

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 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 320-293-2788	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 (Cell) 493-3957	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

Nov 30	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	1 st Sunday of Advent	+John Decker
Dec 1	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	1 st Sunday of Advent	+Leonard Koenig
Dec 2	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Advent Weekday	
Dec 3	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	St. Francis Xavier	S & S Stang Family
		{SN} 5 – 8 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Dec 4	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	Advent Weekday	
		{SA} 9am – 4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Dec 5	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Advent Weekday	+Larry Frank
Dec 6	Friday	NO MASS	Advent Weekday	
Dec 7	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	2 nd Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish
Dec 8	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	2 nd Sunday of Advent	+Eugene Schutz

Weekend Masses at St. Anne's in Kimball are Saturday at 5:00 pm and Sunday at 10:00 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 7 at 7:30 pm	Art Faber	Derek Utecht Volunteer	Laverne Ludwig Tom Landwehr	Joe Decker
Dec 8 at 10:00 am	Mary Caskey Greg Utecht Don Dufner	Jonathan Gathje Volunteer	John Hopfer Steve Stang	Doug Caskey

2020 Calendars: Dave Stang, our Catholic United Financial representative here at St. Nicholas, has generously donated 2020 calendars for parishioners to take home! They were blessed last weekend and will be available for you in the back of the Church. Please thank Dave when you see him!

Advent Reflection Booklets: The Advent Reflection Booklets are available for you to take and are available in the back of Church. These are a great additional activity for you to do during the Advent and Christmas seasons! Please take one!



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Tuesday, December 3rd at St. Nicholas from 5 to 8 pm. Adoration will also be held at St. Anne's on Wednesday, December 4th from 9 am to 4 pm. Won't you come and spend some time with the Lord?

Stewardship of Treasure November 24, 2019

Adult	\$XXX	(31 of 162 envelopes)
Youth	XXX	(0 of 45 envelopes)
Loose	XXX	
TOTAL	\$XXXXX	



Thanksgiving

\$XXX (5 gifts)

Gospel Connection: Ask any expectant mother if she wants her baby to come early and she will say no, she does not. As badly as her back hurts, as long as it has been since she has seen her toes, she is willing to wait because the baby is not yet ready. The eyelashes are ready, but not the fingernails. The kidneys are ready, but not the lungs. Those wing-shaped sacks are still preparing to make the leap from fluid to air. There is still more time to do in the dusky womb, where the baby is growing like a seed in the dark.

The child's parents may never be ready, especially if this is their first. They want this; they are terrified of this. They planned for this; they can't imagine how this happened. Meanwhile, they have a few baby-less weeks to go, which they can put to good use. They can make sure the nursery is ready. They can learn to sing some lullabies. They can think about what it means to bring a human being into the world, and what it will take to raise a child up into his or her full humanity. All they cannot do is hold a baby in the light, because the baby is still in the dark. [Barbara Brown Taylor, from "Redeeming darkness," *The Christian Century*, November 29, 2011.]

We celebrate the birth of God's Christ in the darkest days of the year. But the dawning of the light of Christ enables us not only to not fear the darkness but to find God in the darkness. The season of Advent calls us to such "pregnant waiting": not passive, disengaged waiting for we don't know what but waiting that anticipates and makes possible now for what is to come. The experience of waiting enables us to realize what we appreciate, value and cherish; waiting teaches us how to be present and attentive to family and friends; waiting opens our vision and spirits to realize the love of God in our midst.

Religious Education: The next Class will be on Wednesday, December 4th at 7:00 pm. There will be confession for grades 3 – 11 in the Church; please meet there. Thanks to all families that brought desserts for the soup and sandwich supper! **Please pray for Brady Mergen, Haily Stommes and Lily Wills** who will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, December 7. Please pray that God will prepare their hearts for this gift of mercy and forgiveness.

Parish Council Nominations/Elections: Parish Council Nominations will take place at **THIS WEEKEND** at both Masses. We THANK Don Dufner and Sue Stommes for their service on the Council! Their terms are now completed. They are both eligible to be nominated again. The current members of the council are Elmer Frank, Kelly Bautch, Tom Frank, Judi Schreiner, Ken Lutgen – trustee, Mary Caskey – trustee, Anita Neu – Christian Women, and Dave Stang – Men's Society. **THESE MEMBERS, THEIR SPOUSES, AND THE PARISH SECRETARY** are NOT eligible to be nominated. Prayerfully consider who you would like to nominate.

Parish Volunteer Committee: the Parish Volunteer Committee of St. Nicholas is a group of people that help our Parish come together in ways that would not otherwise happen! The PVC has organized events for our parish like the Soup and Sandwich Supper that was just held here before Thanksgiving and Nicktober Fest that was held at the end of September. Anyone can be part of this group! All you need is a willingness to help out and have fun! Please contact Dave or Annette Stang to be added to the email list to be notified of when the next meeting will be! Please call Annette at 320-250-0681 or Dave at 320-469-4735. Or, you may contact the Parish Office 764-7345.

Catholic United Matching Grant: Thank you to Catholic United Financial!! They have given the Religious Education program \$1,000! This was a matching grant for the Nicktoberfest Fundraiser that was held at the end of September, 2019. This money is greatly appreciated!



Area Catholic Community: Representatives from all 5 parishes met on Tuesday, October 29. They have started on one of the stated goals of developing our ACC identity. Last week there was a flyer with instructions for you to submit your choice for a name for our ACC. You can find that form on the website now and in the back of church. Please submit your entries in the collection basket, by mail or by email to the parish office. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Stang at 320-469-4735 or Mary Caskey at 320-597-2854. **The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 5th, please have your ACC identity ideas turned in by then to the Parish Office!!**

Honoring Marriage Day: Honoring Marriage Day will be held on May 2, 2020 at the Cathedral of St. Mary in St. Cloud. This will be for couples celebrating 5, 25, 40, 50 or 60 plus years of marriage ANYTIME in 2020. If you are one of those couples celebrating one of these anniversaries, please let me know. You will then receive an invitation for this Day at the Cathedral. You may email, call or tell Brenda this information!

Foster Grandparent Opportunity: Would you like to become a Foster Grandparent? The Foster Grandparent Program provides the opportunity for volunteers age 55 and better to make a lasting difference in the lives of our Minnesota children and youth. There are a variety of settings to volunteer at, including elementary schools, preschools, shelters, childcare centers and juvenile detention centers. For more information contact Sara Heurung, area supervisor, at sheurung@ccstcloud.org or 320-229-4589.

Sharing Tree: The 5/7th Grade Religious Education class is sponsoring our Sharing Tree. This year our Church will focus on donating toys for children ages birth to 12 years old for the Toys for Tots program sponsored by the Area Cold Spring Food shelf. The toys will be given to local families in need the week of December 16th. Check out the tags on the tree and take 1, 2 or more! Cash received will be used to purchase additional toys. **All items need to be brought back to the tree by December 8th. We will be boxing up the toys after the 10am Mass on December 8th. All are welcome to help with the packing up of toys – especially all of the RE Students!** 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 at 597-2854.



Readings for the Week: Monday, Dec 2nd: Is 4:2-6 / Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday, Dec 3rd: Is 11:1-10 / Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday, Dec. 4th: Is 25:6-10a / Mt 15:29-37

Thursday, Dec. 5th: Is 26:1-6 / Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday, Dec. 6th: Is 29:17-24 / Mt 9:27-31

Community Events:

- Sunday, December 8th: Sts. Peter & Paul Holiday Extravaganza in the school gym from 9 am to Noon. Breakfast of ham & cheese omelets, hash browns, sausage, applesauce and more. Also a Cookie & Candy walk and silent auction.
- Monday, December 9th: Women's Night of Worship at St. Mary's Church, Upsala, MN Mass at 6:30 pm and Worship Hour from 7:30 – 8:30 pm. Join us for a prayerful night of adoration, music and fellowship. Refreshments to follow. Childcare available.
- Sunday, December 15th: St. Anthony Parish Breakfast, St. Cloud (25th Ave & 1st St N) serving from 8 am to Noon. All you can eat!