



DECEMBER 3, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

BE WATCHFUL!
BE ALERT!

— MARK 13:36 —

Welcome to St. Nicholas Catholic Church!

Directory

Pastor

Fr. Michael Rudolph, frudolph@stncc.net

Parish Admin. Asst. & Safe Environment Coordinator

Rochelle Ibarra, ribarra@stncc.net

Principal, Holy Cross Catholic School, 952-652-6100

Jim Grogan, jimg@holycrossschool.net

LNMV Religious Education

Mary Rose Rynda, maryroser@holycrossschool.net

Music Ministry

Ryan Fliceck, ryan@mtzgeo.com (volunteer)

Youth Ministry

Angie Nicolai, angishop@msn.com (volunteer)

Boiler Engineer

Greg Fischer

Custodians

Tim Capistrant, Church and Rectory

Theresa Boyle, JP II Building

Communication & Mission Coordinator, Bookkeeper

Karen Johnson, kjohnson@stncc.net

Trustees

Kathy Chlan

Marlin Hennen

Pastoral Council

Jackie Berry

Anne Fredrickson

Sara Bertram (Chair)

Kelly Heselton

Mike Cole

Ed Meyer

Ryan Fliceck

Mike Moeller

Dirk Nicolai

Finance Council

Steve Addabbo

Dan Huberty

Jake Benolkin

Shawn Overgaard

Pat Berry

Jenny Ward (Chair)

Todd Hertaus

Archdiocese Victim Assistance 651-291-4475

This week at St. Nicholas

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Sun	Dec 3	Advent begins 8:00am Mass: For the Parish 10:00am Mass (live streamed): Bud Zweber and Craig Zweber††
Mon	Dec 4	Mass is not scheduled on this day.
Tue	Dec 5	7:35am Rosary and confessions 8:00am Mass: Deceased and Living Members of the Bathke and Schill Families 8:35am Fatima Rosary Group - all are welcome!
Wed	Dec 6	7:35am Rosary and confessions 8:00am Mass: Dan King†† 4:45pm Confessions 6:30pm LNMV Religious Education classes
Thu	Dec 7	7:35am Rosary and confessions 8:00am Mass: Albert and Aurea Zweber††† 5:00pm Vigil Mass: Tara Breyer 7:00pm KC meeting
Fri	Dec 8	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary The parish office is closed. 7:35am Rosary and confessions 8:00am Mass: Father Jeff Huard†† 7:00pm Mass: For the Parish
Sat	Dec 9	7:35am Rosary 8:00am Mass: Gilbert and Lillian Mathews††† 8:35am Confessions 3:30 - 4:40pm Confessions 5:00pm Mass: Leon Zweber††
Sun	Dec 10	Donut Sunday 8:00am Mass: For the Parish 10:00am Mass (live streamed): James and Evelyn Chlan††† 5:30pm High School Youth Group gathering

Eucharistic Adoration

Adoration Hours

Sunday 4 pm to Monday midnight

Monday 5 am to Wednesday midnight

Wednesday 4 am to Thursday midnight

Thursday 4 am to Friday midnight

Friday 5 am to Saturday 8 am

We invite you to spend time with Jesus in adoration as your schedule allows.

If you would like to be placed on the weekly adoration schedule, please contact Sherry Moening at smoenin1@gmail.com or sign up online at <https://www.stncc.net/available-adoration-hours>.



Weekly Readings

Readings for the week of December 3, 2023

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

General Information



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.—5:00 p.m.

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.
Saturday morning Mass will be cancelled
when there is a wedding or funeral.

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 the pastor.
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 Sue Roufs at
612-759-9892.

Bulletin Guidelines

- Bulletin items are due on Tuesdays by 4 p.m.
- Email items to kjohnson@stncc.net.
- All bulletin content is approved by Fr.
Rudolph.

From the desk of Father Rudolph

Watching and Running...

Recently I was blessed to hear from a young woman about some life-changing encounters she experienced. One was the appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary to her in a dream, telling her that a wonderful but seemingly unlikely reunion would happen the next day. It did. The other, also in a dream, was a visit from Our Lord Jesus Christ, who had eyes like fire, as described in the Book of Revelation (1:14). In both dreams, she was in a place of whiteness and peace. Some people have gotten visits *from* heaven. It sounds like this woman was brought temporarily *to* heaven. Both dreams had profound, positive spiritual effects on her. Genuine appearances and words of Our Lord and Our Lady always do.

Over the years, I've heard from a number of people who have either personally experienced visions of Jesus or Mary or know people who have. When the fruit is good, I have no reason to doubt them. And why should we doubt? Jesus promised to be with his disciples always, until the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). Some of these ways are public—in the Holy Eucharist, the Gospels, the disguise of the poor, the ministry of a priest, and wherever two or three are gathered in his name. But he comes to people in private ways, too, whether it's a sense of his loving and encouraging presence, a message in our mind, an appearance in a dream, seeing him with our waking eyes, or hearing him with our ears. As for the many apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, she is continuing to respond to her Divine Son's words on the cross in reference to Saint John: "**Woman, behold, your son!**" (John 19:26) by lovingly reaching out to us as her spiritual sons and daughters.

This Sunday is the beginning of the Liturgical Season of Advent, when we try to focus our minds and hearts on the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Readings for Mass start with admonitions to watch for the coming of the Lord at the end of time, and be prepared, for we do not know when that will be. Later in Advent, the Readings go backward in time to the birth of Christ. That may seem strange, but it makes sense if you think about it. Knowing the culmination of God's plan of salvation in Christ can help us better appreciate its initiation, like knowing the possibilities after graduation from a trade school, college or university can help a student better appreciate starting school and persevering in his or her studies.

The prayers of the Church during Advent speak not only of *watching for Christ*—that is, to being prepared for his coming—but also to *running to meet him* when he arrives. For example, here's the collect (opening prayer) for this Sunday's Mass:

**Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.**

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St. Nicholas News & Events

Continued from page 2

Is it presumptuous to think of running to meet the Lord? Shouldn't we instead imagine falling to our knees, face to the ground, pleading for mercy? Not if we meet him with a heart cleansed by his mercy, and joyful and full of love from countless meetings with Jesus in this life. So let us watch—in humility for sure—but also prepared to run.

Your fellow pilgrim toward paradise,

Father Rudolph



Recently discovered volunteering at St. Nicholas:

Tracey Friedges installing DVD shelf in the church basement. Sue Roufs and Jenny Ward folding and stapling Ecumenical Service programs. Karen Tupy and Jenny Ward straightening the items in the pews.

Our volunteers do a lot to maintain and enhance the life of our parish. – Fr. Rudolph



We thank our sponsors!

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Saint of the Day – Saint Crispina

Crispina was from the town of Thagara in Numidia, a province of the Roman Empire in North Africa that is now part of the nation of Algeria. She was arrested in the year 304 and brought before the proconsul (governor) Anulinus in the town of Theveste. She was charged with ignoring the imperial commands to offer sacrifice to all the Roman “gods.” At her trial, she repeatedly stated that there is only one God, and that she would worship and offer sacrifice only to him, and to his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. She also said that it is no true religion that forces the unwilling. Later in the interrogation, Crispina referred to the “gods” of Rome as demons. Anulinus said, “I will have you beheaded if you persist in mocking our venerable gods.” Crispina replied, “Thank God for that. I should certainly lose my head if I took to worshipping them.” Finally, Anulinus sentenced her to death by the sword, to which she replied, “Praise to God, who has looked down and delivered me out of your hands!” Crispina was executed in Theveste on December 5, 304. Saint Crispina, pray for us! (Excerpted and adapted with permission of the Publisher from *Butler's Lives of the Saints, New Full Edition* ©Paul Burns 2003, Published by Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN)

SAVE OUR CHURCH BUILDING!

If it gets cold enough this winter for frost, ice, or snow, please resist the admirable temptation to put salt or any other kind of de-icer on the new steps on the south side of the church. The temperature was too cool to seal them when they were completed, so using anything other than sand to make them less slippery could damage the concrete. Thanks in advance, Father Rudolph.



The Immaculate Conception
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

We invite you to join us for Mass

Thursday, December 7, 5:00 p.m.

Friday, December 8, 8:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m.

This is a holy day of obligation.

St. Nicholas News & Events

ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES

A GIFT FOR YOU!

We are excited to offer FORMED to our entire parish for free. With award-winning studies and parish programs, inspiring audio content, movies, e-books, and family-friendly kids' programming, there is something for everyone on FORMED.

To register for your free account:

1. Visit signup.formed.org
2. Enter our parish zip code (55054) or name

We pray that this gift will bless you!



Rooted presents a beloved tradition in a new light.

This new 22-episode series guides Catholics through a daily Advent reflection using the Jesse Tree model traditionally practiced by families. Each seven-minute episode introduces the ancestors of Jesus Christ, shares a Scripture passage, and offers an engaging, practical reflection.

Hosted by Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, *Rooted* helps viewers apply the passage and related teachings to each day of Advent, guided by the Church's teaching. Episodes begin on December 3, the First Sunday of Advent, and end on December 24, the Fourth Sunday of Advent.



Drawing Closer to God prepares your family for the Messiah's coming.

Journey through Advent with the whole family! Join art teacher Ms. Kim as she teaches children to draw different scenes from the Christmas story, including the Annunciation, shepherds' visit, the Nativity scene, and more. With compelling storytelling, Ms. Kim points out key details from Scripture and Catholic tradition.

As kids follow along and learn new art skills, they also learn to see the connections between the big picture of God's story and their place within it.

PACK THE PEWS WITH FOOD

We invite you to Pack the Pews with non-perishable and non-expired food items the weekend of December 9 & 10. Donated food will support our local food shelf, Hope for the Community South, which is led by our parishioners, Jim and Jodi Muelken.



OPPORTUNITY TO SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

Our parish is sponsoring a "Giving Tree" this Advent season. Your family can bring joy to others by:

1. Selecting a tag from the Giving Tree.
2. Purchasing the gift.
3. Placing the unwrapped gift near the Giving Tree on or before **Sunday, December 17th**.

You are welcome to purchase as many gifts as you want.

Donations will be given to **Catholic Charities** cctwincities.org and **Alpha Women's Center** alphawomenscentermn.com.



Christmas Flowers

We are accepting donations for Christmas Flowers. For those of you who do not receive weekly collection envelopes and would like to contribute to Christmas Flowers, please feel free to use this form and return with payment to the parish office or drop in the collection basket by **Wednesday, December 20**.

For your convenience, you may also make your donation online at <https://www.stncc.net/give-now> or by texting GIVE to 1-952-209-7799.

FROM:

PHONE:

FLOWER DONATION AMOUNT:

St. Nicholas News & Events



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1:00 PM

The St. Nicholas Golden Hearts will be meeting in the church basement. We will be addressing Christmas cards for home-bound parishioners. Please bring any religious-themed Christmas cards with envelopes you may have. Questions can be answered by calling Joyce Hanke (952-461-1963), or Mary Hilpisch (952-

Office Volunteers

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

We would like to add to our pool of parish office volunteers. Help may be needed on occasion in the parish office during regular office hours with a variety of small projects.

If you would like to volunteer in the office, please call the parish office or click the link to join the Office Volunteer Flocknote group: <https://lnmvtriparish.flocknote.com/OfficeVolunteers>. We will notify you when help is needed.

Early Bulletin Deadlines

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

- 12/10 Bulletin announcements are due by 12/4 at 4pm
- 12/17 Bulletin announcements are due by 12/7 at 4pm
- 12/24 Bulletin announcements are due by 12/14 at 4pm
- 12/31 Bulletin announcements are due by 12/22 at 4pm



Reminder to pick up your Butter Braids order in the church basement on 12/9 & 12/10

There will be a limited amount available to purchase for those who did not order online.

Proceeds will benefit the St. Nicholas Care Fund.



Standing room only at our Ave Verum Corpus event with Archbishop Hebda, praise God! For those of you who were unable to attend, we invite you to view the live-stream video. For those of you who attended and would like to listen to the beautiful music on repeat, here you go! <https://youtu.be/h7mD7dvfo7s>



Our Parish School News



5 DAY MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL

STARTING JANUARY 2024

PROGRAM FEATURES:

- ✓ Supports students in their natural development of mind, body, and soul
- ✓ Based on a child's individual skill set and mastery
- ✓ For Ages 3-4

5 DAY MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL

Starting in January 2024 Holy Cross is excited to offer a 5-day Montessori preschool program along with our 3-day program.

To learn more visit: <https://holycrossschool.net/preschool>



MASS SCHEDULE

12/8/2023, 8:00am at Immaculate Conception, Lonsdale
12/12/2023, 9:00am at Holy Cross Catholic School

Measure of Our Treasure to the Lord
November 26, 2023 - Week 22 in Fiscal Year

Weekly Giving: \$3,583	Weekly Needed: \$6,365	Weekly Over/(Under): (\$2,782)
YTD Giving: \$134,858	YTD Needed: \$140,038	YTD Over/(Under): (\$5,181)



HOW WILL YOU REPAY THE LORD?

We appreciate your financial support. Every gift you make advances our mission of making Jesus Christ known and loved and enables us to continue our parish operations.

Here's how you can help:

- **Text** GIVE to 1-952-209-7799.
- **Give Online:** <https://www.stncc.net/give-now>
- **Mail** in your weekly contribution:
St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 51 Church St.


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The Holy Eucharist:
The source and summit
of our faith

FAITH
IN OUR FUTURE
CAPITAL
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As of 11/28/2023, the total pledged is \$980,307 less \$22,563 pledges withdrawn for a net of \$957,744 in pledges. The total payments received is \$908,785. **THANK YOU** to all who have made a commitment! **Pledges/donations can still be made and we welcome adoption of pledges that have been withdrawn.** Please consider supporting this campaign to enhance the life of our parish. Pledge cards are in the back of church or you can pledge online at [stncc.net](https://www.stncc.net).

To see all updates for the Faith in Our Future Campaign, please visit: <https://www.stncc.net/capital-campaign-corner>.

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