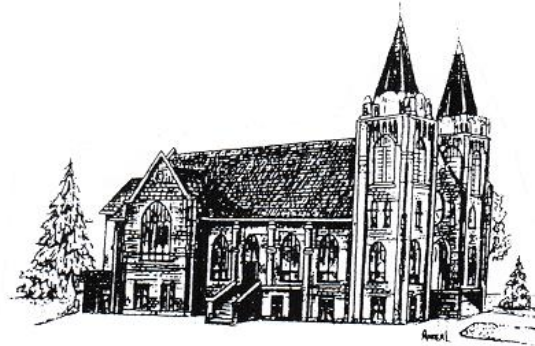


CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 26, 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 25	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	8 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Ewald Johannes
Feb 26	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	8 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Leo & Marie Mauer
Feb 27	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Weekday	
Feb 28	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Weekday	+Joseph Theis
Mar 1	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	Ash Wednesday	
		{SA} 9 am – 4 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
		{SA} 5:30 pm	Ash Wednesday	
		{SN} 7:30 pm	Ash Wednesday	Youth of our Parish
Mar 2	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	+Clara Stein
		{SN} 8:30 am	Stations of the Cross	
Mar 3	Friday	NO MASS	Friday after Ash Wednesday	
Mar 4	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	First Sunday of Lent	People of the Parish
Mar 5	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	First Sunday of Lent	+Ervin & Louise Linn

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
Mar 1 at 7:30 pm	Religious Education	Dylan Utecht	Petitions: Grade 6	Matthew Schreiner
ASH WEDNESDAY	Religious Education	Michael Bautch	RE Students	Michael Dufner
	Religious Education			Kathy Kraemer
Mar 4 at 7:30 pm	Judi Schreiner	Lauren Johannes	Ralph Schreiner	Judi Schreiner
		Dylan Utecht	Laverne Ludwig	
Mar 5 at 10:00 am	Shirley Lutgen	Andrew Bautch	Steve Stang	Lee Bautch
	Judy Schutz	Michael Bautch	Jerry Boeckmann	
	Gene Schutz			

Stations of the Cross During Lent: Stations of the Cross will be held at St. Nicholas on Thursday’s during lent at 9:00 am with Fr. Tom. The Men’s Society will also host Stations on: Wednesday, March 1st after Ash Wednesday Mass; Wednesday, March 8th: 7 pm; Wed. March 15th with RE at 7:30; Tuesday, March 21st: 7:00 pm; Tuesday, March 28th: 7:00 pm; Tuesday, April 4th: 7:00 pm, Wed, April 12th: 7:00 pm. Stations of the Cross will be held at St. Anne’s after morning Masses on Wednesday (Expect Ash Wednesday).



Bishop’s 2017 Annual Appeal: Bishop Kettler asks Catholics of the Diocese of St. Cloud for support, through prayer and stewardship. Thank you to all who have participated in the Bishop’s Annual Appeal! Our parish goal is \$6,500. If you haven’t yet made a gift, there is still time! May God bless you and those you love, for supporting the Church throughout the sixteen counties of our Diocese

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Wednesday, March 1st at St. Anne after Ash Wednesday Mass until 4:00 pm. St. Nicholas’s Adoration will be next week, Tuesday, March 7th from 5 to 8 pm. Won’t you come and spend some time with the Lord?



Stewardship of Treasure February 19, 2017

Adult	\$XXX	(28 of 162 envelopes)
Youth	XXX	(0 of 45 envelopes)
Loose	XXX	
TOTAL	\$XXXXX	



St. Cloud Visitor	\$XXX (3 gifts)
Energy Needs	\$XXX (2 gifts)

Gospel Connection: Maybe it was the summer you learned to swim. You listened nervously as the instructor explained how to stay buoyant as you propelled yourself through the water. "Don't be afraid of the water; you'll be fine," the instructor assured you. And so came the moment when you waded into the pool and plunged your head underwater. You did it - and a whole new world opened for you. You entered the *cloud*.

Or it could have been that afternoon during your senior year when you finally tackled the college application. You had put it off and put it off - until Mom and Dad finally said *Now!* You had decided that this school was your first choice, that this school was your second, and that this school was your "safe school." Decision made. Now came the writing of the essays, the gathering of transcripts, the requests for recommendations. You were now in the *cloud*.

Or it happened once you were able to make peace with the diagnosis. You decided you would not give an inch to the disease. You found a new resolve to live your life to the fullest with a minimum of concessions. More blessedly, you rediscovered the love of family and friends who lifted you up when you stumbled, supported you as you ventured on your own, gave you space for your tears and anger. You weren't alone in the *cloud*.

It was definitely the moment you said *I love you* to another person and it stuck. And before long, promises were made and rings were exchanged, blessings were prayed and champagne was poured. And happily ever after began. You were deep in the *cloud*.

Not a cloud of fog. Not a cloud of confusion. But a cloud of discovery. A cloud of encounter. A cloud in which you heard and experienced wonder, joy, hope - and God.

Such is the cloud that Peter, James and John "enter" in the story of the Transfiguration. In this cloud, they encounter God - and they are forever changed by the encounter. Sometimes these "clouds" in which we find ourselves mean changing our perceptions of what is true and why; sometimes we realize possibilities we never imaged. Certainties can become casualties in these encounters, especially those shallow convictions of who's in and who's out, of what's cool and what is "so not." Scripture is less a book about certainties than it is a collection of stories about encounters with God - stories in which God makes his mercy and justice known and individuals struggle to respond faithfully to that revelation. Today's Gospel is one such encounter. The story of the Transfiguration invites us to let go of our certainties and cede our need to control in order to encounter the holy in our lives, to meet God in the "cloud" of our homes and schools, at our tables and beds, within that quiet place in our hearts where God dwells.

Religious Education: The next class will be held on March 1st at 7:00 as usual. We will then go to Ash Wednesday Mass at 7:30 pm. Some of the students will be participating at this Mass.

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.

A Breakfast Thank you! Thank you to all who donated and baked for the Bake Sale last Sunday. A total of \$139 was collected for pro-life! Also, thank you to those who helped cook, serve and clean up the breakfast and to those that donated items to the raffle!

Annual Parish Dinner: The Annual Parish Dinner is scheduled for March 19th 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.

Quarterly Meetings: The Quarterly Meetings for Catholic United Financial, Christian Women and the Men's Society will be held on Sunday, March 5th starting at 7:30 pm. The "Lunch Committee" to bring bars will be Donna Bauer and Avon Vossen. Thank you!

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.

Readings for the Week: Monday, Feb. 27th: Sir 17:20-24 / Mk 10: 17-27
Tuesday, Feb. 28th: Sir 35: 1-12 / Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday, Mar 1st: Jl2:12-18 / 2 Cor 5:20 – 6:2 / Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday, Mar 2nd: Dt 30:15-20 / Lk 9:22-25
Friday, Mar 3rd: Is 58:1-9a / Mt 9:14-15

- Community Events:**
- Sunday, February 26th: K of C Roast Beef and Ham Dinner at Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish Center in Rockville from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Proceeds benefit Vocations and Religious Education.
 - Fridays during March: Taize Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud beginning at 7 pm and lasts 1 hour. This includes the ritual blessing with the relic of St. Odilia. All are welcome!
 - Sunday, March 26: Lenten Healing Mass at the National Shrine of St. Odilia in Onamia at 9:30 am. This includes Anointing of the Sick and the Ritual Blessing.