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:

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Deacon John Cleveland:

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Brittany Kaufmann, Director of Music and Liturgy:

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Joel Swanson, Business Administrator/ Safe Environment Coordinator:

jswanson@gachaska.org (952) 227-4001

Father Jim Devorak, Retired



THE HOLY FAMILY

610

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

- Lk 2:40

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

December 31st, 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, January 1st

The Parish Office will be closed. 9:00 a.m. Mass, For the People

Tuesday, January 2nd

4:00 p.m. Huskies Basketball, Gym 5:30 p.m. Mass, ⊕ Mary Meyer

Wednesday, January 3rd

8:00 a.m. Mass, ⊕ Deceased Family Members of Jim and Steph Smyth

7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Meeting, St. Francis Hall

Thursday, January 4th

8:00 a.m. Mass, ⊕ Russel and Darlene Schmid

4:00 p.m. Huskies Basketball, Gym

6:15 p.m. Baptism Class, GA Church

6:30 p.m. Small Group Practicum, St. Francis Hall

Friday, January 5th

6:30 p.m. Mass, For the well being of Marcella Gallegos

Saturday, January 6th

8:00 a.m. Daughters of Isabella Rosary, GA Church

8:00 a.m. Reconciliation, GA Church

9:00 a.m. Mom's Group, Room 004

3:15 p.m. Reconciliation, GA Church

4:30 p.m. Mass, For the People

Sunday, January 7th

9:00 a.m. Coffee and Donuts, Mystery!

10:00 a.m. Mass, ⊕ Donald Fahey

11:00 a.m. Coffee and Donuts, Mystery!

10:00 a.m. Mass (SN)

12:30 p.m. Mass (Spanish), Pedro Flores

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: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 orPs 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

Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-

21

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42 Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11

or Lk 3:23-38 or3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Domingo: 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 Lunes: Nm 6, 22-27/Sal 66, 2-3. 5. 6. 8 (2)/Gal 4, 4-7/Lc 2, 16-

Martes: 1 Jn 2, 22-28/Sal 97, 1. 2-3. 3-4/Jn 1, 19-28 Miércoles: 1 Jn 2, 29—3, 6/Sal 97, 1. 3-4. 5-6/Jn 1, 29-34

Jueves: 1 Jn 3, 7-10/Sal 97, 1. 7-8. 9/Jn 1, 35-42 Viernes: 1 Jn 3, 11-21/Sal 99, 1-2. 3. 4. 5/Jn 1, 43-51

Sábado: 1 Jn 5, 5-13/Sal 147, 12-13. 14-15. 19-20/Mc 1, 7-11 o

Lc 3, 23-38 o 3, 23. 31-34. 36. 38

Domingo siguiente: Is 60, 1-6/Sal 71, 1-2. 7-8. 10-11. 12-13

(ver 11)/Ef 3, 2-3. 5-6/Mt 2, 1-12

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



"Whatever you do," says St. Paul to the Colossians, "...do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through Him." And so it is that we offer our gifts in the Eucharist "through Him, with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit."

Year-To-Date 7/1/23—12/11/23 Guardian Angels St. Nicholas

	Guaraian 7 ingels	ot. Micholas
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

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: \$110,561 Fund Balance: \$81,972

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



HOW IS A CELL GROUP DIFFERENT FROM OTHER TYPES OF SMALL GROUPS?

In previous articles, I talked about some key concepts related to our upcoming small groups, which we will call our Parish Evangelization Cells System. We talked about oikos (meaning "household") evangelization, which truly was the model of the early church and played an invaluable role in the Church's growth. Rather than focusing on a mission field in a foreign land, the Christian who embraces oikos evangelization sees a mission field in his or her own household, among coworkers, friends, and neighbors, and all those with whom he or she

has a close relationship.

We also talked about the seven moments of a cell group: song and prayer, personal sharing, the teaching, discussion and application, announcements, intercession, and healing prayer. These moments will help to ensure that 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. Our Parish Evangelization Cells System proposes a concrete answer to the changing scenarios and challenges of contemporary parish culture that makes church matter and have meaningful impact on our lives.

But let's be clear about one distinctive element of Cells. They exist to evangelize. Many types of small groups do not exist to evangelize, but rather to respond to the very particular needs of those who are already evangelized (fraternal groups, support groups, study groups, etc.) The Cell, on the other hand, seeks to make new disciples among those in our oikos who may be far from Jesus and his Church. While nurturing the faith and mutual love among its members, the Cell is nevertheless ordered to constant growth and multiplication. The Cell anticipates and plans for its own growth and, in fact, carries out its very mission at the very moment when a sister or brother, distant from the faith, enters it. The whole Cell adapts to the newcomer according to the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark: "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all" (Mark 9:35). Time is marked according to the progress of that newcomer, eagerly awaiting the moment when he or she can walk with the others in adherence to Christ and become an evangelizer. Then, if the Cell exists to evangelize, the parish will exist to evangelize.

Of course, it is impossible for us to be able to carry out this endeavor of beginning parish Cells and to claim to be able to speak of Jesus and proclaim him Lord without entrusting to him, and to his Spirit, our task of evangelization. We must commit to a massive effort of prayer if we are to experience the blessings of God in this effort. We must remember what Saint Paul VI wrote in his encyclical about evangelization titled, Evangelii Nuntiandi in 1975: "Techniques of evangelization are good, but even the most advanced ones could not replace the gentle action of the Spirit. The most perfect preparation of the evangelizer has no effect without the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit the most convincing dialectic has no power over the heart of man. Without Him the most highly developed schemas resting on a sociological or psychological basis are quickly seen to be quite valueless" (no. 75).

We will therefore need to become a genuine school of prayer where our meeting with Christ will include not only imploring his help, but also include thanksgiving, praise, adoration, listening and ardent devotion. Our hearts must truly fall in love with our Lord. We will find ways to open our hearts, once again, to Jesus in the coming year! May God bless us all in this great endeavor.

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



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.

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.

NEWLY MARRIED RETREAT

Saturday, February 3rd, 9 a.m.—2:30 p.m., Good Shepherd, Golden Valley

All couples married 0-7 years are invited to join the Newly Married Retreat with Dr. Edward Sri. Dr. Sri will give two talks, one on 'Marriage: The Good, The Messy, and The Beautiful' and the other on 'Theology of the Body and Marriage.' Learn more and register at archspm.org/nmr.

LAUDATE DEUM STUDY SESSION

Monday, January 22nd, 12:30-1 p.m. or Thursday, January 25th, 6:30-8 p.m.

The Laudato Si' Movement Chapter of Minnesota will be hosting Laudate Deum reading groups in January as a precursor to Lent. Laudate Deum is an Apostolic Exhortation released on October 4th, 2023 addressing the need for urgency in addressing climate issues. There will be two study groups for Laudate Deum. If interested in this study group, please fill out the form on the archspm website by January 19th.

CUT-OUT ON ADVERTIZING

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

and A Helde

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 Kolęd. 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

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). 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

There is a donor that is challenging the parishioners with a \$750.00, thus essentially doubling those donations.

GIVING TREE THANKS YOU!

Thank you so much!

I know this was a lot of people coming together but I

This has probably been one of the hardest years of my life and I can't even express how much this

means to me. My kids will be so happy! Thank you so much and God bless you.

A message from one of the families on the Giving Tree: really wanted to say thank you!

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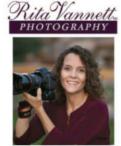
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