


<p>This Week's Events:</p> <p>WEDNESDAY: 6:00-7:30 PM Faith Formation Classes</p> <p>THURSDAY: 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Parish Office</p> <p>FRIDAY: 7:15 PM Prayer Group</p> <p>SATURDAY: 6:45 AM Men's Group Meeting in Parish Center</p> <p>COUNTERS: January 10 – Barb & Bill</p>	<p align="center">Sunday Giving December 27, 2009</p> <p>Children..... 5.00 Adult Envelopes & Plate..... 3,039.00 Collected to date..... 58,290.48 Budgeted to date..... 59,900.00 Net (Loss)..... (1,609.52) Christmas Collection..... 4,783.55</p>	
	<p>Lectors:</p> <p>Saturday.....Jan 9 4:00pm....Nancy Ludovissie 7:00pm....Kurt Korkowski</p> <p>Sunday.....Jan 10 8:00am....Cathy Pass 10:00am....Jeremy Rich</p>	<p>Mass Intentions:</p> <p>Jan 5 8:00 am Henry, Delores & Michael Schutrop Jan 7 8:00 am Harry & Gertrude Hatrung & Sons Jan 8 6:45 pm Thomas Hildeman Jan 9 4:00 pm Sally Meiseler 7:00 pm Henry, Delores & Michael Schutrop Jan 10 8:00 am Rev. Mark Mindrup 10:00 am St. Nicholas Church</p>
<p>MASS SERVERS:</p> <p>SaturdayJan 9 4:00pm.....Brooke WickenhauserMitchell Wickenhauser 7:00pm.....Mike SzarolettaTony Szaroletta SundayJan 10 8:00am.....Tyler FisherSam Wickenhauser 10:00am.....Thomas RobleSam Roble</p>	<p>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:</p> <p>Saturday.....Jan 9 4:00pm.....Nancy Ludovissie, MaryOmollo, & Candis W. 7:00pm.....Kurt KorkowskiJodee Korkowski Sunday.....Jan 10 8:00am.....Sharon Hartung,Cathy Pass & Mary Poppler 10:00am.....Amy & Steve Roble,Teresa Thiede</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 with Tom & Joan
Nevin's son and grandson.*



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

Business Administrator
Jodee Korkowski448-2345
jodeestnicholas@embarqmail.com

Coordinator of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
Jacquelyn Christianson.....448-9861
jackiestnicholas@embarqmail.com

Maintenance
Lester Wickenhauser.....448-7657

St. Augustine said, "As our body cannot live without nourishment, so our soul cannot be kept alive without prayer." ~ St. Augustine (354-430)

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.

 <p align="center">Bregman Printing</p> <p>206 Chestnut St, Chaska Daryl Bregman 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</p> <p align="center">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's EXCAVATING</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 align="center">Carver Country Flowers & Gifts (952) 681-7582</p> <p align="center"><small>Full Service Floral Studio Inside Treasure Chest Antiques 109 3rd Street East, Carver, MN 55315 carverflowers@gmail.com www.carverflowers.com</small></p>	<p align="center">Life Insurance, Annuities & Benefits</p> <p align="center">CATHOLIC AID ASSOCIATION</p> <p align="center">PHILIP "SAM" WELTER <small>Field Representative, Member of the President's Club (952) 448-4865 • PO Box 296 • Carver, MN 55315 www.catholicaid.org • Lic. #654197</small></p>	<p align="center">Lions Tap</p> <p align="center"><small>Famous Hamburgers 16180 Flying Cloud Dr, Eden Prairie Bert & Bonnie Notermann West of Flying Cloud Airport www.lionstap.com</small></p> <p align="center">934-5299</p>
<p align="center">Randy Maluchnik County Commissioner</p> <p align="center">Cell (612) 964-5382</p>	<p align="center">PLEHAL BLACKTOPPING INC.</p> <p align="center"><small>Full Service Asphalt Work Since 1949 Driveways • Tennis Courts Parking Areas • Seal Coating</small></p> <p align="center">13060 Dem Con Drive P.O. Box 317 Shakopee, MN 55379 www.plehal.com Jack Van Remortel President</p> <p align="center">Office (952) 445-7676 Fax (952) 445-7682 Direct (952) 224-7140</p>	
<p align="center">Replacement Windows Inc.</p> <p align="center">TOM GESTACH (952) 448-4312 Carver, MN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WINDOWS ▪ DOORS ▪ SIDING ▪ ROOFING 	<p align="center">RALPH W. BAILEY, C.P.A. Tax and Accounting Services</p> <p align="center"><small>Form 1040 & State Returns COMPILATION AND REVIEW SERVICES Courteous • Skillful • Timely</small></p> <p align="center">612-743-7439 (Cell) 116 2nd Street East 952-448-9939 (Home) Chaska, MN 55318 E-mail: rwbtax@gmail.com</p>	<p align="center">BARRY STRELOW REALTOR®</p> <p align="center"><small>Direct: 952-496-5236 Cell: 651-755-0417 Fax: 952-445-8252 barrystrelow@edinarealty.com</small></p> <p align="center">Edina Realty 1228 Vierling Drive Shakopee, MN 55379</p> <p align="center"><i>Get a FREE Market Analysis!</i></p>
<p align="center">TO PLACE AN AD, call the St. Nicholas office: (952) 448-2345</p>	<p align="center">BERTAS FUNERAL HOME & Cremation Services 952-448-2137</p> 	<p align="center">Pray for Vocations</p> 

COUNCIL AND BOARD

Finance and Property Board
Chair: Barb Swanson448-2830

Faith Formation Board
Chair: Amy Roble448-5336

COORDINATORS

Cemetery - JoAnn Hasse612-708-4118
Lectors - Sue Stromberg952-686-3128
Servers - Jennifer Szaroletta466-5578
Eucharistic Minister - Kelly Spartz605-360-0959
Sacristan - Terri Schuster448-5256
Funeral - Darlene Mahowald448-4464
Prayer Chain - Darlene Mahowald448-4464
Environment & Decorating - Tammy Castanias448-7345
Church Cleaning - Nancy Ludouissie448-4266

Welcoming Committee -
Michael & Stephanie Griesinger479-7690
Women's Group - Rita Buesgens466-5667
Ushers - Chris Konechne808-291-2345
Vincent de Paul Society & Love INC
Sue Bolland448-2721
Char Weber448-3650
"That Man is You" - Bill Haysbhays02@yahoo.com
Sunday School for Children - Tamara Anderson361-6773
Music Ministry - Barry Strelow448-4363
Pastoral Care - Nancy Ludouissie448-4266
Landscaping - Annette and Al Hentz952-270-2717
Children's Choir - Helena Howard952-334-9962
Prolife Ministry Coordinator - Barb Swanson448-2830
Webmaster - Nancy Tuma448-2456
RCIA Coordinator - Deacon Jim Huber368-9975

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: 6:00-6:45 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 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 (Rights of Christian Initiation for Adults):
Please call the parish office for more information



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JANUARY 3, 2010 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13.; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12



Happy Epiphany! Today the Holy Mother celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The word Epiphany means manifestation--Christ Jesus manifesting Himself not only to the Jews but also to the non-Jews; to the non-Jewish kings who came from the orient. Yes, the newborn baby Jesus is the King of ALL. The three kings are Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar who came to Bethlehem guided by a star. These three kings brought gifts of gold (to acknowledge the Kingship of Jesus Christ); Frankincense (to acknowledge the Priesthood of Jesus Christ); and Myrrh (to acknowledge Jesus Christ the Victim--who will be anointed with the ointment at His death). These three came to Jesus as Kings and went back to their countries as missionaries, taking the good news of the newly born King of the universe with them. As we celebrate the Epiphany let us also travel with these three wise men, lay down our gifts and burdens to Jesus, watch the baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph closely, listen to them and walk away as missionaries, spreading the good name of Jesus everyday.

Good to be carried away by the Spirit of Christmas! Every one of us could smell the joy of Christmas--December was a time of Joy and celebrations. Amidst the cold, dark days and the slippery roads our hearts were warmed because of the joy of Christmas. It is because the birthday we celebrated on December 25 was that of our God of joy. It was nice to see so many of you in the Church during this Christmas season. It was also a great opportunity for me to be able to meet your friends and family members from all over. I met many relatives of Chuck & Nancy Tuma and Rita Poppitz's son who is in the Army and came back to celebrate Christmas with his family in Carver. May the Christmas joy continue to be the *alma mater* (nurturing mother) which gives us the joy of Christ throughout 2010. Thanks to all of you for your prayerful participation in the joy of Christmas.



Mary, Mother of God, be with us throughout 2010! What a wonderful way for us to start the New Year. The first of January we celebrate Mary, Mother of God--she is the Mother of Jesus and Mother of all of us. What do we mean by Mary, Mother of God? St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians 4:4 writes, "God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law." St. Paul makes it clear that Jesus was born of a woman. In other words, Jesus is of Mary's flesh and blood. For this reason it is perfectly fitting to call Mary the Mother of God. Interpreting the words of St. Paul, Origen (185-254), one of the early Fathers of the Church from Alexandria, Egypt wrote, "Note well that he did not say, 'born by means of a woman' but 'born of a woman.'" Pope Benedict XVIth preached in his homily on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on December 31, 2006 "He is the Son of God, he is generated by God and at the same time he is the son of a woman, Mary. He comes from her. He is of God and of Mary. For this reason one can and must call the Mother of Jesus the Mother of God." Further the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church #61 reads, "The Blessed Virgin was eternally predestined, in conjunction with the incarnation of the divine Word, to be the Mother of God. By decree of divine Providence, she served on earth as the loving mother of the divine Redeemer, an associate of unique nobility, and the Lord's humble handmaid. She conceived, brought forth, and nourished Christ." My brothers and sisters, the whole point is it is perfectly fitting to call Mary the Mother of God--because Jesus is of Mary's flesh and blood. Mary is the *Theotokos* (God-bearer) because she bore Jesus in her womb. It is my prayer we the children of Mary cling to Mary like a little child. We can remember the words of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta every moment of this New Year 2010, "Cling to Mary our Mother like a child clings to its Mother's saree/clothe."



Welcome to Peter Akudugu (Seminarman from Ghana)! Peter Akudugu is a wonderful young man studying to be a priest at the St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul. After three more years of theological formation, God-willing Peter along with three other classmates from Ghana at the St. Paul Seminary will be ordained priests the summer of 2012. This past week Peter spent few days with me and he is very appreciative of all of us. Let us continue to pray for this young man and all studying to be priests.

Heartfelt condolences to Peter Akudugu and the people of Ghana! Most Rev. Lucas Abadamloora, Bishop of Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocese died unexpectedly after a very brief illness on the 23rd of December, the day before Christmas Eve. He was the bishop of Peter's home diocese in Ghana for almost 16 years. May the soul of Bishop Lucas rest in peace.

Dear Padre Question! The following was taken from *Dear Padre Questions Catholics Ask* compiled by Thomas M. Santa, C.Ss. R.
Q. What do we really know about the three kings? Were they kings or astrologers? The gospels say that they believed in stars and dreams. Does this square with our faith?

A. Your excellent question excellent question makes us realize how much mere human tradition has "embellished" some of the events described in Sacred Scripture. Historically, the name *magi* (singular, *magus*) designates members of an ancient Near Eastern priestly caste. In Matthew 2: 1-12, they are presented as wise men and astrologers of noble position.

The number three has long been associated with the magi in the gospel. However, the Gospel infancy narratives never mention their number (though they did offer three gifts – gold, frankincense, and myrrh – to the Infant Christ). St. Matthew is also silent regarding their names. However, in the 8th century, Western traditions began to call them Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Other Christian traditions have given them different names.

Though their gifts to Jesus indicate that their origin was South Arabia, it is doubtful that they were representatives of particular nations or of the major racial families. At the very least, the Magi represent the Gentile people coming from afar to find the true God in Jesus Christ. This is in contrast with King Herod and Israel. Both neglected this manifestation of God's presence even though it was in their midst.

Over the centuries, the Church has discouraged dependence upon dream interpretation and astrology as being superstitious at best. However, the fact that the Magi interpreted the stars and dreams does not necessarily contradict our Christian beliefs. They were unbelievers and therefore, at least until they offered homage to the Son of God in infancy, were not subject to God's law.

In fact, the Scriptures seem to allow for the interpretations of dreams as a possible way for God to communicate with individuals. Some examples are the patriarch Joseph, who interpreted Pharaoh's dreams (Gen 37-41); the prophet Daniel, who aided King Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 2-4); and Matthew's Gospel, where God instructed Saint Joseph through dreams (Mt 2).

As astrologers, the Magi were practitioners of a false science that claims to interpret the positions of the planets and stars and their effect on an individual's life. Astrology permeated ancient cultures, so it is not strange that astrologers appear in the Bible.

The church responded to astrology by "Christianizing" certain aspects of it. For example, the Church deliberately call Christ the "Son of Justice," thus replacing the pagan god *sol* with the one, true God. In the fourth century, the Church deliberately placed the celebration of Christ's nativity on December 25, the birthday of the sun. We emphasize Jesus as the "Light of the World" and celebrate his feast every week on "Sun-day."

With the invention of the telescope, astrology's hold on people was seriously weakened. Today, astrology survives only among the credulous, while the science of astronomy has taken over the more serious aspects of astrology. Though the Magi would feel out of place today, their impact as witness to the most "cosmic" event in the history of the universe has been undeniable.

Sunday Reflection! Today's Gospel is from Mathew 2:1-12 in which we learn about the visit of the Magi/three kings/three wise men from the East who came to adore **the** King. Even though they are kings, they came looking for **the** King, who is Jesus Christ. When they arrived in Jerusalem they asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." Their eyes were opened by the star from the sky and they came looking for the King. However, Herod the king closed his eyes from seeing Jesus, the King. Do we want to be like the three wise men who keep our eyes open so that we can see Jesus around us or do we want to be like Herod and keep our eyes closed and avoid seeing Jesus who is around us? The proverb reads, "The wish is father of the deed." Let opening our eyes more and more and seeing Jesus be the best wish for us during this new year of 2010.

In Christ Jesus,

Fr. Thomas Joseph

As you may recall, Nathan and Ryan Nicholson had a hat and coat drive for the CAP agency and collected 150 pairs of hats and gloves thanks in large part to the generosity of the parish and neighborhood. The boys far exceeded their goal of 50 and will be hosting a hot chocolate and cookie open house at the Carver Village Hall Gym on Saturday January 9 from 1pm to 4pm. Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions please call Jennifer at 952-361-3351.

Be sure to check out the new selection of CDs in our display from Lighthouse Catholic Media.

The women's group would like to invite the members of the parish to sign up to work the month of their choice for events happening in the parish. The signup sheet is located in the back of the church. Any open spots will be filled in at the Women's group meeting which meets every 2nd Monday of the month, in the Parish Center.

The next WorldWide Marriage Encounter is scheduled for February 12-14 at Kings House in Buffalo, MN. To register or for more information on other weekends, call 612-840-7630 or visit www.wwmesection8.org.

Thank you for your continued support of the Food shelf. In December we donated 48 pounds of food to the CAP Agency.