

# CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 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
<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 11:30 am.</b>		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

MASS SCHEDULE

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
Dec 5	Monday	{SA} NO MASS	Advent Weekday	
		{SN} 10:30 am	Funeral Mass for Arlene Lahr	
Dec 6	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Advent Weekday	+Special Intention - RJ
		{SN} 5 – 8 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Dec 7	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	St. Ambrose	
		{SA} 9am – 7 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Dec 8	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Immaculate Conception	+Dec. Rel of V & A H Family
		{SA} 7:30 pm	Immaculate Conception	
Dec 9	Friday	NO MASS	Advent Weekday	
Dec 10	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	Third Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish
Dec 11	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	Third Sunday of Advent	+Lee & Rita Ludwig

**\*\*Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation. Attend one of these Masses!\*\***

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](http://www.churchofsaintnicholas.com)

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

	Eucharistic Ministers	Servers	Ushers	Lector
Dec 10 at 7:30 pm	Anita Neu	Lauren Johannes Dylan Utecht	Ron Steil Robert Wehseler	Elmer Neu
Dec 11 at 7:30 pm	Dave Stang Judy Schutz Mary Caskey	Caden Neiman Landon Neiman	Sy Schreiner Steve Stang	Shirley Lutgen

**Sharing Tree:** The 7<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup>. 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! **A special request came to us from the Food Shelf: They are in much need of shampoo. You can bring this in addition to your tag!**



**Our Sympathy:** Our sympathy to the Family of Arlene Lahr, who died this past week. Her funeral Mass will be on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am at St. Nicholas. Burial will be in the Parish Cemetery. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.

Stewardship of Treasure November 27, 2016				
Adult	\$XXX	(28 of 162 envelopes)	Thanksgiving	
Youth	XXX	(4 of 45 envelopes)	All Saints Day	
Loose	XXX		Parish Life Soup Supper	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$XXXXX</b>			

**Gospel Connection:** One afternoon a week she carves out a couple of hours in her already packed schedule to head to the clinic operated out of a downtown church hall. There she and a team of volunteer nurses give flu shots, treat any number of injuries, make referrals and dispense not only medical help to the poor and elderly, but compassion and caring - clad in the "camel hair" of nursing scrubs.

He's part of a group that spends Saturdays at the little track house his parish is rehabbing. The church got the building for a song from the city and plan to use it as a safe house for families in crisis. A tool belt is the "leather belt" around his waist.

Parishioners keep a freezer in the church basement stocked with food. Anyone going through a hard time because of illness, emergency or an unexpected job loss can contact the church office and they'll be in touch with supper and anything else they need - "locusts and wild honey" in the form of casseroles and apple pies.

In the spirit of John the Baptizer, "prophets" make crooked roads straight and rocky paths level by their compassionate generosity and humble giving. In our Advent care, we "proclaim" (the Greek word for "prophet") the presence of God in our midst in our simple and ordinary acts of compassion, mercy and justice. Putting on our own versions of "camel hair" and strapping on our own "belts" of "leather," may we be about the work of proclaiming and building the Kingdom of God; in the offering of our own "locusts and wild honey," may we be signs of God's presence in this Advent of our lives.

**Religious Education:** All classes will meet on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. All classes begin at 7 pm. There will be the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for Grades 3 – 6 and 11 during this class. Grades 7 – 10 will have confession on December 14<sup>th</sup>. First Reconciliation for Second Grade will be held at St. Anne’s on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**St. Nicholas Day: Feast Day, December 6:** Nicholas (280-343) came from a wealthy family, with parents who always were generous to the poor. When they died, Nicholas gave their money away to help people in need. He became a priest and was soon made a bishop. He was known for caring for children in trouble, healing the sick, and feeding the hungry. He often performed secret acts of kindness. After he died, stories of his goodness spread to many countries. He became known as Nicholas the Wonderworker. Tradition holds that kids who leave their shoes by the door before they go to sleep will wake up with their shoes filled with candy and small treats – Saint Nicholas has been there!

**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.

**Anniversaries in 2017:** Couples celebrating the milestones of their 5<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> or 60<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm at the Cathedral of St. Mary in St. Cloud. A cake and punch reception will be help afterwards in the gathering space.

**Mark Your Calendar!** We will be decorating for Christmas after Mass on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Please stay and help! Many hands make the work go faster and easier! It is so very nice to have a beautifully decorated Church, so please help make it that way! THANK YOU!

**Retirement Fund for Religious:** Your donation works for aging religious. “I read that roughly 95% of donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious aid senior religious,” a donor writes. “That’s wonderful when we truly want our donations to *work*.” Your gift works for elderly religious by helping to furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please support next week’s collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, and give to those who have given a lifetime. Please use the envelope in your packet.

**Readings for the Week:** Monday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>: Is 35:1-10 / Lk 5:17-26  
Tuesday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>: Is 40: 1-11 / Mt 18:12-14  
Wednesday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>: Is 40:25-31 / Mt 11:28-30  
Thursday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>: Gn 3:9-15, 20 / Eph 1:3-6, 11-12  
Friday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>: Is 48:17-19 / Mt 11:16-19

**Communal Penance Services:** Mark your calendar for the Communal Penance Services at both SA and SN. They will be held at St. Nicholas on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm and at St. Anne’s at 7:00 pm. **Christmas Mass Schedule will be Christmas Eve SN at 9:00 pm and SA at 5:00 pm. Christmas Day at SA at 8:00 am and SN at 10:00 am**

**Community Events:**

- Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>: K of C Breakfast at St. Boniface in Cold Spring. Serving from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Menu will be eggs, sausage, ham, hash browns, pastries, fruit, beverages. This includes councils of Jacobs Prairie, Rockville, St. Nicholas and Cold Spring.

**Advent Meditations:** This is a time of year when patience yields to frustration, fulfillment turns to greed, and enough simply becomes not enough. In these days of excess, we wonder how we can ever change our understanding of God’s provision—for us, our families, friends and strangers alike. Where is the justice in it all? It is in this season of want that we encounter a reading from the Book of Isaiah (Isaiah 11:1-10) on this second Sunday of Advent. Because our God is a God of justice, we too are a people of justice, and inequality will not rule our land. The poor will live with the rich, the adult will learn from the child, and God’s provision will be enough. We light this candle today to provide a reminder that even a small flame is enough to cast light all around it—assurance that our work for justice can speak with the voice of God.

**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.

**\*\*PLEASE CONSIDER ACCEPTING YOUR NOMINATION IF YOU ARE CALLED UPON\*\***