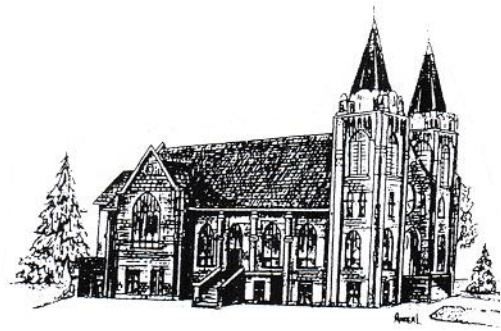


CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

The 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

January 20, 2019



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	250-0681	
Brenda Kraemer, Rel. Ed Coordinator	(H)	685-3715	Parish Council, Don Dufner	764-9105	
*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, Sue Stommes	597-3454	
			Parish Council, Elmer Frank	764-9111	
			Parish Council, Kelly Bautch	597-3255	
			Parish Council, Tom Frank	764-9112	
			Parish Council, Judi Schreiner	764-9080	
			Trustee, Ken Lutgen	764-2043	
			Trustee, Mary Caskey	597-2854	

MASS SCHEDULE

Jan 19	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Joseph Theis
Jan 20	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish
Jan 21	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	St. Agnes	
Jan 22	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Day of Prayer for Unborn Children	+C & A Hennen
Jan 23	Wednesday	{SA} 8:30 am	Weekday	
Jan 24	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	St. Francis	+Julia Schutz
Jan 25	Friday	NO MASS	The Conversion of St. Paul	
Jan 26	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Gregor & Frances Schreiner
Jan 27	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	+Oliver Hennen

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

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES				
	Eucharistic Ministers	Servers	Ushers	Lector
Jan 26 at 7:30 pm	Louise Schutz	Derek Utecht Volunteer	Laverne Ludwig Robert Wehseler	Judi Schreiner
Jan 27 at 10:00 am	Annette Stang Dave Stang Mike Kuechle	Jonathan Gathje Volunteer	Ron Stang Steve Stang	Dave Stang

Breakfast at St. Nicholas: There will be a breakfast at St. Nicholas on Sunday, February 17th. Group 4 will be hosting this breakfast. More information will be in next week’s bulletin, so mark your calendar and plan to attend. I’m sure it will be something delicious!

Christmas Decorations: Thank you to those that stayed last Sunday after Mass to help take down the Christmas decorations! Your help was very much appreciated!

Parish Council Minutes: The Parish Council Minutes from the last meeting on Monday, January 14th are attached to this week’s bulletin.

Chaplet Making Day: If you are interested in learning how to make the Lenten Chaplets, we will have the person from Sauk Centre here to show us how to make them on Monday, January 21st at 6:00 in the Parish House. You will be able to learn how and then take them home to work on. All of the supplies to make them are already here so there is nothing you will need to bring. The RE program is sponsoring these chaplets and the money raised in their donation will go to the Religious Education program.

Stewardship of Treasure January 13, 2019			
Adult	\$XXX	(33 of 161 envelopes)	
Youth	XXX	(3 of 45 envelopes)	
Loose	XXX		
TOTAL	\$XXXXXX		
		Energy Needs	\$XXX (1 gift)
		Religious Retirement	\$XXX (1 gift)

Gospel Connection: Michelle was at work when a friend texted the link to a newspaper article from her hometown newspaper. It included a photo of an icy Montana highway, a pickup with the hood smashed in and a blue Subaru Outback that had been cut cleanly in half. According to the story, the woman who had been driving the Outback was their former high school classmate Deirdre. Deirdre survived, but her three-year-old daughter Zoe was killed.

The tragedy dredged up painful memories for Michelle. Three years before, Michelle and her husband, Eric, lost their 22-month son, Seamus, when they were struck in a crosswalk by a careless driver. Michelle writes that their marriage became “like a ship that had weathered a bad storm — grateful and relieved to be afloat, but the damage was extensive.”

The couple had just become parents again. The twins, a boy and a girl, had just turned one and the family was about to celebrate Christmas for the first time in three years. “Having more children did not reduce the sadness that had become the identifying feature of our marriage, but it did force our hearts to expand to accommodate other, happier emotions,” Michelle remembers.

Michelle had not talked to Deirdre in 20 years. Michelle wasn’t sure what to do. One afternoon, while the twins were napping, Michelle retrieved from the basement a wicker basket of cards they had received when Seamus died. *There are no words . . . You are in our hearts . . . I cannot imagine your pain.* No one can think of the perfect thing to say at such times. But Michelle remembered the comfort the notes had brought her, and so decided to send Deirdre a note. To her surprise, Deirdre replied by e-mail and the two were soon regularly exchanging texts. In April, Michelle had a trip planned to Montana, and they arranged to meet.

Michelle and Deirdre greeted each other with a hug. There was no small talk. Walking together through the streets of Deirdre’s neighborhood, they talked about watching their children die, moving easily between medical terms and “mother” terms. Michelle asked Dierdre how her marriage was holding up. And Dierdre opened up about the struggle her husband was having over the decision to withdraw care for Zoe. Michelle listened, giving Deirdre space to voice her fears, and then offering the assurance of a wife and mother who had been through the same devastating experience herself, and found the way to move on.

Michelle later wrote that she hoped Deirdre would discover what she learned: “that grief is exactly as painful as you think it will be, but with time you will learn to love your sadness because of the tiny shoots of joy and gratitude that sprout around it, like new growth on scorched earth.

As she drove home from Deirdre’s, Michelle “thought about the comfort of sturdy, unglamorous things, my marriage among them. Ours may not be a great love story, but set against a backdrop of cruel nature and boundless beauty, I didn’t need it to be.” [From “Modern Love: When Sturdy Love Is What You Need” by Michelle DeBarry, *The New York Times*, October 19, 2018.]

Good marriages, imperfect but “sturdy,” manifest the love of God at its most powerful: love that enables spouses to navigate together life’s hard roads of fear, heartache and illness. As ministers of the marriage sacrament, wives and husbands, in their love for one another, help all of us to recognize the great love of God the Father made real for us in the person of his Christ, the Bridegroom. Throughout Scripture, God speaks of his love for humanity in terms of espousal; Christ, who performed his first miracle at a wedding, called himself “the Bridegroom” who comes to bring his people to the wedding feast of the Father. Spouses, in their “sturdy” love centered in selfless trust, are living signs to all of us of the hope of God’s great wedding banquet.

Religious Education Information: The next class will be on Wednesday, January 23rd at 7:00 pm in the Parish House.

MCCL March for Life: There will be a march in front of the State Capital at Noon on Tuesday, January 22, 2019. There will be a Prayer Service for Life before that at 10:30 am at the Cathedral of St. Paul. Your presence will send a clear message to state lawmakers and public officials that Minnesotans want to protect the right to life of unborn children. There will be a bus available to ride together with people from the area. To ride the bus to the rally, please call for reservations to Linda at 320-267-6268. She will let you know where the bus will be stopping.

2019 Men’s Conference: The 2019 Men’s Conference will be held on Saturday, February 23rd from 8:30 am to 5 pm at Sacred Heart Parish in Sauk Rapids, MN. For more information, please see the website www.stcdio.org. The theme is “Mentoring Disciples.”

Readings for the Week: Monday, January 21st: Heb 5:1-10 / Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday, January 22 nd : Heb 2:5-12 / Mk 1:21-28	Wednesday, January 23 rd : Heb 7:1-3, 15-17 / Mk 3:1-6
Thursday, January 24 th : Heb 7:25 – 8:6 / Mk 3:7-12	Friday, January 25 th : Acts 22:3-16 / Mk 16:15-18

Community Events:

- Sunday, January 20th: Breakfast at St. Anthony Parish in St. Cloud (25th Ave & 1st St. North) from 8 am to Noon. Serving fresh & smoked sausage, ham, scrambled eggs, pancakes with fruit toppings, hash browns and more!
- Sunday, January 20th: Bouja & Chicken Noodle Soup sale in Watkins. Serving & sale of soup from 8:30 am to Noon. You may pre-order by calling Larry Flaschenriem at 32-764-2965.
- Sunday, January 20th: Vespers for Life held at St. Anthony’s Church in St. Cloud. Rosary at 3:30 pm and 4:00 Vespers with Bishop Donald Kettler presiding.
- Saturday, January 26th: One Day Men’s Retreat from 8:30 to 4 pm at St. Mary’s Church in Little Falls, MN. For more information, please call Paul Anez at 320-980-5499, also to pre-register. See the flyer in the back of Church.
- Sunday, January 27th: Breakfast at St. Wendelin Parish in Luxemburg. Serving scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, fruit, roll, & beverages from 8:30 am to Noon. There will be bake sale and raffle.
- Saturday, March 16th: Women’s Lenten Retreat at Seven Dolors Church in Albany – Save the Date; more information to come.