


<p>This week's Events:</p> <p>WEDNESDAY: No F.F. Classes, Solemnity of Mary Mass – 4 PM</p> <p>THURSDAY: Mass 9 AM & 7 PM</p> <p>FRIDAY: Prayer Group 7:15 PM</p> <p>COUNTERS: Sam & Mitch</p> <p>We donated 38 pounds of food to the food shelf last week. Thanks for your support. Next Sunday is the first of the month so we will again place the basket on the altar at offertory time. Thanks!</p>	<p>Sunday Giving December 21, 2008</p> <p>Children 10.20</p> <p>Adult Envelopes & Plate..... 1903.25</p> <p>Collected to date 59,709.90</p> <p>Budgeted to date 61,158.00</p> <p>Net (Loss).....(1,448.10)</p>	
	<p>Lectors:</p> <p>Saturday.....Jan 3</p> <p>4:00pm....Dottie Illig</p> <p>7:00pm....Zach Bolland</p> <p>Sunday.....Jan 4</p> <p>8:00am....Mike Fahey</p> <p>10:00am...Suzanne Stromberg</p>	<p>Mass Intentions:</p> <p>Jan 3 4:00pm Michael Schutrop</p> <p>7:00 pm People with terminal illness</p> <p>Jan 4 8:00am Gerald Jacobs Family</p> <p>10:00am Henry & Delores Schutrop</p>
<p>MASS SERVERS:</p> <p>SaturdayJan 3</p> <p>4:00pm.....Mike Szaroletta</p> <p>.....Tony Szaroletta</p> <p>7:00pm.....Christopher Walters</p> <p>.....Kayla Bolland</p> <p>Sunday.....Jan 4</p> <p>8:00am.....Trevor Kozar</p> <p>.....Mitchell Wickenhauser</p> <p>10:00am.....Mary Welter</p> <p>.....Samantha Larson</p>	<p>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:</p> <p>SaturdayJan 3</p> <p>4:00pm.....Butch & Dottie Illig,</p> <p>.....Nancy Ludovissie</p> <p>7:00 pmFrank & Gail Ruhland,</p> <p>.....Sue Bolland</p> <p>SundayJan 4</p> <p>8:00am.....Char & Tom Kozar,</p> <p>.....Candis Wickenhauser</p> <p>10am.....Amy Roble, Richard Kvitke,</p> <p>.....Madonna Grapentine</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 Char, Doug, Chase, Tanner and Brandon Weber as a reminder of the Feast of the Holy Family – Mary, Joseph and Jesus.



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>Breneman Printing 206 Chestnut St, Chaska Daryl Breneman 448-3575</p>	<p>It's time to put your life on a brand new frequency</p> <p>relevant radio 1330 AM</p> <p>Relevant Radio™ is dedicated to bridging the gap between faith and everyday life</p> <p>Visit www.relevantradio.com for a complete programming schedule or to listen on-line</p> <p>Bobcat Backhoe • Additions • Trucking • Landscaping Snowplowing • Concrete Tearout • Demolition</p> <p>Chuck's EXCAVATING 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>
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<p>TO PLACE AN AD, call the St. Nicholas office: (952) 448-2345</p>	<p>Pray for Vocations</p>	<p>Carver Country Flowers & Gifts Floral Studio inside Treasure Chest Antiques 109 3rd Street East Carver, MN 55315 B: 952-681-7582 C: 952-270-2717 CarverFlowers@gmail.com Annette & Al Hentz, Owners <i>Distinctive floral creations with an informal charm.</i></p>

STAFF

Parish Office	Jodee Korkowski.....448-2345
	jodeestnicholas@embarqmail.com
Director of Faith Formation	Char Kozar.....448-6181
	ckozar@embarqmail.com
Maintenance	Lester Wickenhauser.....448-7657
Cemetery	JoAnn Hasse.....612-708-4118

COUNCIL AND BOARD

<u>Parish Pastoral Council</u>	
Pres.:	Tom Kozar.....448-6181
<u>Finance and Property Board</u>	
Chair:	Candis Wickenhauser.....448-7657
<u>Faith Formation Board</u>	
Chair:	Sue Bolland.....448-2721

COORDINATORS

<u>Lectors</u>	- Mitch Perrine.....448-7535
<u>Servers</u>	- Jennifer Szaroletta466-5578
<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	- Nancy Ludouissie.....448-4266
<u>Sacristan</u>	- Terri Schuster.....448-5256
<u>Funeral</u>	- Darlene Mahowald.....448-4464
<u>Prayer Chain</u>	- Darlene Mahowald.....448-4464
	Mercedes Lano.....448-4798
<u>Environment & Decorating</u>	- Tammy Castanias.....448-7345
<u>Church Cleaning</u>	- Nancy Ludouissie448-4266
<u>Welcoming Committee</u>	- Kathy Dempsey612-987-1617
<u>Council of Catholic Women</u>	- Bonnie Hays.....361-3496
<u>Bible Study</u>	- Mary Perrine448-7535
<u>Evangelization</u>	- Jacquelyn Christianson448-9861
<u>Youth Ministry</u>	- Jeremy Rich361-0297
<u>Ushers</u>	- Madonna Grapentine448-2474
<u>Vincent de Paul Society</u>	- Sue Bolland448-2721
<u>"That Man is You"</u>	- Tom Kozar448-6181
<u>Sunday School for Children</u>	- Tamara Anderson361-6773
<u>Music Ministry</u>	- 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.

Reception of the Sacraments

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

CONFESSION (RECONCILIATION):
 Saturdays 8:30-9:00 a.m. and 6:15-7:00 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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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Lk 2:22-40

Happy Octave of Christmas! Yes, the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day celebrations are over, but the joy and good news of Christmas is not over. That is why we celebrate the Octave of Christmas. Octave comes from the Latin word *Octava* which means eight. The joy of Christmas is so great that the Church invites us to celebrate for eight consecutive days. The Octave of Christmas begins on December 25th and continues until January 1st.

Following is an edited version of a beautiful reflection on the **Christmas Octave** by Fr. Brian Doerr (The Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, 1212 South Street, Lafayette, IN 47901). Please read and meditate on them day by day from Christmas Day through January 1st, when we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, which is a Holy Day of Obligation.

From the Latin word, *Octava*, comes the ancient practice of celebrating Christmas for eight wonderful days. We are celebrating the Word made Flesh! By observing the Octave, we hope to “re-order” our Christmas observance. By adopting some of the activities suggested below your family will unite to the traditions and customs observed for centuries by our Catholic ancestors. The practice is as ancient as the Old Testament. The Hebrew people observed many feasts for eight days: the “Feast of Tabernacles” and the “Dedication of the Temple”. Today we celebrate two feasts with Octaves: Easter (being the more prominent) and Christmas. Life in the ancient world was hectic, families had grown apart and were being swept up in the older pagan traditions. The Church granted a period of eight days to contemplate the mysteries experienced in the Church’s liturgy. In comparison, we obviously need the Octave even more than the Christians of the ancient world! The ancient world did not have television, shopping malls, computers, telephones, fast food, automobiles, magazines and newspapers... if the Ancients were busily distracted, what has become of us!? If you need, take off work, visit family, feast, attend Mass, praise God, visit the poor, celebrate charity, and most of all be humbled before the Mystery: The Word of God has become man!

December 25: the First Day of the Christmas Octave, the Nativity of the Lord

In your Bible: Luke 2:1-14; the Story of the Nativity

Catechesis: Recently, Pope Benedict XVI encouraged us to overcome the “commercial contamination” of Christmas by rediscovering the Child Jesus, the Son of God made man out of love. The Holy Father wants us to experience the fullness of the Church’s celebration: “The authentic spirit of Christmas,” he said recently, “is characterized by recollection, sobriety, a joy that is not exterior but profound.”

Activity: To regain the true meaning of our observance, the Holy Father suggested we focus on the tradition of placing a Nativity crib in our homes as a way of teaching the faith, especially to children. This practice “can be a simple but effective way of presenting the faith and transmitting it to one’s children. The manger helps us to contemplate the mystery of God’s love who revealed himself in the poverty and simplicity of the Bethlehem cave.” If you do not have a crib, take time to make one or use a Christmas greeting card. Gather around the crib to sing, to pray and to adore the Christ child.

December 26: the Second Day of the Christmas Octave, St. Stephen, First Martyr

In your Bible: Acts of the Apostles 6:8-10; 7:54-59; The Story of St. Stephen’s Martyrdom

Catechesis: “The Church calls the day of martyrdom a *dies natalis* (day of birth). Indeed, by virtue of Christ’s death and Resurrection, the death of the martyr is a birth in Heaven. This is why it is meaningful to celebrate the first martyr the day after Christmas: Jesus... gave his life for us so that we too... might be willing to give up our own lives for love of our brothers and sisters” (John Paul II, Angelus, Feast of St. Stephen, 2002).

Activity: “Boxing Day” is a popular tradition in England, Germany and Holland where priests open the parish poor box and distribute the wealth to the poor on the feast of St. Stephen. Similarly, the laity imitate the Church and keep their own poor “boxes” throughout the year. The poor, according to the Second Vatican Council, is “anyone in need.” Today, find those people: the lonely, the forgotten, the shut-in, the sick, the materially or spiritually poor, and give the gift of your presence. Do not underestimate the value of your presence, the love you bring and the care you give.

December 27: the Third Day of the Christmas Octave, St. John the Apostle, Evangelist

In your Bible: 1 John 1:1-4; The Word of Life

Catechesis: Today we celebrate St. John the Evangelist who wrote a Book of the Gospel, three letters and, some believe, the *Book of Revelation*. St. John’s writings are the source of our knowledge of Christ’s pre-existence as the Word of God, his “mission” to bring light to the world, and the sacred truth that Jesus is God made man.

Activity: Take time today to “study the Sacred Page.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church “forcefully and specifically exhorts all the Christian faithful . . . to learn ‘the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ,’ by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures.” Then, quoting St. Jerome, the Catechism reminds us that “Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ” (133).

December 28: the Fourth Day of the Christmas Octave, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

In your Bible: Matthew 2:13-18; The Story of the Holy Innocents

Catechesis: When one considers the slaughter of the children, one cannot but think of today’s modern scourge of abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment and assisted suicide. Consider the parallels: Herod was afraid of losing his throne. He was quite familiar with the prophecy “A star shall advance from Jacob, and a staff shall rise from Israel... Edom shall be dispossessed.” Herod was an Edomite; and he saw the same “sign” that the Magi saw. This left him with one choice: to “die to self” or to fight for control, to violate the rights of others in an attempt to keep his power. Remember the unborn and those women and men who have been deeply wounded by the curse of abortion, especially today.

Activity: Christmas is a time for children. Read to a boy or a girl, play basketball with an adolescent, go to the movies together, or, perhaps, just *listen* to him or her. Making time to be with them and giving them your attention will make their day quite meaningful.

December 29: the Fifth Day of the Christmas Octave, Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

In your Bible: Matthew 16:24-27; Jesus calls “Follow Me.”

Catechesis: (Mark 8:36). Pope John Paul II, cautioned us that “the confusion between good and evil” is the “most dangerous crisis which can afflict man.” It is in this ‘affliction’ that the martyrs find their vocation. “By their eloquent and attractive example, of a life completely transfigured by the splendor of the moral truth, the martyrs... light up every period of history by reawakening its moral sense” (*Veritatis Splendor* 92). The man we

celebrate today, helped to reawaken a sense of justice in his own world 835 years ago. After becoming the chancellor to Henry II, Thomas was chosen by the king to be Archbishop of Canterbury. Thomas went from being "a patron of play-actors and a follower of hounds" to his vocation as a "shepherd of souls." As Henry II continually restricted the liberty of the Church, the conflict between St. Thomas Becket and the king grew. Eventually, the St. Thomas was assassinated in his own cathedral by the the king who said, “Who will rid me of this meddlesome priest?” As the assassins approached him St. Thomas declared, “I am ready to die for my Lord, that in my blood the Church may obtain liberty and peace.” ***Activity:*** Today would be a good day to bring reconciliation to those with whom we are separated for the sake of unity and peace. Thomas longed for liberty and peace to reign in the Church. We must take care not to be the cause of separation and division. This undoubtedly may be difficult to do, but we can at least pray for those with whom we have become estranged. Today, make an attempt at reconciliation.

December 30: the Sixth Day of the Christmas Octave, The Holy Family

In your Bible: Luke 2:22-40; Jesus Became Strong, Filled with Wisdom

Catechesis: There are two pillars of our Christian society responsible for the common good and the welfare of our people which have in recent years come under demonic attack: the family and the priesthood. A society which allows perversions of the family to occur, in the name of “tolerance” and “fairness,” is doomed to destruction. Jesus, through his own earthly family, demonstrates the importance of the “traditional” family to the world. Thus, families must come to see the impact their influence has on society for the good of all – and rise to the challenge.

Activity: Today, gather the members of your family together and consecrate your family to the protection of the Holy Family:

“O Jesus, our most loving Redeemer, who came to enlighten the world with Your teaching and example, willed to pass the greater part of Your life humbly and in subjection to Mary and Joseph in the poor home of Nazareth, thus sanctifying the Family that was to be an example for all Christian families, graciously take to Yourself our family as it dedicates and consecrates itself to You this day. Defend us, guard us, and establish among us Your holy fear, true peace, and harmony in Christian love; in order that by conforming ourselves to the divine pattern of Your family all of us without exception may be able to attain to eternal happiness.” “Mary, dear Mother of Jesus and our Mother, by your kindly intercession make this, our humble offering, acceptable in the sight of Jesus, and obtain for us His graces and blessings. O Saint Joseph, most holy Guardian of Jesus and Mary, help us by your prayers in all our spiritual and temporal necessities; that we may be enabled to praise our divine Savior Jesus, together with Mary and you for all eternity.” (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father) Consecration by: Father Francis L. Filas, SJ

December 31: the Seventh Day of the Christmas Octave, Sylvester I, Pope

In your Bible: Matthew 16:13-19; The Keys of the Kingdom

Catechesis: On this, the seventh day in the octave of Christmas, Holy Mother Church remembers St. Sylvester I, pope and confessor. Pope Sylvester reigned as Pontiff for 21 years, was a friend of Emperor Constantine and endorsed the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea in 325. Some refer to Sylvester as the “peace Pope” as he became pope shortly after the end of centuries of bloody persecution. Like many of our early saints, legends have arisen around him: he is said to have freed Emperor Constantine from leprosy by baptism and killed a “ferocious dragon” that was contaminating the air with his “poisonous breath.”

Activity: Have you ever stopped to think about where we would be without our Church? What if we lacked the opportunity for reconciliation, Confirmation or Holy Communion. What if we lacked the gift of our faith - the faith that has been passed down to us from the time of the Apostles? What if we lacked a Supreme Pontiff? Today, pray fervently for the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, for our Bishop, John Nienstedt, and pray especially today for the person - parent, grandparent, priest, religious brother or sister, catechist or friend - who first taught you your faith.

January 1: The Eighth Day of the Christmas Octave, The Mother of God

In your Bible: Luke 2:16-21; Mary Kept All Things in Her Heart

Catechesis: “Mary, the all-holy ever-virgin Mother of God, is the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because his Spirit had prepared her, the Father found the dwelling place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men. In this sense the Church’s Tradition has often read the most beautiful texts on wisdom in relation to Mary. Mary is acclaimed and represented in the liturgy as the ‘Seat of Wisdom’” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 721). Today’s feast, *Mary the Mother of God*, was first celebrated on January 1st in the seventh century. In 1967, Rome also inaugurated this day as a world day of prayer for peace.

Activity: Due to our fast-paced lives praying the rosary can be bothersome, even “painful” to some. Today, gather to pray the family rosary that, through Our Lady, Queen of Peace, we may have peace in our hearts, our homes, our community, nation and world. Consider this list of benefits of praying the rosary: It gradually gives us a perfect knowledge of Jesus Christ; purifies our souls, washing away sin; gives us victory over all our enemies; makes it easy for us to practice virtue; sets us on fire with love of Our Lord; enriches us with graces and merits; supplies us with what is needed to pay all our debts to God and to our fellow men; and obtains all kinds of graces for us from Almighty God.



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is celebrated this Sunday! The Holy Family is a model for all our families because the family is the “school of love.” You parents are the teachers who have the God-given license to teach in this “school of love.” Mother Teresa often used to say, “The family that prays together stays together.” You parents will have an easy time teaching in this “school of love,” when you find time to pray as a family. Yes, “The family that prays together stays together.”

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God Mass schedule (New Years Eve and New Years Day): Wednesday, December 31, at 4:00 p.m. and Thursday, January 1, at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

January 2, 2009 is the first Friday and we will have **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Photography dates (January 15, 16 & 17) for our Pictorial Directory are fast approaching!** Your continued co-operation would be a great help to our church. If you have not signed up yet, please do so by next weekend. We will shut down the on-line sign up on Friday, January 2. All remaining appointments will be in back of church next weekend. If you do not sign up for an appointment, Olan Mills will call you to schedule a time. We need everyone to participate to make our directory a success. Thank You!

In Christ Jesus,

Fr. Thomas Joseph

Fr. Thomas Joseph