



# 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 26th, 2015

## Essay Topic

*Even if you have not experienced Catholic Education in your own schooling, please explain the importance a Catholic Education can make in the life of a student as they grow.*

**Catholic Education - Preparing students for this life and the next by Daniel Olesen**

No one is born a doctor. No one is born a lawyer, a scientist, or an engineer. No one is born a master of their field. In the same way, no one is born holy. It is something to be learned. High achieving professionals of any discipline will tell you about the many years of training and experience they went through to get them where they are, and the attainment of spiritual greatness is no different. Without medical school, a doctor could never achieve the knowledge necessary to do their job. The same is true for Catholics and education in Catholicism.

If a doctor didn't go to school to learn how to do his job, how can he do it? In much the same way, a catholic must be taught to do his/her job as a catholic. The importance of being properly instructed in the faith is as important as being properly instructed as a doctor or any other profession.

In order to be good at anything, one must practice. To be good Catholics, we must learn. We must practice. Being educated in an environment inundated with hedonism and lifestyles absolutely contradictory to God, anyone can be lost in lies. Thus organized catholic education shows its merits. It provides a foundation for students to anchor their lives, and focuses them on the truth. It encourages practice in the doctrines of the faith and directs students toward God rather than something else.

Catholic education prepares us for life in many ways. In a very real way it prepares us for battle. You may have heard it said that we are at war – It's true. As Christians we are at war with the corrupted culture of the world and the corrupting lies of the enemy. These things are apparent in everyday life and are a constant danger. So as soldiers of Christ, we must train and prepare ourselves and our comrades as much as we can. A catholic education is a great way to strengthen your faith and train yourself as a warrior of God.

In brief, a catholic education is highly beneficial to a student. It directs them to the truth and gives them the ability to share it with the world. In public education, students must direct themselves. This is not to say that those who don't have the luxury of being enrolled in a catholic school are lost. They simply face a tougher challenge of defending the faith, which also has a way of building good soldiers of Christ. I have not experienced catholic schooling myself, but I can see its ability to prepare our children to be the strong catholic men and women we need.

## **EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK**

Sun, April 26.....Food Shelf Weekend  
DONATIONS FOR BIG TICKET RAFFLE ARE DUE!  
Mon, April 27....  
Tues, April 28... ..Fatima Group 8:30am, Choir Practice 7pm,  
Mother of Perpetual Help 8:30am  
Wed, April 29..... Religious Ed 6:30pm  
Thurs, April 30....  
Fri, May 1..... First Communion Practice 6 & 7pm  
Sat, May 2.....Rosary in Chapel 9am, Lifeline @ NET 4:15pm  
First Communion @ 5pm mass  
Sun, May 3.....First Communion @ 8am mass  
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.

St. Nicholas apparel items and accessories are available to order online. Please visit the parish website ([stncc.net](http://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.

**Doughnut Sunday schedule: May 10<sup>th</sup> and June 14<sup>th</sup>. Doughnuts are served after both Sunday masses. Everyone is welcome!!**

**There is an early deadline for the bulletin next week. Please submit your bulletin requests to the parish office by 10am on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.**



**Welcome to St. Nicholas Parish**  
Please extend a warm welcome to the newest member of St. Nicholas Parish:

-Sean Goedel and Jordan Hartmann

## **Food Shelf Weekends!**

We are excited to announce that our parish will now be holding food drives the last full weekend of every month. All donations will be going to the Scott County Food Shelf. Mark your calendar and thanks in advance for your donations!

**Food Drive weekends: April 25/26, May 30/31 and June 27/28. Please bring food and drop in alcoves on sides of church.**

## **DONATIONS DUE TODAY FOR BIG TICKET RAFFLE!!**

### ***What is the "Big Ticket Raffle" anyway?***

Some of you that may be new to our parish might be wondering, "why should we donate to the "Big Ticket Raffle"? Well, the Chicken Cookout is one of our biggest fundraisers for our parish. Every item for the raffle is donated. So everything we make on ticket sales is all profit. Please consider donating either as a donation from your family or business and anything works. From five dollars cash to gift cards or anything else you'd like to put together. Anything would be greatly appreciated! If you have any questions, please call one of the committee members listed below.



## **DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE BIG TICKET RAFFLE!**

The Chicken Cookout is just around the corner. As always we need your support to make this successful. We are now collecting Big Ticket Raffle donations. The Deadline for turning in raffle items will be Sunday, April 26th. Donations for the Big Ticket Raffle can be placed in the weekly collection basket, turned in to the parish office or left in the black drop box outside the parish office or contact one of the committee members (Jim and Jodi Muelken, 952-447-1160, Cheryl Thomas, 952-461-2021, Jan Seykora, 952-461-3435). All donations received by the end of the day on Sunday, April 26th will be included on the Big Ticket Raffle flyer. We encourage any of you that know a business that would be willing to contribute an item for the big ticket raffle to seek their support. All proceeds from the Chicken Cookout go directly to the parish.

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

**CHICKEN COOKOUT, Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

Knights of Columbus meeting is Thursday May 7, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. Interested in becoming a member? Please contact Leon Meger at 952-652-2826.



Save the date for the St. Nicholas Garden Tour which will take place on Sunday, June 28 from 1-5 pm. Tickets will be available to purchase at the parish office mid-May. Cost will be \$10 per person. For more information

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.

**Ever wonder what it is like to be a Nun or Brother?** Come and See! St. Nicholas Church is taking a bus to tour religious communities in Mpls. and St. Paul on Friday, June 5th. Bring your whole family! Cost: \$5 a person. Meals will be provided. To sign up for this fun filled day, please call the parish office at 461-2403 or e-mail [lisal@stncc.net](mailto:lisal@stncc.net) Any questions on this event please contact Lisa Damiani at 651-203-7734.



**Vacation Bible School (VBS) Registration is now open!**

VBS is open to children age 4 (by June 1st) – Entering 5th gr. in the Fall 2015. To register your child please pick up a form in the back of church or call the parish office at 952-461-2403. VBS will be held June 8-12th, 9am– 11:45am, \$20 per child with a family cap of \$60.

**VOLUNTEERS**

**\*\*We are looking for a few more ADULT volunteers and several KIDS (AGE 12 & OLDER) to volunteer.** If you are a parent volunteering and you have kids in the program, the fee will be waived. Any 9th or 10th grader who volunteers, can apply the hours towards your required Confirmation Service Hours. To sign up to volunteer, call the parish office at 952-461-2403.

**DONATIONS**

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

**Food Items:** small marshmallows, mini pretzels, pretzel rods, 10 cans of white frosting, vanilla pudding cups, canned fruit, raisins, goldfish crackers, Smarties candy, gummy worms, apples, caramel dip, fruit dip, cookies, granola bars, fruit snacks, large containers of lemonade or Kool-Aid, fruit juice, chocolate milk and 5 cases of water.

**Supplies:** cups, plates (large size), napkins, glue dots, cotton balls, fabric markers and fabric paint, band aides or cash donations.

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

All these projects are complete!

We still need continued financial support for these projects.

- 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
- Air Quality Tests (not included in original bid)- \$568.00
- Total cost of current needed repairs: 18,981.50
- Donations to date – Thank You! 15,201.00
- Balance 3,780.50

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 continue 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.

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

Sat	25	5:00 pm	Stuart & Joyce Russell+
Sun	26	8:00 am	For the Parish
Sun	26	10:00 am	Sister Dominica+
Tues	28	8:00 am	Joe & Dorothy Chlan+
Wed	29	8:00 am	Jerome Wagner
Thurs	30	8:00 am	Mr. Elfring
Fri	1	8:00 am	Paul & Therese Leon+
Sat	2	8:00 am	
Sat	2	5:00 pm	Jerry Giles+
Sun	3	8:00 am	First Communicants
Sun	3	10:00 am	For the Parish



**Daily Scriptures**

Monday:	Acts of Apos 11:1-18	John 10:1-10
Tuesday:	Acts of Apos 11:19-26	John 10:22-30
Wednesday:	Acts of Apos 12:24-13:5a	John 12:44-50
Thursday:	Acts of Apos 13:13-25	John 13:16-20
Friday:	Acts of Apos 13:26-33	John 14:1-6
Saturday:	Acts of Apos 13:44-52	John 14:7-14
Sunday:	Acts of Apos 9:26-31//1	John 3:18-24/John 15:1-8

**Liturgical Stewardship**

**May 2 & 3**

<b>May 2 @ 5pm</b>	Lector:	Gail Mathews
	Ministers	Ralph Wagner-H, Jolene Pierson-Ch-H
	Ushers:	David Sheedy, Dave DeGonda
<b>May 3 @ 8am</b>	Lector:	Mike Moeller
	Ministers	Leander Wagner-H, Tom McCabe-Ch-H
	Ushers:	Paul Thoresen, Craig Goblirsch
<b>May 3 @ 10am</b>	Lector:	Margo Theisen
	Ministers	Julie Nelson-H, Tom Streefland-Ch-H
	Ushers:	Steve Addabbo, Mike Chlan

**SUNDAY GIVING: April 19 / Week 42 in Fiscal Year**

Budget Weekly Sunday Giving:	\$ 6,276
Budget Year-to-Date Sunday Giving:	<b>\$263,592</b>
Actual Collection Received	\$ 4,876
Easter	\$ 100
Fuel	\$ 20
Grounds Care	\$ 20
Children's Envelopes	\$ 1
Collection Received Year-to-Date:	<b>\$ 260,538</b>
	<b>- \$ 3,054</b>
Capital Improvement \$654	

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## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **FAITH FORMATION NEWS:**

Check out the RE website at [www.lnmvire.net](http://www.lnmvire.net)

Classes held at the Catholic Education Center **6:30 – 7:45 PM, Weekly CLASS night** Wed. April 29<sup>th</sup> Class night & last night of religion

### **First Communion Parents-Students**

Rehearsal for First communion for those receiving at the May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5pm Mass is: Friday night, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 @ 6:00pm

Rehearsal for First communion for those receiving at the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8am Mass is: Friday night, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 @ 7:00pm

Contact Photographer to set up for individual pictures

### **Appreciation Night**

St. Nicholas Knights of Columbus Invites all our volunteer catechists, aides and their guest to be THEIR guest at a Clergy Appreciation dinner on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

This dinner is in appreciation for your gift of time in teaching the faith to our children. All must RSVP by May 5<sup>th</sup> to [kathyc@holycrossschool.net](mailto:kathyc@holycrossschool.net)

*"Be Sealed  
with the  
Holy Spirit"*



Congratulations to Nichole Boegeman-Vennink, Annie Bunnell, Emilia Fredrickson, Rosalia Friedges, Leah Heselton, Therese Hilpisch, Maxwell Kjos, Allison Kuhlmann, Clayton Madsen, Casey McDonald, Eric Meyer, Logan Miller, Brent Moening, Terran Mohr, Daniel Olesen, Alyssa Rhoten, Grant Skluzacek and Peter Soderlund who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday morning with Bishop Cozzens at Divine Mercy in Faribault. May the Holy Spirit fill their hearts and guide them toward the mission God has for them.

### **HOLY CROSS NEWS:**

Holy Cross Catholic School students have been learning about 3-D Design and Printing through a class taught at Holy Cross by an engineering instructor from Shattuck-St. Mary's in Faribault. Students cap off the course this Tuesday evening with a final class at the Shattuck engineering lab, where they will complete engineering challenges and use 3-D printers to create their projects. This has been a great pilot program, and we hope to continue to partner with Shattuck for future courses.



Thank you to all who attended the cake and cookie decorating session hosted by CMLG! Fun was had by all. Please watch the bulletin for more opportunities for fellowship and fun!

2015 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL  
**The CSA goal for St. Nicholas is \$18,555**  
**Donations to date: \$18,551**

If you have not made your contribution to the 2015 Catholic Services Appeal, please consider doing so.

One pledge can make a difference, especially when combined with all the other pledges made throughout our local Church. And, when our parish reaches its goal, 25% of all funds received will be returned for use to support ministries in our parish

### **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* here at the Church of St. Nicholas in the Myra Room. Classes begin on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:twincities.ccli.org@gmail.com).

### **Catholic Home Missions Appeal: Strengthening the Church at Home**

Please help us strengthen the Church here in the U.S. by giving generously to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal this weekend. The Catholic Home Missions Appeal, which is a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops effort, helps fund catechesis, seminarian education, lay ministry training and other pastoral programs in U.S. dioceses that are unable to provide by themselves. Currently, 45% of all U.S. dioceses receive some home mission support, including dioceses in Minnesota, due to priest shortages, parishioner poverty, unemployment, isolated and difficult terrain, religious hostility and other circumstances that make it hard to practice the faith. Please help as you are able. May you be blessed for your generosity to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal.



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 at 952-652-2349. **2015 Schedule; May 12.**



The St. Nicholas choir practices Tuesday evenings 7:00-8:30pm. 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 Deb Carlson at 952-884-8251 or [debc@stncc.net](mailto:debc@stncc.net)

### **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL**

Jesus, I trust in You!

**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 (1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays), 4 pm (from June - Sept), **Tuesday:** 1 pm (2 Tuesdays a month), 10 pm, 11 pm, **Wednesday:** 10 am, **Friday:** Midnight, 1 am, 2 am, 3 am, 7 pm (2 Fridays a month), **Saturday:** 1 pm (on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month). 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 for spiritual discussion, to pray, and reflect on the Gospel to enrich and support our vocation as wives and mothers.

Next gathering; May 7<sup>th</sup> & May 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the Myra Room, in the old school building. Please contact Lisa Damiani at 651-203-7734 to join!

### **PRO-LIFE**

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

## HAPPENING IN THE AREA:

**Southern Valley Alliance for battered Women** – Is in need of volunteers to answer the 24-hour crisis line from the comfort of your home. We also are seeking volunteers to facilitate support groups and provide childcare. Free training for crisis line volunteers begins on April 18<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please call Jan or Anna at 952-873-4214.

**Food For Kidz Packaging Event - Thursday, April 30, 2015, Immaculate Conception Church Civic Center, 116 Alabama Street SE, Lonsdale - 4:00-5:30 and 5:30-7:00 PM shifts.** No sign up needed - just show up and help! Please also consider making a tax-deductible donation; 100% of the money raised will be used to buy food. Bring your donation April 30 or mail your check (payable to) Food for Kidz, c/o Immaculate Conception Parish, PO Box 169, Lonsdale MN 55046. Questions? Call Betty Smisek at 507-744-5195, Becky Neisen at 952-873-6407 or Heather Malecha at 952-652-2650 or email [malecha@integra.net](mailto:malecha@integra.net). ~Sponsored by Food for Kidz Committee & IC Parish Pastoral Council~

**SUMMER SPLASH with the School Sisters of Notre Dame:** a weekend for girls who are completing sixth, seventh or eighth grade and their moms (or significant female adults). Mom and daughter alumnae from any previous Summer Splash are also welcome. Held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Campus (170 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato, MN 56001), beginning at 1:00 p.m. Friday, June 26 until 6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 27. Cost - \$75 per mother/daughter pair. Includes a blend of activities designed to strengthen the mother-daughter connection while providing an inside look at the Sisters' lives. See [www.ssndcentralpacific.org/summer-splash-2015](http://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/summer-splash-2015) for more information and to register. Questions? Contact Sister Dorothy Zeller, SSND 507-514-2296.

### **68<sup>th</sup> Annual May Day Rosary Procession - May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2pm - Capital to Cathedral**

Join with Catholics from around the Archdiocese in bearing public witness to our Catholic faith and in joyful devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary. Gathering begins at the steps of the state capital at 1:30p. Rosary procession to the Cathedral of Saint Paul will begin promptly at 2pm, led by Archbishop Nienstedt. Eucharistic Benediction to immediately follow in the Cathedral.

Bring your family and friends to this long standing local Catholic tradition. Let us honor our Blessed Mother in the great month of May.

### **WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER - Buffalo, MN, May 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>**

We are called to love one another as Jesus has loved us. Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and learn how to truly love your spouse as God calls you to. Deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance and renew your sacrament by attending the next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends** - May 1-3 & July 17-19 in Buffalo, MN; September 11-13 in International Falls, MN; October 9-11 in Buffalo, MN; & November 20-22 in Prior Lake, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: [twincitieswwme.org](http://twincitieswwme.org) or contact Brent & Tracy at [applications@twincitieswwme.org](mailto:applications@twincitieswwme.org) or 612-756-8720. For more information go to [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org). Let a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend help your love grow in your marriage/holy orders. Weekends fill up quickly, so a prompt response is encouraged.

### ***Come Away and Rest Awhile - Women's Midweek retreat May 12-14***

Our 2015 Retreat Theme: "Come Away and Rest Awhile" will look at the broad idea of "holy leisure," reflecting upon the value and the importance of making space for ourselves and our God in our daily lives. What are practices that can help us preserve a space for spiritual sanity in our lives? How can we set healthy limits on ourselves? How can we respond to the expectations that we lay upon ourselves, as well as the expectations (sometimes unrealistic or unfair) that are placed upon us by others? What are some of the deep desires that we have and how have we addressed those desires or have we buried or forgotten them to assist others in fulfilling their desires? What are we really drawn to in our lives?

Welcome and orientation at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup>. Depart Thursday after brunch. Check in early and enjoy a light supper with us if you want. The retreat includes opportunity for Confession and Spiritual Direction. All meals are cooked on site. Call to ask about our BUS transportation service for groups of 12 or more.

Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center - 16385 Saint Francis Lane, Prior Lake MN. Register by calling (952) 447-2182 or online at [www.franciscanretreats.net/register](http://www.franciscanretreats.net/register)