

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2018



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, Roger Utecht	253-9547
		Parish Council, Sandy Stang	764-2030
		Parish Council, Don Dufner	764-9105
		Parish Council, Sue Stommes	597-3454
		Parish Council, Elmer Frank	764-9111
		Parish Council, Kelly Bautch	597-3255
		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

Jan 6	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	Epiphany	People of the Parish
Jan 7	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	Epiphany	+Wilfred Flaschenriem
Jan 8	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	The Baptism of the Lord	
Jan 9	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Weekday	+Jerome Schwartz
Jan 10	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	Weekday	
Jan 11	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Weekday	+Howie Braun
Jan 12	Friday	{SA} NO MASS	Weekday	
Jan 13	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Donald Lutgen
Jan 14	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Hansen/Krueger Families

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
Jan 13 at 7:30 pm	Rick Utecht	Mitchell Utecht Volunteer	Ron Steil Art Faber	Joe Decker
Jan 14 at 10:00 am	Shirley Lutgen Kelly Bautch Trish Ludwig	Andrew Bautch Michael Bautch	Paul Ludwig Don Dufner	Lee Bautch

Parish Volunteer Team: The **Parish Life Committee** and the **Catholic United Financial Council** plan on merging. There will be a meeting on Sunday, January 14th after the 10:00 am Mass in the Church basement. Anyone interested in being on the team is invited to attend this meeting. This team will be responsible for most of the social events that take place in our parish. You do not need to be a member of Catholic United Financial to be on the team. If interested, please plan to attend. We will have an outside representative here to explain how this team will work. Lunch and refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, please call Dave Stang, Brenda Kraemer or Jeff Theis.

Annual March for Life Rally: Everyone is invited to attend the Annual March for Life Rally at the State Capitol that will be held on Monday, January 22nd. This day marks the anniversary of the legalization of abortion in Minnesota. Busing will be provided at no charge. The bus leaves Sts. Peter & Paul in Richmond promptly at 8:30 am. It will also stop in Rockville. There will be a prayer service at the Cathedral of St. Paul at 10:30 am followed by the March at the State Capitol. A brief program by our legislators will begin at 12:30. Dress for the weather! For more information, contact Linda Pederson at 320-267-6268 or by email at thepedersonfam@aol.com.

Stations of the Cross during Lent: The Men's Society will be hosting Stations of the Cross during Lent. There will be every Wednesday at 7:00 pm, except on Tuesday, March 6th and Tuesday, March 13th. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend!

Annual Parish Dinner – Save the Date! Our Annual Parish Dinner will be held this year on Sunday, April 15th after the 10:00 am Mass. This is a great time for socializing and fellowship with the members of our church! Please make an effort to attend this year if you haven't in the past! All are invited. More information will come out closer to the date.

Stewardship of Treasure December 31, 2017

Adult \$XXX (26 of 161 envelopes)
Youth XXX (0 of 45 envelopes)
Loose XXX
TOTAL \$XXXXX



Solemnity of Mary \$XXX (4 gifts)
Energy Needs \$XXX (2 gifts)
Christmas \$XXX (12 gifts)
Thanksgiving \$XXX (1 gift)
Votive Stand \$XXX

Gospel Connection: At the age of 13, her world darkened. Her happiness disappeared; she no longer found joy in her classes where she excelled or in playing her beloved clarinet; she was becoming more and more withdrawn. By the time her family and friends realized she was struggling, she was very sick. At school, counselors and therapists confronted her about her detachment; her friends collectively decided that she was not worth their concern. Everything and everyone she turned to for love and acceptance were missing when she most needed it. Something "broke" inside of her. She didn't care if she lived or died.

So, desperate for a change, she transferred to another school - a Catholic high school. She was the daughter of a non-practicing Methodist and a nonpracticing Presbyterian. They left the decision of church and religion to her and her siblings - as long as they identified as "some sort of Christian." She didn't know whether she believed in God or not.

"I found I was searching for something that refused to make itself known," she remembers. "If God existed, I concluded, God was not interested in my soul. God did not include me, but my too-cool-for-religion friends did. That is, until they didn't."

At her new school, signs of God were pretty much everywhere she looked. That first day she felt like an invader. She wasn't interested in a new beginning; she simply wanted to put in her time. She wasn't interested in new friends, either. She was far from convinced that she would succeed in this new school - she just knew that her last school left her defeated. But that's when the unexpected happened. "It took time and patience, but new friends found me. They did not give up on the moody and disconnected new student. Nothing was easy, but I was taught how to assimilate. It was a new form of love I had not yet known . . . I was 18 years old when I was baptized into the Catholic Church. The first person I was introduced to on my first day of class stood next to me at the baptismal font as my chosen god mother. Since then, I have decided that my faith lies in my journey. I do not fear a lack of acceptance because I know God has a plan in motion. With God, I am no longer an outsider looking in. With God, I have found my missing community. [From "Through the Motions: My patient journey with depression" by Nicole Bazis, America, November 28, 2016.]

Today's solemnity of the Epiphany centers on the journey that every one of us travels, the journey that is ultimately a search for God: finding God in our life's meaning, finding God in belonging to family and community; finding God in the satisfaction of doing good. As the magi experienced, God sets "stars" ahead of us - for this student, the star was a group of teachers and classmates who would not let her be lost to the darkness of her depression. The understanding and support of family and friends, the forgiveness we extend and receive, the meaning we come in know in giving and serving those in need, are all "epiphanies" of God's presence in our own Bethlehems. In the new year before us, may our hearts and spirits behold these many epiphanies in which we re-discover the love of "Emmanuel" - God in our midst.

Religious Education: The next class will be on Wednesday, January 10th at 7:00 pm.

Christmas Flowers: Thank you for the generous donations for Christmas Flowers to make our church beautiful!

Donations are in memory of:

Deceased members of the Hansen & Krueger Families
Loren Linn
Jim Asfeld
Audrey Cremers
Andy Stang
Alfred Theis
Gerald Landwehr

Christian Women
Parents of Leo & Carole Klaers
Sandy Klaers

Ervin & Louise Linn
Joseph W. Theis
Phillip Asfeld
Ray Rausch
Paul Stang
Edmund & Fern Meyer
Diane Jannsen



2018 Calendars: THANK YOU to Jim & Sandy Wenner and Wenner's Funeral Home for their generous donation of our 2018 calendars! Fr. Statz will be blessing them at the weekend Masses. They will be available after Mass. Please take just one per family.

Blessed Chalk for Home Blessing: There will be some blessed chalk available for you to bless your home for 2018.

20 + C + M + B + 18

The inscription contains the initial of the Three Wise Men: Casper, Melchior and Balthazar within our new year of 2018. Here is the Blessing: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. As we mark this lintel, send the angel of mercy to guard our home and repel all the powers of darkness. Fill all who live here with a love of the gospel life and warm them with the fullness of your grace. And so Farther, may all who dwell here or grace its portals with their presence, find the joy and thoughtfulness of Mary, the God-bearing together with Jesus, the light of nations, in the unity of the Holy Spirit and the Church, now and forever, Amen." All who enter your home this year and pass under that chalked blessing are blessed with peace and all that is good.

Retrouaille: Save a marriage! Are you or someone you know, living in the pain of a marriage in trouble? Retrouaille can help. The next program start on February 16, 2018 at the Country Inn & Suites in St. Cloud. Please call 320-255-5314 or check the website www.helpourmarriage.org for more information and to register.

Readings for the Week: Monday, January 8th: Is 55:1-11 / Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday, January 9th: 1 Sm 1:9-20 / Mk 1:21-28

Thursday, January 11th: 1 Sm 4:1-11 / Mk 1:40-45

Wednesday, January 10th: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 / Mk 1:29-39

Friday, January 12th: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a / Mk 2:1-12

Community Events:

- Sunday, January 14th: St. Boniface Christian Women of Cold Spring Breakfast from 9 am to Noon. Serving sausage, liver sausage, scrambled eggs, fried potatoes, Texas toast, fresh fruit, baked goods and more!
- Sunday, January 21st: Breakfast at St. Anthony Parish Center in St. Cloud serving from 8 am to Noon. Menu features fresh & smoked sausage, ham scrambled eggs, pancakes with fruit toppings and more.
- Sunday, January 21st: 2018 Youth Free-throw Championship held at Kimball Area High School from 1 – 2 pm. Boys & Girls ages 9 to 14. For entry forms or more info, call Fritz Hoffman at 320-309-9235. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.
- Feb 2-4 and April 13-15: Worldwide Marriage Encounter. Feb 2-4 is in Hermantown, MN and April 13-15 is in Baxter, MN. For more information, visit northmnwwme.org or call Alan & Missy at 888-455-3496.