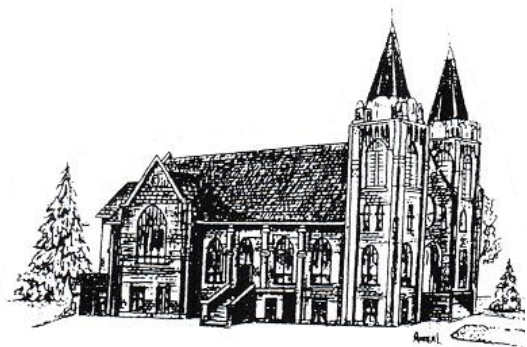


CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 10, 2017



PARISH STAFF		PARISH ORGANIZATION LEADERS	
Fr. James Statz	398-2229	Christian Women, Anita Neu	685-3287
Brenda Kraemer, Secretary (Office)	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	534-8658	Ministry Scheduler, Annette Stang	764-5339
*Bulletin Deadline is Thursday at 9am *Email: stnicholas@meltel.net *Website: www.churchofsaintnicholas.com *Usual Office Hours of Secretary are Monday and Thursday mornings.	Brenda Kraemer, Rel. Ed Coordinator (H) 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

MASS SCHEDULE

Sept 9	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Eugene Stommes
Sept 10	Sunday	{SN} 8:00 am	23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Special Int of K & B Lutgen
Sept 11	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Weekday	
Sept 12	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Weekday	+Elmer Boeckmann
Sept 13	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	St. John Chryostom	
Sept 14	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	+Eugene Kuntz
Sept 15	Friday	{SA} NO MASS	Our Lady of Sorrows	
Sept 16	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Amanda Stommes
Sept 17	Sunday	{SN} 8:00 am	24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Ben & Mary Neu Family

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
Sept 16 at 7:30 pm	Rita Schwartz	Katelyn Utecht Dylan Utecht	Tom Landwehr Ron Steil	Cassey Lahr
Sept 17 at 8:00 am	Trish Ludwig Greg Utecht Don Dufner	Caden Neiman Landon Neiman	Ron Stang Paul Ludwig	Shirley Lutgen

Quarterly Meetings: Christian Women/Men’s Society/Catholic United Financial will have their Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, September 10th starting at 7:30 pm in the Church basement. Marlene Landwehr and Vicki Landwehr are on the “Lunch Committee.” Please bring a pan of bars.

Bible Study Class: The next Bible Study Class will meet on Sunday, September 10th at 6:00 pm in the Parish House.

Parish Council Meeting: The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 14th at 7:30 pm in the Parish House. If there are any items that need to be added to the agenda, please contact Brenda by phone or email.

Stewardship of Treasure September 3, 2017

Adult	\$XXX	(25 of 161 envelopes)
Youth	XXX	(0 of 45 envelopes)
Loose	XXX	
TOTAL	\$XXXXX	



Energy Needs	\$XXX (1 Gift)
Votive Stand	\$XXX

Gospel Connection: She lived in the group home next to the church. She was painfully overweight; her clothing didn't fit. She hadn't bathed and wasn't able to breathe or move comfortably. Her medication made it difficult for her to follow the prayers and hymns. She fell asleep during sermons; her snoring, escalated by her breathing problems, echoed through the church. Once or twice she even forgot where she was and lit up a cigarette right there in the pew. She wouldn't speak or make eye contact with anyone. Parishioners began to complain: *She doesn't belong here. She couldn't be getting anything out of it so heavily medicated. She shouldn't be allowed to ruin it for everyone.* The poor woman was the subject of more than one parish council meeting: Her presence was a serious distraction; she was a deterrent to visitors. And someone noted that she ate too many cookies at coffee hour.

Finally, one council member had had enough of the complaining and lack of compassion. She was determined to make a friend out of their troubled visitor. The parishioner left her usual pew and began to sit next to her. When the snoring started, the parishioner gave her a gentle nudge; she helped her find her place in the hymnal; she quietly reminded her to put the cigarettes away and leave enough cookies and sweets for others during the coffee hour after church. The parishioner's unheralded kindness was all the visitor needed. She began talking to people. She made eye contact and made a point of shaking hands with the pastor: "Bless you," she would say.

A few months later, the pastor received a phone call from the woman's social worker. The social worker explained that the woman had never been accepted by any group or able to sustain a single positive relationship until she started coming to church. She was now making friends in her group home and had begun to bring them to *her* church. "Thank you for welcoming her," the social worker said to the pastor. "I've never been to your church, but I know that it is an exceptional place." After hanging up the phone, the pastor sat for a moment, pondering that word: *Exceptional*. [From an essay by Erica Wimber Avena in The Christian Century, January 4, 2017.]

In this difficult situation, one parishioner manages to embrace the spirit of Jesus' instructions in today's Gospel: that to follow Jesus means to take on the hard work of building community by welcoming the stranger, the disrupter, the estranged. In today's Gospel (which sounds more like a set of regulations devised by a church rules committee than a teaching of Jesus), Jesus calls us to take on his work of reconciliation: work that is grounded in love for the other, work what begins with respect and love for every human being, work that seeks God's justice and peace above all. Gospel-centered reconciliation confronts those misunderstandings and issues that divide us, grieve us and embitter us, not out of anger or a need to "even the score," but out of a commitment to imitate the great love and mercy of God.

Religious Education: Religious Education is just right around the corner with school having already start! More information will be sent to each family with the schedule for the year after the Parish Council meeting this coming week. Classes will begin on Wednesday, October 4th with a Mass at 7:00 pm at St. Nicholas. All students and Parents should attend this Mass. If there are any new students that would like to attend class, please contact Brenda at the Parish House, home or by email!

St. Anne's Fall Festival: St. Anne's Annual Fall Festival will be held on Sunday, September 17th. Mass will be a 9 am that day with live polka music by Laverne & the Starlights. Breakfast will be served from 9 am to Noon and be Nelson Bros. Fritter Bread French Toast, Knaus Sausage, scrambled eggs, fresh fruit and beverages. There will be a hamburger and beer stand from 10 am to the end of Festival. All kinds of activities are held, including a raffle at 3 pm. Come and join in on the fun!!

Diocesan Blue Mass: Once again, the Diocese will host a celebration of First Responders Mass on Thursday, September 21st at 7:00 pm at the Cathedral of St. Mary in St. Cloud. Family and Friends are welcome! This Mass will honor police, fire & emergency medical service personnel who serve in the Diocese of St. Cloud. There will be a reception immediately following Mass.

Diocesan Barn Dance: Everyone is invited to join Bishop Kettler and the Mission Office for the 4th Annual Partnership Barn Dance on Saturday, September 30th at the Wadena Fairgrounds in Wadena, MN. Mass with Bishop Kettler will begin at 4 pm followed by a meal, live music groups, live auction, door prizes and more. Contact the Mission Office at 320-251-1100 with questions.

World Mission Rosary Day: Friday, October 6th is the Annual Diocesan World Mission Rosary Day. This is a day when Catholic children all around the world commit to praying for one another. Our religious education students will be participating in a living rosary later in October.

Act-Oberfest Variety Show: Join the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of St. Cloud on Sunday, October 15th from 2 – 4 pm at the Falls Ballroom in Little Falls as Bishop Keller, Diocesan priest, and community members showcase their unique talents to benefit Diocesan youth. All proceeds go to Generation Next, a fund which supports retreats, mission trips and other faith-building activities. There is no ticket needed, but asking for a free-will offering. Food will be available for purchase. For questions, please call 320-258-7653.

Readings for the Week: Monday, September 11th: Col 1:24—2:3 / Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday, September 12th: Col 2:6-15 / Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday, September 13th: Col 3:1-11 / Lk 6:20-26
Thursday, September 14th: Nm 21:4b-9 / Phil 2:6-11 / Jn 3:13-17
Friday, September 15th: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14 / Jn 19:25-27

- Community Events:**
- Sunday, September 10th: Cold Spring Area Knights of Columbus breakfast from 8:30 – 12:30 at St. Boniface Church, Cold Spring. Proceeds benefit charitable activities.
 - Sunday, September 10th: Fall Breakfast at St. Wendelin's Parish in Luxemburg from 8:30 am to Noon. On the menu will be sausage, scrambled eggs, French toast, hash browns, applesauce, mini muffins and beverages. There will also be a bake sale and raffle.
 - Sunday, September 10th: Church of St. Anthony Fall Festival in Watkins. Mass at 10:00 am. Food, raffle, Children's games and more.
 - Sunday, September 16th: Faith, Family and Fatima 64th Annual Fall Conference held at Our Lady of Lourdes in Little Falls. Cost is \$15 by September 19th, after that it will be \$20 at the door. Mail check to Lora Knafla, 11719 16th Ave NW, Rice, MN 56367.
 - September 15, 16 & 17: 43rd Annual Albany Pioneer Days Threshing Show held at the Stearns County Pioneer Club Showgrounds just north of Albany. This year featuring Minneapolis Moline, Twin City and Avery tractors & equipment. Great fun for everyone, young, old and in between! For details, visit the website: www.albanypioneerdays.com or call 320-393-2542.
 - September 22-24, 2017: Koinonia Retreat at the TEC center in Little Falls. Find more information at centralmnkoinonia.org.