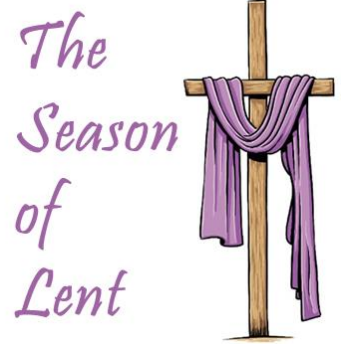


CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 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 |
| | | 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

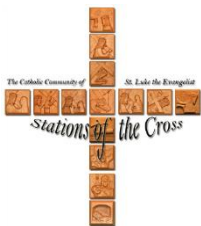
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|--------|-----------|------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Mar 25 | Saturday | {SN} 7:30 pm | Fourth Sunday of Lent | +Esther Faber |
| Mar 26 | Sunday | {SN} 10:00 am | Fourth Sunday of Lent | First Communion Families |
| Mar 27 | Monday | {SA} 8:00 am | Lenten Weekday | |
| Mar 28 | Tuesday | {SN} 8:00 am {SN} 7 pm | Lenten Weekday Stations of the Cross | +Ewald Johannes |
| Mar 29 | Wednesday | {SA} 8:30 am | Lenten Weekday | |
| Mar 30 | Thursday | {SN} 8:00 am {SN} 8:30 am | Lenten Weekday Stations of the Cross | +Steve Gathje |
| Mar 31 | Friday | NO MASS | Lenten Weekday | |
| Apr 1 | Saturday | {SN} 7:30 pm | Fifth Sunday of Lent | People of the Parish |
| Apr 2 | Sunday | {SN} 10:00 am | Fifth Sunday of Lent | +Eldred May |

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 |
|-------------------|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Apr 1 at 7:30 pm | Art Faber | Lauren Johannes Dylan Utecht | Lavern Ludwig Robert Wehseler | Joe Decker |
| Apr 2 at 10:00 am | Lee Bautch Annette Stang Mike Kuechle | Breanna Stang volunteer | Elmer Frank Dave Stang | Shirley Kuechle |



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 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: Thank you to the Parish Council for organizing our Annual Parish Dinner last week! A very big **CONGRATULATIONS to Gene Schutz and Elmer Frank** who were recognized for their many service hours to our Church! We would not have all the projects done without you two!!

Stewardship of Treasure March 12, 2017

| | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Adult | \$XXX | (51 of 162 envelopes) |
| Youth | XXX | (2 of 45 envelopes) |
| Loose | XXX | |
| TOTAL | \$XXXXX | |



| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Votive Stand | \$XXX |
| Catholic Relief Services | \$XXX (3 gifts) |

Gospel Connection: Years ago, a boy was collecting berries in the woods near his Southern home. He was concentrating on filling his bucket – and mouth – with the delicious fruit and not paying attention to how deep he was going into the forest. The boy didn't notice the dark clouds forming on the horizon. Then he heard crashes of thunder. Suddenly he realized that he was lost. Darkness enveloped the woods. The terrified youngster started to run — with no sense of where he was going. Then he remembered what his parents had taught him: When you're lost, stop and be still, look around, and listen. So the boy stopped running and stood still. And he observed the lightning strikes illuminating the forest landscape. With each lightning flash he was able to see a bit farther ahead and walk a little closer to his destination until he found his way home, guided by the storm that had, at first, frightened him. [Howard Thurman.]

"Seeing" and "light" are key images of today's Gospel for this Sunday in mid-Lent. Jesus cures a man born blind — but the greater miracle is opening the eyes of those around him to "see" the presence of God in their midst. Terrified of the storm, the little boy remembers his parents' wise advice: Stop and look. See the light and make your way towards it. The Christ of Lent is that light that illuminates those times and places in which we can realize the love of God in our midst. Like the Jewish leaders and the temple officials, we sometimes become so obsessed trying to find God where God is not that we fail to see God where God actually *is*. We desperately want to know where God is when tragedy befalls us; we live our lives taking comfort in the erroneous notion that God is found only at certain times, in the rituals and pious practices our religion specifies. The reality is that God is most profoundly present in the simple, ordinary doings of life, in the kindness and love of others, in life itself and the gifts of the earth to sustain that life. May God grant us the vision that the blind man receives in today's Gospel: to see the love of God present in all things.

Religious Education: The next class will be held on March 29th at 7:00 pm. Fr. Tom will be here to do confessions for grades 8 – 10 will be on March 29th.

Congratulations to Paige & Megan: Congratulations to Paige Stommes and Megan Schwinghammer who are making their First Holy Communion this Sunday, March 26th! Jesus comes to be with you and love you in your First Communion. May He Bless you, care for you and always love you!



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!

Incense: Incense will be used on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.

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 4th week of Lent we encounter Maria in Mexico, where a community of hardworking women share joys, sorrows and fellowship while growing economic opportunity at a greenhouse. How have your communities helped you encounter Christ anew this Lent?

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.

Festival of Forgiveness: Pope Francis has described mercy as "the very foundation of the Church's life." During Lent 2017, the Church in the Diocese of St. Cloud wants every person to experience the life-changing power of God's mercy and love. On March 31st – the Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent – the diocese is holding a 12 hour "Festival of Forgiveness" during which the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at designated churches throughout the diocese. Our parishioners here at St. Nicholas are invited to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Friday, March 31st at Sts. Peter & Paul Church in Richmond between the hours of 9 am and 9 pm**. The Catholic faithful, including those who have been away from the sacraments, are invited to participate in this special celebration.

Readings for the Week: Monday, March 27th: Is 65:17-21 / Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday, March 28th: Ez 47:1-9, 12 / Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday, March 29th: Is 49:8-15 / Jn 5:17-30

Thursday, March 30th: Ex 32:7-14 / Jn 5:31-47

Friday, March 31st: Wis 2:1a, 12-22 / Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Community Events:

- 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.