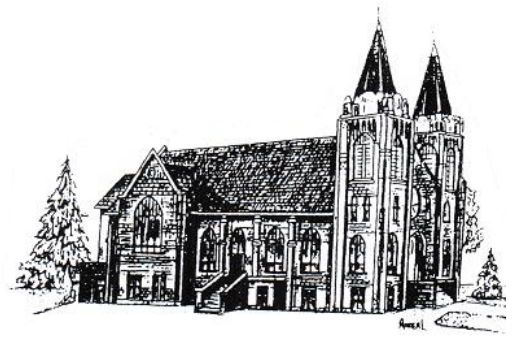


CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 8, 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	469-4735
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

July 7	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	14 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Jerome Schwartz
July 8	Sunday	{SN} 8:00 am	14 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish
July 9	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Weekday	
July 10	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Weekday	+Richard Schmitt
July 11	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	St. Benedict	
July 12	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Weekday	+Eugene Schutz
July 13	Friday	NO MASS	Weekday	
July 14	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	15 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Special Int. of John Decker
July 15	Sunday	{SN} 8:00 am	15 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Virginia Pozorski

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
July 14 at 7:30 pm	Rick Utecht	Mitchell Utecht Volunteer	Allen Stommes Ralph Schreiner	Lucy Schreiner
July 15 at 8:00 am	Mike Kuechle Judy Schutz Mary Caskey	Volunteer Volunteer	Jerry Boeckmann Elmer Frank	Doug Caskey

Cemetery Tree Trimming: Tree trimming and general maintenance at the Cemetery will take place on **Saturday, July 14th** starting at 8:00 am. There will also be some general maintenance around the parish house, like trimming some of the bushes by the front steps. Everyone is welcome to come and help – the more the merrier!! *If you can come for just a little bit, that is okay too!* You can bring tools along with you if you have any. If there are any questions, you can call Dave Stang at 320-469-4735 or Ralph Schreiner at 764-9080.



Parish Council Meeting: The Parish Council will meet on **SUNDAY, JULY 8th** at 7:00 pm in the Parish House.

Stewardship of Treasure July 1, 2018

Adult \$XXX (33 of 161 envelopes)

Youth XXX (0 of 45 envelopes)

Loose XXX

TOTAL \$XXXXX



Votive Stand

\$XXX

Gospel Connection: God knows, these days there are reasons enough for cynicism. Many of us feel let down by the institutions we thought we could trust. We have been betrayed, disappointed and outraged too many times to simply hope. Jim Wallis is a theologian and founder of Sojourners, a Christian-based social justice advocacy group. He writes in his best-selling book *God's Politics* that the obstacle of faith is the fundamental choice between cynicism and hope.

"First, let's be fair to the cynics. Cynicism is the place of retreat for the smart, critical, dissenting, and formerly idealistic people who are now trying to protect themselves. They are not naive. They tend to see things as they are, they know what is wrong, and they are generally opposed to what they see . . . They know what is going on, and at one point, they might even have tried for a time to change it. But they didn't succeed; things got worse, and they got weary. Their activism, and the commitments and hopes that implied, made them feel vulnerable. So they retreated to cynicism as the refuge from commitment . . .

"Cynicism does protect you in many ways. It protects you from seeming foolish to believe that things could and will change. It protects you from disappointment. It protects you from insecurity because now you are free to pursue your own security instead of sacrificing it for a social engagement that won't work anyway. Ultimately, cynicism protects you from commitment. If things are not really going to change, why try so hard to make a difference? Why become and stay so involved? Why take the risks, make the sacrifices, open yourself to the vulnerabilities?

"Perhaps the only people who view the world realistically are the cynics and the saints. Everybody else may be living in some kind of denial about what is really going on and how things really are. And the only difference between the cynics and the saints is the presence, power, and possibility of hope . . .

"More than just a moral issue, hope is a spiritual and even religious choice. Hope is not a feeling; it is a decision. And the decision for hope is based on what you believe at the deepest levels - what your most basic convictions are about the world and what the future holds - all based on your faith. You choose hope, not as a naive wish, but as a choice, with your eyes wide open to the reality of the world - just like the cynics who have not made the decision for hope."

In today's Gospel, Jesus' hearers cannot believe that such "wisdom" can exist in their midst, that the justice and peace Jesus envisions are simply not possible. They are isolated by their cynicism; hope is beyond their reach, and so they reject Jesus with scorn and ridicule. Jesus calls us - dares us - to embrace "prophetic" hope: to change our perspective, our belief systems, and ourselves in order to realize the possibilities we have for creating God's kingdom of peace and compassion for all his sons and daughters in this time and place of ours.

Cemetery Project: The granite work will start soon, now that the concrete work has been completed. The project is moving along well. If anyone is interested in donating to this project or have any concerns, please contact Dave Stang. Cell: 320-469-4735 or email: dstang@catholicunited.org.

Nicks Baseball: The St. Nicholas Nicks invite you to come to their next baseball game! St. Nick will play on Sunday, July 8th at 2 pm in St. Nicholas against the Cold Spring Rockies. Come and cheer them on!

Stewardship Day 2018: The event is Wednesday, August 22nd from 8:30 am to 3 pm at St. Mary Help of Christians, St. Augusta. The cost is \$35 and includes lunch. Register online at www.stcdio.org/stewardship. The keynote speaker is Eric McArdle, president and co-founder of Catholic Stewardship Consultants. For nearly 20 years, he has worked with hundreds of parishes across the county on every aspect of stewardship development. The day will also feature a panel discussion with local parish representatives sharing their experiences with stewardship. If you are interested in attending, please contact the parish office.

Readings for the Week: Monday, July 9th: Hos 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22 / Mt 9:18-26

Tuesday, July 10th: Hos 8:4-7, 11-13 / Mt 9:32-38

Wednesday, July 11th: Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12 / Mt 10:1-7

Thursday, July 12th: Hos 11:1-4, 8e-9 / Mt 10:7-15

Friday, July 13th: Hos 14:2-10 / Mt 10:16-23

Community Events:

- Saturday, July 14th: Holy Cross parish Festival. Starting with the 5K/1K Pork Chop Trot with registration at 8 am. Festivities continue with Mass at 4 pm with Grilled Pork Chops with fresh sweet corn at 5 pm and Hamburger stand & Beer garden, and much more!
- Sunday, July 15th: Healing Mass in honor of St. Odilia at Crosier Fathers & Brothers in Onamia. Brunch to follow, reservations are required. Please call 320-532-3103 to make the reservations.

