

# CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 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, Ken Lutgen	764-2043
		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

Dec 15	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	Third Sunday of Advent	MCCL – Pro Life
Dec 16	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	Third Sunday of Advent	Parents Who Have Lost a Child
		{SN} 4:00 pm	Penance Service	
		{SA} 7:00 pm	Penance Service	
Dec 17	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Late Advent Weekday	
		{SA} 8:30 am	Confessions	
Dec 18	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Late Advent Weekday	+Richard Schmitt
		{SN} 8:30 am	Confessions	
Dec 19	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	Late Advent Weekday	
Dec 20	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Late Advent Weekday	+Koetter & Rausch Families
Dec 21	Friday	NO MASS	Late Advent Weekday	
Dec 22	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	Fourth Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish
Dec 23	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	Fourth Sunday of Advent	+Kelly Christopher Frank

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
Dec 22 at 7:30 pm	Rick Utecht	Katelyn Utecht Volunteer	Art Faber Allen Stommes	Lucy Schreiner
Dec 23 at 10:00 am	Mary Caskey Judy Schutz Trish Ludwig	Jonathan Gathje Volunteer	Paul Ludwig Steve Stang	Doug Caskey

## Penance Service Schedule:

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Penance Service and other Confession times!  
 Penance Service on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>: St. Nicholas at 4:00 pm and St. Anne's at 7:00 pm  
 Confessions: Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Anne's at 8:30 am  
 Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Nicholas at 8:30 am  
 Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at St. Anne's at 5:00 pm and St. Nicholas at 7:00 pm.

## Christmas Mass Schedule:

So that you can plan your Christmas celebrations, the Mass schedule is listed here.  
 Christmas Eve: St. Anne's at 5:00 pm and St. Nicholas at 7:30 pm. \*\* Gospel reenactment during Mass with the RE students.  
 Christmas Day: St. Anne's at 8:00 am and St. Nicholas at 10:00 am  
 New Year's Eve: The only Mass this day will be at St. Anne's at 5:00 pm  
 New Year's Day: The only Mass this day will be at St. Nicholas at 10:00 am

Eucharistic Ministers, Mass Servers, Ushers and Lectors are asked to sign up on the sheet at the back of Mass! Thank you!

## Stewardship of Treasure December 9, 2018

Adult	\$XXX	(36 of 161 envelopes)
Youth	XXX	(3 of 45 envelopes)
Loose	XXX	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$XXXXX</b>	



Energy Needs	\$XXX (1 gift)	Rel. Retirement \$XXX
Solemnity of Mary	\$XXX (1 gift)	(3 gifts)
Christmas	\$XXX (1 gift)	Immac. Conc \$XXX
Christmas Flowers	\$XXX (1 gift)	(10 gifts)
Basement Rent	\$XXX (1 gift)	

**Gospel Connection:** One Friday afternoon a little more than a year ago, a black 16-year-old girl and her 17-year-old Muslim friend, who was wearing a hijab, were riding on a commuter train in Portland, Oregon. Suddenly, a white man on the train began screaming anti-Muslim and racist insults at the two girls. One can imagine people staring at their phones or burying their heads in newspapers, desperately trying not to hear — but three brave passengers stepped forward to protect the girls. The three were as different as could be. One was a 23-year-old recent Reed College graduate with a mane of long hair who worked in environmental consulting. Another was a 53-year-old Army veteran with the trimmest of haircuts and a record of service in Iraq and Afghanistan. The third was a 21-year-old poet and Portland State University student on his way to a job at a pizzeria. What united the three was decency. When they intervened, the man harassing the girls pulled a knife and slashed the three men before fleeing. Rick Best, the veteran, died at the scene. Taliesin Namkai-Meche, the recent Reed graduate, was conscious as he waited for an ambulance. A good Samaritan took off her shirt to cover him; she recounted that some of his last words were: ‘I want everybody on the train to know, I love them.’ He died soon after arriving at the hospital. Another passer-by staunchly the bleeding of the student-poet, Micah Fletcher, and called his mother to tell her to go to the hospital — but played down the injuries to avoid terrifying her. Fletcher underwent two hours of surgery to remove bone fragments from his throat. Fletcher survived. Police arrested the man, a 35-year-old white supremacist and charged him with the murders. *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof writes: “In tragedy, we sometimes find inspiration. In that train car, we saw that courage and leadership are alive . . . among ordinary Americans converging from varied backgrounds on a commuter train, standing together against a threat to our shared humanity . . .” [The New York Times, May 30, 2017.]

What happened on that train is a sign of the “expectation” that “fills” every heart longing for the coming of God’s kingdom of justice and peace. As John preached at the Jordan, we can only welcome the Messiah into our lives when we move beyond ourselves to embrace the hurt and brokenness, the needs and hopes of others; we can only realize the “best” of humanity by taking on greed and arrogance and bigotry that diminish our humanity.

**Religious Education Information:** The next class will be Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> with the Christmas in the Barn performance. Please meet at the Jeff & Jeanne Theis residence. The confirmation retreat for students in 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade has been set! It will be Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> beginning with 8 am Mass. It will go until about 3:00. Please mark your calendars now!

**Christmas in the Barn: ALL PARISHIONERS AND GRANDPARENTS ARE WELCOME!** The Religious Education program, along with the Catholic United Parish Volunteer Team, will be performing a Christmas Living Nativity on Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Jeff & Jeanne Theis residence. Their address is 15371 Co Rd 21. A simple meal will be served at 6 pm for the performers and their families. After the performance, all are welcome to refreshments in Jeff & Jeanne’s heated garage.



**Congratulations!** Congratulations to Lillian Ludwig and Lincoln Lutgen who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Saturday at St. Anne’s! May God grant you the grace to make good choices and become the best version of yourself!

**Parish Council Elections:** Parish Council Elections will take place this weekend. Please use the nomination forms that will be found in the pews. We THANK Roger Utecht and Sandy Stang for their service on the Council! They are both eligible to be nominated again. The current members of the Council are: Don Dufner, Sue Stommes, Elmer Frank, Kelly Bautch, Ken Lutgen – Trustee, Mary Caskey – Trustee, Anita Neu – Christian Women, and David Stang – Men’s Society. These members AND THEIR SPOUSES are not eligible to be nominated.

**Decorating for Christmas:** We will be decorating for Christmas after Mass on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. It would be awesome to get a big crew to help out! Many hands make for light work!! Please keep an hour handy for this task and refreshments will be available!



**Choir Rehearsals:** Melanie will have Choir Rehearsals for Christmas music both Sundays, December 16<sup>th</sup> and December 23<sup>rd</sup> before Sunday Mass at 9:15 in the Church Basement. Come and join the Choir!!

**Readings for the Week:** Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>: Gn 49:2, 8-10 / Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>: Jer 23:5-8 / Mt 1:18-25

Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>: Is 7:10-14 / Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a / Lk 1:5-25

Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>: Sg 2:8-14 / Lk 1:39-45

### Community Events:

- Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>: Breakfast at St. Anthony Parish in St. Cloud (25<sup>th</sup> Ave & 1<sup>st</sup> Street North). Serving sausage, ham, scrambled eggs, pancakes with toppings, fresh fruit, rolls, hash browns, beverages from 8 am to Noon.
- Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>: Christmas in the Barn performance by the Religious Education Students at 7:00 pm at the Jeff & Jeanne Theis Residence - is 15371 Co Rd 21.

