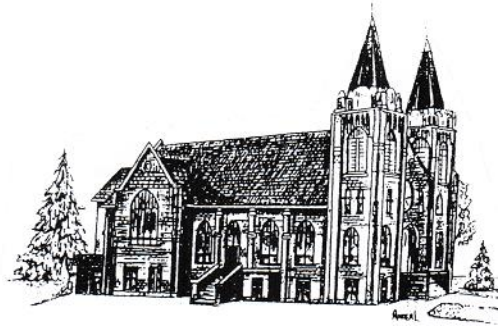


# CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

Third Sunday of Lent

March 24, 2019



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	250-0681
Brenda Kraemer, Rel. Ed Coordinator (H)	685-3715	Parish Council, Don Dufner	764-9105
		Parish Council, Sue Stommes	597-3454
		Parish Council, Elmer Frank	764-9111
		Parish Council, Kelly Bautch	597-3255
		Parish Council, Tom Frank	764-9112
		Parish Council, Judi Schreiner	764-9080
		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

Mar 23	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	+Elmer & Esther Faber
Mar 24	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	MCCL – Pro Life
Mar 25	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	The Annunciation of the Lord	
Mar 26	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am {SN} 7:00 pm	Lenten Weekday Stations of the Cross	+Stanley Jungels
Mar 27	Wednesday	{SA} 8:00 am	Lenten Weekday	
Mar 28	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Lenten Weekday	+Eugene Schutz
Mar 29	Friday	NO MASS	Lenten Weekday	
Mar 30	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	People of the Parish
Mar 31	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	First Communicants & Families

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
Mar 30 at 7:30 pm	Anita Neu	Mitchell Utecht Volunteer	Jack Rausch Art Faber	Elmer Neu
Mar 31 at 10:00 am FIRST COMMUNION	Brenda Kraemer Mary Caskey Shirley Lutgen	Jonathan Gathje Volunteer	Robert Kraemer Steve Stang	Doug Caskey

**Annual Parish Dinner:** the Annual Parish Dinner will be held on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> after the 10:00 Mass. This Dinner is open to all parishioners, just sign up in the back of Church for a meal count. There is no charge for this dinner! If you would rather, you may sign up by emailing the parish office or calling and leaving a message.

## Stations of the Cross, led by the Men's Society:

- March 26<sup>th</sup>: 7:00 pm
- April 2<sup>nd</sup>: 7:00 pm
- April 10<sup>th</sup>: 7:00 pm
- April 17<sup>th</sup>: 7:00 pm (Holy Week)

**Lenten Thoughts to Ponder:** When I attend Mass, am I fully aware that I am in the presence of God during that time? When was the last time I went to confession? As we enter the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Lent, what progress have I made spiritually? Do I need to make a "course correction" for the remaining weeks?

## Stewardship of Treasure March 17, 2019

Adult	\$XXX	(35 of 161 envelopes)
Youth	XXX	(5 of 45 envelopes)
Loose	XXX	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$XXXXX</b>	



Energy Needs	\$XXX (1 gift)
Chaplet Donations	\$XXX
St. Cloud Visitor	\$XXX (1 gift)
CRS	\$XXX (1 gift)
Easter Flowers	\$XXX (1 gift)

**Gospel Connection:** Sarah Gray was three months pregnant with identical twin boys when she and her husband, Ross, learned that one of them suffered from anencephaly, a fatal birth defect. Six months later, Thomas and Callum were born; Callum survived, but Thomas died six days later. Sarah and Ross decided to donate Thomas' tissues and organs to science research. They were able to donate his liver, his cord blood, his retinas and his corneas.

A short time later, Sarah was on a trip to Boston. She remembered that Thomas' corneas had gone to the Schepens Eye Research Institute at Harvard. She and Ross had signed away any rights to future information about the donation. But she decided there was nothing to lose by calling. "I donated my son's eyes to you a couple of years ago," Sara explained to the receptionist at Harvard. "I'm in town on business for a couple of days. Is there any chance I can stop by for a ten-minute tour?"

The woman who answered paused. "I've never had this request before." The woman asked Sara to hold for a moment; finally, someone came on the line and said she would be welcomed. The next day, Sara met one of the researchers at the lab. The researcher said that an infant's eyes "are like gold to us." Thomas' cells were still being studied at the lab as they developed treatment for a number of different eye ailments.

The warm and grateful welcome she received gave Sarah "the bug." So she and Ross arranged visits to the other three labs around the country where their little boy's tissues had been sent. At Duke University, they learned that Thomas' blood was part of a study on how anencephaly develops. Scientists at the Cytonet lab explained how Thomas' liver was being used to develop lifesaving therapy for liver disease. And at the University of Philadelphia, the Rosses saw how Thomas's retinas were a Godsend to researchers looking for ways to treat retinoblastoma, a deadly cancer of the retina.

For Sarah and Ross and Callum, the donation of Thomas' tissue was no longer an abstract "nice thing to do." The extraordinary good of Thomas' gifts became something real to them. Their feelings of grief turned into pride. Their son and brother was with them in this life-giving work. [From Sarah Gray's story at The Moth, told at the Tarrytown Music Hall in Tarrytown, N.Y.]

Sara and Ross Gray model the generosity of heart and spirit of optimism of the gardener in Jesus' parable. Like the gardener who sees some hope for the struggling fig tree, the Rosses are able to see beyond their grief to make some good come from their little boy's death. As God's mercy and compassion know no end, we are called to embrace the faith of the gardener: to work and re-work our own small plots and realize its harvest of compassion and grace.

**Religious Education Information:** The next class will be Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Confessions for students will be take place in Church. As your class is done, you will go back to the Parish House for class.

**Area Catholic Communities:** Attached to this bulletin is a final draft of the Catholic Area Communities assigned by the Bishop. Our community will be St. Nicholas, St. Anne's of Kimball, Holy Cross of Pearl Lake, St. Wendelin's of Luxemburg, and St. Mary's Help of Christian of St. Augusta. A planning council with 2 members from each parish is being commissioned by pastors of each parish. This planning council will meet as a group to begin the process of joining the parishes as a community. The 2 members chosen for St. Nicholas are Mary Caskey and Dave Stang. Please look to them with your concerns and ideas. They will meet in St. Cloud on April 8<sup>th</sup> to learn how the process will begin at an informational meeting. Meetings have not yet been scheduled for our Area Catholic Community to work out specific details, but will be set up after the information meetings hosted by the Diocese.

**Lenten Chaplet:** We have been fortunate to have parishioners help make our Lenten Chaplets this year! They are still available if you did not pick one up during the Ash Wednesday Mass. There will be a free – will offering with a suggested amount of \$5 per Chaplet. The money raised will go toward the Religious Education program. Once you have received your Chaplet, go back to your pew and start to pray. The first name that comes to mind is the person you will be praying for. Pray for a deepening conversion of faith during these 40 days of Lent. Each day you will pray: Apostle's Creed on the knot that ties the cross on the necklace. Glory Be, Hail Mary & Our Father for each set of knots. There are 7 sets of knots. Any time after Good Friday, give your Chaplet to the person you have been praying for. You will receive a card with these instructions.

**Rice Bowls:** Rice Bowls will be available to pick up at the back of Church. Encounter the Dhathcroos Family. The Dhathcroos family returned home, after fleeing violence in their country, to build a prosperous farm and become a vital contributor to their community. How can you assist refugees in your community to rebuild their lives? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more information.

**Readings for the Week:** Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>: Is 7:10-14, 8:10 / Heb 10:4-10 / Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>: Dn 3:25, 34-43 / Mt 18:21-35

Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>: Jer 7:23-28 / Lk 11:14-23

Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>: Dt 4:1, 5-9 / Mt 5:17-19

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>: Hos 14:2-10 / Mk 12:28-34

## Community Events:

- Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>: Lenten Fish Fry hosted by the BBE Knights of Columbus at the KaDe Shack in Brooten, MN from 5 pm to 9 pm. All are invited!
- March 29 and April 5, 12: St. Anthony Parish in St. Cloud (2410 1<sup>st</sup> St N) Lenten Fish Fry. Serving fried fish, au gratin potatoes, baked beans, coleslaw, dinner rolls, beverages from 4 to 7 pm. March 29<sup>th</sup> is Matching Grant with Catholic United!
- Fridays of Lent: Crosier Fathers & Brothers of Onamia. Taize Prayer Fridays at 7 pm at the Cathedral of St. Mary in St. Cloud. Healing Mass on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am at the National Shrine of St. Odilia, Onamia. Solemn Vespers Sundays at 5 pm in Onamia.
- Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>: Parish Fish Fry at Church of St. Anthony's in Watkins from 4:30 pm to 8 pm. Serving all you can eat fish, homemade coleslaw, potato salad, baked beans, bread, bars and beverages.
- Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>: Breakfast at the Church of St. Joseph in St. Joseph Catholic School dining room. Serving all you can eat Pep's pork, & St. Joe Meat market sausages, scrambled eggs, hash browns, pancakes, & more from 8:30 am to Noon.
- Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>: St. Wendelin's of Luxemburg, All you can eat breakfast from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Serving ham & cheese omelets, sausage, potatoes, applesauce, rolls, toast & beverages. Bake sale and raffle too. Mass is at 9:30 am.