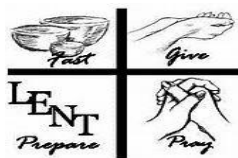


5th Sunday of Lent, March 22nd, 2015



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we hope your Lenten journey is going well and is bearing spiritual fruit. Whether we have had a great Lent or not, we can finish strong. Or really, it would be best to finish weak, for it is in depending on God and in weakness that we are strong! Doing a weak, little penance, but with great love, will move mountains!! The beauty is that we don't have to go far to find love, for God has written it on our hearts. It may just take a little time of prayer and reflection to recognize and cultivate that love and to allow it to flow out of us like a river through works of charity, especially for those in need.

A few updates to keep you in the loop:

-If you have not introduced yourself to Deb Carlson, our new music and choir director, please do!

-We are pleased to announce that the wood paneling has been installed in the basement of the church. Thank you Randy Rhein and Tracey Friedges for your volunteer work!

-Have you noticed the basement is a little brighter? Our maintenance crew has installed new bulbs and it has made a big difference.

-We have our third GROW meeting on Saturday in Lonsdale at the Civic Center. The GROW process includes the survey many of you filled out along with the analysis of your responses which we will be doing Saturday. It also includes analyzing the census data of our neighborhood in order to identify trends and in order to make short and long range plans for the parish.

Ultimately, the fruit of something like this is that we as a parish can plan and can be intentional about parish life, ministries, activities, maintenance and buildings, etc.

-A couple of key items for the GROW process are the question of a gathering space as well as an elevator. These have been a part of the conversation since I have been in the parish. Hence with the carpet project approaching, along with re-finishing the wood floors underneath the pews, we see this as a potential opportunity to move forward with the planning of these projects that have long been desired by the parish. The carpet will be installed, we will just need to schedule a time that works in accord with the overall plans. We do not want to delay the carpet any longer than necessary. The GROW has been informative and will be helpful in making such plans, yet in some ways this information is nothing new!

-A gathering space has been a part of the conversation since I came to the parish as well. A gathering space could be used for funeral wake services that are currently held in church preceding the funeral Mass. A gathering space would also allow families and friends to freely pray, talk and mourn together, and then move into the body of the church for the funeral itself, a place of quiet prayer.

-A gathering space would also allow for parishioners to gather and talk freely after Mass, outside of the body of the church, which could then remain a place of quiet prayer. This space would allow for our community to continue to grow in our friendships we have with each other and in the support we provide for each other. This flows naturally from prayer and the Mass, out from the body of the church, and into such a space.

-Note well that the intention of such a gathering space is not for luncheons, etc., that would remain in the basement of the church. Also, the space would be in back of the church where people naturally walk through after Mass. It seems there may be enough space in the back of church that we would not need to build an addition. Rather there would be a re-configuration of the back of church. The GROW information will help us in estimating the amount of pew space we will need in the future. Right now there are no issues with space, especially when we consider how many open pews there are across all three Masses.

-We will have to look closely at the 10am Mass. So far this year the numbers at the 10am Mass were: 258, 214, 199, 207, 184, 283, 235, 272, 256, 225, and 192, which averages out to about 230. Right now our capacity not including the crying room is 348 with eight people per pew. Even if we lost 6 full pews, that

gives us seating for 300, which is far more than our current usage. Easter and Christmas would still be possible with the use of folding chairs, which we already need anyway.

-Therefore we would ask your prayers, especially invoking Saint Joseph, patron of the Universal Church as well as patron of workers and carpenters. We ask that he would intercede for us regarding these plans. The most important issue is that we need an elevator or some way for our elderly and those with disabilities to be able to enter the basement. Firstly, there is no bathroom in the upper church, and there should be bathroom access for those who cannot walk down stairs.

Additionally, the basement is not accessible for those who cannot walk stairs for funeral luncheons and other events. Addressing this issue is high priority for us as a parish.

Please think and pray about all of this and for our parish! -Saint Joseph, pray for us!

God bless,
Fr. Barnes

EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Sun, March 22...

Mon, March 23....

Tues, March 24.. Fatima Group 8:30am, Choir Practice 7pm, Joseph Clothing Pick-up

Wed, March 25...Mass @ HC 8:15am, Religious Ed. 6:30pm

Thurs, March 26..RCIA @ HC 7pm, Chrism Mass @ Cathedral 7pm

Fri, March 27.....Stations of Cross 6:30pm,

Soup Supper and Lenten Talk to follow Stations

Sat, March 28.....Rosary in Chapel 9am

Sun, March 29.....Palm Sunday

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.

St. Nicholas apparel items and accessories are available to order online. 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.**

Doughnut Sunday schedule: April 12th, May 10th and June 14th.

Doughnuts are served after both Sunday masses. Everyone is welcome!!

Would your child like to put their very own envelope into the collection basket each week? Now they can! We have a box of children's envelopes located in the back of church, which your child can use each week to write on, the good deed they did that week, a message to God or if they want to reach into their pockets and give a little something. Any amount that is collected will be listed in the bulletin each week. A great way to encourage participation and stewardship is by making an offering of prayer.

St. Nicholas Knights of Columbus regular meeting is moved to Tuesday March 31, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. due to Holy Week. Please contact Leon Meger at 952-652-2826 with any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you. Happy Easter!

Spring clothing collection for Joseph's Coat - please bring your donations to the church basement and place by the coat rack, for pick up on Tuesday, March 24th. Thank you!

LENT 2015 -

Friday, March 27 - Stations, Soup and Speaker night. Stations of the Cross will be followed by Soup Supper and a speaker.

If you would like to help with planning any of these events please contact Jean Moeller or Kathy Chlan.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Wed. April 1st – Confessions 4:30-5:30pm
 Penance Service 7pm
Holy Thursday April 2nd – Morning Prayer 8am
 Confessions 11am – 12pm
 Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm
Good Friday April 3rd – Morning Prayer 8am
 Confessions 11am – 12pm
 Veneration of the Cross 3pm,
 Stations of the Cross 7pm
Holy Saturday April 4th – Morning Prayer 8:00am,
 Easter Vigil 8:30pm (NO 5pm mass)
Easter April 5th – Mass 8am & 10am

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!

NEXT weekend March 28th and 29th is food drive weekend. Please bring food and drop in alcoves on sides of church.



Welcome to St. Nicholas Parish

Please extend a warm welcome to the newest members of St. Nicholas Parish:
 -Adam, Jamie and Taylor Moyer
 -Janice Resop

CHICKEN COOKOUT 2015

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.

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! 13,979.00
 Balance 5,002.50

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.

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

Sat	21	5:00 pm	Ken DeGross+
Sun	22	8:00 am	For the Parish
Sun	22	10:00 am	Emma Cannaday+
Tues	24	8:00 am	Joe & Dorothy Chlan+
*Wed	25	8:15 am	Mass @ HC / Lillian Kost+
Thurs	26	8:00 am	Nichol Siedow
Fri	27	8:00 am	Ginny Picka+
Sat	28	8:00 am	
Sat	28	5:00 pm	Stuart & Joyce Russell+
Sun	29	8:00 am	David & Ruth Stencil+
Sun	29	10:00 am	For the Parish



Daily Scriptures

Monday: Daniel 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62 John 8:1-11
 Tuesday: Numbers 21:4-9 John 8:21-30
 Wednesday: Isaiah 7:10-14;8:10 Luke 1:26-38
 Thursday: Genesis 17:3-9 John 8:51-59
 Friday: Jeremiah 20:10-13 John 10:31-42
 Saturday: Ezekiel 37:21-28 John 11:45-56
 Sunday: Isaiah 50:4-7/Philippians 2:6-11/Mark 14:1-15:47

Liturgical Stewardship March 28 & 29

March 28@ 5pm	Lector:	Pat Biren, Mary Kay Forland
	Ministers	Jan Freeman-H, Dana Meyer-Ch-H
	Ushers	Doug Serie, Dave DeGonda
March 29 @ 8am	Lector:	Patty Jo English, Tom McCabe
	Ministers	Joyce Anderson-H, Mike Moeller-Ch-H
	Ushers	Scott Steele, Gary Vosejka
March 29 @ 10am	Lector:	Kelly Heselton, Paul Panka
	Ministers	Julie Nelson-H, Jackie Devine-Ch-H
	Ushers:	Richard Hanke, Dennis Anderson

SUNDAY GIVING: March 15 / Week 37 in Fiscal Year

Budget Weekly Sunday Giving:	\$ 6,276
Budget Year-to-Date Sunday Giving:	\$232212
Actual Collection Received	\$ 5,593
Fuel	\$ 160
Flowers	\$ 115
Children's Envelopes	\$ 6
ACH 3/15/2015	\$ 5,550
Collection Received Year-to-Date:	\$ 226,863
	- \$ 5,349
Capital Improvement \$153 / Endowment \$50 / 2 nd Collection \$365	

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2015 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL
The CSA goal for St. Nicholas is \$18,555
Donations to date: \$12,681

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

ENDOWMENT 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

Chrism Mass, Cathedral of Saint Paul, March 26, 7 p.m.

Join with Catholics from around the Archdiocese on March 26 as the annual Chrism Mass is celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. Within this important liturgy, all of the sacred oils used in the sacraments celebrated throughout the coming year will be solemnly blessed, and all priests present will publically renew the promises made at ordination. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

VIRTUS TRAINING: March 30th, 2015 at 6:00pm at Holy Cross School. These sessions are required for all volunteers that help with **any parish programs** where children or vulnerable adults are present. If you would like to volunteer in the future in a child's classroom at Holy Cross or Religious Education classes, chaperones, volunteers with VBS, youth events, parish festivals where children under 18 are helping or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to the homebound. This training is required as part of the essential three in protecting all God's children. Plan ahead as classes are being offered locally. You can register by going to www.virtus.org and register online. If you have any questions please call the parish office.

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 at 952-652-2349. **2015 Schedule; April 14 and May 12.**

CHOIR

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL

Adorers, please note the change in the Adoration schedule for Easter weekend. Easter schedule - The Adoration Chapel will close on Holy Thursday, April 2nd at 6 pm. The Chapel will remain closed through the weekend and will reopen on Tuesday, April 7th 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:** 1 pm (1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays), **Tuesday:** 7 pm, 9 pm, **Wednesday:** 10 am, **Friday:** 1 am, 2 am, 3 am, 7 pm (2 Fridays a month), **Saturday:** 1 pm (on 2nd, 3rd 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

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 Genie Stern and join us! 651-491-1447.

PRO-LIFE

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Check out the RE website at www.lnrmvrc.net. Classes held at the Catholic Education Center (home of Holy Cross School) **6:30 – 7:45 PM**

Weekly CLASS night on Wednesday, March 25th

NO Class on Wednesday, APRIL 1st - Holy Week

HOLY CROSS:

Many thanks to those who supported the Catholic Schools Raffle by purchasing tickets from Holy Cross students and families! The raffle raised \$9,600 for Holy Cross School, and we are so grateful for your support!

Please join us Saturday, April 11, for the Crusader Celebration: Roundup at the Ranch. Our annual celebration includes dinner, drinks, games, raffles, and a silent and live auction. Tickets are \$50 per person and are available from Holy Cross families or from the school office. Call 952-652-6100 for information.

Happening in the Area

YOUTH/FAMILY - OPEN GYM NIGHT

Lonsdale Civic Center gym (next to IC Church) on Friday Nights from 8:00-9:30 PM. All ages are welcome.

If there are multiple age levels or interest in different activities we will split the gym so there could be two groups at once. We also have space in our Youth Room for younger children to play floor games. If you have any questions please contact Kate Borgheiinck [507-744-2829](tel:507-744-2829) - kateb@holycrossschool.net

TODAY is the 8th Annual Roman Barten Memorial Breakfast – Sunday, March 22, 2015, 8am – 1pm at the KC Hall in New Prague. Cost: Free will donation. Proceeds benefit nine-year old Lukas Worm. If you are unable to attend donations may be made to the Lukas Worm Benefit at any Wells Fargo location. Lukas is the son of Aaron and Nadine Worm of Montgomery, to learn more visit www.caringbridge.org/visit/LukasWorm.

KC Fish Fry March 27 2015



The Knights of Columbus are having a Fish Fry on Friday, March 27th at the New Prague KC hall. It is an all you can eat event that serves both fried and baked fish, as well as homemade potatoe salad, cole slaw, green beans, bread, cake, milk, and coffee. Adults are \$11 and kids 4-12 are \$5 and children under 4 are free. Take-outs are available and serving will be from 4:30 to 7:30pm.

Continued on back

Spring Bake Sale & Boutique, Saturday, March 28, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., St. Patrick Social Hall, 24425 Old Hwy. 13 Blvd., Jordan, MN 55352

Featuring fresh-baked cinnamon and caramel rolls, and lots of homemade goodies including cookies, cakes and breads.

Your favorite home-party representatives will also be on hand with a wide selection of household items, cosmetics and accessories.

Pro-Life Across America

Pro-life Across America will be holding its annual Culture of Life banquet on Thursday April 23 at St. John the Baptist Church in New Brighton, MN. The social begins at 6 pm with dinner at 6:45 pm. The cost of the fundraiser is \$60. For more information see our website at: www.prolifecrossamerica.org or call Christine 612-782-9434 to make a reservation.

The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity – Upcoming Events

Graduate Studies Information Night - Thursday, March 26, 2015, 5:15 – 9:00 p.m.

The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity invited you to join us to learn more about our graduate programs in theology, including an opportunity to attend an evening class. Scholarships are available.

For more information, please contact Graduate Admissions Counselor Amy Burbach: 651-962-5069 or gradtheology@stthomas.edu

Priests v. Seminarians Basketball Tournament - Totino-Grace High School - Friday, April 10, 5:00 – 10:00 p.m.

The evening begins with a barbeque, followed by a game between Saint John Vianney College Seminary and The Saint Paul Seminary. The winner will face priests from the Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis in the championship round. The annual tournament also includes the Archdiocesan Catholic High School Dunk Contest. Free and open to the public.

Solemn Vespers for the Third Sunday of Easter - The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity- St. Mary's Chapel - Sunday, April 19, 7:00 p.m.

An evening of music with The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity Chorale, UST Schola Cantorum and the Beacon Hill Brass.

Featuring music from J.S. Bach's cantata "Christ Lag in Todesbanden" and the Magnificat setting by Kevin Vogt. Free and open to the public.

Upcoming retreats at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo:

MEN & WOMEN'S MID-WEEK RETREAT, Theme: THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL, **Date:** MARCH 24 – 26, 2015, **Presented by:** King's House Preaching Team

Suggested Offering: \$150.00 per person (\$30.00 deposit required per person)

MEN'S HOLY WEEK RETREAT, Theme: WATCH & PRAY, **Date:** April 1 – 4, 2015, **Presented by:** King's House Preaching Team, **Suggested Offering:**

\$210.00 per person (\$30.00 deposit required per person)

For more information on retreats held at Christ the King Retreat Center Call 763-682-1394 or visit our website at www.kingshouse.com. If you would prefer to receive these announcements via fax, please contact Jessica Hanson email: jhanson@kingshouse.com or by calling 763-682-1394.

KEEPING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH ALIVE AND ACTIVE.

You are invited to join St Wenceslaus in New Prague as they welcome John Crudele, well known speaker, author and coach who connects with his audience in a very personal and profound way. The fee is only \$5.00 to help with costs. You are welcome to come for all or just stay for the speaker. Please RSVP by April 19th to Kevin Kubat at Kevin.kubat@npcatholic.org or 952-758-0477 for the light supper, speaker and teen and family mass at 6pm or if you would like a block of seats reserved.

ICU Mobile Twin Cities South is a Christian, nonprofit, pro-life ministry. Our office is located in Prior Lake, MN. We operate a state of the art medical mobile RV which gives us the ability to go out and serve women, save babies, and share Jesus. We provide free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and counseling to women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. We are currently searching for a full-time executive director. Duties include fundraising, donor development, public relations, staff/volunteer management, client advocacy, and administrative operations. Qualifications include: Strong communication, counseling skills, leadership, and organizational skills. 1-5 years experience in the non-profit sector with administrative experience preferred. For a detailed job description or to email your resume, please contact icumobiletc@gmail.com.

If you have been away from the church or are drifting away, been hurt by the church or are confused or angry, please consider our invitation to come and talk with us. Catholics Can Come Home is an outreach program to those who have drifted away from regular church participation and allows one to take another look at the Catholic faith. We are hosting this unique opportunity planned just for you or a loved one who is struggling with their Catholic identity. Facilitated by Paula Kaempffer, Director of Learning, Basilica of Saint Mary. Call 952-758-3225 for more information or just come to our opening session.

Catholics Can Come Home

Six consecutive Sunday evenings from 6 to 8 pm, **April 12 through May 17, 2015, Parish Office Building at St. Wenceslaus.** Registration is not required. There is no fee to attend. **For additional information call:** The Basilica of Saint Mary Learning Office at 612-371-3473

Seeking Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for Children's Hospitals

Children's Hospitals of Minnesota is in need of trained Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to offer the Eucharist to patients and their families who find themselves in the hospital. If you feel called to volunteer at either the St. Paul or Minneapolis campus, please contact Deacon Jim Saumweber at (651) 220-7185 or james.saumweber@childrensmn.org. This does require some additional specific training from Children's Hospital. Thank you for considering this ministry!