The Churches of The Guardian Angels and Saint Nicholas

215 Second Street West, Chaska, MN 55318 • www.gachaska.org • (952) 227-4000 412 Fourth Street West, Carver, MN 55315 • www.stnicholascarver.org • (952) 448-2345

Office Hours

Monday: 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Thursday: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
Guardian Angels Staff

Parish Office Front Desk:

info@gachaska.org 952-227-4000

Father Tony VanderLoop, Pastor:

frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org (952) 679-9415

Deacon John Cleveland:

jcleveland@gachaska.org

Joel Swanson, Business Administrator/ Safe Environment Coordinator:

jswanson@gachaska.org (952) 227-4001

Brittany Kaufmann, Director of Music and Liturgy:

bkaufmann@gachaska.org (952) 466-6969

Fran Oprosko, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry:

foprosko@gachaska.org (952) 466-6984

Viviana Sotro, Latino Ministry Coordinator:

vsotro@gachaska.org (952) 227-4010

Bulletin:

bulletin@gachaska.org

Prayer Chain:

prayer@gachaska.org

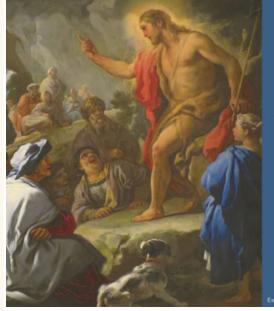
Saint Nicholas Staff Father Tony VanderLoop, Pastor:

frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org (952) 679-9415

Joel Swanson, Business Administrator/ Safe Environment Coordinator:

jswanson@gachaska.org (952) 227-4001

Father Jim Devorak, Retired



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

610

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. - Jn 1:6-7

xcerpts from the Lectionary for Mass @2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

December 17th, 2023

Weekly Liturgy Schedule / Horario de Misas

Sunday Masses:

Saturday: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. at Saint Nicholas Sunday: 12:30 p.m. in Spanish

Daily Masses:

Tuesday: 5:30 p.m. Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. Thursday: 8:00 a.m. Friday: 6:00 p.m.

bilingual at Saint Nicholas

Reconciliation:

Saturday: 8:00 -8:45 a.m. Saturday: 3:15 -4:15 p.m. Or by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration:

Thursday: 8:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Misas dominicales:

Sábado: 4:30 p.m.

Domingo: 8:00 a.m. / 10:00 a.m. Domingo: 12:30 p.m. en español

Misas diarias:

Martes: 5:30 p.m. Miércoles: 8:00 a.m. Jueves: 8:00 a.m. Viernes: 6:00 p.m.

bilingüe en San Nicolás

Reconciliación:

Sábado: 8:00-8:45 a.m. Sábado: 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Adoración Eucarística:

Jueves: 8:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Grupo de Oración

Jueves: 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Guardian Angels Lay Leadership Positions

Dan Bergner, Trustee: (952) 367-7432 **Kris Janey, Trustee:** (612) 325-9284

Leo Forner, Facilities Council Chair: (952) 448-3312 Steve Rasmussen, Cemetery Board Chair: (952) 227-4000 Scott Guillemette, Finance Council Chair: (952) 227-4000 Bill Van Hecke, Pastoral Council Chair: (612) 812-8615

Saint Nicholas Lay Leadership Positions

JoAnn Hasse, Cemetery: (612) 708-4118

Darlene Mahowald, Prayer Chain/Funeral: (952) 448-4464 John Turek, Trustee, Finance/Property Chair: (952) 448-2345

Dan Svoboda, Trustee: (952) 448-2345

Prayer Garden: (952) 913-4964

BULLETIN SUBMITTALS

Please submit announcements, feature articles, or event summaries for the bulletin for Guardian Angels or St. Nicholas by email at bulletin@gachaska.org by 12 p.m. the Tuesday before. Photographs must be in .jpg format.

ENVÍOS AL BOLETÍN

Si tiene algo que enviar para el boletín de Guardian Angels o St. Nicholas, envíe un correo electrónico a bulltin@gachaska.org antes de las 12:00 p.m. el martes anterior. Fotografía debe estar en formato .jpg.

GET THE BULLETIN EMAILED DIRECTLY TO YOU!

Did you know that you can get this bulletin sent to your email inbox? You can! Text GACHASKA to 84576, add your email address, and join the "Bulletin" group.

RECIBE EL BOLETÍN POR CORREO ELECTRÓNICO ¡DIRECTAMENTE A USTED!

¿Sabías que puedes recibir este boletín en tu bandeja de entrada de correo electrónico? ¡Puedes! Envíe un mensaje de texto con GACHASKA al 84576, agregue su dirección de correo electrónico y únase al grupo "Boletín".

ANOINTING

If you wish to receive an anointing please call the Parish Office: (952) 227-4000.

HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, AND HOMEBOUND VISITS

Churches are no longer notified by hospitals or nursing homes when a parishioner is admitted unless the family has requested it. If you or a family member are homebound, hospitalized or in a nursing home and would like a visit from a member of the ministry staff, please call the Parish Office.

Church Calendar

Monday, December 18th

4:00 p.m. Huskies Basketball, Gym

Tuesday, December 19th

4:00 p.m. Huskies Basketball, Gym

7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 20th

8:00 a.m. Mass, & Ruth Pass

6:00 p.m. Church Decorating

6:15 p.m. Faith Formation, GA Campus Wide

Thursday, December 21st

8:00 a.m. Mass, ⊕ Mary Meyer 4:00 p.m. Huskies Basketball, Gym

Friday, December 22nd

6:30 p.m. Mass, Jeanne Sutch

Saturday, December 23rd

8:00 a.m. Reconciliation, GA Church

9:30 a.m. Decorating, GA Church

1:00 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft

3:15 p.m. Reconciliation, GA Church

Sunday, December 24th

9:00 a.m. Mass (Bilingual), & Patricia Topinka 10:00 a.m. Decorating, GA Church 3:00 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft 4:00 p.m. Mass, & Arlan Pauly 10:00 p.m. Mass, & Domenica Oprosko

Mass Intentions:

Mass intentions may be for the living and/or the departed, with a \oplus designating in the bulletin a deceased person. There is a \$10 suggested donation per Mass intention. Permission from the sick person or his/her family must be granted before a name's inclusion in these prayers. To schedule a Mass intention, please call the Parish Office.

Baptism:

Our Baptism Belonging Class is required for all parents as a first step to Baptism of your child. Please call Father Tony VanderLoop, Pastor, at 952-679-9415 to sign up for a class. We encourage Godparents to attend. Baptisms are scheduled once per month after the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. Special dates requested for Baptism will be considered and accommodated depending on circumstances.

Matrimony:

Marriage preparation is required. Please call Father Tony VanderLoop, Pastor, at 952-679-9415 at least 8 months in advance.

Communion for the Homebound:

When we come together to pray at our Eucharistic liturgy, we do not forget the members of our community who are unable to be with us because of ill health. We remember them in our prayers, and we wish to include them in our Holy Communion. Members of our community bring the Blessed Sacrament to them to comfort them and to unite us in the Eucharist. We are not always aware of those who have this need. Please call the Parish Office to let us know if you or a member of your family would like to have Holy Communion brought to them. Then we can schedule a time for our ministers to visit and bring the Sacrament.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25 Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38 Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/ Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56 Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

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

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Domingo: Is 61, 1-2. 10-11/Lc 1, 46-48. 49-50. 53-54 (Is 61, 10)/1 Tes 5, 16-24/Jn 1, 6-8. 19-28

Lunes: Jr 23, 5-8/Sal 71, 1-2. 12-13. 18-19/Mt 1, 18-25 Martes: Jue 13, 2-7. 24-25/Sal 70, 3-4. 5-6. 16-17/Lc 1, 5-25 Miércoles: Is 7, 10-14/Sal 23, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6/Lc 1, 26-38 Jueves: Cant 2, 8-14 o Sof 3, 14-18/Sal 32, 2-3. 11-12. 20-21/Lc 1, 39-45

Viernes: 1 Sm 1, 24-28/1 Sm 2, 1. 4-5. 6-7. 8/Lc 1, 46-56 Sábado: Mal 3, 1-4. 23-24/Sal 24, 4-5. 8-9. 10 y 14/Lc 1, 57-66 Domingo siguiente: 2 Sm 7, 1-5. 8-12. 14. 16/Sal 88, 2-3. 4-5. 27. 29 (2)/Rom 16, 25-27/Lc 1, 26-38

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



All of the people in today's readings—the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist—seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

Year-To-Date 7/1/23—12/04/23

	Guardian Angels	St. Nicholas
Budget	\$325,243	\$26,151
Sunday Collection	\$18,504	\$1,333
Contributions	\$6,090	\$1,000
Total Giving	\$288,651	\$27,888
Amount above or below	-\$36.592	+\$1.737

Maintenance Expenses Paid 7/1/23 to Date:

Friary Doors (1/3 down), Church Fence (2nd half), Repair Sanctuary/Sacristy windows, replace furnace room windows, church boilers (97%), Gym Lights

Guardian Angels Maintenance Fund:

7/1/23—10/31/23 Contributions: \$18,281 7/1/23—10/31/23 Expenses: \$98,036 Fund Balance: \$94,497

Please remember the Church of the Guardian Angels or Saint Nicholas in your Will.



PARISH EVANGELIZATION CELLS SYSTEM—A NEW KIND OF SMALL GROUP

In chapter two of Sherry Weddell's *Forming Intentional Disciples*, titled "We Don't Know What Normal Is," Weddell makes the case that "normal" Catholicism should include dimensions of Christian life that are often considered extraordinary today. Number six in her "It is Normal" list reads, "It is NORMAL for lay Catholics to have the fellowship of other committed lay Catholics available to them, to encourage, nurture, and discern as they attempt to follow Jesus" (p. 60). Small groups are a proven approach to providing and living out such fellowship. However, it is uncommon for Catholics to live this way. Our archbishop desires that small groups would become an ordinary part of parish life.

By now, you are probably asking about the practicals. What will these groups look like? What will we do? What will we study? First, before I get to the answers to these very good questions, let me say that PECS are "cells" that are meant to multiply. They are essentially missionary communities that empower its members to live the Great Commission by inviting others into the life of the Cell through a very prayerful and intentional pathway.

There will be seven moments of a cell meeting in an hour and a half of time. The first will be Song and Prayer of Praise. This time of praise frees us from the fatigue of the day, places Jesus at the center, opens us to the love of God and of our sisters and brothers, invokes the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide us, to educate us, and to make us docile to his teachings, and inspires peace and forgiveness. You may feel a little apprehension about signing together. However, joy and enthusiasm are more important than a beautiful voice. We let God do the rest. We will provide some resources here.

The second is personal sharing for about 20 minutes. One of the great moments of a Cell meeting is when the members share about God's presence and activity in their lives. This focuses on two questions: What has God done for me this week? What did I do for God this past week? These personal testimonies are a gift that each one gives to the others and are a way to be attentive to the daily expression of God's love in our lives.

The third is teaching of the pastor or other teaching for about 15-20 minutes. The teaching could be, through video or sound recording, another way for the pastor to be present to his people. The teachings are aimed at helping all present, at different levels of spiritual maturity, to grow in understanding of the Gospel and the teachings of the Church, as well as to stimulate spiritual growth. This step is linked to the next one, which aims to apply one's concrete experiences and personal life to the life-giving Word of God.

The fourth moment is the discussion and application of the teaching. The leader facilitates the discussion in such a way so as to ensure that conversation remains on topic so that members can seek to integrate the teaching and apply the word of God in their daily lives. It is a time of reciprocal growth as the reflection of one member edifies the other.

The fifth moment is announcements. What would a Catholic group be without announcements? But, more seriously, this moment helps to establish the Cell as a fundamental part of parish life, as important happenings are communicated by an Executive Cell Team. It is through this communication that the Cell is integrated with the life of the parish and, thus, the Archdiocese.

The sixth moment is intercession. The praise, sharing and meditation on the Word proposed by the teaching all lead us to intercede. In the Cell, we intercede, above all, so that evangelization is truly "new" among those whom we know, in our parish, and in the Church. For example, we pray for those whom members know whom they are hoping to bring closer to Jesus.

The seventh moment is healing prayer. The leader might invite those who are in need of special prayer to make that need known with confidence. It is a very special time of affirmation for those in the Cell who are feeling the stresses of life. They should be able to go away knowing that they are loved and supported by God and their brothers and sisters. It is not obligatory to offer a healing prayer at each Cell meeting. But it may be requested or the leader may perceive quite clearly that it is needed.

May God bless these moments that we will have with each other. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).

21ST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK BAKE SALE



December 16th and 17th in St. Francis Hall after the 4:30 p.m., 8 a.m., and 10 a.m. Masses. All parishioners are asked to donate their favorite cookies, bars, breads, and candies. Drop off treats starting at 3:30 p.m. Saturday. This is your opportunity to dazzle us with your baking abilities. Choose from hundreds of cookies and bars to build a custom tray of your favorites. Trays are weighed and priced \$9/pound. These are the best Christmas goodies in town. Hosted by Guardian Angels Council 19.

This event is eligible for a matching grant from Catholic United Financial of up to \$1000.

Local Rep.: Team Countryside (800) 568-6670, www.catholicunitedfinancial.org



PRO-LIFE PRESENTATION—ALL ARE WELCOME!

Thursday, January 11th, 6:30 p.m., St. Francis Hall

Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL) will offer a brief pro-life presentation about new anti-life laws that threaten unborn babies, and what we can do to build a pro-life culture. The meeting will be held on Thursday, January 11st at 6:30 p.m. in Saint Francis Hall. For more information, visit mccl.org/12K

PIANO IN NEED OF NEW HOME

For decades, the piano in the gym has provided memories for many parishioners. From school concerts to piano lessons it has been a cherished item at our parish. Today, the piano is now looking for a retirement home. It is starting to show its age in scratches, dents, and significant chips, but still has the same heart on the inside. This piano would be best for someone who likes restoring old pianos or someone who would like a piano who doesn't mind doing a little bit of work.

Free to a parishioner or loving home. Pickup only.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



On Tuesday, December 5th, Deputy Grand Knight Steven Rasmussen presented Fr. Tony VanderLoop a check for \$10,000 from Knights of Columbus Council 9141 Chaska for general expense purposes.

CUT-OUT ON ADVERTIZING PAGE

Some of you may have noticed that there is a new "ad" on the back page. It is not actually an ad, but a cut-out that you may use to show appreciation. Whenever you patronize a business on the back of the bulletin, you may cut out the "Thank You" box and present it. This shows the business owners that they made good use of their advertising budget by advertising in our bulletin.

LETTER FROM FATHER TONY

Advent greetings and blessings,

As we prepare for Christmas and reflect on the humble arrival of the Child Jesus some 2000 years ago, we also prepare our hearts for when He returns in glory. I invite you as Christmas approaches, at the end of each day to simply reflect back on the day and write two or three things that you are grateful for in which God moved in your life that day. Then, say a short prayer of Thanksgiving. One of the best ways we can prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord is by celebrating Mass. Here, we truly experience the coming of the Lord when He is present in his Word and He sustains us in the Eucharist.

I look forward to celebrating Mass with you and your loved ones this rest of Advent and Christmas! This year, with priests being able to celebrate a limit of three Masses on one calendar Sunday, and with retired and other priests busy on Sunday, December 24th, our Mass schedule for the Fourth Sunday of Advent will be quite different. Here is how it will look:

- Saturday, December 23rd at 4:30 PM at Guardian Angels
- Sunday, December 24th at 9:00 AM at Guardian Angels, Bilingual (Live-Streamed)
- Sunday, December 24th at 10:00 AM at Saint Nicholas

As you can see, we will only have <u>one Sunday morning Mass</u> at Guardian Angels. Therefore, let's fill the church! This is your opportunity! Then, our Christmas Mass schedule will be:

- Sunday, December 24th at 4:00 PM at Guardian Angels
- Sunday, December 24th at 10:00 PM at Guardian Angels
- Monday, December 25th at 9:00 AM at Guardian Angels (No incense)
- Monday, December 25th at 10:00 AM at Saint Nicholas
- Monday, December 25th at 11:00 AM at Guardian Angels, Bilingual

I am grateful for your generosity in supporting our parishes both in prayer and financially so that together we can make the name of Jesus Christ known and loved! Our parish staff members strive daily to be dutiful stewards, but we need your support to continue this mission. Each year, we rely heavily on the Christmas collection and year-end giving for this purpose. Please prayerfully consider, in addition to your current giving, offering a Christmas sacrifice to support our parish community. At Guardian Angels, on the back information desk, please be sure to pick up our flyer on how to give electronically. It is quite simple, actually.

Thank you for joining our parish community in prayer, fellowship and stewardship during this hopeful and joyous season. May God bless you and your loved ones this Advent – and beyond – as we together prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior.

In Christ,

Father Tony VanderLoop

Pastor

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT Thank you for your generous support last week for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! As a parish, we raised \$310 to support those on the margins who live in poverty in the Untied States. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit www.uxccb.org/nationalcollections and click "How to Give" under "Resources."



THE STAR OF THE NORTH EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

WWME.org 612-234-7440

May 17th-18th, 2024, The Sanford Center, Bemidji

Join bishops from across Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Wisconsin to celebrate and glorify Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Preceding the commencement of the Marian Route of the National Eucharistic Revival, the congress will inspire pilgrims to increase their devotion in the Eucharist while learning ways to share the many graces of this great Sacrament. For more information and registration go to archspm.org/the-star-of-the-north-eucharistic-congress.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ADVENT?

Advent is the four-week liturgical season that precedes Christmas. The term "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus* which means "coming."

See archspm.org/advent for so much more about advent!

FIRE ON THE HILL

Second Saturday of the Month, after the 5:15 p.m. Mass, Cathedral of Saint Paul

On the second Saturday of each month, the 5:15 p.m. Saturday evening Mass will be followed by a time of praise and worship. Prayer ministry will also be included for healing and prophetic encouragement.

Presiders:

January 13th: Bishop Joseph Williams
February 10th: Archbishop Bernard Hebda

March 9th: Father Jonathan Kelly

April 13th: TBD

May 11th: Father Jon Vander Ploeg

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Saturday, December 9th, 7 p.m., Holy Cross Catholic Church, Minneapolis

This service is a musical celebration combining seasonal carols, choral music, and Scripture readings. Our observance of this English tradition has a uniquely Polish flare, and it features beloved koledy and even a couple of readings in Polish! This program features choral music by Hildegard von Bingen, Palestrina, Rheinberger, Backman, 15th Cent. Anon, Elgar, Handel, and Rachmaninoff. Free and open to the public with festive reception to follow!

COME TO PACEM IN TERRIS FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE ADVENT RETREAT

Allow God's love to heal, nourish, and transform your life. Find rest in body, mind, and spirit in this hermitage sanctuary. No schedules or daily distractions. Pacem in Terris offers guests an environment of silence to pray and enter into an intimate union with God. Open year-round. Gift certificates available.

For Reservations, call (763) 444-6408 Learn more at www.paceminterris.org

26399 Highway 47 NW, Isanti, MN 55040

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME Gina Shaughnessy

gshaughnessy@4LPi.com (800) 950-9952 x2487

Helping you make financial progress.

Mark Sanda, CFP®, AIF®
Financial Representative, Principal Securities Registered Representative, Financial Advisor (952) 277-4283 | sanda.mark@principal.com

Lions Tap "Famous Hamburgers" Eden Prairie

952-934-5299

6180 Flying Cloud Dr., 55347 www.lionstap

Place Your Ad Here and Support our Parish!

AD CREATOR STUDIO





Principal*

4lpi.com/adcreator



Minnesota



CatholicMatch.com/MN



Traditional Earth Buria Cremation Services Prearrangements **Pre-Funding**

200 West 3rd St. • Chaska, MN 952-448-2137 www.bertasfh.com



Tom Gestach Owner & President C (612) 270-3264

Lic. #BC077969 Carver, MN 55315 tomg@tjexteriors.com www.tjexteriors.com



952-445-9110 KubesRealty.com



(952) 473-4157 Steve Kokesh



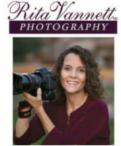
952-428-1200 www.stfrancis-shakopee.com



952-448-4841 Chaska www.progressvallevelectric.com



207 N Chestnut St #110 Chaska



952-237-7692 ritavannettphotography.com



SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!



Scan to

DOES YOUR NONPROF

ORGANIZATION NEFD

A NEWSLETTER?

Engaging, ad-supported print and digital newsletters

to reach your community.

Visit Ipicommunities.com

Please cut out this "Thank You Ad" and present it the next time you Patronize One of Our Advertisers

Thank you for advertising in our church bulletin. I am patronizing your business because of it!

PRAIRIE FARM SUPPLY

952-873-4234

115 W. Church + Belle Plaine



952-403-0058 John Hennes 2237 Valley View Rd - Shakopee, MN 5537

hennessepticpumping.com



909 Enterpride Drive 952-873-2234



