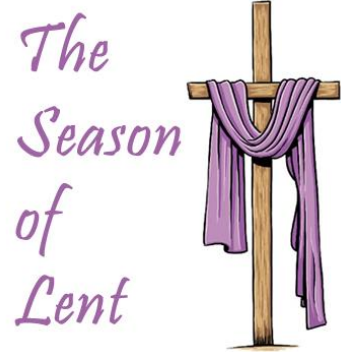


# CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

First Sunday of Lent

February 18, 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 17	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	+People of the Parish
Feb 18	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	+Vocations – K of C Mass
Feb 19	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Lenten Weekday	
Feb 20	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Lenten Weekday	+Joane Dingman
Feb 21	Wednesday	{SA} 5:30 pm	Lenten Weekday	
		{SN} 7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross	
Feb 22	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	The Chair of St. Peter	+Bernice Larson
Feb 23	Friday	{SA} NO MASS	Lenten Weekday	
Feb 24	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	+Marvin Hilsgen
Feb 25	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	+Eugene Schutz

\*\*Fr. Tom Olson will be here on Sunday, Feb 25<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Statz will be holding confessions for the RE students at SA\*\*

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](http://www.churchofsaintnicholas.com)

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

	Eucharistic Ministers	Servers	Ushers	Lector
Feb 24 at 7:30 pm	Art Faber	Katelyn Utecht Volunteer	Ron Steil Allen Stommes	Joe Decker
Feb 25 at 10:00 am	Sandy Stang Lee Bautch	Caden Neiman Landon Neiman	Elmer Frank Sy Schreiner	Mike Kuechle

**Lenten Chaplet:** The Chaplets 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!** Is Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Come and enjoy a delicious meal on Sunday!

**Stretching & Breakfast Make 'N Take:** the Parish Volunteer Team is putting together a session for some healthy stretching exercises and making healthy breakfasts. This get together will be held on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in the Church Basement. We will have an exercise instructor come and give us some helpful, easy stretches to do each day and different items to use to create a healthy, on-the-go type breakfast. This class will be open to anyone 21 years and older. More information will come, but please call Trish Ludwig if you have any questions or would like to sign up! There will be a \$15 and we are asked to bring a 1 quart Mason jar to class. There will be breakfast samples and we will be making a breakfast for later! Bring a friend and husbands are welcome too!

## Stewardship of Treasure February 11, 2018

Adult \$XXX (35 of 161 envelopes)  
Youth XXX (5 of 45 envelopes)  
Loose XXX



St. Cloud Visitor

\$XXX (4 gifts)

**TOTAL \$XXXXX**

**Gospel Connection:** Ann Patchett is the author of the best-selling Commonwealth, Bel Canto and eight other novels; she is also co-owner of Parnassus Books, an independent book store in her hometown of Nashville. At the end of 2016, she writes, "when our country had swung in the direction of gold leaf," she felt the anxiety and fear many Americans were feeling. Inspired by the experience of a friend, Patchett decided to opt out of the empty glitz and resolved that 2017 would be her year of "no shopping." Her ground rules: No clothes or electronics. Shampoo, batteries and printer cartridges were OK, only if she ran out. She could buy anything in a grocery store, including flowers. Plane tickets and eating out in restaurants were also OK. Because she's an author (and owns a book store), she could continue to indulge in buying books, and curtailed her gift-giving to books (one exception: a wedding gift for her editor).

Patchett discovered that "the trick of no shopping isn't that you don't buy things. You don't shop. That means no trawling the sale section of the J. Crew website in idle moments. It means the catalogs go into the recycle bin unopened on the theory that if I don't see it, I don't want it. Halfway through the year I could go to a store with my mother and sister if they asked me. I could tell them if the dress they were trying on looked good without wishing to try it on myself." She also realized the wisdom of what her parents taught her as a child: If you want something, wait awhile. Chances are the feeling will pass. And "once I stopped looking for things to buy, I became tremendously grateful for the things I received. The things we buy and buy and buy are like a thick coat of Vaseline smeared on glass: We can see some shapes out there, light and dark, but in our constant craving for what we may still want, we miss life's details . . . I came to a better understanding of money as something we earn and spend and save for the things we want and need. Once I was able to get past the want and be honest about the need, it was easier to give more of my money to people who could really use it. For the record, I still have more than plenty. I know there is a vast difference between not buying things and being able to buy things. Not shopping for a year hardly makes me one with the poor, but it has put me on the path of figuring out what I can do to help." [The New York Times, December 15, 2017.]

This season of Lent challenges us to opt out of business as usual to discover to new paths to walk, new ways of seeing, new perspectives to embrace. In giving up shopping for a year, Ann Patchett rediscovered the wealth she already possessed. In Lenten desert experience, Christ calls us to lay aside the material and ephemeral in our lives in order to realize the lasting treasures that are ours: love, mercy, forgiveness, justice, compassion. These 40 days of Lent are an invitation to us to spend time in the "wilderness," to confront the hard choices we must confront in our lives: choices between the values of God and the values of "Satan," choices between the values we believe in the depths of our hearts and the "marketplace" values of prestige, wealth and security. In making these choices honestly, sincerely and faithfully, we come to a new realization of God as the center of our lives and hopes and a renewed focus on fulfilling the Easter promise in our own lives.

**Religious Education:** The next class will be on Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm. This will be a regular class. We will have Stations of the Cross on February 28<sup>th</sup>, but will meet in class first. Confessions for students will be coming up in March.

**Bocce Ball on the Lake in St. Nick!** Sunday, Feb 25 starting around 1:30 -2:00. The plans are all set. Come join us for an afternoon in the outdoors. Bonfire (down below the ball park), roasting hotdogs, bocce ball games on the lake. All are invited. Parking will be on the west side (at the bottom of the hill) of the baseball park. Follow the path, either on the lake or through the woods, towards the back of the softball park. Hotdogs and marshmallows will be provided. Bring your own beverages and a snack to share, and your own chair if you want one. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will have a bean bag tourney in the church basement. If you have any questions, you can call Betty or Ken Lutgen.

**Bishop's Annual Appeal 2018:** We support Catholic Schools and youth and adult faith formation within our parishes 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. The will be every Wednesday at 7:00 pm, except on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend!

**Rice Bowl:** Rice Bowls will be available to pick up. In Iraq, we encounter Majd and his family, people forced to flee violence, searching for stability. How are we called to welcome the stranger in our midst? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more information.

**Annual Parish Dinner :** Our Annual Parish Dinner will be held this year on **Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>** 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 19<sup>th</sup>: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 / Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>: Is 55:10-11 / Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>: Jon 3:1-10 / Lk 11:29-32

Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>: 1 Pt 5:1-4 / Mt 16:13-19

Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>: Ez 18:21-28 / Mt 16:13-19

### Community Events:

- Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>: 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 25<sup>th</sup>: 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 4<sup>th</sup>: 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 to Kimball Area Food shelf and SA Religious Ed program.