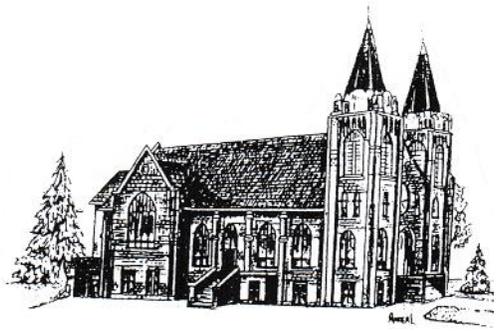


CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

First Sunday of Lent

March 10, 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
		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
*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 9	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	1 st Sunday of Lent	People of the Parish
Mar 10	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	1 st Sunday of Lent	+Rosie Gathje
Mar 11	Monday	{SA} 8:00 am	Lenten Weekday	
Mar 12	Tuesday	{SN} 8:00 am	Lenten Weekday	+Eugene Schwartz
Mar 13	Wednesday	{SA} 8:00 am	Lenten Weekday	
Mar 14	Thursday	{SN} 8:00 am	Lenten Weekday	+Alverna Hennen
Mar 15	Friday	NO MASS	Lenten Weekday	
Mar 16	Saturday	{SN} 7:30 pm	2 nd Sunday of Lent	+Oliver Hennen
Mar 17	Sunday	{SN} 10:00 am	2 nd Sunday of Lent	People of the Parish

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
Mar 16 at 7:30 pm	Rick Utecht	Katelyn Utecht Volunteer	Allen Stommes Robert Wehseler	Joe Decker
Mar 17 at 10:00 am	Annette Stang Dave Stang Judy Schutz	Caden Neiman Landon Neiman	Sy Schreiner Jerry Boeckman	Mike Kuechle

Lenten Activities to consider: We still have chaplets available for a free will donation. Proceeds collected will benefit Religious Education. The Chaplet is a "short rosary" that has 21 knots for prayers to be said each day of Lent. They were made this year by people that volunteered from our Parish! Also, we will have the Magnificat Companion books available. The Men's Society will lead weekly Stations of the Cross. These are just a few of the many things you can do during Lent!

Stations of the Cross, led by the Men's Society:

- March 13th: 7:00 pm
- March 20th: 7:30 pm with RE Students
- March 26th: 7:00 pm
- April 2nd: 7:00 pm
- April 10th: 7:00 pm
- April 17th: 7:00 pm (Holy Week)

Lenten Thoughts to Ponder: In Jesus' 40 days of solitude in the wilderness, he confronts Satan and unmasks his temptations and conquers him. Lent is a time of combat! How do we hear God's voice? We hear it in his Word. For this reason, it is important to know Scripture, because otherwise we do not know how to react to the snares of the Evil One. Meditate on the Gospel! *How might I better rely on Scripture to follow the example of Jesus' courage to confront evil?*

Stewardship of Treasure March 3, 2019

Adult	\$XXX	(32 of 161 envelopes)
Youth	XXX	(5 of 45 envelopes)
Loose	XXX	



Votive Stand	\$XXX
Energy Needs	\$XXX (1 gift)
St. Cloud Visitor	\$XXX (1 gift)

TOTAL \$XXXXX

Gospel Connection: For most of us, Lent comes during the last gasp of winter. Our Lenten desert is more cold mud than sand; we make our wilderness trek across broken asphalt and potholes — lots of pot holes. In a Lenten reflection, Prof. Katharine Harmon of Marian University in Indianapolis suggests that, the damage to front-alignments notwithstanding, potholes might be a fitting image for the Lenten journey: *Potholes demand us to snap to attention, to focus on the road.* This season of Lent calls us to put aside the distractions of our myriad of screens and devices, the constant negative news cycles and our everyday dramas and crises in order to pay attention to what is meaningful and purposeful in our lives.

Potholes warn us of the traps that can tear us (and our vehicles) apart. Lent challenges us to change directions, to “turn away” from the rutted road of selfishness and fear and toward the level, if steeper, road of Gospel mercy and justice.

Potholes make us aware of our need for help from one another. How many of us have carefully followed the car in front of us, a driver who clearly knows how to negotiate these torn-up streets? We learn from those who have gone before us — and from the wisdom gained from our own journey, we can be a source of hope and direction to others.

Potholes challenge us to make the way easier for others. Like the good citizen who drops a construction cone over a hole in the road on his neighborhood, like the always reliable friend who offers a ride when our car has lost an encounter with a chasm-like pothole, Lent calls us to embrace the example of Jesus’ servanthood, making the kingdom of God of generosity and peace a reality in our desert of potholes. [Adapted from “Re-claiming Our Potholes for the Spiritual Journey” by Katharine E. Harmon, *PrayTellBlog.com*, February 23, 2018.]

In our Lenten journey this year, may we be attuned to the signs that challenge our way of doing things, our perspective as we make the life-changing decisions we all face, our vision of God in our midst. Let this Lent be a season for making every road straight and every valley (and pothole) of our life’s desert level (and filled) for the grace and peace of the Risen One to enter our homes and hearts.

Religious Education Information: The next class will be Wednesday, March 13th at 7:00 pm. This will be a regular class. The next 2 weeks will be Stations of the Cross and Confessions. Please watch the schedule.

Lenten Chaplet: We have been fortunate to have parishioners help make our Lenten Chaplets this year! They are still available if you did not pick one up during the Ash Wednesday Mass. There will be a free – will offering with a suggested amount of \$5 per Chaplet. The money raised will go toward the Religious Education program. Once you have received your Chaplet, go back to your pew and start to pray. The first name that comes to mind is the person you will be praying for. Pray for a deepening conversion of faith during these 40 days of Lent. Each day you will pray: Apostle’s Creed on the knot that ties the cross on the necklace. Glory Be, Hail Mary & Our Father for each set of knots. There are 7 sets of knots. Any time after Good Friday, give your Chaplet to the person you have been praying for. You will receive a card with these instructions.

St. Cloud Visitor/The Central MN Catholic: Just in case you missed the announcement in the St. Cloud Visitor, the St. Cloud Visitor has changed to a monthly diocesan magazine called The Central Minnesota Catholic. The name was chosen to be representative of all of the Catholics in the diocese’s 16 counties, which stretch from east to west across the middle of the state. The new format has all of the regular features that the Visitor had with additional content.

DCCW Lenten Retreat: The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will conduct a spring Lenten Retreat, “Dignity of Women,” on Saturday, March 16th at Seven Dolours Catholic Church in Albany starting at 8:30 am with the Rosary and Mass. Registration is due by March 1st. Please see the flyer in the back of church.

Three Basic Lenten Disciplines: FASTING, ALMSGIVING, and PRAYER. FASTING: Expresses our desire to find happiness in God rather than in the satisfaction of our physical needs. The control we gain over our appetites helps us recognize more deeply that all true and lasting pleasure comes from God. Knowing this, we are freed to gratefully accept food and savor it, or to avoid or limit foods that we know are unhealthy for us. Through fasting, our relationship to ourselves is reoriented toward God. ALMSGIVING: Provides assistance to the poor among us and helps us recognize God as the true source of our security. Property and wealth exercise less control over us when we give away or share our wealth out of love for God and for others. Almsgiving is a way of bringing our relationship to others into the orbit of Christ’s love. PRAYER: Changes our relationship to God. Through prayer, we admit our need for a power that is greater than ourselves. We acknowledge our limitations and let go of the drive to control everything. In the process, we open ourselves to all that God has to offer us.

WHY DO WE DO THESE THREE THINGS? The Lenten basic practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are rooted in Jesus’ original guidance about how to be his disciples that we find in the Sermon on the Mount. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* also reminds us that Jesus here outlines for us the new law which, if we embrace and implement it, will lead us more surely to the interior renewal and growth in holiness and perfection that Jesus expects of us as his disciples.

Rice Bowls: Rice Bowls will be available to pick up at the back of Church. Encounter Norma in Guatemala, who as a young mother supports her family and shares her skills with her community. Reflect on the importance of family in your life. How can you contribute to support families in your community? Visit crricebowl.org for more information.

Readings for the Week: Monday, March 11th: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 / Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday, March 12th: Is 55:10-11 / Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday, March 13th: Jon 3:1-10 / Lk 11:29-32

Thursday, March 14th: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 / Mt 7:7-12

Friday, March 15th: Ez 18:21-28 / Mt 5:20-26

Community Events:

- March 22, and April 5th: Lenten Fish Fry hosted by the BBE Knights of Columbus at the KaDe Shack in Brooten, MN from 5 pm to 9 pm. All are invited!
- March 15, 22, 29 and April 5, 12: St. Anthony Parish in St. Cloud (2410 1st St N) Lenten Fish Fry. Serving fried fish, au gratin potatoes, baked beans, coleslaw, dinner rolls, beverages from 4 to 7 pm. March 29th is Matching Grant with Catholic United!
- Fridays of Lent: Crosier Fathers & Brothers of Onamia. Taize Prayer Fridays at 7 pm at the Cathedral of St. Mary in St. Cloud. Healing Mass on Sunday, March 31st at 9:00 am at the National Shrine of St. Odilia, Onamia. Solemn Vespers Sundays at 5 pm in Onamia.
- Sunday, March 10th: Breakfast at St. Boniface in Cold Spring. Serving from 8:00 to 12:30 pm. Sponsored by the KC’s.
- Saturday, March 16th: Women’s Lenten Retreat at Seven Dolours Church in Albany.
- Sunday, March 17th: Breakfast at St. Anthony Parish in St. Cloud (2410 1st St N) All you can eat from 8:00 to Noon.
- Sunday, March 17th: Bouja & Chicken Noodle Soup Sale at St. Anthony’s Church in Watkins. Serving from 8:30 – noon.