

## ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

The summer seems to be slipping away quickly with the Fourth of July in the rear-view mirror already. Now our parish festival is quickly approaching in four weeks. This year we will have a dinner on Saturday night in the Parish Activity Center: a.k.a. the Gym. This dinner promises to be excellent. It is being prepared by a chief who is volunteering his time and talents. I am confident that you will not be disappointed. There is only one thing that we ask... please make your reservations by buying a dinner ticket beforehand. Tickets will be available after the Sunday Masses in the back of church. It is our sincere desire to have enough food for the dinner one way or the other.

Speaking of dinners, *next* Saturday after the evening mass there will be a dinner in the parish hall after mass. There is no cost for the dinner (a free will offering will not be turned away). The simple reasoning for this dinner, like the one last month was to offer the regular Saturday evening mass crowd a chance to get together after mass. The Sunday morning breakfasts have been well attended. It was thought that the same opportunity could be available for the Saturday evening mass people who for various reasons are unable to get to the Sunday morning mass. Again, all are welcome for dinner next Saturday evening.

Over the last two Sundays our second reading for Sunday mass comes from the Letter of St. Paul to the Galatians. This is a personal letter from Paul to the Church he founded in Galatia. The letter itself is similar to his Letter to the Romans. The Letter to the Romans is more of a formal letter, like a lecture. It is formally developed and more precise. The reason for this is because the people of Rome have never met Paul. It is therefore less personal and formally articulated. The similarity between the letters is the common topic of *faith and the works of the law*. We are saved by faith and not works of the law. This short little statement has a deep meaning. If it were to be understood superficially it would do it a great injustice.

The favorite example Paul uses in both letters is that of Abraham. "*Abraham put his faith in God and it was credited to him as righteousness.*" Abraham was considered to be *right* with God simply because he believed what God promised him: our Father of Faith. This is important for Paul's argument because this happened before Abraham was circumcised: The Mosaic Law. The lesson Paul wants his readers to learn from this example of Abraham is exactly this... Faith is the key to salvation. For Paul salvation no longer comes through works of the law, (i.e. circumcision) and commitment to the Mosaic Law. Salvation comes through our faith in Jesus Christ who defeated sin and death. Thus, by virtue of our Baptism into Christ we are freed from the law in order to live in Jesus Christ.

By Baptism we have become adopted children of God. This means that we are no longer slaves but children and heirs to the Kingdom of God. Children are freed from the laws that bind slaves. They are free to live life to the fullest in the Father's House: The Kingdom.

It is a coincidence that during these weeks we are reading from the Book of Genesis for our morning masses. It is no coincidence that in Paul's letter to the Galatians he returns to Genesis for a second example: the example of Sarai and her maidservant Hagar. This episode is in reference to procuring an heir for Abram who up to this point is childless. As Saria's promptings Abram then has a son with Hagar. However, Saria conceives later in the story. Thus, Abraham now has two sons. The first was Ishmael who did not inherit the promise since he was born of the slave girl. The second was Isaac who did inherit the promise since he was the child born to Sarah: the free woman

and the wife of Abraham who is the man of faith. In Paul's mind those who believe in Jesus and are baptized, are like Isaac: born into freedom. To those who have faith will be the ones who receive the promise.

For St. Paul faith in Jesus Christ gives us freedom. As we read last Sunday in the second reading: "*For Freedom Christ set us free; so, stand firm and do not submit attain to the yoke of slavery.*" Christ set us free from the ultimate slavery: sin and its result: death. St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians, a personal letter and ardent plea, *Do Not Submit Again to the Yoke of Slavery!* Sin enslaves us. This is the argument about the *flesh and the spirit*. This is not a dualism that is presented. Both are the reality of our humanity. We have a Body and a Spirit (Soul). They both have to work together and be fully integrated. If we live only by the flesh, with its demands and desires we are bound by the law and will be judged by the law. If we live by the Spirit, we discern the demands of the flesh and direct our acts to selfless works. For the Spirit is the gift of God. It is a Spirit of Love. Thus, Paul states, "*The whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*" The desires of the flesh without the spirit tend toward selfishness. The Spirit, the Spirit of love, is selfless. To live in this way, one does not need the law because one's deeds are properly directed. To know this and to trust this makes us free. Thus St. Paul states..." *Live by the Spirit and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh.*" Devoid of this kind of slavery we are free.

This is the freedom of the Children of God. For those who are stretching out the Independence Day weekend we celebrate and possess a deeper sense of freedom. To live for God, to desire to do God's Will is truly our freedom. God desires our greatest good, and the ultimate good is our salvation. This is freedom: Free from all that keeps us from being fully who God created us to be. It should also be noted that without God there is no possibility of freedom. We know this by faith. Without God, something or someone will ultimately have to take the place of God. This substitute for God will demand that it be served in all manner of life. (The Judeo-Christian God does not make such a demand. All is an invitation and a response to his goodness.) Think about it. All Dictators demand a kind of commitment and "worship": absolute obedience. All worldly things that take the place of God demand some form of worship: a sacrifice at its altar as it were. All false gods demand sacrifices before the altars of money, power, pleasure, and even dictators or governments. Whether it is a person or thing, if they take the place of the one true God, they become tyrants and enslave. Period.

Christ has set us free for freedom. That freedom, which we find expressed in St. Paul's letter to the Galatians and Romans is found in faith and doing God's Will as revealed in Jesus Christ. That freedom is difficult to live since we live in an imperfect and sinful world. But even then, we can live in this world as Free People, enslaved to nothing. In faith we live the Kingdom of God now as heirs with Christ. It is in the fullness of the Kingdom that we experience our true and lasting Freedom: union with God.

Have a Great Week  
Father Ralko

Next thing on the calendar is the upcoming festival and don't forget the dinner.

**This week we pray Week IV of the  
Liturgy of the hours.**

# PICNIC

On **July 13**, after the **5:15 Mass**, we will have a picnic themed dinner in the church basement. This event is **free**, and all are welcome!

## Pilgrimage to EWTN 'Eternal Word Television Network' and The Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of the Angels Monastery

St Nicholas is researching a pilgrimage to Alabama to EWTN and the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament. If you would like more information or you are interested in making a pilgrimage, please call 740-453-7141. We are looking at a 4 day /3-night pilgrimage. Possibly September 16 –19. If we can fill the 50- passenger bus, the cost would be approximately \$370 per person (4 per room) \$500 per person (2 in room). This price also includes a seat on the bus, breakfast at hotels and lunch each day. EWTN was founded by Mother Angelica in 1981 and today is the largest media network in the world. In 1999 the Shrine and Monastery were dedicated in Hanceville, AL about 60 miles from EWTN.

## **Do you know where your life is going? The Lord Jesus has a great plan for you!**

Quo Vadis Days is a vocations discernment camp for men entering 9th–12th grades that includes talks by local priests and seminarians on the priesthood, virtue, and fatherhood. Quo Vadis offers the structure of Holy Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic Adoration, time for personal reflection and interaction with priests and seminarians, as well as the fun of activities, sports and fellowship. Bishop Brennan will provide a closing Mass with the attendees and their families. July 28-31 at St. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark. \$40 per person, scholarships available. Registration Deadline: July 16<sup>th</sup>. Contact Michael Haemmerle at [columbusquovadis@gmail.com](mailto:columbusquovadis@gmail.com) For more information.

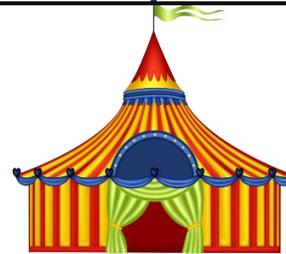
RECENT BOOSTER MANIA WINNERS: \$25: Mary Ann Nash, Lisa Matson, Anne Agin, Bill Durant, Dr. Jessi Middaugh & Linda Grieves \$50: Hugh Maxwell, Fr. Ralko & Steve Dickerson

## MEN OF THE EAST

You are cordially invited to join your fellow Knights and Brothers in Christ from the twelve parishes in Knox, Licking and Muskingum counties for a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration with Reflection on Thursday July 11 at 7:00 PM. This month's Holy Hour is being hosted by St. Edwards Catholic Church 785 Newark Granville Rd, Granville, OH 43023. A reception honoring your service as a Knight will follow in the hall. Call Mike Musselman at 740-452-9806.

**Say Yes to God's Plan for Love and Life!** Grow in respect for God's gift of fertility by learning Natural Family Planning (NFP). St. Mary of the Assumption will be offering classes in the Sympto-Pro method beginning July 20, and continuing August 3 and 17 from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. The price per couple is \$120 which includes the three-part class series, materials, and 6-12 months of follow up. Limit four couples per class series. Please contact Maranda Patzkowsky with questions or to sign up: 740-475-9565 or [mcsprn@gmail.com](mailto:mcsprn@gmail.com).

## 2019 ST. NICHOLAS PARISH FESTIVAL NEWS



### CALLING ALL ST. NICHOLAS PARISHIONERS!

**FESTIVAL MEETING** –All are invited and encouraged to join us at the Parish Office, Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. We need **many volunteers** if we want this event to continue and be able to support our parish school and the St. Nicholas community. Please help this tradition carry on for many more years to come!

### THE FESTIVAL DINNER IS BACK! Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>

from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center (school gym). \$10.00 for adults. Meal includes Baked chicken quarter, mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner roll and butter, lemonade, iced tea, coffee and dessert. \$5.00 for 12 and under – substitutes chicken nuggets or chicken strips for the chicken quarter. **TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE** and include a reserved parking pass next to activity center for easy access and convenience to dinner! Tickets are available after Mass in the Church basement and at the Parish Office. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

### CAKE STAND: ATTENTION BAKERS!

We need cakes, cookies, pies, candies, breads & more. We will need new items every day of the festival. HUNDREDS of people will take home baked goods made by our wonderful St. Nicholas parishioners. Please drop off items in the St. Nicholas cafeteria before festival hours and at the booth anytime during the festival. If you have any questions, please call Brandie Scott at 740-225-1961. Thanks & Happy Baking!

### CHINESE AUCTION ITEMS

It's that time of the year when the Chinese Auction for the St. Nicholas Parish Festival, asks for donations. We have placed the tags in the back of the church on a table to help get it started this year. Please purchase your new items and return them to the parish office by **Monday, July 22**. Call Dee at the parish office with questions, 453-0597. Thank you!



**The Daughters of Isabella** seek to promote the welfare of the community in accordance with the teachings and rules of the Catholic Church through unity, friendship and charity. All women age 16 and up are welcome to join us. The next meeting is **Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** at the St. Nicholas Parish Office.

**SPIRIT AT WORK RETREAT:** Do you ever find yourself asking, "Who is God calling me to be? What is God calling me to do? Am I in the right place today? Pope Francis urges us, "Do not bury your talents, the gifts that GOD has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!" Grow to a deeper understanding of your gifts and talents. For ages 18-39. Saturday, August 10, 2019 at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center located in Newark, Ohio. \$25 for the day. Optional overnight accommodations (includes day retreat cost): \$65 for double accommodation room, \$90 for single accommodation room. Financial assistance is available for this event. For more information, contact Sean Robinson at [srobinson@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:srobinson@columbuscatholic.org), or register at <https://columbuscatholic.org/young-adult-retreats>.

**14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE**

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

**July 14, 2019  
15<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, July 13 @ 5:15 p.m.**

Cantor: Ryan Teti  
Lectors: Sharon Coen, Nicole Hannahs  
Servers: Charles Peterson, Scott Peterson  
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Vicki Burns  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Alan Burns, Paula Peterson  
Eucharistic Ministers: Dottie Durant, Judy Hamilton, Margaret Kronenbitter, Larry Taylor

**Sunday, July 14 @ 8:15 a.m.**

Cantor: Janet Moses  
Lector: Peggy Hill, Rocky Rowe  
Servers: Thomas Bernath, Will Bernath  
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Gerald Tiberio  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Linda Haswell, Joshua Wright  
Eucharistic Ministers: John Haswell, Jim Hillis, Sue Hillis, Claire Tiberio

**Sunday, July 14 @ 10:45 a.m.**

Cantor: Kevin McCarthy, Lucile Morosco  
Lectors: Keena Hansel, Othello Repuyan  
Servers: Nathan Hart, Justin Hart  
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Jeff Shawger  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Carolyn Arnold, Larry Denbow  
Eucharistic Ministers: Diana Dunn, Karen Hardman, Jim McKee, Erin Roush

**Church Support**

JUNE 30, 2019	
OFFERTORY	\$7,666.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$3,777.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Weekly deficit	<u>\$(3,083.00)</u>
<b>May God bless you for supporting your parish!</b>	

**If you did not have enough to itemize your charitable donations this year, please contact your tax preparer and see if you are eligible to make a tax-free Qualified Charitable Distribution.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER ST. NICHOLAS PARISH IN YOUR WILL. CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT 453-0597 FOR MORE DETAILS.**

***What's Happening in Our Parish***

**MONDAY, July 8**

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Barbara Miller, Church*  
2:00 p.m., *Pray the Rosary, St. Nicholas Chapel, Parish Office*  
6:00 p.m., *Summer Bible Study, Parish Office*

**TUESDAY, July 9, St. Augustine**

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Paula Fargus, Church*  
6:00 p.m., *D of I Meeting, Parish Office upper level*

**WEDNESDAY, July 10**

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Don and James Greulich, Church*  
6:30 p.m., *Festival Meeting, Parrish Office, upper level*

**THURSDAY, July 11, St. Benedict**

**NO MASS**

**FRIDAY, July 12**

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Patrick Lyon, Church*

***15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time***

**SATURDAY, July 13, St. Henry**

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., *Confessions, Church*  
5:15 p.m., Mass: *Tom Nash, Church*  
6:15 p.m., *Parish Dinner following Mass, Church basement*

**SUNDAY, July 14**

8:15 a.m., Mass: *Russell & Mary Jo Dooley, Church*  
*Mass: June Shawger, Church*  
10:45 a.m., Mass: *St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church*

***Readings for Week of July 8, 2019***

Mon. . . . .	Gn 28:10-22a	Mt 9:18-26
Tues. . . . .	Gn 32:23-33	Mt 9:32-38
Wed . . . . .	Gn 41:55-57	Mt 10:1-7
Thurs. . . . .	Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5	Mt 19:27-29
Fri. . . . .	Gn 46:1-7, 28-30	Mt 10:16-23
Sat. . . . .	Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a	Mt 10:24-33
Sun . . . . .	Dt 30:10-14	Lk 10:25-37

***Our thoughts and prayers remain with those serving our country currently and with their loved ones at home. We pray for a safe homecoming and that the world may one day be at peace.***

***Please join us each Monday at The St. Nicholas Chapel in the Parish Office at 2:00 p.m. as we gather to pray the Rosary asking Our Lady's Intercession for the many needs of our nation, community, and parish.***