

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 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
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
*Bulletin Deadline is Thursday at 9am *Email: stnicholas@meltel.net *Website: www.churchofsaintnicholas.com *Usual Office Hours of Secretary are Monday and Thursday mornings.			

MASS SCHEDULE

Dec 2	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	First Sunday of Advent	+Arlene Lahr
Dec 3	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	First Sunday of Advent	Parents who have Lost a Child
Dec 4	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Advent Weekday	
Dec 5	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Advent Weekday	+Ewald Johannes
		{SN} 5 – 8 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Dec 6	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	Advent Weekday	
		{SA} 9 am – 7 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Dec 7	Thursday	{SN} 7:30 pm	Immaculate Conception	+Joseph Schwartz
Dec 8	Friday	{SA} 7:00 pm	Immaculate Conception	
Dec 9	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	Second Sunday of Advent	+Tom Decker
Dec 10	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	Second Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish

Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation. Please see the Mass schedule above!

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
Dec 9 at 7:30 pm	Louise Schutz	Dylan Utecht Volunteer	Ron Steil Art Faber	Cassey Lahr
Dec 10 at 10:00 am	Don Dufner Shirley Lutgen Mary Caskey	Caden Neiman Landon Neiman	Robert Kraemer Steven Stang	Doug Caskey

Parish Council Nominations: Parish Council Nominations will take place THIS weekend. There are nomination forms in the pews for you to write in Parish Members that you think would be able to serve on the Parish Council. Paul Ludwig and Angie Spitzley are completing their 3 year terms. We thank them for their commitment and service to our Parish! The drawing will take place during Masses on December 16 and 17.

Penance Services for Advent: St. Nicholas and St. Anne's will have a Penance Service with at least one other Priest to hear confessions on Sunday, December 17th. St. Nicholas will be at 4:00 pm and St. Anne's will be at 7:00 pm.

Christmas Masses: Christmas Eve Mass will be scheduled at St. Anne's at 5:00 pm and St. Nicholas at 9:00 pm. Christmas Day Masses will be at St. Anne's at 8:00 am and St. Nicholas at 10:00 am. Due to how Advent falls on the calendar this year, Sunday, December 24th is also the 4th Sunday of Advent. Regular Sunday morning Masses will be held at both SA and SN.

Stewardship of Treasure November 26, 2017

Adult	\$XXX	(39 of 161 envelopes)
Youth	XXX	(4 of 45 envelopes)
Loose	XXX	
TOTAL	\$XXXXX	



Thanksgiving	\$XXX (37 gifts)
Propagation of Faith	\$XXX (1 gift)
Soup & Sandwich Supper	\$XXX + Matching Grant \$

Gospel Connection: Every morning, she goes for a walk with her two daughters. The first half goes quickly. The three walk the third-of-a-mile up the road to the older daughter's kindergarten at the end of their street. She hugs her five-year-old goodbye and sends her on her way. Then she and her four-year-old, Poesy, turn around and start back. The return trip home lasts as long as Mom is willing to let it. They cover the same third-of-a-mile, but the pace is slower and the path meandering, as Poesy stops to probe the mysteries along the way: investigating a storm drain, examining a fallen scarlet maple leaf, scaling a water puddle (missing the first couple of attempts). She discovers a twig and leaf and excitedly shows her mother how, together, they make a flag. "Mommy! Look!" Poesy cries as she points to a beautiful rainbow hovering over the mist created by a water sprinkler. Her attention constantly revolves, to a dog one second, to a feather the next, then to an eye-catching pebble. Mom hides her impatience. There's a great deal to be done today. Both have places to be. While Mom cherishes this time with her daughter, she's aware that the clock is ticking. But still . . .

"Watching her, I feel the rush of time," she writes, "and I realize just how soon these walks of ours will end. Come September she will be in kindergarten; I will leave both girls at school and walk on my own. Once again I'll travel as quickly as I want to, but the appeal of that has now faded away. These slow morning rambles with my four-year-old - the new day glimmering around us, the sun warm on our backs - are the most fleeting kind of pleasure. I'll try to remember, later, what she did and said, but the feeling of the moment, sweet and simple, will be gone. I stop walking, looking over my shoulder for Poesy. When she gets to me, I reach down and take her hand." [From "Slow Walking" by Jenna Russell, The Boston Globe Magazine, May 17, 2015.]

On this First Sunday of Advent, Jesus urges us to appreciate what this mom comes to realize on her morning walk with her daughters: that life is precious, that our world changes, that our time is limited. Father Richard Rohr writes that faith and spirituality begin with "seeing. It's not about earning or achieving but about "paying attention": paying attention to the presence of God in every joy and sorrow, in every pain and trauma, in every victory and setback before us. Advent calls us to "watch," to be "alert" to the presence of God in the love of family and friends, to find the true meaning and purpose of our lives in moments of compassion, forgiveness and generosity.

Religious Education: Classes will meet on Wednesday, December 6th. Grades 3 – 7 will be at Church for Reconciliation with Fr. Statz. Please come prepared! The Second Graders will have their FIRST Reconciliation on Saturday, December 9th at 9:00 am at St. Anne's. Grades 8 – 11 will have Reconciliation on December 13th.

Sharing Tree: The 7th grade Religious Education class is sponsoring our Sharing Tree. This year our church will be donating toys and non-food items to the Area Cold Spring Food shelf. The Food Shelf is sponsoring a Toys for Tots program with toys going to local children. The tags on the tree are marked for various ages of children 12 and under and items for the food shelf (in particular non-food items such as bar soap, shampoo, laundry soap, etc.). You are more welcome to also donate healthy food items as well. Cash received will be used to purchase additional toys.. **All items need to be turned in by December 10th. We will be boxing up the toys and other items after Mass – all are welcome to help, particularly 7th graders and their families.** We appreciate any help you can give to make Christmas special this year for area families.



Message from Fr. Statz: During the season of Advent and Lent I want to call special attention to the season we are in. I would like to do the parts that pertain to the people the "Holy Holy Holy" and the "Lamb of God" in Latin. You May be thinking, didn't the council do away with the Latin. In fact the opposite is true, according to the Documents of Vatican II in Section III paragraph 47 it states, "Pastors of souls should take care that besides the vernacular 'the faithful may also be able to say or sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them.'" These prayers will be found in the back pocket of the Missal in both Latin and English.

Message on Icy Church Steps: During this winter season, if the steps going into Church are snowy or icy, or there is a chain across them, the Parish Council is asking you to use the elevator door to enter Church. This is being done for safety! Thank you!

Communion: If you are not able to make it to Church this winter season, or anytime, and you would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the Parish Office at 764-7345 or Brenda at home (685-3715). Someone will be able to bring it to you!

Updating your Information: We are striving to keep our information up to date! If you, or any of your family members, have had changes to their address or especially your phone numbers, please update your information with the Parish Office! Many have dropped their land lines and only use a cell number. If you know of any changes, you can call 764-7345 and leave a message or you can email your changes to stnicholas@meltel.net. It only takes a minute, but saves others much time! THANK YOU!

Retirement Fund for Religious: "Thanks to support from the Retirement Fund for Religious, we are now in a much better position to care for our elders," writes a religious sister. Your donation helps her religious community and hundreds of others provide for aging members and plan for long-term needs. Please give to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

Advent Daily Reflections: There are books in the back of Church called "The Magnificat Advent Companion" that are available to you for your daily Advent reflections and prayers. You are welcome to take one!

Readings for the Week: Monday, December 4th: Is 2:1-5 / Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 5th: Is 11:1-10 / Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 6th: Is 25:6-10a / Mt 15:29-37

Thursday, December 7th: Is 26:1-6 / Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 8th: Gn 3:9-15, 20 / Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 / Lk 1:26-38

Community Events:

- Sunday, December 3rd: Catholic United Financial Matching Grant Breakfast at St. Boniface in Cold Spring. Serving sausage, ham, waffles, scrambled eggs and beverages from 8:30 am to Noon.
- Sunday, December 10th: Breakfast at St. Boniface in Cold Spring. Serving eggs, hash browns, ham, sausage, cinnamon bread and more from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.
- Sunday, December 17th: Breakfast at St. Anthony Parish in St. Cloud from 8:00 – Noon. Serving fresh & smoked sausage, ham, scrambled eggs, pancakes with fruit toppings and more.