

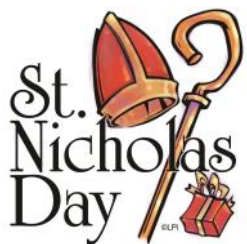
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Text Reflection

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." Jesus instructs his disciples to take this posture of confidence in the midst of a terribly disturbing situation. Describing his second coming, Jesus says that on seeing this event unfold, "People will die of fright." And yet the disciples are supposed to be pillars of strength. While others cower in fear, the Lord's followers are somehow immune, with heads raised high. Why?

Well, presumably, because those who follow Christ--those who earn the distinction of being disciples--have nothing to fear. On the contrary, when they have to "stand before the Son of Man," it will be a happy occasion. But here's the catch: "disciple" is more than an empty title. If we want to be counted among this confident crew, there are a few things for us to do. Today's Gospel spells out these tasks, which are all perfect things to pursue during Advent.

First, we have to make sure that our "hearts do not become drowsy." We are called to stay awake in a spiritual sense, not allowing "carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life" to numb us. We need to avoid whatever might reduce our ability to recognize and relate to Jesus, because we don't want his appearance to catch us "by surprise like a trap." Advent is an ideal time to examine our lives to determine what activities, priorities, or pastimes might be putting our hearts to sleep. Secondly, we need to pray. We need to ask Jesus himself for "the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man." We can't do it alone. But with Christ's help, we can be true, fearless disciples.



Sunday, December 6th

As a way of honoring the Feast of St. Nicholas, we will once again be following in the steps of our parish patron by giving to others!

- 1) **Hats and mittens**—Parishioners are encouraged to bring hats and mittens for those in need and place in the basket at the front of the altar the weekend of Dec. 5th/6th.
- 2) **St. Nicholas gift bags**—All families are asked to take one or two gift bags and give to a neighbor, friend, co-worker or relative to encourage and invite them to attend mass at St. Nicholas. The bags will be available in the back of church the weekend of Dec. 5th/6th.

Thanks for your participation!

This week at St. Nicholas

Mon	Nov 30	Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8-11/Mt 4:18-22
Tue	Dec 1	Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24 7:20am Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer) 7:35am Rosary 7:35am Confessions 8:00am Mass: Andy Tompos+ 8:30am Adoration Chapel Opens 8:35am Fatima Rosary Group
Wed	Dec 2	Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 15:29-37 7:20am Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer) 7:35am Rosary 7:35am Confessions 8:00am Mass: Norbert Skluzacek+ 4:45pm Confessions 6:30pm Religious Education Classes 7:00pm Adult Choir Practice
Thu	Dec 3	Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27/Mt 7:21, 24-27 7:20am Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer) 7:35am Rosary 7:35am Confessions 8:00am Mass: Floyd Hartmann+ 3:30pm Children's Choir Practice 7:00pm RCIA Class 7:30pm KC Meeting
Fri	Dec 4	Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31 7:20am Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer) 7:35am Rosary 7:35am Confessions 8:00am Mass: Joe & Dorothy Chlan+
Sat	Dec 5	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-6/Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8 7:35am Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer) 8:00am Mass: The Dan Simones Family 8:35am Rosary—1st Saturday Prayers 8:35am Confessions 9:00am Pro-Life Rosary in Chapel 3:30pm Confessions 4:15pm Lifeline Net Ministries—Youth Group 5:00pm Mass: Merrill Hennen+ 5:00pm Confirmation Student & Sponsor Night
Sun	Dec 6	St. Nicholas Day Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-6/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6 7:20am Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer) 7:35am Rosary 8:00am Mass: The Parish 9:35am Rosary 10:00am Mass: Genevieve Deutsch+ 6:30pm Christ Child's Shower

Thank you for your contributions of \$728 to the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)! Your generous gifts will help CCHD end poverty in the United States through better education, improved housing, and economic development. Through CCHD and its beneficiaries, we demonstrate Catholic social teaching and carry out Jesus' mission to "bring glad tidings to the poor... to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free" (Lk 4:18).



We warmly welcome to our family of faith Marlee Rose Carlsen, daughter of David & Lynnsey Carlsen. May our loving God bless you abundantly as you take this first step on your journey of faith.

Eucharistic Adoration



We are looking for a new head coordinator(s) for our Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. Please prayerfully consider lending your talents to this beautiful ministry. If you are interested in this volunteer position, please contact Father Barnes for more information.



More adorers are needed. If you are unable to commit to a regularly scheduled hour, please consider substituting for an open hour. The table below displays the times that have the greatest need for adorers.

If you would like to become an adorer or for more information, please contact our temporary lead coordinator, Jean Moeller at 952-461-4552 or at maulor@msn.com. You may also sign up online at <http://www.stncc.net/available-adoration-hours>.

Time	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
12am - 1am							
1am - 2am							
2am - 3am							
3am - 4am							
4am - 5am							
5am - 6am							
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6pm - 7pm							
7pm - 8pm						a*	
8pm - 9pm							
9pm - 10pm							
10pm - 11pm							
11pm - 12am							

No adoration at this time
 One adorer scheduled, additional adorers welcome
 Adorer needed

a* Two Fridays a month

Liturgical Stewardship

Dec 5 @ 5pm	Lector:	Gail Mathews
	Ministers:	Mary Kay Forland, Jan Freeman
	Ushers:	Joe Molitor, David Sheedy
Dec 6 @ 8am	Lector:	Margo Theisen
	Ministers:	Ralph Wagner, Mike Cole
	Ushers:	Dan Simones, Gary Vosejпка
Dec 6 @ 10am	Lector:	Paul Panka
	Ministers:	Jackie Devine, Norleen Lane
	Ushers:	Randy Wagner, Tony Nelson

Measure of Our Treasure to the Lord November 22nd, Week 21 in Fiscal Year

Budget Weekly Sunday Giving	\$6,522
Budget Year-to-Date Sunday Giving	\$136,962
Sunday Plate & Envelope	\$6,110
Children's Collection	\$1
Bread & Wine	\$0
Fuel	\$44
ACH (Received monthly)	\$0
Grounds	\$0
Flowers	\$0
Collection Received Year-to-Date	\$115,384
	-\$21,578
Endowment: \$0	
Capital Improvements: \$92, YTD \$2,270	

Your Gift Makes A

Difference

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Veterinary Clinic
952-461-3333**

Our Parish School News



Help the 6th and 7th graders raise money for their
Washington, DC trip
and enjoy a night off from making dinner on

Thursday, December 3rd

From 5 to 8 PM

New Prague Pizza Ranch



Students and parents who
will be attending the trip
will bus tables and work the
dining room. They will earn
10% of sales for the entire
night, as well as any tips
collected! Please come
support them!

Angel Fund Matching Grant

A generous donor has offered \$5,000 in the form of a matching grant to the Angel Fund! The Angel Fund is the tuition assistance fund for families who are unable to meet the full tuition cost, and there is a great need for donations. Please help us make the most of this offer! Donations can be sent to the school and marked Angel Fund, or you can give online at www.holycrossschool.net by clicking the Donate Now button on the top right of the page. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Use Scrip for your Christmas Shopping

Ordering scrip is an easy way to raise money for Holy Cross without spending any extra. Just order gift cards at face value, and the school receives a discount, varying from 4% to 20% back! Use this for your Christmas shopping, stocking stuffers, and those extra dinners out. If you place your scrip order by Monday, November 30th, you can pick it up at school by Thursday, December 3rd, or we can deliver it to you after Mass at Donut Sunday on December 12th. **Order sooner for Black Friday deals!**

St. Nicholas News & Events



LNMV Religious Education:

Classes held at the Catholic Education Center (CEC)
home of Holy Cross Catholic School

Regular Classes Wednesday, Dec. 2nd 6:30pm - 7:45pm

Sponsor Night for Year II (10th grade) Confirmation Students:
There is a mandatory Sponsor Night Event on Saturday, December 5th. NEW! This year the sponsor night will be hosted at St. Nicholas following the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Please invite your confirmation sponsor early and remember to bring your folders. More information is on the website, www.lnmvre.net.

Year 1 (9th grade) Confirmation Students and Parents:
Students and parents are asked to help host the meal for the Sponsor night on Saturday, December 5th in the church basement at St. Nicholas. This is for all our Confirmation students regardless of parish. Contact Kathy at kathyc@holycrossschool.net.

RCIA is looking for parish sponsors to attend classes on Thursday evening and support our candidates and catechumens in their journey of discovering and entry into the Catholic church. Contact Kathy at Kathyc@holycrossschool.net.



Dead Theologians Society: Grades 9-12 are invited to attend the meeting of the *Dead Theologians Society*. **Correction:** The next meeting is Sunday, Dec. 13th from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the St. Nicholas Campus.

Volunteers NEEDED: Help out the youth by putting together a meal for the youth in February, April or May! Support the Youth of your parish! You can go to the "Sign Up Genius" link below to select helping with part or all of a meal served at approximately 6:45pm. Please contact Kathy Chlan at kathyc@holycrossschool.net or 952-652-6100 if you have questions. The link is: www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F45AAAF2FA5F58-dead

Poinsettia Sales

The World Youth Day pilgrims will be selling poinsettias after each Mass through November 29th. The poinsettias will be delivered on November 30th. Choose from three sizes and five colors, grown locally at Donahue's Greenhouse in Faribault. Please support the pilgrims in fundraising for their trip to the 2016 World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland.



St. Nicholas News & Events Continued

**Men's Group**

Men of the parish are invited for Fellowship, food and football!

Date: Thursday, December 10th

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Steve Addabbo's Home
26725 Weston Court, Elko New Market

- ⇒ Bring a friend or two.
- ⇒ Appetizers provided.
- ⇒ Arrive and leave as your schedule allows.
- ⇒ For questions, please contact Chris McAllister at 320-309-1727 or Chris.McAllister@uponor.com.

**Everyday Stewardship**

Over the years, my children have participated in cotillion programs. These experiences teach young people about manners, social skills, and formal dance. Some think these programs only exist for wealthy or upper-class people. I am neither one of those. I am just a parent who thinks manners still matter, that being social is a useful skill that can be learned, and that a little culture goes a long way. I can't say my children loved everything about the experience, but they did grow in appreciation of how you should treat other people. I would like to think somewhere down the road they will find themselves in a situation and will call on what they learned to succeed.

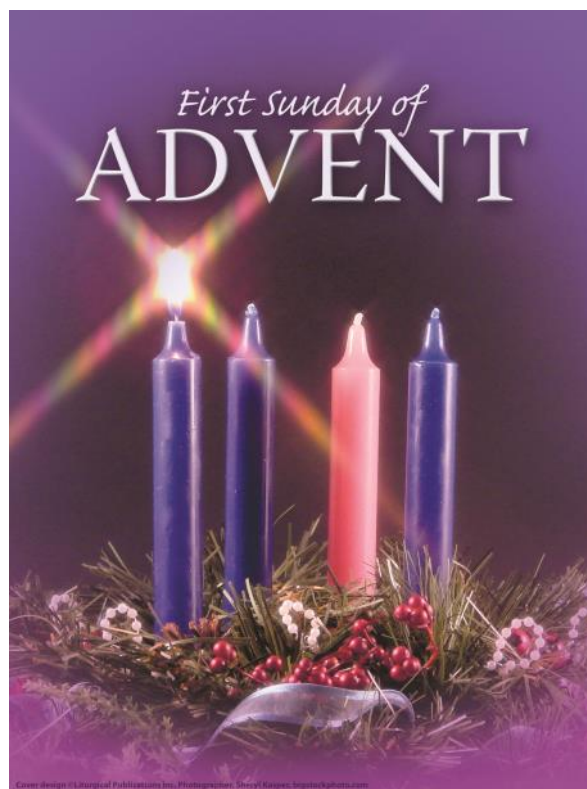
Cotillion, school, team sports, and youth ministry are all ways we prepare our kids to enter a world where Jesus Christ is seen as a foreigner and how we live with one another is not a top concern. We teach them that they must always be ready to stand up for what's right or defend their faith or values. They must continue to cultivate those small seeds we plant in them in order to grow and bear good fruit, for their lives are gifts and the time they have been given is precious.

Good stewardship is not always about that which we can quantify or see. Who we are as people is often about that which we offer as gesture to others. It may be a kind word, a witness to the power of God, or an offer for a dance. But we must always be ready to give of ourselves graciously for we never know when the call will come.

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**Please submit bulletin
announcements by 4pm on Wednesdays
to kjohnson@stncc.net
Thank you!**

DEADLINE

**Q & A** *What significance does the Advent season have for our Christian faith journey?*

Advent is a season of joyful anticipation and expectation. But for what specifically? Certainly not for the birth of the Christ Child-that occurred more than two thousand years ago. This season links us with all those who lived in the era of longing for the coming of the Messiah. But he has come and lived among us.

Then what are we joyfully anticipating and expecting?

Some are joyfully anticipating the many gifts that they will buy and share with others, along with the many gifts they will receive in return. Others enter into the overblown commercialism-decorating, partying, writing cards, and all the endless customs that go with the season.

What if the anticipation and expectation were to focus on how we can continue to make present the living Christ in each and every moment of our daily lives? Yes, Jesus came among us two thousand years ago. But how do we continue to make that presence real in our world? Jesus himself set the agenda for us. We are to proclaim good news to the poor, liberty to captives, sight to the blind, provide food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, freedom for those who are oppressed and abused. What would the Advent season look like if this, rather than materialism, was the main focus of our joyful anticipation and expectation? Try it and see what results. It may surprise all of us.

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St. Nicholas News & Events Continued



Sunday School at St. Nicholas will be held the first Sunday of each month beginning Dec. 6th for ages 3 years through Kindergarten. Sunday school will be located in the upstairs room of the old school building. Drop off begins at 9:50 a.m. Registration is \$15.00/child. You may register and pay online

at <http://www.stncc.net/sunday-school> or at the parish office.



Calling All Ladies

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 other women. 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 6th, at 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. Please bring a new unwrapped baby gift or monetary donation for the Christ Child Shower and a \$5 wrapped Christmas gift for the game.

Baby 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!

Attention Men! St. Nicholas will be hosting an Advent morning of reflection on Saturday, December 12, 2015. The morning will include Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, Confession, Speaker and a hearty breakfast. As Pope Francis opens the Year of Mercy, let's come together to explore forgiveness and mercy and the role it plays in the lives of men. The cost for the morning will be \$10.00. This event is open to all men so please do invite others for our annual Advent retreat. Registration and payment can be made online at <http://www.stncc.net/mens-advent-morning-of-reflection> or you may contact Kathy Chlan at 952-652-2286 or Jean Moeller at 952-461-4552 to register.

Advent Christmas Tea! Let us help you prepare for a joyful Christmas by coming to a Christmas Tea Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 2:00pm-4:00pm at St. Nicholas. In the Year of Mercy come and hear a powerful speaker, Julia Montgomery, with a message of forgiveness, obedience and joy as she returned to the Catholic Church. This event is open to all women so please do invite others to come and enjoy the afternoon. The cost will be \$10.00. Registration and payment can be made online at <http://www.stncc.net/ladies-advent-christmas-tea> or you may contact Kathy Chlan at 952-652-2286 or Jean Moeller at 952-461-4552 to register.

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 children in our ornament tag chasing the itemed directions by gifts are to be area during the 12/13th.



mas season! Your family can help bring joy to one of many area, by choosing an from the tree and purchased. Please see post-the tree. Unwrapped returned by the tree weekend of Dec.



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. 13th & 20th at 11:00 a.m.



The Knights are in need of your help!

More volunteers are needed to help sell the trees. Please consider helping with the following shifts:



Weekends from 9 a.m.—2 p.m. & 2 p.m.—7 p.m.
Weekdays from 4—7 p.m.

Please call Leander Wagner at 952-457-4429 or George Rhein at 952-461-4230.



Book Club: A welcome to any and all women who enjoy reading!

The "Year of Mercy" begins December 8th. We will be reading "The Church of Mercy" by Pope Francis beginning with our December 15 gathering.

We meet one Tuesday a month @ 7:15pm at Deb Streefland's home. Anyone interested in joining us this fall, please contact Deb at 952-652-2349.



Food Shelf Weekends: St. Nicholas will 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 Shelf weekend: November 28/29.** Please bring food and drop in the alcoves on the sides of church.

Area News & Events

**Retreat for Men Interested in the Priesthood
December 18-20, 2015**

Men interested in priesthood, between ages 18 and 40, are invited to a retreat from 6:30 p.m. on Friday until noon on Sunday at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo. Your weekend stay will be in a private room with communal and private prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass and presentations by Bishop Andrew Cozzens, to help discern your vocation.

Contact the Vocation Office at 651-962-6890 or stpaulpriest@10000vocations.org. There is a \$75 fee requested to offset the cost of room and board, however no one will be turned away for financial reasons.

**Last chance to submit your feedback
regarding our next archbishop.**

Thank you to all who attended one of the 10 listening sessions lead by Archbishop Hebda. Feedback gathered during these sessions will be shared with those responsible for advising Pope Francis as he makes this important choice and with the new Archbishop whenever he is named. Summaries will be published in The Catholic Spirit. If you were unable to attend a listening session, input may be provided online at www.archspm.org/archbishoplistens.

November is National Adoption Month

We as Catholics step forward in supporting adoptions through the loving command "to care for widows and orphans." (James 1:27) In celebration of the gift of adoption, several parishes are hosting special Adoption Masses. Each Mass will be followed by light refreshments and information about adoption, as well as an opportunity to talk with adoptive families. Is adopting something you have been thinking about? Come to one of our Masses and find out.

This year's Adoption Masses are:

- St. John Neumann, Eagan — Saturday, November 21, 5 p.m., Vigil Mass
 - Nativity of Mary, Bloomington — Sat./Sun., November 21/22, All weekend Masses
-

**2016 WINE: Catholic Women's Conference
Saturday, February 6, 2016
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Mary, Mother of the Church, Burnsville**

Tickets are on sale now for the annual WINE: Catholic Women's Conference featuring Teresa Tomeo, Laura Sobiech, Barbara Heil, Vicki Kueppers, and Kelly Wahlquist. The theme is Mercy: Encountering Boundless Love. \$55 per person (Early Bird); \$65 per person after January 6. (\$25 for Religious Sisters or Consecrated Women). For more details and to register online, visit www.archspm.org. Keyword: WINE.

**Statewide day of Fasting and Prayer
December 4, 2015**

In preparation for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, please plan to participate in the "Statewide Day of Fasting and Prayer in Reparation for a Culture of Violence and Disrespect for Human Life". Details and prayers can be found at www.archspm.org/Mercy.

**Christmas at the Monastery
St. Paul's Monastery
December 12, 2015
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

Celebrate Christmas with the Benedictine Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery while raising essential funds for them and their Ministries. To make your holiday shopping easier, the Sisters and event volunteers put together an exceptional collection of gifts to choose from including: Silent Auction, Wine Wall, Mystery Gifts, and Benedictine-themed stocking stuffers. Or pick up one of the Sister's handmade ornaments, cards and more. Location site: <http://www.stpaulsmonastery.org/> Official event site: <http://tinyurl.com/CatM2015-Registration>.

Support Catholic Youth Camp and donate today

<http://www.ultracamp.com/donation.aspx?idCamp=257&campCode=cy&idDonationCategory=650>

CYC needs to raise \$50,000 by January in order to make camp possible for kids like Ben. *This past summer Ben was part of an initiative to bring inner city kids to camp. On the third night of camp, Ben's counselors took the campers to the beach to have their nightly devotions and prayer time as the sun was setting. When they got back to the cabin later that night, Ben was crying. His counselor pulled him aside to find out what was wrong. "All these years, I've been praying and praying and nothing... I thought I was doing it wrong. But tonight, I prayed and I FELT God. God was listening to my prayers!"*

CYC allows kids to connect with their faith in nontraditional ways in order to inspire them to seek a lifelong relationship with God. Catholic Youth Camp has been changing lives by giving youth the opportunity to experience their faith in action since 1947. You can help us inspire kids' faith.

**Marriage Encounter
December 12-13**

Bring an awesome marriage into the Christmas season and continue it for a life-time. Only a few spots left so register NOW. Weekends are held at Mt Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington. Visit www.marriages.org for additional information or to register or call 651.454.3238.
