

MAY 3, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Easter

	<u>MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK</u>	<u>WEEKDAY READINGS</u>
<u>Monday, May 4</u>	Sick and Homebound in Our Parishes	Acts 11:1-18/Jn 10:11-18
<u>Tuesday, May 5</u>	Arnold Niese/No Exposition	Acts 11:19-26/Jn 10:22-30
<u>Wednesday, May 6</u>	For the Unemployed /No Exposition	Acts 12:24-13:5a/Jn 12:44-50
<u>Thursday, May 7</u>	For a Safe and Successful Planting Season	Acts 13:13-25/Jn 13:16-20
<u>Friday, May 8</u>	John Miller	Acts 13:26-33/Jn 14:1-6
<u>Sunday, May 10</u>	Don & Mary Noirot/Steve Noirot/Louie Noirot/ Francis Kern/Kris Tripp/Elmer & Cecelia Dulle/ Mary C. Meyer/Rita Hermiller/ Liv. & Dec'd Lammers & Hermiller Families/ Liv. & Dec'd Sylvester & Marie Ellerbrock Family Liv. & Dec'd Schnipke & Kaufman Families Liv. & Dec'd Palte & Horstman Families/	<u>SUNDAY READING</u> Acts 6:1-7 1 Pt 2:4-9 Jn 14:1-12

FOLLOW THE DAILY AND SUNDAY MASS READINGS on uscgb.org/bible/readings

ALL PUBLIC MASSES are cancelled up to and including Friday, May 29, 2020. Our churches are open for private prayer throughout the day. Please use social distancing guidelines and hand sanitizer upon entering and departing church. **ALL EVENTS** that were to take place at either Church or Parish Hall are CANCELLED up to Friday, May 29, 2020. Be advised, however, that an extension of cancellations may be possible. Check notices of such on our parish website <https://stmicholasholyfamily.org>

From the Pastoral Intern's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

There once was a man whom nobody expected to receive a religious vocation. He didn't strike hope into people's hearts, he struck fear. They knew he would stop at nothing to persecute them for their faith in Jesus Christ. Then something completely unexpected happened. Jesus Christ Himself appeared to this man and gave him a religious vocation! Of this man the Lord said, "He is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel." This man became Saint Paul the Apostle. And 2,000 years later, he became my Confirmation saint.

I love the story of Saint Paul. It's one of the first vocation stories in the history of our faith. And it's a good story to remember as we observe the World Day of Prayer for Vocations this weekend. This observance reminds us to continue our prayers that more men and women will hear and respond to God's call for them to the life of the priest, deacon, or religious brother or sister, or holy marriage.

Saint Paul's story reminds us that God has a vocation for everyone. When we pray for vocations or think about people who have vocations, it's easy to think of them as coming from... somewhere else. That's what I thought too, until I myself started to think about going to the seminary! The fact is, every future priest, every future religious brother and sister, every future deacon, grows up in a family, a school, a hometown, a church community. Vocations don't just come from the kind of people we think of as perfect and holy. Look at Saint Paul before his conversion!

Future priests are coming into the seminary from right here in Putnam County. Having lived here with you in this community, I can see why. I've met some young men and women in our parishes who I think would make

fine priests or religious brothers or sisters. So as we pray for an increase in vocations on this World Day of Prayer, let's keep in mind that vocations come from our own backyard... and not just figuratively but literally!

Earnest and continued prayers for vocations do not go unanswered. God works in his way and his time, but he is doing great things! I can say that with certainty when I look at our diocesan seminarians. Your prayers are working. Keep 'em coming!

What are some practical things you can do on this World Day of Prayer for Vocations? You can pray a rosary for an increase in vocations. You can set aside some quiet time and talk to the Lord about your desire for more vocations, perhaps telling Him about anyone specific who you think has a vocation. You can pray the Diocesan Prayer we say before Mass with the intention for vocations. I like that this prayer puts "holy vocations" together with "holy disciples" and "holy families," because you can't have any of them without the others.

And speaking of prayers, know of my continued prayers for you. Even though I can't see you all during the live-stream weekend Mass, I feel connected to you in prayer. God bless you!

In Christ,

Alex Elfreich

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Weekly offertory envelope contributions may be mailed to the Parish Office or offered collectively when this health crisis is over and we are able to have public Masses again. Please do not send cash through the mail.

We will not post offertory received in the mail until the health risk to our weekly money counters has subsided.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS is today, Sunday, May 3. Let us pray for one another that we may be strengthened in our Christian vocations as Married and Single people, Priests, Deacons and Religious. May our youth listen to God's call and be encouraged to respond generously.

SAINT NICHOLAS ALTAR ROSARY WOMEN OF ALL AGES raffle tickets for a lighted outdoor rosary may be purchased by sending a check (made payable to SN Altar Rosary) to Julie Schnipke, 14173 Road G12, Ottawa OH 45875. Tickets are \$5/each or \$10/3. Drawing to be held Monday, May 18, 2020.



THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS entrusted to his worldwide prayer network for May 2020: **For Deacons.** We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church

ONLINE GIVING UPDATE

Many thanks to those who have enrolled in online giving! We appreciate the positive feedback!

The Catholic Communications Campaign, designated collection for May, is available online to receive offering from May 1 – May 31, 2020.

Parishioners who enroll and will continue to contribute online may contact the office at 419-876-3481 or snhfmnc@gmail.com if they no longer want to receive weekly contribution envelopes. Please notify the parish office prior to June 1st to not receive July – August envelopes.

Go to our parish website to get started with your one-time or recurring giving: <https://stnicholasholyfamily.org>

Thank you for your generosity and support of our parishes.

DAILY ROSARY AT NOON: Monsignor Singler and Alex Elfreich continue praying a daily noontime Rosary for our parishes. You and your family members are invited to spiritually join them in praying the rosary each day. Social media sources are available to those who are learning to pray the rosary or wish to pray along with someone.

**DIOCESE OF TOLEDO
ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE
AS OF APRIL 27, 2020**

<u>St. Nicholas</u>	<u>Holy Family</u>
Parish Goal: \$11,000	Parish Goal: \$11,000
Total Pledged: \$19,511	Total Pledged: \$16,785

177.37% **152.59%**
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*Funds collected at this point forward come back to our parishes.
Thank you!*

FUN ACTIVITY IDEAS: take a nature walk*enjoy a bike ride*plan your garden*play a childhood game of kick-the-can or hide & seek*read a book*try out new recipes*family game night*search your family genealogy*make a new "honey do list".

CHRISTIAN FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

Deb Wehri's FORMED picks of the week focus on Mary, the Mother of God. Throughout the month of May, worksheets on Mary will be posted to our website under Christian Formation/documents.

PICK FOR CHILDREN: Once in FORMED, search for *Cat Chat* and then "*Celebrating Mary: Learning About Our Blessed Mother.*" (You only need to watch the first 18 ½ minutes.) This video reminded me of the "Partridge Family goes Catholic" and I challenge any of our talented families to create their own video on Mary and send it to us: www.snfmcnc@gmail.com How do you honor Mary during the month of May?

PICK FOR OLDER CHILDREN AND ADULTS: *Mary, Queen of Heaven* is a beautiful, inspirational and educational four-minute video on why Catholics honor Mary with the title "*Queen of Heaven*" and why we pray to her for her intercession. For my main feature, I'm suggesting *The 13th Day*. This 1 ½ hour video is based on the writing of St. Lucia, one of the Fatima seers. It is a historical, moving account of our lady's appearance at Fatima, Portugal through the eyes of the three children who saw and spoke with Mary and how they stood up courageously to unbelievers.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is tentatively scheduled for July 13-18. Registration forms will be available on our website soon.

LENTEN MISSION BOX: Parents, please send a check to the parish office, payable to **Missionary Childhood Association**, for the change your child has collected. The parish office will forward these checks to the Missionary Childhood Association on May 18th.

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK:

HERMILLER'S BUTCHER SHOP: Beef and pork for the home freezer. Meat processing. We carry Amish cheese, homemade summer sausage and bologna plus other delicious products. Call Len or Teresa Hermiller to make an appointment at 419-876-3260

