

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 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	469-4735
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, Ken Lutgen	764-2043
		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

Dec 8	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	Immaculate Conception	+Joseph Schwartz
Dec 9	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	Second Sunday of Advent	+Dec. Rel. of Pozorski Family
Dec 10	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Advent Weekday	
Dec 11	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Advent Weekday	+Jim Bishof
Dec 12	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	Our Lady of Guadalupe	
Dec 13	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	St. Lucy	+Elmer Hechel
Dec 14	Friday	NO MASS	St. John of the Cross	
Dec 15	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	Third Sunday of Advent	MCCL – Pro Life
Dec 16	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	Third Sunday of Advent	Parents Who Have Lost a Child

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
Dec 15 at 7:30 pm	Louise Schutz	Dylan Utecht Volunteer	Ralph Schreiner Ron Steil	Judi Schreiner
Dec 16 at 10:00 am	Marion Frank Elmer Frank Shirley Lutgen	Caden Neiman Landon Neiman	Don Dufner Elmer Frank	Mike Kuechle



New Life in Baptism: JoNeal Vernette, daughter of Brandon & Katie Stang, was brought into God's family through the waters of Baptism. Through the witness of her parents and God Parents, may JoNeal keep the flame of faith alive in her heart.

Penance Service Schedule: Mark your calendars for the upcoming Penance Service and other Confession times!

Penance Service on Sunday, December 16th: St. Nicholas at 4:00 pm and St. Anne's at 7:00 pm

Confessions: Monday, December 17th at St. Anne's at 8:30 am

Tuesday, December 18th at St. Nicholas at 8:30 am

Friday, December 21st at St. Anne's at 5:00 pm and St. Nicholas at 7:00 pm.

Christmas Mass Schedule: So that you can plan your Christmas celebrations, the Mass schedule is listed here.

Christmas Eve: St. Anne's at 5:00 pm and St. Nicholas at 7:30 pm. ** Gospel reenactment during Mass with the RE students.

Christmas Day: St. Anne's at 8:00 am and St. Nicholas at 10:00 am

New Year's Eve: The only Mass this day will be at St. Anne's at 5:00 pm

New Year's Day: The only Mass this day will be at St. Nicholas at 10:00 am

Eucharistic Ministers, Mass Servers, Ushers and Lectors are asked to sign up on the sheet at the back of Mass! Thank you!

Stewardship of Treasure November 25, 2018

Adult	\$XXX	(32 of 161 envelopes)
Youth	XXX	(2 of 45 envelopes)
Loose	XXX	
TOTAL	\$XXXXX	

Soup & Sandwich Supper	\$XXX
Cemetery Donation	\$XXX (2 gifts)
Energy Needs	\$XXX (1 gift)
Thanksgiving	\$XXX (38 gifts)
Church Cleaning	\$XXX (1 gift)



Gospel Connection: It had been a horrible day at the office, one crisis after another. He spent the day saving deals that were coming apart, reassuring angry customers whose orders had been messed up, going to the mat with vendors — putting out one fire after another. Just as he was about to leave for the day, he remembered: it was his family's night to volunteer at the soup kitchen. He called his wife, apologized for forgetting, and said he would meet her and the kids at the church hall in a half hour. Once there, he slowly managed to put the stress of the day behind him and got into the rhythm of the busy kitchen. His job that night was making the soup, with his daughter helping cut the vegetables. At 6 p.m., the doors opened. He took his station at the steaming caldron of chicken noodle soup. The first guest was an elderly woman in a torn coat and ripped sneakers. He ladled the soup into a bowl, and gently handed it to her. "Thank you so much," she said. "Thank you and bless you." Her smile was the brightest thing he had seen all day. And, he realized that he was, indeed, blessed.

A busy dad comes to realize his blessedness in the unexpected "sign" of a homeless woman's gratitude. In the course of our days, we all encounter such "signs": indicators of the realities of God's presence that we do not readily see or appreciate or have stopped seeing or would rather ignore altogether. These "signs" urge us to look deeper, to see beyond ourselves and our needs and expectations, to confront issues before they become disasters. In the "signs" of the good we give and receive, we "stand erect" to behold God's Spirit of humility and wisdom, transforming our lives in the justice and peace of Advent.

Religious Education Information: The next class will be Wednesday, December 12th. We will be choosing parts for the Christmas Pageant in the Barn that will be held at the Jeff & Jeanne Theis residence on Wednesday, December 19th. SECOND GRADE students will have their First Reconciliation at St. Anne's on Saturday, December 15th at 9:00 am at St. Anne's. Please keep Lillian Ludwig and Lincoln Lutgen in your prayers. Lillian and Lincoln are our second graders that will receive this sacrament on the 15th!

SHARING TREE: We will be boxing up the toys and other items after Mass on Sunday – all are welcome to help, particularly the 6th and 7th graders and their families. The 6th and 7th 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 than welcome to also donate healthy food items as well. Cash received will be used to purchase additional toys. We appreciate any help you can give to make Christmas special this year for area families. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Caskey (597-2854).



Christmas in the Barn: ALL PARISHIONERS AND GRANDPARENTS ARE WELCOME! The Religious Education program, along with the Catholic United Parish Volunteer Team, will be performing a Christmas Living Nativity on Wednesday, December 19th at 7:00 pm at the Jeff & Jeanne Theis residence. Their address is 15371 Co Rd 21. A simple meal will be served at 6 pm for the performers and their families. After the performance, all are welcome to refreshments in Jeff & Jeanne's heated garage.

Honoring Marriage Day: Honoring Marriage Day will be on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at the Cathedral of St. Mary in St. Cloud. This day is celebrating couples that have been married for 5, 25, 40, 50 or 60 plus years. Invitations will be mailed to the celebrating couples. **If you are celebrating one of these anniversaries ANYTIME in 2019, please let Brenda know!** You can contact Brenda by leaving a message at 764-7345, send an email to stnicholas@meltel.net, or call her cell number at 320-493-3957.

Retirement Fund: Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious order priest who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to this collection helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please use the envelope in your packet.

Readings for the Week: Monday, December 10th: Is 35:1-10 / Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 11th: Is 40:1-11 / Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday, December 12th: Zec 2:14-17 / Lk 1:26-38

Thursday, December 13th: Is 41:13-20 / Mt 11:11-15

Friday, December 14th: Is 48:17-19 / Mt 11:16-19

Community Events:

- Sunday, December 9th: Breakfast at Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish Center, Rockville. Serving eggs, hash browns, ham sausage, cinnamon bread, fruit, sweet rolls and beverages from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

Advent: A Time of Waiting, Hope & Joy

Advent is a Latin word meaning *the coming* or *arrival*. The season of Advent is a time to prepare to celebrate the three arrivals of Christ: his lowly birth in the past, his mysterious coming to the Christian community in the present, and his promised return as our judge at the end of time.

Advent Prayer: Loving God, help us to wait with patience and anticipation, to not be caught up in the rush of the season, but resting in your ever-present love. AMEN

St. Nicholas: Feast Day December 6th: Saint Nicholas (280 – 343), is the patron of children. He was orphaned at an early age and raised by an uncle. Like his uncle, he later became a priest and then a bishop. Nicholas came from a wealthy family, with parents who always were generous to the poor. Nicholas gave their money away to help people in need when they died. He was known for caring for children in trouble, healing the sick, and feeding the hungry. He often performed secret acts of kindness, especially, filling the stockings of a few young women with enough money to ensure a decent dowry and marriage. This is the origin of our custom of hanging stockings at Christmas!

