

# CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

Third Sunday of Lent

March 4, 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

Mar 3	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	People of the Parish
Mar 4	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	+Rosie Gathje
Mar 5	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Lenten Weekday	
Mar 6	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am {SN} 5 – 8 pm {SN} 7:00 pm	Lenten Weekday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Stations of the Cross	+Richard Schmitt
Mar 7	Wednesday	{SA} 5:30 pm {SA} 9 am – 7 pm	Lenten Weekday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Mar 8	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Lenten Weekday	+Bernard Kaiser
Mar 9	Friday	{SA} NO MASS	Lenten Weekday	
Mar 10	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	MCCL – Pro Life
Mar 11	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	+Monica Huschle

Weekend Masses at St. Anne's in Kimball are Saturday at 5:00 pm and Sunday at 8:00 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](http://www.churchofsaintnicholas.com)

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

	Eucharistic Ministers	Servers	Ushers	Lector
Mar 10 at 7:30 pm	Rita Schwartz	Mitchell Utecht Volunteer	Robert Wehseler Tom Landwehr	Lucy Schreiner
Mar 11 at 10:00 am	Brenda Kraemer Trish Ludwig	Michael Bautch Volunteer	Steve Stang Paul Ludwig	Lee Bautch

**Stretching & Breakfast Make 'N Take:** the Parish Volunteer Team is putting together a session for some healthy stretching exercises and making healthy breakfasts. This get together will be held on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in the Church Basement. We will have an exercise instructor come and give us some helpful, easy stretches to do each day and different items to use to create a healthy, on-the-go type breakfast. This class will be open to anyone 21 years and older. More information will come, but please call Trish Ludwig if you have any questions or would like to sign up! There will be a \$15 and we are asked to bring a 1 quart Mason jar to class. There will be breakfast samples and we will be making a breakfast for later! Bring a friend and husbands are welcome too!

**Parish Council Meeting:** The next Parish Council meeting will meet on Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Parish House.



**Adoration:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Nicholas from 5 – 8 pm AND at St. Anne's on Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 7 pm. won't you come and spend some time with the Lord? It is a great Lenten activity!

## Stewardship of Treasure February 25, 2018

Adult \$XXX (28 of 161 envelopes)  
Youth XXX (2 of 45 envelopes)  
Loose XXX



Chaplet Donations \$XXX (for Religious Education)  
St. Cloud Visitor \$XXX (2 gifts)

**TOTAL \$ XXXXX**

**Gospel Connection:** It's the custom in Jewish households just before Passover to remove all the *chametz*, the leaven, from their homes. It means getting rid of any food made of grain and water that is allowed to ferment and rise: bread, cereal, cake, cookies, pasta, beer. *Chametz* is the opposite of *matzo*, the unleavened flat bread eaten by the Israelites the night before their escape from Egypt. On the last days before Passover, Jewish families thoroughly clean their homes - especially the kitchen - of every bit of *chametz*. Because *chametz* is such a big part of our diets, getting rid of *chametz* is not a simple task. Every carpet is vacuumed and every floor is swept. Every surface is scrubbed clean with boiling water. Some parents hide pieces of bread throughout the house and, the night before Passover, send their children to find them, to make them part of the ritual of Passover house cleaning. Whatever food with *chametz* is found is either given away or burned. A separate set of pots, dishes and cutlery are brought out for Passover.

The point of the Passover "unleavening" is to experience again the "newness" of what God has done: freeing his people from slavery and bringing them into a new land of promise and hope. This act of preparing for Passover invites Jews to remove the "spiritual" leaven from their lives as well as the physical stuff. If leaven is the agent for making bread rise, think of *chametz* as the puffy, overextended, inflated parts of our ego. Passover calls us to clean away those distractions and let go of our illusions about ourselves and embrace, instead, the spirit of the humble *matzo*. [From "Unleavening: The ancient and modern practice to free your soul" by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg, Spirituality & Health, May/June 2106.]

As we prepare this Lent to celebrate Christ's "passing over" from the cross to resurrection, may we embrace the spiritual practice of "unleavening" of our Jewish brothers and sisters: to sweep away the *chametz* of business-as-usual that distracts us and takes our time and energy away from realizing the love of God that is at the center of Christ's death and resurrection; to set aside the time to enter fully and prayerfully the Easter mysteries to understand anew the meaning of Jesus' passion in our own lives. Over this second half of Lent, may we "sweep our houses" of the unnecessary and distracting *chametz* in our lives and embrace the humility and joy of the *matzo* in order to fully experience Easter re-creation in our hearts and homes.

**Religious Education:** The next class will be on Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. There will be confessions with Fr. Statz for grades 2 – 7 on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Confessions for grades 8 – 11 will be on March 14<sup>th</sup>. **First Communion will be held on Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> during Mass. We have 3 students: Bryce Neiman, Jayden Stang & Sarah Theis.**



**Bishop's Annual Appeal 2018:** God Bless the TV Mass, Bishop! We will support the Bishop's Annual Appeal to bring His Word to our loved ones who are homebound. We have our Goal for St. Nicholas for the Annual Appeal. Our goal is \$6,442.00 from our Parish. Please use the envelope that was sent to you in the mail, or use an envelope and fill in your information from the back of Church. For more information please visit [stdio.org](http://stdio.org).



**Stations of the Cross during Lent:** The Men's Society will be hosting Stations of the Cross during Lent. The will be on **Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>** and **Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend! This is a great Lenten activity!

**Rice Bowl:** Rice Bowls are available to pick up in the back of Church. In Burkina Faso, we encounter Safiata, a mother, grandmother and farmer who realizes on the money she makes from her crops to put her children through school. How can our purchases this Lent support farmers and artisans? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit [crricebowl.org](http://crricebowl.org) for more information.

**Annual Parish Dinner:** Our Annual Parish Dinner will be held this year on **Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**Readings for the Week:** Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b / Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>: Dn 3:25, 34-43 / Mt 18:21-35

Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>: Jer 7:23-28 / Lk 11:14-23

Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>: Dt 4:1, 5-9 / Mt 5:17-19

Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>: Hos 14:2-10 / Mk 12:28-34

## Community Events:

- Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>: K of C Breakfast at St. Anne's Church in Kimball serving from 8:00 am to 11:30 am. Menu of eggs, pancakes, hash browns, beverages. Proceeds to to Kimball Area Food shelf and SA Religious Ed program.
- Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>: K of C Breakfast at the Church of St. Joseph Heritage Hall in St. Joseph from 8:30 to Noon. Menu will be Pep's pork & St. Joe Meat Market sausages, scrambled eggs, pancakes, hash browns and more.
- Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>: Lenten Retreat at St. Boniface in Cold Spring from 8:30 am to Noon. Do you wish you had a better relationship with God? Lent is a perfect time to tune up your spiritual life! RSVP to 685-3280 or [discipleship@stboniface.com](mailto:discipleship@stboniface.com)
- Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>: Breakfast at St. Boniface Parish Center, Cold Spring. Serving from 8:30 to 12:30 pm. On the menu: eggs, hash browns, ham, sausage, cinnamon bread, fruit, rolls, beverages. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus.
- Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>: Breakfast at St. Anthony in St. Cloud from 8:00 am – Noon. Serving fresh & smoked sausage, ham, scrambled eggs, pancakes with fruit toppings, fresh fruit, rolls, hash browns and beverages.
- April 5, 6 & 7: St. Boniface Christian Women of Cold Spring Annual Clothing Drive and Rummage Sale. April 5<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 7 pm, April 6<sup>th</sup>: 8 am to 7 pm and April 7<sup>th</sup>: 8 am to 10 am. You may also drop off clothing and items. Questions, call Shirlee at 685-8463.
- June 5 – 7: Franciscan Girls Camp in Little Falls for girls in grades 6 – 8. For more information visit [www.fslf.org](http://www.fslf.org).