

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

We are already halfway through the month of July. Time is going by too fast. This past week the new assignments for several priests in the Diocese of Columbus came out. Last Tuesday was "moving day" for these priests: pastors and associate pastors. I am proud to share with you, if you already have not heard; Fr. Sean Dooley has received his new assignment. Since his ordination four years ago, speaking about how time flies by, he was an associate pastor for a cluster of parishes in the Chillicothe area. He has now been elevated to Pastor. His new assignment is pastor of Our Lady of Peace Church in Columbus. It is my guess that he is the youngest pastor to be assigned to OLP. We wish him the best of luck. He will need our prayers. But we are also very proud of him and confident that he will do well.

During the summer months we are blessed with opportunities that are not readily available to us during the school year. In fact, don't you find it interesting that our year seems to revolve around the school year? For many the vacation season generally starts after Memorial Day and continues through Labor Day. Does the academic year dictate this rhythm?

Then again there is the agricultural year. Farm work generally tends to take place during the favorable months of spring, summer and early fall. When the family farm was the norm for a great portion of the country I suspect that farming families would want their children home to work on the farm during this time. Thus, a more favorable time for school year was late fall through the winter up to early spring. This begs the question... Which came first?

With the industrialized/technological transformation of society factory work became prominent. There was an increasing difficulty for labor under the burden of hot stifling summer weather while working in factories. I recall the summer months during my college years when I worked in automotive factories. Most workers would take this time to get out of the factory for vacations. Factory work during the summer was miserable. Knowing that I was only allowed to work for twelve weeks I knew I could put up with it. It was also a great motivating factor for me to take my college studies seriously.

So, in a round-about way we have the summer months that have somehow evolved into a break from our work and academic schedules. The summer affords us an opportunity for vacations, rest and leisure. We have a break from activities that are oriented toward productivity to afford us with time for activities that truly enhance our lives. In a greater sense, leisure time is the most "productive" time. It is during our leisure time that the most important aspects of our humanity are enhanced: the bonds of family and friendship, our personal and spiritual growth. This is hinted in the Seventh Day of Creation when God Rested.

In the Ten Commandments there is the commandment about keeping holy the Sabbath: The Lord's Day. Of all the world religions in existence there is only one, the religions of the Judeo-Christian tradition, that has a commandment about the observance of a Sacred Day during the week. No other religion has such a law. This is an incredibly curious thing to take into consideration. Like all Ten Commandments this particular law has a purpose: a very important purpose. For people who put a high priority on doing, a.k.a. being productive and not wasting time, this commandment appears to be giving license for inactivity. God doesn't command laziness. This commandment addresses the most important aspect for us as human beings: our relationship with God and others; our growth in holiness.

There is no doubt that we live in a time where we are focused on productivity and mastering our world. There is a great temptation to measure a person's value in their productivity. It is easy to value a person based on the work of our hands. We take great pride in all that we accomplish by our doing. We can easily be so focused on doing that we tend to use this in our judgement of other people who do not work or produce little. Realistically we do understand and appreciate our need for rest and we look at rest as a means for us to get back to work. Rest is in service to work. It's all about physical work and production.

We can easily misunderstand the commandment for Sabbath Rest. There is something present here that is more important than mere physical rest ordered to our work. There is a sacred purpose for Sabbath Rest that touches upon our very nature as human beings. Sabbath Rest is about God's gift of *time* that we may enter into *His Rest*. It is time that God gives us and invites us to spend it with Him. The purpose: grow in our relationship with God.

We work hard in building up our little world. We work to build our bank accounts to support our homes, our family, our community... in a word we build up our kingdom. This is the business of the world. We are busy about this world. We do this throughout the week. Taking the commandments seriously, we are to take the Lord's Day seriously. This has its reference to the story of creation where God "worked" for six days in creating the world and all that is in it. On the seventh day God rested after his work and said it was "*very good*". God delighted in all that he created. As Human Beings, who are created in His image and likeness, are invited by God to share in His delight and goodness. This time when we rest in God allows God to refresh our lives with His goodness. We grow in friendship with God and others.

The creation of the Sabbath as a day of rest is a time or space intended for a purpose: a time to build relationships in goodness. It is the time where God in his goodness invites His people to spend time with Him and God with His people. Throughout the week we use our time to produce and transform our world to our purposes. On the Sabbath God has given us a Sacred Time. We welcome this Sacred Time inviting God to enter and transform our lives to His purpose: our relationship/friendship with Him and Building His Kingdom. This is the business of Sabbath Rest and leisure. Rest and leisure appear to be non-productive, yet it is precisely this time that is the most productive and essential. This is the time in which all good relationships are built: with one another and most especially our relationship with God.

We often speak words like *spending our time with friends*. Time with friends is essential for our development as human beings. We cannot learn and live the most important virtues and lessons of life in isolation. Our most important friendships are foundational for meaning and purpose in our lives. Friendship sustains us especially when times get difficult. In times of great crisis, we need and depend on the support of our loved ones: our family and friends. Ultimately, we depend on the one most important relationship in our life... our relationship with God.

God has given us a commandment to pause from our busy lives to observe a very specific time to spend with Him. Out of love, this time is given for our greater good. It is an invitation to enter into God's time: Sacred Time. Our response needs to be thankful acceptance of God's invitation to spend time with Him. God invites us to share in this Sacred Time so that in our sharing in God's time our time/lives are transformed by God. This is time in which God works on us; even when we may not be aware that this transformation is taking place.

God gave a command to his people... "Be holy for I the Lord your God am holy." God gives the means for us to grow in holiness: The Sacraments. More to the point, sharing in Sunday Mass we share in the gift of God's Time and welcome God in turn to work on us by transforming our lives to his purpose as individuals and as a community of faith.

With the blessing of extended leisure time of summer vacation, let us use it well.

Have a Blessed Week
Father Ralko

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

PICNIC

Join us on Saturday, 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!

The EdChoice Scholarship application period has been reopened until the end of July and our parish school, Bishop Fenwick K-8, accepts these state scholarships. Once your child is awarded, you will receive priority status to renew their scholarship each year through their 12th grade year. This is a tuition scholarship of up to \$4650 through 8th grade and \$6000 through 12th. **If your child attended 8th grade at Zanesville Middle School last year, they are eligible to apply for Bishop Rosecrans High School. New families moving into the area whose children would be assigned to the schools listed below, are also eligible to apply.** This is NOT a need-based scholarship, so financials are not necessary. Timing is important as it is first come, first serve so contact Susan Swackhammer 740-454-9731 or email sswackha@cducation.org as soon as possible. **Crooksville Elementary K – 4, Duncan Falls Elementary K – 5 Maysville Elementary K – 5, Roseville Elementary K – 6 Zanesville School District K-8**

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA BAKE SALE – Sunday, July 21 following the 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. masses. Proceeds support the Daughter's of Isabella's charitable works.

BISHOPS YARD SALE

**JULY 18 & 19 – 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
& JULY 20- 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**DON'T MISS this large indoor yard sale!!!
Bishop Fenwick Preschool Activity Center
139 N. 5th St.**

Selling gently used furniture, toys, electronics, baby items, clothing, bedding, curtains, home & holiday décor, housewares, books, DVD's, videos, & much more.

SPIRIT AT WORK RETREAT- For ages 18-39. Sat., Aug. 10 at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center. Do you ever find yourself asking, "Who is God calling me to be or asking me to do?" Then this retreat is for you! \$25 for the day. Financial assistance is available for this event. For more information, contact Sean Robinson at srobinson@columbuscatholic.org,

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 17th 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. If you are unable to help monetarily please consider giving a little of your time to your parish! Please help this tradition carry on for many more years to come!

THE FESTIVAL DINNER IS BACK! Saturday, August 3rd

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

Thanks to those of you who have taken tags from the table in church and returned your purchases! If you haven't done so yet, please do, and return them to the parish office by **Monday, July 22**. We will also take cash donations. Call Dee at the parish office with questions, 453-0597. Thank you!

2019 FESTIVAL QUILT

A lovely vintage, queen size scrap quilt has been donated by Mary & Jim McKee for the 2019 raffle. The hand piecing is exceptional and in very good condition. Thank you to the McKee's for their beautiful and generous donation!



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. 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 16th. For more information. Contact Michael Haemmerle at columbusquovadis@gmail.com

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

July 21, 2019

16th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Saturday, July 20 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Jim Gable

Lectors: Diane Hoffer, Nancy Susa

Servers: Rex Hankinson, Charles Peterson

Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Philip Kocoloski

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Dan Snider, Charlotte Snider

Eucharistic Ministers: Dottie Durant, Paula Peterson, Karen Robinson, Larry Taylor

Sunday, July 21 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Ryan Teti

Lector: Sue Hillis, Susan Thompson

Servers: David Eppley, Logan Pratt

Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Jim Hillis

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Dan Sylvester, Cheryl Sylvester

Eucharistic Ministers: Diana Dunn, Tim Hoffer, Mike Musselman, Dodi Sealock

Sunday, July 21 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Kevin McCarthy, Rachel Taylor

Lectors: Sam Palleschi, Rocky Rowe

Servers: Nicholas Bernath, Mason Harmon

Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Laurie Harmon

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Mary Mirgon, Erin Roush

Eucharistic Ministers: Susie Altier, Carolyn Arnold, Margaret Kronenbitter, Jim McKee

Church Support

JULY 7, 2019

OFFERTORY	\$12,972.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$9,083.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Weekly deficit	<u>\$2,223.00</u>

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

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 15, St. Bonaventure

8:00 a.m., Mass: Florence Schoeppner, Church

2:00 p.m., Pray the Rosary, St. Nicholas Chapel, Parish Office

6:00 p.m., Summer Bible Study, Parish Office

TUESDAY, July 16, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

8:00 a.m., Mass: Henry Sulens, Church

WEDNESDAY, July 17

8:00 a.m., Mass: Pastor's intention, Church

THURSDAY, July 18, St. Camillus de Lellis

NO MASS

FRIDAY, July 19

8:00 a.m., Mass: Joy Larson, birthday, Church

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SATURDAY, July 20, St. Apollinaris

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church

5:15 p.m., Mass: Charles E. Rock, Church

SUNDAY, July 21

8:15 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church

10:45 a.m., Mass: Bill Sullivan, Sr., anniversary, Church

Readings for Week of July 15, 2019

Mon.	Ex 1:8-14, 22	Mt 10:34-11:1
Tues.	Ex 2:1-15a	Mt 11:20-24
Wed	Ex 3:1-6, 9-12	Mt 11: 25-27
Thurs.	Ex 3:13-20	Mt 11:28-30
Fri.	Ex 11:10-12:14	Mt 12:1-8
Sat.	Ex 12:37-42	Mt 12:14-21
Sun	Gn 18:1-10a	Lk 10:38-42

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.