

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

Ascension of the Lord

May 28, 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

May 27	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	Ascension of the Lord	+Tom Decker
May 28	Sunday	{SN} 8:00 am	Ascension of the Lord	People of the Parish
May 29	Monday	{SA} 9:00 am (Mass at SA Cemetery)	Memorial Day	
May 30	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Easter Weekday	+Joseph Theis
May 31	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
June 1	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	St. Justin	+Ewald Johannes
June 2	Friday	NO MASS	Easter Weekday	
June 3	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	Pentecost	+Sue Flaschenriem
June 4	Sunday	{SN} 8:00 am	Pentecost	+Cordella Meier

****May 7th is the FIRST DAY OF THE TIME CHANGES FOR SUNDAY MASSES WITH ST. ANNE’S****

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

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES				
	Eucharistic Ministers	Servers	Ushers	Lector
May 27 at 7:30 pm	Judi Schreiner	Nathan Utecht Derek Utecht	Laverne Ludwig Ralph Schreiner	Judi Schreiner
May 28 at 8:00 am	Sandy Stang Steve Stang Lee Bautch	Breanna Stang Volunteer	Ron Stang Don Dufner	Dave Stang

Memorial Day Mass: Memorial Day Mass, Monday, May 29th, will take place at St. Anne Cemetery in Kimball at 9:00 am. In case of bad weather, Mass will be held in the Church. Please bring a lawn chair for Mass. **There will also be a short Military Honors ceremony at the cemetery here at St. Nicholas at approximately 10:00 am presented by the American Legion.**


Congratulations Reception! The Christian Women will host a Congratulations Reception for our High School Graduates and Newly Confirmed members of our Parish on **Sunday, June 4th after the 8:00 am Mass**. Coffee, juice, and rolls will be served. Our High School Graduates are Katherine Gathje, Noah Krueger, Maggie Ludwig, Brianna Stang, Emily Utecht, and Nathan Utecht. Our newly confirmed members are Andrew Bautch, Mitchell Rieland, and Patrick Schreiner.

Quarterly Meetings: The next Quarterly Meetings for Catholic United Financial, Christian Women & Men’s Society will be Sunday, June 4th starting at 7:00 pm for Catholic United and 7:30 pm for CW & MS. Terri Hommerding and Pauline Stein are scheduled to bring Lunch.

Stewardship of Treasure May 21, 2017			
Adult	\$XXX	(38 of 161 envelopes)	
Youth	XXX	(0 of 45 envelopes)	
Loose	XXX		
TOTAL	\$XXXXX		
		Energy Needs	\$XXX (1 gift)
		Home Missions	\$XXX (1 gift)

Gospel Connection: It's 2:30 in the morning. A police officer sees a light in the window of a Milwaukee church hall. He knocks on the door and a parishioner answers. "Everything OK?" "Yes, officer we're just having our usual prayer vigil." That's not exactly true. The small church wanted to provide a warm, safe place for homeless people to stay on Milwaukee's cold winter nights, but there was no way the parish could afford to meet city code. So they decided to hold an "all-night prayer vigil" to which all were welcome. The vigil is now greatly appreciated by local police and neighbors as well as well the homeless who take advantage of the "warm" vigil. The genius of the ministry is that the guests have taken on the major role in managing the program. Parish "prayer leaders" have witnessed the amazing transformation of seemingly helpless people into competent managers of their own situation. They turn away people who are intoxicated or otherwise unable to cooperate. They determine the timing of smoking breaks. They keep the church clean. They "have each other's backs" as a community. One volunteer believes, "I think this is what Jesus had in mind when he called together the most unlikely people to be his disciples and support community - in other words, church." Maybe "prayer vigil" isn't such a stretch, after all. [Howard Bowman, writing *The Christian Century*, February 3, 2016.]

The Ascension of the Lord is not the marking of a departure but the realization of a presence. Matthew's Gospel begins with the dawning of Emmanuel: "God is with us"; it concludes with Emmanuel's promise: "I am with you always, even to the end of time." It is not an abstract or distant presence; Christ is the center of our Church in word, in sacrament, in every moment of generosity and every act of compassion we perform and experience. Christ is in our midst in everything we do in his name: our Sunday Eucharist, a group of children learning the Lord's Prayer, a gathering of knitters each week to make prayer shawls for the sick, a legally-sanctioned "prayer vigil" for the homeless on a frigid winter night. The charge Jesus leaves to his disciples on the mountain of the Ascension is left to all of us two millennia later: we are called to teach, to witness and to heal in our own small corners of the world, from our kitchen tables to our church hall. .



Congratulations! Congratulations to Vickie Stommes and Jeff Zierden who exchanged wedding vows on Saturday, May 27th. May the Lord be with them as they begin their married life!

Congratulations! Congratulations to the 3 young men who confirmed their Faith on Sunday, May 21st at St. Boniface!! May you always know the richness of God’s blessing through the days that come, and may the faith you hold and lovingly profess be a constant source of help and strength as well as happiness! Congratulations to:

Andrew Bautch
Mitchell Rieland
Patrick Schreiner



Bible Study: The Bible Study sessions will continue on Wednesday, June 7th at 6:30 pm in the Parish House. Everyone is welcome to attend!! The reading assignment for this session is Genesis 12:1-9, 15, 17, 22, 25:19-34, 29:1-30:24, 32:22-32, and 37-50. This “Quick Journey through the Bible,” will take readers through the narrative story of the Bible in a timeline fashion by reading selected sections of the Bible. Each session of study will include a DVD section about the readings, then a discussion. Come try it!

Crosier Mission Collection: A few weeks ago, we had Fr. Glen Lewandowski, OSC from The Crosiers here to talk about his Mission work in Indonesia. Our parish had a special collection for this work and we are happy to announce that \$1,428 was donated by the Parishioners of St. Nicholas and St. Anne! Thank you for your generosity to the Mission work of the Crosiers!

St. Nicholas Nicks: St. Nick will play Watkins here at St. Nicholas on Sunday, May 28th at 2 pm. Come and cheer the team on!

Readings for the Week: Monday, May 29th: Acts 19:1-8 / Jn 16:29-33
 Tuesday, May 30th: Acts 20:17-27 / Jn 17:1-11a
 Thursday, June 1st: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 / Jn 17:20-26
 Wednesday, May 31st: Zep 3:14-18a / Lk 1:39-54
 Friday, June 2nd: Acts 25:13b-21 / Jn 21:15-19

Community Events:

- Thursdays from May 4 to June 29: Annual Novena of Masses at the Assumption (Grasshopper) Chapel in Cold Spring. Rosary at 7:00 pm with Mass at 7:30 pm. Mass is outdoors, so bring a chair. In case of rain, Mass will be at St. Boniface.
- Tuesday, June 13th: Public Rosary here at St. Nicholas hosted by the KC’s at 7:00 pm.
- Thursday, June 15th: 27th Annual DCCW Fun, Food & Fund Day at St. Ann’s Church in Wadena, MN. Registration at 8:30 am, Rosary at 9 am, Mass at 9:15 followed by fellowship, Entertainment by the Kuhn Brothers & Fr. Aaron & Fr. Matthew, Lunch with Silent Auction.

Fr. Tom is Retiring!

Fr. Tom will be retiring from active Priesthood on July 1st. The Parish Councils of both St. Nicholas and St. Anne’s will be hosting a gathering for all parishioners. St. Nicholas will have a get together on Friday, June 9th from 7:00 – 9:00 pm and St. Anne’s will have a get together on Sunday, June 11th from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. All parishioners are invited to either or both receptions! Cheese and crackers, along with beverages will be served. There will also be a bonfire after the reception in front of the Parish House! Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the evening!

Fr. Tom has an announcement: The new Pastor of St. Nicholas and St. Anne’s will be Father James Statz. He will arrive on June 28th. Watch the St. Cloud *Visitor* for more information.

