

And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." - Lk 1:35

General Information

Lord's Day Mass

Saturday: 5:00 p.m., Sunday: *8:00 & 10:00 a.m. *Mass with parts in Latin first Sunday of the month.

Daily Mass

Tuesday—Saturday: 8:00 a.m.

Adoration Chapel Hours

Sunday Noon—Saturday 3:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday—Friday: 7:35—7:50 a.m. Wednesday: 4:45— 5:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8:35 a.m. & 3:30—4:40 p.m.

or by appointment

Sacrament of Baptism: Pre-baptism meetings are held with Father Barnes. Please call for an appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage: Arrangements must be made a minimum of six (6) months in advance.

Communion Call: If you or someone you care for must receive communion at home or in the hospital, please call the parish office.

Care Fund: Help is available for emergency situations & special needs. Please contact the parish office.

Prayer Line: This group is designed to help pray for specific concerns or special intentions. To add someone to the prayer line or if you are interested in becoming one of 45+ who pray, please contact Mary Zweber at 952-461-2366 or George Rhein at 952-461-4230.

St. Nicholas Catholic Church

51 Church Street Elko New Market, MN 55054 952-461-2403

Parish Office Hours

Monday: Closed

Tuesday—Friday: 7:45 a.m.—4:15 p.m.

Pastor

Fr. Patrick Barnes, FatherBarnes@stncc.net

Parish Administrative Assistant
Jackie Berry, jberry@stncc.net

Music Coordinator/Choir Director

Open position

Director, LNMV Religious Education

Kathy Chlan, kathyc@holycrossschool.net

Administrative Assistant, LNMV RE

Lenae Addabbo, lenaea@holycrossschool.net

Custodian/Maintenance

Adam Jandro, ajandro@stncc.net

Communication & Mission Coordinator Karen Johnson, kjohnson@stncc.net

Bulletin Deadline: Tuesdays by 4:00 p.m. In writing to the parish office or email to kjohnson@stncc.net

From Liturgical Publications, Inc.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." Today is the last Sunday of the Advent season, and we hear in the Gospel the anticipation of the feast we will celebrate in just one day. Christmas is coming! Jesus is on his way!

We have had weeks to prepare for this momentous occasion, and now we are on the very verge of its arrival. The children in our midst can hardly contain their excitement as they wait to wake up on Christmas morning. The thrill of this coming moment is meant to remind us of the joy and anticipation we should all feel as we await the coming of Christ. Yes, Christmas is a great feast, but there is more here than a remembrance of the past or a fabulous party in the present. There is a looking-ahead as well. We celebrate as we anticipate.

Much as Mary must have waited in wonder during the nine months of her pregnancy, we wait in hopeful expectation as Christians looking forward to being reunited with our Savior. Our future is full of hope. The deflating melancholy that afflicts many people after a holiday runs its course need not be the experience of the Christian waiting for Christ. We are always looking forward to something! There is never a moment when we have no cause for joy. Our lives are lived in a kind of unending advent as we stand in watchful waiting.

Let us remember this as we enter into our Christmas Eve gatherings and festivities. As we join with family and friends to share in the good things of this life, may we carry with us the joy of knowing that even better things lie in store for us who welcome the infant Jesus into our hearts and homes.





Joyful. Faithful. Successful.

Holy Cross Catholic School 6100 37th Street West Webster, MN 55088



Dr. Constance Krocak, Principal 952-652-6100 www.holycrossschool.net December 24, 2017 4th Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017						
This week at St. Nicholas						
Sun	Dec 24	Adoration Chapel closed				
		9:30am Rosary				
		10:00am Mass: For the Parish				
		3:40pm Children's Christmas Pageant				
		4:00pm Mass: Elmer & Mary Karl+				
		9:30pm Caroling				
		10:00pm Mass: Ray Lipinski+				
		11:00am Christmas Decorating				
Mon	Dec 25	9:00am Mass: For the Parish				
Tue	Dec 26	Adoration Chapel closed				
		Parish office closed				
		7:20am Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer)				
		7:30am Rosary				
		7:30am Confessions				
		8:00am Mass: Veronica Damiani				
		8:35am Fatima Prayer Group—All are welcome				
Wed	Dec 27	Adoration Chapel closed				
		7:20am Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer)				
		7:30am Rosary				
		7:30am Confessions				
		8:00am Mass: Shane Pierson				
		4:45pm Confessions				
Thu	Dec 28	Adoration Chapel closed				
		7:20am Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer)				
		7:30am Rosary				
		7:30am Confessions				
	D 00	8:00am Mass: Kenneth Vogel+				
Fri	Dec 29	Adoration Chapel closed				
		7:20am Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer)				
		7:30am Rosary				
		7:30am Confessions				
		8:00am Mass: Helene Friedges+				
6.1	D 20	12:00pm Parish office closed				
Sat	Dec 30	Food Shelf Weekend				
		Adoration Chapel closed				
		7:35am Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer)				
		8:00am Mass: Aurelio Rodriguez+				
		8:30am Rosary 8:30am Confessions				
		3:30pm Confessions				
		•				
Sun	Dec 31	5:00pm Mass: Stuart & Joyce Russell+				
Juli	Sun Dec 31 Food Shelf Weekend Adoration Chapel closed					
		7:20am Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer)				
		7:30am Rosary				
		8:00am Mass: Gretchen Rhein+				
		9:30am Rosary				
		10:00am Mass: For the Parish				



PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, December 27—Closed Friday, December 29—Closed at noon Tuesday, January 2—Closed

St. Nicholas News & Events



HOLY DAY OBLIGATIONS

It is still an obligation to go to Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent and for Christmas. Going to Mass on Christmas Eve only does not cover the 4th Sunday of Advent obligation.



Readings for the Week

Readings for the Week of December 24, 2017

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18 Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40 Next Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

St. Nicholas News & Events

YEAR END GIVING AND TAX BENEFITS

As the end of the year approaches, we begin to reflect upon the many blessings bestowed upon us. It also provides a great opportunity to thank God for these blessings.

This is also the time of year when people consider giving charitable contributions to their favorite charities. We hope that you consider St. Nicholas Catholic Church as one of your favorites.

As you do your tax planning, we hope you will consider making good use of the income tax charitable deduction. Your yearend gift can significantly reduce your income taxes while providing meaningful support to St. Nicholas. Regardless of your income, in most cases, you can lower the taxes you pay through charitable giving. Of course, the amount of the income tax savings will depend on your tax bracket. As you know, giving is about much more than tax savings. Your charitable gifts make an important difference in what we are able to accomplish here at St. Nicholas.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

In order for your contribution to be considered a 2017 charitable tax deduction, please note:

- Contributions (if mailed) must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2017
- Contributions must be in the collection basket on or before December 31, 2017
- Contributions must be physically in the parish office on or before noon on December 29, 2017

Contributions received in the January 1, 2018, collections are considered 2018 contributions even if checks are dated for 2017.

For your convenience, St. Nicholas accepts online payments through our parish website, <u>stncc.net</u>. You can make payments with your Debit or Credit card for your regular Sunday giving, for events or classes, and for one-time donations such as year-end gifts to the parish.



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?" I have been on this earth for forty-plus years. I have had forty-plus Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember it is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over two thousand years ago and continues to call to us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the One who leads us.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question

Why do the Gospels differ in their details? I was surprised to learn that not all of the Gospels tell the same stories, for example, the Nativity. Doesn't this take away from their credibility?

Answer:

Take any event that happens, from family trips to national politics and ask two or three different people to explain what happened. You will get a different version of the same story. People tend to tell the story from their perspective, and past experience shades what we recall and how we recall it. Our choice of words and what details we leave in or out is also influenced by the audience who is listening to our tales.

The Gospel writers are no different. Each one tells the story of Jesus from their own perspective. Versions differ in some details, not because one is true and the other is not, but because each Gospel writer, or Evangelist, has a different theological point to communicate as well as a different audience for whom he is writing. He picks and chooses the details of his Gospel based on what message he is preaching, what his audience may already know, and what message they need to hear. The various details of the Gospels point more to their authenticity as a record of the church's experience and understanding of Jesus. In a good study Bible, the background notes for each Gospel contain a lot of information that helps us better understand each Evangelist and his message.

Website: stncc.net Twitter.com/Stnccnet Instagram.com/stnccnet Facebook.com/stncc.net

December 24, 2017 4th Sunday of Advent

St. Nicholas News & Events



FUND-THE-NEED UPDATE New Station of the Cross

The Fund-the-Need for a new Station of the Cross (to replace the missing second Station) raised \$6,633. Adding the Fundthe-Need donations to prior donations of \$5,200, we have a total of \$11,833 available.

We received an estimate of \$15,000 to build the station. Before we can proceed, we must raise an additional \$3,167. We are accepting donations towards this project and will post funding updates in the weekly bulletin. If you would like to donate, please mark your donation "Station of the Cross" and put it into the weekly collection, or return it to the Parish Office.

Thank you for your generosity!

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LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Mary said: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." A simple trust in God's word allowed the Mother of God to do incredible things. As a humble servant and listener, she embraced her mission and invested herself wholeheartedly in doing what God had asked. Do we know and trust that we are being led? Often, we can feel very much alone and without a source of inspiration, guidance, and love to enlighten our path. God is with us. This is the essential message of Advent and the truth revealed to us at Christmas. We are never alone. There is no need to fear. We too, with God's help, can do incredible things.



YOUNG ADULT WINTER WEEKEND

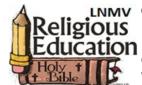
Join Father Patrick Barnes and Jen Messing!

Where? Lutsen Mountains Ski Area & Cascade Lodge

When? January 5-7, 2018 (Friday: 9:30 am departure / Sunday: 10 pm return)

Who? Young Adults (age 19-39) from groups around the Twin Cities & beyon





LNMV CLASSES 6:30-7:45 P.M.

Christmas Break, No classes: Wed., Dec. 27, 2017

Wed., Jan 3, 2018 Religion Classes Resume!

Looking Forward:

Jan. 13, 2018 - 1st Reconciliation Workshop

Jan. 20, 2018 - Confirmation 2: Sponsor night at IC

Jan. 27, 2018 - First Reconciliation



ARE YOU REGISTERED?

Update information

Request registration information

Would you and your family like to bring up the Gifts to Father Barnes during Mass? What an honor it is to carry the wine and hosts to the priest at Mass for consecration!

П

Any occasion can be a time to serve as a Gift Bearer: a birthday, an anniversary, or just a "happy day." Or maybe you would like to bring up the gifts on the memorial of a loved one. Gift Bearers actively participate in the celebration of the Mass by presenting the gifts of Bread and Wine at the altar and require no special skill or permanent ministerial duty, and yet it is a beautiful and significant part of the Mass performed by lay people. We have a sign-up book in the back of church where you can register you or your family.

	children. If you are not registered, please fill out this form.				
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Area News & Events

ST. NICHOLAS KC'S ANNUAL GATHERING

January 20, 2018, 6:00 p.m. Fire House Grille in Elko New Market

Paths to Healing

Two options to continue the healing process... Clergy Sexual Abuse Support Group

Wednesdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31, 5:30-7 p.m.

Conference Room at 9001 E. Bloomington Freeway, Bloomington

Free support group for people who have experienced clergy sexual abuse. Family and friends are invited. Space is limited to 12 people. Call Deb Riba, LMFT, at 952.881.9883 to register or for more information.

The Twin Cities Peace Circle

Fourth Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. North Regional Branch of the Hennepin County Library, North Conference Room, 2nd floor, 1315 N. Lowry Ave., Minneapolis.

TCPC is open to all who have experienced the trauma of clergy sexual abuse. The purpose of this group is to gather victims/survivors/thrivers in a safe, supportive environment to share their experiences, listen to others, and explore healing. At gatherings of the Twin Cities Survivors Peace Circle, all are welcome and privacy is respected. Contact Jim with questions, concerns or comments: 773.412.0909 or richter316@aol.com.

Archbishop's Discernment Retreat

Begins Friday, December 29, 6:30 p.m.; Concludes Sunday, December 31, 1 p.m.

Christ the King Retreat Center, Buffalo MN
The Director of Vocations offers this annual retreat with talks by Archbishop Bernard Hebda. In addition to the talks given by the Archbishop, there will be times of prayer, an opportunity for the Rite of Reconciliation, times of recreation, and plenty of great food. The Archbishop's Discernment Retreat is for men who are seniors in high school to age 50 and are discerning priesthood. This retreat is a wonderful opportunity to gain clarity in your discernment process and to meet other men who desire to follow Christ and to know his will for their lives. Register online by Dec. 13 at www.10000vocations.org.

Holy Hours for Vocations

Tuesday, January 9, 7 – 8 p.m., Church of the Epiphany, Coon Rapids

All people of the Archdiocese are invited to participate in

the Holy Hours for Vocations, a new program sponsored by the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. This year's seminarian posters show the calendar of the Holy Hours for Vocations that will be taking place at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Each month, the Holy Hour for Vocations will take place at another parish in the Archdiocese. Come spend an hour with Jesus each month to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, consecrated life and diaconate. For more information, please contact the Office of Vocations at 651-962-6890 or visit www.10000vocations.org.

A Day with Endow

Saturday, January 13, 2018; 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. St. Olaf Catholic Church, 215 S. 8th St., Minneapolis Endow envisions a world where every woman has the opportunities, the knowledge, the courage and the support to be the best version of themselves – made in the image and likeness of God. Explore the topic of FEMININE GENIUS with Mallory Smyth. Find more details and register at www.archspm.org/daywithendow. Questions? Contact Susanna Parent parents@archspm.org or 651-291-4411.

Natural Family Planning Classes

A series of Natural Family Planning (NFP) classes will begin soon in or near your community. This Church approved method is scientific and marriage building. The classes teach couples how to achieve or postpone pregnancy, while embracing the beauty of God's gift of sexuality. A series of classes taught by a qualified instructor. For a complete list of classes offered throughout the Archdiocese, call 651-291-4489 or visit www.archspm.org/family.

Women's Discernment Retreat with Bishop Cozzens Saturday, February 17, 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Maternity of Mary Catholic Church, St. Paul

Join us to gain a deeper understanding of consecrated life! Bishop Andrew Cozzens will celebrate Mass and speak on consecrated life. The retreat is for single Catholic women, ages 16 to 35. The retreat day will include consecrated women sharing their vocation stories, along with many opportunities for discerning women to chat and ask questions. Discover the steps of discernment, learn more about yourself, and listen to God speak to your heart. Retreat fee is \$20. Scholarships are available, if needed. Register online by February 9 at www.10000vocations.org

Our Parish School News





SERVICE LEARNING

Service learning is an integral part of the educational process at Holy Cross Catholic School. Our commitment to service flows directly from our baptismal commitment and it is through joyous service that our students are challenged to think and act in ways that reflect values that are consistent with the Gospel.

This week the students packaged cookies and made cards for the residents at the Villages in Lonsdale. The middle school students also visited and sang carols for the residents.



THANK YOU, ST. NICHOLAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS!

Holy Cross received a donation for \$4,500 from the St. Nicholas Knights of Columbus from the proceeds of their Christmas Tree sales and a donation for \$1,000 toward the Angel Fund, our tuition assistance program.

We are truly thankful to the St. Nicholas Knights of Columbus for their continued support and generosity. Thank you!

Eucharistic Adoration

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

The Adoration Chapel will close by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 21, and re-open on Tuesday, January 2, after morning Mass.

CAN YOU SPEND JUST ONE HOUR WITH OUR LORD?

Adorers are needed. If you would like to spend time with our Lord in adoration, please contact the parish office or sign up online at http://www.stncc.net/available-adoration-hours.

RELIGIOUS GIVE THANKS

A religious sister writes, "When we see the generous response of so many thousands of persons in order to help us, religious men and women, we are left speechless." Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests across the country send heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donation to last week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

St. Nicholas parishioners donated \$1,407.



Liturgical Stewardship						
Dec 30, 5:00pm	Lector:	Mike Cole				
	Ministers:	Larry Caduff, Mary Kay Forland				
	Ushers:	Ron Chlan, Mary Christiansen				
Dec 31, 8:00am	Lector:	Margo Theisen				
	Ministers:	Joyce Anderson, Mike Moeller				
	Ushers:	Marlin Hennen, Gary Vosejpka				
Dec 31, 10:00am	Lector:	Mike DiPaola				
	Ministers:	Amy McDonald, Julie Nelson				
	Ushers:	Steve Addabbo, Lenae Addabbo				

Measure of Our Treasure to the Lord December 17, 2017—Week 25 in Fiscal Year

Budget Weekly Sunday Giving	\$7,474
Budget Year-to-Date Sunday Giving	\$186,850
Sunday Plate & Envelope	\$18,914
Flowers	\$70
Bread and wine	\$100
ACH (Received monthly)	\$5,570
Christmas	\$2,504
Collection Received Year-to-Date	\$167,065
	-\$19,785
Endowment: \$45	

Capital Improvements: \$30 Current; \$8,400 Cumulative
We do have a number of other maintenance projects that will need
to be addressed. These items are not included in the budget and we
appreciate your continued generosity. Thank you!

Contributors this week 133 (estimated) out of 440



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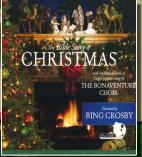
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