

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

This week will be a little difficult for the Catholics of the diocese regarding weekday morning mass. On Monday afternoon the priests of the diocese will be gathering for a three-day conference. This is a time for the priests of the diocese to get together (which we rarely get the opportunity to do), to talk, pray, reflect and plan for the future with our new Bishop. This is a good thing. Personally, I am looking forward to this event. So, in regard to this week, I will have mass Monday morning. There will not be a morning mass for the rest of the week. I do ask and encourage you to pray for the priests of the diocese as we gather for this important time together. Pray also for the good of our bishop and the Diocese of Columbus.

Occasionally, usually not until it is needed or an emergency for oneself or for another, is the matter of the Anointing of the Sick (a.k.a. Last Rites). Let this column be a gentle reminder and a catechetical moment. Firstly, if you or a loved one are ever a patient at the hospital you will need to let the hospital know that you are a Catholic. In this way the Pastoral Care Department is aware of your presence, arrangements can be made for an Extra-Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion to bring the Eucharist and if desired your pastor will be notified. This is especially important if you are admitted through the Emergency Department. In the Emergency Department they ordinarily do not ask about your religious preference. They are understandably concerned with more urgent lifesaving matters. Thus, religious affiliation information does not make it to the patient's chart if the patient is eventually transferred to one of the floors in the hospital. In any case, if you or a family member is admitted to the hospital and you desire a visit from Pastoral Care, especially if your desire to be anointed please have your nurse notify the Pastoral Care Department. Also, you should have a family member or someone from the Pastoral Care department notify the parish office.

This also brings to mind another aspect to mention about the Anointing of the Sick. I have mentioned this once before and I think it needs to be reiterated. I still get the impression that there is some confusion about this Sacrament. Most still link the Anointing of the Sick with the *Last Rites* and death when requesting this sacrament. So, people approach this sacrament with fear. So, they usually clumsily approach seeking a "Blessing" for themselves or a family member before surgery or during a serious illness. My usual response is to say, "Do you/they want to be anointed?" Sometimes the response to my question is a look of panic because the person is not dying. They just don't know how to ask for the Sacrament of the *Anointing of the Sick* without sounding like this is the end. To be clear, the Anointing of the Sick is for those who are sick, going to have surgery and most especially those who are nearing death. This sacrament is important for those individuals who find themselves faced with these most vulnerable times. This is precisely where the grace of God is most needed, and the necessary grace of God is present in the sacrament. The Anointing of the Sick can be received whenever it is needed. It can be received more than once.

A couple of things should be noted here. If someone is to have surgery, it is a very good thing to receive the Anointing of the Sick. If someone has been diagnosed with a serious illness, it is a good thing to receive the Anointing of the Sick. In fact, it is always appropriate for an individual in the hospital, especially in

the Intensive Care Unit, to ask to be anointed. These are reasonable requests for the sacrament. Do not be afraid to ask a priest to be anointed. All priests understand the need for the Anointing of the Sick. For us it is a graced moment and you don't have to wait for a life-threatening illness or if death is imminent.

Many have made this request on Sunday after mass. Both Fr. Dreese and I have anointed several people after mass on Sunday. A simple request is all that is necessary. This is also a great opportunity to share any concerns with your parish priest.

Secondly, and this is a delicate matter, it is advisable if you are requesting on behalf of another person, to give the priest and the patient a time alone for privacy. It is awkward to request family members to leave the patient's room if it is necessary for the priest and the patient to have a private conversation. One important part of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is the opportunity for the patient to make a confession. A private confidential time is necessary for a serious reflection and a thoughtful examination of conscience. Because this is a serious and personal matter it is awkward to ask visitors to yield and allow that private time to take place. This is part of the healing and strengthening aspect of the Sacrament. There is a time for family members to be present as the priest prays over and anoints the patient, and all can pray together. However, it is advisable and encouraged to let the priest have some private time for a conversation with the one to be anointed. It is my experience that the one who is to be anointed is thankful for this chance to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.

A final note on this matter is about the availability of this sacrament. As you may be very well aware, at the present time there are a limited number of priests in the Zanesville area: two to be exact. It is almost impossible for us to be in all places at all times. We are blessed with several extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion attending to the needs of many who are home-bound and in the various healthcare facilities in the area. This is a wonderful ministry and is greatly appreciated. I thank God that the sacramental needs of many are being provided for. On my part I am thankful that I have been able to anoint most of those who have passed away. Thankfully God puts me in the right place at the right time in this matter. God provides. This is important to me, and I am sure it is the same for all priests who attend to the spiritual needs of their people. Just the same, if you have a sacramental need please don't wait until the last minute to let us know if at all possible. Please call the parish, ask us after mass or get a message to us through a family member or friend.

I do not see a change in the shortage of priests and the staffing of parishes in the near future. In fact, I foresee it becoming more difficult to cover all the parishes with a resident priest. We are already at the minimum of coverage here and throughout the diocese. Many people have been helpful in so many ways, but there are certain things that only a priest can do: that being the Sacramental Ministry. When there is a need for the Sacraments, it would be helpful to plan ahead when possible. I expect emergencies and I have had many in which I had to drop everything and head out; even in the middle of the night. These things happen. I was ordained for this. Nevertheless, it would be helpful in non-emergency situations to plan ahead if you foresee such a sacramental need. This too would be greatly helpful for both local pastors in supplying the sacramental needs of the Catholic community in Zanesville.

Have a great week.

Father Ralko

This weekend, September 28 & 29, St. Vincent de Paul will be "Holding the Hat" during all Masses as a 2nd collection.

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

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

It is not too late to join us!! If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, please join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for RCIA. We meet in the Parish Office building meeting room, upper level. Call Patty Boggs at 453-0597 if you have any questions.

Surviving Divorce

Final opportunity to join the twelve-week Surviving Divorce program. Meeting are Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the parish office. Surviving Divorce is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. It features twelve video presentations that cover topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. Call the parish office for more information, or better yet, come to the meeting Monday, September 30th at 7:00 p.m.

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.

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 150th 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 30th**, at the parish office at 3:30 p.m. Please enter through the courtyard door. Books will be available for \$8.00 If you have any questions, please call Judi Peterson at 740-453-5288.

Living I Do Weekly Marriage Tips

Do you have trouble forgiving your spouse? If it is hard to get past an offense, at least forgive the intention behind it. Most likely there was more thoughtlessness than intention involved. Your understanding opens the door to healing the root of the problem. Give the gift of forgiving as you would like to be forgiven by offering empathy for your spouse's weakness.

ROSARY RALLY 2018

Come and join us for the 100th anniversary celebration of "Our Lady of Fatima's apparitions" to be held **Sunday Oct. 13** from 1:30p.m.-3:30 p.m. in front of the Muskingum County Courthouse esplanade. Please be there between 1:00-1:30. Bring your rosaries and a chair. For further information, please contact: Patty Schmutz at 452-3369, Carol Fluharty at 704-6477 or Margaret Kronenbitter at 221-0813.

DO YOU HAVE A WILL? DO YOU HAVE A TRUST? IS IT UPDATED DATED AND CURRENT? WHICH IS BETTER A WILL OR A TRUST? DO YOU NEED A POWER OF ATTORNEY? "It sounds complicated and many just put this off. Let's not do that." Tuesday, October 8th at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Office Meeting Room basic information will be provided regarding the legal aspects of illnesses and end of life issues. Powers of Attorney, Last Will & Testaments, Trusts and the like are useful tools and best prepared in a calm atmosphere as opposed to taking place amid a crisis. Learn more at this informative meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Fall Card Party, Tuesday, October 15. A Sandwich, Soup & Dessert dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. Games begin at 6:00 p.m. \$5.00 per person includes games and the meal! St. Nicholas Church Basement. ALL ARE WELCOME! Hosted by the Daughters of Isabella.

Men of The East - Traveling Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration with Reflection

St. Mary's Catholic Church Nashport will host the Men of The East for a traveling Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration with Reflection on **Thursday, October 10th** at 7:00 p.m. All men of the twelve-parish consortium are invited and encouraged to participate in these once a month Holy Hour's. For more information about Men Of The East contact Mike Musselman at 453-9806 or to sign up for our Quarterly Newsletter visit www.MenOfTheEast.com

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.

2019 ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH BAZAAR

Just a reminder our 2019 bazaar is **November 9th**. We will again be accepting gift cards from any restaurants, stores, gas stations, etc. for a raffle prize. Just put in an envelope marked bazaar and drop in the collection basket. Donations may be left beside the steps downstairs. Thanks to everyone who helps us out in any way; working, donating, or purchasing. God bless. Questions? Call Mary at 740-607-6386.

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

**October 6, 2019
27th Sunday In Ordinary Time**

Saturday, October 5 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Jim Gable
Lectors: Sharon Coen, Mike LaPlante
Servers: Libby Pratt, Luke Pratt
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Mike Musselman
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Dottie Durant, Judy Hamilton
Eucharistic Ministers: Molly Ritchey, Paul Ritchey, Karen Robinson, Larry Taylor

Sunday, October 6 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Sr. Bernadette Selinsky
Lector: Bernard Budde, Diane Hoffer
Servers: David Eppley, Ajay Paynter
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Dodi Sealock
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Philip Kocoloski, Mary Mirgon
Eucharistic Ministers: Tim Hoffer, Cheryl Sylvester, Dan Sylvester, Joshua Wright

Sunday, October 6 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Sandy Black
Lectors: Othello Repuyan, Rocky Rowe
Servers: Rex Hankinson, Mason Harmon
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Jim Pottmeyer
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Karen Hardman, Jim McKee
Eucharistic Ministers: Susie Altier, Jennifer Bernett, Laurie Harmon, Kevin McCarthy

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.

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, September 30, St. Jerome

8:00 a.m., Mass: Clarence Bronkar, birthday, Church
7:00 p.m., Surviving Divorce, Parish Office meeting room

TUESDAY, October 1, St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus

NO MASS
9:30 a.m., Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Parish Office

WEDNESDAY, October 2, The Holy Guardian Angels

NO MASS
7:00 p.m., R.C.I.A., Parish Office, upper level

THURSDAY, October 3

NO MASS

FRIDAY, October 4, St. Francis of Assisi

NO MASS

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SATURDAY, October 5, Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
5:15 p.m., Mass: Richard Dillon and Shirley Knox, birthday, Church

SUNDAY, October 6

8:15 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church
9:15 a.m., Religious Education, Bishop Fenwick School
10:45 a.m., Mass: Ray Andrews, Church

Church Support

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019	
OFFERTORY	\$7,898.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$4,009.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly surplus	<u>\$(2,851.00)</u>

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

Readings for Week of September 30

Mon.	zec 8:1-8	Lk 9:46-50
Tues.	zec 8:20-23	Lk 9:51-56
Wed	Neh 2:1-8	Mt 18:1-5, 10
Thurs.	Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12	Lk 10:1-12
Fri.	Bar 1:15-22	Lk 10:13-16
Sat.	Bar 4:5-12, 27-29	Lk 10:17-24
Sun	Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4	Lk 17:5-10