



Fourth Sunday Of Advent

December 21st, 2014



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I'm very pleased at how our men's and women's events went last weekend. Twenty-five men attended the Morning of Reflection on Saturday and forty-one women attended the Christmas Tea on Sunday afternoon.

They were sponsored by Adult Faith Formation, thank you for your help in planning and coordinating these events! Val J. Zweber spoke to the men and Janette How spoke to the women. Both were inspiring, offering us a chance to grow in our faith and to come to know Christ on a deeper level.

Not only is it fun just to spend time together, but it is important to remember that others help us on our journey to Heaven. They help us see God and they point us to God.

It can be very easy to discuss with others the news and other events like sports, which is great. Yet opportunities like these help us to reflect with others about Christ and how He is working in our lives. We had the chance to grow together in faith, hope, and love.

Therefore brothers and sisters, as events such as these are made available in the future, never underestimate how important and how much of an impact it could have on someone's life if you invite them to join us!

God bless you and keep watch, Christmas is almost here!

Fr. Barnes

EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

- Sun, Dec 21....Set up Crib & Christmas Decorations 11am,
Christmas Tree Lot Open
- Mon, Dec 22....Rosary in Chapel 7pm
- Tues, Dec 23...Fatima Group 8:30am, Choir Practice 7pm,
- Wed, Dec 24....NO Morning Mass, Confession 11am-12pm,
Christmas Eve Masses: 4pm (pageant at 3:40pm) and
10pm (caroling at 9:30pm)
- Thurs, Dec 25...MERRY CHRISTMAS – Mass @ 9am
- Fri, Dec 26.....
- Sat, Dec 27... Rosary in Chapel 9am
- Sun, Dec 28....

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 It's easy to sign up and will automatically be withdrawn from your account one time a month.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 or by calling the parish office at 952-461-2403.

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

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.

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/stnicholasatholichurchelknewmarket/> or you can access at our parish website at 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!

Knights of Columbus will not have a business meeting in January 2015. Please contact Leon Meger with any questions or concerns at 952-652-2826.

CONFESSION, CHRISTMAS and NEW YEARS MASS

SCHEDULE:

Penance Service: Tuesday, December 23rd, 7pm

Individual Confessions: Wednesday, December 24th 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

TODAY we will prepare our beautiful church for Christmas, by assembling the Crib and putting the Christmas decorations up. If you would like to lend a hand, this will be done following the 10am mass.

We wait for all who will celebrate with us on Christmas: *What a wonderful opportunity we have! Hundreds will join us for Masses to celebrate Christmas this year, some who are visitors from out of town, many who come to church a couple of times a year. If these folks feel welcomed, comfortable, and graciously received the chances are greater for their returning the following Sunday to be with us again as we celebrate the Eucharist! We all want that! During Christmas Masses we are handed on a silver platter a once-a-year opportunity to embrace and welcome folks back into the Church! LET'S NOT MISS IT!*

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.

Knights of Columbus will not have a business meeting in January 2015. Please contact Leon Meger with any questions or concerns at 952-652-2826.

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! 9,682.00

Balance 8,731.50

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!

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



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ADULT EDUCATION:

Mary: A biblical walk with the Blessed Mother. A reminder that Session two begins in January, after our break Advent break. Class will continue in the Myra Meeting Room at St Nicholas. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Kathy Chlan @ 952-652-2286 or Jean Moeller at 461-4552.

Session 2: (2015)

Tuesday evenings - Jan 6 to Jan 27TH @ 7:00pm
Thursday mornings - Jan. 8 to Jan. 29 @ 9:00 am

LNMV RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Christmas Break: Wed., Dec. 24
Christmas Break: Wed., Dec. 31
Class Resume: Wed., January 7th @ 6:30pm-7:45pm

Advent/Christmas Activity Books: Booklets were given to all our 1st through 5th grade students. Students should bring back their booklets with as many pages as they could complete on Wed. Jan. 7th and we will total the points for each class. The classes with the most points will win a Pizza Party! Winners will be announced the following week.

YOUTH GROUP:

Dead Theologian Society: Next DTS is Sunday, January 11th. 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! You do not need to have children in the program to volunteer and want to help our youth, to volunteer for January or another month please call Kathy Chlan 952-652-2286. If you have students who attend DTS, please consider this gift to our Youth!

HOLY CROSS:

Did you know you can donate online to Holy Cross Catholic School? It's quick and easy! Just visit www.holycrossschool.net and click on the "donate" button at the top of the page. You can securely donate using a credit card or bank account. Please remember Holy Cross in your year-end charitable giving. The students and staff thank you for your continued support and prayers, and wish you a blessed Christmas!

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

Sat	20	5:00 pm	Floyd Hartmann+
Sun	21	8:00 am	For the Parish
Sun	21	10:00 am	Eric Meger+
Tues	23	8:00 am	Robert Saleck+
*Wed	24	NO MASS	
*Wed	24	4:00 pm	Elmer & Mary Karl & Ralph & Helen Kaufenberg+
*Wed	24	10:00 pm	

*Thurs	25	9:00 am	Carol Fraher
Fri	26	8:00 am	Joe & Dorothy Chlan+
Sat	27	8:00 am	Ken DeGross+
Sat	27	5:00 pm	Stuart & Joyce Russell+
Sun	28	8:00 am	For the Parish
Sun	28	10:00 am	Joseph & Lillian Sticha+

Daily Scriptures

Mon	1 Samuel 1:24-28	Luke 1:45-56
Tue	Malachi 3:1-4,23-24	Luke 1:57-66
Wed: 4pm	Isaiah 62:1-5/Acts of Apos. 13:16-17,22-25/Matthew 1:1-25	
Wed: 10pm	Isaiah 9:1-6/Titus 2:11-14/Luke 2:1-14	
Thu: 9am	Isaiah 52:7-10/Hebrews 1:1-6/John 1:1-18	
Fri	Acts of Apos. 6:8-10;7:54-59	Matthew 10:17-22
Sat.	1 John 1:1-4	John 20:1a, 2-8
Sun	Genesis 15:1-6;21:1-3/Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19/Luke 2:22-40	

Liturgical Stewardship

December 24, 25, 27 & 28

Dec 24 @ 4pm	Lector:	Hank English, Madalyn Brohmer
	Ministers	Dennis Anderson-H, Denise Anderson-C, Amy McDonald-C, Dana Meyer-Ch-H, Norleen Lane-Ch-C
	Ushers:	
Dec 24 @ 10pm	Lector:	Mary Kay Forland
	Ministers	Paul Panka-H, Jolene Pierson-C, Ralph Wagner-C, Julie Nelson-Ch-H, Larry Caduff-Ch-C
	Ushers:	
Dec 25 @ 9am	Lector:	Mike Moeller
	Ministers	Joyce Anderson-H, Tom Streefland-C, Jackie Devine-C, Chris Kuehl-Ch-H, Margo Theisen-Ch-C
	Ushers:	
Dec 27 @ 5pm	Lector:	Kathy Chlan
	Ministers	Mary Kay Forland-H, Jolene Pierson-Ch-H
	Ushers:	Joe Molitor, Doug Serie
Dec 28 @ 8am	Lector:	Peter Soderlund
	Ministers	Ken Thomas-H, Ralph Wagner-Ch-H
	Ushers:	Dan Simones, Gary Vosejka
Dec 28 @ 10am	Lector:	Matt Damiani
	Ministers	Julie Nelson-H, Amy McDonald-Ch-H
	Ushers:	Randy Wagner, Tony Nelson

SUNDAY GIVING: Dec 14 / Week 24 in Fiscal Year

Budget Weekly Sunday Giving:	\$6,276
Budget Year-to-Date Sunday Giving:	\$150,624
Actual Collection Received	\$4,901
Flowers	\$ 140
Holy Day	\$ 100
ACH – Dec. 15, 2014	\$4,725
ACH-Christmas-Dec.15, 2014	\$ 250
Collection Received Year-to-Date:	\$137,280
	-\$13,344
Capital Improvement \$1055	

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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.

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. 9th
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 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th 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

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.

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.

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, call 763-250-9313, or see 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 for more information. To request an application contact info@griefftograce.org or call 610-203-2002 Reserve your spot now as space is limited.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING CLASSES

The Couple to Couple League will be offering a series of classes, for engaged and married couples, on the *Sympto-Thermal Method of Natural Family Planning* at the Church of All Saints, 19795 Holyoke Ave., Lakeville, MN in the Library. Classes begin on Sunday, January 11th at 1:00 p.m. CCL's new streamlined methodology and new materials integrate Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Registration at <http://twincities.ccli.org>. For more information call 612.721.3791 or email twincities.ccli.org@gmail.com.