



# Third Sunday Of Advent

## December 14<sup>th</sup> 2014



Christoph Cardinal Schonborn in the book, The Joy of Being a Priest, wrote that on the feast of Saint Valentine:

*We distribute love letters from God to his special sweetheart, you! Presently we are averaging as many as two hundred thousand letters, which our parishioners, together with the bishop, his co-workers, and the vicar general, distribute in the subway stations on Valentine's Day to tell the people: "Here is a love letter for you!" Sometimes there is a conversation; sometimes people just walk past. Almost all of them take the letter. In the envelope there is a handwritten letter from God "to you" with a little invitation to the places of prayer where, later that day, parishes have planned prayer meetings, an evening of Divine Mercy devotions, and so forth (98).*

Hence my brother and sisters in Christ, I hope things are going well with handing out the Saint Nicholas bags that include our Christmas Mass times! Remember that as Catholics we are missionary by nature, called to invite others to join our community. Missionary efforts are not just for priests and religious who go to far-off lands. You are a missionary!!

What is it that we are inviting people to join? Join us and "rejoice"! The Third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means rejoice in Latin, and it sets a tone of joyful anticipation of the birth of Jesus and His Second Coming (Ordo 2015, p. 11).

### EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Sun, Dec 14...Doughnut Sunday, CMLG Bake Sale, Christmas Pageant Practice 11:15am in Church, Ladies Christmas Tea in church basement 2-4, Christmas Tree Lot Open, DTS 6pm, Giving Tree gifts due  
 Mon, Dec 15....Penance Service @ Veseli 7pm, Rosary in Chapel 7pm  
 Tues, Dec 16...Fatima Group 8:30am, Choir Practice 7pm,  
 Penance Service @ Lonsdale 7pm  
 Wed, Dec 17.....Mass @ Holy Cross 8:15am, Religious Ed. 6:30pm,  
 KC's Christmas Tree Lot Open  
 Thurs, Dec 18...RCIA @ HC 6:30pm, Parish Council Meeting 7pm,  
 KC's Christmas Tree Lot Open  
 Fri, Dec 19.....KC's Christmas Tree Lot Open  
 Sat, Dec 20... Rosary in Chapel 9am, KC's Christ. Tree Lot Open,  
 Sun, Dec 21....Christmas Tree Lot Open

Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer): Everyone is Welcome - Tuesday - Friday at 7:20am & 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 It's easy to sign up and will automatically be withdrawn from your account one time a month.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 parish website; [www.stncc.net](http://www.stncc.net) or by calling the parish office at 952-461-2403.

Doughnut Sunday schedule: Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup>. Doughnuts are served after both Sunday masses. Everyone is welcome!!

**So you don't miss out on anything happening in the parish today, below is a summary of what you will find going on around campus, Sunday, Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**

Doughnut Sunday after all masses, CMLG Bake Sale after all masses, Golden Hearts Craft Sale after all masses, Christmas Pageant Practice 11:15am in Church, Ladies Christmas Tea in church basement 2-4 (we still have openings, cost is \$10, please join us!), Christmas Tree Lot Open, DTS 6pm, Giving Tree gifts due (place by tree in church).

### MUSIC COORDINATOR /CHOIR DIRECTOR

Part-time, non-exempt, required approximately 10 flexible hours per week. Practicing Catholic in good standing; excellent communication and time management skills. **Salary:** approx. commensurate with experience. Send Resume to: MUSIC SEARCH, CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS, PO Box 9, Elko New Market, MN 55020-0009, or e-mail to [Lisal@stncc.net](mailto:Lisal@stncc.net).

**CUSTODIAL / MAINTENANCE** (part-time non-exempt, approx. 10-13 flexible hours per week, occasional work in the evenings and on weekends.) Provide professional assistance to staff, volunteers and guests through overall janitorial care and maintenance of parish facilities, equipment, and grounds and through work with volunteers in buildings/ grounds/ cemetery projects as directed. **Req:** Three to five years experience in facilities cleaning, maintenance and repairs including HVAC, plumbing, building safety and grounds care; ability lift up to 50 lbs, and shovel snow. **Salary:** commensurate with experience. Send Resume **by Mon., Dec. 15, 4 PM:** MAINTENANCE SEARCH, CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS, PO Box 9, Elko New Market, MN 55020-0009, or Fax: (952) 461-2423; or email [lisal@stncc.net](mailto:lisal@stncc.net).

### FELLOW PARISHIONERS:

We have a chance to input into our Parish's Strategic Planning Process - Shaping Our Future for the next 3 to 10 years! How? Complete this confidential survey at

<http://fluidsurveys.com/s/stnicholasatholicchurchelkonevmarket/>

or you can access at our parish website at [www.stncc.net](http://www.stncc.net)

You may access this from your home computer the local library or a laptop in the church office during office hours.

This is part of the GROW initiative, which with Rediscover: is to support and develop a community of believers in this local church that is proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people. Thank You!

### CONFESSION, CHRISTMAS and NEW YEARS MASS

#### SCHEDULE:

**Penance Service:** Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7pm

**Individual Confessions:** Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 11am-Noon

**Christmas Eve Masses:** 4pm (pageant@3:40pm)

10pm (caroling at 9:30pm)

**Christmas Day Mass:** 9am

**Solemnity of Mary Masses:** Wed., Dec 31: 5pm & Thurs., Jan 1: 9am

**Support elderly religious** - show your support for senior catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

### CHRISTMAS EVENTS

**THERE IS STILL TIME TO SIGN YOUR CHILD UP FOR THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** - Children 4 years of age and older - Practice will be after the 10am mass today in the church! Please have your child join us if they are interested.



It's that time of year, when we ask you to please support the Knights of Columbus, by purchasing your Christmas trees and wreaths from their lot, located at the corner of County Road 2 & 91. The lot opens the day after

Thanksgiving at 9am. Lot Hours are: Saturday & Sunday

10am - 5pm, and Wednesday- Friday 5-8pm. The lot will

remain open until the week before Christmas. **If you can help any amount of time please call Ben Zweber at 952-461-2366.**

**Keep "Christ" in Christmas Signs** - if you have your sign from last year, please dig it out and place it in your snow covered lawn, or if you don't have one, and would like one, please pick up your sign in the back of church.

**The Knights of Columbus are selling Religious Christmas Cards.** The display is in the back of church, and the price of the cards are on the boxes. Please place your money in the envelope provided.

### Year-End Donation Opportunity.

Please consider a donation to our Parish Endowment Fund.

The Endowment is set up so we cannot spend the principle, only the interest earned can be spent as the Parish sees fit.

Current balance \$ 96,000

Accumulated Interest \$ 46,000

Parish leadership has recently approved a number of necessary maintenance projects. Our operating budget is really just keeping the doors open, there is not extra money for large repairs. We will be taking money out of our parish savings account to pay for these projects. We are asking parishioners for donations to replenish the savings account.

**Here is a list of the current projects and their costs:**

- Sidewalk replacement - \$2,236.50
- Replacement of flat roofs over basement bathrooms & south basement entrance - \$11,250.00
- Mold removal in parish basement - \$1,755.00
- Mold removal in school building - \$600.00
- Leaf guards for gutters on rectory - \$620.00
- Additional Mold Removal (not in original bid) - \$1,952.00**
- Total cost of current needed repairs: 18,413.50**
- Donations to date – Thank You! 8,627.00**
- Balance 9,786.50**

We are also in the process of identifying and prioritizing a number of other projects (solving our water problems is a big one). If you are able to contribute to the parish for these expenses, you can make your donation two different ways. In your current Sunday envelopes, on the left side of the envelope it reads Capital Improvement and Endowment Fund Offering. Simply circle Capital Improvement and then list the dollar amount you would like to contribute to the projects. You may also stop in the parish office and leave your donation with Lisa. As the donations begin to come in, the dollar amounts will be listed in the bulletin. If you have any questions please contact the parish office at 952-461-2403

Thank you from the Parish Leadership.

**Thank you to everyone who has responded so quickly to the parish needs, through prayer, treasure and talent! God Bless You!**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**ADULT EDUCATION:**

**Mary: A biblical walk with the Blessed Mother.** If still interested in joining us here at St. Nicholas, please call Kathy Chlan at 952-652-2286 or Jean Moeller at 461-4552. Cost is \$22.00. Classes will be on Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings.

**Session 2: (2015)**

Tues., Jan 6 to Jan 27<sup>TH</sup> @ 7:00pm / Thurs., Jan. 8 to Jan. 29 @ 9:00 am.

**LNMV RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

Regular Classes Wednesday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30-7:45pm  
 Merry Christmas – Christmas Break NO Class on Wednesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Happy New Year – Christmas Break – NO Class on Wednesday Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>  
 Classes Resume on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Advent/Christmas Family Fun Book:** Grades 1 through 5 can work on these booklets and bring back Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>. Each page counts for points and the classroom with the most points wins a pizza party! Spend time learning and doing activities.

**YOUTH GROUP:**

**Dead Theologian Society:** Next DTS is December 14<sup>th</sup>. St. Nicholas youth room 6:00pm-9:00pm. (Confirmation students this will count for one Faith Enrichment event.) If you have any questions please call Kathy Chlan 952-652-2286. \*\*\*\*WE are in need of a Volunteer for January to prepare some or part of the meal and/or to serve, we have students attending from all three parishes, we welcome and appreciate all volunteers, you do not have to have children attending. To volunteer for December or another month please call Kathy Chlan 952-652-2286.

**HOLY CROSS:**

Scrip is a great way to support Holy Cross without spending any additional money. The school places an order every Monday for gift cards from hundreds of retailers, and a discount goes to the school. You can even designate part of the rebate to a particular school family's tuition. Many cards are kept in stock, too, so think of Holy Cross scrip for those last minute gifts!

**See Pope Francis  
Up Close!**



**Pilgrimage space available**  
 Check out our itinerary online at [www.stncc.net](http://www.stncc.net)  
 To register visit [www.takeapilgrimage.com](http://www.takeapilgrimage.com)

<b>Mass Intentions – (* indicates a change in mass time)</b>			
Sat	13	5:00 pm	Allen, Viola & Brad Neal+
Sun	14	8:00 am	For the Parish
Sun	14	10:00 am	Bob Devine+
Tues	16	8:00 am	Jeff Kost +
*Wed	17	8:15 am	Mass @ HC / Bob Seykora+
Thurs	18	8:00 am	PJ Siedow
Fri	19	8:00 am	Alois & Susan Wagner Family
Sat	20	8:00 am	Dean Johnson+
Sat	20	5:00 pm	Floyd Hartmann+
Sun	21	8:00 am	For the Parish
Sun	21	10:00 am	Eric Meger+

<b>Daily Scriptures</b>		
Mon	Numbers 24:2-7,15-17a	Matthew 21:23-27
Tue	Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13	Matthew 21:28-32
Wed	Genesis 49:2,8-10	Matthew 1:1-17
Thu	Jeremiah 23:5-8	Matthew 1:18-25
Fri	Judges 13:2-7,24-25a	Luke 1:5-25
Sat.	Isaiah 7:10-14	Luke 1:26-38
Sun	2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16/Romans 16:25-27/Luke 1:26-38	

<b>Liturgical Stewardship</b>		<b>December 20 &amp; 21</b>
<b>Dec 20 @ 5pm</b>	Lector:	Jan Freeman
	Ministers	Jolene Pierson-H, Dana Meyer-Ch-H
	Ushers:	Joe Molitor, Doug Serie
<b>Dec 21 @ 8am</b>	Lector:	Mike Cole
	Ministers	Joyce Anderson-H, Ken Thomas-Ch-H
	Ushers:	Dan Simones, Gary Vosejpk
<b>Dec 21 @ 10am</b>	Lector:	Vicky Chlan
	Ministers	Paul Panka-H, Kathy Chlan-Ch-H
	Ushers:	Randy Wagner, Tony Nelson

<b>SUNDAY GIVING: Dec 7 / Week 23 in Fiscal Year</b>	
Budget Weekly Sunday Giving:	\$6,276
Budget Year-to-Date Sunday Giving:	<b>\$144,348</b>
Actual Collection Received	\$4,103
Flowers	\$ 812
Fuel	\$ 175
Holy Day	\$ 938
Collection Received Year-to-Date:	<b>\$127,164</b>
	<b>-\$17,184</b>
Capital Improvement \$110	

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**Just in time for your Christmas shopping!**

We are excited to share the news that St. Nicholas Catholic Church has teamed up with SSA Stores to offer St. Nicholas apparel items and accessories to our parishioners. Show your spirit and support for St. Nicholas with personalized t-shirts, jackets and more for men, women and children. You can customize merchandise online choosing colors and designs to reflect your own style. No minimums, high product quality, and fast delivery. And the best part... St. Nicholas will receive a percentage from every purchase you make from our online apparel store. For more information and to order please visit the parish website (stncc.net) and follow the link provided or visit <https://ssastores.com/store/st-nicholas-catholic-church-elko-new-market-mn/>  
**Please note all ordering, payment, shipping and returns are handled through SSA Stores and not the parish office.**

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**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. The fall schedule is as follows; Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>  
2015 Schedule; Jan. 13, Feb 17, March 17, April 14 and May 12.

**CHOIR**

The St. Nicholas choir practices Tuesday evenings 7:00-8:30pm. We are in great need of new members especially now for our Advent and Christmas season ahead. No previous choir or vocal training required to join. Our music ministry is one of the most vital to the Liturgy and one that brings its members many rewards for their time and talents shared. If you are interested but have questions, please contact Pam Filipiak at 952-461-3478.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL**

During Advent, amidst all the busyness of the season, it is so important to take time to focus on our relationship with Jesus. What better way to do this than to spend a Holy Hour with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament!

**Christmas schedule** - The Adoration Chapel will close on Tuesday, Dec 23rd at 4 pm. The Chapel will stay closed through the weekend and will reopen on Monday, Dec 29 at 11 am.

**New Year schedule** - The Adoration Chapel will close on Wednesday, Dec 31st at 4 pm. The Chapel will stay closed through the weekend and will reopen on Monday, Jan 5 at 11 am.

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

Adorers are needed especially for the following hours:

**Sunday:** 1 pm (2 Sundays a month), 3 pm (beginning in January), **Tuesday:** 7 pm, **Wednesday:** 10 am, **Friday:** 1 am, 2 am, 7 pm (2 Fridays a month),

**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 are reading Catholic books and meeting once a month for spiritual discussion, to pray, and reflect on the Gospel to enrich and support our vocation as wives and mothers. Location and times may vary. Please contact Becky Myhre and join us! 952-292-1086.

**PRO-LIFE**

We invite you to the chapel for the Pro-Life Rosary- every Saturday at 9am

**Happening in the Area**

**BINGO – Fun Night every Tuesday Night October – April. KC Hall in new Prague, Starting October 7, 2014. 2 warm up game start at 7pm, 16 regular games. Lunch and refreshments are available. Please call 952-758-3924 with questions.**

**Archbishop's Retreat for Men interested in the Priesthood – December 19-21**

Men interested in priesthood, between ages 18 and 40, are invited to a retreat December 19-21, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. on Friday until noon on Sunday at the beautiful Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo, Minnesota. Communal and private prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass and presentations by the Archbishop are designed to help participants discern their future vocation. Contact the Vocation Office at 651-962-6890 or [stpaulpriest@1000vocations.org](mailto:stpaulpriest@1000vocations.org) A referral from a priest or Religious is needed to register, and a \$75 fee is requested to offset the cost of room and board. No one will be turned away for financial reasons

**Annual Prayer Service for Life – January 22, 2015**

Please join us at 10:30 AM on Thursday, January 22, 2015 for the Annual Prayer Service for Life with Bishop Lee Piché at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, 239 Selby Ave. This prayer service commemorates the millions of lives lost to abortion and the many women and men wounded by abortion's aftermath. Please consider carpooling or utilizing buses as parking will be limited due to the Red Bull Crashed Ice event. All are invited and welcome. For more information, please contact the Office for Marriage, Family & Life at 651.291.4488 or our website at [www.archspm.org](http://www.archspm.org).

**A Healing Christmas Gift –**

If you or someone you love is grieving the loss of a child or children to abortion, come and experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on our weekend retreat. The next Rachel's Vineyard Twin Cities retreat is **January 9-11, 2015**. For more information contact Nancy at [rachels@rvineyardmn.org](mailto:rachels@rvineyardmn.org), call 763-250-9313, or see [www.rvineyardmn.org](http://www.rvineyardmn.org).

**Grief to Grace -Healing the Wounds of Abuse – The program will be held January 11th through January 16th of 2015 in Minneapolis/St Paul.**

A spiritual program for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual, or spiritual abuse. It is appropriate for anyone who has endured sexual abuse, rape, incest, or other forms of traumatic violation in childhood or adolescence. It is also appropriate for anyone who has been abused by clergy. Grief to Grace invites participants to journey through this program in the name of love - Dr. Theresa Burke who is the founder of Rachel's Vineyard - retreats for healing after abortion, composed the program and will serve as the facilitator for this retreat.

Visit [www.griefftoGrace.org](http://www.griefftoGrace.org) for more information. To request an application contact [info@griefftoGrace.org](mailto:info@griefftoGrace.org) or call 610-203-2002 Reserve your spot now as space is limited.

