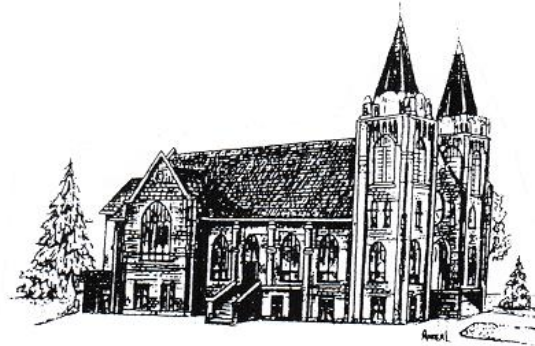


# CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 19, 2017



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, Paul Ludwig	764-2336
*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, Angie Spitzley	453-2091
		Parish Council, Roger Utecht	253-9547
		Parish Council, Sandy Stang	764-2030
		Parish Council, Don Dufner	764-9105
		Parish Council, Sue Stommes	597-3454
		Trustee, Mike Kuechle	685-3225
		Trustee, Mary Caskey	597-2854

MASS SCHEDULE

Feb 18	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish
Feb 19	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	Vocations
Feb 20	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Weekday	
Feb 21	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Weekday	+Arlene Lahr
Feb 22	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	The Chair of St. Peter	
Feb 23	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	St. Polycarp	+Msgr. Daniel Taufen
Feb 24	Friday	NO MASS	Weekday	
Feb 25	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Ervin & Louise Linn
Feb 26	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Leo & Marie Mauer

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

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES				
	Eucharistic Ministers	Servers	Ushers	Lector
Feb 25 at 7:30 pm	Rita Schwartz	Emily Utecht Rachel Utecht	Tom Landwehr Allen Stommes	Cassey Lahr
Feb 26 at 10:00 am	Sandy Stang Steve Stang Don Dufner	Sarah Kraemer Kathy Kraemer	Ron Stang Sy Schreiner	Dave Stang

**Breakfast at St. Nicholas THIS SUNDAY!** Please stay for a delicious breakfast of waffles, sausage, scrambled eggs and all the trimmings!! There will also be a raffle and a bake sale.



**Bishop’s 2017 Annual Appeal:** Bishop Kettler asks Catholics of the Diocese of St. Cloud for support, through prayer and stewardship. This is his outreach to the faithful for our help. Bishop Don needs robust Ministries and Offices to serve our parishes and carry forth his mission. Ministries and Offices are only as strong as their funding allows. Your tax-deductible gifts will be used **solely** for the purpose of funding such things as TV Mass (Office of Worship), scholarships for seminarians (Office of Vocation), marriage preparation, men’s and women’s conferences (Office of Marriage and Family), retreats and faith formation for all youth (Catholic Education Ministries), assistance and healing for divorced couples (Tribunal), and much, much more! Please be generous to our good Bishop!

Stewardship of Treasure February 12, 2017

Adult	\$XXX	(36 of 162 envelopes)
Youth	XXX	(4 of 45 envelopes)
Loose	XXX	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$XXXXX</b>	



St. Cloud Visitor

Cemetery Fund

\$XXX (3 gifts)

\$XXX (1 gift)

**Gospel Connection:** In Jewish law, the accepted understanding of retaliation - "an eye for the eye" - was intended to restrict vengeance and to keep violence within limits. But Jesus teaches his Jewish hearers to respond to injustice with the "perfect" righteousness of God. In today's Gospel, Jesus points to three offenses that might seem relatively minor to us - but not to the poor of the Gospel. First, there is the slap on the cheek. In Gospel times, a superior could slap a worker or slave with the back of his right hand. Such a slap meant to insult and humiliate, not injure. But by turning your cheek when struck, you force the one striking you to hit you with an open hand, thus making him face you as an equal. Such a "turning" of the cheek robs the aggressor of the power to humiliate and, in effect, shames the aggressor.

Then there is suing over your coat. In Jewish culture, nakedness was considered a grave humiliation - for the one who was responsible for another's nakedness. Near Eastern hospitality demanded that no person ever be so shamed. So if someone makes an unreasonable demand for your tunic, Jesus says, give them your coat as well. Give them everything so that they might realize the injustice of their avarice and greed.

And finally, there is going the extra mile. A Roman soldier could compel anyone to carry his equipment for one mile, and no more. Going a second mile puts the Roman soldier in a difficult position: he could be severely punished by his superiors for abusing his authority. By going the second mile on your own volition, Jesus teaches, you're making the hated Roman treat you as an equal. You're saying, "You can compel my obedience but not my gift."

What Jesus is asking his hearers in today's Gospel is to respond to injustice and cruelty not with aggression but with humble dignity and self-respect. To act with the righteousness of God is to break the cycle of violence and fear by initiating a new cycle of generosity and justice.

Instead of a slap on the cheek, it might be an angry exchange; instead of your coat, it might be your patience that is being tested by another's demands or expectations; instead of being pressed into service for a mile, you might be asked for your already-stretched time to help sort out someone else's mess. In every tense confrontation and unreasonable expectation and to every undeserved cry for help, Jesus asks us to respond with the compassion and mercy of God, to act with the conviction that we can break such cycles of irresponsibility and selfishness, that we can heal another's brokenness, that we can bring back the lost and marginalized by seeking to re-create such situations in the "perfect" love of God.

**Religious Education:** The next class will be held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 as usual. The confirmation students will meet at 6:30.

Notice of Safe Environment Training: Each year the Diocese of St. Cloud requires us to provide this training for the protection of children and young people for their personal safety. This year we will use the video “What Tadoo” for grade 1, “Time to Tell” for grades 2 – 5, and “Called to Protect for Youth” for grades 6 to 11. This training will take place in each class over the next month. Parents are welcomed to view the video prior to showing or join us for class. If you would like to decline this training for your child, please contact Brenda.

**Liturgical Meeting:** A Liturgical Meeting will be held at Church on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm. Please attend!

**Annual Parish Dinner:** The Annual Parish Dinner is scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup> after the 10:00 Mass. All Parishioners are invited to attend! The sign up will be at the back of Church for the next couple of weeks. Please sign up so there is an accurate number for the meal. There will be no charge for this wonderful event; just come and visit with other members of our Church!

**Parish Custodian:** St. Nicholas Church is looking for a custodian for the Church. This can be a single person or a couple and will be for the Church only. It will be approximately 2 to 3 hours per week and is flexible as to when works for you! If you have questions, please contact Mike Kuechle at 685-3225.

**Mass with Healing Prayers:** Fr. Ubald from Rwanda will be returning to St Michael’s Parish in St Cloud (1036 County Road 4) on Mon, Feb 27: 5pm confessions and 7pm Mass.

**Listening Session:** Our session for those who might have been wronged by the Church has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 8:00 pm at St. Louis Parish in Paynesville (505 Burr Street in Paynesville). This listening session will not be open to the news media. If you are not able to attend this meeting, check *The Visitor* for other listening sessions.

**Are you called to serve?** Eucharistic Ministers are needed at the St. Cloud Hospital. Flexible schedule – from a few hours one day per month to a few hours several days per month, the greatest need is for the weekends. Call Deb Galvez at 320-251-2700, Ext 23789 or e-mail at galvezd@centracare.com.

**Ash Wednesday: The Beginning of Lent:** REMINDER OF LENTEN REGULATIONS FOR FASTING AND ABSTINENCE: The Church teaches that Catholics in good health are to observe the following practices during lent, unless for some serious reason, they are unable to do so: Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast on Ashe Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition, all Catholics 14 years old and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting, as explained by the US bishops, means partaking of only one full meal & 2 smaller meals that do not equal the main meal. Abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not of eggs, milk products or condiments made of animal fat.

**Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule:** **Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>:** St. Anne’s at 8:30 am, St. Anne’s at 5:30 pm, and St. Nicholas at 7:30 pm.

**Readings for the Week:** Monday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>: Sir 1:1-10 / Mk 9:14-29  
 Tuesday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>: Sir 2:1-11 / Mk 9:30-37  
 Thursday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>: Sir 5:1-8 / Mk 9:41-50  
 Wednesday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>: 1 Pt 5:1-4 / Mt 16:13-19  
 Friday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>: Sir 6:5-17 / Mk 10:1-12

**Community Events:**

- Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>: St. Nicholas Parish Breakfast serving from 9 to Noon. See details above!
- Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>: Assumption Church in Eden Valley Christian Women’s Benefit For Life Luncheon. Serving pulled pork sandwiches, salad, chips, baked beans, and desserts from 9 am to 1 pm.