

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

Ascension of the Lord

May 24, 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	Parish Council, Elmer Frank 764-9111
(Cell)320- 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

May 23	Saturday	{SN} NO MASS	Ascension of the Lord
May 24	Sunday	{SN} NO MASS	Ascension of the Lord
May 25	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Easter Weekday
May 26	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	St. Philip
May 27	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	Easter Weekday
May 28	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Easter Weekday
May 29	Friday	NO MASS	Easter Weekday
May 30	Saturday	{SN} NO MASS	Pentecost Sunday
May 31	Sunday	{SN} NO MASS	Pentecost Sunday

NOTICE:
Weekday Masses are limited to 10 people.

We ask parishioners to practice social distancing and other precautions when entering/leaving Church.

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
May 30 at 7:30 pm	Most likely, we will only have the Sunday Mass – watch for more details!!			
May 31 at 8:00 am			Paul Ludwig Steve Stang	Doug Caskey

Please send in your Donation Envelopes! You may send in your donation envelopes to the Parish Office. The address is:
 St. Nicholas Church
 15862 County Road 165
 Watkins, MN 55389
 Unfortunately, even with our church doors temporarily closed, electricity, insurance, salaries, etc. need to continue to be paid. Thank you to those of you who have already mailed in your envelopes!

Churches slowly re-opening! We have received approval from Bishop Kettler to hold Masses with less than 10 people. This would apply to our WEEKDAY MASS. Sunday Masses are still pending approval from the Bishop. There will be a list of changes that we will need to implement for us to comply with the Bishop's guidelines. Here are some of the changes and/or additional things you will see:

- * Pews will be marked where you can sit in family groups. Ushers will seat you.
- * There will be hand sanitizer you will be asked to use before & after Mass
- * There will be no missellettes for the time being
- * There will be no Mass Servers or Extraordinary Ministers
- * Ushers will tell you when to go to communion or leave the Church
- * The Church will be sanitized after Mass
- * Weekday Masses will still be held in the basement
- * We ask that you practice social distancing when entering, leaving, and during communion procession
- * We ask that you not gather at the back of Church after Mass

Once we have been approved, more information will be posted. Brenda will also send out an email to those parishioners that have an email address with details.

Stewardship of Treasure May 17, 2020

**Donations that were sent to the Parish Office THANK YOU!

Adult	\$1,775.00	(9 of 156 envelopes)
Youth	0.00	(0 of 45 envelopes)
Loose	0.00	
TOTAL	\$1,775.00	



Energy Needs \$100.00 (1 gift)

Connections: Eight-year-old Robbie Gay loves dogs — his favorites are the oldest, mangiest, least adoptable mutt. “There’s something about old dogs that I just like,” Robbie says simply. That’s because he sees himself in them.

In a wonderful story on *CBS News Sunday Morning* [February 21, 2020], Robbie’s mother explains that Robbie “knows what it feels like not to be loved and cared for. He’s the most hopeful, optimistic, and genuinely caring kid who has absolutely no reason to be that way.” Before he entered the foster system, Robbie was a holy terror, so badly abused that he was twice hospitalized with brain injuries. Then, two years ago, Maria and her husband Charles adopted him. Robbie has come a long way except for this: Maria says Robbie could not cry. Despite the horrors of his past, or maybe because of them, Robbie was a “stone” until earlier this month. One of Robbie’s old dogs, Buffy, had to be put down. He wanted to hold Buffy until the very end and insisted his mom take pictures of the process, perhaps because he knew what was about to happen. After Robbie finally let go, he told his mom, “I know how it feels not to be loved or cared for and I don’t want any animal of mine to feel that way.” Nor does he want any foster kid to feel that way. “He is so aware that it could have gone totally differently for him. And in these older dogs Robbie has found a place to practice compassion,” his mom explains. Someday, Robbie wants to adopt older foster children himself. But until then, to show his commitment and do what he can, he has vowed to adopt as many old dogs as his parents will let him. The current number is six. Recently they adopted a lame, snaggletoothed Shih Tzu mutt named Molly. Molly’s owner had to go into assisted living, and now Molly has a new home thanks to the sweet little boy who sees his reflection in the eyes of the suffering.

Robbie has experienced a great deal of hardship and pain in his young life, but, in being adopted by a loving couple, he has learned compassion and is determined to be the means for every “animal” — human or otherwise — to know what it means to be loved and cared for. The love he has now discovered in his life Robbie now wants every child and animal to experience. That’s the “great commission” of Jesus on the Mount of the Ascension: We are now sent to “teach” others the compassion and mercy of God that have blessed our lives; we are to be the means for our communities to experience the love and hope of God that we have come to know; we are to reveal the healing forgiveness of God to the broken and lost that has transformed and healed our own despair and hurt.

Religious Education: First Communion and Confirmation will be rescheduled to a later date. Please watch for updates.

Readings for the Week: Monday, May 25th: Acts 19:1-8 / Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday, May 26th: Acts 20:17-27 / Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday, May 27th: Acts 20:28-38 / Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday, May 28th: Acts 22:30, 23:6-11 / Jn 17:20-26

Friday, May 29th: Acts 25:13b-21 / Jn 21:15-19

Tips for Praying at Home: These were posted from the Diocese of Sioux Falls.

- Create a prayer altar under your TV or streaming device. Consider setting a crucifix or other sacred art in the prayer space.
- Open your bible to the gospel of the day and place it on your “home altar” to remind you that the Word of God is among you.
- Light a candle to symbolize the beautiful light that shines in the darkness and to help your home resemble the Church.
- Set up chairs like a pew to help you engage in the mass and keep you from passively watching from the couch.
- Get dressed as you normally would when attending mass. Keeping this routine is especially helpful for children.
- If you have holy water at home, bless yourself and your family before you begin the mass.
- Take a few moments of silence to transition from the busyness of your home to the sacredness of the mass.
- Fully participate by sitting and responding according to the rubrics of the mass.
- Engage in community by having coffee and breakfast with your family after Mass or by calling your loved ones to connect.

Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes: (Wednesday, May 13, 2020)

Members present: Doug Caskey, Ralph Schreiner, Judi Schreiner, Ken Lutgen, Jeff Theis, David Stang, Elmer Neu and Anita Neu. Guest: Brenda Kraemer.

Meeting was opened with a prayer. Discussion for the evening were the Cemetery Funds, North property line trees and center tree line removal.

There was much discussion again as to the type of tree to be added to the north property line.

In the end, it was decided to go with the present scheme planting arborvitae shrubs that will not grow too tall, nor too wide. Blue Spruce is not a good choice as they die from the bottom up. Jeff will watch for pricing on the arborvitae. The fence line is 961 feet.

The account balances of the Cemetery funds were discussed. It was stated that the whole last project was completely funded by donations.

As the center row trees continue to need removal, we will start grinding out the stumps and replacing them.

Ralph will oversee the trimming in July. This is planned for the week after July 4th.

Our center feature is completed as a nice group of volunteers added more paver stone to improve the aesthetics of the project.

Future agenda items: North line, Finances, Center trees, Cemetery lot prices

Next meeting will be last week in June.

David Stang made a motion to end the meeting, seconded by Jeff Theis. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.