

This Week's Calendar of Events:
MONDAY: Parish office closed for New Year's holiday.
TUESDAY: 8 AM Daily Mass
WEDNESDAY: 6-7:30PM Teacher training
 No classes
THURSDAY: 8 AM Daily Mass
FRIDAY: 3 PM Adoration; 6:45 PM Mass with Prayer Group to follow
SATURDAY: 8 AM Daily Mass

Our Next Pancake Breakfast will be February 5, 2012

Sunday Giving December 25, 2011

Children	0.00
Adult Envelopes & Plate	3,678.55
Collected to date	60,389.75
Budgeted to date	62,400.00
Net (Loss).....	-(2,010.25)

COUNTERS: January 8 – Barb S. & Jon K.

<p>Gap Ministry Needs to serve 40-50 Love INC Families per month TOILET PAPER, FACIAL TISSUE, Paper Towels, Dishwasher Detergent, Fabric Softener Sheets, Liquid Laundry Soap, Deodorant, Tooth Brushes, Large Tooth Paste, Disposable Razors, Shampoo, Conditioner, Towels (any), Sheets & Mattress Pads (any size), Size 6 diapers (pull ups), 3 and 4T pull ups, \$10 Target Gift Cards or toys for boys for Birthday Bags \$ Money for new cribs, NEW Bed Pillows, Dressers and Chest of Drawers, Night Stands Sofas, Living Room Chairs, & Area Rugs.</p>	<p>Mass Intentions</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Jan 6</td> <td>6:45 pm</td> <td>Word & Communion</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan 7</td> <td>4:00 pm</td> <td>Release of Holy Souls In Purgatory</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>7:00 pm</td> <td>† Dora Matchie</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan. 8</td> <td>8:00 am</td> <td>Living & Deceased Members of St. Nicholas</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>10:00 am</td> <td>† Joe Hammers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan. 10</td> <td>8:00 am</td> <td>† Bob Ess</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan. 12</td> <td>8:00 am</td> <td>† Rev Jerry Fenton</td> </tr> </table> <p>Please contact the parish office to honor your loved ones with a Mass for just \$7 each.</p>	Jan 6	6:45 pm	Word & Communion	Jan 7	4:00 pm	Release of Holy Souls In Purgatory		7:00 pm	† Dora Matchie	Jan. 8	8:00 am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Nicholas		10:00 am	† Joe Hammers	Jan. 10	8:00 am	† Bob Ess	Jan. 12	8:00 am	† Rev Jerry Fenton
Jan 6	6:45 pm	Word & Communion																				
Jan 7	4:00 pm	Release of Holy Souls In Purgatory																				
	7:00 pm	† Dora Matchie																				
Jan. 8	8:00 am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Nicholas																				
	10:00 am	† Joe Hammers																				
Jan. 10	8:00 am	† Bob Ess																				
Jan. 12	8:00 am	† Rev Jerry Fenton																				

<p>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Saturday.....Jan. 7 4:00 pm.....Chuck Mahowald Char Weber, Help Needed 7:00 pm.....Help Needed Jodee & Kurt Korkowski Sunday.....Jan. 8 8:00 am.....Jane Hanson, Bill Hays Help Needed 10:00 am.....Steve & Amy Roble, Help Needed</p>	<p>LECTORS: Saturday.....Jan. 7 4:00 pm.....Help Needed 7:00 pm.....Kurt Korkowski Sunday.....Jan. 8 8:00 am.....Tom Durda 10:00 am...Jeremy Rich</p>	<p>MASS SERVERS: Saturday.....Jan. 7 4:00 pm.....Mike S. Tony S. Christopher W. Sunday.....Jan. 8 8:00 am..... Nick Hays Help Needed 10:00 am....Tyler F. Niklas A.</p>
--	--	---



Riverfront PRINTING
 PHONE (952) 496-0202
 www.RIVERFRONTPRINTING.COM

TO PLACE AN AD,
call the St. Nicholas office:
(952) 448-2345

It's time to put your life on a brand new frequency



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

Please support these businesses... they are an asset to our community.



BERTAS FUNERAL HOME & Cremation Services
 952-448-2137

Life Insurance, Annuities & Benefits
Catholic United Financial
 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

How's your Blacktop?



• Driveways
 • Parking Lots
 • Pathways
 • Tennis/Sport Courts
 • Repairs
 • Sealcoating
 • Crack Filling

www.plehal.com
 952-445-7676

Lions Tap
 Famous Hamburgers
 16180 Flying Cloud Dr, Eden Prairie
 Bert & Bonnie Notermann
 West of Flying Cloud Airport
 www.lionstap.com 934-5299



Replacement Windows Inc.
 Windows ■ Doors ■ Siding ■ Roofing
 The Choice is Clear

Tom Gestach
 Office (952) 448-4312 Lic. #20077969
 Cell (612) 270-3264 Carver, MN 55315
 www.tjreplacementwindows.com

RALPH W. BAILEY, C.P.A.
 Tax and Accounting Services
 Form 1040 & State Returns
 COMPILATION AND REVIEW SERVICES
 Courteous • Skillful • Timely

612-743-7439 (Cell) 116 2nd Street East
 952-448-9939 (Home) Chaska, MN 55318
 E-mail: rwbtax@gmail.com



J.L.C. 952-994-1124
 Remodel Consulting & Interior Design

J.L.C. offers 3D Digital Modeling and Interior Design services to contractors and homeowners alike. Envision your project before you start. Use 3D to help you see!



212 Broadway • P.O. Box 281
 CARVER, MN 55315
 (952) 448-4580 • (952) 448-2830
 BSwanson@SwansonRealtymn.com



Business Valuation & Brokerage

Daniel C. Bauer • (952) 484-7222
 Dan.Bauer@oibmn.com • www.oibmn.com

CenturyLink Proudly Supports our Local Communities

Call 952-448-8210 today




Jean Poppler
 Cruise & Vacation Specialist

Direct: (952) 448-3331
 j.poppler@cruiseone.com
 www.cruiseone.com/jfreese

Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will.

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

Our thanks and appreciation to Jodee for all she has done over the years.



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

STAFF

Interim Office Manager
 Terri Schuster.....448-2345
 terristnicholas@embarqmail.com

Bookkeeper
 Jodee Korkowski.....448-2345
 jodeestnicholas@embarqmail.com

Coordinator of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
 Anne Hajek.....448-2345
 annestnicholas@embarqmail.com

Custodian
 Dorothy Ess.....448-2345

COUNCIL AND BOARD

Finance and Property Board
 Chair: Steve Carlson.....448-4861

Faith Formation Board
 Chair: Amy Roble.....448-5336

COORDINATORS

Cemetery - JoAnn Hasse.....612-708-4118
LECTORS - Jennifer Szaroletta.....466-5578
SERVERS - Jennifer Szaroletta.....466-5578
Eucharistic Minister - Jennifer Szaroletta.....466-5578
Sacristan - Terri Schuster.....448-5256
Prayer Chain - Darlene Mahowald.....448-4464
Welcoming Committee - Help Needed
Women's Group - Rita Buesgens.....466-5667
Ushers - Chris Konechne.....808-291-2346
Vincent de Paul Society & Love INC
 Sue Bolland.....448-2721
 Char Weber.....448-3650
 "That Man is You" - Bill Hays.....bhays02@yahoo.com
Sunday School for Children - Tamara Anderson.....361-6773
Music Ministry - Help Needed.....Church Office 448-2345
Pastoral Care - Nancy Ludovissie.....448-4266
Children's Choir - Helena Howard.....952-334-9962
Pro-life Ministry Coordinator - Barb Swanson.....448-2830
Webmaster - Nancy Tuma.....448-2456
Prayer Shawl - Sharon Menden.....496-3443

St. John Climacus (d. 649) wrote, "Prayer is a pious way of forcing God." Yes brothers and sisters, prayer gives us the opportunity to speak our minds to God frankly, without worrying about any formalities. Do we pray?

At St. Nicholas we are blessed with an active prayer chain team. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please call Darlene at (952) 448-4464.

Weekend Masses

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

Daily Masses

Rosary ½ hr. before Mass

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday: 8:00 a.m.
Friday: 6:45 p.m.

Adoration

Every Friday: 6:00-7:00 p.m.
1st Friday of each month: 3:00-7:00 p.m.

Reception of the Sacraments

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

CONFESSION (RECONCILIATION):
 Saturdays after the 8:00 am Mass, 3:45-4:00 pm & 6:45-7:00 pm, Sundays 7:45-8:00 & 9:45-10:00 am,
 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 (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults):
 Please call the parish office for more information



Sitio

JANUARY 1, 2012 – SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Congratulations Logan! It was a privilege and blessing for me to marry Helena and Trevor and now to baptize their newborn gift, Logan on December 26 in the presence of family members who indeed came from all nooks and corners of the world—from California to Australia and everywhere. As St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622) wrote, “Nothing makes us so prosperous in this world as to give alms.” May Logan always give generously in the service of his family, friends and all those he will encounter for many, many years of his life—let the face of Jesus, shine in his face.



Christmas is over, but Jesus is here! First of all, it was nice seeing you all, family and friends at Christmas. A few days ago, I was talking to Mary Omollo, our parishioner. A phrase that she said caught my attention. Yes, my brothers and sisters, even though the celebrations, the festivities of Christmas are over, even though our families and friends went back to their homes and work places, Jesus is here—He will not leave us. This is the beauty of Jesus—He is not seasonal; He is there always. Let us pray that you and I, more and more learn to see that Jesus is willing to be a part of our lives always, in season and out of season. As St. John Vianney (1786-1859) wrote, “In the living room, the place of honor should be given to the crucifix,” let us have Jesus’ crucifix as the center of our lives, center of our homes, center of our marriage, center of everything—there is not a single area where Jesus does not belong—where he does not fit in. Please enjoy the pictures from the Christmas weekend. Diane Heimerl (below) came for the 10 am Mass. Joan Austin’s daughter (top left) who is a chiropractor was also visiting here this past weekend. Bryan & Rita Buesgens’ daughter Britt &



for the 10 am Mass. Joan Austin’s daughter (top left) who is a chiropractor was also visiting here this past weekend. Bryan & Rita Buesgens’ daughter Britt &

her husband (below right) were also here.



No rest for Carver’s pillow czar! ‘No rest for Carver’s pillow czar,’ was one of the headlines in the Chaska Herald on December 22. In the words of Mike Lindell (Founder/President of My Pillow, Inc.) “Within three years, one-fifth of the world’s population will be sleeping on MyPillow. That is my goal.” Mike’s unique pillow was issued a patent in 2008 and he now has about 30 pillow products and accessories under his belt. Amidst this time of challenge; it is great to see a business flourishing right in our midst. Our prayers and wish is that this business continues to grow and help the people of Carver and beyond.

Happy Solemnity of Mary Mother of God! Every Sunday and other special days whenever we pray the Creed we say, “I believe in Jesus Christ our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary.” Further, Matthew 1: 16 reads, “Mary of whom was born Jesus.” Yes, Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary. Just as we say, John is the son of Rita, so too, it is logical to say, Jesus is the son of Mary—since Jesus is God, since Mary gave birth to this God, it is worthy and right calling her the *Theotokos* (God-bearer-Mother of God). As we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, let us enthusiastically say with St. Anselm: “No one is greater than Mary except God.”

Dear Padre! Why is Mary Called the Mother of God? Doesn’t this mean that Mary came before God? *Dear Lauren, Catholics do call Mary the “Mother of God,” but this does not mean that Mary came before God. Rather, it expresses our belief that Mary is truly the Mother of Jesus Christ who, from the first moment of his conception, was both human and divine. Catholics believe that God is a Trinity of Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit in one divine nature. We believe that God existed from all eternity and is the source of all created things. We believe also that, to save us from sin, the second Person of the Trinity, the Son (also called the “Word” in the Gospel of John) took on a human nature. God became one of us in the mystery of the Incarnation (God becoming flesh). The Story of the*

Incarnation is related in the Infancy narratives of the gospels of Luke and Matthew. Luke 1:26-38 tells us that God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary, a young woman of Nazareth in Galilee. Gabriel announced that Mary would have a child, the Son of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary consented, and Jesus Christ was conceived in her womb.

In Luke’s Gospel, Mary is greeted by Elizabeth as “mother of my Lord.” This greeting expresses the reality that the Lord, the God of the Hebrew Scriptures, is present in the womb of Mary. Other passages in the Bible testify to the same fact. Mary is the mother of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is God (Jn 20:28). Therefore, Mary is the Mother of God. Jesus Christ’s origins are both divine and human. The miraculous conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary was the moment when the immortal, eternal God took on a mortal body and entered our history. From the moment of his conception, Jesus was both God and human, thus Mary is the Mother of God. Therefore, belief in Mary as Mother of God is tied to belief in the reality of the Incarnation. This is a mystery that is beyond our understanding and must be accepted in faith. When we honor Mary as the Mother of God, we are actually professing our belief that Jesus is truly God. We are not saying that Mary came before God. Rather, the second Person of the Trinity, who existed from all eternity, “became flesh and lived among us” (Jn:1:14). Santa, Thomas M.; Dear Padre Questions Catholics Ask, Liguori, Liguori Publications, 2003, page 46 & 47.

Office Position Update! Dear Parishioners, Last week with a heavy heart we announced to you that Jodee has accepted a position with another company to better meet the needs of her family. Hopefully you had a chance to read her letter in the bulletin last weekend and hear my comments in the Masses. As you are aware, Jodee is an invaluable asset to our parish life and my ministry here as a priest. We tried every angle to come up with a workable solution that works for both Jodee as well as the church. Accordingly Jodee will continue to manage our parish finances on a weekly basis that fits her schedule and offer some support on other important matters. Terri Schuster will be our interim office manager and will be here from noon to 5 pm M-F. We would love to have some volunteers who are willing to help us in the office in the morning so that we can continue to provide the same level of service that we have in the past. Please contact the parish office if you are able to help out. We have established a search committee that will continue to

work through the process of hiring a permanent replacement over the next 3-6 months.

Sunday Reflection! The Gospel for today is from Luke 2 in which we learn, “The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” Dear brothers and sisters, ‘Mary kept all these things, reflecting them in her heart,’ is the phrase we all can meditate upon. In other words, there seems to be so much movement in the background, shepherds and everybody talking to each other ‘what a great child Jesus is.’ Mary, instead of talking about it, pondered/thought/meditated on Him in the silence of her heart. Mothers, do you take some quiet time to ponder the beauty of your children in your heart; do you quietly pray for them in the dark of the night?



In Christ Jesus,

Fr. Thomas Joseph

“If you can laugh at it, you can live with it”

Fr. Thomas Joseph

We are now looking for a new Chair for the 2013 Fall Festival. To make a smooth transition the ideal candidate would work with Patrick Dempsey during the 2012 Festival. The 5k race for the 2012 Festival is also in need of a Chair, any help you can give would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the parish office or Patrick for more information or to volunteer to help.

Our 2nd Paper Drive brought in \$296.93, while the weight of the collection was pretty close to our first drive, the price per pound was not as high.

As we begin a new year, consider signing up for electronic giving. St. Nicholas relies on the financial support of parishioners and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. To give electronically, visit www.stnicholascarver.org and locate the link to the electronic giving page. Thank you!

Modern Natural Family Planning is based on comprehensive scientific research and is healthy and marriage building! For a complete list of classes offered throughout the Archdiocese, call 651-291-4489 or visit www.archspm.org/family.