

## ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

I just received a communication from the diocese that requires me to relate the enclosed information to the parish. For a matter of clarity, I will quote the entire communication.

Dear Father:

*Included with this email (please see the text below) is a letter from the Diocese of Columbus to your parish regarding Father John Gamba, against whom a credible allegation of abuse of a minor has been received and about whom we are notifying the public today. I am sharing this with you because our records indicate that Father Gamba served at or near (in the case of St. Genevieve in Calmoutier) your parish in the past. I ask that you share this letter with your parish this week by placing it in your bulletin or sending it as a letter to your parishioners by email or other suitable means. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Chancery Office.*

*I thank you for your kind help with this difficult matter.*

Deacon Thomas M. Berg, Jr.  
Chancellor - Diocese of Columbus

Dear Friends in Christ:

*It is with sadness that the Diocese of Columbus informs our parishes that based upon a review of information recently reported to the Diocese of Columbus, a credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor has been made against the late Father John J. Gamba, who died in 2009. This is not an absolute determination of guilt because of the passage of many years and the fact that Fr. Gamba cannot be interviewed or able to defend himself. In the case of a cleric who is deceased at the time an allegation is made; a determination of credibility is made by the Diocese when a thorough and careful review of available information indicates that the allegation is more likely than not to be true.*

*Fr. Gamba's assignments in the Diocese of Columbus included assistant pastor of St. Ladislav, Columbus (1949-50), St. Nicholas, Zanesville (1950-51), St. Mary, Lancaster (1951-54), St. Peter, Columbus (1954-58), Sacred Heart, New Philadelphia (1958-60), Christ the King, Columbus (1960-61); Chaplain at Ohio State University Hospital (1961-69) with residence at St. Margaret of Cortona (1961-62) and Our Lady of Victory (1962-69); pastor of St. Genevieve, Calmoutier, and chaplain of Apple Creek State Institute from 1970 until his retirement in 1985. He lived in Doylestown, Ohio throughout his retirement, and assisted at SS. Peter and Paul Church there.*

*The Charter and Norms for the Protection of Children and Young People establishes specific rules for when an allegation against a member of the clergy is made. An investigation is initiated whenever an accusation is made. In accordance with Diocesan policy, information regarding this allegation has been shared with civil authorities. The Diocese of Columbus is committed to assisting anyone who has been abused by clergy or others working or volunteering for the Church. To report an incident of abuse, regardless of when it occurred, please contact local law enforcement and then the Victim's Assistance Coordinator at 614-224-2251.*

*The Diocese also recognizes that others, including parishioners, active clergy, staff members, and the general public, are also disappointed and pained by the scandal abuse of children and young people. Any time an allegation of abuse is made public; it is a moment of genuine sadness but also may be a step toward healing and reconciliation with the Church. The Diocese of Columbus remains committed to fostering both through its outreach efforts.*

The above notice is rather disturbing. It is never pleasant receiving such information. Fr. Gamba was assigned to St. Nicholas in 1950-51. It is a very long time ago, nearly 70 years. Just the same because of the directives of the USCCB it is now a requirement to inform any parish where Fr. Gamba served to see if there are any other allegations or comments out there in this matter. The sad reality is that manifestations of this problem will continue to resurface for years to come. It is a sensitive issue.

Today, besides being the 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, it is also the traditional feast day of Our Lady of Sorrows. We contemplate the image of the Sorrowful Mother, Mary, at the foot of the cross of Jesus and the image of the Pieta, where the dead body of Jesus is lowered into the loving arms of his mother. In the loving arms of His Sorrowful Mother, Mary is holding the beaten, abused, mocked, broken and dead body of Jesus Christ. Mary is holding in her arms the Body of Christ. Mary is holding in her loving arms the Church; the Body of Christ.

Looking to the Blessed Mother we often say she is the Mother of the Church. At the foot of the Cross we have John and Mary present. Jesus looked to his mother and said, "Woman behold your son". Then to John he said, "Behold your mother." Jesus, through the Apostle John gave the Church his mother. Mary is a human example of faithful love in its purity because of her persistent vigilance along the way of the cross. She is there because of her love and her faithfulness to her son. In this time of continued crisis in the church Mary is persistent in her vigilance in faith and love. Mary continues to hold the Church, in our brokenness, in her faithful and loving arms. This is where we can find strength to persevere through these difficult times. This is a time of faith; a faith that is modeled for us in our Blessed Mother.

In a secular world there are all kinds of suggestions and solutions that are proposed in order to fix the Church. All these so-called solutions come from outside the Church and have a secular origin. They are limited and incomplete solutions because they come from human minds that are tainted by Original Sin. They are flawed from the very start. The solution for our difficulties is to be found inside the Church; from the Body of Christ. We need a Divine Solution to this serious sinful problem. Only our Lord Jesus Christ can solve this sinful crisis. It is found in the power of Christ crucified: and we are in the faithful, loving arms of His Blessed Mother. We need not panic or abandon the Church. Rather, this is a time of faith.

A few months ago, before his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI offered a written reflection in regards of the Sexual Abuse Crisis in the Church. The retired Holy Father has always been one with an acute and critical eye with the ability to articulate clearly his thoughts and insights. In the context of the secular world and the crisis triggered again by Theodore McCarrick, the Holy Father detects an agenda in the reporting media. In the press and in society..." *The crisis... urges us to regard the Church as something almost unacceptable, which we must now take into our hands and redesign. But a self-made Church cannot constitute hope... The idea of a better Church, created by us, is in fact a proposal of the devil.*"

Ultimately the solution is not found in the human sciences or theories. The solution is found in Jesus Christ. He is the one who will purify his Bride, the Church. There is much to be purified at all levels and in every way. This is a task beyond our human abilities. We need a Divine solution. We cannot earn it. We can only cooperate with the sanctifying grace of God found in the Word of God and the Sacraments of the Church. We need the Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. We need Jesus Christ and a desire to do His Will.

Have a blessed and prayerful week.  
Father Ralko

Available at the doors of the Church... Please pick up a copy of the booklet "*Letter to a Suffering Church*" written by Bishop Robert Barron. It is a letter addressing the sexual abuse crisis in the Church. Bishop Barron's insights, challenges and words of encouragement are greatly needed and appreciated. Considering what was communicated to our parish from the diocese I thought that this would be a good time to make this booklet available to the parish.

## This week we pray Week III of the Liturgy of the hours.

**Mark Your Calendar for The Saturday Night Parish Dinner Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> immediately following the 5:15 p.m. Mass in the Parish Social Hall (church basement). The menu will be soup and sandwiches. Donations are accepted in support of future dinners.**



### **RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Church, we invite you to come and be part of our RCIA journey. The RCIA process here at St. Nicholas provides a personal, gentle guided journey for those adults wishing to learn more about the Catholic faith. We are committed to helping you on your journey and look forward to speaking to you. RCIA began on **Wed. September 11** at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office Building, upper level, 955 East Main St. Call Patty Boggs at 453-0597 for more information.

### **Surviving Divorce**

Divorced? The twelve-week Surviving Divorce program is held on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the parish office. It's not too late to join us! Surviving Divorce covers topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. Find comfort and counsel consistent with Catholic Church teachings. Call the parish office at (740) 453-0597 for more information.

**CANTORS** - there are many good voices in our St. Nicholas congregation! If you are interested and able to be a cantor, please call Sr. Bernadette (740-455-8511) in the evenings or weekends. You'll be glad you did! This is a marvelous ministry.

**Mt. Olive Cemetery** has a part time position available. Duties would include mowing, weed eating, helping to open and close graves, help pouring footers for headstones and snow removal. If interested, please call the Parish Office at 453-0597.

**TRAINING FOR ALL EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION AT MASS** will be held on Sunday, **September 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.** and again on **Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** Training both days will be held in the Church. All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are asked to attend one of the training sessions.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** – The Holy Spirit a 12-week Bible Study by Fr. Mitch Pacwa, begins Tuesday, **September 17<sup>th</sup>** at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Office, upper level.

### **PRE-JORDAN CLASS**

St. Nicholas will hold a Pre-Jordan class for parents and godparents who wish to have their infants and small children baptized. The class will be on **Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Parish Office Building. Please call Patty Boggs at 453-0597 to register.

**Neighbor Helping Neighbor - Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.** Volunteers will be available to help with fall projects, yard work and minor home repair. In the past volunteers have washed fences, painted, washed windows, cleaned garages, cut up downed trees and helped with minor home repairs. If you have a job for our volunteers, please call the St. Nicholas Parish Office, 740 453-0597. We will be happy to put you on the list.

In the spirit of friendship, the Daughters of Isabella, Circle #586 Fidelis Regina, is sponsoring a reception for the **Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity** in honor of their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Please join us in the St. Nicholas Church Social Hall on **Sunday, September 29** from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. to celebrate the many years of dedicated service which the sisters have provided to our community. Light refreshment will be served.

**The Women's Spirituality Group** will resume meeting **Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**, at the parish office from 3:30 p.m. until around 5:00 p.m. We meet on the last Monday of the month from September through April except for December. We will be using the book, *Becoming More Than A Good Bible Girl*. We invite the women of the parish to join us for an exercise in deepening our faith. If you can join us or have any questions, please call Judi Peterson at 740-453-5288.

### **OCTOBER- MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY**

October has long been observed as the month of the Holy Rosary. October 7 is the Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary. The Rosary means a crown of roses; a spiritual bouquet for the Blessed Mother and is a favorite prayer of many of the saints. St. John Paul II called the Rosary his favorite prayer after the Holy Mass and Liturgy of the Hour. The Rosary is a very powerful prayer whether prayed alone or with others. During the month of October, as for many years, St. Nicholas parishioners will pray the Rosary together before each Mass. The leader will announce what mysteries will be prayed. This year in each pew will be packets including, a rosary and pamphlet on 'how to pray the rosary'. If you don't have a rosary with you, please use the one in the packet and if you like, you can also use the pamphlet to refresh your memory on the mysteries. If you don't have a rosary at home, or if you are not very familiar with praying the rosary, please feel free to take the packet home with you at the end of October.

**24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE**

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

**September 22, 2019  
25th Sunday In Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, September 21 @ 5:15 p.m.**

Cantor: Laura DeCoy  
Lectors: Nicole Hannahs, Nancy Susa  
Servers: Rex Hankinson, Libby Pratt  
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Paul Ritchey  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Susie Altier,  
Jennifer Bernet  
Eucharistic Ministers: Dottie Durant, Judy Hamilton,  
Margaret Kronenbitter, Don Susa

**Sunday, September 22 @ 8:15 a.m.**

Cantor: Sandy Black  
Lector: Jim Gable, Peggy Hill  
Servers: Caiden Hogue, Nathan Hustey  
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Joshua Wright  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Diana Dunn, Tim Hoffer  
Eucharistic Ministers: Philip Kocoloski, Marvin Paul,  
Jim Pottmeyer, Dodi Sealock

**Sunday, September 22 @ 10:45 a.m.**

Cantor: Kevin McCarthy  
Lectors: Wendy Hart, Patti Logan  
Servers: Nathan Hart, Justin Hart  
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Carolyn Arnold  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: John Haswell, Erin Roush  
Eucharistic Ministers: Karen Hardman, Jim McKee, Mary Mirgon  
Mike Musselman

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

*Please join us each Monday at St. Nicholas Church 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.*

**Church Support**

SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

OFFERTORY	\$12,807.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$8,918.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	<u>\$(890.00)</u>
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Weekly surplus	<u>\$2,058.00</u>

**May God bless you for supporting your parish!**

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

**MONDAY, September 16, SS Cornelius and Cyprian**

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

**TUESDAY, September 17, St. Robert Bellarmine**

8:00 a.m., Mass: Gene Ehleiter, birthday, Church

6:00 p.m., Daughter's of Isabella, Parish Office, upper level

**WEDNESDAY, September 18**

8:10 a.m., School Mass: Emma Barry, Church

7:00 p.m., R.C.I.A., Parish Office, upper level

**THURSDAY, September 19, St. Januarius**

NO MASS

**FRIDAY, September 20, SS Andrew, Kim Tae-gön and Paul Chöng Ha-sang**

8:00 a.m., Mass: L/D members of the Ansel & Ferguson Families, Church

**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**SATURDAY, September 21, St. Matthew**

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: Mr. & Mrs. Fred Sullivan, Church

**SUNDAY, September 22**

8:15 a.m., Mass: June Shawger, anniversary, Church

9:15 a.m., Religious Education, Bishop Fenwick School

10:45 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church

**Readings for Week of September 16**

Mon. . . . .	1 Tm 2:1-8	Lk 7:1-10
Tues. . . . .	1 Tm 3:1-13	Lk 7:11-17
Wed . . . . .	1 Tm 3:14-16	Lk 7:31-35
Thurs. . . . .	1 Tm 4:12-16	Lk 7:36-50
Fri. . . . .	1 Tm 6:2c-12	Lk 8:1-3
Sat. . . . .	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13	Mt 9:9-13
Sun . . . . .	Am 8:4-7	Lk 16:1-13