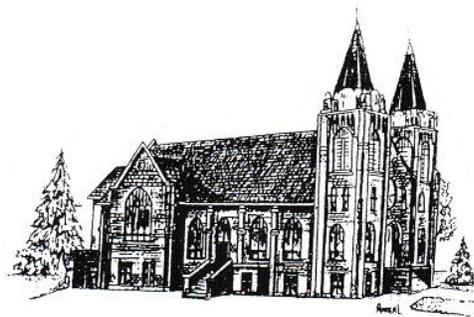


CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

The 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 23, 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 320-980-0482	Ministry Scheduler, Annette Stang 250-0681
Brenda Kraemer, Rel. Ed Coordinator (H) 685-3715 (Cell)320- 493-3957	Parish Council, Elmer Frank 764-9111
*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, Kelly Bautch 597-3255
	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 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
Feb 24	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Weekday	
Feb 25	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Weekday	+Ardella Flaschenriem
Feb 26	Wednesday	{SA} 5:30 pm	Ash Wednesday	
		{SN} 7:30 pm	Ash Wednesday	Religion Students, Teachers & Parents
Feb 27	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	+Richard Linn
Feb 28	Friday	NO MASS	Friday after Ash Wednesday	
Feb 29	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	1 st Sunday of Lent	People of the Parish
Mar 1	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	1 st Sunday of Lent	+Rosie Gathje

**Father Tom Olson will be here for Mass on Sunday March 1st. Fr. Statz will be holding confessions for the Religious Ed students at St. Anne's that morning.

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 29 at 7:30 pm	Judi Schreiner	Dylan Utecht Volunteer	Ralph Schreiner Laverne Ludwig	Judi Schreiner
Mar 1 at 10:00 am	Judy Schutz	Michael Bautch Volunteer	Joe Gathje Gregory Gathje	Shirley Lutgen

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.

Cemetery Committee Meeting: The Cemetery Board Meeting will be on Thursday, March 5th at 7 pm in the Church basement. Summer projects and financial account balances will be discussed.

REMINDER: Ash Wednesday, Fasting & Abstinence: Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. We receive ashes in the form of a cross on our forehead and are reminded to “turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.” Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of BOTH abstinence and fasting. Fridays during Lent are days of Abstinence (abstaining from meat).

Stewardship of Treasure February 16, 2020

Adult	\$XXX	(25 of 156 envelopes)
Youth	XXX	(0 of 45 envelopes)
Loose	XXX	
TOTAL	\$XXXXX	



CRS – Bishop’s Appeal \$XXX(1 gift)
Central MN Catholic \$XXX (4 gifts – The Visitor)

Gospel Connection: One of the year’s most acclaimed films is director Greta Gerwig’s adaptation of Louisa May Alcott’s novel *Little Women*. It’s the story of the four colorful and high-spirited March sisters, who live in Concord, Massachusetts, during and after the Civil War. While their father is away serving as a volunteer chaplain with Union forces, mother Marmee struggles to make ends meet — but Marmee always gives whatever the family has to anyone in need and instills such compassion and generosity in her daughters.

It’s not always harmonious in the March household. The four sisters argue and fight as all siblings do. There is a particularly ugly confrontation between Amy and Jo. Jo struggles with her anger at her sister. Her mother Marmee confides to her second daughter: “I am angry nearly every day of my life. I’ve learned to check the hasty words that rise to my lips, and when I feel that they mean to break out against my will, I just go away for a minute, and give myself a little shake for being so weak and wicked.” The moment portrays a mother’s struggle with her righteous anger and society’s demands that such anger be suppressed.

The glory of Greta Gerwig’s adaptation is the film’s portrayal of the March sisters as fully fleshed-out, imperfect young women. They play and argue, they fight and forgive. The bond of love among the four is neither sentimental nor cynical. In times of tragedy and crisis, as perspectives and dreams change, as each makes the difficult passage from childhood to womanhood, the March sisters remain inseparable. Their hands and hearts are always open to each other, no matter how angry they may be with one another in a given moment. We can readily see our own families — and ourselves — in these four daughters and sisters — and women.

The story of the March sisters models Jesus’ teachings on love in today’s Gospel. Jesus readily acknowledges that love — love that is and of God — is not easy. It’s demanding, often unreasonable and unfair. It means putting ourselves — and our disappointments and expectations — aside for the sake of the beloved. What is often most challenging about today’s Gospel is not loving our “enemies” but loving our annoying sister or bratty brother. It’s easy to “love” some nameless, demographic group we have little or nothing to do with; what’s hard is to “love” the people we live with and work with and go to school with. “To love our enemies” is not just to declare a cease-fire but to create and maintain an environment where reconciliation is always possible, where acceptance and welcome are assured — even within our families and households.

Religious Education: The next Class will be on Wednesday, February 26th at 7:00 pm in the Parish House. We will then move to Church for the Ash Wednesday Mass. The Sweetheart Dinner was a success! Thank you to the parents!! This dinner cannot be done without your help and it is GREATLY APPRECIATED!!

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). **The year, Catholic United Financial will have this event as a MATCHING GRANT! That means that Catholic United Financial will MATCH your donation and all the funds raised will go toward our Religious Education program!

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 **ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH**. 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: “Transformed by faith and sent in service to all.” The appeal supports ministries that benefit you, your family and your greater parish community. Please make a gift today! You can make a gift with envelopes that are provided at the back of the Church, or mail in the envelope that many of you received in the mail last 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 24th: Jas 3:13-18 / Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday, Feb 25th: Jas 4:1-10 / Mk 9:30-37

Thursday, Feb 27th: Dt 30:15-20 / Lk 9:22-25

Wednesday, Feb 26th: Jl 2:12-18 / 2 Cor 5:20 – 6:2 / Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Friday, Feb 28th: Is 58:1-9a / Mt 9:14-15

Community Events:

- 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, February 28th: Fish Fry at St. John the Baptist Church in Collegeville. Serving from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. (Just W of SJU Campus)
- Friday, March 6th: St. Paul’s Annual Baked Fish Dinner serving from 5 to 7 pm at St. Pauls Parish Center in St. Cloud.
- Friday, March 6th: Fish Fry at St. John the Baptist Church in Collegeville. Serving from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. (Just West of SJU Campus)
- 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.