

# The Churches of The Guardian Angels and Saint Nicholas

215 Second Street West, Chaska, MN 55318 • [www.gachaska.org](http://www.gachaska.org) • (952) 227-4000

412 Fourth Street West, Carver, MN 55315 • [www.stnicholascarver.org](http://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](mailto:info@gachaska.org)

952-227-4000

### Father Tony VanderLoop, Pastor:

[frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org](mailto:frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org)

(952) 679-9415

### Deacon John Cleveland:

[jcleveland@gachaska.org](mailto:jcleveland@gachaska.org)

### Joel Swanson, Business Administrator/

### Safe Environment Coordinator:

[jswanson@gachaska.org](mailto:jswanson@gachaska.org)

(952) 227-4001

### Brittany Kaufmann, Director of Music and Liturgy:

[bkaufmann@gachaska.org](mailto:bkaufmann@gachaska.org)

(952) 466-6969

### Fran Oprosko, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry:

[foprosko@gachaska.org](mailto:foprosko@gachaska.org)

(952) 466-6984

### Viviana Sotro, Latino Ministry Coordinator:

[vsotro@gachaska.org](mailto:vsotro@gachaska.org)

(952) 227-4010

### Bulletin:

[bulletin@gachaska.org](mailto:bulletin@gachaska.org)

### Prayer Chain:

[prayer@gachaska.org](mailto:prayer@gachaska.org)

## Saint Nicholas Staff

### Father Tony VanderLoop, Pastor:

[frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org](mailto:frtonyvanderloop@gachaska.org)

(952) 679-9415

### Joel Swanson, Business Administrator/ Safe Environment Coordinator:

[jswanson@gachaska.org](mailto:jswanson@gachaska.org)

(952) 227-4001

Father Jim Devorak, Retired



## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Behold, you will conceive  
in your womb and bear  
a son, and you shall  
name him Jesus."  
- Lk 1:31

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

GAUN

**December 24th, 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](mailto: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 [bulletin@gachaska.org](mailto:bulletin@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 25th

*The Parish Office will be closed in observance of Christmas.*

9:00 a.m. Mass, † Georgianna Arlt

9:00 a.m. Mass (SN), For the People

11:00 a.m. Mass (Spanish)

### Tuesday, December 26th

*The Parish Office will be closed in observance of Christmas.*

5:30 p.m. Mass, † Deceased family members of Jim and Steph Smyth

### Wednesday, December 27th

8:00 a.m. Mass, † Samuel Cleveland

### Thursday, December 28th

8:00 a.m. Mass, † Madge (VanSloun) Olsen

7:00 p.m. Latino Prayer Group Gathering, St. Francis Hall

### Friday, December 29th

6:30 p.m. Mass, Nancy Robinson

### Saturday, December 30th

8:00 a.m. Reconciliation, GA Church

3:15 p.m. Reconciliation, GA Church

4:30 p.m. Mass, † Ray and Bob Therres

### Sunday, December 31st

8:00 a.m. Mass, For the People

9:00 a.m. Coffee and Donuts, Faith Formation

10:00 a.m. Mass, † Bev Tschimperle

11:00 a.m. Coffee and Donuts, Faith Formation

12:30 p.m. Mass

2:00 p.m. Noon Year's Eve, St. Francis Hall

### Mass Intentions:

Mass intentions may be for the living and/or the departed, with a ☩ 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: 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  
Monday: Vigil: 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 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14  
Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18  
Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35  
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40  
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

### LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Domingo: 2 Sm 7, 1-5. 8-12. 14. 16/Sal 88, 2-3. 4-5. 27. 29/Rom 16, 25-27/Lc 1, 26-38  
Lunes: Vigilia: Is 62, 1-5/Sal 88, 4-5. 16-17. 27. 29/Hch 13, 16-17. 22-25/Mt 1, 1-25 o 1, 18-25 Noche: Is 9, 1-6/Sal 95, 1-2. 2-3. 11-12. 13/Tit 2, 11-14/Lc 2, 1-14 Matutina: Is 62, 11-12/Sal 96, 1. 6. 11-12/Tit 3, 4-7/Lc 2, 15-20 Día: Is 52, 7-10/Sal 97, 1. 2-3. 3-4. 5-6/Heb 1, 1-6/Jn 1, 1-18 o 1, 1-5. 9-14  
Martes: Hch 6, 8-10; 7, 54-59/Sal 30, 3-4. 6 y 8. 16 y 17/Mt 10, 17-22  
Miércoles: 1 Jn 1, 1-4/Sal 96, 1-2. 5-6. 11-12/Jn 20, 2-8  
Jueves: 1 Jn 1, 5—2, 2/Sal 123, 2-3. 4-5. 7-8/Mt 2, 13-18  
Viernes: 1 Jn 2, 3-11/Sal 95, 1-2. 2-3. 5-6/Lc 2, 22-35  
Sábado: 1 Jn 2, 12-17/Sal 95, 7-8. 8-9. 10/Lc 2, 36-40  
Domingo siguiente: Eclo 3, 2-6. 12-14 o Gn 15, 1-6; 21, 1-3/Sal 127, 1-2. 3. 4-5 o Sal 104, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9/Col 3, 12-21 o 3, 12-17 o Heb 11, 8. 11-12. 17-19/Lc 2, 22-40 o 2, 22. 39-40

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



In the first reading, God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary's "Yes" - "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." - that the promise finds fulfillment.

### 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

### Year-To-Date 7/1/23—12/11/23

	Guardian Angels	St. Nicholas
Budget	\$339,384	\$27,288
Sunday Collection	\$13,225	\$1,522
Contributions	\$3,538	\$1,000
Total Giving	\$301,876	\$29,410
Amount above or below	-\$37,508	+\$2,122

### Guardian Angels Maintenance Fund:

7/1/23—10/31/23 Contributions:	\$18,281
7/1/23—10/31/23 Expenses:	\$110,561
Fund Balance:	\$81,972

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



## COME, LORD JESUS, COME!

The Great Commission presents us with the last and definitive words of our Risen Lord, Jesus, before his Ascension into heaven. It is to be understood as the final and most important task that He entrusts to us. It is found in various expressions such as in Matthew 28: 19-21: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." You may be wondering what this has to do with Christmas. It has a lot to do with Christmas in that the God who became flesh for us as a little, humble child, desires that we meet Him, that we encounter Him personally. Our God is a personal, loving God who did not stay in the heavens, but became a person like us in order that we experience Him intimately. While the duty to evangelize rests in the parting words of Jesus, the interior force must come from this experience of meeting the Risen Jesus that enlivens the hearts of each believer. Whoever has authentically encountered Jesus receives in his or her heart the call of the Holy Spirit to become an evangelist. Mary Magdalene is a great example. Having experienced the liberating power of Jesus at the depths of her own being she could hardly be found outside his company from that point on. So attached to Jesus by love was Mary Magdalene that she clung even to his empty tomb. For this reason, the Risen Lord entrusted to her before all others the joy of the resurrection. She was the first to see the empty tomb and for this reason she is known in our tradition as the "Apostle to the Apostles." Saint Paul VI, in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (On Evangelization in the Modern World) written in 1975, reminded the Church that all Christians are to go out in some way and proclaim the Good News. Indeed, the Church exists in order to evangelize. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, reinforced this by saying that all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our comfort zone to reach the peripheries in need of the light of the Gospel. In her seminal work, *Forming Intentional Disciples*, Catholic author Sherry Weddell cites a jarring statistic from the sweeping 2005 study on religious practice in the United States titled, *Pillars of Faith: American Congregations and Their Partners*. When asked whether spreading the faith was a high priority, 75% of conservative Protestant congregations and 57% of African American congregations responded yes, but only 6% of Catholic parishes did so. When asked whether they sponsored evangelization activities in their parishes, only 3% responded yes (p. 51). Only six percent said yes! When we do, we make the Incarnate Jesus present to others. We make Him a reality in the lives of many for whom He is not so much a reality. We make Him present as one who we recognize in our daily lives and belong to. He becomes a credible and real alternative to the way of our culture that has great meaning, purpose, and destiny. So what prevents us from going forth? Two kinds of fear present themselves. Usually it means going forth from our zone of comfort and we realize that such going forth needs to be adapted to the changing scenarios and ever new challenges to this mission. There is a way of evangelization that is called "ad gentes" meaning "to the nations" that does involve what might for many of us conjure up fear. This way can involve going door-to-door or some very public style of preaching. It also has involved missionaries who set sail to far-away lands. This type of evangelization is, indeed, essential to the life of the Church. Yet, we might say that it is limited to those who have received a special formation and calling. At the same time, we hear as St. John Paul II reminds us: "We must revive in ourselves the burning conviction of Paul, who cried out: 'Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel' (1 Corinthians 9:16). This passion will not fail to stir in the Church a new sense of mission, which cannot be left to a group of 'specialists' but must involve the responsibility of all the members of the People of God." So we can rely on a second type of evangelization called Oikos evangelization. The word, "Oikos" in Greek means "household." It conveys the idea of using our existing relationships to evangelize. Think about who your oikos is. They are the people, whether family members, friends, or co-workers with whom you relate to on a regular basis. Next week, I will talk more on Oikos Evangelization. May God grant you a beautiful Christmas day as we celebrate our Savior's birth among us!

Father Tony



## 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](http://mccl.org/12K)

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## RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS

Our women and men religious offer gratitude. A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org).

## 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 ARCHBISHOP BERNARD A. HEBDA



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,  
Merry Christmas to you and to your loved ones! Please know of my prayers for each of you as we celebrate the Incarnation of our Lord, Jesus Christ. In gratitude, I ask you to join me in reflecting more deeply on the Psalm for Mass on Christmas morning, "A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us." (Ps 97). This light was seen clearly this fall as so many of you participated in our Small Group Leadership Formation, leading up to the kick-off of our new way of being Church through small groups this coming Lent. What an exciting time to be part of this Archdiocese! I am so grateful for the commitment of your pastor, parish staff, and the lay women and men who are leading this effort.

Please know of my continued prayers for you, your loved ones and your parish. I ask that you also pray for me, our clergy and the amazing parish staff members who serve so many in so many ways.

With Christmas blessings and joy,

Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda  
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

### **SYMFONIA KOLED: WORLD PREMIERE OF A CHRISTMAS SYMPHONY BY SAMUEL BACKMAN**

*Friday, January 12th, 7:30 p.m.,  
Holy Cross Catholic Church, Minneapolis*

Minneapolis-based organist and composer Samuel Backman will premiere a newly composed four-movement symphony entitled *Symfonia Koled*. This vivacious and stirring work quotes Polish Christmas carols extensively, and it was written to honor the memory of Janusz Zorawski, an immigrant from Poland, and a beloved pillar in his community. This concert is free and open to the public with a reception following.

### **MIRIAM DINNER**

*Wednesday, January 24th, 6-8 p.m.,  
Archdiocesan Catholic Center, St. Paul*

Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Bishop Michael Izen, and Father David Blume, director of vocations invite women ages 16-35 who are discerning consecrated life. It is typical for women discerners to be accompanied by their pastor, consecrated religious, or youth minister. The evening begins with prayer, followed by dinner with consecrated women sharing their vocations testimonies.

Priests, deacons, and consecrated women in the Archdiocese are encouraged to invite women, ages 16-35, who present a sincere interest in consecrated life.

Register at [10000vocations.org/miriam-dinner.html](http://10000vocations.org/miriam-dinner.html)

## OUR CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

Actually it isn't a list, it is really only one thing. Would you be willing to donate to Guardian Angel's Livestream Ministry project?

Each week, Guardian Angels records and streams the 10 a.m. Mass (as well as some Holy Days, Funerals, etc.). The recorded Masses are then available for viewing any time on GA's YouTube channel (the links are [www.gachaska.org](http://www.gachaska.org)). The Livestream ministry helps bring GA's Mass to homebound and, in the case of funerals, friends and family members who might not be able to be here in person to see the Mass. During the Pandemic, our livestream channel provided a vital link for everyone to continue participating in the Mass from the safety of their homes.

For the past four years, we have been using aging reused videocams (sourced from the school and donated by parishioners) and other equipment that is starting to show its age and is becoming unreliable. It is time to update the equipment and install cameras that are reliable and able to be controlled from the Livestreamer's desk in the choir loft (the current cameras must be moved by hand and this proves to be challenging in a full choir loft!).

Furthermore, we are working with the City of Chaska to air the Mass on one of the local cable access channels so that those without a computer can simply tune into the Mass on a television. We need reliable and updated cameras in order to move this into the next phase.

We have sourced equipment that is modern, reliable and affordable. Guardian Angels has a talented and dedicated group of volunteer livestreamers. The only thing we are missing is YOU - someone willing to help us fund this upgrade project!

So, if you are looking for a great way to make an end-of-year donation to a worthwhile project, we hope you might consider helping us raise the funds to purchase this new equipment. Thanks in part to several generous donations (including several from the livestream volunteers) we have already collected more than half the funds needed to make this purchase. If you are able to contribute, please contact the Parish office or simply enclose your donation in an envelope labeled Live Streaming and put in the collection basket.

Thank you for considering this worthwhile project! Feel free to check out our volunteer efforts at [www.gachaska.org/livestream](http://www.gachaska.org/livestream)

### 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

### THE STAR OF THE NORTH EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

*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](http://archspm.org/the-star-of-the-north-eucharistic-congress).



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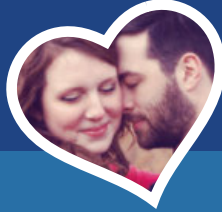
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