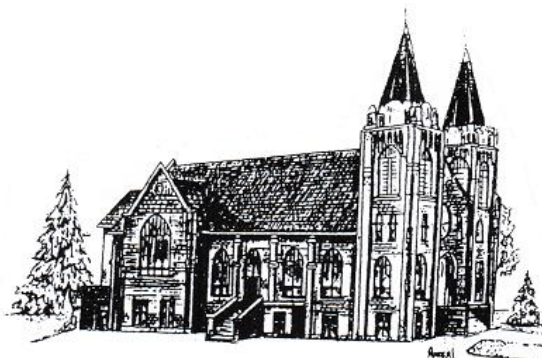


CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 14, 2018



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	764-5339
Sandy Stang, Parish Nurse	764-2030	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	764-5339
Brenda Kraemer, Rel. Ed Coordinator (H)	685-3715	Parish Council, Roger Utecht	253-9547
		Parish Council, Sandy Stang	764-2030
		Parish Council, Don Dufner	764-9105
		Parish Council, Sue Stommes	597-3454
		Parish Council, Elmer Frank	764-9111
		Parish Council, Kelly Bautch	597-3255
		Trustee, Mike Kuechle	685-3225
		Trustee, Mary Caskey	597-2854
*Bulletin Deadline is Thursday at 9am *Email: stnicholas@meltel.net *Website: www.churchofsaintnicholas.com *Usual Office Hours of Secretary are Monday and Thursday mornings.			

MASS SCHEDULE

Jan 13	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Donald Lutgen
Jan 14	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Hansen/Krueger Families
Jan 15	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Weekday	
Jan 16	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Weekday	+John Schutz
Jan 17	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	St. Anthony	
Jan 18	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Weekday	+Eugene Schwartz
Jan 19	Friday	{SA} NO MASS	Weekday	
Jan 20	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Decker Family
Jan 21	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	3 rd 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 20 at 7:30 pm	Judi Schreiner	Derek Utecht Volunteer	Jack Rausch Ralph Schreiner	Judi Schreiner
Jan 21 at 10:00 am	Brenda Kraemer	Sarah Kraemer Kathy Kraemer	Robert Kraemer Elmer Frank	Doug Caskey

Parish Volunteer Team: The Parish Life Committee and the Catholic United Financial Council plan on merging. There will be a meeting THIS Sunday, January 14th after the 10:00 am Mass in the Church basement. *Anyone* interested in being on the team is invited to attend this meeting. This team will be responsible for most of the social events that take place in our parish. You do not need to be a member of Catholic United Financial to be on the team. *If interested, please plan to attend.* We will have an outside representative here to explain how this team will work. Lunch and refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, please call Dave Stang, Brenda Kraemer or Jeff Theis.

Annual March for Life Rally: Everyone is invited to attend the Annual March for Life Rally at the State Capitol that will be held on Monday, January 22nd. This day marks the anniversary of the legalization of abortion in Minnesota. Busing will be provided at no charge. The bus leaves Sts. Peter & Paul in Richmond promptly at 8:30 am. It will also stop in Rockville. There will be a prayer service at the Cathedral of St. Paul at 10:30 am followed by the March at the State Capitol. A brief program by our legislators will begin at 12:30. Dress for the weather! For more information, contact Linda Pederson at 320-267-6268 or by email at thepedersonfam@aol.com.

Stations of the Cross during Lent: The Men's Society will be hosting Stations of the Cross during Lent. There will be every Wednesday at 7:00 pm, except on Tuesday, March 6th and Tuesday, March 13th. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend!

Annual Parish Dinner – Save the Date! Our Annual Parish Dinner will be held this year on **Sunday, April 15th** after the 10:00 am Mass. This is a great time for socializing and fellowship with the members of our church! Please make an effort to attend this year if you haven't in the past! All are invited. More information will come out closer to the date.

Stewardship of Treasure January 7, 2018

Adult \$XXX (37 of 161 envelopes)
Youth XXX (0 of 45 envelopes)
Loose XXX



Solemnity of Mary \$XXX (11 gifts)
Christmas \$XXX (11 gifts)

TOTAL \$XXXXX

Gospel Connection: In his career as a forensic pathologist, Dr. Thomas Andrew thought he had seen it all - but nothing like this. The opioid crisis, he says, is the worst drug epidemic in U.S. history. With 64,000 overdose deaths last year nationwide - a staggering 22 percent jump over the previous year - it is little wonder that overdoses, the leading cause of death among Americans under 50, are reducing life expectancy. These deaths are also straining the staffs and resources of morgues like the one Dr. Andrew directed in New Hampshire - especially New Hampshire, which has more deaths per capita from synthetic opioids than any other state. Dr. Andrew is no longer satisfied with cataloguing the escalating drug toll. He wants to try, in his own small way, to stop it.

After two decades as New Hampshire's chief medical examiner, Dr. Andrew retired last month. But he's not done: His plan is to go from exploring the mysteries of the dead to exploring the mysteries of the soul. In a sharp career turn, he's entering a seminary program to pursue a theology and ministry degree. His ultimate plan is to minister to young people, helping them stay away from the drugs he has found to be the cause of so many deaths. "After seeing thousands of sudden, unexpected or violent deaths, I have found it impossible not to ponder the spiritual dimension of these events for both the deceased and especially those left behind," Dr. Andrew says.

Dr. Andrew developed an appreciation for the essence of life by seeing its fragility. Most of the nearly 5,800 people he examined on his stainless-steel autopsy table "woke the day they died oblivious to the fact that it would their last on earth." In the morgue, Dr. Andrew learned to cope with the full immersion of death by compartmentalizing what he saw and "locking it away." But after a while, he found, one is bound to ask, *What's all this about? What am I contributing here? What difference does this make?* "You realize you've got x amount of gas left in the tank, and either I could choose to limp through this another 10 years and see where this goes on the accounting end, or I could finally attack this by way of extension ministry to youth, outside the four walls of a church. If you can instill moral and ethical values in young people that it can somehow help to inoculate them from that other so-called friend of theirs who's going to come up to them in middle school with the weed or the pill or heaven forbid that packet of powder, then you have maybe saved that one starfish off the beach." [The New York Times, October 7, 2017; Here and Now, NPR, November 1, 2017.]

Throughout our lives we wrestle with the question that Dr. Andrew has asked in his work as a pathologist and that Jesus asks of his prospective followers: *What are you looking for?* The answer is not to be found in instant gratification or amassing things; what we want our lives to become begins in the values of the heart and soul, in the happiness we choose to embrace. The Jesus we will meet in Mark's Gospel in the weeks ahead is the very word of God made human for us and like us in order to show us how to realize the love that God breathed into our souls at birth, the love that makes us completely human as God envisioned us to be.

Religious Education: The next class will be on Wednesday, January 17th at 7:00 pm. We will be having the "Sweetheart Dinner" again this year. Several people from the parish will be invited to attend with our Religious Education Students. We are asking for parents' help to cook and serve this dinner for us. Please see the email that was sent or call Brenda for more information!

Blessed Chalk for Home Blessing: There will be some blessed chalk available for you to bless your home for 2018.

20 + C + M + B + 18

The inscription contains the initial of the Three Wise Men: Casper, Melchior and Balthazar within our new year of 2018. 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 Farther, may all who dwell here or grace its portals with their presence, find the joy and thoughtfulness of Mary, the God-bearing 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 chalked blessing are blessed with peace and all that is good.

Catholic Men's Conference: The Catholic Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, February 3rd at St. John's University from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm. There will be speakers, workshop sessions and an opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation. For registration information, please visit www.stcdio.org/mensconference or see the flyer in the back of Church.

Catholic Women's Conference: The Catholic Women's Conference will be held on Saturday, March 10th at the Church of St. Anthony in St. Cloud from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. The theme for this year's meeting will be "Why the Pope was Right: A Day of Reflection." For registration information, please visit www.stcdio.org/womensconference18 or call 255-4721.

Retrouaille: Save a marriage! Are you or someone you know, living in the pain of a marriage in trouble? Retrouaille can help. The next program start on February 16, 2018 at the Country Inn & Suites in St. Cloud. Please call 320-255-5314 or check the website www.helpourmarriage.org for more information and to register.

Readings for the Week: Monday, January 15th: 1 Sm 15:16-23 / Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday, January 16th: 1 Sm 16:1-13 / Mk 2:23-28

Thursday, January 18th: 1 Sm 18:6-9, 19:1-7 / Mk 3:7-12

Wednesday, January 17th: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51 / Mk 3:1-6

Friday, January 19th: 1 Sm 24:3-21 / Mk 3:13-19

Community Events:

- Sunday, January 21st: Breakfast at St. Anthony Parish Center in St. Cloud serving from 8 am to Noon. Menu features fresh & smoked sausage, ham scrambled eggs, pancakes with fruit toppings and more.
- Sunday, January 21st: 2018 Youth Free-throw Championship held at Kimball Area High School from 1 – 2 pm. Boys & Girls ages 9 to 14. For entry forms or more info, call Fritz Hoffman at 320-309-9235. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.
- Sunday, January 21st: Knights of Columbus German Style Potato Pancake & Sausage Supper at Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church in Rockville. Serving from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Take out trays are available.
- Monday, January 22nd: March For Life at the Cathedral of St. Paul from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Please see the announcement.
- Saturday, January 27th: Chili & Soup Cook Off at Holy Cross School in Pearl Lake. Serving from 5 – 8 pm. Come try the entries and vote for Judges' Choice, Peoples' Choice and Best Decorated Table. This is a Matching Grant event with Catholic United Financial.
- Feb 2-4 and April 13-15: Worldwide Marriage Encounter. Feb 2-4 is in Hermantown, MN and April 13-15 is in Baxter, MN. For more information, visit northmnwwme.org or call Alan & Missy at 888-455-3496.
- Saturday, February 3rd: Spaghetti Supper at Holy Cross School in Pearl Lake. Serving from 4:30 to 7:30 pm. Includes pasta, marinara with ground beef and/or alfredo sauce, salad, garlic bread & beverages. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.