

**JULY 19, 2020**  
**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

	<u><b>MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK</b></u>	<u><b>WEEKDAY READINGS</b></u>
<u><b>Monday, July 20</b></u>	NO SCHEDULED MASS	Mi 6:1-4, 6-8/Mt 12:38-42
<u><b>Tuesday, July 21 (SN) 8:00am</b></u>	Liv & Dec'd Gerschutz & Warnecke Families/ No Exposition	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Mt 12:46-50
<u><b>Wednesday, July 22 (HF) 8:00am</b></u>	For the Former Pastors of SN/HF Parishes/ No Exposition	Sg 3:1-4b/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
<u><b>Thursday, July 23 (HF) 6:30pm</b></u>	Raymond & Rosemary Powell/ Rev. A Robert DeSloover	Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13/Mt 13:10-17
<u><b>Friday, July 24 (SN) 8:00am</b></u>	John Miller/Special Intention	Jer 3:14-17/Mt 13:18-23
<u><b>Saturday, July 25 (SN) 4:00pm</b></u>	Liv & Dec'd Lawrence & Eleanor Hermiller Family Allan Brown/Paul Niese	<u><b>SUNDAY READING</b></u> 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12
<u><b>Saturday, July 25 (HF) 7:00pm</b></u>	Liv & Dec'd Larry & Maryann Siebeneck Family	Rom 8:28-30
<u><b>Sunday, July 26 (HF) 8:30am</b></u>	For the Parish	Mt 13:44-52
<u><b>Sunday, July 26 (SN) 10:30am</b></u>	For the Parish	
<u><b>Sunday, July 26 (HF) 6:00pm</b></u>	For all Homebound, Hospitalized & in Care Facilities	

The Diocese of Toledo has launched a campaign called *Reconnect* to assist parishes and the faithful as we continue to navigate Catholic life during COVID-19 and through the next phases of re-opening. [ReconnectToledo.org](http://ReconnectToledo.org) has resources to help the faithful, including spiritual resources and good news stories.

*From the Pastoral Intern's Desk*

Dear Parishioners,

Back in the Fall one day while running errands in Ottawa, I came across a piece of wall art with a Bible verse from the Book of Joshua: "Be strong and courageous... for the Lord is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). It has been hanging in my room at the rectory ever since. It is good for me to be reminded of that message. It's especially timely as I prepare for my departure from the Saint Nicholas and Holy Family parish communities at the beginning of August.

It will be difficult to leave you all. I've had a wonderful year living and working here. It's been a real treat to get to know you and share in your friendships, sports and recreation, meals, family get-togethers, and worship. I have many happy memories from my time here, which I will always carry with me.

There is another reason it will be difficult to leave you; I wish to tell you about it here as well as in person at each of the Masses this weekend. After my departure, I will not be returning to the seminary in the Fall.

I know this will come as a surprise. To help you understand what that means, I ask you to recall something we all know -- that life's journey is rarely straightforward. We travel the journey one step at a time with God's guidance along the way. That's why He tells us, "Be strong and courageous... for the Lord is with you wherever you go." The same is true for a man who discerns the priesthood. When a man makes the choice to enter the seminary, his discernment is not over. He keeps moving with the freedom to take each next step in seminary or to continue his discernment by another way.

I have come to realize that the next step in my discernment journey is to take a leave of absence from the seminary, in order to have a different space in which to reflect on God's call for my life and my response to it.

My choice to do this is not a reaction to any kind of negative experience of this past year. Nor am I doing this because of not wanting to go back into the seminary environment after having been away from it. This decision is the fruit of much prayer and reflecting with God on the movements of my heart and mind. It has been a difficult decision. But I trust that the Lord will be with me wherever I go.

Taking a leave of absence means I am still discerning the priesthood, but I will do it "out in the world" rather than back at the seminary. I remain affiliated with the Diocese, which means I will be in regular contact with the Diocesan Director of Vocations. I will also keep in touch with priests like Monsignor and all of you who have helped me along the way. My intention for the time ahead is to continue to learn and pray and grow, so I can give a free and total "Yes" to God if my journey leads me to lay down my life to Him in Holy Orders. God will bring about His will in His time, with my trust and cooperation.

The great thing about being a seminarian is all the people who become a part of your journey. You, the people of Saint Nicholas and Holy Family Parishes, have a special place in my journey of faith because of everything I've been able to learn from you and experience with you (especially the tractors, hunting, deer backstraps, pizza, and basketball). Thank you for all your love, kindness, and support. Because of you, I have grown as a man of faith and a leader for God's people.

To give us an opportunity to see each other before my departure, there will be a "farewell gathering" with light refreshments after each of the Masses during my last weekend here, August 1-2. I ask that you continue to pray for me as I take this next step in my discernment. Be assured of my continued prayers for all of you. Together we will grow in faith and love of Him who is with us wherever we go.

*In Christ,*

*Alex Elfreich*

Thank you to Holy Family and St. Nicholas parishioners for your kind donations for our youth attending the Catholic Youth Summer Camp (CYSC). To date \$1,250 has been generated to underwrite the cost for our youth to attend this annual event.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS**  
for the week of July 6 – July 12, 2020

<b>St. Nicholas:</b>		<b>Holy Family:</b>	
Regular:	7,718.70	Regular:	2,665.20
Utility:	30.00	Utility:	
Peter's Pence		Peter's Pence:	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$7,748.70</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,665.20</b>

*Thank you for your generosity and support of our parishes*

**DURING THE MONTH OF JULY** Holy Family Parish is responsible for stocking the Food Pantry in Ottawa. Any non-perishable items you would use in your home are needed. In particular, jam & jelly, rice side dishes, instant mashed potatoes, boxed potato side dishes, hand soap, toothpaste, deodorant, toilet paper, tissues, dishwashing liquid, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, spot remover & fabric softener. Fresh produce accepted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. Call the day before to let them know the quantity you are bringing. Please place the items in the baskets provided in the back of Holy Family Church before Friday, July 31.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*  
*Colossians 3:17*

**COVID-19 SERVICE OPPORTUNITY:** Holy Family Parish and St. Nicholas Parish are extremely blessed with parishioners who have undertaken sanitizing and cleaning church after each service. We are in need of parishioners to support this good work. Please call the Parish Office at 419-876-3481 or email [snhfmnc@gmail.com](mailto:snhfmnc@gmail.com) to sign up.

**SAVE THE DATE WEEKEND OF AUGUST 1 & 2**

Join the parish families of Holy Family and St. Nicholas in expressing sincere thanks and gratitude to seminarian Alex Elfreich for his service to our faith communities the past year. Alex will be ending his service to our parishes on Monday, August 3. Outdoor receptions will be held immediately after all weekend Masses August 1 & 2 to celebrate his time with us as a pastoral intern. Light food and beverages will be provided. Social distancing will be maintained. Facial coverings are strongly encouraged. A table and envelope box will be provided to accept your cards and gifts to this fine man who has served us well the past year.

**PUTNAM COUNTY HEADSTART** is currently enrolling children for the 2020-2021 school year. Head Start is a free preschool for income eligible children ages 3 to 5. We have full day classrooms in Ottawa and Leipsic. For more information, or an application call 419-523-3228, text 419-719-4595 or stop in our office at 1205 East Third Street, Ottawa.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR RCIA CANDIDATE** Stephen Adamczak, fiancé of Angie Rosengarten, who will enter into full communion of the Catholic Church on August 9 at the Holy Family 8:30am Lord's Day Mass.

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY**

Deb Wehri's FORMED.org Pick of the Week is *The Way of St. James*, a documentary on the El Camino, or routes that pilgrims have been taking over a thousand years, traveling 800 kilometers to Santiago, Spain to the Cathedral where the remains of St. James are believed to be enshrined. As we celebrate the feast of St. James this Saturday, July 25, let us ask his intercession that we might remain faithful to Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Parents of Third Graders are reminded that the First Communion pictures are available at the Parish Office during regular business hours.

Registration forms for Christian Formation will be mailed out this week. You are asked to have them returned by August 10.

**PUTNAM COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY** locations are hosting summer reading challenges for all ages online via Beanstack. Log your reading and activities in Beanstack & be entered to win prizes monthly. Register today by going to <https://mypcdl.beanstack.org>. Be sure to choose the Putnam County District Library in Ohio.

**ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH FESTIVAL** in Columbus Grove will host carryout dinners on Sunday, August 2 from 11:00am – 3:00pm. Meals consist of Chicken – Beef, noodles, dressing, mashed potatoes, home-made coleslaw and dessert for \$10 each. Meals are available by drive thru carryout only. Please use the entrance to the parking lot on DeBlanche St. between West Street and Sycamore Street.

**VIRTUAL ST. PEREGRINE CANCER PRAYER SERVICE** to be held on July 26, 2020 at 2:00pm. To join virtually access Maria Stein Shrine Facebook or YouTube and search for St. Peregrine Cancer Prayer Service. We will pray for the intercession of St. Peregrine to heal and give strength to all those affected by cancer, including their caregivers. Please send your prayer intentions to be included in the prayer service to [s.jenkins@mariasteinshrine.org](mailto:s.jenkins@mariasteinshrine.org)

**BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK: COMPLIMENTS OF NIESE ROOFING, LLC:** Fourth generation family owned! Providing years of trusted experience and quality work! Specializing in all types of roofing, barn siding and seamless gutters. Call Mike, Nick or Kevin Niese at 419-264-3242