


<p>This Week's Calendar of Events:</p> <p>TUESDAY: 8 AM Daily Mass</p> <p>WEDNESDAY: No Faith Formation Classes</p> <p>THURSDAY: 8 AM Daily Mass</p> <p>FRIDAY: 6 PM Adoration; 6:45 PM Mass with Prayer Group to follow</p> <p>SATURDAY: 8 AM Daily Mass</p> <p>MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD/NEW YEAR'S MASSES: Saturday, 4 PM or 7 PM Sunday, 8 AM or 10 AM</p>	<p align="center">Sunday Giving December 18, 2011</p> <p>Children 9.75</p> <p>Adult Envelopes & Plate 3,840.00</p> <p>Collected to date 56,711.20</p> <p>Budgeted to date 60,000.00</p> <p>Net (Loss) (3,288.80)</p> <p align="center">COUNTERS: January 1 – Dick K. & Bill H.</p>	
	<p>Gap Ministry Needs to serve 40-50 Love INC Families per month</p> <p>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> <p>Dec. 30 6:45 pm †Dorothy Brose</p> <p>Dec. 31 4:00 pm †Bob Ess</p> <p>7:00 pm †Herman & Grace Schwartz</p> <p>Jan. 1 8:00 am Living & Deceased members of St. Nicholas</p> <p>10:00 am †Donald J. Smith</p> <p>Jan. 3 8:00 am Available</p> <p>Jan. 5 8:00 am Available</p> <p>Please contact the parish office to honor your loved ones with a Mass for just \$7 each.</p>
<p>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:</p> <p>Saturday.....Dec. 31</p> <p>4:00 pm.....Chuck Mahowald Help Needed (2)</p> <p>7:00 pm.....Help Needed Jodee & Kurt Korkowski</p> <p>Sunday.....Jan. 1</p> <p>8:00 am.....Help Needed</p> <p>10:00 am.....Help Needed</p>	<p>LECTORS:</p> <p>Saturday.....Dec. 31</p> <p>4:00 pm.....Mike Fahey</p> <p>7:00 pm.....Kurt Korkowski</p> <p>Sunday.....Jan. 1</p> <p>8:00 am.....Help Needed</p> <p>10:00 am...Help Needed</p>	<p>MASS SERVERS:</p> <p>Saturday.....Dec. 31</p> <p>4:00 pm.....Mike S. Tony S. Christopher W.</p> <p>7:00 pm.....Krista K. Christopher W.</p> <p>Sunday.....Jan. 1</p> <p>8:00 am..... Help Needed Help Needed</p> <p>10:00 am....Tyler F. Sam F.</p>

St. Nicholas Catholic Church


A community committed to welcoming, stewardship and evangelizing since 1868

Merry Christmas from the St. Nicholas Staff!



Fr. Thomas Joseph
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Carver, MN 55315
952-448-2345
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.



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Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will.

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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.

COUNCIL AND BOARD

Finance and Property Board
Chair: Steve Carlson448-4861

Faith Formation Board
Chair: Amy Roble448-5336

COORDINATORS

Cemetery - JoAnn Hasse612-708-4118

Lectors - Jennifer Szaroletta466-5578

Servers - Jennifer Szaroletta466-5578

Eucharistic Minister - Jennifer Szaroletta466-5578

Sacristan - Terri Schuster448-5256

Funeral - Darlene Mahowald448-4464

Prayer Chain - Darlene Mahowald448-4464

Welcoming Committee - Help Needed

Women's Group - Rita Buesgens466-5667

Ushers - Chris Konechne808-291-2346

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 - Help Needed Church Office 448-2345

Pastoral Care - Nancy Ludovissie448-4266

Children's Choir - Helena Howard952-334-9962

Prolife Ministry Coordinator - Barb Swanson448-2830

Webmaster - Nancy Tuma448-2456

Prayer Shawl - Sharon Menden496-3443

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

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DECEMBER 25, 2011 – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

Vigil Mass: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25. **Mass during the Night:** Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14. **Mass at Dawn:** Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20. **Mass during the Day:** Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18.

Merry Christmas!

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

Merry Christmas! Someone wrote, “The best gift of all around any Christmas tree is the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.” Dear brothers and sisters, as we come together to celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus, let us wrap ourselves with Christmas blessings of joy, kindness, thoughtfulness, forgiveness and celebration. We learn from the Gospel of John 1, ‘...And the Word became Flesh.’ God came down to this earth, God condescended, humbled Himself to our level. Christmas is a reminder to come down from our high chairs, to let the walls we built up tumble down, to destroy our own self-conceived assumptions and perceptions about people. Let us pray that as we wrap Christmas gifts, we may wrap each other with love, so that the distance in our marriage, in our relationship with God and others may be reduced. With St. Augustine let us wrap ourselves with joy and acclaim: “Let us rejoice, my brethren, let the nations exult and be glad because, not the visible sun, but the invisible Creator of the sun has consecrated this day [Christmas].” Enjoy the following pictures that are examples of how we have wrapped each other with the gift of love over the years:



140th Anniversary Celebration



Kyle giving me a book on Mother Teresa



Met-Con repairing our Church roof

Solemn Blessing of church by Archbishop Flynn



Volunteers cleaning and painting



Prayer shawl/Card making Ministry & Dinner in peoples homes.



Christmas manger

Christmas Flower Donations! We thank the following people who made a donation this year.

- ✠ Leonard Capaul
- ✠ Jean Brink – *In Memory of The Bleichner Family*
- ✠ Dorothy Ess
- ✠ Amy Hammers – *In Memory of Joe Hammers*
- ✠ Leon & Sue Jeurissen – *In Memory of Ryan Jeurissen*
- ✠ Jon & Patti Kellen
- ✠ Skip Low
- ✠ Charles & Darlene Mahowald
- ✠ Cathy Pass – *In Memory of John Pass, Peter & Rose Pass and Edward & Martha Dusoski*

- ✠ Jim & Mary Poppler – *In Memory of Ervin & Julia Poppler and Silverius & Joseph Schmitt*
- ✠ Barney & Marita Riesgraf – *In Memory of Ben, Mathilda, Eddie, Cletus & LeRoy Bauer and Ray, Florence & Richard Riesgraf*
- ✠ Tim & Jean Renne – *In Memory of Jessica Renne*
- ✠ Stephen & Stacy Sazama
- ✠ Doug & Mary Schoen - *In Memory of Lorraine Degnan, Margaret Gussenhoven & Barbara Mueller*
- ✠ Barb & Darrel Swanson – *In Memory of the Swanson/Williams Families*
- ✠ Steve Tacheny, Sue Bolland, Zach & Kayla
- ✠ Doug & Char Weber – *In Memory of Betty Weber*

Message from our Business Administrator!

Please read the following letter from Jodee, our Business Administrator. We will have an interim person in place as soon as possible and are beginning the process to hire a permanent replacement. Look for more on this next week.

Dear Fr. Thomas Joseph, Trustees & Board Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation in working with you all and serving the Church of St. Nicholas for the past three years. I have grown spiritually, professionally and personally from this experience. It has been invaluable and I will forever cherish the many fond memories I have. The joys and blessing in my life from this experience are countless. It was wonderful to meet so many great people while serving God through my employment.

With this letter, I hereby submit my resignation from St. Nicholas Catholic Church effective December 30, 2011. I will be returning to my previous career in the printing industry as an estimator and job planner. While I was not actively seeking employment, an ideal opportunity presented itself which will allow me to obtain a better work-life balance. This is a very difficult decision to make, but I feel it is the best thing for my family at this point in time.

I take comfort in your words that the church is bigger than any one person and I am confident that a suitable replacement can be found. I will do everything I can to ensure a smooth transition. I realize that this is a busy time of year. I am willing to be available to help as needed during this transition.

Be assured of my prayers and support for all of you in your continued ministry to the people of God and the success of St. Nicholas Catholic Church. I intend to remain actively involved in the parish and support the church just as I have in the past.

May Shawn Somerville rest in peace! JoAnn



Hasse's 49 year old son Shawn was tragically killed in an accident in Wheaton, IL on December 16. His funeral was held on Thursday, Dec. 22 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Glen Ellyn, IL. He leaves behind

a wife and two children ages 8 & 7. JoAnn is our cemetery coordinator who does so much for the church. Let us pray and support JoAnn and the family as they are going through the loss of their dear family member during this time of year.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for December!



General Intention: That the nations of the earth, through knowledge and mutual respect, may grow in harmony and peace.

Missionary Intention: That children and young people may be messengers of the Gospel and that their dignity may always

be respected and preserved from all violence and exploitation.

Sunday Reflection! The Gospel for today is from John 1, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” Jesus chose to be born as a baby so that we can take Him, kiss Him, and wrap our arms around Him. God came into this world as an infant to get near to us. God sought out simple people like the shepherds so that just as children touch and enjoy the little sheep, little animals, we may not be afraid to touch, approach, adore this God of the universe. Let us ask ourselves-- am I the icon of Baby Jesus, whom people can easily get a hold of, hold on to, talk to; or am I distant?

In Christ Jesus,

Fr. Thomas Joseph

“Walking the same path as those living in poverty and living a life of service to others provides a living, breathing example of the Good News of Jesus Christ.”

Year End Donations! Since the end of the calendar year falls on a Saturday, we will need to process donations from next weekend separately. IRS regulations require us to record your donation based on when it left your possession. For example if you are mailing it to us, we will credit it based on the postmark date. If you put it in the collection basket on Saturday it will go into 2011. If you bring it on Sunday, it will go in 2012. Please be aware of this requirement if you are specific on which tax year your donation is posted.

Open Window Theatre invites you to see “The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge,” a joyous comedy for the Christmas season. This show is a delight for the entire family! The play runs through December 30th. Open Window Theatre is located just a few blocks from the Basilica in Minneapolis. Visit www.openwindowtheatre.org or call 651-955-9123.