

# CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

Second Sunday of Advent

December 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	
Brenda Kraemer, Rel. Ed Coordinator	(H)	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 mornings.			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

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
Dec 11	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Advent Weekday	
Dec 12	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Our Lady of Guadalupe	+Elmer Boeckmann
Dec 13	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	St. Lucy	
Dec 14	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	St. John of the Cross	+Wilfred Flaschenriem
Dec 15	Friday	{SA} NO MASS	Advent Weekday	
Dec 16	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	Third Sunday of Advent	+Darlene Dodge
Dec 17	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	Third Sunday of Advent	Lawrence Kuechle Family
		{SN} 4:00 pm	Penance Service	
		{SA} 7:00 pm	Penance Service	

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 16 at 7:30 pm	Elmer Neu	Mitchell Utecht Volunteer	Tom Landwehr Robert Wehseler	Anita Neu
Dec 17 at 10:00 am	Greg Utecht Kelly Bautch Jeff Theis	Sarah Kraemer Kathy Kraemer	John Hopfer Ron Stang	Lee Bautch

**Parish Council Nominations:** Parish Council Nominations took place last weekend. THE DRAWING FOR ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN WILL TAKE PLACE DURING MASSES THIS WEEKEND. Paul Ludwig and Angie Spitzley are completing their 3 year terms. We thank them for their commitment and service to our Parish!

**Penance Services for Advent:** Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – Penance Service with Two priest available: SN – 4:00 pm. SA – 7:00 pm  
Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>: SA at 8:30 am  
Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>: SN at 8:30 am  
Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>: SA at 5:00 pm AND SN at 7:00 pm

Please make an effort to make it to one of the available confessions!

**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 24<sup>th</sup> is also the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. Regular Sunday morning Masses will be held at both SA and SN.

**Christmas Flowers:** If you would like to make a donation for Christmas Flowers in memory of a loved one, please mark your donation in a separate envelope “Christmas Flowers” and include who you are remembering! Thank you! Decorations will be put up after 10:00 am Mass on December 24<sup>th</sup>.



Stewardship of Treasure December 4, 2017			
Adult	\$XXX	(40 of 161 envelopes)	
Youth	XXX	(2 of 45 envelopes)	
Loose	XXX		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$XXXXX</b>		
		Energy Needs	\$XXX (2 gifts)
		Thanksgiving	\$XXX (3 gifts)
		Christmas Flowers	\$XXX (1 gift)
		Votive Stand	\$XXX

**Gospel Connection:** His job is his desert. He's good at what he does, but it's become pretty routine. The travel stopped being fun years ago. Making sales calls and pitching new clients are now second nature to him - but working up enthusiasm is becoming more and more of a challenge. He makes a nice living, great benefits - but the chance of owning his own business, of being his own boss, is slipping away. His messenger is his wife, who constantly reminds him of the good life he is providing for his family, who supports him when he gets "stranded" in his desert, who keeps the possibilities of "someday" alive.

Her desert is her in-laws. They're nice enough, but she knows they think their son married beneath him. Family gatherings are hard - she feels like an outsider, that she doesn't belong. Her messenger is her husband's great aunt. Fifty years ago, Aunt Priscilla was the "outsider" who married into the family. Priscilla knows what she's going through and, at every family gathering, takes her nephew's wife under her wing, where she finds welcome and love.

Their desert is their child's illness. Like every loving mom and dad, they're ready to move heaven and earth for their child - but what? Their daughter is making progress, but it's so slow. They worry about her future, about what they're overlooking in her care, about giving in to their frustration and fear. Their messenger is a nurse at the hospital, who stays in touch with them. She's always there to answer their questions, explain the hows and whys of various treatment options, and makes sure not only that their daughter is doing OK - but that Mom and Dad are OK, too.

Throughout our lives, we find ourselves lost in places of loneliness, of anger, of hurt, of bitterness, of fear - and in these deserts, if we listen with our hearts, we hear "the voice of one crying out" hope and possibility to us. God sends a "messenger" in the guise of a loving and supportive spouse, a wise and generous family member or friend, a dedicated and compassionate care-provider who help us "make a straight path" - smoothing, strengthening, leveling the way. This Advent, may we open our hearts to hear the "voice" of the "Baptizers" whom God sends into our deserts - and may we be the voice of God's "messenger" to those wandering in their own deserts and wildernesses of hopelessness and suffering.

**Religious Education:** Classes will meet on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> . ALL GRADES WILL HAVE CONFESSION WITH FR. STATZ. The Christmas program on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> will be having the students do a short Gospel performance, making tie blankets and delivering some of them. After that we will have treats and refreshments in the Church basement. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

**Sharing Tree:** The 7<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup>. We will be boxing up the toys and other items after Mass – all are welcome to help, particularly 7<sup>th</sup> 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. If fact the opposite is true, according to the Documents of Vatican II in Section III paragraph 47 is 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:** Help religious communities! “Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry,” writes a religious sister. Your gift to today’s collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure younger members to continue the good works of their elders. Please give to the 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 11<sup>th</sup>: Is 35:1-10 / Lk 5:17-26  
 Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>: Zec 2:14-17 / Lk 1:26-38  
 Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>: Is 41:13-20 / Mt 11:11-15  
 Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>: Is 40:25-31 / Mt 11:28-30  
 Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>: Is 48:17-19 / Mt 11:16-19

### Community Events:

- Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>: 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 17<sup>th</sup>: 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.