

1st Sunday of Advent - November 27, 2011

Thanks for your simplicity!

A blessed Advent to one and all! We begin the season of Advent, of waiting for the coming of the Lord. I am sure you have all traveled to one place or another and possibly brought too much with you! This has happened to me more than I want to admit. It's the parting words for more than one person: "I'd travel lighter next time."

Our Lord encourages us to have this simplicity of soul in our journey through this life. "Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic..." (Luke 9:3) He does not want you and I weighed down by extra baggage. This simplicity starts on the inside, by being united with God. God is very simple. He exists in an eternal present. He is not upset about the past nor is he worried about the future. He simply IS.

Friends, this is our mother the Church's purpose in leading us through one of our two penitential seasons of the liturgical year (the other being Lent). God wants to help us simplify our life so we can be more like him and experience his joy. Let us pray for each other that we may draw closer to our Lord with the one desire to live for him.

Many of you in this community have witnessed to me and others in this department. You are close to God and have a beautiful simplicity of life that lets Jesus shine through you. I do not mean you are lacking what the world has, but that you express your faithful in such countless joyful ways. We have an army of souls before the Blessed Sacrament each day, each hour praying for all of us. Many of you make daily Mass a regular part of your lives. There is a strong devotion to the Blessed Mother here which brings down so many graces for everyone. This is a community of very hard workers. I am sure many people are edified by your love for the Lord and your quality of work and attitude for his glory. I thank you for simply (and thus powerfully) helping me and others see that this life is all about Jesus, nothing more and nothing less.

Let us continue to grow in simplicity of life by a deeper prayer life this Advent, more silence in our day, eliminating any extra baggage of our stuff and too busy schedule, giving ourselves over for the needs of others and begging our Lord and our Lady to form us into real children of God.

Thank you God for being and making our calling so simple: "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

God bless one and all. -Fr. Adams

EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Sun, Nov 27.....No Sunday School, Choir Prac. 11:15am,
Mon, Nov.28.... Rosary in Chapel 7pm
Tues, Nov. 29....NO Morning Mass, Fatima Rosary, Choir Practice 7pm,
Mass @ 6pm, dinner to follow & talk on "End of Life Issues" (everyone is welcome)
Wed, Nov. 30.... Religious Ed 6:15pm, Christmas Tree Lot Open 5-8
Thurs, Dec. 1.....Mother's Group 9:30am, KC meeting 7:30pm,
Christmas Tree lot Open 5-8
Fri, Dec. 2.....Christmas Tree Lot Open 5-8
Sat. Dec. 3.....Wedding, Bake Sale & Chili Sale in church basement
6pm, Christmas Tree lot Open 11-5
Sun, Dec. 4.....Sunday School 10am, Choir Prac. 11:15am, Pageant
Practice. 12pm, Christmas Tree lot open 11-5, Pancake & Sausage
Breakfast 8am - 12pm, CMLG Bake Sale 8am - 12pm, Chili for sale
8am - 12pm, CMLG Christmas Party/Christ Child Shower 6:30pm

Morning Prayer: Everyone is Welcome

Tuesday - Friday at 7:25am & Sat at 7:55am in the church

Whirlpool Gas Range for sale, 30x26. If interested in buying please call Leander Wagner at 461-2368

We want your input on the Cadillac Dinner. Please fill out the form found in your pew and drop in the collection basket or in the box in the back of church.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS.... for Tuesday November 29th evening Mass at 6pm, supper and a talk on end of life issues, by Deacon Dan Gannon.

Nativity Set Raffle...

The Golden Heats are having a raffle to help the Angel Fund at Holy Cross. A donor will match any money donated by Dec. 10th. The Nativity Set is on display in the back of church. Chances are \$1.00. The drawing will be held on Dec. 4th during the CMLG Christmas Party.

Chili to go.....will be for sale on Sat. & Sun. Dec. 3rd & 4th after all masses in the church basement. Along with the CMLG's Bake Sale and the KC's Pancakes & Sausage breakfast..

CMLG--Giving Tree for Scott County Human Services



Again this year we have adopted local needy families to help this holiday season. Family #136 is a young family with 4 children, one who is developmentally delayed. The Mom needs to stay home with him so only the Dad is employed in this family. Family #139 is a single Mother raising three children. The two year old has severe autism. If you would like to help support these families please pick a tag from the giving tree. On the back of the tag, the item which needs to be purchased for that family is listed. On the clipboard next to the tree, please write your name next to the item you will be purchasing (tags are numbered). Item should be wrapped and the tag or a label put on it with the code number and description of the item. Especially with clothing items, you might want to include a gift receipt, in case the style or size does not fit. You may bring the gifts to church anytime and mark on the clipboard with the highlighter when returned. Last collection date is Sunday, December 11th. Thank you for your generous giving this Holiday Season.

Knights of Columbus Coming Events.....



Christmas Tree Sale...

The New Market Knights of Columbus will be selling Christmas Trees Nov. 25th - the week of Christmas, at the corner of 2 & 91 in Elko New Market. Please support the KC's by purchasing your tree and wreaths from them.

Christmas Cards are coming soon. They will be sold in the back of church, watch the bulletin for sale dates.

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 4th in the church basement. Serving 8am - noon. Everyone is welcome! All proceeds will go to Father Reiser's Haiti Project.

If you are a catholic male in good standing with the church and have some time and talent to give, see what the Knights of Columbus can do for you. Contact Mike Kaderlik at 651-210-8644 or makaderlik@mchsi.com.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT.....

If your child is 4 years and older and is interested in being part of the beautiful Christmas pageant here at St. Nicholas Church on Christmas Eve before the 4pm mass, we would love to have them join us for practice on Sunday Dec. 4, 11 and 18th at 12pm in the church. Practices will last about 1 hour and on the 18th we will have a full dress rehearsal. Parents volunteers are needed too. To sign up please call Lisa at the Parish Office 952-461-2403.

PRAYER FOR LIFE! Join us every 2nd Saturday of the month for prayer in Minneapolis at Midwest Health Center

(<http://www.midwesthealthcenter.org/>) on 5th and Hennepin. If you feel called to come, we invite and urge you to do so and be a part of the solution to the scourge of abortion. This is not meant to point fingers at anyone but to invite those involved in this crime to join us in the path of conversion. This Saturday November 12 we will go again. We meet here in the parking lot at 7:45am, we pray up there from 8:30-10am. There is no

Saturday morning Mass that day. Please pray for a culture of life and civilization of love. -Fr. Adams

BOOK CLUB

Book Club Schedule, Dec 14 & 28. If you are interested in joining please call Deb Streefland at 652-2349.

CHOIR

St. Nicholas Choirs are looking for singers for the Advent-Christmas masses! Each year, a number of folks join us for these special liturgies so they can participate in the beautiful music of the holidays. Youth Choir (grades 1-8) rehearses Sundays, 11:15am-12:00pm and will sing at the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass; participants in the Christmas pageant are welcome to sing in the choir during Mass! St. Nicholas Adult Choir (high school and older) has rehearsals throughout Advent on Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30pm, and sings at several masses during the season including the 10:00pm Christmas Eve Mass. The first Adult Choir Christmas rehearsal is November 29 at 7:00pm in the Choir Loft. Call Scott for more details: (952) 403-9211 or email scottlehrke@hotmail.com.

CMLG Holiday Events



The annual Holiday Bake sale is scheduled for **Saturday, December 3rd after the 5:00 pm Mass and Sunday, December 4th after both Masses in the church basement.** All Ladies of the parish are asked to please drop off your baked good donations or craft items before Mass on the table in the church basement. Come shop with us and pick up some

wonderful Holiday treats to share. Then enjoy a mouth watering breakfast cooked up by the Knights of Columbus after the morning Masses. Any questions please call Dana at 952-461-2492.

Annual CMLG Christmas Party and Christ Child Shower is scheduled for Sunday, December 4th at 6:30 pm in the church basement. The Christ Child Shower is in honor of the Birth of Jesus. Baby items and cash will be collected from all to be donated to local pregnancy resource centers. Please bring a **Wrapped** \$5 gift for our gift exchange game and a new, unwrapped baby gift or monetary donation for the Shower. At the party we will enjoy our choir director Scott Lehrke as our guest for a Christmas Sing-Along, play a game, enjoy social time, treats and refreshments. Come make new friends and celebrate the holidays! A special welcome to all the new ladies of the parish and to those that may not have attended in the past. Consider making this a holiday tradition for yourself!

Again This Year-- The event is open to the ladies of the parish and their daughters or granddaughters of all ages. Please bring a wrapped gift for them to exchange in a game! Any questions please call Dana at 952-461-2492.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

During Advent, amidst all the busyness of the season, it is so important to take time to focus on our relationship with Jesus. What better way to do this than to spend a Holy Hour with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament!

Thanksgiving schedule

The Adoration Chapel will close on Wednesday, November 23rd at 6 pm, stay closed through the weekend, and will reopen on Monday, November 28th at 8 am.

HELP IS SO NEEDED!

Please prayerfully consider helping with a Holy Hour. Adorers are needed especially for the following hours: **Sunday:** 3 pm, **Thursday:** 3 pm, **Saturday:** 3 am, 1 pm (on first Saturdays of the month), 8 pm.

To sign up as an Adorer or for more information on Adoration, please contact Dan and Lynne Soderlund at (507) 645-6012.

LNMV RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes resume this Wednesday, November 30th – 6:15pm – 7:30pm

Dead Theologian Society Meeting:

We **need volunteers (you don't have to be parents of teens to give of your time and talent) to help with preparing and serving meals for DTS students in Dec, Jan, Feb, and March. For more information or if you would like to volunteer please call Molly Havlicek at [952-461-2933](tel:952-461-2933) Next DTS Sunday is **December 11th, 2011** from 6:00pm- 9:00 pm at St. Nicholas Campus in New Market. All High School Students are invited to come!!!!

Mass Intentions			
Sat	26	5:00 pm	Stuart & Joyce Russell+
Sun	27	8:00 am	Leo & Anna Stencil+
Sun	27	10:00 am	For the Parish
Tues	29	6:00 pm	Loretta Mahowald+
Wed	30	8:00 am	Cyril Thelen+
Thurs	1	8:00 am	Elizabeth Friedges+
Fri	2	8:00 am	Fr. Jerry Fenton+
Sat	3	8:30am	Chris & Rose Simones Family
Sat	3	5:00 pm	George & Luciel DeGonda+
Sun	4	8:00 am	Dan & Linda Simones
Sun	4	10:00 am	For the Parish

Daily Scriptures		
Mon	Isaiah 2:1-5	Matthew 8:5-11
Tue	Isaiah 11:1-10	Luke 10:21-24
Wed	ROMANS 10:9-18	MATTHEW 4:18-22
Thu	Isaiah 26:1-6	Matthew 7:21,24-27
Fri	Isaiah 29:17-24	Matthew 9:27-31
Sat.	Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26	Matthew 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8
Sun	Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11/2	Peter 3:8-14/Mark 1:1-8

Liturgical Stewardship		Dec. 3 & 4
5pm	Lectors:	Jan Freeman-H
	Ministers:	Bill Vogel-Ch-H
	Servers:	Steven & Joseph Conway
	Choir:	Adult Choir & Scott Lehrke
8am	Lectors:	Mike Moeller-H
	Ministers:	Mike Cole-Ch-H
	Servers:	Peter Hilpisch, Mike Cole
	Choir:	Liz Bunnell & Mary Hilpisch
10am	Lectors:	Matt Damiani
	Ministers:	Jackie Devine-H, Jen Chromy-Ch-H
	Servers:	Matt Alacheff, Joseph & Andrew Panka
	Ushers:	Tony Nelson, Jeff Merritt
	Choir:	Dan & Lynne Soderlund

Sacrificial Support: Week21 / Nov 20	
Budget: \$7114	Budget-to-date: \$149394
Received: \$6054	Received-to-date: \$97850
Capital Improvement \$50	

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HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Just a reminder that the poinsettia plant pick up date is December 2nd from 3 – 6 PM!

Advent Sharing begins this week. We will be collecting toys through December 2nd. If you have toys you wish to donate, please bring them to the school.

The matching grant to the Angel Fund has grown to \$4,755! We only need \$245 to go to reach the total \$5,000! We are so thankful to those who have donated thus far. If you wish to donate, please call Principal Lisa Reichelt at (952) 652-6100.

The Holy Cross School Christmas Program is on Tuesday, December 13th at 1 & 7 PM. All are welcome to come and enjoy the show!

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MOTHER'S GROUP

Mother's group will be held on Thursday, Dec. 1, and Dec. 15. We meet each month at Deb Streefland's home at 9:30am. Contact info - Lisa Damiani at 651-203-7734 and Molly Havlicek 952-461-2933

PRO-LIFE

Children long for someone to accept them, to love them, to praise them. Let us bring the child back to the center of our care and concern. This is the only way the world can survive because our children are the only hope of the future.
Mother Teresa

YOUTH GROUP

St. Nicholas youth are invited to tour Pregnancy Choice Center in Apple Valley to learn about their mission in saving lives of the unborn. We will leave the church parking lot at 5pm tonight, Sunday November 27th. If you are interested in attending please contact Molly Havlicek at 952-461-2933.

AREA NEWS

Discernment Day for Single Women, Saturday, December 3, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 561 Hamline Avenue South, St. Paul, MN 55116. Wonder where your life is going? Want some help along the way? Through prayer, input, reflection and discussion, we will explore attitudes and tools needed for making life choices – with Advent light and wisdom as guides. The day, including lunch, is our gift to you. Registration is required by November 28. Visit www.ssnd.org to register online, or contact Sister Joyce Kolbet, 507-389-4296, vocations@ssndcp.org.

EXPLORE YOUR VOCATION Dec. 16-18

Men interested in priesthood, between ages 18 and 40, are invited to a retreat December 16-18, 2011, from 6:30 Friday evening to noon on Sunday. Communal and private prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, and presentations by Archbishop Nienstedt are designed to help participants discern their future vocation.

Contact the Vocation Office by **DECEMBER 8** at 651-962-6890 or stpaulpriest@10000vocations.org. A referral from a priest or Religious is needed to register, and \$75 is asked toward the cost of room and board. No one will be turned away for financial reasons.

Waffle and Pancake Breakfast with Santa

The Shakopee Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Waffle and Pancake Breakfast, with an appearance by Santa, on Sunday, December 11, 2011, at the Shakopee Knights Event Center, 1760 4th Ave E, in Shakopee.

Belgium waffles with toppings, pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit, coffee, milk, and juice, will be served continuously from 8:00 AM to Noon. The cost is \$7.00 per adult, \$5.00 ages 5 to 12, and 4 and under are free.

Shrimp & Steak Dinner

The Shakopee Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Shrimp and Steak Dinner on Friday, December 9, 2011, at the Shakopee Knights of Columbus Hall, 1760 4th Ave. E., in Shakopee. Fried shrimp, sirloin steak, with mushrooms, baked potato, Texas toast, salad bar, dessert and coffee or milk will be served continuously from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. The cost is \$12.00 for shrimp or steak, or \$15.00 for both. Children's meal are available at a cost of \$3.00.

An Evening with St. Nicholas

Come enjoy an evening of music and refreshments at the St. Nicholas Party, hosted by the Catholic Servant, Friday, December 2, from 7-9PM at Rowan Hall, St. Helena Church (3204 East 43rd St.) in Minneapolis. The evening features Christmas carols by the University of St. Thomas Concert Choir, gourmet desserts, punch, coffee and wine, and a visit by St. Nicholas bearing treats for the children. Cost is \$25/single, \$35/couple, \$5/child, \$45/family or \$200/table of 8. Call 763-502-0792 for more information and to register. Payment accepted at the door.