 5th, 25th, 40th, 50th or 60th anniversaries in 2017 are asked to contact Brenda in the Parish Office. You will receive an invitation from Bishop Kettler to a celebration of the Eucharist on Saturday, May 6th at 1 pm at the Cathedral of St. Mary in St. Cloud. A cake and punch reception will be held afterwards in the gathering space.

Readings for the Week: Monday, Nov. 28th: Is 4:2-6 / Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday, Nov. 29th: Is 11:1-10 / Lk 10:21-24

Thursday, Dec. 1st: Is 26:1-6 / Mt 7:21, 24-27

Wednesday, Nov. 30th: Rom 10:9-18 / Mt 4:18-22

Friday, Dec. 2nd: Is 29:17-24 / Mt 9:27-31

Community Events:

- Sunday, December 4th: Holiday Extravaganza at Sts. Peter & Paul School, Richmond from 9 am to 12:15 pm. There will be a breakfast of Ham & Cheese Omelets, a cookie/candy walk and a visit from Santa Claus!

Parish Council Nominations: The terms of Robert Kraemer and Marion Frank are completed. They can be nominated again. Current members of the Council are: Paul Ludwig, Angie Spitzley, Roger Utecht and Sandy Stang. Also, Mike Kuechle (trustee), Mary Caskey (trustee), Anita Neu (Christian Women), and David Stang (Men's Society). Do NOT nominate these people. SPOUSES OF THESE MEMBERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE. You may nominate yourself. Nomination forms will be in the pews during Masses this weekend. Please fill one out and place it in the collection basket.