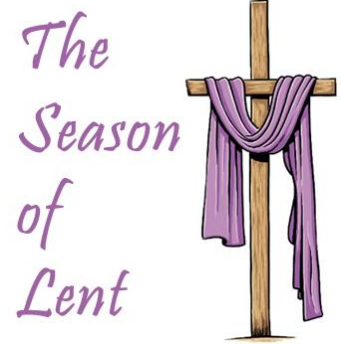


CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

Third Sunday of Lent

March 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
		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

*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

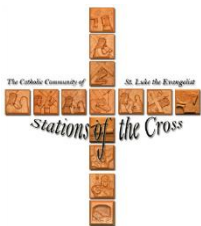
Mar 18	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	Third Sunday of Lent	+Anton & Anna Pozorski
Mar 19	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	Third Sunday of Lent	People of the Parish
Mar 20	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	St. Joseph	
Mar 21	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Lenten Weekday	+Joseph Theis
		{SN} 7 pm	Stations of the Cross	
Mar 22	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	Lenten Weekday	
Mar 23	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Lenten Weekday	+Arlene Lahr
		{SN} 8:30 am	Stations of the Cross	
Mar 24	Friday	NO MASS	Lenten Weekday	
Mar 25	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	Fourth Sunday of Lent	+Esther Faber
Mar 26	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	Fourth Sunday of Lent	First Communion Families

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 25 at 7:30 pm	Louise Schutz	Rachel Utecht Volunteer	Jack Rausch Allen Stommes	Cassey Lahr
Mar 26 at 10:00 am	Kelly Bautch Sandy Stang Steve Stang	Sarah Kraemer Kathy Kraemer	Robert Kraemer Ron Stang	Betty Johannes



Stations of the Cross During Lent: Stations of the Cross will be held at St. Nicholas on Thursday's during lent at 8:30 am with Fr. Tom. The Men's Society will also host Stations on: 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 Wednesdays.

A Quick Journey Through the Bible: Kelly Bautch is looking for a few willing souls to join her on "A Quick Journey Through the Bible." This simple, accessible program uses the Bible Timeline learning system to give people a useful framework from which to read and understand the Bible. Contact Kelly Bautch (597-3255 or klbautch@meltel.net) for more information.

Annual Parish Dinner: The Annual Parish Dinner will be on Sunday, March 19th after 10 am Mass!

Stewardship of Treasure March 12, 2017

Adult	\$XXX	(33 of 162 envelopes)
Youth	XXX	(7 of 45 envelopes)
Loose	XXX	
TOTAL	\$XXXXX	



Catholic United MinisTREE \$XXX
Catholic Relief Services \$XXX (1 gift)

Gospel Connection: Their 81-year-old mother suffers from dementia. Every day her five daughters see her slipping away more and more. In the beginning, Mom was brilliant at faking it, compensating her memory loss with skill and grace. But her daughters knew the time would come when she would no longer recognize them. That day came a few days after Thanksgiving. The youngest sister took their mother to dinner with her in-laws. They were seated next to each other when Mom turned to her daughter and said, “So, remind me, how did we meet?” Taken aback, the daughter replied, “Mom, you gave birth to me.” Mom then said hesitantly, “Well, then, why didn’t I raise you?” “You did, Mom.” Trying to hide her distress, the daughter excused herself from the table, not wanting her mother to see how upset she was. Mom followed her into the kitchen. When they were alone, Mom took her hands. “Don’t cry, please. Are you crying because you think I don’t love you?” “No,” her daughter said, “I know you love me.” “Are you crying for me?” The daughter said nothing. Mom took her hand and held it tightly. “This is me getting old. It is neither easy nor pleasant. But if I can get through this, so can you. Please know that I love you. And brace yourself, because this is who I am now. It’s not that I don’t love you. I love you absolutely. It’s just that you have slipped from my mind. These things happen. And this thing, this thing will happen again and again, but I love you. I love you so much. Honey, I don’t know your name right now, but you must trust that I will always know exactly who you are. So do this for me: Tell me everything. I want to know every last detail — where you were born, where you went to high school and college, what you do for a living, if you are married. Do you have children? Come back to the table and sit down next to me and tell me all of it.” [From “Modern Love: Refreshing a Mother’s Memory With Love and Stories” by Jenny McPhee, *The New York Times*, January 6, 2017.]

A mother’s love finds its bearings through the haze of dementia and gives her family a way forward. Her love for her daughters enables her to dig deep and find her “brightness.” When we are driven by such love, we’re able to confront who we are, accept our challenges and failings, and find a way to move forward. In her encounter with Jesus, the woman at the well is able to see herself and her life as it is and realize, despite her circumstances, the compassion of God in her midst. The grace to start over again is ours if we are honest enough to confront our lapses of memory and judgment and focus on God’s constant presence and invitation to re-center our lives in his love and grace.

Religious Education: The next class will be held on March 22nd at 7:00 pm. Fr. Tom will be here to do confessions for grades 2 – 6 and grade 11. Confessions for grades 8 – 10 will be on March 29th. **FIRST COMMUNION:** Please keep Paige Stommes and Megan Schwinghammer in your prayers as they make their final preparations for their First Holy Communion on Sunday, March 26th.

Catholic United Financial: The MinisTREE program helps parish communities in three distinct ways: completing needed tasks throughout your community, growing your volunteer base, and the additional bonus of funds. For each separate task identified, completed and submitted to Catholic United, they will make a donation of \$3 to a parish. Parishes can work throughout the year toward a goal of **\$300** for submitted activities, all the while creating a culture of volunteerism and engagement. This year, St. Nicholas received a check for \$273! Thank you to Dave Stang, our representative and Jeff Theis for coordinating these efforts!



Easter Flowers: Anyone that would like to donate towards Easter Flowers can do so by making a separate envelope and dropping it in the collection basket during Mass. Please mark your envelope for who you would like your donation dedicated to. These will also be listed in the bulletin closer to Easter. Thank you!

CRS Rice Bowl: The Rice Bowl offers daily opportunities for your family to engage in the spiritual pillars of Lent: Prayer, fasting and almsgiving. During the 3rd week of lent we encounter Fernando in El Salvador where, despite a lack of economic opportunity, youth are pursuing their dreams of building businesses to better the lives of their families. How have you worked to better the lives of others this Lent? Visit crsricebowl.org for more information.

Holy Cross School: Holy Cross is now accepting new enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year. Holy Cross has grades pre-K through 6th grade. If you would like more information, please call 320-398-7885.

Readings for the Week: Monday, March 20th: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 / Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22

Tuesday, March 21st: Dn 3:25, 34-43 / Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday, March 22nd: Dt 4:1, 5-9 / Mt 5:17-19

Thursday, March 23rd: Jer 7:23-28 / Lk 11:14-23

Friday, March 24th: Hos 14:2-10 / Mk 12:28-34

Community Events:

- Sunday, March 19th: Relay for Life Breakfast hosted by the Wat-Kim-Valley VFW at the Watkins Village Hall from 8 to Noon. Serving French toast, sausage, hash browns, scrambled eggs, beverages. Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society.
- Sunday, March 19th: Bouja & Chicken Noodle Soup sale at St. Anthony’s in Watkins. Also serving from 8:30 to Noon. This will be the last time for soup & Bouja this season!
- 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.
- Thursday, March 30th: National Author & speaker, Kelly Walquist at St. Boniface, Cold Spring. Gather at 6 pm and Kelly will begin at 6:30 pm. “What does a 21st Century Disciple Look Like?” All are welcome!
- April 6, 7 & 8: St. Boniface Christian Women Rummage and Clothing Drive Sale at St. Boniface Parish Center Gym in Cold Spring. Thursday from 2 pm – 7 pm, Friday from 8 am to 7 pm, and Saturday from 8 am – 10 am.
- April 8th: St. Ben’s Monastery hosting a conversation with them for Catholic Women between the ages of 22 and 45. For more information, contact Sister Lisa Rose at 363-7180.
- 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!
- June 6 – 8: Faith & Fun with the Franciscans – a Summer camp for girls completing grades 6 – 8 in Little Falls. Register by May 1st. There is a brochure on the Parish House Bulletin board with more information.