

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2020



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, Elmer Frank 764-9111
(Cell) 493-3957	Parish Council, Kelly Bautch 597-3255
*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, Tom Frank 764-9112
	Parish Council, Judi Schreiner 764-9080
	Parish Council, Jerry Boeckmann 764-5845
	Parish Council, Denise Gathje 453-5719
	Trustee, Ken Lutgen 764-2043
	Trustee, Mary Caskey 597-2854

MASS SCHEDULE

Jan 11	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	Baptism of the Lord	+Donald Lutgen
Jan 12	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	Baptism of the Lord	+Alverna Hennen
Jan 13	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Weekday	
Jan 14	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Weekday	+Elmer Vossen
Jan 15	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	Weekday	
Jan 16	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Weekday	+Rainer Landwehr
Jan 17	Friday	NO MASS	St. Anthony	
Jan 18	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Dec. Mem of Decker Family
Jan 19	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish

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
Jan 18 at 7:30 pm	Art Faber	Derek Utecht Volunteer	Robert Kraemer Ron Steil	Joe Decker
Jan 19 at 10:00 am	Kelly Bautch	Jonathan Gathje Volunteer	Joe Gathje Gregory Gathje	Shirley Lutgen

Christmas Flowers: Thank you to those who donated for Christmas Flowers to make our church beautiful!

Donations are in memory of:

- +Alfred Theis
- +Ed & Fern Meyer
- +Gerri Landwehr
- +Rainer Landwehr
- Renee Morgan



Parish Council Meeting: The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday, January 13th at 7:00 pm in the Parish House.

Stewardship of Treasure January 5, 2020

Adult	\$XXX	(32 of 162 envelopes)
Youth	XXX	(0 of 45 envelopes)
Loose	XXX	
TOTAL	\$XXXXX	



Christmas	\$XXX (3 gifts)
Basement Rent	\$XXX
Solemnity of Mary	\$XXX (22 gifts)

Gospel Connection: What would be the last thing you would give up? What would be the last possession you would cling to before you had to let go? Some of us would hold on to our phones or laptops or tablets for dear life — our entire lives are on that chip! Or: *They'll have to pry my credit card from my cold, dead hand!* Or, though we would never admit it, we would cling to our pride: our professional credentials, the reputation and respect that we have earned over a long career, the expertise or craft or art we have worked so hard to master. To the bitter end, we would refuse to surrender those things that make us better than others (at least in our own eyes), that justify our standing apart and above those of lesser accomplishment, that put us (so we believe) in a position to judge those we consider lesser lights. Maybe the last thing we would give up is our identity as a spouse or a parent or a grandparent. No one could ever take that away — could they?

But that is exactly what happens at the River Jordan. Jesus leaves everything at the river's edge — including his very divinity. John, the fiery preacher who presides at those baptisms, is embarrassed by Jesus' coming forward for baptism. But Jesus insists. He empties himself of all that he is. He becomes the slave, the poor laborer, the leper, the forgotten man or woman he is standing next to in line. He plunges headlong into the dark, dirty water of the human condition. And, as Matthew the Gospel writer notes, some remarkable things happen. But the most remarkable of all: God is in our midst. God plunges with us into the turbulent waters of our days. It's just a matter of what we're willing to surrender — and in what amount.

To be baptized into Christ requires, first, that we let go of those things that we place ahead of the holy; to empty ourselves of our self-importance and pride in order to embrace the life of God that is manifested in the selfless compassion of Jesus — but, because of such humility, something new is possible, not just for us but for all of humanity: justice for the poor and enslaved can be imagined, reconciliation among the estranged and divided becomes a reality; our compassion can heal the broken-hearted. Hope that gives birth to new life, light that shatters the darkness of despair, love that lifts the fallen all become realistic possibilities — if we follow the lead of Jesus and let go and surrender our interests and needs for something greater.

Religious Education: The next Class will be on Wednesday, January 15th at 7:00 pm in the Parish House. There will be some "Safe Environment" information presented to students that is required by the Diocese. Please call with questions.

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.

Prayer Service/March for Life: You are invited to participate in the Prayer Service at St. Paul's Cathedral and the March for Life at the State Capital on Wednesday, January 22nd. There will be a bus going with pick-ups at Sts Peter and Paul in Richmond at 8:30 am and at Rockville's MIC at 8:45 am. The bus will return approximately 3:30 pm. There is no cost but a free will offering would be accepted. To Reserve a space on the bus, contact Linda Pederson at 320-267-6268 or email at the dedersonfam@aol.com.

Readings for the Week: Monday, Jan. 13th: 1 Sm 1:1-8 / Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday, Jan. 14th: 1 Sm 1:9-20 / Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday, Jan. 15th: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 / Mk 1:21-28

Thursday, Jan. 16th: 1 Sm 4:1-11 / Mk 1:40-45

Friday, Jan. 17th: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a / Mk 2:1-12

Community Events:

- Sunday, January 19th: Breakfast at St. Anthony Parish in St. Cloud from 8:00 to Noon. Serving fresh & smoked sausage, ham, scrambled eggs, pancakes and more.
- Sunday, January 19th: KC Monthly Breakfast at Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Rockville. Serving eggs, hashbrowns, ham sausage, cinnamon bread, fruit and beverages from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Proceeds earned will help the Rockville Cemetery.
- Sunday, January 19th: Bouja & Chicken Noodle Soup at St. Anthony's Church in Watkins. Serving from 8:30 am to Noon. You may pre-order by calling Larry Flaschenriem at 320-764-2965.
- Wednesday, January 22nd: Prayer Service at St. Paul's Cathedral and the March for Life — see above information

Blessed Chalk For Home Blessing: There will be some Blessed chalk available for you to bless your home for 2020. Use the chalk to write above your door, this inscription and say the prayer:

20 + C + M + B + 20

The inscription contains the initial of the Three Wise Men: Casper, Melchior and Balthazar within our new year of 2020. Here is the Blessing:

"In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. As we mark this lintel, send the angel of mercy to guard our home and repel all the powers of darkness. Fill all who live here with a love of the gospel life and warm them with the fullness of your grace. And so, Father, may all who dwell here or grace its portals with their presence, find the joy and thoughtfulness of Mary, the God-bearer, together with Jesus, the light of nations, in the unity of the Holy Spirit and the Church, now and forever, Amen."

All who enter your home this year and pass under that chalking blessing are blessed with peace and all that is good.