

# CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 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	Parish Council, Don Dufner 764-9105
(Cell) 493-3957	Parish Council, Sue Stommes 597-3454
*Bulletin Deadline is Thursday at 9am *Email: stnicholas@meltel.net *Website: www.churchofsaintnicholas.com *Usual Office Hours of Secretary are Monday and Thursday mornings.	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

## MASS SCHEDULE

Dec 7	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish
Dec 8	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	+Eugene Schutz
Dec 9	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Immaculate Conception of Mary	
Dec 10	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Advent Weekday	+John Decker
Dec 11	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	Advent Weekday	
Dec 12	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Our Lady of Guadalupe	+Richard Linn
Dec 13	Friday	NO MASS	St. Lucy	
Dec 14	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	+Elmer & Esther Faber
Dec 15	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	+Alfred Theis

\*\*Immaculate Conception is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. In the new Liturgical Year, the feast is transferred to Monday, December 9 and is non-obligatory. The Sundays of Advent have a higher ranking on the Liturgical Calendar; therefore, this feast is moved.

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

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES				
	Eucharistic Ministers	Servers	Ushers	Lector
Dec 14 at 7:30 pm	Elmer Neu	Katelyn Utecht Volunteer	Ron Steil Jack Rauch	Anita Neu
Dec 15 at 10:00 am	Judy Schutz Marion Frank Elmer Frank	Caden Neiman Landon Neiman	Ron Stang Sy Schreiner	Shirley Lutgen

**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!

## Confession Schedule:

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>: St. Nicholas at 4:00 pm and St. Anne's at 7:00 pm. Two priests will be available.

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>: St. Anthony in Watkins at 4:00 pm and Assumption in Eden Valley at 7:00 pm. Two priests will be available.



**Our Sympathy:** Our sympathy to the family and friends of Kathleen Theisen, daughter of Pauline Stein, who died and was buried on Saturday morning. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her!

## Stewardship of Treasure December 1, 2019

Adult	\$XXX	(26 of 162 envelopes)
Youth	XXX	(2 of 45 envelopes)
Loose	XXX	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$XXXXX</b>	



Thanksgiving	\$XXX (27 gifts)
Energy Needs	\$XXX (3 gifts)
All Saints/All Souls	\$XXX (2 gifts)

**Gospel Connection:** She is an awkward, 15-year-old girl with few friends who lives far from the centers of power. She struggles with Asperger's, can be very intense, painfully quiet and speaks in a cool, flat voice, almost blank in its affect. But what she has read about the changes in our earth's climate and environment has scared her; what she fears and how little she sees being done about the crisis has led her to spark a revolution among her generation with hand-made signs in Swedish: "School Strike for Climate."

Last March 1.4 million school children around the world responded to her call. At her urging, school children and young adults have continued to march and demonstrate, demanding that political leaders respond to the environmental crisis that threatens the planet we all share. This fall, she traveled from her home in Sweden to New York — by boat, not by plane — to speak before the United Nations. She called the nations and peoples of the world accountable for the catastrophic effects of climate change, just as the window for avoiding devastating warming, scientists warn, is almost closed.

She's been sharply criticized in some circles for her stand, dismissed by some as a naive, uninformed teenage girl. And she readily acknowledges that she is not a scientist and avoids the politics that surround issue. But her message at the U.N. was clear: "We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. The eyes of future generations are upon you, and if you choose to fail us, I say we will never forgive you." And she "lives" her call for change by living an exemplary low-carbon life — abjuring plane travel, eating vegan, denouncing consumerism. To millions of teenagers and young adults, Greta Thunberg is their face and voice, a prophet for our good earth. [*New York Magazine*, September 16-29, 2019.]

In our time, God continues to raise up men and women like John the Baptist to proclaim God's word of justice and peace in our broken, divided world. For many young people, Greta Thunberg is a prophet, however unlikely, who raises her small voice to the cause of climate change, not only speaking her message but living it. God calls every one of us to work of the prophet: to "proclaim" God's love and mercy in our own Advent times and places.

**Religious Education:** The next Class will be on Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. **Please pray for** Brady Mergen, Haily Stommes and Lily Wills who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Please pray that God will prepare their hearts for this gift of mercy and forgiveness.

**Parish Council Elections:** Parish Council "Election" will take place at **THIS WEEKEND** at both Masses. One man and one woman will be drawn at each Mass on Saturday and Sunday. We THANK Don Dufner and Sue Stommes for their service on the Council! Their terms are now completed. 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.

**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 Grant:** Thank you to Catholic United Financial!! They have given the Cemetery Committee \$500 to defray the cost of the paver project around the cross in the cemetery! This money is greatly appreciated!



**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:** All items need to be brought back to the tree by December 8<sup>th</sup>. We will be boxing up the toys after the 10am Mass on December 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 9<sup>th</sup>: Gn 3:9-15, 20 / Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 / Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>: Is 40:1-11 / Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>: Is 40:25-31 / Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>: Zec 2:14-17 / Lk 1:26-38

Friday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>: Is 48:17-19 / Mt 11:16-19

## Community Events:

- Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>: St. Anthony Parish Breakfast, St. Cloud (25<sup>th</sup> Ave & 1<sup>st</sup> St N) serving from 8 am to Noon. All you can eat!
- Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>: Advent healing Mass at St. Odilia in Onamia, MN. Mass with Anointing of the Sick at 9:00 am. All are welcome! Coffee & rolls served following the Mass.