

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 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

Mar 10	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	4 th Sunday of Lent	MCCL – Pro Life
Mar 11	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	4 th Sunday of Lent	+Monica Huschle
Mar 12	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Lenten Weekday	
		{SN} 7:30 pm	Parish Council Meeting – Parish House	
Mar 13	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Lenten Weekday	+Elmer Boeckmann
		{SN} 7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross	
Mar 14	Wednesday	{SA} 5:30 pm	Lenten Weekday	
Mar 15	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Lenten Weekday	+Parents of L & D Ludwig
Mar 16	Friday	{SA} NO MASS	Lenten Weekday	
Mar 17	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	5 th Sunday of Lent	+Jean Stang-Malone & Andrew Stang
Mar 18	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	5 th Sunday of Lent	People of the Parish

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
Mar 17 at 7:30 pm	Rick Utecht	Derek Utecht Volunteer	jack Rausch Ron Steil	Joe Decker
Mar 18 at 10:00 am	Annette Stang Shirley Lutgen Judy Schutz	Sarah Kraemer Kathy Kraemer	Robert Kraemer Sy Schreiner	Dave Stang

Stretching & Breakfast Make 'N Take: HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL A LATER DATE!

Parish Council Meeting: THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED TO MONDAY, MARCH 12TH AT 7:30 PM IN THE PARISH HOUSE.

Congratulations to our First Communicants! Congratulations to Bryce Neiman, Jayden Stang and Sarah Theis as they make their First Holy Communion this Sunday, March 11th. May Jesus bless you, care for you and always love you!



Township Meeting: Luxemburg Township Annual Election and Meeting on Tuesday March 13 in the Church basement. Polling hours are 5:00-8:00 PM with the meeting to follow.

Stewardship of Treasure March 4, 2018

Adult \$XXX (43 of 161 envelopes)
Youth XXX (3 of 45 envelopes)
Loose XXX



Votive Stand \$XXX
St. Cloud Visitor \$XXX (1 gift)
Catholic Relief \$XXX (2 gifts)

TOTAL \$XXXXX

Gospel Connection: She has never seen herself as beautiful or pretty. When she thumbs through fashion magazines in waiting rooms, she feels like some alien being. She cannot look at pictures of herself; she recoils from what she sees as her crooked nose, her acne scars and scabs, her short stature and skinny figure. But that's not what he sees. He was immediately captivated by her smile, a smile that lit up her entire face. The sound of her laugh and the kindness in her voice brought him a sense of peace and reassurance he had never experienced in another woman before. And the first time they kissed, she trembled and cried with embarrassment. But, as their relationship continued, she began to think that maybe she wasn't so ugly after all.

From the moment they met, he knew he was way out of her league. He worked hard - but his prospects were not what a woman of her background and education would find very promising. He found himself struggling to keep up with her. He had nothing to offer someone "like her." But that's not what she saw. She was taken by his sense of humor and humility, his generosity of spirit, his ability to listen patiently and support unconditionally. His easy way with his family and friends, particularly his younger siblings, was a delight to watch. His integrity and common sense were so unlike the other guys she had known. Oh, she knew how much he had to offer - and she felt like the luckiest woman in the world when he worked up the courage to propose.

In his late-night conversation with the Pharisee Nicodemus, Jesus presents a very different picture of God - and of ourselves. Jesus reveals to Nicodemus a God of life and restoration, a God who seeks not our punishment or humiliation but our healing and reconciliation with him and with one another. The God Jesus reveals is not the God of condemnation and destruction but the God of forgiveness, mercy and compassion. And that should help us re-imagine ourselves: that, created in God's love, we are more than the superficialities of appearance and assets, of wit and social graces. In the light of his Christ, we come to realize the good in ourselves that we often do not see; in that light, we find joy and reason to be grateful for the good that others bring to our lives. As Jesus explains to Nicodemus, God has created us as an extension of himself: from the moment of our creation, his life and love are part of our very being. In our embracing of his Spirit of justice and mercy, in our work to re-make our world in his dream of compassion and peace, the love in which we were created transforms our lives and the lives of those we love and who love us into the very light and love of God.

Religious Education: First Communion will be held on Sunday, March 11th during Mass. We have 3 students: Bryce Neiman, Jayden Stang & Sarah Theis. There will be regular classes on Wednesday, March 14th at 7:00 pm.

Bishop's Annual Appeal 2018: Please support our Diocesan Mission to be Christ's heart of mercy, voice of hope, and hands of justice through your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. We have our Goal for St. Nicholas for the Annual Appeal. Our goal is \$6,442.00 from our Parish. Please use the envelope that was sent to you in the mail, or use an envelope and fill in your information from the back of Church. For more information please visit stcdio.org.

Stations of the Cross during Lent: The Men's Society will be hosting Stations of the Cross during Lent. The will be on Tuesday, March 13th. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend! This is a great Lenten activity!

Easter Flowers: Anyone that would like to donate towards Easter Flowers can do so by marking a separate envelope and dropping it in the collection basket during Mass. Please mark your envelope with dedication name. These will also be listed in the bulletin closer to Easter. Thank you!

Rice Bowl: We encounter Andrise, a teacher in Haiti who knows the importance of forming young people who will give back to the community - and their country. Reflect on the role teachers have played in bringing you closer to God and your community. How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more information.

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. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of Church beginning next week.

Catholic Relief Services Collection: Funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees and bring Christ's love and mercy to all people here at home and abroad. This collection also helps 6 Catholic agencies to provide relief and support to struggling communities. Prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. You may use the envelope in your packet.

Good Friday Collection: Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. When you contribute, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. You may use your envelope in your packet. Thank you!

Readings for the Week: Monday, March 5th: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b / Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday, March 6th: Dn 3:25, 34-43 / Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday, March 7th: Dt 4:1, 5-9 / Mt 5:17-19

Thursday, March 8th: Jer 7:23-28 / Lk 11:14-23

Friday, March 9th: Hos 14:2-10 / Mk 12:28-34

Community Events:

- Sunday, March 11th: Breakfast at St. Boniface Parish Center, Cold Spring. Serving from 8:30 to 12:30 pm. On the menu: eggs, hash browns, ham, sausage, cinnamon bread, fruit, rolls, beverages. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus.
- Sunday, March 18th: Breakfast at St. Anthony in St. Cloud from 8:00 am - Noon. Serving fresh & smoked sausage, ham, scrambled eggs, pancakes with fruit toppings, fresh fruit, rolls, hash browns and beverages.
- March 18th: Bouja & Chicken Noodle Soup sale at St. Anthony's Church in Watkins.
- March 21 at 7:00 pm, March 23 at 7:30 pm, March 24 at 7:30 pm, March 25 at 1:00 pm: Journey with Jesus to Calvary performed by the parishioners of St. Francis Assisi Church, Albany (10 miles North of Albany on Hwy 238). Free.
- April 5, 6 & 7: St. Boniface Christian Women of Cold Spring Annual Clothing Drive and Rummage Sale. April 5th from 2 - 7 pm, April 6th: 8 am to 7 pm and April 7th: 8 am to 10 am. You may also drop off clothing and items. Questions, call Shirlee at 685-8463.
- June 5 - 7: Franciscan Girls Camp in Little Falls for girls in grades 6 - 8. For more information visit www.fslf.org.