


This week's Events: MONDAY: Reconciliation 7 PM TUESDAY: Property & Finance Board Meeting 7 PM WEDNESDAY: 6-7:30 F.F. Classes THURSDAY: AA Meeting in Parish Center FRIDAY: Prayer Group 7:15 PM COUNTERS: Barb & Deb	Sunday Giving December 7, 2008	
	Children 16.04 Adult Envelopes & Plate..... 2807.07 Collected to date 55,367.45 Budgeted to date 56,502.00 Net (Loss).....(1,134.55)	Lectors: Saturday.....Dec 20 4:00pm.... Nancy Ludovissie 7:00pm.... Tammy Castanias Sunday.....Dec 21 8:00am.... Mike Fahey 10:00am.... Jeremy Rich

MASS SERVERS: SaturdayDec 20 4:00pm.....Help Needed 7:00pm.....Jennifer CastaniasEmily Castanias Sunday..... Dec 21 8:00am.....Brooke WickenhauserMitchell Wickenhauser 10:00am..... Emily GestachNick Gestach	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: SaturdayDec 20 4:00pm.....Help Needed 7:00 pmJodee Korkowski, Paul & Tammy Castanias SundayDec 21 8:00amCandis Wickenhauser, Char & Tom Kozar 10am.....Victoria Forner, Cathy Pass & Richard Kvitik
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St. Nicholas Catholic Church

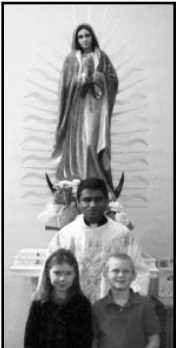
A community committed to welcoming, stewardship and evangelizing since 1868



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, Krista Korkowski & Nate Erickson
 with Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose feast
 we celebrated on December 12th.



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

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TO PLACE AN AD, call the
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Pray for Vocations

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STAFF

Parish Secretary
Parish office.....448-2345

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

Maintenance
Lester Wickenhauser.....448-7657

Cemetery
JoAnn Hasse.....612-708-4118

COUNCIL AND BOARD

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

Finance and Property Board
Chair: Candis Wickenhauser.....448-7657

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

COORDINATORS

Lectors - Mitch Perrine.....448-7535
Servers - Jennifer Szaroletta466-5578
Eucharistic Minister - Nancy Ludouissie.....448-4266
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" - Tom Kozar448-6181
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.

Confession
Saturday: 8:30-9:00 a.m. and 6:15-7:00 p.m.

Reception of the Sacraments

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

PENANCE (RECONCILIATION):
Saturdays 6:00-7:00 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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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

St. Paul whose Jubilee year we celebrate (2000th birthday), in his Second letter to the Thessalonians 5: 17 writes, "Pray without ceasing." What does he mean by it? Besides coming to Church on Sunday, occasionally coming for daily Mass, spending time with Jesus in the Eucharist on Fridays, praying at least 10 Hail Marys every day, we can also pray unceasingly by focusing our thoughts on God. How can we do it? For instance, while we drive it is good to listen to some kind of music, news or whatever. Once in a while, it is also good to turn off the radio or CD player in the car and pray in the name of Jesus or Mary. The point is we can do everything well, do activities of our daily lives normally, and at the same time as St. Paul says, it is absolutely possible to "pray without ceasing."

Just as we are called to pray unceasingly, we are also called to thank people unceasingly. We just finished celebrating Thanksgiving, we have just started the 140th celebration and Christmas is coming up. Let us never get tired of saying "Thank you" to people since it is integral to the Christian Catholic way of life. We are encouraged to go to Mass/Eucharist every day if we can. The word Eucharist means "Thanksgiving." Since Eucharist means "Thanksgiving," we can be certain that we should not get tired of saying "Thank you."

140th Celebration! We thank all those who helped with the Mass, the Pancake Breakfast and especially **Mike Fayhe** who came up with the idea and made all the arrangements for the wine tasting event.

Fr. Lee Piche (Vicar General)! Yes, the Archbishop could not come to our 140th celebration. However, people went home happy and grateful for the presence of Fr. Lee Piche who did a fine job presiding at the 140th celebration. Recently I again met Fr. Piche and he is so grateful that he was able to come to St. Nicholas and celebrate Mass with us.



Jerome Meuwissen of Guardian Angels was hit by a car and died while crossing at a pedestrian walk on Highway 41. About three weeks ago, while looking through the rectory window of St. Nicholas, I saw Mr. Meuwissen standing by the tomb of his wife and praying. I stopped by, said "Hello" to him and we had a nice conversation. He even shared with his sister Ethel about the conversation we had. Nobody ever thought he would be gone from us so soon. Let us pray for God's consolation for his family. Let us also pray for the driver whose car hit Mr. Meuwissen and who needs our help to live his life in peace with his family and friends. May our brother Jerome Meuwissen rest in peace.

Adopting families for Christmas! Members of the Parish Pastoral Council will communicate with you during the next two weekends about helping families in need during this Christmas season. As always, thank you for your generosity.

Holy Day of Obligation! It was nice to see a number of you come to Church for the feast of the Immaculate Conception, which is a Holy Day of Obligation. Perhaps, the snow discouraged some of you from coming to Mass, which is understandable. Even so, as your priest I ask you try your best to fulfill your duty to attend Mass on a Holy Day of Obligation. Fulfilling the Holy Day of Obligation is like going to Sunday Mass.

Christmas is coming! I am looking forward to meeting your children and grandchildren during the Christmas season. Our Mass times: Christmas Eve which is Wednesday, December 24th at 4:00 and 10:30 p.m. and Christmas Day at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Communal Penance at St. Nicholas on December 15 at 7:00 p.m.!

We will have guest priests like Fr. Bob White and Fr. Paul Jarvis. Hope to see you all there!

Children's Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 13, at 4:45 p.m.

Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Bring the whole family and make it a part of your Christmas celebration!

Retirement Fund for Religious! Let us generously support our retired religious who have generously helped us. There is an insert in the bulletin that gives the details and a contribution envelope. Please take the envelope home and return it with your contribution to the parish office or place it in the collection basket.



Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrations! Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of all the Americas and her feast will be celebrated on the 12th of December at Guardian Angels. We begin at 5:00 a.m. with a serenade singing to our Lady. We will celebrate a solemn Mass on Sunday the 14th of December at 12 noon with celebrations beginning at 11.30 a.m.

In 1531 a "Lady from Heaven" appeared to Juan Diego, a humble Native American, at Tepeyac, a hill northwest of what is now Mexico City. She identified herself as the "ever-virgin Holy Mary, Mother of the True God for whom we live, of the Creator of all things, Lord of heaven and the earth". She requested that Juan Diego speak to the local bishop to have a church built on the site. When the Bishop hesitated, and requested a sign, the Mother of God complied without delay. She sent Juan to the top of the hill in mid-December to gather an assortment of roses. When Juan Diego opened his tilma for the bishop, the roses spilled out and the Lady's image was seen imprinted miraculously on the cloth. The tilma, a poor quality cactus-cloth, should have deteriorated in 20 years but shows no sign of decay 476 years later. Her message of love and compassion, and her universal promise of help and protection are for all mankind. An incredible list of miracles, cures and interventions are attributed to her. As a result of Mary's appearance, in less than 10 years, 9 million pagan inhabitants of the land were converted to Christianity. Our Lady of Guadalupe, who is dressed as a pregnant native woman in the image on the tilma, was declared the patroness of the unborn by Pope John Paul II on his visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1999.

Gaudete in Domino Simper (Rejoice in the Lord Always)! Today we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent, which is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. The word Gaudete means "rejoice". We are called to rejoice in the Lord because Christmas is coming, because Jesus is going to be born. The first week of Advent we focused on Hope, the second week of Advent we focused on Peace and this third week of Advent we will light the rose candle and focus on the theme of Joy with the prayer, "Dear God, help each person in our family understand the true meaning of Christmas. Fill us with joy as we anticipate the birth of Jesus. Amen."

Sunday Reflection: In the gospel this week we read: "There was a man named John, sent by God who came as a witness to testify to the light, so that through him all men might believe ..." (John 1:6-8) Are you and I also willing to be like John the Baptist? Are we willing to be the ambassadors, the messengers, and to give testimony to this light who is Jesus Christ?

In Christ Jesus,

Fr. Thomas Joseph

Fr. Thomas Joseph

Congratulations to Lynette Morgan who was the lucky winner of The Saint John's Bible replica Book of Psalms at the pancake breakfast last Sunday!

Are you still interested in the Vatican Splendors exhibit at the Minnesota History Center? Since we were not able to do the group trip, our parish has a special opportunity to purchase individual priority tickets at a \$2 discount until December 19. You can call 651-259-3440 or visit www.ticketmaster.com/parish. The exhibit will be here through January 11.

As you may have heard, we are going to do another pictorial directory. We need every member of our parish to come and have their picture taken. The more families we have photographed, the more pages and options we receive in return. We want to get a nice hard cover book to commemorate our anniversary. Please sign up in the back of church or log on to our website to reserve your appointment time. Thanks for your help with this!

If you (or someone you know) is interested in becoming a member our church, now would be a great time to do so. Please call the office or Father Tomas so we can register you today.