

<p>This Week's Events:</p> <p>TUESDAY: 8:00 AM Mass</p> <p>WEDNESDAY: 6:00 – 7:30 PM Faith Formation Classes</p> <p>THURSDAY: 8:00 AM Mass 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Parish Center</p> <p>FRIDAY: 6:45 PM Mass 7:15 PM Prayer Group</p> <p>SATURDAY: 7:00 AM Men's Group Meeting in Parish Center 8:00 AM Mass</p>	<p align="center">Sunday Giving January 2, 2011</p> <p>Children 13.72</p> <p>Adult Envelopes & Plate 2,083.75</p> <p>Collected to date 52,875.97</p> <p>Budgeted to date 62,203.85</p> <p>Net (Loss) (9,327.88)</p> <p align="center">COUNTERS: January 16 - Steve C. & Barb</p>	
	<p>Love INC Volunteers/Donations Needed</p> <p>Need someone to help install some software</p> <p>Need a flat screen monitor & keyboard for a family</p> <p>Need someone to walk a dog every evening around 5:00</p> <p>Need transportation for a 3 year old to school</p> <p>Need help paying utility bill</p> <p>Need drivers during the day</p> <p>Need interior plastic for 12 windows and installation</p> <p>Need weather stripping & caulking for windows & install</p> <p>Need some personal items for a young mom, socks, etc.</p> <p>Need working refrigerators</p> <p>Need a bassinette & a safe clean crib</p> <p>Need Pull-ups size 3T - 4T - 5T</p>	<p>Mass Intentions</p> <p>Jan 11 8:00 am †Winnie Riesgraf</p> <p>Jan 13 8:00 am †Joseph Mahowald (Florida)</p> <p>Jan 14 6:45 pm †Deacon Thomas F. Coleman</p> <p>Jan 15 4:00 pm †Roman Riesgraf</p> <p>7:00 pm Peace in the Middle East</p> <p>Jan 16 8:00 am St. Nicholas</p> <p>10:00 am †Delores, Henry, & Michael Schutrop</p>

<p>MASS SERVERS:</p> <p>SaturdayJanuary 15 4:00pm..... Mike Szaroletta Tony Szaroletta</p> <p>7:00pm.....Christopher Walters Krista Korkowski</p> <p>SundayJanuary 16 8:00am.....Sam Wickenhauser Nick Hays</p> <p>10:00am... Mitchell Wickenhauser Help Needed</p>	<p>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:</p> <p>Saturday.....January 15 4:00pm....Ed & Jean Poppler</p> <p>7:00pm....Frank & Gail Ruhland Sue Bolland</p> <p>Sunday.....January 16 8:00am....Jane Hanson, Bill Hays and Cathy Pass</p> <p>10:00am...Candis Wickenhauser Char & John Turek</p>	<p>Lectors:</p> <p>Saturday.....January 15 4:00pm.....Help Needed</p> <p>7:00pm....Nancy Ludovissie</p> <p>Sunday.....January 16 8:00am.....Mike Fahey</p> <p>10:00am....Candis Wickenhauser</p>
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 Pray for Vocations
 

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Happy 9th Birthday Sam!

Fr. Thomas Joseph
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www.stnicholascarver.org
 Father's Cell 507-339-8244
frthomasstnicholas@embarqmail.com

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

Sharon Menden.....448-2345
sharonstnicholas@embarqmail.com

"One who prays is a full man; one who prays now and then is a half man; one who prays never is an animal." ~ Anonymous

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.

COUNCIL AND BOARD

Finance and Property Board

Chair: Steve Carlson.....448-4861

Faith Formation Board

Chair: Amy Roble.....448-5336

Weekend Masses

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

COORDINATORS

Cemetery - JoAnn Hasse612-708-4118

Lectors - Kelly Spartz605-360-0959

Servers - Jennifer Szaroletta466-5578

Eucharistic Minister - Kelly Spartz605-360-0959

Sacristan - Terri Schuster448-5256

Funeral - Darlene Mahowald.....448-4464

Prayer Chain - Darlene Mahowald.....448-4464

Church Cleaning - Nancy Ludovissie448-4266

Welcoming Committee - Help Needed

Women's Group - Rita Buesgens.....466-5667

Ushers - Chris Konechne.....808-291-2346

Vincent de Paul Society & Love INC

Sue Bolland448-2721

Char Weber.....448-3650

"That Man is You" - Bill Haysbhays02@yahoo.com

Sunday School for Children - Tamara Anderson361-6773

Music Ministry - Help Needed Church Office 448-2345

Pastoral Care - Nancy Ludovissie.....448-4266

Landscaping - Annette and Al Hentz952-270-2717

Children's Choir - Helena Howard952-334-9962

Prolife Ministry Coordinator - Barb Swanson.....448-2830

Webmaster - Nancy Tuma448-2456

Daily Masses

Rosary ½ hr. before Mass

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday: 8:00 a.m.

Friday during Lent: Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m.
Mass following at approx. 7:15 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



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JANUARY 9, 2011 – THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17

Vocations Week (January 9-15)! Marriage is a vocation, the priesthood and religious life is also a vocation; however, during this week we focus in a special way on the priesthood and religious life. More than once, I have heard from people, "I did not consider the priesthood or religious life because nobody ever asked me." Yes, it is everybody's job to motivate our young people to consider the priesthood or religious life. Let us not be afraid of how the young person or his family is going to react: As Fr. Thomas J. Richter, in Lend Your Own Voice to Christ states on page 11, "Perhaps, at our most honest moments, we are able to recognize that the greatest obstacle to overcome is our fear of rejection." Priesthood is not a miserable life. It is a challenging but rewarding life. As I often tell good people like you, "I receive more than I give." As parents, friends, and a parish community; let us promote vocation. I have already spotted few young people from our parish who I feel would make great priests.

May Ethan Rest in Peace! Thanks for all your support to Ethan's family. May he rest in peace. Please continue to reach out to his wonderful parents and sister in whatever ways you can. There is a meal scheduler and information regarding the Memorial Funds on our website or you may contact the parish office for more information as well.

May Bernard Kuhlmann Rest in Peace! Bernard Kuhlmann, Kyloe Fisher's dad, passed away on Wednesday, December 30 at his home in Barnesville, MN. He was 76 years old. May he rest in peace.

Dear Padre Question! "What should I say to a critic of the Catholic Church, why does the Church hold on to expensive vestments, objects and buildings when they could be sold and given to the poor?"

This is a frequent question that has been asked often. The first answer that I would give to anyone is that the Catholic Church is one of the most generous contributors to social welfare in the United States, and indeed, throughout the world. Our work in education, social outreach, housing, etc. is really second to none. The Catholic Church does not operate on "either/or," in other words, either spending the money on beautifying the Church or serving the poor, but rather it operates on "both/and." That is to say, both holding on to the beautiful things like the Church buildings, vestments, sacred objects and at the same time faithfully serving the poor. As we know, someone knocks at the door of every single Catholic Church throughout the United States and throughout the world; the Church does its best to help with their needs as much as it can.

It is clear from the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, how it might be alright to hold onto rich and expensive things, as long as they are used to glorify God and His Church. For instance, we read 1 Kings 6: 11-18 where God is telling Solomon: "As to this temple you are building--if you observe my statutes, carry out my ordinances, keep and obey all my commands, I will fulfill toward you the promise I made to your father David. I will dwell in the midst of the Israelites and will not forsake my people Israel. When Solomon finished building the temple, its walls were lined from floor to ceiling beams with cedar paneling, and its floor was laid with fir planking. At the rear of the temple a space of twenty cubits was set off by cedar partitions from the floor to the rafters, enclosing the sanctuary, the holy of holies. The nave, or part of the temple in front of the sanctuary, was forty cubits long. The cedar in the interior of the temple was carved in the form of gourds and open flowers; all was of cedar, and no stone was to be seen."

Further, in the New Testament our perfect model is Jesus Christ. On the one hand Jesus loved the poor dearly and at the same time justified anointing of his feet with an alabaster jar of costly perfumed oil, which could have been sold and given to the poor. In Mark 14: 3-9 we read, "When he was in Bethany reclining at table in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of perfumed oil, costly genuine spikenard. She broke the alabaster jar and poured it on his head. There were some who were indignant. 'Why has there been this waste of perfumed oil? It could have been sold for more than three hundred days' wages and the money given to the poor.' They were infuriated with her. Jesus said, 'Let her alone. Why do you make trouble for her? She has done a good thing for me. The poor you will always have with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them, but you will not always have me. She has done what she could. She has anticipated anointing my body for burial. Amen, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed to the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.'"

What becomes evident here is that Jesus is clearly saying that the poor should not be ignored. Let us remember the many ministries he offered to the poor and vulnerable throughout his earthly ministry. However, there is also the need to give glory to God, which the Church is attempting to do when beauty is used in the liturgy. If the beauty is used for its own sake, then there is a great perversion and we are rightly critiqued. But when the beauty is seen as for the sake of something else, namely God's glory, then the use of beauty is not only fitting, but also a tool for evangelization – people will ask "What is worth this beautiful vestment? What do Catholics believe about the Mass if they will get dressed up like this for it?" Indeed, many conversions have happened over the centuries because of the beauty of the Church's liturgy.

To be sure, the presence of beauty in the liturgy should always be connected to service to the poor – I think Mother Teresa and the Missionaries of Charity are a great example of this – their chapels are always beautiful, and yet they are busy about serving the poor. The Sisters of Mother Teresa used the best vestment possible for the Tabernacle, altar cloth, priest vestment etc. yet gave the best to the poor. Mother Teresa or her Sisters never compromised buying beautiful things for the prayerful, beautiful celebrations. As

Sacram Liturgiam of Vatican II points out, "in the earthly liturgy we take part in a foretaste of that heavenly liturgy which is celebrated in the holy city of Jerusalem." If the liturgical celebration on earth is a foretaste of the celebration in heaven, is it not worth having a good, prayerful celebration, here on earth?

As a practical note, we also have to keep in mind that most of the time chalices, vestments, stain glass windows etc. are gifts to the church from the faithful. The church owes it to the donors to preserve these religious works of art, to honor donor's intent. The sacred rituals like the sacraments are celebrated with expensive vestments, sacred objects, etc. to honor God since God is the creator of all things. Using costly objects in the rituals is not unique to the Catholic Church. It is also common in other religions as well. For instance, Jewish synagogues often have ornate mantels and breastplates of precious metals for their Torah scrolls, for example. Therefore, there is no problem in using such good, Holy, Sacred objects in Church celebrations. The big challenge is for church leadership not to lose sight of their evangelical calling to be one with the poor as Jesus was, when often they live in a very different world from those whom they are supposed to serve. In the history of the Church we have Saints who sold everything and gave to the poor; we also have those who dedicated their lives making sure beautiful music, vestments, architecture, etc. are used in the Church--we need both of them.

Kevin Orlin Johnson, in his book Why Do Catholics Do That? A Guide to the Teachings and Practices of the Catholic Church points out that bishops inherited a lot of pomp and ceremony from the Roman governors. The Catholic Church is faithful in holding onto some of the ceremony it adopted from Roman governors. For example, Kissing Bishop's rings might look strange in the modern world. In the fourth century people used to kiss the bishop's feet. That is how they showed respect to the superiors of that time. At that time it was common for even emperors to kiss the Pope's feet as a sign of their spiritual authority. Today, it is still common for us to kiss the bishop's ring; it is a centuries old custom that is carried out because of the Church. [Johnson, Kevin Orlin. Why Do Catholics Do That? A Guide to the Teachings and Practices of the Catholic Church New York: Ballantine Books, 1994. Print. Page 124.] We should be grateful that the Church preserved some of the good old traditions, so that we and our children can learn the history that is centuries old. If it is not for the Church, we would have lost all those traditions from the pages of history.

Further, Catholic Customs and Traditions: A Popular Guide, points out that the Vestments that we use in the Church were not only the normal dress for the Roman governors around 4th century, they were also common dress for the middle-class people of that time. As time passed most of the clergy abandoned wearing this typical cloth worn by middle-class people of that time. However, the conservative clergy continued wearing this and that is how we have the typical priest, bishop vestments that we have today in the Church. The alb was an everyday garment. The cincture that is worn around the waist used to be a belt; the stole that is worn around the neck was borrowed from Roman civil life. [Dues, Greg. Catholic Customs and Traditions: A Popular Guide. New London: Twenty-Third Publications, 2006. Print. Page 183-184] God who has blessed us with five senses wants us to use each of them to glorify Him. Therefore, each time we look at the beautiful vestment, beautiful sacred objects, and beautiful architectural

churches they are not a waste of money; rather, they remind us of God's presence, God's grandeur and glory.

All the items that the bishop uses are of *episcopal signia* (in other words, sign of the bishop's office) and nothing about being fancy. Rather, the bishop uses a crosier, Zucchetto, Miter, Pallium, etc. with the purpose of glorifying God, with the purpose of reminding us of God's beauty and not for him to look fancy. Crosier is like a hook-like staff which symbolizes the pastoral authority of the bishop. Zucchetto is a small round skullcap worn under the miter. A Miter is a hat-like object worn on the top of the Zucchetto which symbolizes the governing authority of the bishop. Again, the point is all these are full of meaning that adds life to the worship and gives glory to God. [Trigilio, Rev. John Jr., Ph.D and Brighenti, Rev. Kenneth D., Ph.D. Catholicism Answer Book: The 300 Most Frequently Asked Questions. Illinois: Sourcebooks, 2007. 231. Print. Page363.]

To conclude, the Church outlived all the empires and cultures. Empires and cultures have come and gone. However, the Church continues to remain to this day. Not just Catholics, rather, everyone irrespective of one's religion should be grateful for the Catholic Church for preserving the age-old tradition, customs, and clothing which would otherwise have vanished. It should also be kept in mind that the Catholic Church remains the leading charitable agency in the world to this day. Yes, Church both believes in beautiful things that can be used to glorify God as well as caring for our beautiful people, the poor and the vulnerable. Until the time of Jesus' second coming to this earth, let us cry out with St. Paul *Maranatha* (Come Lord Jesus, I Cor 16: 22) and have the most beautiful liturgical celebration possible to glorify God and at the same time do the best for the poorest of the poor--both of them are perfectly possible.

Sunday Reflection! In Matthew 3 we learn about how Jesus came from Galilee to John the Baptist at the river Jordan to be baptized. Baptism is for the forgiveness of sins. After all, Jesus who is God needed no baptism. However, He chose to do so to teach us human beings the importance and necessity of Baptism. In the words of St. Augustine, "The Lord desired to be baptized so that he might freely proclaim through his humility what for us was to be a necessity." Baptism is a gentle reminder that we are to be constantly purified of our sins, of our heavy packages of daily lives. Are we faithful to empty our packages, to clean the heaviness of our lives?

In Christ Jesus,

Fr. Thomas Joseph

Fr. Thomas Joseph

When praying, don't give God instructions – just report for duty.

We will have a parish packing session at Feed My Starving Children on Tuesday, January 18 from 6 – 7:30 pm, all ages (third grade and above) are welcome to come and join us. Please use the signup sheet in the parish center or register to join our group at www.fmsc.org with registration code 94988.

Special thanks to all who helped with putting the parish center back in order for Faith Formation classes this past week. We greatly appreciate your help!