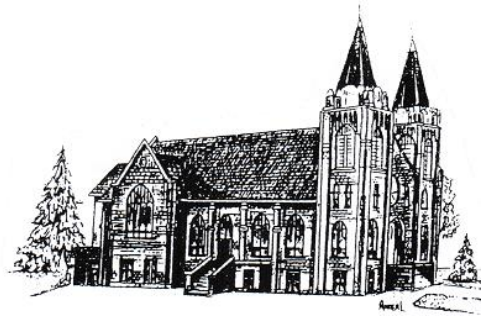


CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 16, 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	980-0482		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

Feb 15	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	6 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish
Feb 16	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	6 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Steve & Sandy Stang Family
Feb 17	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Weekday	
Feb 18	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Weekday	+Joseph Schwartz
Feb 19	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	Weekday	
Feb 20	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Weekday	+Kathy Theisen
Feb 21	Friday	NO MASS	Weekday	
Feb 22	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	7 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Ervin & Louise Linn
Feb 23	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	7 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	+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
Feb 22 at 7:30 pm	Judi Schreiner	Dylan Utecht Volunteer	Ralph Schreiner Laverne Ludwig	Judi Schreiner
Feb 23 at 10:00 am	Judy Schutz	Michael Bautch Volunteer	Joe Gathje Gregory Gathje	Shirley Lutgen

ACC News: The ACC Council last met on January 23rd at Holy Cross School. They shared some highlights from their meeting. The Council discussed the submitted names for the ACC. There will be a vote among all the parishes soon on the submitted names. There was a discussion about adding a full time Faith Formation position that would handle the whole ACC. Subcommittees were made to develop the Mass schedules, to coordinate voting and the announcement of the ACC name, to continue work on plans for Faith Formation, and to meet with Parish Secretaries to discuss communication plans. The next meeting is scheduled for February 18th at St. Augusta.

Men’s Society: The Men’s Society will meet after Mass on February 16th.

Old Palms: Do you have old palms? Fr. Statz is asking parishioners to bring in their old palms so they can be burned before Ash Wednesday. Please add them to the basket in the back of Church!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – PARISH DINNER: The Annual Parish Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 29th after Mass. There will be more details to follow!

40 Days for Life: 40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign of prayer, fasting and peaceful vigils to end abortion – to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life! Join others anytime between 7 am to 7 pm Monday through Friday at Planned parenthood in St. Cloud from Wednesday, February 26th to Sunday, April 5, 2020.

**Breakfast at St. Nicholas on Sunday, February 16th
served after Mass from 11:00 to Noon!!**

Stewardship of Treasure February 2, 2020

Adult	\$XXX	(32 of 156 envelopes)
Youth	XXX	(0 of 45 envelopes)
Loose	XXX	
TOTAL	\$XXXXX	



Energy Needs

Central MN Catholic

\$XXX (1 gift)

\$XXX (7 gifts – The Visitor)

Gospel Connection: In an essay in *The New York Times* this past Christmas Eve, Tali Farhadian Weinstein tells the story of her coming to America from Iran forty Christmases ago. In February 1979, three-year-old Tali, her parents and her infant brother were Jews trying to escape Tehran at the height of the Islamic Revolution. The family managed to get to Israel before outgoing flights were halted. Tali’s father went ahead to the United States on a tourist visa to find housing and employment. Finally, Tali and her mother and brother were able to fly to the United States, arriving at Kennedy Airport on Christmas Eve. Tali’s mother was terrified: the tourist visas she bought from a travel agent in Israel were certainly fake; they had one-way tickets; and they didn’t look like “tourists” — they had a large suitcase stuffed with pots and pans, a few items of clothing for the children and photo albums. Tali writes:

“When it was our turn for inspection, the Immigration and Naturalization Service officer — very reasonably — challenged my mother’s claim that we had come for a short visit. My mother didn’t say that what she wanted was asylum, that we had a well-founded fear of persecution in our country of origin. My mother didn’t know that those words had the power to keep us in America, that anyone on American soil had a right to be heard on that claim. Maybe because she had grown up in a county with no such protections, she couldn’t imagine such a thing.

“We could have been turned away. But that nameless I.N.S. officer — about whom I know nothing other than how he conducted himself in that moment — made a different decision. Before him stood a young mother traveling alone with her babies, visibly in need of refuge. She told him that the children wanted to see their father, that they had spent months apart. And he granted us ‘deferred inspection’ — meaning that we had permission but not authorization to enter the country — and told us to come back to the airport right after the holiday for deportation.” With the help of New York’s Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Tali’s family applied for and received asylum.

Today, Tali Farhadian Weinstein is the general counsel of the district attorney’s office in Brooklyn. One of the most important lessons about law and law enforcement she learned as a three-year-old immigrant from that nameless I.N.S. officer on that Christmas Eve. She writes in her *New York Times* piece: “Law enforcement requires us to exercise our humanity and sense of justice, always mindful of the demands of safety, in individual cases. Discretion in law enforcement can be abused, of course, but the alternative — the letter of the law without the spirit of the law — is worse.”

In today’s Gospel, Jesus speaks of “fulfilling” the Law — not abolishing it. Jesus seeks to restore the spirit of mercy, justice and reconciliation that gives meaning and direction to every just legal code. The border control officer Tali and her family encounter in New York was wise and compassionate enough to see beyond the questionable documents they had to recognize the reality of their situation and respond with the discretion the law permitted. Today’s Gospel challenges us to look beyond legalisms and social and cultural yardsticks — and our own narrow interests — to recognize people in need and our responsibility as followers of Jesus to seek them out, to advocate for them, to welcome them.

Religious Education: The next Class will be on Wednesday, February 19th at 6:45 in the Church Basement. The Sweetheart Dinner is rescheduled to this day! Parents: your help is GREATLY appreciated! This cannot be done without your help!

Chaplets: We will, once again, have Chaplets available during Lent. These Chaplets will have a suggested donation of \$5 each and will benefit the Religious Education program of St. Nicholas. Chaplets will be available at the Ash Wednesday Mass (February 26th).

CPR/AED Training: There will be a non-certified CPR/AED usage training. The training will be held in Mike Lutgen’s lower level across from the church. The training will start promptly at 7:00 pm. All are welcome! Please call Doug Caskey at 597-2854 so that the proper number of manikins will be available. The training should be done by 8:30 pm.

Bishop’s Annual Appeal: this is Announcement Weekend for the 2020 Bishop’s Annual Appeal. Please take this opportunity to consider your gift and the many ministries that are only available through your generosity. Next week, you can make a gift with envelopes that will be provided at Mass, or mail in the envelope that many of you will receive in the mail this week. Each dollar raised goes directly to the ministries that support our Catholic faith and is not used for any other purpose. The goal for **our parish** will be \$5,958 with the goal for the Diocese set at \$1,300,000.

Readings for the Week: Monday, Feb 17th: Jas 1:1-11 / Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday, Feb 18th: Jas 1:12-18 / Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday, Feb 19th: Jas 1:19-27 / Mk 8:22-26
Thursday, Feb 20th: Mas 2:1-9 / Mk 8:27-33
Friday, Feb 21st: Jas 2:14-24, 26 / Mk 8:34 – 9:1

Mass Schedule: Fr. Tom Olson will be here to do Mass on Sunday, March 1st. Fr. Statz will be doing confessions for the Religious Education students at St. Anne’s that day.

Community Events:

- Sunday, February 16th: All you can Eat Breakfast at St. Anthony Parish in St. Cloud. Serving from 8 am to Noon.
- Saturday, February 22nd: Catholic Men’s Conference at St. John’s University. Theme is “The Real presence – Bringing Christ to the World.” See the front of this bulletin for more information.
- Sunday, February 23rd: Old Time Card Party from 2 – 5 pm in the St. Anthony Parish Center in St. Cloud. There is a \$5 entry fee that covers the afternoon of playing 500 or cribbage followed by a light lunch.
- Sunday, February 23rd: St. Francis of Assisi CUF Matching Grant Breakfast (State Hwy 238, Freeport) serving from 9 am to 12:30.
- Sunday, February 23rd: Breakfast at St. Wendelin Parish of Luxemburg. All you can eat omelets from 8:30 to 11:30 am. Mass at 9:30.
- Friday, February 28th: Watkins Legion is hosting a Fish Fry at the Village Hall from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm.
- Friday, March 6th: St. Paul’s Annual Baked Fish Dinner serving from 5 to 7 pm at St. Pauls Parish Center in St. Cloud.
- Saturday, March 14th: Women’s Lenten Retreat held at Sacred Heart Church in Sauk Rapids with registration at 8:30 am and closing prayers at 2:15 pm. Sponsored by the DCCW.
- Sunday, March 15th: Wat-Kim-Valley VFW Breakfast will be held in the Watkins Village Hall from 8:00 to Noon. Serving sausage, French toast, scrambled eggs, hash browns, and beverage. Proceeds will go towards cancer benefits.
- Wednesday, April 1st: Performance of “Journey with Jesus to Calvary” at St. Francis of Assisi in St. Francis at 7:00 pm. Also performances on April 4 at 7:30 pm and April 5th at 1:00 pm.
- Sunday, April 5th: Meire Grove Chicken Dinner, serving from 3:30 to 7:30 pm. Menu will be baked chicken, ham, dressing, potatoes, creamed peas and homemade pies in the Meire Grove Church basement.