


<p>This week's Events: MONDAY: St. Vincent de Paul Society meeting 7 PM Parish Center TUESDAY: Parish Council Meeting 7 PM WEDNESDAY: F.F. Classes 6-7:30 PM THURSDAY: Directory Photos 3:00- 9:30 PM Parish Center FRIDAY: Directory Photos 3:00- 9:30 PM Parish Center Prayer Group 7:15 PM Church SATURDAY: Directory Photos 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Parish Center COUNTERS: Barry & Deb</p>	<p align="center">Sunday Giving January 4, 2009</p> Children.....13.46 Adult Envelopes & Plate.....3,700.82 Collected to date 65,480.77 Budgeted to date 65,814.00 Net (Loss).....(333.23)	
	<p>Lectors: Saturday.....Jan 17 4:00pm.... Nancy Ludovissie 7:00pm.... Tammy Castanias Sunday.....Jan 18 8:00am.... Colleen Richardson 10:00am.... Sam Welter</p>	<p>Mass Intentions: Jan 17 4:00pm People with Cancer 7:00pm Herman & Grace Schwartz Jan 18 8:00am The Unborn 10:00am Church Leaders</p>
<p>MASS SERVERS: SaturdayJan 17 4:00pm..... Tony Szaroletta Mike Szaroletta 7:00pm..... Kayla Bolland Christopher Walters Sunday.....Jan 18 8:00am..... Brooke Wickenhauser Mitchell Wickenhauser 10:00am..... Mary Welter Samantha Larson</p>	<p>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: SaturdayJan 17 4:00pm..... Nancy Ludovissie, Mary Omollo & Margaret Knutson 7:00 pm Tammy & Paul Castanias, Sue Bolland SundayJan 18 8:00am..... Cathy Pass, Mary Poppler & Sharon Hartung 10am..... Char & Tom Kozar Candis Wickenhauser</p>	

St. Nicholas Catholic Church


A community committed to welcoming, stewardship and evangelizing since 1868



Fr. Thomas Joseph
412 W. 4th Street • P.O. Box 133
Carver, MN 55315
952-448-2345
www.stnicholascarver.org

Father's Cell **507-339-8244**
frthomasstnicholas@embarqmail.com

Fr. Thomas Joseph with Shijo & Sony Kolatukudy and their daughter.



We are glad to have you here today! If you wish to register at St. Nicholas, please call the church or Father's cell.

 <p align="center">Brenzman Printing 206 Chestnut St, Chaska Daryl Brenzman 448-3575</p>	<p align="center">It's time to put your life on a brand new frequency</p> <p align="center">relevant radio 1330 AM</p> <p align="center">Relevant Radio™ is dedicated to bridging the gap between faith and everyday life Visit www.relevantradio.com for a complete programming schedule or to listen on-line</p> <p align="center">Bobcat Backhoe • Additions • Trucking • Landscaping Snowplowing • Concrete Tearout • Demolition</p>  <p align="center">Chuck Worm • (952) 496-2874 760 W. 96th Street • Chanhassen, MN 55317</p>	<p><i>Please support these businesses... they are an asset to our community.</i></p>
<p><i>Chaska Floral & Gifts</i> Roman Symanitz - Parishoner www.chaskafloreal.net 208 Chestnut Street • Chaska 952-448-6691</p>	<p align="center">Life Insurance, Annuities & Benefits</p> <p align="center">CATHOLIC AID ASSOCIATION PHILIP "SAM" WELTER Field Representative, Member of the President's Club (952) 448-4865 • PO Box 296 • Carver, MN 55315 www.catholicaid.org • Lic. #654197</p>	<p align="center">Lions Tap Famous Hamburgers Hwy. 169 & Cty. Rd. 4 Eden Prairie Bert & Bonnie Notermann West of Flying Cloud Airport 934-5299</p> 
<p align="center">OTB OHNSORG TRUCK BODIES, Inc. Manufacturing Quality Truck Bodies since 1934</p> <p>860 Commerce Dr. E. Belle Plaine, MN 56011  otbmf.com 952-873-2250</p>	<p align="center">PLEHAL BLACKTOPPING INC.</p> <p align="center">Full Service Asphalt Work Since 1949 Driveways • Tennis Courts Parking Areas • Seal Coating</p> <p>13060 Dem Con Drive P.O. Box 317 Shakopee, MN 55379 www.plehal.com Jack Van Remortel President Office (952) 445-7676 Fax (952) 445-7682 Direct (952) 224-7140</p>	<p align="center">TUPY TREE SERVICE 4975 Le Sueur Ave PO Box 308 New Prague, MN 56071 952-758-4658</p>
<p align="center">T.J. Replacement Windows</p> <p align="center">Windows • Doors • Siding TOM GESTACH (952) 448-4312 Carver, MN</p> 	<p align="center">RALPH W. BAILEY & ASSOC. Tax and Accounting Services IT Support</p> <p align="center">Friendly, Customized Service</p> <p>612-743-7439 Phone 116 2nd Street East 952-448-9939 Home Chaska, MN 55318 E-mail: warm4h2c@comcast.net</p>	<p align="center">Get a FREE Market Analysis!</p> <p align="center">BARRY STRELOW REALTOR® Direct: 952-496-5236 Cell: 651-753-0417 Fax: 952-445-8252 barrystrelow@edina Realty.com Edina Realty 1228 Vierling Drive Shakopee, MN 55379</p> 
<p align="center">TO PLACE AN AD, call the St. Nicholas office: (952) 448-2345</p>	<p align="center"> <i>Pray for Vocations</i> </p>	<p align="center">Carver Country Flowers & Gifts Floral Studio inside Treasure Chest Antiques 109 3rd Street East Carver, MN 55315 B: 952-681-7582 C: 952-270-2717 CarverFlowers@gmail.com Annette & Al Hentz, Owners <i>Distinctive floral creations with an informal charm.</i></p> 

STAFF

Administrative Assistant
Jodee Korkowski448-2345
jodeestnicholas@embarqmail.com

Director of Faith Formation
Char Kozar448-6181
ckozar@embarqmail.com

Maintenance
Lester Wickenhauser448-7657

COUNCIL AND BOARD

Parish Pastoral Council
Pres.: Tom Kozar.....448-6181

Finance and Property Board
Chair: Candis Wickenhauser448-7657

Faith Formation Board
Chair: Sue Bolland.....448-2721

COORDINATORS

Cemetery - JoAnn Hasse612-708-4118
Lectors - Mitch Perrine.....448-7535
Servers - Jennifer Szaroletta466-5578
Eucharistic Minister - Jacquelyn Christianson.....448-9861
Sacristan - Terri Schuster448-5256
Funeral - Darlene Mahowald.....448-4464
Prayer Chain - Darlene Mahowald.....448-4464
Mercedes Lano.....448-4798
Environment & Decorating - Tammy Castanias.....448-7345
Church Cleaning - Nancy Ludouissie448-4266
Welcoming Committee - Kathy Dempsey612-987-1617
Council of Catholic Women - Bonnie Hays.....361-3496
Bible Study - Mary Perrine448-7535
Evangelization - Jacquelyn Christianson448-9861
Youth Ministry - Jeremy Rich361-0297
Ushers - Madonna Grapentine448-2474
Vincent de Paul Society - Sue Bolland448-2721
"That Man is You" - Bill Hays361-3496
Sunday School for Children - Tamara Anderson361-6773
Music Ministry - Barry Strelow.....448-4363

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Daily Masses

Rosary ½ hr. before Mass

Monday: Mass/Communion Service 6:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday: 8:00 a.m.
Wednesday & Friday: 6:45 p.m.

"Coffee & Rolls with the Priest"
Tuesdays after 8:00 a.m. Mass

Adoration

Every Friday: 6:00-6:45 p.m.
1st Friday of each month: 3:00-6:45 p.m.

Reception of the Sacraments

BAPTISM:
Time & date as requested by the Family -
Call for Pre-Baptismal program

CONFESSION (RECONCILIATION):
Saturdays 8:30-9:00 a.m. and 6:15-7:00 p.m.
or anytime as requested

MARRIAGE:
Call the parish office to make arrangements

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK:
Anytime, call Fr. Thomas at 448-2345 or 507-339-8244

RCIA (Rights of Christian Initiation for Adults):
Please call the parish office for more information

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THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
Is 55:1-11 Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 I Jn 5:1-9 Mk 1:7-11

St. Paul in his letter to the Romans 6:3-4 writes, “Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were indeed buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.” Most of us were baptized when we were cute little babies and to this day, we witness so many tiny, cute babies being baptized. Why does St. Paul use language about “death,” when it comes to baptism? After all, during baptism, we witness a fresh new life of a tiny, cute baby crying and there is a lot of life and nothing about death. By using the “death” language, (“We were buried with Him through baptism into His death”), St. Paul is reminding us that we who are baptized into Christ Jesus will follow the same journey as Jesus. We will go into the tomb but will not stay in the tomb forever, but rise to eternal life like Jesus. Also, the “death,” language invites us, in our daily lives, to die to those things that are not of God. On the day of our baptism, our original sin was washed away. However, the wounds of original sin still lead us to sin. Are we willing to die to those sins in our daily lives that attempt to separate us from God?

Our prayerful condolences to Barb Wilmes! Barb, who sings at our church, lost her daughter Cynthia Bruska and had the funeral service for her on Tuesday, the 6th of January. May Cynthia rest in peace.

We pray for Jean Laumann! Jean who sings in the choir at the 10:00 a.m. Mass is fighting cancer. Jean is strong and calm and traveling to Mayo and back again. May Jean experience God’s consolation and support through good people like us.

Men’s group! The men’s group is going strong. I am humbled by the co-operation and steadfastness of our men, week after week. Let us pray for our men that they may persevere during this year of 2009, and be good men, good Dads, as Jesus wants them to be. I invite those of you who have not tried the Men’s group, to please consider joining this program, “That Man is You.” We meet every Saturday morning at 6:00 a.m. in the parish center.



New Year Resolution! Many times, I have pointed out that Christianity is not a religion of convenience, but rather it challenges us to be people who are willing to walk the extra mile. On January 1st at all the Masses, I invited you good people to pray at least one ‘Hail Mary’ a day and to spend an hour with Jesus at least once a month. As you know every Friday, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and on first Fridays of every month from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. You will be glad that you did. Once in a while, consider coming to daily Mass as a family – you will be glad that you did.

St. Vincent De Paul Society is taking shape! Please consider coming to the January 12th meeting at 7 p.m. at the Parish Center.

Ski Trip for the young people! Dear young people of St. Nicholas, we do not necessarily have a full time youth minister, but we do care about you—we as parents, family, Church and community. We are planning a ski trip on January 23. Details will be available soon.



Confession! Our previous Holy Father once said, “The greatest sin of the modern world is to think sin does not exist.” We have a new confessional and therefore can take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions are available Saturdays 8:30-9:00 a.m. and 6:15-7:00 p.m. Remember, I am available 24/7 for confessions and you know how to reach me.

There is no right or wrong way to pray! There is no rule of how to pray. However, we have many tools that can help us to pray better. No matter how we pray, every prayer is made up of ACTS. A-Adoration, C-Contrition (sorrow for sins), T-Thanksgiving, S- Supplication (your request to God).

May 2009 be a year of Blessing! When Pope Benedict came to our country in April of 2008, he said, “In the exercise of my ministry as the Successor of Peter, I have come to America to confirm you, my brothers and sisters...and to implore from the Lord a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church in this country.” Let us pray that we may all be open to receive the Holy Spirit in our lives, so that our involvement in the Church is not just fulfilling an obligation, but instead that we feel the hunger and thirst for the Church in our lives.

Dear Padre Question! Starting with the month of December, people from all over the Archdiocese will write questions as a way to learn more about the faith. My answers to those questions will be published in the “Espiritu Catolico,” which is the Spanish version of the Catholic Spirit. The first question that I received for the month of December was, “Why did God choose a man as His “Beloved Son,” instead of a woman as His “Beloved Daughter?” Following is my response to that question.

First of all, I want to thank you for such a thought-provoking question. To answer your question, God in His freedom could have chosen to come among us in any form. Jesus could have come as a woman. However, His decision to come among us specifically as a man is appropriate for several reasons.

First, as we learn from the book of Genesis, God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. At the trick of the serpent (Satan), Eve ate the fruit of the forbidden tree. As a result of Adam and Eve’s disobedience, God expelled them from the Garden of Eden. At the same time, at that very moment, we know that God began our Salvation history. In other words, God wanted the first man’s, Adam’s, disobedience to be reversed by the new Adam, Jesus Christ, as a man. In Genesis 3: 15, God told the serpent, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your

offspring and hers; **He** will strike at your head, while you strike at His heel.” The **He** who will strike the head of the serpent is Jesus, the God-**Man**. It seems that in the mind of God, the Messiah, the new Adam, had to be a male.

Second, St. Paul expands on this. In his first letter to the Corinthians 15: 22 he writes, “For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life.” God replaced the old Adam (man) with the new Adam (Jesus). For this reason, God had to have a “beloved Son,” and not a “beloved daughter.” The “old man” (Adam) is replaced by a new Adam (Jesus).

Third, Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises given to David and the Hebrew people – it was a King that was promised, and a King must be a male. As we read in the Second book of Samuel 7, God told King David, “I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make **His** kingdom firm. I will be a father to **Him**, and He shall be a **Son** to me. Your house and your kingdom shall stand firm forever.” This is further echoed in Psalm 53:7 which reads, “...out of Zion would come the salvation of Israel.” As we know, Zion is another name for Jerusalem; and King David, whose line Jesus came from, ruled from Zion (Jerusalem). In other words, God had already decided that He would come to this earth in the form of a man and not as a woman. Also in Isaiah 7:14 we read, “The virgin shall be with child, and bear a **Son**, and shall name **Him** Immanuel.” Psalm 2:7 reads, “I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: The Lord said to me, ‘You are my **Son**; this day I have begotten You.’” These are just a few Biblical proofs showing how God is consistent in choosing a “Beloved **Son**,” rather than a “Beloved Daughter.”

Fourth, Jesus should never be thought of as “alone.” He is the Divine Bridegroom, who is always found with His beloved Bride, which is the Church. In order for this symbolism to make sense, God came among us as a man. The Church, Virgin and Mother, is “feminine.” She gives “birth” to us in Baptism and feeds us in the Holy Eucharist. Nevertheless, her capacity to give life and Divine Life comes from a God-**Man** who is Jesus Christ. In other words, think of the Church as a wife (Bride) and Jesus Christ as a Husband (Groom). Jesus the Groom is married to His bride, which is the Church. Thus, it makes sense that God sent us His “Beloved Son,” and not a “beloved daughter.”

None of us knows the mind of God completely. We go with what we have—and what we have is Jesus Christ, who is God-**Man**. Could He have sent a God-Woman? He could have. But He didn’t. Does this mean God treats women as inferior? Think of the privilege that God gave to Mary...raising an ordinary Jewish girl to be the Mother of Jesus.

To conclude, could we fully grasp why God sent us a “Beloved Son,” and not a “Beloved Daughter?” No. We have what God gave us and that is His Son, Jesus Christ. When we go to heaven we can ask God and He will answer all our questions. As St. Augustine would say, “Thou hast created us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee.” Let us keep searching until we go to heaven, when everything will become clear.

Sunday Reflection! Today we celebrate the baptism of the Lord. In the Gospel of Mark 1: 7-11 we read, “...Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John.” Baptism is for the forgiveness of sins. But, Jesus had no sins. So, why would He undergo baptism? Not because Jesus needed baptism, but to show us that we need baptism. Jesus is such an awesome God, and an awesome teacher who teaches us through His example. Like Jesus, are we willing to walk the walk first, and teach others through the good example of our lives?



Yours in Christ,

Fr. Thomas Joseph

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone that helped with the Adopt-a-Family for Christmas. We were able to supply them with two meals and each of the four kids received some outfits and toys. We were also able to give the parents some gift cards. The Family was **very** grateful for the help! The dad said he was in tears because his kids were able to have a “real” Christmas. The list of people willing to help was unbelievable, we did not get to everyone on the list to help for this project. I am sure we will be doing this again.

The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis will sponsor a Prayer Service for Life at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, from 10:30-11:30 AM on Jan. 22, 2009, the 36th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion-on-demand. The annual prayer service commemorates the millions of lives lost to abortion and the many women and men wounded by the abortion experience. We invite you to join in thanking God for the gift of life and praying for an end to abortion. Archbishop John C. Nienstedt will speak. Providence Academy students will provide the music. A collection will be taken for the Archdiocesan **LIFE FUND**, an archdiocesan fund that provides last resort, emergency financial aid to women and couples for pregnancy-related expenses and to those with babies in their first year of life. For more information, contact the Marriage, Family and Life Office, 651-291-4488. A bus will leave from St. Joseph’s parking lot in Waconia at 9:00 am and return at approximately 2:30 pm. Please call our church office to reserve your seat on the bus.

Win an all-expenses paid trip to see the Master’s Golf Tournament this April! Proceeds from the Master’s golf tournament raffle go toward tuition assistance at Guardian Angels School, which St. Nicholas’s parishioners attend and have supported since 1917. Tuition assistance is especially needed in these tough economic times. The value of the package is worth roughly \$18,000. Included in the package are four tournament passes and four hospitality badges for Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12. Stay in a superb home in Augusta, Georgia, which includes chef-prepared dinners, as well as open bar with fine wines and cordials. Access to the hospitality lodge across from the Augusta National, including meals and hors d’oeuvres. Roundtrip airfare for four from MSP airport (or like value if out of state). Full-size rental car with unlimited mileage. This is a spectacular package that costs \$100 per raffle ticket (check or cash), with a maximum of only 400 tickets sold. To buy raffle tickets, go to www.GAchaska.org and click on the Masters Tournament icon at the bottom of the website page, or you can contact G.A. at 952-227-4010.