


<b>This week's Events:</b>  WEDNESDAY: No F.F. Classes, Christmas Eve Mass – 4 PM and 10:30 PM  THURSDAY: Christmas Day Mass- 8 AM and 10:00 AM  FRIDAY: Prayer Group 7:15 PM  COUNTERS: Tom & Candis	<b>Sunday Giving December 14, 2008</b>	
	Children ..... 7.75 Adult Envelopes & Plate ..... 1761.25 Collected to date ..... 57,136.45 Budgeted to date ..... 58,830.00 Net (Loss).....(1,693.55)	
	<b>Lectors:</b>  Saturday.....Dec 27 4:00pm.... Zach Bolland 7:00pm.... Nancy Ludovissie Sunday.....Dec 28 8:00am.... Colleen Richardson 10:00am... Sam Welter	<b>Mass Intentions:</b>  Dec 24 4:00pm Audrey Korkowski 10:30pm Ryan Jeurissen Dec 27 4:00pm Members of St. Nicholas 7:00 pm World Peace Dec 28 8:00am Gerald Jacobs Family 10:00am Our Troops
<b>MASS SERVERS:</b> Saturday .....Dec 27 4:00pm.....Help Needed 7:00pm.....Christopher Walters .....Katarina Christianson Sunday..... Dec 28 8:00am.....Tessa Siegfried .....Chase Siegfried 10:00am..... Mary Welter .....Emily Gestach	<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:</b> Saturday .....Dec 27 4:00pm.....Help Needed 7:00 pm .....Frank & Gail Ruhland, Nancy Ludovissie Sunday .....Dec 28 8:00am .....Jane Hanson, Michael Swirtz, & Mary Poppler 10am.....Steve Roble, Teresa Thiede, & Madonna Grapentine	

# 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](http://www.stnicholascarver.org)

Father's Cell **507-339-8244**  
[frthomasstnicholas@embarqmail.com](mailto:frthomasstnicholas@embarqmail.com)

Fr. Thomas with Dave & Deb Kes's daughter-in-law and grandchildren.



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 style="text-align: center;"><b>Brenngman Printing</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">206 Chestnut St, Chaska Daryl Brenngman 448-3575</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">It's time to put your life on a brand new frequency</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>relevant radio</b> 1330 AM</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Relevant Radio™ is dedicated to bridging the gap between faith and everyday life</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Visit <a href="http://www.relevantradio.com">www.relevantradio.com</a> for a complete programming schedule or to listen on-line</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Bobcat Backhoe • Additions • Trucking • Landscaping Snowplowing • Concrete Tearout • Demolition</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chuck's EXCAVATING</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Chuck Worm • (952) 496-2874 760 W. 96th Street • Chanhassen, MN 55317</small></p>	<p><i>Please support these businesses... they are an asset to our community.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Chaska Floral &amp; Gifts</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Roman Symanitz - Parishoner</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.chaskafloreal.net">www.chaskafloreal.net</a> 208 Chestnut Street • Chaska 952-448-6691</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>Life Insurance, Annuities &amp; Benefits</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CATHOLIC AID</b> ASSOCIATION</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>PHILIP "SAM" WELTER Field Representative, Member of the President's Club (952) 448-4865 • PO Box 296 • Carver, MN 55315 <a href="http://www.catholicaid.org">www.catholicaid.org</a> • Lic. #654197</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lions Tap</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Famous Hamburgers Hwy. 169 &amp; Cty. Rd. 4 Eden Prairie Bert &amp; Bonnie Notermann West of Flying Cloud Airport</small></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>934-5299</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OTB OHNSORG TRUCK BODIES, Inc.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Manufacturing Quality Truck Bodies since 1934</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>860 Commerce Dr. E. Belle Plaine, MN 56011</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>otbmf.com 952-873-2250</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PLEHAL BLACKTOPPING</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Full Service Asphalt Work Since 1949 Driveways • Tennis Courts Parking Areas • Seal Coating</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>13060 Dem Con Drive P.O. Box 317 Shakopee, MN 55379 <a href="http://www.plehal.com">www.plehal.com</a> Jack Van Remortel President Office (952) 445-7676 Fax (952) 445-7682 Direct (952) 224-7140</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TUPY TREE SERVICE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>4975 Le Sueur Ave PO Box 308 New Prague, MN 56071 952-758-4658</small></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>T.J. Replacement Windows</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Windows • Doors • Siding</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOM GESTACH</b> (952) 448-4312 Carver, MN</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RALPH W. BAILEY &amp; ASSOC.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Tax and Accounting Services IT Support</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Friendly, Customized Service</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>612-743-7439 Phone 116 2nd Street East 952-448-9939 Home Chaska, MN 55318 E-mail: <a href="mailto:warm4h2c@comcast.net">warm4h2c@comcast.net</a></small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>Get a FREE Market Analysis!</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BARRY STRELOW</b> REALTOR®</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Direct: 952-496-5236 Cell: 651-755-0417 Fax: 952-445-8252 <a href="mailto:barrystrelow@edinarealty.com">barrystrelow@edinarealty.com</a></small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Edina Realty</b> <small>1228 Vierling Drive Shakopee, MN 55379</small></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">TO PLACE AN AD, call the St. Nicholas office: (952) 448-2345</p>	<p><b>Pray for Vocations</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Carver Country Flowers &amp; Gifts</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Floral Studio inside Treasure Chest Antiques 109 3rd Street East Carver, MN 55315 B: 952-681-7582 C: 952-270-2717 <a href="mailto:CarverFlowers@gmail.com">CarverFlowers@gmail.com</a> Annette &amp; Al Hentz, Owners</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Distinctive floral creations with an informal charm.</small></p>

**STAFF**

**Parish Office**  
Jodee Korkowski .....448-2345  
[jodeestnicholas@embarqmail.com](mailto:jodeestnicholas@embarqmail.com)

**Director of Faith Formation**  
Char Kozar .....448-6181  
[ckozar@embarqmail.com](mailto: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 Szaroletta .....466-5578  
Eucharistic Minister - Nancy Ludouissie.....448-4266  
Sacristan - Terri Schuster.....448-5256  
Funeral - Darlene Mahowald.....448-4464  
Prayer Chain - Darlene Mahowald.....448-4464  
 Mercedes Lano.....448-4798  
Environment & Decorating - Tammy Castanias.....448-7345  
Church Cleaning - Nancy Ludouissie .....448-4266  
Welcoming Committee - Kathy Dempsey .....612-987-1617  
Council of Catholic Women - Bonnie Hays.....361-3496  
Bible Study - Mary Perrine .....448-7535  
Evangelization - Jacquelyn Christianson .....448-9861  
Youth Ministry - Jeremy Rich .....361-0297  
Ushers - Madonna Grapentine .....448-2474  
Vincent de Paul Society - Sue Bolland .....448-2721  
"That Man is You" - Tom Kozar .....448-6181  
Sunday School for Children - Tamara Anderson .....361-6773  
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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#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38

**St. Paul** in his letter to the Romans 16 writes, ".the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith." Dear brothers and sisters that which was hidden for centuries, that which was a mystery, that which was a puzzle, is made known, made clear to us, clear in Jesus Christ. Are we willing to hold on to this Jesus Christ who is no more a mystery, who is no more a puzzle, but who is Emmanuel (God-with-us)?

**Fr. Bill Parron** sends his Christmas wishes to all of us. Fr. Bill is aware of all the 140th events that are happening at St. Nicholas. He will join us whenever he can.

**Chelsey Vogel** is a wonderful young woman from our parish. She is very involved in many activities of the parish like singing, faith formation, etc. Recently, she drew a beautiful picture of Mary and the Baby Jesus. You will be able see the printed version of it in the special Christmas bulletin.

**Christmas Pageant** was a great success! I was humbled to see how self-confident our children were in playing their roles. Please make sure to say a special "Thank you" to Paige Siegfried and many other parents and families who generously made this dream a reality. Following is the quote from the Christmas pageant program: "We would like to thank all of you for your presence at this evening's performance. It is a great joy to perform the Christmas pageant, and it is only due to the hard work of volunteers, parents, and the children of Faith Formation. Therefore, we extend a special thank you to the following for donating their time and talents: Shelly Bauer, Aleata Dauwalter, Jackie Christianson, Colleen Elftmann, Shelley Fahey, Char Kozar, Mary Perrine, Amy Roble, Paige Siegfried, Helen Sigurdson, Barry & Nancy Strelow, Laura Vogel and Chelsea Vogel.



As **Fr. Paul Jarvis** put it, "Lightning has struck at our parochial school." We, the St. Nicholas parish family, express our joy and pride as Mrs. Amy Gallus is one of the twelve teachers across the United States to receive the 2009 NCEA Distinguished Teacher Award from the Department of Elementary Schools of the National Catholic Association. The following is from Fr. Paul Jarvis, pastor of Guardian Angels. "There must be something in the water in Carver County, because the little, excellent parochial school that St. Nicholas, St. Victoria and Guardian Angels parishes canonically support did it again! It was statistically rare enough for our venerable parochial school in Chaska to be honored with its principal, Mrs. Nancy Ronhovde, being nationally recognized in 2003 as one of the nation's finest principals. Now, believe it or not, it has

been honored a second time with a teacher – Mrs. Amy Gallus – being nationally recognized, and just five years after Mrs. Ronhovde was awarded. As Mr. Hamburge, president of Holy Family Catholic High School mentioned at a tribute to Mrs. Gallus, winning two NCEA awards just doesn't happen. Now it has. Mrs. Amy Gallus – residing in Norwood/Young America – is one of twelve teachers from across the United States to receive the 2009 NCEA Distinguished Teacher Award from the Department of Elementary Schools of the National Catholic Educational Association. The recipients of this award, which honors distinguished teaching, come from the twelve geographic regions that compose the NCEA Department of Elementary Schools. Mrs. Gallus was chosen from a possible pool of more than 100,000 teachers. Since 2001, Mrs. Gallus has been teaching at the school founded in 1869, and has been teaching Middle School since 1994, completing a Master's Degree and an Education Specialist's Degree from the University of St. Thomas, being granted a Murray Scholarship for both programs while teaching full time. Mrs. Gallus will be honored at a special ceremony and a banquet on the opening evening of the annual Convention of the National Catholic Educational Association on April 14th in Anaheim. NCEA is the largest private professional educational association in the world. Founded in 1904, the association's membership represents more than 150,000 educators serving over 2,000,000 students in Catholic education at all levels. With its student enrollment going up as many private and parochial schools are taking a hit during this recession, perhaps "our G.A." should be called "the little school that could ... does ... and always will." Congrats to Mrs. Amy Gallus ... congrats to Guardian Angels School ... congrats to all three of our parishes: St. Vic's, St. Nick's, and G.A.

**Tom Grenchik** is Executive Director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. As we know, Christmas is about the tiny baby born in Bethlehem. No matter on which side of the political aisle we stand, we have an obligation to protect our innocent babies. For further information please visit [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife). The so called FOCA stands for Freedom of Choice Act which is a declaration of war against our babies. "As one could have predicted, the tragic and divisive issue of abortion has moved front and center into election politics. While there has been some political recognition that the vast number of abortions in our country needs to be reduced, some rather frightening ideas have emerged. One radical federal plan, which has the support of some very influential senators and congressional leaders who say that they want to reduce abortions, would actually promote abortions. No, that's not a typo. Reduce abortions by promoting abortions. If someone recommended fighting crime by subsidizing criminals, or cleaning the environment by eliminating anti-pollution regulations, or improving airline safety by making metal detectors optional, we would have good reason to be skeptical. We'd have to ask: "Where's the common sense in such proposals?" For an example of an actual federal bill that contradicts common sense, one need look no further than the "Freedom of Choice Act," also known as "FOCA." Defying all logic is the least of FOCA's problems. The bill is alarming for many reasons. If enacted early in the new Congress, as projected by its co-sponsors and their allies, FOCA would force all taxpayers to fund abortions. FOCA would eliminate state regulations that attempt to protect women from unsafe abortion clinics. It would require all states to allow late-term abortions for any reason. Even partial-birth abortions would be legal. Wherever states have passed laws restricting such barbaric abortions, those laws would be nullified under FOCA. Women in all states could be subjected to abortions performed by non-physicians or unlicensed physicians. FOCA would undermine protections for the conscience rights of nurses, doctors and hospitals that object to participating in abortions. And FOCA would strip parents of their right to be involved in their minor daughter's abortion decision. Funding abortion, radically de-regulating abortion, and crushing any conscientious objection to abortion; all this amounts to wholesale promotion of abortion. This is hardly a common sense way to reduce the number of abortions. As hard as it may be to fathom, FOCA is even more extreme than the infamous Roe v. Wade decision that gave us abortion virtually on demand 35 years ago. And while such an outrageous plan sounds implausible, the danger is real. FOCA is a serious threat to the lives and well-being of millions of women and their unborn children and to the conscience rights of all pro-life healthcare professionals. Ask your representatives and candidates where they stand on the "Freedom of Choice Act." If they really think that they can reduce abortions by promoting abortions, ask them to think again. Too many lives are at stake."

**Christmas Mass times!** Christmas Eve Children's Mass at 4:00 p.m. and Christmas Vigil Mass at 10.30 p.m. and Christmas Day at 8:00 a.m. and 10 a.m.

**Today is the fourth week of Advent.** The first week of Advent we focused on hope, the second week we focused on peace, the third week we focused on joy and during this fourth week of Advent we will focus on love. After lighting the candle pray, "Dear God, help each person in our family to grow in our appreciation of others as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. Fill us with love as we grow closer to the birth of Jesus. Amen."

**Sunday Reflection!** When the Angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus," obviously she was troubled. Yet Mary trusted in God and took the risk of saying "Yes" to God, so that she could become the Mother of God. Like Mary, are we willing to take risks in our daily lives so that good things, great things can happen through you and me?

In Christ Jesus,

Fr. Thomas Joseph

### **Please come to the Parish Center for Doughnut Sunday after the 8 & 10 AM masses today!**

We donated a total of 51.2 pounds of food to the food shelf in the past two weeks. Thanks for your help to those in need during these hard economic times.

The photography dates for our pictorial directory are January 15, 16 & 17. If you have not signed up yet, please do so today. Log on to our website at [www.stnicholascarver.org](http://www.stnicholascarver.org) to reserve your appointment. Your participation will get you a free 8x10 portrait and a copy of the directory. You will also get a 10% discount off additional portraits you wish to purchase. Seniors can take a second 10% off their purchase.