



First Sunday Of Advent

November 30th, 2014



"Advent has a two-fold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight" (Universal Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar, 39 / Ordo 2015, 1).

Hence my brothers and sisters in Christ, we enter another year and another season of grace! This is a time to be renewed in our faith walk. One practical way to do this is through increased attendance at daily Mass. In addition to our regular weekend Mass schedule at Saint Nicholas, we have daily Mass Tuesday through Saturday morning at 8:00am. Even if every day is not possible, one or two days a week in addition to Sunday Mass would be a wonderful way to engage Advent.

We also celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours at 7:20am followed by the Rosary. The Liturgy of the Hours is the prayer of the Church, and it gives us deeper insight and entry into the liturgical seasons. We can help guide you through if you are interested but unsure how to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Just join us, we have extra books!

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also a way to prepare for Christmas. We have Confessions Monday through Friday before Mass, from 7:35am to 7:50am and after Mass on Saturday morning. We also have Confessions on Wednesdays from 4:45pm to 5:30pm. In addition to these regularly scheduled Confession times, we have a communal penance service with individual Confessions December 23rd at 7pm.

As we are renewed spiritually in preparation for Christmas, we are better able to carry the message of Good News into daily living. The deeper and more authentic our renewal in Christ, the more we will grow in charity for the poor, the sick, and the outcast. Jesus comes to us at Christmas in the flesh, and He continues to come to us in those in need.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Sun, Nov 30...Christmas Tree lot open 10am
 Mon, Dec 1...Rosary in Chapel 7pm
 Tues, Dec 2...Fatima Group 8:30am, Choir Practice 7pm
 Wed, Dec 3...Religious Ed. 6:30pm, KC's Christmas Tree Lot Open
 Thurs, Dec 4...RCIA @ HC 6:30pm, KC's Christmas Tree Lot Open
 Mom's Group in Myra Room 9:15am
 Fri, Dec 5...KC's Christmas Tree Lot Open
 Sat, Dec 6... KC's Christ. Tree Lot Open, Hand out St. Nicholas bags
 Sun, Dec 7...Christmas Pageant Practice 11:15am in Church, Christ Child Shower in Church Hall 6pm, KC's Christmas Tree Lot Open, Hand out St. Nicholas bags
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 parish website; www.stncc.net or by calling the parish office at 952-461-2403.

Monday December 8th is A Holy Day of Obligation, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Masses will be at 8am and 7pm.

Doughnut Sunday schedule: Dec 14th. 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.

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.

ATTENTION MEN, St. Nicholas will be hosting a morning of reflection December 13, 2014. The morning will include Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, Confession, Speakers and a hearty breakfast. The topic for the morning will be Man-Up: Real Men Love Jesus. Men come join us and become inspired to become the Spiritual Rock of your families. Cost for the morning will be \$10.00. Invite your friends, Sons, Son-in-laws, brothers, all family members for this wonderful morning. Contact Kathy Chlan 952-652-2286 or Jean Moeller 952-461-4552 to register.

Ladies, let us help you prepare for a prayerful, peaceful Christmas by coming to a Christmas Tea Sunday December 14, 2014 at 2:00pm-4:00pm at St. Nicholas. Jeanette Howe, foundress of the Seven Sisters Apostolate will be our speaker. Cost will be \$10:00. Please register by calling Kathy Chlan 952-652-2286 or Jean Moeller at 952-461-4552.



Women's Fellowship

CALLING ALL WOMEN OF THE PARISH

If you are new to the parish or have been a member your whole life, if you have children, or if you don't have children – this is your opportunity to meet and mingle with the other women of the parish. You may meet a neighbor or make a new friend!

Please join us for this fun annual tradition of the Christian Mothers and Ladies Guild Christmas Party and Christ Child Shower on Sunday, December 7th at 6pm in the church basement. Please bring a new unwrapped baby gift or monetary donation for the Christ Child Shower. Items and cash will be donated to a local pregnancy resource center. The party will consist of a presentation/speaker, a fun game, treats, and a great chance to socialize as women and young ladies of the parish. Please consider joining us in continuing this long-held tradition of our parish women and young ladies!



The Holiday Bake Sale will be after all masses the weekend of Dec. 13-14th. Please drop off baked goods or new Catholic Christmas crafts, Advent Calendars, or anything you wish to donate to our sale. Items can be dropped off at the table in the church basement before the

Saturday evening mass on Dec. 13th, or before any other mass that weekend. All proceeds support CMLG.

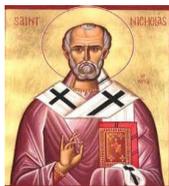
Keep "Christ" in Christmas Signs – if you have your sign from last year, please dig it out and place it in your snow covered lawn, or if you don't have one, and would like one, a new order has been placed and they should be in very soon, and can be picked up from the back of the church.

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

Feast of St. Nicholas



As a way of honoring the Feast of St. Nicholas, which is Saturday, Dec. 6th, we will once again be following in the steps of our parish patron by giving to others! At the weekend masses of Dec. 6-7th, parishioners will be handed a gift bag filled with items, and you are asked to reach out to a neighbor, friend, co-worker or relative and pass this bag onto them and invite them to attend mass at St. Nicholas. Thanks for your participation!

Christmas Pageant – If your child is 4 years of age and older, and would like to be in the Christmas Pageant, please contact the parish office at 952-461-2403. Practice will be held on Sunday, Dec. 7th & 14th at 11:15am.

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
- Total cost of current needed repairs: 16,461.50**
- Donations to date – Thank You! 8,456.00**
- Balance 8,005.50**

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!**



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.**

Opportunity to Give this Season!

Once again our parish will be participating in a "Giving Tree" for the Christmas season! Your family can help bring joy to one of many children in our area, by choosing an ornament tag from the tree and purchasing the item listed. Please see posted directions by the tree. Unwrapped gifts are to be returned by the tree area during the weekend of Dec. 13-14th. Thanks for your generosity!



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.



Mass Intentions – (* indicates a change in mass time)			
Sat	29	5:00 pm	Stuart & Joyce Russell+
Sun	30	8:00 am	For the Parish
Sun	30	10:00 am	Andrew A. Tompos+
Tues	2	8:00 am	Richard Kost+
Wed	3	8:00 am	John Wagner+
Thurs	4	8:00 am	Bridget Wagner+
Fri	5	8:00 am	Paul & Therese Leon+
Sat	6	8:00 am	All Souls In Purgatory
Sat	6	5:00 pm	Bob Seykora+
Sun	7	8:00 am	David & Ruth Stencil+
Sun	7	10:00 am	For the Parish

Daily Scriptures		
Mon	Isaiah 2:1-5	Matthew 8:5-11
Tue	Isaiah 11:1-10	Luke 10:21-24
Wed	Isaiah 25:6-10a	Matthew 15:29-37
Thu	Isaiah 26:1-6	Matthew 7:21,24-27
Fri	Isaiah 29:17-24	Matthew 9:27-31
Sat	Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26	Matthew 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8
Sun	Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11/2	Peter 3:8-14/Mark 1:1-8

Liturgical Stewardship		December 6, 7 & 8	
Dec 6 @ 5pm	Lector:	Mary Kay Forland	
	Ministers:	Gail Mathews-H, Chuck Mathews-Ch-H	
	Ushers:	Joe Molitor, Doug Serie	
Dec 7 @ 8am	Lector:	Robyn Dietz	
	Ministers:	Leander Wagner-H, Ralph Wagner-Ch-H	
	Ushers:	Dan Simones, Gary Vosejпка	
Dec 7 @ 10am	Lector:	Tom McCabe	
	Ministers:	Denise Anderson-H, Dennis Anderson-Ch-H	
	Ushers:	Randy Wagner, Tony Nelson	
Dec. 8 @ 7pm	Lector:	Leah Heselton	
	Ministers:	Jackie Devine-H, Norleen Lane-Ch-H	

SUNDAY GIVING: Nov 23 / Week 21 in Fiscal Year	
Budget Weekly Sunday Giving:	\$6,276
Budget Year-to-Date Sunday Giving:	\$131,796
Actual Collection Received	\$5,400
Collection Received Year-to-Date:	\$116,910
	-\$14,886
Capital Improvement \$2,185 / 2 nd Collection \$472	

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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. 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

"Go to Jesus. He loves you and is waiting for you to give you many graces.

He is on the altar surrounded by angels adoring and praying. Let them make some room for you and join them in doing what they do."

---St. Mary Joseph Rosello, Foundress – Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy

Thanksgiving schedule - The Adoration Chapel will close on Wednesday, November 26th at 4 pm. The Chapel will stay closed through the weekend and will reopen on Monday, December 1st 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), **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. The next scheduled date is, Thursday, December 4th at 9:15am in the Myra Room.

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

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 27TH @ 7:00pm / Thurs., Jan. 8 to Jan. 29 @ 9:00 am.

A Powerful Study on the Blessed Mother Begins October 28, 2014 at 6:30

LNMV RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Regular Classes Wednesday, Dec. 3rd @ 6:30-7:45pm

Regular Classes Wednesday, Dec. 10th @ 6:30-7:45pm

Attention!

Sponsor Night for Year II (10th grade) Confirmation Students:

This is a mandatory Sponsor Night Event on Saturday, December 6th. Attend the 5:00pm Mass at YOUR parish, a program will follow. Please invite your confirmation sponsor early and remember to bring your folders

Blessings abound!

A Special Thanks to Rachel Tupy who coordinated all the volunteers from our communities as well as the Quest team and leaders from St Michael's in Prior Lake who donated their time both Friday and Saturday all day for our Confirmation Quest retreat to evangelize and make Jesus Christ known and loved to our Confirmation students. Thank you also to Randy and LouAnn Wagner who donated over 11 lbs. of hamburger for the lunch on Saturday.

YOUTH GROUP:

Dead Theologian Society: Next DTS is December 14th. 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 January or another month please call Kathy Chlan 952-652-2286.

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH!!!

Immaculate Conception will be having open gym night in the Crusader Civic Center Gym next to Immaculate Conception Church in Lonsdale on Friday nights from 8-9:30 pm beginning this week. All ages are welcome. If there are multiple age levels or interest in different activities we will split the gym so that there could be two groups at once. We also room in our youth room for playing floor games by younger children. If you have any questions please call Kate at IC at 507-744-2829

HOLY CROSS:

Holy Cross Catholic School students are collecting items for Advent Sharing. Last week they collected new toys, and this week they are collecting non-perishable items for the food shelf. The following week they will bring in personal care items. If you wish to add to their donations, items can be brought to the school office. This is a wonderful way for students to live the call to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

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.

Elko New Market Community Blood Drive, at the Scott County Library – Market Village on Monday December 1st 12:30-6:30pm. For an appointment or information call Sharon at 952-758-8716 or e-mail www.redcrossblood.org, enter sponsor code 0172834.

New this year! St. John's Jordan Council of Catholic Women will host a Christmas Sweet Shoppe and Holiday Breakfast on Sunday, December 7th from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon in St. John the Baptist Parish Hall in Jordan. Serving breakfast egg bake, sausage, coffee cake and beverages for a free will donation! The Sweet Shoppe will feature homemade goodies, candy, cookies, breads and bakery treats, plus several raffle items, and a silent auction. Please come and join us in the Christmas spirit.

**Open the Door to God, Advent Prayer & Discernment Retreat
Friday, December 5, 5:15 - 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 6, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

Experience a variety of prayer forms and take time to discern next steps in your life (work, relationships, religious life, volunteerism, vocation, creativity, etc.). The retreat will take place Friday evening and all day Saturday at the Sisters of St. Joseph Provincial House, 1880 Randolph Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota. Women and men 18-50 years old are welcome. Register by Wednesday, Nov. 26. Cost is \$25 or \$35 overnight (optional). Contact Sister Mary Swanson, SSND, mswanson@ssnd.org or 414-305-9011.

St. Mary's Christmas Fair – Sunday December 7th 8:30am – Noon. A delicious Brunch served by Knights of Columbus, Nativity play in church at 11:15am, games for kids, ice fishing, Bake Shoppe, drawings, raffles and silent auction items. 165 North Waterville, LeCenter

**Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center - Prior Lake
Men's Retreat, December 12 - 14 led by Archbishop Emeritus Harry Flynn**

Join Archbishop Emeritus, Harry Flynn as he leads his last preached retreat at Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center. Archbishop Flynn informed Bro. Bob last year that he needs to cut back on his numerous commitments. Weaving together his vast understanding of Christian Spirituality and his many pastoral experiences, the Archbishop Emeritus proves to be an inspiring retreat Leader.

Our Men's Retreats provide an opportunity for men to gather together to focus on deepening their spiritual lives. Men have been a strong presence at Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center from the beginning.

Besides the retreat conferences, there will be an opportunity to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of Sick. Members of the staff will be available for spiritual direction throughout the retreat. The retreat will also combine prayer experiences and liturgies to enhance the retreat experience; weather permitting, guests will have time to explore the natural beauty of the 60 acres of the retreat center grounds.

Register by calling (952) 447-2182 or on line www.franciscanretreats.net/register
Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center, 16385 Saint Francis Lane, Prior Lake, MN 55372

Three-part lecture series on the Evangelical Counsels

Part 1: Evangelical Counsel of Chastity - December 14

1:30 p.m. at St. Agnes (in St. Paul) in Schuler Hall (entrance on side of the church)

The Church of St. Agnes is hosting a three-part lecture series on the Evangelical Counsels in honor of the *2015 Year of Consecrated Life*. The first will be held as the annual St. Agnes Advent Lecture. Fr. Cassian Folsom, O.S.B., founding prior of Monastero di San Benedetto, Norcia, Italy—the birthplace of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica—will speak on the Evangelical Counsel of Chastity, examining the Counsel through the lens of both the lives of the consecrated and laity.

Team Vianney – December 4

It takes courage to follow Jesus. Dedication. Leadership. Vocation. The next Team Vianney event is on Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 5 p.m. Team Vianney is a Catholic movement of men in 9th - 12th grades in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Events are held at Saint John Vianney College Seminary, located on the St. Paul Campus of the University of St. Thomas (2110 Selby Avenue). If you've got what it takes, come to Saint John Vianney College Seminary for Team Vianney and meet for dinner with college seminarians, hear a short, dynamic talk on our Catholic faith, and participate in an energetic Mass with seminarians and university students.

ACCW Advent Retreat – Saturday, December 6, 2014, 8:30 a.m.

Everyone is invited to attend the ACCW Advent Retreat that will be hosted at St. Peter's, Mendota, Saturday morning, December 6th. Refreshments will be served starting at 8:30. At 9:00 KELLY WAHLQUIST will begin the program - Greeting Advent as Women of Joy! : A morning of Prayer, Praise and Presentation. Vendors will be on site for Christmas shopping during the breaks. The Archbishop will close the retreat with Mass at noon. To register send a check for \$15 (made out to ACCW) to the ACCW Office, 328 West Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul 55102. To pay by credit card, visit the ACCW website. After Nov. 26, the fee will be \$20. A few scholarships are available.