

Fourth Sunday of
ADVENT



Welcome to St. Nicholas Catholic Church!

General Information

During Advent all Masses are celebrated Ad Orientem (Facing East).

Lord's Day Mass

Saturday: 5:00 p.m., Sunday: 8:00 a.m.
& 10:00 a.m. (Live streamed on our website and Facebook page.)

Daily Mass

Tuesday—Saturday: 8:00 a.m.

Adoration Hours

Sunday 4 p.m. to midnight,
Monday 5 a.m. to Friday midnight,
Friday 5 a.m. to Saturday 8 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday—Friday: 7:35—7:50 a.m.
Wednesday: 4:45—5:30 p.m.
Saturday: 8:35 a.m.
and 3:30—4:40 p.m. or by appointment

Sacrament of Baptism: Pre-baptism meetings are held with a priest. 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 (Closed to visitors at this time)

Monday: Closed
Tuesday—Friday: 7:45 a.m.—4:15 p.m.

Parochial Administrator

Fr. Nick VanDenBroeke, frvandenbroeke@stncc.net

Parochial Vicar

Fr. John Powers, frpowers@holycrossschool.net

Parish Admin. Asst. & Safe Environment Coordinator

Jackie Berry, jberry@stncc.net

Director, LNMV Religious Education

Anna Laughery, annal@holycrossschool.net

Maintenance/Custodian

Jerry Bedeaux, 952-461-2403
Meghan Lannon, 952-461-2403

Communication & Mission Coordinator

Karen Johnson, kjohnson@stncc.net

Bulletin Deadline: Tuesdays by 4:00 p.m.
email to kjohnson@stncc.net

Archdiocese Victim Assistance 651-291-4475

From Father VanDenBroeke

Christmas Trees and Nativity Scene

Christmas trees are a lovely tradition and have great symbolism. The evergreen tree is a symbol of life, since it keeps its green color year-round. The Christmas lights remind us of Christ, the light of the world. Christmas trees used to be decorated with apples, in addition to other ornaments, to remind us of the original sin of Adam and Eve, and of the redemption of Christ which frees us from sin. Christmas is an important time to remember our redemption, for it was out of God's desire to redeem us that He sent his son Jesus to be born for us at Christmas.

I encourage you to keep your Christmas tree up for at least the 12 days of Christmas (through the feast of Epiphany), or even until February 2nd (the feast of the Presentation of the Lord) which is 40 days after Christmas and concludes the Christmas season.

The nativity scene is another wonderful thing to display for the Christmas season. The nativity scene was made popular by St. Francis of Assisi and is an excellent visible reminder to us of the humble birth of our Savior.

Here is a blessing you can use in your own home to ask for God's blessing upon your nativity scene.

Nativity Scene Blessing

Read: *Isaiah 7:10-15* and *Luke 2:1-8*

Leader: God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas. May Jesus Christ, who is the reason for the season, fill your hearts with great hope and joy this wonderful time of year!

You are in my daily prayers.

God bless you,
Fr. VanDenBroeke



This week at St. Nicholas

Sun	Dec 20	8:00am Mass: For the Parish 10:00am Mass (live-streamed): Wilfred & Bridget Wagner+
Mon	Dec 21	Mass is not scheduled on this day.
Tue	Dec 22	7:35am Confessions & Rosary 8:00am Mass: David Friedges+ 8:35am Fatima Rosary Group, <i>all are welcome!</i>
Wed	Dec 23	7:35am Confessions & Rosary 8:00am Mass: Deb Thomas+ 4:45pm Confessions 7:00pm Penance Service
Thu	Dec 24	11:00 a.m. - Noon Confessions 3:00pm Mass: Jordan Johnson 5:00pm Mass (live-streamed): Elmer & Mary Karl+ 10:00pm Mass: For the Parish
Fri	Dec 25	9:00am Mass (live-streamed): For the Parish
Sat	Dec 26	Noon Mass: Glen Carlson+ 3:30pm Confessions 5:00pm Mass: Stuart & Joyce Russell+
Sun	Dec 27	8:00am Mass: Roland and Rita Simones+ 10:00am Mass (live-streamed): For the Parish

Readings for the Week

Readings for the week of December 20, 2020
 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: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
 Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
 Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
 Friday: 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. Night: 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 Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
 Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
 Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

With the holidays coming, we have early bulletin deadlines to remember. Please submit articles by the following dates.

Deadline by 4:00 p.m.	Bulletin Date
December 23	January 3

THANK YOU!

The St. Nicholas Knights of Columbus thank all the parishioners and neighbors who bought Christmas trees the past few weeks. It was a great success.

**St. Nicholas News & Events**

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Reservations will not be necessary to attend Christmas Masses. Overflow seating will be provided in the Church basement.

Penance, Christmas, and New Year's Mass Schedule

Penance Service: December 23, 7:00 p.m.

Individual Confessions: December 24, 11:00 a.m.—Noon

Christmas Masses
(Nativity of our Lord)**December 24**

Mass 3:00 p.m.

Mass 5:00 p.m. (live-streamed)

Mass 10:00 p.m.

December 25

Mass 9:00 a.m. (live-streamed)

New Year's Masses

(Mary, Mother of God)

December 31

Mass 5:00 p.m.

January 1

Mass 9:00 a.m. (live-streamed)



We appreciate all our volunteers and are so thankful for all that they do!

- Kathy Chlan for leading the 33 Days to Morning Glory Marian consecration small groups.
- The Boyle family for picking up concrete debris, raking leaves, and cleaning up outside.
- Sara Bertram for moving items, priming, and painting in the JP2 Building

You are all appreciated! - Fr. VanDenBroeke

Lord, Let it be You who lives in me today.

St. Nicholas News & Events

Measure of Our Treasure to the Lord December 13, 2020 - Week 24 in Fiscal Year

The collection numbers were not available at the time of the printing of this bulletin.

A Christmas Gift for St. Nicholas

Each year, we rely heavily on the Christmas collection and year-end giving. The toll of the COVID-19 pandemic leaves St. Nicholas even more in need. Our parish staff strives daily to be dutiful stewards, but we need you to keep St. Nicholas going during these difficult days! We humbly ask that you prayerfully consider, in addition to your current giving, offering a Christmas sacrifice to support our parish community.

Perhaps consider covering the cost of one of these needs:

\$60 - shoveling our sidewalks and steps one time
\$140 - plowing our parking lot one time
\$518 - our electric bill for one month
\$673 - our gas bill for one month
\$347 - our water bill for one month
\$128 - our telephone bill for one month
\$108 - our internet bill for one month

Or give whatever you can to help pay staff, meet pastoral needs, maintain our facilities

Here is how to give a recurring or one-time gift:

- Text **GIVE** to 952-209-7799
- Give online: <https://www.stncc.net/give-now>
- Mail your contribution:
St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 51 Church St.
Elko New Market, MN 55054

Thank you for your generosity both throughout the year and at Christmas!



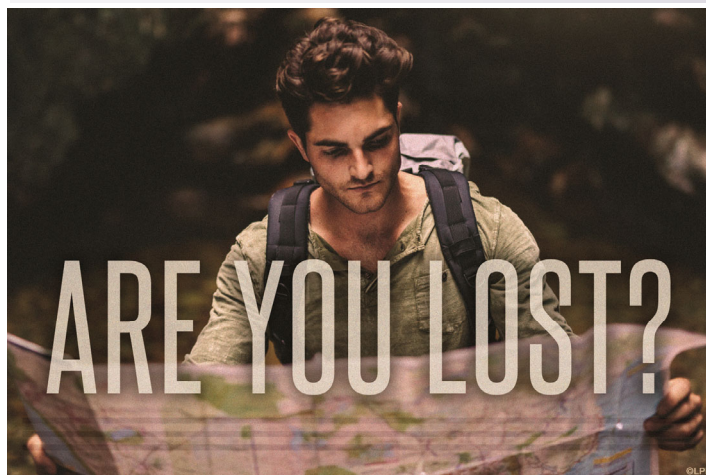
GOSPEL MEDITATION

In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensees*, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.



St. Nicholas News & Events

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENT

The Journey

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 40+ years. I have had 40+ 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 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 2000 years ago and continues to call 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.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

INVITE PARISHIONERS TO REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading:

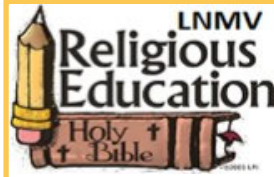
Today's reading from Second Samuel narrates the context in which God establishes his covenantal promise to King David around the year 1000 B.C. In the birth of Jesus, God fulfills his covenant with David. What does this teach us about the idea of "salvation history?"

Second Reading:

Paul concludes his letter to the Romans with a hymn of praise to God for the long-awaited revelation that all are saved and justified through faith in Christ. In what ways are you praising God during this season of Advent?

Gospel:

Today's Gospel reading records the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary of the upcoming birth of Christ. Mary's acceptance of God's will for her life ("May it be done to me according to your word.") models for all of us unconditional faith. How can we encourage others to embrace such faith?



LNMV RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

More information at:

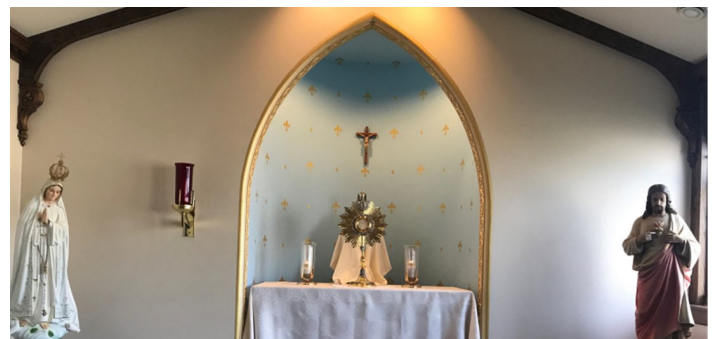
www.lnmvre.net

For questions contact:

annal@holycrossschool.net

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Make a Meal - We are looking for volunteers to bring dinner for our two priests and two seminarians before or after our Wednesday night Religious Education Classes. Our priests and seminarians often do not have time to eat before coming to help us teach our students, and so we would love to help provide food for them. If you are interested, visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4ea9a729a3fb6-priest> to sign up for a week or two, or email Anna at annal@holycrossschool.net. Food can be dropped off on Wednesday any time between 6:00 and 7:30 at Holy Cross Catholic School. If you have any questions, contact Anna.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

All are welcome to spend time with our Lord in adoration.

Adoration Hours

Sunday 4 p.m. to midnight,

Monday 5 a.m. to Friday midnight,

Friday 5 a.m. to Saturday 8 a.m.

If you would like to be placed on the weekly adoration schedule, please contact Mary Rose at farmgirl950@gmail.com or sign up online at <http://www.stncc.net/available-adoration-hours>.

Jesus, I trust in You!

Area News & Events

Recognizing Our Own Giftedness

Monday, December 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Online (Link sent to registrants)

All victim/survivors of clergy sexual abuse are invited to attend this gathering focused on trying to get in touch with the special gifts we all possess and that are meant to be given to others. Registration is required. Contact Paula Kaempffer, Outreach Coordinator for Restorative Justice and Abuse Prevention for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, at kaempfferp@archspm.org or 651-291-4429 to register.

Prayer Service for Life

Friday, January 22, 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, St. Paul and via livestream

Please join us for this prayer service to commemorate the millions of lives lost to abortion and the many women and men wounded by abortion's aftermath. Limited seating will be available, and COVID-19 protocols will be followed. The prayer service will also be livestreamed on the Cathedral's Facebook page: facebook.com/cathedralsaintpaul

March for Life Youth & Family Conference

Friday, January 22

High school and college students are invited to this day of prayer, inspiration, pro-life education and advocacy for the pre-born. Families are welcome and may register as a group at archspm.org/marchforlife. Cost is \$10 per person; please bring your own bagged lunch. Watch for more details to come!

Totus Tuus Team Members – Is God calling YOU to serve?

Bring the good news to the next generation; share the faith, build friendship, answer the call and become a 2021 TOTUS TUUS Summer Missionary in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis!

The Archdiocese is in need of men and women ages 18-26 committed to their Catholic faith who feel called to share it in local parishes with youth (grades 1-12). This is a 2-month commitment: May 29 – July 28 (which includes one week of training and a one-week break for the 4th of July holiday). Missionaries will receive \$2,520 for their service.

To apply visit www.archspm.org/totustuus or contact Nancy Schulte Palacheck at 651-291-4489 or schulten@archspm.org for additional information. Apply by Friday, February 1, 2021.

Sacraments for Seniors

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recognizes that residents of long-term care have spiritual and emotional needs, not just physical. Even if there is a case of COVID-19 in the facility, clergy and pastoral caregivers may be admitted under the title of "healthcare worker" or "compassionate care," provided that they have not been recently exposed to COVID-19 and abide by stringent safety requirements.

The patient or the patient's advocate, however, must request the visit. If a facility will not allow such access, you may wish to contact the Minnesota ombudsman's office, (651) 431-2553. It has doubled its staff and is available to help advocate.

Receive The Catholic Spirit newspaper — for free!

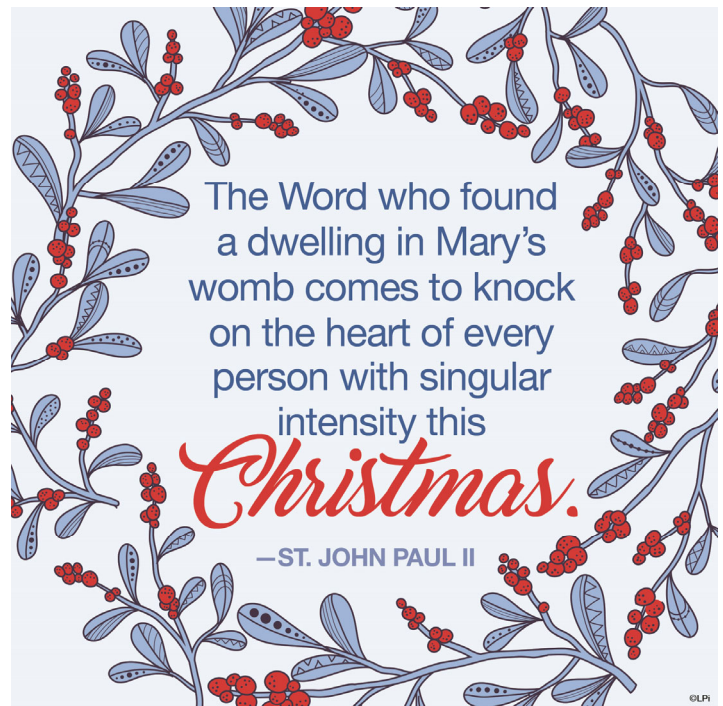
Be in-the-know with news from your Catholic community and the Church around the world. Get The Catholic Spirit, the award-winning newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, in your home. Free subscriptions for parishioners are available via each parish. Contact your parish office to be added to the mailing list. Or purchase an annual subscription for yourself or a friend at TheCatholicSpirit.com. Just \$20.20 through the end of the year.

Restorative Justice Groups

These groups are held monthly from 6:30-8 p.m. via Zoom and are open to all victim/survivors.

- Victim/Survivor Support Group for those Abused by Clergy as Adults — First Mondays
- Support Group for Relatives or Friends of Victims of Clergy Sexual Abuse — Second Tuesdays
- Victim/Survivor Support Group — Third Mondays
- Survivor Peace Circle — Third Wednesdays
- Support Group for Men who have been Sexually Abused by Clergy/Religious — Fourth Wednesdays

For more information and details for attending the virtual meetings, visit www.archspm.org/healing. Questions? Contact Paula Kaempffer, Outreach Coordinator for Restorative Justice and Abuse Prevention, 651-291-4429.



Our Parish School News



The staff and students at Holy Cross thank everyone for their continued support and generosity throughout the year and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

May God bless you all!



Designated a high achieving, high growth school by the Northwest Evaluation Association.



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3 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

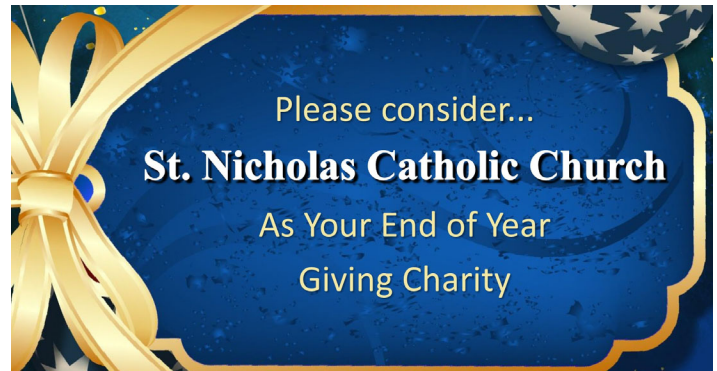
If you have been considering Holy Cross for your family, now is the time to register.

To learn more about our beautiful school or to register, follow this link: <https://www.holycrossschool.net/>

KINDERGARTEN TUITION SCHOLARSHIP

We are excited to announce we have full tuition scholarships available for families new to Holy Cross for their Kindergarten students. Parish families of Immaculate Conception, Most Holy Trinity, and St. Nicholas will be given priority but registration must be completed by January 15. After that date, registration will be opened to all non-parish families.

Year-End Giving



Please consider...

St. Nicholas Catholic Church

As Your End of Year
Giving Charity

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 a gift to St. Nicholas Catholic Church. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allows for taxpayers who don't itemize to take a charitable deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made in 2020 to qualifying organizations, including our parish. The CARES Act also temporarily suspends limits on charitable contributions. You can learn more at [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

Your year-end gift might reduce your income taxes while providing meaningful support to our parish. 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.

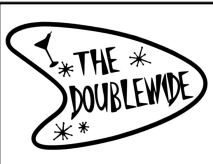
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!

In order for your contribution to be considered a 2020 charitable tax deduction, please note:

- Contributions (if mailed) must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2020
- Contributions must be in the collection basket on or before December 31, 2020
- Contributions must be physically in the parish office or the parish drop box located on the porch of the parish office on or before December 31, 2020

Contributions received in the January 1, 2021, collections are considered 2021 contributions even if checks are dated for 2020.

St. Nicholas, Pray for us!

 Downtown New Market 952-461-3682 DAILY HAPPY HOUR * Party Room Available *	 AMERICA'S FIRST AID & SAFETY RESOURCE. Serving the Safety Industry Since 1973 Industrial First Aid Cabinets & Supplies TOLL: (800) 950-9001 TEL: (952) 890-1321 FAX: (952) 890-0035	Working to benefit your Church, School & Community Knights of Columbus Council # 12520 To become a member, Call Leander Wagner at 952.461.2368 "YOUR REWARDS ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD"	 952-461-2337
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 24 Hour Towing 952-469-3182 Repair Shop: Monday- Friday 7:00- 5:30 20152 Kenrick Avenue Lakeville, MN 55044 www.MAREKSTOWINGANDREPAIR.COM	 952-894-1448 - Burnsville, MN Appliances, Electronics, Furniture, Fluorescent Bulbs, Batteries, & More.			WHY IS IT A man wakes up after sleeping under an ADVERTISED blanket on an ADVERTISED mattress and pulls off ADVERTISED pajamas bathes in an ADVERTISED shower shaves with an ADVERTISED razor brushes his teeth with ADVERTISED toothpaste washes with ADVERTISED soap puts on ADVERTISED clothes drinks a cup of ADVERTISED coffee drives to work in an ADVERTISED car and then . . . refuses to ADVERTISE believing it doesn't pay. Later if business is poor he ADVERTISES it for sale. WHY IS IT?
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