



**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER- MAY 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
***Happy Mother's Day!***

Dear Mothers, thank you!! Thank you for saying yes to the gift of life. Thank you for the sacrifices you make for us and for your generosity. And even if you are not a biological mother, thank you to all of the women who have a motherly role in our lives.

Motherhood is not just biological, but spiritual as well. Thank you to all of those who have nurtured the faith of others, passed along the life-giving Gospel of Jesus Christ. We thank you and we thank Mary, the Mother of God and our Mother for her intercession on our behalf.

Please remember to thank them and thank God for them today!

**EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK**

Sun, May 11.....Happy Mother's Day! / Donut Sunday/African Violet Sale after masses  
 Mon May 12.....Rosary in Chapel 7pm  
 Tues, May 13.....NO MASS, Mom's Group 9am, Book Club 7:15pm, Gala & Auction Meeting 6:30pm  
 Wed, May 14.... NO MASS, Choir Practice 7pm  
 Thurs, May 15.. NO MASS  
 Fri, May 16..... NO MASS  
 Sat, May 17....NO Morning Mass/Confessions, Rosary in Chapel 9am  
 Sun, May 18.....May Procession following 10am mass  
**Morning Prayer: Everyone is Welcome - Tuesday – Friday at 7:25am & Sat at 7:35am in the church.**

Please consider signing up for Automatic Withdrawal for your Sunday giving. It's easy to sign up and will automatically be withdrawn from your account one time a month. Forms are in the back of church, on the website [www.churchofstnicholas.com](http://www.churchofstnicholas.com) or by calling the parish office at 952-461-2403.

If you have a 1 or 2 hours a week to spare, please consider volunteering to help clean the church. If interested in volunteering please call Lisa at the parish office. 952-461-2403. Thank you in advance!

**May procession with Mary Statue following the 10am mass on May 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**THIS WEEKEND ...**

**Donut Sunday** – Please join us following mass for fellowship, donuts and coffee.

**The pro-life group will sell African Violets after all Masses.**

**Save the date** for the **St. Nicholas Garden Tour** which will take place on Saturday June 28 from 10-4. Love gardening, we could use your help. We are looking for a few more gardens to add to the tour. If you have a beautiful or unique garden, know of someone who has one, or willing to help out with the planning stages of the Garden Tour please call Joyce Hanke (952) 461-1963 or Linda Fischer 952-461-2230. All proceeds will go directly to maintaining the grounds at St. Nicholas Catholic Church.

**MASS CHANGES DURING MAY**

**No Morning Mass/Confessions; Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> – Saturday Morning May 17<sup>th</sup>.** Mass is offered at: **St. Patrick of Cedar Lake; Mon, Tues, Fri @ 8:30am, St. Catherines; Thurs @ 8:30am, IC in Lonsdale; Tues-Sat 8am, All Saints, Lakeville; Mon-Fri @ 7:30am, Sat @ 8am, Most Holy Trinity, Veseli; 8am most days**

**Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>** : Priest Ordination at the Cathedral 10am, All are welcome to attend. No morning mass or Confession here.

**To all KC Members - KC Clergy Night is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>** – If you plan to attend, please make your reservation today, by calling the parish office at 952-461-2403.

**CHICKEN COOKOUT 2014 - IS 5 WEEKS AWAY**

***There are many ways to volunteer and get involved with the Chicken Cookout – please see the list below!***

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - For Putting out the Chicken Cookout Signs – next weekend**

We are looking for a couple people to put out the Chicken Cookout signs next weekend, and pick up the day after the cookout. If you are available to help with this task please call Tim Simon at 651-341-1406 or Lisa at the parish office 952-461-2403.

**SET-UP: SATURDAY, JUNE 14<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30am**

Many volunteers are needed to help with set-up on Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup>. Start time will be 8:30am. If you are available to help even 1 hour, then please sign up in the volunteer book which is located in the back of church, or just show up the morning of.

**CAKE PANS – for the Country Store & Cake Walk are available in the basement & back of church!**

\*\*This is a reminder that we need many cakes and baked goods for our Cake Walk and Country Store. We are asking every family of the parish to donate one or two items. Thank You!

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED IN ALL AREAS OF THE COOKOUT!!**

Please sign up to work a short 1 or 2 hours shift some time during the day. The most help is needed in the kitchen – (all youth that work can apply all their hours towards service hours – this is a great way to complete all service hours before classes start up in the fall) other area that need help are games, beverage, grounds clean up & country store. Please sign up in the back of church in the 3 ring binder, or on the orange sheets in the pews and place in the basket in the back of church.

**PRIZE DONATIONS FOR KIDS GAMES**

**The Pop Ring Toss Game** - This game has been a big hit with the kids in years past and is often requested to return. In order to have this game available we would need some help with pop donations. The games committee made a special box to hold 16-20oz bottles of pop. **If anyone is willing to help with pop donations, please drop them off at the parish office or leave in the church basement in the kitchen by the coffee maker.**

**\*\*Other prizes for games** – if you have left over new or gently used prize items from parties or grab bags – please consider donating those items as well. These items can be left by the coffee maker in the basement or dropped off at the parish office.

**RAFFLE**

**This year we will again be having a reception for those selling or purchasing 20 or more tickets.** Last year the Wine and Cheese reception was fantastic, with great food, fun wines and new friends. We hope even more of you will be able to qualify this year and participate in this fun event. If you are interested in sponsoring or sharing in sponsorship of the reception please contact Ed or Kris Ricklick at 952-469-5886.

Thank you for your generosity and we look forward to another fun and successful Chicken Cookout.

Looking for 2nd Chicken Cookout Raffle Chair. The Chair can be single or a couple. For more information see Parish Communication Board in the church basement or contact Kris Ricklick 952-469-5886.

**The Church's Biblical Garden on our campus is on dire need of fresh perennial and annual plants this year.** You can dig them from home or purchase and bring in by May 10<sup>th</sup>. The garden must stay with specific plants to keep it authentic. There is a list at the back of church showing the plants needed. Our Gardening Angels group is also looking for volunteers to help plant, weed and water beginning in May thru August. Please contact Pam Filipiak at 952-461-3478 if you can help. Thank You!  
of Chance, Bountiful Baskets and Silent & Live Auctions.

If anyone would like updates on Father Adams – please use the link below. <http://venezuela.archspm.org>



**Vacation Bible School Registration is now open!**  
Registration packets are available in the back of church or by calling Lisa at the parish office at 952-461-2403.  
VBS will be held June 9-13<sup>th</sup>, 8:45 – 11:30am, \$20 per child with a family cap of \$60.

To help keep costs down for this program we are again asking this year for simple donations of food and supplies.

**Food Items:** marshmallows, popcorn, pretzels, cheese balls, Mozzarella cheese sticks, cookies, large containers of lemonade or kool aid, fruit snacks, bags of candy, cases of water, canned frosting & sprinkles.

**Supplies:** cups, plates (snack & large size), napkins, new or used CD player, colored tissue paper, self adhesive jewels, self adhesive foam cut outs, glue dots or cash donations.

**Please bring all donations to the parish office or leave in the church basement labeled VBS. Thank you for helping us keep the cost down for the families and for the parish!**

Fr. James Adams, along with Fr. Dennis Zehren, request your presence for an evening about our archdiocesan sister parish of Jesucristo Resucitado in Venezuela on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 5:30pm at Nativity of Mary parish. Father Adams will walk through his last ten months as Associate Pastor at Jesucristo Resucitado in San Felix, Venezuela, and provide an update on the status of the country and the mission during this difficult time there. Friends, family and students who have traveled to the mission in Venezuela will also be there to share their personal testimonies and stories. This is a great opportunity to learn about the various ways you can serve the mission here in Minnesota and in Venezuela and visit with Fr. Adams during his short time back in the states. And enjoy authentic Venezuelan food. **Don't miss this event!!**

### St. Nicholas Ministries

#### BOOK CLUB

Book Club meets one Tuesday a month @ 7:15pm at Deb Streefland's home. If you are interested in joining us please call Deb Streefland 652-2349. Schedule: May 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### CHOIR

There is a great need for new choir members. Practice is at 7:00 pm on Wednesday evenings and we look forward to seeing you upstairs in the balcony!

#### EUCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL

"Through Mary the cause of our joy you discover that no where on Earth are you more welcomed, no where on Earth are you more loved, than by Jesus, living and truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament...He is really there in Person waiting just for you." ----Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

**Memorial Day weekend schedule** – Our Adoration Chapel will close on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm, stay closed through the weekend and will reopen on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am after 8 am Mass.

**MORE ADORERS ARE NEEDED FOR HOLY HOURS WITH JESUS. PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING WITH AN HOUR.** Adorers are needed

especially for the following hours: **Sunday:** 4 pm (for months of June, July, and August), **Tuesday:** 3 am, **Thursday:** 3 pm (May 22 on), **Saturday:** 1 pm (on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month, this hour could be shared).

To sign up as an Adorer or for more information on Adoration, please contact Dan and Lynne Soderlund at (507) 645-6012 or at [lynsod@yahoo.com](mailto:lynsod@yahoo.com)

#### MOTHER'S GROUP

We meet twice a month in the Myra Room at St. Nicholas at 9:15am. The next dates are May 13 & 27. Contact info - Lisa Damiani at 651-203-7734

#### PRO-LIFE

We invite you to the chapel for the Pro-Life Rosary-it is said every Saturday morning at 9-10am.

#### Mass Intentions – (\* indicates a change in mass time)

Sat	10	5:00 pm	Dean Johnson+
Sun	11	8:00 am	Paul & Therese Leon+
Sun	11	10:00 am	For the Parish
*Tues	13	8:00am	NO MASS
*Wed	14	8:00am	NO MASS
*Thurs	15	8:00 am	NO MASS
*Fri	16	8:00 am	NO MASS
*Sat	17	8:00 am	NO MASS
Sat	17	5:00 pm	Bob Seykora+
Sun	18	8:00 am	For the Parish
Sun	18	10:00 am	Alois & Susan Wagner Family

#### Daily Scriptures

Mon	Acts of Apos 11:1-18	John 10:11-18
Tue	Acts of Apos 11:19-26	John 10:22-30
Wed	Acts of Apos 1:15-17,20-26	John 15:9-17
Thu	Acts of Apos 13:13-25	John 13:16-20
Fri	Acts of Apos 13:26-33	John 14:1-6
Sat.	Acts of Apos 13:44-52	John 14:7-14
Sun	Acts of Apos 6:1-7/1Peter 2:4-9/John 14:1-12	

#### Liturgical Stewardship May 17 & 18

<b>May 17 @ 5pm</b>	Lector:	Pat Biren
	Ministers	Jan Freeman-H, Mary Kay Forland-Ch-H
	Ushers:	Ron Chlan, Dave DeGonda
<b>May 18 @ 8am</b>	Lector:	Mike Moeller
	Ministers	Joyce Anderson-H, Ralph Wagner-Ch-H
	Ushers:	Paul Thoreson, Craig Goblirsch
<b>May 18 @ 10am</b>	Lector:	Leander Wagner
	Ministers	Julie Nelson-H, Chris Kuehl-Ch-H
	Ushers:	Pat Theisen, Tony Nelson

#### SUNDAY GIVING: May 4 / Week 44 in Fiscal Year

Budget Weekly Sunday Giving:	\$5,800
Budget Year-to-Date Sunday Giving:	\$255,200
Actual Collection Received	\$4,228
Actual Collection Received Year-to-Date:	\$263,680
	<b>+\$8,480</b>
Capital Improvement	\$113

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## Religious Education

### HOLY CROSS

Parishioners and friends are welcome to attend Holy Cross School's Kindergarten Graduation (Wednesday, May 21st at 1:30 PM) and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation (Thursday, May 22nd at 1 PM). We hope to see you there!

The last Scrip order will be on Monday, May 12, 2014. The next Scrip order will be on Monday, June 9, 2014. Please deliver your order to the school office by 8 am on that Monday. Thank you!

Holy Cross Catholic School is accepting registrations for their Pre-Kindergarten program (3 – 5 year olds). Holy Cross School offers a Pre-Kindergarten program that nurtures young students, builds school readiness, and teaches Christian values. If you would like more information about Holy Cross School's Pre-Kindergarten program or a tour of the school, please call the school office at (952) 652-6100 or visit the website at [www.holycrossschool.net](http://www.holycrossschool.net).

### LNMV RELIGIOUS EDUCATION -

Appreciation dinner on May 28<sup>th</sup> for Catechists – must RSVP by May 16<sup>th</sup> to [kathyc@holycrossschool.net](mailto:kathyc@holycrossschool.net)

**Confirmation at 7:00pm at St. Paul Cathedral on Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014.** More information available on the website under Confirmation tab

**All Praise and Thanksgiving to God for the many blessings and fruits brought to us this year and especially for all our Catechists and aides who came each week to teach and pass on the faith.**

**We extend a big Thank you to:** Jan Freeman; Cherie Serie; Sara Bertram; Shelley Kuhlmann; Erin Landwehr; Jen Chromy; Jennifer Hertel; Heather Seurer; Kathleen Miller; Cheryl Friedges; Alice Overgaard; Deanna Brake; Lisa Burke; Paula Brohmer; Amy McDonald; Carly McDonald; Chris Kuehl; Candace Panka; Norleen Lane; Matt Damiani; Jake Simones; Brad Roemer; Steve Addabbo; as well as our substitute teachers, Jackie Devine, Robyn Dietz, Kris Ricklick and Phil Chromy.

Volunteers needed for passing along our faith in the classrooms next year. You do not need to have children in the program to teach. If interested or want more information contact Kathy Chlan at 952-652-6100 ext. 507 or email at [kathyc@holycrossschool.net](mailto:kathyc@holycrossschool.net) or the parish office.

### YOUTH GROUP

Congratulations to our Steubenville Essay Contest Winner! Daniel Oleson had the winning essay! His essay will be published in the bulletin next week for all to read. Also a big thank you to our anonymous donor of the scholarship money, and to the judges who read all of the entries and picked the winner!

**Dead Theologian Society:** There will be NO DTS in the months of May, June and July. Please watch the bulletin for notices of future

## AREA NEWS

**WOMEN'S, MOTHERS & DAUGHTERS EASTER RETREAT - "Jesus' Resurrected Life in Us"** Saturday morning, May 17, from 6:45 AM to 12:15 PM at Immaculate Conception Church, Lonsdale. Beginning with Adoration and Confession from 6:45-7:45 AM, Mass at 8:00 AM followed by a light meal, and presentations. Presenter: Father McCabe. Sponsored by the IC-CCW. Bring your Bible-Free will offering. Please contact the Parish Office at 507-744-2829 or [icparish@lonstel.com](http://icparish@lonstel.com) to register before May 14.

### **A Poor Church and a Church for the Poor: Saint Francis of Assisi and Christian Poverty in the 21st Century**

Saint John's School of Theology-Seminary Theology Day

Join professor Shawn Colberg, Ph.D. as he explores and discusses the concept of Christian poverty through the biblical notion of poverty in Jesus' sermons and the apostolic lifestyle found in scripture, images and writings from Francis of Assisi, and review of recent statements by Pope Francis. Colberg is Assistant Professor of Theology for Saint John's School of Theology-Seminary and College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University. He received his doctorate in the History of Christianity from the University of Notre Dame in 2008 and has several publications. **May 13, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saint Frances Cabrini Church, 1500 Franklin Ave. SE, Minneapolis.**

**Free event. Registration is required:** [www.csbsju.edu/sot](http://www.csbsju.edu/sot), 320-363-3570 or [sot-sem@csbsju.edu](mailto:sot-sem@csbsju.edu).

Do you have room in your heart and home for a child who is in transition and needs a safe, supportive home in which to live and grow? There is need for a few good homes in this area. Please call Candy Picka, Lutheran Social Service Treatment Foster Care, for more information at (612) 242-7553. LSS provides in-depth training, 24 hour staff availability, respite care, weekly coaching, and monthly non-taxable reimbursement.

**Registration opens May 1 for the Oct. 3 & 4 event!** Join with fellow Catholics from across the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis as we celebrate the depth and beauty of our Catholic faith! Enjoy dynamic speakers and musicians, and learn about exciting faith formation, worship and service opportunities throughout the Archdiocese and beyond in the Rediscover Exhibit Hall. Here are the details: **Minneapolis Convention Center**

**Friday, Oct. 3 - 6:30 p.m. – 11 p.m.** (Doors open at 5:00 p.m.) This Friday session is geared toward young adults in their 20s and 30s.

**Saturday, Oct. 4 - 9:00 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.** (Doors open at 7:30 a.m.) Includes break-out sessions for Spanish-speakers, as well as for children and youth in kindergarten through 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

Featuring: Archbishop John C. Nienstedt, Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City, Father Dave Dwyer, Scott Hahn

Curtis Martin, *And more to be announced!* Register now at [Rediscover-faith.org](http://Rediscover-faith.org)! If you have questions, please email [Rediscover@archspm.org](mailto:Rediscover@archspm.org) or call 651-291-4411.

We invite you to join us on **Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** as we explore how each of us is a unique member of the body of Christ with gifts to offer Christ and His members. This retreat will be held at the **St. Alphonsus, 7025 Halifax Ave N, Brooklyn Center, MN from 9:30 AM – 5:30 PM**. The retreat will include Mass, Adoration, Sacrament of Reconciliation and quiet time for prayer and reflection. The day will also include singing, bingo and crafts! Cost is \$20 and includes lunch and an optional dinner. Caregivers are also welcome. For more information or to register, please contact Deacon Sean or Joan Curtan at (651) 291-4543 or email [curtans@archspm.org](mailto:curtans@archspm.org). Sponsored by the Archdiocesan Office of Marriage, Family and Life Outreach to Persons with Disabilities.

### **Bishop Cozzens to Celebrate All-City Charismatic Pentecost Vigil Mass**

All are invited to attend the annual **Charismatic Pentecost Vigil Mass** with Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Saturday, June 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 2739 Stinson Blvd. NE, St. Anthony, MN 55418. This beautiful Spirit-filled evening, sponsored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office (CCRO), begins with praise & worship prior to Mass and concludes with refreshments in Doran Hall after Mass. Priests are also welcome to concelebrate with Bishop Cozzens. Call 763-571-5314 for more information. [www.ccro-msp.org](http://www.ccro-msp.org).

## The Gift of a Purpose

By: Daniel Oleson

In my lifetime, I have been greatly blessed by God. The number of gifts he has given me are innumerable, whether or not I have made good use of them. The process of choosing one of greatest significance has proved a difficult endeavor; however I believe I have found the one which takes precedence over all others: free will. I have earnestly considered others (Namely the great mercy God shows to us, or the sacrifice of Jesus), however our own free will is what allows us to do anything, and gives meaning to choosing the path of righteousness.

Although it may be simple and widely taken for granted, it may also be the main requirement for any purpose in our existence. Not only does free will give us a choice in every part of our lives, but any other gifts given to us presuppose this ability – otherwise we have no choice in the matter anyway and they are not truly gifts. It gives us the power to choose between good and evil every day of our earthly lives, and ultimately it gives us the choice of our final destination, Heaven or Hell. This must show the great respect God has for us. He loves us infinitely and wants us to be eternally united with him, but he does not force us.

Imagine living without the free will to make your own choices. No one would do anything other than their preprogrammed functions, and making it to heaven would have absolutely no significance. If we had not been given this gift, the way we interact, make decisions, and live would be completely automatic. We would be entirely instinctive creatures no greater than the animals. In essence, our free will is what makes us human.

In truth, by giving us free will God allows us to determine our own fate. What great power God has bestowed on us! We have ultimate control over our own choices, and even have the power to defy him, our creator and sustainer! He never forces us to do anything we don't want to do, even to obey his command. Although this great gift exposes us to great danger in this way, it also gives us a universal goal and purpose, while making the reward well worth the risk.

After careful consideration, I believe that free will is the greatest gift anyone has been given by God. Not only does it allow us to make little decisions in our earthly life, but the choices of greatest consequence to ourselves and others – including the fate of our soul! Without it we would be slaves to his will without a choice, and our obedience would mean nothing, nor would the achievement of reaching Heaven. Ultimately, the gift of free will is what gives us the ability to do anything – good or evil – and gives reason for us to exist at all. It also shows how great God's love must be for us, for he does not force anyone to do anything, but allows us to choose by our own intellect. I don't know if anyone can definitively prove that any one gift of God is the greatest of them all, but I do believe that the gift of free will lays the foundation for anything worthwhile or meaningful in this life or the next.

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