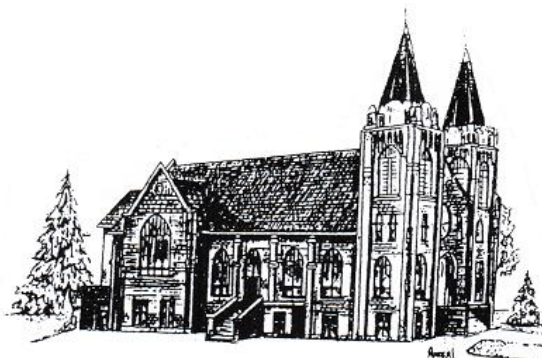


CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 11, 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

Feb 10	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	6 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Ernest & Mary Decker
Feb 11	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	6 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Ewald Johannes
Feb 12	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Weekday	
Feb 13	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Weekday	+Rosie Raden
Feb 14	Wednesday	{SA} 5:30 pm	Ash Wednesday	
		{SN} 7:30 pm	Ash Wednesday	Special Intention for Lent
Feb 15	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	+Lucille Lahr
Feb 16	Friday	{SA} NO MASS	Friday after Ash Wednesday	
Feb 17	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	1 st Sunday of Lent	+People of the Parish
Feb 18	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	1 st Sunday of Lent	+Vocations – K of C Mass

Weekend Masses at St. Anne's in Kimball are Saturday at 5:00 pm and Sunday at 8:00 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
Feb 17 at 7:30 pm	Louise Schutz	Derek Utecht Volunteer	Laverne Ludwig Jack Rausch	Lucy Schreiner
Feb 18 at 10:00 am	Brenda Kraemer Shirley Lutgen	Sarah Kraemer Katherine Kraemer	Robert Kraemer Don Dufner	Doug Caskey

Lenten Chaplet: At the Ash Wednesday Mass, there will be a Chaplet available for you to pick up. The purpose of this Chaplet is to pray for a particular person; the first person that comes to mind when you start to pray. It is meant to be prayed each day during Lent and sometime after Good Friday, you should give your Chaplet to the person that you prayed for. We are asking for a free will donation for the Chaplet with the money being used for Religious Education. There will be a prayer card with instructions included with the Chaplet. This is a simple, easy way to both pray for someone and it is a great Lenten activity! It "counts" as both Lenten prayer and Almsgiving! The crucifix that is on the Chaplet came from Rome and was Blessed by Pope Francis!

St. Nicholas Breakfast! St. Nicholas Christian Women will host a breakfast on **Sunday, February 18th**. They will be serving from 9:00 am to Noon. On the menu is Old Fashioned Fried Potatoes, scrambled eggs, pancakes, roll, fruit, and beverages. Groups 1 and 2 will be working for this breakfast; Group 1 from 7:30 to 10:30 and Group 2 from 10:30 to clean up. There will also be an MCCL Bake Sale and a Raffle.

Ash Wednesday Masses: Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 14 this year. Masses will be held at St. Anne's at 5:30 pm with NO 8:30 am Mass that day. St. Nicholas will have a Mass at 7:30 pm. Please plan on attending!

Stewardship of Treasure February 4, 2018

Adult \$XXX (44 of 161 envelopes)
Youth XXX (3 of 45 envelopes)
Loose XXX



Energy Needs \$XXX (2 gifts)
St. Cloud Visitor \$XXX (8 gifts)
Votive Stand \$XXX

TOTAL \$XXXXX

Gospel Connection: Luke is a 21-year-old college student studying to be paramedic; he also works for the fire department in a small town in Oregon. Not long ago, he went to Portland to celebrate his girlfriend's birthday. He parked in a paid garage. When he returned, he found the window smashed. His backpack and computer were gone. Everything important to him was on that computer: his class notes, papers, and job applications. He felt sick.

Two days after the break-in, an exchange student from the United Arab Emirates named Masoud was approached by a man who said he had a computer for sale. Only \$200. Masoud had been in this country only a year; he admits he was naïve. But he needed a computer, and this was a good deal. He handed the man the cash and took the computer home. Within seconds of turning it on, Masoud saw Luke's files and photographs. *Who would sell a computer with all this on it?* Masoud realized it was stolen.

So Masoud called Luke on the cell number Masoud found on the computer. Luke remembers the call: "This guy with a thick accent told me he had my computer. He told me the story and said it was his fault. With his accent, I thought it was a scam. I told him if he really had the computer, he should take it to the police. I knew that would be the end of it." But it wasn't. Masoud took the computer to the police and the police called Luke to come to the station to reclaim his computer. The police were as surprised as Luke - this just doesn't happen. The police also passed along Masoud's number.

Luke called Masoud immediately to thank him and insisted on repaying the \$200 that Masoud was out. But Masoud refused. Masoud said it was his mistake to buy a computer from someone he didn't know. More important, it was his honor and duty as a Muslim to return the property to its rightful owner. "I saw a photo of this man in his paramedic uniform," Masoud explains. "Those are great people. They help people. He is a good man. I don't want my money back."

For Luke, the experience meant more than the return of his computer. Luke had never met a Muslim before. He had a new awareness and perspective of immigrants like Masoud. Masoud, meanwhile, has had a rough first year in America. Shortly after arriving in Oregon, he was physically assaulted by a man who shouted at him to "go home" (the man was later arrested). Now the encounter with the computer thief. When the president of the university of Portland State University, heard what happened, he arranged a new MacBook Pro for Masoud. "We're very proud of you," the president told him. "You did the right thing." And Luke later took Masoud to dinner to thank him. [The Oregonian, January 27, 2017.]

"If you wish, you can make me clean," the leper says to Jesus. The leper's request is a challenge to each one of us, as well. We can transform our lives and world in the goodness of God - if we "wish." We can perform our own miracles of healing and reconciliation, we can restore to health and community those society considers "lepers," we can be vehicles of God's grace to the broken-hearted, the lost, the despairing - if we choose to embrace the compassion of Jesus. Despite the cost and even though he had no legal obligation to do so, Masoud elects to do what is right and just; he embraces the principles on which his own faith in God is centered. Christ the Healer and Reconciler promises us the grace to be imitators of his compassion and forgiveness whenever we are ready to take the first step in healing the wounds and cleaning the "leprosy" that isolate us from others.

Religious Education: The next class will be on Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 pm. Ash Wednesday Mass will be at 7:30 pm that you should be attending with your family.

Bocce Ball on the Lake in St. Nick! Sunday, Feb 25th around 1:30 or 2:00. We are organizing an afternoon of bocce ball on the lake in St. Nick and a bonfire down below the ball park. All are invited to attend! There will be more details next week. If the weather does not cooperate, we will have a bean-bag tourney in the church basement.

Bishop's Annual Appeal 2018: The Bishop's Annual Appeal Commitment Weekend is February 17-18. Help Bishop Kettler by supporting the Men's Conference, Women's Conference, and the efforts to dignify ALL LIFE at ALL STAGES through the Bishop's Annual Appeal!

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!

Rice Bowl: Rice Bowls will be available to pick up before Ash Wednesday Mass. Join our faith community, and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States, in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. During the 40 days of Lent, as companions on the journey, we will encounter our neighbors.

Annual Parish Dinner : 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.

Readings for the Week: Monday, February 12th: Jas 1:1-11 / Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday, February 13th: Jas 1:12-18 / Mk 8:14-21

Thursday, February 15th: Dt 30:15-20 / Lk 9:22-25

Wednesday, February 14th: Jl 2:12-18 / 2 Cor 5:20 – 6:2 / Mk 6:1-6, 16-18

Friday, February 16th: Is 58:1-9a / Mt 9:14-15

Community Events:

- Sunday, February 11th: Monthly Breakfast sponsored by Knights of Columbus at St. Boniface Parish Center in Cold Spring. Serving from 8:30 to 12:30. Proceeds will go to Diocesan Tea Party of High School girls and other youth activities.
- Saturday, February 17th: Men's Retreat at the Assumption Church in Eden Valley from 8 am to 5:30 pm. Free will offerings will be accepted. Open to all men, confirmation students or 16 & older. More info at www.ecclesiadomestica.net
- Saturday, February 17th: Men's Retreat
- Sunday, February 25th: Knights of Columbus Roast Beef & Ham Dinner at Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Rockville. Serving from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Proceeds to support KC Sponsored vocation scholarships and other religious activities
- Sunday, February 25th: Catholic United Financial Matching Grant Breakfast at St. Francis of Assisi Church State, Hwy 238 in Freeport (just North of Albany). Menu of sausage, scrambled eggs, pancakes with toppings, sweet rolls, beverages. Free Will offering!
- Sunday, March 4th: K of C Breakfast at St. Anne's Church in Kimball serving from 8:00 am to 11:30 am. Menu of eggs, pancakes, hash browns, beverages. Proceeds to Kimball Area Food shelf and SA Religious Ed program.