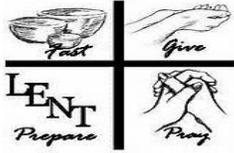


1st Sunday of Lent, February 22nd, 2015



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we begin Lent, we again seek to turn away from sin and to turn back to God. This may seem to be a burden and difficult at first, but is really a cause for joy and freedom.

For the point of fasting and abstaining is not to see how great of penances we can do, but to free us to grow in charity. We turn away from something less in order to turn to God and to our neighbor in love. While in the moment it may be hard to give something up, the lasting joy of having done so and in growing in a lived charity is incredibly and eternally fulfilling!

It is important to pace ourselves in Lent and to be patient with ourselves when we fall. Discouragement can be an ugly trap when we realize how weak we really are. God is greater than our sins.

Hence while we challenge ourselves during Lent, we must do so prudently. And if we intend to do more than what the Church asks, we should be seeking wise spiritual counsel. We don't want to be fooled into trying things that are dangerous physically and spiritually. Rather, in Lent we humbly turn back to God, all in preparation for Easter joy!

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may also be taken, but not to equal a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards (<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/leant/catholic-information-on-lenten-fast-and-abstinence.cfm>).

Those who are excused from fast or abstinence Besides those outside the age limits, those of unsound mind, the sick, the frail, pregnant or nursing women according to need for meat or nourishment, manual laborers according to need, guests at a meal who cannot excuse themselves without giving great offense or causing enmity and other situations of moral or physical impossibility to observe the penitential discipline (<https://www.ewtn.com/faith/leant/fast.htm>).

People with questions about fasting or abstinence should consult a parish priest or confessor.

Please note that the Good Friday Veneration of the Cross will be at 3pm and the Stations of the Cross will be at 7pm this year. The crowd at 3pm seems to be good already and we would encourage you if it is possible to attend this Liturgy. In the past many places of business and schools closed for this sacred event and we would like to try to impact the culture once again even if on a very small scale. The Veneration is part of the Sacred Triduum and it outweighs any devotional practice, as incredibly important as devotional practices such as Stations of the Cross and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy are. We understand if it is not possible to attend the Veneration because of work or school and that our culture has changed. Other parishes may have Veneration in the evening or one could attend Stations here in the evening.

God Bless!
Fr. Barnes

EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Sun, Feb 22...KC Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
Mon, Feb 23...Food Shelf Pick-up
Tues, Feb 24.. Fatima Group & Mother of Perp. Help Devotion 8:30am,
Choir Practice 7pm, Baptism Class 6pm
Wed, Feb 25.....Religious Ed.
Thurs, Feb 26...Mom's Group 9am in Myra Room, RCIA at 7pm @ HC
Fri, Feb 27.....Stations of Cross 6:30pm
Sat, Feb 28.....Men's Lenten Reflection 7am, Rosary in Chapel 9am,
Sun, March 1...KC Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

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: March 8th and April 12th. Doughnuts are served after both Sunday masses. Everyone is welcome!!

Xavier Alton Holliday, son of Tim and Tammy Holliday, recently received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism here at St. Nicholas. We warmly welcome him into the family of Christ.

Today at the 10:00am Mass we have the "Rite of Sending" for our RCIA student, Brittany Boller. She is beginning her final period of preparation and purification leading to her initiation into the Catholic Church at Easter. Her name will be entered into the book of the elect at the Rite of Election celebrated this afternoon at the Cathedral in St. Paul. Please keep Brittany in your prayers during these final weeks of preparation.



TODAY the Knights of Columbus are hosting a Pancake and Sausage Breakfast, 8:00 - 12:00. All proceeds will go to Haiti Relief, in honor of Bob Seykora. Everyone is welcome!

Rome Pilgrimage Presentation

All are invited to a presentation on our Rome Pilgrimage on Sunday, March 8th, after the 8am & 10am Masses.

LENT 2015 - Save the date and join us for these special events to help us enter into this season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Saturday, Feb. 28 - Men's Morning of Reflection 7am-11am at St. Nicholas
Saturday, March 14 - Women's Morning of Reflection 7am-11am at St. Nicholas.

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.

Due to lack of attendance last year at Soup Suppers, there will only be two dates offered this Lenten season.

The dates are as follows:

Friday, March 6th, following 6:30pm Stations of the Cross and on Friday, March 27th, following 6:30pm Stations of the Cross, Soup Supper and a Speaker.

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.

DO YOU OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS? WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISER on ST. NICHOLAS' BULLETIN?

We are looking for advertisers to help fill the back of our bulletin. The rate is very reasonable, and your ad runs weekly. Please call or e-mail Lisa at the parish office if you are interested. 952-461-2403 or lisa@stncc.net

2015 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL "Be Imitators of Christ"

The CSA goal for St. Nicholas is, \$18,555

If you have not made your contribution to the 2015 Catholic Service Appeal, please consider doing so next weekend. We will conduct the in-pew pledging process at Mass one last time to give everyone an opportunity to participate.

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. Please prayerfully consider providing your financial support to the Catholic Services Appeal. You can and will make a difference.

It is important to know that contributions to the Catholic Services Appeal will be used for the benefit of designated ministries of the Appeal. Please visit the CSA Foundation website at csafspm.org for more information.

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, we are a little more than half way there. Remaining Balance - \$8,033.50

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! 12,702.00

Balance 6,279.50

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.

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

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 652-2349.

2015 Schedule; March 17, 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 Pam Filipiak at 952-461-3478.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL

"In a world where there is so much noise, so much bewilderment, there is a need for silent adoration of Jesus concealed in the host. ... It is a source of comfort and light, particularly to those who are suffering." - Pope Benedict XVI

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. Our next gathering is Thursday, February 26th at 9am in the Myra Room in the old school. 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.

Mass Intentions – (* indicates a change in mass time)			
Sat	21	5:00 pm	Deb Feldnan+
Sun	22	8:00 am	Paul & Therese Leon+
Sun	22	10:00 am	For the Parish
Tues	24	8:00 am	Robert Saleck+
Wed	25	8:00 am	Bobby Tissek+
Thurs	26	8:00 am	Deborah Thomas+
Fri	27	8:00 am	Paul & Therese Leon+
Sat	28	8:00 am	Phil & Colleen Tupy and Family
Sat	28	5:00 pm	Stuart & Joyce Russell+
Sun	1	8:00 am	Victoria Tupy
Sun	1	10:00 am	For the Parish

Daily Scriptures		
Monday:	Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18	Matthew 25:31-46
Tuesday:	Isaiah 55:10-11	Matthew 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jonah 3:1-10	Luke 11:29-32
Thursday:	Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25	Matthew 7:7-12
Friday:	Ezekiel 18:21-28	Mathew 5:20-26
Saturday:	Deuteronomy 26:16-19	Matthew 5:43-48
Sunday:	Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18/Romans 8:31b-34/Mark 9:2-10	

Liturgical Stewardship February 28 & March 1		
Feb 28 @ 5pm	Lector:	Chuck Mathews
	Ministers	Ralph Wagner-H, Dana Meyer-Ch-H
	Ushers	Joe Molitor, David Sheedy
March 1 @ 8am	Lector:	Peter Soderlund
	Ministers	Tom McCabe-H, Jolene Pierson-Ch-H
	Ushers	Scott Steele, Gary Vosejпка
March 1 @ 10am	Lector:	Kelly Heselton
	Ministers	Julie Nelson-H, Jackie Devine-Ch-H
	Ushers:	Richard Hanke, Dennis Anderson

SUNDAY GIVING: Feb 15 / Week 33 in Fiscal Year	
Budget Weekly Sunday Giving:	\$ 6,276
Budget Year-to-Date Sunday Giving:	\$207,108
Actual Collection Received	\$ 2,350
Bread & Wine	\$ 10
Fuel	\$ 40
Children Envelopes	\$ 2
ACH 2-15-2015	\$ 5,050
Collection Received Year-to-Date:	\$ 203,235
	- \$ 3,873
Capital Improvement \$171	

Please show your appreciation by supporting those advertisers who help make our bulletin possible. This week we thank...

FARMERS INSURANCE
Tim Sadusky Agency
tsadusky@farmersagent.com
952-985-9805

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

LNMV RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Check out the RE website at www.lnmvre.net

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

6:30 – 7:45 PM

Weekly CLASS night on Wednesday, Feb. 25th *Prayer testing continues

Weekly CLASS night on Wednesday, March 4th **Confirmation Folders Due!

Lent: Students, please use the Lenten Calendars, handed out to you on Feb. 4th. If you need a copy please go the www.lnmvre.net website for a copy

HOLY CROSS:

HELP US REACH OUR \$10,000 GOAL! Holy Cross Catholic School students are still selling Catholic Schools Raffle tickets through March 8! Each ticket costs \$5, and proceeds go directly to Holy Cross School! Some of the prizes include a 2015 Ford Escape or \$25,000, a \$5,000 dream vacation, tickets to MN pro sports games, many fun electronics, and much more! You may purchase a ticket from a Holy Cross student or by calling the school office at (952) 652-6100. If Holy Cross Catholic School is one of the top three selling schools (tickets sold per student), we will be awarded a \$3,000 grant. What a wonderful opportunity!

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

Miryam Dinner – February 24, 2015

Bishop Lee Piché will be hosting the next Miryam Dinner on Tuesday, February 24 at 6 p.m. at the Archbishop's residence. The evening begins with prayer, followed by dinner with consecrated women sharing their vocation testimonies with women, ages 16 to 35, who would like to attend. It is typical for women discerners to be accompanied by their pastor, consecrated religious, youth minister, campus minister or to be considered a guest of the Vocation Office. Please respond to the Vocation Office before February 20, by calling 651-962-6890 or emailing patty.mcquillan@stthomas.edu if you would like to register to attend.

An Emmaus Experience A Retreat for Women – February 27-March 1

How long since you've asked yourself.....Who am I? Is my faith important to me? Where am I going? Is Jesus part of my daily life? You can arrive at the answers if you give yourself time to think. You will find the answers right in your own heart when you make a retreat. Come join us! The retreat takes place at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Prior Lake. To register or obtain information, please contact Anne Doyle at (507) 364-8906 or Tonya Beck at (952) 201-6212.

A Valentine's Day Treat for your spouse – Treat your marriage to a special evening with author and speaker Jennifer Silvera Lindemen, who will remind us of the importance of loving in the moment at a Cana Dinner on Saturday, February 28th at the St. Wenceslaus Parish Activities Center in New Prague. Jennifer, who lost her first husband in the line of duty as a police officer in 2005, shares a highly moving multimedia presentation that reminds us to treasure and make the most of our marriage. The evening begins with a social hour at 5pm and includes a meal served at 6pm and great conversation at your table. Call Kevin Higgins by February 16th at 952-240-1602 for tickets, which are \$45 per couple.

Are You Martha or Mary? Saturday, February 28, 2015

The ACCW (St. Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women) is inviting all women to their Hospitality 101 - Are You Martha or Mary? program on Saturday, February 28, 2015 at St. Raphael Catholic Church at 7301 Bass Lake Road, in Crystal. The program starts with a Mass at 8 AM followed by Registration and Refreshments at 8:30. This will be followed with Opening Prayer and a Program by Julie Meyer and Barb Orzechowski. Attendees will learn how to welcome and engage others by identifying their gifts and how to connect women across generations/cultures. This will be a fun program with games and great conversation. The day will end at 12:30 with a Closing Prayer. The cost is \$10 before February 23 - \$15 thereafter. For questions and registration call 651-291-4545 or email: <https://events.archspm.org/accw-hosp-2015>

If you work in health care in any capacity, you are invited on the first Saturday of Lent to a distinctive half-day retreat on "Christian Witness to Spiritual Suffering." Fr. Eugene Tiffany, the associate pastor of the Cathedral, (who himself has recovered from a stroke), will speak from his heart on "soul pain," and what it means for health care professionals to suffer spiritually. The retreat begins with Mass at 8:00 A.M. on Feb 28, 2015 at the Little Sisters of the Poor in St Paul. A light breakfast and lunch will be served. Register today at www.curatioapostolate.com or call [763-786-4945](tel:763-786-4945)! Deadline is Feb 27. Limited scholarships available. This is a beautiful way for health care professionals to jumpstart Lent!

St. Wenceslaus annual Fish Fry on Friday, February 27th from 11am – 1pm and 4:30-7:30pm. All you can eat, dine in or take out! Tickets \$10/ticket in advance or \$11 at the door, kids 4 & under eat free. Taking place in the church cafeteria.

Fish Dinner

The Shakopee Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Fish Dinner on Friday, February 27, 2015, at the Shakopee Knights Event Center, 1760 4th Ave E, in Shakopee. Baked or fried fish, potato salad & au gratin potatoes, green beans, fresh baked bread, dessert and coffee or milk will be served continuously from 5:00 to 7:30 PM. The cost is \$12.00 per adult, (age 11 or older), \$6.00 for children age 5 to 10, and children 4 and under are free. All you care to eat.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Savage will be hosting their annual Life in the Spirit Retreat on Saturday, February 28, 2015. The all-day retreat officially begins at 8:30am (after 8am Communion service) and offers a full day of inspirational speakers including: Jon Yanta, Mary O'Keefe, Christina Smith and others who will share their stories and witness to how the Holy Spirit has blessed and influenced their lives to help you recognize and celebrate the Holy Spirit in your own. All this and a light lunch and snacks, too. The retreat closes with the opportunity for confession at 3:30pm. There's no cost to attend but free-will donations will be collected to help defray the costs of the day. No reservations needed. Come and let the Spirit fill your heart. For more information contact AdultFaith@stjohns-savage.org or call 952.890.9434. Located at 4625 West 125th Street, Savage, MN. 952.890.9465. www.stjohns-savage.org.

Operation Andrew Dinner – Tuesday, March 10, 2015 –

Bishop Lee Piché will be hosting the next Operation Andrew Dinner on Tuesday, March 10 at 6 p.m. at the Archbishop's residence. Operation Andrew, a program sponsored by the Office of Vocations, is an opportunity for men, ages 16 – 35, who are discerning their vocation and would like to learn more about the priesthood and religious life. The dinner event includes time where they can hear vocation testimonials on priesthood and the religious life. It is typical for a Pastor, Religious Brother or Youth Minister to accompany discerning men to this event. Please respond to the Vocation Office before March 6, by calling 651.962.6890 or emailing patty.mcquillan@stthomas.edu if you would like to register to attend.